



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER - 2024



WWW.FICC.ORG

73rd International F.I.C.C. YOUTH RALLY
from 17 to 21 April 2025 in Porto Recanati (Macerata)/ITALY
organised by Confederazione Italiana del Campeggiatori.



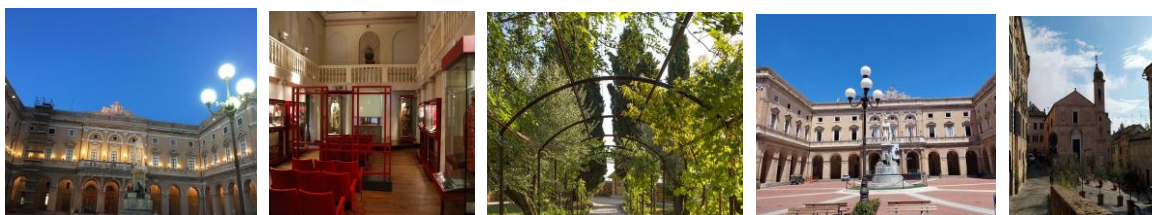
A special Newsletter edition concerning this Youth Rally will follow.

Recanati is a municipality in the province of Macerata in the Italian region of Marche. Recanati was founded around 1150 AD from three pre-existing castles. It declared itself an independent republic in 1290 and was famous for its international fair in the 15th century. It was conquered by Napoleon in March 1798.



Recanati : the infinite city. Recanati is the birthplace of the greatest Italian poet of the 19th century, Giacomo Leopardi.

Some places of interest in Recanati



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

Full information under <http://www.95thficcrally.com>

WELCOME TO TAIWAN

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.



Full information on

www.96ficcrallye.jimdofree.com



A Bad Griesbach suburb

Gentle hills, a picturesque old town and a panoramic view as far as the Alps - this is how the climatic health resort of Bad Griesbach in the Rottal valley describes itself.

The town is totally geared towards relaxation thanks to its hot thermal springs, which bubble to the surface at up to 60° Celsius, stimulating blood circulation and relaxing the muscles. Applied treatments are available in many spa areas, especially for rheumatism and osteoporosis. But Bad Griesbach is also very active culturally - music, sport and haute cuisine are particularly important and for the information of football fans: Franz Beckenbauer (who died in 2024) was an honorary citizen of the town since 2003.

The twin town of Bad Griesbach is Friesach/Austria

The administrative region is Lower Bavaria - Passau district

Coordinates 48°27'N 13°12'E

The postcode is DE- 94086

Population approx. 10,000

The patron saint of the town is St Konrad

History: The first documented mention of Griesbach Castle dates back to 1076. The town belonged to Landshut. In 1504 it was attacked and destroyed by an Electoral Palatinate army, but was rebuilt shortly afterwards. In 1778/79, Griesbach was occupied by Austrian troops. As part of the Duchy of Bavaria, Griesbach im Rottal (official name) became increasingly independent. It was officially elevated to a small town in 1953.

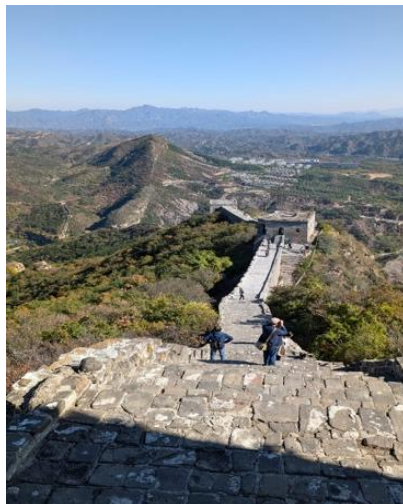
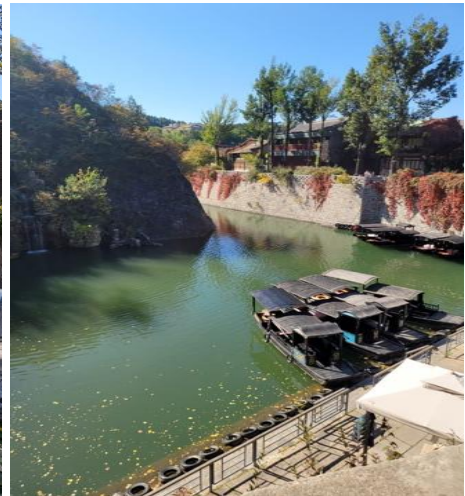
With the Bavarian reform of 1972, the municipalities of Karpfham, Parzham, Reutern, St. Salvator and Weng were merged. The discovery of the hot springs in 1972/73 led to a reorientation as a health resort.



