



GOOD TO KNOW – APRIL 2018

87th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 27 July to 4 August 2018 in Paaren–Berlin/Germany



PLEASE NOTE: Booking deadline 30 APRIL - 20% surcharge on booking fees from 1 May (not 15 May) 2018

The rally site is located on the outskirts of Berlin so rally-goers can easily visit the German capital and its environs. A shuttle bus will ferry people to the nearest train station that operates a regular and rapid service to Berlin.

The Brandenburg Hall right in the centre of the rally site is the ideal meeting place whatever the weather.

A camping market in and around a second, smaller hall is where manufacturers and suppliers will be exhibiting camping equipment and accessories.

The plan is for pitches to be 100 sq.m. and all will have electricity (220V/10A). The water supply is on a ring main. Obviously there will be dump stations on site for black and grey water. There are sanitary blocks already in situ, but additional containers are to be installed for the rally.

A petting zoo will be set up for children with unusual farm animal breeds and a playground too. In addition to fresh bread, there will be a cheese dairy selling local produce, a brewery, various displays and a self-service restaurant.

The rally site is easy to find especially from the motorway.

Excursions are being organised to Potsdam, Leipzig, Dresden, the Spreewald and Berlin.

A varied programme of evening entertainment has been arranged that will give campers from all over the world the chance to meet up and make new friends.

Further information is available on the website www.ficcrallye2018.de/

Brochures and booking forms are available on info@ficcrallye2018.

All rally participants must present their valid CCI card.

Source: Camping (DCC-D)



Please note – CHANGE regarding the Post-Rally in Poland

The Polish Camping and Caravanning Federation informs rally-goers that the Post-Rally will be held on Campsite N° 142 “Wisniowa Polana” in Miłków (Lower Silesia) from 4 to 8 August 2018. The campsite is about 300 kms from Berlin.

PFCC hopes that this Post-Rally will be just as successful as the previous ones organised there and that participants will return home with many happy memories.

88th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY FROM 26 JULY TO 4 AUGUST 2019 in Châteaubriant/France



A dedicated website covering this event will shortly be accessible under www.ficc2019.com

The rally programme will include: excursions, visits, horse-racing, sampling regional produce, gastronomic meals, evening cabaret shows, musical events, dinner-dances with live music.
All “Made in Châteaubriant!”

You can book already and obtain further information on: www.ffcc.fr or info@ffcc.fr or by telephoning 00.33 142 72 84 08



89th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY FROM 28 SEPTEMBER TO 06 OCTOBER 2019 in Ten-ei Village (Fukushima Prefecture)/Japan



Booking fees are: Adults (over 23 years of age) 18.000 Yen / young people (13-22 years old) 15.000 Yen / children (6-12 years old) 9.000 Yen / Children under 6 years free of charge.

An interesting programme is being prepared.

90th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2020 IN OSTIA/ROME (ITALY)

The F.I.C.C. Rally Commission is due to inspect the rally site sometime in April 2018.

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

The ruling governing the use of camping cards in Denmark was dropped on 31 May 2017.

The Danish consumer and competition agency (Konkurrence- og Forbrugerstyrelsen) said that the boycott of all camping cards other than the CKE, including the CCI (Camping Card International), was illegal.

Since the introduction of the CKE card, the Danish Campingraadet (Camping Council) whose members include DK Camp and Dansk Camping Union, decided to make the purchase of the CKE obligatory to the exclusion of all other camping cards.

CKE made false claims stating that the CKE was the only card accepted in Europe and was the only one that offered insurance cover.

The Danish agency discovered that there are other cards on the market (such as ACSI, CCI) that have always included third party insurance cover which is in fact just as good as the CKE's.



After an investigation lasting two years, the Konkurrence-og Forbrugerstyrelsen found that price-fixing and obliging campers in Denmark to buy the CKE, limited competition within the camping card market and in any case infringed TEUF Article 1 (European Union) and competition law as laid down in Article 6.

The Danish authorities therefore decided that the boycott of the CCI, ACSI and other cards must stop immediately and Campingraadet members had to be informed within three weeks that they are now obliged to accept other camping cards.

