NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - 2026

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Detailed information soon

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

Dates: 17 to 26 September /Guizhou-Province

has unfortunately had to be cancelled by the organiser CRVC and will now be held from 30 April to 9 May 2027 at a venue to be announced.

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

IN NITRA/ SLOVAKIA

Organised by Slovenska Asociacia Campingu a Caravaningu

from 26 June to 5 July

I am very proud that the town of Nitra is organising the 98th F.I.C.C. Rally in 2027, which is one of the most important international events in the camping and caravanning calendar.

Nitra is one of Slovakia's oldest towns which brings together significant historical events, rich culture, proverbial hospitality and the pulse of life of a modern and proud town. And it is precisely this mix that makes the town so attractive for tourists.
Hosting the F.I.C.C. Rally offers our town and all of Slovakia a unique opportunity to introduce visitors from all over the world to this attractive, open and safe tourist destination.

This prestigious event will attract thousands of participants from many countries to Slovakia, thereby giving tourism a substantial boost and strengthening awareness of our State internationally.

During the Rally, Nitra will become the centre of the camping elite and a meeting point for people with a shared passion for travel, freedom and discovering new places and cultures.
I know that the 98th F.I.C.C. Rally participants will not only appreciate the first class facilities and excellent organisation but also the beauty of our town and region, our traditions, excellent gastronomy and the warm hospitality of local people.
I am really looking forward to welcoming you all in Nitra in 2027.

Marek Hattas - Mayor of Nitra

Further information on the website www.ficcrally2027.sk

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

from 23 June to 2 July in Eraclea (Veneto region)/ Italy.

Organisers are Federcampeggio, ACTItalia and UCA.

Eraclea is a small town and municipality in the Metropolitan City of Venice, Veneto/northern Italy, located on the Adriatic coast between the towns of Caorle and Jesolo. In 2009 Eraclea Mare was awarded the “Three Sails" by Legambiente, an Italian environmental organisation. Every year from 2007 to 2017, it received the Foundation for Environmental Education’s “Blue Flag“ award for the cleanliness of its beaches and sea water.

Eraclea Mare is famous for its pine forest and Laguna del Mort (“Lagoon of the Dead“). This unusual body of water was formed in 1935 following a flood and the diversion of the final stretch of the Piave river. The lagoon, a sea lagoon, fed only by tidal flood waters, stretches between Eraclea’s lido and the mouth of the river. It is still uncontaminated and is consistently shallow and calm with a sandy, muddy seabed, rich in phytoplankton.

The town’s population is around 12,000 and its economy is mainly based on agriculture and tourism, thanks to its popular 6km long beach (Eracleamar).

The origins of Eraclea Minoa are steeped in myth: legend has it that the Cretan king Minos, in his attempt to capture the ingenious architect Daidalos who had fled from Crete, reached the Sicilian coast. It was from this legendary connection that the city took the name Minoa, later renamed Heraclea in honour of Hercules.

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Boom in solo campers, and women are in the forefront

Since 2023 the number of lone travellers in caravans or motorcaravans has apparently risen by around a quarter. In the meantime, four out of every ten lone travellers are women. When they go off in their campers, they are making a conscious decision for independence and freedom.

Today's women know exactly how and where they want to travel. Cultural activities as part of a trip are all the trend, during a weekend get-away for instance. As concerts and theatre outings are high up on the agenda, many of them head to one of the cities where a small vehicle is very useful when it comes to finding somewhere to park or stop. Small wonder that vehicles that are easy to manage and manoeuvrable, such as high roof combos or minibuses like the VW Bus or Ford Transit, are especially popular among female campers. With or without a pop-up roof, these vehicles can even enter underground parking lots so are suitable for both inner-city and everyday use.

Lady campers who may be concerned for their own safety, are usually well catered for when spending the night at camping or stopping areas. One is rarely alone and there are often sanitary facilities and electricity. An alternative could be an arrangement on farmland, a type of accommodation that exists in nearly all European countries. It is also helpful to think of choosing a well-lit overnight stopping place, to have emergency contact to hand, to share a stopping place with other trustworthy people and to pay heed to one's gut reactions. An alarm, secure windows and doors are worth considering.

Choose a camper van bearing in mind your needs and what is possible because when you are a solo traveller you rarely need a wonder home on wheels! A sense of security for a woman is more important than the dimensions of the vehicle.

In addition there are the questions as to just how autonomous a vehicle should be, what can be dispensed with inside and what is essential for a journey. Pets too need consideration, some sort of bed, and a corner earmarked for stowing sports equipment. Ladies want an on-board WC which also takes up space. It is preferable if everything has its appointed place at all times, secure during travel, and does not have to be moved around. And, as for all newcomers, it is advisable for "a woman" to rent a similar size vehicle for a trial weekend to save launching out into an expensive purchase that could prove to be a bad investment.

