NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER - 2025

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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

Hereunder you will find information supplied by the Medina-Sidonia municipality on everything you need to know regarding sightseeing in the town and its environs:

1. Welcome

It gives us great pleasure to pass on the following tourist information about Medina Sidonia which gives a clear, detailed and up-to-date overview of the most important cultural and historic sights of our town and local area.

Medina Sidonia, known for its extraordinary historical importance and its unique urban identity, is one of the most important places in Cádiz province.

You will find a lot of interesting information, excursion suggestions and useful tips that should help you plan your trip, your activities and city visits.

We thank you for your interest and hope that this information will contribute to a very successful holiday experience.

2. History

Medina Sidonia is one of the most important municipalities in Cádiz province and is part of the La Janda region. It is situated between the coast and the interior of the country, almost in the centre of the province.

The main town lies 337m above sea level with splendid views over the region and the bay. The municipal area extends over 487.15 km^2 making it the third biggest municipality in the province.

According to the Andalucian Institute for Statistics and Cartography, the population of Medina Sidonia was approx 12,000 in 2024, spread over the main town and villages of San José de Malcocinado and Los Badalejos.

Medina Sidonia boasts one of the oldest town centres in Cádiz province: its history goes back over 3,000 years. Records show that it was founded by the Phoenicians on an even earlier settlement and there are signs of human activity going back to pre-history.

In Roman times, the town was called Asido Caesarina, and in the 1st century it experienced something of a building boom. Even today the ruins of a military castle, sections of canals suitable for navigation and paved roads still survive.

In the 6thC, it was occupied by Byzantium, followed by the Visigoths who established the seat of the Asidonia bishopric there.

The town thrived and expanded during Muslim domination and became the capital of Cora de Sidona. Various fortifications were built and underwent further modifications but were still standing in the Middle Ages.

After the town was captured in 1264 by Alfons X, the Wise, it started to accumulate an important collection of documents that are still housed in the town archives.

In 1440, the town passed into the hands of the Pérez de Guzmán family, although five years later it became the seat of the Dukes of Medina Sidonia, flourished once more at social level and experienced more building expansion.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, noteworthy events include the occupation by Napoleonic troops between 1810 and 1812 as they retreated during the siege of Cádiz, the call for an independent administrative district in 1873 and a number of incidents in Casas Viejas, one of the villages belonging to Medina Sidonia, between 10 and 12 January 1933.

3. What can one do in Medina?

Medina Sidonia has an extraordinary historical heritage and boasts cultural treasures including archeological remains from Roman and Andalucian times through to the Middle Ages and Renaissance monuments.

Sights worth visiting include:

- Roman excavation sites and the Archeological Museum

Medina Sidonia's Roman excavation sites offer a deeper look into the life and times of Asido Caesarina, an influential Roman colony that flourished from 1st century AD (CE). Excavations at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century revealed refined urban planning and remarkable architecture.

The complex includes:vaults

- Cryptoporticos : Four monumental vaulted structures out of sandstone. These subterranean galeries, of which one is still intact, would form a base for terracing the sloping land above and would support the construction of large structures. They were also used for storing perishables and as stables.

Roman water channels: These were first discovered in 1967 when two stretches of channel that could be used for transportation were exposed. They had perfectly constructed walls and vaulted ceilings made out of rectangular blocks. The impressive dimensions that made regular cleaning possible testified to the ancient town's avant-garde network of water channels.

- Archeological Museum: The museum that was opened in 2013 completes the visit as it houses a rich collection of archeological and numismatic pieces, all catalogued and on display, another space that reveals pre-history to the 19thC.

Roman road: In 1997 a section of the Cardo Maximus was discovered four meters below today's road. It is five meters wide, made of large paving stones and is pavement-lined. It is wide enough for two vehicles. Below the road surface there are drains. It is interesting to see that there are some signposts that remain in place even today.

Visits of the street are arranged daily at 1.45pm starting from the Archeological Museum.

Archeological layout of the castle complex

Since antiquity, the Cerro del Castillo situated at the highest point above Medina Sidonia has been a strategic point for defending and controlling its territory. There are three layers of remains of three distinct historic fortifications: a Roman military fort, Arab fortifications and a mediaeval castle.

