NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER - 2025

WWW.FICC.ORG

74th F.I.C.C. Youth Rally in

Medina-Sidonia, Cádiz – Andalucia/Spain

1 to 6 April 2026

Organisation: Federación Española de Clubes Campistas | Clube Aire Libre Cádiz

Information details will be available shortly

INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY

Date: 26 June to 5 July 2026

Venue: Karpfham-Bad Griesbach/Southern Germany

Organisation: Deutscher Camping Club e.V.

Full information, booking forms and programme

www.ficcrallye-2026.com

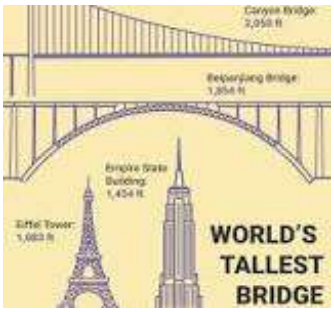
97th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2026 IN CHINA

Date: 17 to 26 September 2026 in County of Guizhou

Organised by CRVC

The rally takes place in the Zhenfeng Sancha River Scenic Area in Zhenfeng County, Qianxian Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province, home to the world's largest bridge, the Huajiang Gorge Bridge.

This suspension bridge crosses the Beipan River, which flows through the deep Huajiang Gorge, measuring 625 metres from the bridge deck to the bottom of the gorge. It was inaugurated on 28 September 2025 and has a length of 2,890 metres.



Photos Internet

Photos CRVC

98th INTERNATIONALE F.I.C.C. RALLY 2027

IN NITRA/SLOVAKIA

Organised by Slovenska Asociacia Campingu a Caravaningu

from 26 June to 5 July

Information available on www.ficcrally2027.sk

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

The present situation in Belgium regarding class B driving licences for 4.25 tonne motorcaravans

Recently, reports have resurfaced about increasing the maximum authorised mass (MAM) for motorcaravans. This topic always gives rise to heated discussion because of the lack of clarity. At present a driver with a class B driving licence is allowed to drive a motorcaravan of up to 3,500 kg. For some time there has been discussion about raising the limit to 4,250 kg. At first glance that sounds like good news but it is not that simple. Rumour has it that this could involve taking another test of some sort, even though it will not apply to e-motorcaravans.

In the Netherlands, e-motorcaravans up to 4,250 kg are already allowed on the country's roads. In Belgium however this is not yet allowed. The result: great confusion, especially among our readers. In recent weeks, we have once more been receiving a lot of questions on this topic, so we have gathered them together and laid them before Axel Weydts, member of the federal government and former councillor for mobility in Kortrijk. With his experience in traffic and mobility issues, he keeps a watchful eye on developments in Europe in addition to which he is known to be a motorcaravan enthusiast. If anyone can throw light on this situation, then he can.

1. Will the limit for a class B driver's licence be increased to 4,250 kg?

It is more than likely. Europe has reached a preliminary agreement that will facilitate this. But it is not yet law: it must first be formally approved in Europe and then ratified by Belgium (*just like all the other European countries, ed.*) and transposed into national law. Until that happens the limit in Belgium stays at 3,500kg. But all in all there is good news for motorcaravanners: Europe is finally giving campers more leeway while at the same time protecting road safety.

2. Why is it taking so long to sort this out?

That is because of European legislative procedure: one more official vote still has to be held following which countries have a few years to incorporate the new regulations into their national law. Belgium has the added complication of shared responsibility between the federation and the regions. Things appear to move slowly but this ensures that at a later date the legislation is clear and unambiguous.

3. What has already been decided at European level?

There has been political agreement about raising the limit for motorcaravans to 4,250 kg for a class B driver's licence, on condition that the driver undertakes a short training course or takes a test. It has therefore already been legally defined but has not finally come into force.

4. Why are e-motorcaravans up to 4,250 kg already allowed in the Netherlands but not yet in Belgium?

The Netherlands has introduced a separate regulation especially for electric vehicles that for example does not include trailers. Belgium is waiting for the European directive so that a clear and standardised regulation can be introduced immediately for all motorcaravans. That is what makes the difference now, but will avoid uncertainty at a later date.

5. Which types of vehicle does this apply to?

All motorcaravans: diesel, petrol, hybrid and electric. In other words all motorcaravans up to 4,250 kg inrrespective of the drive.

