



GOOD TO KNOW – JANUARY 2016

84th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY IN PONTE DE LIMA /PORTUGAL from 29 July to 7 August 2016

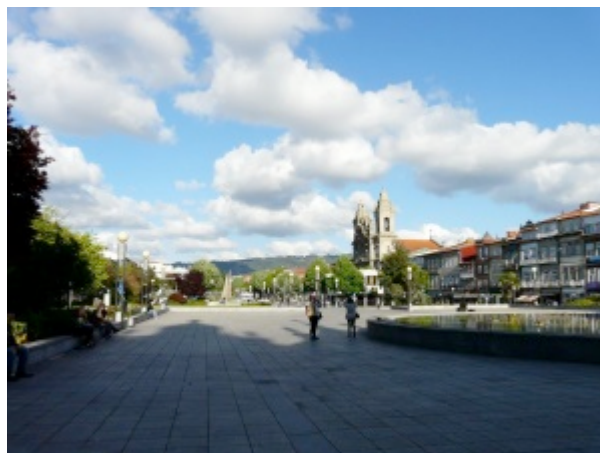


Rural Tourism

The Municipality has made an enormous effort to promote its tourism potential by improving and restoring its historical and cultural patrimony. The area around Ponte de Lima has one of the greatest concentrations of tourist accommodation in the region so it was logical that it should become one of the four experimental areas for launching rural tourism, which has now become an important source of income for the area.

The “Rich Land of Humanity” promotes the roots and traditions of family homes by keeping customs, preserving cultural heritage and offering high quality personalised hospitality. It also offers a guarantee for the future of the richest and the most characteristic buildings of the region and at the same time encourages new dynamic tourism enterprises to emerge.

Home-stays or B & B mainly target foreign tourists, 90% of whom are from other European countries, which demonstrates that Portugal’s oldest town is not just the cradle of homestay tourism but has become an international reference of excellence.



Photos: Monique Eiffling



Porto



Some practical information

Booking fee: Adults (18+) €120 – Young people (12-17 years) €60 – Children up to 11 years old, free of charge

Electricity (6 Amps): €35 per unit (tent, caravan, motorcaravan)

Camping Pass: €75 (This amount is payable by participants staying in hotels, B&B, youth hostels, etc. and who wish to go to the rally site for the entertainment programme.)

A supplementary charge of 20% will be added for bookings received by the organiser after May 10, 2016.

Information under www.ficc2016.com

Please note that excursions should be booked when making your rally booking.



Important dates:

29.07.2016 Gates open (arrivals) : 12.00 midday
 30.07.2016 Opening Ceremony
 02.08.2016 International evening with traditional campfire
 03.08.2016 F.I.C.C. General Assembly
 06.08.2016 Closing Ceremony
 07.08.2016 Gates close (departures) : 12.00 midday

Type of accommodation	Adults (18+)	Booking fees		Remarks
		Young people (12 to 17 years)	Children (up to 11 years)	
Staying on the rally site in a tent, caravan or motorcaravan	€120	€60	free	*1 outfit means one tent, one caravan or one motorcaravan on the rally site *Welcome gift package *Free admission to daytime and evening entertainment programme
Camping Pass (for participants not staying on the campsite i.e. in a hotel, guesthouse, B&B or private home)	€75	€50	Free	
				Electricity: €35 per outfit



85th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY will be held in Datça, western Turkey, from 17 to 26 May 2017

“If God’s wish is for a man of his creation to have a long life, he would drop him onto the Peninsula of Datça”

(Strabo BC 64 – AC 24)

THE BLUE AND GREEN PARADISE OF APHRODITE

Datça (known as Knidos in antiquity) is one of the most enigmatic spots of the antique world. Starting with the Carians, Datça has been host to many civilizations during its long history. This ancient territory was at its zenith in the era of the Dorians, then came the Lydians, Persians and Byzantines and in later times, peoples of Turkish heritage such as the Mentepoðlus, Seljuks and the Ottomans.

In the rich heritage of Datça, the statue of Aphrodite holds a place of distinction. It is distinctive because the statue is generally accepted to be the best sculpture of a female nude mentioned in historic manuscripts. The bad news is that this masterpiece by Praxiteles has never been found and only the pedestal of the statue has made it to our times.

