



GOOD TO KNOW – DECEMBER 2015

**84th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY IN PONTE DE LIMA /PORTUGAL
from 29 July to 7 August 2016**



Feiras Novas

Over the second weekend of September, when the hot summer sun starts to prepare its departure, Ponte de Lima decks itself out for its main annual festival – the Feiras Novas. Held since 1826 by royal decree issued by Pedro IV, in honour of Nossa Senhora das Dores, the Feiras Novas offer the inhabitants of Ponte de Lima and thousands of visitors three days and three nights of colour, joy, revelry and music. Besides music, folk dancing and fireworks, there are also livestock competitions, horse races, ethnographic and historic parades, bands, masked dancers known as gigantones and cabeçudos, traditional drum bands and the procession that closes the cycle of summer religious festivals in the Alto Minho. But it is the people through their joy and spontaneity, responses and spirit, their singing and dancing in every corner of town, who transform the Feiras Novas into a unique event and a festival that is considered the “largest live conference of popular culture in Portugal”.

Vaca das Cordas

We could call it the most traditional tradition of Ponte de Lima, since the origins of this unique celebration are lost in the mists of time. On the eve of Corpus Christi, in the late afternoon, thousands of people impatiently wait in front of the gates of the Casa de Nossa Senhora de Aurora for the Vaca das Cordas (roped cow, actually a wild bull) to come out into the streets and continue the tradition. To the delight of all, guided by ropes it runs to the Parish Church, and traditionally circles it three times after which it is led towards the Largo de Carmoes, where many less cautious spectators are liable to end up in the water of the Fountain. The running tumbles and falls continue frenetically on the sandy river banks in a spectacle of excitement unique to the Vaca das Cordas until the sun goes down.



Porto

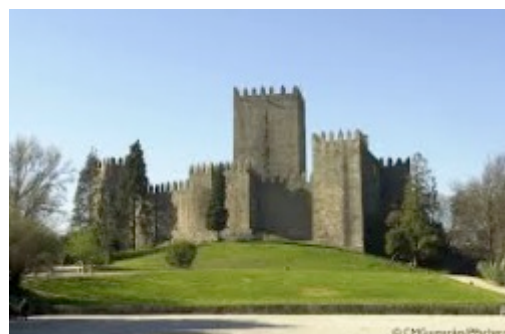
Foto: Monique Eiffling

Cidade de Guimaraes

The town of Guimaraes dates back to the Middle Ages, the 10C in fact, and is considered to be the cradle of the nation and Portuguese identity. Its wonderfully preserved historic centre was added to UNESCO's World Heritage Site list in December 2001. Guimaraes is famous for its national and international art and cultural events. The town was European Capital of Culture in 2012 and European City of Sport in 2013.

In addition to museums, splendid churches and monuments, the town has many hotels, restaurants, a campsite, rail and bus stations, a library, hospital, sports centre, post office, a market, gardens and parks.

Guimaraes however is a town that you must explore on foot!



Guimaraes



Some practical information

Booking fee: Adults (18+) €120 – Young people (12-17 years) €60 – Children up to 11 years old, free of charge

Electricity (6 Amps): €35 per unit (tent, caravan, motorcaravan)

Camping Pass: €75 (This amount is payable by participants staying in hotels, B&B, Youth hostels etc. and who wish to go to the rally site for the entertainment program.)

A supplementary charge of 20% will be added for bookings received by the organiser after May 10, 2016. Information and bookings under www.ficc2016.com

**85th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY will be held in Datça, Western Turkey,
from 17 to 26 May 2017**



Gastronomy in Datça

Among the traditional dishes of Datça, keskek (paste of boiled wheat mixed with well cooked and boned lamb or chicken) comes first and the dish is always served at traditional wedding banquets. Yaprak sama



(roll of wine leaves stuffed with a spicy rice mix, cooked in olive oil) and kisir (mix of vegetables, herbs and cracked wheat served cold) are frequently prepared by local women. Among the herbal teas of Datça are elmascik (salvia), narpiz, garagan, sepsuyu and isirgan (nettles). One dish that always appears on the table is bademli incir (baked dried figs stuffed with almonds) prepared with the famous almonds of Datça. You can find almost all of Turkish cuisine's traditional dishes served in Datça, but some have a special place. Among them are stuffed courgette flowers, karavilla (an escargot dish), sweet and sour tarhana (dried mix of fermented yoghurt, four, herbs and vegetables), soup and bulgur (cracked wheat) pilaf. Local herbs and greens are used as pastry fillers or as salad ingredients. Also important are the winter dishes prepared with sundried vegetables such as peppers, aubergines and okra. A local speciality is the damat tatlisi (bridegroom's dessert) (filo-pastry stuffed with chopped almonds), Yagli cörek (fried sweet brioche with sesame seeds) is only made on important days.



