



# FICG INFO

## **GOOD TO KNOW – February 2013**

### **80th Anniversary of the Fédération Internationale de Camping, Caravanning et Autocaravaning**



June 4 1933 is a landmark date in the 80 year history of our international camping federation because it was on that day that the very first F.I.C.C. General Assembly was held during the very first International F.I.C.C. Rally. In 2011, the term Motorcaravanner was added to the title and logo and, at the beginning of 2012, the Federation's official title changed to "Fédération Internationale de Camping, Caravanning et Autocaravaning".

At the outset, this international association comprised 13 clubs in 7 countries but today the numbers have soared to 70 clubs in 38 countries.

F.I.C.C.'s international youth rallies held at Easter each year started in 1952 and have always been immensely popular as have F.I.C.C.'s annual summer rallies (one of which always includes the annual General Assembly) held in Europe, North America and Asia.

Interest in camping, caravanning and motorcaravanning increases every year and one cannot imagine the tourism industry without this sector now.

It is the feeling of freedom and independence, of being close to nature and the chance to get to know other people and other cultures, that inspire people from all walks of life to go camping.



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F.I.C.C.'s objective was, and still is, to encourage and strengthen the bonds of friendship worldwide, not only between its own members but also with the people who live in the countries that host international rallies.

F.I.C.C. works hard to represent the interests of its members via its various Commissions and their contacts with various authorities, institutions, manufacturers and legislators.

F.I.C.C. is an organisation whose serious, nature-loving and environmentally aware members delight in spending their free time out of doors in the natural world, a world they want to protect. They are welcome at campsites everywhere because they set a good example.

F.I.C.C. introduced the CCI (Camping Card International) and A.I.T. and F.I.A. subsequently became partners in this enterprise. This camping card is internationally recognised and serves as proof of identity when staying at a campsite. In addition, many campsites give discounts to cardholders when they produce or deposit their CCI because they know that they belong to a club and have third party insurance cover.

80 years of the Fédération Internationale de Camping, Caravanning et Autocaravaning has been a long success story that has served the camping fraternity very well all over the world.

F.I.C.C. and its governing body under the chairmanship of Mr. Joao Alves Pereira will continue to do all in their power to ensure that the traditions and objectives of the Federation are upheld, taking into account the latest technical advances and strategies that will benefit camping enthusiasts worldwide and stimulate one of today's much loved leisure activities.

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**Under the patronage of F.I.C.C. and Fiera di Vincenza**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> SYMPOSIUM PLEIN AIR TOURISM: THE FUTURE IN EUROPE**

**Reflections about the consequences of the financial crisis**

**Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 9.30 at Fiera di Vicenza**

Information: [amministrazione@federcampeggio.it](mailto:amministrazione@federcampeggio.it) + 39(0)55.88.23.91



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## **79th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY IN SLAWA/POLAND**

**FROM 6 TO 14 AUGUST 2013**

Booking forms and rally brochures (in pdf format) can be viewed or downloaded in English, French and German on [www.79ficcrally.pl](http://www.79ficcrally.pl)

**Closing date for bookings: 20 May 2013**

Bookings through: Polska Federacja Campingu i Caravaningu

E-Mail: [biuro@pfcc.eu](mailto:biuro@pfcc.eu)

<http://www.pfcc.eu>

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## **63rd INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. YOUTH RALLY 2013 IN POZNAN/POLAND AT EASTER**

The Youth Rally will take place from 28 March to 1 April at the Malta Campsite in Poznan, one of the best campsites in Poland. It is 4 kms from Poznan town centre, 4.5 kms from the station and 13 kms from the airport.

There is public transport.

Booking fee: €50.

**Booking deadline: 10 February 2013.**

It is possible to rent a chalet/bungalow.

The F.I.C.C. Youth Commission General Assembly will be held on 31 March during the rally.

