



GOOD TO KNOW – MAY 2020

Message from the F.I.C.C. President

We were happy and blissfully unaware but now we know!

And we're learning all the time....

I think that from now on, we will give much more value to what really matters! Because, suddenly, an invisible enemy has changed our whole reality and revised our entire way of thinking and acting.

We notice that

- Our most precious asset is health;
- We just need basic goods and services to survive. Therefore, we have much more than we need and take too much for granted;
- Freedom has limits when it might jeopardize the well-being of others;
- We can't just think about us. We have to think about the common good;
- Distancing has become an act of responsibility and LOVE;
- There are incredible human beings who put their lives at risk to save the lives of others;
- We have to be aware and prudent in everything we do to contribute to reducing the spread of the virus.
- We need to show solidarity with the most fragile, protecting them as much as possible;
- We have to be strong to stay at home and follow all the recommendations. This is our biggest contribution;
- We have to hope that everything will end well and result in us all becoming better people!

Nothing will ever be the same again ... but let's make the future a lot better!

Much hope and good health to all!

João ALVES PEREIRA
F.I.C.C. President



SAVE THE DATE

The 2nd F.I.C.C. World Congress for Camping, Caravanning and Motorcaravanning will be held on 29 and 30 October 2020 in Verrières- le-Buisson/Paris

The impact of DIGITALIZATION and SUSTAINABILITY on camping tourism

How does digitalization and sustainability affects the camping industry?

What are the challenges manufacturers, campsite owners, travel agencies and the (camping) consumer faces?

Which opportunities occur given these mega trends of digitalization and global drive for sustainability?

Participants

You are working or are active in the tourism and camping business. On campsites, as manufacturer, travel/tourism agencies, consumer organisation, governmental organisations.....

After this congress:

Learn from the best during this congress and practise in several workshops.

Discover the many possibilities digitalization offers for growing your market.

Reach out to your customers with ultimate online convenience.



The drive for sustainable 'green' growth offers opportunities for your campsite. Get to know the impact of the energy transition on the RV and camping market. Use digitalization for your benefit and growth your business.

A dedicated website will be available soon with all information's you need to participate.

<https://congress.ficc.org/>

91st INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 29 July to 7 August 2022 in MOSCOW/RUSSIA

92nd INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2022 from 18 to 27 September in SHANGHAI/CHINA

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

What is the best tool to have with you?

A multitool is very commendable but not really adequate as a vehicle tool kit for your caravan. If you do not take a comprehensive tool kit with you, you should at least make sure you have a Phillips screwdriver and a flat tip screwdriver in two sizes, a rubber hammer/mallet (essential for hammering down awning pegs), water pump pliers, universal pliers, several cable ties plus duct tape and isolating tape.

Anyone who has electricity should also have a 12V and 230V voltage tester.

Caravan holiday checklist

Friction pads on mechanical stabilising devices (they wear out just like all other brake linings do). Check and change

Corner steadies Clean and grease

Heating Change the electric ignition battery

Refrigerator unit Clean

Gas installation Change the gas filter

Water tank Clean and protect

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans (D)

Travelling on your caravanning holiday

° During any journey all passengers must be seated in the towing vehicle with their seat belts fastened. You are not allowed to cook while travelling.



- ° Unless it is expressly forbidden, you may stop for a break on a public parking lot. You may often find that you can stay overnight in your caravan (rest stop). But you may not camp i.e. no barbecues, no setting up a table and chairs etc.
- ° Unless it is expressly forbidden, you can park on a road that runs along a beach but you may not spend the night there. You may not lower your awning or set up a table and chairs. In Sweden, Norway and Finland a legal “right of public access” prevails i.e. you may park your caravan (giving due consideration to local residents) and stay for a short time – but not for several weeks. In Denmark you may drive on to the beach for the day – but you may not spend the night there.
- ° You may also stay overnight in the driveway of a friend or family member but only temporarily i.e. for a few days. You may not lower your awning or set up a table and chairs.

Important information – especially for campers

We have drawn your attention to the dangers of **Lyme disease** on previous occasions but would reiterate that it is a disease, transmitted by ticks infected with a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, that can have horrendous consequences and should be taken very seriously indeed. Campers especially, who spend so much time in the open air, should be extremely vigilant and watch out for early signs of the disease.

When a tick bites it releases the *Borrelia* bacterium from its intestinal tract into a person's body. You become aware of the bite seven to ten days later when a flat, red, circular rash appears on the site of the bite. It will gradually get bigger. After a while you develop flu-like symptoms possibly with a high temperature and the nervous system or organs (such as the heart) can be affected.

If you are in any doubt you should consult your doctor who can prescribe a blood test or a cerebrospinal fluid test.

Lyme's disease often responds well to a course of antibiotics.

To avoid being bitten by a tick you should dress properly when you set off into the natural world, walking in woods, through bushes or in the undergrowth and even grass. This means wearing long trousers (preferably light colours so that you catch sight of wild animals without being seen), socks and closed shoes.

It does help if you spray deodorant on your clothes.

When you return from a hike you should inspect your body thoroughly from top to toe, including the hair on your head. If you find you do have a tick, remove it either with a tick removal card or tweezers (available from pharmacies, pet shops and garden centres). Always disinfect the area around the bite. Be vigilant and do not ever drop your guard.

