# NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST - 2025

WWW.FICC.ORG

**96th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY**

**Dates: 26 June to 5 July 2026**

**Venue: Karpfham-Bad Griesbach/Southern Germany**

**Organised by Deutscher Camping Club e.V.**

**Full information and booking forms on**

www.ficcrallye-2026.com

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

**Dates: 25 September to 4 October 2026**

**Organised by CRVC**

## 98th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2027

## IN NITRA/SLOVAKIA

**Organised by Slovenska Asociacia Campingu a Caravaningu**

**from 26 June to 5 July**

This is the third time that Slovakia is organising an international F.I.C.C. rally. The first two took place in the High Tatras Eurocamp in 1974 and 1991. Both events were a huge success. The country boasts 750 castles and fortresses and, with its diverse culture and spectacular scenery, it is ideal for camping. In fact visitors have over 200 campsites across the country to choose from.

The rally site is the Agrocomplex near Nitra's town centre which covers 220 hectares and offers spacious grass-covered pitches. The opening and closing ceremonies will take place in the large sports hall and the congress centre has plenty of space for holding F.I.C.C.'s annual general assembly. The organisers are already working on an interesting programme of excursions so that rally-goers can get a good overview of the country's cultural and natural highlights.

More information on www.ficcrally2027.sk

# Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

**Greece and motorcaravans**

The Greek Tourist Board office in Germany has supplied the following up-to-date information on current legislation in Greece:

Is it possible to park a motorcaravan on the beach while one goes swimming?

*Motorcaravans can be parked near a beach wherever cars are allowed to park. But you are not allowed to erect tents, set up tables etc nearby.*

Do municipalities or towns have suitable designated enclosed areas for parking motorcaravans that are indicated as such?

*There are both public and municipal as well as privately-run parking areas that charge a fee. The country has 291 organised campsites offering all necessary services for overnight stays and refuelling possibilities.*

*There are specially designated areas on motorways where motorcaravanners are allowed to park/stop to fill up and take a short break. These are the same areas that are made available for HGVs and it is FORBIDDEN to use this short break in order to set up camping tables etc.*

*A new regulation now allows parking on campsites even if they are closed for the winter but in practice they are few and far between, even in summer.*

*There has been a regulation for years that parking is allowed anywhere where road traffic regulations allow vehicles to park, with the exception of residential areas where one may only stay for a maximum of 24 hours. Campsites offer a wide range of services and facilities for visitors who stay overnight. But it has been recognised that providing and formalizing short-term parking areas known as "Camper Stop" are needed.*

*Free parking for more than one motorcaravan on private land implies casual camping with no safety standards and as such is forbidden.*

*Parking on a hotel parking lot is only allowed if the hotel parking lot is legal and the owner of the motorcaravan is a hotel guest.*

Source: DCC (DE)Extract

### Practical tips – useful for campers too

When **wasps** get really annoying, try chasing them off with water. Spray water from an atomiser in their direction – they will think it is raining and go away.

### Floatee's anti-drowning t-shirt

Swimming aids such as water wings, swimming belts etc can only offer limited security.

The French company Floatee has produced a variety of t-shirts with an inflatable lifejacket operated by an automatic inflator system. When immersed in the water, the system is automatically triggered inflating the life jacket contained in the t-shirt within three seconds. It works on a similar principle to a vehicle's airbag. The child is then brought to the surface, automatically rolled over on the back so that the airways are kept open: a thoroughly reliable anti-drowning aid (according to the manufacturer). These anti-drowning t-shirts are not swimming aids but are destined to protect children from accidents when playing in the water.

Source: DCC (DE)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Traffic

**Airbags** are activated when an accident happens thanks to crash sensors in the front of the vehicle that trigger the system on impact and a gas cartridge inflates the airbag. It takes less than 30 milliseconds and is the best protection there is in the event of an accident.

**One's brain** requires new stimuli throughout life so it is quite normal that travel should not only make one happier but wiser too. Different countries, different cultures, speaking other languages all challenge the brain, sharpen one's concentration and, according to a Finnish study, this takes the stress out of being in strange or foreign places and … makes you happy.

**In Spain** it will be mandatory to carry a V-16 rotating beacon light (gyrophare) in one's vehicle from 1 January 2026 so that you will be more visible if you break down. In the event of a spot check, only lights approved by the Spanish authorities will be acceptable. Everyone who drives in Spain is obliged to have one, including foreign drivers. This rotating beacon light will replace the warning triangle – a first in Europe.

**Free-flow tolls**

With the advent of free-flow tolls (flux libre), traditional toll gates are disappearing from motorways so drivers no longer need to stop en route. Instead, gantries detect and identify the passage of vehicles calculating the amount due based on the vehicle category and the distance covered. Tolls are no longer paid on the motorway, but via special payment arrangments after one's journey.

In France this system has been introduced for 210 km between Paris/Caen - Normandy (A13-A14). With free-flow tolls, photos taken by sensors and cameras are primarily used to identify vehicles and read number plates for calculating the toll. Generally speaking the faces of passengers are not visible and it is not possible to identify individuals.

Source Le Bivouac (A.C.C.A.W. /BE)

## Health

**Running strengthens body and mind**, improves one's cardiovascular system and muscle tone.

It releases endorphins and these happiness hormones help reduce stress and clear the mind. And, incidentally, apart from it being a well-known fact that magnesium prevents cramp, it also supports the body's nerve and muscle function.

**Blueberries, strawberries and gooseberries** and indeed all berries are rich in antioxidants, especially flavonoids that protect the heart since they reduce blood pressure and dilate blood vessels.

