Life in the FAST LANE

#21 / Issue #325 **Saturday, May 23rd, 2026**

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!

TOPICS:

12 Things You Should NEVER do when Driving in Germany

Trip of the Week: Tuscany

Travel Scam Warnings

My Final Thoughts

12 Things You Should NEVER do When Driving in Germany

1. Never ever pass on the right.
2. Never turn right on red.
3. Never be the second car in the box before you go under a bridge.
4. Never take even one drink and drive.
5. Never forget to check your rear-view mirrors.

6. Never believe that their laws don't apply to you.

7. Never get out of your car on the Autobahn without a reflective vest. There are two provided in every car.

8. Never stop at a yield sign on an empty round about.

9. Never hold a phone in your hand, let alone talk on it while you are driving.

10. Never forget using your turn signal when changing lanes.

11. Never slow down on a sunny day at a speed limit sign "120 kmh bei Nässe" on the Autobahn.

12. Never instinctively slow down when you pass a Polizei cruiser on the Autobahn in the no speed limit sections. You'll get the coveted 150 mph club decal.

Trip of the Week: Romantic Special Tuscany

Tuesday, October 6th to Sunday, October 16th 2026

You ask why "special?"

1. This is our 24th Tuscany Porsche trip and we have access, contacts, experience and local knowledge like no one else.

2. You have a selection of Porsches from 911s to Panameras and Macans or Cayennes. The costs vary, depending on the model of your choice. Book ASAP - there is a limited supply of each model. Your Porsche and insurance is charged to your credit card, so you get the points.

3. We have included premium gas at €2.55 per liter for Octane -105 gasoline = $12.32/gallon!

4. We are there during the wine harvest with a wine tasting event, of course. You'll be able to buy the superb local wine and have it shipped home.

5. The cuisine is delightful. Cooking class.

6. I have included a hilarious photo rally with "valuable prizes" acquired at the Stuttgarter Flea Market.

7. We have access to sites and facilities unlike other Tuscany Tours with Police escorts.

8. We drive a key section of the Mille Miglia.

9. You'll explore little villages, open markets and great scenery.

10. In Austria, we'll spend 2 nights on the way south and 2 nights on the way north to break up the trip and enjoy a relaxed breather.

11. We'll visit Siena. You'll enjoy drives through the Tuscan countryside and will fall in love with Buonconvento and Pienza. We have reserved parking!

12. No luggage worries – it will be transported in our luggage van to/from Tuscany.

Don't delay sign up in May!

https://fastlanetravel.wetravel.com/i/6858921e1bce682a4635b191#tuscany-porsche-fest

To underscore our Tuscany experience, I thought you might enjoy this letter from one of our Tuscany trips a few years ago:

Regarding: Tuscany Porsche Fest 10-3 to 10-15 2022

Dear Peter, Guides and Staff

Jacoy and I cannot thank you all enough for one of the most amazing European trips we have ever been on. I had heard that Peter's trips were good,but this one was beyond my expectation.

The cars, the planned routes, the lodging and the food were fantastic. Each day, each event and each briefing were so well organized. The gifts each night, delivered to our rooms with a card, with the upcoming event for next day was very much appreciated.

The Mercedes and Porsche Museum tours were so valuable to get the history of each company's success and passion for what they do. The factory tours and the amazing lunch at the Porsche dining room was so much fun and informative.

A special thanks to Fabian and Gerald for their great leadership and coaching to get us all to exceed our personal limits and becoming members of the 150 mph Club.

The trip was spectacular, and we appreciate all of your efforts to make this adventure so wonderful. We look forward to our next trip with Fast Lane Travel.

Thank you, Craig and Jacoy Kellerstrass

Travel Scam Warnings

The Simple Travel Scam That Cost a Seasoned Traveler Over $12,000. Make sure you are using official channels to talk with an airline and not an impostor.

SOURCE: By Dawn Gilbertson: WSJ Monday, May 11 th p. A13

David Calder is no travel neophyte, having visited more than 30 countries for work and fun. The retired engineer still made a whopper of a mistake when Lufthansa emailed him about a flight-schedule change last summer.

He is sharing the embarrassing fallout—$12,132 in bogus charges and months of filing reports and fighting with his credit-card company—in hopes of helping others.

Calder's cautionary tale comes ahead of a summer travel season in which we are likely to see a flood of schedule changes if the Iran war continues. Airlines struggling with sky-high fuel prices and even shortages will have little choice but to cut more flights. Travelers need to be on high alert for airline notifications and carefully rebook or cancel directly with the airline or the travel agent who booked the trip.

Calder's saga began in July when Lufthansa sent the 68-year-old Maryland man an email about his Philadelphia to Budapest trip. Calder had booked round-trip economy-class tickets for him and his wife, Randa, on the airline's website two months prior. The airline told him a schedule change meant he would miss his connection in Frankfurt on the way to Hungary. He could rebook or cancel for a refund.