Source: Extracts CCA-Journal/AT

CIVD (Caravaning Industrie Verband/Federation) came up with the idea of creating "Caravan, quo vadis?" last autumn because caravan sales were decreasing dramatically.

New caravan overview pages supply information on towing vehicles, drivers licence, safety and holiday practices for example. The federation aim is to boost interest in buying caravans through media presence and digital information.

CIVD's chief executive also emphasises the growing importance of caravanning for tourism, the economy and business, pointing out that mobile tourism has become very relevant in our uncertain times.

Caravanning offers flexibility, independence, autonomy and more easily-budgeted travel costs, all of which makes it such an attractive type of holiday for so many people.

The first quarter of 2026 showed a lot of new caravan and motorcaravan registrations in Germany. Numbers in February especially were sensational, almost 75% up on the previous year. With nearly 22,000 new registrations, it was the best quarter ever recorded. Spreadsheets show an increase of 29.1% which is primarily attributable to higher sales of campervans. For the 2025/2026 season, the figure is 39,830 so far. As mentioned above, the caravan sector is faltering and there were only only 4,623 new caravan registrations in the first quarter.

Source:CIVD

Practical tips, for campers too

Eliminate moss in your lawn without using chemicals: Take 50g of coffee grounds per square metre of grass, sprinkle all over before watering. This is a biological way of fighting moss and at the same time acts as a fertilizer. Try it and see!

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

In **France,** starting this year, all vehicles whether new or used, are given a temporary number plate that begins with WW. It is bright pink but has absolutely no bearing on the sex of the driver...

France is tightening up its environmental legislation to prepare for new EU air quality standards which must be adhered to from 2030 onwards.

Anyone wanting to drive a car in France in a low emission zone must display a Crit'Air environmental sticker. This also applies to foreigners.

One can order a Crit'Air sticker on line from the Ministry of the Environment for around 5€ including postage. Anyone without a sticker or with an invalid sticker in an environmental/low emission area runs the risk of a 70€ fine.

Source: European Consumers' Organisation

Belgium: New road road signs on Flemish motorways

The highway authority has introduced new standardized guidelines to improve readability, avoid confusion and improve road safety.

The most striking change is that the arrows on road signs over traffic lanes will in future always point upwards. According to a study, drivers understand this signposting much better to the extent that they change lanes earlier and more calmly. This means traffic flows better and there is less abrupt lane-changing. The yellow-green exit signs will be removed and replaced by internationally recognised black and white ones that give a better contrast and which, moreover, foreign drivers find more comprehensible. The blue distance boards will be reduced and only display the names of the most important towns. AMW (Agency for Roads and Traffic) is in favour of retroreflective signs replacing those that are internally illuminated. It is reckoned that they are just as easy to read and use less energy.

The new guidelines have been aligned with the successful adjustments carried out in the Netherlands, Germany and France. They will be introduced gradually. The first new signs will appear when major road repairs and new infrastructure projects are undertaken and existing signs will be replaced when the present ones are too old or damaged.

Source: Kampeertoerist (VKCF/BE)

From August onwards, the 2026 annual motorway toll sticker for Austria will no longer be worth it to buy – so the best alternative is to get a short term vignette valid until the end of the year. Frequent drivers will need this to bridge the gap until December when one can start using the 2027 annual vignette.

Important: From 1 December 2026, one can no longer buy a vignette sticker, only a "digital Pickerl". In addition to the vignette, travellers on stretches of Austria's road network that were costly to build, i.e. tunnels, bridges or mountain passes, need to buy a toll ticket. These include sections of the Brenner, Tauern and Pyhrn motorways and the Karawanke and Felbertauer tunnels. Don't try to avoid payment otherwise you could be fined 200€ per unpaid section!

Source: ADAC

Health

Neck ache is often the result of continually looking at one's tablet or smart phone. If you look down at screens too much you can soon end up with very tense neck muscles. From now on, try holding your phone at eye level!

When you eat a banana, you should also eat the inner fleshy layer and threads attached to the outer peel, because they contain important minerals and fiber. The same is true for tangerines and oranges where the white pith, the so-called mesocarp, is rich in vitamins and antioxydants.

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

Cats love boxes (and bags and cases too) – but why? Scientists reckon that this love of boxes is linked to their behaviour as animals of prey: they lie in wait out of doors to ambush a mouse or bird and need protection themselves from possible attackers. A box apparently gives cats that same sense of security: they can see out but sleep safely undisturbed.