The good news however is that many other ancient structures have survived and are here for visitors to admire, including the Temple of Apollo, the churches in the eastern and western harbours, an amphitheatre that can hold 8,000 spectators as well as the sundial and the Odeon.

Sculptors Skopas and Bryaxis, mathematician and philosopher Eudoxus, and Sostrates the architect who built the Lighthouse of Alexandria, are just a few of the important people who made Knidos their home.

Knidos has two harbours: one for commercial and the other for military use. They are both protected by fortified walls strengthened with turrets. The first archaeological digs at the site were started by Sir Charles T. Newton in 1856-1857 and Professor Iris Cornelia Love carried on his work from 1967 to 1997. Professor Ramazan Özgan has been head of archeological excavations since 1987. Work continues on the mainland where the city was first established and also on Kap Krio island (Deve Boynu peninsula).

Ancient Knidos is not the only historic site in the area. The peninsula, which was named Repadiye



after one of the late Ottoman sultans (Repat), is home to many more ancient sites. However, it was re-named “Datça” once the sultanate was over and the Republic of Turkey was established. The Repadiye mosque is one of the few Islamic relics on the peninsula that attracts visitors.

Besides its historical importance, the Datça Peninsula is first and foremost admired for its natural beauty where the different hues of blue and green embrace one another. Once inhabited by 70-80,000 people, Datça is now home to about 20,000 people and the visitors it welcomes outnumber its population.

Datça is one of the most favoured spots for absolutely anyone who seeks a peaceful holiday. It is a spot where the typical “gulet” boats either start or finish their “Blue Voyage” excursion offering visitors the chance to sail in and out of a myriad scenic and beautiful coves. It is a unique experience to stand on a narrow strip of land known as Balıkağzı (which means Fish Leap) and admire the scenery of the Aegean and the Mediterranean seas spreading on either side. The width of the headland separating the two seas is only about 800 meters and from here it is not hard to imagine the fish leaping from one sea to the other which doubtless explains its name. Datça is also very close to Ephesus and Hierapolis (Pamukkale) both of which are on the World Heritage Site list.

Once upon a time it was everyone's dream to see Aphrodite of Knidos. Unfortunately it is unlikely that you will see her during your visit. However, we bet the other ancient riches and the natural beauty of the region will make up for it and you will soon forget all about Aphrodite.

For the moment we will leave aside the unsurpassed flavours of Aegean cuisine and keep that as a sweet surprise for you... Welcome to Datça!





**86th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 30 September to 9 October 2017
in Jhinshan (New Taipei City) /Taiwan**



Taiwan is an island in East Asia. It is close to mainland China from which it is separated by the Taiwan Strait. Taiwan and a number of smaller islands make up the Republic of China. Taiwan is also known as Formosa. When sailors from Portugal first saw it about four hundred years ago, they called it “Ilha Formosa” which means “beautiful island”.

The rally venue (campsite) is located on the north coast in Guanyinshan National Scenic Park that encompasses two separate areas of North Taiwan’s “New Taipei City”. The larger area consists of the seashore, part of the ocean and a strip of land either side of Fuguei Cape, Taiwan’s northernmost point.

Fugui Cape Park has a “sand stabilizing wall” that prevents the sand dunes from being eroded by the wind. Shimen Cave is a sea cave created by marine erosion.

Yehliu Geopark is located on a long, narrow cape that juts into the ocean with its well-known noble-looking Queen’s Head Rock and the Cute Princess that appeared in 2010, both created by weathering. Guanyinshan was given its name because of its resemblance to a reclining Guanyin Buddha. The area also has rich deposits of a well-known building material – Guanyin rock, (andesite).

Jinbaoli Old Street, also called Jinshan Old Street, is the only commercial street remaining that dates back to the Qing Dynasty on the northern coast. Buildings in traditional style can still be seen here.



The 66th International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally will be held in Zeewolde, the Netherlands over Easter 2016

F.I.C.C.'s young people will be holding their annual rally from 24 to 28 March 2016 at the Erkemedderstrand campsite in Zeewolde.