Full information on this event is available under <http://ficcyouthrally2013/pl>

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## **International Friendship Rally under F.I.C.C. patronage in Hermagor-Vellach/Austria from 1 to 5 May 2013**

The 2013 edition of the annual Friendship Rally organised by Confedercampeggio will take place at the Schluga Campsite in Hermagor/Austria.

A very interesting and varied programme awaits campers as soon as they have settled in and some activities are included in the booking fee.

The campsite has a number of mobile homes and apartments for rent.

More information: [www.schluga.com](http://www.schluga.com)

[camping@schluga.com](mailto:camping@schluga.com)

Tel: 00.434282/2051





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Booking deadline: 7 April 2013

Booking forms available by e-mail from Confedercampeggio

[segreteria@federcampeggio.it](mailto:segreteria@federcampeggio.it) and to be faxed back to the Italian federation, fax n° 00.390558825918.

Booking fee is €200 for two adults (one outfit), €140 for one adult (one outfit), teenagers from 14 yrs €85, children up to 10 yrs old €30, and children between 10 and 14 years old pay €45.

Dogs are allowed at a cost of €10 for 4 nights.

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## **14th ADRIA CAMPING RALLY in Nijvice on the island of Krk/Croatia from 22 to 29 June 2013 under the patronage of F.I.C.C. and organised by Udruga Kampista Hrvatzke**

The Nijvice campsite is in a small fishing village on the west coast of the island of Krk. The campsite has been established recently and now has wi-fi internet connection.

The 7-day stay costs €85 per person, teenagers pay half and there is no charge for children under 12 yrs. Registration closes on 1 April 2013.

One can rent caravans for the duration of the rally at a cost of €469 for 5-6 berths.

Bookings under [reservation@kampnijvice.hr](mailto:reservation@kampnijvice.hr)

It is also possible to extend one's stay at a reduced price either before or after the rally (from 13 April - 22 June and 29 June - 05 July = - 20%).

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## **81st International F.I.C.C. Rally in PORI/FINLAND from 24 July to 1 August 2014**

The dates for the rally in Finland have finally been fixed.

The town of Pori lies in the west of the country and is the festival capital of Finland. In summer Pori hosts an International Jazz Festival (13 to 20 July), horse-racing (25 to 27 July) and the Porispere Rock Festival on 2 and 3 August.

The rally site Kirjurinluoto has water supply points, showers, toilets, electricity and waste disposal containers. It is near to the town centre.

The rally restaurant is about 500m from the campsite.

The opening ceremony will be at 2 pm on Friday 25 July and the closing ceremony at 10 am on Friday 1 August.

The F.I.C.C. General Assembly will be held at 9 am on Wednesday 30 July in the Promenade Centre, 1.5 kms from the rally site.

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Preliminary information under [www.ficcrally2014.fi](http://www.ficcrally2014.fi)

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## Miscellaneous

### **Winter hiking keeps your body healthy and helps you unwind**

In fact anyone can go hiking in winter. Apart from making sure you have warm, clothes, you don't need to spend a fortune on gear – and, unlike downhill or cross-country ski-ing, no special skills are required.

Hiking keeps you fit and, unlike jogging, is easy on your joints and tendons.

On a long hike, your body produces the happiness hormones serotonin and dopamine: that people generally feel in good form and great spirits after a hike is certainly not a fable but a medically proven fact.

Caravanners feel the same when they go off for a tramp from the campsite in winter. And what could be better than returning to a heated caravan and warming yourself up with a mug of steaming hot chocolate or a glass of mulled wine?

### **Tips for winter hiking**

#### **1) What should I wear?**

Layers is the secret for comfortable winter hiking. You need a functional base layer next to your skin to wick away any sweat. Next hikers tend to wear a thin fleece that keeps one warm and shouldn't absorb moisture. The top layer consists of a waterproof jacket and trousers. You will need ankle-high waterproof hiking boots with a good sole and rubber tread to stop you from slipping.

