



NEWSLETTER

APRIL - 2026



WWW.FICC.ORG

96th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY

Dates: 26 June to 5 July 2026

Venue: Karpfham-Bad Griesbach/Southern Germany

Organised by Deutscher Camping Club e.V.



Full information, booking forms and programme on

www.ficcrallye-2026.com

BOOKING DEADLINE IS 30 APRIL 2026

PROGRAMME

25 June, Thursday

Arrival of the chief delegates

Registration of the chief delegates

5.00 pm Meeting with the chief delegates

26 June, Friday

6.30 am The bakery opens



8.00 am Registration opens

9.00 am Arrival of participants

5.00 pm Tent opens

27 June, Saturday

7.30 am The bakery opens

8.00 am Registration / Arrival

3.00 pm Tent opens

4.00 pm Parade

Followed by the opening ceremony

28 June, Sunday

7.30 am The bakery opens

8.00 am The office opens

8.00 am Excursions

4.00 pm German Street

5.00 pm tent opens, music in the tent

6.00 pm Dinner (Blue Tickets) approx. 300 people

29 June, Monday, World Camping Day

6.00 am The bakery is open

8.00 am Office open

1.00 pm Tent opens

2.00 pm Start of World Camping Day

Welcome and speeches

3.30 pm Welcome to Gold Partners

4.30 pm Presentation of the following F.I.C.C. rally organisers



6.00 pm Taiwanese Street

7.00 pm Dinner: Red Tickets

7.00 pm Music in the tent

Tuesday 30 June

6.00 am The bakery opens

8.00 am The office opens

8.00 am Excursions as booked

The following can also be booked:

Factory tour of Knaus, Jandelsbrunn, Cost per person: €29.00

9.00 am FICC General Meeting

5.00 pm Tent opens

6.00 pm Dinner (Yellow Tickets) approx 300 people

6.00 pm Slovak Street

7.00 pm: Italian evening with Italian music

1 July, Wednesday

6.00 am The bakery is open

8.00 am Office open

8.00 am Excursions as booked

3.00 pm GB Party in the GB area

5.00 pm The tent is open

7.00 pm Bavarian evening



2 July, Thursday

6.00 am The bakery opens

8.00 am Office opens

8.00 am Excursions as booked

8.30 am Buses 1 and 2: Delegates' excursion / Knaus, Jandelsbrunn

9.00 am Bus 3: Delegates' excursion / Knaus, Jandelsbrunn

3.00 pm Bus 1+2 Arterhof

3.30 pm Bus 3 Arterhof

5.00 pm The Tent is open

6.00 pm Dinner (Green Tickets)

7.00 pm Campers for Campers

3 July, Friday

6.00 am The bakery is open

8.00 am Office open

8.00 am Excursions as booked

5.00 pm The tent is open

6.00 pm Dinner

7.00 pm Music: Bavarian music, reimagined

4 July, Saturday

6.00 am The bakery opens

8.00 am The office opens

11.00 am Morning pint with white sausage and pretzels, marquee

5.00 pm The Tent opens

7.00 pm Music,

9.00 pm Closing ceremony, lowering of the flag

5 July (Sunday)

7.30 am The bakery is open

8.00 am The office is open

By 11.00 am Check-out

12.00 pm The site closes

The organiser reserves the right to make changes !

Source Deutscher Camping Club eV

97th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2026 IN CHINA

Date: 17 to 26 September /Guizhou-Province

Organised by CRVC





Rally registration fees

Rally registration fee: **150.00€ per adult – teenagers 70.00€ each (11 to 17 years old), children up to 12 years free of charge.** (Included: conference documents, free flight transfer, banquet for opening and closing celebrations, evening entertainment and free tour of the Zhenfeng district.)

Full information and registration form on

email: ficcrally97@crvc.com

lillian@crvc.com

website: www.ficcrally97.crv.com

Rally excursions

8 different tours are being arranged costing 80.00€ per person/per excursion

(see March 2026 Newsletter for comprehensive description)

POST-RALLY TOUR/Post-rally excursion (180.00€ per person)

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

in NITRA/SLOVAKIA

Organised by Slovenska Asociacia Campingu a Caravaningu

from 26th June to 5th July



Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

The **largest caravan in the world**, a five storey, unique RV, was built back in 1990 for Sheikh Hamad Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi. It is 20 metres long, 12 metres wide and weighs 122 tonnes. It has eight bedrooms and bathrooms and 4 garages and its water tank capacity is 24,000 litres. This caravan travels on just two wheels. It is of course in the Guinness Book of Records!



