



Life in the FAST LANE

#20 / Issue #324

Saturday, May 16th, 2026

TOPICS:

Avoid these Passport Mistakes

Last Tuscany PORSCHE Fest with Peter

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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!



Avoid these Passport Mistakes!

Source: The Wall Street Journal, Tuesday, May 5th 2026; By Dawn Gilbertson. The following items first appeared in Dawn Gilbertson's weekly Travel Newsletter.

Happy Friday from Phoenix! I'm back from a quick trip to Slovenia with my daughter and am mentally still in that fairytale Alps land of castles and gobsmacking lake views.

In travel news this week, United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby reportedly floated the idea of a mega merger with American Airlines to President Trump. Kirby,



you might recall, was an executive at American before joining United. The speculation is scintillating but we all know any deal, should it come to pass, won't be good for travelers.

Spirit Airlines is in danger of liquidating, its planned emergence from bankruptcy in flux due to the spike in jet-fuel prices.

Finally, we're starting to see flight cancellations by foreign airlines worried about fuel prices and fuel shortages. So, keep an eye on any reservations to Europe as the Iran crisis drags on. Norwegian discounter Norse Atlantic this week suspended its summer service from Los Angeles to London, Paris and Rome, and Lufthansa said it is shutting down its CityLine subsidiary.

Ellen Shapley thought she did all her homework ahead of a planned trip to Egypt in January. She checked the State Department website for travel warnings, uploaded her passport to United Airlines after plunking down thousands of dollars for flights.

The Iowa woman and her husband never made it there. When they tried to check in online for the flight the day before departure, United told them they didn't have enough validity left on their passports. Egypt is one in a long list of countries that requires at least six months of passport validity for entry. Other countries recommend at least six months but aren't as strict.

Shapley thinks United should have warned her when she uploaded her passport, not the day before departure. United says there is a page dedicated to international travel requirements on its website that mentions many countries **require six months** validity. A spokeswoman also notes that the Egyptian Embassy states the need for six months of validity.

There's even a line in your passport that says, "If your passport expires within six months of your date of departure, you may be denied entry to some countries." I was aware of the six-month rule but hadn't noticed that line until Shapley pointed it out.

"How do you check for something that you didn't know you had to check for?" she says. She shared her story in hopes others don't have trips derailed like she did.

So here are some tips:

- Check the passport requirements for the country long before you book a ticket. Airline websites often include this information and links and warn that you might not be able to board a flight to some countries without at least six months validity. Also, you'll be responsible for any costs incurred from not being able to travel.
- Search your destination requirements on the State Department's website and the U.S. embassy for the country.
- [Ask your travel agent](#) or tour group about the requirements before booking.
- Don't cut it close with passport renewal if you're planning a trip abroad. **United's website says the State Department recommends checking passport validity for at least nine months before**

booking an international trip. Delta's website warns travelers to leave enough time to get your passport renewed.

So, it's on us to make sure we're in compliance. But here's encouraging news: A Delta spokeswoman tells me the latest version of the Delta app will alert you to any passport issues for an upcoming international trip after booking if you have the passport stored there. Note, though, that it won't send you a push notification or an email about it.

Shapley says she feels like the "whole travel industry" failed her. But she was fortunate to get flight credits from United and the majority of her money back for the rest of the trip. She's now burning through the United credit before it expires.



This information is from an edition of the WSJ Travel newsletter, a weekly source of inspiration and advice for navigating your vacations and business trips, along with the latest travel news.

Peter's Comments: Don't book your own flights. Book your flights through Cindy, Manager, at Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC, **1 727 726 0571** <https://fastlanetravel.com/fast-lane-luxury-travel-service/> *Cindy will handle it with aplomb and in a timely manner. And she will help you enroute, like a schedule change, cancellation or upgrade **AND SHE'LL HELP WITH PASSPORTS!!***

Your Last Chance for a Fabulous TUSCANY Porsche Fest with Peter!

Fast lane travel discovered Tuscany in 2010 and we have enjoyed over 16 Tuscany trips during the years. In some years we had participants return for the same trip a second time because they loved Tuscany so much. It was like coming home. We have made local friends in Buon Convento with the shops, restaurants and the police chief and his staff. We have special privileges from the Abott at the Abbey Benedittina Olivetana - the origin of the Benedictine Order – like parking inside the Abbey so we don't have to walk a mile from the parking lot. Tuscany is so very welcoming, friendly, beautiful and simply a very special place

This will be my farewell to Tuscany: Tuesday, October 6th to Sunday October 18th 2026. Of course, we start in Stuttgart at the Porsche Factory and pick up the Porsche that you chose (different models are subject to availability and process vary, so early booking will increase the probability that you get exactly the car you want. Porsche rentals are charged directly to your credit card. I know in the US or Canada gas prices are now north of \$5.00/gallon. In Europe, gas right now is \$12.75/gallon!! They do have 103 to 110 Octane though – you’ll feel the difference – it’s like racing gas in the US. We have included your gas for the trip in the price – that speeds up the gas stops significantly.

