



LIFE in the FAST LANE™ #26 & issue #278 on Saturday, June 28th, 2025. I am writing from our Fast Lane Office in Oldsmar, FL, along the shores of the scenic Gulf of America. Where the mangoes are ripe now. To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Canada, Dubai, all of Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, and the USA!



Subjects: FEEDBACK from the just completed 12 Alpine Passes; Fed-up with tipping coercion? LAST CALL: Don't miss out, once again, on my TRIP of the Week: fabulous COLORADO! My Final Thoughts: and Fond Memories' Pictures



A beautiful and calming Sunset at the **Gateway Canyon, Colorado**

I. 1st FEEDBACK 2025 Twelve Alpine Passes Tour



Hello Wendy,

Words cannot express how wonderful a trip we had doing the 12 Alpine Passes. Thomas and Miro were exceptional. They made the trip a pleasure. These two gentlemen were great. Please don't let them get away, they

are irreplaceable!

Also, please let Peter know that he has created a great program, and we are already looking forward to our next Fast Lane Travel excursion. We will not be able to do Tuscany this year as it coincides with our Croatia trip; however, we will pick one from the 2026 when you release it.

Again, an over-the-top experience that will live with us forever. Thanks again to Fast Lane, particularly Thomas, for his expertise kindness, patience, and overall great attitude.



We would like to stop by your office one day when we are back home in Florida to say hello face-to-face and are looking forward to meeting you and Peter.

Thanks!

Robby & Leanne Fussell,



II. Tipping Is Everywhere and Consumers Are Fed Up. Here's How Some Are Coping.

Source: Heather Haddon, April 24, 2025, 5:30 am ET
Wall Street Journal; Personal Journal

My Comment: In [Webster's Dictionary](#), "tipping" refers to the act of giving a gratuity, or a small sum of money, to someone for providing a service. A gratuity is a voluntary sum of money given in addition to the standard payment for services rendered, often as a tip. The key word is "voluntary." In **German**, the word for "tip" is **Trinkgeld**. Literally translates as a little something so that the waiter can get him/her-self a drink. In **French** "tip" or "gratuity" is "un pourboire". This is the most common and direct translation. Here's a bit more detail: **"Pourboire"**: literally translates to "to have something to drink".

- While not mandatory in France, as service charges are typically included in the bill ([service compris](#)), leaving a small pourboire is a common way to show appreciation for good service.
- In restaurants, for example, it's customary to round up the bill or leave a few extra euros, especially in higher-end establishments, according to travel publications. Adding 20% to a restaurant bill in Europe is unheard of, except that Americans have now spoiled the Europeans with excessive tips.

The WSJ Article: Diners are rejecting digital prompts, using cash, and eating more at home. Tipping quandaries are causing discomfort at checkout counters, sparking fights between spouses, and sully the enjoyment of eating out.

More than 1,000 readers responded to a recent Wall Street Journal article showing that Americans are tipping less than they have in years. Some vented over being asked to tip for transactions as basic as fetching bottled water from a cooler. Others balked at service charges creeping into the fine print of their restaurant checks. Several wished America would follow other countries and include service in meal prices.

Many shared their own tipping strategies: pushing back on proliferating prompts for tips, keeping gratuities cash-only and raising their standards for tip-worthy service. Eating out less or ordering fewer items are other solutions.

Bad service

During a recent fishing and hunting trip to South Texas, David Savage surveyed his friends on tipping. Their consensus: Service has declined—and so has their generosity.

Savage, a 64-year-old retired energy executive, too frequently finds his restaurant orders arrive with errors, or take forever. His server forgets to fill his iced tea glass, while his wife's salad drowns in dressing.

"These servers seem to resent being there or are clearly overworked with too many tables," said Savage, who eats out multiple times a week. Poor service knocks Savage's tip to 10% from his standard 18% to 20%, and he won't return.

Industry data shows that consumer views of full-service restaurants have improved since the pandemic, but Journal readers aired plenty of gripes. Many respondents said they are less patient with bad service or irked about ordering via QR codes and aren't afraid to tip less in response.

Carving up the bill

Andy Rawlings regularly breaks out his phone at the end of a restaurant meal to do some math.

Rawlings, a 54-year-old executive from Dallas, has found more restaurants adding credit-card surcharges, "cost of living" fees or other charges meant to support restaurant workers or in response to other costs, often 2% to 5% of the bill.

Rawlings sees no need to tip on top of these. "They shouldn't expose me to their business model's flaws."

