

7TH EDITION | FEBRUARY 2020

# DESTINATIONS

INSPIRATION ADVICE TOP TIPS TRAVEL GUIDES NEWS

**COSTA BRAVA**  
The Spanish coast for all seasons **p32**

**PROVENCE EN VÉLO**  
Experience the finest of Provence on two wheels **p26**

**VENTURE FURTHER...**  
Explore incredible New Zealand by motorhome **p42**

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**Editor-in-Chief**

Rob Fearn

**Features Editor**

Russell Wheldon

**Design**

Ben Tully

**Production**

Robert Baker

**Advertising**

Minou Gurmeet

**Alan Rogers Travel**

Spelmonden Old Oast

Spelmonden Road

Goudhurst

Kent

TN17 1HE

**alanrogers.com**

**Facebook**

alanrogerstravel

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# HELLO

## welcome to the all-new Destinations Magazine!

Welcome to the 7th edition and the re-launch of the Alan Rogers Destinations Magazine.

Staying true to the original Destinations concept we aim to offer inspiration for your holidays whether by caravan, motorhome or even by bicycle!

For this edition, we've introduced several guest contributors, from around the globe, which I hope gives a more international flavour to the publication.

This issue includes some genuinely fantastic destinations from the traditional caravanning destinations of France and Spain; through to a once-in-a-lifetime motorhome holiday to New Zealand.

Rob  
*Editor*

**alanrogers.com/destinations-magazine**

.....  
**Cover** Ancient town of Tossa de Mar located on the Costa Brava in the Spanish region of Catalonia.

# CONTRIBUTORS

the ones who bring Destinations to life!



## **Russell Wheldon**

[russetmarketing.com](http://russetmarketing.com)

Russell has worked in the camping industry for over 25 years and was a director at Alan Rogers for many years. He now works for various tourism organisations as a marketing consultant.



## **Anthea Taylor**

[uk.businessesforsale.com](http://uk.businessesforsale.com)

Anthea is the Content Producer at Dynamis, a leading online publisher who run the hugely successful Businesses for Sale website.



## **Darren Alff**

[bicycletouringpro.com](http://bicycletouringpro.com)

Darren is an author, filmmaker and expert for everything related to cycling. The 33-year-old has nearly 20 years of bicycle travel experience and has made his passion to his profession.



## **Steph Young**

[campingcooks.com](http://campingcooks.com)

Steph is an avid camper and hiker, she loves nothing more than laying under the stars, huddling around the fire with friends and family, and most importantly, serving up campfire feasts.





**12** New Zealand  
Venture further



# CONTENTS

## Features & Guides

---

### **4** Aquitaine

The French region with something for everyone.

### **18** In The Bag

Get the lowdown on the latest and greatest camping gadgets

### **20** Leisure Batteries

The how to guide to portable power

### **26** Provence

A taste of luxury

### **64** Naturist Sites

The what, why and where of naturism

### **70** Open All Year

Camping isn't just for summer...

### **86** Route to Spain

Take the slow route to north-eastern Spain

**PAGE** 32

### **Explore Costa Brava**

A region steeped in history, unique culture and great campsites

## Discover more

### **12** Awards 2019

Discover the best campsites of 2019

### **52** Buy a Campsite

Don't just stay at a campsite, buy one!

**PAGE** 78

### **Rise and Shine**

A gourmet breakfast needn't be a chore



**A COLOURFUL  
CORNER OF  
FRANCE**

(clockwise from top left)  
Vineyards of Saint-Émilion;  
Basque Mountains; Biarritz  
beach at sunset; riverside  
village of La Roque-Gageac.



# AQUITAINE

## a region of superlatives

**S**ynonymous with a colourful history entwined with England, Aquitaine certainly demands attention. This is truly a region of superlatives: the highest sand dune in the world (Dune du Pyla), the world's largest man-made forest (the Landes), France's largest oyster beds. And of course the endless ribbon of silver beach running 110km from Bordeaux to the Pyrenees.



Covering a vast sweep of south west France, Aquitaine is rooted in ancient wars, notably the Hundred Years War. This turbulent time ensured a legacy of hilltop strongholds which are today charming bastides and picturesque villages. Trade evolved and gradually Britain became a vital trading partner and the largest consumer of Bordeaux wines.



## CAMPING IN AQUITAINE

This is a region with something for everyone, from the activity seekers to the laid-back relaxers, the culture vultures to the bucket and spade brigade.

Along the coast are some large campsites with superb watersports and a lively atmosphere in high season. These are perfect for active families looking for plenty to do. The sailing and surfing are excellent, usually with dinghies and windsurfers to hire and taste the beach life. Serious windsurfer aficionados often prefer a campsite located on one of the large inland lakes where a steady wind and huge expanse of mirror-like water is a boon.

Generally, the closer you are to the beach, the larger the campsite, so consider what kind of campsite suits your needs.

Tucked away in the most rural settings, often just outside a sleepy village, you'll find smaller, more tranquil campsites. Wherever you go, pitches tend to be level and grassy, but do try and find a shady pitch in high summer.

# WINING AND DINING

The cities of Bordeaux and Biarritz, in the south, in Basque country near the Spanish border, offer chances for exploring wine country. Many campsites in the region have their own campsite restaurant – you'll find the menus are usually excellent, partly due to the local competition which ensures high quality at great prices. Look out for Bayonne ham,

magnificent duck dishes, the heart garbure soup, sweet canelé cakes and the Landaise salads.

Bordeaux wines are plentiful, with the best reds from the Médoc and Graves or St Emilion and Pomerol. Every day wines from Bourg, Blaye and Bergerac are good value and of course Armagnac is a great way to finish a good meal.

CHALETS - MOBILE HOMES - LODGE TENTS - CAMPING PITCHES



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# THE LANDES

The Landes is a wonderful holiday destination – always popular with Parisians in the know. They come for the unique combination of sandy seaside and the calmer, tranquil interior with its placid lakes and forest. In times past the Landes was a desolate place through which pilgrims bound for Santiago de Compostela scurried. Today it is covered in dense pine forest, originally planted to stabilise the shifting sands and provide timber for Napoleon's navy. It is crisscrossed with brilliant walking and cycling trails.

Highlights of the Côte d'Argent include Port de Maguiele, Hossegor, Capbreton, Gastes, Biscarosse-Plage and Mimizan-Plage. And the Landes is also a spa hotspot with resorts at Dax and Eugénie-les-Bains amongst others. Dax was established in Roman times, prized for its thermal waters, and grew to be France's largest spa town.

# GIRONDE

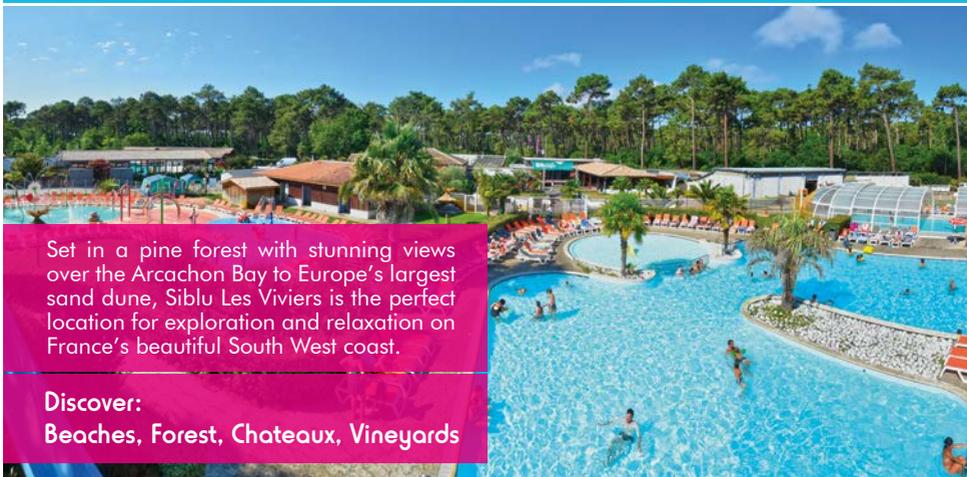
Centred on the elegant city of Bordeaux, the Gironde is a department that offers plenty of interest for the tourist. Standing at the mouth of the estuary, Bordeaux has been a vital trading centre for centuries. Brimming with handsome 18th century architecture, spacious boulevards and stylish squares, Bordeaux has superb museums and galleries, as well as a delightful river front, once part of everyday life when it bustled with ships laden with wine barrels. Today the city is officially recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The rolling countryside around Bordeaux is synonymous with world class wines. Producing around 400 million bottles of wine annually, the Médoc is a world wine centre. The famous left bank in particular is home to dozens of illustrious wine villages like Margaux, St Julien, Pauillac where great wines like Château Margaux, Château Lafite

and Château Mouton-Rothschild are created.

Not far away lies Arcachon, a coastal town wrapping around the large basin, famous for its oysters and popular for its lively resort ambience with sailing boats and sandy beaches. Just to the south is the Dune du Pyla, the largest sand dune in Europe at 114 metres high and 3 km long (it's still growing as sand accumulates, carried by the wind). It's a stunning sight and, once you have tramped up to the top (preferably towards the end of the day), you'll be rewarded with epic views out to the ocean on one side and over the green treetops on the other.





Set in a pine forest with stunning views over the Arcachon Bay to Europe's largest sand dune, Siblu Les Viviers is the perfect location for exploration and relaxation on France's beautiful South West coast.

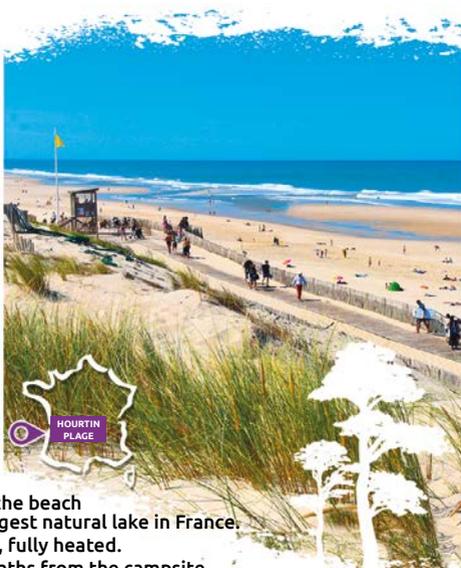
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# LA RIVE

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In 2020, new sanitaires worthy of the largest Resorts, are being build, to reflect even more the spirit of a 5 stars! Always in an eco-responsible spirit, these new facilities reflect our desire to integrate our facilities into the environment around us: new functional spaces in an innovative setting!





