



## GOOD TO KNOW – MAY 2017

**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>

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### Rallies 2017 with 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 Reposaaari, 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](http://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](mailto:timo.tarvainen@lahitapiola.fi)

**Welcome to the Nordic Rally!**

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## **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.

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 travelling 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.

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](http://WWW.RALLY.GTKSUZDAL.RU)

or e-mail

[info@rally.gtk Suzdal.ru](mailto:info@rally.gtk Suzdal.ru)

and



Caravaners League Russia  
Mr. Andry Artyukhov, President  
[info@caravanliga.ru](mailto:info@caravanliga.ru)

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**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 8th Friendship Rally to be held from 6 to 10 December 2017 in Matera/Italy**

Confederazione Italiana Campeggiatori is organising the 8<sup>th</sup> Friendship Rally in Matera, a culturally rich town in the Basilicata region – also known as Lucania – in southern Italy. Matera is famous for its cathedral and its curious cave dwellings and rock churches, known as *sassi*. Matera is the capital of the province with a population of 60,453. It is situated on the Gravina di Matera river, 46 kms from the Ionian Sea and enjoys an average temperature of 19°C. The town’s patronal festival is held on 2 July.

Until 1950 Matera was a source of embarrassment for Italians due to its extreme poverty, outbreaks of malaria and high infant mortality rate. The *sassi* (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site) were a network of underground slums but they have since been transformed into luxury housing well worth seeing.

Matera will be a European City of Culture in 2019.

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

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## **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:** (Round and about Berlin!!)  
**Tropical Islands Amazonia**

Tropical Islands is a theme park located in Staakow (formerly a military airfield) about 60 km from Berlin. It is an enormous indoor and outdoor pool complex in a tropical setting with some 50,000 tropical plants and trees such as palms, banana plants, breadfruit trees etc. from Asia and South America. The outdoor part alone is 35,000 sq.m. The whole complex and its tropical decor is nearly 65,000 sq.m. and includes sandy beaches, a waterfall and a water chute. The water is at 31°C and there are even mermaids swimming around! Worth discovering!  
More information on the Internet.

### **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.

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## **88th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY from 24 JULY to 04 AUGUST 2019 in Châteaubriant/France**

F.I.C.C.'s Rally Liaison Officer has carried out the rally site inspection in April.





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

Phrases you may find useful during for your stay in Japan

Ni ikitai desu	I would like to go to.../ J'aimerais aller à.... Ich möchte nach .... gehen
Wa arimasuka?	Do you have ...? /Avez vous....?/ Haben Sie .....?
O kadusai	Please give me.../ Veuillez me donner .... svp/ Bitte geben Sie mir....
Wa dokode kaemasuka?	Where can I buy ....?/ Où puis-je acheter..../ Wo kann ich ... kaufen?



Ikura desuka?	How much is it? Combien ça coûte? Wieviel kostet dies?
Dorega osumsume desuka?	Which do you recommend? Lequel vous recommandez? Welches empfehlen Sie?
Kore wa nandesuka?	What is this? Qu'est-ce que c'est? Was ist das?
Itsu shuppatsu desuka?	When is the departure? Quand est le depart? Wann ist die Abfahrt?
Itsu touchaku shimasuka?	When is the arrival? A quand l'arrivée? Wann ist die Ankunft?
Wa dokodesuka?	Where is....? Où est ....? Wo ist.....?
Jikan wa donokurai kakarimasuka?	How long does it take? Combien de temps ça prend?/ Wie lange dauert das?
Shashin o totte kudasi	Please take a photograph/Prenez une photo svp/Bitte nehmen Sie ein Foto
Toire o kashite kudasai	May I use your restroom? Puis-je utiliser vos toilettes/ Darf ich bitte Ihre Toilette benutzen?

### Manners and etiquette

- In Japanese restaurants (e.g. ramen shops or sushi restaurants) it is customary for each person to order at least one meal. You do not simply order one meal and share it with three or four people.
- In public baths it is customary to wash yourself before getting into the public bath. The bath towel should not be allowed to dip into (i.e. come in contact with) the bath water.
- If it is busy and there is a queue, you simply join the queue and wait your turn.

### Festivals in the Fukushima Prefecture

Middle of February: Ouchi-juku = Snow Festival (Town: Shimago) – Tadami Furusato Snow Festival (Town: Tadami) – Shirakawa Dharma Puppet Market (Town: Shirakawa)

End of July: Soma Nomaio Festival (Town: Minamisoma)

Beginning of August: Fukushima Waraji Festival (Town: Fukushima) – Iwaki Odori Festival (Town: Iwaki)

Beginning of October: Iizaka Kenka Festival (Town: Fukushima) – Nihonmatsu Lantern Festival (Town: Nihonmatsu)

Beginning of October – end of November: Nihonmatsu Chrysanthemum Festival (Town: Nihonmatsu)

Middle of November: Torch Festival (Town: Sukagawa)





## Camping/Caravanning/Motorcaravanning

### Useful toolkit for emergency repairs on the road

Anyone who has ever been on a motoring holiday of any description has almost certainly encountered one or two problems that need fixing either in their vehicle or at the campsite. So it's a good idea to be prepared and well-equipped to tackle any emergency repairs.

