NEWSLETTER

MAY - 2025

WWW.FICC.ORG

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.

Preparations for this event have started and are well in hand, interesting entertainment and excursion programmes arranged, good weather on order –

welcome to Germany!

Full information on:

https://www.ficcrallye-2026.com/

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

More information in our next Newsletter

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Wild camping is not allowed **in Belgium**. To stay "in the wild", permission must first be obtained from the landowner or forest ranger.

Two good alternatives are bivouacing and the " Welcome to my garden" initiative. Bivouacing is a

"back-to-basics" experience pitching a tent in a natural environment, whereas the second alternative demands a certain amount of organisation, contacting the owner of the land or garden and reserving a place. One may not stay longer than 48 hours.

Wild camping is definitely not allowed in **Germany, Luxemburg, in parts of the United Kingdom, Croatia, Denmark and Poland.** In the **Netherlands** bivouac zones have been abolished again – camping on farms or farmland is popular. Bivouacing is allowed in **France** but is subject to strict rules: you must be an hour's walk from the path and may only stay overnight between 7pm and 9am. In **Spain, Portugal**, **Greece and Italy** wild camping is rarely allowed and depends on the region and season of the year.

It is quite a different story in **Scandinava.** In Norway, Sweden and Finland the "every man's right" philosophy prevails. One may camp on private land as long as you follow certain rules. You may not camp on agricultural land and must always be at least 150m from the nearest buildings. You may only visit nature reserves on foot, on a push bike or in a boat and you may not camp overnight.

Iceland is the Walhalla for camping in the wild since there are no restrictions for camping in tents in uninhabited areas. Motorised camping vehicles however must be parked on a campsite overnight.

Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania also allow camping everywhere, but if it is private property it is better to ask for the owner‘s permission beforehand.

Wild camping is allowed almost anywhere in **Scotland.**

However as a general rule wherever you stop :

° Do not sleep out under the stars but in a tent

° Do not pitch your tent on private land or parking areas

° Leave nothing behind, i.e. always take all of your rubbish away with you

° Be quiet at night in a natural environment so as not to disturb the “inhabitants“

° Make sure you are at least 150m away from buildings

° Do not stay more than two nights in the same place

° If there is no eco-toilet, dig a hole in the earth, do your business and cover up with earth after use!

° You should only light a fire if it is expressly allowed. It is usually forbidden to light fires from mid-April to the end of September, unless it is in a special or designated place. Warning: even tree roots, moss and other ground cover can catch fire. That is why the earth round a fire pit should always be cleared of branches and twigs. Never light a fire in the dry season.

Source: Kampeertoerist (VKCF/BE)

Dewinterising caravans and motorcaravans

After a long winter, it is now time to get your caravan or motorcaravan ship-shape and back on the road.

1. **General preparations**: Check your **documentation**: look up the service and maintenance schedule and make sure that all servicing work has been done and is properly documented. Furthermore check that the gas test is up-to-date with a valid certificate.
   External inspection: check bodywork, windows, doors and seals on cracks, looking out for damage or signs of wear and tear.

