NEWSLETTER

JUNE - 2026

WWW.FICC.ORG

INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY

Dates: 26 June to 5 July 2026

Venue: Karpfham-Bad Griesbach/Southern Germany

Organiser: Deutscher Camping Club e.V.

Full information, booking forms and programme

alex@camping-club.de

www.ficcrallye-2026.com

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

Dates: 17 to 26 September /Guizhou-Provinz

Organised by CRVC

Full information and booking forms :

Email: ficcrally97@crvc.com

Website: www.ficcrally97.crvc.com

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

in NITRA/SLOVAKIA

Organised by Slovenska Asociacia Campingu a Caravaningu

from 26 June to 5 July 2027

In addition to the city of Nitra and its environs, Trençin, located in the central Vah River valley in north-west Slovakia and European Capital of Culture 2026, is certainly worth a visit next year. Trencin is perhaps most famous for a Roman inscription on a cliff above the city on top of which is perched the town's fortress, one of the largest early mediaeval castles in the country. The picturesque old town below has colourful merchant houses and Baroque churches associated with the Piaristic Order. Trencin has a main square (Peace Square), interesting museums and exhibitions, thriving street art and local life. The city's synagogue built in byzantine and art nouveau style in 1913, has recently been restored and serves as a cultural centre and concert hall.

Trencin has a population of around 55,000 and the wonderful surrounding area is dotted with traditional settlements of historical wooden houses, castles and charming villages with yet more castles and vineyards waiting to be discovered in the Carpathian Mountains.

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Before going away on holiday, it is quite important to **install a certified gas warning system.** But it is just as important to check that that the caravan/motorcaravan's fresh water supply is as pure as possible and free of viruses, bacteria and any other undesirable "intruders". Even if this involves a bit of extra work, it will ensure that the tiniest of germs won't suddenly wreck your next potentially wonderful trip. The four cornerstones of water hygiene are: **tank cleaning, filters, disinfection, treatment.**

- **Cleaning the tank** will kill off any existing germs in the fresh water supply;
- It removes biofilm from the tank and pipes where germs are happy to settle and multiply;
- This should be done once, better still, twice a year;
- A two-phase or three-phase product is recommended for regular cleaning twice a year - a one-phase product is only useful for an additional interim cleaning during the year;
- Wash your hands before cleaning and only use new brushes and cloths.
- **Filters** prevent germs from getting into the tank (filling filter) and stop germs leaving the tank (inline filter) via the pipes that carry water to the taps;
- Filters with hollow fibre membrane and a fine filter mesh of up to 0.1 µm keep viruses and bacteria like ecoli and legionnaire's disease along with any other germs at bay;
- Filters with activated carbon filter out chlorine, medication residues, pesticides, heavy metals, microplastics, asbestos fibres as well as bad smells, bad tastes and discoloration.
- **Disinfection**: Preparations with chlorine and chlorine dioxide kill off germs very quickly and also disinfect highly contaminated water; available in tablet, liquid or powder form;
- UV-C disinfection: UV light can eliminate up to 99.99% of micro organisms in water. A UV disinfection system is permanently installed in the vehicle.
- **Treatment**: Preparations containing silver prevent germs from multiplying and ensure that water stays safe for long periods; available in liquid form, powder, tablets or mesh;
- AGXX technology: special mesh in a filter housing which produces a microelectric field that kills off micro-organisms;
- Ceramic+bioelectro-depot: Filter capsule with a layer of porous ceramic (surface area: 1,050 sq.m) resembling a gigantic maze that eliminates bacteria on its sharp edges. A weak electrical current releases negative ions that have an antiseptic and antibacterial function.
- Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Going on holiday with an electric car

To maintain your battery for everyday use, it is recommended to keep it 80% charged. You can consider charging it fully for long journeys. Avoid frequent and intensive charging. Most electric vehicles give plenty of warning when it is time to recharge.

Battery charge level during long periods of non-use. If your electric vehicle is unused for a long time, it is advisable to keep the state of charge (SoC) in mid-range i.e. between 30% and 70%.

Rapid recharging is only recommended when it is absolutely necessary because it can negatively affect the battery life. If you are driving an electric vehicle on a long trip during a heat wave (or in cold winter weather), you need to bear a number of factors in mind: park and recharge your car in the shade if possible; turn on the air conditioning in the interior as long as your vehicle is still connected to the charging station.

Make sure you have your own charging cable. Generally speaking, public charging points are equipped with a suitable charging cable but that is not always the case so it is advisable to take your own when you go away.

