



Life in the FAST LANE

#4 / Issue #308

Saturday, January 24th, 2026

TOPICS:

Off to a Good Start in '26

Trip of the Week: Black Forest
& Bavaria PORSCHE Fest

Tuscany PORSCHE Fest

My Final Thoughts

TO: Our Fast Lane Travel Family in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Central America, China, Dubai, Ecuador, all of Europe, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, and the USA!



Don't Miss Out on this Year's Black Forest Porsche Fest

Sun. May 3rd – Mon. May 11th, 2026

We'll be there during THE best time of the year.

<https://www.wetravel.com/i/68598dacc5826ee0b5bba2bc>

Imagine the beautiful vistas of the **Black Forest** country roads; the spas in **Baden Baden** (it's such a great romantic town, they had to name it twice); and you'll visit the **Cuckoo Clock Capital: Triberg** . . . psst: I

have asked an artist to create a sample custom **Fast Lane Travel, Inc.** Cuckoo Clock for me. Instead of little dolls dancing around, miniature cars are rotating. In fact, the goal is to add a detailed replica of your own car.

Below is a miniature of my Panamera GTS, completely authentic, including color and even the rear quarter panel window decals, created by an amazing miniature sculpture artist! Here is a miniature model of my Panamera, that you can purchase at the Porsche Museum in their normal colors.

However, mine is completely authentic, including color and even the rear quarter panel window decals are where they are supposed to be, created by an amazing miniature painter & sculpture artist!



Which one is real?



On the way to the Black Forest we stop at this magnificent 11th Century Castle Hohenzollern. Not only will we get a tour of this gem, but we will also have lunch there. It's not as well known as Neuschwanstein – built in 1869 (the template for the Disney Castle). This hohenzollern Castle was built in th 11th Century and is fully furnished. **You'll love it.**



So come join us in the Black Forest for some magnificent driving, amazing history and a Nürburgring add-on, if you like!

The TUSCANY PORSCHE Fest is our Second Most Popular Trip

Tue. Oct. 6th - Sun. Oct. 18th 2026.

Once again, we selected THE best time of the year for you. Customers have not only written accolades and sent pictures, but they have even **written poems** about their magnificent experience on our Tuscany trip.

This one fill up very fast. A modest deposit of \$2,500 per person will secure your space.

<https://fastlanetravel.wetravel.com/i/6858921e1bce682a4635b191>

Enjoy a few Tuscany Images below:









My Final Thoughts: Etymology 101 . . . The Origin of Expressions

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig!' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax!' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'strait laced'... Wore a tightly tied lace.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the term minding your 'P's and 'Q's.

One more and betting you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations.

However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.

Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey!' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

Stronger Together



Please stay healthy and happy. I'm looking forward to the great times we will have together again with my Team on one of the fabulous PORSCHE tours we are planning for 2026. All the best to you, **Peter**