2019

## CAMPSITE AWARDS BY ALAN ROGERS & THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB

Launched in 2004, our awards have a broad scope and before committing to our winners, we carefully consider more than 2,000 campsites featured in the Alan Rogers guides and the Caravan and Motorhome Club 'Venture Abroad' program, taking into account comments from our site assessors, our head office team and, of course, our members & readers.

For the 2019 awards there were nine categories; Progress, Welcome, Eco, Dog, Seaside, Country, All Year, Family and Small Campsite, each with a winner and a highly commended runner-up.

## Overall Winners 2019

Taking into account everything that makes a site great, this award is given only to sites that meet our strict criteria.



ALAN ROGERS WINNER

### Turiscampo Algarve

Lagos, Portugal

[alanrogers.com/PO8202](http://alanrogers.com/PO8202)



CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB WINNER

### Château de Chanteloup

Sillé-le-Philippe, France

[alanrogers.com/FR72030](http://alanrogers.com/FR72030)

## Progress Award 2019

This award reflects the hard work and commitment undertaken by particular site owners to improve and upgrade their site.



WINNER

### Camping le Pin Parasol

La Chapelle-Hermier, France

[alanrogers.com/FR85680](http://alanrogers.com/FR85680)



RUNNER-UP

### Huttopia Île de Ré

Sainte Marie-de-Ré, France

[alanrogers.com/FR17856](http://alanrogers.com/FR17856)

## Welcome Award 2019

This award takes account of sites offering a particularly friendly welcome and maintaining a friendly ambience throughout readers' holidays.



**WINNER**

**Eifel-Camp - Freilinger See**  
Blankenheim/Ahr, Germany

[alanrogers.com/DE31970](http://alanrogers.com/DE31970)



**RUNNER-UP**

**Au Clos de la Chaume**  
Corcieux, France

[alanrogers.com/FR88120](http://alanrogers.com/FR88120)

## Environmental Award 2019 NEW for 2019

Our Environmental Award acknowledges campsites which are emphasising care of the environment, possibly with features which are unique and cannot be found elsewhere.



**WINNER**

**Camping les Saules**  
Cheverny, France

[alanrogers.com/FR41100](http://alanrogers.com/FR41100)



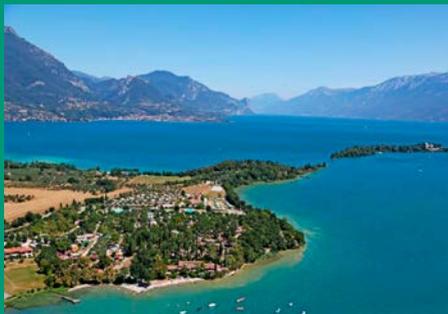
**RUNNER-UP**

**Park Grubhof**  
St Martin bei Lofer, Austria

[alanrogers.com/AU0265](http://alanrogers.com/AU0265)

## Dog-Friendly Award 2019 NEW for 2019

This award is made for sites which are particularly good for your four-legged friend.



**WINNER**

### **Fornella Camping** Lake Garda, Italy

[alanrogers.com/IT62750](http://alanrogers.com/IT62750)



**RUNNER-UP**

### **Camping Kovacine** Cres, Croatia

[alanrogers.com/CR6765](http://alanrogers.com/CR6765)

## Seaside Award 2019

This award is made for sites which we feel are particularly suitable for a really excellent seaside holiday.



**WINNER**

### **Les Criques de Portails** Argelès-sur-Mer, France

[alanrogers.com/FR66150](http://alanrogers.com/FR66150)



**RUNNER-UP**

### **Zaton Holiday Resort** Zaton, Croatia

[alanrogers.com/CR6782](http://alanrogers.com/CR6782)

## Country Award 2019

This award contrasts with our seaside award and acknowledges sites which are attractively located in delightful, rural locations.



**WINNER**

**Resort de Arendshorst**  
Ommen, Netherlands

[alanrogers.com/NL6449](http://alanrogers.com/NL6449)



**RUNNER-UP**

**Camping Peña Montañesa**  
Labuerda, Spain

[alanrogers.com/ES90600](http://alanrogers.com/ES90600)

## All Year Award 2019

This award acknowledges sites which are open all year round.



**WINNER**

**Vilanova Park**  
Vilanova i la Geltru, Spain

[alanrogers.com/ES83900](http://alanrogers.com/ES83900)



**RUNNER-UP**

**Caravanning La Manga**  
La Manga, Spain

[alanrogers.com/ES87530](http://alanrogers.com/ES87530)

## Family Site Award 2019

Many sites claim to be family friendly but this award acknowledges the sites we feel to be the very best in this respect.



**WINNER**

**Domaine de Massereau**  
Sommières, France

[alanrogers.com/FR30290](http://alanrogers.com/FR30290)



**RUNNER-UP**

**Camping De Paal**  
Bergeijk, Netherlands

[alanrogers.com/NL5970](http://alanrogers.com/NL5970)

## Small Campsite Award 2019

This award acknowledges excellent small campsites (with fewer than 150 pitches) which offer a friendly welcome and top quality amenities throughout the season to their guests.



**WINNER**

**Domaine des Mathevies**  
Sarlat-la-Canéda, France

[alanrogers.com/FR24740](http://alanrogers.com/FR24740)



**RUNNER-UP**

**La Valle Agricampeggio**  
San Giuliano Terme, Italy

[alanrogers.com/IT66081](http://alanrogers.com/IT66081)

# IN THE BAG

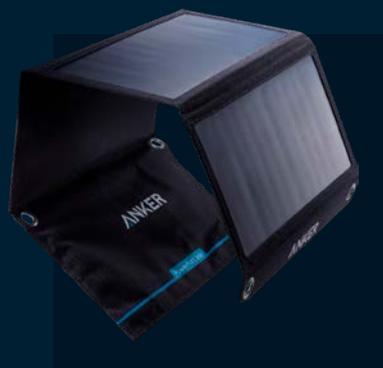
## CAMPING TECH EDITION

Camping is a way of escaping the constraints of everyday life, getting close to nature and ditching the gadgets. And while a digital detox is certainly not a bad thing there is no doubt that technology can help make our lives easier, this is even more true when camping.



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**Coleman Battery Lock Twist Electric Lantern**

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**Anker Bolder LC40 Rechargeable Flashlight**

Rechargeable LED torch with powerful battery and non-diminishing brightness

# Leisure Batteries

For many, choosing a caravan leisure battery is a simple matter of picking whatever is available in their local dealership. But with a little more thought you get a whole lot more for your money.

## how do they work?

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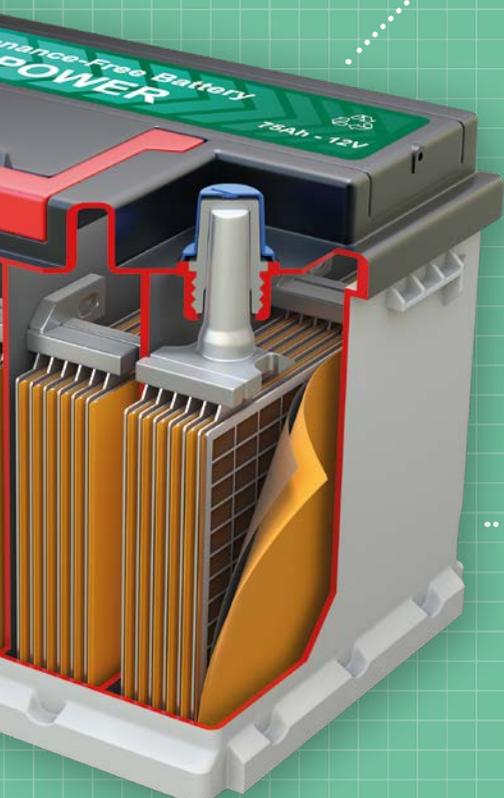
Lead plates are held in diluted sulphuric acid, releasing ions as the metal dissolves and creating an electrical charge. The voltage is increased when the acid is more concentrated. As the electricity runs through the battery, the process reverses and the metal ions re-join on the lead plates.

You can charge a leisure battery in various ways. First and foremost, plug into the mains on a campsite hook up. Use a trickle charger to slowly top up while the battery is being used – but bear in mind this will never re-charge the battery. A split charge relay needs to be professionally fitted and is powered from the alternator providing a charge to the leisure battery until the

vehicle battery is fully charged. Lastly, you can use solar power, a technology which is still improving in efficiency and reliability.

Remember that most leisure batteries will only last around 2,000 cycles (a full charge with a subsequent full discharge). Also, keep in mind the effects of temperature: a warmer temperature allows a leisure battery to hold a greater charge for longer than it would at colder temperatures.





## what do they do?

First and foremost, it powers your 12v appliances, not least your lights, phone charger, cooker, water pump and fridge. It goes without saying it's an important piece of kit.

But it also has a second job. Being linked up to the main charger of your caravan or motorhome, a leisure battery can also help ensure a regular, uninterrupted and constant power supply. For this reason, it is never advisable to run your appliances straight from the built-in charger.

## why do I need one?

You'll need a reliable caravan battery whether you're hooked up to the campsite supply on a regular basis or more likely to be found off-grid, perhaps on a rally or wild camping. Or more drastically, as sometimes can happen, you find the nearest hook up point just out of reach of your charging cable!

A leisure battery, sometimes known as a caravan battery, is designed to provide a low current over relatively long periods and to be frequently discharged and then re-charged. This is quite different to a car battery.



## categories

The National Caravan Council has a scheme to verify classification of leisure vehicle batteries.

### CATEGORY A

Batteries with greater storage capacity: ideal for those spending time in their caravan or motorhome but not hooked up on a campsite mains.

### CATEGORY B

Ideal for those who are frequently using campsite hook ups, and who need a hefty capacity to enable them to use devices like motor movers.

### CATEGORY C

Batteries with lower capacity: ideal for those who just want to run basic appliances before hooking up on a campsite on a frequent basis.

