

Hello - This is our New Blog, Blog 1

By guest, Feb 22 2012 06:45PM

Greetings from Keef & Annie. We plan to use this blog to document our travels in our Motorhome documenting via photo and video what we have seen but also sharing hints and tips along the way. We have already spent a lot of time in motorhomes travelling The Pacific Islands, NZ & Australia for almost a year in 2007/8 and from one side of Canada to the other in 2010. All of these trips were in "hire" motorhomes, but now we have embarked on getting one of our own.

The world, well most of it, is our oyster. Stay with us, register using Facebook or your own login and come on our fascinating journey.

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME

From 18/8/2016 it was converted to HTML5 so will run without the need for Flash on all devices. Only blogs 1-67 are represented here and they will not be transferred to motorhome-travels.co.uk as there are too many and it is too onerous -

However....

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The worlds most expensive Motorhome (currently) - Blog 2

By keef & annie, Feb 23 2012 06:07PM

This is currently the worlds most expensive motorhome at £1.9m (2012) over £2M by 2016. We have been looking to buy for almost 2 years but I must confess we didn't even look at this one. Couldn't find the right butler ;) Enjoy

Take a look in more detail on the Camping / Motorhome [Pinterest boards](#)

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the worlds most expensive motorhome, don't bet your house on it

Hints & Tips: replacing VW curtains, Blog 3

By keef & annie, Feb 24 2012 12:40PM

Even if these just need washing to freshen them up after a few years of travelling taking down your curtains in a VW motorhome and /or van can be a nightmare. Even delicate female fingers found this a challenge and as for my porkers well I wasn't even at the races.

We had had some advice from a guy who worked on upholstery for autosleepers for a long time and his advice was DON'T or be very very careful, the track holders are fiddly, small and inaccessible and each end has 2 minute fitted metal screws to hold the last one from either sliding off the rail or right across when you pull them.

So we approached our new VW Autosleeper Clubman Anniversary with some trepidation. He was almost right, DON'T but we had to as we are replacing the fabric covers in the van as well and need something to match. Sure enough one of the little metal ends fell on the green carpet at the front and was hell to find, we did eventually.

So getting them off was hard. Putting them back on eventually we guessed would be a breeze, nope almost impossible. I was hunting the internet to see if it was possible to find a replacement set of hook & eyes to make the job similar to hanging normal house hold curtains and low and behold I found VW.curtains.dot.com, we have compared the two side by side and tried them out, perfect and although we haven't made the new curtains yet or hung them in the van my guess is we won't be calling up the divorce lawyers *smile*

We will let you know here via commentary how it went when they are finally up.

Does anyone else have any experience of this 'problem', if so we would love to hear from you. One of our aims of this website is to start meeting more people and sharing ideas for a better 'motorhome' life. i.e more time to enjoy the travel / place than concentrating on the motorhome, which of course is fun anyhow.

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replacing old with new on a vw anniversary clubman

0 comments

Filed under: [hints-and-tips](#), [vw](#), [curtains](#), [autosleeper](#), [clubman](#), [habitation](#), [motorhome](#)

Hints & Tips: Before Buying a Motorhome, Blog 4

By keef & annie, Feb 24 2012 07:55PM

It took us well over 2 years to chose the 'right' motorhome as well as having lived and travelled in them via hiring for quite a while. It is not an easy choice. there are so many pro's and con's to consider... size, manufacturer base vehicle, beds, price, warrenty, location, layout etc etc

I found this [blog article](#) which really helps encapsulate some of the key issues BUT when all is said and done we passionately believe you will instinctively know WHEN IT IS RIGHT FOR YOU and above all go and see LOTS of them first, if you are like us you will be surprised at how often you change your mind on the last 'this is ceratinly it' *smile*

Have fun, but don't have sleepless nights over it... it will eventually happen as we have discovered

Here is a **SUMMARY** of the article just in case

But for many first-timers, the prospect of buying a new Motorhome or RV can be an overwhelming process. What do you look for? What are the best models? How do you know you're getting the best deal?

These are just some of the questions that pop up every time. So Sureterm Direct, the UK's largest specialist Motorhome and RV insurers, have come up with this simple 10-point plan to help you through the Motorhome buying maze.

1. Before you set out to see some Motorhomes or RV's on a dealer forecourt, make a comprehensive wishlist of the things that you want. In the excitement of buying your first Motorhome, it's easy to forget exactly what you want – and having a checklist to hand will keep you focused.
2. Be flexible. Unless you're on a substantial budget, it's unlikely that you'll find everything on your wishlist in one Motorhome or RV. So be clear about what are 'essentials' and what are 'desirables'.
3. See if your local dealers offer a 'try before you buy' service. Hiring a Motorhome, even for a weekend, will help you decide if you're really into the Motorhome lifestyle. It's also an opportunity to try out various layouts. And this will help shape your wishlist. At the very least, take some test drives in various models and make sure you get the feel of the vehicle on country roads, A roads and motorways.
4. When you do decide to take the plunge, always buy locally if possible. Buying from a dealer on the other side of the country is great if you get the deal of a lifetime – but no so great if you have to drive over there every time something goes wrong with your Motorhome or RV.
5. If you're buying a second-hand Motorhome, make sure you give every vehicle you look at a thorough inspection. Definitely check for signs of accident repair, leaks and signs of mould or damp. And if you're very inexperienced, take along a qualified mechanic or vehicle inspector (the AA and RAC sometimes offer this service to members) just to make 100% certain the vehicle is clean and roadworthy.
6. Motorhome and RV shows are an excellent way to help you identify models you like. And taking along a digital camera, or camera phone, allows you to take pictures of the motorhomes you like, or features that impress. You can then use these pictures when you start looking at models to buy.
7. There are thousands of experienced motorcaravanners out there who are happy to help people who are new to Motorhome ownership. So ask them for their opinions. Visit your nearest caravan sites and talk to owners, visit local shows and events, and use the internet as a valuable resource. www.sureterm.com is building up a community of Motorhome and RV owners and others sites like www.motorcaravanmagazine.co.uk and www.motorcaravanners.org.uk will help.
8. Once you've found your perfect Motorhome, you need to be 100% certain it's exactly what you want. Spend a few hours trying it out – making the beds, setting up the tables, moving chairs around. Setting up the Motorhome will let you decide if there's really enough space, and whether you can live with any minor niggles.
9. Always ask the dealer, or seller, to demonstrate everything for you. If there are extras, make sure all of the accessories like awning poles, hook-up leads, filling hoses and water bottles are present and in good working order.
10. And finally, don't forget to get adequate insurance. Driving a Motorhome or RV on a standard car insurance policy is unlikely to give you the best cover. Companies like Sureterm Direct have been providing specialist Motorhome and RV insurance for 10 years, and have policies to cover every Motorhome situation you're ever likely to encounter.

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2016 updated advice



TOP 10 tips before Buying 2012

0 comments

Filed under: [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#)

Advice for travelling in France, Blog 5

By keef & annie, Feb 25 2012 02:01PM

There are supposedly two major changes for us Brits travelling in our Motorhomes / RVs to France from this year.

It is hard to prove conclusively that they are now law but it would be sensible to know about them.

1. The need to **carry a breathalyser kit** for each person on your Motorhome with you
2. If you have **speed camera detection** on your SatNav under POI (points of interest) you will have to disable it.

You can order a twin NF pack of personal breathalysers here from [Alcosense](#). Just make sure you get the ones that conform to the supposed new French law.

We are not sure what you do if you cannot disable the POI function on your SatNav but from things we have read that under the new french law they can fine you up to Euros\$1000 and impound your motorhome. This is in line with them 'hiding' speed cameras and ensuring being aware of them is illegal under french law.

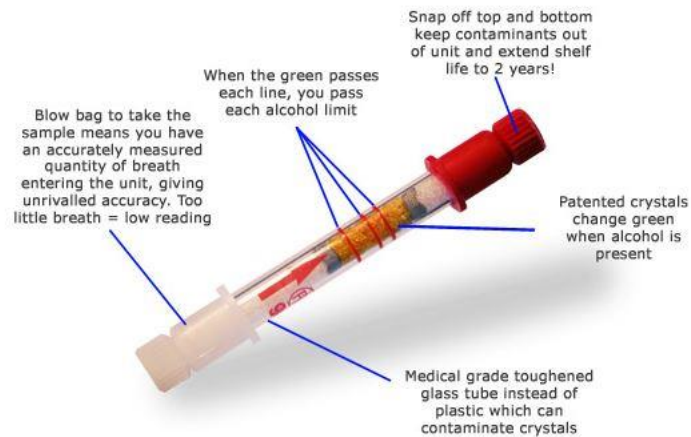
We will continue to research and update the Blog when we know more definately. If you know more please let us know in the comments. Thanks

UPDATE: 8/3/12 Assuming your SatNav is a TomTom when you plug it into TomTom HOME there is an option to exclude POI for France. May be worth selecting this option!

UPDATE: 12/8/13 latest views on breathalysers are that this will no longer be enforced by the French but suggest checking the latest website bulletins before travelling, there are definately some grounds for confusion but we would hate you to be caught out. The satnav advice is defibnatly current but TomTom etc give you the option when you connect your device

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Get 2 kits from Alcosense or buy at the border

0 comments

Filed under: [europe](#), [france](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#)

Old Motorhomes, Blog 6

By keef & annie, Feb 26 2012 03:25PM

Came across this interesting article on very [old motorhomes](#). Can you imagine being in one of these today?

Enjoy, haha

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Probably take a look at blog 28 as well





0 comments

Filed under: [size](#), [rv](#), [recommended](#), [habitation](#), [motorhome](#), [other-vans](#)

Luxury Motorhomes - Futuria - Blog 7

By keef & annie, Feb 26 2012 03:59PM

This one is not quite as expensive as the worlds most expensive Motorhome but its getting there.

Why not take a look in more detail at the [Futuria](#) (<-just click here).

Here's the **SUMMARY** just in case

If you like to travel in style, then the Futuria luxury motorhome is for you! The latest in highest quality motorhomes is Futuria's "Sports and Spa" caravan, which was recently unveiled at the Caravan Salon 2010 in Dusseldorf, Germany. This mansion on wheels contains everything for luxury travelling: bathroom, bedroom, roof terrace with Jacuzzi and even sports car garage.

Not only does it feature a Jacuzzi on the roof, but also a 36ft terrace leading to it - lots of room to set up the tables and chairs and a barbecue then!

The 49ft-long, 6.5-ton vehicle has a built-in electrical generator meaning you don't have to stop your partying whilst on the move.

Inside it has a full-sized living room and bed area, as well as a 'kitchenette'. Outside you'll find the reason for the 'sports' moniker, a garage which you can access from the side, or rear, perfect for parking your latest Lamborghini or Ferrari. The Futuria only has a top speed of 55 mph, so if you are in a hurry, you may wish to let down the ramps and let your supercar out to drive to your destination separately.

And it's a bargain, with many other additional features, this luxurious motor caravan will only cost you \$840,000 (around £550,000)

And just think about it, as they say "**you wouldn't get much change from your house, if ANY, for this one**"

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0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [futuristic](#), [motorhome](#), [expensive](#), [other-vans](#)

motorhome-travels now on Facebook, Blog 8

By keef & annie, Feb 28 2012 01:14PM

motorhome-travels now has a [community page](#) on Facebook so you can join us there as well and share any of your thoughts to the 300+million people , some of whom other than just us, we would hope are rv/ motorhome enthusiasts, lol!

we will attempt to hook up with all that is best and most useful to motorhome / rv travellers there as well

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Filed under: [facebook](#), [rv](#), [socialmedia](#), [motorhome](#)

The world's longest Motorhome / Rv? - Blog 9

By keef & annie, Mar 1 2012 09:32AM

The Snakeliner Presidents Suite could well be that.

It has 969 sq ft (90m²) of living space, plus "The President-Suite", which we're assuming should be the Presidential Suite but is a victim of poor translation, it is german, measures 18m (59 ft) long and 2.5m (8.2 ft) wide - not including the driver's cabin. But if that wasn't big enough, both sides can be extended outward a further 1.125m (3.7ft) to make it 5m (16.4 ft) wide when fully set up.

Enormous but could you drive it? even with your long distance lorry drivers license our guess is maybe!

If you want to see it in more detail [read the full article](#), it was on display at the Dusseldorf show recently.

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Snakeliner President Suite

2 comments

Filed under: [size](#), [rv](#), [habitation](#), [security](#), [futuristic](#), [motorhome](#), [expensive](#), [other-vans](#)

Motorhome Insurance, Safeguard good for Us, Blog 10

By keef & annie, Mar 8 2012 09:07AM

Here in the UK we did an enormous amount of research whilst trying to select the right insurance for our [Motorhome](#).

There are lots of factors to consider. price, cover, breakdown assistance, excess, value for money etc etc

We found that many of the normal car insurance companies just don't do cover for motorhomes and you may well have difficulty getting your no claims discount statement from your car insurance company, even though they don't offer the service, as they try to protect what they term 'their business'. You will probably need it as on the basis of your car no claims you are generally given a discretionary 4 or 5 years no claims for Motorhomes.

Anyhow after some extensive research and asking friends & family we would recommend [SAFEGUARD](#)

Comparable on price , if not a little cheaper, but the unlimited mileage (many charge by the miles you do in the year and frankly we don't know the answer to that question yet) and AA Eaurpean breakdown cover made it right for us.

What do you think or recommend. Have your say in the comments box below.

Lets get a discussion gpoing for the good of all us motorhomers / rv-ers

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2016

2012 logo

0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#)

Motorhome - Definition, Blog 11

By keef & annie, Mar 9 2012 03:51PM

A motorhome is a type of self-propelled recreational vehicle or RV which offers living accommodation combined with a vehicle engine. The term motorhome is most commonly used in the UK, United States, Canada, Australia & NZ. They are used for [motorhome-travels](#).

Features

A motorhome comprises sleeping accommodation for between 2 and 8 people. Each sleeping place is called a berth. Each berth is either fixed or converts from another part of the motorhome's interior. A kitchenette area will contain cooking equipment. The type of equipment included differs depending on the motorhome make and model, but generally a kitchenette has an oven, grill, hob and sink. More luxury models may also provide a microwave. A separate washroom will be housed in the motorhome. Each washroom will have a flushing cassette toilet, shower and basin. The cassette toilet sometimes swivels to provide extra room and can be accessed from outside the motorhome for easy emptying. More recent motorhomes will have a separate shower cubicle.

A motorhome will also have a cab area with a driver and passenger seat. These seats often swivel to become part of the living space. A dinette area provides a table and seating space typically used for eating meals. A lounge may also be included, consisting of either a u-shaped sofa located in the rear of the motorhome or a side lounge.

Ambiguity with RV and campervan

Motorhomes can be easily confused with American RVs and campervans. Their term Recreational Vehicle also refers to trailers and other types of leisure vehicle which can be towed or driven.

Campervans are typically smaller than motorhomes and are constructed differently. Whilst campervans are focussed with mobility and low cost, motorhomes have more emphasis on comfort. For example, campervans generally lack built-in toilets and showers, or a divide between the living compartment and the cab. Volkswagen Westfalia Campers are typical campervans.

Source. Description above mostly from the Wikipedia article Motorhome but with some additions by [motorhome-travels.blog](#).

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Saw quite a few like this in Australia & New Zealand

0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [australia](#), [uk](#), [europe](#), [recommended](#), [ireland](#), [motorhome](#), [new-zealand](#), [other-vans](#), [north-america](#)

Travelling in Ireland? - Hints & Tips, Useful site - Blog 12

By keef & annie, Mar 11 2012 01:39PM

Are you planning on taking your motorhome to Ireland?

We came across this wonderful site which should help you.

[Total Camping Ireland](#) lists information on every Campsite, Campervan, Tent, Caravan Park, Touring Park in Ireland for your Holiday.

So like us go and have a look. We cannot wait to return to the lovely Emerald Isles.

Recommended by [motorhome-travels](#) and on our [Facebook community page](#).

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Filed under: [rv](#), [recommended](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [ireland](#), [motorhome](#)

How do I fit and remove my Milenco Wheelclamp? - Blog 13

By keef & annie, Mar 12 2012 07:45PM

Just tried this out and was panicky that it may not come off again after fitting. Luckily it did so thought I'd share my experiences, sorry if its already blindingly obvious to many of you but whilst we are 'experts' in hiring vans this is the 1st we have ever owned so its precious to us.

Slide the Milenco front cover with top strap over the wheel in a horizontal position, avoiding the wheel arch of the vehicle.

- 1.Rotate so that the top strap is over the centre of the wheel.
- 2.Insert the right leg through the right side of the front cover, ensuring the rear leg goes behind the tyre.
- 3.Insert the key and release the lock by rotating the key 90 degrees clockwise.
- 4.Insert left leg through the left side of the front cover. (Note: Lower edge of left hand locking plate must insert over right hand locking plate.)
- 5.Lock wheelclamp by rotating the key 90 degrees anti-clockwise, and then remove your key.

To remove your Milenco wheelclamp insert key and turn 90 degrees clockwise, pull out left leg. Turn key 90 degrees anti-clockwise, remove key, pull out right leg.

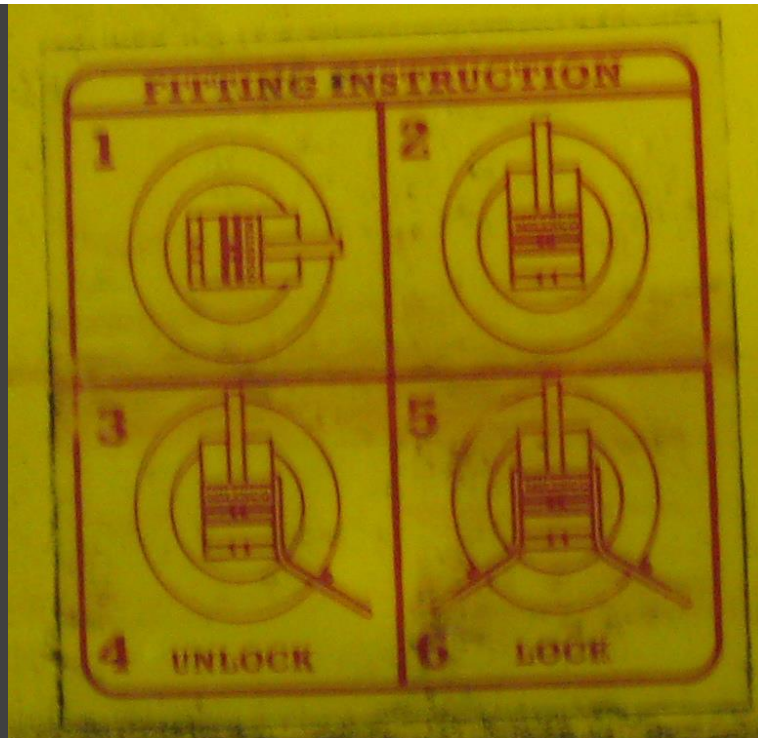
IMPORTANT: (From inner label) To remove your milenco wheelclamp rotate key then push legs together to release locking pins.

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UPDATE: 2020 experience has told ne it is worth oiling the wind coil about once a year, just to keep it from rusting up and locking, I would hate anyone to have to angle grind the lock off, that would be such hard work





Instructions from inside left leg

0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [security](#), [motorhome](#)

10 great routes to travel, Blog 14

By keef & annie, Mar 13 2012 09:02AM

Came across this by Lonely Planet , Melbourne. See what may be the [Top 10](#) (by 2020 this had vanished BUT there is a new 2021 destinations, maybe try that for ideas?)

Some lovely trips for your RV / Motorhome. We have done some of them already but would love to do them all

What do you think?

Why not share your favourite "route" with us all here, just list it in the comments. In 3 months time I will chose the Top 3 routes as listed by [motorhome-travels.blog](#) readers.

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Tongarira National Park, North Island, NZ

0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [australia](#), [europe](#), [recommended](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [new-zealand](#), [north-america](#)

RV blogs we like, No 1, Blog 15

By keef & annie, Mar 13 2012 09:49AM

Friends of my cousin in the US have been travelling for over 3 years now

There are some great pictures and stories to follow or give you ideas

Why not take a look at [RamonaCoxel.com](#) you won't be disappointed

Recommended by [motorhome-travels](#) and on our [Facebook community page](#).

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0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [blog](#), [recommended](#), [socialmedia](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#), [north-america](#)

New Caravan & Motorhome Club Website - Blog 16

By keef & annie, Mar 15 2012 12:00PM

Just joined the newly launched [website](#) @ the Caravan Club, how about you?

You may wish to do the same. Some great write-ups recommending good sites in the UK and helpful tips and advice on travelling in europe.

Please coment to join in the discussion on our blog site and share with other [motorhome-travels](#) folk on FB social media, thanks

Now we have been using it for quite a while to pre book sites we are very pleased, its so easy to use

Just one word of warning if you do book in advance be sure to give them ample warning if you have to cancel as they will still charge, on fair really so they can relet the site to others if need be!

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Get a Cable Tidy - Blog 17

By keef & annie, Mar 17 2012 12:51PM

Makes it so much easier to wind and unwind those often heavy electric cables and you can set it up so that the motorhome / van / rv end is ready to attach when you arrive reminding you that it is a good idea to attach the van end first.

Plus it means you don't have all that cable hanging around your van that fellow travellers can trip over.

What do you think? Have your say, share your experiences.

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Nov2020

Added a rather worrying image, see the 2nd image, this is what can happen, please be careful and remember to uncoil the whole cable from the cable tidy every time, thanks #justsayin'



Nov 2020 : Here is what can happen, PLEASE BE CAREFUL!



cable tidy from eBay

2 comments

Filed under: [danger](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#)

Light weight gas canisters - Blog 18

By keef & annie, Mar 17 2012 01:05PM

Worried about your payload? Want to squeeze in a little something extra, maybe another book to read on those long hot summer days, a slightly better (but heavier) BBQ, a few more bottles of wine or beer....?

Well if you don't already know about these it may well be worth taking a look and either buying one or trying at the next bottle exchange to swap, could save you a bit of travelling weight.

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0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [autosleeper](#), [motorhome](#)

Regal Furnishings - Blog 19

By keef & annie, Mar 17 2012 01:26PM
RECOMMENDED by motorhome-travels.

We have just had our autosleeper clubman spruced up by having all the fabrics re-upholstered.

Barrie & Mick at Regal Furnishings are lovely guys and make you feel welcome and extra proud of your motorhome / rv. They love it when folk see their updated & refreshed vans for the first time and go WOW!

People travel to them from all over Europe and it generally just takes a day. You can leave it with them and then come back to a great surprise.

Want to see more of what they do, [click here](#)

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PS if you have a way to come Barry & Michael will let you park up overnight, power hook up as well!



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Motorhome Upholstery

Regal Furnishing was established in 1997. We were so driven to get to grips with the new venture and it didn't take long before we were certified specialists in the upholstery of motorhomes. We've worked hard to get to where we are now and although it hasn't always been easy, **motorhome upholstery** is something that we not only excel in, but enjoy.

If your motorhome is in need of new upholstery fabric, we have got just what you need. With an extensive range of quality foams, fabrics and linings, you're sure to find something that the perfect combination to suit your tastes and needs. We'll give you the grand tour of our fabric room if you wish and you will be able to see our vast array of colours and designs first hand.



EXAMPLES OF UPHOLSTERY
Click here

COMPLIMENTARY OVERNIGHT HOOK-UP
Find out more



Regal Furnishings 2016



old logo c 2012

0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [uk](#), [recommended](#), [autosleeper](#), [clubman](#), [habitation](#), [our-van](#), [motorhome](#), [other-vans](#)

Are you using Pinterest? - Blog 20, 1st early plug

By keef & annie, Mar 23 2012 01:28PM

A wonderful place to see lots and lots of motorhome and RV's and share photos and videos.

Our current set of motorhome / rv / van picks are listed here on [Pinterest](#).

Why not have a look, put your own photos up there and share them with us. We always repin great motorhome pics

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Like this one!

3 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [socialmedia](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#)

Confusion over Hose Pipe Bans!

2012 - Blog 21

By keef & annie, Mar 26 2012 09:41AM

With special thanks to Brian (anne's brother) for this article / response from MMM.

Are you confused about how the hose pipe bans ,currently only in the south of England, may affect you this summer as a Motorhomer.

Read this

"Dear Brian

With the confusion over whether motorhomers in the south of the country can or can't fill their water tanks using a hosepipe we have successfully petitioned two of the water companies in the affected areas to exempt motorhomes from the hosepipe bans that are coming into force early next month. However, there are still several water companies that have either not yet clarified the situation or are still in consultation. Readers are advised to check with their water supplier after April 5 before filling up using a hosepipe. Meanwhile, it is not all bad news – the former Brownhills site in Preston is now under new ownership, which is great news for motorhomers in the area. And, Ford is starting to let details

of its new – and much anticipated – Transit to come out ahead of its official launch next month. In addition, those of you heading north of the border this summer are in for cheaper ferry tickets after the Scottish government agreed to reducing prices after a successful trial. Read on for more...

Happy motorhoming!

Daniel Attwood "

Our view was that as it is in essence for domestic use it is exempt however but its worth knowing / checking

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Drought, what drought?

0 comments

Filed under: [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#)

How do I know how much gas is left in my bottle? - Blog 22

By keef & annie, Mar 26 2012 11:12AM

Came across this wonderful little gadget . It shows the level of gas in a cylinder. Safe, reusable and accurate. Attaches to bottle using magnetic strip.

We have one and its been so much better than memory or turning on the cooker ring and finding it has 'stopped'.

Here is a [place](#) we got one from but there will be others on eBay. Take a look

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2016 Update: Many of the modern light weight bottles now have a red / green indicator on the top, may be worth using as well assuming you can get to see it



Gas Bottle Level Indicator



0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#)

Try Harrogate Motorhomes - great folk, Blog 23

By keef & annie, Apr 1 2012 05:36PM

We met these lovely people at the #sbs small business sunday event in birmingham on 30/3/2012 run by Theo Paphitis (Dragons Den) and Ryman's for Annie's small business [Serendipity Girls Designer Dresses](#)

Just love this vw conversion aptly named 'theo'

If you want to learn more about [Harrogate Motorhomes](#) please visit their website.

They are RECOMMENDED by motorhome-travels

Maybe have a look at [theopaphitisbs.com](#) as well to see what its all about!

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double vision - theo!

0 comments

Filed under: [recommended](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#)

The new Stretch VW Camper, Blog 24

By keef & annie, Apr 2 2012 05:06PM

Have your say, what do you think? Is it a good or a bad idea?

Whilst we think it looks sleek and may be a clever idea we are just not sure it will be stable even with the rear steadies and hey its a bit too much 'stretch hummer' for the motorhome world for us but it may be perfect for others.

Thats the great thing about choosing a motorhome, don't you think, there are so many options and as we found after 2 years you finally get the right one for you.

Oh PS ... Its in the £55-57k price band!

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1 comments

Filed under: [vw](#), [futuristic](#), [travels](#), [motorhome](#), [expensive](#)

Hybrid Motorhome/ Caravan - Blog 25

By keef & annie, Apr 4 2012 06:20AM

Have your say. Is this the future or not? Luxury or otherwise?

If you want to read the article in full about the Modular Motorhome: Hybrid Camper Car + Caravan Combo then please click [here](#)

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is this the future of motorhoming?

1 comments

Filed under: [habitation](#), [futuristic](#), [motorhome](#)

Follow VW Samba, Blog 26

By keef & annie, Apr 5 2012 09:07AM

We found this great set of people with a lovely history of the classic VW on Facebook.

Why not give them a look, and maybe even a [like](#), if you are that way disposed.

Some brilliant pictures.

Quoting their synopsis *"VW Samba: VW Bus history, stories, culture & evolution. Join us and celebrate the most iconic vehicles ever produced."* Have your say, were they? We like them a lot, they are classic to look at and whilst our motorhome is a VW autosleeper, which we love, we are just not sure that we could cope in an old classic on a long trip now that our hippie days are over *smile*

The VeeDub is a classic! FACT

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at the seaside



0 comments

Filed under: [facebook](#), [socialmedia](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#)

The Grassed Up Van (GUV) - Blog

27

By keef & annie, Apr 5 2012 03:43PM

Whilst at the recent "small business sunday" #sbs awards event hosted by BBC's Dragons Den stalwart Theo Paphitis because Annie's biz had won back in June 2011 we came across Loving Outdoors who had also been commended by Theo plus tales of their interesting GUV van. Here's an extract from them

" Award winning online outdoor retailer Loving Outdoors are heading to the hills and beyond in their distinctive new motor home. Clad in Astroturf, 'The GUV' or 'Grassed Up Van' as fans have dubbed it, will take the Loving Outdoors team to outdoor events, festivals and popular walking routes across the country where they'll be on hand with expert outdoor advice, drinks and snacks, fun activities and plenty of chat."

So why not find out more about it and where you can see it. Nice people *smile*

What do you think of it? as a concept? and as a talking point? Have your say here, just leave a coment to get the discussion flowing. I'm sure many folk will have views. We certainly lean towards the 'green' as they say.

PS We've included an alternative pic of a 'green' van , lol!

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Motorhome-travels RECOMMENDS Loving Outdoors

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To view the blog related to our trip in 2018 where we saw similar in the Florida Quays [CLICK HERE](#)



seen in santa barbara



the GUV

0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [recommended](#), [socialmedia](#), [vw](#), [habitation](#), [motorhome](#), [other-vans](#)

Early motorhomes, Blog 28

By keef & annie, Apr 7 2012 08:13AM

Here are some examples of early motorhomes we like. Its interesting how man & womans' desire to get away from having to be under canvas has developed.

Love the progression from bikes to old van conversions, plus the upgrades to some of the more expensive variety of vehicle.

Do you have any old examples you would like to share. Then post your comments and links below, let us all have a look. Maybe here at Motorhome-travels we will choose the best / most amusing and give it an award.

Want to follow our motorhome-travels' [pinboard on Pinterest?](#)

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just love this airstream



and this merc!



2 comments

Filed under: [size](#), [habitation](#), [rv](#), [ford](#), [mercedes](#), [fiat](#), [recommended](#), [vw](#), [security](#), [motorhome](#), [expensive](#), [other-vans](#)

Weird Motorhomes - Blog 58a & 29

By keef & annie, Aug 12 2013 06:19PM

Ever thought of a use for old veedubs? Found these 2 recently

What do you think, is this art, sacrilege or very just practical?

Have you sayPLEASE put a comment below get the discussion going

Want to follow our Motorhomes [pinboard on Pinterest?](#)

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Please note this blog was initially published in **April 2012**, not entirely sure why it has been repulished apart from Keef (foolishly) playing with a few blog options and buttons, hee hee



one VW up top



2 vw(?) up top

0 comments

Filed under: [habitation](#), [rv](#), [ford](#), [mercedes](#), [fiat](#), [recommended](#), [socialmedia](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [other-vans](#)

Campsite humour, Blog 30

By keef & annie, Apr 14 2012 05:27PM

Found these lovely signs provided by 'friends of motorhome-travels' so thought it would be nice to share them. Do you have any amusing sign pictures you may have taken on your RV / Motorhome travels that you could share with our readers? Dig them out, please.

