



GOOD TO KNOW – JUNE 2021

SAVE THE DATE



**The second F.I.C.C. World Congress on Camping, Caravanning and Motorcaravanning will be held on 28 and 29 OCTOBER 2021
in VERRIERES-LE-BUISSON/Paris – France**

You can find the link to the Congress website under www.ficc.org and congress.ficc.org gives you all the information you need about the programme, booking arrangements, hotel details etc.

The website is updated regularly.



**90th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY
from 03 to 12 SEPTEMBER 2021
in A GUARDA-Galicia/SPAIN**



The organisers (Federacion Espanola de Clubes Campistas (FECC)) inform us that the booking forms for participation in the above rally are still being accepted and that the preparations for participation of this special event in the beautiful region of Galicia in the north-west of Spain, with many interesting destinations and a very special gastronomy, are progressing well. The inhabitants of A Guarda are looking forward to welcoming the campers from all over the world.

In order to facilitate the organisation of the event, we kindly ask you to submit the registration forms as soon as possible

Deadline for registration is 19 July 2021

Welcome to A Guarda – Welcome to Galicia

Further information and booking form <http://www.rallyficc2021.com>



NORDIC CAMPING RALLY 19 to 23 July 2021

in Rauhalahhti (Kupio) FINLAND
under F.I.C.C. patronage

19.-23.7.2021 KUOPIO, FINLAND



NORDIC RALLY 2021

Further information from:

<https://nordicrally.fi/en/the-nordic-rally/>

**F.I.C.C. ASIAN PACIFIC RALLY from 08 to 12 OCTOBER 2021 in
Robot Land Park, Changwon City/South Korea**

Asia-Pacific rallies are organised by the F.I.C.C. Asia-Pacific Commission, comprising members from China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

The organisers of these events are always happy to welcome campers from F.I.C.C.'s member clubs in Europe.

**91st INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 29 July to 07 August 2022 in
MOSCOW/RUSSIA**





92nd INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2022 from 28 September to 7 October in CHINA



In April this year, a giant sculpture “Selfie Panda” by the Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman in association with UAP (Global Art Foundry) was unveiled in Dujiangyan (Sichuan Province) approx. 65 km north west of Chengdu. The sculpture which is 26.5m long and 12m high was executed in Shanghai and is a direct reference to ongoing conservation efforts to protect the species. F. Hofman is internationally famous for his monumental animal creations which include Rubber Duck, Moon Rabbit (Taiwan) and Hippopotamus in London.

93rd INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2023 from 24 JUNE to 3 JULY in KOZIENICE/POLAND



Official website: www.pfcc.eu

English: <http://www.pfcc.eu/ang/files/gbfic23.pdf>

German: <http://www.pfcc.eu/niem/files/gbfic23.pdf>

Français: <http://www.pfcc.eu/franc/files/gbfic23.pdf>

Polish: <http://www.pfcc.eu/pol/files/rally93.pdf>

The official website will be launched at the end of the year.



Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

A flat tyre – what should you do?

Tyres on caravans and motorcaravans are subject to a lot of stress: they often remain stationary in one place for long periods of time, take a battering from the elements and suffer damage from UV rays, not to mention carrying excess vehicle weight when fully laden. A damaged tyre is not necessarily accompanied by a blowout or a sudden loss of pressure. But a slow puncture is far more dangerous: it is detectable through a gradual lowering of pressure and the tyre overheating due to flexing which will ultimately result in a burst tyre.

Signs that you have a flat tyre are a change in the tyre/road noise emission and the vehicle vibrating or swaying. If you do find you have a flat tyre, stop at the nearest safe place (an emergency bay) and put up your emergency triangle to warn other road users. Whatever happens, you should avoid stopping abruptly or adopting steering manoeuvres that tend to make things worse.

You can either change the tyre yourself or enlist the help of a breakdown service.

- ° Make sure the vehicle cannot move (wheel chock and handbrake)
- ° Loosen the wheel nuts with a lug wrench
- ° Position the jack against the caravan frame and lift the wheel free (for extra security you can lower the corner steadies)
- ° Loosen the wheel nuts fully and remove the defective wheel
- ° Mount the spare wheel and fit the wheelnuts finger tight
- ° Lower the vehicle until the wheel touches the ground and tighten up the wheel nuts with the lug wrench (ideally use a torque wrench)
- ° Remove the jack and the defective wheel and stow the jack away safely
- ° After driving 50 km check the wheel nuts for tightness.

If a tyre is damaged by a nail or some other sharp pointed object, as an emergency measure a suitable tyre sealant recommended by the manufacturer can be pumped into the tyre to seal the damaged area. But this is only an emergency measure and when you go to the garage workshop to have the tyre repaired and changed, you will be charged extra for cleaning it up.

It goes without saying that tyre problems always occur at the worst possible moment. So it's a good idea to be prepared and anticipate the worst case scenario by ensuring that your spare tyre is fully inflated and that you have a good tool kit handy that includes a jack and torque wrench.