An estimated 16% of restaurant operators add fees or surcharges to customer checks, according to a survey of 2,400 owners by the National Restaurant Association trade group. They are common in places where restaurants have had to quickly raise servers' pay in response to local minimum wage increases, such as in Washington, D.C.

Rawlings, who eats out two to three times a week, now deducts those fees from his standard 20% tip. Rawlings's wife, who once waited tables, isn't a fan of his arithmetic.

"The waiter is standing there. It's awkward," Rawlings said.

Turning to cash

Alec Weinberg, a 72-year-old retired commercial real-estate consultant from Lenexa, Kan., started regularly leaving cash after waiters told him they liked the directness of hard currency over the way some restaurants split up digital tips.

“I’m old, so I always carry a little cash,” said Weinberg, who eats out twice a week and does the same thing at the barbershop and with tour guides.

Some Journal readers said they paid their whole check in cash to avoid credit-card surcharges. Some 71% of consumers said they would take advantage of discounts offered by restaurants for paying in cash, according to a National Restaurant Association survey in February.

Pushing back on prompts

Janet Fannin tips restaurant servers, maids, and the hairdresser. But the 60-year-old retired occupational therapist draws the line at other businesses, like minimarts or her local soap store.

“I pay the bill and that’s where it ends,” said Fannin, of Cathlamet, Wash. She still tips generously when eating out, recalling when she earned \$2 an hour as a waitress in the 1980s.

Many say they’re wearied by digital tipping prompts spun around on screens at coffee shops and concession-stand counters. A survey of around 1,500 adults by market-research firm Intouch Insight found that 46% of consumers dislike the specific tip percentages suggested by digital screens. Only 13% found them helpful.

More meals at home

Paula Scholtz cooks a lot of salmon these days. In years past it wasn’t unusual for the 69-year-old technology specialist from Bellevue, Wash., to spend \$200 on a night out with fellow Microsoft workers, but restaurant prices have risen, and tip amounts, too. “I still try to tip well, I just don’t go out as much,” Scholtz said.

Restaurant prices are up more than 30% from pre-pandemic levels, contributing to a decline in restaurant visits and tips last year, according to operators and industry data. About a quarter of diners are ordering cheaper items and fewer drinks, or passing on appetizers and sides, according to a

survey of 1,505 U.S. consumers last December by industry-research firm Datassential.

Journal readers said they are subbing in water for iced tea to save money or forgoing the bottle of wine. Scholtz frequently ordered delivery of crispy chicken from a local Thai restaurant after work but has pulled back. With a pizza sometimes running \$35, even that seems less attractive, Scholtz said. "I can make an English muffin pizza for 50 cents," she said.

III. Trip of the Week: **LAST CALL!** Getting Close, so don't delay this fabulous US driving experience.

You must join me in
OUR awesome
COLORADO – Tour.
My **ABSOLUTE**
FAVORITE – USA
Trip.



Thursday, July 10th through Saturday, July 19th
2025

To register, please go to:

<https://fastlanetravel.com/2025-rocky-mountain-high/>

This is the 5th time we have conducted this magnificent trip in the US. It has been so much fun that one year even Gerald Pairitsch flew over from Austria to be the lead driver.

Here is how it works – please:

1. Go to our website, click on **TOURS**, scroll down to **2025 TOURS**, scroll to **SUMMER**, click on **US Colorado Rocky Mountain High**.

2. Register for the trip or call us at 1 813 343 3001 with any questions you may have.
3. Decide which one of your car(s) you want to drive or we'll help you rent one. On our previous Colorado trips we have had predominately Porsches, but also had Mercedes, Audi, Lexus, Tesla, Cadillac, and a group of Mustangs. So, bring your favorite ride.
4. Drive or ship (We use **Montway Shipping** and we will coordinate it for you) your car to our designated PORSCHE Dealer in Colorado Springs. Although the folks who have signed up to date, are all driving to Colorado Springs.
5. Of course, we'll also arrange your flights and airport transfers.
6. Like in Europe we have laid out scenic routes.
7. And we have created another fun photo rally with "valuable" prizes, some from Stuttgart's Flea Market.
8. Get ready to have tons of fun with us. You'll love the Edelweiss Restaurant; the tour of the renowned Air Force Academy; the Million Dollar Highway; Pikes Peak; the Ritz Carlton, and look forward to our secret lunch



stops, like Marble, Colorado.

Colorado is THE best place to be in July. Like on our European trips we take you to places you'd not find on your own; meeting locals like our mountain man **Alan**.



You'll be spoiled by luxurious accommodations; and be

awed by amazing vistas. Gateway Canyon alone is worth the trip.



