



GOOD TO KNOW – APRIL 2017

85th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. Rally from 17 to 26 May 2017 in Datça in Western Turkey



Further information that is regularly updated can be found on the website www.ficcrally2017.com or kampkaravan.org.tr where booking forms can also be downloaded.

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



Information: <http://www.ficc.org.tw/viewforum.php?=24>

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

SF-Caravan welcomes you to the Nordic Rally

Finland's centenary year 2017 opens a treasure chest for campers, caravanners and motor caravanners. Nordic Rally, the most international camping event of the summer 2017 welcomes you all to the land of midnight sun and blue lakes. The event is held in Kokemäki from July 9 to July 15,



2017. Six days and five nights are filled with new experiences, interesting program and friends from near and far. The Nordic Rally is organized under the patronage of the F.I.C.C.

Welcome to Finland!

Finland is a Nordic country that is big and small at the same time. In terms of square kilometres, or the number of lakes, Finland is a big country. But there are only five million Finns. Of these five million people, more than 100,000 families are caravanners and over 63,000 families are members of the central association for Finnish campers and caravanners, SF-Caravan. So why not look at Finland through the eyes of a caravanner or camper for a while?

There are hundreds of camping sites in Finland. And they offer something for everyone – not to mention a few of them that are quite surprising. The most popular camping site in Finland is Rastila Camping near Helsinki, the capital city of Finland. Rastila is an excellent choice for many caravanners, whether you're arriving from Tallinn (Estonia) in the evening or spending the night before getting on a ship to Travemünde (Germany) in the morning. There is even a metro connection from the gates of the camping site to the centre of Helsinki. The distance from Helsinki to Pitkäjärvi, Kokemäki is approximately 200 km.

The camping site network in Finland is quite comprehensive. Unfortunately the camping season is very short in Finland and many camping sites close their gates as early as in August. But there are other options – the sites managed by the SF-Caravan member clubs. They are usually open year-round, although services may be limited in winter. Many of these sites offer discounts to international caravanners who are members of SF-Caravan's sister organizations or have the CCI card. Most Finnish camping sites also have, of course, a sauna. It is definitely an experience worth trying!

In Finland, there are many provinces that differ in terms of, for instance, landscape and food. In the North, you can see fells in the horizon and come across freely wandering herds of reindeer. The openness of the landscape in Ostrobothnia will surprise you if you are used to mountains, and the archipelago on the west coast offers idyllic landscapes and traditional food. In the bigger cities such as Tampere, 100 km from Kokemäki, or Turku, 100 km from Kokemäki, you can also find a very international atmosphere in addition to traditional Finland. But let's turn our gazes towards Satakunta, because that's where Kokemäki is! And Pitkäjärvi, too.

Welcome to Satakunta!

Satakunta is deeply rooted in the Finnish soil, and it already existed before the 12th century. The Kokemäenjoki river has been a trade route for a long time, and as a result of land uplift the trading rights for the river have belonged first to Kokemäki, then to Ulvila and finally to Pori. With its 83,000 inhabitants, Pori is the region's largest city. Pori is famous for the international Pori Jazz festival, which will be held at the same time as the Nordisk Camping Träff and Nordic Rally! In Pori, you can also find the world-famous Yyteri beach: 6 km long clean sun-bathing paradise with soft sand and an area reserved for naturists.



The other major town in the region is Rauma, whose old centre with its wooden houses is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Rauma is located south of Pori and has a five-star camping site that is quite popular, especially in the summer. The Rauma Lace Week at the end of July and start of August is a well-loved event. Meanwhile, younger people flock to the RMJ (RaumanMerenJuhannus) festival, whose line-up consists of rock, rap, techno, disco and dance music artists.

Thanks to its fertile and even terrain, Satakunta is one of the main bread basket regions in Finland – and one could also call it the sweetest region, since most of the Finnish sugar beet production is located here. Here you can also find Kokemäki, that is thought to have been the site of the Teljä marketplace.