Also how about these "Campers" Comments

They are actual comments left on U. S. Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

- "A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."
- "Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."
- "Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness."
- "Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."
- "Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."
- "All the mile markers are missing this year."
- "Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse."
- "Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."
- "Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."
- "Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter."
- "Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."
- "The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals."
- "Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."
- "Need more signs to keep area pristine."
- "A McDonald's would be nice at the trail head."
- "The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."
- "Too many rocks in the mountains."

Haha....

Have your sayPLEASE *smile*

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1 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [motorhome](#)

Baltics by Motorhome, Blog 31

By keef & annie, Apr 15 2012 12:16PM

We have always had the desire to travel the Baltics by Motorhome having seen some of it via a cruise in 2004 and Keef has relatives from Riga, Latvia so imagine our surprise when we were reading our latest Practical Motorhome to come across [this article](#).

We are now totally inspired to do it sometime soon. How about you, its not the usual route, have any of our readers out there been to the Baltics by motorhome , if so please share your experiences.

Some useful sites are

[Estonian Tourist Board](#)

[Latvian Tourist Board](#)


[Lithuanian Tourist Board](#)


The lovely folk who did this trip (adam & sophie) spent almost 450 days travelling thru 30 countries in their motorhome and travelled over 36k miles. We only travelled 47k miles in our year away in the southern hemisphere and thats a much bigger land mass and 12.5k across Canada which is the 2nd largest country on earth, so it shows how far they travelled. Big respect to them. If you would like to learn more about them then please visit [their website](#).

Want to follow our Motorhomes [pinboard on Pinterest?](#)

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Want to visit the Baltics? Here is how!





EUROPE BY CAMPER


Sophie & Adam's European Adventures




Europe by Camper

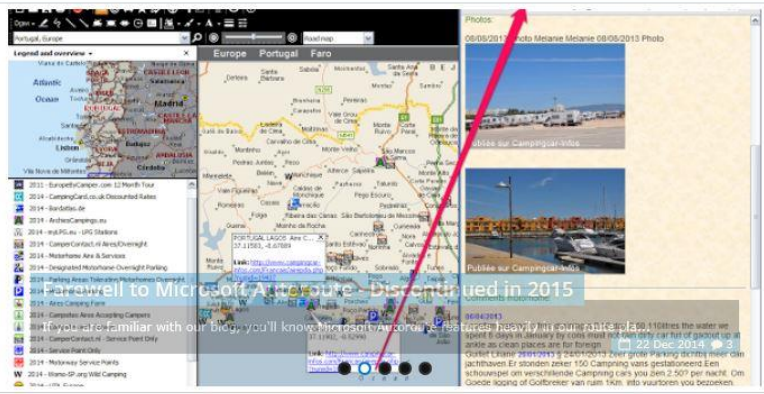
Adam & Sophie's European Motorhome Blog

Visit us online at www.motorhomewifi.com






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Europe By Camper
2,682 likes

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2014 Autoroute Motorhome Aire, Campsite & LPG GPS POI's

LATEST BLOG POSTS ▾

Adam and Sophie's updated site

0 comments

Filed under: [blog](#), [recommended](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [other-site](#), [europe](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [other-vans](#)

RV-ing guides in one place, Blog 32

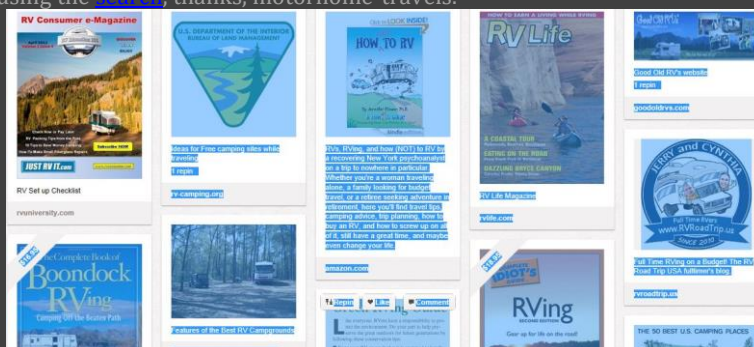
By keef & annie, Apr 18 2012 07:35AM

Came across this wonderful [pin board](#) with links to all manner of useful and sometimes antique guides to Rv-ing. Just so much useful information, especially if you plan a motorhome anywhere in North America.

Find the one that interests you and click on the link below it. I learnt loads.

Want to follow our Motorhomes [pinboard on Pinterest?](#)

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0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [recommended](#), [socialmedia](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#), [north-america](#)

Types of Motorhome, Blog 33

By keef & annie, Apr 25 2012 07:30PM

There are a bewildering set of types and names associated with Motorhomes / RV. We have trawled the internet and offer these types below. Clearly there will be more so feel free to add to the list via the comments below, thanks in advance for your help!

Motorhome: Always a coachbuilt and never a Campervan.

Panel van conversions: These motorhomes are based on a commercial metal-panelled van, sometimes known as Campervans.

Coachbuilds: Here, the manufacturer takes a chassis and cab from the commercial vehicle manufacturer, but fits their own (usually fibreglass) body to the rear.

'A' Class : A completely custom motorhome body (including cab) mounted on a chassis supplied by a truck manufacturer. Normally the most expensive motorhomes. A purpose built body with integrated cab provides the maximum spaciousness and usually includes beds which can be left permanently made up such as an over cab 'pull-down' double bed above the front seats.

'C' Class : A custom motorhome body mounted on a conventional chassis and cab supplied by a truck manufacturer, usually with a fixed in place bed or storage area over the cab, although this space can sometimes be to claustrophobic for Adults as headroom is limited and may be more suitable for children. Also known as C-Class. The manufacturer uses the chassis & cab of the base vehicle and builds a new body onto the back of it, these make up the largest proportion of motorhomes at present although A Class ownership numbers are rising fast. The part of the body extending over the cab is known as the 'over-cab' or 'luton'. An alternative, called a 'low-profile' has a much smaller over-cab space that is used purely for cabinets & storage purposes

Campervan : A smaller motorhome with either a fixed roof (high-top) or an elevating roof (pop-top / high-top). Broken down as follows:- High Top The alternative motorhome, which takes the whole of a kombi base vehicle, kits it out with an assortment of necessary fixtures and fittings and then adds standing room via a high roof.

Elevating Roof: The elevating (or raised) roof motorhome also uses the equivalent kombi base vehicle to the "high top" and has a similar layout and equipment. The roof can be raised when on site to allow the use of the available standing room and then lowered for travelling and storage.

Demountable / Slide-on : A demountable motorhome shell, usually with wind-up or hydraulically operated legs, installed on a ute, truck, or flat-tray. A dual purpose motorhome, a standard 'pick-up' type vehicle with a specially made body that fits onto the pickup bed. These have the advantage that you can 'demount' the body at a campsite and then use the pickup for day trips etc.

5th Wheeler : An extension on the front of the motorhome section extends over the tow vehicle, and usually mounts onto a turntable, or "wheel" - hence the name "5th Wheeler"

RV (Recreational Vehicles): These are the huge American equivalents to their European cousins. Usually much larger in almost all dimensions. Some have accompanying popout/slideouts (Hydraulically operated sections of the motorhome that expand) which allow for increasing living space when the vehicle is on site / stopped.

I'm sure they are more! but those are the ones that immediately come to mind.

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A-class ? read our blog and find out, thanks



0 comments

Filed under: [size](#), [habitation](#), [rv](#), [ford](#), [mercedes](#), [fiat](#), [recommended](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [vw](#), [autosleeper](#), [clubman](#), [security](#), [motorhome](#), [other-vans](#)

Blogs we like No3, Blog 34

By keef & annie, May 3 2012 08:22AM

We recently joined Pat,Linda & Lady dog on their website, maybe check it out and join if you are interested or in their area of the US

It's called Good Old Rvs and it has a discussion forum

Let us know if there are blogs you would like to recommend, thanks

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0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [blog](#), [motorhome](#), [recommended](#), [other-vans](#), [north-america](#)

Motorhome/ Camping picture pin board, Blog 35

By keef & annie, May 6 2012 01:17PM

Update 22/11/20 Now have **1310 pins** and **362 followers**

Update 18/8/16 Now have **701 pins** of interesting Motorhomes, RVs & Campervans!

Update 10/8/13 Now have **481 pins** of interesting Motorhomes, RVs & Campervans!

★ SO PROUD ★ of this [pin board](#). Now got 292 pictures (at 6/5/12) of old, not so old, new, quirky, weird motorhomes and RVs.

See the outsides, see the insides, see them on location, see them at home, see them at garages.

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**IN A RV
NO ONE EVER ASKS
“ARE THERE
WE YET?”**

Camping /Motorhomes ...



All things related to travel and the great outdoors



2020 - Lots more and a new format from Pinterest

Camping /Motorhomes

701 Pins
256 followers



All things related to travel and the great outdoors



House Truck with patio doors :-)
Saved from trademe.co.nz



The Camper-Boat Hybrid Sails Again

Vintage Camper Converted Into A Boat
RV Mods - RV Guides - RV Tips | DoItYourselfRV
Saved from doityourselfrv.com



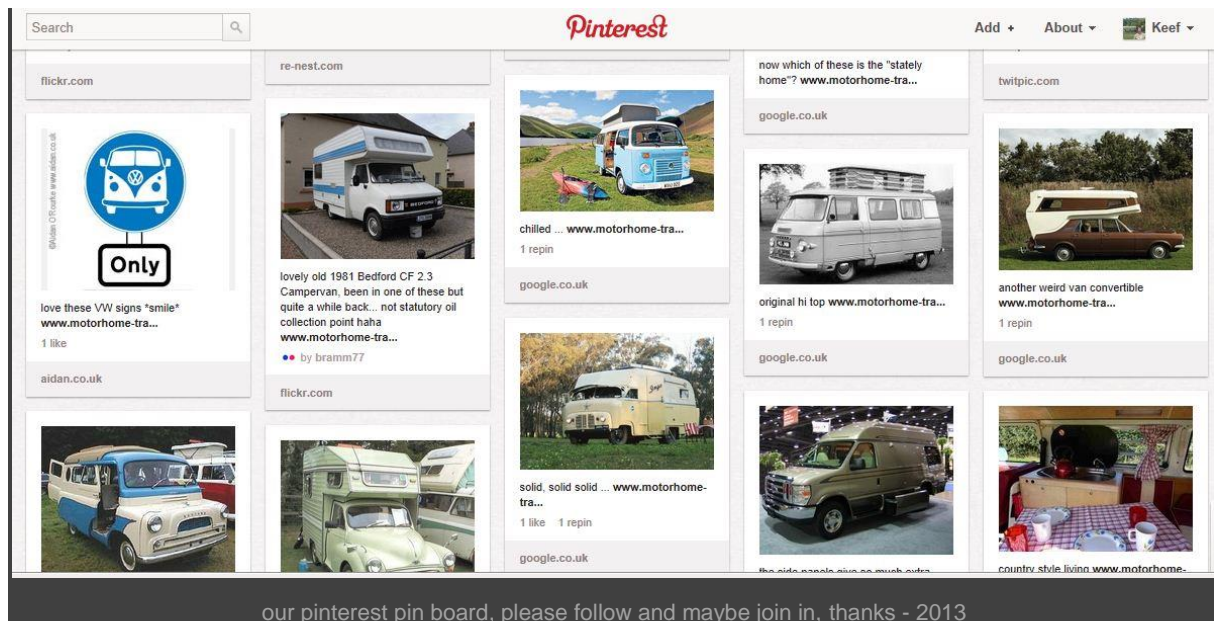
seen in santa barbara by my sis
Saved by Keef Hellinger



don't stand so close to me
Saved by Keef Hellinger



2016



0 comments

Filed under: [facebook](#), [rv](#), [socialmedia](#), [motorhome](#), [recommended](#), [other-vans](#)

Sites we like - no 4, Blog 36

By keef & annie, May 28 2012 08:36AM

Came across this great Motorhome, RV & Campervan photos which is very similar to our pin board and shows a huge number of images of all types of motorhome

Sadly by 2020 it had gone but something very similar is this, [TRY IT](#)

Let us know if there are sites you would like to recommend, thanks

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Motorhome, RV and Campervan Photos

0 comments

Filed under: [facebook](#), [rv](#), [blog](#), [socialmedia](#), [motorhome](#), [recommended](#), [other-vans](#), [north-america](#)

Dorset and North Devon trip, Blog 37

By keef & annie, May 28 2012 08:35PM
Dorset and North Devon, Motorhome trip No2 : May 8th -21st 2012

NOTTS->CAMBRIDGE->NEW FOREST->DORSET->NORTH DEVON->NOTTS 1000 miles

Apart from our trial run for a couple of days to Clumber Park, Notts (in the rain) this was our 1st holiday in our brand new van. Our lovely Autosleeper Clubman Anniversary (nicknamed 'Gav', sorry can't tell you why but it makes us laugh :))

We stocked up and set off to visit my friend Kev in Linton, Cambs and parked the van at the Caravan Club (CC) site at Cherry Hinton, Cambs. Quite a nice site but with differing levels and a rather severe one-way system which meant you had to queue up at the gate to be registered and then ferried in one at a time, still very convenient for Linton, which we must say is a lovely traditional English village, give it a visit if you have not been there.

We then set off the next morning after a lovely meal, wine fest and sleep at Kevs for the Centenary CC site in the New Forest, Hants travelling round the outskirts of London, it never stopped raining so we were glad to arrive at the site (one of CC's best) based on an old airstrip. Very modern and well laid out but guess what it never stopped raining. The setting for the site is brill and just out of the gate to see New Forest ponies. We will certainly go back again and maybe spend a little longer there next time.

We travelled from the New Forest to Knoll beach Studland one of our fave beaches in all the world to meet up with Annie's 3rd cousin to 'do some' genealogy. Alas no beach today as a washout but nice coffee and lunch in the café. We then went off to Hayman's Cross, Dorset and stayed at Haycraft CC site for 2 nights. Just opposite Dunshay Manor, originally owned by one of Anne's relie, way back. Rather fortuitously our Thurs / Fri stay there coincided with the Railway & Beer Festival, 5 mins walk from our site, now what more could one ask for, well 'no rain' really is the only answer! Went into Swanage on the steam train and visited the family tree research centre on the pier to finally meet up with the wonderfully helpful David Haysom who runs it.

After leaving Haycraft we spent the day as getting sunny on Studland beach and did our first walk in the sand dunes. Even read our books on the beach. After this we checked into Crossovers CC site near Bovington. Best site in the UK we have been to so far, like being in a Canadian outback forest site, but with eco long drop toilets. Not as bad as they sound (honest!) The Sunday we spent walking and sun bathing and reading, bliss!

Monday morning did some shopping in Tesco's on the outskirts of Dorchester then visited Athelhampton house in the rain. Not NT but privately owned. Interesting history and gardens, never stopped raining alas BUT local uni students shooting a movie there, medieval costumes, swords etc what a hoot.

We then travelled on to almost Sidmouth / Honiton and a rather nice CC site at Putts Corner where we met a German couple on the next pitch who had bought their hired van over for Hannover for 3 weeks in the uK, claiming it was cheaper to hire and pay the ferry costs that hire in the UK, now that worries me. What are our UK companies doing? Our new pals had difficulty in getting the electrics to work, nothing too difficult, it was just the usual CC site electric ¼ twist to get it to lock in. How many others have suffered from that 1st time – I know I did

We then moved onto visit NT house at Killerton, been there before but love it, especially Tom the bears house. After Killerton it was onto Minnows campsite at Sampford Peverell, Devon. Lovely walk out the back of the site along the Grand Western canal, and such a lovely evening stroll ending up with a pint of Otter ale in the local pub.

We then had a lovely drive across Exmoor via Bridgetown. We both fell in love with Exmoor and are ashamed to say it is the 1st time we have visited but we will definitely be back again. After Exmoor we visited the delightful medieval village of Dunster and the NT castle before moving back into Somerset from North Devon and stayed at the Minehead CC site. A nice 3 levelled site with easy walking into town, we even went to see the outside of Butlitz (hehe), actually I was expecting minehead to be quite tacky and tasteless in a Scarborough sort of way but it was surprisingly nice, in fairness I'm sure Scarborough is now, it's just memories I have from my childhood (Discuss!).

From Minehead we went off to Selworthy up a very interesting narrow road, not ideal for Motorhomes but do-able and visited the NT Holnicote estate (pronounced Hunnicutt), now this is what quaint English thatched villages are all about.

After Selworthy it was the prospect of Porlock hill (1 in 3), I chickened out and we went along the Porlock Manor Estate toll road (£4 for a van) and so glad we did and the views are tremendous. You can stop at the top and look out across Porlock Weir and the coast, yummy and those Exmoor ponies ahhh!

Then onto the lovely UK's little Switzerland at Lynmouth & Lynton. Loved the place. The old funicular railway still runs but seems to be no longer water powered, which was its claim to fame. Nice place, nice Devon pasties. Oh and the Glen Lyn gorge is well worth a view.

We stayed the night at Willingcott CC site (no one there) having been through Coombe Martin and Ilfracombe, not really our cup of tea I'm afraid, but Woolacombe we loved. Voted 3rd best beach in the UK and I can see why.

Went to visit NT Arlington Court and the National coach and cab museum, all very interesting especially the convoluted link to Sir Francis Chichester.

Then stayed our last 3 nights at Damage Barton associated CC shared between the Caravan Club and Camping and Caravan Club, nice site, great sea views would thoroughly recommend it.

We had trips out and visited the charming Appledore and had fresh fish and chips whilst overlooking the sea. We gave Clovelly a miss as probably similar and just too packed /steep for the van. We did visit Bridport / Barnstable / Broughton & Westward Ho as well.

Since the Olympic torch was being run thru our area causing 6 hour delays we got up at 5am on the last day and were well clear of the hold ups by the time the procession started. We made pretty good time back to home here in Notts.

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192 Photos available, go on you know you want to look *smile*, see [SLIDESHOW](#). You just need scan down a bit to see them.



1 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [dorset](#), [devon](#), [cambridgeshire](#), [campsites](#), [blog](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [vw](#), [autosleeper](#), [our-van](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [recommended](#)

Scotland trip, 1675 Miles, Blog 38, East Top & West coasts

By keef & annie, Jun 15 2012 02:44PM

Motorhome trip No3 : Scotland - May 29th - June 11th 2012

NOTTS->ALNWICK->FIFE->ANGUS->KINCARDINE->ABERDEEN->BANFF->MORAY->NAIRN->INVERNESS->ROSS & CROMARTY->SUTHERLAND->CAITHNESS->SUTHERLAND->WESTER ROSS->SKYE&LOCALSH->INVERNESS->ARGYLL&BUTE->NOTTS 1675 miles

Oh and we loved every moment of it. Scotland is such a fabulous place , breath taking views, lochs, castles to die for, interesting history and of course the deep fried mars bar. Sadly I still haven't had the chance yet to sample this delicacy but scotch pies , white pud etc etc were yummy!

Pictures available under the site photos and slideshow tabs. In order to see these it is necessary to login using either your Facebook login / password or set yourself up one for our site, which will mean supplying your email address and accepting the automatic link that is sent to your inbox. EASY

Remember a picture paints a thousand words!

Basically keeping to the coast we travelled up the east, across top and then back down the west. As we have been to most of the islands already and the cost of taking the van over was not included in our budget we just had our memories and the views from the mainland. Maybe they are for another trip depending upon how much CalMac have ramped up the price for the multi-island passes, must check when I've finished this blog!

So we left home and spent the night with our lovely friends Chris and Allyson in Alnwick, what a great Madar Jaffrey curry, thanks Chris. Part of this trip is inspired by a trip Chris & I did over 40 years ago when we were about 18 and we both hiked & hitched around Scotland, not been back to some of these places since and part so that Annie can get to John O'Groats as well as Landsend, I kept telling her she hadn't missed anything and that proved to be true *smile*. Plus thanks to George & Emma for allowing us to park in Green Batt, George suggested his Auto Sleeper Executive and ours may well breed if they got a little closer. Haha – maybe an Eriba. Anyhow after a bit of shopping in Alnwick we set off for the borders.

Then over the impressive Forth Road Bridge and into Fife. Did you know that Dunfermline (home of Annie's ancestors) was once the capital of Scotland. We stopped at the Royal Burgh of Culross to visit the palace there, but sadly it was closed (something to do with a wedding and a corporate 'do' for the National Trust of Scotland). This didn't stop us though and we still looked around the outside, gardens and interesting cobbled back streets. A real nice place. Give it a whirl sometime. No probs with parking the van either, 2 very big car parks that were hardly full. We discover Scotland has a lot of Royal Burgh's an award which seems to have been bestowed the moment a Scottish King or Queen visited but I could be wrong!

Then we drove onto St Andrews for the night, the home of golf, it hardly ever stopped raining. The site was a little expensive at £24 a night but they justified it by having a new indoor heated swimming pool and bar / games room. We went over for a swim but sadly it was a woman only eve, felt a bit conned. Still had a nice evening meal and some wine instead!

Next day we visited Falkland and Falkland Palace, a very impressive castle. The Scots sure know how to do castles. It is also the home of real tennis, the very knowledgeable guide told us there had been a world championship there recently with the team from Ballarat, Vic, Aus represented. Blimey, we have been to Ballarat and it is the most unlikely setting for real tennis. *surprise*. It is still effectively owned by the Queen jointly with the NTS (Nat Trust for Scotland) and previously the kings of Scotland.

We then left Fife and travelled into Angus staying at a lovely campsite in Carnoustie, you will need your satnav, it isn't straight forward but Annie thought facilities wise it was the best we stayed in throughout Scotland, and it isn't a Caravan club site.

Having left there we went on through Arbroath & Montrose and visited a bird sanctuary /nature reserve in river basin with great views of Montrose. Never been in this area before but really nice, we would go back again. Whilst in the area we visited the famous House of Dun (NTS), it was owned by Lady Augusta FitzClarence, the illegitimate daughter of William IV (Queen Victoria's dad) and his 'actress' mistress Mrs Johnson with whom he had 10 kids, she had over 20 in total with about 8 different partners, scandal, love it.... She never married any of them but apparently was great on the stage (or was that bed). The other things we remember were the last working damask linen handloom, big sequoias in the garden, the house had many doors that don't open, they were just for symmetrical structure, each side was a mirror image of the other throughout, and joy of joy it had the best 1960's stereo system I have ever seen, I want one. Mick Jagger bought the 1st apparently.

It was then on into Aberdeenshire and Stonehaven which has a heated art deco pool plus we visited Dunnotair castle, are you getting it yet? castles and deep fried Mars bars with the odd Belhaven 80/- beer thrown in and a few lovely single malts and wine. Our ideal hols, hic! We avoided the city of Aberdeen as we had been there before when we went to the Shetland Isles.

Then onto the Feughside caravan park in Strachan Banchory Deeside, nice views, mostly a static caravan site though and a very nice pub / restaurant on the riverside less than 2 mins from the van. On this occasion we didn't eat there however as we had fresh food to use but it looked lovely and many of the other 'vanners' were going there. Strachan pronounced "strawn" must be the origins of its sister town in Tasmania, Oz. The river Dee is lovely and looked like a heavily used fly-fishing area, trout apparently.

Got up early the next day as much to see and big distances to travel. Visited Crathes castle & gardens nr Banchory and the craft village. There were many Germans, Dutch, French, Italians with motorbikes, caravans & motorhomes and this repeated itself throughout our 2+ weeks in Scotland especially in the highlands, great to see! Crathes castle gardens had a floral tribute to the Queen's 60th jubilee.

By the time we had finished at Crathes it was getting on so I rang the Culloden Moor Caravan Club (CC) site to warn them we would be late. As long as you let them know you can arrive anytime up to 8pm in the eve.

Then it was onto Cruden bay, fish & chips and Viking ships. Lovely quiet harbour and a beach to die for. Highly recommended! Then onto Buller's of Buchan just down the road. Similar to Pancake Rocks blow holes in NZ but not so dramatic and only one, maybe Scotland's answer to Durdle Door in Dorset but with a wave pool. We did go thru / stop at Peterhead & Fraserburgh but not much to recommend them unless you are into industry and oil, sorry!

Then turned the coastal corner into Banffshire – Macduff, don't mention the Scottish play – did Will's really travel this far? Banff with its own version of the Banff Springs hotel (haha – not surprisingly missing out slightly in the class / cost stakes, Then Morayshire including Portsoy, Cullen where Cullen skink comes from (a haddock soup) and thru Nairn onto Invernesshire for the 1st time this holiday.

We stayed at Culloden Moor CC site for 2 days, nice setting and facilities, but v busy. From here we were able to visit Culloden Battlefield, one of the best historical presentations we have ever seen anywhere in the world and great use of technology to deliver the story. Well done them, do visit you will learn loads, we did. All about Bonnie Prince Charlie, Duke of Cumberland and what a disaster the Duke's 25th birthday party was for the Jacobite clansmen. There long march and hoped for surprise (haha) just didn't work and after 1 hour they had lost many many body. Interesting Charlie saw the writing on the wall and ran off after 10 mins (over the sea to Skye and never ever to return). The battle field is rather poignantly a war grave. In the afternoon we went in search of the Thane of Cawdor (oh no not the Scottish play again) by going to Cawdor castle, just down the road from the campsite, so all in all a great choice of site for the closeness of stuff to see nearby.

The next day we called into Inverness to get fuel etc but didn't stay long as we have been there a few times in the past. Then it was up the A9, across the Cromarty bridge and into Rosshire, Alness (nice) and Invergordon (not so nice, oil platform restorations) there was a German cruise ship in presumably so they could visit Culloden etc, surely not Invergordon itself? Then onto Tain (brill) where there was diamond jubilee celebrations for the bank hol including Capercaille playing for free, alas we couldn't stay on as they weren't playing until late in the evening but they are great and were on previously in Culross for £25. Had my 1st warmed scotch pie here *hungry*

Then a visit to the Glenmorangie distillery where I bought a glass. Annie stayed in the van as she said no interest in whiskey. I bought 2 bottles of single malt whilst away, Old Pultenay & The Dalwhine, nice flavour both.

Then it was onto Sutherland and many town / villages / hamlets the best of which was possibly Dornoch, nice old town and great architecture plus a good beach with the East Sutherland lifeboat station. There are also some nice lovely old towns at Golspie, Brora & Helmsdale.

Then we were into Caithness where we stayed at the Wick riverside site, quiet and cheap if somewhat antiquated facilities. The couple running it were very helpful. The SatNav guides you to the entrance under a railway bridge,

watch out it is very low, We rang them and the guy came out and guided us round through the other entrance. Enjoyed our stay at the site. Found out that Caithness glass closed sadly 2006, became dartington crystal then closed in perth, may now be in crieff? Shame some great glass pieces were produced by them, real works of art! After visiting the Old Pultenay distillery in Wick (2012 whiskey of the year) and the old harbour and heritage area we set off for John o groats. There had been a fire on the heather moors the previous day that had shut the A99 but today it was open but the smoke, fire and smell still raged filling the van with an acrid stench that was fun to get rid of.

We got great views of the Orkney & Stroma and did the usual tourist stuff but the craft area is not as active / busy as Landsend. We also visited Duncansby head and The Queen mums castle of Mey (v interesting) and stayed at Dunnet bay (view of dunnet head) caravan club site which has a great beach which we went for a walk on, we had it to ourselves and oh so sunny, best weather in the country.

The next day onto Thurso & rain & shopping then to scrabster to revisit the ferry we used in 1987-ish for our holiday to the Orkneys when the boys were v young. Then on back into Sutherland again. Thru Coldbackie, Tongue & the youth hostel (Chris do you remember this, chores using a toothbrush before we could go to catch the one bus that left every 2nd Tuesday, Royal Mail with veg and livestock?) then round loch eriboll (wow – the best) single track with passing places and very busy then onto Sango sands campsite at Durness where we stayed for 2 days. It was windy, remote but brill views, loved it! On the 2nd day we drove down to the Durness quayside about 2 miles from site and went on a truly memorable trip to the great cape wrath (see pix – loved it) and came back to the craft village at balnakeil and visited its beach/ house/ cathedral ruins.... Walk to faraid head is rated as a must but we didn't have time to do it so walked some of the beach, you need to be careful as families have been cut off here by the returning tide which circles round the back of the sand. Our Cape Wrath guide warned us of this.

Then it was the roads to Ullapool, into Rosshire again and first Armaid and then to our Broomfield caravan park site next to Broom loch, conveniently places minutes from town and ferry terminal at Ullapool. Indeed the ferry runs past the campsite which I remember from when we went on it early 90s to Lewis & Harris. Would you believe it we couldn't get a high tea in Ullapool although there appears to be a good Indian restaurant next to the campsite now!

The next day it was the Wester ross coastline a real highlight including the Corrieshalloch gorge & suspension bridge, a lovely valley, little Gruinard beach, loch ewe (home of war time exercises), loch torridon, the brilliant Inverewe gardens nts, some of the best in Scotland based on location and plantsmanship. Then loch maree, the wonderful road to shieldaig, gairloch, loch carron and then into Skye & lochalsh.

Here we saw a weird heather burn possibly that joined the smoke to the clouds, before reaching the famous road to the isles, which we have travelled many a time. Love it. We alighted at Dornie to see the most photographed Eilean doran castle, indeed Annie's Canadian cousin Janet had this as her Facebook background pic. We stayed at Morvich CC site, very nice, for 1 night, superb beinn / mountains on all 4 sides.

We left the next day to return to Fort Augustus (too touristy for us) and the wonderful Loch ness although not surprisingly Nessie was not "out to play" that day!

From here it was to Fort William where the world Mountain bike champs were on that weekend at Beinn Nevis so very busy and wet *sigh*. We booked into Brumlee CC site at South Onich nearby for 2 nights overlooking Loch Linnhe. Great site great views great midges, don't forget the spray folks!

We were planning to go up Beinn Nevis on the Monday by cable car as never having been up there but sadly we had a big leak in the van overnight which mean the duvet acted as a wick and woke up wet. So rang the van people who asked us to bring it back. So sadly but sensibly we left early. Wouldn't have been good if it had happened in Europe. We want it fixed before our next trips!

So it was 400 miles back thru Argyll & Bute, loch leven , the truly wonderful glencoe, crianlarich, loch Lomond, trossachs, bypass Glasgow, Carlisle, M6 home... 6.5 hrs tired but ready to get the van into workshop the next day.

UPDATE 15/6 they have found a seal leak around one of the windows so hopefully it will now be fixed. Currently undertaking serious soak test and leaving it out in heavy rain.

Note: The [Index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.

215 Photos available, go on you know you want to look *smile* See [SLIDESHOW](#) You just need scan down a bit to see them.



eilean donan castle, dornie, skye & lochalsh

0 comments

Filed under: [habitation](#), [uk](#), [scotland](#), [campsites](#), [blog](#), [our-van](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [other-site](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [recommended](#)

Blogs we like No5, Blog 39

By keef & annie, Jun 25 2012 08:45AM

Came across this great wealth of info for Motorhome travellers like you and I. Especially found the article on tolls in Norway helpful but there are many more.