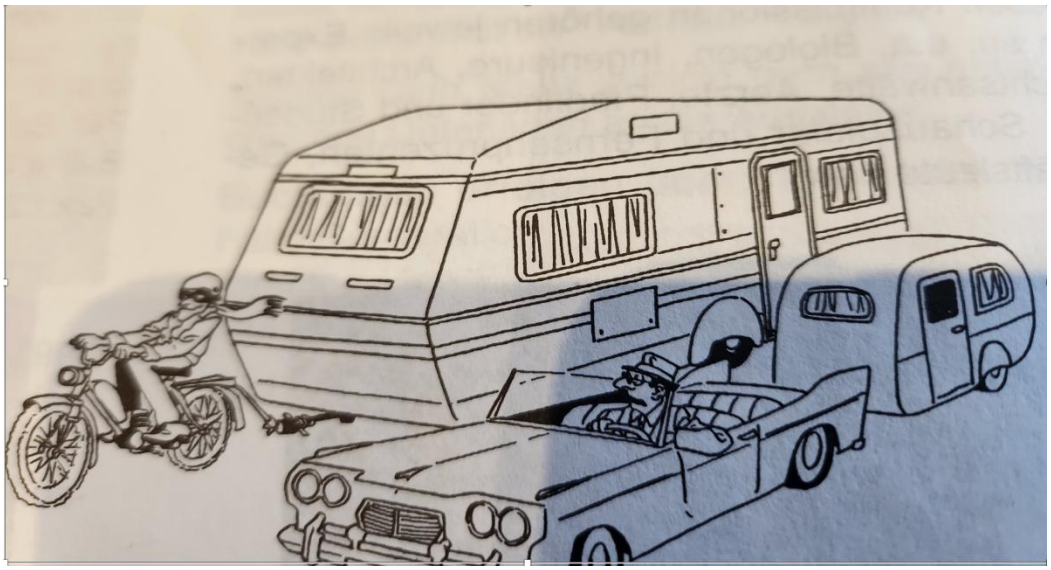
2. **Technical checks: fully charge up batteries** and check all connections for corrosion and loose contacts. If the battery has been disconnected through the winter, check it out before reinstalling it. **Liquids:** top up and check levels of engine oil, coolant and brake fluid – you might need an oil change. **Fuel system:** if the vehicle has been stationary for a long time the fuel can lose its combustibility. So before overwintering one should add a fuel stabiliser. **Tyres:** check tyre pressure and profiles – be on the lookout for damage and irregular wear. **Brakes and suspension/chassis:** check brakes, suspension for damage and wear.
3. **Water and wastewater system: water pipes:** the system should be thoroughly rinsed to wash away winter chemicals and other deposits. **Freshwater tank:** check the tank for cracks or other damage and clean it out before refilling it. **Waste water tanks:** empty and clean out the grey water tank and the black water tank. Also check all connections and seals. **Sanitary facilities:** check that the heating system and the hot water system is working. They might need bleeding – check the tubing for possible damage.
4. **Gas and electrical installations: gas bottles and gas pipes:** check the tightness of the connections and look out for any damage. **Gas appliances:** test the cooking hob, heating and other gas appliances before intensive use. **Electrical on-board power system:** test fuses, cables and power points for wear and corrosion. **Appliances and devices:** Test all electrical appliances especially battery chargers and solar systems to ensure that they are functioning properly.
5. **Interior space and furnishings/equipment**: check **furniture and upholstery** for damp and bug infestation. **Heating and air-conditioning:** These should be professionally serviced and bled. Clean or change the air-conditioning filters. **Emergency equipment:** check fire extinguishers, first aid kit, warning triangle and spare wheel and update or replace if necessary.
6. **Do a trial run** to make sure everything is in working order and listen out for unusual noises or vibrations. And finally, giving your caravan or motorcaravan a thorough clean inside and out will make your travel experience all the more enjoyable!

Source: CCA Journal/AT

Enjoy safe journeys and a lot of fun camping!

Practical tips – for campers too

Burnt-on residue affects the cooking performance of **ceramic hobs**. To remove, make a paste with 5 tsp of baking powder and 3 tbs of water, apply to the dirty areas and leave for about 90 minutes. Remove the residue with a ceramic scraper and give a final polish.



MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

There are currently 3.6 million **trucks** registered in Germany, i.e. five times as many as in 2000. Over the same period of time, the number of road traffic accidents involving trucks halved from 46,000 to 23,000.

Source: Statista

In **Belgium** seatbelt use is mandatory for all car seats, use of mobile phones forbidden for all drivers and lights must be kept on in daytime. Radar warning systems are not allowed. In your vehicle you must always carry a warning triangle, headlight deflectors, high visibility vests, a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit.

