



GOOD TO KNOW – MAY 2021



For the Celts, it was a symbol of spring, love, life and the future.

In the 16th century, it was for the first time a sign of love, which was witnessed on 1 May to those whom one loved and respected. This tradition originated in France and was adopted by other countries. It still exists today and is also said to bring good luck - at least in the month of May.

It is also associated with the Chicago movement (1 May 1886), where it becomes the symbol of the "Feast of Labour".

In Finland, the lily of the valley was chosen as the national flower in 1982.

SAVE THE DATE



2nd F.I.C.C. WORLD CONGRESS

28 | 29 OCT | VERRIÈRES-LE-BUISSON
2021 | PARIS-FRANCE



The second F.I.C.C. World Congress on Camping, Caravanning and Motorcaravanning will be held on 28 and 29 OCTOBER 2021 in VERRIERES-LE-BUISSON/Paris – France

You can find the link to the Congress website under www.ficc.org and congress.ficc.org gives you all the information you need about the programme, booking arrangements, hotel details etc.

The website is updated regularly.

**90th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY
from 03 to 12 SEPTEMBER 2021
in A GUARDA-Galicia/SPAIN**



It is with great regret that the Federacion Espanola de Clubes Campistas FECC) and the Organising Committee – in conjunction with F.I.C.C. – have cancelled the international F.I.C.C. Rally to be held from 18 to 27 June 2021 in A Guarda.

The worldwide COVID pandemic has not abated, various travel restrictions are still in place and it is almost certain that people will not be allowed to gather in large groups for the next few months.

So it has been decided to postpone the rally until early autumn 2021 in the hope that populations worldwide will build up herd immunity following their countries' vaccination programmes thereby allowing people to move around freely and safely and travel further afield.

Further information and booking form <http://www.rallyficc2021.com>



**NORDIC CAMPING RALLY 19 to 23 July 2021
in Rauhalahdi (Kupio) FINLAND
under F.I.C.C. patronage**



Further information under
<https://nordicrally.fi/en/the-nordic-rally/>

**F.I.C.C. ASIAN PACIFIC RALLY from 15 to 19 OCTOBER 2021 in
Robot Land Park, Changwon City/South Korea**

Asia-Pacific rallies are organised by the F.I.C.C. Asia-Pacific Commission, comprising members from China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.
The organisers of these events are always happy to welcome campers from F.I.C.C.'s member clubs in Europe.

Please note the change of date.

**91st INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 29 July to 07 August 2022 in
MOSCOW/RUSSIA**





**92nd INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2022
from 28 September to 7 October in CHINA**



**93rd INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2023 from 24 JUNE to 3 JULY
in KOZIENICE/POLAND**



Official website: www.pfcc.eu

English: <http://www.pfcc.eu/ang/files/gbfic23.pdf>

German: <http://www.pfcc.eu/niem/files/gbfic23.pdf>

Français: <http://www.pfcc.eu/franc/files/gbfic23.pdf>

The official website will be launched at the end of the year.

Polish: <http://www.pfcc.eu/pol/files/rally93.pdf>

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Denmark: Europe's first outdoor camping museum is opening this spring in the grounds of EGESKOV moated castle on the island of Fyn. Exhibits include a large variety of caravans and motorcaravans. Apart from focussing on the history of camping, the museum addresses the spirit of community and freedom associated with this leisure activity. The castle also has exhibitions centred on veteran cars and other vehicles, fashion, mankind and technology.



Further information on www.egeskov.dk
Source: Extract Camping, Cars & Caravans

Camping holiday costs in 2021

Generally speaking it appears that there has been a slight increase in the cost of overnight stays on European campsites. The most expensive destination is Italy, followed by Switzerland, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Germany. Camping holidays cost the least in Norway and Sweden.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

The Netherlands: Of campers who travel, just 19.7% enjoy local delicacies every day. The rest do so sometimes, or never.

Source: NKC/NL

Driving with a trailer

Whether we're talking caravans or tractors, drivers who have a trailer in tow must stick to a few basic rules. It's all a matter of road safety.