Local market in Datça



**86th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 30 September to 9 October 2017
in Jhinshan /Taiwan**



More details will be published as they become available.



66th FICC Youth Rally

24 -28 March 2016

Zeewolde, the Netherlands

The 66th International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally will be held in Zeewolde, the Netherlands over Easter 2016

F.I.C.C.'s young people will be holding their annual rally from 24 to 28 March 2016 at the Erkemedderstrand campsite in Zeewolde.

The rally is only four more months away and bookings are being taken until February 1, 2016.

Information www.youthrally2016.nl

The themes for the Saturday and Sunday night disco have been previously announced on Facebook page and website and were sent to the Clubs and Federations by E-mail.

On Saturday we will have an Orange party and on Sunday we will have a party with a Farmsgthead theme. Besides these events there will also be a „Decorate Your Camping Spot“ contest/challenge, where participants can decorate their spot and win prizes for the best decorated spots on the site.

There is a possibility of arriving one night before and/or staying one night after the Youth Rally. Costs: €7,50 per person per night.





Decorate your camping spot challenge



FICC Youth Rally
24 - 28 March 2016
Zeewolde, the Netherlands



87th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2018 in Germany



Deutscher Camping-Club e.V.
www.camping-club.de

Information will be available in due course under
www.ficcrally2018.de



MISCELLANEOUS

Belgium: 80% of billiard players worldwide use billiard balls that are made in Belgium.

Sir Eugène Goossens (1893-1962), who initiated the founding of the world famous Sydney Opera House, was an English conductor of Belgian descent.

The Club Med was founded in 1950 by Gérard Blitz, a former Belgian champion waterpolo player.

In 1966, Salvatore Adamo, a Belgian of Italian descent, was the artiste who sold the most records worldwide after the Beatles. Altogether 80 million have been sold to date.

Works by two Belgian francophone authors, Hergé and Georges Simenon, have been translated into more languages than any other writers.

The symbol for the Euro (€) was designed by Alain Billiet, a Belgian.

In 2003, the Binche Carnival (over 600 years old) was recognised by UNESCO as a “Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”.

Canada: Montreal in Quebec Province has the world’s most extensive underground pedestrian complex. Construction started in 1962 when Place Ville-Marie was redeveloped and the network of tunnels extends over 30 kms. In 2004 the downtown underground network was re-branded and given the name “RESO”. The tunnel system links over 60 residential and commercial properties: office towers, high-rise residential blocks, boutiques, department stores, banks, restaurants, museums, universities, hotels, seven metro stations and two urban railway stations.

This underground city has 120 entry points so one can shop even in the worst of weathers. Many inner city inhabitants can go to work, eat in a restaurant or go shopping without ever setting foot outside.

Source: Camping, Caravaning (FQCC-CDN)

France: Since 1 July 2015, it is unlawful to use a mobile phone while driving on roads in France, even if you use a headset that has a lead that connects to your mobile phone. This has come to light just recently. Only a hands-free built-in Blue-tooth system with loud speaker (no ear device) is allowed.

It is better to pay up

You should not ignore a demand to pay a fine incurred abroad. Check that it is plausible then pay up promptly. Fines are enforceable between EU states.

Bar codes – useful to know

How can one tell in which country a product is made?

The first three digits of a bar code indicate the code of the country where the product was made. For example, all codes that start with 690, 691 to 695 come from China.

Code 471 is Taiwan, 00 to 13 = USA and Canada, 30 to 37 = France, 40 to 44 = Germany, 49 = Japan,



50 = Great Britain, 57 = Denmark, 64 = Finland, 76 = Switzerland and Liechtenstein, 628 = Saudi Arabia, 629 = United Arab Emirates and 480 to 489 = The Philippines.