The **Italian town of Limone sul Garda** has banned the consumption of alcohol on its streets, in squares, gardens and parks and indeed all areas open to the public.

This regulation banning alcohol in public spaces remains in force from 19 April until 1 November.

Any alcoholic drinks to go (take away) must be in hermetically sealed containers. Local police and other law enforcement officers carry out spot checks Fines vary between 25€ and 500€!

Source: DCC (DE)

## Curious facts/Environment/Culture

The longest road in the world is **Route 66(the Mother Road) is one of the original roads in the numbered American motorway/road system.**

**USA : Route 66 was** originally a 3,945 km long highway linking Chicago and Santa Monica (California). Back in 1926, it was rated as one of the first direct proper hard-surfaced roads to the

west coast and is inextricably part of American history. It is one of the absolute classic drives for motoring holiday enthusiasts - and represents the American Dream.

There are numerous historical sites to visit along the route and the burger pit-stop in the middle of nowhere is an absolute must.

Source : Freie Fahrt (Arbö/AT)

**House plants** should be animal and child-friendly if possible. These include the mountain palm, money plants, zebra plant, maranta, indoor norfolk pine, ferns, cacti, jewel orchid, olive tree and bonsai trees as well as dried flowers.

**Flipflops** already existed in the time of King Tut in Ancient Egypt. The ones we wear today actually originate from Japan, brought back to the States by American soldiers in the 1950s. Nowadays they are mainly manufactured in Brazil where 2.3 billion pairs have been sold and exported since 1962.

**The City of Amsterdam** is celebrating its 750th anniversary on 27 October 2025.

Anyone finding themselves in, or travelling to **Los Angeles** in 2026 should visit the **Lucas Museum of Narrative Art**. The exact opening date (probably in June) has not been announced yet.

**Saying of the Month**

***Every day is precious.***

***Enjoy life's little pleasures and make them into something special.***

***(Jando)***

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

**Joao ALVES PEREIRA President of F.I.C.C. for 20 Years**

On 3 August 2005, Joao Alves Pereira was elected President of F.I.C.C. by the Ordinary General Assembly. Over the years he has shown great commitment and has successfully carried out the various duties associated with this demanding position.

Mr. Pereira who is Portuguese, was born in Lisbon in 1969. He studied Pharmacy and Tourism (Doctorate/Marketing in the field of Health and Tourism).

In 1987 he took part in his first F.I.C.C. Youth Rally in the Netherlands and has been active in the camping sector ever since. He attends a multitude of national and international activities and gets involved in organising events.

He was a member of the Youth Section of the Portuguese Federation of Camping and Caravanning (1988-1992) and Vice-President of the Federation (1993-1997 and 1998-2002). He was also President of the Technical Commission for camping quality certification of the SGS product testing group.

At international level, he was the F.I.C.C. Youth Commission's Portuguese delegate from 1986 to 1991 and its Chairman from 1991 to 1997.

He became a member of the F.I.C.C. Council in 1996 and was subsequently elected President of F.I.C.C. in 2005.

He has received various international awards for services to the tourism industry including "Personality of the Year 2008" awarded by the Portuguese Sports Federation, the Polish Prize for over 25 years of outstanding service to tourism, and more recently the German Camping Prize that is jointly awarded by the Deutscher Camping Club and the City of Essen.

He has shaped F.I.C.C. by buying back the CCI (Camping Card International) in 2014/2015 so that F.I.C.C. is the sole supplier of this international camping card again and by encouraging further expansion of the organisation internationally. He has overseen modernisation of the Secretariat, the acquisition of its own office space, and setting up the website that is continually updated and finally has introduced the electronic camping card, the eCCI.

He maintains close contact with other international organisations such as FEE, ECF, CIVD, ISTO and UN Tourism of which F.I.C.C. has enjoyed affiliated membership for the past three years.

Mr. Pereira is a welcome participant at local and international camping events and a much sought-after speaker at international conferences and congresses.

He is an Honorary Member of the Camping and Caravanning Club of Great Britain, Confederazione Italiana del Campeggiatori (C.I.C.), A.C.T.Italia Federazione and has received an Honorary Award from the Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal.

Congratulations to a very hard-working and imaginative man who has been giving his free time to F.I.C.C. for 20 years now and will continue to steer the association in the right direction.

## IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to learn of the passing of the President of the Association of Campers and Caravaners of Ahois and Wallonia (A.C.C.A.W.) on August 5 in Rebaix, Belgium.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

**Erik DIEU**

## EXHIBITIONS

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

**Belgium:** Busworld Europe, 4 to 9 October 2025 in Brussels

Mobicar, 8 to 11 October 2026 in Brussels

**Finland:** Caravan Finland 2025, 18 to 21 September

**France:** Salon des véhicules de loisirs, 27 September to 5 October 2025 Le Bourget/Paris

**Germany:** Caravan Salon, 29 August to 7 September 2025 in Düsseldorf

Camper & Vans, 26 to 29 September 2025 in Fulda

Caravan Messe, 31 October to 3 November 2025 in Erfurt

Touristik & Caravaning, 19 to 23 November 2025 in Leipzig

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

CMT, 17 to 25 January 2026 in Stuttgart

Messe Essen, 26 February to 1 March 2026 in Essen

Reisen & Caravaning, 5 to 8 February 2026 in Hamburg

**Great Britain:** The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show, 15 to 17 August 2025 in Malvern

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

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

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

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

**Poland:** Caravan Salon, 2 to 5 October 2025 in Poznań

**Spain:** Cultourfair, 28 to 30 September 2025 in Sevilla

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

**Switzerland:** Suisse Caravan Salon, in October 2025 in Bern

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