Why not give [Motorhome Planet](#) a look?

Let us know if there are sites you would like to recommend, thanks

Note: The [Index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.



0 comments

Filed under: [blog](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [europe](#), [motorhome](#)

So Proud - Visitors to our motorhome-travels site, Blog 40

By keef & annie, Jun 28 2012 07:10AM
See also [Blog 50](#) for info

Update 22/11/20 now via Google Analytics / Website Counter 36363 page views

Update 8/11/17 20028 visits

Update 18/8/16 Now 13255 visitors/ page views

Update 10/8/13 Now have 2294 visitors from 59 countries. Please keep visiting and don't be afraid to leave some comments

Update 29/12/12 Now 1450 visitors from 55 countries, the largest of which are the UK with 679 different visitors and the States with 473 different visitors. Then way behind that Canada with 47 and Ireland with 43, welcome to everyone, you are most welcome!

Update 20/7/12 Now 800 visitors *smile* you are most welcome

28/6/12 Just had our 700th visitor to the blog and we have only been up and running a few months.

That makes us SO PROUD.

Why not join in and have your say. We are about to launch an article about the **Motorhome Vs Caravan**. We see more and more motorhomes on the road, we feel ,for obvious reasons, in favour of the motorhome but you may have a different view.

Note: The [Index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.

Site Use Social Xmas16

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Visitor Counter **20028**

Hints&Tips: Sites we like No.5 - Blog 118

From Start
Total 15427
 Singapore 8
 India 7
 Israel 6
 Saudi Arabia 6
 Chile 6
 Philippines 5
 Malaysia 5
 Indonesia 5
OnLine 1

Visitor stats 08/11/2017

Visitors **13255**

Latest Travel: Countries visited map

Total 12594
 Australia 252
 Spain 252
 Denmark 126
 Italy 126
 New Zealand 126
 Fiji 126
 Sweden 126
 Brazil 126
Untd Kingdom 1

And now by Aug 2016 the site is booming

Congratulations! Your NeoCounter has reached:

800
visitors.

1 comments

Filed under: [facebook](#), [socialmedia](#), [motorhome](#), [welcome](#), [recommended](#)

Lincolnshire trip No 1, Lakeside Park, North Somercotes - Blog 41

By keef & annie, Jul 18 2012 04:58PM
Lincolnshire, Motorhome trip No4 : July 9th -16th 2012

NOTTS->NORTH SOMERCOTES, LINCOLNSHIRE->NOTTS 360 miles

As we were offered 2 free weeks holiday by Don Amotts (apart from paying for electric hook-up and entertainments) when we bought our motorhome from them who are we to refuse? So we decided to take the 1st week at their Lakeside Park Holiday park in North Somercotes. All their parks are in Lincolnshire, not normally a place we would chose to visit for obvious reasons that will become clear later in this blog. Lakeside is the only one of the 5 that caters for tourers, the rest seem to be entirely about static caravans!

So we packed up and set off in the usual UK s(b)ummer 2012 of thunder/ lightening and torrential rain which lasted all the way there and beyond. We had 3 super pitches whilst there for a week 77,42 & 47 mostly to accommodate our wishes but to satisfy weekend family camping.

It is a very classy site and good for a short holiday with lots to do: golf, footie, tennis, boules, outdoor lawn bowls, sauna, steam room, fishing, exercise equipment plus a restaurant, pub, snooker room/wifi, shop, launderette, café, nightclub(?) with dance floor and disco. Note the pub sells Tom Wood lincs real ale but the best I found was Summer Swallow by Batemans , a great pint! For those of my family who remember a bit like Potters for motorhomes!

Plus despite the rather bad weather and outlook we got 3.5 days of very hot and bright sunshine in 7 , not bad for a british summer and we both look a little brown and sunburnt, yippee!

We did go out and about a few days but here's the rub... Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Mabelthorpe, Chapel St Leonards, Ingoldsmells & Skeggie are not our cup of tea, but having said that North Somercotes itself is lovely, great walks and Saltfleetby & Theddlethorpe beach and dunes are spectacular and deserted. Louth centre and Afford are also interesting & very old towns. Plus we visited the NT house and gardens at Gunby Hall. Gunby is the site of a medieval town that was killed off by migrant workers bringing in the Black Plague into Lincolnshire in 1300s (I think). The gardens are lovely and the head gardener is a nice man who gave us a wealth of info. Besides gardening for England he is on the 'talking' team *smile*

So all in all we had a nice week away and look forward to our 2nd free week there later in the year to try out the lovely Indian restaurant in North Somercotes. We did read a lot of books and generally chill whilst here as a lot to do on site if the weather is good! The pool when not!

Note: The [Index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.

36 Photos available in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [lincolnshire](#), [campsites](#), [blog](#), [our-van](#), [other-site](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [welcome](#)

Lincolnshire trip No 1, Lakeside Park, North Somercotes - Blog 41

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0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [lincolnshire](#), [campsites](#), [blog](#), [our-van](#), [other-site](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [welcome](#)

Olympics 2012 - Camping, Blog 43

By keef & annie, Aug 8 2012 07:42AM

Came across this great site that is only 26 minutes away from sitting there and watching your fave athletes, how good is that. And its a very reasonable price with good facilities.

Just a thought!

Highly RECOMMENDED by motorhome-travels blog!

Note: The [index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.



From Cosy-Oaks	via Railway Station	to Stratford
5min drive to	Ingatestone	22mins
5min drive to	Billericay	21mins
12min drive to	Shenfield	14mins

0 comments

Filed under: [hints-and-tips](#), [other-site](#), [motorhome](#)

Worldwide Escapes, Blog 44

By keef & annie, Aug 15 2012 11:42AM

Thinking of taking a motorhome or RV tour abroad?

Maybe **Canada, Oz, Argentina, Iceland, American West, New Zealand.....**

There are a few of those we haven't done yet but would love to

There are some talks on each of these at the up and coming Motorhome & Caravan Show at Birmingham which could be a useful insight from folks who have already done them

Click here to see [Presentation Times](#) Note now shows the latest years show

Highly RECOMMENDED by motorhome-travels blog!

Note: The [Index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.



Argentina

1 comments

Filed under: [australia](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [europe](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [new-zealand](#), [other-vans](#), [north-america](#)

Swaffham, Norfolk, Breckland Meadows - Blog 45

By keef & annie, Aug 20 2012 08:35AM
Norfolk, Motorhome trip No5 : August 17th -19th 2012

NOTTS->SWAFFHAM,NORFOLK->NOTTS 200 miles

The warmest weekend of the year, so far. Up in the 30's C. Lovely stuff and a great weekend with our dear pals Pete & Joy. We have a yearly camping jaunt away with them and have done so since both our sets of children were very young, usually somewhere equidistant from each of our homes so often in the Norfolk, Oxford, Cambridge , Suffolk sort of areas.

This year it was Swaffham. We have been to Pentney Park just down the road in years past but as it was school summer holidays we opted for [Breckland Meadows](#) ADULT only campsite. They are a great idea for (sorry) some peace and quiet or it seems if you have a dog. Not the greatest site we have ever stayed at , as rather small pitches and facilities that may need an upgrade, but perfectly acceptable for a long weekend and cheap with very very friendly staff!

We mostly spent a relaxing time at the site as such superb weather chillin' via eating, drinking, reading and jawin, great to catch up *smile* but we did take a walk into town along the old railway track which was very shady (about 30 mins) past the Eco Centre with Wind Turbine, 300 steps to the top, but just too hot for that so gave it a miss. The town centre itself is lovely and has 6 pubs and a bandstand and a Saturday market plus the (supposedly) 5th best fish and chip shop in England. Pub-wise we settled on the Kings Arms, a lovely old coaching inn, great beers, friendly staff and beer garden. We liked it so much we went back for Sunday lunch! The town sign is also just so English! Take a look, Swaffham is well worth a visit if you have not been there.

Already looking forward to next year's trip.

Note: The [Index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.

11 Photos available in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [norfolk](#), [campsites](#), [other-site](#), [our-van](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#)

Keswick, Cumbria, Glenholm Cottage, Blog 46

By keef & annie, Sep 19 2012 04:02PM

Not The Motorhome trip No1 : August 31st - September 6th 2012

NOTTS->KESWICK,CUMBRIA & About->NOTTS 500 miles

Didn't take the motorhome this time as stayed at wonderful Glenholm cottage on Penrith Road near to Fitz Park on the Greta River. Went with Craig, Leanne & Bill and had the most wonderful weather and time, food and company for the whole week. Visited Bassenthwaite, Thirlmere, Ullswater, Coniston and Tarn Hows as well as had some lovely walks including start of White Horse Bent, Scales, scene of some wonderful memories. Nice pub food in both Horse & Farrier, Threlkeld and White Horse Inn, Scales oh as well as seeing some great Paralympians....

Will definitely bring the campervan back to this area, just so beautiful. There is a great site we spied near Threlkeld.

Anyone else have any Motorhome / RV experiences in the Lake District they want to share?

Note: The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAG CLOUD, thanks, motorhome-travels.

72 Photos in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [cumbria](#), [blog](#), [travels](#)

Project Mercedes Ambulance, Blog

47

By keef & annie, Sep 23 2012 02:01PM

Hi, have you thought of creating your own motor home. Thanks to our lovely friend Vin in France for the idea!

These 'old' mercedes ambulance are cheap, well looked after and ideal (in our view) for a very personal conversion job. If only we didn't have our lovely van we would consider it.

Let us know how you get on, maybe we could come and photograph the final job and feature it here on the blog and / or on our facebook page. Bit like 'Grand Designs Motorhome' *smile*

Note: The [Index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAG CLOUD, thanks, motorhome-travels.



mercedes ambulance

0 comments

Filed under: [size](#), [habitation](#), [mercedes](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [motorhome](#), [expensive](#)

Lincolnshire trip 2, Don Amott's Lakeside Park, Blog 48

By keef & annie, Oct 14 2012 05:08PM

Lincolnshire trip no2, Motorhome trip No6 : Sept 24th – 1st Oct 2012

NOTTS->NORTH SOMERCOTES, LINCOLNSHIRE->NOTTS 360 miles

We went back for our 2nd free weeks holiday from Don Amotts at their Lakeside Park Holiday park in North Somercotes. This time we were on the best pitch, pitch 43, which we have pre booked on our previous trip there.

The weather at this time on year was most kind to us and we had 3 full days sunshine enabling us to set up the chairs and table outside and read.

We also used the indoor pool again, luxury with steam room, sauna and Jacuzzi and a great retreat for when the weather outside was poor. They have now updated their technology so you can get free wifi down by the bar and inside the restaurant area. Very useful for catching up whilst away.

We had a day out along the coast, the best deserted sands being at Wolla bank but we did risk a walk around Mablethorpe and even on the beach. A little too 'seaside' for our liking but the beach huts were interesting. Saltfleet beach was a little too dangerous after we read the signs saying unexploded bombs possible from RAF Donna Nook.

One of the highlights of the week was a splendid Indian meal @ Zara's in North Somercotes. A ½ hour walk in from the campsite. We can highly recommend the Mudani meal. Oh and the great sunset on the walk on the way back. Bliss! Oh and OF COURSE we had to return to Appleby's ices at Conisholm for our fave ice creams, Irish cream and mandarin respectively this time. Yummy!

Note: The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAG CLOUD, thanks, motorhome-travels.

39 Photos available in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



lunch at wolla bank, lincolnshire

0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [lincolnshire](#), [campsites](#), [blog](#), [our-van](#), [other-site](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#)

Carsington Water, Blackwall Planation M&CC site, Blog 49

By keef & annie, Oct 16 2012 01:51PM
Blackwall Plantation ,Carsington Water, Derbyshire

Motorhome trip No7 : Oct10th – 12th Oct 2012

NOTTS->CARSINGTON WATER->NOTTS 60 miles

We had 2 free pitch night vouchers kindly given to us by the Caravan Club (CC) after an issue at one of our earlier Scottish site. So we decided to head off to the Blackwall Plantation CC site for a few days R&R. It is not that far from our home and we haven't been to Carsington Water for many a year so it seemed an ideal choice, plus we had arranged to meet up with our pals Pete & Wendy in the Barley Mow @ Kirk Ireton on the Wednesday evening. One of the world's best pubs. Everything about it is pre 1900 including the staff. The pub itself is 1600s. The beers (all great

real ales) are only available straight from the barrels which are propped up behind the bar. HEAVEN for a Camra geek.

Like camping in a pine forest Blackwall plantation is a lovely site. We will revisit for longer next time. Our pitch no 12 had a view through the trees of Carsington water. We had 1 ½ good days weather and did the walk around the site via the outer path which takes about 40 mins and good views high up of Carsington on the front side. In the evening the walk out of the site back gate is only about 1.1 miles to Kirk Ireton but if you go for a pint or 3 in the eve be sure to take a torch as it's a very narrow set of roads and very dark and the locals drive really fast down these back roads. Be warned!

On the Thursday we did a 5 mile walk via Millfield car park around the Water to the visitor centre and back. The views are spectacular and tranquil. As you walk across the Dam wall you have Debyshire hills and undulating countryside on one side and Carsington water on the other side.

Oh and we had a nice coffee and cake in the visitors centre café , the mainsail haha!

So all in all a lovely mid week break, very relaxing , quiet and great scenery and beers!

Anyone else been there and want to share there views on the campsite or the area?
See the [SLIDESHOW](#)

Note: The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAG CLOUD, thanks, motorhome-travels.

48 Photos available



Our van at blackwall plantation, derbyshire

0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [derbyshire](#), [campsites](#), [blog](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [our-van](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#)

Love You Visitors - Counts of website traffic to motorhome- travels, Blog 50

By keef & annie, Oct 24 2012 10:20AM
So PROUD. This is our 50th BLOG!

As at 22/11/20 we have had 36363 visits

As at 08/11/17 we have over 20000 visits

Also take a look at [Blog 40](#)

As at 11/8/13: We have now had **2297** different visitors to our site since we started from **59** different countries.

Which just goes to show that the world is fascinated by Motorhomes, RVs & Campervans.

Recently our soon to be daughter-in-laws parents visited from China and were fascinated by our van. In China there is hardly any concept of camping let alone people living in a motorised vehicle.

We are amazed by some of the countries that have shown interest . Places you just wouldn't think they would be interested such as KENYA, LEBANON, CHILE to name but a few.

Still we know exactly why they are interested don't we, have your say via the comments, you just need to be logged in which is easy.

Note: The [index](#) shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAGs or using the [search](#), thanks, motorhome-travels.



Motorhomes the world over *smile*

0 comments

Filed under: [socialmedia](#), [motorhome](#), [welcome](#)

Winterisation tips - Part 1 - Blog

51

By keef & annie, Nov 5 2012 01:59PM
Winterisation (is that a word really?!)

Motorhome put to bed now for 2012 especially as the ice is drawing in.

There are some pictures of the van all packed up and covered for WINTER 2012 available under the site photos and slideshow tabs. In order to see these it is necessary to login using either your Facebook login / password or set

yourself up one for our site, which will mean supplying your email address and accepting the automatic link that is sent to your inbox. EASY

Luckily after our last trip away we happened to find a mega car wash on the Ashbourne road just outside Derby which had the facilities, staff and equipment to wash the motorhome. Only £15, a good deal for over 30mins of work. It looked immaculate! Plus it brought up shine again after the yacht waxing I'd spent all those hours doing during the year on the monocoche shell and the cabin waxing.

After we had driven it home, we took all the bedding, food cans etc etc out and stored them inside the house, well actually the food will obviously be well and truly eaten by next season.

I open all water taps up fully, inside and out, including the hot water pump inside to drain out ALL (hopefully) the water. LEAVE THEM OPEN ALL WINTER. I then took off all taps inside. Be careful so as not to damage the threading. I then used the pump to blow out any remaining water in the pipe work and it was surprising how much there is even though the outside taps had stopped draining.

We also made sure that the fridge was off and cleaned out, including any ice remnants in the freezer box. Put the plug in the sink to stop bad smells (if any). Connected up the electrics with an RCD / timer and wire cover into the garage and the engine switch on to allow a weekly charge just to ensure the engine battery doesn't flatten over Winter, and probably more importantly turn off the Cat 1 alarm system.

I also put all manner of security locks on, 2 on the tyres, one on the steering column etc etc. We will shift it a few times over the Winterisation period just to ensure the rubber on the tyres doesn't sit in the same position for too many weeks / months.

Finally we put the breathable cover completely over the van. Note this is not an easy task even for 2 with ladders, and brooms. Suggestion: Maybe get a few friends around to help. Anyway that's it. It is our first winter with the van so we will no doubt learn and let you know what we discover good and/ or bad.

Anyone else care to share what they have done to winterise their van or plan to do if anything. Is it a good idea or a waste of time? Have your say here in the comments under this blog. Let's get a discussion going.

Note: The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAG CLOUD, thanks, motorhome-travels.

96 Photos available in the [SLIDESHOW](#)

See our later Blog 54 for more winterisation details



See you next spring!

0 comments

Filed under: [habitation](#), [hints-and-tips](#), [vw](#), [autosleeper](#), [clubman](#), [security](#), [motorhome](#), [recommended](#)

Nice Motorhomes - Blog 52

By keef & annie, Nov 26 2012 11:32PM

NOTE all of these motorhomes were photographed at the Caravan Club Site we stayed at

Here are some of the nice motorhomes we came across on our travels this year. As it is well and truly 'hibernation' time for our lovely little van thought it would be nice to reflect on some of the summery highlights as the days shorten to black.

If you want to see many,many more of the motorhomes, campervans and RVs we like why not take a look at our pinboard called [Camping/Motorhomes](#)

We currently have **481 pins/ images** of lovely motorhomes, modern, old and damn right quirky. Please let us know which you like, those you don't and why and feel free to share links or images of motorhomes, campervans, RVs that you like or indeed are lucky enough to own.

JOIN THE BLOG - by leaving your comments here against any blog you read, that way we can all learn more about the wonderful world of Motorhome Travels!



Autotrail Savannah



5th wheeler xtreme with truck



Autocruise Rhythm



Mercedes truck conversion

0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [ford](#), [mercedes](#), [fiat](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [other-vans](#), [caravan-club-site](#)

Merry Xmas & A Happy New Year - Blog 53

By keef & annie, Dec 20 2012 10:12AM

To all our readers, contributors and fellow Motorhome, Rv, Campervan and travel enthusiasts

Have a great family Xmas and a wonderful 2013 for many new adventures in your lovely motorhome!

Best wishes

motorhome-travels.co.uk

PS To enlarge the image just click on it!



0 comments

Filed under: [rv](#), [blog](#), [motorhome](#), [welcome](#)

Blog No 68 - New Blog using HTML5 code

By keef and annie hellinger, Mar 27 2014 04:16PM

Just unpacked the motorhome for 2014. Ran between the showers and have had to dry the breathable cover off in the garage but amazingly after 6 months it started 1st time, shows the trickle feed to the engine 1 hour a day has worked.

Taking it off for a try out over the weekend.

TECHNICAL NOTE: As of 18/8/16 the old blog website entries have been also converted to HTML5 removing the need for flash and making them so much more portable to any device type running the blog
There are however still far too many blogs to transfer them over so they are available via the [INDEX](#) page

[OLDER](#)

Older

Hit the smaller underlined OLDER link to carry on back to BLOGS 1-67,thanks



0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#)

Blog 69 - Cromwell, Notts

By keef and annie hellinger, Mar 29 2014 06:26PM
Milestone Caravan Club site, Cromwell, Nottinghamshire

Motorhome trip No15 : March 28th – 29th 2014

NOTTS->CROMWELL ->NOTTS 75 miles

Set the van free from its over wintering by removing the covers on Thursday, was a little drizzly so put the waterproof membrane in the garage and then finished off on Saturday in the sun after returning from our 1st trip of 2014 away. Amazing to note that the motorhome started 1st time after nearly 6 months stored away, bless it. VW engines are just so good!

Packed up and set off early Saturday morning. Reasonably short drive but good to get the engine ticking over again. Arrived at site just before 12. Lovely day, cold but sunny. Lovely site, 2 fishing ponds and a large fishing lake behind it. 3 motorhome filling stations and 2 toilet blocks, both heated. Mixture of hard standing and grass pitches.

Set up and went for an explore in the village. Quite close to A1 so reasonably noisy but lovely old buildings, spring flowers and trees blossoming. Village has farm shop and lovely old church plus a dolls museum but we didn't go in that. However it does have the milestone micro brewery and we had a look around and chat with the main man. They have lots of awards for best beers especially their raspberry wheat beer. Bought a 3 beer sample box and tried out the stout. Very nice

Cooked lunch of Pukka pies (good meat content), ciabatta garlic bread and muffins, all washed down with lemon & mint squash. Read for most of the afternoon, very relaxing.

For tea the site has the mobile chippie visit so since Keef had left the piazza's in the freezer at home we had fish & chips, almost the best beer battered chips ever, yummy! We had a couple of glasses of our sloe gin after and watched Line of Duty series 1 on DVD, well 2 episodes anyway before retiring to bed.

Tried out most of the usual motorhome things, fridge, heater, water, fire, blown air etc etc so all looks good with the "home" for the season.

All in all a nice relaxing weekend!

Note: The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAG CLOUD or under these new blogs, thanks, motorhome-travels.

35 pictures in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



Fishing lake @ Milestone CC site



Pitch 43



1 comments

Filed under: [recommended](#), [nottinghamshire](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#)

Blog 70 - Oxford with Pete & Joy, nice times

By keef and annie hellinger, Apr 6 2014 05:28PM
462 Abingdon Rd, Camping & Caravan Club site, Oxford, Oxfordshire

Motorhome trip No16 : April 5th – 6th 2014

NOTTS->OXFORD ->NOTTS 216 miles

Spent the weekend with our wonderful friends Pete & Joy. Keef working late Friday eve so we travelled early Saturday morning. Site is a little rundown and they fully accept that but it is right next to the Park & Ride to get the bus into Oxford, less than 10 mins and £4.50 return for 2, superb for entry into what is one of England's premier tourist cities and a world famous seat of learning. Pete once went here to Keble college so we relied on his local knowledge, well pubs really (joke!)

The site is all grass with a perfectly adequate but slightly dated amenities block. After setting up we walked into town via the river tow path, lots of college 8's,4's,2's, single and skullers / kayakers practising on the water, bikers on the towpath and pedestrians, not a bad day with smatterings of sunshine if a little cold and windy.

Ended up at the wonderful Head of the River pub (Fullers) where the boys had 2 pints of Seafarer, a nice light ale and the ladies Peroni & Cinzano & lemonade. We sat right on the water's edge outside. Had smoked salmon fish cakes, Cajun chicken burger and double cooked chips between us, yummy! A very busy pub with a mixture of foreign tourists, students and gracefully aging motorhomers like us. 240 years around the table, almost *smile*

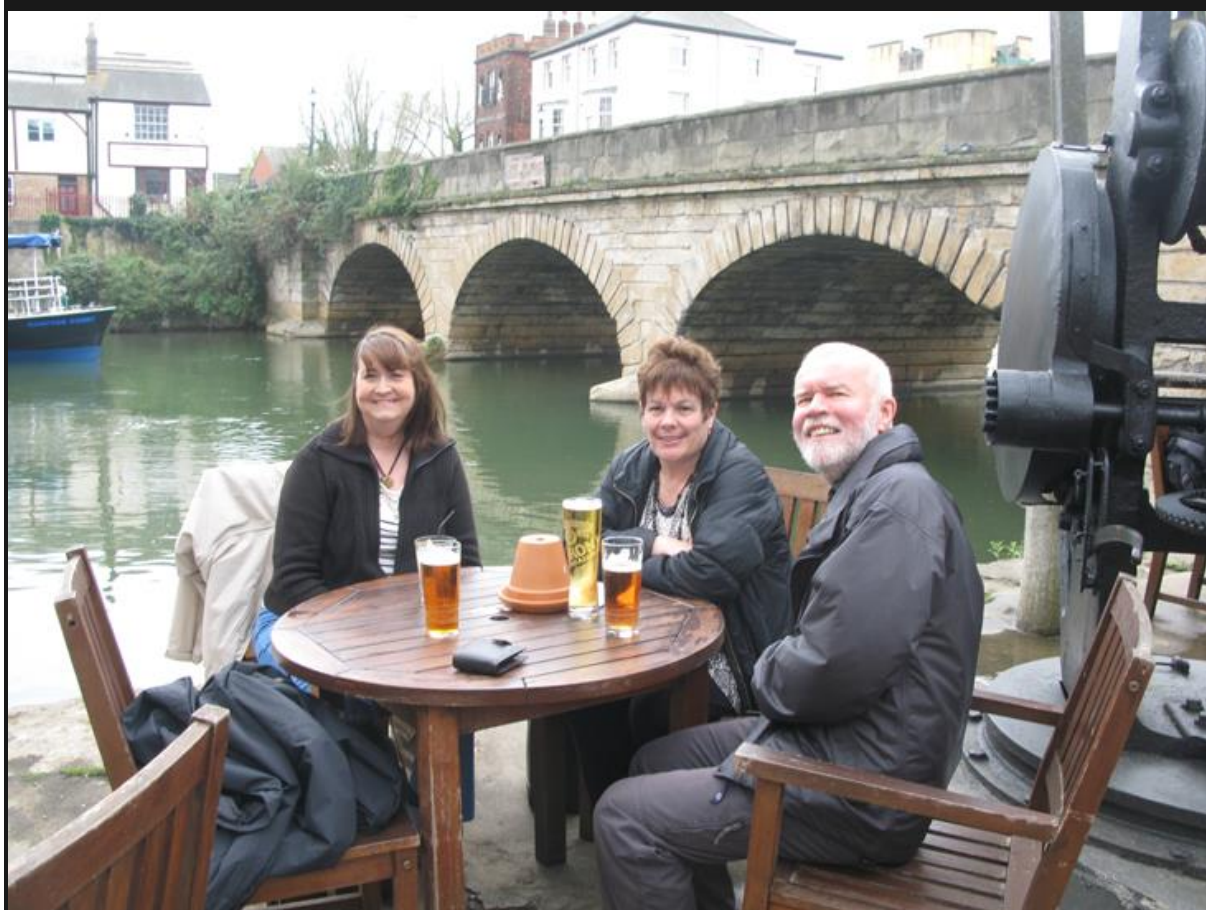
Caught the bus back to the site where we had some more drinks and a lot of nice chat. Lasagne , salad and cheese & bikkies all washed down with Italian red, NZ Sav Blanc and a lovely Taylors port. Early to bed , its all that fresh air and in Keef's case waking up at 4.10 am, saddy... It rained quite a lot and heavily overnight.

Sunday morning spent relaxing treading and having a brekkie of croissants. Then we negotiated leaving the vans on the site whilst we took the bus back into Oxford for a mooch around the town, fab architecture and interesting colleges before having roast dinner in the Mitre hotel. Nice times before heading back by bus to the site and saying our fond farewells to Pete & Joy.

All in all a nice relaxing weekend! Great times, we love our little motorhome.

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64 pictures in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



Head of the River Lunch



1 comments

Filed under: [campsites](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [oxfordshire](#), [camping-and-caravan-club-site](#)

Blog 71 - French Holiday 2014

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 24 2014 04:58PM
Motorhome trip No17 : May 14th – August 1st 2014

NOTTS->FRANCE, ITALY, MONACO & SWITZERLAND ->NOTTS 4611 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Gorges du Verdon, Annecy, Allemagne du Provence, Quimperle, Cavalaire Sur Mer, Burgundy, Loire Chateaus, Blois, Louhans, Chalon Sur Saone, Noyers, Brittany especially Finistere (Eckmuhl), Les Pieux, Cannes Film Festival, Monaco, Alpes & Juras, Lac Lemman, Evian, Montreax, San Remo & Meeting Marco, Concarneau & Micamac.

LOWLIGHTS: Probs with the van

Probably easier to document this holiday by showing the calendars for May, June and July 2014. See attached images to see where we were on each day.

To see the overall [SLIDESHOWS](#)

There is also a You tube video on [Blog 71 Xtra](#)

There is also the consolidation of **26 original photosnack slideshows** s creating 3 30 minute long slideshows which show our adventures plus one additional one showing every campsite we stayed at, most of which were via the ACSI book, if you are travelling France then it is a must. For UK folk get membership from Vicarious books in Kent <http://www.vicariousbooks.co.uk/> or direct from ACSI online .There is also a book of all the Aires which are similar to the UKs CLs/ CSs (certified location/site) where for a fraction of the price and limited services you can stay overnight (or longer) on your journey. Tip take your own loo seat, paper, soap and towel in France, most sites do not provide these. Also the reverse polarity issue is not as bad as some would have you believe, after checking the 1st 5 sites with my expensive kit I gave up, it is I believe only an issue if your internal electrical items are faulty. Don't forget your 2 pin convertor – many of the sites are not bayonet fittings oh and most are 6 amp, 10 is becoming more the norm but they will charge you for an upgrade if their system allows it so take that gas kettle else you will blow the fuse!

Most sites have great swimming pools often indoor as well as outdoor so that is a real plus.

The 3 French slideshow areas are

1. [Folkestone \(UK\) to Gorges of Verdon \(Provence\)](#)
2. [Volonne \(Provence\) to Finistere \(Bretagne/ Brittany\)](#)
3. [Clohars-Carnoet \(Bretagne\) to Home](#)
4. PLUS [every campsite we stayed at](#)

All in all a nice relaxing and discovery type holiday mixed with chillaxing and tourism! Great times, we love our little motorhome.

Note: The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the TAG CLOUD or under these new blogs, thanks, motorhome-travels.
Why not take a look Leave us some feedback here on the blog if you wish, thanks

Summary of commentary posted on Facebook etc during our travels was

Around France in 80 Days - well some of it...

Last slideshow shows where we camped on each of those 80 days

Thanks all folks, Love K&A

31/7 Deauville, Trouville, Honfleur beach – pont de normandie & Dieppe views, Etretat, farm campsite near Yport, Yport, Fecamp, Minnimay(-sp?), st valery sur somme, Calais, densole

28/7 Les Pieux sunset, anneville, saint vaast la hougue, ravenoville, Utah beach, Omaha beach (st Laurent-sur-mer), carhagnolles (flower camping campsite), Bayeux, Arromanches-les-bain (gold beach), falaise, beavron-en-auge, camping deauville

26/7 Breton: pointe de primel (plougasnou), st quay portrieux, dinan, st malo, domaine de la ville huchet, Normandie: mont st Michel, Granville, les pieux

23/7 Eckmuhl / St Guenole (near Penmarche), Quimper, pointe du raz, Douarnenez, Locronan, Chateaulin, Cameret sur mer / Pointe de Penhir, Pointe des Espagnols, Roscanvel, Le Faou, Plougastel Daoulas, Landerneau, Brignogan-Plages, Plougasnol

Shipping News Update 20/7 Love Bretagne *FACT* Now in Penmarche FINISTERE Wind Blowing ENE and southerly to cool the warmed skin! Visited Concarneau and Benodet today having stayed at Clohars-Carnoet last nite after visiting the wonderful Doelan fishing village (used in films allegedly). Loved Guerande (old town) when we visited it and the wonderful Martin from the AA (liverpudlian) based in Nante who fixed our recurring van problem with brake lights/ engine mgt warning.