The caravan was the brainchild of Sheikh Hamad bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, an enthusiastic collector of elegant, fast and oversized vehicles and trailers.

The caravan's final resting place now is in the Emirates National Auto Museum in Al Bihout/Abu Dhabi, which was founded by this passionate automobile and utility vehicle collector who still loves participating in car rallies that involve nights spent under canvas in the desert.



Auto Museum



Sheikh Hamad bin Hamdan Al Nahyan (right).



Rally start with Hamad Ali Al Marzoui, Managing Director IATC



Rally events are held in these wonderful dune landscapes.

Photos: H Al Marzoui & Internet

Another gigantic model - this one is European - is the KABE Imperial 1000 TDL, 11.50m long and, as such, one of the longest that is mass-produced. It has 22 sq.m. of living space and weighs 3,500 kg.



Photo: Internet

Be prepared for weather to impact on your camping trip:

When setting off, it is important always to be well equipped and think what could or might happen so that you can protect your tent or awning.

- 1) In the event of gusty winds, always close caravan skylights and windows and zips on a tent or awning.
- 2) Always make sure you use proper tent pegs.
- 3) Bring everything inside out of harm's way or at least secure items so that nothing flies about in the wind.
- 4) Use the storm straps to help maintain stability.
- 5) Do not camp in an open field, under or near large trees.

- 6) Tents and awnings must be properly and tightly erected – think of using storm straps or storm poles.
- 7) Make sure water does not collect on the top of your tent – perhaps lower the outside poles of the awning.

Source: Le bivouac

The number of **campsites in Europe** that stay open all year round has increased by 8.6% in the past five years.

Source: NTKC/ACSI

Preventing condensation in your caravan: what really works

It is especially in the cold months of the year that one notices how quickly condensation builds up in a caravan.

In the short term, it is nothing more than a nuisance but in the long term it can lead to mould building up, musty smells and damaged upholstery or woodwork.

Condensation builds up most on frames and glass, in corners, on joins and seams and under mattresses and cushions.

1. Even when it is cold outside, it is important to ventilate very well by leaving two windows or a window and skylight open for a few minutes to create a draught. Short sharp airing is more effective than hours' long ventilation with windows just open a crack.
2. Clever heating: leave the heating on for a short time then ventilate again. This way the air remains dry and fresh.
3. Reduce potential sources of damp indoors: little tricks do work well i.e. when cooking always keep lids on saucepans and casseroles; leave the bathroom door open after taking a shower; dry damp towels and clothes outdoors if possible or else while you are travelling.
4. Give materials a chance to breathe: use 3D structure or slatted bases that allow air to circulate under mattresses and easy chairs. Also leave enough room for air to circulate between your kit and exterior walls.
5. If need be, use a de-humidifier/damp extractor especially during overwintering. This certainly does not replace the need for ventilation but does help absorb excess moisture.
6. If you can overwinter your caravan in an enclosed space, leave the ventilation vents open. If it is parked outdoors, let some air in on dry days and check cushions and mattresses for mildew.

Source: VKCF /BE

In 2025, campsite bookings in **eastern Europe** increased by approx. 20% especially in Bosnia, Herzegovina and Poland. Slovenia and Montenegro registered an increase of nearly 30%.

Practical tips – for campers too

To get rid of unpleasant odours in your fridge, use toilet paper!.

Put a roll of toilet paper in the door of your fridge and the paper will absorb any strong smells from fish or cheese.

A great **many campers are also enthusiastic cyclists** – and since it is being reported that injuries from bike accidents are getting more serious, the following information is perhaps also useful for amateurs.