As far as electric motorcaravans are concerned, allowances are envisaged because batteries are very heavy. Exactly how Belgium will implement this has not yet been decided. But I can say that the Mobility Commission will do its utmost to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

6. Will there be an extra exam or test?

Yes, that has been decided. Member states have to decide between a short training session, a practical test or both. It is not a difficult process but an additional step to safeguard road safety. How this will be done in Belgium is still an open question. Heavy vehicles have a long braking distance and demand rather more driving experience. Drivers can certainly adapt given targeted training without having to obtain a full HGV driving licence.

7. Will this be a new source of revenue for driving schools or test centres?

It need not necessarily come to that. The aim is safety and clarity, not profit. We must make sure that training sessions or tests are short, straightforward and affordable. For motorcaravan drivers they must be practical and achievable above all else.

8. When do you think these regulations will be clarified?

Once they have been approved by the European institutions, the way forward is clear. But we must be honest: it is not going to happen overnight, it will take a few years. Political agreement was reached in Europe in March 2025. Assuming that formal approval will be given before the end of this year, then member states have until 2029 to implement the regulations, i.e. four years.

I would obviously prefer it if this could happen a lot earlier.

In Belgium we are prepared and ready to introduce a practicable regulation as quickly as possible and I will systematically question the Minister about it. Once the European directive becomes official and Belgium implements the rules, we will have certainty.

9. Is it true that a Dutchman can already legally drive his 4,250 kg e-motorcaravan on Belgian roads whereas a Belgian cannot?

Yes, it is true. A Dutch e-motorcaravan that is registered and insured in the Netherlands is also allowed to drive in Belgium. But a Belgian with the same model cannot exceed 3,500 kg.

But the Traffix driving school points out that anyone who drives a motorcaravan over 3.5 tonnes must reckon with other consequences too. Think about more expensive ferry crossings, complex motorway toll charges and stricter speed restrictions on your travels.

The advice is obvious: make sure you are well informed before you set off in a heavy motorcaravan.

Interview : Member of the Federal Parliament Axel Weydts with Hannes Vandenbroucke

With the kind permission of Vlaamse Kampeer- en Caravanning Federatie vzw/BE

Adria-Mobil celebrates 60 years‘ activity

The Slovenian make, Adria, was founded in 1965 and has grown from a small caravan producer to one of Europe‘s biggest leisure vehicle manufacturers. Since its creation, 725,000 vehicles have been sold and the company has around 200,000 employees, with more than 500 dealers in over 30 countries. For 2026, Adria Caravan New Generation has an eye on the future regarding technology, design and materials.

Austria: Camping is as popular as ever

Sales of caravans and motorcaravans were slightly down in 2025, but are above sales figures registered in the pre-covid years. Interest is increasing among young people and issues such as e-mobility, sustainability and ecology are all-important for this target group.

The trend is towards lightweight design so that campers especially in the 3.5 tonne class have more spare loading capacity.

After the planned revision of the EU driver‘s licence directive comes into force in 2028 (in Austria), all holders of a B-driving licence (ordinary car driving licence) will be able to drive a motorcaravan up to 4.25 tonnes laden weight. That could bring a real boost to the sector.

Panel camper vans are still very popular being compact and suitable for everyday use.

Roof top tents are gaining in popularity. They are light, easy to erect and relatively inexpensive - one good reason why most car manufacturers have included them in their range of accessories.

And on high leisure vehicles or minivans they can serve as a “children’s room“ for the younger generation.

Although they are one-offs at present, more manufacturers are increasingly devoting themselves to building (or converting) accessible motorcaravans, for wheelchair users for example.

Source: cca-journal (AT)

Netherlands: When planning a trip, 27.6% of campers take weather conditions into consideration because of climate change.

The overnight stopping possibility for motorcaravans in Hoek van Holland (parking on the beach promenade) no longer exists. After planned work has been carried out there will not be enough room for motorcaravans.

Source: NKC(NL)

Practical tips – for campers too

How do you manage to keep small troublesome rodents at bay? With bayleaves - because they contain eucalyptol that disturbs mice and rats' sense of direction. You simply put fresh or dried bay leaves in a mouse hole, along its trails or behind cupboards and renew the leaves every two weeks so that the intensive smell remains. You can also intensify the aroma by using vinegar or mint oil.

