

2010 Feedback: Custom-Designed Trips

Business Trip Stuttgart Visit - May 2. – 4. 2010: Peter, My visit to the PORSCHE Factory and the Mercedes Museum were certainly the highlights of my recent trip to Stuttgart. The retired PORSCHE Executive and your associate in Stuttgart, Volker, was not only a very good companion but a very learned person with whom I had general discussions not only about PORSCHE but topics such as politics, history, German economy and on. During my visit, I was mostly interested in the Porsche management approach how they optimized the manufacturing processes and the existence of the PORSCHE consulting group.

The Porsche Museum is certainly a very beautiful piece of architecture which I feel should have been built in a more suitable surrounding than the factory. As an owner, I was certainly amazed by the collection of 356 models, the food, the local wines and the fabulous dining room setting. Lunch at the Factory Executive dining room was delicious and my stay at the Graf Zeppelin Hotel enjoyable.



I was also impressed by the Mercedes Benz Museum which promotes 75 years of development and manufacturing and relates the company's evolution to the historic events of those years. Although I pursued my trip to Italy for business reasons, I had the chance to drop in at Brescia for the Mille Miglia event at which I was a participant in 1990 and 1991. As you may know, this event caters to pre-1957 original cars including Porsches 350RS, PREA356 and GS, an event which should be of great interest to all of your participants. Best regards, **Marc Bourgeois, Montréal (Québec)**



Father- Son Trip - May 17. – 26. 2010: This was a special trip to reward my son for his college graduation, achieved in four years, and to satisfy an adult dream for me: driving an incredible car on the Autobahn. Our goal was to pay homage to the major auto museums in Germany, explore legal driving at a

high rate of speed and, of course, sample life on our non-driving days in the Biergartens.

I shared my dream with Peter, and he put together an experience that greatly exceeded our expectations. On our first day in Stuttgart, we toured the Mercedes museum with the expert guidance of Volker, a retired Porsche executive, concluding the day with an exquisite dining experience. The following day, Volker escorted us through the Porsche Factory and provided a special tour of the fantastic Porsche Museum. His knowledge of all things

Porsche was impressive, providing facts on racing history, as well as Porsche family dynamics and how they influenced the car we know today. Our trip included a drive to Lindau, which provided an opportunity to explore the mountain roads of Austria and Switzerland, and an amazingly beautiful ferry trip across Lake Constance. München (Munich) was next on the agenda, where a visit to the BMW Museum and a quick trip to Ingolstadt and the Audi Museum were breathtaking. The attention to detail is so



obvious throughout all of Germany, but so incredibly evident in the way these cars are featured juxtaposed to the tumultuous history of the Country. I highly recommend visiting these impressive museums. While our focus was on exploring these fantastic automotive corporate shrines, everything about the trip was first class. The hotels, restaurant recommendations and the personal attention from Peter clearly made this a once in a lifetime experience. Least I forget the thrill of driving in excess of 230 kilometers an hour (~140 mph) in complete confidence makes me wish I could drive my Porsche like that every day!

Thank you, Peter, for putting together an ultimate driving experience worth every Euro and smiles per mile! [Sean and John Brindley, Austin, Texas](#)

[3 Amigos – Drive all the Mountains - July 14. – 14. 2010:](#) **Peter's Comment:** *On May 20th I received a call from a young man who indicated that he and his two friends wanted to go on a "spirited" driving tour across all the mountain passes in Switzerland and as many as possible in Austria in three 911s. They called themselves the three Amigos: Paul, Justice and Sherman. All have Lambos, Porsches and other goodies in their stable in California. Thomas and I created a "spirited" itinerary for them including: Glaubülenpass, Sustenpass, Grimselpass, Furkapass, Julierpass, Silvretta Hochalpenstraße, Arlbergpass, Großglockner,*





Gerlospass (with a view of one of THE most fabulous waterfalls) and the Brenner . . . the rest is history!

