NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2024

73rd F.I.C.C. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH RALLY

From 17 to 21 April 2025 in Porto Recanati (Macerata)/ ITALY organized by Confedercampeggio Italiana del Campeggiatori

Detailed information soon

95th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2025 from 25 APRIL to 4 MAY 2025 in TAIWAN

The venue is Longmen Campsite in Fulong/New Taipeh City.
In 2025 The Camping Association of the Republic of China is celebrating its 50th anniversary

All information under
http://www.95thficcrally.com/

96th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY
Date: 26 June to 5 July 2026
Venue: Karpfham-Bad Griesbach/Southern Germany
Organised by the Deutscher Camping Club e.V.

INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE AREA BY YOURSELF?
No problem ! We have already put together a number of fascinating suggestions with addresses and coordinates so that everyone can find a suitable trip or activity that really appeals.
Whether it's a VTT bike park or the Bayern Park, there are opportunities galore e.g. open air museums, interesting biking and hiking trails, alpaca farms, giant slides, golf and much more. Even if the region is predominantly nature-oriented, Lower Bavaria has something for everyone (more or less).

We are also planning an interesting programme of entertainment on the rally site itself

but we do not want to reveal it here – we want to keep it a surprise!

Check out our regular updates on the internet site for the 96th International F.I.C.C. Rally 2026 where we will be posting all manner of interesting rally information as and when it becomes available.

www.96ficcrallye.jimdofree.com

97th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2026 in CHINA
Date: 25th September to 4th October 2026 in the vicinity of Beijing
Organised by 21RV

21RV 21世纪房车
专 注 房 车 露 营 22 年

Peking Opera combines music, acrobatic dance, and spectacular costumes to tell stories from Chinese history and folklore.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese internal martial art system, which combines profound principles, theories and martial art.

Chinese paper cutting is a picture cut out on a paper with scissors. The picture patterns are often pasted on the lintels, windows, or lanterns to express the feelings of joy.

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

New trends for 2025

° New chassis: 2.3 tonne axle for mono axles, offroad axles that, in the absence of a continuous axle, offers more ride height (ground clearance);
° Caravans are becoming increasingly autonomous: lithium batteries, inverters, solar panels, shunting supports;
° Awnings with air technology – air tubes replace traditional tent poles;
° Teardrops: for compact mini-caravans;
° Separating/dry rather than chemical: separating toilets (dry toilets) are making inroads;
° Gasless camping;
° Stable prices: most manufacturers are not increasing their prices in 2025.
Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

270 rest stops in Sweden – resting up after your journey

The Swedish Transport Administration has opened 270 rest stops throughout the country – from Karesuando in the north to Bjäresjö, four kilometres from Ystad, in the south. They are designed to give road users the chance to rest up and relax. One can stay at a rest stop for 24 hours which means it is possible to stop overnight.
These rest stops are situated on European routes and national roads, more often than not in very scenic locations. They are primarily intended for rest and relaxation not for overnight stays. However staying at a rest stop or covered parking area is basically allowed for 24 hours provided it does not interfere with other people's rest needs.
The website of the Swedish Transport Administration gives details of all of the rest stops and the amenities available e.g. play areas, dump stations, restaurants etc. All rest areas are barrier-free and have toilets, information boards, seating with tables and rubbish bins.
Facilities for toilet emptying are only designed for mobile toilets (caravan/motorcaravan toilets). Under no circumstances should dirty water be emptied out at rest stops.
Source: Fritidsmagasinet (Caravan Club of Sweden – SE)

Tips for energy-saving use of fridges in caravans

- Make sure that the refrigerator (whether it is an absorption or compressor fridge system) is connected to the power supply by a thick enough cable.
- Keep your fridge as well-stocked as possible, even if some items aren't really necessary. Coldpacks, tetrapacks and/or water bottles retain the cold and, after opening the door (energy loss), less power is needed to bring the temperature back down.
- Do not set the temperature too low (7°).
- Keep the inside temperature of the caravan as cool as possible by airing (ventilating).
- Park your vehicle so that the side wall that contains the fridge is out of the sun.
- Put the fridge on to cool down a couple of hours before stocking it up.
- Keep chilled items cool at home before stocking your caravan fridge.
- When travelling, buy food and drinks that are already chilled if possible.
- As a general rule: open the fridge door as infrequently and for as short a time as possible.
- Absorption fridge: clean burner 1 x year with compressed air.
- Absorption fridge: covering the ventilation grill in winter optimises performance.
- Both methods: performance drops in winter when incoming air is less than 10°C.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Camping tourism in Brussels – increasing numbers of motorcaravans means a need for more parking spaces/pitches

At the beginning of September, F.I.C.C. President Joao Alves Pereira met the founder of "Camp in Brussels" at the F.I.C.C. offices in Brussels to discuss the issue of pitches and parking spaces for motorcaravans in Brussels.
A summary of and information about this initiative by the not-for-profit organisation follows.

