NEWSLETTER

JULY - 2026

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

Date: 17 to 26 September /Guizhou-Province

Organised by CRVC

Full information and booking form :

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Dear friends of the global RV and camping community,

At the foot of majestic mountains and by the banks of tranquil waters, we are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to the world — the 97th International F.I.C.C. Rally will be held in September 2026 in the vibrant and picturesque province of Guizhou, China. As the official host of this grand event, we look forward to welcoming RV enthusiasts from every corner of the globe.

Guizhou, often celebrated as China's "Park Province," boasts breathtaking karst peaks, refreshing alpine meadows, and authentic ethnic minority villages. It is a true paradise for nature lovers and RV campers alike. September 2026 falls during the most comfortable season in Guizhou, when the

climate is mild and the landscapes are at their most inviting. We will greet our international guests with pleasant weather and rich cultural experiences.

During the rally, you will not only settle into campsites set amidst stunning natural scenery but also savour the region's signature sour soup cuisine and enjoy vibrant Miao and Dong ethnic songs and dances. It promises to be an unforgettable "mountain RV experience."

We look forward to meeting you in Guizhou in September 2026 for this global gathering in the heart of nature!

F.I.C.C. China Chapter (Rally Organizer) ——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

99th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2028

from 23 June to 2 July in the Veneto region, north-east Italy.

Organisers are Federcampeggio, ACTItalia and UCA

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Unexpected and unwelcome guests under the bonnet (hood) of your vehicle

Like many campers, you have certainly heard tales of stone martens that like to make themselves at home under vehicle bonnets overnight and munch their way through cables and tubes. They can cause considerable damage and really ruin one's stay at a campsite.

But help is at hand in the form of a marten box.

Generally speaking, martens do not usually nest inside a caravan but it can happen that these creatures will creep underneath a caravan and gnaw on any soft or insulating material or cables, especially if there is any leftover food lying around. So one should definitely dispose of all food leftovers both inside and underneath a caravan, including from the awning of course!

The marten box is a compact electronic device that is fixed under the bonnet. It emits high frequency sound waves, sometimes in combination with low electrical impulses along metal strips. These are completely harmless as far as the creature is concerned, but sufficiently unpleasant to drive it away.

No poison is involved. It is just a creature-friendly and effective deterrent that will protect your cables, tubes and insulating material against gnawing teeth.

Available in specialist outlets.

Source: De Caravan (NCC/NL)

Motorcaravans exceeding 3.5 tonnes : frequently underestimated consequences

Increasing the maximum permissible total weight in excess of the current 3.5 tonne limit is commonly reckoned to be an obvious solution – especially when load reserves are tight or additional equipment has been installed.

However what tends to be overlooked or disregarded are the various underlying conditions and regulations in force that will impact on users on a day-to-day basis.

For a start, take the toll regime in some countries (Austria for example). While vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes can travel using a valid vignette, vehicles over 3.5 tonnes must be fitted with an onboard unit (OBU) or GO-Box, that charges a toll based on the distance travelled, vehicle type and emission class. If one uses the main road network a lot, the costs mount up very quickly and should be taken into account when planning a trip.

There are also distinct differences when it comes to maximum speeds. Vehicles over 3.5 tonnes (again in Austria) are subject to speed limits both on motorways and on main roads. These limits do not just apply over holiday periods which means one needs to think about adapting one‘s driving habits and strategy.

Different toll systems operate thoughout the EU – some are electronic and based on distance – and countries have their own regulations for vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. There are differences not only in tariffs, but in speed limits, driving restrictions and access regulations for specific zones. It is essential that all road users familiarise themselves in advance with precise details of current regulations in force in different countries.

In conclusion: the decision to increase the maximum permissible total weight does not just imply greater flexibility when it comes to loading up, but brings with it a whole host of other consequences.

It should be noted too that changes to the 4th EU driving licence directive is underway in EU countries and Code 96.02 (enabling drivers to operate motorcaravans up to 4.5 tonnes with appropriate training) will come into force by 26 November 2029 at the latest.

Source: CCA-Journal (AT)

Netherlands: In the first four months of 2026, 9% (1,297) more motorcaravans were sold in the Netherlands than in the same period the previous year. 77.8% of the Dutch (including campers) who go away on holiday admitted that international tensions were influencing their travel plans.

