



**Item:** Fast Lane News #25 in 2024 (Issue #225 since 2020) On June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024, I'm writing from the V-8 Hotel in Stuttgart D, the Interlpen Hotel in Telfs A, and the Kempinski in St. Moritz CH.

**To:** Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Canada, Dubai, Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand,

Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!



**Subjects:** The “Green Heart of Austria”; Adventures with The Buena Vista Touring Group; Trip of the Week – Fall Treffen; and My Final Thoughts: Three things you can’t hide.

## **I. Styria, Austria – Embrace the Green Heart of Austria:**

Styria (Steiermark), located in the southeastern part of Austria, is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and vibrant cultural scene. Often referred to as the "Green Heart" of Austria, this enchanting region is characterized by its expansive forests, lush vineyards, and charming countryside.

With its diverse range of outdoor activities and attractions, Styria offers something for every visitor. From exhilarating skiing and invigorating hikes in the verdant hills to exploring ancient castles and indulging in rejuvenating thermal spas, the region is a treasure trove of experiences.

For those seeking a taste of local traditions, Styria's calendar is filled with delightful festivities celebrating its rich heritage, including traditional dances, culinary delights, and folk music performances.





Whether you're an adventure enthusiast, a culture aficionado, or simply seeking a peaceful retreat surrounded by natural beauty, Styria is sure to captivate you with its allure. Come and immerse yourself in the splendor of this idyllic Austrian province and create

unforgettable memories in the embrace of the "Green Heart of Austria."

## **II. Adventures with The Buena Vista Touring Group from Miami, FL:**

The journey began when four close-knit couples, all hailing from Miami, decided to embark on a unique European adventure. Each couple had ordered their Porsches for European delivery, and this shared endeavor evolved into an extraordinary custom trip. Eager to revel in a carefully curated yet laid-back and opulent tour, these spirited friends sought to create unforgettable memories together.

### **Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Buena Vista Tour Group (BVTG) arrived in Stuttgart and were transferred to our hotel, the lovely Le Meridien Stuttgart – I greeted them in the lobby as they arrived.

After checking in and refreshing, we went to dinner at Restaurant CUBE, a delightful restaurant with glass walls overlooking the Schlossplatz and park. We had a great dinner at CUBE and after dinner we decided to walk back to the Le Meridien – everyone enjoyed that. The ladies had on sneakers so walking was not a problem!

### **Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

The breakfast buffet at the Le Meridien has a fantastic selection of food to choose from and outstanding service. Our motorcoach arrived on time and

we were transferred to Porscheplatz. The group enjoyed a tour (in English) of the Porsche Museum before dining on an elegant lunch at Restaurant Christophorus in the Museum.

Following lunch, we went to the “Porsche Drive” counter to complete the rental of our Porsches. We then had the walkie-talkie instruction, checked out the cars, and drove back to the Le Meridien.



In the evening, a motorcoach transferred us to Restaurant Plenum where we enjoyed another excellent dinner and, again, decided to walk back to the Le Meridien—a great day.

### **Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

The breakfast buffet at the Le Meridien, once again, was excellent. Everyone checked out, luggage was loaded into our luggage van, and we departed.

We first drove through the tunnel towards Esslingen, then along the Neckar River and to the A-8. We made our first pit stop at the Gruibingen Rest Stop. Everyone became familiar with the coin-operated WC turnstiles! We continued on the A-8 to the A-7 and south to have lunch at the scenic Hotel



Schlossanger Alp. Lunch was superb, as always, and we continued our drive to our afternoon traditional pit-stop in Bschlabs: Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit. I called ahead and they had Apfelstrudel, Espressos, and Cappuccinos ready for us.

After the break, we headed to the Hahntennjoch alpine pass only to be greeted by Mother Nature's first "*gotcha*" -- a red light and a "gesperrt" sign. This winter the Hahntennjoch had the heaviest snowfall ever with seven meters of snow – about 21 ft.! This weakened the hillsides. Apparently, there was heavy rain last night and several rockslides thundered down, blocking part of the road. Thus, we had to turn around and go back down to Reutte and turn south to the Fernpass. We crossed over the Bavarian Alps to Imst, Austria. We made a quick pit stop at the Zugspitzblick Rest Stop just before the zenith of the pass. We then got onto the Austrian Autobahn – a rather slow 130 km/h speed limit. We got off at Telfs Ost and headed up to the spectacular Hotel Inter Alpen Tirol.



As always, the service at the hotel was superb. Even the Porsches were pampered in the hotel's exquisite garage! Everyone's luggage was in their room. Given the delay, I had called the hotel and moved dinner to 7:30. A delicious dinner at a beautifully set table adjacent to the Wintergarten was enjoyed by all. Everyone was in awe of the alpine views from their rooms.



### **Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

There is no other breakfast buffet in the world like the one at the Hotel Interlpen Tirol! Today we had planned a drive over the Timmelsjoch pass to St. Leonard in the Passeier Valley, Italy to our favorite Restaurant and Pizzeria “Der Brückenwirt” along the Königsseeache River. Once again, Mother Nature forced a change in our plans. The ominous Timmelsjoch pass was closed due to late-season avalanches.

The BVTG made the decision to take a day trip to Salzburg instead. I got onto the arrangements immediately and I was able to get reserved parking for the Porsches at the Sheraton Salzburg and, with a private guide, the group experienced charming Salzburg via horse-drawn carriages. The carriages let the group off at the Mozart Platz. They “did” all the sights, including the Getreidegasse (pedestrian-only shopping area), and had a hot lunch at the Sternbräu in Salzburg. The BVTG then walked across the bridge back to the Sheraton, got in their Porsches, and drove back to the Hotel Interlpen. When the group returned to the Hotel Interlpen, they had time for a quick refresh before enjoying a late dinner. Everybody was very happy with Salzburg.