Bookings can be made until 1 February 2016. Information www.youthrally2016.nl and www.youthrally2016.nl

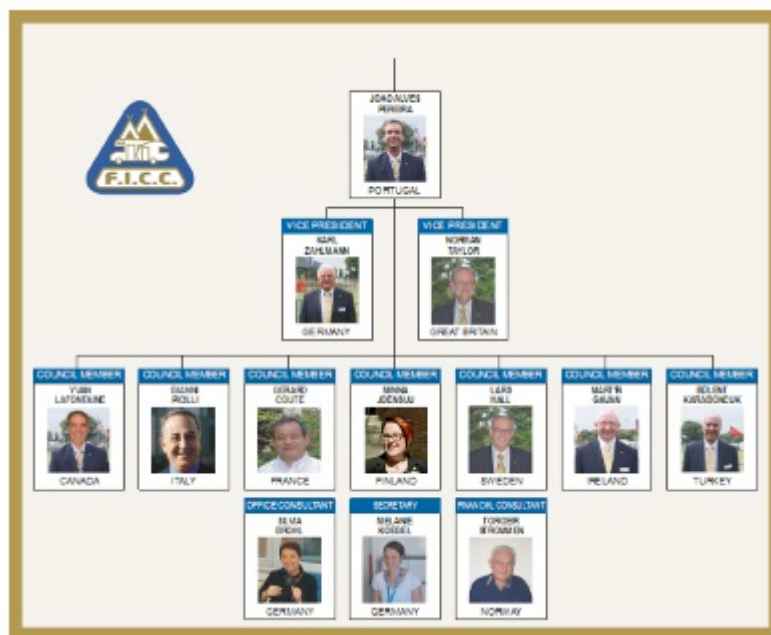
87th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY 2018 in Germany



Information will be available in due course under www.ficcrally2018.de



MISCELLANEOUS



Organigram – F.I.C.C. 2016

What should you do if you are threatened at a cash dispenser (ATM)?

If someone threatens you and forces you to withdraw money from an ATM, tap in your pin code backwards. i.e. if your code is 1234, tap in 4321.

The machine knows your code and recognises that the numbers have been deliberately reversed.

The machine will block your card and inform the police.

The police see that you have been threatened and will take action.

Many campers use their vacation to engage in sporting pursuits.....

....which is certainly good for one's health but unfortunately it is often not enough. Healthy exercise should be carried out on a regular basis week by week but all athletes and even gentler sports' enthusiasts need to keep a constant eye on their form and fitness level. Up to now, you could use a heart rate monitor chest strap, but technology has moved on here as it has elsewhere. These days you can find all types of fitness tracker wristbands on the market. Also known as activity trackers or wearables, they come with a multitude of features making it easy for you to monitor your every movement or aerobic workout. However they usually only work in conjunction with a smartphone and need an internet connection.



What is the difference between your pulse rate and your heart rate? Or a pulse watch/wristband and a heart rate monitor? In everyday life, a heart rate monitor is often called a pulse watch, but the proper term is in fact “heart rate measurement device“. The difference is that one’s pulse rate shows the amount of blood that pulses through an artery in one minute whereas the heart rate records the number of heartbeats in one minute. Activity trackers (wearables) and heart rate measurement devices strapped to your chest always give your heart rate as recorded by sensors on your skin.

So how does a wristband measure your heart rate?

A heart rate monitor chest strap detects heartbeats through sensors placed on your skin. Most wristband devices however work as follows: the optical heart rate monitor, which is on the underside of the wristband, measures one’s heart rate through optical sensing that uses light rays to track your blood flow. A sensor adjacent to the light measures the frequency at which the blood pumps past i.e. your heart rate.

Source: Extracts from Camping, Cars & Caravans

In Havana/Cuba a cannon resounds every evening

This “canonazo“ ritual happens at 9 pm every evening at the San Carlos de la Cabano fort that was built in 1774. Obviously live cannon balls are not used now, just a ceremonial cannon shot (234 grs of powder) let off by soldiers dressed in uniforms that date back to the second half of the 18th century. In bygone days it was a sign to the people of Havana that the gates in the city walls and the harbour were about to be closed in order to protect them from pirate attacks. The walls no longer exist but the locals still check their clocks and watches when they hear the cannon being fired at 9 pm.