Source: ACCW (B)

Road tolls in 2016

The cost of some motorway vignettes is set to change. Switzerland has taken the exchange rate into account and its vignette will be cheaper costing only €38.50 instead of €40.

In the Czech Republic the annual vignette will cost €57 instead of €56.50 and a one-month vignette for a private car will set you back €17.

In Austria the cost of a two-month vignette will be €25.70 instead of €25.30.

The ten-day vignette will cost €8.80 and the annual vignette for a private car will increase from €84.40 to €85.70.

There is no change in Slovenia: the annual vignette for Class 2A is €110, and a monthly vignette costs €30.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Speed restrictions on the island of Jersey

In built-up areas: 15-30 mph (miles per hour)

In unbuilt-up areas: vehicles under 3,500 kgs - 40 mph, vehicles over 3,500 kgs and vehicles over 3,500 kgs that tow a caravan (outfit) - 30 mph.

Green lanes, with a speed limit of 15 mph, are reserved for pedestrians, cyclists and horseriders.

Motorized vehicles may only use these lanes if it is absolutely necessary for access or sightseeing.

Source: The Caravan Club (GB)

World Standards Day 2015

World Standards Day is celebrated internationally each year on 14 October and honours the efforts of thousands of experts who develop international standards within organisations such as IEC, ISO and ITU. The aim of World Standards Day is to raise awareness of the importance of the work carried out by the different organisations in this area.

The ISO for example has published around 20,000 standards since it was founded and has access to over 3,500 technical facilities.

CAMPING, CARAVANNING, MOTORCARAVANNING

Denmark: Wild camping is not allowed in Denmark's forests or on its beaches. You can be fined at least 1,050 Kroner if you are caught. Beaches are areas specially designated for kayakers and canoers.

Source: DCC (D)

New era for campers

Disposing of waste from a chemical toilet without the accompanying smell is no longer wishful thinking. The camping toilet tycoon Thetford has moved into the market with an odour-free automatic cleaning station.

To be able to dispose of one's smelly waste without polluting the environment is what every camper



wants.

Ralf Tebartz invented the CamperClean, the first fully automatic chemical cleaning station that could completely empty and clean Thetford cassettes.

Thetford did not want to be left behind and so it developed its own system in 2014 that was tested in the Netherlands. The Dutch then came up with some improvements.

The system invented by Armin Zick, the ST-TOI, has also been successful.

Thetford's cleaning station will automatically empty the cassette, has an odour-free cleaning programme and then fills the cassette with Thetford's Aqua Kem Blue sanitary additive.

At the end of the test phase campsite operators will need to make a platform available so that people can have access to the station. Thetford supplies the cleaning station free of charge but campers have to pay each time they use it.

Older or handicapped campers should not find the charge excessive for an easy and odour-free way to dispose of their waste.

CamperClean has now installed 40 stations on campsites throughout Europe.

There are several ST-TOI dump stations on the Alpen-Caravanpark Tennsee (D) so that one doesn't have far to go to find one.

You can find Thetford cleaning stations in the Netherlands.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The Camping and Caravanning Club's annual Feast of Lanterns was held at Houghton Hall, near Kings Lynn in Norfolk from 27 to 31 August 2015. Over 1,300 outfits took part in the event.





F.I.C.C. President Joao Alves Pereira, Mrs. Anne Dearling, Chairwomen of CCC and Vice President Norman Taylor



he **Deutscher Camping Club** presented DCC's Technical Award to TireMoni at the Touristik & Caravanning Show in Leipzig. TireMoni has produced an intelligent tyre pressure monitoring system that can be retrofitted to your vehicle as an additional safety feature.

