



GOOD TO KNOW – JULY 2019

**88th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY in Châteaubriant/France
from 26 July to 4 August 2019**



Photo: Isabelle Pacary

DINARD



SAINT-MALO



For information and bookings go to

www.ficc2019.com

and

www.ficc.fr oder info@ficc.fr or Tel: 00.33 142 72 84 08

There are no caravans for hire, only motorcaravans. See under <https://ficc2019.com/infos-pratiques/> and the back of the booking form.

**GPS 47°43'14.74"N-1°12'10.81"W. N and W (Westen, west) for German and English.
For French "N" and "O" – (O = ouest = west)**



89th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY in TEN-EI VILLAGE (PREFECTURE FUKUSHIMA)/JAPAN from 28 September to 6 October 2019



Greeting

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt pleasure and appreciation for the 89th F.I.C.C. International Rally being held in Ten-ei Village, Fukushima Prefecture.

Also I would like to express my gratitude to all the people from around the world for their great support at the occasion of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear power plant accident that occurred eight years ago.

Thanks to all of you, Fukushima Prefecture has been steadily recovering, and it has become an environment where you can live normally and eat food as well as before the disaster. However, the current situation has not been sufficiently communicated to people abroad, and Fukushima Prefecture still has an image of pollution and safety concerns, and it is very regrettable that the refusal to buy agricultural products and other Fukushima products is still going on.

With the 89th F.I.C.C. International Rally being held in Fukushima Prefecture in September this year, I hope that everyone from around the world will feel fully aware of „safe and secure Fukushima“ and you take a role in seeing, hearing, tasting, taking it back to your home country, and telling it to many people.

In conclusion, Ten-ei Village in Fukushima Prefecture is the first municipality recognized as an „environmental kingdom“ and there are many rich products made up of a rich natural climate and clean water. Typical examples are „Ten-ei rice“, which has won the gold award at the Rice and Taste Analysis Appraisal Contest for nine consecutive years, and delicious sake, which has received seven consecutive gold awards from the National New Sake Contest.

I hope that many people will visit Ten-ei Village, look at it, touch it, eat it, and enjoy „the charm of Ten-ei Village“ to the fullest. We are sincerely looking forward to your visit.

Katsuyuki Soeta

Mayor of Ten-ei Village



INFORMATION

To avoid any problems, the Organiser is asking non-Japanese participants (from Europe, Taiwan, China, Korea etc) to register for the rally by filling in and mailing the printed form and to pay via a bank transfer. Because of this change in registration procedure, the booking deadline has been extended to **31 July 2019**.



Events during the Rally

Sake Day

October 1st is Sake Day in Japan and at 7 pm everyone in the country drinks sake. So in Ten-ei Village people always toast one another with sake – beer and wine are not allowed!

A “Toast with Sake” party will be organised in the local school during the 89th International F.I.C.C. Rally at which Rally participants and around 300 local people will drink sake together and at the same time sample special regional dishes.



Entertainment

Theme parks with a difference! There are many such scattered around the country along with a number of zoos and aquariums. A few of the better known are:

Universal Studios Japan (USJ) in the Osaka Prefecture (film studios)

Huis Ten Bosch in the Nagasaki Prefecture (reproduction of a Dutch town complete with a hotel staffed by robots)

Fuji-Q Highland in the Yamanashi Prefecture (amusement/theme park at the foot of Mount Fuji – Fuji Yoshida City)

Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium in the Ocean Expo Park in Motobutown

Edo Wonderland in the Tochigi Prefecture (Japanese traditions)

Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan (one of the biggest aquariums in the world)

Asahiyama Zoo in Asahikawa City/Hokkaido

Further important information under

jac@autocamp.or.jp and

<http://www.89thficcrally.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/kazuhiro.akase.1>



Review of the 69th International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally 2019 in Hermanuv Mestec/Czech Republic

The rally was held over Easter at the Konopac campsite. Apart from the usual sports competitions like volleyball and football, there was a table tennis tournament that was extremely popular.

There were interesting bus outings to Kutna Hora with a look around the town and to Pardubice brewery with a tour of the historic town centre.

The Central Auto-Motorclub brought an accident simulator to the campsite. Agrometil set up a ride on a mini tractor and Hermanuv Mestec's volunteer fire brigade mounted a mock-up of a rescue operation following a traffic accident.

There were 204 participants from 9 countries: 82 from Great Britain, 46 from Portugal, 27 from the Czech Republic, 23 from the Netherlands, 11 from Slovakia, 6 from Finland, 4 from Belgium, 3 from Sweden and 2 from Poland.

61 participants were under 18 years old and 143 were over 18.

Thanks go to Mr. Bohumil Stary the FCC President, and Martin Pisar and all of the other volunteer helpers who organised such a great and interesting rally.



INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. YOUTH RALLY in COIMBRA/PORTUGAL from 8 to 13 APRIL 2020



90th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2020 in OSTEA/ ROME (ITALY) from 24 July to 2 August 2020



Tip from the F.I.C.C. Secretariat

All roads lead to Rome (Ostea) some even via Milan

If you are thinking of making a detour or travelling via Milan (on your outward or homeward journey) and you have a bit of spare time, you might like to consider visiting the following:

The Bagni Misteriosi (behind the Porta Romana)

The Ratanà restaurant housed in one of the city's oldest edifices right in the heart of the Porta Nuova skyscraper district

The "Librairie Verso" (especially for books in French)

The Cucchi cake shop (Corso Genova)

91st INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY at Naas Racecourse near Dublin/Ireland from 29 July to 7 August 2021



91ST INTERNATIONAL
F.I.C.C. RALLY
DUBLIN 2021

Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

New registrations of recreational vehicles reached a record high in April 2019

New registrations of recreational vehicles in Germany since the beginning of the year rose by 13.7% to a record 31,844 units. In April alone there were 9,571 newly registered motorcaravans and 4,032 caravans.



Caravan registrations increased by a hefty 14.7% and the figure of 4,032 newly registered caravans is the best result since 2003.

It appears that the caravan success story goes on and on.

Source: CIVD

Power snooze to combat drowsiness at the wheel

A long, monotonous stretch of road and dusk is beginning to fall: a dangerous scenario in terms of road safety. But what can drivers do to combat drowsiness at the wheel?

On long distances, you should stop for a rest at least every two hours and build these breaks into your itinerary. Stopping for a break at the slightest hint of tiredness is a good basic principle: drive off at the next motorway service area, lay-by or exit. The driver should put his seat back and sleep for ten or twenty minutes but no longer otherwise he/she will drop into the deep dreaming phase.

If you find it difficult to fall asleep, try an alternative solution: get your circulation going. Allegedly tricks such as opening the window or putting the radio on loud can help but, according to the experts, are of limited use and only work for a short period of time.

Source: Auto (ACS-CH)

Camping in private gardens or on private land

In Europe, more and more people are offering campers space to camp on their land and the practice is becoming increasingly popular especially in the Netherlands and France. But the idea is also catching on in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. One can book an overnight camping stay under Homecamper.com "Welcome to our gardens".

A number of national camping clubs and federations are supporting this initiative.

France has 7,967 campsites with 893,305 pitches. 41% have their own restaurants (4-star campsites account for 75% of these), 42% have a small shop, 51% a bar or café, 59.5% offer WiFi (either everywhere on the campsite or just in the reception area).

42% of pitches are taken up by mobile homes, bungalows, tents for rent etc.

13% of French campsites are part of a chain (433) or group (610), and 6,011 are privately managed.

1,400 campsites are partners/associates of F.I.C.C.'s member **FFCC**.

Source: Liaison FFCC-F

Practical tips – for campers too

Peppermint helps remove bad odours.

After taking off your sports shoes "air" them out of doors in the fresh air. If possible, remove the soles and put a dried-out mint tea bag in each shoe. You will find the disagreeable musty smell will soon disappear.

MISCELLANEOUS

Spain: New speed limits on Spanish roads.

Since 29 January 2019, article 48 of the highway code has changed and now states that, "camper vans" i.e. motorcaravans under 3,500 kgs together with converted goods vehicles/trucks can drive up to 120km/h on motorways and dual carriageways. But be careful – on the country's secondary



roads (approx. 7,000 kms of them), the speed limit has been reduced from 100 km/h to 90 km/h, and 80 km/h for buses and trucks.

Wherever you are, always heed the road signs!

Source: Extract from Kampeertoerist (VKCF/VKT – B)

Health

Nail fungal infection: If one of your nails starts turning yellowish-brown, splits or flakes, or the nail thickens and lifts from the bed of the nail, then it is more than likely that you have a fungal infection. More often than not it affects the large or small toenails. It does not look very beautiful and is in fact a disease that needs to be treated because it will not clear up of its own accord. Such nail infections are highly infectious and one often picks them up in sanitary facilities such as showers even if they

are cleaned regularly. So if you want to avoid infection, do not go round barefoot in the showers or indeed in any other communal areas. After washing your feet make sure you dry them thoroughly and do not share a towel with anyone. And disinfect your shoes regularly.

Friday 31 May was **World Tobacco-Free Day** which is an annual event.

Culture and other interesting facts

Copenhagen/Denmark is holding an exhibition dedicated to one of Henri Matisse's friends **Hans Purrmann** in Kunstforeningen GL Strand heritage building until 15 September 2019. The exhibition is entitled:

"Hans Puurmann: The Vitality of Colour".

Belgium is marking the 450th anniversary of the death of Pieter Bruegel the Elder with a number of interesting exhibitions throughout the year. 2019 has been named Bruegel Year.

Germany produces 1.3 million tonnes of chocolate per annum and is the biggest manufacturer of chocolate in the EU (32%), followed by Italy (18%) and France (9%).