Trailer load: Many manufacturers indicate the maximum trailer load in the vehicle's handbook and reduce the permissible towable mass in proportion to the increase in altitude. But who, in all honesty, reads through the operating instructions? Opel, Mazda and Kia reduce the permissible towable mass by 10% for every 1,000 metres' elevation gain. So if you want to drive up to a mountain campsite situated at 1,455m and your permissible towable mass is 2,000 kgs, your load should be no more than 1,700 kgs.

Driving at altitude: thinner mountain air affects the performance of a towing vehicle with the result that driving and even starting up can be problematic. This is when it becomes essential to respect the lower of the given upper limits for the maximum trailer load especially when embarking on a steep climb. These upper limits are calculated on the basis that a vehicle will be able to cope with driving on a 12% gradient five times in less than five minutes.

If greater permissible loads are mentioned in the vehicle registration certificate, the maximum gradient drops to 8%. This is why it is important to find out about hill climbs involved in your journey before you set out. If the maximum gradient of 8% has been exceeded to, say, 12% and there is damage to the engine or gear box, the manufacturer may well decline responsibility, rejecting the clauses of the guarantee and even withhold any goodwill gesture.

Driver's licence: the standard category B licence is valid for driving a maximum mass (towing vehicle category B + trailer/caravan) up to 3.5 tonnes.

Source: ACS-CH

Useful tips and tricks for optimum maintenance and operation of your caravan

Lights/electricity

- ° Unwind the CEE cable from the cable reel completely. Check the cable and the CEE safety adaptor for damage.
- ° Check all cables, leads, plugs and connections for damage inside and outside the caravan.
- ° Make sure that each of the FI circuit breaker switches works properly.
- ° Check that the smoke alarm works.



- If there are any appliances etc in the caravan that require more than 2kW, a booster power supply (16 amp minimum) is necessary.
- Fuses on the switching power supply or the switch box should never be replaced by fuses with incompatible sockets or with a higher amperage.
- If you are using a CEE angle coupling with a built-in socket on the back, only use a sealed, rubberised IP44 plug with an earthed safety contact.
- Deep discharge that can harm the battery occurs if it is permanently discharging through quiescent current.
- The threaded connection on the automatic circuit breaker and the tight fit of the connecting cable should be checked annually by a professional and tightened up if necessary.
- Check that all of the lights work and change bulbs etc as necessary. Never replace halogen lights with your bare fingers.

Wet cells/showers/toilets

- Plastic components in toilets and living areas should not be cleaned with solvents, alcohol-based cleaning products or abrasive scouring agents.
- Do not use vinegar essence for cleaning toilets or sanitary installations or for descaling – it can damage the seals or component parts of sanitary installations.
- Do not pour corrosive liquids or boiling water down the drain opening. They will damage the waste pipe and the siphon.
- Treat seals with silicone spray.
- Every time that you empty the cassette toilet, remove the floating black bits and rinse out separately.
- To avoid leakage when on the move, make sure that the waste tank is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- If the level indicator mechanism sticks, it must be removed from the tank and cleaned.
- If the drain in the shower tray gets blocked, use a plunger or cleaning pump from a DIY store.
- Do not put any bathmats or carpeting around the shower that are unsuited to ABS plastic. This could embrittle the materials used in the carpet backing and result in cracks forming.
- Check the waterproof sealing round the washbasin and shower.

Other technical points

- Never operate the air-conditioning without a lint filter otherwise the vaporizer will get dirty and thus reduce the efficiency of the a/c unit.
- Check that the TV aerial works and can be repositioned.
- Check tyres frequently for tread depth, irregular wear and any other damage.
- When arranging the bed don't put the cushions straight on to the hard base. A spacer fabric or absorbent underlay (e.g. terry-towelling or a cotton cloth) is recommended to prevent scratching the table surface and the possibility of formation of mould stains due to condensation water from sweat.
- Check that the bike transporter is secure and functions properly.
- Manoeuvring devices should be properly cleaned at the end of the winter to remove salt and dirt and then rinsed thoroughly with clear water.
- Reset the manoeuvring device with the hand brake on, disconnect the battery briefly and then turn it on again.
- A weighing scale built in to the jockey wheel will often only give a rough measure but it can be checked and recalibrated.
- A roof railing is usually a feature just for show and is unsuitable for carrying any loads.