WE HAVE PLEASURE INTRODUCING: SWITZERLAND

Schweizerischer Camping- und Caravanning Verband (SCCV)



The ACCS (Auto Camping Club de Suisse) was founded in Geneva on 27 January 1934. At the time the club was already a member of F.I.C.C. which had its headquarters in London. 1936 saw ever increasing numbers of enquiries from campers with tents who had no means of transport but who were keen to belong to a camping club. ACCS could not admit every applicant but there was such a groundswell of opinion to set up a camping club that within a short space of time the Camping Club de Genève was born. Later on a meeting was convened that was attended by representatives of both the ACCS and the Geneva CC with a view to setting up a Swiss federation. The statutes were adopted unanimously and this new national federation was called the Camping-Club de Suisse (Camping Club of Switzerland). During the course of the inaugural meeting on 21.11.1936, it was decided to inform F.I.C.C. in London that in future it would no longer be ACCS, but the newly formed federation that would represent Switzerland. However this attempt to establish a "national federation" was short-lived. Later on the Camping Club (CC) of the Canton of Vaud was founded, soon to be followed by other clubs in German-speaking Switzerland, such as the Lucerne CC and the Solothurn-Grenchen CC. Events moved quickly and more camping groups emerged in Neuchâtel, Zürich, Bern and Basle. The federation was now known as the "Verband Schweizerischer Camping Clubs", VSCC (Federation of Swiss Camping Clubs).

One of the aims of the new federation was to organise an international rally. The 1939 exhibition in Zürich offered a good opportunity. It proved very difficult to find and negotiate a suitable site, preferably on the shores of Lake Zürich. The ideal site was eventually found at Bächau and an excellent rally was reported in the annals of the federation. A camping review appeared at the beginning of 1939 which was printed on one of the President's own duplicating machines, alternately in German and French.



Despite the outbreak of war, food rationing and petrol shortages, new tented campsites were set up. There was one such in Sierre in the Valais canton where you would see elderly motorists bowling along on bicycles carrying their camping equipment. There was even a university professor who went camping with his large family and all of their camping equipment in a horse-drawn wagon. Then came the big camping innovation: the snow camp for which the camping pioneer Hans Behrmann was a tireless champion.

In fact the only questions that members ever asked were about the location of campsites as these were the only places where one could pitch a tent. It never occurred to anyone to enquire about special facilities or equipment – campers counted themselves lucky if they found that they were on flat ground with a stream nearby!

Gradually contracts with campsite owners, overnight camping charges and reception kiosks became the norm and people started to take out third party insurance cover. After the war the federation linked up again with people in other countries with whom contact had been lost.

By 1949 the TCS (Swiss Touring Club) noticed that camping was becoming a new and interesting phenomenon. The TCS was uneasy about it because clubs now wanted to join this large tourist organisation and become involved in its management decisions and arrangements. A new driving force was needed to take on the challenge of change and a star emerged on the horizon in the person of Charles F. Baumgartner.

At the rally held in Basel at Whitsun in 1949, there was a call for a general overhaul of the organisation. Negotiations were started with TCS in order to maintain a transparent and independent federation, but they broke down. This caused great concern, so Messrs. Behrmann, Meyer, Merz and Baumgartner had a meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up a free and independent federation themselves. As a result, they came up with plans for a complete overhaul and Charles Baumgartner was elected as the new President. The former President, Felix Ducommun, was made VSCC's first Honorary President. A period of frantic activity followed. When one club left the federation a few faithful followers created a new one. The federation recovered thanks to the loyalty and understanding of club members. New campsites sprang up and the first register of Swiss campsites was published. Another high point for the federation was the 13th International F.I.C.C. Rally held at Colombier on Lake Neuchâtel. One memorable and amusing episode is worth mentioning in passing: participants from other countries who came to the rally with their caravans were obliged to assemble at the frontier in Vallorbe and were then given a police escort to Colombier. At the time, caravans were forbidden in Switzerland!

By now, the New Year Tented Camp was internationally famous. The 10th Camp was held in Adelboden (Bernese Oberland) in 1952/53 and there were 360 participants from six countries in 160 tents. The 24th Camp in Lenk in 1966/67 attracted 270 people from seven countries in 87 tents and, a new departure, in caravans too. The 67th New Year Rally was organised in Thusis in 2012/2013. In addition to the New Year Rally, SCCV organises an annual Mountain Tented Camp and, every three years, the Three Countries Rally.

Times were indeed changing: camping was developing constantly offering greater comfort and, coupled with the "Americanisation" of the German language, VSCC (Federation of Swiss Camping Clubs) was no longer an appropriate name. A new, more modern title was needed to reflect the increasing numbers of



caravans and the arrival on the scene of motorcaravans. The word “Caravanning” adequately described this category so in 1956 the VSCC became the SCCV (Swiss Camping and Caravanning Federation).