Source: NKC (NL)

According to statistics, there were 50,000 motorcaravans in the Netherlands at the end of 2006, 100,000 in the summer of 2016, 200,000 at the end of November 2024 and on 1 December 2025 209,557. Watch this space for future developments!

Source: NKC (NL)

Avoid damaging surges and spikes

When travelling in southern Europe or north Africa, do check beforehand that the electronic management system (EMS) in your motorcaravan is fitted with surge protection. Surge protection protects the EMS and the user if the power supply suddenly fails or fluctuates. Surge protectors can be purchased separately.

Best possible handling of a cable

When handling a cable drum make sure that the cable is fully wound on. Then put the cable drum and cable as far back as possible underneath the motorcaravan to avoid heat and moisture damage.

Campertips NKC/NL

Practical tips for campers too

Bananas, apples and pears etc are often sold with **small stickers on the fruit.** These are usually plastic-based and often end up in organic waste where they don't belong.

Stickers should be removed straight after purchase and deposited in the general household rubbish.

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

Belgium is talking about imposing **road tolls.** Both Flanders and Wallonia are considering introducing a digital vignette for passenger cars and other vehicles. The system could come into effect in 2027 and could cost 100€ annually. Trucks would be charged more. According to European regulations, tolls may not be charged exclusively to foreigners, so Belgian drivers will also have to pay up.

Campers/caravanners and motorcaravanners will be subject to higher charges and it is feared that they will bypass Belgium altogether which could adversely affect tourism, the hospitality industry and sales of fuel.

Source: Kampeertoerist VKCF/BE

From Ostend/BE to Cologne/DE direct : This summer (from 3 June to 31 August 2026), German railways has introduced an extra ICE (Intercity Express) between Ostend and Cologne. For the first time, this TGV will also stop in Louvain/Leuven and even operates a service to Ostend on weekends with stops in Ghent and Bruges. This new link means that passengers from Louvain, Ghent, Bruges and Ostende can travel direct to Aachen and Cologne without having to change trains.

The seat belt has been around for 50 years: it has been an important step towards increased road safety and instrumental in a noticeable fall in the number of road deaths.

Belgium: The network of cycle tracks in West Flanders has been increased by 456 km and now covers 3,700 km. The network has not only been extended but updated and improved so that it is easier for cyclists to find their way and decide whether to take a short or long way round.

In addition, picnic areas have been created, local hotspots identified and the paths go through lovely nature reserves and cultural sites, along the coast, round the Bruges area, Westhoek and along the Leie river.

From 23 July to 19 August 2026 the World Press Photo Exhbition is taking place in Knokke-Heist, with 57,376 photos submitted by 3,747 photographers.

Source: Kampeertoerist/BE

Health

It is said that 36% of all Europeans suffer from **mental problems** and only 7% seek therapeutic help. Financial problems, professional concerns and above all stress are reckoned to be the root causes.

Source: Extract/Burda & Strada Health Report 2025

If you feel stressed, drink a glass of water – it can help: According to a study carried out in Liverpool's John Moore's University, stress resilience improves with increasing amounts of fluid in the bloodstream. Volunteers who drank less than 1.5l daily registered higher levels of the stress hormone

cortisol than those who drank more liquid. According to the researchers, if one is dehydrated, the brain releases vasopressin, a hormone that retains water in the bloodstream and at the same time encourages secretion of cortisol.

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

The deepest hotel (Deep Sleep 5*) in the world is 419 m underground.

It is in a former mineshaft in Cwmorthin quarry in the Snowdonia region of North Wales. For a lot of people, it even takes courage to spend out at least 470€ per night (two people)!

Apples can float, pears cannot!

Apples have a lower density and are therefore lighter than water – just like wood.

Wilhelm Sasnal has a solo exhibition **"Grey Eyes"** at the Espace Louis Vuitton in Münich. It runs until **12th September 2026** and displays selected works and paintings by the Polish artist from the past two decades. The Espace Louis Vuitton is next to the opera house and entry to the exhibition is free. The Foundation Espace Vuitton was established 20 years ago and now exists all over the world.

The **Venice Biennale** runs until 22 November and exhibitions include works by the Czech artist David Cerny entitled "Artocalypsa".