There are numerous high-quality camping sites in Satakunta where caravanners' needs have been considered. In addition to the Poroholma camping site, some places worth mentioning are the beautiful Siikaranta camping site surrounded by nature in Reposaari, Pori and the Kuninkaanlähde camping site, located in Kankaanpää and maintained by a caravanning club.

Welcome to Kokemäki! Based on archaeological studies, people already lived in Kokemäki approx. 7000 years ago. Some references to the old Teljä market place have also been discovered, though more thorough confirmation would be required to consider them as fact. The name Teljä can be found in the names of many shops, clubs or organizations in Kokemäki. Trading in Kokemäki is, of course, still going strong. In the centre of the city you can find shops belonging to the three main supermarket chains in Finland: K-Market, S-Market and Lidl. There are also specialty stores, such as the Mikan Konemyynti home electronics store that is a part of the Veikon Kone chain. In Finland, state-owned Alko has a monopoly on the retail sales of alcoholic drinks with more than 4.7% alcohol. There is an Alko store in the Kokemäki shopping centre. It is open from Monday to Saturday. In the centre there are also a few kebab-pizzerias and pubs. Kokemäki has 7 000 inhabitants, and the best place for outdoor activities in the area is Pitkäjärvi, approx. 7 km from the centre.

Welcome to Pitkäjärvi!

Pitkäjärvi is the oasis of Kokemäki. Clean water, no motorboats, good beaches and consideration for families with children. Playgrounds, the camping site, the rally site and the sports academy with its restaurant. That's what you can find in Pitkäjärvi. The site has been used for camping for more than 50 years by the youth sports camp Pitkis-Sport, which takes place in July. Since the 1990s, there has been a leisure centre that offers accommodation, an ice arena, sports fields, a golf hall and excellent opportunities for outdoor activities in the vicinity. And don't forget disc golf, which is very popular in Finland!

The Pitkäjärvi Leisure Centre offers hostel-level accommodation, saunas and a good restaurant with a full alcohol licence. The academy's terrace Weranda is known for a wide selection of drinks, an inviting atmosphere, tasty food and delicious ice cream. The distance from Pitkäjärvi to the centre of Kokemäki is approx. 7 km. The bicycle path is safe and paved. The countryside around Pitkäjärvi is mostly typical Finnish pine forests. Some of the rally area consists of existing sports fields and exercise areas. The terrain is well suited for heavier caravans and there is a paved road all the way to



the area. It is easy to get to Pitkäjärvi via the Finnish National Road 2 (Helsinki-Pori), National Road 12 (Rauma-Tampere) or from the Turku or Naantali ports.

Welcome to the Nordic Rally!

Mr **Juha Hämäläinen**, the chairman of the SF-Caravan, invites all campers and caravanners to Kokemäki to forge new friendships and enjoy good company and our excellent programme.

According to Mr Hämäläinen, “ this is the first time that we are organizing two events at the same time. It means we are opening our traditional Nordic event (Nordisk Camping Träff) to all caravanners who are members of our international umbrella organization, F.I.C.C.” Mr Hämäläinen also says that “Our event will also host the Baltic Sea Forum, where we will discuss the problems and development opportunities related to camping activities in the Baltic Region with clubs from the relevant countries.”

The Pitkäjärvi Leisure centre is the perfect place for this event. The short distance from the main ferry ports means that it is easy for both Finnish and foreign caravanners to make it to the event. The terrain will not cause any surprises regardless of the weather. In addition, the organizers – the SF-Caravan local member club from Kokemäki – are very experienced when it comes to organizing events and played a large part in organizing the 81st F.I.C.C. rally in Pori 2014.

Information, program and registration: www.nordicrally.fi. For further details, please do not hesitate to contact us: Project manager Timo Tarvainen, tel. +358 (0) 400 500 121, e-mail: timo.tarvainen@lahitapiola.fi

The “National Feast of Lanterns“ under F.I.C.C. patronage, organised by The Camping and Caravanning Club (GB), will be held at The All England Horse Jumping Course, Hickstead Place Estate/Sussex-Great Britain from 24 to 28 August 2017. No booking fee charged for children and young people under 18 years old. The programme is still being worked on but it will include the popular “Mardi Gras“ parade and “Lighting up“ – a sort of competition for the most beautifully illuminated pitch and caravan/motorcaravan.