The Roman castle going back to Roman times, is distinguishable by its surrounding wall dotted with towers and tombs hewn into rock. This castle is unique in Spain and remained in use – as a symbol of Roman power – for the duration of the Roman Empire.

Later in the 11thC, the Almoravids built a fortress out of rammed earth on the same hill.

In the middle of the 15thC the second Duke of Medina Sidona improved the fortifications by building a new mediaeval castle. This time, the castle walls comprised rectangular blocks and rough stone hewn from the ruins of the earlier Arab fortifications and reflected evolving defence techniques and the strategic importance of this place in historical terms.

Ethnographic Museum

This is a folklore museum where we can see how and with what the citizens of Medina Sidona lived about 120 years ago.

On display are agricultural implements, handicrafts, different facets of life between masters and servants along with the tools of the old trades such as shoemakers, bakers, builders, a corn hulling machine, winepress and a mock-up of a school. These are just some of the treasures to attract our attention.

The church of Santa María Mayor La Coronada

The parish church of Santa María la Coronada in Medina Sidonia is of Gothic-Renaissance design dating back to the 16thC, built on a former mosque and is a cultural heritage site. The church is built in Andalucian Gothic-Plateresque style, has a Latin cross floorplan with three naves and three main doors. Especially noteworthy are the main door in Herrera style with 17thC Italian statues and the door to the cloister with its alabaster Madonna donated by Alfons X, the Wise.

Inside, the main altar, a plasteresque and mannerist piece from the 16thC with 168 pictures recounting 22 biblical stories, look for the carving of Cristo del Perdón von Pedro Roldán and the Monstrance Corpus from 1575. In addition, the church is home to various altars in different styles and a side aisle where, until 1766, the Sambenitos were paraded before being judged by the Inquisition.

Arco de la Pastora: Also known as Puerta de la Salada, it is an archway in Arabic style dating back to the 10thC.

In a section of the best-preserved part of the town walls, it protects the north-west entrance to the town up a flight of wide steps. There is a stream and source nearby that bubbles up along the wall.

Arco de Belén: This archway is in the Calle Cilla and dates back to the 14thC and 15thC. It is named after the altar the upper part of which has a picture of Holy Mary of Bethlehem. It leads you straight into the heart of the mediaeval city near the Iglesia Mayor.

Puerta del Sol: The name means "Sun Gate Sonnentor" and refers to the fact that it faces west the direction of the rising sun. In former times it was the main thoroughfare to the fruit and vegetable gardens near the town. The gate was next to the former Duke's Palace of Medina Sidonia which no longer exists.