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

BR101 (coast road) & Transamazonica (or BR-230 Rodovia) : From the coast to the rain forest

The BR-101 in Brazil, also known as the "Transcoastal Highway" is 4,885 km long and runs the length of the Atlantic coast. It is the longest road in the country and crosses 12 Brazilian states including Paraiba, Cesara, Piaui, Maranhoa, Tocantins, Para, Amazonas. A trip along the BR101 takes you to magnificent beaches and vibrant cities. If you want to find out more about Brazil, take a trip into the rainforest on the Transamazonian Highway: it is 4,342 km long making it one of the longest in the world. Floods and other natural events affect this largely unpaved road and holiday makers need to choose their vehicle very carefully. Nature lovers certainly get their money's worth as they come across many exotic animal and plants en route.

Spain: Spain has introduced a new traffic sign which obliges drivers to keep a distance of at least 70 m from the vehicle in front. This sign, in conjunction with radars that measure both speed and distance, has appeared especially on expressways and major roads as well as at busy crossroads. Anyone who is too near the vehicle in front risks a fine of between 200€ and 500€.

Source: Kampeertoerist (VKCF/BE)

Spain: E-bikers have to wear a crash helmet in Spain. Ordinary cyclists also have to wear a helmet in both built-up and unbuilt-up areas (since 2025). And don't forget that bike carriers must carry a special sign to identify them.

Source: Kampeerauto/VKT/NL

Health

According to a study, **7,000 steps daily** are beneficial for our health and reduce the risk of early death by as much as 47 per cent.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans/ADAC

Our kidneys need between one and two litres of water every day to flush them out properly.

Go gently on the salt (6 gr per day maximum) because too much damages one's kidneys. There is a lot of salt in processed food, bakery products and even bread (250 gr contains about 4 gr).

The Mediterranean diet is excellent and good news for one's kidneys.

Smoking is responsible for 31% of chronic renal disease.

High blood pressure also damages kidneys.

Check your blood sugar levels. Diabetics especially suffer from damage to their kidneys and can become dialysis-dependent.

Be careful when taking medication – antibiotics, pain killers, lipid lowering agents, anti-inflammatories can all damage one's kidneys, so one should take such medication in moderation and with medical approval.

36% of all Europeans have mental problems but only 7% resort to therapeutic support even though these days people talk more openly about strain and stress. Professional and financial concerns make it more difficult to live a life that is mentally stable and well-balanced.

Source: Burda & Strada Health Report 2025

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

Man's best friend is a dog which has been domesticated over thousands of years though its appearance has changed thanks to breeding. As it is closely resembled the wolf with its amber or yellowish eyes, it looked rather threatening, so dogs were bred to have brown eyes which most people find makes them look more friendly and trustworthy.

UNESCO title for **Møns Klingt:** Denmark's chalk cliffs are now a World Natural Heritage Site.

On 13 July 2025, Møns Klint (on the Danish island of Mon) was added to the list of UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites.

Many of the cliffs are 120m high. There are 497 steps (Maglevand Treppe Geocenter) from the clifftop down to the beach. The area features a dramatic glaciotectonic landscape shaped by Pleistocene glaciers and includes chalk cliffs, rolling hills, kame and kettle topography and outwash plains. Visible cliff cross-sections reveal intense folding and faulting of Cretaceous chalk and Quaternary sediments.

The site includes rare habitats such as calcareous grasslands and beech forests and is home to abundant fauna and flora, including 18 species of orchid and the threatened large blue butterfly. Thanks to erosion, fossils are continually emerging and re-shaping the cliffs.

7.3 million people visited **Sweden's** museums this summer. The Vasa Museum in Stockholm was the most popular.

Sweden – just what the doctor ordered! **The Swedish Prescription**: This is the title of Visit Sweden's latest global advertising campaign that is destined to give a boost to tourism in the country.

The campaign starts in Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, USA, China and Scandinavia at the end of September.

Source: Fritidsmagasinet Caravan /SE

Saying of the Month

Life is so beautiful,

one day, one hour, one minute will

never come again. So just forget your

problems and be HAPPY !