February 2018

Germany: The most popular camping destinations for Germans in 2017

• Istria (HR)	13%
• Lake Garda (I)	5.1%
• Dalmatian Coast (HR)	5%
• Venice/Friuli (I)	3.9%
• Southern Upper Bavaria/Allgäu (D)	3.1%
• Catalonia (E)	3%
• South Tirol (I)	2.6%
• Schleswig-Holstein (D)	2.3%
• Tuscany (I)	2.3%
• French Atlantic coast (F)	2.3%

France:

In future all municipal campsites in France (Campings municipaux) will be open all year round. They are now part of Camping-Car Park, a French campsite chain.

Source: Kampeerauto (NKC-NL).

Laden but not overloaded

Eight out of every ten caravans are overloaded when they travel, according to police experts. But excess weight is not a trifling matter. Apart from a fine or even imprisonment, overloading can be dangerous and cause accidents.

Motorcaravans and caravans are always luxuriously kitted out. That is fine as far as the holidaymaker is concerned, but it can often tip the balance given that B-licence holders may not drive vehicles the maximum laden weight of which exceeds 3.5 tonnes.

Anyone who has been on a platform scale (weighbridge) and done the before-and-after test will be shocked to see how much a fully laden motorcaravan actually weighs.

To illustrate the point, take a small holiday caravan in running order weighing a basic 2,965 kgs, plus special equipment/furnishings weighing 82 kgs. The maximum permissible laden weight is 3,500 kgs so you only have 453 kgs "spare". Add in two people of average weight, say 75 kgs, and you only have 303 kgs to play with. Water and waste water tanks account for another 140 kgs which means that you are left with a meagre 163 kgs for your awning, drinks, food stores, bikes, rubber dinghy, bottled gas and sundry other items.

Killer kilos are lurking everywhere, even if you buy second-hand...



Of course it is all about money and the nuisance factor that awaits if you end up in a traffic check. You may end up paying a juicy fine which can be anything from a two to four-figure amount in euros. Then you have to unload, unpack, call someone who can take the excess baggage back home, at which point driving on suddenly loses its attraction!

But what is much more problematic is that overloading and badly stowed possessions can cause really serious accidents. If the caravan shunts forward into the towing vehicle when the brakes are applied, the badly laden rear of the caravan will lurch and the whole outfit will begin to snake. Or if the caravan's centre of gravity at the rear is too high or there is too much weight on the sides, hopeless oversteering will result in the outfit simply skidding off the road.

Source:CCA-Journal (A)

MISCELLANEA

Exhaust pollution – Private cars' share of the blame

Particulate matter is one of the especially dangerous constituents of exhaust fumes because it goes straight down into one's lungs. But passenger cars are not the chief culprits by a long way. Diesel cars only account for 6.6% of particle emissions. The remainder is shared between industry, house fires, heavy goods vehicles of course, as well as power stations and farming.

By way of comparison: According to Austria's Ministry for the Environment (A), just 25 of the biggest container ships (out of a total of around 40,000) that run on heavy fuel oil (i.e. what is left over in the petrol and diesel refining processes) together churn out as many harmful substances as 750 million cars. It has to be said of course that, the 6.6% of particle emissions mentioned above are in traffic around town where the greatest number of people are at risk.

But a lot of progress has been made: one car back in 1970 belched out roughly the equivalent amount of exhaust as 100 of today's modern passenger cars. Less than 1% of exhaust fumes are more harmful to health nowadays provided people keep to current emission standards.

By way of comparison: a strong cigarette contains ten times more carbon monoxide and a hundred times more hydrocarbon than the exhaust from a modern car that runs on petrol. And the best filter in the world won't make any difference.

Source: CCA-Arbö-Freie Fahrt (A)

The Netherlands: Scheveningen baths are 200 years old

The Scheveningen baths that we know today started life back in 1818 as a small wooden structure with tubs of heated seawater. Thus were the famous Scheveningen baths born. A bigger bath house was built ten years later and the present day complex came into being in 1885. This anniversary year opened with the traditional New Year's Day dive. Other events will be staged throughout 2018 such as sand sculptures in May, the finish of the Volvo Ocean Race, the Red Bull Knock Out contest - the biggest beach car race in the world - and a Festival of Fireworks.

Source: Kampeerauto (NKC-NL)

Credit card surcharge ban in Europe

This year the EU has introduced new rules governing payment by credit and debit cards. Vendors and businesses may no longer enforce a surcharge for current credit card payments, Single Euro Payment Area (SEPA) transfers and direct debit transactions.



