



## **GOOD TO KNOW – OCTOBER 2017**

### **Rallies 2017 under F.I.C.C. Patronage**

#### **F.I.C.C. Patronage for the 8th Friendship Rally to be held from 6 to 10 December 2017 in Matera/Italy**

Confederazione Italiana Campeggiatori is organising the 8<sup>th</sup> Friendship Rally in Matera, a culturally rich town in the Basilicata region – also known as Lucania – in southern Italy. Matera will be a European Capital of Culture in 2019 and is famous for its cave dwellings, 13C cathedral and Norman castle.

The rally venue is the Go-Kart circuit “Palomba” S.S. 7 km 582,5 –  
Tel/Fax 00 39 835330012

The area is equipped with a power generator that can supply up to 130 caravans. There are water distribution points and emptying facilities, a bar and breakfast service. The restaurant, about 50m away, will be offering special prices to rally participants.

Confedercampeggio is holding its General Assembly during the rally which any interested rally participants are welcome to attend.

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#### **68<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. YOUTH RALLY FROM 29 MARCH TO 02 APRIL 2018 IN Campsite Terme Tuhelj – Zagreb – Croatia**

Organisation: Udruga Kampista Hrvatske

The Rally fee is 65 Euro per person for 4 nights at the campsite, free entrance to the Water Planet (Wellness Center), folder of brochures, Easter meal or Easter breakfast, 1 bus trip to Terme Tuhelj to visit the attractive old town.

All Youth Rally participants must pay the rally booking fee.

In case participants want to stay in the hotel, the cost will be 180 Euro per person in a double room (65 + 180 = 245 Euro) or + 260 Euro for a single room (65 + 260 = 325 Euro) for the 4 nights (45 Euro/night). All participants can have breakfast in the Hotel Well restaurant for 7 Euro per person per day. Lunch costs 15 Euro per person.

Deadline for bookings 01.02.2018.

Campsite Avtokamp Terme Tuhelj is situated on a nice grassy area, shaded by trees not far from Zagreb (57 km). Campsite guests have free access to Vodni Planet, the largest swimming pool resort in Croatia.



In this small, quiet campsite you can entrust the preparation of meals to others i.e. Hotel Well or any of the restaurants in Vodni planet. However, if you wish to prepare your own meals on a barbecue, then in the campsite there are two grill spots for this very purpose. The campsite has proper sanitary installations with showers and a dishwashing space. Further information:

[http://www.terme-tuhelj.hr/gb/accommodations/campsite-terme-tuhelj-14557?\\_ga=2.69078745.950108200.1503929119-1063443765.1503929119](http://www.terme-tuhelj.hr/gb/accommodations/campsite-terme-tuhelj-14557?_ga=2.69078745.950108200.1503929119-1063443765.1503929119)

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



### IMPORTANT CORRECTION

A mistake crept into the booking form in the brochure for the above rally.

The wrong IBAN number appeared in column 3 Bookings.

The number should read

IBAN DE07 7019 0000 0002 1044 40

The rally brochure and booking form for the 87th F.I.C.C. Rally in Paaren/Berlin are available and can be obtained either by contacting the Deutscher Camping Club e.V. Mandlstrasse 28, D-80802 München or [info@ficcrallye2018.de](mailto:info@ficcrallye2018.de)

They can be downloaded and bookings can already be made.

**Tips from the F.I.C.C. Secretariat:** (Round and about in Berlin!!)

**Glienicke Palace and Gardens** (Arcadia)

This is the green area of Berlin, Prussian Arcadia.

Glienicke Palace and grounds are an impressive open air museum. The palace is an Italian villa on German soil and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A visit will reveal imposing salons and rooms with original furnishings. The Red Salon is in the heart of the palace next to the princess's Turkish bedroom, the marble room and the deep blue library. The rooms, all decorated in vivid colours, are a perfect backdrop for the gold-framed paintings, chandeliers and furnishings by Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781- 1841).

Guided tours only. Not suitable for wheelchair users.

[www.spsq.de](http://www.spsq.de)



**Berlin:** When crossing Leipziger Platz or Friedrichstrasse, you realise what a city of contrasts Berlin is with so much of the old rubbing shoulders with the new. It is an architectural patchwork of old buildings harking back to the city's nostalgic past and exciting modern structures.

