



Item: Fast Lane News #35 in 2024
(Issue # 235 since 2020) On August 30,
2024, I'm writing from DL 116 ATL-STR
on the way to both of our 50th PORSCHE
Fests Anniversaries & the last Treffen.
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 Golden Goose is Choking; The planned 2025
Fast Lane Dates; My Final Thoughts: The Haircut

I. All the Most Recent Tourist Taxes Announced for 2024

by Travel Market Source: Report – Voice of the Travel Advisor; [Daniel McCarthy](#) / July 29,
2024

It's more expensive than ever to be a traveler, and that's not just about
airfare or hotel prices.

In the past 12 months, several destinations have announced taxing tourists
coming into their cities, ports, or regions, aimed at balancing the need for
tourism to boost economies with the interests of the local people,
environment, and infrastructure.

The taxes come as an anti-tourism sentiment starts growing in some
destinations in Europe, most notably Spain, which saw locals burst into [anti-
tourism protests](#) in several cities over the last few weeks with locals blaming
mass tourism for the rising cost of living.

Here are some of the most notable tourist taxes announced in just the past
12 months (*list is updating as more are announced*):

Aruba Sustainability Fee: Aruba launched a [\\$20 sustainability fee](#) for air
passengers flying into Aruba at the beginning of July.

Baja California Sur's Tourist Tax: Mexico's Baja California Sur is set to
charge [international travelers a mandatory \\$25 visitor tax](#), starting in
October.

Bali's Tourist Tax: Starting this past February, Bali started charging all
inbound foreign tourists a [new tourist tax](#) of 150,000 rupiah (around (\$9.60
USD or \$12.90 CAD)).

Barcelona Cruise Tax: Currently, Barcelona charges a 7 Euro (around \$7.60) fee for all inbound cruise passengers, but that could soon increase. In June, [Barcelona Mayor Jaume Collboni](#) said that the plan is to “substantially [increase] the tax for stopover cruise passengers,” meaning passengers who are in the city for less than 12 hours.

Barcelona Tourist Tax: Barcelona has been charging a tourist tax since 2012, which will increase starting in October. Starting then, visitors to Barcelona will have to pay a 4 Euro fee on top of the regional tourist tax. The tax is added to hotel bills and doesn’t need to be paid ahead of time.

Galapagos Entry Fee: Starting Aug. 1, 2024, the entry fee to Galapagos National Park is doubling to \$200.

Greece’s Climate Tax: Announced in January, Greece is now charging a new climate tax for tourists that it said will fund disaster recovery projects in the country. The tax replaced a previously existing tourist tax.

The climate tax is added to the payment for stays at any type of accommodation, including all villas, hotels, and rentals. The standard tax, charged during the off-season, ranges from 50 cents to 4 euros per night (\$.54 to \$4.34). The new climate tax for high season depends on the type of accommodation and reaches up to 10 euros (\$10.85) per night for stays at 5-star hotels.

Lisbon Tourist and Cruise Tax: Authorities in Lisbon, Portugal’s capital city, recently approved an [increase in its tourist tax](#) that will go into effect in September—starting then, tourists heading into the city will have to pay a 4 euros fee, up from 2 euros.

At the same time, Lisbon is increasing tax on cruise ship passengers, doubling it from 1 euro to 2 euros, also in September. Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas said in July that the increases are coming because of the need to balance “the externalities of tourism” with the quality of life for locals.

New Zealand Cruise Tax Increase: In July 2024, the New Zealand government took aim at the cruise industry, with a [hefty hike on border processing fees for cruise ship guests](#) that amounts to an 88% increase. Starting Dec. 1 the processing fee per cruise ship passenger will go from NZ\$11.48 to NZ\$21.54.

Cruise Lines International Association Australasia and the New Zealand Cruise Association have hit back, both at the staggering increase and the government's lack of notice to the industry.

Quintana Roo Cruise Tax: (Yucatan Peninsula): While not live yet, Mexico's Quintana Roo will start charging a \$5 tax to all passengers arriving via cruise ship starting in 2025. According to Quintana Roo, the funds collected will be held in a disaster relief fund.

U.S. Virgin Islands Cruise Tax for Royal Caribbean: In October 2023, the USVI launched a [new tax of \\$5 per passenger on all Royal Caribbean Group](#) brands docking at the Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal in Crown Bay, St. Thomas. This includes Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, and Silversea Cruises.

According to the [Virgin Islands Consortium](#), the Capital Cost Recovery Charge (CCRC) goes towards funding "significant capital improvement projects" at the terminal.

Venice's Day Tripper Tax: Venice just wrapped up its day-tripper tax pilot program, which charged day-trippers coming into the city a tax of 5 euros (\$5.45) from April through July 2024. In total, [Venice collected 2.2 million euros](#) (\$2.4 million) from the tax. While it didn't seem to do so much to curb overtourism, the expectation is that the city will look to install the tax permanently. Venice also limited the [size of tourist groups at the end of 2023](#), in another effort to curb tourism.

My Comments: The US is on the same bandwagon: When we design trips in the US, for example, like the Fall Carolinas or Colorado trips, we have to include taxes and fees such as:

- A State Sales Tax on everything from 5% to 8%
- A Country Sales Tax 4% to 6%
- A City Tourist Tax up to \$12
- A City Room Occupancy Tax up to \$10/room/night
- A Historic Preservation Tax \$11/room per night
- Mandatory "gratuity" of 20% to 24% on all F & B.
- Mandatory portage of \$3/bag
- Various entrance fees like: Pike's Peak, Prices are \$30/adult, \$8/child and 5 or under free.

You get the picture. **The Golden Goose is starting to choke.**

The planned 2025 Fast Lane dates are:

SUN	18-May	FRI	23-May	STR	Fast Lane Spring PORSCHE Fest
SUN	18-May	TUE	27-May	STP	Fast Lane Spring PORSCHE Fest PLUS
FRI	30-May	TUE	10-Jun	AMA	Amazing Hidden Austria - Off the Beaten Tourist Path
SUN	8-Jun	MON	16-Jun	LEM	2025 102nd 24 Hour Le Mans Race
SUN	15-Jun	TUE	24-Jun	FAA	Fast Lane Adrenaline Adventure (TAP)
THU	10-Jul	FRI	18-Jul	COM	USA Colorado Rocky Mountain High
SUN	31-Aug	SAT	13-Sep	FDA	Fast Lane Dolomites & Alps Exclusive PORSCHE Tour
TUE	16-Sep	SUN	21-Sep	FTR	Fast Lane Fall PORSCHE Fest
TUE	16-Sep	WED	24-Sep	FTP	Fast Lane Fall PORSCHE Fest PLUS
TUE	30-Sep	SUN	12-Oct	TPF	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest
THU	23-Oct	THU	30-Oct	SMR	USA 58th Dawsonville, GA Moonshine Festival
FRI	5-Dec	FRI	12-Dec	CHR	Christmas in Vienna, Austria

III. My Final Thoughts: The Haircut

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week' The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replies, "I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week." The cop was happy and left the shop. The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a politician came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.' The politician was very happy and left the shop. The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen politicians lined up waiting for a free haircut. And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it. As Ronald Reagan said: "Both politicians and diapers need to be changed often and for the same reason."

IV. 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 2025. I will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. - Peter