## other types

Wet batteries usually have a plastic or polypropylene housing provided with several compartments. Via an ingenious, but simple, combination of meshed lead plates, lead oxide paste, separators and sulphuric acid, electricity is generated: around 12.7v for a leisure battery in full working order.

Since it is not a good idea to spill corrosive acid, some leisure batteries are made for uses during which there is a high chance of the vehicle (and therefore the battery) overturning. Most common examples might be quad bikes and jet skis. These batteries employ a gel-based electrolyte. Certain motorhomes and campervans are provided with gel batteries which are seen as providing an additional level of safety.

Alternatives include AGM (Absorbent Glass Mat) batteries which use a glass fibre solution. This is widely considered superior in performance but is certainly more costly.

Lead crystal batteries use very little liquid, the acid being crystallised, not liquid. And lithium batteries are much lighter (no lead being present) but are more expensive.

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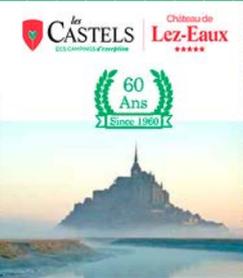




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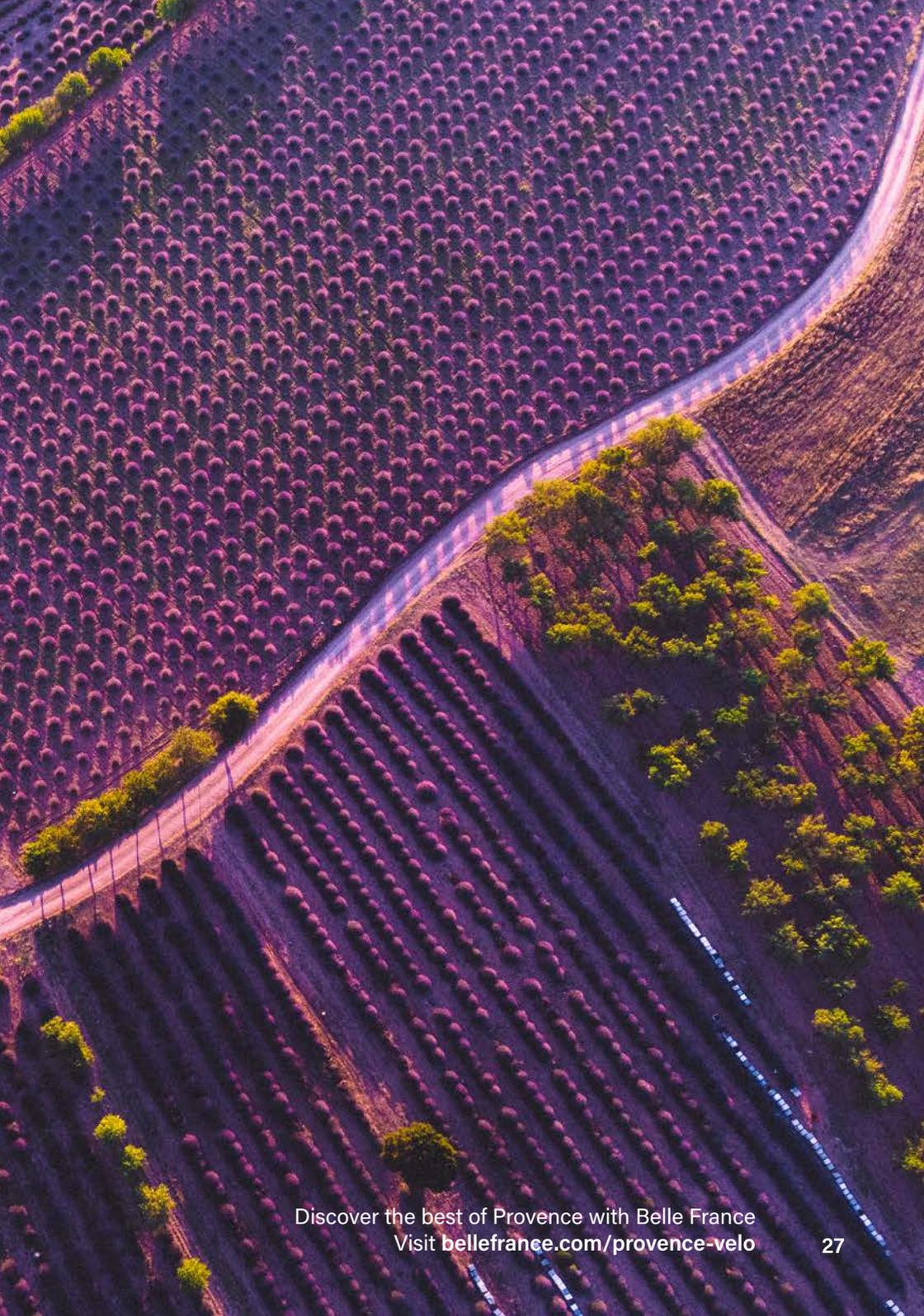


Beaches and animated cities nearby !

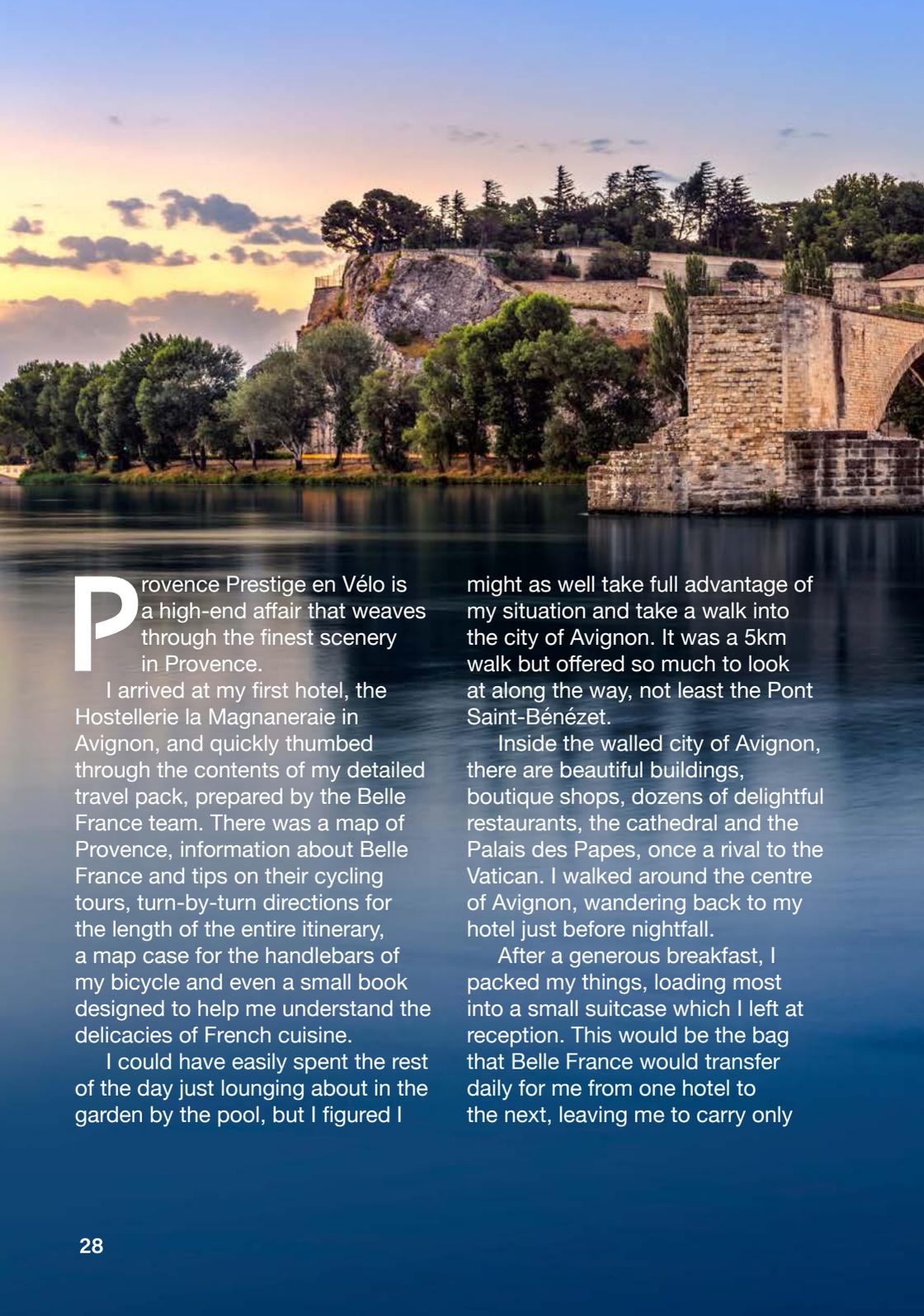


# PROVENCE

Belle France, a sister company of Alan Rogers, has long specialised in cycling and walking holidays throughout France. Here Darren Alff gives us a flavour of his recent experience discovering the back roads of this iconic region.



Discover the best of Provence with Belle France  
Visit [bellefrance.com/provence-velo](https://bellefrance.com/provence-velo)



**P**rovence Prestige en Vélo is a high-end affair that weaves through the finest scenery in Provence.

I arrived at my first hotel, the Hostellerie la Magnaneraie in Avignon, and quickly thumbed through the contents of my detailed travel pack, prepared by the Belle France team. There was a map of Provence, information about Belle France and tips on their cycling tours, turn-by-turn directions for the length of the entire itinerary, a map case for the handlebars of my bicycle and even a small book designed to help me understand the delicacies of French cuisine.

I could have easily spent the rest of the day just lounging about in the garden by the pool, but I figured I

might as well take full advantage of my situation and take a walk into the city of Avignon. It was a 5km walk but offered so much to look at along the way, not least the Pont Saint-Bénézet.

Inside the walled city of Avignon, there are beautiful buildings, boutique shops, dozens of delightful restaurants, the cathedral and the Palais des Papes, once a rival to the Vatican. I walked around the centre of Avignon, wandering back to my hotel just before nightfall.