Within a few years, camping clubs and indeed the federation were confronted with a new form of camping: permanent or fixed campsites. Suddenly campers were fencing off their pitches and making their own private patches of garden complete with garden gnomes. These permanent campers who stayed on the same spot all year round saw no point in belonging to a club, so they resigned their membership. It simply did not occur to them that every campsite had been built by a camping club or federation originally.

The camping magazine went from strength to strength. In the early days it was produced using the most basic printing technology, but as revenue from advertising increased, the magazine could be printed professionally. Ten issues a year were brought out in German and French until 2008. In 1998 there was a quantum leap: the publication was printed in A4 format and some pages were in four colours. Since July 2005 it has been printed in four colours throughout and it is a very popular publication. As a result of various organisational rearrangements and the knowledge that the internet had gained in importance, the magazine was cut back to four issues per year for a while. Currently the club is back to producing 6 issues a year in parallel with a professionally designed homepage.

Another of its publications is the Campsite Directory that contains details of 400 campsites in Switzerland as well as a selection of campsites in other countries. It is updated annually and the 74th edition of this Directory will appear in 2016.

SCCV has always been committed to the interests of camping and will continue to act in the same vein in the future. SCCV has played an important part within F.I.C.C. too. Charles F. Baumgartner served on the F.I.C.C. Council for many years before being elected F.I.C.C. President in Copenhagen in 1963, an office he held until 1972. In appreciation of his contribution, he was made an Honorary President of F.I.C.C. H.P. Hiltbrand succeeded him as a member of the F.I.C.C. Council between 1992 and 1996.

SCCV is headed up by a hardworking team of seven people, all of whom give of their services voluntarily. The federation manages two of its own campsites (in the Tessin/Ticino and Bern cantons) and in addition has 40 affiliated campsites. Twenty regional clubs in all corners of Switzerland are affiliated to SCCV.

In common with many clubs and federations, SCCV has had to struggle with membership figures in recent years, although for some time now numbers have steadied and even increased somewhat. The average age of Board members is a good 50 years at present, a sign that the federation is not standing still but is keeping an eye on the future.

Former SCCV Presidents are: Archinard (1936 -), Felix Ducommun (- 1949), Charles F. Baumgartner (1949-1972) Carlos Graf (1975-1980), Karl Kohler (1981-1996), H.P. Hiltbrand (1996 – 2008), Josef Willi - (2008-)



Touring Club Schweiz/Suisse (TCS)



In November 1936, the Council of the Swiss Touring Club approved a programme to broaden the club's field of activity which included camping. The aim of the club was to promote camping in all of its various forms i.e. in conjunction with motoring, motorcycling, cycling and canoeing.

When the camping group was officially set up in 1949, the TCS already had a large number of canoeists among its members, some of whom were enthusiastic campers. In 1948, TCS headquarters set up a Camping Commission with the aim of making a number of campsites available for the use of its members.

Following a number of enquiries from motoring members and other interested parties, the Camping Section came into being on 1 March 1949 as part of the Boating Section. According to the preface of its first handbook published in 1950, the TCS was the country's biggest tourist federation at the time, and, as such, thought it extremely important to develop the camping side of its activities. Among other things, the TCS made a number of equipped campsites available and did its best to ensure that camping had a good reputation within the population at large that could be built on and improved. At the same time it also instructed campers about discipline and good behaviour both on the campsite and outside.

This preface was followed by an article in praise of camping by the well-known author, René Gardy. As an experienced camper, the writer extolled the virtues of camping and the outdoor life. The guidebook was hugely successful: even then, people appreciated its layout and the accurate information it contained and this is still true today.

Camping is an important activity as far as the TCS is concerned. Back in 1950, TCS already had 23 tent camps where its members could stay. By 1951 the number had risen to 37. TCS now has some 34 well equipped campsites scattered throughout Switzerland.

Even in 1951 campers had their own paper "Touring II", that carried a description of every campsite. Today's "Camp-Car" (German and French versions) contains a lot of important camping and caravanning information along with communications from the 18 camping clubs.

