



# NEWSLETTER

MAY - 2026



[WWW.FICC.ORG](http://WWW.FICC.ORG)

## INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY

Dates: 26 June to 5 July 2026

Venue: Karpfham-Bad Griesbach/Southern Germany

Organiser: Deutscher Camping Club e.V.



Full information, booking forms and programme

[www.ficcrallye-2026.com](http://www.ficcrallye-2026.com)

Email : [alex@camping-club.de](mailto:alex@camping-club.de)

**Bookings are still possible until May 31, 2026 without any surcharge**



## 97th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2026 in CHINA

Dates: 17 to 26 September /Guizhou-Provinz

Organised by CRVC



Full information and booking forms :

Email: [ficcrally97@crvc.com](mailto:ficcrally97@crvc.com)

Website: [www.ficcrally97.crvc.com](http://www.ficcrally97.crvc.com)





Sancha River Campsite  
and some of the available accommodation

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

in NITRA/SLOVAKIA

Organised by Slovenska Asociacia Campingu a Caravaningu

from 26 June to 5 July 2027



Using the Go Camping app, you can already get a lot of practical information on Slovak campsites, maps with search options, sightseeing stops en route, service and sales outlets focussing on caravanning along with details of all manner of events.

Detailed information will be available during and after the rally in Karpfham/Germany.



## Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

It is springtime and nature is beckoning us to get out and about camping and caravanning in our spare time.

But first on the agenda is **servicing and maintenance** so that the first outings in our leisure vehicles are enjoyable and go well.

Cleaning is a must but gantry wash systems are taboo. These can damage roof-mounted structures such as satellite dishes, skylights and solar panels or delicate acrylic glass windows on the side walls. Cleaning with a steam jet is much better, however when using a high pressure hose stand well back.

Check the levels of engine oil, brake fluid, engine coolant and windscreen washer fluid and top up if necessary. And don't forget to check tyre pressure and the state of your tyres which should be changed every six years.

You need to clean inside as well, but use water sparingly because fixtures and fittings can swell up once moisture seeps into gaps and joins. All corners and wet cells especially should be checked for mildew and the sealant between the toilet pan and the water tank cassette carefully inspected. Also check that the fridge, gas cooker, water pump and lighting are working properly because it is far easier and quicker to carry out repairs at this stage than at some remote spot on a weekend getaway.

Source: Auto ACS (CH)

### Germany: 2025 a record year for camping

Camping tourism broke a new record in Germany in 2025. According to data from the Federal Statistics Bureau there were around 44.7 million overnight stays on campsites – some 1.8 million more than in 2024 representing an increase of 4.2%. Camping therefore made a significant contribution to the 497.5 million overnights stays in the tourism sector whereas hotel bookings dropped slightly and holiday accommodation stagnated. This makes Germany one of Europe's leading camping destinations.

Source: SVCD

It's holiday time and we would like to remind everyone that **“wild camping”** is rarely allowed anywhere. Where it is allowed, “free campers” should strictly adhere to the following rules:

- ° Only camp or park where it is expressly indicated that one may do so;
- ° Keep the area clean and take all of your rubbish away when you leave;

- ° Respect your fellow travellers and local people – do not camp in front of windows or entrances to private homes and gardens;
- ° Respect nature;
- ° Do not empty grey water or toilets in nature, use dedicated emptying/dump stations;
- ° Only light barbecues and campfires, where a sign explicitly says that it is allowed;
- ° Keep dogs on a lead and clear up their excrement;
- ° Avoid making a lot of noise and explain to children that a parking spot is not a football ground and inculcate in them a respect for nature and all its flora and fauna.

## Useful tips – for campers too

**Batteries** should not be disposed of in domestic rubbish because they contain toxic elements such as lead, lithium etc. Shops are in fact obliged to take them back! To make batteries safe, remember to cover the pole of lithium batteries with sticky tape before disposal thereby avoiding flying sparks in supermarket collection bins.

Also – wear gloves when handling dead batteries.

**Don't forget:** When travelling in Europe with a dog, owners need an EU pet passport.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Traffic

#### **The most beautiful long distance cycle route 2026 is in France.**

The river cycle route “La Voie Bleue” (Blue Route) has been chosen as European Cycle Route of the Year 2026.

It was originally inaugurated six years ago and covers around 709km from the Luxembourg border triangle along the Moselle, Vosges canal, Saône and Rhône as far as Lyon. Always hugging a water course, the route combines idyllic river landscapes with cultural highlights. The route goes past three UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a number of famous wine-growing areas. The Voie Bleue also appeals thanks to good signposting, nearby railway connections and a high number of traffic-free trails.

Source: Extract DCC (DE)

According to the **World Tourism Organisation UN Tourism**, Paris, the châteaux of the Loire and the beaches of the Côte d'Azur attract the largest number of holidaymakers, making France top of the list of the ten most visited countries. Next come Spain and the USA, Italy, Turkey, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece and Austria.

## **Health**

Recently we have been hearing a lot more about **shingles**, an unpleasant and painful infection that can smite anyone who has ever had chickenpox. And it does not just affect the skin, but it also causes neuropathic pain. The infection is triggered when the chickenpox virus is reactivated. A shingles vaccination exists, so talk to your GP.

Sunny days are slowly returning. But **how much sun does one's body actually need?**

We all need the sun, it is our lifeblood and supplies us with vitamin D which ensures that we have strong bones and a good immune system. But it also requires a certain exposure to UVB rays. According to the Federal Radiation Protection Bureau(DE), it is enough to expose one's face, hands and arms to the sun uncovered and without sunscreen two or three times a week for half the time that would normally result in sunburn on unprotected skin.

People with a fair complexion should be more careful and not stay in the sun for more than ten minutes.