Km/h margin of tolerance: A margin of 6 km/h applies to all zones where the speed limit is under 100 km/h. But once you exceed the speed threshhold of 120 km/h for example, the margin of tolerance is 6% of the permitted speed.

Sleeping overnight in one's vehicle is allowed. You may even spend more nights asleep in your car away from a campsite provided you have permission from the local authority, except in Flanders and along the coast.

- Driving with lights on also applies to mopeds and all motorcycles in daytime.
- Fog lights must be used when visibility is less than 100 m.
- Trams (streetcars) always have right of way in **Belgium**.
- Yellow lines on the curb and side of the road indicate no parking.

The legal blood alcohol limits in Belgium, as in all European countries is 0.5 mg/ml. However this only applies to private drivers. Professional drivers, such as HGV, bus and taxi drivers must limit themselves to 0.2 mg/ml.

Belgium is going to introduce root-and-branch reform of its road traffic regulations for the first time in nearly 50 years. The new "Wegcode" will come into force on 1 September 2026 and brings with it a whole host of changes for car drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Health

How to use a defibrillator

It is essential to help a person suffering cardiac arrest as quickly as possible because one's chances of survival decrease by 10% for every minute lost. Automatic defibrillators (AED – green box with a heart symbol) are installed in many public places which gives a first responder the possibility of intervening pending the arrival of an ambulance.

The AED box contains two cables each with a white pad and an electrode. These deliver a controlled electric shock. If the heart has stopped beating the patient is connected to the device via the pads. A defibrillator is easy to use in an emergency because the in-built voice prompt function takes the untrained person through the process step-by-step.

Photos: Internet

Belgium: Since 1 April 2025, shops must keep cigarettes and other tobacco products out of sight of their customers. Sales of tobacco products are totally banned in food shops/grocery stores that are over 400 sq.m.

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

The World Day for Sustainable Tourism takes place on 2 June and was declared World Day for Sustainable Tourism by the United Nations in view of the consequences of climate change. On this day, travellers are reminded to have as little impact as possible on the natural environment they are visiting and to adapt as much as possible to the culture of the country they are visiting.

You can also actively promote sustainable tourism at the campsite and protect the surrounding environment and culture.

World Environment Day, a day of action celebrated worldwide on 5 June with many outdoor activities such as planting trees, cleaning beaches etc. etc.

World Tourism Day is celebrated on 27 September each year

United Arab Emirates: In 2024, Dubai (one of the seven Arab Emirates) registered 18.7 million visitors, an increase of around 9% compared with 2023. Hotel accommodation has expanded and there are now 154,000 rooms in 832 hotels.

Source: Dept. of Economy & Tourism

Moreover **camping** is becoming more popular among foreign visitors. There are good campsites in and around Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah etc. especially in the wadis. Wild camping is discouraged and in some cases not allowed at all.

Glamping exists in Al Ain, the beautiful former capital and bread basket of the Emirates.

Organised camping vacations are also available.

Sweden: The Swedes bought 7.6 litres of **icecream** per head of population from grocery stores in 2023.

Source: Nielsens statistics

The USA tops the list for **museums and art galeries** with over 35,000 musuems. Germany ranks second with 6,800 museums plus 6,200 special temporary exhibitions every year. Occasional museum visitors are more likely to be women than men.

Source: Statista

Austria: The Albertina in Vienna is hosting the "Leonardo-Dürer " exhibition until 9 June 2025. Works by these two artists show how they brought drawing and printing to new heights in the Renaissance.

Japan: Sakura, the Japanese flowering cherry that blossoms at the end of April/beginning of May is an integral part of Japanese culture and way of life. The short blossoming period represents transience and renewal. People all over Japan celebrate the **Hanami Festival** and its amazing pink cherry blossom.

Photo Harumi

Saying of the month

Today ...

Take a few moments to sit quietly and just be thankful for all you have

Sharon K. Brayfield – Living Life with Passion

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

The FECC National Rally was held in Ciudad de Béjar (Salamanca/Spain) from 12 to 20 April 2025.