Autobahn churches and – chapels are commonplace in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. They are Christian places of worship near a motorway and predominantly provide a personal, anonymous stopping place where motorway users can take a welcome break and rest a while for contemplation or whatever.

Road sign for motorway church

In more recent times, other countries have followed suit: in 2007, a motorway church was opened near Pilsen in the Czech Republic for example. Austria has the Dolina motorway church on the A 2 near Klagenfurt and another, Haid motorway church, at the Traun motorway junction (Upper Austria). Scandinavia has a number of these churches too, but they are only open in the tourist season.

Motorway churches offer "rest for the soul". This term is self-explanatory and comes close to explaining people's reasons for stopping by. In these chapels and churches travellers will find shelter and can refresh themselves mentallly. A Book of Concerns and Requests is available for people to record any thoughts, impressions or requests. Broadly speaking, these places of worship have nothing in common with formal church services and practices and people are free to express their religious as they see fit.

Every year around a million people visit German motorway churches. The first private ecumenical motorway church opened in Geiselwind/Lower Franconia in 2001.

Motorway churches must be within 1,000m of a motorway exit and there must be at least 80km distance between them on a motorway. Other requirements are parking and toilets.

Opening times are usually from 8am to 8pm. At present there are 45 such churches/chapels in Germany.

Saying of the Month

Half of the world are women,

The other half are their children!

Efu Nyaki, Tanzanian healer and more recently co-founder of the AFYA Efu Nyaki Centre in Brazil

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

At this year‘s General Assembly, held during the **97th International F.I.C.C. Rally** in Karpfham/Germany, new Council members were elected for the next three years. The F.I.C.C. President was also re-elected.

Representatives of the following countries were elected (in alphabetical order):

Austria

Finland

France

Germany

Great Britain

Italy

Poland

Portugal

Taiwan

Turkey

The General Assembly re-elected Mr. Joao Alves Pereira as F.I.C.C. President who has presided over the Federation for 20 years and who will continue to carry out the wishes of its members for the next three years.

João ALVES PEREIRA

The General Assembly

Mr. Ramon Escot /FECC-Spain

A few nice photos of the Opening Ceremony in the marquee, bringing campers together from all over the world on a blazing hot day.

GRAF ARCO

World Camping Day

More photos of the Delegate's Outing and the Taiwan Party

GRAF ARCO
GRAF ARCO

Photos: Johnny Cheng, Melodie Vergouts. Olli Rusi, The Camping & Caravanning Club

The F.I.C.C. Challenge Trophy was won by The Camping and Caravanning Club of Great Britain (GB)

The Trophy is awarded to the club or federation with the highest number of participants at the rally, mutiplied by the official distance as recognised by an airline between the main airport nearest the headquarters of a club or federation and the main airport nearest the rally site, including the number of kilometers by road from this airport to the rally site.

And the organisers' prize went to:

Category I : **Irish Federation of Camping Caravanning and Motor-Caravanning (IRL**) *Clubs or federations with up to 10,000 members;*

Category II : **Norsk Bobil og Caravan Club (NO)** *Clubs or federations with between 10,001 and 25,000 members;*

Category III : **Touring Club Suisse (CH)** *Clubs and federations with 25,001 members and over.*

A total of 561 units with 1,056 persons from 24 countries took part in this rally, which was 'warm' in the truest sense of the word (both in terms of the temperatures and the welcome and support provided).

These were listed as follows:

Belgium 7 – China 3 — England (GB) 54 – Estonia 3 – Finland 21- France 8 – Germany 189 Ireland 31 – Italy 44 - Japan 8 – Luxembourg 1 – Netherlands 2 – Norway 21 – Poland 7 – Portugal 9 – Rep. Czech 4 - Scotland (GB) 1 – Sweden 29 – Switzerland 61 – Slovakia 21 – Slovenia 5 - Spain 4 – Taiwan 10 — Turkey 18

EXHIBITIONS

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, 24 - 27 September 2026, in Lahti

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

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

Caravan Live, 1 - 4 October, in Freiburg

Caravan Bremen, 6 - 8 November 2026, in Bremen

Touristik & Caravaning, November 2026, in Leipzig

Great Britain: 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

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

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

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

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

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