Practical tips – for campers too

To clean your glasses (spectacles): Put five parts of water to one part of white vinegar plus two drops of detergent into a spray bottle. Shake well and you have an ideal cleaning product for your glasses.



MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

Germany: New fines structure in force from 28 April 2020

Infringements against road traffic regulations will be met with much more severe fines from the end of April this year covering parking offences and speeding in both built-up and out-of-town areas. In addition new road signs will be installed including a special sign indicating "no overtaking".

Source: RTL-TV (D)

Health

Aids to combatting severe motion sickness

According to some experts, ginger – in common with tea, capsules or pills – can help.

However this has not been properly scientifically documented and, if you decide to take some form of medication, you should first discuss the matter with your doctor.

When travelling by air, choose an aisle seat between the two wings.

In a bus, sit right up at the front and in a car, opt for the front passenger seat.

On a ship it is best to have a cabin midships.

It is a good idea to be abstemious and not drink alcohol or smoke the night before your departure but eat something and just before you leave have a snack, some fruit or a few biscuits.

Stay calm and relaxed: If you are anxious you will start to feel sick and experience has shown that things can snowball and you can really feel worse very quickly.

Rest your eyes: don't read or fiddle with your mobile or watch a film. It's better to look ahead and train your eyes on a fixed point.

If you are on a ship, find somewhere to lie down below decks and close your eyes.

If you can, find somewhere cool that is well ventilated with circulating air.

On long trips wear support stockings (especially people with weak veins), take a few steps every so often and avoid wearing tight-fitting clothes.

Source: Apotheken-Rundschau (D)

Culture and other curious facts

The contemporary artist Tomas Saraceno wants to send some passengers round the world in a flimsy contraption that will be propelled by the wind and warmed by the sun. He tested the balloon over the salt flats of Salinas Grandes in Argentina and it stayed aloft for 1 hour and 21 minutes over a distance of 2.54 kms. Most definitely environmentally-friendly! Seen in Bunte (D)

Why do some tax havens exist? It's everyone's dream to live where there is no VAT, no wealth tax, no income tax to pay. Such a territory does exist and its tax-free origins go back to the year 1788 when a merchant fleet sailing from Jamaica to England foundered off the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean. The local inhabitants rescued the crew and, as an expression of his gratitude, King George III exempted the island from all taxes.



Why does the Eiffel Tower appear taller than it actually is (324 m)? Because the iron girders are lighter in colour higher up the tower.

The Metropolitan Museum in New York celebrated its 150th anniversary at Easter 2020. But there were no celebratory events organised thanks to the CORONA outbreak.

Environment

Six tips for a nature-friendly garden:

- 1) Do not use pesticides
- 2) Plant native shrubs and trees
- 3) Let an area of grass grow and flower
- 4) Plant a fruit tree and leave some of the fruit on the tree at least until the autumn
- 5) Make space for a small pond and add some native water plants but no fish
- 6) Plant a hedge round a green area and do not treat with fertiliser or herbicides.

There are about 500 species of bees but the **honey bee** genus is rare. Honey bees love to live together in a hive and a colony can number up to 50,000.

Wild bees however lead a solitary life. They dig burrows in the ground, preferably in firm sand, or boldly build a nest in hollows or breeding cavities of other insects.

NEWS FROM F.I.C.C. AND OUR MEMBERS

One of our camping friends, Mr. Eugene Tsurkan who comes from Bulgaria, has sent us the following photos of the commemorative plaque (certainly long forgotten) relating to the International F.I.C.C. Rally 1980 in Albana/Bulgaria. 2,966 campers attended this rally and there must be some people still around who have happy memories of the event.

(Coordinates: 43°24'30.9"N28°14'21.5"E)

We are most grateful to Mr. Tsurkan who has given us permission to publish his photos, thereby reminding us of a piece of F.I.C.C. rally history going back to the 1980s.





EXHIBITIONS

China: All-in Caravanning from 12 to 14 June, in Beijing

Finland: Caravan-messut from 17 to 20 September 2020, in Lahti

Italy: Il Salone del Camper from 14.09. to 22.09 2020, in Parma

France: Salon des Véhicules de Loisirs from 26 September to 4 October, in Paris

Great Britain: The Norfolk Motorhome & Caravan Show from 24 to 26 July 2020, in Norwich

Switzerland: Salon from 22 - 27 October 2020, in Bern

Austria: Caravan Salon Österreich from 14 to 18 October 2020, in Weis
Ferienmesse Vienna in January 2021

Belgium: Mobicar from 22 to 26 October 2020, in Brussels

Germany: Caravan Salon from 29 August to 6 September 2020, in Düsseldorf

Caravan Live Messe from 1 to 4 October 2020, in Freiburg

Caravan Bremen from 6 to 8 November 2020, in Bremen

Touristik & Caravanning from 18 to 22 November 2020, in Leipzig

Sweden: Elmia Camping & Caravanning from 9 to 14 September 2020, in Jönköping

Czech Republic: Caravanning Brno from 5 to 8 November 2020, in Brno

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