There are various passes or apps that list charging stations all over Europe.

Source: ACS/CH

Solar panels on your caravan

Following the example of mobile homes/motorcaravans, caravans with solar panels are now becoming increasingly common. Motorcaravanners want solar panels in order to operate off-grid for long periods of time. “Off-grid“ means independent of electricity, water and possibly even gas and increasing numbers of motorcaravanners are relying totally on electricity, even for cooking.

Why should caravanners want to have their own solar panels? Because in the vast majority of countries, it is practically impossible to have a caravan holiday without being connected to the mains power supply. Apart from a few natural campsites, all campsites have power hook-up points. The reason for this is that the on-board battery must be kept topped up so that the mover can function at all times without having to resort to a charging point. In one‘s garage for example – but outside, otherwise it obviously won‘t work.

Or sometimes people are unwilling to continue paying the high cost that campsites charge for the use of electricity (approx 5€ a day). In winter it is a bargain if you have electric heating, but if you are charged on the basis of what you use and pay per kw/h, it can work out quite expensive. And if you want to use solar energy to run all sorts of electric appliances and equipment including heating, then you need a rather elaborate system.

Weight. That is something one wants to avoid in a caravan if possible.

In the case of a smaller installation, then bigger electrical appliances such as a fridge and floor heating will have to run on gas, especially in winter when it works out expensive. Alternatively, invest in solar energy.

Regarding technology, there is plenty of detailed information on the internet to help you calculate the number of modules you need and the output of a power inverter.

You will need either one or several solar modules (panels) depending on the amount of power you want to produce as well as a charge controller (1) that ensures that the on-board battery is charged; a voltage transformer (2) that allows you to use a 230V appliance like a coffee machine, a kettle or a laptop; a battery charger (3) for charging batteries when at a power charging port; main fuses (4); a battery (if the caravan does not have a 12V system and has no battery) or several batteries (5).

It all depends on the number of electrical appliances you have and need and how long they are in use. Furthermore the circuit diagram shows fuses for electrical appliances (6) and examples for various gadgets, lamps, fridge, etc.(7)

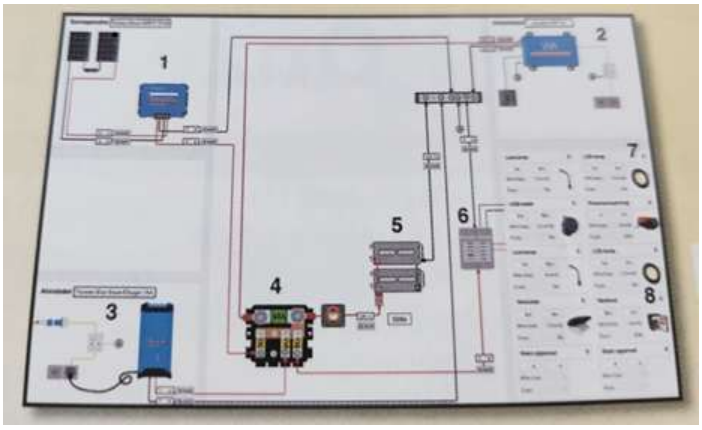

Diagram: camper-elektra.com

How much does this type of installation cost?

Prices are only an indication but on average one should reckon on spending out 750.00€ for two modules. Two good batteries certainly cost around 500.00€ on top of which they have to be installed, setting you back about another 450.00€.

Conclusion: Solar panels can be financially worthwhile for people who use their caravan a lot and go on long trips, or stay in one place for a whole season, especially in summer. There are also of course caravanners, who think it great to be able to survive off-grid or who simply enjoy new technology. And there is also a "green" element in opting for this sort of installation.

Source: De Caravan (with kind permission from NCC/NL)

Camping exhibition in Ebersbach/DE

On 25 April 2026, Ebersbach on the R. Fils inaugurated a special exhibition devoted to "Holiday, Travel, Camping" with some exhibits giving a very authentic retrospective view of camping in the past. The exhibition lasts until 11 October 2026.

Info on www.ebersbach.de

Campsite prices 2026 in Europe's best-loved camping countries

Campsite charges in Europe this year have increased between 3.5% and 5% compared with 2025. Various organisations have carried out a price analysis and discovered that by European standards, camping is still a reasonably priced holiday.

The most expensive countries for camping are Croatia (41.26€ per night) and Italy (41.21€ per night). But generally speaking, you should reckon on paying between 14.38€ to 41.26€ for an overnight stay (two people including pitch, electricity and tourist tax).