Far Bretagne cake is the best yet... crème anglais, almond, black gold plums (or prunes as they are know in French), seriously yummy

Off to discover the coast, Quimper, plus more delightful blue Bretagne fishing villages and head towards Brest 2moro...

Love to all our lovely family & friends

2 new slideshows on the website, one at the end of this page and one on the top of a new page

Update 16/7 Now on the Pays deLoire Alantic Coast – Fab weather (hooray) 33c sunny no clouds and beaches to die for Staying near historic town of Guerande. Stayed at Piriac Sur Mer yesterday, great beaches here and at La Baule. Deserted often. La Baule reminded us of Surfers in Queensland, such a huge curve of endless sand. Also went over the Loire River outlet bridge between St Nazaire & St Brevin, such a huge expanse of water. Bit like Confederation bridge in Canada going to PEI from Nova Scotia, only not quite so long. Have seen some lovely places recently. Recommend Angers, Ducs of Anjou territory. Sadly more minor probs with van so AA / Garage out for us 2moro early. Brake lights stopped, may be tied up with earlier probs and continuous Engine Mgt system light which we had checked out in Switzerland as “minor” wait till UK, so delaying our move onto Brittany for a day or so, no real hardship as weather, area and beaches FAB

1 new slideshow on website

Love K&A xxx

"Not a lot of people know that".... Michaelbut we went from Deauville to St Valery Sur Somme. Normandie, Picardy & Nord Pays de Calais and you can see the pix in the latest slideshow. Only one more to go....Love K&A xxx — with Serendipity Girlsdesignerdresses.

Hard to believe but my photos inspired Monet - 1st 2 the Lieutenancy @ Honfleur, last 2 Port Eval at Etretat (4 photos)

one in the eye for Harald — with Serendipity Girlsdesignerdresses. At Bayeux

les pieux to deauville, normandy - visited all the DDay landing beaches, quite harrowing, les pieux sunset wine with our chairs on the beach just so romantic, william the conquerors home town falaise and a whole lot more see the latest slideshow "les Pieux to Deauville" — with Serendipity Girlsdesignerdresses. (10 photos)

Plougasnol Brittany to Les Pieux Normandie, oh what a beach and campsite - we will be back

Another slideshow on the website — with Serendipity Girlsdesignerdresses. (7 photos)

for all you clapham-ites

went to abbeville (picardy), bonneville (rhône-alpes), trouville (normandy) and narbonne (languedoc-roussillon) still working on pixs

One more slideshow on website, Eckmuhl to Plougasnol, All Bretagne and mostly Finistere which we loved

Update 16/7 Now on the Pays deLoire Alantic Coast – Fab weather (hooray) 33c sunny no clouds and beaches to die for Staying near historic town of Guerande. Stayed at Piriac Sur Mer yesterday, great beaches here and at La Baule. Deserted often. La Baule reminded us of Surfers in Queensland, such a huge curve of endless sand. Also went over the Loire River outlet bridge between St Nazaire & St Brevin, such a huge expanse of water. Bit like Confederation bridge in Canada going to PEI from Nova Scotia, only not quite so long. Have seen some lovely places recently. Recommend Angers, Ducs of Anjou territory. Sadly more minor probs with van so AA / Garage out for us 2moro early. Brake lights

stopped, may be tied up with earlier probs and continuous Engine Mgt system light which we had checked out in Switzerland as "minor" wait till UK, so delaying our move onto Brittany for a day or so, no real hardship as weather, area and beaches FAB

1 new slideshow on website Love K&A xxx

Update 6/7 Still in Burgundy (just – we are off to Loire in a couple of days) at Lac Marcenay. We really, really like Bourgogne. On the Grand Route de Cremant now. Saw Route de Grand Crus other day. Also we saw the source of the seine yesterday, a trickle in truth. Can't believe it is so wide in Paris! The site we are on is owned by Dirk (a dutch ex-hippie with a French wife) – it's so quirky, mostly dutch here. I watched Netherlands Vs Costa Rica last nite with crowds of screaming Dutch (and drank with them, headache!) I asked if I could be an honorary English supporter, they were more than happy bedecked in orange, lions heads and other strange attire, but what fun....We spent a fab 4 days at and in and around the site at Lac Panthier (near Commarin) – best site we have ever stayed at, lakeside pitch such views and our 1st true Burgadian meal out – gammon and parsley terrine with Dijon mustard drizzle (starter), Bouef Bourginone & veg (main), true eglise deux boules - assorted flavours (pud) oh and how could I forget a 1l carafe of local white burgundy, which was better than any white I've ever had from a bottle (honest!) plus met a whole host of nice folk of many nationalities. Spent quite a few more days in Burgundy than we originally planned but we love it. Very different to Provence, Cote D'Azur and Rhone Alps. Seen two very different Chateaux so far (chateau neuf des auxois & commarin), the 12th century Cistercian Unesco Abbaye de Fontenay, the 12th century Duc of Burgundies wine press (still working) and the canal de burgogne, so real tourist times with some swimming, sunbathing, reading, chillin and just fun.... Ohhh our times are going too fast, but appreciate we are very lucky to spend so much time travelling

1 new slide of pix on the website, 1 to come when I get time later — with Serendipity Girls designer dresses.

Now in Burgundy, just had a fab Pinot Noir from local Vineyard (hic) in Meursault. From Annecy we went all the way around lake geneva / lac leman (swiss & french sides) Loved Evian, Montreux and much more besides, then travelled over the impressive Jura mountains into Franche-Comte and into Cote D'or area of Burgundy, after another minor hiccup with the van we are fully roadworthy again. Can thoroughly recommend Louhans & Chalon...

3 new sets of slides on the website

More probably when we next manage wifi.... love to all our family and friends

Life is a beach.... Love the Med

More pix of Grimaud Ville, so old Provence

great day in st tropez today

saw this yacht in monaco the other day, now in st trop, one of our fellow ferry brits referred to the helicopter as really 'taking the p', hee hee

new pix of port grimaud and st tropez now on website

Del Boy and Annie doing cocktails - Hey its officially 34c 93F here today

Thats hot and humid, but ain't complaining

Latest Pix

listening to CSN in the sun on the cote d'azur fab.... my italian is coming on (not really), discussed, just, Mondiali di calcio (football) - world cup with nico next door, smile, off to the beach this afternoon, still someone's gotta do it... wanna see more of our holiday photos, try here, njoy love us xxx

THE END

Note: Music on "Around France in 80 Days" by Micamac, a band we saw in Concarneau Brittany

France 2014



May 2014 - motorhome-travels.co.uk

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Phone +33(0)754044122	K psp 458689039 A psp 111470419		14 th Nottingham to Folkestone 203 miles Stay at Blackhorse Farm CC site Densole CT18 7BG DAY1 Densole	15 th Folkestone to Dover Ferry 8.45am Ref 210875329 Arrive 1hr before (30 min close checkin) 11 miles 20 mins Drive via Rouen Le bec Hailouin Site 1153 ACSi 166 m	16 th 200miles Thru Le Mans & Tour to site 1628 at Faverolles-Sur-Cher 3hrs 30m site 1628 DAY 3	17 th Faverolles-Sur-Cher to Lempdes-sur-Allagnon via Montluçon & Clermont Ferrand 233 miles 3hrs 50m site 1736 DAY4
18 th Lempdes-sur-Allagnon to La Nautique @ Narbonne 201 miles 3hrs 10m site 2071 DAY 5	19 th Narbonne to Carcassonne, look around then to Montpellier & Lunel 152 miles 3hrs 8m site 2058 DAY6	20 th Lunel to La Couronne via Parc Camargue, Aries & Marseille 72 miles 1hr 23m site 2163 DAY7	21 st La Couronne to Agay Stay at CC site Esterel Caravaning Ave des Golf, 83530 Paid £101 110 miles 2 hours DAY 8	22 nd Esterel Caravaning Agay Cannes Film festival 14-25/5 Visit by train 15mins £8.50 single OTHERWISE chill Monaco GP 22-25/5 DAY9	23 rd Esterel Caravaning Agay	24 th Cannes by train from St Raphael DAY11
25 th Esterel Caravaning Agay DAY12	26 th Agay to San Remo (Italy) via Monaco 78 miles 2hrs 10m site 2515 MAYBE stay 4 days DAY13	27 th San Remo (Italy)	28 th San Remo (Italy)	29 th San Remo (Italy)	30 th San Remo (Italy)	31 st San Remo (Italy) DAY18

DIARY May, June & July 2014

France 2014



June 2014 – motorhome-travels.co.uk

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 st San Remo (Italy) DAY19	2 nd San Remo (Italy) to Biot, Antibes east	3 rd Monaco by train from Biot, Antibes east	4 th Biot, Antibes East DAY 20 Lay at Le Herne campsite	5 th Nice by train from Biot, Antibes east	6 th Les Philippines site Les Adrets de L'Estérel DAY 24 up to 1000 m	7 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Hordey 1600m DAY 25
8 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Hordey 1600m DAY 26	9 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Hordey 1600m – at 1100m DAY 27	10 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Hordey 1600m – L'Immaud DAY 28	11 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 29	12 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 30 World cup starts	13 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 31	14 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 32 England vs Italy/Finland 1-1 boo
15 th Le Ruon nr Baleines site DAY 33	16 th Aiguines, Lac St Croix, 1st part of Gorges du Verdon, Provence DAY 34 & 35	17 th Gorges du Verdon, 2nd part stop engine 1st part of Gorges du Verdon & L'Escalier Hippodrome DAY 35	18 th Volonne & L'Escalier DAY 36	19 th Volonne & L'Escalier DAY 37	20 th Van finally fixed 3pm Left Provence travelled thru some of Rhone Alps to L'Isle - Alpes Dauphine site DAY 38	21 st Lac International site Annecy DAY 39
22 nd Lac International site Annecy DAY 40 visited to Lake Annecy	23 rd Lac International site Annecy DAY 41 Rhône – Alpes region Wimbledon starts	24 th Lac International site Annecy DAY 42 visited Annecy visit Rhône – Alpes region England Vs Costa Rica, Bel Horizon	25 th Grenoble, etc up towards St Lisienne Lac Lemans DAY 43 Rhône – Alpes region	26 th St Disaille Lac Lemans DAY 44 Rhône – Alpes region	27 th Stayed at Divonne les bains having circled around Vinoy Lake Geneva, Rhone-Alps Montreux Switzerland, CERN DAY 45	28 th Bew Gex Travelled June mountains stayed at weston in Rhone-Alps DAY 46
29 th Meursault Burgundy DAY 47	30 th Meursault Burgundy, visit vine DAY 48					

France 2014



July 2014 – motorhome-travels.co.uk



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 st Meusault to Beaune. Days 1-2 Lac de Pantlier near Vendresse-en-Auxois. DAY 19	2 nd Lac de Pantlier near Vendresse-en-Auxois. Days 20-21 Château de la Roche L'Écluse Vendresse-en-Auxois. DAY 22	3 rd Lac de Pantlier near Vendresse-en-Auxois. DAY 23	4 th Lac de Pantlier near Vendresse-en-Auxois. DAY 24	5 th Montbard, Abbaye de Montbard, 10800 Montbard - L'Écluse Lac de Pantlier DAY 25
6 th Dirks site Lac de Marcenay DAY 26 Wimbledon ends. Away out in 14 mins	7 th Dirks site Lac de Marcenay DAY 27 Lots of rain for most of the 4 days here	8 th Marcenay to Vincelles stopping at Vincelles DAY 28	9 th Vincelles DAY 29	10 th Vincelles to Chamois, Centre Days 30-31 overnight in car parking there DAY 32	11 th Chamois to Blois, follow river Loire - Limer, Uneniceau, Monchard to Vincennes sur Layton (days de Loire) DAY 33	12 th Concouron sur Layton (days de Loire) DAY 34
13 th Pay de Loire region Concouron sur Layton (days de Loire) DAY 35 World Cup ends Germany vs Argentina 1-0 A.E.I	14 th Concouron sur Layton (days de Loire) DAY 36 wasn't lay (now)	15 th Doux, Trégoldre houses. Days 37-38 Kocoyse, Marc laurier - Vincennes Loire Atlantique Pay de Loire region DAY 39	16 th Pois et Sten besch, St Nazaire. Days 40-41 Vins, Le Lait, Le Lait Guernsey DAY 42	17 th Guernsey Mers site Days 43-44 overnight in car parking there Pay de Loire region DAY 45	18 th stayed at Loomerquet, Visited Limer, Vincennes, Bretagne region DAY 46	19 th Quimper, Doelen, Clohars Bretagne region DAY 47
20 th Clohars came to Penmarc'h Days 48-49 Bretagne region DAY 50	21 st Eckmühl, St Guenole, Quimper Days 51-52 DAY 53	22 nd Locronan, Chateaulin, Camaret Days 54-55 Ponte Espagnols, La Fou, Vincennes DAY 56	23 rd Landemou, Brest. Days 57-58 Vins, Le Lait, Le Lait Guernsey DAY 59	24 th Pointe de Primel, Plogasnou, st Lary - Vincennes, Vincennes de la huc DAY 60	25 th St Malo (Bretan) then Bretagne Normandie region Mont et Michel, Limer, Les Pieux & besch DAY 61	26 th Les Pieux sunsets beach pool sun DAY 62
27 th Anneville, st Yves le Hougue, Days 63-64 Cognac DAY 65	28 th Beyeux, Gold beach, 360 cinema at Annonciation, Haise, Vincennes Xige, Vincennes DAY 66	29 th Deauville, Honfleur, Pont de Normandie, Vincennes Yport DAY 67	30 th Yport, (Normandy) Mianay & Vincennes (Friday) camp Mianay DAY 68	31 st St Valery Sur Somme Cells to University 11.10-11.40 looking for 2100/2100 Limer to Densole OC site ref 004780000 DAY 69	1 st Back home 203 miles 3hrs 17mins Day 80	

0 comments

Filed

under: [Italy](#), [acsi](#), [europe](#), [france](#), [monaco](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [camping](#)-[and-caravan-club-site](#)

Blog 71 Xtra: Video & Slideshow French Holiday 2014

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 24 2014 05:39PM

If you wish to see the main [SLIDESHOWS](#)

VIDEO

DAIRIES

France 2014



May 2014 - motorhome-travels.co.uk

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Phone +33(0)754044122	K psp 458689039 A psp 111470419		14 th Nottingham to Folkestone 203 miles Stay at Blackhorse Farm CC site Densole CT18 7BG DAY1 Densole	15 th Folkestone to Dover Ferry 8.45am Ref 2108753929 Arrive 1hr before (30 min close checkin) 11 miles 20 mins Drive via Rouen Le bec Hailouin Site 1153 ACSi 166 m	16 th 200miles Thru Le Mans & Tour to site 1628 at Faverolles-Sur-Cher 3hrs 30m site 1628 DAY 3	17 th Faverolles-Sur-Cher to Lempdes-sur-Allagnon via Montluçon & Clermont Ferrand 233 miles 3hrs 50m site 1736 DAY4
18 th Lempdes-sur-Allagnon to La Nautique @ Narbonne 201 miles 3hrs 10m site 2071 DAY 5	19 th Narbonne to Carcassonne, look around then to Montpellier & Lunel 152 miles 3hrs 9m site 2058 DAY6	20 th Lunel to La Couronne via Parc Camargue, Aries & Marseille 72 miles 1hr 23m site 2163 DAY7	21 st La Couronne to Agay Stay at CC site Esterel Caravaning Ave des Golf, 83530 Paid £101 110 miles 2 hours DAY 8	22 nd Esterel Caravaning Agay Cannes Film festival 14-25/5 Visit by train 15mins £8.50 single OTHERWISE chill Monaco GP 22-25/5 DAY9	23 rd Esterel Caravaning Agay	24 th Cannes by train from St Raphael DAY11
25 th Esterel Caravaning Agay DAY12	26 th Agay to San Remo (Italy) via Monaco 78 miles 2hrs 10m site 2515 MAYBE stay 4 days DAY13	27 th San Remo (Italy)	28 th San Remo (Italy)	29 th San Remo (Italy)	30 th San Remo (Italy)	31 st San Remo (Italy) DAY18

France 2014



June 2014 – motorhome-travels.co.uk

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 st San Remo (Italy) DAY19	2 nd San Remo (Italy) to Biot, Antibes east	3 rd Monaco by train from Biot, Antibes east	4 th Biot, Antibes East DAY 20 stay at Le Hermines campsite	5 th Nice by train from Biot, Antibes east	6 th Les Philippines site Les Adrets de L'Estérel DAY 24 up to 1000 moulding	7 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Horizon
8 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Horizon	9 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Horizon – at l'Îlepeze DAY 27	10 th Port Grimaud – Camping Club Horizon - l'Îlepeze DAY 28	11 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 29	12 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 30 world cup starts	13 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 31	14 th Cavalière Sur Mer Bonaparte site DAY 32 england vs india/mehaus 1-1 100
15 th Le Ruon nr Baleines site DAY 33	16 th Aigulines, Lac St Croix, 1st part of 20000 du verdon, Provence DAY 34 & 35	17 th Gorges du Verdon, 2nd part stop engine 20000 du verdon & L'Escalier Hippodrome DAY 35	18 th Volonne & L'Escalier 20000 du verdon waiting to hit 20000 du verdon DAY 36	19 th Volonne & L'Escalier 20000 du verdon waiting to hit 20000 du verdon DAY 37 England Vs Uruguay, San Paulo 1-1 100	20 th Van finally fixed 3pm Left Provence travelled thru some of rhone Alps to Lape - Alpes Dauphine site DAY 38	21 st Lac International site Annecy DAY 39
22 nd Lac International site Annecy DAY 40 visited to Lake Annecy	23 rd Lac International site Annecy DAY 41 rhône - Alpes region Wimbledon starts	24 th Lac International site Annecy DAY 42 visited Annecy visit rhône - Alpes region England Vs Costa Rica, Bel Horizon	25 th Grenoble, etc up towards St Lisieux Lac Lemans DAY 43 Rhône - Alpes region	26 th St Disaille Lac Lemans DAY 44 rhône - Alpes region	27 th Stayed at Divonne les bains having circled the lake Lake Geneva, rhône alps Montreux Switzerland, CERN DAY 45	28 th Saw Gex Travelled Jura moulds stayed at vespa in rhône alps DAY 46
29 th Meuseault Burgundy DAY 47	30 th Meuseault Burgundy, visit ville DAY 48					



July 2014 – motorhome-travels.co.uk

[illegible]

1 comments

Filed under: [italy](#), [europe](#), [acsi](#), [video](#), [slideshow](#), [france](#), [monaco](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [caravan-club-site](#), 2014

Blog 72 - Chris & Allyson's Wedding Trip

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 31 2014 10:22AM

Daily Fail / Male - 28/8/14

Motorhome trip No18 : August 27th - August 29th 2014
NOTTS->WHITLEY BAY->MATFEN ->NOTTS 404 miles

Trip to our beautiful friends Chris and Allyson's wedding at Matfen High House Farm & Brewery. An absolutely fab time, sadly as Annie had caught a bad sore throat and early cold we came back a day or two earlier so as not to pass it onto the bride & groom before their honeymoon to France.

Weather mixed but considering how poor August has been it was good.

Initially we stayed at the caravan club site at Old Hartley farm listed as being in Whitley bay but it is more Seaton Sluice. Fab views of St Mary's island lighthouse from our pitch. Nice meal in the eve, bit of reading, prepping speech

and up early the next morning to travel across to the wedding venue near Matfen which is I guess between Newcastle and Hexham.

The whole day was fabulous, see the slideshow for a pictorial reminder. So happy for my bestest mate and Allyson. The wedding breakfast (wonder why they call it that?) food was fab and the hog roast in the evening excellent and the band , the shake down band where brill. They even played our requests of Summer of 69 and Sex on fire, what a nice bunch of lads *smile*

I've included a copy of the spoof newspaper I did for them and a repeat of my best man speech.

We got up about 10-ish on the Friday, had brekkie, sadly said our goodbyes and made the long journey back with the usual motorway hold ups to vex us. We had lunch with the brides mum and partner, Eve & Norman at the Weatherby service station. Quite a coincidence as we were all travelling back down south.

71 photos in the [SLIDESHOW](#)

Daily Male

Thursday 28th August 2014

www.motorhome-travels.co.uk

Price : page **FREE**
stunna

Life with Style-SEWC

or SEBC if it is no where near payday



Don't Push It!

Gretna Dear?

Welcome to
Scotland
Fàilte gu Alba

EXCLUSIVE Pensioner weds Geordie lass

Honeymoon in the soar-away SUN



No controversy here (much to the press's annoyance) but its Happy times at the Brewery thanks to all the family and friends who have turned out to make this such a fab occasion for Chris & Allyson, and that is so deserved. We here at the Daily Fail don't normally look for good news stories, indeed its just not in our DNA, but we will make an exception for this lovely couple. Now raise your glasses, roar at the speeches, sharpen your smile and send them your LOVE!



papped



saw it here first!



So what is it exactly you wish to know about Christopher John Langthorne? How long have you got? I'd set up a few glasses if I were you, turn up your hearing aid and listen intently. make sure you laugh at the appropriate places. If you don't rent-a-crowd will bring in their canned laughter Kareoke machine and out do you. So have Chris & I shared a few larfs over the years? I don't know where I would be without his life long friendship. Heres to many more years.



Best Man Speech

Intro self – Keef, for those of you who don't know me and Happy for those that do. I've known Chris since v v young. My mum met dee at FPC back in the early 50s I believe (it clearly didn't work, we are both here)

Definition of Best Man: - googled a few of these and picked out my favourite 3

1) Noun: an acquaintance with whom you trust a five minute speech that could, potentially, ruin the rest of your life. 5 mins - no chance, far too short! You can't reveal much in 5 mins.

2) Antiquated expression used to delineate the "best swordsman" by your side as you kidnapped your "betrothed". Remember Vikings & Northumbrians stole their brides.

3) At one stage the best man would stand guard as a sentry to protect the bride and groom from anyone who wished to stop the wedding. He would sometimes continue this vigil outside the newlywed's home after the ceremony- In today's parlance that is a Stalker or Perv

Ice breaker: Want to play a quick game? 3 quick facts about Chris. 2 are true 1 isn't. I'll take a show of hands once I've been thru them

1. We almost missed a once a week bus across the top of Scotland when the warden at the Tongue youth hostel made us complete our chore having spent the night there. The chore may have been toothbrush on urinal porcelain, but I can't remember. I do remember travelling on the post van with livestock, fruits, vegetables and newspapers however.

2. In our yooof we had very powerful (not) Honda 50 motorbikes tearing up the strip and terrorising the neighbourhood. We eventually progressed to more powerful bikes. Please feel free to visit Chris' in their garage sometime. We had leather jackets with Harley Davidson written in studs across the back.

3. At many a party armed with Party 4's and 7's (basically a bigger baked bean can filled with Watney's Red Barrel ale or better stuff – Abbot ale/ Bishops Tipple (maybe)) we would prance around energetically to the Motors Airport, nowadays it is called "dancing like your dad" but we thought we were the bee's knees

Time for some facts-ish: Daily mail handout (35 copies – take one and pass them on please) after I've done the paperboy bit.....

At 12 I was a Paper boy, delivering in Clapham (or Clame as we prefer to call it now) to Rodenhurst rd , the posh bit HAND OUTS (lovely assistant) this is where Chris's family lived

Chris & I were almost foetuses together, 60 years we have known each other, Chris is my longest & best friend, in class we sat next to each other before and after I went to oz as a child, travelled Scotland together when we finished 6th form as well as attempting an early commune in the lake district with a group of friends where we survived almost entirely on custard and oat cakes , we visited Taize (a religious community) vaguely near Cluny in France in our early hippy days. Speaking of Australia Chris & Allyson went in the "modern day" at the start of this year to see Laura & Steve, there they got engaged, what I suppose you could call a bit of a whirlwind romance (larf) they are both v happy and that makes us all here the same, they have now started travelling in their motorhome, my ambition is convince them to travel with Annie & I thru central outback oz or the forgotten world highway in nz by motorhome, perhaps one for the future maybe. We can then all be gray revellers sponsored by Saga, Must mention Chris other passions besides Allyson i.e music, blues, his various bands with Cordell and others, before the Sage it was early day concerts @ the Finsbury Park rainbow, we saw amongst others Pink Floyd, ELP and yes (Chris made a clock from side 2 of TFTOs - pure sacrilege), Chris was also into John martyn ,pete adkin, clive james, strawbs, jonathan kelly, FYC, tom petty, jimi Hendrix, roxy etc etc, and now he and Allyson are groupies or troublemakers for those in the know! Many a beer festival from the 1st great british to the latest, I have so many tribute glasses from these that I needed an extension on the kitchen , only sorry I couldn't make the latest recent London one with you mate Mustn't forget family & friends – this really makes Chris tick and I get that too.....

ENOUGH – your real ale will get cold

One Final category

What about this day in history? 28th August I may add a few quiz questions

Birthdays - born on this day

1749 - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, wrote the play Faust (d. 1832)

1828 – Leo Tolstoy, Russian Author

1906 - John Betjeman, poet laureate of England

1917 - Jack Kirby, cartoonist (X-Men, Spiderman, Hulk, Capt America)

1943 - David Soul, [Mr Solberg?] Chicago, actor (Starsky & Hutch)

1949 – Hugh Cornwall of the Stranglers

1965 - Shania Twain, Windsor Ontario, Canadian singer (You're Still the One)

1968 – Billy Boyd, Pippin from Lord of The Rings

1969 - Jack Black, American actor

1986 - Florence Welch Flo & The machine

Marriages/Anniversaries

1811 – Poet Percy Bysshe Shelly eloped with Harriet Westbrook to Scotland to get married

1924 - British children's writer Enid Blyton (27) marries editor Major Hugh Alexander Pollock, DSO (36)

1997 - British-Indian novelist and essayist Salman Rushdie (50) weds Elizabeth West

Events

1640 - King Charles I's English army loses to a Scottish Army at the Battle of Newburn

1850 - Richard Wagner's opera "Lohengrin" premieres in Germany

1921 - Babe Ruth starts best streak ever of an "extra-base hits" whatever that means

1955 – Rock around the clock by Bill Haley hit no 1

1963 - Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I have a dream speech" addressing civil rights march at Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC

1964 - The Beatles appeared on the cover of LIFE magazine

1965 - Bob Dylan booed for playing electric guitar at a concert in New York's Forest Hills

1967 – For the cricket fans amongst us (Allyson) Asif Iqbal & Intikhab Alam make 190 stand for 9th wkt v Eng

1973 - "Smoke on the Water" by Deep Purple goes gold

A personal one for me

1982 - "Sugar Babies" closes at Mark Hellinger Theater NYC after 1208 perfs

1986 - Tina Turner's star unveiled in Hollywood

1987 – Luka by Suzanne Vega no1

And one final one....

2014 Chris marries Allyson, He is my best mate and always will be, it is a real privilege and honour to be asked to be his best man, please join me in a cheer and toast to the happy couple, health and a long fun life together "Chris & Allyson, the new Mr & Mrs Langthorne"

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [northumberland](#), [friends](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [motorhome](#)

Blog 73 - Family Holiday No3 - Bellingham, Northumberland Blog 73

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 14 2014 12:03AM

Not The Motorhome trip No3 : September 5th – September 12th 2014

NOTTS->HESLEYSIDE HALL, BELLINGHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND->NOTTS 750 miles

Didn't take the motor home this time as stayed at wonderful Hesleyside Hall cottages on the extensive grounds of the Charlton family whose main hall approach and gardens were designed by Lancelot "Capability" Brown who was born at Kirkharle nearby. Went with Craig, Leanne, Bill & Lady dog and had the most wonderful time, weather so much better than we hoped for, sunny and warm often!

Visited Hadrians Wall, Kielder Water, Alnwick (+ the fabulous Barter Books – even got an old Wham & John Lennon Vinyl LP), Low Newton by Sea, Bamburgh Castle, Hareshaw Linn waterfall walk at Bellingham, Carriages restaurant, Corbridge, Hexham, Kirkhale courtyard, church and lake and can 5* recommend the Cheviot Hotel in Bellingham for food and ales.

Craig & Leanne cycled all 27 miles around Kielder, a fabulous achievement, well proud of them both!

Will definitely bring the campervan back to this area, a Camping & Caravan site is just outside Bellingham and each year at this time the BaaFest is on for a whole weekend, live music, food and ales. Its just so beautiful, we know the coastal areas well but not really the Northumbrian forest area.

Anyone else have any Motorhome / RV experiences Bellingham and / or Northumberland they want to share? If so leave a comment on this blog and we will get back to you, regards Keef & Annie

Note:

1) If you want to see our previous family holidays in a cottage click [KESWICK](#) for the 1st and [CERIDIGION](#) for the 2nd.
2) The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the soon to be available KEYWORDS page, thanks, motorhome-travels.

153 Photos available in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



Annie at the Minotaur Maze Kielder Castle

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [northumberland](#), [recommended](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [family](#), [travels](#)

Blog 74 - How to fit a Rear View Camera to your Motorhome

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 19 2014 05:50PM

This guide shows you how to fit one to a specific motorhome but in our humble opinion the principle is the same which ever home you fit it to.

Summary of steps

1. It's a sensible precaution to test that the components are all functioning correctly before starting to install them. A fully charged 12V battery or suitable power supply will be required. Gentle flexing of the cable and joints should ensure that there are no breaks or snags.

2. Mark out the position of the camera bracket in the centre of reverse slope under the high-mounted stop lamp. Auto-Sleepers fit a horizontal metal reinforcement behind the inner skin of the Styrofoam panel and the hole should be above this. On this vehicle the reinforcement ended 40mm above the cupboard base, but this should be confirmed with a stud detector. Inside the rear cupboard, drill a 30mm diameter access hole through the inner insulation just above the camera bracket location.

3. Drill two 6mm diameter holes for the screw fixings, coat the camera bracket with mastic and temporarily secure with 6mm screws and nuts. Use large washers on the inner surface of the GRP panel. Use a ¼-inch M10 socket and universal drive to hold the nut. Tape the socket and any extension together to avoid dropping into the void. When the mastic has set, remove screws, coat the holes and washers with additional mastic and reassemble. This process gives a better seal because it allows the bracket to be secured before the mastic has set and then holds it while it sets.

4. Drill two 8mm diameter cable holes below the bracket. Fit the sleeve grommets to the cables, coat the holes and grommets with mastic and feed through the GRP panel and inner insulation. Wipe off excess mastic and arrange a loop in the cables to shed water. It may be easier to fit the sleeve grommets if they are split lengthwise and rejoined with superglue.