After a generous breakfast, I packed my things, loading most into a small suitcase which I left at reception. This would be the bag that Belle France would transfer daily for me from one hotel to the next, leaving me to carry only



a small day pack with camera, smartphone and rain gear in a waterproof pannier.

I checked out of my room and began my cycling adventure! I was soon rewarded with a shop, I dashed in for a few snacks for the tracks. While breakfasts and dinners are included in the price of the Provence Prestige en Vélo bike tour, snacks and lunches are something you will need to sort out on your own.

I took things slowly and set about finding a pace for myself that I knew I could maintain for the duration of the trip. In addition to focussing on my speed, I also had a lot to look out for. One of my favourite stops was the Sanctuaire de Notre-Dame de Grâces, located at the top of a small

hill just off the designated cycling route. I made a detour here and took some time to explore.

While you will be tempted to stop and explore every little town and village that you come across, keep in mind that you should be reaching your hotel each night somewhere around four or five in the afternoon. This will give you plenty of time to freshen up ahead of aperitifs and a delicious dinner.

The second night of your bike tour ends at Hostellerie le Castellat – a small, beautiful hotel tucked away inside the narrow stone walls of the city. I was treated to a delicious three-course meal, tailored to my vegetarian requests.

The next morning after breakfast I dropped my case off and set off for

Tarascon. On the way, I paused to take in the Château de Beaucaire, a ruined castle that dates back to the 12th century. Further on was the well-preserved Château de Tarascon, not far from my next accommodation, d'hôte Mas des Comtes. Here I made my way down the gravel drive, past the stone lions and around to a small courtyard where I was welcomed in to the charming surroundings.

The third day is special as you can leave your belongings exactly where they are – you're back here at d'hôte Mas des Comtes for a second night. I headed out east of the city through farmlands, eventually turning left up a small hill to the Abbey of St. Michel de Frigolet, a peaceful spot for a breather.

I reached Les Baux-de-Provence sometime after noon and knew within moments that this was going to be a special place. Perched high above me, up on the hill, was a stone city and the medieval fortress, Château des Baux de Provence surrounded by vineyards and pine trees. I wandered up the hill to the north of Château des Baux de Provence for an incredible view of Les Baux de Provence.

That night, after walking around Les Baux de Provence for several hours, I returned to my hotel and prepared for a fancy dinner at the Michelin starred restaurant, La Cabro d'Or. This seven course meal was one the most extraordinary meals of my lifetime.



Darren Alff travelled with Belle France on their seven-night Provence Prestige en Vélo holiday.

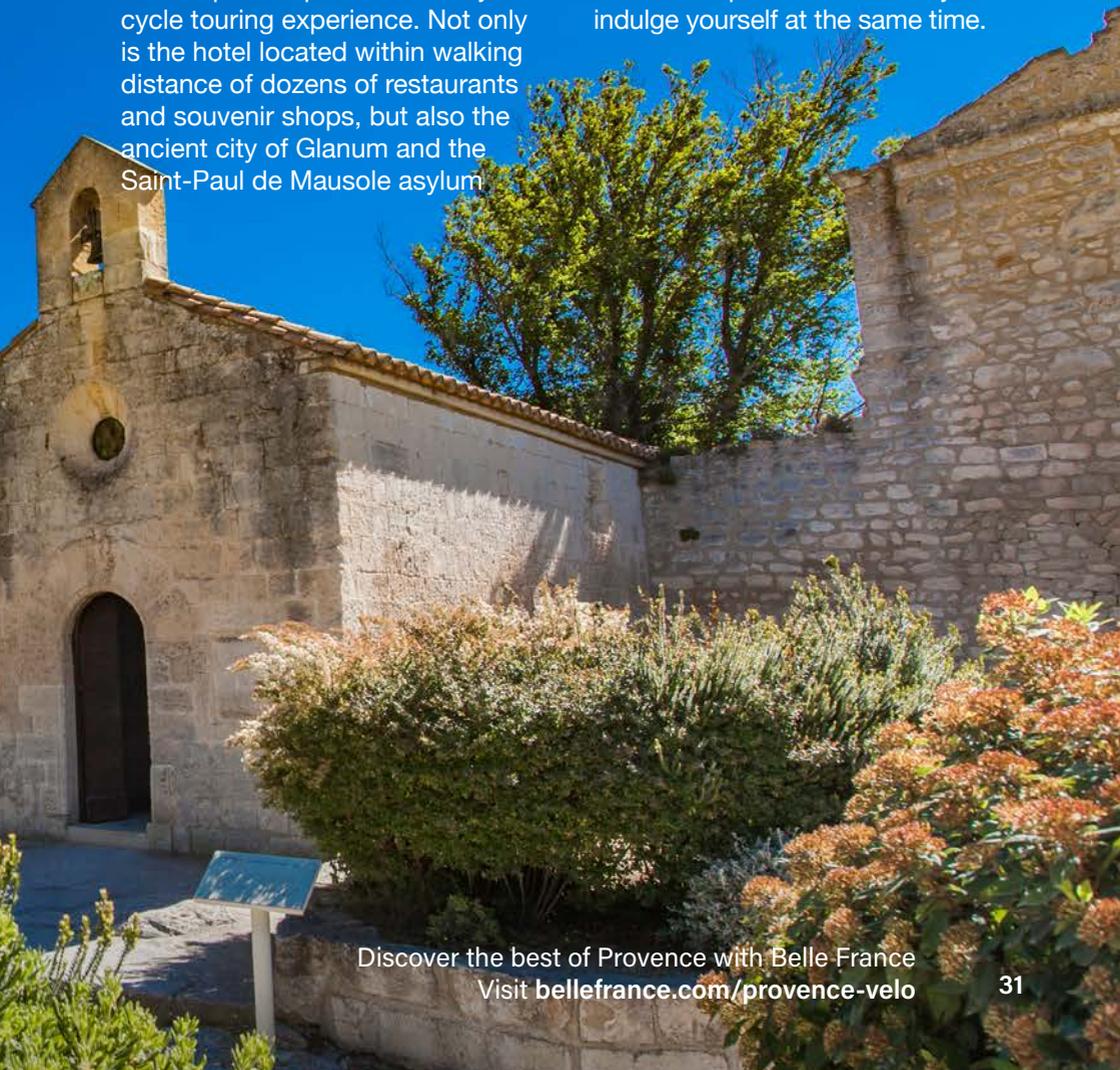
For more information visit [bellefrance.com](http://bellefrance.com) or call 01580 214 010

Next day was my final day of pedalling. The truth is, there were really only a few kilometres between Hotel Baumanière and my next hotel, Hotel Gounod, in nearby Saint Rémy. To make the most of the day, I followed the detailed route prepared by Belle France, taking me in a loop back to the city centre later in the afternoon.

Hotel Gounod is a small property but the perfect place to finish your cycle touring experience. Not only is the hotel located within walking distance of dozens of restaurants and souvenir shops, but also the ancient city of Glanum and the Saint-Paul de Mausole asylum

where Vincent van Gogh lived for a short time can also be easily reached from here on foot.

I absolutely adored my experience on the Provence Prestige en Vélo bike tour. We all think we know Provence but until you've pedalled along its byways and been up close to its unique character, you'll never fully appreciate its special charm. And wow, this luxurious trip is a fabulous way to indulge yourself at the same time.



# Costa Brava

**the perfect recipe  
for a holiday?**

**Barcelona**



With 300 km of coastline studded with little bays, sandy coves and rugged cliffs, the Costa Brava has irresistible appeal. Add in picturesque fishing villages, sensational cuisine and wonderful climate, and you have the recipe for a perfect holiday.

Spain is a top holiday choice for many Brits and the Costa Brava is in pole position. Beginning a little to the north of Barcelona, it's situated within the province of Girona in Catalonia and despite the vibrant, cosmopolitan nature of this fiercely independent region, the Costa Brava coastline tucks away many hidden, and not so hidden, gems.

Some of the most notable resorts include Blanes which has grown from a fishing village to a lively

resort and is the gateway to the Costa Brava. Lloret de Mar is perhaps the hottest hotspot of the region with plenty of nightlife and five beaches, while Tossa de Mar with its cobbled streets and castle is a pleasant place to wander. Others follow, including L'Escala, Sant Pere Pescador, Palamós, Palafrugell and Calella with its excellent fish restaurants.

Most alluringly, the Costa Brava offers some 2,000 gorgeous beaches liberally sprinkled along its coastline - who could want more when it comes to the ultimate family seaside holiday? These beaches are the without doubt the biggest draw of all - for many Spain is all about the siren call of the costas with their heady mix of sun, sea and sangria.



**Tossa de Mar**

## Bay of Roses

Set on the Gulf of Roses, the ancient town of Roses dates back to the 8th century BC. It's less than 30 km from the border with France and, as the town is unique in facing west, it's renowned for sublime sunsets. The big draw here is the number of fantastic beaches, lapped by the warm turquoise waters of the Med. Leave the crowded stretches behind and before long you'll find a little sandy cove all to yourself.



**Cala Rostell**

## Girona

With 300 days of sunshine per year and a characterful old centre, the city of Girona has obvious charms. There are cobbled streets, elegant squares, a dizzying array of wonderful restaurants and shops, as well as plenty of historical landmarks and ancient monuments to explore. Stroll through the idyllic parks, the fascinating Jewish Quarter (a favoured filming location popular with Game of Thrones fans) and along the old Roman walls.



**Girona**



# 7 things to do on the Costa Brava

From soft sandy beaches to forested hills, this is a region of variety. Explore the hidden cobbled streets of ancient villages, swing through the tree tops or dive into an underwater world. Find your thing.

## Hit the beach

Amazing beaches are plentiful - try the Platja de Tamariu with sandy coves and excellent water sports.

## Go wild at the waterpark

Enjoy family fun at the Aquabrava waterpark in Roses, with 19 water features.

## Discover the wild side

Immerse yourself in the rich natural surroundings of the Cap de Creus Nature Reserve.

## Besalu



## Take a hike

Follow the long distance trail Camino de Ronda (look out for the white stripe/red stripe way markers).

## Get out on the water

Explore the bays and coves by kayak or snorkel through the underwater worlds.

## Explore another world

The exotic Butterfly Park at Empuriabrava is a tropical garden that captivates and amazes.