Next to Italy comes Switzerland (38.47€), followed by France (33.30€), Spain (30.25€), Austria (28.40€), Germany (26.18€), the Netherlands (24.31€), Sweden (23.15€) and Poland (20.10€). Albania is the cheapest (14.38€).

Source: Internet

Practical tips – for campers too

Tea bags make good fertiliser as do flower heads. Once you have made the tea, cut the tea bags in half and add the contents to the soil. Herbal tea bags encourage growth while black tea bags keep pests at bay.

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

Denmark

1. **Helmets & e-scooters**: from May 2026, wearing a helmet is compulsory for all e-bike riders under the age of 14 and e-scooter riders under the age of 16. The blood alcohol limit of 0.5 also applies to e-scooter riders.

2. **Stricter controls:** From February 2026, digital tachographs are mandatory for light commercial vehicles of over 2.5 tonnes to record drivers' working hours and break times.
3. **Insane Driving Act:** Denmark is cracking down hard on reckless drivers. Exceeding speed limits by 100%, or driving at over 200 km/h, mean that the authorities can seize and expropriate the vehicle involved.
4. **Fines:** Fines are very high for speeding (from 135 € for driving 20 km/h over the limit) and for driving through a red light (from 270 €).
5. **Vehicle lights** must be kept on at all times.

6. **Speed limits on roads in Denmark** depend on the type of vehicle and the surrounding area:
   - **Built-up areas:** 50 km/h for all vehicles. Residential areas: speed limit often reduced (30 km/h)
   - School zones: Extra security measures
   - **Out-of-town:** 80 km/h for cars and motorbikes
   - **Motorways**: 130 km/h for passenger cars
   - HGV over 3.5 tonnes: maximum speed 80 km/h
   - Passenger cars with trailer: reduced speed limit
   - Motorcaravans: 80 km/h

In Denmark one drives on the right. The majority of traffic signs conform with international standards.

- Watch out for white teeth-like triangles on the road: these mean ”Give way”.
- You must indicate before changing lanes on the motorway and turn on hazard warning lights in the event of a tailback or congestion.
- When turning right, give way to cyclists, motorbikers and pedestrians who are going straight ahead.
- The blood alcohol limit is 0.5 ‰.

ETA, ESTA, eTA – Electronic Travel Authorization Electronic System for Travel Authorization Electronic Travel Authorization (Canada)

These three abbreviations stand for electronic travel authorisations. It means pre-registering online prior to your journey to a country that does not issue traditional visas.

This procedure enables the authorities to check out in advance certain pieces of information relating to the traveller. The most popular countries that require this authorisation are United States (ESTA), the United Kingdom (ETA) and Canada (eTA).

This authorisation replaces a visa for many visitors: these documents serve two quite different purposes.

A visa is an official authorisation allowing a person to stay for a set period of time (work, study etc) while electronic travel authorisations are destined for foreigners who do not need a visa (short stay, holiday etc.).

Travel authorisations should be obtained exclusively from official websites. There are many websites around that offer to obtain the authorisation for you and charge you very high fees for their efforts.

Starting on 18 June 2026, the Belgian-Dutch rail company **European Sleeper is introducing a new overnight train** linking Brussels and Milan. The train stops in Cologne, in Switzerland and near Lake

Como in northern Italy. Currently European Sleeper is proposing overnight trains to the Netherlands, Germany (Berlin) and the Czech Republic (Prague). A service to Barcelona is being planned for 2027.

Health

70% of all **strokes** could be avoided if people had a healthier diet and exercised more. People should also reduce their love and intake of alcohol and give up smoking. It is worth checking one's blood pressure too because palpitations or cardiac disrhythmia are risk factors.

Source: Stiftung Deutsche Schlaganfallhilfe (German Stroke Foundation)

Rose water can help tired eyes. Pour warm water over a handful of rose petals, cover and leave to infuse for two days. Strain and add more petals to the liquid and leave to infuse for another two days. Soak a cloth in the mixture and apply to your eyelids.

Forest bathing is gaining in popularity. In Japan it is a recognised way of relieving stress and is even part of health care. Walking in the forest encourages people's conscious appreciation of nature. The power of the forest also helps people gather new strength. In Europe too, forest bathing has taken off and is gaining in popularity.