5. Remove left-side rear light and locate the harness feed hole. Drill a 19mm hole in left side of rear cupboard wall at level of 30mm hole.

6. Locate the left-rear light harness under the rear floor, remove the mastic from the feed hole through the floor and ensure that the hole is large enough to pass the cable plugs. To avoid damaging the lighting harness it may be more convenient to cut it and pull it through the rear lamp feed hole. It can be rejoined later.

7. Moving to the front of the vehicle, remove the left fusebox cover and glovebox. To do this you need to remove the pocket above the fusebox to reveal a hidden fixing for the glovebox panel.

8. Inside the cab, remove the passenger wheelarch and side step trims and locate the large harness entry hole giving access to the left side-member.

9. Feed the cable horizontally across the rear wall void from the 30mm hole to the 19mm hole made in step 5. Then vertically down to the rear light cable hole, through the floor, under the floor following the route of the rear light harness to the large grommet in the rear outer of the left side-member. Go along the interior of the left side-member, out the step harness entry hole, up the left wheelarch and into left fusebox area securing with tie wraps

10. The rear light hole and the 19mm hole are used as access holes and the cable is only temporarily looped through them. Electrician's cable feed rods are strongly recommended for this process, though stiff wire may make a suitable alternative. Secure the cable to the access hole plugs with cable ties, feed the cable into the void and fit the plugs. These are purely precautionary measures in case cable recovery is required in the future.

11. Attach the mirror monitor to the existing mirror and route its cable tail to the left fusebox area via the headlining and left A-pillar trim. Secure the monitor control box to a blank area of the fusebox. Locate suitable feeds for the cameras and monitor.

12. Auto-Sleepers taps into the cigarette lighter feed from the fusebox for the rear step warning buzzer and this makes a suitable ignition-controlled source for the permanent camera. Connect with an inline fuse of 3-5A. A multi-terminal plug for the left rear light harness is located at the base of the A-pillar and the lead to the reversing light can be identified by cable colours and confirmed using a voltmeter. Connect the monitor AV2 switch wire to this lead. Fit the earth return to a suitable point. Connect all leads and loop any excess cable neatly in the left fusebox area.

13. Reconnect the rear light harness, if cut, and seal in a weatherproof junction box if external. Fill the floor access hole with a suitable non-setting mastic.

14. Tape the cable to the rear light harness and refit the rear light unit. Test that the system operates satisfactorily and adjust the camera angles using the adjustable brackets on the sides. When happy with the view, bolt the unit to its final position.



Rear camera fitted to a 2006 Marquis Lancashire (Auto-Sleeper Nuevo) coach

There are some other really useful and interesting articles that may help on other pages of the MMM blog , why not click [HERE](#) to take a look i.e water ingress, buying a new van etc etc

0 comments

Filed under: [hintsandtips](#), [2014](#), [motorhome](#)

Blog 75 - Sussex Nostalgia Trip

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 29 2014 06:12PM

Motorhome trip No19 : September 23rd – September 28th 2014

NOTTS->EAST & WEST SUSSEX->NOTTS 552 miles

George 3rd may have said “Bugger Bognor” but we say we LOVE the place!

Took the “wendy house” away for 6 days down on the south coast visiting family, friends, our old haunts and some nice restaurants and pubs en route. The weather was really good even got a bit of a tan.

We stayed at Chichester Lakeside view holiday park in the tourer area via our ACSI membership . Amazing value at €12 per day. It has nice lakes, an outside pool , bar with free wifi, shop and café and perfectly adequate facilities. They are not the newest but you get what you pay for. The only downside is the A27 noise and the fact that they put the height barrier to the field on at 5pm every day even though you have paid £10 deposit for the key fob to get in the front entrance. Still no real complaints the weather was mostly good!

Whilst here we visited Chichester (Chi), East & West Whittering, Bracklesham Bay,Bognor Regis where we met 39 years ago, Felpham, Middleton on Sea, Elmer, Climping, Littlehampton (main & west beach), our dear friends Mike and Alison in Selsey, Pagham, Birdham, Chi Marina & Bosham. See the pix!

We then drove onto Brighton via Worthing and stayed at the Brighton Caravan club site at Whitehawk in the east of the city. We took the bus into town to the Old Steine and did the usual touristy things. Pavilion, Lanes, Pier, Dome, Beach, Promenade as well as a lovely meal at our Neice Laura’s restaurant – Cocktails & Burgers (Giraffe) in North rd. Mixed weather but hot and humid!

Saturday we drove to Lewes and stayed there all day, a really interesting historic town, architecture, quirky markets, steep streets, lovely gardens, vistas, Anne of Cleves house, fish & chip dinner in high street pub, fab Harveys ales and 6 free Vinyl LPs from local record shop.... Result!

Sunday we visited Laura, Ben and Obi (lovely dog) and had breakfast at Jamie Olivers before driving back home, all in all a fab week away, brought back many wonderful memories and created a few more!

Anyone else have any Motorhome / RV experiences in Sussex UK they want to share? If so leave a comment on this blog and we will get back to you, regards Keef & Annie

218 Photos available in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



Motorhome outside Rodean School, Rottingdean

0 comments

Filed under: [other-sites](#), [sussex](#), [friends](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [motorhome](#), [family](#), [travels](#)

Blog 76 - Stroud Hill Park with Pete & Joy

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 18 2014 05:58PM
It Pidley-ed down again – Deja Vu

Stroud Hill Park, Pidley, Cambs

Motorhome trip No20 : October 11th – 12th 2014

NOTTS->PIDLEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE ->NOTTS 196 miles

Definitely Déjà vu, same weekend as last year, same torrential downpour only this time we were out for a walk in it, no coats only small brollies. We ended up like wicks, the water slowly rising up thru our clothing to our necks. Tried drying stuff out in the van with the fire on. Didn't really work sadly

We have now been here 3 times with our dear friends Pete & Joy, once in tents once in the motor homes. We travelled early on Saturday morning and arrived at the site as Keef was back at work again and P&J couldn't travel until Saturday. We more or less arrived at the same time. The site was packed as a caravan rally was on for the weekend.

Had a lovely cheese, bikkies and wine lunch then headed out for a walk to Somersham, didn't get very far because of the downpour.

Had our evening meal in the restaurant downstairs pea and mint soup, rack of lamb and salted caramel torte all washed down with a nice prosecco. Annie had the wild mushroom tagliatelle, Pete game pie and Joy plaice.

It was indeed a bit of a foodies weekend interspersed with lovely conversation a bit of reading TV fixing (failed) and calor gas bottle checking. Breakfast was croissant with fresh coffee and blueberry preserve. Lunch mostly trad roast beefs with the biggest Yorkshires I have seen for quite a while.

The site is nice and quiet good facilities and the restaurant and bar on site make it a must hence we have been back 3 times now!

Then after our goodbyes it was off about 2.30 pm and back home, not too bad at just over 1 ½ hours. All in all a fab relaxing weekend again! Looking forward to the next time we are there.

20 pictures in the [SLIDESHOW](#)



Sunday lunch in the barn restaurant, yummy

0 comments

Filed under: [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [campsites](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [motorhome](#), [cambridgeshire](#), [travels](#)

Blog 77 - Singapore Family Time

By keef and annie hellinger, Jan 16 2015 10:25AM

Not The Motorhome trip No4 : December 11th 2014 – January 12th 2015

NOTTS->SINGAPORE->NOTTS c 14,000 miles

Didn't take the motor home as the drive to Singapore is either via the top of Russia or thru the middle east countries of Iraq & Iran , neither of which to be honest Annie nor I are keen to do although I'm sure the motorhome would make it.

33 days spent visiting family, our son and his wife and new granddaughter , Charlie #bestlookinggirlinsingapore for Xmas and New Year. We had a lovely time and enjoyed every moment of it. Slightly cooler around Xmas and New Year

as opposed to when we went last time April/ May although as Singapore is on the Equator it is never cool and the humidity is the sapper of one's energy.

Left on a 13.5 hour night flight from Heathrow via Singapore airlines, cattle class but managed 3 movies and possibly 2 hours tops sleep oh and the odd sling!. Took a few days for us both to get over the jet lag but seeing the family "Singapore branch" certainly helps

Take a look at some of the pictures and videos to get a feel, but highlights are Charlie, Pensioner swimming at Geylang, experience all the diverse food available (including Malay, Indonesian, Indian, Chinese, Chicken Rice, Bak Kut Teh, Pork escalope, Fish cheeks, Tapas, Waggu beef, Donkey skin, Cows intestines, Green frog HELP did I really eat those last 3 ;)), Singapore Flyer, Da Vinci Exhibition at Artsience museum, seeing Doug & Phoenix, Night Safari, Yuzu, Mustafa's emporium and samosa's, MRT, Orchard Road, Hard Rock café, Muddy Murphies, wine from China, Singaporean building cleaning and painting, Queues at Postoffices, DJ's fruit and veg, Malay barber, Stadium, Serangoon, BBQ at Sims ville, old chop houses, Clarke Quay walk, Vida vino & Japanese BBQ restuarants, Chimjes, Slings in Raffles, peanuts on floor, Fair Trade (Price) Xtra, Cold storage, rip off in Raffles place, Hobbit3 with subtitles, candy crush players, air con....and Charlie!

Left 6.30am by comfort taxis to Changi and 15hr flight on the way back, watched 4 movies the best of which was "what we did on our hols" with the Big Yin & Dr Who! Had more slings and ½ hour max kip. Wet,wet,wet all the way back in hire car and crashed out about 9.30pm after 24hrs+ travelling, tired but happy.

Looking forward to the next trip in 2015, which will be in the motorhome!

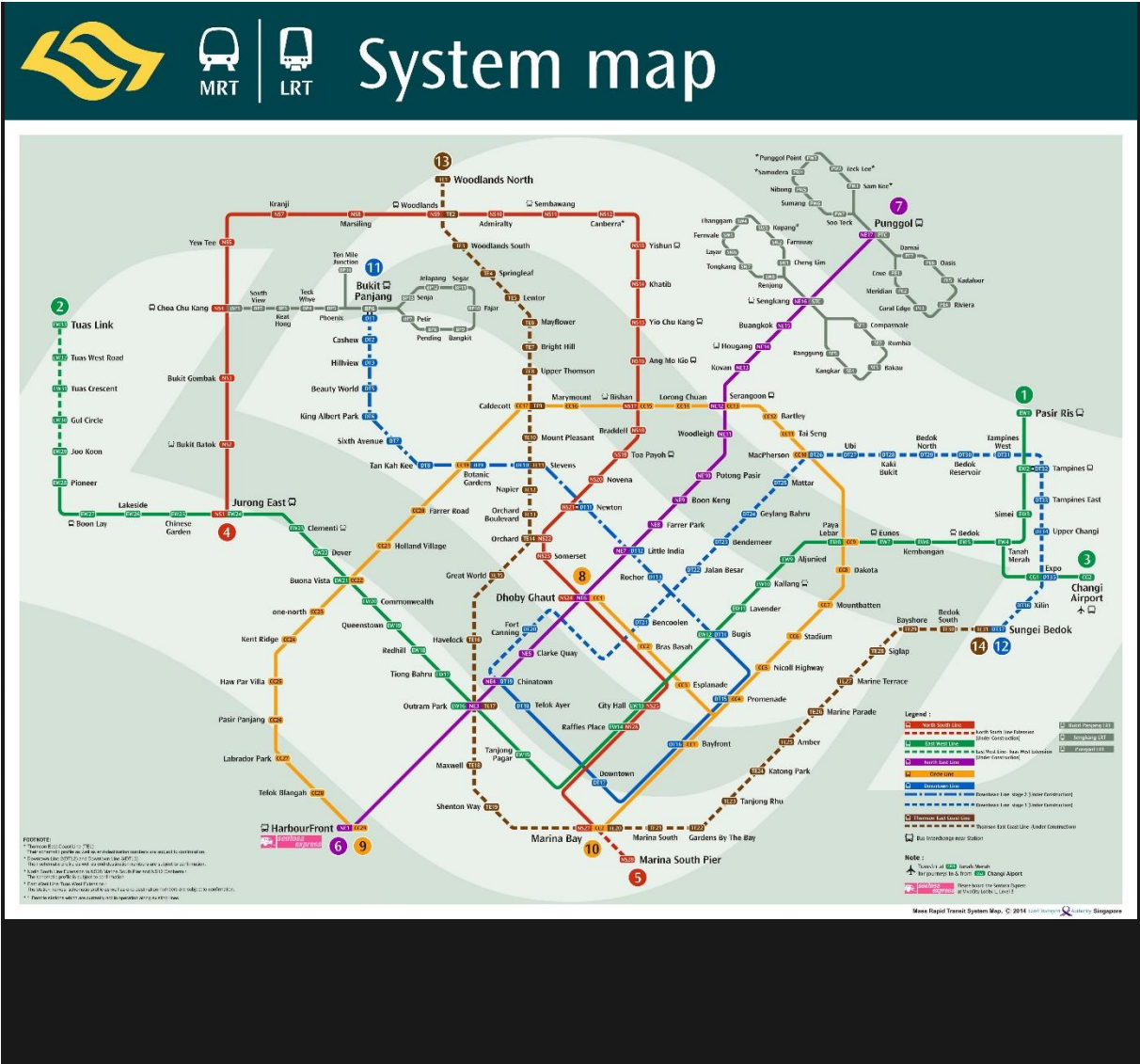
Anyone ever taken a motorhome to South East Asia? If so let us know here on the blog, we would love to know. Leave a comment on this blog and we will get back to you, regards Keef & Annie

Note:

- 1) If you want to see our previous trip to Singapore click [HERE](#)
- 2) The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by clicking on a word in the soon to be available KEYWORDS page, thanks, motorhome-travels.
- 3) Other family fun can be found [here](#)

303 pictures in the [SLIDESHOW](#)





0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [recommended](#), [2015](#), [singapore](#), [not-motorhome](#), [family](#), [travels](#)

Blog 78 - Keef's Beer Labels 1990s

I have been collecting these in picture frames on my wall for a number of years and have now decided to digitise them.

0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [canada](#), [beer](#)

Blog 79 - Canada 1999

By keef and annie hellinger, Feb 20 2015 12:04PM

This is a retrospective post as have been digitising old photographs.

We travelled around British Columbia in a motorhome starting in Vancouver, then Vancouver island including especially whale watching at Tofino, a fab pod of killer whales that hadn't been seen for over a month, guess we were just lucky, then up to Port Hardy to catch the ferry to travel the inside passge up to Prince Rupert, a magical journey.

We then headed across to Prince George, down highway 97 into Kamloops and saw our dear friends David & Cathy and family in Edmonton before finsihing up in Vancouver again to give the van back and fly back home. A nice trip, lots of miles , fabulous scenery and a great little van.

If you want to see and read more why not visit our Canada / US website trips click [here](#) or if you specifically wanna see 1999 click [here](#)

Enjoy - have you done this trip or something similar, let us know about it here, thanks!

See [SLIDESHOW](#)



View of moraine on Columbia Icefield NP

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [1999](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [motorhome](#), [family](#), [canada](#), [travels](#)

Blog 80 - Florida 1997

By keef and annie hellinger, Feb 20 2015 12:43PM

This is a retrospective post as have been digitising old photographs.

We travelled around Florida NOT in a motorhome this time but heaven forbid in a car, sacrilege to us motorhomers / RV-ers/ campervanners but there you go it was in a time BM (before motorhoming).

Starting in Orlando we stayed in Kissimmee (nice pool at Villas @ Somerset) visited Disney World a few times, the kids were young, then travelled across the sunshine superhighway bridge to Tampa, St Pete's & Clearwater beaches, Busch gardens, Sanibel, Venice, Melbourne beach etc down the west coast of Florida across the Everglades, thru all the Keys, Marathon, Marine park at Bahia Honda, stayed at Key West, 1930s hotel, sunsets, Hemmingways Sloppy Joes, Key Largo then up to Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Cocoa beach, Kennedy Space Station narrowly missing the next shuttle take off by 1 day (Discovery) and then back to Orlando to fly back. Fab times.

If you want to see and read more why not visit our Canada / US website trips click [here](#) or if you specifically wanna see 1997 click [here](#)

Enjoy - have you done this trip or something similar, let us know about it here, thanks! Would definately do it in an RV or 5 wheeler next time, gives one so much more freedom.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)



0 comments

Filed under: [1997](#), [USA](#), [florida](#), [family](#)

Blog 81 - Australia 1995

By keef and annie hellinger, Feb 22 2015 08:33PM

This is a retrospective post as have been digitising old photographs.

We travelled around the east coast of Australia by car, foot, ferry, boat, public transport and a jugganaut of a motorhome in Queensland which would have held 6 people and had 10 gears. It was a great way to get across the Atherton table land apart from the 3 mile queue behind us as its top speed in the bottom of the 10 gears wasn't great *SMILE*.

Starting in Sydney with family we then travelled via Canberra down to Melbourne and then along the Great Ocean road as far as Warranambool and whale watched southern right whales at Logan's Beach before returning to Melbourne and flying up to Cairns to pick up our motorhome for a fortnight. We visited the Atherton tablelands cane sugar country and Green Island by ferry to see some of the Great Barrier Reef. We then returned to Sydney before flying home. Fab times.

If you want to see and read more about our various trips to the southern hemisphere why not click [2007/2008](#) or [2013](#) or if you specifically wanna see 1995 click [here](#)

Enjoy - have you done this trip or something similar, let us know about it here, thanks! Would definately do it in an RV or 5 wheeler next time, gives one so much more freedom.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWs](#)



3 Sisters in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [australia](#), [1995](#), [recommended](#), [motorhome](#), [family](#), [travels](#)

Blog 82 - Shetlands - July 2001

By keef and annie hellinger, Mar 8 2015 05:06PM

This is a retrospective of a holiday Annie & I took to the wonderful Shetland Isles in July 2001.

Travelled up from Nottingham in our then red ford escort estate, stayed overnight in Aberdeen , picnicked in the grounds of an open prison (unbeknown to us until we were evicted) Overnight ferry to Lerwick. Stayed in a cottage not far outside Lerwick at Gulberswick Bay. Travelled thru all the islands and even a boat to Fetlar taking the car across. We visited the island of Mousa by tourist ferry and spent the day walking around and seeing the seal sanctuary. Cold and misty mostly but very interesting islands. Met a couple on Unst who had pigs etc were very interesting. He did IT from home and she ran a craft shop, idyllic lifestyle, used to live in London Travelled on the SS Claire Aberdeen to Lerwick.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOW](#)



0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [nottinghamshire](#), [recommended](#), [not-motorhome](#), [uk](#), [2001](#), [travels](#)

Blog 83 - Crete October 1988

By keef and annie hellinger, Mar 10 2015 10:33AM

Whilst processing some of our old photos for our family tree I came across some reasonable old scenery pictures of our family holiday to the greek island of crete way back when in 1988.

See the picture in the slideshow of the self catering apartments (Argo) we stayed in. Just off the very steep and dangerous beach outside Rethymon town. We walked back into the safe swimming area in the harbour with the boys. Also we hired both a jeep and a car to see lots more of the island, Knossos, Ag Nik, Sumarian Gorge, Phaistos, Mallia, Omolao, Plains of Messara, North, central and southern areas (although the south is much less easier to travel around by road - boat mostly)

It was a fun family holiday when the boys were quite young and nice to remember almost 30 years ago!

Want to see the [SLIDESHOW](#)



Keef & The Boys in Aghios Nikolaos (Ag Nik to us Party People ;))

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [1988](#), [greece](#), [recommended](#), [not-motorhome](#), [family](#), [travels](#)

Blog 84 - Travel goes Mobile

By keef and annie hellinger, Apr 8 2015 05:39AM

UPDATE Nov 2020, due to the fact that Flash is removed Dec 2020 all of these mobile views are replaced by responsive code, please see [BLOG 143](#) for further info.

I have reworked all our motorhome travel websites to ensure they are in technical parlance "responsive embedded" and suitable for use on all mobile phones.

They always worked on laptops, macs , desktop pcs and tablets but were a little quirky on phones.

Why not try them out on your phone and let us know of anything we could do better, many thanks and happy motorhoming!

MotorHome-Travels

Our Van

TOP PIC

MBS from Clarke Quay, Singapore

Welcome to our motorhome-travels blog - using the MENU

- 1) Click on the BLOG to see all our blogs, they started in Feb 2008
- 2) Click on the INDEX to see a title for each of our blogs, if you want to go to a specific blog
- 3) Click on the SLIDESHOW to see all our travel adventures in a slideshow, with navigation arrows to navigate the slideshow, if you want to go to a specific blog

Preview

WELCOME to motorhome-travels a blog for enthusiasts with hints & tips & fun

MotorHome-Travels
Keef & Anne's Travel Blog with Photos

Twitter Facebook Pinterest Google+

Our Van

Keef & Anne's Travel Blog with Photos

New Zealand 2013

Australia 2013

Feel free to leave comments, it shows you how much we enjoyed that blog. The menu will take you further back in time. Use the menu to go to the main page.

motorhome-travels now on mobile phones

Timeline

Hard to believe

14

Preview

SUMMARY - Holiday 2007-8. Overview of year away in the southern hemisphere

Keef & Annie's Australian Adventure

How we spent our days in 2007-8
Total Away 329
USA 7

Pacific Islands 39
Fiji 12
Samoa 16
Tonga 11

New Zealand 118
North Island 58
South Island 58
Stewart Island 2

Australia 169
NSW 47 (4 visits)

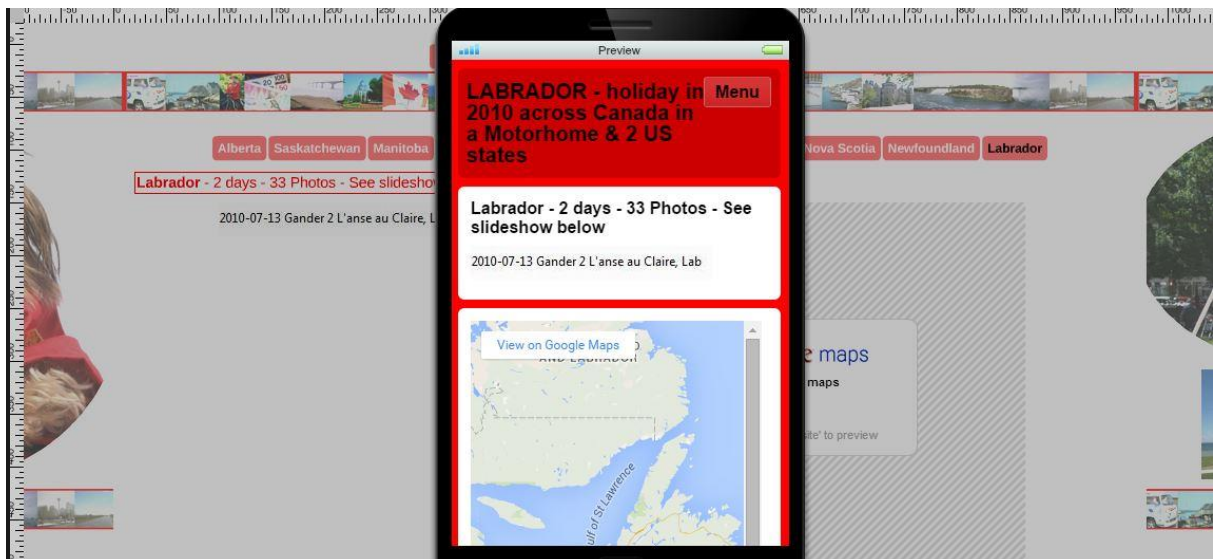
Annie's Adventure

How we spent our days in 2007-8
Total Away 329
USA 7

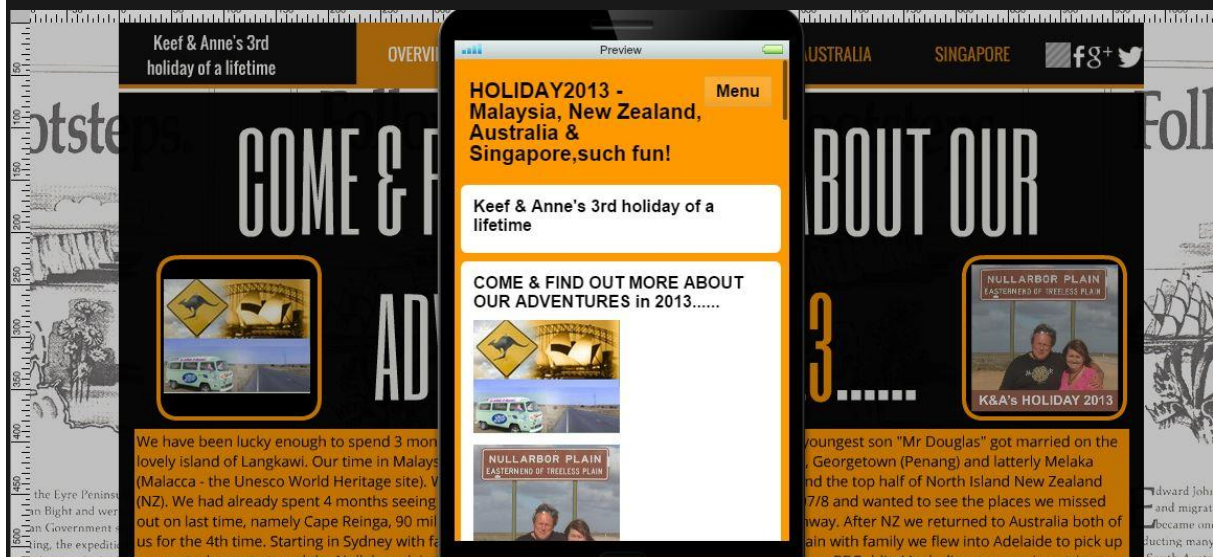
Pacific Islands 39
Fiji 12
Samoa 16
Tonga 11

New Zealand 118
North Island 58
South Island 58

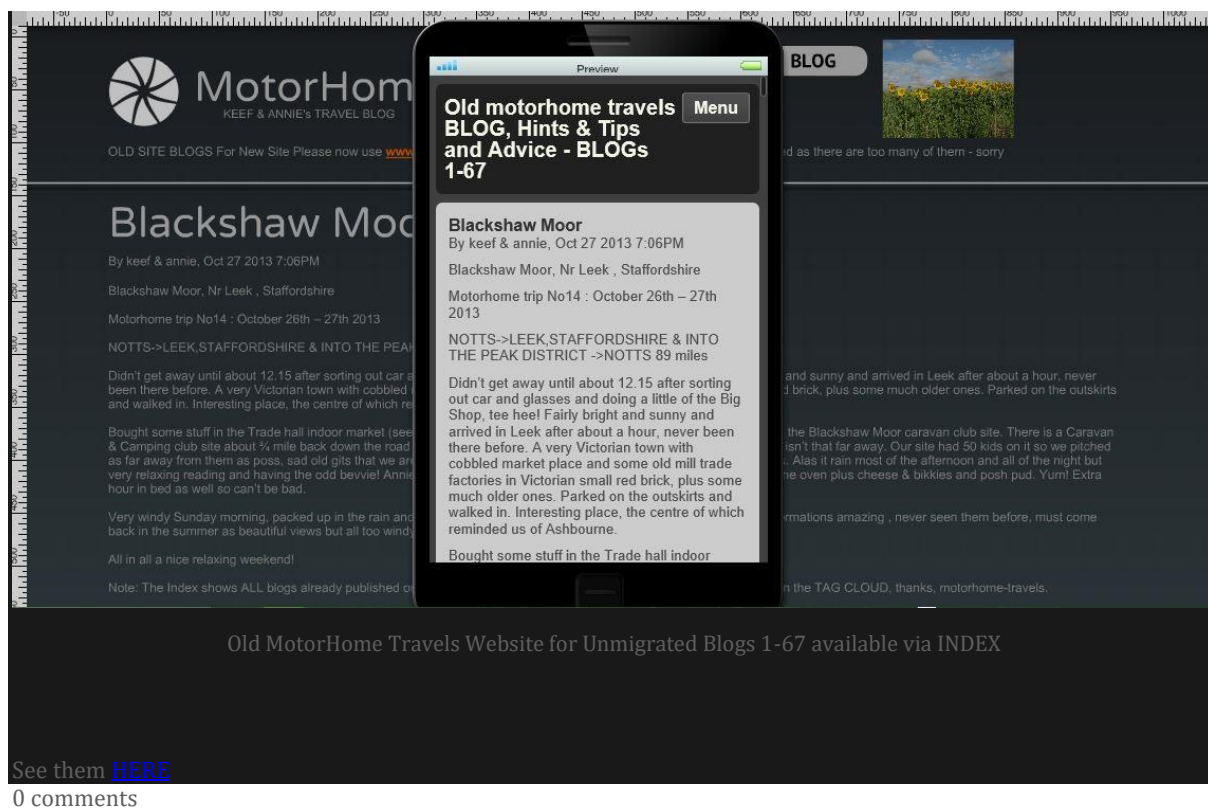
from our travels to southern hemisphere by motorhome in 2007-8. click [HERE](#) to try out on your phone or other devices



from our travels across the whole of Canada west to east in 2010 by motorhome. click [HERE](#) to try out on your phone or other devices



from our travels to Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia in 2013 by motorhome (mostly) click [HERE](#) to try out on your phone or other devices



Filed

under: [1999](#), [1997](#), [USA](#), [friends](#), [australia](#), [1995](#), [recommended](#), [motorhome](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [2010](#), [2013](#), [family](#), [new-zealand](#), [pacific-islands](#), [canada](#), [travels](#)

Blog 85 - Your motorhome is your castle

By keef and annie hellinger, Apr 9 2015 05:54AM

We have seen quite a few unique Motorhomes in New Zealand on our various trips there. They are keen on conversion but have a look at the video below, it blew our minds away WWWOOOWWW!!!



from our 2007-8 trip near Auckland

0 comments

Filed under: [motorhome](#), [2007](#), [new-zealand](#)

Blog 86 - Motorhome-Travels Pinterest Board

By keef and annie hellinger, May 11 2015 06:04AM

We have a fabulous board currently with 560 pix (or pins if I am being technically correct) and 220 followers. Its the place I post pictures of motorhome / RVs / campervans we have come across in our travels, either at sites we have stayed at or on the road both in the UK and abroad. I also repin vans that I think will be of interest to other of our blog followers.

Maybe take a look [HERE](#), join the board and repin some of the pins
Enjoy



Keef Hellinger

Camping / Motorhomes



Camping / Motorhomes pinboard

0 comments

Filed under: [socialmedia](#), [recommended](#), [2015](#), [motorhome](#)

Blog 87 - North Walsham, 2 Mill Touring Park, Norfolk

By keef and annie hellinger, Jun 21 2015 10:08PM

Mixed weather, great market town, fab company, food & wine

Two Mills touring park, North Walsham, Norfolk

Motorhome trip No21 : June 19th – 21st 2015

NOTTs->NORTH WALSHAM, NORFOLK ->NOTTs 350 miles

Arrived about 1.45 pm after a rather long and tedious journey where our wonderful satnav took us on a rather roundabout journey, hey ho, maybe its back to the map next time *smile*

Nice campsite, best of british, 81 standing pitches some with water. Very peaceful and quiet and an adult only site. We were on the lower level next to Pete & Joy in pitches 12 & 11 respectively. The 2 higher levels were called Panorama & Top acre, O2 phone service only at Top Acre. Had some probs with van i.e service had left ALL water and gas taps on..... Plus smell of surplus caused by new relay over charging habitation battery – not good news , going back into Don Amotts on Tuesday, hence need for phone service!