This applies Europe-wide to bookings and shopping purchased in a store/shop or on-line. Consumers also have better protection if a credit card is stolen and non-authorized purchases made. The liability limit is reduced from 150€ to 50€.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans (D)

New York (USA) Free entry ends in the Metropolitan Museum

After 50 years of free entry, the Metropolitan Museum New York, the biggest museum in the USA, has started charging an entrance fee. It appears that only 17% of the seven million or so annual visitors gave a voluntary contribution in lieu of an entrance fee. From 1 March 2018 the entry ticket costs \$25.

Source: Seen in Bunte (D)

Condensation on windows? Help is at hand!

Candles: It is the same old problem whenever you step out of the shower. The surface of the mirror is always misted up and running with condensation. The solution is simple – just put a couple of lighted tea lights under the mirror.

Detergent: Put a few drops of detergent on a soft, damp cloth. Wipe over the mirror and finish off with a dry cloth. This also works for car windows.

Check your summer tyres before changing them over

Spring is in the air and the outside temperature is warming up. Depending on where you live and where you are travelling to, you can start thinking of exchanging your winter tyres for summer ones from early April onwards.

The harder rubber composition of summer tyres means they respond better to braking and stopping than winter tyres. However you should check your summer tyres again before mounting them.

Check the depth of tread, the air pressure, age and general condition of your tyres. At the very least the depth of tread should be 3 mm on summer tyres to avoid the risk of aquaplaning.

Tyre pressure is very important: if it is too high or too low, not only can it cause damage, but your fuel consumption will increase, the braking distance will be longer and the vehicle is more likely to swerve out of control if you have to take any evasive action.

To put a stop to insidious very gradual loss of pressure, check the tyre pressure every other time that you stop to fill up, when the tyre is warm to touch and then, if necessary, top up the air. The all-important information on tyre pressure can be found either on the inside of the fuel cap or on the driver's door jamb and in the user's manual.

As for the age of the tyres, the DOT number that is on the sidewall of the tyre gives an indication. The first two digits of the four-digit number give the calendar week and the last two show the year of production. It is reckoned that tyres last for about ten years provided they are properly stored and cared for. Then they should be changed. Once they are six years old you should check them visually for wear and tear, damage from stones, bumps or dents at regular intervals.

If you discover any sort of damage, the only solution really is to invest in new ones.

Source: Auto (ACS/CH)

Sweden: Since 1 February 2018, Sweden has banned the use of cell phones while driving – it is the last European country to do so. Any driver caught using a phone or texting risks a fine of 160€.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans (D)

Austria: According to Mercer, for the ninth time Vienna has been rated as the best city in the world to live in. Brussels came 27th.



INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM OUR MEMBERS

NKC (NL) has discovered that 46% of Dutch campers regularly use their motorcaravans when visiting cities and 67% of them spend the night on a campsite. This type of city break lasts on average 3.6 days.

Deutscher Camping Club (D)

At the CMT Fair in Stuttgart, DCC awarded its Safety Prize 2018 to Hymer's B-SL range of motorcaravans for the weight optimized chassis that Hymer developed in collaboration with AL-KO.

“Man is changeable like the weather in April, one moment beautiful, then warm, then cold, then dry, then wet, then sunny, then rainy, then drizzly, then snowy, one minute flowers, the next minute clover“.

Abraham a Sancta Clara
Augustiner Mönch, Preacher and Author

FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Belgium: Mobicar from 12 to 16 October 2018, in Brussels

Brussels Travel Expo from 10 to 11 December 2018, in Brussels

Germany: Caravan Salon Düsseldorf from 28.08. – 02.09.2018, in Düsseldorf

Caravan Salon Bremen from 9 to 11 November 2018, in Bremen

The Netherlands: Kampeer en Caravan Jaarbeurs from 10 to 14 October 2018, in Utrecht

France: Salon des Véhicules de loisir from 29.09 to 07.10.2018, in Paris le Bourget

SETT in November, in Montpellier

Spain: Madrid Xanadu Outlet & Ocasión from 10 to 14 October 2018, in Madrid

Italy: Il Salone del camper from 8 to 16 September 2018, in Parma

Switzerland: Auszeit Luzern (Reise- und Ferienmesse), from 02.05 to 06.05.2018, in Lucerne

Schweizer Caravanning Salon from 25.10. to 29.10.2018, in Bern BEA Expo

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