



Life in the FAST LANE

#22 / Issue #326

Saturday, June 6th, 2026

TOPICS:

Pan American Airways, Inc.

The Best Tuscany Trip

My Final Thoughts

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!

PLEASE NOTE: Americans now need a “Visa” [ETIAS](https://etias.eu.com) for [Germany from US | ETIAS EU.com](https://etias.eu.com) to enter Europe.



PAA: Pan American Airways, Inc

PAA: Pan American World Airways, Inc., also called (from 1927 to 1950) Pan American Airways, byname Pan Am, was a former airline that was founded in 1927 in the United States and, up until the final two decades of the 20th century, had service to cities in many countries in North and South America, the Caribbean Islands, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. From 1984 it was governed by the holding company Pan Am Corporation. From 1986, in financial distress, its routes and services came to be drastically reduced. The company ceased operations on Dec. 4, 1991. Source: [Britannica](https://www.britannica.com)

Why am I telling you about PAA? After two years at the Morningside Campus of the Graduate school of Business at Columbia University, on the south end of Harlem in Manhattan, on Tuesday, June 1st 1971 about 400 graduates were sitting in front of the Lowe Memorial Library, on a sunny and hot NYC day, listening to Mayor John Lindsay's, thankfully short, speech about our future, the benefits of our education in NYC and the bright future that lay ahead of us. What wasn't mentioned was that 1971 was a tough year for jobs, even for bright MBA's. Very few recruiters had been on campus this spring. Nevertheless, I had three offers: Hertz Car Rental, Citibank and ITT. I chose the latter: International Staff Executive sounded great. ITT operated in over a hundred countries and my job was to go to various locations and solve problems they couldn't fix from NYC. On Friday June 4th I walked into 320 Park Avenue to start my new job. On Sunday, June 6th I was sitting on a PAA Boeing 707, which apparently was under a full-year charter contract with ITT.



Source: Pan Am Museum Foundation <https://www.jetphotos.com/photo/11894952>

Woohoo, my 1st business trip! Flying over the Amazon Basin was an amazing experience. Thunderstorms were as high as 48,000 ft. and the crew made it a point to let us know, that's normal. The plane flew at 38,000 ft. max. Another passenger pointed out to me, not to worry, because the wingtips of the 707 are so flexible that they can move up/down 14 ft. Just remember also, this was before satellite navigation. The cockpit doors on planes were always open in those days. There were 4 flight crew in the cockpit: pilot, co-pilot, mechanic and navigator. On top of the cockpit was a Plexiglas bubble. Every half hour or so the navigator would get up on a round step stool with a sextant, yes, a sextant, and calculate our position. Below us were 2.3 million square miles of Amazon Jungle, 20 ft. snakes, piranhas and natives with poisonous blow darts. Welcome to international business travel. Thankfully, for every flight over ten hours first class was permitted.

In about 12+ hours the plane touched down at EZE (Ezeiza), the primary international airport in Buenos Aires, or known as BA inside the company. It had beautiful mosaics and was about 20 kms outside of town.

Pan Am was the symbol of American Freedom. I'll never forget flying from Moscow to New York in the 70's. The pilot announced that we just left Russian airspace and the place exploded with cheers.

As I had mentioned previously, my kids asked me to write a book about my life.

I devoted at least a couple of chapters to my early work overseas. South America, Asia, the Pacific Region and Africa were fascinating and memorable. Altogether, I was assigned to and worked in 86 different countries and have some fascinating stories about my experiences. Occasionally, I might include a preview chapter. The book is entitled ***"Sun Rising in the West"*** and I'll let you know when it'll be finished. I'm targeting it sometimes in 2027.

My Last TUSCANY Trip: Private Estate, Cooking Class, Wine Tasting...

Tuesday, October 6th – Sunday, October 18th, 2026

Drive a **new model 2025 PORSCHE for ten days** from Stuttgart across the Alps to **Tuscany**. You'll stay in a **villa estate in Tuscany** close to **Siena** and **Montepulciano**. Not only will we have fun drives, but we will also participate in the local culture – it's wine harvest time. You will enjoy a cooking class, wine tastings and a guided excursion to **Siena**. We will also drive part of the legendary **Mille Miglia** during our fun photo rally. We will stop at two different **5-star Alpine resorts in Austria** on our way to and from Italy – the scenic locations of both hotels are spectacular.