FECC President José Vicente Clemente Moreno invited F.I.C.C. President Joao Alves Pereira to participate.

The **Nordic Camping Event** (NCT) 2025, organised by the Caravan Club of Sweden, will take place in Vimmeerby/Sweden.

F.I.C.C. is granting its patronage to the Adria Rally 2025 on its 25th anniversary.

Full information for participants along with the booking form available under

udrugakampista.hr/adriacampingrally2025

Other contacts under **ukh@udrugakampista.hr**

www.udrugakampista.hr

The Rally will take place from 22 to 29 June 2025 at the

AMADRIA PARK CAMPING TROGIR

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Recepcija +385 21 798 228

e-mail trogir@amadriaparkcamping.com

GPS: 43.51012795, 16.192743494594595

Booking deadline is 30 May 2025

The registration fee of 170.00€ for adults and 85.00€ for children between the ages of 3 and 18 years of age can be paid at Reception on arrival.

There is an interesting and varied programme of excursions but these must be booked in advance.

F.I.C.C. has also granted its

patronage on the occasion of CDP Associacao de Caravanismo de Portugal's 10th anniversary, for its celebratory rally from 7 to 10 June 2025 at the Idanha-a-Nova Campsite in Idanha-a-Nova, near the Spanish border.

Monsanto, the small mediaeval village in the Castelo Branco district, one of the excursions during the Rally.

The 73rd International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally organised by the Confederazione Italiana del Campeggiatori in Porto Recanati (Macerata)/ITALY was held from 17 to 21 April 2025

in Porto Recanati (Macerata) /ITALY organised by Confederazione Italiana del Campeggiatori

122 young people took part. Of these, 53 came from Great Britain, 29 from Portugal, 9 from the Netherlands and 31 from Italy. The Campeggio Club Adriatico campsite is well equipped and has sports facilities for basketball, volleyball, football and boules. First aid was available around the clock and there were even lifeguards on the beach, even though it is not yet the season. Four different, partly combined excursions to Ancona, Porto Novo beach and Loreto (with a guide) were offered

Every evening was ‘disco time’ in the large marquee, where a DJ kept the party going until midnight.

As part of this youth rally, the F.I.C.C. Youth Commission was reorganised and now consists of Eliana Santos (FCMP/Portugal) Chairperson, Peerke Linnartz (NTKC/Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman yet to be appointed from The Camping and Caravanning Club/Great Britain.

The rally participants were very satisfied with this extremely well-organised meeting and the programme on offer, including hands-on Italian cooking and a first aid workshop by professional first aiders.

The F.I.C.C. Youth Commission, the organisers, Italian volunteers and the participants from the different European countries worked hand in hand to create an incredible, meaningful event that no one will soon forget.

Eliana Santos (Summary)

EXHIBITIONS

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

Finland: Caravan Finland 2025 from 18-21 September 2025,

Germany: 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

Touristik & Caravaning from 19 to 23 November 2025, in Leipzig

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

CMT from 17 to 25 January 2026, in Stuttgart

Messe Essen from 26 February to 1 March 2026, in Essen

Great Britain: The Southern Motorhome & Camper Show from 16 to 18 May 2025, in Newbury/Berkshire

The National Motorhome & Campervan Show from 13 to 15 June 2025, in Newmark, Coddington

The Norfolk Motorhome & Campervan Show from 18 to 20 July 2025, in Norwich

The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show from 15 to 17 August 2025, in Malvern

The Southwest Motorhome & Campervan Show from 5 to 7 September 2025, in Shepton Mallet

The Motorhome & Caravan Show from 14 to 19 October 2025, in Birmingham

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

Netherlands: Kampeer & Caravan Jaarbeurs from 1 to 6 October 2025, in Utrecht

Spain: Cultourfair from 28 to 30 September 2025, in Seville

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

Switzerland: Suisse Caravan Salon in October 2025, in Berne

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