## **Tuesday. June 11<sup>th</sup>**

Another great breakfast buffet at the Hotel Inter Alpen greeted the new day. Today we had planned to drive the Timmelsjoch pass, however, Mother Nature again had a different idea. Several avalanches and golf ball size hail eliminated that option. After canceling the pit stop in Sölden and the lunch at Brückenwirt in St. Leonard, we made the decision to take the Achenseebahn steam train up to Seespitz and the boat to Pertisau today.

My good friend Joschi Entner called the train company, but everything was sold out. There was not a seat to be had. I then called the Strandhotel Entner to reserve lunch and decided that we would drive up to Pertisau. It is a short curvy road up the mountain. We first drove around Pertisau to give the group an idea of the area and then went to our reserved luncheon. At Strandhotel Entner, everything was ready for us with a beautifully set table. After lunch everyone had a little time to do some souvenir shopping in this cute town. I then decided rather than take the Austrian Autobahn back we would drive around the lake and take a “secret” private toll road, north of the Achensee to the Faller Klamm Brücke and Mittenwald and back



to the Hotel Interlpen. Another delicious dinner at the hotel crowned our fun, if unplanned day.

### **Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

Today our plan was to head to Lindau via the Silvretta Hochalpenstrasse – no problem. Mother Nature decided to give us a break! However, the BVTG wanted to see Neuschwanstein Castle. So, I canceled our luncheon at the Hotel Schönblick in Vorarlberg. After checking out, we headed to Imst on the Austrian Autobahn and then across the Hahntennjoch pass from south to north. Today the pass was open! We stopped on top and took pictures. The drive was spectacular, and the comment was: “I have never seen anything like this in my life!” Once again, we stopped in Bschlabs, had Espressos & Cappuccinos. I also called the Hotel Sommer in Füssen to have a table set for us for lunch. They did a superb job. After lunch we headed up the A-96 for a few “no-speed limit kilometers” and then west towards Lindau on the B-12.



The Bayerischer Hof was ready for us. We had cocktails on the terrace and an a la carte dinner on the terrace next door at Reutemann's. There was a debate as to what to do tomorrow and the decision was to just have a relaxing day and explore Lindau.

**Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>** **Free Day** - Today is a beautiful sunny day in Lindau – a good day to explore this lovely island on Lake Constance! *To be continued ...*

### III. TRIP of the Week

## PCA Fall TREFFEN

Join us and your Fast Lane Travel companions for another exceptional **PORSCHE Fest in Germany!** We begin our adventure in **Stuttgart** at the beautiful **Steigenberger Graf Zeppelin** Experience the local German cuisine, along with German wines and beer.

We will drive the Autobahn, country roads in Bavaria and iconic mountain passes in Austria and Germany. Stay at the delightful **Hotel Bayerischer Hof**, a luxury hotel located on the banks of Lake Constance, and enjoy drinks and dinner overlooking the harbor. We will take a privately guided tour of the **PORSCHE Museum**.



Tuesday, September 22 -  
Saturday, September 28

Driving Distance: ~ 600 kms / 373 mi

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Ludwigsburg Castle Tour, PORSCHE Museum & PORSCHE Factory Tours, Autobahn to Bavarian Alps, Lake Constance, Cannstatter Frühlingsfest (Oktoberfest)...

**starting at \$6,498**

Deposit – \$1,500 per person

**\$6,498** (per person, based on **double occupancy**)  
**\$7,299** (per person, based on **single occupancy**)

We'll enjoy Cannstatter Volksfest – Stuttgart's Oktoberfest – with food, music, and of course, beer! We've reserved a **private seating area** in one of the famous beer tents. It's an experience you'll never forget and a wonderful end to your **TREFFEN!**

All accommodations, gourmet meals, cocktails and beverages, luggage van, car washes (dependent on water restrictions), gasoline, taxes, and gratuities are all included per itinerary. Don't miss out on all the fun!

– [sign up today!](#)



**IV. My Final Thoughts:** There are three things that cannot be easily hidden: The Sun, the Moon, and the Truth.

Source: Ralph Sica – multiple trip alumni and fun contributor.

The following are 2 Simple Truths, 6 Rules of Life, and 2 Bonus Rules:

**SIMPLE TRUTH #1:**

Lovers help each other undress before sex.

After sex, they always dress on their own.

Moral of the story -- In life, no one helps you once you're screwed.

**SIMPLE TRUTH #2:**

When a woman is pregnant, all her friends touch her stomach and say, "Congratulations."

But none go up to the man, touch his penis and say, "Good Job."

Moral of the story -- Hard work is rarely appreciated.

**SIX RULES TO REMEMBER IN LIFE:**

#1. Money can't buy happiness - but it's far more comfortable to cry in a Porsche than on a bicycle.

#2. Forgive your enemy - but remember the asshole's name.

#3. If you help someone when they're in trouble - they will remember you when they're in trouble again.

#4. Alcohol does not solve any problems - but then, neither does milk.

#5. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.

#6. No matter how rich you are, no matter how generous you are, no matter how good you look. The number of people who attend your funeral will depend on the weather... unless there's an open bar.

## **BONUS RULES:**

#1. I think all politicians should wear uniforms. You know, like NASCAR drivers, so we could identify their corporate sponsors.

#2. Also, all politicians should serve only two terms -- one in office and one in prison.

This is a public service announcement, Ralph Sica

## **V. SOME OF OUR HAPPY MEMORIES From the Buena Vista Touring Group Trip Last Week**



