Source: WSJ - Randa and David Calder on a trip to Finland.

Calder says that he tried to rebook at the given link a few times but that it wouldn't work. He became worried new flight options were dwindling, so he googled the airline's customer-service number. (There was a link to customer-service contacts way down in the email that he initially overlooked.)

The rest of the story is sadly familiar to the Better Business Bureau, Federal Trade Commission, airlines and consumer advocates. It's called an impostor scam.

This can occur when a company impersonates an airline's customer-service number or site, often by buying a sponsored ad on a search platform. The company is hoping that panicked consumers trying, say, to rebook a flight will click on the first link they see, bringing them to unscrupulous parties that try to charge exorbitant fees. I've written before about such tactics, and they are only becoming more sophisticated with AI.

"Scammers thrive on that sense of urgency," says John Breyault, a vice president at the National Consumers League whose coverage area includes fraud.

The person who answered Calder's call identified himself as a Lufthansa representative and asked for the Lufthansa confirmation number. He found new flights on Lufthansa's partner Air Canada and Austrian Airlines, a Lufthansa Group subsidiary, on the same late-summer dates.

The kicker, which Calder admits in hindsight is a colossal red flag: He had to pay $12,132 to make the change. That's more than five times the amount of the original tickets.

Calder says he was told that the money would be refunded and that he had first-class seats on the new flights owing to the inconvenience. He doesn't typically fly first-class, calling himself an "old cheapskate."

But he knew those tickets run into the thousands of dollars, so he wasn't worried about the promised refund. He charged it to his Citi AAdvantage Platinum Select card.

The emailed confirmation for the flight changes, with Calder's original Lufthansa confirmation code, showed the charge and indicated it would appear on his credit card as LUFTHANSA//FLIGHTCRYS. The seats, though, were in economy. A follow-up email minutes later says the refund process for the $12,132 had been initiated and should show up in one or two billing cycles. Both emails came from reservations@air-reservations.com.

Calder didn't freak out until the next day. That's when he saw that in addition to the $12,132 charges, there was nearly $1,500 in charges for two Southwest Airlines tickets in other people's names.

He called Citi and then dug up a number for the real Lufthansa. (Check for the info on the airlines' apps and on their websites and triple-check it.)

An actual Lufthansa agent told him his flight had been changed to Air Canada by a travel agency. She was able to scrap that rebooking and put the couple back on Lufthansa flights at no additional cost.

The agent couldn't help with the $12,132 charges since they weren't made by Lufthansa. The Calders went on the trip in late August.

A Lufthansa spokesman says the airline takes the protection of its customers seriously and actively warns about fraud, including third-party contact pages. It reminds customers to verify the authenticity of any communication and to use only official Lufthansa channels for bookings and questions.

The risk is there with all airlines. You don't have to scroll far on sites including the BBB's Scam Tracker, Trustpilot and on social media to find accounts of travelers who called the wrong customer-service number.

Calder's bill was outrageous, but there is no shortage of reports of other charges for services that are often free through the airline. A recent Reddit post recounts the story of a passenger who called Southwest to add wheelchair service, which is free except for a tip. It wasn't Southwest. The agent wanted to charge $654.

Citi quickly refunded the fraudulent Southwest charges on Calder's bill. But he says the bank has repeatedly told him the larger amount isn't covered by fraud protection because he authorized the charges. Calder had filed a police report and shared emails.

A Citi spokesperson says the bank doesn't discuss individual cases. In a statement, the bank says it's "committed to supporting and protecting our customers and evaluates all disputes in accordance with established regulations and fraud protection protocols, considering the unique circumstances of each transactions."Calder knows he will get some grief from readers for falling for the scam. "You live and learn," he says. Not to mention adding Lufthansa's legitimate phone number, 800-645-3880, to your contacts.

Peter's Comment: Please call Cindy Hill, our Travel Agency Manager at her office 1 813 475 5989 or her mobile at 1 727 423 6225 and like your accountant or attorney for their services – she'll take care of your travel needs and is your advocate.

My Final Thoughts: My First Day in Heaven

When Peter Schutz was President of Porsche (1981–1987) he always attended our welcome dinners in Stuttgart. He always opened his dinner speech with a joke: This was one of my favorites:

When everybody on earth was dead and waiting to enter Paradise, God appeared and said, "I want the men to form two lines. One line for the men who were true heads of their household, and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women. I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

Soon, the women were gone, and there were two lines of men.

The line of the men who were dominated by their wives was 100 miles long, and in the line of men who truly were heads of their household, there was only one man.

God said to the long line, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves; I created you to be the head of your household! You have been disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose! Of all of you, only one obeyed. Learn from him."

God turned to the one man, "How did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here."

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**