Cycling is a good way to explore Berlin (there are lots of cycle trails). You can follow the trace of the former Berlin Wall and en route see the Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted under Nazism, the main railway station, the Oberbaum bridge, the giant water tower in Knaackstrasse, the Chapel of Reconciliation and the Holocaust Memorial. Other points of interest are the floating swimming pool on a barge anchored in the R. Spree and the East Side Gallery with its colourful restored painted images on a fragment of the Wall.

The U-Bahn (underground) network is extensive and reliable and the S-Bahn takes local people and tourists further afield.

#### **POST-RALLY 2018**

**Polska Federacja Campingu I Caravaningu** will probably be organising a Post Rally in Mielenko, Campsite 107 "Ara" (West Pomerania) after the rally in Paaren/Germany. The campsite is situated right on the Baltic coast.

More information will be available in due course.

## **88th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY in Châteaubriant/France from 26 JULY to 4 AUGUST 2019**



#### **Horse-riding opportunities in and around Châteaubriant**

##### Centre équestre de Béré

The Béré Equestrian Centre is conveniently located just outside the town. It is open all year round (apart from 1 week at Christmas and 2 weeks in August). Riding lessons, accompanied rides, competitions, stud, stabling and riding courses during school holidays. Open every day.

##### Centre équestre La Cantraie/Erbray

This centre opened in 2006 and specialises in training young horses for competitions and coaching. Advanced riders, spare time riders, gallops.





#### Domaine équestre du Gondor

This centre offers courses for small groups (max. 6 people) Beginners and advanced riders. Riding school. Pony rides from Monday to Saturday. Open all year round - La Glivière/Villepot.

#### Rouge Equitation/Rougé

The centre offers group and individual riding lessons, rides, pony treks and riding courses during school holidays. Open all year round from Tuesday through Saturday.

#### Centre équestre Equi-val

This riding centre offers riding lessons for all levels. Stud for horses and ponies. Introductory classes for children involving play and teaching. Rides in the nearby Chanveaux woods.

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

The Prefecture of Fukushima is the third largest and one of the most beautiful in Japan. The landscape is beautiful and it is famous for its hot springs and gastronomy. Local people are hospitable, warm-hearted and open-minded. Fukushima has a lot of interesting destinations including:

**Hanamiya and Azumakofuji Mountain/Hill** (Fukushima town) especially beautiful at cherry blossom time.

**Miharu Takizakura** (Miharu town) "Pendula Rosea" a tree over 1,000 years old (national heritage).

**Komine Castle** (Shirakawa town) was rebuilt in the Edo period according to original drawings and is surrounded by 160 cherry trees.

The **Ruins of Tanagura Castle** (Tanagura town) are surrounded by 500 cherry trees and

**Tsuruga Castle** with its unusual red roof tiles (Aizu Wakamatsu town) has 1,000 cherry trees.

**The Dahlia Gardens in Yuyu Land Hanawa** (Hanawa town) boasts 300 different types of dahlia (5,000 dahlia bulbs) that are in bloom from August to October.

**Senbonzakura** on the banks of the Natsui river (Ono town) is a very popular sightseeing destination. Around 1,000 cherry trees grow along a 5 km stretch on both sides of the Natsui river. The trees are illuminated when the cherry trees are in blossom.

**Ogunima Pond** (Kitakata town & Kitashiobara village). Yellow day lilies and azaleas grow in this marshy area in summer. The entire area is considered to be part of Japan's national heritage and is famous for its walking trails.

**Matsukawaura Mojishima** (Soma town) Matsukawaura belonged to the Soma dynasty. The ruler Masatane Soma took it upon himself to draw attention to points of cultural interest and made Kigan Mojishima a scenic landmark.

**Shioyasaki Lighthouse and Misora Hibari Memorial** (Iwaki town) This white lighthouse located right on the ocean is a symbol of the Iwaki coast. At the foot of the lighthouse there is a memorial to the late singer Misora Hibari, who was the queen of pop in Japan and whose song "Midare-gami" was about this area.