MEDINA SIDONIA
Corazón de Cádiz

INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY

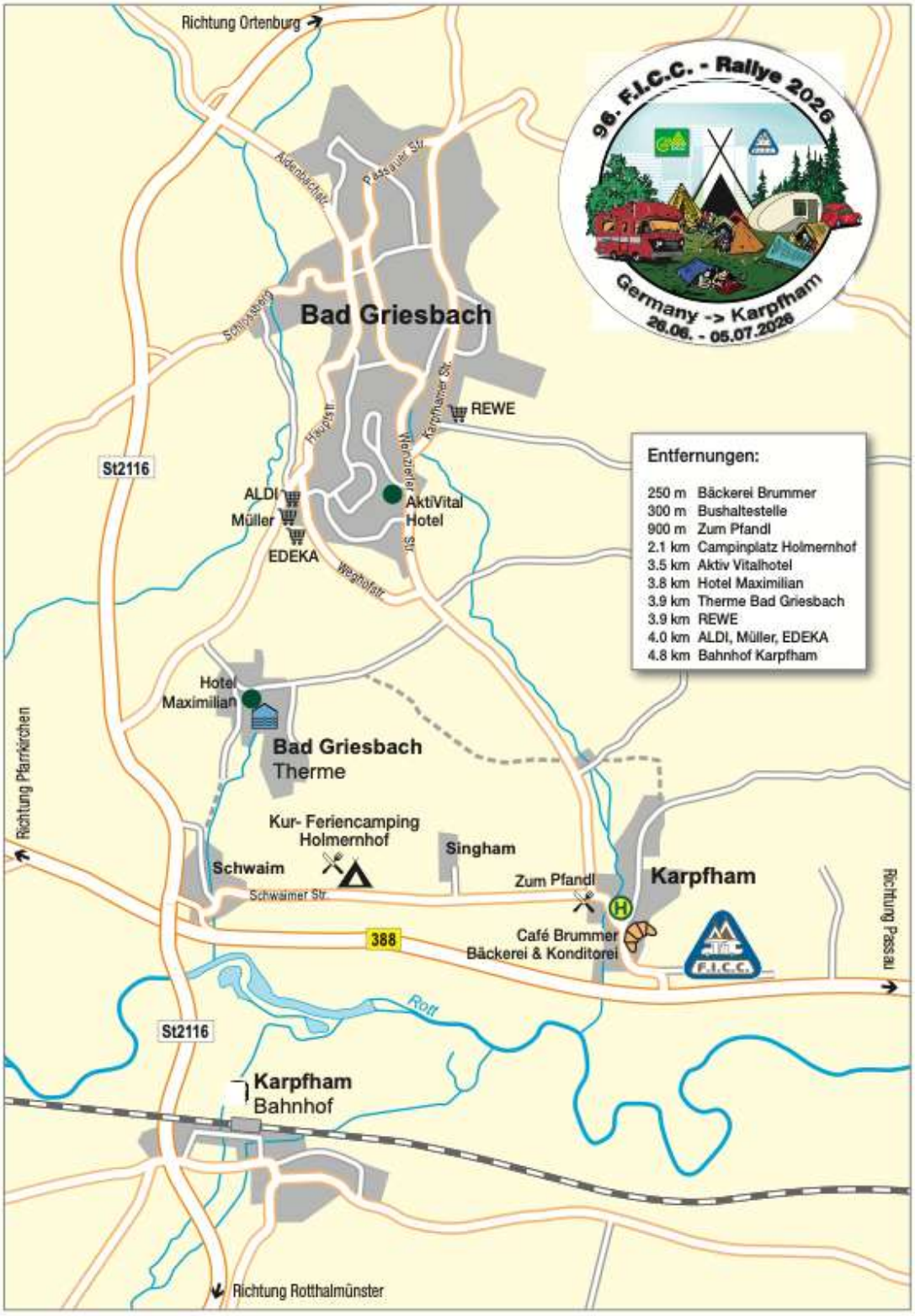
Date: 26 June to 5 July 2026

Venue: Karpfham-Bad Griesbach/Southern Germany

Organisation: Deutscher Camping Club e.V.

Full information, booking forms and programme

www.ficcrallye-2026.com


Richtung Ortenburg
96. F.I.C.C. - Rallye 2026
Germany -> Karpfham
26.06. - 05.07.2026
Bad Griesbach
REWE
St2116
ALDI
Müller
EDEKA
AktiVital
Hotel
Hotel
Maximilian
Bad Griesbach
Therme
Kur- Feriencamping
Holmernhof
Schwaim
Schwaimer Str.
Singham
Zum Pfandl
Karpfham
Café Brummer
Bäckerei & Konditorei
388
Roft
St2116
Karpfham
Bahnhof
Richtung Pfarrkirchen
Richtung Passau
Richtung Rotthalmünster
Entfernungen:
250 m Bäckerei Brummer
300 m Bushaltestelle
900 m Zum Pfandl
2.1 km Campinplatz Holmernhof
3.5 km Aktiv Vitalhotel
3.8 km Hotel Maximilian
3.9 km Therme Bad Griesbach
3.9 km REWE
4.0 km ALDI, Müller, EDEKA
4.8 km Bahnhof Karpfham

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

Date: 17 to 26 September 2026 in Guizhou Province

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

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Holidaymakers (campers) walk four times more than they do at home. The Czech Republic is the most popular country for hiking in Europe.

Sliding doors on camper vans are a great annoyance factor on campsites.

The rolling noise followed by a dull clunk made by sliding doors on camper vans is a major irritation for campers.