## Fly through the treetops

At Parc Aventura Costa Brava you can travel through the trees on zip wires, ropes, Tarzan jumps and nets.



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 Costa Brava

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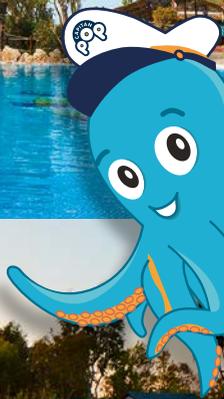
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from Alan Rogers Travel



The Lone Tree of Lake Wanaka, New Zealand

# New Zealand Discovery

A motorhome journey that's more than just a holiday

Welcome to the land of the long white cloud. We have been putting together sensational motorhome trips to far-flung places (like South Africa, Australia, Canada and the USA) and this is a good moment to showcase one of our most popular New Zealand adventures.

It's a thrilling itinerary, designed to give you the opportunity to see as much of New Zealand as possible. You'll visit many 'bucket list' sights and destinations and crucially you'll have the convenience of a well-thought out, tried-and-tested itinerary and the reassurance of experienced, knowledgeable local Tour Leaders who will be with you all the way.



Wellington at dusk



Canterbury Plains



## The holiday of a lifetime

This holiday is certainly about the journey just as much as the sensational destination itself, giving the chance to experience a world beyond your own routine with experiences to soak up and moments of wonder to last a lifetime.

It's a group tour but you have the freedom and flexibility to see and do what you want each day, whilst being part of a group does allow for convivial evenings where you can share experiences, life stories, and the day's events. Typically, a sociable group is quickly formed, but always without pressure or expectation to participate. There's a huge amount to see and do, so ideally you will be happy to drive reasonable distances (on the left!), and do some easy going walking to ensure you get the most out of the trip.

### ***A journey of discovery, not just a holiday***

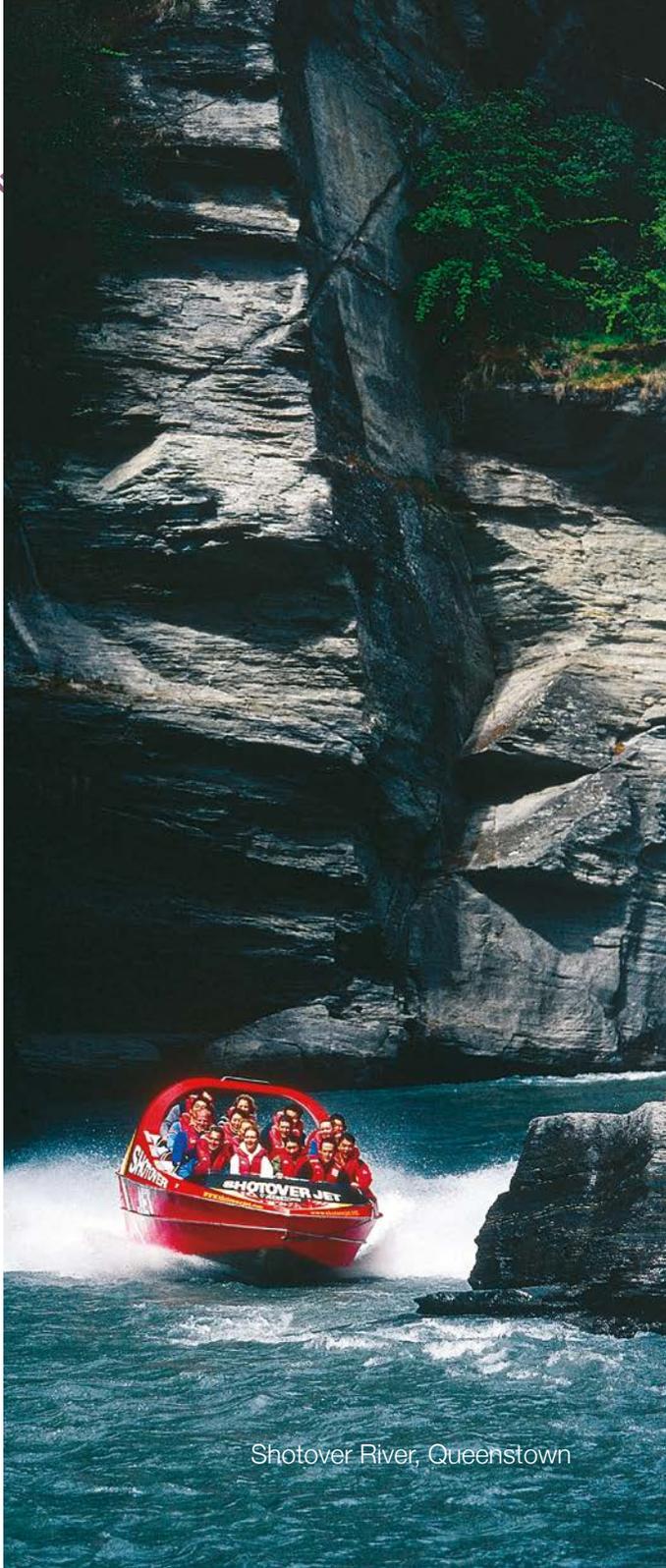
New Zealand is truly a world-class destination. The astonishing variety of landscapes and geological features make it a fascinating, endlessly changing backdrop to any trip. You'll discover, on a daily basis, uniquely beautiful views and scenery, all dramatic, all unspoilt and all demanding your attention.

## South Island

Explore the world heritage listed Mt Cook National Park, training ground of Sir Edmund Hilary. Drop down to Dunedin and head along the Otago peninsula to see the albatross and penguin sanctuaries. Relax amid majestic scenery in Te Anau and enjoy a once in a lifetime cruise on Milford Sound. Wander among gold mining heritage in Arrowtown near Queenstown where you will dine on top of a mountain overlooking the stunning alpine surrounds. Gaze at the brooding Fox and Franz Josef glaciers, as old as time, and take a sea kayak to the 120 million year old Split Apple Rock in Abel Tasman National Park. Cycle through world famous Marlborough vineyards, sampling as you go.

# North Island

Cruise across the Cook Strait, maybe spotting dolphins along the way, before enjoying the bustle of Wellington, a true world city. Marvel at Napier's unique art deco architecture and sip Hawke's Bay Sauvignon Blanc produced yards from your motorhome. Wonder at primordial geysers in Rotorua. Experience a Maori cultural evening and traditional feast and even take part in a Haka! Knock on Bilbo Baggins's door at Hobbiton film set. Admire the sublime craggy coastline of the Coromandel before digging a hole on Hot Water Beach and enjoying a steaming hot soak as the tide comes in. Take a dolphin spotting cruise around the wild Bay of Islands.



Shotover River, Queenstown





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# HOW TO BUY A CAMPSITE

It's easy to see the appeal of running a campsite. You get to spend time outdoors, interact with new people, and there is the potential to have every day different to the one before.

If you have been dreaming about buying a campsite for ages, getting a little advice on how to do it can be the final push that you need. We have put together some of the most important things that you should know when it comes to the buying and running of a campsite.

by **Anthea Taylor**  
[uk.businessesforsale.com](http://uk.businessesforsale.com)





## FINDING THE RIGHT CAMPSITE

You not only want to find the right campsite but the right campsite for you. Do you want to be surrounded by beautiful scenery? Do you want a business that is busy all year round or are you looking for something seasonal?

Answering these questions will bring you closer to finding your ideal business. If you are searching for a business online, you can filter your search by using these guidelines. Remember, though, to keep an open mind as the right business may be one that you can make the necessary changes to once you have taken it over. Focus on the things that you are not able to change, like location and size.

There will be other practical constraints, of course. You will have to consider the cost of the business that you are looking to buy. If you have a family, you may also be considering the living arrangements and the nearby towns.

For many a future campsite owner, the idea of living surrounded by land and having an outdoor lifestyle is what is an essential part of buying a campsite. If this is you, you will need to find a site that is on the right property.



FIND THE RIGHT SITE



DO YOUR RESEARCH



GET IN THE PROFESSIONALS



START MANAGING



GROW YOUR BUSINESS



# RESEARCH THE MARKET

Traditional camping has remained steady in its popularity in the UK. Other options like caravans and motorhomes have been a popular option for British families over the years. These traditional options are likely to remain popular; however, glamping has arisen as a new trend. This has opened camping up to a whole new market.

All three of these options can appeal to local and foreign tourists. Of course, when it comes to camping, staycations have become more prevalent in the UK with places like the Lake District, Cornwall and the Scottish Highlands topping the lists. Holiday parks have remained popular with tourists and have generated much revenue for the sector.

Before you decide on which camping business you are going to buy, make sure that you are on top of trends and future market predictions. Building glamping options on your property can be a significant investment if they are not there already. You will also need to have planning permission to do this. This also applies if you were to have

motorhomes on the property. There also needs to be some infrastructure available for your guests. For example, if you are planning on allowing for caravaners, will you have the right power points for them to hook up to and have you thought about the condition of the pitches?

You should also remember that drawing customers has become a matter of offering them an experience rather than just a place to put up their tent. Partnering with local businesses like restaurants, farms, bakeries or breweries can allow you to offer customers packages that include cooking lessons, food sampling or beer tasting.