**Tadami Biosphere Reserve** (Tadami UNESCO Eco Park) (Tadami town)

This reserve of 78,032 hectares with its ancient (primaeval) beech forest was denominated a "Biosphere Resort" by UNESCO in June 2014. The Japanese call it an Eco Park. The town's



population decided that this forest was worth keeping and protecting. There are easy walking trails/hiking paths. Hikers may only undertake other more difficult treks accompanied by an experienced guide.

Source: Fukushima Prefecture

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

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### Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

#### Using their motorcaravans throughout the winter

19% of all Dutch campers choose to spend the winter using their motorcaravans. Popular destinations in the winter months are Spain (44%), Portugal (15%) and France (15%). Campers tend to go to Portugal in November and to France in February, March and April. Three-quarters of these winter travellers move around, the remainder stay on a campsite in one place. February and March are the most popular months for camping. Campers who do not go far afield in winter nevertheless take some short breaks travelling with/in their motorcaravans during the winter months e.g. to visit Christmas markets or to take city breaks (76%). Campers who venture slightly further generally travel around from place to place or go to winter sport destinations (19%). Only a small number go off on long and short journeys (5%).

Source: NKC-Kampeerauto (NL)

#### Which is the best trailer coupling for the towing vehicle?

There are many trailer couplings on the market now and generally speaking they fall into three distinct types:

- ° Rigid trailer coupling device
- ° Detachable/removable trailer coupling device
- ° Sway control coupling device.

Each of the above-mentioned types is valid in its own right with corresponding advantages and disadvantages.

**Rigid trailer coupling device/tow hitch** is screwed on to the vehicle and the ball mount juts out behind. It is always visible and is usually cheaper to buy than the other two types. However this coupling device is not authorised or legal if the ball mount conceals the vehicle license plate. Another disadvantage is that it can get in the way when you are hitching/hooking up and your clothes can get dirty. Because there are no moveable parts, this device is low maintenance and offers good protection when parking and manoeuvring.

**The detachable coupling device** consists of a fixed mounted support under the bumper (*fender US*) and a mechanical removable ball mount. The advantage of this arrangement is that it does not spoil the appearance of the vehicle and it can easily be removed and stowed in the boot (*trunk US*). The disadvantage is that it is more expensive and that if the ball mount installation accumulates a load of dirt (salt and corrosion), it can make life difficult because the surfaces have to be cleaned off.



**The sway control coupling** is similar to the detachable coupling in that the ball mount can be mechanically folded away under the bumper/fender until it needs to be used. This arrangement has the same advantages as the detachable coupling device but no part of it (ball mount) needs to be stowed in the boot. A fully automated variation of this coupling exists that provides push button control to lock the swaying thereby sparing the driver the need to intervene in any other way. This is the most expensive coupling device option on the market. Cheaper ones can also be fitted with cable control whereby the swaying is locked manually.

Because of the complexity of this arrangement, proper maintenance is vital otherwise problems will arise.

**The rigid coupling device** is a good buy if it is used regularly and if the overall appearance of the vehicle is not an issue. Otherwise the detachable or sway control couplings are a better option. But never grease the coupling ball otherwise the sway control mechanism will not work.

Source: CampingRevue (ÖCC-A)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Vignette and toll charges for European holiday destinations**

**Spain:** Many Spanish motorways are subject to toll charges and the ones that are have an “AP” sign. You can either pay in person at the toll booth (cash or credit card) or automatically via the “VIA-T-Box”. Charges vary depending on the category of vehicle and the distance covered.

Information on routes involving tolls giving up to date prices can be downloaded from: [autopistats.es](http://autopistats.es)

**Macedonia:** Macedonia also has motorways that are subject to toll charges based on the distance travelled. Payment is in cash (local currency) at the toll booth. Info [www.roads.org.mk](http://www.roads.org.mk)

**Montenegro:** After doing away with the Eco-vignette, for the time being you only have to pay to go through the Sozina tunnel in Montenegro.

Although there are no tolls now, there is one other important factor to bear in mind in Montenegro: the green insurance card. If you do not have it with you, then you have to purchase additional (and quite unnecessary) insurance before entering the country.