In March 1950 TCS records show that it had over 1,150 camping members and by 8 August that same year, the number had risen to 2,177. In 2007 the TCS had 18 camping and caravanning clubs. The number of members in this category has shrunk considerably over the years from a record 26,000 in 1978. Today TCS camping club members number 19,000.

In 1985, camping regulations were introduced to coordinate linkage between campers, camping clubs, the camping commission and central management, thereby ensuring that every aspect of camping within TCS moves forward and runs smoothly.

Individual clubs organise a great many social and technical events not to mention regional and international rallies. In addition, when it comes to road safety, there are also driving and manoeuvring



courses for caravanners and motorcaravanners. In order to boost membership, TCS camping clubs are present at regional and national fairs and exhibitions, including the “Swiss Caravan Salon” in Bern which is the biggest camping and caravanning exhibition held in Switzerland.

The first national rally for TCS tent campers took place in Neuhaus, Interlaken in 1950, and the following year an international AIT rally was held.

In 2001, TCS Camping Club Bern organised the 40th Europa-Rally in Interlaken at which 750 families from 16 different European countries took part.

In 1966, the “Alliance Internationale du Tourisme” in Rotterdam organised the first international conference on tourism in collaboration with the leisure industry. A number of decisions resulted from this joint exercise that have served as a basis for the TCS camping club ever since.

Caravans and motorcaravans have continued to increase in size in recent years and have to a large extent superseded tents. For safety and environmental protection reasons much of camping’s original attraction, such as open fires and camping in the wild, is no longer recommended or else quite simply forbidden. Campers these days expect more and make greater demands too. If TCS wants to keep its place in this challenging market, its campsites have to go along with this new trend as much as possible and provide the bigger pitches, more powerful electricity connections, modern sanitary installations and a programme of entertainment, etc. that campers now expect.

In common with many other clubs, the TCS Camping Club is finding that there is a disproportionate number of older people among its active members. The greater majority of the younger generation now prefers individual and independent travel to club life. Also, these days there is an increased tendency for people to rent rather than buy a caravan or motorcaravan for a camping holiday and, similarly, many campers opt to rent a tent, caravan or motorcaravan already pitched on a campsite.



Automobil Club der Schweiz

People are as emotionally involved with their cars as they are fascinated by them. That’s why we take them so seriously!

The Automobil Club der Schweiz (ACS), a legally constituted association founded in Geneva on 6 December 1898, aims to merge the interests of motorists and the requirements of transport policy, the economy, tourism, sports and all other sectors that have an interest in the automobile industry, including consumer and environmental protection.

It devotes much time and attention to traffic legislation and the way it is applied and is very committed to road safety.

The Club comprises members from its 19 sections that operate as independent organisations.



FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

Germany:

CMT 16.01 – 24.01.2016, in Stuttgart

Caravan & Camping 03.02 – 07.02.2016, in Hannover

Reise + Camping 24.02 – 28.02.2016, in Essen

Caravan Salon Düsseldorf 29.08 – 6.09.2016, in Düsseldorf

France:

Salon Mondial du Tourisme, 17.03. - 20.03. 2016, in Paris

Salon des Véhicules de Loisir, 28.09. - 04.10. 2016, in Paris-Le Bourget

SETT, 03.11. - 05.11. 2016, in Montpellier

The Netherlands:

Caravana, 21.01 – 26.01, 2016 in Leeuwarden

Kampeers en Caravan Jaarbeurs, 14.10 – 18.10.2016, in Utrecht

Switzerland:

Suisse Caravan Salon, 22.10. - 26.10. 2016, in Bern

Great Britain:

Central Caravan & Motorhome Show, 21.01. - 24.01. 2016, in Manchester

Caravan Camping and Motorhome Show, 23.02. - 28.02. 2016, in Birmingham

Portugal: Nauticampo, April 2016, in Lisbon

Italy: Il Salone del Camper, 12.09. - 20.09. 2016, in Parma

Belgium:

Vakantiesalon 21.01 – 25.01.2016, in Antwerp

Salon de Vacances 04.02 – 08.02.2016, in Brussels

Brussels Travel Expo, 09.12 – 10.12.2016, in Brussels



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy
and peaceful year in 2016



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