#### **2) What should I do if I sweat?**

It is true that sweating a lot is a problem. If you are wearing too much, you will sweat, your clothes will get very damp when you walk and you will get cold as soon as you stop. The best thing for hikers to do if the weather gets warm is to remove a layer and put it back on when they stop. Another tip - regular hikers manage to regulate their body temperature through their head and hands. The body loses most heat this way. If it gets warm, swap your hat for a windproof headband and remove your gloves for a time.

#### **3) What do I need to take with me when hiking?**

You should have some food and a thermos flask of hot tea in your rucksack. As your body uses more energy in cold weather, winter hikers need to take something to eat. It's always a good idea to carry a map, a small first aid kit and suncream. As the light usually fades around 4 pm in winter, a head torch could be useful too.

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## 4) How do I plan my hike?

Before setting off, hikers should find out about the length and gradient of their proposed itinerary and plan their route accordingly.

Beginners can start off on by going on a long walk. Then they can tackle a hike in the hills or a low mountain range. It is also sensible to ascertain in advance whether there is anywhere to stop off and whether these places are open.

If it is very windy or snowing heavily, it is better to call the hike off.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

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### France:

- Marseille-Provence is one of the two European Capitals of Culture in 2013.
- A “branch” of the Louvre has opened in Lens near Arras and Béthune (near the Belgian border) and will hold two main exhibitions a year. The Louvre-Lens, designed by two Japanese architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, stands in the middle of a park. The Galerie of Time, the centrepiece of the museum, should not be missed.
- As was reported in the local Dubai press, work on the long awaited futuristic building to house the Abu Dhabi “branch” of the Louvre has started and is due to be completed in 2015.

**Slovakia:** - Kosice – is also a European Capital of Culture in 2013. It is the second largest city in Slovakia and is situated near the border with Ukraine. The city is known as Kaschau in German, Kassa in Hungarian and Cassovia in French.

**Ireland** – Did you know that 70 million people in the world have Irish roots? To celebrate the fact, this year Ireland is organising a programme entitled “The Gathering” and will be welcoming home anyone who originates from the country. Communities in the Irish Republic will be demonstrating the very best of Irish culture and traditions, from sport to the business world. A number of events are also being organised in Northern Ireland.

Source: The Camping and Caravanning Club magazine







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## **TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

It is mandatory to keep your lights on at all times when driving in the following countries: Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Italy (on motorways), Finland, Poland, Norway, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and Lithuania. This regulation applies in Latvia between 1 September and 1 April.

**Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits:** In general a BAC of 0.5mg/ml maximum is tolerated. Efforts are being made to standardise legislation throughout Europe but there are a number of countries that still maintain their own BAC limits.

Other BAC limits in Europe are:

0 mg/ml – Estonia, Romania, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary

0.2 mg/ml – Poland, Sweden

0.4 mg/ml – Lithuania

0.8 mg/ml – Ireland, Great Britain, Malta

0.9 mg/ml – Cyprus

It is essential to respect the legal limit because penalties for exceeding the BAC limit are severe in all countries.

**Using a mobile phone while driving is strictly forbidden in all European countries. Fines can be as high as €300 (Spain).**

**The wearing of seat belts is compulsory in all European countries.**

**In Europe vehicles drive on the left in Great Britain, Ireland, Cyprus and Malta.**

**In Portugal it is forbidden to transport a bike on the rear of your car.**

**In Europe you must leave a 5 m. gap between your parked vehicle and a pedestrian crossing, apart from Switzerland where you must leave 10 m.**

**In Belgium and Portugal you may not park within 20 m. of normal traffic lights.**

**Parking in central Florence is forbidden between 7am and 6.30pm and in central Rome between 7am and 8 pm.**

**In Belgium you are obliged to carry a fire extinguisher in your car and in Spain, Denmark and Italy you must have a spare set of light bulbs.**

Source: A.C.C.A.W.