° Last but not least: Do not train a high pressure washer on stickers or external decorations as they might get torn or dislodged.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Practical tips – for campers too

Rice: Rice helps remove the all-too-familiar cloudiness in glass and plastic bottles. Put two tablespoons of rice grains in the bottle, add some water and shake well. Rinse with clear water. It is a well known fact that in Asia, rice water left over from cooking is used for washing up and cleaning because the starch in the grains acts as an abrasive substance.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tourism

As announced by UNWTO, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, international tourism generally fell by 87% in January 2021 compared with January 2020 and by as much as 96% in the Asia-Pacific region. In February 2021, 32% of the world's travel destinations were totally closed.

Thanks to the vaccination programme it is hoped that tourism will take off again in the second half of the year, possibly as early as July or else September.

Traffic

If you want to **transport bikes** you should definitely use a bike carrier of some sort, preferably a model that fits well on to your trailer coupling.

The mounting bracket should not put too great a strain on the coupling (see vehicle registration document for data) so check out the combined weight of the bikes and transporter before making a purchase.

If the model obscures the vehicle's rear lights you will need a light bar. Don't exceed the speed limit!! Keep to 120/130 km/h and regularly check in the rear-view mirror that your "cargo" is safe.

France: The blind spot sticker marked "Attention ANGLES MORTS" (BLIND SPOT) is mandatory for vehicles of over 3.5 tonnes. This regulation also applies to foreign vehicles and if you disregard it, you run the risk of being fined 135€.

Source: www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/



Health

Trees in towns alleviate stress and depression: The saying goes: Green makes you happy and relaxed! People who live in a tree-lined street are less likely to suffer from depression. This is the finding of a scientific study carried out in Halle, Jena and Leipzig (D). The researchers also discovered that fewer anti-depressants are prescribed in green neighbourhoods. For some time now there has been a tendency for town planners to include as much greenery as possible in new and regenerated residential and industrial areas.

The air is especially good under the trees out in the woods. It is quite noticeable that woodland air lowers one's blood pressure and increases one's lung capacity. Wandering through parkland is also much better for you than walking through a residential area.

Curious facts/environment/culture

Who invented margarine? After a series of wars that cost them dear, French people could not afford to buy butter so Emperor Napoleon III ordered a cheaper replacement to be made. Thus in 1869, Hippolyte Mège-Mouriès produced margarine from milk, water, beef fat and calves' stomach extracts. Today the main ingredients of margarine are essentially plant-based.

The world's shortest river is the Roe River in the US State of Montana. It is only 61 miles long and what is strange is that there is even a bridge over it.

A hare that suddenly shoots out of its hiding place can reach a speed of 70km/h within a few leaps i.e. it takes off more quickly than a racing car.

Schools were the invention of the Sumerians (a tribe in Mesopotamia) who sent boys to learn in tablet-houses (edubbas) some 6,000 years ago where they had to get to grips with over 2,000 pictograms.

Sir Winston Churchill's painting: The Minaret of the Koutoubia Mosque - Le Minaret de la Mosquée de la Koutoubia - in Marrakech/Morocco was sold for the record amount of 9,577,000€ at Christie's in London.



Neuschwanstein castle (D) has been classified as the tenth most beautiful building in the world thanks to its perfectly harmonious proportions. St. Paul's Cathedral in London takes first place.

The **European Capital of Sport 2021** is Lisbon

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

F.I.C.C. e-Book

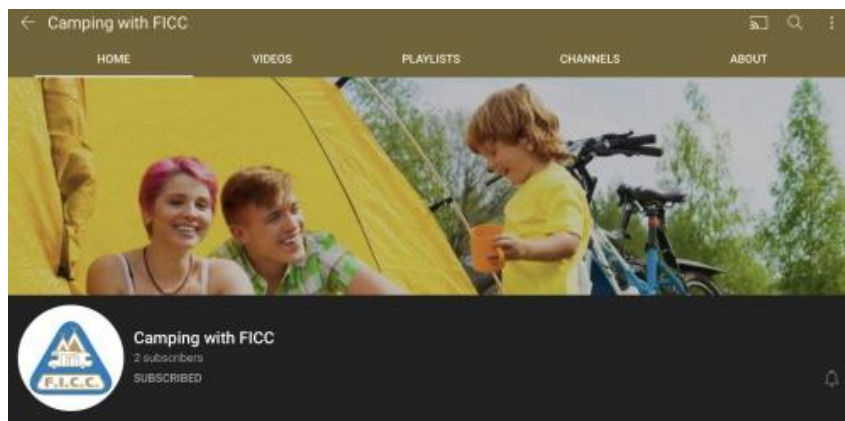
In October last year, the Camping Card International website was completely renewed with new features and more user-friendly descriptions of the benefits that the CCI offers to its users.