These are the findings of a media survey of 5,311 campers. Around 83% of campers reckon that they go camping because they want to get back to nature and 72% are looking for peace and quiet. 65.3% said they are very disturbed by the noise of sliding doors on camper vans.

Tasks are still shared out along traditional lines

96% of men and only 23% of women take the wheel of a motorcaravan or drive an outfit.

42% of men wash the dishes compared with 60% of women.

74% of women still do the cleaning and cooking.

On the other hand 96% of men are in charge of barbecues and up to 90% are in charge of water and plumbing issues and emptying the toilet.

Source: Extract from Kampeerauto NKC/NL

Very positive camping year in Sweden

2025 has proved to be one of the best years ever in the history of Swedish campsites. Buried in the statistics are record-breaking figures for the month of September when overnight stays were up 12% on the same month last year. Between January and September 2025 campsites recorded 16.9 million overnight stays, Swedes accounting for 4.7% and foreigners 8%. In September the number of foreign visitors from all over Europe rose by 35%.

In Sweden, the average outlay of a family caravanning holiday was 922 Krone per night in 2025, which included food, pitch, entertainment and shopping.

Source: Fritidsmagasinet Caravan (Caravan Club of Sweden)

Practical tips – for campers too

Tea tree oil will eliminate unpleasant odours from sneakers. Simply put a couple of drops on to a cloth, leave it in the shoes overnight and the pong will disappear!

Source: Reader's tip in Freizeit Revue

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

Highway 20: From coast-to-coast across the USA

At over 5,415km long, this route is the longest road in the United States of America. It crosses the entire continent from east to west so gives travellers the chance to discover the diversity of the country's regions. The "0" in its route number indicates that it is a major coast-to-coast route i.e. from Oregon to Boston and crosses a total of 20 states.

Source: Freie Fahrt (Arbö/CCA/AT)

Illustration: Internet

In Germany there are 590 vehicules for every 1,000 inhabitants and the car is the most used means of transport – bikes are not included. According to statistics, passenger cars cover 12,320 km a year.

Sources: Destatis, KBA

Recently, Germany has cancelled half of its 70 environmental zones, necessitating an emissions sticker.

Source: Camp to go

Flat batteries still cause the most problems

In the colder months of the year there is a greater risk that a vehicle won't start because the battery is flat, especially if the vehicule has been left stationary for some while. This is equally true for electric cars.

Important: a properly charged battery guarantees problem-free starting up and prevents damage from total discharge or freezing up of the cells. It is important to check and maintain your battery regularly to avoid charge leakage and corroding contacts.

Vehicles that are not used for long periods of time or only on short outings should be charged up using a proper device. Modern battery chargers often have intelligent charging algorithms that automatically regulate the charging process depending on the state of the battery. A digital display gives a ready overview of the charging process. Important : Basically, you should always charge a battery in a well-ventilated space as potentially dangerous explosive gases could be emitted during the process.

Source: Auto:ACS-CH

Austria: The emission stickers needed to pass through the highway tax ports will become, beginning of the 31st of January 2027, solely available online. Two thirds of the stickers are already sold exclusively online.

Source: ARBÖ (AT)

Health

A lot of people are magnesium deficient, which often results in cramp in calf muscles and can possibly also lead to muscle weakness and an irregular heart beat. Pharmacies sell

high dose supplements that are easy to take and are readily and quickly absorbed by one's body. Usually, the recommended daily dose helps avoid further discomfort.

If you have a chill or cold Oxford University reckons you should sip a spoonful of honey because it eases a cough and should reduce its length and severity. Recommendation: let a teaspoonful of honey dissolve in your mouth two to three times a day.

Eucalyptus oil is recommended if you have a lot of mucus. The oil or ointment can be rubbed into one's chest to soothe a cold or it can be inhaled gently to moisten the mucus membrane.

If you just have a cold, prebiotic medication with *Enterococcus-faeecalis* bacterias can help and reduce the infection in the respiratory tract. Finally you should make sure your selenium level is high enough because this trace mineral can prevent colds.

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

From 20 September 2025 to 18 January 2026, in collaboration with the Zürich Kunsthaus and the Museum of Modern Art/Paris, the Royal Academy of Arts in London will host the biggest individual exhibition ever of the well-known American artist Kerry James Marshall.