97th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2026 IN CHINA

Date: 25 September to 4 October 2026 in the vicinity of Beijing

Organised by 21RV



Area around Beijing : Photos: G. Vergouts

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Anyone wanting to **rent a caravan or motorcaravan for their summer holidays** should do so as early as possible. People tend to decide by the end of the year when and where they want to go on holiday.



Generally, all of the basic camping equipment is included in the rental, but not necessarily cutlery, crockery, bedlinen, towels – these can usually be “rented” at an additional cost. The rental price is of course based on the size of the recreational vehicle. Usually a preparation fee is charged (cleaning, inspection etc) along with a deposit that is refunded when the rented vehicle is returned in perfect condition.

Often 250 kilometres a day are included in the rental. Do not calculate the number of days too exactly but think of adding on one day before you leave and one day after you return home for packing and unpacking your personal effects.

You should also choose a recreational vehicle or caravan big enough for one extra person so that you have a bit more room to move around.

Novices especially should avoid spending a long time in the driving seat and travelling long distances.

Caravan or motorcaravan?

A caravan is ideal for families with children. Children want to play while they are on holiday and love making new friends at a campsite. They need stability, do not appreciate turning up at a different place every day and they find long journeys tedious.

The big advantage is that your caravan stays put and you can visit the area in the towing vehicle (without having to stow everything away every time) so that families with children can get to discover new places and meet new people.

A motorcaravan suits campers who want to see and discover as much as possible while on holiday rather than stay in one place for the entire holiday. That is the whole point of “motorcaravans” – to be on the move as much as possible but it does not mean that motorcaravanners can stop wherever they want and they need to be aware of local regulations. Many towns and municipalities offer parking areas where motorcaravanners can stop and rest a while – which is generally all that they require.

In any case a camping holiday in a caravan or a motorcaravan is worth a try – either you are thrilled with the feeling of independence and living close to nature or you are a bit disappointed, constrained by the lack of space around you.

You have to work it out for yourself which is why it is so important to rent a caravan or motorcaravan first before deciding to go ahead and buy one.

SB

IMPORTANT NOTE: Thanks to climate change and the increasing number of natural disasters (see Spain, Italy, USA, Brazil, Asia etc), we strongly recommend that when travelling abroad, you register with your Foreign Ministry online Crisis Centre. (gov.uk, dfa.ie). Doing so will give you the best chance to be contacted quickly by your nearest diplomatic mission/foreign representation in the event of a crisis or catastrophic incident and, if necessary, to be included in crisis management operations.

What should your camping holiday first aid kit include?

Many campsites tend to be situated outside towns or villages and the nearest open pharmacy is often a long way away. Pills and potions go by different names in different countries, the instructions for use may be difficult to understand and you may feel generally unsure as to how, or whether, you should take or use a particular medication.

This is why every camper – in addition to personal medication prescribed by a doctor – should carry at least “classical first aid supplies“ at all times.

These include: disinfecting solution for skin and wounds, assorted sticking plasters, scissors, tweezers, maybe tick tweezers, disposable gloves, dressings for small burns, sterile gauze bandages and elastic bandages, triangular bandage and safety pins (in the event of a broken arm), cold compresses, clinical thermometer, medication in case of diarrhoea or colds (cough mixture, sore throat tablets), painkillers for headaches and toothache, eye and ear drops, anti-histamine medication and cream for insect stings, itching and sunburn.

Netherlands: The maximum authorised mass has been lowered to 3,500 kg for 5.7 % of all motorcaravans so that they may be driven by a Class B driving licence holder.

Source: NKC Campermonitor/NL

Netherlands/Belgium: 21,000 vehicles use the 6.6 km long Westerschelde Tunnel in the Province of Zeeland every day and, from 1 January 2025, it will be toll-free for cars, motorbikes and, happily, also for motorcaravans.

However nothing changes for heavy goods vehicles that will still have to pay tolls.

Winter tyres

Winter tyres are instantly recognisable thanks to their deep profile and zigzag shaped pattern that affords better adherence to snow and ice. To be certified as winter tyres, the side wall of each tyre must display the M+S symbol (mud and snow) and a snowflake. The snowflake guarantees that tyres have passed the snow efficiency test.

As soon as the temperature drops below 7°C, winter tyres become necessary. Below this temperature, summer tyres lose their efficiency because the rubber becomes too hard to adhere properly to the road surface. Winter tyres are made from softer rubber that will perform well in cold conditions.