The Belgian start-up company Aerobag has come up with a special airbag system for cyclists that offers severe accident impact protection for one's spine, neck, chest and hips. The airbag which weighs approx. 500 gr, is integrated in the bib straps of cycling kit and in no way impedes one's cycling. Nine sensors scan and monitor body dynamics 200 times per second for the angle of one's back and rotational acceleration, for instance. If the system detects an imminent crash, a CO2 cartouche releases the airbag within 100 milliseconds – the price 😊 : 800€.

Information www.aerobag.eu

MISCELLANEOUS

Traffic

Belgium: From 1 September 2026, Belgium is carrying out a wide-ranging reform and updating its 50 year old highway code. The aim is to make the rules clearer, improve traffic safety and traffic flow for all road users, especially cyclists and pedestrians.

Here are the main new traffic regulations and changes to be made in Belgium in 2026:

Important reforms to traffic regulations (from 1 September 2026)

- **"Square Green":** At certain intersections a stop phase is to be introduced when pedestrians and cyclists can cross in all directions simultaneously while the motor traffic is stationary.
- **Cyclists turning right at red traffic lights:** This concession will be extended with new signs as long as the traffic conditions permit.
- **New rules for motorbikers:** Lane filtering will be officially allowed but at lower speeds (max. 50 km/h) and at a maximum speed difference of 20 km/h in moving traffic on motorways.
- **Strict no stopping for motorbikes:** Motorbikers are no longer permitted to park at right angles to the roadway unless it is expressly indicated that they can. Parking on a pavement is only allowed if it leaves at least 1.5m width for pedestrians.

- **New road signs:** Over 45 new road signs will be introduced including signs for cargo bikes, shared vehicles and warnings about black ice or fog.
- **Triple overtaking ("triplings") forbidden:** Overtaking a vehicle that is already overtaking is expressly forbidden.
- **Losing one's vehicle:** Grave infringement of the highway code such as driving without a valid licence will result in the vehicle being impounded in future.

Environmental zones (LEZ) & driving ban (from 1 January 2026)

- **Brussels:** The Low Emission Zone (LEZ) was tightened up on 1 January 2026. This means that Euro 5 diesel and Euro 2 petrol vehicles are banned.

Summary of general traffic regulations (in 2026)

- **Motorways:** Maximum speed 120 km/h.
- **Out of town:** 90 km/h (Wallonia) / 70 km/h (Flanders).
- **Built-up areas:** 50 km/h.
- **Legal alcohol limit: 0.8 ‰ from February 2026**
- **Fire extinguisher & first aid kit:** Vehicles registered in Belgium must carry a fire extinguisher.

It is advisable to check out changes to signposting and specific regulations in the three regions (Brussels, Flanders, Wallonia) before travelling to Belgium since the new rules are being gradually introduced during the autumn of 2026.

Austria: Increase in short term parking rates and permanent parking permit ("Parkpickerl") in Vienna.

On 1 January 2026, Vienna increased the rates for short term parking and Parkpickerl (now 13€) by 30%. Thus short term parking zones cost 1€70 for 30 minutes, 3€40 for 60 minutes, 5€10 for 90 minutes and 6€80 for 120 minutes.

E-scooters and e-bikes – from 1 May 2026: transport of passenger(s) or goods not allowed, helmets obligatory up to and including all 16 year olds and bikes and scooters must be fitted with indicators and a bell. Also the legal alcohol limit has been reduced from 0.8‰ to 0.5‰.

In addition e-bike riders must wear a helmet up to and including the age of 14.

Source: Freie Fahrt (CCA)

Hungary adjusts toll fees for caravans that weigh over 3,500 kg

These vehicles have needed a D2 category vignette since 1 January 2026. Motorcaravans weighing less than 3,500 kg still only need a D1 category vignette. Both vignettes are available via the Hungarian e-vignette system.

Source: NKC (NL)

According to recent information, motorcaravans are exempt from paying the **HGV toll** (heavy goods vehicle) introduced in the Netherlands on 1 July 2026.

Source: DCC (DE)

Health

Phone neck – the latest widespread ailment to hit the world what it means is pains in your cervical spine (upper back).

A study by the New York Clinic for Spinal Surgery and Rehabilitation found that when an adult's head that weighs somewhere between 4 and 6 kilos bends forward about 60°, its weight on the cervical vertebrae effectively increases to around 13 kilos. We check our mobile phones some 80 times a day and spend about three hours staring at the screen.