Source: Camping-Caravaning /FQCC

CAMPING, CARAVANNING, MOTORCARAVANNING

Maximum dimensions for caravan combinations

The following dimensions (in m.) are valid in most European countries: Width - 2.55m; Length (including drawbar) - 12m; Outfits (combination) - 18.75m
(Possible exceptions)

Exceptions	Width	Length incl. drawbar	Length of outfit	Possible exceptions
Germany	2.55	12.00	18.00	yes
Finland	2.60	12.00	18,75	yes
France	2.55	12.00 (A)	18.00	yes
Greece	2.55	12.00	18.00	yes
Great Britain	2.55	7.00 (B)	18,75 (C)	no
Luxembourg	2.55	8.00 (D)	18,75	yes
Macedonia	2.55	6.00 (E)	16.50	yes
Montenegro	2.50	6.00 (F)	15.00	yes



Netherlands	2.55	12.00 (G)	18.00	yes
Norway	2.55		19.50 (H)	yes
Serbia	2.55	6.00 (F)	18.75	yes
Sweden	2.60		24.00	yes

- (A) : without drawbar
- (B) : without drawbar, towing vehicle - 3.5 tonnes 12m
- (C) : Towing vehicle constructed before 1998 - 18m
- (D) : Trailer – 3.5 tonnes 12m
- (E) : Double axle 12m
- (F) : Double axle 10m, triple axle 12m
- (G) : Single axle – 750 kgs, 8m
- (H) : on some sideroads – 15m or 12.40m

Some special traffic regulations

Croatia: a second emergency triangle is compulsory for trailers

Duchy of Luxembourg: Outfits of over 7m must leave a gap of at least 50m between another outfit travelling ahead of it.

Netherlands: Vehicles over 2.20m wide may not travel on side roads marked with a give-way traffic sign.

Spain: A 1.50m x 0.25m yellow warning sign (panel) with a red border or two smaller signs measuring 50 x 25 cms must be displayed at the rear of outfits of over 12m in length.

Source: ADAC – Kampeertoeristen (B)

Caravan made of Lego

A Lego caravan made out of 215,000 bricks with running water and lighting has been awarded Guinness World Record status.

The biggest caravan in the world made out of interlocking Lego bricks, measuring 2.20m high and 3.60m long, was unveiled at the opening ceremony of the Motorhome & Caravan Show 2015 in Birmingham. It took the 12-man Lego professional building team more than 1,000 hours over a period of 12 weeks or so to assemble this Lego caravan in painstaking detail.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Spain: We remind you that a regulation was introduced in Spain in 2011 requiring an outfit to display a reflecting plate at the back if it is over 12m in length or over 3.5 tonnes laden weight.

Strategic partnership : From Al-Ko to Dexho

Al-Ko Vehicle Technology (D) and Dexter Axle (USA) merged on 1 January 2016 to form Dexho Global Inc. – and will thus become the world's biggest axle manufacturer.



Checklist for winter camping

1. Check the heating, hot water tank, blower, etc.
2. For diesel-powered motorcaravans, get the spark plugs checked by the garage.
3. Verify that all of the lights are in working order – and don't forget the sidelights.
4. Check the door and window seals. There are special sprays on the market but avoid using silicon sprays that contain acid on acrylic windows.
5. Is all your paperwork in order? Insurance, vehicle inspection certificate.
6. Do you have enough spare oil? Is your brake fluid topped up? Is the engine coolant suitable for temperatures down to -30°C? Do the windscreen washers work properly? And will the windscreen anti-freeze fluid work in temperatures down to -30°C? Check this out with your garage or dealer.
7. Lubricate your corner steady legs.
8. What about the bodywork? The floor and wheel arches should be cleaned and if necessary apply a protective treatment.
9. Windscreenwipers are vitally important in winter. Driving with restricted visibility is dangerous. Make sure that the windscreenwiper blades are in good condition. Placing a cork between the windscreenwiper arm and the windscreen can stop it from freezing over.
10. Check out your starter and on-board batteries. If there is a white deposit on the poles, clean it off and lubricate with special pole grease. Check the bolts and tighten if necessary. Check your battery and top up with distilled water if necessary and make sure that the batteries are fully charged.
11. Make sure you have a spare set of light bulbs – in any case this is obligatory in many countries.
12. Have lined gloves with you in case you have to put chains on.
13. Don't forget a snow shovel and brushes to clear snow from your windows and solar panels.
14. A small stepladder makes clearing snow from your roof that much easier.
15. Pack an ice scraper and a spray for de-icing your locks. Keep the spray to hand or in your coat pocket because it is not much use if it is inside your vehicle!
16. A flashlight/torch and jump leads are always useful to have with you.
17. Putting boards under corner steady legs prevents freezing.
18. A few handfuls of rough sand can work wonders to get your vehicle going on a slippery road.