Wow, what a day! The pass to get here was extraordinary, just the kind of thing we came for. The countryside around lunch was spectacular as well. We look forward to Susten and



some off-piste detours before lunch tomorrow, then back on schedule. The Option 2 route was spectacular; I had the best time yesterday with the C4S Cabriolet. The roads were of my type and the car performed brilliantly and the scenery was unbelievable! Thank you. BTW, I did have a picture taken of the PORSCHEs in front of the waterfall. "Shortest route" on the GPS took us off the B road to-Gerlos and up into the hills on an extraordinary small road, very challenging, wonderful driving The PORSCHEs are sure-footed ponies that truly shine in the mountains! So Paul and I saw the



waterfall from a higher elevation and Sherman saw it from the vista point on the B road. The Seehotel is indeed lovely. We were all impressed with the level of support you provided during the whole trip, including providing optional routings. It did not escape us that you answered your phone in the middle of the night to support us. Thank you! **Justice Reed, Sherman Ting and Paul Colton, San Francisco Bay Area, California**

Young Couple Fun Trip - July 17. – 25. 2010: Helen and I thought our trip was amazing. Thank you. Everything in our custom itinerary was both well conceived and easy to execute in the time and distances allotted. I have done dozens of road trips in my time,



but this was by far my favorite. It was a dream fulfilled to drive a Porsche in Germany.



The Porsche delivered from AVIS was a pleasant surprise. Not only was the car a loaded Carrera 4S with all the bells and whistles, i.e. PDK, sport chrono plus and sports exhaust, but also a cabriolet. Helen and I enjoyed many miles of top down cruising during our stay. The weather was beautiful.

I must say though my favorite portion of the trip was the

Nordschleife component. Any self-respecting gearhead absolutely must make their way to the Mecca of all things automotive. When we arrived, there were literally hundreds of cars of all makes and models waiting to make their way onto the Nordschleife. Just walking through the parking lot and staging area was a treat. I could even see some of the action from the balcony of our hotel room. Driving the Nordschleife was a surreal experience. All I can say is HOLY F@#%ING SH*T!!! It is so much steeper, faster and more treacherous than all the YouTube videos and Playstation GrandTurismo laps would have led me to believe. I have driven a few world-class tracks here in the US including Laguna Seca, Watkins Glen, Barber Motorsports Park and Sebring but nothing could have prepared me for this. The Nordschleife needs to be experienced in order to be appreciated.

The race car you supplied was well set up suspension-wise as well as fitted with all the necessary safety equipment. My guide for the lead-follow session was a current DTM race car driver, and veteran of many 24hr Nürburgring races, Thomas Koll. He was great and in no time I was whizzing around the Nordschleife, despite my fear of being consumed by the 73 turn monster.



The Ring-Taxi ride was also a real

treat. Amazingly you arranged for Helen and I to have Thomas Koll drive us around in a 2010 Porsche GT3. Lucky for us, the Aston Martin race car was in the shop, and the Nissan

GTR is plagued by gear box problems. For my flying lap, Thomas did not hold back. He was absolutely ringing the Porsche's neck as he blew by every single car that had the misfortune of being in front of us. The lap was amazing but the moment bittersweet as I know that even in my wildest dreams I will never extract that sort of performance from a car. As for Helen, this was her first experience on a track and she was dumbfounded and a bit motion sick from the roller coaster ride.



We also greatly enjoyed our stay in Stuttgart. You are right; Volcker is a gem and knows everything Porsche. The PORSCHE Factory and Museum tour was great as well as lunch in the employee dining area. Although our itinerary was supposed to include the Mercedes museum, we stayed in Zuffenhausen the whole time. Volcker even brought us by the Porsche villa to show me where Ferdinand Porsche lived. If you ask Helen I'm sure she would say Volcker and I spoke for hours about all things Porsche. To me it seemed like minutes.

I could go on and on. The rest of the trip was wonderful as well. In any event, thank you again. I know we will go back. [Dean Kartsonis & Helen Karakelidis, Astoria, New York](#)

[Father – Daughter Trip - August 3. – 11. 2010](#)

Dear Peter,

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for all your efforts in planning this trip. Going to Germany and Austria for eight days with my dad was one of the best vacations I've ever been on. I didn't need a sandy beach with palm trees to enjoy this trip. I was in two of the most beautiful, historical, scenic countries in all of Europe...what's not to love?!