We will also participate in the legendary Stuttgarter Cannstatt Volksfest Beer Festival. It’s better than the Oktoberfest in Munich. We have reserved seats in the upstairs Balustrade Loge. More importantly is our access to private bathrooms, dedicated waitstaff, and THE best seats. Don’t miss this delightful, last of an era, Porsche Trip with Peter - <https://fastlanetravel.com/all-tours-2026/>.



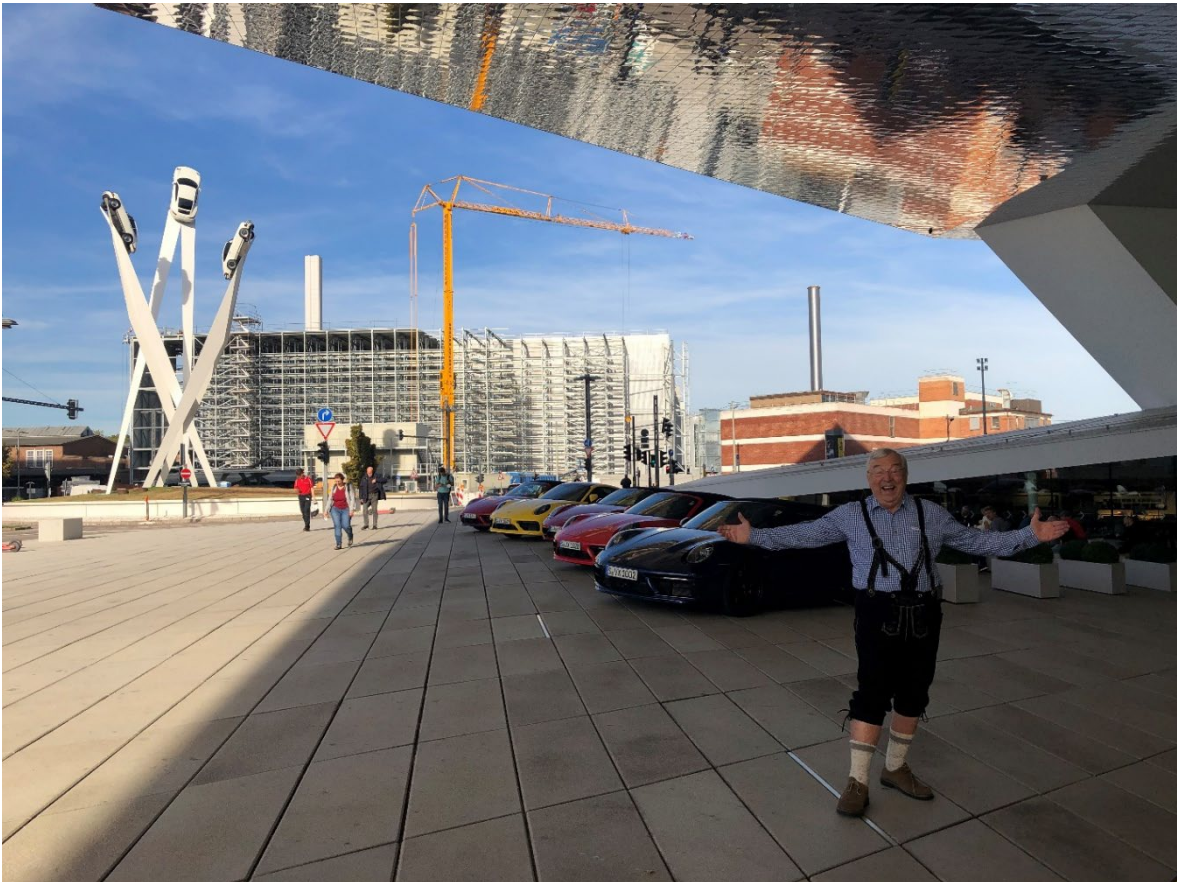
Peter's 12 Rules of Exemplary Customer Service

1. Put yourself in the customers' shoes.
2. Spoon feed the customer.
3. Do not assign homework to the customer.
4. Don't ever say NO to a customer but let the customer say NO to you.
5. Packaging is 80% of the cost of cosmetics.
6. Always acknowledge that you received an e-mail or text message.
7. Don't assume anything: ass – u – me.
8. The customer's financial values are not the same as yours.
9. Be sure to remember what is important to the customer personally.
10. Whenever you send an invoice, include some "candy."
11. Always admit fault - take responsibility no matter how small.
12. Remember it is the customer who pays your salary. Don't bite the hand that feeds you!

Our Very Fond Memories









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 tours we are planning for 2026. All the best to you, **Peter**