**Norway:** In Norway there are toll charges for using some roads, tunnels, bridges and entering certain towns. If you have not acquired the AutoPass (automatic payment system) in advance, there are two other possible methods of payment: at some toll booths you can pay the usual way in cash. But you cannot pay in cash at automatic toll booths which use electronic recognition technology – in this case the toll charge can be paid either at the next filling station or on receipt of an invoice when you get back home.

Info: [www.auto-pass.no](http://www.auto-pass.no)

**Romania:** You need an e-vignette to travel on national roads and motorways. Vignettes can be bought (also on-line) for 7, 30 or 90 days or for a year. The charge depends on the category of vehicle.

The Vidin, Cernavoda and Giurgeni bridges are not covered by the e-vignette and you have to pay a different toll charge depending on the bridge concerned and the category of vehicle:

[www.roviniete.ro](http://www.roviniete.ro)





**Switzerland:** in Switzerland motorways and freeways are subject to tolls. For vehicles up to 3.5 t (including trailers) you need a vignette. At present there are annual vignettes that are valid from 1 December of the previous year until 31 January of the following year.

Exceptions: Oldtimer vehicles over 3.5 t with H or 07 license plates travel free of charge!  
One has to pay to go through the St. Bernard tunnel and the Munt-la-Schera tunnel.

### **What is Hallowe'en?**

Hallowe'en is a sort of festival that occurs on 31 October and is celebrated mainly in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the USA and Canada. In Europe you now see increasing numbers of people, especially children, celebrating and wearing fancy dress.

Originally Hallowe'en was a Celtic/Irish festival that marked the beginning of a new farming year after the crops had been harvested. The Celts also believed that it was on this day that the ghosts of all those who had died over the past 12 months would return to possess a living person for the coming year. The reason for people dressing up therefore is to scare the spirits off and chase them away.

Source: De Caravan (NL)

### **Health**

According to a British survey, over 50% of people do not enjoy an uninterrupted night's sleep and usually wake up at 4.05 am.

Qigong can help tinnitus sufferers

Tinnitus is usually a harmless condition and ringing in the ears tends to disappear after a few minutes.

But if it persists and lasts several days, it is worth seeking medical advice because tinnitus is readily treatable early on. Natural plant preparations with Gingko increases the blood flow in the inner ear and help the small blood vessels to recover. Qigong exercises can help reduce stress and steer one's attention away from the ringing/whistling noise.

Source: Ratiopharm (D)

### **World Standards Day**

Every year, World Standards Day falls on 14 October when experts who work at the IEC, ISO and ITU are honoured for their hard collaborative work developing international standards.

### **Continued strong growth in the production and export of German recreational vehicles**

The enormous demand for recreational vehicles "Made in Germany" marches on. German manufacturers of caravans and motorcaravans produced 17.3% more vehicles in the first half of 2017 compared with the same period last year. Between January and June a total of 62,597 vehicles came off the production line, 27,231 of which were exported. That is 9.6% up on the first half of 2016.

Source: CIVD (D)



### **Oktoberfest in Munich (D)**

A big beer festival was staged in October 1810 on the occasion of the royal marriage between the Prince of Bavaria and the Princess of Saxony-Hilburghausen. The festival became a tradition that takes place every year now between 16 September and 2 October. A special beer is served at the event and thirsty tourists come to the festival from all over the world. They see Munichers going about their business in the city wearing their traditional costume - dirndl skirts and Lederhosen (leather trousers). On the first weekend of the festival everyone congregates on the “Wiesn” (meadow).

Source: Extract Kampeerauto (NKC – NL)

## **INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

During the recent 40th anniversary rally of the Northern Ireland Region, Mr. Mel Hill, the Chairman of **The Camping and Caravanning Club of Great Britain**, presented Mr. Chris Wells with the Club’s service award. Chris Wells, who also served many years on F.I.C.C.’s Motorcaravanning Commission, has held a number of important positions in the Club including the Region’s Sites Officer, Secretary, Vice-Chairman and Chairman. In 2007, Chris Wells became the first elected National Councillor for Northern Ireland Region and served in that role until 2012. He was described as a credit to the Club in Northern Ireland, a man who has shown drive, determination and loyalty in his many roles.