No sport is good for one's back that concentrates on just one side of the body. There is a danger that one's neck, shoulders and spine will be overextended. One's back does not appreciate jerky movements either (some skiing), so rhythmic movements are better because they spare one's spine.

Curious facts/Environment/Culture

The Dries Van Noten Foundation has taken over the **Palazzo Pisani Moretta** on the Canal Grande in Venice for an exhibition of craftsmanship – from fashion to glass. It opens this April i.e. before the Biennale.

A spectacle of light is illuminating Vienna until August: between the spires of the **Vienna Votive Church** the artist Billi Thanner has installed a 28 x 8 metre aluminium sculpture in the shape of a horizontal eight, a symbol of infinity since ancient times.

A number of **Brussels' Museums** are open on Thursday evenings between 6 pm and 10 pm until 23 April 2026.

The **European City of Culture 2026 is Trencin in Slovakia**, a town with a population of 55,000 in the north-west of the country that boasts of wonderful old town with an early mediaeval castle complex.



Bayreuth Festival celebrates 150 years – one of the most exciting travel destinations this year, especially for Wagner lovers.

Impact on Swiss art: The Palais Lumière in Evian/France is currently holding an exhibition of works by the Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler (1853-1918) entitled “Swiss Modernity - the Legacy of Hodler”. It finishes on 17 May 2026.

Saying of the month

**Silence and a Smile
are two powerful
tools.**

**A smile is
the way to solve
many problems
and silence is the
way to avoid
many problems.**

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

In Memoriam

A few days ago we heard of the death at the end of February 2026 of Mr. Horst Nitschke, the author of the famous ADAC camping guide. We offer his family our sincere condolences.

On the occasion of its annual dinner and the NORTUR Salon, **Asociación de Empresarios de Campings y Parques de Vacaciones de Asturias/Spain** presented awards for the “Premios Camping de Asturias 2026” and an Honorary Medal to our member **ASOCIACION DE CARAVANISMO DE PORTUGAL (CDP)** for its commitment to outdoor tourism and for promoting camping and Asturias as a travel destination among its members.

The DCC Safety Prize 2026 (Deutscher Camping Club) went to the LMC Tourer A690G, a lightweight model that sends out a strong signal in terms of safety, functionality and suitability for everyday use.

A new Council for ACTItalia/Italy

ACTItalia’s Ordinary General Assembly was held on 22 March 2026 in the Centro Vacanze San Marino at which the past year was reviewed and the new Council elected. Thanks to the high attendance rate and nearly all of the clubs and federations voting either in person or by proxy vote, officers were validly appointed to head up the federation for the next three-year period 2026 – 2029.

The newly elected Council consists of these members who took on the following roles at their first meeting:

VALENTI GIANCARLO – President

GAGLIANO GAETANO – Vice-President

LEASI AGNESE – Secretary

PASSANITI FULVIO – Treasurer

BAROZZI ANGELA – Council member

COSTANTINI UMBERTO – Council member

POZZI LUIGI – Council member



We send them our warmest congratulations and wish them every success in all their undertakings in the years ahead.

There has also been a change in the presidency at the **Magyar Camping and Caravanning Club** in Hungary. **Mr Rédei Attila** is now at the helm of the club, and we would like to express to him our warmest congratulations.

Slovakia strengthens its position on the European caravanning map

Caravan Bike Travel 2026 and preparations for FICC Rally 2027

The **Caravan Bike Travel 2026** exhibition, held from 27 February to 1 March 2026 at the Agrokomplex Exhibition Centre in Nitra, Slovakia, confirmed the growing interest in caravanning, cycling tourism and outdoor travel in Central Europe.

During the three-day event, the exhibition welcomed 18,463 visitors and hosted 162 exhibitors across seven exhibition halls, covering a total area of 22,500 m². This confirms Caravan Bike Travel as the largest event dedicated to caravanning and active travel in Slovakia.

A special feature of the event was a dedicated area that had been set aside for over 200 motorhome crews, allowing visitors to arrive directly with their recreational vehicles and experience the unique atmosphere of a caravanning gathering.