As you know we booked this trip about 5 months in advance. It was great receiving all the updates and info. that you would send us in the months leading up to the trip. It was something we started to look forward to. Whenever I saw a big, thick Fedex envelope at home I hoped it would be something from you! The conference call we had was also great. It was helpful that you went over the entire itinerary and took the time to answer any of our questions.

Because we departed JFK at 9:45 pm, I was able to sleep on the plane as if I was sleeping at home. When I woke up, it was morning and we were cruising above farmland and mountains, minutes away from landing. No jet lag for me (business class also helps LOL)!

On the first day, my dad and I met up with your friend and former Porsche executive Volker Spannagel, who guided us through a very detailed, interesting tour of the new Porsche Museum. After the tour, we were all famished. Volker brought us to Restaurant Christophorus, a steak house right inside the museum. The food was delicious, (all the beef was imported from the

US...funny, I

went to Germany to eat steak that is served at home...) and Volker kept us entertained with stories about Germany and its history. Volker was friendly, genuine, and intelligent. We really had a great time with him. He also helped with taking delivery of our Porsche 911 and made sure everything was in proper order.



The second day, Christian Dudek drove us around the city of Nurnberg, and we got the opportunity to see the stadium where Hitler gave his famous torch-light speeches. I got to stand on the very spot where he once stood, which was an unbelievable experience.

Looking out across the vast field, I could imagine the thousands of people chanting and waving, all under one terrible, powerful ruler. It sent shivers down my spine. Then, Christian brought us to the Documentation center, a WWII museum. It was fascinating



and very moving. The most interesting part about the Documentation center was that it was built inside a brick arena that Hitler never finished constructing because of the war. Its intention was to provide Hitler with another place to give his speeches. We enjoyed lunch with Christian where he gave us some more insight and history into the city.



On Saturday, our third day, we did quite a bit of driving...no skin off my bones, since the entire time there were breathtaking views of snow capped mountains all around us. Of course, the fact that we were driving a Porsche made this mini road trip enjoyable as well. Our destination was the infamous Neuschwanstein Castle, or, the *original* "Disney Castle." That day happened to be one of my favorite days. We took amazing photos of the castle and the mountains surrounding it.

Without a doubt, our tour of the Dachau Concentration Camp was one of the most memorable, indescribable experiences of my life. Everyone knows

about what happened during the Holocaust, but to actually be in a place where the atrocities occurred, to see the Crematorium and the barracks where prisoners were overcrowded in, and the gas chambers and the barb wired fences first hand, you get a whole new feeling about that dark time in history. The fact the weather was absolutely miserable – cold and rainy, made it even more compelling in some way. It was difficult to get through, and by the end of the tour, emotionally and physically draining, but I would do it again if I had the chance. We went on a tour with about twenty other people. I can't say enough about our guide Jamie, a young man from Ireland. His knowledge and story telling skills were unbelievable. I can't imagine not having a tour guide explain everything to us as we went along; It just would not have been the same if I went to Dachau and walked around by myself.



The next day we drove to Eagle's Nest, which was once Hitler's private retreat in the mountains. Presented to him for his 50th Birthday, we were surprised to learn that there were only 14 documented visits by Hitler. On this fascinating trip, we took two buses to the top of the mountain, (about 6,000ft. high) then we walked inside a very long tunnel that led us to an elevator made of polished brass that took us up approx. 400 feet to the summit. When the elevator doors opened, we found ourselves in Hitler's vacation house. Most everything about Eagle's nest was original, and anyone who has seen the HBO series, *Band of Brothers* would get a kick out of the place, since they would have recognized certain scenes from one of the last episodes when the Americans saw Eagle's Nest for the first time. From the top we were able to see the city of Salzburg down below, as well as the Italian Alps off the side. Our guide also pointed out where scenes of "Sound of Music" were filmed. The scenery just can't be described, and pictures don't do it justice.