Spain: A rather bizarre-looking structure has dominated the old quarter of Seville for some time now. Called the Metropol Parasol, this super modern wooden structure located in Encarnacion Square is known locally as "Setas de Sevilla" (Incarnation mushroom). At the top there are shops and walkways.

Source: Kampeerauto (NKC-NL)

Just a mirror or a two-way mirror?

How can you tell the difference in a hotel, or toilet or changing room?

There is a very simple test: place the tip of your fingernail against the reflective surface of the mirror and if there is a gap between your fingernail and the image of the nail, then it is a genuine mirror. However, if your fingernail directly touches the image of your nail, then beware, because it is a two-way mirror and you would be advised to leave the premises as soon as possible.

Environment

One million out of a total of 8-10 million animal species is threatened with extinction according to a U.N. report, including the **orang-utan**.



Why can **sloths** hang upside down all day long? Because their internal organs are firmly fixed to their rib cage.

There are no bridges across the Amazon river. The river banks are too soft and in the rainy season the river becomes so swollen, spreading up to 20 kms wide, that no bridge could survive.

In 2018, Brussels was in eleventh place when it comes to the **most congested European cities**. On average people spend 37% more time in traffic than normal. The busiest roads are in the cities of Moscow, Istanbul and Bucharest. These were the conclusions of the “TomTom Traffic Index” produced by the navigation system manufacturer TomTom. The survey was based on 403 cities with a population of over 800,000 in 56 countries worldwide.

Source: Metro(B)

INTERESTING TIDBITS FROM OUR MEMBERS

In Switzerland it will be legal for 17 year-olds to drive from 2021.

To ensure that young people maintain the good driving habits they acquire when first learning to drive, our member **ACS** (Switzerland) organises junior driving courses every summer. These enable budding young drivers to have their first practical driving experience and, in addition, take their theory test.

These young people spend an exciting and instructive week on the **ACS** junior driving course. They acquire all manner of technical and operational skills relating to cars, whether fuel or electricity powered, take the theory test, and learn how to steer and manoeuvre a car. Other topics such as road safety, legal points and insurance claims round off the week-long training course.

The Netherlands: According to a survey among **NKC** members, the average length of NKC campers' membership rose from 9.3 years (end of 2012) to 11.5 years (end of 2018).

France: The French federation **FFCC** is starting to plan its 6th Paris-Beijing-Istanbul motorcaravan rally in 2020. The motorcaravans will cross 12 countries starting in the Czech Republic, on through the Baltic states to Russia, through Mongolia and then on to China. From Xian they will travel back along the Silk Road to Georgia, ending in Istanbul.

Deadline for registration is 31 December 2019. This rally is only open to **FFCC** members.

Excuses: In our April edition 2019 the name of the new General manageress of The Camping and Caravanning Club (UK) showed a spelling mistake. The right name is Mrs. Sabina (not Sabrina) VOYSEY



EXHIBITIONS

Belgium: Mobicar from 03 to 07 October 2019, in Brussels
Vakantie Salon from 23 to 26 January 2020, in Antwerp
Germany: Caravan Salon Düsseldorf from 30.08. to 08.09.2019, in Düsseldorf
Reisen & Caravan Messe from 31.10 to 03.11.2019, in Erfurt
Caravan live from 17 to 20.10.2019, in Freiburg
Caravan Bremen from 08 to 10.11.2019, in Bremen
Touristik & Caravaning International from 20 to 24.11.2019, in Leipzig
CMT Stuttgart from 11.01 to 19.01 2020, in Stuttgart
Reise + Camping from 26.02 to 01.03.2020, in Essen
Italy: Il Salone del Camper from 14 to 22 September 2019, in Parma
The Netherlands: Kampeer & Caravan Jaarbeurs from 09.10 to 13.10.2019, in Utrecht
Camperbeurs Hardenberg from 27.09 to 20.09.2019, in Hardenberg
France: Salon des Véhicules de Loisir from 28.09. – 06.10.2019, Le Bourget/Paris
SETT from 5 to 7 November 2019, in Montpellier
Spain: Madrid Caravaning Xanadu in October
Great Britain: The South West Motorhome Show from 06 to 08.09 2019, in Shepton Mallet
Caravan & Motorhome Show from 16 to 19. 01.2020, in Manchester
Switzerland: Suisse Caravan Salon from 24.10. to 28.10.2019, in Bern
OCA from 17.01. to 19.01.2020, in St. Gallen
Austria: Caravan Salon Austria from 16.10 to 20.10 2019, in Wels
Sweden: Elmia Husvagen Husbil 2019 from 11 to 15 September, in Jönköping

F.I.C.C Secretariat
rue Belliard 20, bte 15
B- 1040 Bruxelles/Belgium
Tel: 00.32 2 513.87 82
Fax:00.32 2 513 87 83
Email: info@ficc.org
Website: www.ficc.org