This **Fast Lane Travel** tour starts and ends in **Stuttgart**. We always recommend that you arrive a day early, if possible, to have time to relax, adjust to the time change, and enjoy the area (ask about our **Early Arrivals Program** that includes hotel, dinner and breakfast). We recommend that you fly into **Stuttgart (STR)**. If you fly into **Frankfurt (FRA)**, take the train directly from the **Arrivals Terminal 1 in FRA** to the **Stuttgarter Hauptbahnhof Station**. The **Steigenberger Hotel Graf Zeppelin** is directly across the street from the train station. **NOTE:** Airfare is **not included**; however, your **airport transfers** in Stuttgart (STR) are included.

Cndy, our travel agency manager, will be happy to arrange your air, train and other travel. She can also quote travel insurance to cover your trip. **NOTE:** If you have a pre-existing medical condition that might cause you to cancel your tour, insurance must be added within 14 days of initial trip deposit. **PLEASE call 813-475-5989** or email Cindy@fastlaneluxurytravel.com. **I have worked with Cindy for over 30 years – she is amazing.**

Day 1: Tuesday, October 6th – Depart North America

- Depart from your home for your overnight flight to Europe

Day 2: Wednesday, October 7th – Arrival in Stuttgart

- **Mandatory Drivers' Briefing and Lunch**
- **FREE Afternoon**
- **Welcome to Germany Dinner**

Welcome to Germany! Upon arrival in **Stuttgart**, you will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel, the **Steigenberger Graf Zeppelin Hotel**.

After you check in and freshen up, we will enjoy a fabulous **lunch** in the hotel's casual restaurant, the **Graf Zeppelin Stübe**. Following lunch, we will meet for our **mandatory drivers' briefing**, which includes important information such as the **rules of the road, road signs** you will encounter, and more. You will also complete paperwork including the **Waivers of Responsibility**.

After our delicious lunch and briefing, you will have the rest of the **afternoon free**. We suggest that you take a walk along the **pedestrian-only**

Königstrasse to get some fresh air to help get over any lingering jet lag. The area is filled with shops, museums, galleries, cafés and restaurants.



This evening, we'll take a short walk from the hotel to enjoy our **Welcome to Germany 3-course dinner** and drinks at **Restaurant Plenum am Schlossgarten**.

Day 3: Thursday, October 8th – PORSCHE Day

- **PORSCHE Museum and PORSCHE Factory Tours**
- **Lunch in the PORSCHE Museum**
- **PORSCHE pick up**
- **Dinner at Restaurant CUBE**



Enjoy **breakfast** in the **Steigenberger Hotel Graf Zeppelin**. After breakfast, we will board our luxury motor coach to **Porsche Platz 1** in nearby Zuffenhausen. You'll be thrilled by our privately guided tour through the **PORSCHE Factory** and **PORSCHE Museum**, and we'll also visit some closed-to-the-public areas like the New Car Delivery, Goodie Store and Special Selection. **Lunch** will be in the PORSCHE Museum at the renowned **Christophorus Restaurant**, hosted by PORSCHE AG.

After our delightful lunch, you will find the **PORSCHE** you selected waiting for you. The Team at **PORSCHE Drive** will introduce you to your PORSCHE, including familiarization with the PDK Transmission, the Navigation Systems, and the various routes to be driven. You will **drive your PORSCHE** back to the **Hotel Graf Zeppelin** where it will be securely parked for the night.

Tonight, we will enjoy a wonderful **dinner** at the innovative **Restaurant CUBE** in Stuttgart while enjoying the panoramic views through the glass walls!



Day 4: Friday, October 9th – Stuttgart to Seefeld, Austria (~330 kms)

- **Autobahn** and backroads driving to **Bavaria**
- Over **Hahntennjoch Pass**
- Drive to **Austria**

Enjoy a fabulous **breakfast** buffet at the **Graf Zeppelin Hotel**. Please have your large luggage in the lobby to load into our luggage van. We will depart Stuttgart heading south on the Autobahn toward Bavaria, stopping for **lunch** high up in the Bavarian mountains at the rustic and lovely **Schlossanger Alp Restaurant and Hotel**.



After lunch, we will cross into Austria and over an incredible Alpine pass – the fun **Hahntennjoch** – on our way to one of the most charming hotels, the **Sacher Alpin Resort Hotel**.

Dinner and drinks tonight will be in Alpine splendor at the **Sacher Alpin Resort**.



