



Item: Fast Lane News #18 in 2024 (Issue #218 since 2020) on May 4th 2024, I'm writing from our offices in beautiful Oldsmar, Florida and my family home in bucolic Steubenville, Ohio.
To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Dubai, Europe, Iceland,



Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!

Subjects: Hotel of the Week: The Sheraton Grande Salzburg;
The F.A.T. Ice Race in Zell am See; Trip of the Week: Don't miss the once-in-a-lifetime Fast Lane Porsche Trip this September! My Final Thoughts: Cardinal for a day.

I. Sheraton Grande Salzburg, A Timeless Classic at Mirabell Gardens. (contributed by Catherine Moore, our dedicated staff itinerary creator)

The beautiful city of **Salzburg, Austria**, is always a favorite stop on our tours in Austria. Most of us remember the beautiful scenery of Salzburg and the local areas from the beloved movie, **The Sound of Music**. At first,



the Austrians didn't think much of the movie – they thought it was too sappy and not factual enough. Hello . . . this is Hollywood telling a true story. Well, it became one of the greatest grossing movies with revenues of \$286 million. The Austrians are now on board now with tours to the Castle on the lake: Leopoldskron, the Gazebo where the Captain proposed to Maria and the church in Mondsee where they got married. I have actually taken customer couples to that Gazebo who wanted to renew their vows . . . very romantic.

Our favorite hotel in Salzburg is the **Sheraton Grande Salzburg**, combining modern and timeless luxury with exceptional guest service. Even though it is a modern hotel, it is still a Grand Hotel! Located next to the **Mirabell Palace** and the world famous **Mirabell Gardens**, Sheraton Grande Salzburg is lauded for its prime location and sophisticated ambiance. If you remember the movie, **Mirabell Gardens** was where



Maria and the children sang and danced through the gardens while learning to sing Do, Re, Mi.

A key reason, other than exquisite service, we favor the Sheraton Grande is: **THE BEST PARKING** in Salzburg. The underground garage is spacious and easily accessible. Furthermore, when we depart, we can line

up our Porsches on the spacious entrance drive of the hotel. On the other side of the hotel are the magnificent Mirabell Gardens.



The **old town of Salzburg**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is just a few minutes' walk and offers sights such as the famous **Getreidegasse** (fabulous shopping), **Hohensalzburg** (fortress looming over the city) and **Mozart's birthplace**. Salzburg is also known for its countless examples of Baroque and Neoclassical architecture and breathtaking Alpine scenery.

You'll experience our Salzburg on



the **Fast Lane 50th Anniversary Trips** in September. One of the highlights will be a Mozart Dinner Concert in one of Europe's oldest continuously operated restaurants the **Stiftskeller** founded in 803, **Yes, you read correctly** – it was founded 1221 years ago, or about 690 years **before** **Columbus discovered America**. I

can only imagine the dinner conversation in 1493: "Have you heard? There is supposed to be another world west of here called America."

Salzburg is the **gateway to the lovely Salzkammergut region**, with its fabulous lakes and mountains. The city also plays host to one of the world's greatest classical music festivals, the internationally acclaimed **Salzburger Festspiele**. The beautifully preserved old baroque town center simply oozes atmosphere and charm at every corner. Wandering down streets like **Goldgasse** and **Getreidegasse**, and alongside the **River Salzach** is simply delightful. **You must join Peter** on one of the two **50th Anniversary** tours this Fall and experience Salzburg with him. You'll love it!

50th Anniversary #1 <https://fastlanetravel.com/flt-50th-anniversary-trip-1/>

50th Anniversary #2 <https://fastlanetravel.com/flt-50th-anniversary-trip-2/>

II. What is the F.A.T. Ice Race? (Fully Automatic Timing)

(contributed by April Pappas, Fast Lane's amazing get-it-done AA)

Ferdi Porsche reveals all. The coolest weekend in the Porsche motorsport



calendar has a history to match! The story of how Ferdi Porsche revived



the tradition of holding motorsport races on a frozen Austrian lake. The first Porsche ice racing event took place at Zell am See in 1952. "In memory of Professor Porsche," reads the banner in German at the finish line.



With its frenetic, high-speed action, the Porsche ice racing weekend at Zell am See would become one of the most anticipated winter motorsport events of the year.

In 1952, skjöring was introduced as a sport in Austria where daredevil skiers would be tethered to the back of motorbikes and race around a frozen lake near Zell am See. This marked the beginning of the Porsche ice racing tradition in the Austrian Alps. The inaugural race was held in memory of Ferdinand Porsche and the event became an annual tradition in Zell am See from 1952 to 1974 and then again from 2019 to the present day.

The Porsche family and Zell am See in Austria

Zell am See is a beautiful town in the Austrian Alps, located by Lake Zell. In winter, the town transforms into a winter sports paradise, attracting a throng of skiers and snowboarders. Ferdinand Porsche chose this location for his family estate, which is why racing here again feels great. The small town of Gmünd, where the first ever Porsche 356 Coupé was built, is just a short drive away.