"My name is Sébastien Tran and I am involved in a tourism project concerning the welcome campers receive when visiting Brussels in their leisure vehicles, a project that is supported by "ASBL Camp in Brussels".
The association "Camp in Brussels" is working on two main missions:

One is to make reception arrangements easier for drivers of leisure vehicles wanting to visit the Brussels Region. To this end a parking area with 24 pitches was opened in 2022.
It is a pilot project offering a temporary solution that is supported by the local authorities.
12,500 users in 5,000 leisure vehicles have already taken advantage of this facility.
However, this temporary solution is far from ideal since no services are provided (no water, no electricity, no emptying facilities for grey water or chemical toilets), no sanitary blocks and you are required to book ahead. Many visitors are unable to find a parking spot because all 24 pitches are usually taken.

The second priority of the ASBL is to raise awareness at local and regional authority level.
In our opinion, appropriate reception arrangements for tourists will only come about once the actors in local tourism understand the scale of this phenomenon and put measures in place to encourage this important "category" of visitors. They should be seen as guests and rest and service areas provided that meet the needs of recreational vehicles.

We are currently working on a firm project detailing all the amenities users need and meets the standards expected of a European capital city.
We would very much welcome the support of F.I.C.C. members. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you think that you can help us in any way. We would be grateful for any ideas and suggestions, and your energy!

Contact:
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Practical tips – for campers too

Your mobile phone needs looking after. You should wipe it over with a microfibre cloth every day to avoid dust and dirt getting inside. A protective cover made of synthetic material, leather or fabric will prevent it from getting scratched.
Also mobile phones do not like extreme heat or cold, or rain.
The battery will last longer if it is not kept fully charged or allowed to run flat. It is best to leave it 80% charged.
Source: seen in a magazine

Outwell Snowbird Lake has produced a **new line in camping furniture** that is inflatable. It is reckoned to be hardwearing and can be removed for cleaning. It comes with its own carry bag for storage and transporting.
www.outwell.com
Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

The **best-selling car** worldwide up to 2023 was the Toyota Carolla. It has now been superseded by the E-Auto Tesla Model Y (1.23 million sales to date).

As of July 2024, the following assistance systems must be included in new vehicles in accordance with an EU regulation (2019/2144):

- Emergency braking assistance – this system automatically brakes in an emergency
- Intelligent speed assistance: the prescribed speed limit is detected and if exceeded there is a visual and acoustic warning alert
- Reversing assistance: radar, camera or ultrasound detect the area behind the vehicle and warn if necessary
- Lane-keeping support: warns if you stray from your lane and can intervene to return the vehicle to its lane
- Emergency brake light: in the event of hard braking or emergency braking, the traffic behind is alerted by pulsating brake lights or automatic hazard warning lights

- Driver drowsiness alert: an appropriate symbol (usually a coffee cup) warns the driver that it is time to take a break
- Alcolock (alcohol ignition interlock): a retro-fitted alcohol-sensitive device that immobilises an HGV if the driver is above the permitted alcohol limit
- Accident data recorder: a sort of blackbox, which gathers accident-relevant data for use anonymously in accident research.

Source: Freie Fahrt (Arbö/CCA-AT)

Venice: In an attempt to stem the flow of tourists, Venice has increased the visitor's tax to 10€. For the purpose of monitoring behaviour, i.e. tracking tourists using mobile phone data and video surveillance, 610 cameras have been installed (almost as many as the bridges over its canals). These capture people sitting around on stairways, steps and low walls and in St. Mark's Square where one can get fined 200€. Feeding the pigeons is forbidden (up to 500€ fine). Further information from the hashtag #EnjoyRespectVenezia

Health

It is a well-established fact that smoking is bad for one's health. One study shows that once you **quit smoking,** the first beneficial effect kicks in 20 minutes later when your blood pressure drops thanks to improved blood circulation. Then, after 24 to 48 hours, former smokers will notice a more intense sense of smell and taste. It has also been established that lung capacity improves by 30% and after a few months, smoker's cough and shortness of breath disappear.

E-bikes are good for your health because bikers go out on their bikes more frequently and cycle further. Despite support from the electric motor, they still have to "pedal".
At the Hanover (D) Medical School, they discovered that the heart rate of e-bikers is nearly as high as that of conventional bike riders. So no-one needs to have a guilty conscience if they are happy to go off on lots of e-bike rides.

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

The **Duden** dictionary has been around since 1852. It is the most used of all German dictionaries and it is updated regularly.

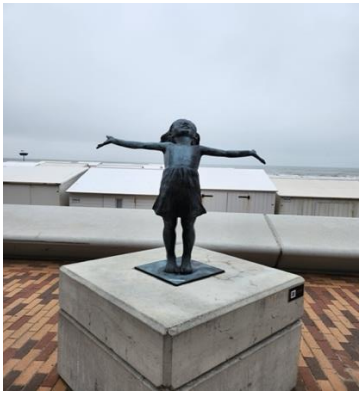
One should still not wander across **fields, meadows or enclosures** whether on foot, cycling or on horseback even in **October.** From seed-sowing in March through to harvest time in October, these agricultural areas are off-limits and non-compliance can cost you a hefty fine.