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

The Deutscher Campingclub (DCC) has awarded its Seal of Reliability 2025 to Caravan Brandt and Caravan Wendt. DCC launched its Seal of Reliability in 1994 as an award for excellence in the caravanning trade. This prize is the "Consumers' Oscar" so-to-speak that DCC awards annually and exclusively to outstanding businesses in the sector.

F.I.C.C. is granting its patronage to the **Camping Fair 2026 in Nitra/Slovakia**, which is to be held in conjunction with a rally.

The **Dahlia Rally** that will take place in Bratislava in September, will also be held under F.I.C.C. patronage.

The YORKSHIRE section of **The Camping and Caravanning Club (GB**) celebrated World Camping Day on 29 June 2025 during which the following two photos were taken. A great initiative that we are happy

to share with our readers and will perhaps motivate other clubs/federations likewise to make World Camping Day an annual feature in their calendar.

Photos submitted by Mr. Dave Isbell, F.I.C.C. Council member

Secretary-General's message to the 26th Session on the UN General Assembly

Dear Delegates,

I send my warm greetings to the global tourism community as you gather in Riyadh for this milestone General Assembly, marking 50 years of UN Tourism.

Tourism is a powerful force for good in our divided world.

It brings people together, builds bridges between cultures, and opens pathways to understanding - and even peace.

Global tourism has rebounded from pandemic, the worst crisis in its history

International tourist arrivals are at an all-time high.

New destinations are" emerging - notably across the Middle East and Africa - bringing fresh energy and opportunity.

But growth must go hand-in-hand with responsibility.

Tourism must be inclusive, so that it benefits local communities and reduces inequality

And it must be sustainable, both safeguarding cultural heritage and minimizing environmental impact

This has been the mission of UN Tourism mission since its founding as UNWTO - and it remains central to your work today.

I welcome the Agency's expanding global presence - and thank Secreary-General Zuarab Pololikashvili for his inspired leadeership

I also commend the city of Riyadh for showing how tourism can diversify economies and create opportunity.

Let us keep working together to advance sustainable tyourism in ways that bring humanity closer together

I wish you a productive General Assembly

Antonio Guterres

F.I.C.C. President João Alves Pereira also attended this General Assembly, where he met with Mr Hamad Ali Al Mazroui, Managing Director of the International Automobile and Touring Club U.A.E., and Mr Ion Vilcu, Director of UN Tourism for Affiliated Members.

Sheikha Al Nowais was elected the first woman to lead the United Nations Specialised Agency for tourism in its 50-year history. She will beginn her term at the start of 2026, having gained significant experience in the private sector, most notably as Corporate Vice President at Rotana Hotels. She

also chairs the abu Dhabi Chamber's Tourism Working Group and serves on the boards of the Abu Dhabi Businesswomen Council and Les Roches Hospitality Academy.

EXHIBITIONS

Austria: Caravan Salon Austria, October 2026, in Wels

Belgium: Holiday Expo, 28 November - 1 December 2025, in Ghent

Mobicar, 8 – 11 October 2026, in Brussels

China: All in Caravanning (AIC), 15 - 17 May 2026, in Beijing

Finland: Caravan Fair, 16 - 18 January 2026, in Helsinki

France: Salon des véhicules de loisir 2026, date not yet known

Germany: Touristik & Caravaning, 19 - 23 November 2025, in Leipzig

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

CMT, 17 to 25 January 2026, in Stuttgart

Messe Essen, 26 February - 1 March 2026, in Essen

Reisen & Caravaning, 5 - 8 February 2026, in Hamburg

Caravan Salon, 28 August - 6 September 2026, in Düsseldorf

Great Britain:

Hungary: Caravan Salon, 19 – 22 February 2026, in Budapest

Italy: Salone del Camper EOS, 28 – 30 March 2026, in Parma

Netherlands: Caravana, 28 January – 01 February 2026, in Leeuwarden

Poland: Camper & Caravan Show, 20 – 22 March 2026, in Warsaw

Spain:

Sweden: Husvagn-Husbil, 5 - 8 March 2026, in Stockholm

Elmia, 9 -13 September 2026, in Jönköping

Switzerland: Caravan Salon, 22 - 25 January 2026, in Berne

Turkey: Karavanist, 10 – 18 January 2026, in Istanbul

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