NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - 2026

WWW.FICC.ORG

The 75th International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally will be held in Porto/Portugal from 25 to 29 March 2027.

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

Dates: 17 to 26 September /Guizhou-Province

was unfortunately 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

Further information available on the website www.ficcrally2027.sk

EXCURSIONS

Topľčianky

In the northern reaches of the Danube plain, you come across an old village that experienced a goldrush in the 14th century, sparking off its rapid growth. At the end of the 19th century, Topľčianky was under the Habsburgs who oversaw further development of the settlement and the surrounding fruit and wine-growing area.

After Czechoslovakia was founded, Topľčianky became the seat of the President of the Czech Republic. Visit Topľčianky Castle and surrounding park, the hunting lodge, the Topľčianky National Stud and the unique Zubria bison reserve in the nearby village of Lovće . Above all, enjoy a guided tour and wine-tasting in Topľčianky Castle vineyard.

Welcome to the Nitra Self-Governing Region - a region where movement meets experience, tradition meets discovery and people share the same passion for travel. It is a great honor for us that the 98th F.I.C.C. Rally will take place in the Nitra Self-Governing Region in 2027. Caravanning is not just a way of moving from place to place. It is a lifestyle built on freedom, curiosity and the desire to explore the world at your own pace. These are precisely the values that are deeply rooted in our region. It offers the ideal backdrop for a major international event - a strategic location, good accessibility, high-quality infrastructure and the unique Agrokomplex exhibition centre, which is a natural meeting place for people, ideas and cultures. At the same time, the entire region is an excellent starting point for exploring the diverse landscape, historical towns, vineyards, thermal baths and authentic regional experiences.

I believe that the F.I.C.C. Rally 2027 will bring not only a rich programme and an exceptional atmosphere, but also new friendships, inspiration and a desire to explore our region and Slovakia exactly the way caravanners like it - freely, with an open mind and the joy of the journey.

Dr. Branislav Becik

Chairman of the Nitra self-governing administrative region

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

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

Organisers: Federcampeggio, ACTItalia and UCA

Eraclea Mare, formerly Marina di Santa Croce, is part of Eraclea, situated six kilometres south east of the main town on the Gulf of Venice separated from Jesolo by the Piave river.

Every year since 2007, it has received FEE's Blue Flag for the quality of the sea and beaches that extend for over four kilometres.

The Lagoon of the Dead, to the west of the town centre, has been recognised by the Legambiente as being one of the most beautiful beaches in Italy. The pine forest has around 3,500 pine trees with walking trails that lead to the sea. The local economy is based on tourism and has a pedestrian zone in the evenings. Eraclea Mare is accessible by car via the SP42 or the A4 motorway (Exits: Noventa di Piave or Cessalto) and is about 35 km from Venice's Marco Polo airport. ATVO operates public transport to the airport, train station and nearby towns such as Caorle and Jesolo.

Post code: 30020

Altitude: 2 m above sea level.

Source: Internet

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Thanks to the numerous big exhibitions organised Europe-wide, many people have fond ideas of acquiring their own caravan or motorcaravan to experience the sense of freedom and independence and entertain the possibility of going off somewhere on the spur of the moment in the future.

However in life, it often turns out that what seems a really good idea initially, inevitably fails to fulfill or live up to one's long-term needs and this is just as valid when it comes to caravanning.

Therefore it is recommended to rent five times and buy once.

There is more to camping than meets the eye. Different modes of travel, seasons of the year and personal preferences all impact on which vehicle is in fact the most suitable. It is only through repeated renting that you find out how you want to travel, how much space you actually need and which luxuries or mod cons are indispensable. What might look spacious in the showroom may work out to be cramped on a day-to-day basis – and vice versa. This cannot be worked out theoretically, only in practice when you are on the road, cooking, sleeping, driving and coping on arrival. The basic decision between opting for a caravan or motorcaravan often only becomes apparent through practical experience. Whereas a motorcaravan scores when it comes to flexibility and readiness for more or less immediate departure, a caravan gains in terms of local mobility and often a greater feeling of space on a pitch. Newcomers often only find out which concept suits their travel style after several trips in a hire vehicle. Just one test run is really not enough.