Source: Ben Van Den Bossche (VKCF – Kampeertoerist)

Finland: Increased revenue from camping tourism

Despite the unfavourable economic situation, revenue from camping tourism has increased steadily since 2013 as evidenced by a joint survey undertaken by Suomen Leiringtälueyhdistys and SF-Caravan ry.

Income from camping tourism in Finland amounted to approx. €197 million in 2014, i.e. 26% up on the previous year.

A group of campers spends on average €225 per day, or €90 per person.



The biggest portion of this amount goes on food (26%), 19% on eating out in cafés and restaurants, 17% on entertainment and recreational activities, 17% on fuel and 13% on shopping in specialist stores.

Source: Caravan (SF-Caravan-FIN)

Netherlands: Campers travel further

A survey carried out at the Kampeer & Caravan Jaarbeurs (Annual Fair) revealed that on average campers drive approx. 4,383 kms when on holiday. That represents a quarter of the average distance driven by Dutch motorists. 18% of campers cover between 5,000 and 10,000 kms on their holiday travels.

Source: De Caravan (NCC-NL)

INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations



Royal Automobile Club de Belgique	BE	120 Jahre/ans/years
The Camping & Caravanning Club	GB	115 Jahre/ans/years
Auto-Moto Association of Serbia AMSS	RS	95 Jahre/ans/years
Schweizerischer Camping- und Caravanning Verband	CH	80 Jahre/ans/years
Österreichischer Camping Club	AT	65 Jahre/ans/years
Türkiye Kamp ve Karavan Dernegi	TR	50 Jahre/ans/years
Irish Federation of Camping, Caravanning and Motor Caravanning	IRL	45 Jahre/ans/years
Nederlandse Kampeerauto Club	NL	40 Jahre/ans/years
Motorhome Touring Club Malta	MT	30 Jahre/ans/years



Udruga Kampista Hrvatske	HR	20 Jahre/ans/years
Caravaning Club Slovenija	SL	15 Jahre/ans/years
Asociace Caravan Clubu ACR	CZ	15 Jahre/ans/years

The Camping and Caravanning Club (GB)

This year the Feast of Lanterns is being organised by the Club's Cambrian & Wyvern Region and will be held from 25 to 29 August 2016 at the Three Countries Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire, in the West Midlands.

The first Feast of Lanterns was held in 1921 when campers celebrated the close of the camping season seated around their campfire with old lanterns that lent a cheerful touch to their cosy evening get-togethers.

This idea of lighting up has become a tradition and campers decorate their outfits with anything that sheds light, from night-lights and candles to generator-driven fairy lights that give a magical effect as they illuminate the roads and paths.

NFOL is also marked by the annual Carnival (Mardi Gras) Parade with the various regions and sections displaying their flags and colours before the farewell festivities begin.

SF- Caravan (FIN) awarded campsites

The Caravan Show beginning of January started the camping year 2016 in Finland. This Caravan Show, an exhibition held in the Turku Fair and Congress Center, gathers campers, caravanners and motor caravanners in order to present to them new caravans and mobile homes, to get information about traffic, safety, tourism and international rallies.

The Caravan Show was opened by the speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Mrs. Maria Lohela together with F.I.C.C. President Mr. Joao Alves Pereira.

SF-Caravan awards annually the Campsites of the Year. Kokkola Camping was the winner of the public camping sites. SF-Caravan Tilkunpelto, in Hämeenlinna won the club sites prize. „The Campsite of the Year“ is a highly appreciated recognition for the campsites and their long and progressive work for all campers.