No one can resist the Cowboy Buffet in the meadow:



IV. My Final Thoughts: How about a true story?



The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees had not rung in sick one day. Having an urgent problem with the main computer, he phoned the employee's home number and was greeted with a child's whisper, 'Hello?'

'Is your Daddy home?' he asked.

'Yes,' whispered the small voice.

'May I speak to him?'

The child whispered 'No.'

Surprised and wanting to talk to an adult, the boss asked, 'Is your Mommy there?'

'Yes.'

'Well may I speak to her, then?'

Again, the small voice whispered 'No.'

Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, 'Is anybody else there?'

'Yes,' whispered the child, 'a policeman.'

Wondering what the police would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, 'May I speak to the policeman?'

'No, he's busy,' whispered the child.

'Busy doing what?'

'Talking to Mummy and Daddy and the Fireman,' came the whispered reply.

Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background coming down the phone, the boss asked, 'What's that noise?'

'A helicopter,' answered the whispering voice.

'What's going on there?' demanded the boss, now really apprehensive.

Again, whispering, the child answered, 'The search team has just landed a helicopter.'

Alarmed, concerned, and a little frustrated, the boss asked, 'What are they searching for?'

Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle... 'ME!'

V. More Fond Memories:









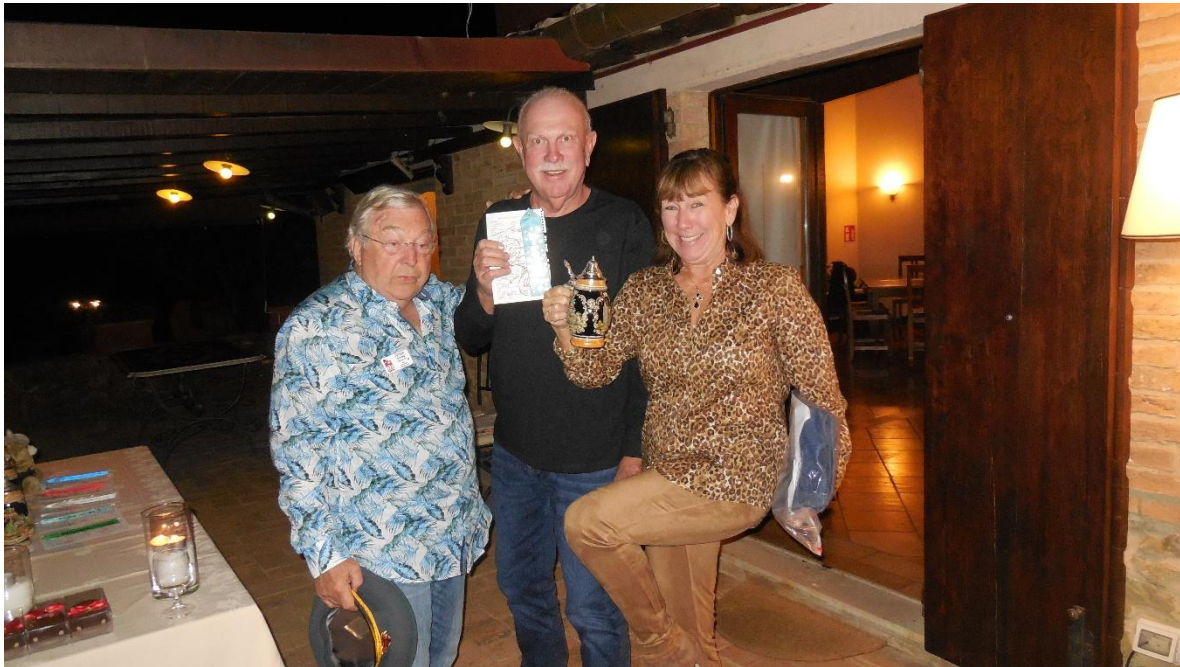




Lucky Photo Rally Winners



More Lucky Photo Rally Winners



Happy Photo Rally Winners



Eileen and Mark on their 12th PORSCHE Trip



See all of **you** in Colorado in July . . . or on the Fall PORSCHE Fest in Tuscany . . . and/or amazing Dubai – including the Final F-1 Race in legendary Abu Dhabi.

We'll be there for you. Thank you all for your loyalty, support, and dedication. Yours truly, Peter.

Please stay healthy and happy. I'm looking forward to the great times we will have together again on one of the fabulous PORSCHE tours we are

planning for 2026. I can't wait to get back to **Colorado in July**. All the very best to you, **Peter**