There are also big differences even within the various types of vehicle. Layout, bed solutions, sanitary arrangements and storage concepts only reveal their practicability with regular daily use. It is only once you have used several vehicles that it becomes clear which fixtures and fittings are expendable and which are indispensable. These experiences will help when settling on and realistically planning your future purchase.

Actual driving is another, often underestimated, aspect. The length, width, weight and visibility influence not only your driving comfort, but also the feeling of safety.

Manoeuvering, parking and driving on narrow roads becomes more challenging with bigger vehicles. Also dedicated parking spots should be taken into consideration. That is why it is advisable to try out different models.

Don't forget either that one's own travel style often evolves. Short breaks make different demands from longer trips. Travelling as a couple is very different from family holidays and not every type of camping has the same great appeal for ever.

And finally, the economic aspect has a role to play. A caravan or motorcaravan is a serious investment with associated running costs and depreciation to be taken into account. It is true that

renting several times also involves financial outlay, but it does offer greater flexibility and spares you the risk of making an expensive wrong decision.

In the end, renting helps one steer the path towards an informed decision: wishes become specific, priorities more realistic and expectations more assessable.

The rule of thumb "Rent five times – buy only once" certainly does not amount to abandoning a dream to have one's own recreational vehicle, but is rather a way of getting there. It represents experience, patience and lasting satisfaction – values that are just as important in caravanning as freedom and independence.

Source: CCA Journal (AT)

Germany: For the first half of 2026, the campsite sector recorded a slight drop in overnight stays on German campsites compared with the previous year. It is thought that perhaps the high price of fuel impacted on the Germans' desire to travel.

Overnight figures for foreigners staying on German campsites have however risen by 4.6%, especially Dutch campers (up by 7.1% on the previous year).

Source: Bundesverband der Campingwirtschaft in Deutschland e.V.

Spain: The occupancy rate of Spanish campsites was almost 90% in July and August which shows that increasing numbers of people are keen to spend their holidays outdoors in tents, caravans and motorcaravans.

There was a marked rise in demand for bungalows/chalets.

Similarly positive figures for overnight stays on Spanish campsites are expected for September as well.

Source: FEEC

The Spanish firm Benimar produced 100,000 caravans.

Sweden: 2025 proved to be a record year in Sweden with 17.3 million overnight stays on campsites – and 2026 could turn out to be even better. The camping sector expects an increase of 3-5% this year. Usually the month of July accounts for a third of all campsite stays.

Source: Frididsmagasinet Caravan Club of Sweden

Italy: According to the Centre for Tourism Studies in Florence, current unofficial estimates indicate that Italian campsites and holiday villages registered over 53.6 million overnight stays between June and August 2026.

Winter break for your camping vehicle

Wintering a caravan or motorcaravan properly: The camping season is slowly drawing to a close and now is the time to prepare your caravan or motorcaravan for the coldest time of the year. Frost, damp and lengthy periods of inactivity can place a strain on your vehicle. But just a few important jobs will ensure that your camping vehicle makes it safely through the winter and ready in the spring for new adventures.

The right parking space: Ideally the parking space should be dry and protected. If you are parking your caravan or motorcaravan outdoors, you should look out for a suitable, preferably protected, parking space. A suitable cover can afford some protection, but it is important not to cover over ventilation openings so that the air can keep on circulating. Next to protection from wind and weather, safety and accessibility are also important. It can be useful to have easy access to your vehicle for small repairs or even a spontaneous trip.

Keep an eye on frost, damp and technical areas: Water systems are especially important. Drinking water and waste water tanks should be completely drained and water pipes, water heaters and taps protected from frost. Even small quantities of water that freeze can cause problems. As a precautionary measure fill up with a food-safe antifreeze product.

The interior should also be thoroughly cleaned before the winter break. Remove all foodstuffs, leave the fridge open, air all cushions and leave cupboards and storage space open – this way air can circulate better and reduce the risk of damp. Install a dehumidifier.

Close gas bottles and remove from the supply system. As for the battery, depending on the vehicle and installation, check whether it should be disconnected, removed or recharged regularly.