Source: Camping and Caravanning (UK)



CONFEDERCAMPEGGIO AT THE EXHIBITION IN PARMA / ITALY





## We have pleasure in presenting: Israel

### The Israeli Camping & Caravanning Club



The Israeli Camping Club was established in 1965. Members of the club were not only owners of caravans or tents, but also owners of camping sites. The club was registered as a voluntary company and represented club members' interests with the government and governmental agencies.

In 1983 the government of Israel changed the law, thus the status of the club was changed to a non-profit-making association and the club became "The Israeli Camping and Caravanning Club (A.R.)". Over the years, members who were campsite owners resigned and so the club's membership now comprises only owners of caravans and motor caravans.

Today, the club has about 120 families as full members, all with their own caravans and motor caravans, and has set itself the following tasks:

1. Consolidate the camping fraternity in Israel and work for their benefit; promote camping and caravanning in the country.
2. Initiate and organize members' meetings and social events; organize trips around the country; help members in organizing excursions abroad with caravans or other mobile units.
3. Represent the club with the government and its agencies in order to bring local caravan standards in line with European ones;
4. Cooperate with caravanning clubs abroad; organize members' participation in rallies abroad;
5. Educate members so that they enjoy the lifestyle on campsites; convince campsite owners to maintain high standards on their campsites like those abroad;
6. Keep members properly informed about the club management's current activities, to promote and facilitate contacts between members through bulletins, meetings and the internet; organize vacation trips and sporting activities; represent the club with F.I.C.C.

In recent years, government taxes on importing caravans to Israel were reduced by about 30 % which has boosted the numbers of caravans sold and/or manufactured in Israel every year.



But the numbers of camping sites is growing very slowly and most new camping sites are private and relatively small for about 10-20 units.

The lack of big camping sites in Israel prevents us from receiving more families in our club.

We also lose out thanks to the absence of ferries from Israel to Europe and back which limits our ability to travel to Europe with our caravans and European caravans to travel to Israel.

Those ferries stopped round about 2001 and have never started up again.

Our club is working with the [Israel Nature and Parks Authority](#) which is improving the campsites they have in the best places on the Sea of Galilee, along the Mediterranean coast and in the south of Israel.

The club has an internet site ([www.israelcc.com](http://www.israelcc.com)) that carries information about what is happening in the field of camping worldwide. Thus our club members have access to all of the available information.

Our new family members include second and third generation campers who love nature and like to travel and enjoy the outdoor life in parks and campsites both at home and abroad.

Our club organizes 6 to 8 meetings a year and these are held in a different location each time. Trips with experienced guides are organized in the vicinity, along with social events, evening entertainment, special dinners and games.

The Israeli Camping Club's management consists of 7 members elected every two years by club members at the Annual General Assembly. The management chooses its chairman, treasurer and secretary. The General Assembly also chooses two members to serve on the Audit Committee of the club. The Assembly receives the annual financial statements of the association as prepared by the management and approved by the Board.

Every year the government registrar of associations is sent originals of all the approved documents mentioned above, checks their authenticity and issues his approval of the activity and financial statements of the association.

Most years some members attend F.I.C.C.'s annual rally or European ones, and in 1976 and 1998 small rallies were organised in Israel that were also attended by campers from Europe.

## FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

**Germany** CMT: 13.01.to 21.01.2018, in Stuttgart

Caravan and Camping, 31.01 to 04.02.2018, in Hannover

**The Netherlands** Kampeer en Caravan Jaarbeurs: 11.10. to 15.10. 2017, in Utrecht

Vakantiebeurs: 10.01. to 14.01. 2018, in Utrecht

**Italy :**

**France:** SETT: 07.11 to 09.11 2017, in Montpellier



**Switzerland** Suisse Caravan Salon: 27.10. to 31.10. 2017, in Bern

**Austria** Caravan Salon Wels: 18 to 22.10. 2017

Ferienmesse: 11.01. to 14.01.2018, in Vienna

**Great Britain** Central Caravan & Motorcaravan Show: 19.01. to 22.01.2018, in Manchester

**Belgium** Vakantiesalon (Holiday Show): 25.01 to 29.01 2018, in Antwerp

**Spain** Fitur: 17.01. to 21.01.2018, in Madrid

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