**FIND THE  
RIGHT SITE**



**DO YOUR  
RESEARCH**



**GET IN THE  
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## HOW TO GUIDE

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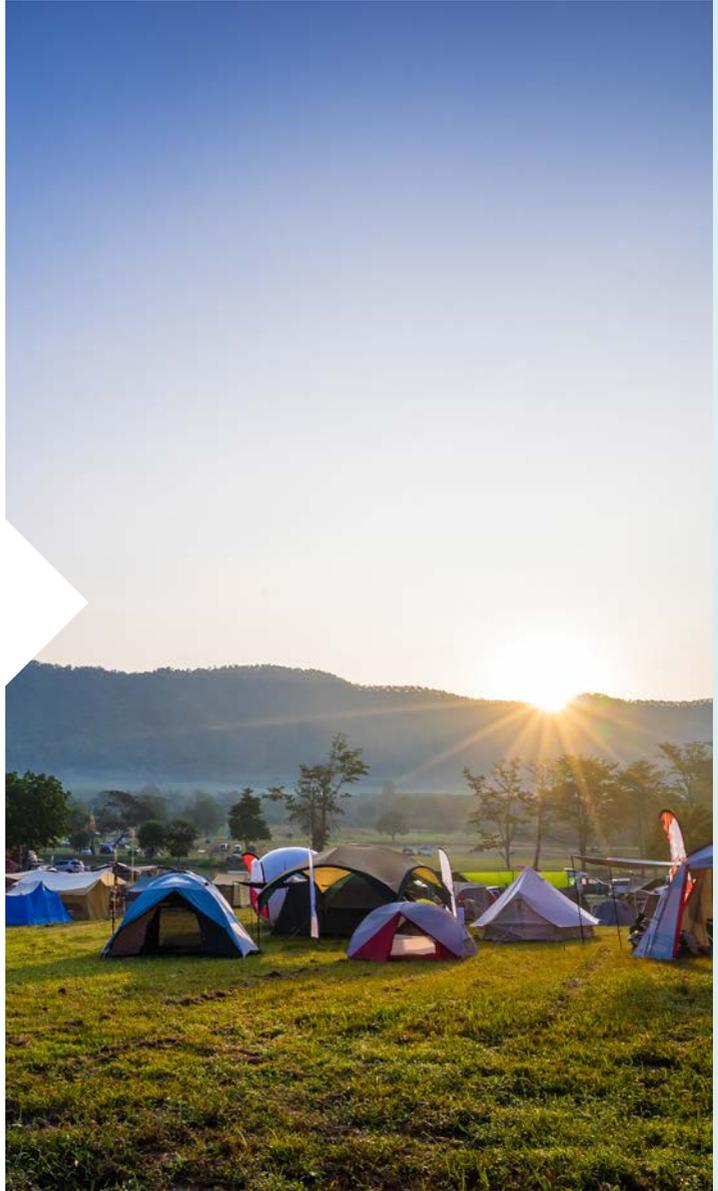
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## DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE

Once you have found a business that you think fits the bill, you will need to make sure that it holds up under further inspection. When buying an existing business, you need to make sure there aren't existing problems.

Finding issues with the business or property does not always mean walking away, but it can keep you from paying too much for what you are getting.

When it comes to campsites, you need to make sure that all the legal requirements are in place before you accommodate any customers. The business you buy should already have these. Consider things such as planning permissions and site licences.

Get in the professionals- lawyers, accountants etc - to help you look through the business's accounts and to see what is included in the sale. What are the exact boundaries of the land? Does the business have the right access? Will the purchase be freehold or leasehold?

Find out if any existing tenants will remain on once you have taken over the business. You should also assess the ablutions and whether these are adequate.

Taking an in-depth look into the books of the business will mean going back over the last few years of records and analysing whether everything was recorded correctly. You need to know how many guests the business has had over the years, and the revenue the business was able to make.

Are the costs and expenses that are recorded once-off or do they repeat? You don't want a healthy-looking turnover to end up as no real profit.

The reputation of a business like a campsite is also something that can stay with it long after new owners have taken over. Scour the reviews that the business has on various review sites. Bad reviews left on TripAdvisor or Google Reviews can really put people off coming to stay at your campsite.



Camping Yelloh! Village Les Tropiques  
[alanrogers.com/FR66190](http://alanrogers.com/FR66190)



## DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT

Finding the right business to buy is a crucial ingredient to owning a successful business. The other key component is being equipped to handle the day to day management of the business.

Be realistic about what your strengths and weaknesses are and how you will handle running a campsite. Remember that you'll primarily be dealing with people and so need to be a people person.

Although a campsite seems unique to other businesses, it is similar in many ways. You will still need to be able to manage the bookkeeping, the marketing and other business basics.



Of course, you can hire help in any of these areas. You will then need to be prepared to pay them a salary. Busy campsites often have managers to share the workload as having people staying with you can require having someone available to help almost around the clock. Will you have the time to run the campsite and market it?

Your business will be busiest during the summer months and weekends. Are you prepared to work your hardest at these times? It is also best that you have some basic camping and handyman knowledge so that you can help out the campers that need it.

Before buying the campsite, you will also need to have a clear and thorough business plan that will lay out how you plan to operate the business over the coming years. This business plan will help you apply for loans and can work as a road map for the business during the first few years of operation.



**FIND THE  
RIGHT SITE**



**DO YOUR  
RESEARCH**



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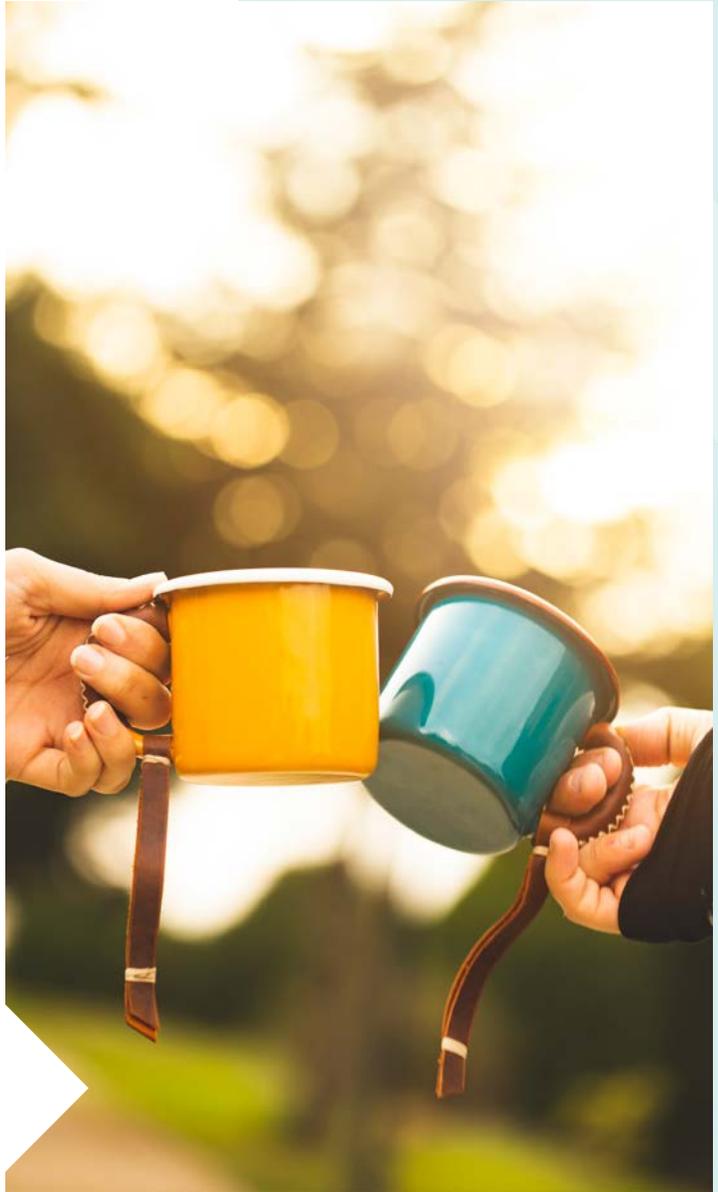
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## BE SURE THERE IS GROWTH POTENTIAL

To make sure you get a good return on your investment, you will need to identify areas for potential growth in the business.

Will it be possible for you to grow the business after you have purchased it? Be realistic about how this could be done. Does the licence you have, allow for more pitches? If there is a restriction, will you be able to improve the services offered to the extent that customers would be willing to pay more money for a stay on your site?

Expanding the number of pitches on your site will come with other considerations like increased ablutions and parking. From the beginning, you need to know how the campsite deals with sewage and waste! You can then make an informed decision as to whether the capacity can be increased.

You will also need to think about the offseason and whether the

business attracts people during this time. If they are not able to, will you be able to make changes that will encourage people to visit you all year round?

Figuring out your growth strategy will play a role in the long-term plans for your business. You should be thinking of your exit strategy from day one of operation, despite how counterintuitive this may feel. Growth in the business will allow you to add value and cash in when the time comes!

Do your research and be sure of what the market can offer. Combine this knowledge with what it is that you envision for your future, and you should have a winning formula for your camping business.

### Ready to take the plunge?

We have over 160 campsites listed for sale throughout Europe.

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# NATURIST CAMPING

Naturism is the freedom of getting back to nature, enjoying the elements on your skin and not having to worry about squeezing into last year's swimming costume. Or indeed any clothes at all. Naturist campsites are friendly places where you are entirely safe to let your guard down and relax.

## THE BENEFITS OF NATURISM

Naturist camping holidays are a breath of fresh air for those who enjoy them, places where you can cast off anxieties about appearance and body image among like-minded visitors. The UK's national organisation British Naturism [bn.org.uk](http://bn.org.uk) has many years experience of encouraging and celebrating the naturist way of life and hears so much positive feedback from those who have decided to take the plunge. Spending time immersed in

the outdoors and surrounded by nature brings enormous benefits, a boost to physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing. Laid-back communal nudity is also a great way to meet people in an unhurried and respectful way, a shared moment of humanity where everyone is on a level.

Feeling the sunshine, fresh air and water all over is a wonderful experience of wellbeing and freedom. The simple act of arriving and stripping off is a great way to cast off the trappings and pressures of ordinary life. Researchers are discovering something that naturists have known for decades: it is particularly good for improving your body image.

Long before the invention of the swimming costume, people stripped off to bathe outdoors without a second thought.

Naturists continue to do so today, gathering at campsite pools and beaches to enjoy the timeless pleasure of skinny dipping. So if you've ever felt the urge to throw caution – along with everything else – to the wind, these campsites have got naturism down to a fine art.

## **NATURIST CAMPSITES**

Many of our listed sites are set apart in beautiful woodland or beside dedicated nude beaches, making them ideal for visitors who are new to nudism. As any experienced naturist camper will tell you, they are also the perfect setting in which to make friends with like-minded individuals and relax in a welcoming environment.

[alanrogers.com/naturist](http://alanrogers.com/naturist)



# NATURIST TERMS

## **NATURIST OR NUDIST?**

If your favourite holiday outfit is your birthday suit, then you can call yourself a naturist or nudist as you prefer. The dress code certainly looks the same when practised on a sunny beach. But as naturists might tell you, the joys of stripping off go rather more than skin deep.