Source: ÖAMTC – ÖCC/A

You can extend the life of your leisure battery

- ° Check the charge status of your battery regularly because always having sufficient charge can help prolong the service life of a battery.
- ° A battery on standstill for any length of time will inevitably result in a drop in battery charge; harmful deep discharge can be avoided by installing a suitable battery charger.
- ° When the shunting function is applied in the colder months of the year, especially when used in short bursts, reduce the number of unnecessary devices such as pumps and lights that feed off the battery. This will spare the battery that is already under strain with reduced capacity thanks to the cold weather and is now called on to power the cold shunting aid.
- ° Carry out regular visual and dirt inspections i.e. to check and possibly clean off the battery terminals and connections. Leakage currents caused by dirt and damp can lead to the battery



discharging. Existing corrosion on the contacts results in increased transfer resistance that will unnecessarily reduce the charge acceptance.

- ° Use a brush to clean corroded connecting terminals and attachments and then apply grease to prevent further corrosion.

- ° Remove the battery from the vehicle in winter and store upright, ideally in a cool (+/-15°C), dry, well-ventilated place. It should be fully charged at the beginning of the storage period and the charge level checked at least every two months so as to avoid deep discharge. The best solution is to install a battery charger with a power-saving mode.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Responsible camping means enjoying a camping holiday while respecting nature, local culture and local people.

Source: NKC/NL

Dining in your caravan or motorcaravan: this is a new idea that has emerged from the corona crisis according to some TV channels. Smart restaurateurs are serving campers festive menus in their own leisure vehicles.

Camping in 2020

Despite the corona pandemic, overnight stays on German campsites were only 5% down in 2020 compared with the record year of 2019. There were some 34 million overnight stays of which 32 million were domestic tourists and a mere 2.2 million overseas guests. On average therefore, the camping sector performed quite well throughout the pandemic (-3,8%). Camping holidays are seen to be autonomous and crisis-proof. The Czech Republic (+3%), Denmark (-3%) and the Netherlands (-4%) reported similar results for overnight stays. Austria however noted a drop of 12.6% and Spain, Croatia and Italy clocked losses of around 50%.

How will the pandemic affect the camping sector in 2021?

If campsites are allowed to open up as early as Easter and travel restrictions are lifted until the winter, a new overnight record is possible – in Germany at least.

2020 showed that provided people observe the safe distance rule and adopt appropriate hygiene measures, camping is a safe and self-sufficient type of holiday even during a pandemic.

Source: Extracts DCC (D)

Safety first on the road in your motorcaravan

It is the driver who is responsible for correctly loading up clothes, furniture, china and cutlery, electrical appliances, gas bottles etc, making sure that all items are safely stowed and that the weight is evenly distributed. A motorcaravan with good weight distribution is safer on the road and less susceptible to slipstream turbulence from heavy trucks or gusts of wind.

A golden rule for outfits: the towing vehicle should be heavier than the towed trailer. In case of doubt, seek expert advice.

When travelling, passengers may only sit inside a motorcaravan where there are safety belts in place, nowhere else. If you have a pet animal on board, it must be safely stowed in its transport box. And don't forget to watch out for different speed restrictions in the various countries you travel through.

Source: ACS (CH)

Practical tips – for campers too



Dirt will miraculously disappear off your jeans if you spray window cleaner on the mucky patches, leave it for 30 minutes then wash in the usual way in a washing machine.

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

Netherlands: In order to improve the air quality in The Hague, vehicles that run on diesel and fall below emission category Euro 4, will be banned from driving around the city from 1 July this year. This applies to diesel vehicles that are 15 years old or more. Campers who live in this zone however can still drive straight in and out of town and classic cars (40 years and older) are still welcome.

Source: NKC (NL)

Spain: Speed limit for outfits: 80km/h maximum out of town, 100 km/h on motorways.

Outfits that are over 12m in length must either display one large sign (130 x 25 cm) or two small signs side by side (each 50 x 20 cm). Distance from the ground between 50 and 150 cm.

The signs are easily recognisable – yellow with a red border.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Health

Being an early riser should shield you from **depression** because the calm and quiet first thing in the morning exerts a positive influence on your soul that dramatically reduces any risk of depression. Early risers are also less likely to get upset or disgruntled than late risers.

Strokes – warning signs: FAST (Face/Arms/Speech/Time)

These are the four tests that suggest that a person has had, or is having a stroke. If the corner of the mouth droops in a smile – if the person cannot raise both arms – if speech is slurred or the person cannot repeat a phrase – don't delay it is time to call 112.

Hantaviruses are transmitted in the droppings of bank voles and they can turn up in a shed or any storage facility. A person will breathe in the virus with ambient dust: it will trigger a high temperature and can lead to kidney damage. Always wear gloves and a mask when clearing out a summerhouse, pergola, shed or cellar.

According to a report by a Dutch researcher, there are fewer germs on **dogs' paws** than on the soles of people's shoes.

14 June is World Blood Donor Day

Curious facts/environment/culture

This year **Italy** is celebrating the 700th anniversary of the death of the famous poet Dante Alighieri. All over Italy there are celebrations in memory of this Italian poet and philosopher who made his mark like no other on the country's linguistic and literary heritage. His best known work was Divina Comedia (The Divine Comedy). He was born in Florence in 1265 and died in Ravenna in 1321.