This year’s motto is “A Day at the Races“.

F.I.C.C. members are welcome at this event too.

<http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/newsandevents/national-feast-of-lanterns/>

F.I.C.C. Patronage for the GOLDEN RING RALLY in Russia

The Russian State Tourism Agency, CARAVANERS LEAGUE and the Suzdal campsite invite you to take part in the “International Festival of Automobile Travelers and Caravaners“ GOLDEN RING RALLY 2017 in Suzdal.

The Festival takes place from 24 to 30 July 2017 and will give you the opportunity to find out about the history, architecture and culture of Russia.

A special programme of excursions is being laid on.



Every day at the rally site for the duration of the Festival, there will be:

- Tourism exhibitions of the towns and regions in Russia's Golden Ring
- Displays of souvenirs and national food products
- Russian handicrafts (you can make your own souvenirs)
- Restaurants serving Russian food and drink

A lot of volunteers will be helping out at the Festival offering assistance to participants both at the rally site and during excursions.

This event will be held on a well-equipped campsite with 250 pitches for tents, caravans and motorcaravans.

All participants will receive a Russian visa valid for 1 month.

This is a one-off chance to go to the Festival and to discover the history, culture and traditions of some of Russia's finest towns and cities,.

After booking, all participants will receive a free invitation which is needed when applying for a visa.

All participants will be free to travel elsewhere in Russia for 14 days after the Festival.

Special trips and a special programme of excursions will be arranged for groups to Russia.

There will be opportunities to visit famous cities like Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novgorod, Pskov, Kostroma, Yaroslavl, Rostov Velikiy, Sergiyev Posad, Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan.

The organisers will do their very best to ensure that your journey to the Festival and your excursions and travels around Russia are pleasant, comfortable and safe.

All participants will be given comprehensive information and explanations about service stations, campsites and overnight stopovers (overnight parking areas) in Russia.

Further information and bookings for the Festival under WWW.RALLY.GTKSUZDAL.RU or e-mail

info@rally.gtk Suzdal.ru and

Caravaners League Russia
Mr. Andry Artyukhov, President
info@caravanliga.ru



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 8th Friendship Rally in Matera, a culturally rich town in the Basilicata region – also known as Lucania – in southern Italy. Matera is famous for its cathedral and its cave dwellings.

F.I.C.C. members are warmly invited to take part in this rally. Further information will be available in due course.

87th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 27 July to 4 August 2018 in Paaren - Berlin/Germany



The planned programme in brochure form can now be downloaded under <http://www.ficcrally2018.de>

All information will be published on this website together with contact details.

Tip from the F.I.C.C. Secretariat (well tried and tested):

The gourmet restaurant Lochner on Lützowplatz/Berlin, a well-established Berlin institution, and the Lochner wine business on Eisenach street.

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 from 26 JULY to 4 AUGUST 2019 in Châteaubriant/France

F.I.C.C.'s Rally Liaison Officer will carry out the rally site inspection in April 2017.

89th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY, 28 SEPTEMBER TO 6 OCTOBER 2019 in Ten-ei Village (Fukushima Prefecture)/Japan

The Fukushima prefecture is the third largest in Japan. It is home to awesome natural phenomena, Japanese traditions and culture. It has a long history and its people are very hospitable. Fukushima can be split into three regions: **Aizu** with its beautiful countryside and rich history and culture, **Nakadori** where delicious fruit and beautiful flowers are cultivated and **Hamadori** that enjoys a mild climate on the Pacific.

Fukushima is the southernmost prefecture of the Tohoku region located about 200 kms from Tokyo. Access is absolutely no problem from anywhere in Japan. There is an excellent bullet train "Shinkansen" service linking the area with the capital. Motorists are served by the Tohoku and Joban motorways that cross central Fukushima. Then there are regular flights to Fukushima from Itami airport in Osaka and the new Chitose airport in Hokkaido.