Worldwide there are just 861 million landline telephones. Since 2002, mobile communications have been forging ahead and now account for 8.9 billion, thus outstripping the old technology many times over. Worldwide 1.17 billion smartphones were sold in 2023.
Source: International Telecommunications Union

Surprisingly**, the most photographed place in the world** to date is the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

In the context of the Venice Biennial 2024, the magnificent **exhibition** "Planet **Lalanne"** displaying works of art by the artist duo Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, runs until 3rd November 2024 in the **Palazzo Rota Ivancich in Venice.** Around 150 works of art are on display including many animal sculptures that double as furniture. Info: info@benbrownfinearts.com

The Beaufort Triennial Sculpture Exhibition now in its 8th season ends in De Haan/Belgium on 4 November.
Beaufort Triennial extends along the entire Belgian coast displaying 42 works of art that have given pleasure to so many local and foreign visitors.



For ever Einstein

Taiwanese artist Pei-Hsuan Wang

Photos: Silvia Brohl

Beaufort Triennial is a three-yearly art event that started in 2003 and is organised on the sea walls, beaches and dunes along the Belgian coast.
Following earlier editions of the Triennial by the Sea, coastal towns have acquired some of the sculptures and these have either remained in place or have been moved to another spot. This is how the permanent outdoor Beaufort Sculpture Park was born that features over 40 works of art in the public domain. It is the largest open air exhibition in the very special setting of the Belgian coast. Every exhibition has its own curator (or curator team) responsible for the artistic selection based on a well thought-out concept. The artists chosen by the curator are all professionally active in the art world, have experience of projects in public spaces, enjoy a national reputation and have artistic experience that is relevant to the theme of the exhibition.

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

Touring Club Suisse (TCS) has informed us that online booking is now open for all TCS Campsites for 2025.
https://www.tcs.ch/de/camping-reisen/camping/

The Iberian Rally (Portugal/Spain 2024) took place in Lagoa de Santo André/Portugal. At the opening ceremony on 6 September, F.I.C.C. President João Alves Pereira presented the President of the Portuguese Federation of Camping and Mountaineering (FPCM), Mr João Luis Queiroz, with an award plaque to thank him for 12 years of good cooperation in the development of camping, caravanning and motor caravanning worldwide.

F.I.C.C. President Joao Alves Pereira visited the trade fair in Parma and met some of the Italian F.I.C.C. members there to discuss the International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally 2025 in Italy, to attend the General Assembly of Unione Club Amici and the Forum of ACTItalia honouring the late Camillo Musso and his wife Rita.

During this camping fair, the F.I.C.C. Rally, which will take place in Taiwan next year, was clearly emphasised.
Mr Pereira gave several interviews for camping magazines and a TV channel. He was accompanied and supported by F.I.C.C. board member Emanuele Paolicelli.

EXHIBITIONS

Argentina: Expo Rodantear in October 2024, in Buenos Aires
Austria: Caravan Salon Austria from 16 to 20 October 2024, in Wels
Ferien-Messe Wien from 16 to 19 March 2025, in Vienna
Belgium: Salon des Vacances from 30 January to 2 February 2025, in Brussels
Brazil: Expo Motorhome in November 2024, in Novo Hamburgo
Czech Republic: Caravaning Brno in November 2024, in Brno
France: Destinations Nature from 13 to 16 March 2025, in Paris
Salon Mondial du Tourisme from 13 to 16 March 2025, in Paris
Germany: Caravan Bremen from 8 to 10 November 2024, in Bremen
Touristik & Caravaning from 20 to 24 November 2024, in Leipzig
CMT from 18 to 26 January 2025, in Stuttgart
Reise & Camping from 19 to 23 February, in Essen
Freizeit, Touristik & Garten from 12 to 16 March 2025, in Nüremberg
ABF Caravaning & Camping from 18 to 23 February 2025, in Hanover
Great Britain: Caravan & Motorhome Show from 16 to 19 January 2025, in Manchester
Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show from 18 to 23 February 2025, in Birmingham
Netherlands: Vakantiebeurs from 9 to 12 January 2025, in Utrecht
Caravana from 29 January to 2 February 2025, in Leeuwarden
Switzerland: Suisse Caravan Salon from 24 to 28 October 2024, in Berne
Spain: Fitur from 22 to 26 January 2025, in Madrid
Expocamp in March 2025, in Avilés
B-Travel from 28 to 30 March 2025, in Barcelona
Turkey: Kamptalya Outdoor ve Motordrom from 12 to 16 February 2025, in Antalya

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