The strange **duck-billed platypus** is in danger of extinction. It is an egg-laying mammal that lives in the inshore waters of eastern Australia and Tasmania. There are currently only 50,000 of them and many research scientists are demanding that their habitat, that is continually shrinking thanks to climate change, should be protected.

Football: Who was it who dreamed up the penalty shootout that would decide the outcome of a football match in the event of a draw? It was Karl Wald (1916-2011) who came up with the idea some 50 years ago. The Bavarian Football Federation introduced the rule in 1970 that was subsequently adopted worldwide.

Germany: The **red robin** has been proclaimed the Bird of the Year 2021. According to the German Nature Conservancy Association (NABU), Germany has between 2.4 and 4 million robins. Breeding pairs of this beloved song bird thrive mainly in parks and gardens.

Belgium: From 21 March to 5 September 2021 the Galerie Horta in Brussels is hosting a wonderful exhibition (also in virtual form) of the work of the **Artist Gustav Klimt “Master of Gold” on the theme “Magic Immersive Art”**.

INTERESTING NEWS FROM F.I.C.C. AND ITS MEMBERS

The Nederlandse Kampeerauto Club (NKC/NL) welcomed its sixty thousandth member in April 2021.

Coming soon F.I.C.C. e-Book

The **Camping Card International website** was totally updated in October last year with new functions and user-friendly instructions and descriptions of the advantages available to CCI users.

In order to gain access to the detailed information, the user/camper must register on the website www.campingcardinternational.com although all of the benefits associated with the CCI are apparent without registration.

Once users/campers have registered and shown that they have a valid CCI, they have access to the CCI e-book listing all of the discounts by country plus specific tourist information that will ensure that they enjoy their camping holiday to the full.

As a registered user, give your email/password and select the country of your choice in order to download the e-book as a pdf file (available in English only for the moment).

F.I.C.C. and your CCI team wish you a wonderful, relaxing camping holiday!



“CAMPING WITH FICC”

is a YouTube channel, where you can communicate not only with F.I.C.C. members but with all campers across the world and share their camping tips, experiences and memories before setting off on a camping trip, and even while you are away. This enables everyone to get maximum pleasure from this type of outdoor tourism.

Travelling, discovering the wider world, waking up in a different place every morning...

Whether you travel alone or in a group, a trip in your caravan is always an adventure. But so that this adventure does not end in disaster, F.I.C.C. recommends checking out the video “Ten best practices before departure” that was made by the F.I.C.C. Motorcaravanning Commission.

“Camping with FICC” is accessible via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIDBeAqa72QIJ96q-CPPrp-Q>

New F.I.C.C. Council Member

Following the sudden death of Dutch Council Member Tjabel Nieuwenhuizen, the Dutch F.I.C.C. Member Clubs appointed Mr Kay SPLINT as the new representative on the F.I.C.C. Council 2020 to 2023.



EXHIBITIONS

Austria: Caravan Salon Austria from 20 to 24 October 2021, in Wels

Belgium: Mobicar from 21 to 25 October 2021, in Brussels **Czech Republic:** Caravanning from 4 to 11 October 2021, in Brno

Finland: “Caravan” Show from 21 to 23 January 2022, in Helsinki

France : Salon des véhicules de loisirs from 25 September to 3 October 2021, in Paris-Le Bourget
SETT from 2 to 4 November 2021, in Montpellier



Germany: Caravan Salon from 27 August to 5 September 2021, in Düsseldorf
Caravan Bremen from 6 to 8 November 2021, in Bremen
Touristik & Caravaning from 18 to 22 November 2021, in Leipzig
Reise + Camping from 16 to 20 February 2022, in Essen
Reisen & Camping from 7 to 9 January 2022, in Leipzig
Erfurt Messe from 28 to 31 October 2021, in Erfurt
Caravaning & Camping from 2 to 6 February 2022, in Hannover
Caravaning from 9 to 13 February 2022, in Hamburg
Great Britain: South West Motorhome & Campervan Show from 10 to 12 September 2021 in Shepton Mallet
Caravan & Motorhome Show in January 2022, in Manchester
NEC Motorhome & Caravan Show from 22 to 27 February 2022, in Birmingham
Northern Ireland: Caravan & Motorhome Show from 14 to 16 January 2022, in Belfast
Italy: Il Salone del Camper from 11 to 19 September 2021, in Parma
Netherlands: Kampeer en Caravan Jaarbeurs from 6 to 10 October 2021, in Utrecht
Caravan Salon on 23 and 24 April 2022, in Sande
Norway: Caravan Show from 16 to 19 September 2021, in Lillestrom
Spain: Caravaning y Camper del Levante from 6 to 9 May, in Torre Pacheco, Murcia
FITUR from 19 to 23 May 2021, in Madrid
Salon Internacional del Caravaning from 2 to 10 October 2021, in Barcelona
Sweden: Elmia Camping & Caravaning from 8 to 12 September 2021, in Jönköping
Switzerland: Suisse Caravan Salon from 28 October to 1 November 2021, in Bern

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