Phrases you may find useful during for your stay in Japan

Motto okii (chiisai) saizu wa arimasuka	Do you have a larger/smaller size? Haben Sie eine grössere/kleinere Portion (Restaurant) Grösse (Geschäft)
Chigau iro (dezain) wa armasuka?	Do you have a different color/design for this. Haben Sie eine andere/Farbe/Design für dies
Betsubetsu ni tsutsunde kudasai	Please wrap them separately. Bitte packen Sie die Artikel separat ein
Shichaku shitemo iidesuka?	May I try this on? Kann ich dies anprobieren?
Kado de shiharai dekimasuka?	May I pay with a credit card? Kann ich mit Kreditkarte bezahlen?
Tabekata o oshiete kudasai	Please tell me how to eat it. Bitte sagen Sie mir wie ich das essen muss.
Chugokugo (kankokugo/eigo) wa hanasemasuka?	Do you speak Chinese/Korean/English? Sprechen Sie Chinesisch/Koreanisch/Englisch?
Nihongo ga wakarimasen	I don't understand Japanese. Ich verstehe kein Japanisch. Je ne comprends pas le Japonais
Keisatsu (kyukyusha) o yonde kudasai	Call the police/ambulance. Bitte rufen Sie die Polizei/Ambulanz. Veuillez appeler la police/l'ambulance
Guai ga warui desu	I don't feel well. Ich fühle mich nicht wohl. Je ne me sens pas bien



Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

Caravanning captures the mood of the times (Part 2)

Increasing comfort and greater usability in the latest vehicles

Manufacturers have come up with a wide range of models now from compact good value-for-money vehicles to the biggest imaginable luxury models so that every buyer can find what he or she is looking for.

There has been huge growth in van conversions, i.e. converted panel vans. Despite being more than adequately equipped with comfortable beds, seating arrangements, kitchen and sanitary fittings, these vehicles are very compact and, being highly manoeuvrable in town, they are suitable for everyday use.

The quality of equipment in these vehicles is being updated all the time. The sector is embracing modern technology too: space-saving LED lights give a pleasant ambience inside the vehicle, flat screen TVs are easily installed and the small speakers of modern audio systems give very good sound production.

Modern materials and useful electronic tools are user-friendly and make life so much easier. A reversing camera that helps you park is just one of many examples.

Advanced connectivity in vehicles means there are digital level indicators for the water tank etc. as well as central control over heating, air-conditioning and hot water levels – even possible via one's smartphone. There are a good many online offers and apps that help with route planning, finding campsites and stopovers and much, much more.

Caravanning is also very popular with young people and beginners too.

Older customers of course predominate when it comes to buying new vehicles because they have lots of time at their disposal and can make full use of their vehicles. But for the past few years there has been strong demand from younger customers. With van conversions, manufacturers are filling the demand for first time buyers looking for reasonably-priced models. Caravans, that some people claimed were dying out, have made a comeback (18.5% growth since 2013) showing that the next generation of customers is waiting in the wings – after all caravans appeal especially to young families.

This tendency back to caravanning was confirmed at the latest CARAVAN SALON.

The second-hand and rental markets are booming too. They are mainly attracting the young and newcomers to camping who are trying out this type of holiday for the first time.

Source: CIVD

INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM OUR MEMBERS

As a result of many queries from tourists, **Polish Camping and Caravanning Federation (PFCC)** wishes to inform campers that the map "Campsites in Poland" published in 2016 by the Polish Tourist Organisation (please find below photo of the map's covers) contains many mistakes regarding information about Polish campsites and even mentions campsites that do not exist.

PFCC was not consulted before the map was published and the Federation recommends that tourists do not use this map.



Please note that detailed and updated information about Polish campsites is available on our website www.pfcc.eu and on our map of campsites.