Pete & Joy arrived about 6pm-ish. We had some nice ale and wine to get the weekend started.

Had a lovely lasagne and salad that joy cooked , then pud and cheese, bikkies and wine. Lots of happy talking and then to bed.

Saturday was a bit mixed weather wise. We walked into town via the fields and past many lovely bungalows with great gardens and explored this quaint market town. We had lunch in a town hostelry (Kings Arms – would recommend), saw 1st half of the 5th ODI cricket between NZ & us. Exciting, nice lunch and Kings Arms ale. Walked back and just got back in time before downpour. Reading , chillin in P&J's van then BBQ for tea – chicken, burgers and large jumbo hot dog sausages and salad followed by English strawberries, raspberries and greek yoghurt. Wine, maderia and port HIC!

Sunday cooked breakfast , P&J had to leave cos daughter was coming around for dinner, said our goodbyes just as the weather really picked up (typical) glorious sunshine.

The site is nice with friendly wardens and excellent facilities , we would definitely return

Then after our goodbyes it was off about 11.30 am for us and onto East Runton and a nice walk to the beach and views of Cromer pier, then onto Wells-next-sea with a lot going on as it was father's day here in the UK. Walked to beach and wind surfing areas and the little train, then back in the van and off home thru Lincolnshire and Grantham to Sandiacre.

All in all a fab relaxing weekend again! Looking forward to the next time we are there.

140 pictures in the [SLIDESHOW](#)





0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [2015](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [norfolk](#)

Blog 88 - The Shires Plus

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 9 2015 02:49PM

Some of the best of summer England has to offer 33C on the mid wednesday , we both picked up a tan
3 centre stays: 2 ACSI sites-Brean Sands & Briarfields, Cheltenham & 1 affiliated Caravan Club site, Lucksall

Motorhome trip No22 : June 27th – July 8th 2015

NOTTS->SOMERSET,GLOUCESTERSHIRE,MONMOUTHSHIRE & HEREFORDSHIRE ->NOTTS 605 miles

Left Saturday and drove down to Brean Sands, Somerset for 4 days at Holiday Resort Unity, the weather really picked up and we both picked up a bit of a tan. The site was basic. A large open field, good facilities for the price and free entertainment – transport to and from our pitch every 30 mins. Saw abba tribute band, excellent, walked along Berrow beach and thru Brean Sands Leisure park and back to Pitch. Took van out to see Burham on Sea which was lovely. We did a whole lotta relaxing after a strenuous period of decorating / house renovations.

Left Somerset on the Wednesday and travelled up the M5 to our next acsi site at Briarfields just off junction 11, great access for the city of Gloucester and the town of Cheltenham. Took the van into see Gloucester, a fab city with historic dock side and cathedral and bus to Cheltenham, both served by good bus stops outside the site. Bus no 94, get a day rover £.60 cheltenham, £5 Gloucester. In Cheltenham we were very lucky, great weather and a music festival at the Montpellier gardens, ace time, Erica are a good local band. Before these 2 visits on a rainy day we took the van thru the Forest of Dean a nice area seeing Lydney, Littledean Jail museum and having lunch at Sling amongst others and we also crossed the border into wales to visit Monmouth a fab town/ city and home of Charles Rolls (Rolls Royce) and Henry V. we spent 4 days in this area as well

Left on the Sunday and did the short trip to Herefordshire where we stayed at the fab Lucksall campsite on the edge of the river Wye, a little more expensive but great base and location. Nice café, great cheap cooked brekkies and facilities although they could do with afew more showers for such a big site, it was always busy and its not full yet. Great base for fishing / canoeing which was what attracted most , not us however ;) Weather very mixed for these 3 days so we toured... very interesting;- Ross on Wye, Goodrich Castle, Hereford, Much Marcle, Ledbury and developed a taste for good quality high alcohol content perry and cider. On the Wednesday we returned home refreshed, tanned and happy.... Here's to the next trip

221 pictures in the [SLIDESHOW](#)

UPDATE 2020: if you would like to see the older Blogs for Gloucestershire, click the [TAG](#)

1 comments

Filed under: [acsi](#), [video](#), [slideshow](#), [somerset](#), [gloucestershire](#), [herefordshire](#), [monmouthshire](#), [wales](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [recommended](#), [2015](#), [campsites](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [motorhome](#), [beer](#)

Blog 89 - Rose Cottage, Frostenden, Suffolk

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 30 2015 10:41AM
Not The Motorhome trip No5 : August 22nd - 29th 2015

NOTTS->ROSE FARM, FROSTENDEN, SUFFOLK & About->NOTTS 485 miles approx

Didn't take the motor home as this was our 4th annual family holiday with Craig, Leanne, Bill & Lady dog and had the most wonderful time, weather mixed but some very sunny hot days , lots of beach time plus a 7.8 mile walk between Walberswick and Southwold which surprised us and made us proud and knackered in equal measures!

Visited Southwold, Walberswick, Dunwich, Aldeburgh, Snape Maltings, Caister point , Fox @ Shadingfield, Anchor Inn Walberswick, Icecream parlour in a very wet Aldeburgh for salted caramel/ Belgian choc and dime bar mix (tee hee), Fish & chip lunch Southwold and the saltings way.

Loved the cottage, beautiful views, fruit bushes, cockerel and chickens to feed (naan bread a particular favourite), great company, jigsaws, ale and spirits, world champ athletics and Indian railways on TV and Lady entertaining us ;)

Will definitely bring the campervan back to this area, spied a good one near Bampton and if we could stand it the site outside the Shadingfield Fox although it looked mega - naff!

Anyone else have any Motorhome / RV experiences of this wonderful area of Suffolk they would like to share? If so leave a comment on this blog and we will get back to you, regards Keef & Annie

Note:

1) If you want to see our previous family holidays in a cottage click [KESWICK](#) for the 1st and, [CERIDIGION](#) for the 2nd and [BELLINGHAM](#) for the 3rd

2) The Index shows ALL blogs already published or you can find Blogs about a specific subject by hitting the search button and typing the word.

115 Photos available in the [SLIDESHOW](#)

UPDATE 2020: if you would like to see the older Blogs for Norfolk, click the [TAG](#)



0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [recommended](#), [2015](#), [not-motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [suffolk](#), [family](#), [norfolk](#)

Blog 90 - Yorkshire, 3 Sites, Fun with Friends

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 17 2015 06:49PM
Motorhome trip No23 : September 9th – 16th 2015

NOTTS->YORKSHIRE including York, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire Dales NP (Nidderdale, Swaledale, Wensleydale, Doncaster->NOTTS 434 miles

All Yark-Shur 'Eee by gum Aye up Put wood inth 'ole

Lovely time with our dear friends Chris & Allyson in their Autosleeper Ravenna and us in our Autosleeper Clubman Anniversary then onto the Yorkshire Dales for 3 days on our own before my birthday treat on the way back home visiting the English Heritage Brodsworth Hall and Gardens near Doncaster . Mostly sunny for the whole 7 days.... About 1 day in total of rain so good return for UK!

3 centre stays: 1 tranquil site, 1 camping and caravanning site and 1 caravan club site-York Caravan Park YO329UB Good site, close by bus to city centre 2 miles £3 return , C&CC site Boroughbridge YO519LS nice grassy pitches, close to river Ure- nice views fishing and boating now stopped, bit of a hike up over flood barrier to amenities block but otherwise very nice, Caravan Club Richmond Hargill House site DL105LJ, lovely view great amenities very close to Yorkshire Dales NP but far too noisy 24*7 (A66 & A1) and unlevel pitches, so would not stay there again

DAY1: Arrival , drinks and catch up

DAY2:Visited York city centre by bus – tried to fix bus drivers busted printer, no joy – free trip in then fab sunny day, beers & rosies cider at lunchtime by the river ouse, then onto Yorkshire Terrier in Stonegate for more beers and pie,peas & gravy to soak it up (hik!) nice curry in the evening then some fun board games back at the vans.

DAY3:Drove via Pateley bridge to Nidderdale, Grouthwaite reservoir near How Stern Gorge, then lunch at Mr Aussie's pub then onto site at Boroughbridge

DAY4: A rather wet tramp around Boroughbridge before ending up in town pub for some fab Tim Taylors Boltmaster, Blues Brothers convention and chatting to lovely 93 year old who downed 4 double brandies before driving back to Ripon (help!) then back to vans for fab thai cooked by C&A xxx then played Guesstures, haha

DAY5: Said our goodbyes (until next time pals) then onto Richmond a very interesting town with the one of the largest market squares in the country... lost count of the number of pubs. Then onto CC site for reading and Pimms & lemon with a dash of lime , this boozing will not help my diet ;)

DAY6: Much drizzle early on but brightened as we visited Swaledale, Reeth is lovely, got as far as Gunnerside before turning back, road getting a little narrow, but we will be back to go all the way to Cumbria sometime.

DAY7: Rain all night and very heavy, pitch part flooded. Then sunshine and visited Wensleydale,Leyburn,Bolton Castle,wild boars & more,Aysgarth falls and National Park centre, then onto Hawes and Wallace and Gromits creamery, tasted much and bought about 8 different varieties, lovely little village

DAY8: Packed up and drove back home via Brodsworth Hall and gardens where we probably spent about 4 hours, very interesting and recommended

All in all a nice time, very relaxing we will be back to that area again

'Ear all, see all, say nowt. Eat all, sup all, pay nowt. And if ever thou does ow't fer nowt – allus do it fer thissen - This is the Yorkshireman's motto and translates as follows: "Hear all, see all, say nothing. Eat all, drink all, pay nothing. And if you ever do anything for nothing—always do it for yourself. Lol they are lovely people FACT!

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [2015](#), [yorkshire](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [motorhome](#), [camping-and-caravan-club-site](#)

Blog 91 - Autosleepers Owners Club Forum

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 18 2015 06:41AM

Why not join if you have an autosleeper like we do. It is a very helpful forum for getting help and advice i.e I am after putting in LED bulbs in place of our current 'hot' halogen bulbs and probably adding an additional double plug socket with USB chargers.

There is a wealth of help and advice out there and fellow model owners are happy to share their experience and some of the pitfalls so you don't make the same mistakes.

Recommended by Motorhome-Travels

Click [HERE](#) for registration link, thanks



3 comments

Filed under: [hintsandtips](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [motorhome](#)

Blog 92 - Across Canada in a Motorhome

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 21 2015 09:44AM

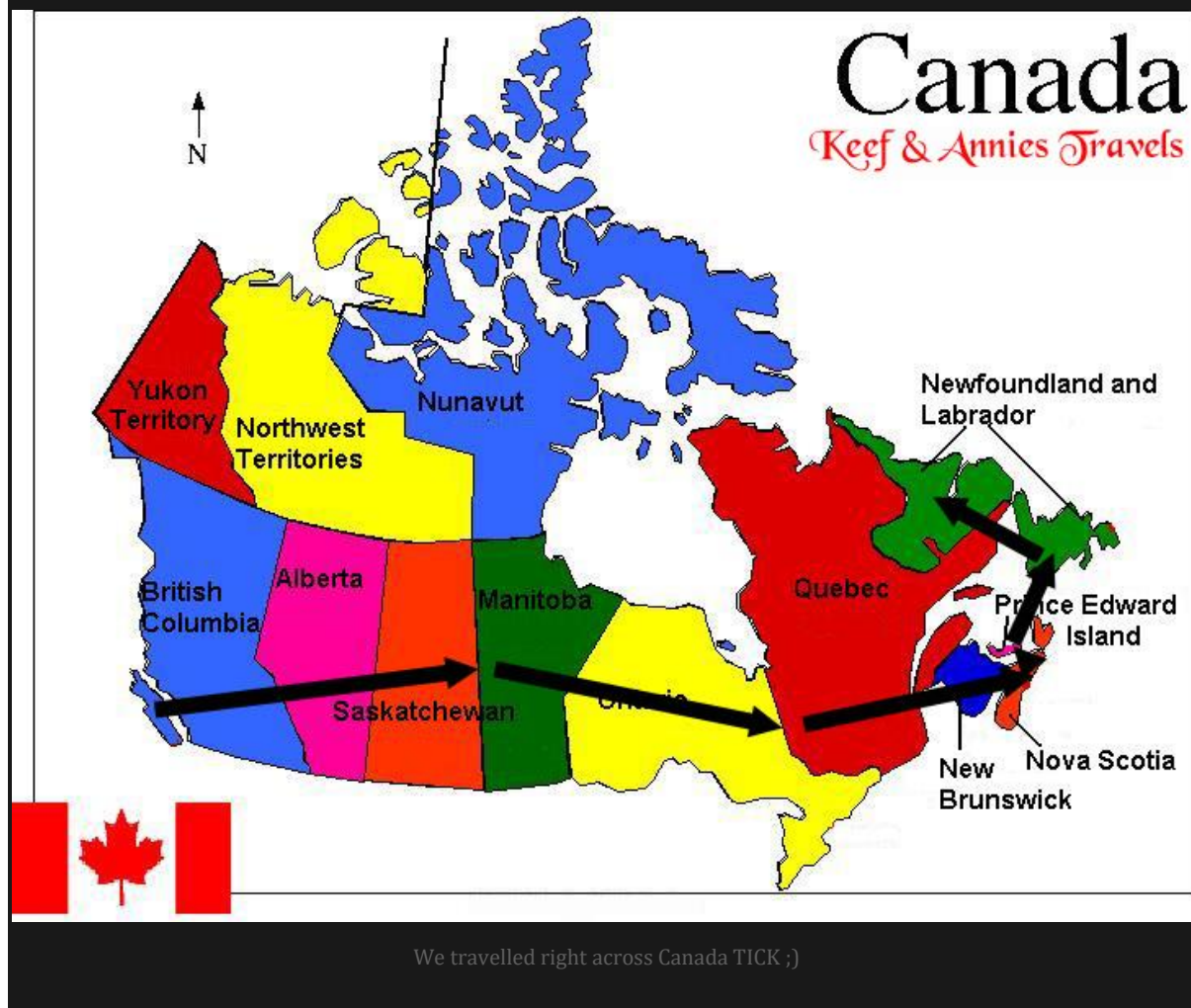
We have now proudly crossed canada from vancouver island through every province (excluding Yukon, Nunavut and North West Territories - we will be back ;)) by motorhome by combining our 1999 & 2010 trips.

See the full details [here](#) but as a summary there are slideshow of photos on this website.

For the slideshows of our 1999 trip mostly British Columbia, click [here](#)

For the slideshows of our 2010 trip from Alberta across to Labrador , click [here](#)

Anyone else done the same? Let us know would be great to hear about your experiences here!



2 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [1999](#), [other-sites](#), [recommended](#), [motorhome](#), [2010](#), [canada](#), [travels](#)

Blog 93 - Yorkshire and Northumberland

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 14 2015 02:23PM

Motorhome trip No24 : October 7th - 14th 2015

NOTTS->YORKSHIRE including Holmfirth, Hebden Bridge, Cragg Vale, Bronte Country, Settle, Grassington, Wharfedale (Yorkshire Dales) then up to NORTHUMBERLAND Berwick upon Tweed for time with friends then back to YORKSHIRE including Sutton Band Hill (25% steep avoid in future although trusty van OK), Pickering, Rosedale (North York Moors), Scarborough & Castle, Filey, Flamborough Head and Bridlington ->NOTTS 654 miles

Lovely time spent touring areas of the Yorkshire Dales we missed out on our last trip in September then a weekend with friends up in Northumberland on the Scottish borders at Berwick upon Tweed and then touring the North York Moors national park and ending up on the east riding coast.
Great weather mostly for mid October, shorts and flip flop time again!

6 days away all Caravan club sites :- 1. Hebden Bridge HX7 5RU no facilities but nice tranquil site by the edge of the river Calder 2. Wharfedale BD23 5PN beautiful site on back of major holiday park, pheasants everywhere, so peaceful, good TV hookup on posts 3. Berwick Seaview TD15 1QU fab views bus and easy walk into town over old bridge and nice fish & chip shops, pubs, esp Old Barrels Inn and Micropub (did 2 nights here with friends) only down side is it is on the main east coast railway line 4. Rosedale Abbey YO18 8SA – absolutely loved this site although it is grass (bad when wet) and no facilities but its upside is location and proximity of pub opposite, gr8 ales and food esp recommend Desperate Dan Cow pie (home made) Yummy! 5. Bridlington YO15 1DU expensive for what you get and weird enclosed area with long walk and no cut through to amenities block, would go back again and 4 miles to brid...

DAY1: Wet Holmfirth, saw picturedome where Graham Parker and the Rumour will play their last ever live gig. Cleared up a bit in after noon, stayed site no 1

DAY2: Visited Cragg vale, Hebden Bridge, Oxenhope, Howarth, (interesting climb), Settle and railway station, Grassington and Wharfedale, stayed site 2.

DAY3: Drove long way upto Berwick Upon Tweed arrived about 3.30pm at site 3, set up and then met Chris & Allyson and Lawrence & Yvonne in evening... walked to Barrel inn for 3 pints of Bolt maker then late fish and chips at Fowlis on Dock Road before returning to vans for more drinkies and chat, late to bed 1-ish am

DAY4: Nice bacon stottie at L&Y's van then into town for look around, scotch pie, Brewers Inn in the high road (Scotland Vs Samoa, many scots in pub happy) then onto the Curfew Micro Pub (lovely pint of Manchester's Lagonda) then walk back to vans for lovely meal cooked by Allyson of beef stroganoff followed by Cheese and bikkies, K's bondi banana bread and a game of Bullshit (balderdash) SPVA... (special park village abuse lol!) V late to bed again

DAY5: Up early cooked egg and bacon butties for all, long natter, then said our goodbyes (until next time pals) then onto North York Moors NP (long drive) Saw Pickering just as light was fading then to site no 4. Great meal in pub opposite. Log fire, ale and class food

DAY6: Visited Scarborough and most specifically English heritages' Castle and Anne Bronte's grave. Great views from castle and very interesting audio tour. Met aussie couple from Adelaide. Went to Filey, walked a bit, got wet, lunched then onto Bridlington to dry out and campsite after brief stop at sea front (reminded us of Bognor)

DAY7: Drove home not a bad drive about 120 miles, mixed weather

All in all a nice time, very relaxing we will be back to both these areas

Want to see the [SLIDESHOW](#)

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [northumberland](#), [friends](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [recommended](#), [2015](#), [yorkshire](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [motorhome](#)

Blog 94 - Campsites we have stayed in

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 15 2015 07:53AM
Up to 15/10/2015

Note this data does not include any of the sites we have stayed in in **Scandinavia, France, Australia, New Zealand, Canada** or the **USA**. These are numerous and varied and can be found under the appropriate blogs in the [index](#). Specifically blogs numbered 55,63,71,72,79,80,81,92,100.

There are however some slideshows of those campsites in those countries attached after the data.

As a **tip** however if you stay in these it is worth investing in one of the appropriate club memberships in that country i.e ACSI (Europe), Big 4 (Oz), Big 10 (NZ) etc etc. i.e similar to the Caravan Club (CC) and/or Camping & Caravan Club (C&CC) in the UK.

Here I show **ALL** the sites we have stayed at in our motorhome listed by

1. UK country / county
2. Rated
3. Site Blog number.
4. Site type (i.e CC, C&CC etc etc)

49 different sites in the UK to date

In all cases use the Index or search facility to read more and see the pictures that will show some views of those sites (hopefully) ;) Some of the UK private sites are part of either the Tranquil sites (adults only) or Best of British books.

site name	postcode	country	county	blog no	score 1-10	facilities	when	site
cherry hinton	CB1 8NQ	england	cambridgeshire	37	6	Y	2012	CC
pidley, stroud hill park	PE28 3DE	england	cambridgeshire	66&75	6	Y	2013&15	Private
cardinney (C&CC)	TR196HX	england	cornwall	61	4	Y	2013	C&CC
blackwall plantation/carsington water	DE6 3JL	england	derbyshire	49	7	Y	2012	CC
damage barton (also C&CC)	EX34 7EJ	england	devon	37	9	Y	2012	CC
minnows	EX16 7EN	england	devon	37	7	Y	2012	CC
putts corner	EX10 0QQ	england	devon	37	8	Y	2012	CC
willingcott	EX34 7HN	england	devon	37	6	Y	2012	CC
crossways	DT2 8BE	england	dorset	37	9	Y	2012	CC
haycraft	BH19 3EB	england	dorset	37	7	Y	2012	CC
briarfields (ACSI)	GL51 0SX	england	gloucestershire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
cirencester	GL71UT	england	gloucestershire	61	7	Y	2013	CC
field barn farm, bourton, cotswolds	GL54 2LF	england	gloucestershire	58	3	Y	2013	Private
new forest centenary site	BH23 8EB	england	hampshire	37	5	Y	2012	CC
lucksall (ACSI approved)	HR1 4LP	england	herefordshire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
folkstone, black horse farm	CT18 7BG	england	kent	71	8	Y	2014	CC
lakeside park, north somercotes	LN11 7RB	england	lincolnshire	41&48	5	Y	2012	Private
stamford finshade woods	NN17 3BB	england	lincolnshire	65	3	N	2013	CC
breckland meadows, swaffham	PE37 7AY	england	norfolk	45	4	Y	2012	Private
north walsham, two mills	NR28 9NA	england	norfolk	87	8	Y	2015	Private
berwick seaview	TD15 1QU	england	northumberland	93	7	Y	2015	CC
old hartleys	NE26 4RL	england	northumberland	72	9	Y	2014	CC
clumber	S80 3AE	england	nottinghamshire	60	6	Y	2012	CC
milestone, cromwell	NG23 6JE	england	nottinghamshire	69	6	Y	2014	CC
oxford 462 abingdon rd (C&CC)	OX1 4XG	england	oxfordshire	70	1	Y	2014	C&CC
greendale farm park, whissendine	GL54 2LF	england	rutland	57	5	Y	2013	Private
brean sands, unity (ACSI)	TA8 2RB	england	somerset	88	4	Y	2015	Private
illminster	TA20 3QA	england	somerset	61	6	Y	2013	CC
minehead	TA24 6DJ	england	somerset	37	5	Y	2012	CC
blackshaw moor	ST13 8TW	england	staffordshire	67	8	Y	2013	CC
brighton whitehawk	BN2 5TS	england	sussex	75	7	Y	2014	CC
chichester lakeside (ACSI)	PO20 1QH	england	sussex	75	2	Y	2014	Private
blackmore/malvern hills (also C&CC)	WR8 0EE	england	worcestershire	56	6	Y	2013	CC
boroughbridge (C&CC)	YO51 9LS	england	yorkshire	90	6	Y	2015	C&CC
bridlington	YO18 1DU	england	yorkshire	93	3	Y	2105	CC
hebden bridge	HX7 5RU	england	yorkshire	93	4	N	2015	CC
richmond hargill house	DL10 5LJ	england	yorkshire	90	5	Y	2015	CC
the howard, rose abbey	YO18 8SA	england	yorkshire	93	7	N	2015	CC
wharfedale	DB23 5PN	england	yorkshire	93	9	Y	2015	CC
YCP york	YO32 9UB	england	yorkshire	90	9	Y	2015	Private
stonehaven	AB39 2RD	scotland	aberdeenshire	38	4	Y	2012	CC
woodlands, carnoustie	DD7 6GR	scotland	angus	38	8	Y	2012	Private
dunnet bay	KW14 8XD	scotland	caithness	38	10	Y	2012	CC
wick riverside (also C&CC)	KW1 5SP	scotland	caithness	38	6	Y	2012	Private
balbirnie park	KY7 6NR	scotland	fife	38	5	Y	2012	CC
st andrews, cairnsmill	KY16 8NN	scotland	fife	38	10	Y	2012	Private
bunree	PH33 6SE	scotland	invernesshire	38	7	Y	2012	CC
culloden moor	IV2 5EF	scotland	invernesshire	38	10	Y	2012	CC
morvich	IV40 8HQ	scotland	invernesshire	38	6	Y	2012	CC

VIEW 1: Sites by country then county

site name	postcode	country	county	blog no	score 1-10	facilities	when	site
dunnet bay	KW14 8XD	scotland	caithness	38	10	Y	2012	CC
st andrews, cairnsmill	KY16 8NN	scotland	fife	38	10	Y	2012	Private
culloden moor	IV2 5EF	scotland	invernesshire	38	10	Y	2012	CC
damage barton (also C&CC)	EX34 7EJ	england	devon	37	9	Y	2012	CC
crossways	DT2 8BE	england	dorset	37	9	Y	2012	CC
briarfields (ACSI)	GL51 0SX	england	gloucestershire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
lucksall (ACSI approved)	HR1 4LP	england	herefordshire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
old hartleys	NE26 4RL	england	northumberland	72	9	Y	2014	CC
wharfdale	DB23 5PN	england	yorkshire	93	9	Y	2015	CC
YCP york	YO32 9UB	england	yorkshire	90	9	Y	2015	Private
woodlands, carnoustie	DD7 6GR	scotland	angus	38	8	Y	2012	Private
putts corner	EX10 0QQ	england	devon	37	8	Y	2012	CC
folkstone, black horse farm	CT18 7BG	england	kent	71	8	Y	2014	CC
north walsham, two mills	NR28 9NA	england	norfolk	87	8	Y	2015	Private
blackshaw moor	ST13 8TW	england	staffordshire	67	8	Y	2013	CC
blackwall plantation/carsington water	DE6 3JL	england	derbyshire	49	7	Y	2012	CC
minnows	EX16 7EN	england	devon	37	7	Y	2012	CC
haycraft	BH19 3EB	england	dorset	37	7	Y	2012	CC
cirencester	GL71UT	england	gloucestershire	61	7	Y	2013	CC
bunree	PH33 6SE	scotland	invernesshire	38	7	Y	2012	CC
berwick seaview	TD15 1QU	england	northumberland	93	7	Y	2015	CC
brighton whitehawk	BN2 5TS	england	sussex	75	7	Y	2014	CC
the howard, rose abbey	YO18 8SA	england	yorkshire	93	7	N	2015	CC
wick riverside (also C&CC)	KW1 5SP	scotland	caithness	38	6	Y	2012	Private
cherry hinton	CB1 8NQ	england	cambridgeshire	37	6	Y	2012	CC
pidley, stroud hill park	PE28 3DE	england	cambridgeshire	66&75	6	Y	2013&15	Private
willingcott	EX34 7HN	england	devon	37	6	Y	2012	CC
morvich	IV40 8HQ	scotland	invernesshire	38	6	Y	2012	CC
clumber	S80 3AE	england	nottinghamshire	60	6	Y	2012	CC
milestone, cromwell	NG23 6JE	england	nottinghamshire	69	6	Y	2014	CC
illminster	TA20 3QA	england	somerset	61	6	Y	2013	CC
blackmore/malvern hills (also C&CC)	WR8 0EE	england	worcestershire	56	6	Y	2013	CC
boroughbridge (C&CC)	YO51 9LS	england	yorkshire	90	6	Y	2015	C&CC
balbirnie park	KY7 6NR	scotland	fife	38	5	Y	2012	CC
new forest centenary site	BH23 8EB	england	hampshire	37	5	Y	2012	CC
lakeside park, north somercotes	LN11 7RB	england	lincolnshire	41&48	5	Y	2012	Private
greendale farm park, whissendine	GL54 2LF	england	rutland	57	5	Y	2013	Private
minehead	TA24 6DJ	england	somerset	37	5	Y	2012	CC
richmond hargill house	DL10 5LJ	england	yorkshire	90	5	Y	2015	CC
stonehaven	AB39 2RD	scotland	aberdeenshire	38	4	Y	2012	CC
cardinney (C&CC)	TR196HX	england	cornwall	61	4	Y	2013	C&CC
breckland meadows, swaffham	PE37 7AY	england	norfolk	45	4	Y	2012	Private
brean sands, unity (ACSI)	TA8 2RB	england	somerset	88	4	Y	2015	Private
hebden bridge	HX7 5RU	england	yorkshire	93	4	N	2015	CC
field barn farm, bourton, cotswolds	GL54 2LF	england	gloucestershire	58	3	Y	2013	Private
stamford finshade woods	NN17 3BB	england	lincolnshire	65	3	N	2013	CC
bridlington	YO18 1DU	england	yorkshire	93	3	Y	2105	CC
chichester lakeside (ACSI)	PO20 1QH	england	sussex	75	2	Y	2014	Private
oxford 462 abingdon rd (C&CC)	OX1 4XG	england	oxfordshire	70	1	Y	2014	C&CC