Don't forget: Check tyres, seals, lights and underbody. All repair work, whether insignificant or necessary, should be undertaken in the autumn if possible, well before the new camping season takes off in the spring.

Source: CCA-Journal/AT

Practical tips – for campers too

Washing up sponges should only be used for one week at most then discarded because they can harbour dangerous bacteria such as salmonella, e-coli etc.They can however be cleaned by leaving them for a few minutes in hot water (over 70°).

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

In Slovenia electromobility is on the increase.

Slovenia has been continually encouraging electromobility expansion for the past ten years in both urban and rural areas. So there is a well-constructed network of both normal and fast charging stations, especially in cities like Ljubljana, Maribor, Celje, Koper, but also near a number of natural parks, tourist hot spots and on motorways. You can quickly find the nearest charging station with the app " Gremo na elektriko" or "PlugShare".

Many campsites and hotels are also offering special e-charging possibilities for their guests now.

Source: Auto (ACS/CH)

Germany: An environmental or emissions sticker is not obligatory in Germany if you cross the country by motorway. But if you break your journey and end up in an area or town that is rated as an environmental zone, then you do need an emissions sticker. It is available online and is a once-off purchase. These stickers are also valid in Spain. In Austria, however, there is no obligation for Class M1 motorcaravans to buy an environmental sticker.

If you see the sign "No overtaking" **in Germany**, it also applies to motorcaravans over 3,500 kg even if the vehicle is registered as a passenger car. But you may drive at 100 km/h rather than keep within the top speed limit of 80 km/h that applies to heavy goods vehicles.

Source: Kampeerauto NKC

In Austria, single track electric vehicles without pedals have been banned from cycle lanes since 1 October 2026 and e-mopeds are considered to be motor vehicles. E-bikes still count as bicycles if their power rating is less than 250 watt and their speed is limited to 25 km/h.

Source: Freie Fahrt Arbö/AT

Netherlands: Heavy Goods Vehicle toll in the Netherlands. The Netherlands introduced an HGV toll in July 2026. If you are driving a motorcaravan over 3.5 tonnes in the Netherlands that does not have a Dutch number plate, should check that you are in order from their administrative point of view.

Foreign motorcaravans are not automatically recognised as camping vehicles and the control system could classify your vehicle wrongly and give you a juicy fine! Happily campers over 3.5t with a foreign number plate are exempt.

This exemption is obtained via the Netherlands' official Heavy Goods Vehicle Charge website

(vrachtwagenheffing.nl) "Dispensation and Exemption".

Source: Extract from Kampeer-Toerist (VKT/BE)

Health

Anyone who has had **real flu**, should be on the lookout for heart problems a few weeks afterwards (chest pains/short of breath) because the risk of having a heart attack four weeks after suffering from influence is five times higher than normal.

Listening to music reduces anxiety markedly. Just half an hour of music, notably especially composed sounds with aural beat stimulation influence brain activity. This was what researchers at Toronto Metropolitan University discovered and, according to this study, this type of music increases heart rate variability and reduces cortisol levels.

(Seen in Bunte/DE)

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

800 years since the death of Francis of Assisi (1181/1182 – 3 October 1226), an Italian Catholic saint who is known worldwide for being the patron saint of animals because he talked to the birds and gave orders to a wolf. He is the Patron Saint of Italy and part of the country's history.

André Rieu's Christmas Concert will be held again in Maastricht (Netherlands) in December 2026.

Saying of the Month

If you want to hear birds singing,

it is better to plant a tree rather than buy a bird cage.

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

The Nordisk Camping Meeting will be organised by NBCC in Brumunddal, Innlandet/Norway from 12 to 17 July 2027.