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

The **Eiffel Tower built by Gustave Eiffel** with its 765 climbable steps contracts and expands all the time. The famous construction consists of 18,000 iron parts and as this metal contracts in cold weather, it can be 18 cm lower overall in winter than in the heat of summer.

Switzerland registers the most **patents.** One in every thousand Swiss comes up with some ingenious invention and takes out a patent.

The state-owned **Textil- und Industriemuseum (Textile and Industry Museum) in Augsburg** (DE) is holding a fashion design exhibition "Celebrating Fashion – Talbot Runhof in Paris" until 25 October 2026. And the **Jewish Museum in Frankfurt** is hosting an exhibition "Mishpocha" The Art of Collaboration" a project inspired by drummer Mike Diamond. The exhibition which addresses the strength of togetherness within this family of artists runs until 27 September 2026.

Which countries/cities currently have the highest cost of living?

Switzerland especially, Zürich, Geneva, Basle, Lausanne, Lugano and Berne followed by New York and Reykjavik/Iceland.

Just 1.5 hours from Munich lies **Görisried, home to VerpackereiGö**, a gallery that has been converted from a former cheese-packing plant and is now a must-see art space. Currently on display there is "Melancholia Part II" by artists Torsten Mühlbach and Grefor Passens.

It might be an interesting detour on the way to the rally in Bad Griesbach

Saying of the Month

Staying positive doesn't

mean you have to be

happy all the time

It means that even on hard days you know that

there are better ones coming.

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

The **Deutsche Campingpreis 2026**, (German Camping Prize 2026) that the DCC awards every year at the Essen Exhibition, was presented to Mr. Klaus Büttner for his longstanding services to the camping sector. For many years, Mr. Büttner has shaped the fortunes of Frankana Freiko, one of Germany's biggest wholesalers for camping and leisure products.

The DCC Europa Prize went to four campsites (Germany, Austria, Croatia and Spain), all of which stood out in terms of quality, innovation and hospitality. The Platinum Prize went to two campsites, one in Germany and one in France.

Carthago, a partner of **DCC** for the **96th International F.I.C.C. Rally** in Karpfham, is proposing test drives of two of its models between 29 June and 1 July (reservation necessary via DCC).

EXHIBITIONS

Australia: Caravanning & Camping, 23 - 25 October 2026, in Canberra

Caravanning, 29 October to 1 November 2026, in Brisbane

Austria: Caravan Salon Austria, 14 - 18 October 2026, in Wels

Belgium: Mobicar, 1 - 4 October 2026, in Brussels

Czech Republic: Caravaning, November 2026, in Brno

Denmark: Autocamper Show, October, in Fredericia

Finland: Caravan vom 24 - 27 September 2026, in Lahti

France: Salon des véhicules de loisir, 26 September to 4 October 2026

Germany: Caravan Salon, 28 August to 6 September 2026, in Düsseldorf

Caravan Live, 1 - 4 October 2026, in Freiburg

Caravan Bremen, 6 - 8 November 2026, in Bremen

Touristik & Caravaning, November 2026, in Leipzig

CMT, 16 - 24 January 2027, in Stuttgart

Tourisma & Camping, 8 - 10 January 2027, in Magdeburg

Great Britain: East Midlands Motorhome & Campervan Show, 12 - 14 June 2026, in Coddington

The Norfolk Motorhome & Campervan Show, 17 - 19 July 2026, in Norwich

The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show, 21 - 23 August 2026, in Malvern

Motorhome & Caravan Show, 13 - 18 October 2026, in Birmingham

Hungary: Caravan Salon in February 2027, in Budapest

Italy: Salone del Camper, 12 - 20 September 2026, in Parma

Netherlands: Kampeer & Caravan Jaarbeurs, 30 September to 4 October 2026, in Utrecht

New Zealand: Motorhome, Caravan & Leisure, 18 - 20 September 2026, in Hamilton

Poland: Tourismus, 8 - 11 October 2026, in Warsaw

Caravan Salon, 15 - 18 October 2026, in Poznań

International Caravaning Trade Fair, 2 - 4 April 2027, in Warsaw

Slovakia: Caravan Bike Travel, February 2027, in Nitra

Slovenia: Alpe-Adria-Messe January/February 2027, in Ljubljana

Spain: Salon Internacional del Caravaning, October 2027, in Barcelona

Sweden: Elmia Husvagn Husbil, 9 - 13 September 2026, in Jönköping

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

Taiwan: ITF Taipei, 6 - 9 November 2026, in Taipei

Turkey: Travel Expo, 19 - 21 November 2026, in Ankara

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