VIEW 2: Sites by motorhome-travels rating

site name	postcode	country	county	blog no	score 1-10	facilities	when	site
cherry hinton	CB1 8NQ	england	cambridgeshire	37	6	Y	2012	CC
damage barton (also C&CC)	EX34 7EJ	england	devon	37	9	Y	2012	CC
minnows	EX16 7EN	england	devon	37	7	Y	2012	CC
putts corner	EX10 0QQ	england	devon	37	8	Y	2012	CC
willingcott	EX34 7HN	england	devon	37	6	Y	2012	CC
crossways	DT2 8BE	england	dorset	37	9	Y	2012	CC
haycraft	BH19 3EB	england	dorset	37	7	Y	2012	CC
new forest centenary site	BH23 8EB	england	hampshire	37	5	Y	2012	CC
minehead	TA24 6DJ	england	somerset	37	5	Y	2012	CC
stonehaven	AB39 2RD	scotland	aberdeenshire	38	4	Y	2012	CC
woodlands, carnoustie	DD7 6GR	scotland	angus	38	8	Y	2012	Private
dunnet bay	KW14 8XD	scotland	caithness	38	10	Y	2012	CC
wick riverside (also C&CC)	KW1 5SP	scotland	caithness	38	6	Y	2012	Private
balbirnie park	KY7 6NR	scotland	fife	38	5	Y	2012	CC
st andrews, cairnsmill	KY16 8NN	scotland	fife	38	10	Y	2012	Private
bunree	PH33 6SE	scotland	invernesshire	38	7	Y	2012	CC
culloden moor	IV2 5EF	scotland	invernesshire	38	10	Y	2012	CC
morvich	IV40 8HQ	scotland	invernesshire	38	6	Y	2012	CC
breckland meadows, swaffham	PE37 7AY	england	norfolk	45	4	Y	2012	Private
blackwall plantation/carsington water	DE6 3JL	england	derbyshire	49	7	Y	2012	CC
blackmore/malvern hills(also C&CC)	WR8 0EE	england	worcestershires	56	6	Y	2013	CC
greendale farm park, whissendine	GL54 2LF	england	rutland	57	5	Y	2013	Private
field barn farm, bourton,cotswolds	GL54 2LF	england	gloucestershire	58	3	Y	2013	Private
clumber	S80 3AE	england	nottinghamshire	60	6	Y	2012	CC
cardinney (C&CC)	TR196HX	england	cornwall	61	4	Y	2013	C&CC
cirencester	GL71UT	england	gloucestershire	61	7	Y	2013	CC
illminster	TA20 3QA	england	somerset	61	6	Y	2013	CC
stamford finshade woods	NN17 3BB	england	lincolnshire	65	3	N	2013	CC
blackshaw moor	ST13 8TW	england	staffordshire	67	8	Y	2013	CC
milestone,cromwell	NG23 6JE	england	nottinghamshire	69	6	Y	2014	CC
oxford 462 abingdon rd (C&CC)	OX1 4XG	england	oxfordshire	70	1	Y	2014	C&CC
folkstone,black horse farm	CT18 7BG	england	kent	71	8	Y	2014	CC
old hartleys	NE26 4RL	england	northumberland	72	9	Y	2014	CC
brighton whitehawk	BN2 5TS	england	sussex	75	7	Y	2014	CC
chichester lakeside (ACSI)	PO20 1QH	england	sussex	75	2	Y	2014	Private
north walsham, two mills	NR28 9NA	england	norfolk	87	8	Y	2015	Private
briarfields (ACSI)	GL51 0SX	england	gloucestershire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
lucksall (ACSI approved)	HR1 4LP	england	herefordshire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
brean sands,unity (ACSI)	TA8 2RB	england	somerset	88	4	Y	2015	Private
boroughbridge (C&CC)	YO51 9LS	england	yorkshire	90	6	Y	2015	C&CC
richmond hargill house	DL10 5LJ	england	yorkshire	90	5	Y	2015	CC
YCP york	YO32 9UB	england	yorkshire	90	9	Y	2015	Private
berwick seaview	TD15 1QU	england	northumberland	93	7	Y	2015	CC
bridlington	YO18 1DU	england	yorkshire	93	3	Y	2105	CC
hebden bridge	HX7 5RU	england	yorkshire	93	4	N	2015	CC
the howard, rose abbey	YO18 8SA	england	yorkshire	93	7	N	2015	CC
wharfedale	DB23 5PN	england	yorkshire	93	9	Y	2015	CC
lakeside park, north somercotes	LN11 7RB	england	lincolnshire	41&48	5	Y	2012	Private
pidley, stroud hill park	PE28 3DE	england	cambridgeshire	66&75	6	Y	2013&15	Private

VIEW 3: Sites by motorhome-travels blog number, use the index or search

site name	postcode	country	county	blog no	score 1-10	facilities	when	site
boroughbridge (C&CC)	YO51 9LS	england	yorkshire	90	6	Y	2015	C&CC
cardinney (C&CC)	TR196HX	england	cornwall	61	4	Y	2013	C&CC
oxford 462 abingdon rd (C&CC)	OX1 4XG	england	oxfordshire	70	1	Y	2014	C&CC
balbirnie park	KY7 6NR	scotland	fife	38	5	Y	2012	CC
berwick seaview	TD15 1QU	england	northumberland	93	7	Y	2015	CC
blackmore/malvern hills(also C&CC)	WR8 0EE	england	worcestershire	56	6	Y	2013	CC
blackshaw moor	ST13 8TW	england	staffordshire	67	8	Y	2013	CC
blackwall plantation/carsington water	DE6 3JL	england	derbyshire	49	7	Y	2012	CC
briarfields (ACSI)	GL51 0SX	england	gloucestershire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
bridlington	YO18 1DU	england	yorkshire	93	3	Y	2105	CC
brighton whitehawk	BN2 5TS	england	sussex	75	7	Y	2014	CC
bunree	PH33 6SE	scotland	invernesshire	38	7	Y	2012	CC
cherry hinton	CB1 8NQ	england	cambridgeshire	37	6	Y	2012	CC
cirencester	GL71UT	england	gloucestershire	61	7	Y	2013	CC
clumber	S80 3AE	england	nottinghamshire	60	6	Y	2012	CC
crossways	DT2 8BE	england	dorset	37	9	Y	2012	CC
culloden moor	IV2 5EF	scotland	invernesshire	38	10	Y	2012	CC
damage barton (also C&CC)	EX34 7EJ	england	devon	37	9	Y	2012	CC
dunnet bay	KW14 8XD	scotland	caithness	38	10	Y	2012	CC
folkstone,black horse farm	CT18 7BG	england	kent	71	8	Y	2014	CC
haycraft	BH19 3EB	england	dorset	37	7	Y	2012	CC
hebden bridge	HX7 5RU	england	yorkshire	93	4	N	2015	CC
illminster	TA20 3QA	england	somerset	61	6	Y	2013	CC
lucksall (ACSI approved)	HR1 4LP	england	herefordshire	88	9	Y	2015	CC
milestone,cromwell	NG23 6JE	england	nottinghamshire	69	6	Y	2014	CC
minehead	TA24 6DJ	england	somerset	37	5	Y	2012	CC
minnows	EX16 7EN	england	devon	37	7	Y	2012	CC
morvich	IV40 8HQ	scotland	invernesshire	38	6	Y	2012	CC
new forest centenary site	BH23 8EB	england	hampshire	37	5	Y	2012	CC
old hartleys	NE26 4RL	england	northumberland	72	9	Y	2014	CC
putts corner	EX10 0QQ	england	devon	37	8	Y	2012	CC
richmond hargill house	DL10 5LJ	england	yorkshire	90	5	Y	2015	CC
stamford finshade woods	NN17 3BB	england	lincolnshire	65	3	N	2013	CC
stonehaven	AB39 2RD	scotland	aberdeenshire	38	4	Y	2012	CC
the howard, rose abbey	YO18 8SA	england	yorkshire	93	7	N	2015	CC
wharfedale	DB23 5PN	england	yorkshire	93	9	Y	2015	CC
willingcott	EX34 7HN	england	devon	37	6	Y	2012	CC
brean sands,unity (ACSI)	TA8 2RB	england	somerset	88	4	Y	2015	Private
breckland meadows, swaffham	PE37 7AY	england	norfolk	45	4	Y	2012	Private
chichester lakeside (ACSI)	PO20 1QH	england	sussex	75	2	Y	2014	Private
field barn farm, bourton,cotswolds	GL54 2LF	england	gloucestershire	58	3	Y	2013	Private
greendale farm park, whissendine	GL54 2LF	england	rutland	57	5	Y	2013	Private
lakeside park, north somercotes	LN11 7RB	england	lincolnshire	41&48	5	Y	2012	Private
north walsham, two mills	NR28 9NA	england	norfolk	87	8	Y	2015	Private
pidley, stroud hill park	PE28 3DE	england	cambridgeshire	66&75	6	Y	2013&15	Private
st andrews, cairnsmill	KY16 8NN	scotland	fife	38	10	Y	2012	Private
wick riverside (also C&CC)	KW1 5SP	scotland	caithness	38	6	Y	2012	Private
woodlands, carnoustie	DD7 6GR	scotland	angus	38	8	Y	2012	Private
YCP york	YO32 9UB	england	yorkshire	90	9	Y	2015	Private

VIEW 4: Sites by Club Type

If you would like to see a slideshow of the sites we stayed at in France and Scandinavia [CLICK HERE](#) or view the YouTube Campsites Playlist on either the BLOG TYPE Campsites page or the PLAYLISTS page from the dropdown menu, thanks

1 comments

Filed under: [acsi](#), [other-sites](#), [hintsandtips](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [2015](#), [campsites](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2014](#), [2012](#), [motorhome](#), [2013](#), [camping-and-caravan-club-site](#)

Blog 95 - A Tale of Two sites, Bletchington, Oxfordshire

By keef and annie hellinger, Nov 17 2015 12:40PM
Motorhome trip No25 : November 13th – 16th 2015

NOTTS->Bletchington, Cherwell Oxfordshire, 2 sites Diamond Farm Park and Greenhill Farm plus village visits to Stanton St John, Weston on Green, Kirtlington, Islip, Kidlington (Hmmm!) and other Cotswold stone villages ->NOTTS 232 miles

Lovely time initially for the 1st 2 days with our dear friends Pete & Joy at Diamond Farm Caravan park in Bletchington, a private campsite with pool (outdoors and closed) snack bar, pub and good amenities block. This is quite a small site on the back of a farm with a mixture of grass and hard standing pitches. Only problem really at this time of year is that the road way around to the pitches is very muddy and boggy with all the rain, probably needs that roadway tarmac (if that is a word ;))

Friday after setup we walked along the very dangerous B4027, no footpath and cars going 70 mph along a narrow-ish country lane, not advised. We walked towards Heathfield and to a nice comfortable pub, nice log burner fire, but no real ale so a few pints of cider, hic! Then back for a lovely casserole meal prepared by joy, pud, cheese and bikkies, wine, chat and music version of Trivial Pursuits.

Saturday rained all day and storm Abigail took off in the late evening, rocking the van most of the night. Full English first then we decided to catch the taxi into Bicester, a place none of us had ever been to before. Nutty traffic near Bicester village shopping centre. Bicester itself is a lovely old town, super bookshop, and nice pedestrianised sheep street. Ended up in King's Arms for a few bebies overlooking a baby shower (what!) then back to site, Keefs turkey and bacon casserole, cheese and bikkies, port and more fun with the music questions.

After a rough stormy night Joy did scrambled eggs and smoked salmon, yummy, then we all packed up (break camp!) and said good bye to P&J and we went exploring nice Oxfordshire villages although it was mega windy. Arrived at Greenhill Farm site in the afternoon, this is a ACSI site so only cost £13. Wonderful working farm, highly recommended, with Sheep, Pygmy Goats, Canada Geese, Chickens and ducks, loved it and great views from our end of site pitch over the rolling Oxfordshire countryside. Had some left overs for food and read Bill Bryson's Road to Little Dribbling, very relaxing, wind died down overnight. Left about 10-ish Monday morning for drive home, van clean, and put it to bed with cover for winter!

All in all a nice time, very relaxing we will be back hopefully to Greenhill Farm site maybe next year!

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)



Friends, King's Arms, Bicester

49 pictures in slideshow

0 comments

Filed under: [acsi](#), [video](#), [slideshow](#), [friends](#), [recommended](#), [2015](#), [campsites](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [motorhome](#), [beer](#), [oxfordshire](#)

Blog 96 - Xmas & New Year, Family & Tintern Wales

By keef and annie hellinger, Jan 6 2016 07:19AM

Not The Motorhome trip No6 : December 15th 2015 – January 4th 2016

NOTTS->TINTERN, WALES->NOTTS c 1500 miles (including ferrying services & days out)

Lovely time with all our family with the Singapore Hellingers over to celebrate Christmas and New Year and my Mum up from Surrey and Phoenix's cousin from Leeds and the L'boro Hellingers and Leanne's dad Bill.

Grandaughter Charlie is such a delight.... Monkey, bear, byeee, hi, bovvered,ohh-oh... walking and talking, smiling etc and oh that front door bell with Mozart's rondo alla turka.... Hehe

Such memories: West park , Wollaton & Bradgate park drone flying, Dougs' 32nd at La Rock, Sunday lunch at Kniveton, walk around Ashbourne, Santa, Pepper & George, Food, Gas cooker down, lunch @ C&L's, Stockings , pressies, Xmas & Kids music, a lovely week away at Tintern Abbey cottage, The abbey, the anchor, the rose & crown, road to Offa's dyke, rain, fog, floods, raglan castle, Chepstow, Monmouth, Gwent hospital, Heathrow, M1,M25,M48,M4,M5,M42... family, love, fun

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)



Xmas & New Year fun with the Hellingers



4 Generations of Hellingers

2 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [monmouthshire](#), [wales](#), [2016](#), [singapore](#), [not-motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [family](#)

Blog 97 - Australia in a Motorhome

By keef and annie hellinger, Mar 11 2016 11:42AM

We have now been in essence from Carnavon on the west coast above the desert right the way across the Nullabor and up the east coast as far as Cooktown, plus thru the red centre from Darwin to Adelaide and diversions to Broome and Kunnanarra. Loved every moment of it and most of it in a Motorhome!

The first occasion we only had the motorhome in Queensland, the second was our gap year where we had a motorhome on both the west and east coasts, the 3rd after Doug & Phoenix's Wedding and the 4th with our dear pals Chris & Allyson.

Why not take a look at our various expeditions, writeup, pictures and videos to maybe wet your appetite!

[1995](#)
[2007/8](#)
[2013](#)
[2017](#)

All questions answered!

Big regards
Keef & Annie
motorhome-travels.co.uk



want to travel across and around australia in a motorhome?

0 comments

Filed under: [australia](#), [1995](#), [recommended](#), [motorhome](#), [2013](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [2017](#), [travels](#)

Blog 98 - Harbury Fields Farm, Harbury, Warwickshire

By keef and annie hellinger, Apr 14 2016 08:08AM

Motorhome trip No26 : April 11th- 13th 2016

NOTTS->Harbury, Warwickshire plus Royal Leamington Spa & Kenilworth Castle ->NOTTS 134 miles

Having had the van serviced, both habitation and engine, we were keen to try it out locally for a few days to ensure everything was working perfectly in readiness for more major excursions.

So we chose a local one a Caravan club affiliated site at Harbury Fields Farm, not far from Leamington Spa. A lovely site that we would definitely recommend right in the middle of a working farm which does both arable and livestock and at lambing season is a must. They are so gorgeous. The owners are very friendly and told us they started the site as a CL 13 years ago then added one field and now 1.5 years ago added another field. There are 3 amenities block and they cater for the disabled camper. All in all a fab site and great 360 degree views from our motorhome. Free wifi in the reception area and good phone reception across the site.

The 1st day the weather wasn't great so after a brisk walk around the farm to see the lambs we settled down to reading, crochet and hippy music listening (Cat Stevens and Pink Floyd). It bucketed down.

The next day was much better and we walked down the farm drive and caught the bus into Royal Leamington spa, rather conveniently the bus stops right outside the farm entrance. Had a lovely day in town, fab architecture, great gardens and free exhibitions in the pump and spa rooms, sadly they no longer exist but the remaining hamman spa is very interesting. We had lunch and a drink in the Weatherspoons in town but food wise one would be spoilt for choice.

Again it poured down over night but no problems for the van.

The next day we packed up after a nice brekkie of warmed ciabatta and set off for Kenilworth castle. A wonderful place with much history including even Robert Dudley's attempts to marry the 'virgin' queen. Spent a pleasant 3 hours here and then headed off back home, arriving back about 3.30 pm

A great short break which I would thoroughly recommend.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)



0 comments

Filed under: [other-sites](#), [2016](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [uk](#), [england](#).

Blog 99 - UK Regional Accents

By keef and annie hellinger, Apr 27 2016 10:42AM
Just love it

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [2016](#), [uk](#), [non-motorhome](#)

Blog 100 - Scandinavia Holiday

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 11 2016 01:08PM
Motorhome trip No27 : May 8th- July 8th 2016

NOTTS->Scandinavia ->NOTTS 6140 miles

Longest trip so far in our lovely Wendy house of a van, she "dun great" the whole trip.... Up hill, down dale and along the flat!

10 ferries, numerous islands, bridges and tunnels, 61 days, 6 countries, from the fjords to the Russian border, 44 campsites, 6140 miles and a few tanks of diesel – what a fabulous experience, feel like we have experienced & learnt so much plus I think I can prove I'm related to that great Viking – Harald Bluetooth, he of the rune symbols that all later day geeks know ;)

Holland, North Germany, Denmark (all 3 parts – Jutland, Funen & Zealand), Sweden as high up as the lake district, Finland across the southern end and Norway as high up as Trondheim. It was such a wonderful opportunity, such a shame that the UK no longer runs ANY ferries to Scandinavia, we only met 4 other Brits in the whole 2 months and 2 of them were from Oz!. Because of the driving distances it is unlikely we will be able to return in the van as Scandinavia is awe-inspiring for scenery, culture and people.

Anyhow we loved it, and we want to share some of that with you. Feel free to let us know if you have been and what you thought of it, thanks.

See calendars below for where we were when and there is a slideshow of all the campsites day by day.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)

We spent 15 days in Denmark, 14 days in Sweden, 10 days in Norway, 6 days in Finland and 10, 5 and 1 days in Holland, Germany and UK respectively getting there

Highlights is tricky as there were so many but if pushed I would list Hallingskarvet National Park in Norway, the fjords of Norway, the Lake District of Sweden, Langeland Island & Kronborg Castle (Helsingor) Denmark and the ferry crossing to Finland (Kappelskar to Naantali)

Lowlights not many but prices and trying to find the campsite in Delft (low bridge)

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Harwich Dovercourt	9 Zandvoort 127 Holland	10 Amsterdam 127 Holland	11 Koudum, 260 Holland	12 Koudum 260, Holland	13 Wiedum, 271 Holland	14 Wiedum/ Leeuwarden 271 Holland
15 Wingst 606 Germany	16 Schlei- Karschau 626 Germany	17 Mommark 67 Denmark	18 Mommark 67 Denmark	19 Esbjerg 50 Denmark	20 Esbjerg 50 Denmark	21 Farso 52 Denmark
22 Skagen 84 Denmark	23 Middelfart, + Odense 66 Denmark	24 Langeland Island 80, Denmark	25 Langeland Island 80, Denmark	26 Holbaek 58 Denmark	27 Holbaek 58 Denmark	28 Ahus 14 Sweden
29 Oland Island Sweden	30 Monstera 29 Sweden	31 Valdemarsvik 36 Sweden				

2016

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Oxelosund 30 Sweden	2 Bredang Stockholm Sweden	3 Bredang Stockholm Sweden	4 Bredang Stockholm Sweden
5 Kapellskar camping Sweden	6 Kapellskar+ Naantali Finland	7 Helsinki, Finland	8 Helsinki, Finland	9 Hamina, Finland	10 Naantali Finland	11 Ferry, Kapellskar camping
12 Alvaden 16 Sweden	13 Alvaden 16 Sweden	14 Hedmark 3 Norway	15 Haneset Norway	16 Trondheim, Flakk Norway Start of Fjords	17 Kristiansund, Norway	18 Stryn 8 Norway
19 Sogndal 12 Norway	20 Hol 5 Norway End of Fjords	21 Lillehammer 7 Norway	22 Ekeberg Oslo Norway	23 Ekeberg Oslo Norway	24 Arjang 17 Sweden	25 Ellos 19 Sweden
26 Vaberg 38 Sweden	27 Koge 87 Denmark	28 Koge 87 Denmark	29 Koge 87 Denmark	30 Sakskobing, Lolland 80 Denmark	Ferry Rodbyhaven Denmark 2 Puttgarden Germany	
						2016

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Phon 611 Germany	2 Carlstorf 579 Germany
3 Bremen 600 Germany	4 Tubbergen 243 Holland	5 Utrecht 181 Holland	6 Delft 129 Holland	7 Hook of Holland by 2am Home	8 by 2am Home bed 3am	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
						2016



0 comments

Filed

under: [europe](#), [slideshow](#), [video](#), [acsi](#), [2016](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [denmark](#), [sweden](#), [norway](#), [finland](#), [holland](#), [germany](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#)

Blog 101 - Scandinavia Holiday Video

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 12 2016 09:44AM

Note this is slightly over 1GB and runs for about 30 minutes so consider carefully what you are running it on so as not to "clog up" your airwaves ;)

To read the main blog [click here](#)

Want to see all the [SLIDESHOWS](#)

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [2016](#), [campsites](#), [scandinavia](#), [denmark](#), [sweden](#), [norway](#), [finland](#), [holland](#), [germany](#)

Blog 102 - We love New Zealand

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 15 2016 02:36PM

We have now been to North Island three times and South Island twice on our 2007/8, 2013 and 2017 trips. We camped under canvas in 2007/8 for 55 days plus used motels / car but are probably a little too old now for tenting so in 2013 & 2017 used a Britz hired motorhome.



split apple rock - abel tasman NP south island nz

if you would like to see more click below

[2007/8](#)

[2013](#)

[2017](#)

Thanks

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [recommended](#), [motorhome](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [2013](#), [new-zealand](#), [2017](#)

Blog 103 - Electrics for Scandinavia

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 20 2016 08:57AM

Hint & Tip

Many of the sites in Denmark, Finland, Sweden & Norway use the European style 2 pin plug as indeed does the ferry from Sweden to Finland where they will give you electric hook up whilst crossing to keep your fridge going. What a shame no one else offers this service!

The newer sites use the standard UK bayonet fitting.

Have fun, hope the tip helps



hint and tip - electrics in scandinavia

0 comments

Filed under: [hintsandtips](#), [campsites](#), [scandinavia](#), [sweden](#), [denmark](#), [norway](#), [finland](#), [holland](#), [germany](#), [motorhome](#)

Blog 104 - Camping in Scandinavia

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 21 2016 12:25PM

It is worth knowing that in most if not all scandinavian campsites it is necessary to have a Camping Card Europe card.

You can get away with ACSI, UK Caravan Club & UK Camping & Caravan club if you are lucky in one or 2 sites but that won't last for long and give you unnecessary hassle on what should be a relaxing holiday.

Despite ACSI's notes that you MAY need one, you definitely WILL need one. Remember ACSI is a Dutch company and their card is not used readable on most scandi campsite computers to automatically get your details off.

No need to buy one upfront you can get one at the 1st scandi site you stay at costing about £14 (2016).

What you will need for cheaper camping in the scandinavian countries is

DENMARK - CC Europe card, ACSI Discount card, Pay on leaving (i.e they keep your cards as security)

SWEDEN - CC Europe card, ACSI Discount card, Pay up front

FINLAND - CC Europe card, ACSI Discount card, Pay up front

NORWAY - CC Europe card, ACSI Discount card, Pay up front

Note in Germany, France and Holland the ACSI members card and discount card are fine and there is a mixture of paying up front and on departure.

Do hope this hint and tip helps others.

Kind Regards Keef & Annie motorhome-travels.co.uk



Buy at any scandinavian site ESSENTIAL



ACSI discount card buy up front online, ESSENTIAL 4 discount, well worth it



ACSI registration card used in place of passport Buy online from ACSI



UK Caravan club membership buy online

0 comments

Filed under: [acsi](#), [europe](#), [hintsandtips](#), [2016](#), [campsites](#), [scandinavia](#), [finland](#), [norw](#)

Blog 105 - Upstate NY and Maine, 2010

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 23 2016 07:55AM
Retrospective

We took our hired Canadian motorhome across the border at Niagara Falls, Lewiston bridge into **Upstate New York** along the edge of lake ontario and then via Rochester , Syracuse , Pulaski and back into Canada at Alexandria bay.

For **Maine** we visited Bar Harbor, what a lovely place - lobster roll and all ;) and Lubec (eastern most US town) and Campobello island as a detour between Fredricton & St John , New Brunswick.

You can see our grand tour of Canada by clicking [here](#)

Plus slideshow / video of Upstate New York and Maine is [here](#)

We also visited Florida as a family back in 1997, see [here](#)

We also visited the states in 2007 going to my cousin in California , see [here](#)

And we were back again on our 40th Wedding Anniversary cruise in 2018, see [here](#)



celebrating independence day

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [video](#), [USA](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [2010](#), [canada](#), [travels](#)

Blog 106 - Our Southern Hemisphere Trip 2007-8 Revisited

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 1 2016 07:42AM

I have taken time to revisit our old holiday website and hopefully improved the videos and photo slideshows as well as make the website much more "mobile" friendly. It now doesn't look too bad on your phone.

We loved this holiday and it is reawakening the travel bug in us.

To go directly to our 2007-8 holiday site please click [HERE](#) thanks

Please enjoy and let us know what you think

PS Music on the website slideshows is by the fabulous Fijian band Rosiloa (or Black Rose), just click on the speaker symbol to listen



Leaving Vanua Levu, Fiji by bi-plane over coral reefs

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [friends](#), [australia](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [family](#), [new-zealand](#), [pacific-islands](#), [travels](#)

Blog 107 - Countries we have visited Map

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 6 2016 07:44AM

See below... South America and China are the real ones left for us, oh and Greenland and Antarctica, will be fun to see how to get the Motorhome there ;)

Want to see the [SLIDESHOW](#)

UPDATE 2018/2019 Now been to China, see BLOG 133, click [HERE](#)

0 comments

Filed under: [2016](#), [recommended](#), [maps](#), [travels](#)

Blog 108 - New Lodge Farm, Bulwick, Northants

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 30 2016 07:09AM

Motorhome trip No28 : Aug 27-29th 2016

NOTTS->New Lodge Farm,Bulwick, Northamptonshire ->NOTTS 178 miles

250 years plus and 30+ camping years under our belts collectively ;)

A lovely (mixed weather) August bank holiday weekend away with our dear pals Pete & Joy. Our usual yearly camping jaunt this year was made a little more tricky to find a adults only camp site by virtue of leaving it a bit late and it being a very popular weekend for folk to go away. However we were all pleasantly surprised by what a nice site and welcoming set of people there are at New Lodge farm.

Called in on C&L on route to drop off Bondi Banana bread and a few pressies plus got a quick cuddle with baby Edie to set us up for the weekend #fab

Then it was off via M1, A14 but found the A43 was closed near Bulwick so we made a detour via some lovely Northants villages, namely Weldon, Upper Benfield, Glapthorn & Southwick.

Lovely sunny Friday afternoon so we checked in and set up including the awning on pitch 21 with nice views of the 200 acre farm and put up our table and chairs on pitch 23 to reserve it for P&J. After a bit of sunning ourselves we soon took the awning down when the wind got up!

Nice evening meal of lamb burgers, bratwurst and salad with copious amounts of ale, wine, port & madeira to wash it down. Lovely evening chatting and catching up.

Saturday we walked into Bulwick, alas Annie had a nasty tumble on route and grazed her arm, bruised her foot leg and shoulder and damaged her pride. We relaxed in the Queens Head garden until the rain started and made a dash inside to the snug. As it stopped-ish we went to the horticultural show in the church opposite to see the oversized vegetables. None of those but lots of other interesting stuff, including the under 4 who won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the "my mum judged this" section! After that it was tea, coffee, cake and sarnies at the village hall, amazingly good value and then with minor drizzle back to the camp site. We had a drink in the café/ restaurant there when the heavens opened, just so dark at about 4-ish and what a hum dinger that was, thunder and lightening and it lasted for ages. On the positive side it reduced the humidity a bit however.

We got changed and headed back for our lovely evening meal at the site restaurant. It is a farm shop as well with great produce. Nice friendly people Simon, Sarah, Mark and Caroline (I think). Overnight we had the gentle soothing thump of the illegal rave to "rock" us to sleep..... NOT!

Sunday as Annie was feeling a little sore we had a cooked brekkie on the hot plate and sat in the sun reading and chillin and chatting. Lunch was a homemade Victoria sponge from the shop tea and coffee then we had a lovely greek-style Barbie that P&J did for tea, yummy

Much Trivial Pursuit Globetrotter edition was played under the influence of alcohol, well that's the excuse the boys are using for being so roundly thrashed.

We said our goodbyes on Monday morning and hope to meet up again soon. Lovely weekend, nice site and area, we will be back as don't really know Northamptonshire at all.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)



Friends, New Lodge Farm, Bulwick

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [2016](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [motorhome](#), [northamptonshire](#), [beer](#), [travels](#)

Blog 109 - Devon, Cornwall & Wiltshire

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 8 2016 08:23AM

Motorhome trip No29 : Sept 26th- Oct 6th 2016

NOTTS->Dawlish (Devon) to Fraddon & Bude (Cornwall) & Stonehenge (Wiltshire) ->NOTTS 698 miles

Amazingly good weather for this time of the year in the UK or maybe not, our Motorhome experience tells us that May & September are generally great months to go away weather wise!

Anyhow travelled to the lovely Cofton Country Holiday Park (ACSI site) near Dawlish in Devon where we stayed for 4 nights. We called in on Dawlish before making camp and had a good look around. This is the coast where the railway was washed away by sweeping seas not that long ago and is a traditional seaside town, slightly run down but we liked it.

At Cofton there is lots to do and lovely large grassy pitches, only a few hard standing. Met nice couple from Leicestershire of all places. One outdoor and one indoor pool, indeed on the last day we had it to ourselves for most of the time, plus games rooms, keep fit (you are joking?), bars, cafes and restaurants. On our second day there we caught the Stagecoach bus just up the road to Starcross and took the ferry over to Exmouth landing at the fabulous marina. Great fun day out – well worth it.

The next day we did the short country walk from Cofton to Cockwood passing very interesting wild flowers, nature gardens and loved seeing the wild pink orchids. It was a lovely sunny day and you come out at the boat moorings inlet of the river Exe. We did our own version of a pub crawl visiting both pubs in Cockwood. The Anchor (an old smugglers inn) did the better beer but the Ship had the best gardens and flowers.

After our fab 4 day stay in Devon we set off to visit my sister Linda and her husband Ian in Fraddon Cornwall for 3 nights parking the van outside their lovely new house. On route we used our English Heritage concession membership to visit both Okehampton Castle (still Devon), originally owned by Baldwin de Brionne of 1066 fame and Launceston plus town. Launceston was the original capital of Cornwall (Kernow) and has lovely panoramic views from wherever you look and a load of history, namely St Cuthbert, the messenger who delivered details of Nelson's death at Trafalgar up to London and its place in the Civil war. We know the one in Tassie, Australia but not this one on home soil. They are quite unlike but we love them both.

At Linda's we went out for a lovely meal, visited Pendennis castle with lovely views of St Mawes, Fraggles lighthouse, Falmouth and the river Fal.... Views to die for! We also went to the very tropical gardens of St Marys and a café at Gyllyngavase beach, Tribute from a barrel, bliss and a nice drive around some great places they knew especially Chapel Porth. Only October but we also had a nice Xmas dinner including our nephew Adam.

Saying our fond goodbyes we drove off to Wooda Farm (ACSI) site just past Bude (Cornwall) visiting the recommended Widemouth (pronounced wid-ee-muth) bay and the lovely Bude. Bude is fab, nice walk along the canal to the sea where it joins with the river tributary. Great craft shops as well and Annie got talking to the lady in the wool shop.

We had 3 nights on pitch E50 at the site with a perfect view of Bude castle and coastline from our pitch, whilst very sunny it was mega windy on occasions forcing us to "come inside". The site is great with many facilities – farm yard animals, woodland walk (with pixie dell see the pics if you don't believe in them), lakes galore, 9 hole pitch and putt (big course probably golf really I'm no expert), restaurants bars and craft shops. We went walking 2 days in a row. Would highly recommend this site also its proximity to Bude.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)

UPDATE 2020: if you would like to see the older Blogs for Cornwall, click the [TAG](#), and Devon click this [TAG](#)



Falmouth Docks Cornwall

0 comments

Filed under: [acsi](#), [video](#), [slideshow](#), [devon](#), [2016](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [motorhome](#), [family](#), [wiltshire](#), [cornwall](#)

Blog 110 - Motorhome Show NEC Birmingham UK 2016

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 12 2016 10:06AM

We went with our dear friends Pete & Joy to this years show. Some very interesting new vans, great to have a chance to have a good look around.