1952: the first year of the Porsche ice races

In 1952, the first ice race took place in Zell am See, known as the Professor Ferdinand Porsche Memorial Race. The event was a success

and it was held again in 1953, with 48 competitors from Austria and Germany competing in 13 ice races. Over the years, the ice races welcomed dozens of great racing drivers, including Otto Mathé, an Austrian racing driver who'd lost the use of his right arm in an earlier accident. Mathé competed by steering with his chest and shifting gears with his left arm. He stole the show in the 1955 event, with his curious car nicknamed the Fetzenflieger.

Throughout the years, the ice races have welcomed numerous famous faces and cars, including the Porsche 550 Spyder piloted by Porsche factory drivers Richard von Frankenberg and Huschke von Hanstein. In addition to full-time drivers, many enthusiastic amateurs have also taken part in the races, such as local competitors like Ernie Vogel, president of the Austrian Porsche Club. Despite not being a professional driver, Ernie managed to beat German Formula One driver Wolfgang von Trips, a man renowned for his prowess in wet weather, in one of the ice races. Ernie was driving a RSK Spyder factory Porsche.

2019: ice racing returns to Zell am See as the GP Ice Race

In 1974, the ice races, which had been running successfully for over 20 years, were cancelled due to a tragic incident on the frozen lake. A snowplow had fallen through the ice, leading to the drowning of its driver. After this unfortunate event, the ice races remained inactive for the next 45 years.

However, a young man named Ferdi Porsche, who had a significant connection to the first ever ice race held in 1952, revived the event. Ferdi Porsche is the great-grandson of Ferdinand Porsche, the founder of Porsche AG. Ferdi and Vinzenz, college friends, revived the ice race as the GP Ice Race in 2019, hosted at the Zell am See airfield, with former F1 driver Hans-Joachim Stuck and ex-Porsche factory driver, Richard Lietz. Despite modest expectations, the event was a hit and attracted thousands of spectators.

2024: The GP Ice Race becomes the F.A.T. Ice Race

The Zell am See Ice Race returned in February 2024 after a three-year break due to Covid-19. The event was formerly known as the GP Ice Race from 2019 to 2021 but returned as the F.A.T. Ice Race under the F.A.T. International banner, which Ferdi helped found. The team looked at Porsche Le Mans winners for inspiration on branding and chose F.A.T. International since it was no longer in use. The team liked the name and

felt it was the perfect brand for the event. The word "international" also allowed them to expand beyond Austria F.A.T. Ice Race, the legendary motorsport event, is now available for US fans through a new event held in Aspen, Colorado. Ferdi, the organizer, chose the US due to its passion for motorsport culture, which complements F.A.T. International's reputation in Austria. Ferdi plans to grow and expand in the US in the future, not only during winter. He stated that he previously attended Porsche events in America with his family, which he found enjoyable and diverse.

The highlights of this year's F.A.T. ice race events

The F.A.T. Ice Races held in Zell am See and Aspen had interactive displays of Porsche Design Timepieces. The Chronograph 1 Utility - Limited Edition watch was unveiled at the event, featuring a special strap printed with the coordinates of the Austrian F.A.T. Ice Race. The redesigned chronograph was inspired by a military model popular with the US and German air forces 40 years ago and bears the Mankei icon, a nod to the race's Austrian roots. Aksel Lund Svindal, Porsche Design Ambassador and double Olympic gold-winning professional skier, was seen wearing the special timepiece at the race.

TRIP of the Week – **Please register ASAP – the 50th Anniversary of Fast Lane Travel, Inc.**

50th Anniversary #1 <https://fastlanetravel.com/flt-50th-anniversary-trip-1/>

50th Anniversary #2 <https://fastlanetravel.com/flt-50th-anniversary-trip-2/>

IV. My Final Thoughts: Cardinal for a Day

The Pope met with his cardinals to discuss a proposal from Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Israel. "Your Holiness," said one of the Cardinals, "Mr. Netanyahu wants to challenge you to a game of golf to show the friendship and ecumenical spirit shared by the Jewish and Catholic faiths." The Pope thought it was a good idea, but he had never held a golf club in his hand. "Have we not," he asked, "a cardinal who can represent me against the leader of Israel?" "None that plays golf very well," a cardinal said. "But, he added," there is a man named Jack Nicklaus, an American golfer who is a devout Catholic. We can offer to make him a cardinal; then ask him to play Benjamin Netanyahu as your

personal representative. In addition to showing our spirit of cooperation, we'll also win the match." Everyone agreed it was a good idea. The call was made. Of course, Nicklaus was honored and agreed to play. The day after the match, Nicklaus reported to the Vatican to inform the Pope of the result.

"I have some good news and some bad news, Your Holiness," said the golfer. "Tell me the good news first, Cardinal Nicklaus," said the Pope. "Well, your Holiness, I don't like to brag, but even though I've played some pretty terrific rounds of golf in my life, this was the best I have ever played, by far. I must have been inspired by the above. My drives were long and true. My irons were accurate and purposeful, and my putting was perfect. With all due respect, my play was truly miraculous. "There's bad news?" the Pope asked. Nicklaus sighed. "I lost to Rabbi Woods by three strokes."

V. SOME MORE OF MY HAPPY MEMORIES







Please stay healthy and stay young; be happy and take good care of yourself...Let's look forward to the great times we will have together again on one of our fabulous PORSCHE Tours this year and let's look forward to 2024. **I will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. Peter**