The world's **fourth Guggenheim Museum** announced some 20 years ago, is set to open in Abu Dhabi this December. It is a spectacularly futuristic building designed by the renowned architect Frank Gehry.

Saying of the month

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

IN MEMORIAM

We have just heard the sad news of the death at the end of August of **Ms Viktoria Groß,** Press Officer – Chief Editor of Deutscher Camping Club's magazine " Camping". Ms Groß worked very closely with F.I.C.C., frequently acting as interpreter in talks between the Presidents of DCC and F.I.C.C. and, within the camping world, she was a much respected and popular lady. We remember her as competent, very friendly and always positive. We offer our sincere condolences to her family and to DCC who has lost a longstanding, excellent colleague.

Baldarin Campsite celebrates 60 years of tradition and success

On Wednesday, 22 July, Baldarin Campsite celebrated an important milestone - 60 years of operation and success.

Located at the southernmost tip of the island of Cres, in Punta Križa, Baldarin has offered its guests a unique combination of unspoilt nature, crystal-clear sea and tranquillity for six decades, far from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. What began as a simple naturist campsite on the Adriatic coast surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation, has grown into a favourite destination for visitors seeking an authentic holiday in harmony with nature.

Over the past six decades, Baldarin has developed into one of the most renowned camping destinations on the Adriatic—a place to which guests return year after year. Its rich history has been

shaped by generations of employees, associates and partners whose dedication has contributed to the campsite's lasting success.

The anniversary was marked by a full-day programme of sports, entertainment and celebratory activities. Guests took part in table tennis and beach volleyball tournaments, a campsite-themed pub quiz and popular competitions such as tug-of-war, wheelbarrow races around markers and SUP races.

The official part of the celebration took place in the evening and included commemorative speeches and a retrospective on six decades of Baldarin's successful development. Awards were presented to former employees, long-standing associates and partners in recognition of their work, commitment and contribution to the campsite over the years.

One of the highlights of the evening was the specially made traditional six-tier croquant cake that was ceremonially broken into pieces and distributed to all the guests. Attendees also enjoyed a special selection of food, while the Lošinj-based band Ciplići provided the music and created a lively atmosphere throughout the evening.

Exhibition panels installed across the campsite offered visitors an insight into Baldarin's story through photographs, newspaper articles and personal accounts from long-standing guests and employees. The exhibition presented the campsite's beginnings and development, its naturist tradition, its commitment to environmental protection and the enduring values that have made Baldarin such a special destination for generations of visitors.

The anniversary celebration brought together guests, employees, former staff members, associates and partners, providing an opportunity not only to look back proudly on Baldarin's first 60 years, but also to celebrate the people, traditions and shared memories that continue to shape its identity.

Source: Campsite press release

F.I.C.C. President Joao Alves Pereira was invited to attend the celebrations but unfortunately could not participate due to another commitments.

under F.I.C.C. patronage

Very successful 29th Dahlia Rally in Bratislava, Slovakia

The 29th Dahlia Rally, organised by the Slovak Camping and Caravanning Federation (SACC), was held from 3 to 6 September 2026 at the Bratislava Zlaté Piesky campsite.

111 units with 206 campers from seven countries attended this international event – Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Latvia and Portugal.

The event was especially honoured by the presence throughout of F.I.C.C. President João Alves Pereira, sharing unforgettable moments with the international camping community and underlining F.I.C.C.‘s strong support for regional camping events.

Participants were treated to a very varied programme over the four days that showcased the best that the host region had to offer:

Cultural discovery: Guided tours of Bratislava‘s historic centre.

Culture and scenery: Excursion to the famous Devín castle at the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers.

Active tourism: Organised bike rides through the surrounding countryside.

Socialising: Evening events including traditional hospitality, delicious food, live music and dancing. SACC is most grateful to all participants, guest delegates and to the Bratislava Zlaté Piesky campsite for its excellent hospitality and organisation.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again at next year’s 30th Dahlia Rally that will be organised by the Caravan Club Ostrava at the ATC Olšovec, Jedovnice in the Czech Republic!

Jaroslav Mišura, President of SACC

F.I.C.C. President Joao Alves Pereira and SACC President Jaroslav Misura

EXHIBITIONS

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

Belgium: Mobicar, 1 - 4 October 2026 in Brussels

Canada: International Tourism & Travel Fair, 30 October – 1 November 2026 in Montreal

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 Live, 1 - 4 October in Freiburg

Caravan Bremen, 6 - 8 November 2026 in Bremen

Touristik & Caravaning, November 2026 in Leipzig

Great Britain: 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

Poland: : Caravan Salon, 16 - 18 October 2026 in Poznań

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 Bern

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