Naturism arose as a philosophy around 100 years ago in response to the increasing stresses of everyday life and as a reaction against rules that restricted people from bathing naked outdoors.

Nudism means choosing to go nude where others might prefer to button up, but naturists take it one step further to feel connected to nature and their own bodies. It has emotional, spiritual and social benefits, an emphasis on all-over wellbeing.

## **CLOTHING OPTIONAL**

In practice, nearly every naturist campsite is clothing optional to a degree, particularly in the evenings, although all of them would discourage any form of swimming costume. Clothing optional generally means the site is relaxed about what you choose to wear or not wear.

## **FREE BEACH**

A nude beach is sometimes referred to as a free beach. These are places where nudity is well established and accepted, either through official designation or by a long-term history of nude bathing. Traditional naturism is respectable and safe, and police will only intervene to cut down on antisocial behaviour.

## **FKK**

When it comes to organised naturist sites, Germans certainly got there first,

unrolling their towels to practice what was initially labelled Freikörperkultur, or 'free body culture'. Appealing to equal numbers of men and women and with an emphasis on communal nudity as a healthy way to exercise and mingle with others, the movement spread rapidly from its origins in the city of Essen in 1898.

The FKK movement believed that bodily embarrassment and shame were unnatural and unhealthy, and demonstrated it was possible to celebrate rather than denigrate nakedness. FKK followers in time became known as naturists or nudists, and the movement rapidly spread.

## **INF**

The International Naturist Federation combines member federations from over forty countries. The aim is to improve the naturist experience by developing a better understanding of the benefits of naturism among the general public. It also helps to advocate for the rapidly growing naturist travel market, which attracts millions of tourists each year.

## **TEXTILE**

Quite simply, the opposite of nudist. A 'textile' is how a naturist might refer to someone who chooses to wear clothes for swimming and sunbathing. Types of campsites are therefore sometimes described as naturist or textile sites to underscore the difference.

## **TOPLESS OR TOP FREE?**

Meaning much the same thing, these are ordinary beaches where women, as well as men, are free to strip off their upper body, essentially where women can go without their bikini top. Unlike naturist places, however, the lower half of the body is kept covered up.

## **NAKATION**

A nakation is simply a nude vacation, a reasonably new term that long-established naturists rarely use. But that underlines the point: you don't need to consider yourself a committed naturist to join in. Naturism is there for anyone willing to join in and respect the traditional and well-established way of enjoying a holiday to the full.

---

Browse over 100 naturist sites at [alanrogers.com/naturist](http://alanrogers.com/naturist)

# OUR TOP NATURIST SITES



## **NATURISTA EL TEMPLO DEL SOL**

Tarragona, Catalonia, Spain  
[alanrogers.com/ES85370](http://alanrogers.com/ES85370)



## **APOLLO SUN CLUB**

West Sussex, South East, UK  
[alanrogers.com/UK2942](http://alanrogers.com/UK2942)



## **CENTRE NATURISTE HÉLIOMONDE**

Île de France, France  
[alanrogers.com/FR91040](http://alanrogers.com/FR91040)



## **NATURIST PARK KOVERSADA**

Istria, Croatia  
[alanrogers.com/CR6729](http://alanrogers.com/CR6729)



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# OPEN ALL YEAR





The arrival of cold weather and short days does not mean you have to curtail your camping and caravanning activities. In fact it opens up a whole new world of how to enjoy it! The Alan Rogers website currently shows over 1,500 campsites that are open all year round. That should be sufficient for even the most picky of campers.

# 6 REASONS TO LOVE CAMPING ALL YEAR ROUND

Temperature can play a big part in holiday timings. For some the hot, sticky days of summer are uncomfortable, to be endured rather than enjoyed. Consequently, the appeal of travelling in May and early autumn is obvious. Equally, many prefer to travel during winter in order to find warmer weather than at home. These are the so-called 'snowbirds' who fly south from the UK in late autumn, staying in sunny locations for the winter.

## **MORE PEACEFUL CAMPSITES**

The ambience on a campsite is totally different out of high season. Things are less frenetic, quieter and just more relaxed. There are no queues to beat, no crowds to avoid. You can get up and just do what you want when you want without any pressure to 'get on the road' before others do.

## **CHEAPER CAMPSITES**

Prices are markedly lower out of season and on the continent you'll find many campsites in shoulder periods (May or September for example) offer incredibly low prices with the aim of attracting guests who will then dine in the on site restaurant and enjoy a drink in the bar.

## **GETAWAY CAMPING BREAKS**

We all like to take a sneaky getaway. It could be a long weekend with the dog, or it could be a city break – there is a new breed of city campsite emerging where the proposition is low cost pitches or accommodation in snug chalets or glamping units, with easy public transport routes into the city centre.

## WINTER SPORTS

Certain campsites in certain areas are perfect for activities of a specifically wintry nature. Think snow related sports like skiing and snowboarding. Campsites in the Alps, Germany, Italy, Scotland and Pyrenees can be a short walk from the ski lift. Others lay on shuttle buses and most can help arrange ski passes, equipment and instruction.

## KID FREE

For many camping and caravanning is all about the children. Summer is the time for them to run around in the safety of a campsite, letting off steam and having a blast. For others that's all fine as long as when the school bell rings in September and they all pack their pencils and trudge off to the start of a new term, the campsites are left peaceful and calm.

## DARK SKY RESERVES

The UK has four of the eleven International Dark Sky Reserves in the world. Not surprisingly they are in the least populated areas of the country: Brecon, Exmoor, Snowdonia and the South Downs. And, of course, the best time to observe the starry, starry nights is on a crisp, dark night in mid-winter. Find a campsite that's well tucked away and sit back and let the entertainment begin.





# TOP TIPS FOR A BIG CHILL

- Do make sure your awning is up to scratch – invaluable for storing muddy boots and wet clothing.
- Keep snow away from air ventilation outlets and flues.
- Keep moving parts like the jockey wheel well oiled.
- Pack some grip tracks or even pieces of old carpet in case you get stuck.
- Worth emptying waste water containers at night.
- You'll need propane gas (butane does not vaporise well at low temperatures).
- Consider bringing snow chains.



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# Rise & Shine

Camping is an opportunity to get together with family and friends or simply spend a few days enjoying nature. For a lot of campers, this may mean thinking outside the oven or fridge for a good breakfast.



by Steph Young  
*campingcooks.com*

Camping meals can be just as good as a homemade weekend breakfast or brunch. The right appliances and cooking implements give you almost as much flexibility at the campsite as you enjoy at home. If you have limited experience with camping or cooking outdoors, you may want to start small. Learning how to operate a camping stove, light a BBQ or build a fire safely is essential to ensure that everyone remains safe until the meal is finished. With practice, you can decide which approach you prefer, and which foods work best with each tool.

Campers who start their search early can find dozens of recipes for all sorts of breakfast meals, from French toast to savoury scrambled eggs. You should keep in mind that cooking while camping usually takes longer, so you need to start the preparation earlier. Otherwise, the sky is the limit if you have an open mind, a few skills, and these handy tips.



## *Tried and tested*

With the right tools and preparation, you can make almost anything at a campsite that you can cook at home.

There are several different approaches to heating or cooking food, from the basic campfire (campsite rules permitting) to a combination grill and stove. Cooking or baking while camping can take more time and effort to get ready. You should research your choices to determine which one works best for you.



## the camp fire

Cooking over a campfire can be one of the easiest and least expensive ways to eat while camping. All you need to make a tasty breakfast is a fire and some skewers. To add more variety, you could wrap meals you would ordinarily bake in a foil packet. These can be placed into the fire for practical cooking. You should check that fires are permitted, that you light it in a safe place and can keep young children from getting too close while you cook.

To cook over a campfire or charcoal BBQ, you need to create the right conditions.

Roaring flames are a less efficient source of heat. High flames may burn one side of the food while the other remains cold and uncooked. Instead, you should light the fire or BBQ and give it at least 30-45 minutes to burn down. Planning is key. Once the fire is still going well but has lots of hot glowing coals, you can place your food near the coals. Sausages on a skewer should be held close to the coals and regularly turned until cooked. Meals wrapped in foil can go near the coals and may take as much as 30-40 minutes to cook.

## the cast iron

Cast iron pans and Dutch ovens are increasing in popularity for use in the home. This means that you may not have to buy these exclusively for camping use. Here are our suggestions for cast iron tools for campsite cooking:

- 8-10 inch cast iron pan
- Dutch oven with fire-safe lid, with optional stand
- cast iron grill grate
- cast iron skillet
- cast iron tripod to hang over the fire

Properly-seasoned cast iron cookware is relatively easy to clean, which is a benefit while camping with limited access to washing facilities. Cast iron takes longer to heat up than a pan made of steel or aluminium. This means that you need to give extra time for a consistent cooking surface. With plenty of time, you can fry bacon, make pancakes, warm tortillas, cook scrambled egg or even bake a cake.

These tools offer the greatest variety for campers who enjoy all the comforts of breakfast at home.

## *the portable stove vs portable grill*

Many campers like to bring a portable stove, grill or hotplate to do most of their cooking.

These appliances are usually quicker to set up than a fire or charcoal BBQ and offer a higher degree of flexibility, particularly in places where campfires are not allowed. The difference between the products is relatively simple to understand. A portable stove has a heating element that burns fuel, such as propane, that directly heats a pot, pan, or kettle. A portable grill or hotplate usually uses gas to generate heat under the grill plate. This style is ideal for grilling meats and vegetables.

You may want to research several different options before you choose a stove or grill.

There are combination models that feature a grill-plate and room to put a pot or pan over direct heat. You should determine which kinds of cooking you are most likely to do as you browse the options available. Many combo stoves and grills give very little space to each side, which could make cooking for a larger family more difficult. Combo options can be quite compact, which could make them ideal for families with limited space in their vehicles.



# Toast

## the Staples

Once you have the right tools and understand what to expect on the campsite, you can get ready for some great morning meals.

Our number one tip is to plan the menu in advance and create a checklist to follow when packing and preparing the food. It can be difficult to source missing ingredients or shop for more when stores are many miles away. You should choose dishes that are easy to pack, which will fit in your vehicle.