You should always have the following tools with you:

- A large enough jack/hydraulic jack for changing a wheel (a scissor jack is generally inadequate)
- Assorted spanners and wrenches
- Lubricating spray and contact spray
- Set of pliers (flat-nosed pliers, cutting pliers etc.)
- Screwdrivers (Phillips and slotted screwdrivers)
- Insulating/duct tape
- Control light tester (standard filament lamp) or multimeter for the power supply i.e. voltage meter
- Various vehicle chocks ????diverse Fahrzeugsicherungen
- Small soldering iron
- Small hammer
- Set of bulbs
- Work gloves
- Pocket torch or head torch
- Small 12V compressor pump for pumping up tyres
- Cable ties
- Work overall, protective ground sheet
- Hand cleansing cream

You will always need some tools so it is just a question of deciding what is absolutely necessary, bearing in mind that every extra tool adds weight and takes up space. A large tool box made of plastic is a good idea for transporting all of your tools as it is light and stable enough and you will always know where they are. Buying cheap tools is false economy as they don't last and can even cause damage. So always make sure you buy good quality tools.

Source: Camping Revue (ÖCC – Austrian Camping Club)

### Fight off plagues of ants the natural way

Whether at home or on a campsite, time and again you find that hundreds or thousands of ants have invaded your kitchen and are contentedly feasting on crumbs, grains of sugar, fruit or food in open packets. Although these insects are extremely useful out in the wild (they control pests, aerate the soil and fertilise the ground), they can be very tiresome in caravans and motorcaravans. Apart from nibbling food and spreading germs, they can also attack cables and insulation materials.

But you should deal with them in a natural way and not get rid of them by using poisonous bait.

- Always close packages properly and keep foodstuffs in glass, ceramic or plastic containers with lids. Wipe surfaces clean of crumbs.
- If they have already made themselves at home, try a few home remedies: you will find that thyme, juniper leaves, lavender oil, lemon rind, powdered cinammon or chervil can help. You simply sprinkle your chosen remedy on the column of ants and on their point of entry.



- If none of these remedies work, you can make up your own organic solution:
  1. Cut off the bottom 5 cms of several 0.5 litre PET bottles
  2. Fill these small containers/pots with 2 tablespoons of honey, some water and half a packet of baking powder.
  3. Stir the mixture well until it forms a viscous fluid.
  4. Place the little pots at strategic points i.e. in the column of ants or at the entry/exit of the nest, or under the van.

In my experience this method invariably deals with the "invasion" overnight. If it doesn't, repeat the exercise. It will work second time round and your camping vehicle will be free of ants. You just need to a bit of patience, but absolutely no poisonous bait!

Source: Thanks to Nele Landero – (seen in Camping –DCC)

## INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM OUR MEMBERS

In one of our recent issues we reported that **NTKC (Nederlandse Toeristen Kampeer Club-NL)** had appealed in its club magazine for club members who would be prepared to offer space on their private land (garden etc.) for campers in tents to camp overnight. The idea bore fruit and seven club members responded.

The rules are straightforward:

- Only for campers who are travelling on foot or by bike
- For one night only
- Two tents maximum per garden
- Advance reservation required
- It is seen as a favour so there is no charge.

This is perhaps the first step towards setting up a network of overnight stops countrywide, in addition to regular campsites, for campers who are travelling by bike.

Source: buiten spoor (NTKC)

**The Fédération des campeurs, caravaniers et camping-caristes (FFCC)/France** has given an update on the petition it started and asked our F.I.C.C. members to sign in June 2016, about the toll price structure for recreational vehicles on French motorways. **20,000** signatures have been collected on-line that will hopefully help do away with the "bone of contention" i.e. the different and totally unwarranted toll charges for vehicle Classes 1 and 2.

The French federation together with a specialist lawyer is continuing to follow the matter closely.

On another tack, FFCC organised a training course for its members in October 2016 and again in March 2017 on "Perfecting motorcaravanners driving skills" with drivers of vehicles of over 3.5 t especially in mind.

A training course for drivers of outfits is being prepared.



## MISCELLANEOUS

**The F.I.C.C. General Assembly will be held in Brussels on 17 June at which ten new Council members will be elected. The F.I.C.C. President will be elected from within the Council by the delegates.**

**13 countries submitted their candidature within the given deadline.**

**Poland: Krakow** has been named as the best city destination having scored 8.9. Vienna, Seville and Prague are close behind with 8.8.

**Germany:** On Saturday 12 August, a rather bizarre world record attempt will be made in the German town of Walldürn: at least seven hundred motorcaravans will be driving in convoy through this small town in Baden-Württemberg.

They will be aiming for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. If it happens, the motorcaravan convoy will be about 30 kms long. According to the organisers five hundred motorcaravanners have already signed up. No-one knows yet exactly what route the convoy will be taking because the police have to be consulted and give their approval.

To turn this world record attempt into a big camping event, the entire weekend will be given over to all manner of activities and participants can stay in the vicinity of Walldürn for the three days.

Source: Kampeerauto - NKC (NL)

## 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

F.I.C.C Secretariat  
rue Belliard 20, bte 15  
B- 1040 Brussels/Belgium  
Tel: 00.32 2 513.87 82  
Fax:00.32 2 513 87 83  
Email: [info@ficc.org](mailto:info@ficc.org)  
Website: [www.ficc.org](http://www.ficc.org)