



Life in the FAST LANE

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Saturday, February 7th, 2026

TOPICS:

Trip of the Week: Black Forest

Key Tips for Traveling with Children

February Travels

Fond Memories

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



Trip of the Week: The Beautiful and Romantic Black Forest

Sunday, May 3rd to Monday, May 11th, 2026

The beautiful and romantic **Black Forest**, where we have included the fabulous 86th Spring Oktoberfest in Stuttgart. There is no better **Valentine's Day** gift than **Romance** in the **Black Forest**. **Sign up before February 28th**, and you will receive a Valentine's Day gift of \$500.00 off per person!

It is the best time of the year to drive on the Schwarzwald Hochstrasse, which is the oldest and one of the best-known themed drives in Germany. It is another quintessential Fast Lane Trip, underscoring the passion and quality imbued in our carefully planned and delivered experiences.

Please get more details by **downloading the Black Forest itinerary from:**

https://fastlanetravel.wetravel.com/embed/download_brochure?uuid=77311831

We look forward to seeing you in Stuttgart in May, and let's experience and enjoy this truly remarkable journey together.

Below is our first overnight stop out of Stuttgart, the island of Lindau on Lake Constance, after an exhilarating run on the Autobahn A-7 South.



Key Tips for Traveling with Children (WSJ & Related Sources)

by Dawn Gilbertson

- **Accommodation:** Opt for hotels with on-site, structured, and engaging activities to keep children entertained.

- **Logistics & Seating:** Prioritize bulkhead seats for extra room and to avoid kicking seats. When traveling with infants or twins, be prepared to have flexible, engaging, and sometimes chaotic, routines.
- **Packing Light:** Utilize specialized gear, such as lightweight, compact, and foldable travel strollers that can fit in overhead bins, reducing wait times at baggage claim.
- **Child Management:** Maintain consistency in rules but remain flexible on the trip to avoid stress.
- **Teenager Tips:** Use humor and allow them to manage their own entertainment on long trips; don't force constant activity.
- **Active Supervision:** When visiting resorts, be prepared to spend significant time in pools or in supervised activities, particularly with young children.

Other Recommendations for Family Travel:

- **Include Children in Planning:** Allow children, especially pre-teens and teenagers, to have a say in the vacation planning to increase engagement.
- **Local Experiences:** Budget for unique local activities like cooking classes or guided tours to make the trip more memorable.

Why February Might Be the Sweet Spot for Travelers Right Now



Travel in 2026 is shaping up to be equal parts adventurous and unexpected. According to new data, people are planning trips around life's big moments more than ever — from milestone celebrations to bucket-list experiences — which translates into more routes, more experiences, and plenty of reasons to start planning right now.

Experts are also watching prices: while food and entertainment costs are ticking up, some travel expenses like fares and hotel rates have flattened compared with last year, making smart planning a real perk right now.

One of the buzziest trends this year is the rise of “microvacations” — short, highly curated breaks that fit into busy calendars without sacrificing experience. These mini getaways are popping into itinerary planning everywhere, especially among urban travelers looking for a quick dose of adventure or relaxation close to home. Another quirky but growing movement? **Grocery store tourism** — yes, really. Travelers are flocking to local markets abroad to sample everyday culture through food staples and snacks, turning errand-style adventures into full-on cultural experiences.

It's also a moment of record-breaking travel demand in some parts of the world. Saudi Arabia's King Abdulaziz Airport just reported a historic spike in passenger numbers this January, a clear sign that long-haul travel is bouncing back stronger than ever after pandemic-era slowdowns. Meanwhile, destinations from the Caribbean to Asia continue to see resilient tourism growth — proof that, even in the face of global weather challenges and shifting travel priorities, wanderlust remains huge.

Some of My Fondest Memories . . . Enjoy

Our great Austrian Drive Guide, Gerald, was ready for Valentine's Day, but unfortunately, his lovely wife Renate, was back in Austria.



Here we are crossing on a private mountain pass road in Austria.

And yes, this is my Panamera GTS after crossing the Atlantic for the 2nd time. Some folks take their wife on vacation . . . I took my car on vacation. Nothing attracts more attention in Europe than a car with US plates and no front plate.



Lakeview from our rooms in Bavaria on Lake Tegern.



A Schlosspark fountain in the Detroit of Germany = Stuttgart.



The Saturday Flower Market on Schiller Square in downtown Stuttgart.



Giving a Fast Lane Travel quality recognition plaque to a restaurant team we have enjoyed for years. Do you think we get superb service?



A big thank you to the entire Fast Lane Team in the US and Europe for creating fabulous life-long experiences for our customers who have become part of our Fast Lane Family of Alumnae Customers.



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**