Day 5: Saturday, October 10th – FREE Day at *Sacher Alpin Resort Hotel* or Optional Day Drive to the original historic closed-to-the-public *PORSCHE HQ & Pfeifhofer PORSCHE Museum & Collection in Gmünd* (Gas estimated \$365, +lunch, +entrance fees, +1-day guide expense).

- **Breakfast** at leisure at hotel+
- **FREE morning and afternoon = or rare optional Gmünd Day Trip = approx. 600 kms round trip.**
- **Lunch** on your own in Seefeld
- **Pre-dinner drinks** and **Dinner** at *Sacher Alpin Resort*



Today you can start your day relaxed and enjoy a leisurely **breakfast**. This **day is yours to enjoy** as you please. The staff of the *Sacher Alpin Resort* as well as your guides from **Fast Lane Travel** are happy to assist you in arranging the perfect day for you. Perhaps a **round of golf** with gorgeous mountains in the background, or you may enjoy a day of pampering at the hotel's **luxurious spa**. Or you have a choice of **indoor or outdoor pools** which may be just what you need. We know you will find a

perfect place to relax and enjoy at the *Sacher Alpin Resort*.

Lunch today will be on your own, either at the hotel or wherever you might wander. In the evening, we meet for **pre-dinner drinks** before we will be spoiled again with a delicious **dinner**.



Alpin Resort before checking out and driving to **Tuscany**.

We will head south crossing over the famous **Brenner Pass** into Italy. We will check in at our Tuscan destination, *Omboneta Estate*, in the early afternoon where we will be greeted by **canapés and welcome drinks** by the pool.

The only things planned for the rest of the day are to settle in and be briefed on the

amenities and entertainment options. The staff will cook fabulous 3-course **welcome dinner** for us tonight.

Day 6: Sunday, October 11th – drive to Buonconvento, Tuscany (~600 kms) arrival canapes, wine, get settled in and relax. Sunset dinner on the terrace,

Day 7: Monday, October 12th – Drive to Montalcino and Pienza (~160 kms)

- Day trip to explore **Tuscan** countryside
- Visit **Abbey Beneditta Olivetana, Montalcino** and **Pienza**
- **Wine tasting** and dinner at ***Ombrotona Estate***



Enjoy a delicious **breakfast** at the **Ombroneta Estate**. Today, we will first take a short drive to the Franciscan **Abbey Beneditta Olivetana** for a brief guided tour, and then we'll continue our drive to charming **Montalcino** with its Rocca of Montalcino, a walled castle with a pentagonal layout. After this stop, we'll continue to **Pienza** for a delicious **lunch** on the terrace at **La Piazzetta**, a delightful local restaurant.



In the late afternoon, we will return to the **Ombroneta Estate** for a **wine tasting and tour of the wine cellar**. Tonight, we will enjoy a fabulous BBQ dinner on the terrace overlooking the valley.



Day 8: Tuesday, October 13th – Day Trip to Siena, Italy – Private Cooking Class

- Motorcoach to **Siena**
- **Cooking class** at estate
- Drinks and **dinner** at estate

Enjoy a lovely **breakfast** at **Ombroneta Estate** overlooking the Tuscan countryside. Today we will take a private motor coach to historic **Siena** and enjoy a guided tour of this scenic city. You'll also have time on your own to explore and enjoy **lunch on your own** in one of the charming cafés in this delightful city.

When we return in the afternoon, **Ombroneta Estate's** chef will be the instructor for our special **cooking class**. This evening, we get to enjoy the fruits of our labor with drinks and **dinner** at the **Ombroneta Estate**.



Day 9: Wednesday, October 14th – Our Legendary Photo Rally (~160 kms)

- **Photo Rally** through Tuscany
- Lunch in **Montepulciano**
- **Rally Dinner** and awarding of prizes

After a lovely **breakfast** on the terrace, drivers and navigators will get a detailed **rally briefing**. We will drive through gorgeous landscapes and quaint villages, ending in **Montepulciano**, famous world-wide for its fabulous **Vino Nobile** wine. The rally will be completed before **lunch** – which will be served on the terrace of a lovely restaurant, **Caffé Poliziano**. Remember to **turn in your score sheets** to your guide before lunch!



After lunch, you will have **free time** to explore before driving back to the **Ombroneta Estate** on your own. Tonight, will be our famous **Rally Dinner** where “valuable” prizes will be awarded.