## **Curious facts/Environment/Culture**

Until 1 June 2026, the **Museum in Tours/France** is displaying 90 sculptures including 20 by French and foreign female sculptors such as Camille Claudel, Charlotte Besnard, Marie Cazin.

58 paintings by the **artist Edouard Pignon** (French painter of the School of Paris) are on exhibition in the Hospice Saint-Roch in Issoudun/France until 20 September 2026.

**May/June are the months when roe deer begin to drop their young** and if one sees a fawn by itself, observe it from afar because its mother is probably not far away. She only feeds her offspring twice a



day which means these bambis are more often than not alone. One should never touch a fawn because its mother will then reject it. If it appears to be injured then contact the local forest ranger or animal protection agency.

**Goats** can detect an earthquake or a volcanic eruption up to six hours in advance. This behaviour has been observed on Mt Etna for example where the animals leave the higher slopes and grassland for the dense lower forests, something that they would never normally do.

### **Saying of the Month**

**Never regret a day in your**

**life: good days give**

**happiness, bad days give**

**experience, worst days**

**give lessons, and best**

**days give memories.**

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

**Automobil Club der Schweiz (ACS)** After nearly ten years as a very successful General Secretary of the Swiss Automobile Club ACS, Fabien Produit handed over the baton to his successor **Mr. David Kalensky** on 1 April 2026. The new General Secretary is a 51 year-old Economics graduate who has many years' leadership experience and a comprehensive knowledge of sales and marketing acquired in the automobile industry and elsewhere.

F.I.C.C. congratulates Mr. Kalensky on his appointment and wishes him every success as he carries out his new responsibilities.



We also thank **Mr. Fabien Produit**, a former F.I.C.C. Council member and representative for Switzerland for his tireless commitment – also as a member of the F.I.C.C. Motorcaravanning Commission – and wish him the very best of health and happiness in all that he undertakes in his future professional career path.

**DCU (Dansk Camping Union)** in Denmark is celebrating its centenary in 2026. The club started out in 1926 with 26 members and now has 40,000 family members.

As part of its celebrations, DCU is organising the NCT (Nordisk Campingtræff) in Svendborg in July this year.

Hearty congratulations on arriving at this milestone and may you have many, many successful and enjoyable camping years ahead!

### 74th F.I.C.C. Youth Rally in Medina-Sidonia, Cádiz – Andalucia/Spain

from 1 to 6 April 2026



This Youth Rally was disappointing in terms of camper numbers. The event coincided with the national Spanish Rally but, apart from young Spaniards, only 34 campers from abroad participated, 28 from the United Kingdom, 3 from Portugal and 3 from the Netherlands. The reason was poor publicity and internal problems between the Spanish organisers and the local authority which led to a number of misunderstandings about outings and museum visits.

Some of the highlights were the visit to the amphitheatre, the Easter procession and the guided tour of Medina-Sidonia.

The General Assembly of the Youth Commission was held on Easter Sunday at which the new Chairman, Peerke Linnartz (NTKC/Netherlands) was elected, an office Mrs. Eliana Santos felt obliged to relinquish as she was professionally overstretched and unable to continue in this leadership role.

We wish Mr. Linnartz every success in his new appointment and hope that the 75th International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally will prove to be the usual successful event once more.

### Some snapshots of the Youth Rally





Campsite



Easter meal

## NOSTALGIA

Mr. Gilles Bataille, a passionate camper from France, has sent us some interesting documents and records that he found among papers belonging to his mother, Mrs. Lucienne Aubeneau, and has passed these on to F.I.C.C.



This is the **12th International F.I.C.C. Rally 1951 in Florence/Italy**. Lucienne was 15 years old at the time and one needed a pass to travel to Italy.



Lucienne kept a diary (in French) giving a very detailed account of her journey to Italy and the sequence of events at the Rally.



A very interesting description of their actual journey and the various events, encounters, the cost in those days of food and transport, sports competitions etc. etc.

We are most grateful to Mr. Bataille for these documents that will be preserved safely in F.I.C.C.'s archives.



Rally leaflet/programme



We at F.I.C.C. would like to add that during the General Assembly (then called Congress). “F.I.C.C.” officially became “Fédération Internationale de Camping et de Caravanning” and the international “Carte de Présentation” (membership card - today’s CCI) was attributed greater value. There was even discussion about an international insurance being attached to the card.

A total of 2,999 campers in 1,000 tents and 120 caravans attended this rally which took place between 26 July and 7 August.

## EXHIBITIONS

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

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

**China:** All in Caravanning (AIC), 15 - 17 May 2026, in Beijing

**Czech Republic:** Caravanning, 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 to 4 October 2026

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



Caravan Live, 1 - 4 October 2026, in Freiburg

Caravan Bremen, 6 - 8 November 2026, in Bremen

Touristik & Caravaning, in November 2026, in Leipzig

**Great Britain:** East Midlands Motorhome & Campervan Show, 12 - 14 June 2026, in Coddington

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 to 4 October 2026, in Utrecht

**New Zealand:** Motorhome, Caravan & Leisure Show, 16 - 17 May 2026, in Christchurch

Motorhome, Caravan & Leisure Show, 18 - 20 September 2026, in Hamilton

**Russia:** Caravanex, 29 - 31 May 2026, in Kolomna

**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

**United Arab Emirates:** ATM (Travel and Tourism) in Dubai – postponed until mid-August 2026.

## **F.I.C.C Secretariat**

rue Belliard 20, bte 15 B-1040 Brussels/Belgium Tel: 00.32 2 513.87 82 Fax : 00.32 2 513 87 83

Email : [info@ficc.org](mailto:info@ficc.org) Website : [www.ficc.org](http://www.ficc.org)