Unfortunately after starting our drive back, I realized I left my camera on one of the tour buses. I was heartbroken and thought of all the pictures that were on there. My dad was able to reach the company, and they said they found it (Thank God). We had to drive back the next morning, but the scenic route from Berchtesgaden (where my camera was with the tour company) back to Lake Tegernsee where we were staying was almost worth temporarily losing my camera. We drove past a waterfall, a crystal blue lake surrounded by mountains on all sides, and tiny, quaint towns nestled in the cliffs...all on tremendous, windy mountain roads with absolutely no traffic. My dad enjoyed this day as much as I did, if not, more.



On the last day, we drove to Rothenberg, a medieval village built in the 900's. We strolled through the town, ate "Schneballen" ("snowballs"; a German pastry), and spent the afternoon at the Kriminal Museum. This entertaining, hilarious museum gave us a taste of what kinds of punishments were given to people during the medieval times. For example, if a baker made his bread too small or too large, he would be put inside a cage and dunked several times in a river. If school children were disobedient, their teachers made them sit on the "Ass of Shame" (literally, a wooden donkey). This museum was very enjoyable and we took plenty of pictures.

Overall, this trip was the vacation of a lifetime, and I would go back to Germany in a heartbeat. I would absolutely recommend parents to bring their children and teenagers of any age with them to travel throughout Germany. There really is something there for everyone. Whether they are history buffs like me and my dad, or people just looking to have a memorable vacation that they can brag to their friends about later on, Germany really is the place to be. Throughout the trip we were talking about how much my Mom and my brother were missing out by not coming with us.



My Dad's already thinking of the next trip – maybe Germany and then on to Switzerland and Italy? We'll need a Panamera as I don't think my Mom and brother will miss the next one. Thank you Again! [Teresa Tellekamp and my dad Christopher Tellekamp, Smithtown, New York.](#)

[Nürburgring Trip for two guys, while wives are shopping in Paris!](#)
[September 21. – 23. 2010](#)

Hi Peter! I'm back from the Nürburgring. I can only describe the experience as fabulous. Driving the track that Jackie Stewart nicknamed the "Green Hell", was a lifelong ambition. From the time I entered the first downhill set of curves, until we had to leave the track an hour later, I had a grin from ear-to-ear. And even when I think back to it now, the grin returns. Videos and games don't prepare you for the amount of elevation change on a lap of the track. You are almost never driving on the level. Reflecting later, I realized that one lap of the Ring, was the equivalent of a full vintage race at home. It would take a long time to learn the track, so the Instructor Guide Benny, kept me on the straight and narrow, with the shiny side up. Now if I can only learn to do that in the video game simulation! Hmm. I see that you can buy a season pass for lapping the Ring. :-D



The driver's training day was like a day in Disneyland, without the Mouse. The curriculum was similar to that which we teach in PCA DE, but on a purpose built facility, that provided a new set of challenges. Wet skid pads, sloped courses, and that moving road were all terrific fun. More grins! With a class size of 2, we were able to do as many or few reps as we felt we wanted, until we ran out of time! Our instructor Petra had a few laughs at our expense. And we weren't racing. That's our story and we're sticking with it. ;-)

The finale was the 'hot lapping' of the GP circuit in the Audi R8 race car. I was able to persuade Andy to do a lap with the proper line and fast. Amazing. After that he went into 'play mode', and drifted around a full lap. Waving to marshals. Passing other cars in corners. In a 4 wheel drift. Tremendous car control skills.





Special thanks to Theo and Heidi for the car, arranging things and reacting to the changing circumstances; Benny, for keeping me safe after Theo tossed me the keys to a race prepped BMW; Petra, who managed to teach us something while keeping the boys under control (we weren't racing!); and Andy who failed miserably at frightening me, but put on a magnificent display of what somebody could do with a car. Oh, and his videos.

Dinner at the Pistenklause, and the hotel were both very good.

I've had the rock cooking somewhere before, but not as good as at the Pistenklause. Accommodations were first rate. Thank you and your staff, Peter! My custom Nürburgring Treffen will be a memory I will treasure forever. We came, we saw, we drove, we left, we smile! **Perci Hala, Calgary, Alberta, Canada and Stefan Schaefer, San Jose, California.**