FFCC/France is moving with the times

FFCC's modernisation and reorganisation programme

At a time when French people are looking for holidays that are straightforward, accessible and close to nature, the Fédération Française des Campeurs, Caravaniers et Camping-caristes (French Federation of Campers, Caravanners and Motorcaravanners - FFCC) has asserted itself as a **key player in outdoor tourism.**

Today it has moved up a level and completely reorganised its ecosystem in order to meet people's expectations better:

• Consumers (campers in tents, caravanners, vanlifers, motorcaravanners, tourists who rent outdoor accommodation)
• Campsites and local authorities

In order to respond to changing practices and expectations both from travellers' and professionals' point of view, FFCC is improving the way it is organised by using two complementary platforms:

• **Camp'in France**, specifically for the camping fraternity,
• **Camp'in Pro**, specifically for campsites and local authorities.

Alongside these major changes, FFCC has updated its corporate design with a new logo and specific identities.

As a not-for-profit organisation, FFCC is recognised as a key player that is committed to accessible tourism, offers support and is respectful of the environment.

In a world where mobility is changing, where there is pressure on the natural environment and where camping practices and habits are constantly evolving (van life, nomadic lifestyle, hybrid holidays), FFCC is there as a standard setter and steady voice: its primary task is to represent and defend the interests of outdoor tourists vis-à-vis authorities and institutions while at the same time helping to structure and improve the sector as a whole.

Representation guaranteeing freedom to travel;

Participating in reflections and regulations concerning outdoor tourism;

Mediation between consumers, professionals and public authorities;

Supporting regions and campsites.

Camp'in France, the platform dedicated to outdoor tourists.

SF-Caravan ry/Finland has a new president. Ms Pirja KUISMA has been elected as the new chairwoman of the Finnish association and will now lead its work. We wish her every success and congratulate her on her election.

F.I.C.C. President João Alves Pereira visited the camping fair in Parma, Italy, and took part in various meetings organised by the Italian F.I.C.C. member clubs and associations, including the Annual General Meeting of Club UCA (Unione Club Amici), which was celebrating its 30th anniversary.

EXHIBITIONS

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

Ferienmesse Wien, 14 - 17 January 2027, in Vienna

Tiroler Frühjahrsmesse, 11 - 14 March 2027, in Innsbruck

Urlaub & Ausflug (Holiday and Travel), 2 - 4 April 2027, in Wels

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

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

China: All in Caravanning (AIC), 28 - 30 May 2027, in Beijing

Czech Republic: Caravan, in March 2027, in Prague

Caravaning, November 2026, in Brno

Denmark: Autocamper Show, October, in Fredericia

Finland: Caravan, 21 - 24 January 2027, in Helsinki

Caravan Finland, 23 - 26 September 2027, in Lahti

France: VDL Expo, 9 -12 April 2027, in Nice

Camper Van Weekend, 23 - 25 April 2027, in Angers-Brissac

Salon des Véhicules de Loisirs, in the autumn 2027, in Paris-Le Bourget

Germany: Caravan Bremen, 6 - 8 November 2026, in Bremen

Touristik & Caravaning, November 2026, in Leipzig

CMT, 16 - 24 January 2027, in Stuttgart

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

Reisen & Caravaning, 4 - 7 February 2027, in Hamburg

Reise + Camping, 24 - 28 February 2027, in Essen

Camper & Vanlife Event Fair, 21 - 23 May 2027, in Hannover

Dachzelt Festival, 22 - 25 May 2027, in Hamlin

Caravan Salon, 27 August to 5 September 2027, in Düsseldorf

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

Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show, 16 - 21 February 2027, in Birmingham

Hungary: Caravan Salon, 11 - 14 February 2027, in Budapest

Italy: Il Salone del Camper, September 2027, in Parma

Netherlands: Caravana, 27 - 31 January 2027, in Leeuwarden

Camperbeurs Den Bosch, 19 - 21 February 2027, in Hertogenbosch

Camper Expo Utrecht/Houten, March 2027

Camperbeurs Hardeberg, 27 August to 5 September 2027, in Hardenberg

Poland: Outdoor Equipment Expo, 11 - 13 December 2026, in Warsaw

Camper & Caravan Show, 2 - 4 April 2027, in Warsaw

Slovakia: Caravan Messe, 4 - 7 March 2027, in Nitra

Spain: Salon Internacional del Caravaning, 16 - 24 October 2027, in Barcelona

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

Fespo, 4 - 7 February 2027, in Zürich

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