Contrary to popular opinion, tyres with the best tread should be mounted at the back of the vehicle. This makes for better stability and reduces the risk of skidding, especially where inexperienced drivers are concerned who find the sliding rear of a vehicle difficult to control.

It is advisable to consult an expert before purchasing snow tyres and take into account the quality/price ratio (adhesion), useful lifespan and the energy label.

Source: ACS(CH)

Practical tips – for campers too

Before setting off on a **winter camping holiday** it is a good idea to think about how one's plants will survive (watered) during one's absence.

Simply take a plastic bottle and make two holes in the screw top, fill the bottles with water and place upside down with the neck of the bottle buried in the earth of the flower pot.

Slip-resistant rugs and mats: Small mats in a caravan or motorcaravan tend to slip very easily. So to avoid trip hazards, stick rubber bands from bottling jars on each corner underneath!

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

Austria: In Austria, the so-called “situational winter equipment requirement“ is in force from 1 November through 15 April obliging passenger cars, station wagons and trucks with a maximum authorised mass up to 3.3 tonnes wanting to take to the road in snowy, slushy or icy conditions to have winter tyres all round. The only exceptions are parked vehicles.

Tyres are considered to be winter tyres only if they are marked M+S (or MS, M.S., M/S, M&S, M-S) and their tread is more than 4 mm.

There are heavy fines for failing to observe the winter equipment requirement.

Studded tyres may only be used from the beginning of October through the end of May.

The situational winter equipment requirement is only necessary for a towing vehicle, but applies whether the trailer is heavy or lightweight.

However if the towing vehicle has studded tyres, then the trailer must be fitted with the same tyres.

Source: Freie Fahrt/CCA(AT)

Netherlands: From 2025, fines for traffic offences will be more expensive, especially where speeding is concerned.

Every year, fines are adjusted in line with inflation and in 2025 they will be indexed by 3.2%. For example, if you are caught phoning while driving you will pay 430€, omitting to fasten your safety belt will cost you 190€ and parking on a disabled parking space without a badge 380€. Exceeding the speed limit by 10 km/h in a built-up area will cost you 93€ (81€ on the motorway) and 20 km/h over the speed limit in a built-up area will cost 248€ (motorway 223€).

France: Diesel sales forbidden in Paris in future

For campers, visiting Paris is getting increasingly complicated. After introducing the Crit'Air vignette environment sticker and reducing the maximum speed on the ring road (périphérique), the latest is a ban on selling diesel fuel.

The Mayoress of Paris has ordered this new measure so as to improve the city's air quality.

The ring road around Paris is the logical route for many campers to take. The maximum speed has been reduced to 50km/h and banning diesel sales affects many of the strategically best placed filling stations in the city and all of the Total filling stations. This means there are only 14 filling stations left in Paris where one can fill up with diesel.

So travellers will need to adopt a good tank filling strategy to cross the city – for the moment diesel pumps still exist outside the city limits.

Source: Kampeer-Toerist (VKCF/BE)

What do these abbreviations mean in today's world of electric vehicles:

AC = alternating current

Ad hoc Laden = Ad hoc charging = spontaneous charging at a charging station without a recharging card or prior registration i.e. with a credit card or a debit card.

BEV = battery electric vehicle = fully electric vehicle

BMS = battery management system = the battery's brain that controls the functionality and charge of the battery cells

CCS = combined charging system = combined charging plug/connector in Europe. Combines the AC-vehicle connector with the DC vehicle connector in one plug

DC = direct current

EV-Mode = in hybrid vehicles, electricity is used exclusively in this driving mode

HPC = high power charging (up to 350 kW)

PHEV = plug-in-hybrid vehicle = with a PHEV, the battery can be charged externally and it is possible to drive approx 100 km using electric power

SOH = state of health = gives information on the battery's state of health

SOC = state of charge = gives information on the level of charge in the battery

Type 2 charging plug = standardised plug shape in Europe where one can charge up to 43 kW using a wallbox (AC) (in the home the maximum is 11 kW).

Source: Freie Fahrt (CCA/AT)

Health

This time we are turning our attention to the **health of cats**. Do not feed any of the following to a house cat: raw egg, fish marinated in oil and herbs, stone fruit, fruit with husks, citrus fruit, raisins, sultanas, grapes, beans or chocolate. Also seafood, raw pork, garlic and onions can make a moggy very sick. You should avoid giving a cat milk to drink, and only provide water. Cats may be fed raw liver on rare occasions but it is high in vitamin A and phosphorus that can be harmful.