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## **ADVANTAGES OF ORGANISED CAMPING TRIPS**

Many camping friends say that they are independent travellers and would not dream of going on an organised camping trip. But there are advantages in setting off with other caravanners as the Swiss travel specialist U. Arber describes below:

- ° One's independence is respected, but the trips do include many worthwhile extra stops.
  - ° No-one travels in convoy. Everyone can decide how to spend their day.
  - ° You only meet up in the evenings when you stop for the night at the next campsite.
  - ° In the evenings there is a meeting of drivers in or next to one of the vehicles. There is no obligation to participate in any events that might be arranged.
  - ° People who go on an organised camping trip find that it is a happy mix of being on holiday, meeting people and travelling around. First and foremost an organised camping trip provides company and camaraderie. The organisers seek out the best campsites in attractive locations and select itineraries along scenic routes.
  - ° If a ferry is involved, the timing is important as the organiser handles all the booking arrangements.
  - ° The best possible support is available if a problem arises (e.g. mechanical problem, illness etc.). It is safer travelling in a group reducing the likelihood of being robbed.
- And generally speaking, group travel does not work out more expensive than a trip that you organise privately for yourself.

Source: Campingrevue (CH)

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## **F.I.C.C. Honorary President Camille OLINGER sells his caravan and gives up active camping after more than 50 years!**

At the beginning of January 2013, F.I.C.C. received a message in the form of a camping life history from Honorary President Camille Olinger, that he and his beloved partner Jacqueline were giving up camping.

In 1963 he took his late wife Sanny, who died in 1999, and two of his three sons to the first F.I.C.C. rally in Copenhagen and since then he has clocked up 37 international F.I.C.C. rallies to look back on.

In 1987, F.I.C.C. President Ivar Kahl nominated the former F.I.C.C. auditor, Chairman of the Rally Commission and member of the Disciplinary Committee, as Vice-President. Camille Olinger was elected President of the F.I.C.C. federation from 1990 to 1996.



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In 1995 Mr. Olinger was awarded the German Camping Prize (Essen Fair).

Camille and Jacqueline have decided to give up on a high note, that is, as Camille said, while we still know what we are doing!!

They were on great form (as usual) when we saw them in Montmagny (Canada) in 2012, and we very much hope that we will see their bright and cheerful selves again from time to time, at the very least at F.I.C.C. rallies not too far from Luxembourg.

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**Our congratulations and very best wishes go to Mr. David Bellamy, President of The Camping and Caravanning Club (UK), who has just celebrated his 80th birthday.**

Mr. Bellamy is a very amusing man and a totally committed conservationist. We remember him well as one of the guest speakers at the ceremony that marked F.I.C.C.'s 75th Anniversary in Brussels' Town Hall.

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During a private visit to Dubai, Mrs. Brohl had the opportunity to meet the Chairman of the International Automobile and Touring Club Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Hamad Ali Al Mazroui studied in England and is in charge of the Club's offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al Ain. He has a team of 300 staff and together they organise rallies into the desert (1,000 vehicles – three months' preparation), spending one or two nights in a tented camp, with an evening barbecue and short cultural programme.





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## **EXHIBITIONS AND TRADE FAIRS**

**Italy:** Caravanning and Camping Window VINCENZA from 21 to 24 March 2013

**Great Britain:**

The Spring Caravan & Camping Show from 19 to 24 February 2013 (NEC) in Birmingham

Scottish Caravan, Motorhome & Holiday Show from 7 to 10 February 2013 in SECC Glasgow

**Germany:** Die Reise- und Freizeitmesse (Travel and Leisure Fair) from 20 to 24.02.2013 in München

Reise + Camping (Travel + Camping) from 27.02 to 03.03 2013 in Essen

Freizeit Messe (Leisure Fair) Nürnberg from 27.02 – 03.03.2013

Caravan Salon Düsseldorf from 31.08 – 08.09 2013

**France:** Salon du Tourisme et du Camping-Car de la Meuse from 13 to 16 June 2013, Lac de Madine.

F.I.C.C Secretariat