Caravan Bike Travel is gradually developing into a platform connecting caravan manufacturers, travellers, tourism regions and outdoor enthusiasts.



Visit of the F.I.C.C. delegation

A few days before the exhibition, Slovakia welcomed a delegation from the Fédération Internationale de Camping, Caravanning et Autocaravanning as part of preparations for the upcoming F.I.C.C. Rally 2027, which will be hosted in Nitra, Slovakia.

The delegation included:

- **João Alves Pereira**, President of F.I.C.C.
- **Emmanuele Paulicelli**, Vice-President of F.I.C.C.

During their visit, the representatives of F.I.C.C. held several meetings and visited the Agrokomplex exhibition centre, which will host the F.I.C.C. Rally in 2027.

A press conference dedicated to the development of caravanning and preparations for the rally was also held in Bratislava at the headquarters of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Slovak Republic.

The press conference was attended by Rudolf Huliak, Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Slovak Republic, who highlighted the growing importance of caravanning as a dynamic tourism sector and expressed the government's support for hosting the F.I.C.C. Rally in Slovakia.

Also present was Jaroslav Mišura, President of the Slovak Association of Camping and Caravanning, who emphasized Slovakia's long tradition of camping and caravanning and the importance of international cooperation within the caravanning community.



International dimension of the Exhibition

Caravan Bike Travel also attracts visitors from neighbouring countries. This year's edition welcomed guests from countries such as the Czech Republic and several exhibitors also came from abroad.

A strong theme of the exhibition was overland travel, which has been gaining popularity among adventure travellers and explorers in recent years.

Expedition vehicles, overland equipment and travel projects complemented traditional caravanning and expanded the visitor profile to include a growing community of long-distance travellers.

Connecting travel, regions and gastronomy

Caravan Bike Travel is not only a showcase of caravans and motorhomes. The event also connects caravanning with tourism, regional destinations and gastronomy.

A special section called Wine & Culinary Treats presented Slovak wineries and regional gastronomy, allowing visitors to discover local products and wine regions.

The programme of the exhibition also included:

- a travel festival featuring travellers and explorers

- dozens of lectures about caravanning and outdoor travel
- presentations of tourism regions
- an international food zone
- a gala evening for exhibitors and partners

Looking ahead to F.I.C.C. Rally 2027

One of the key topics during the visit of the F.I.C.C. delegation was the preparation of **F.I.C.C. Rally 2027**, which will bring thousands of caravanners from across Europe to Slovakia.

Events such as Caravan Bike Travel play an important role in promoting Slovakia as a welcoming destination for caravanning and outdoor tourism.

EXHIBITIONS

Australia: Caravan Camping Holiday, 28 April to 3 May 2026, in Sydney

Austria: Freizeitmesse, 10 - 12 April 2026, in Klagenfurt

Caravan Salon Austria 14 - 18 October 2026, in Wels

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

Canada: Travel & Vacation Show, 11 - 12 April 2026, in Ottawa

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

International Sport Activity Vehicle Exhibition, 10 - 12 May 2026, in Guangzhou

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

Le Camper, 24 - 26 April 2026, in Brissac-Quincé

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, 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: Fit your Camper, 10 - 12 April 2026, in Bologna

Salone del Camper, 12 - 20 September 2026, in Parma

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

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

Netherlands: Kampeer & Caravan Jaarbeurs, 30 September to 4 October 2026, in Utrecht

Poland: Camper Caravan Show, 24 - 26 April 2026, in Nadarzyn

Romania: Caravan Motorhome & Adventure, 2 - 5 April 2026, in Bucharest

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

Slovakia: Outdoor exhibition 2027 in Bratislava

Slovenia: LOV 21 - 25 August 2027, in Gornja Radgona

Spain: Salon Internacional del Caravaning, 16 - 24 October 2027, in Barcelona

Sweden: Elmia Husvagn Husbil, 9 - 13 September 2026, in Jönköping

Switzerland: Caravan Salon, 22 - 25 October 2026, in Berne

Turkey: Karavanist, 10 - 18 January 2027, in Istanbul

United Arab Emirates: ATM (Travel and Tourism) in Dubai – postponed until the middle of August 2026

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