Source: Veterinary advice

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

William Frisbie of the Frisbie Pie Company (USA) is said to have “invented” **the frisbee** in 1871 when locals amused themselves playing catch, throwing empty pie tins around. At a later date, the inventor Walter Morrison (1920-2010) turned the old pie tin into the modern plastic frisbee as we know it.



France: The MuCEM Museum in Marseille has come up with a novel idea. Once a month it invites naturist enthusiasts to visit the museum naked. Visitors only keep their shoes on. Another way of breaking new ground!

Butterflies look so delicate but some can fly huge distances like the painted lady which covers thousands of kilometres between Europe and South America i.e. a few thousand kilometres over the Atlantic Ocean making it the longest journey documented for an insect anywhere in the world.

Elmgreen (a Dane) and Dragset (a Norwegian) live in Berlin/Germany and are gifted artists & designers who also take a humorous look at art.

From 15 October 2024 to 2 February 2025, their modern sculptures can be admired at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris together with the works of 19th century artists.

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

3RD WORLD UN SPORTS TOURISM CONGRESS on 228th and 29th November 2024 in Madrid



Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary General UN Tourism welcomes the hosts



Zurab Pololikashvili congratulates the presence of Mr. Joao Alves Pereira, President of F.I.C.C.



Mrs. Monika Udovicic
Secretary of State
Ministry for Tourism and Sports/ Croatia



Mr. Ion Vilcu Director UN Tourism affiliated members



Mr. Johnny Cheng honoured, a former F.I.C.C. Council member, Chairman of the F.I.C.C. Asia- Pacific Commission and member of the organising committee for the 95th International F.I.C.C. Rally 2025 in Fulong/Taiwan.

“Under the auspices of The Ministry of Health and Welfare, The Association of Voluntary Service of R.O.C. gives awards to those voluntary workers who have demonstrated excellence in their service merits, training accomplishments and working ethics.

Hundreds of organizations with voluntary workers are invited by the Association who can nominate two persons in each of the three categories of awards. Category 3 is the entry level. Category 2 nominees must have won category 3 award before, and category 1 nominees must have won category 2 award before.”

After the nomination, there will be three levels of screening. The last and most difficult part is to pass the nine renowned experts’ panel in the related field. This year the Discovery Center of Taipei Tourism Bureau was invited for the first time by the Association to nominate its voluntary workers for the award. Johnny Cheng was nominated by the Discovery Center, passed all three levels of screening and won the category 3 award. We send him our warmest congratulations.

Deutscher Camping Club e.V.: DCC is again offering interesting group trips in 2025 including Midsummer in Sweden, the Mecklenburg Lake District, the West Balkans, the Baltic, Advent in the Erz Mountains etc. Contact DCC for details.

The **Deutsche Camping-Preis 2024** (German Camping Prize 2024) was awarded to Mr. Kai Dhonau, President of the German Trade Federation (DCHV), who has represented campers’ interests both professionally and privately.

The Flemish Camping and Caravanning Federation (Vlaamse Kampeer- en Caravanning Federatie vzw - VKCF/VKT) – in Belgium is proposing 17 European holiday destinations in 2025 in the form of accompanied group camping trips. Information from VKCF.

Celebrating at the F.I.C.C. Secretariat in Brussels

Mrs. Susan Drescher



her 5th

and Mrs. Silvia Brohl



her 40th anniversary of service in F.I.C.C.

For F.I.C.C.'s new website please look under www.ficc.org



WEIHNACHTEN

**Markt und Straßen stehn verlassen,
Still erleuchtet jedes Haus,**

**Sinnend geh ich durch die Gassen,
Alles sieht so festlich aus.**

**An den Fenstern haben Frauen
Buntes Spielzeug fromm geschmückt,
Tausend Kindlein stehn und schauen,
Sind so wunderstill beglückt.**

**Und ich wandre aus den Mauern
Bis hinaus ins weite Feld,
Hehres Glänzen, heiliges Schauern!
Wie so still und weit die Welt!**

**Sterne hoch die Kreise schlingen,
Aus des Schnees Einsamkeit
Steigts wie wunderbares Singen –
O du gnadenreiche Zeit!**

Joseph von Eichendorff (1788-1857), German poet and novelist

Christmas

Streets and markets now deserted,

Quietly, every house lights up,

Walking through the lanes I muse

That a festive air

Has touched the world.

Wives and mothers dressed their windows

**With bright, exciting gifts and toys,
Children stand and stare in wonder,
Charmed and silent at the sight.**

**Then I wander past the walls
Outside town and over fields,
Spangled heavens, holy starlight!**

A silent world so far away!