It is easy to cook, and there is no worry if the bread does not toast all the way through. You can buy toasting racks that they place directly on a grill grate, camp stove or hold over the fire. A little oil in a cast iron pan makes preparing toast or French toast for breakfast quick and simple. You can warm pre-cooked tortillas or cook them in a cast-iron pan, as well. This adds some pleasant variety for when campers want a breakfast burrito or even huevos rancheros.

## Bacon and sausages

Many campers like adding them to dishes for any meal because they cook quickly and are family friendly. To cook sausage on a skewer, you simply need to stick the sausages on the skewer and keep it near the coals until it is nicely browned on all sides. Cooking bacon is also easy on a skewer. You can fold the bacon back and forth on the skewer in a ruffle pattern. This will keep the bacon from falling off as it cooks. Otherwise, you may use a grill grate, portable grill, cast iron pan, or Dutch oven.

## Pancakes

Pancakes require a flat surface, usually a griddle plate or pan. You can make preparation easy by mixing the dry ingredients before you leave home. Mixing the batter too far in advance, like the day before, may cause the pancakes not to rise adequately. The griddle or pan needs plenty of time to reach a consistent temperature. This will allow the pancakes to cook evenly without scorching on one side before the other is done.

## Porridge

Porridge takes longer to prepare. You just need to boil water and pour in your favourite oats. With about 10 minutes to simmer, the oats will be soft and easy to eat. Adding nuts, brown sugar or dried fruit gives extra flavour without extra work. For a faster meal, you might want to mix the oats, other ingredients, and water to soften overnight. This makes a quick breakfast that needs no heat.

## Eggs and omelettes

You can cook scrambled eggs or omelette in a cast iron pan or Dutch oven much as you would at home. If you're looking for something a little different, you can mix the eggs and other ingredients in a plastic bag with an airtight seal. Dropping this bag into a pot of boiling water cooks the eggs through in a few minutes. The benefit of this approach is that a larger pot can cook several bags at the same time, and it minimises on washing up!

## Coffee

The difference is that home coffeemakers make clean-up a little easier. You can make coffee so long as you have ground coffee beans, a pot, and steaming hot water. Coffee needs a few minutes to steep into the water. If you want to avoid chewing on grounds as you drink, you may want to pour the coffee through a filter into a heat-safe mug. You could also use a percolator on a grill grate, which will heat the water and brew the coffee more slowly.



## *Pre-prepped ideas*

Any experienced camper will probably suggest doing as much food prep as possible before leaving home.

Cooking at the campsite is not quite the same as cooking at home. When using a fire or open heating element, you have to pay close attention to it to keep family members safe and know when it is ready for cooking. As such, many campers like to have food items that they only need to reheat or that do not need any heat at all.

Assuming you can keep cooked foods cold until they are ready to eat, you may want to bring the following pre-cooked items that reheat well:

- bacon or sausage
- pancakes or French toast
- overnight oatmeal
- quesadillas with pre-cooked eggs, meat, and veg

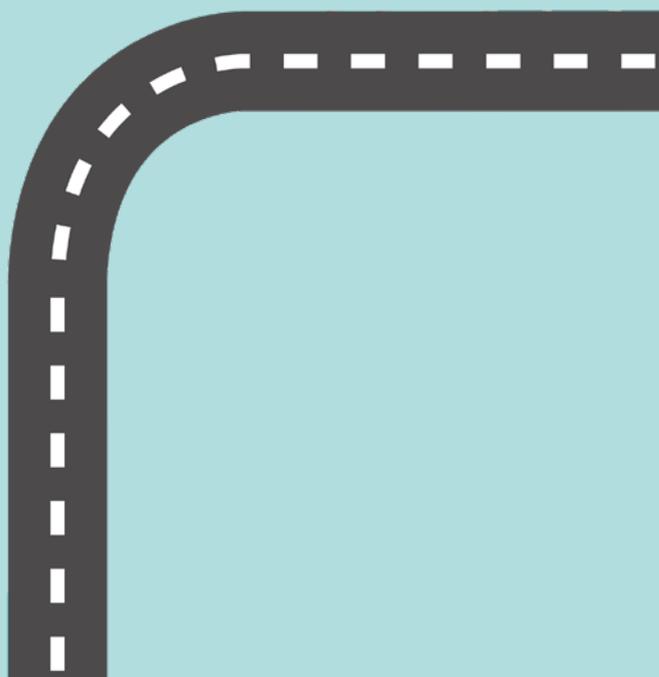
These dishes still need adequate heat for up to 30 minutes or more, depending on the food item.

You may want to limit the number of foods you eat at each meal. Cooking bacon or sausages? Bring muffins and fruit from home to complement. If you have access to a cooler, you can make breakfast sandwiches. Boiled eggs add protein without the need to cook them before serving.



# ROUTE TO... NORTH-EAST SPAIN

by John Corral  
*Campsite Assessor*





We're often asked for suggested routes, and the way to Spain is one which crops up regularly. With this in mind, we've asked our campsite assessors to come up with their suggested route through France to the Catalan border. The following course assumes that you have already had a long journey to the Port of Dover or the Eurotunnel.

## DAY 1

### CALAIS/COQUELLES TO ESCALLES 23KM (14MI)

Exit the port on the N216 or follow the signs from the Eurotunnel and join the A16 south towards Boulogne. There is no toll in this section. For an overnight stop, exit at junction 40. Join the D243 westbound and pass through the village of Peuplingues. After the Escalles village sign, take the second turning on the left. Turn left at the green cycle route No.4 sign (to Wissant) on your left. The entrance to **Camping les Erables (also known as Camping Maples)** is then 400 m. on the left.

## DAY 2

### ESCALLES TO BONNEVAL (371KM / 230M)

Retrace your route to join the A16 and continue south towards Boulogne. After junction 29 the toll starts. At junction 23 keep right to join A28 towards Rouen. There is no easy way through Rouen, and at weekends it can be very congested, so be patient. Continue on the A28 through the tunnels, following signs for Le Mans. After the second, shorter tunnel, keep right as you cross the Seine, signposted Rive Gauche. Just after the river take the exit for the D18E (Quai Rive Gauche) and follow the road back around under itself. Continue on D18E to follow Le Mans signs with the railway line on your right, pass through several traffic light junctions.

## DAY 3

### BONNEVAL TO CHATEAUROUX (211KM / 131M)

At the second roundabout, with the Buffalo Grill opposite, take the second exit onto D18E.

Follow signs to Le Mans to eventually join A13 at junction 22 (no toll at this stage) follow signs Evreux. To avoid motorway charges leave A13 at the intersection onto A154/N154 signed Evreux. Continue on N154, past Evreux, until the junction with N12. Take the N12 towards Dreux. At Dreux follow signs for Chartres on the D828, eventually re-joining the N154 south. At Chartres take an anticlockwise route around

To return to N10, retrace your route to the centre of town, following the Toutes Directions sign at the main square. Turn left onto the N10 and continue to Vendome. Leave the N10 at Vendome, using the next junction after you cross the two branches of the River Loir, following signs to Vendome Z. I. Sud and join the D957 to Blois. At Blois, cross the A10 and take the 2nd exit to stay on the D957, entering the D956 towards Chateauxroux. Stay on the D956 past Contres, Selles-sur-Cher, Valencay and Levroux. For an overnight stop in Chateauroux, head to City Centre and pick up signs for **Camping Le Rochat-Belle-Isle** which is well signed. Signs for 'Halls Exposition' also take you to a recreational area where the site is next left after the municipal pool. Days 3 & 4 could be combined for a journey of 373km/232mi.

the town on N1154 & N123. Leave at the D910/N10 exit, signposted for Tours/Blois. Continue on D910/N10 to Bonneval.

For an overnight stop follow the sign to Bonneval and turn left at the crossroads in the centre of town, signposted camping (Dir. Orleans.) Join D27 then fork right onto D144 then right again onto C1. **Camping du Bois Chievre** is then on the right just after the swimming pool.

**Escalles** is characterised by its prestigious location and stunning sandy beaches overshadowed by towering cliffs.

Often nicknamed Little Venice of Beauce, **Bonneval** is a quaint fortified town bordered by the Loir River.

On the banks of the Indre River, **Chateauroux** is a traditional medieval French town with many interesting architectural features.

## DAY 4

**CHATEAUROUX TO  
SAINT GERMAIN  
LES BELLES  
(162KM/100M)**

## DAY 5

**SAINT GERMAIN  
LES BELLES TO  
CARCASSONNE  
(349KM/216M)**

Retrace your route and join the A20 south at Junction 13 towards Limoges. For an overnight stop, just south of Limoges, exit the A20 at junction 41, following signs for Magnac-Bourg. Join the D31 when you see signs for Saint Germain Les Belles and follow the signs to the lakeside camping at **Camping de Montréal**.

Take the D7B to return to A20 at junction 42 and continue south to junction 68. Now join A62 south towards Toulouse. Here (at junction 15) it changes to become the A61. Continue on A61 towards Carcassonne junction 24. For an overnight stop, Join the N113 and pick up signs for La Cité. The site **Camping de la Cité** is well signed. Do not arrive between 12.00 & 14.00.



## DAY 6

### CARCASSONNE TO SANT PERE PESCADOR (189KM/117M)

### SEE ALL THE SITES FEATURED IN THIS ARTICLE OVERLEAF

Avoid the toll by taking D6113 towards Narbonne. From here you have the option of A9 toll road or D6009 which will take you to the Spanish border. For a first night in Spain exit the E15 at Figueres (Junction 3) and join the N-11 south. Join the C-260, signposted to Roses, exit the C-260 at the 5th roundabout, taking the 2nd exit towards Sant Pere Pescador, joining the GIV-6216. Follow signs for **Camping Las Dunas**.

**Saint Germain** is an authentically French village with pretty surroundings.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, **Carcassonne** is really worth taking some time to explore.

Situated in the Bay of Roses, **Sant Pere Pescador** benefits from the long, sandy beaches of the Costa Brava and the nearby Aiguamolls de l'Empordà National Park.





## **CAMPING LES ERABLES**

[alanrogers.com/FR62200](http://alanrogers.com/FR62200)



## **CAMPING LE ROCHAT-BELLE-ISLE**

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## **CAMPING DU BOIS CHIEVRE**

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