Access to more detailed information requires the user/camper to register on the website www.campingcardinternational.com, but all the benefits of the CCI are also available without registration.

If the user/camper is registered and has a valid CCI, he/she will now have access to the CCI e-book with all discount points per country, including specific tourist information that will help the user to enjoy his/her camping holiday to the maximum.

As a registered user, please log in with your email/password and select the desired country to download the e-Book as a pdf in (currently) English.

F.I.C.C. and the CCI Team wish you a wonderful and relaxing camping holiday!



Camping with FICC



is a YouTube channel to communicate not only with F.I.C.C. members, but also with all campers in the world, explaining or reminding them of the best camping practices before and also during their trip, so that everyone can enjoy this type of open-air tourism to the maximum.

Travelling, discovering the wide world, waking up in a different place every morning... whether alone or with several people, a trip in a motor caravan (camper) is always an adventure.

To ensure that this adventure does not end in disaster, here are the "10 practices to follow or advice to give before departure, recommended by F.I.C.C. (a film realised by the F.I.C.C. Motorcaravan Commission),

“Camping with FICC” is published. To access please use the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIDBeAqa72QIJ96q-CPrp-Q>

FFCC (Fédération des campeurs, caravaniers, camping-caristes) is once again organising the famous Paris/Beijing/Istanbul motorcaravanning rally from 6 June to 14 September 2021. It lasts 100 days and covers approx. 24,500 km overall.

However thanks to the Corona pandemic it is not yet certain whether this “trip” will actually happen.

The BVCD (German Camping Federation) is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Its roots go back quite a long way. In 1948, the **Deutsche Camping Club (DCC)** was founded with the aim of making the great outdoors, fresh air and the freedom of nature accessible to everyone. In the 1960s, there was a growing feeling that campers could benefit from professional advice as indeed would campsite owners and operators as they built up and developed their infrastructure. DCC offered an organisational framework to the special interest group of campsite owners. This led on to the formation of the independent body of the Federation of Campsite Owners in Germany in 1971 from which BVCD emerged in 2000.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans



EXHIBITIONS

Austria: Caravan Salon Austria from 20 to 24 October 2021, in Wels

Czech Republic: Caravanning from 4 to 11 October 2021, in Brno

Finland: Caravan Fair 21 to 23.01.2022, in Helsinki

France : Salon des véhicules de loisirs 25 September to 3 October 2021, in Paris-Le Bourget
SETT 2 to 4 November 2021, in Montpellier

Germany: Caravan Salon 27 August to 5 September 2021, in Düsseldorf

Erfurt Fair from 28 to 31 October 2021 in Erfurt

Caravan Bremen 6 to 8 November 2021, in Bremen

Touristik & Caravanning from 18 to 22 November 2021, in Leipzig

Reise + Camping 16 to 20 February 2022, in Essen

Reisen & Camping from 7 to 9 January 2022, in Leipzig

Italy: Il Salone del Camper from 11 to 19 September 2021, in Parma

Great Britain: The South West Motorhome & Campervan Show from 10 to 12 September 2021, in Shepton Mallet

Caravan & Motorhome Show in January 2022, in Manchester

NEC Motorhome & Caravan Show from 22 to 27 February 2022, in Birmingham

Northern Ireland: Caravan & Motorhome Show from 14 to 16 January 2022, in Belfast

Netherlands: Kampeer en Caravan Jaarbeurs from 6 to 10 October 2021, in Utrecht

Norway: Caravanmessen from 16 to 19 September 2021, in Lillestrom

Spain: Caravanning y Camper del Levante from 6 to 9 May, in Torre Pacheco, Murcia

FITUR from 19 to 23 May 2021, in Madrid

Salon Internacional del Caravanning from 2 to 10 October 2021, in Barcelona

Sweden: Elmia Camping & Caravanning from 8 to 12 September 2021, in Jönköping

Switzerland: Suisse Caravan Salon from 28 October to 1 November 2021, in Bern.

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