Theme: "The Historis"

Folia Exhibition/Turkey

The "Folia" Exhibition in Istanbul is a group exhibition in Abdülmecid Efendi Mansion, owned by the art-loving family Koç. The exhibition lasts until 1 March 2026.

The focal point is the interplay between art, nature and fantasy. Works on show have been inspired by a "magic garden". Entry is free. Closed on Mondays.

Saying of the Month

A lovely day always begins with a positive mind-set.

mit Du den Momenitsiver genießen kannst.

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

Unione Club Amici/Italy will have a new President from 1 January 2026. He is Stefano Censini and is taking over from Mr. Ivan Perriera who has headed up the club for 30 years and felt that it was time for a change.

We congratulate Mr. Censini on his election and thank Mr. Perriera for his friendly and pleasant cooperation over the years.

Since 1 December 2025, Mélodie Vergouts has been working part-time in the F.I.C.C. Secretariat.

We trust that Melodie will be happy working with us and enjoy her very varied workload - she is especially competent when it comes to translating into French and English but also in her contacts with francophone F.I.C.C. members.

DCC (Deutscher Camping Club) Technical Award 2025 went to Dometic for the FanTastic Breathe ventilation system – manufacturers‘ class.

UKKF/Turkey has informed F.I.C.C. about the important exhibition Karavanist, that will be held for the 6th time in Istanbul from 10 to 18 January 2026. F.I.C.C. member clubs are welcome to go to this exhibition. For detailed information, please contact Mr. Alper Kasas: ficc@ukkf.org

THE OXEN

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet I feel,
If someone said on Christmeas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,

Hoping it might be so.

Thomas Hardy 1840 – 1928

English novelist and poet, The Oxen published in 1915

Silvia Brohl, Susan Drescher and Melodie Vergouts send all of our members our very best wishes for a

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

EXHIBITIONS

Australia: Caravan Camping Holiday, 28 April – 3 May 2026, in Sydney

Austria: Urlaub und Ausflug, 27 – 29 March 2026, in Wels

Freizeitmesse, 10 – 12 April 2026, in Klagenfurt

Caravan Salon Austria, October 2026, in Wels

Belgium: Motorhome Salon, 28 February – 1 March 2026, in Antwerpen

Belgium Auto Show, 21 – 22 March 2026, in Brussels

Mobicar, 8 – 11 October 2026, in Brussels

Canada: Camping RV Show, 26 February – 1 March 2026, in Toronto

Salon du VR, 5 – 8 March 2026, in Montreal

China: RV & Camping Exhibition, 19 – 22 March 2026 in Beijing

All in Caravanning (AIC), 15 – 17 May 2026, in Beijing

Czech Republic: Caravan, 20 – 22 March 2026, in Prague

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

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

Le Camper, 24 – 26 April 2026, in Brissac-Quincé

Germany: CMT, 17 – 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

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

Ireland : Holiday World Show, 23 – 25 January 2026, in Dublin

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

Fit your Camper, 10 – 12 April 2026, in Bologna

Netherlands: Caravana, 28 January – 1 February 2026, in Leeuwarden

North Ireland: Belfast Holiday World Show, 9 – 11 January 2026, in Belfast

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

Camper Caravan Show, 24 – 26 April 2026, in Nadarzyn

Romania: Caravan Motorhome & Adventure, 2 – 5 April 2026, in Bucharest

Slovakia: Caravan Bike Travel, 27 February – 1 March 2026, in Nitra

Slovenia: Alpe Adria Fair, 4 – 7 February 2026, in Ljubljana

South Africa: Caravan Show, 27 February – 1 March 2026, in Gauteng

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

Switzerland: Caravan Salon, 22 – 25 October 2026, in Bern

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

United Kingdom: Holiday Home Show, 5 – 8 February 2026, in Glasgow

Caravan & Motorhome Show,15 –18 January 2026, in Manchester

Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show, 17 – 22 February 2026, in Birmingham

USA: RVShow, 9 –11 & 16 – 18 January 2026, in Pittsburgh

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