SF-Caravan also awarded the city of Oulu and Nallikari Seaside Camping for developing the conditions of camping tourism in Oulu. Oulu is the good example to other Finnish regions, cities and towns concerning the development of tourism and travel services equally

Useful links: www.nallikar.fi; www.kokkola-camping.fi; www.sfc-kantahame.com; www.karavaanarit.fi



Mrs. Maria Lohela



Mr. Joao Alves Pereira



SF Caravan President Juha Hämäläinen and Jyrki Nikkanen
SF-Caravan Kanta-Häme (Campsite of the year)



Mrs. Sirpa Walter (Nallikari Camping) and Sami
Simonen, President of the Finnish Campsite Association



Erkki Ahtiainen (Kokkola Camping) Jonne Sandberg (Development Director of Kokkola City), Ulla Ahtiainen und Mira Roivainen (Kokkola Camping)

Nederlandse Caravan Club (NL)

We are giving F.I.C.C. members the red carpet treatment!

We have pleasure in inviting you as a member of an F.I.C.C. member club to stay on our exclusive NCC-campsites. Just show your CCI (Camping Card International) and enjoy the same benefits as the members of the Nederlandse Caravan Club.

For approx. €10.- per night (excl. electricity and tourist tax) you and your family may camp on any of our NCC campsites in the Netherlands.

You can find a list of NCC campsites under www.ncc-nl or under www.campingcardinternational.com - "Campsite Search"



www.ficc.org

INFO

Op onze clubterreinen bent u van harte welkom!



Clubterreinen	gps	telefoon	e-mail	open
1 Alphen aan den Rijn	N 52,15049 / O 4,70499	(0172) 42 46 66	alphen@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
2 Belt-Schutsloot	N 52,67245 / O 6,06034	(038) 38 66 313	belt-schutsloot@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
3 Blerick	N 51,36582 / O 6,10432	(077) 38 71 586	blerick@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
4 Brielle	N 51,91299 / O 4,18044	(0181) 41 73 38	brielle@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
5 Callantsoog	N 52,83204 / O 4,71673	(0224) 58 13 96	callantsoog@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
6 Dronten	N 52,50477 / O 5,83719	(0321) 31 43 68	dronten@ncc.nl	1-jan - 31 dec
7 Ede	N 52,06544 / O 5,66504	(0318) 61 78 14	ede@ncc.nl	1-jan - 31 dec
8 Geulle	N 50,91050 / O 5,73745	(043) 364 92 50	geulle@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
9 Hardenberg	N 52,52280 / O 6,54533	(0523) 25 15 56	hardenberg@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
10 Kortgene	N 51,55702 / O 3,83606	(0113) 30 18 55	kortgene@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
11 Ravenstein	N 51,79609 / O 5,65408	(0486) 41 38 49	ravenstein@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
12 Sint-Oedenrode	N 51,57821 / O 5,44036	(0413) 47 47 02	sint-oedenrode@ncc.nl	1-jan - 31 dec
13 Ugchelen	N 52,18600 / O 5,90765	(055) 54 24 961	ugchelen@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
14 Vledderveen	N 52,87822 / O 6,18935	(0521) 38 25 92	vledderveen@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
15 Woudenberg	N 52,08352 / O 5,36613	(0343) 44 30 06	woudenberg@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt
16 Zeewolde	N 52,30495 / O 5,52675	(036) 52 21 575	zeewolde@ncc.nl	1-jan - 31 dec
17 Zuidwolde	N 52,66086 / O 6,42917	(0528) 37 28 47	zuidwolde@ncc.nl	1-apr - 31 okt



WE HAVE PLEASURE INTRODUCING: ESTONIA AND FINLAND

Klubi Eesti Karavan



The Estonian Caravan Club started its activities in the 1980s. The history of the Club is closely connected with the history of caravanning in Estonia. The first caravans appeared on Estonian roads in the 1960s and 1970s as local enthusiasts started to build homemade caravans similar to the ones they had seen in the West. Interest in caravanning increased and the most active caravan owners decided to found a club.

In 2012, there were big changes, the Club no longer operated any campsites but worked alongside many other Estonian campsites, offering good terms and conditions.