Michał Szeftel - PFCC President



Deutscher Camping Club (DCC)

The DCC and the town of Essen have awarded the 2017 German Camping Prize to the Dethleffs Family Foundation, a charitable institution founded in 2004. The award ceremony took place during the Reise & Camping Messe (Travel and Camping Show) in Essen.

Nederlandse Kampeerauto Club (NKC-NL) is organising a seminar on the exchange of data and know-how relating to motorcaravanning to be held at its headquarters on 25 April 2017

The F.I.C.C. Secretariat is sending out a circular to all of its member clubs and federations giving full details of the event.

Österreichischer Camping Club (ÖCC - A) The Austrian Camping Club together with its partner ÖAMTC, is inviting campers to a day dedicated to driving techniques. Drivers will be able to experience how vehicles behave on slippery roads and instructors will give hints and tips on reversing.

The training day includes a short theory session and lots of practical exercises. The content will be discussed beforehand, optimum steering technique on bends (slalom), hitching up a caravan (tyre



pressure, bearing load etc.), how to brake in an emergency, how to correct a skid and how to drive on steep gradients, all of which can subsequently be applied in practice.

The programme will be held exclusively at ÖAMTC's Road Safety Centre at Teesdorf/ Niederösterreich. Reservations through ÖCC, either by e-mail at office@campingclub.at or by phoning 00 43 1 713 61 51. The cost for non-members of ÖCC supplied on request.

Deadline for reservations: Sunday 30 April 2017 in Teesdorf.

(Caravan drivers must have fully comprehensive insurance cover for this training day which will cover any damage that may occur during the training sessions. Motorcaravan drivers without fully comprehensive insurance cover must likewise purchase insurance that costs €7.50. But this does not apply to drivers of motorcaravans who already have fully comprehensive insurance cover.

Source: Camping Revue (ÖCC-A)

MISCELLANEOUS

Sad statistics on traffic jams

These figures show how many hours on average motorists spend held up in traffic jams per year

104 hours Los Angeles (World champion)

91 hours Moscow (European champion)

49 hours München (German champion)

46 hours Heilbronn, Cologne, Stuttgart

Source: Bunte magazine

Arlberg tunnel closure dates 2017

The Arlberg tunnel will be closed from 18 April to 26 September 2017. During this time traffic over the Arlberg Pass will be restricted. Large vehicles travelling from Switzerland, the Vorarlberg and southern Germany to the Tyrol and Vinschgau must use alternative routes via the Fern Pass, Achen Pass or Munich/Kufstein. For exact details regarding the closure and vehicles banned from using the Arlberg Pass see www.asfinag.at

Vienna, the capital of Austria, has been voted the best city in the world to live in for the eighth year running.

In Memoriam

On 28 March 2017, we received the sad news that Mr. Adalbert ANTAL (Béla Antal), the former President of the Magyar Camping es Caravanning Club (Hungary), had died at the age of 68 following a serious illness. Mr. Antal was a very friendly, popular and well-known figure as much among fellow Hungarian campers as campers from abroad.

We offer our sincere condolences to his family and members of his club in Hungary.



FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Germany: Caravan Salon Düsseldorf from 26.08. to 03.09 2017, in Düsseldorf

Hamburger Caravantage: 14 to 19.09 2017, in Hamburg

Bremen: Caravan from 03 to 05.11. 2017, in Bremen

The Netherlands: Kampeer en Caravan Jaarbeurs from 11 to 15.10.2017, in Utrecht

Italy: Il Salone del Camper from 09 to 17.09 2017, in Parma

France: Salon des Véhicules de Loisirs, from 30.09 to 08.10. 2017, in Paris – Le Bourget

SETT from 07 to 09.11 2017, in Montpellier

China: All in Caravaning from 23 to 25.06.2017, in Beijing

Switzerland: Suisse Caravan Salon from 27 to 31.10. 2017, in Bern

Sweden: ELMIA from 6 to 10 September 2017 in Jönköping

Austria: Caravan Salon Wels from 18 to 22 October 2017

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