Day 10: Thursday, October 15th – Drive to Telfs, Austria (~600 kms)

- Depart **Tuscany**
- Drive through Alps to **Austria**
- Relax at scenic Alpine hotel, ***Interalpen Tirol***

Today, we will have an early **breakfast** at ***Ombroneta Estate*** and then say farewell to the wonderful staff. On today's drive, there will be some **country road driving** as we head towards Florence and from there, we will drive on the toll road (or **Autostrada** in Italian) into **Austria**. We will stop along the way to enjoy our **box lunch** provided by the staff at ***Ombroneta Estate***.

We'll arrive and check in at the stunning 5-star ***Hotel Interlpen Tirol*** in the afternoon and be met with **canapés and welcome drinks**. We will meet up again later for drinks and **dinner** in one of the restaurants at the hotel.



Day 11: Friday, October 16th – FREE Day at *Hotel Interlpen Tirol*

- **Breakfast** at leisure at hotel
- **FREE morning and afternoon Lunch** on your own
- **Pre-dinner drinks** and **canapés**
- **Dinner** at *Hotel Interlpen Tirol*



Today you can sleep in and start your day relaxed with **one of the best breakfast buffets** you may have ever encountered. This **day is yours to enjoy** as you please. The staff of the ***Hotel Interlpen Tirol*** as well as your guides from **Fast Lane Travel** are happy to assist you in arranging the perfect day for you. You can rent bicycles, book a horse-drawn carriage tour, enjoy a day of privacy, relaxation and treatment at the hotel's **luxurious spa** or just lounge by **the pool**. We think you will find “your perfect

spot” to enjoy this quiet, scenic and peaceful place.

Lunch today will be on your own, either at the hotel or wherever you might wander. In the evening, we meet for canapes and our **pre-dinner drinks** before we will be spoiled again with a world class **dinner** experience.



Day 12: Saturday, October 17th - Drive back to Stuttgart (~330 kms)

- Drive to **Stuttgart**
- Drive on “**no-speed-limit**” section of Autobahn
- Return **PORSCHE**, check in to **Hotel Graf Zeppelin**
- **Farewell Dinner** at hotel

You'll start your day at the **Hotel Interlpen** with a hearty **breakfast**. Whatever you cannot find on the huge breakfast buffet, the chefs in the restaurant's kitchen will prepare fresh for you, the way you would like to have it.

We will stop for **lunch** at one of the fabulous rest stops on the Autobahn and enjoy the section of the Autobahn between Kempten and Ulm with no speed limits. You should have plenty of opportunity to join or renew your membership in the **150 mph Club**, if you like.



Unfortunately, you must return the **PORSCHE** you fell in love with when we arrive in Stuttgart! Our motorcoach will transport us back to the **Steigenberger Hotel Graf Zeppelin** after we return our **PORSCHE**s at the **PORSCHE Museum**.

This day will end with a fabulous **Farewell Dinner** in our hotel at the elegant **La Brasserie Restaurant & Bar**.



Day 14: Sunday, October 18th – Return to North America – or continue your travels

- Depart **Stuttgart** and return **home or travel on** to other destinations

Enjoy another fabulous **breakfast** at the **Steigenberger Graf Zeppelin**. If you are departing for North America, you will be transferred to the **Stuttgart Airport** for your return flight.



AUF WIEDERSEHEN!

My Final Thoughts: The Tourist's Prayer

By Art Buchwald

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your obedient servants, who are doomed to travel this earth taking photos, writing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking round in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech you O Lord to see that our plane is not delayed, our luggage not lost and our overweight luggage and illegal imports are unnoticed.

Lead us to good inexpensive restaurants where the wine is included in the price of a meal and the staff speaks our tongue. Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand.

Grant us the strength to visit museums, palaces, cathedrals and if perchance we skip an historic monument to seek private pleasure, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak.

Dear God, protect our wives from bargains they do not need, nor cannot afford. Lead them not into temptations, for they know not what they do.

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them with us. Save them from making fools of themselves at social gatherings. Above all, do not forgive them their trespasses, for they know exactly what they do.

And finally, when our wanderings are over, grant us the favor of finding someone who will look at our videos and photos and listen to our prattle, so that our journey has not been in vain.

Fond Memories





Wendy and Johnny are getting ready for the Drivers' Briefing, the fun but essential presentation on the European Rules of the Road, stark differences between Germany, Austria and Italy, all underscore our primary focus on your safety.

Christina: "OK everybody – line up for a picture!"



“Perfect!!”



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**