As a result, the club “lost” its old members who had links with a specific static campsite but gained new members who liked travelling around.

The main aim of the Club is to promote caravanning as a lifestyle and thereby increase its membership. We are still small, only 127 active members, but we are growing rapidly with 35 new members this year. In cooperation with Estonian campsites, the Club organizes a good many events every year: festivals to open and close the camping season, various summer events and seminars where campers can exchange experiences. In the summer of 2015 the Club celebrated its 35th anniversary to which representatives of the Finnish Clubs were also invited.

The Club website is <http://www.eestikaravan.eu/index.php?lang=et>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eestikaravan>



SF-Caravan



After World War II and the Helsinki Olympics in 1952, Finland became a very attractive country for both foreign and Finnish motorists to visit. The first caravans arrived in Finland in the 1950s and they were mostly homemade. The Finnish caravan industry was launched in the 1960s. In the 1950s and 1960s Finnish camping consisted mainly of camping in tents, and a caravan was a rare sight on the road. Families started to be attracted to caravans at the beginning of the 1960s at which point people began to think about setting up some sort of caravanning organisation.

It was probably at Nallikari Campsite in Oulu, northern Finland, in 1962, that the idea of forming an association was properly discussed for the first time. The idea was dropped for a couple of years but finally the constitutive meeting with just six people in attendance was held in 1964. Although the association was an established fact, it took a while longer to find an appropriate name for it and then in 1988 it finally became known as SF-Caravan.

SF-Caravan was set up as a nationwide organization of local associations and the original logo of a covered wagon is still used today. Unlike other countries, members of SF-Caravan have a membership number that they display in/on their vehicles.

At the end of its first year of activity, 23 member families belonged to the association and by 1971 the membership figure had reached 1,000. Caravanning became extremely popular at the beginning of the 1970s. In 1974, concerned about the low number of organised caravanners, SF-Caravan launched a campaign to recruit new members. That resulted in a growth explosion; by 1979 membership had broken through the 10,000 barrier, by 1990 it was around 40,000 and by 2012 it stood at around 63,000 member families. 64,000 members limit hasn't exceeded yet. At the end of 2014 SF-Caravan had 63,773 members.

Today SF-Caravan has 75 member associations and 6 corporate associations. The highest decision-making body in the federation is the General Assembly that, since 2012, meets once a year. The Board of the federation is elected for three years and consists of a chairperson and eight members. Mr. Juha Hämäläinen has been chairman since 2009. The head office of the federation is located in Hämeenlinna, 100 kilometres north from the capital Helsinki.

Ever since the 1960s, SF-Caravan has set up committees and gathered experts to assist both members and the Board. As detailed information on this specialised form of travelling has not



always been readily available, SF-Caravan has had to rely on feedback from research and caravanners' first-hand experience. The first committee to be established was a camping committee that negotiated agreements with owners of campsites, gave advice and generally assisted member associations in all camping-associated matters.

The safety committee comprises experts in vehicle engineering, vehicle inspection regulations, gas, security and road safety. During SF-Caravan's history there have been committees on driving skills, travelling, education, CBs, touring and PR.

Every board and committee member and all experts have always worked on a voluntary basis for the benefit of other caravanners. The services they offer are an important part of organised caravanning activities in clubs, local associations and campsites. Volunteers' activities include guidance, training sessions, courses and dissemination of information through the "Caravan" magazine, the club's official web site and social media.

"Caravan" is a magazine for every caravanner and camper. "Caravan" is the only big and reliable camping magazine in the whole country. From a small internal bulletin, it has become a valued means of distributing information and a family magazine for all caravanners. "Caravan" contains information on new caravans and mobile homes, traffic, travel destinations in Finland and abroad, campsites and camping events. With the help of the camping experts, "Caravan" magazine also publishes a Camping Guide every year. The circulation of Caravan magazine was exactly 59,239 at the end of 2014. SF-Caravan also publishes books, for example, a Guide for Caravanners, Safety on Campsites and Designing Campsites. In addition SF-Caravan has published an environmental program, safety guidelines for caravanners, press releases and CB telephone directories. Local associations also regularly publish their own member bulletins.