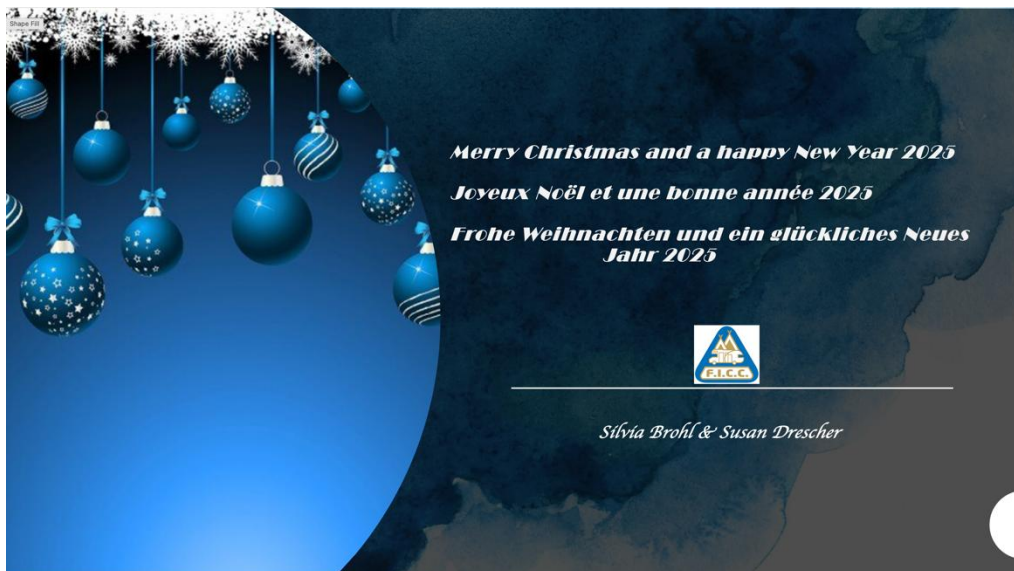
Then all at once

From out of nowhere

Faint carols drift across the snow –

Oh, what a blessed time of year!

Translation/Adaption: Brenda Stewart



EXHIBITIONS

Austria: Ferien-Messe Wien from 16 to 19 March 2025, in Vienna

Urlaub & Ausflug from 4 to 6 April 2025, in Wels

Caravan Salon Austria from 15 to 19 October 2025, in Wels



Belgium: Salon des vacances from 30 January to 02 February 2025, in Brussels

Finland: Caravan Helsinki from 17 to 20 January 2025, in Helsinki

France: Destinations Nature from 13 to 16 March 2025, in Paris

Salon Mondial du Tourisme from 13 to 16 March 2025, in Paris

Germany: Tourisma & Caravaning from 4 to 6 January 2025, in Magdeburg

Reisen & Caravaning from 12 to 14 January 2025, in Chemnitz

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 Nürnberg

ABF Caravaning & Camping from 18 to 23 February 2025, in Hanover

Caravan Salon from 29 August to 7 September 2025, in Düsseldorf

Camper & Vans from 26 to 29 September 2025, in Fulda

Caravan Messe from 31 October to 3 November 2025, in Erfurt

Auto Camping Caravan from 28 November to 1 December 2025, in Berlin

Great Britain: Caravan & Motorhome Show from 16 to 19 January 2025, in Manchester

Caravan, Camping and Motorhome Show from 18 to 23 February 2025, in Birmingham

Ireland: Caravan & Camping Show from 24 to 26 January 2025, in Dublin

Italy: Il Salone del Camper from 13 to 21 September 2025, in Parma

Netherlands: Vakantiebeurs from 9 to 12 January 2025, in Utrecht

Caravana from 29 January to 2 February 2025, in Leeuwarden

Kampeer & Caravan Jaarbeurs from 2 to 6 October 2025, in Utrecht

Spain: Fitur from 22 to 26 January 2025, in Madrid

Feria de Valencia from 11 to 19 January 2025, in Valencia

Expocamp in March 2025, in Avilés

B-Travel from 28 to 30 March 2025, in Barcelona

Sweden: Elmia from 10 to 14 September 2025, in Jönköping

Switzerland: FESPO from 30 January to 2 February 2025, in Zürich

Suisse Caravan Salon in October 2025, in Berne

Turkey: Kamptalya Outdoor ve Motordrom from 12 to 16 February 2025, in Antalya

USA: Boston RV & Camping Expo from 17 to 20 January 2025, in Boston

F.I.C.C. Secretariat

rue Belliard 20, bte 15 B-1040 Brussels/Belgium Tel: 00.32 2 513.87 82 Fax : 00.32 2 513 87 83

Email : info@ficc.org Website : www.ficc.org