Finnish caravanners are and always have been extremely active in international activities. This social form of travelling gathers people together regardless of their nationality or language. SF-Caravan has co-operated with other Nordic countries since the first years of the club. The first pan-Nordic rally in Finland was held in Tampere in 1967. Since then Nordic Rallies have been arranged in Finland every fourth year. In January 1971, SF-Caravan was one of the official founding members of the Nordiska Caravan Rådet (NCR). Other members in the NCR are Caravan Club of Sweden, Norsk Bobil og Caravan Club and Dansk Caravan Klubb. The last Nordic Rally organised by SF Caravan was held in Turku in 2013 and the next rally, open to every camper in the world, will take place in Kokemäki, western Finland, in July 2017.

There has been active cooperation with the camping clubs of neighbouring countries like two Russian clubs and Estonian Club Eesti Karavan.

SF-Caravan became a member of F.I.C.C. in 1972. Its most visible common activity has been the F.I.C.C. rallies which caravanners attend from all over the world. International F.I.C.C. rallies have been held in Finland four times: Tampere 1981, Joensuu 1994, Oulu 2004 and Pori 2014.

In 2014, at SF Caravan's 50 years jubilee, SF-Caravan organised the 81st International F.I.C.C. Rally in Pori. In total 1,151 campers and 555 caravans, motor caravans and tents participated in the event, including invited guests and 170 volunteers.



The 61st International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally held in Helsinki in 2011. The event was the northernmost meeting which F.I.C.C.'s young people have organised.

Probably the best known Finn within F.I.C.C. has been Lars Dahlberg. Mr. Dahlberg served as President of F.I.C.C. from 1996 to 2005 and before that as a council member between 1990 and 1996. Mr. Eero Ollila was a member of the F.I.C.C. Council from 2005 to 2011. Ms. Minna Joensuu was elected to F.I.C.C. Council at General Assembly 2014 in Pori.

In a rather short period of time, SF-Caravan has grown from an association of six families into a strong, large and respected travel organisation. Preserving its status and importance in the future will require expert, active and methodical work. The main objectives in maintaining the club's success is continuing co-operation with all its partners.

SF-Caravan exists to help its members gain the maximum enjoyment and benefit from caravanning. Changing vacation habits and interests dictate the future direction that the federation will take. Official decisions, EU directives, laws, decrees and a host of regulations guide the paths caravanners and campers can take. The cost of camping and caravanning, people's financial resources, the attractiveness of caravans and mobile homes and the quality of campsites all have an impact on the development of Finnish caravanning and SF-Caravan.

SF-Caravan is proud of its history and where it stands today. The club has an environmental programme and it prides itself on its forward thinking. The federation does not only encourage people to become members but also introduces initiatives to make caravanning safer and more enjoyable. SF-Caravan has always required facts and a specific knowledge about caravanning in order to advance its members' interests and to create a good platform for co-operation with the authorities and other communities.



Savonlinna (Helsinki) Photo S. Brohl



FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

Germany:

Caravan & Camping 03.02 – 07.02.2016, in Hannover

Reise + Camping 24.02 – 28.02.2016, in Essen

Caravan Salon Düsseldorf from 27.08 – 04.09.2016, in Düsseldorf

France:

Salon Mondial du Tourisme, 17.03. - 20.03. 2016, in Paris

Salon des Véhicules de Loisir, 28.09. - 04.10. 2016, in Paris-Le Bourget

SETT, 03.11. - 05.11. 2016, in Montpellier

The Netherlands:

Kampeers en Caravan Jaarbeurs, 14.10 – 18.10.2016, in Utrecht

Switzerland:

Suisse Caravan Salon, 22.10. - 26.10. 2016, in Bern

Great Britain:

Caravan Camping and Motorhome Show, 23.02. - 28.02. 2016, in Birmingham

Portugal: Nauticampo, April 2016, in Lisbon

Italy: Il Salone del Camper, 12.09. - 20.09. 2016, in Parma

Belgium:

Vakantiesalon 21.01 – 25.01.2016, in Antwerp

Salon de Vacances 04.02 – 08.02.2016, in Brussels

Brussels Travel Expo, 09.12 – 10.12.2016, in Brussels

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