The ones we **liked best** were in no particular order

1. Bailey Autograph 79-4-T (length 7.9 mtrs, 4 seatbelts,T=twin bed)
2. Autisleeper Neuvo
3. Autoquest 115
4. All the Lunar 4 person vans
5. All the Besscarr 4 person vans

Value for Money NOT.... the Morello supervan, at £385k it had only a 3 ring burner and a very small oven but on the plus side if you wanted to put your smart car in the large garage under the large double bed it would be no problem ;)

Did you go? what were your thoughts?

Want to see the [SLIDESHOW](#)



cockpit of the german morello supervan - beam me up ;)

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [hintsandtips](#), [2016](#), [recommended](#), [uk](#), [motorhome](#), [shows](#)

Blog 111 - Christmas 2016 & New Year 2017

By keef and annie hellinger, Jan 3 2017 08:04AM

Lovely time spent with our immediate family. The Singapore Division were over from 19th Dec to 3rd Jan so we had a fab time initially taking Charlie to Peppa Pig World in Hampshire, then besides Xmas & Boxing day dinner we had a visit to the santa special steam train in Leicestershire. The grand daughters both got a pressie from Santa

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWs](#) one of which is a talkie

Enjoy



Family fun

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [2016](#), [recommended](#), [not-motorhome](#), [england](#), [family](#), [2017](#)

Blog 112 - The Big Trip Holiday 2017 - Western Australia

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 22 2017 09:39AM

Overview

In 2017 we explored Singapore, Australia, the Cook Isles & New Zealand with our dear friends Chris & Allyson. At the end of the trip Annie & I spent time in Singapore / Malaysia with our family and Chris & Allyson visited Hong Kong.

A lot of planning and pre booking went into this adventure to ensure we had a great time. We flew to Singapore for a stop over of 2 days to break the journey down under. We visited East Coast Park and the wonderful Quentin's restaurant.

We arrived in Perth a bit jet lagged but excited and cruised the Swan river to Freo. After a few nights we picked up our Britz motorhomes and initially explored Monkey Mia (sadly no dolphins due to inclement weather) then onto the tropics of Western Australia and a spin in Apollo 11 at Caenarvon before doing the loop thru the Wheatbelt and Wave Rock back to Perth via Albany. Esperance and Kalgoorlie at this time were off limits due to some massive rains which washed out essential roads. We then took the luxurious Indian Pacific Railway to Adelaide across the Nullabor Plain. After that it was a quick flight to Alice Springs where we visited the fab Desert Park, ate Roo, avoided the cockroaches and pondered the insoluble Aboriginal problem.

Then it was back to Adelaide to pick up another motorhome to explore some of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) before ending in Sydney for time with families. K&A flew down to Launceston in Tassie to visit rellies before returning to Sydney.

From here we touched down in Auckland briefly before spending a fab but somewhat wet and humid week of chillin' in the Cook Isles in the Pacific ocean on the main island of Rarotonga, snorkelling, BBQ-ing or whatever took our fancy, i. lager at the Rarotonga brewery. Then it was back to Auckland to pick up another pair of motorhomes to explore both North & South island of New Zealand, crossing between the two via the Interislander ferry. After much Boysenberry ice cream we returned to the UK via 2 weeks with family in Singapore and C&A 3 days in Hong Kong. Saw so much and had such a fun time shared with our pals.

What an amazing journey - travel definately broadens the mind.

Western Australia in particular

In our Britz hired vans. Arrived in Perth, WA from Singapore. We saw the town before picking up the motorhomes and seeing Monkey Mia, Carnarvon, Rottnest Island & the adorable quokkas, Margaret River, Cape Leeuwin, Albany, Northam, Wave Rock, the wheat belt and a whole lot more before picking up the wonderful Indian Pacific railway to Adelaide.



Our van at Monkey Mia, Western Australia

If you want to see more then [click this link](#) thanks
0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [friends](#), [australia](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [2017](#), [travels](#)

Blog 113 - The Big Trip Holiday 2017 - South Australia

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 22 2017 10:04AM

In our hired Britz van picked up in Adelaide we did all of the following plus a whole stack more.

Arrived by Indian Pacific Railway to the Adelaide Parklands station, we to BIG4 campsite, C&A started their cricket ground tour. Pool, beach, swimming, relaxing, reading. Adelaide airport, lockers, off to NT for a few days in Alice springs. Glenelg, Oyster bar, sunset walk, Tram, Fringe, Marina pier, Collect the vans, Tanunda, Barossa Valley, Wolf Blass, Stockwell, Angaston, Rowland Flats, Jacobs Creek, Hahndorf, Pioneers Park, Rubble, Everything Germanic, McLaren Vale, Tintara estate, Hardys, Strathalbyn, Langhorne Creek, Milang, White cockatoos or Corellas, South Australian Light railway museum, Wellington chain ferry, Charles Sturt, Lake Albert, Salt marshes, Meningie, Chinese cigars, Birdman of the Coorong, Kingston SE, Rosetown, Larry the lobster, Cape Jaffa historic lighthouse, Norfolk pines, Robe, 9 mile beach, circular town walk, Customs House, Matt Flinders, Chinese memorial, Flag hill, Harbour, Marina, Ray, Arthur Fennell Way, Pier, The Obelisk, Millicent for lunch, Mount Gambier, Blue Lake, Crater Lakes - leg

of mutton (empty), valley (green algae), Hentys Monument, Wildlife park, Centenary Tower, Limestone sculpture, Pukeko or Australian swamphen, Town centre, Cave gardens, Sink Hole, Northumberland point, Port MacDonnell, Border crossing into Victoria

If you would like to see more please [CLICK HERE](#)



Corellas and Milang South Australia

0 comments

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Blog 114 - The Big Trip Holiday 2017 - Victoria, Australia

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 22 2017 10:24AM

Travelling in the same Britz van we had in South Australia we saw the following in Victoria and more.

Entered Victoria from South Australia just after Mount Gambier near Portland, Koalas, Non Fish & Chips, Speeding fines, Frightened waitress, "Kind" man who disconnected my electrics, Cape Breakwater, Discovery bay, Petrified forest, Coastal Walkway, Wind farm, Port Fairy, Poor pies, 41st Folk Festival, busy busy, Flagstaff hill, Warrnambool, Logans beach, no whales but surfers, The Great Ocean Road including Bay of Islands, Bay of Martyrs, Loch Ard Gorge, The Arch, The Grotto, London Bridge, 12 Apostles, Apollo Bay, Scenery and then some, bank holiday weekend, Princeton DOC, Giltbrook river, failed campsites then the 5* motorway service station outside Geelong, Echidnas, 3 Koalas at Kennett River, Snakes, Rock wallaby, Mt Macedon, The hump, Hanging rock, Reserve, Summit, Picnic at Hanging rock, Historic Woodend, Coburg, Melbourne, Federation square, Heritage Trams, MCG, Rod Laver arena, Olympic park, Sahene Warne, the Don, Dennis Lillee, Greek Quarter, Chinatown, James Squire brewery, Busy drive out of Melbourne, Mornington peninsular, St Kilda, Brighton, Luna Park, Elwood (keefs old home in pine ave), Beach and pier at Mordialloc, Chris for a swim, Lunch at Mornington, Shopping in Frankton, Drive to Traralgon BIG4 on Princes Highway, Historic Port of Sale, White cockatoos, Lakes Entrance lookout, Lakes entrance connecting Gippsland lakes to the Bass Straits, 90 mile beach, Wood carvings, Fishing trawlers, Wood carvings, nice walks, Orbost, Snowy River, Marlo, Sammy the seal, Where the snowy river meets the bass straits, Banjo Paterson, Quirky Hats, Dredging, Sailors grave beach, cape Conran, Steps, MacKenzie river rain forest walk, Gypsy Point, Roos, Boats, Mallacoota, Pelicans, Harbour, Nasty brown snake warning, Koala at campsite, Lucys for brekkie, Shady Gully walk and nice plants, Tasman sea lookout, boats and more, Double Creek

If you want to see more please [CLICK HERE](#)



Motorway services outside Geelong - Bank Hols nowt else available

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [australia](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [2017](#), [beer](#), [travels](#)

Blog 115 - The Big Trip Holiday 2017 - New South Wales, Australia

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 22 2017 10:41AM

We carried on in our hired Britz van which we'd picked up in Adelaide and used thru Victoria. We covered all of the following and a lot more.

Entering New South Wales (NSW) from Mallacoota (Victoria), Eden, harbour & whale museum, Old Tom, Ben Boyd , Whale lookout, Twofold bay, Pambula beach, fishing, roos, birds, Rosellas, Brewery (closed), Farm stores, Horse food, Merimbula, Tura beach, Tathra wharf and beach, Catching flatheads, plaice and salmon (well almost), Bermagui, Dalmeny, Borrell, Meeting up with Steve & Laura, Forsters Bay, Wagonga inlet, Narooma, Wagonga princess, Sexist jokes (not good!),Eurobodalla NP, Mill Bay boardwalk, Rays, Rain (lots), Overpriced fish & chips by campsite, Mogo, Batemans Bay, Kings Highway (B52), Great Dividing Range - no pics too scary driving,Braidswood, Bungedore,Bywong,Goulburn, Marulan, Mittagong, Rural NSW, Balmoral, Buxton, Thirlmere, NSW Railway museum, Cockatoos, Horses, Silverdale, Warragamba dam, visitors centre, Haviland Park, Narabeen Lakes, Class driving campaigns, Handing van back at Britz in a new area of Mascot by airport , Public transport (bus/train/bus) back to Beacon hill apartment, Chilling, Views, Pool, BBQ, Movies, Food, Wine, Beer, Friends, Family, Bus to Manly, Manly Ferry, Harbour & Manly views, Voyager of the Seas cruise liner (D&P&C were on it 2 months later), Botanic gardens, Picnic, Mrs Macquaries chair, Sunsets, Opera, Carmen, Voyager of the Seas, last ferry back, Possum in the park in the dark, Sunny pool days around the Bali hut, No 169 bus route & timetable, Opal cards, Seeing LION at Warringah Mall on a rainy day , C&As time in Sydney with Laura & Steve visiting Blue Mountains & Parkes observatory , Jervis bay, Snakes, Walking, Rain, Hannah and Connor visited and we had a play in the pool, Balgowlah, Lamb dinner (yummy), Lovely seeing David & Hannah again, heavy rain for a day, bright sunshine, day out in sydney centre, manly ferry, circular quay, barangaroo wharf, cockle bay wharf, darling harbour, harbourside, Hard Rock Cafe, Circular ferry trip, Pyrmont bridge, History, Milsoms point, MacMahons point, Balmain East, Luna Park, Emerald Princess, Maritime museum, Endeavour, Sunsets, Rained all day so watched goldstone (poor), nocturnal animals (good) and oz gogglebox, Train trip to Broadmeadow, Newcastle to visit Annies cousin Susan, Gosford, Wygong, Hawkesbury river, back from Tassie, Ibis budget airport, Doughnuts (never again), fire alarm, Flight to NZ

If you want to see more please [CLICK HERE](#), thanks



Our site in Mattagong, in rural NewSouth Wales

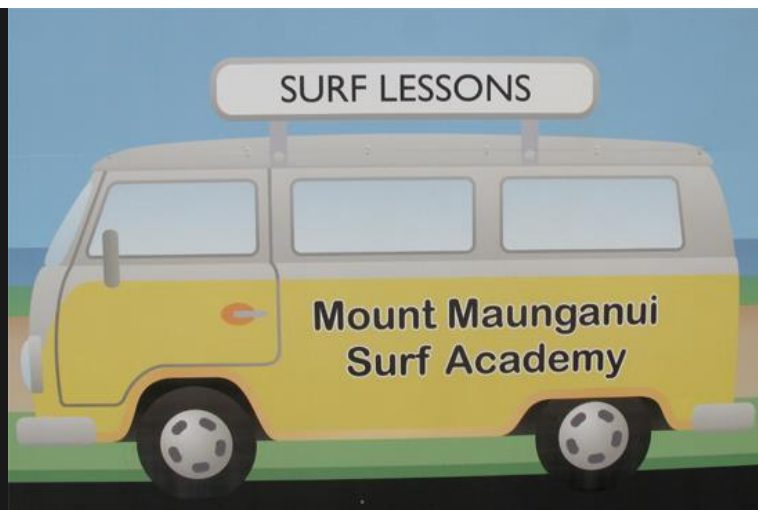
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Blog 116 - The Big Trip, Holiday 2017 - North Island, New Zealand

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 1 2017 06:08PM

A brief summary of the key highlights of our trip travelling with friends on the Big Trip Holiday 2017



Arrived (1st time) in Auckland from Sydney, Overnight then Cook Isles, Walk, Wait, Agapanthus, Arrived (2nd time) from Rarotonga, Cook Isles. 3 days central area, harbour, wharves, ferries, coast to coast walk (for C&A) , Maritime museum, murals, tepid baths, Britomart, Queens wharf, Quay st, Federal St, Churches, slopes, Hobson west marina, Masters games, Wynyard quarter, amazing architecture, Fish market, Heritage landing, North Wharf, Sarah, Pier 4, Rangitoto, Volcanic explorer tour, Summit views, Motutapu, Lava, Sunshine, Day out in Devonport, The Arcade, Esplanade Hotel, Victoria Road, King & Queens parade, various reserves, Mount Victoria, Clarys, Haircut, Hauraki gulf, Auckland art gallery, Maori paintings, The body laid bare exhibition, Joseph at the Civic, Collecting vans at Richard Pearce drive, Mangere, Auckland, Extra hidden costs, Orewa, Beach, Man with tourettes, Orewa beach, Countdown/Pac-N-Save/New World, shells, historic Puhoi, Twin coast highway, Mangawhai heads, Ruakaka beach, Whangarei, Hatea river, Town basin, glassblowing, canopy bridge, Tutikaka, Matapouri, Kawakawa, Ohua, Okiato, Russell, Hundertwasser, Hangi, Clapham clocks, Waterfall , Manawoara, Rawhiti, wetlands, marae, Waimarama bay, Bay of Islands, Historic Russell, pier, boat ramps, ferries, sunshine, exotic sub tropical plants, Tapeka point, Rocky bay reserve, Weka, Paihai, Water taxis, Waitangi, Whangaroa, marlin, wharfs & jetties, Volcanic plus, 90 mile beach, Twilight beach, Tapotupotu bay, DOC, Tyres R Us, Kevin the AMan, Cape Reinga, Lighthouse, Te Pahi reserve, Old Kahina tree, Views to die for, Te Pahi sand dunes, Broadwood, Kohukohu, Hokianga ferry, Twin coast highway, Rawene, Opononi, Aria-te-arua reserve, South heads, historic Dargaville, meeting up with C&A again in countdown car park, Donnelly crossing, loggers, fab kiwi trees, Kaiwaka, farm stay, outside loo with a view, C&A visited lake Kai Iwi on the way to Dargaville, we did east coast, they did west coast, remet Whakapapa village then Wellington, Kaipara coast sculpture park, Helensville, Ginger crunch railway cafe, flat whites, Railways, Thames, Coromandel peninsular & Forest park, Wharf, Ferry, Shelly beach, Colville, Horse, Wahine, Music festival, Buddhist retreat, Port Jackson, gravel road, Top of coro, Mercury bay, Tairua, freedom camping, waves, rain (lots), fishing off rocks, Waihi beach, Katikati, murals, Mount Manganui, Pilot bay, Marine parade, Motuotou & Moturiki islands, boysenberry icecream, Papamoa beach, beach street, strelitzia, Maori sculpture, bluebiyou restuarant, chalets, sunshine, relaxing, fun, chatting to guy from england , Pikowai, Pacific coast highway, Te Puke, Thornton, Whakatane, 2 islands, Smokin' volcano, Edgecumbe floods, Mt Edgecombe, Galatea road, sickly horse, Lunch at lake Aniwhenua, autumn colours, Hydro electric dam, Kopuriki, Road only just opened due to floods, Murupara, Maori funeral, Forests, Lake Taupo, Reids Carving, Breweries, Fooderies, Outrigger boats, Tourist info, icecream, Lake lookout, DOC site, Free, Tongariro views, sunsets, fishing boats, great sleep, cold at night - getting so, 5 mile bay site, Motuoapa bay, licorice (spelling haha!) cafe, flat whites, black swans, novelty VW cabins, Desert road, Turangi, National Park, Restuarant (not this time), Tranz Alpine station, Whakapapa village, rain, meeting up with C&A again at the dump station, Visitors centre, Cafe coffee, snow, Chateau Tongariro, Taihape, Gumboots, Spooner hill road, sheep, cows, Gentle annie pass, Moawhango, views to die for, Rangitikei river, Silverdale historic bridge, Valleys, Mountains, Hastings , 1930s architecture, Queens & Railway St, Westernmans, Clock tower, Te Mata peak, Ocean beach, Waimarama, Blue cod, Fish & chips St Aubyn st, Surfers, Havelock north, Duart house and gardens, Murals, Wineries, Tukituki river, Kairakau beach, reflections, Paua shells, ice creams at waipawa, Waipukurau, Lake Hatuma, Wanstead, Wallingford bridge, sheep (again), Porangahau, Never finding the beach down the gravel road (cooks tooth), Longest name of place in the world (no don't ask me to spell it ;)) , Pacific Ocean, Cape Turnagain, Our hero Capt Cook, Herbertville, Wimbeldon, Route 52, Pongaroa, Eketahuna, Pagans, Hippies, Sacrificing virgins (ok maybe not!), Electricity, Late at night, Kiwi country, Herberts store, Steak & Cheese Pies, Museum, Masterton, Wool shed, Joseph Masters, Queen Elizabeth park, Aratoi, Maori ripoff, Tinui, Anzac church & cross, Castlepoint, Deliverance cove, Riversdale beach, Wairarapa wine region, late night into Martinborough, Memorial square, Pain & Kershaw, lake Ferry, Lake Okone and spit, old motorhomes, Cape Palliser, Paua shells, Palliser bay, Ngawi, Tractors, Rock lobster, Road slips, Putangirua pinnacles , Wellington Top10 campsite (so changed), Harbour from Pencarrow head to Lyall bay, shells, ferries, Ward island, Wellesley college, Eastbourne,

Day bay, Wahine disaster, Moa point, Middle earth, Trolley buses, Waterfront at night, Te Papa, Macs Brewery, Curry, up early for Interislander ferry, Traffic jams

If you would like to see more please [CLICK HERE](#)



Eketahuna camping ground, quite lovely so peaceful cheap but good

0 comments

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Blog 117 - The Big Trip Holiday 2017 - South Island New Zealand

By keef and annie hellinger, Aug 9 2017 12:09PM

Here is a summary of our Motorhome Travels in South Island New Zealand

Arrived in Picton from Wellington on the Interislander ferry, Early morning start, Very wet day (haha welcome to south island), Shakespeare bay, Queen Charlotte Sound, Queen Charlotte drive, Ngakuta bay, Havelock, Green Mussels (yummy), Read all about mussels opposite (please) its very informative, Lady from Auckland, Freshness, straight from the sea, Long windy wet drive to Nelson, Town centre camp site over a bridge with a stream, nice calming stream noises, WOW museum and classic cars, so many clever costumes (see the slideshows), Lippydeema, Lord Maharajah and the Star bride, Goodbye Versaille starring Mrs Du Barry's monkey, Ishmaelian wingflapper to name but a few... go on look, you wont be disappointed.... What's the line "WOW makes Lady Gaga look like a librarian", Amazing Bras, Cars were Minis, Locomobiles, Vauxhall Vivas, Shaguar and many more, Tahunanui beach reserve, Board walks, Lunch, Winery areas, Pears, Apples, Kaiteriteri, Beach front history, sunsets, Wilsons ferries, Beached Whale pub, Fire, Singing barman, Rugby - Christchurch Vs Wellington, Abel Tasman National Park, The man who emptied his loo in the water area and covered it with leaves (Yuk! Sick!), Abel tasman boat trip, Totaroa, Awaroa, Medlands, Tonga Quarry, Torrent Bay, Bark Bay, Picnic, Coffee, Wind & Sun, New Zealand fur seal, Adele island and many other islands, kayaking, Solar panels, Tides, Motueka river, Kahurangi National park, Low cloud, Hinetai hops, Tapawera, Railways, Old police stations, Wooden Cow, Eels, Lake Rotoiti, Mr Angry and his boat, St Arnaud, Lake Rotoroa, Wet feet, nature walk, Red toadstools, Trees, colourful leaves, Buller river, Murchison, Heritage area, Fuel fillup, Buller Gorge Swing bridge, Waterfalls, Earthquakes, Floods, 2010, 1929, White creek peninsular circular walk, Wagtails, Wekas, Bushline walk, Araki waterfalls, Logging on the buller, Springs junction for a pie lunch, Lewis pass, Waiau river, Kaikoura range, Road to Kaikoura Highway 70 via Rotherham and Waiau as SH1 closed due to Kaikoura earthquake 2016, Kaikoura camp site, Fish & Chips in town at No2, the best one (Tiki Takeaways) was sadly closed, Fyffe Quay, Old House chimney remains, Mountains, Snow covering, Boardwalk, The Point, Seal colony, No fishing, Smells, Views, Seals asleep on boardwalk and rocks, Road back, Many roadslips, Woodchester, Monet autumn views, man with coffee, Rejoin empty SH2 via Waiau, Christchurch, Britz office, Extra bedding, C&As van fixed - brakes/ headlamp bulb, Ours for internal light only, School party and rain at Christchurch Top10 site, Blue route bus into Bus station, Ballantynes department store, Devestation, Sad, Cathedral, Customs House, Chalice sculpture, Vintage trams, New Regent Street, Murals, Container City, Quake museum, Kiwi humour in the face of adversity, Columbo street, Mexican restuarant, Workman everywhere, often playing, Rain, Loosing each other on ring road around the airport, Sheffield pies, West coast road, Lake Lyndon, Castle Hill, snow, mountains, roads, State Highway 73, Kumara Junction, Great alpine way, Grasmere, Lake Pearson, great farming flats, Cass laggon track, Otira gorge and viaduct, Jackson tavern, Arthurs pass, Arthurs pass national park, Waimakariri river, Railways, Tranz alpine, Bridal veil falls and lookout, Visitors centre, Cobb & co stagecoach, Devils punchbowl bridge, Kumara gold town, Theatre, Hokitika, Tasman sea, Old town, Signs and chairs, Glow worms, Rainbows (lots of them), Ross Gold mining town, gaol, Heritage walk, Gold panning, Chinese influence, Jones flats, Museum, De Bakker cottage, Philip Ross May (local hero & Historian), Autumn colours, Mine shaft, Catholic church, Mining Memorabilia, New ross gold mine, Hari Hari, Guy Menzies, 1st solo flight Oz to Nz, Southern cross junior, Lunch, Whataroa river, Glacier flights, Rain, Glacier highway, Franz Josef wet walk, receding glacier, pain in knees, Lake Ianthe, Fox Glacier, Blue lake, Moraine, Haast valley, Bruce Bay, Stones for messages, Lake Matheson walks and views, Cafe, Coffee, Snow cover peaks, Knights point lookout, Whale watching, Mother and calf, Fox Glacier ski village, Pollax point peaks, Haast village, Haast campsite, Sunset, Eerie colours on the peaks, Having to move pitches as the power didn't work at Haast Top10, Haasy-Jackson Bay road, Oturu, Harbour, Fan tails, Oturu river, Whitebait, Lobsters, Bridges (many), Neils Beach, Shearwaters, Hannahs crossing, Jackson Bay, Wharf (dodgy), Visitors centre, Whalers chimney remains, Whale (sighted by Annie), Pioneers, Fishing community, Return to Haast, Fuel station out, haast pass, Cameron Flat, Lunch, Mt Brewster and others, more snow, Mount Aspiring, Lake Wanaka, The Neck, Lake Hawea, Boundary Creek, Makarora Jack, Albert Town, Hawea, Wanaka, Snow predicted -2 it didnt arrive (hooray), Cold at night, Wanaka shore line, Luggate, Old motor cars, Town hall, Luggate - Cromwell Road, Tannersley estate vineyard, Lake Dunstan, 45th parallel, Lowburn, Mountain reflections, Cool seed pods, The Remarkables, Cromwell town - both new and old, Printing presses, Horses, Cartwheels, Paua art, Fruit town, sunshine, Goldfields, Kawarau gorge, Roaring Meg, Hydro power, A J Hackett bungy jumping, Warm outdoor fires, kawarau bridge, Shotover gorge, Queenstown campsite, Lake Wakatipu, Rainbows, Snow, Lumsden junction, Kingston, Old railway bridge, Garston, Mossburn, Stock crossing, Te Anau, lake Te Anau, Picture drome, Library, Coffee, Float planes, Kelpier track, Layby with Kea, Naughty alpine parrots - Kea, Car stripping trims, Homer Tunnel, waterfalls, Road slips, Rain, Milford sound lodge and camping ground, Milford village, Cruise terminal, Milford Mariner (our nature cruise boat), Nature cruise, NZ fur seals, Heron, Milford Sound is one of the true modern wonders of the world, Sigh loved it and nice to do it with pals, Low clouds, Mitre peak, The footstool, Sindbad gully, Many cruise liners, Massive crowds, Fur seals, Coffee, Warmth, Winds and cold, Tutoko Historic Suspension Bridge, Valley and river, Hollyford river and lookout, The Chasm walk and Kea (again), Homer tunnel return, Mirroe lakes, such reflections, Ta Anau again, pitch where we camped in a tent in 2008, still there by the roses, Mossburn deer capital of NZ, red tussock grass, Lumsden, Gore, Clock tower and art gallery, Balclutha for a fab fish & chip lunch, Southern scenic highway, Dunedin, Otago peninsular (right hand coast), Taiaroa head scenic reserve, Royal Albatross centre, Prince Charles, Pilots beach, Blue Penguins (see video part 4), Portobello, Company bay, Broad bay, Wycliffe bay, Hooper inlet, Sandfly bay, Cape Saunders, Pilot beach viewing platform, Waiwhakeheke bay, Lighthouse, Dick Road, Allan beach, Sheep branding, Flotsam & jetsam, Lovely beach flowers, Highcliff road (scary and roadslips but great views), Dunedin city, Signal Hill lookot and memorial, University Oval cricket ground Dunedin, Baldwin street (the steepest in the world and I have the t-shirt somewhere to prove it!), Dunedin station lit up, travelling back to Portobello around the peninsular at night spectacular lights, Dunedin Vogel street murals, Blueskin Road, 19 Fathoms Foul memorial, Robert Falcon Scott memorial, Blueskin bay, Quarentine and Rakiriri islands, Waikouaiti and river, Karitane, Seacliff lookout, Pies in Waikouati village, Bushy beach reserve, Hide, Yellow eyed penguins, Oamaru

victorian precinct, Jetty, Friendly Bay, Farmers market, Grain stores, Brewery, Distillery, Station, Picture frame, Steam punk (lots of it - class), Fat controller and the steam railway, Rakaia - salmon capital and goal, Banks Peninsular, Hilltop views, Akaroa, French very french, Jetty, Cinema, Passport office, Monet, Bedroom with a view, Churches, Roses, cats, Barrys bay, Little river, Silo stays, Over the hills in the rain, Gebbies pass, Dyers pass, Sugar loaf scenic reserve, Riccarton, Apollo motel (room 11), Lone star last supper, Early rise, nice family, Airport off to Singapore (us), Hong Kong (C&A), tears, coffee in Sydney airport airside, Great times

Want to see more click [HERE](#)



Kaiteriteri Abel Tasman National Park, South Island



The Famous Otira Gorge - Then & Now

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Blog 118 - Blogs/Sites we like No6 "Motorhome Fulltime"

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 1 2017 03:28PM

What a traveller, what a supporter of Motorhoming in General, you can learn a lot from them

Follow them on [Facebook](#), visit their website (if you can find it - seem to have gone Nov2020?) We love them here at [motorhome-travels.co.uk](#) & [motorhome-travels.net](#)



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Filed under: [other-sites](#), [hintsandtips](#), [recommended](#), [motorhome](#), [2017](#), [travels](#)

Blog 119 - Houghton Mill, Cambs

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 9 2017 03:21PM
Motorhome trip No30 : October 6th- 8th 2017

NOTTS->Houghton Mill National Trust Site, Cambridgeshire ->NOTTS 187 miles

252 years and 30+ camping years under our belts collectively ;)

A very nice site in a gorgeous location next to a old working mill on the banks of the river great ouse in Cambridgeshire with our dear pals Pete & Joy, who arrived in their lovely new Baileys autograph motorhome. A lovely grassed site with very modern heated facilities. We would highly recommend this site but remember to take your ramps, many of the pitches require them. You can get food in the local NT café at the front of the site if you don't want to venture further into either the village of Houghton or Hemingford Abbot (about a mile away over the river) We of course did both!

We travelled via M1, A14, A151 to Houghton. Took about 1 hour 30.

Lovely sunny Friday afternoon with sun so we checked in , filled up with water and set up on pitch 10 and put up our sign and water hose on pitch 53 next to us to reserve it for P&J. Weird pitch numbering system that we didn't try and explore. After waving furiously at the wrong people (blush) who arrived in a Bessacar we net up with P&J. Its been a while. We had tea and some of Annie's lovely homemade cake.

We then walked to the 3 Horseshoes (own barrel room) for some pre dinner drinks then a simple evening meal of lasagne, salad and garlic bread. Lovely evening chatting and catching up.

Saturday after a nice scrambled egg and smoked salmon brekkie we walked into Hemingford Abbot cross country and through the lovely village with many thatched cottages and 3 (yes 3) rectories. Had a lovely lunch and drinks in the Axe and Compass – a very nice old style pub. We then walked back past the cows and visited the Mill shop where we bought some Potto Brown flour. He is the local Quaker hero and miller born in Houghton. To find out more click [here](#).

Luckily back before the rain so we played who wants to be a millionaire, guess the wine and chatted followed by some nice cheese and bikkies .

We said our goodbyes on Sunday morning and hope to meet up again soon. Lovely weekend, nice site and area, we will be back. As we were both not so well we cancelled our additional 2 days in Rutland and returned home early.



Lunch at the Axe & Compass, Hemingford Abbot

see [SLIDESHOWS](#) for more details

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [2017](#), [cambridgeshire](#), [beer](#), [travels](#)

Blog 120 - Greetham, Rutland

By keef and annie hellinger, Nov 5 2017 04:08PM
Motorhome trip No31 : November 1st-3rd 2017

NOTTs->Greetham , Rutland ->NOTTs 107 miles

Used the truck nav which took us via a slightly longer route via A52 and A1 to come into Rutland from the Stamford end to avoid the Belvoir valley hill, we came back however through Rutland water which is about 10 miles shorter in distance.

A very nice Camping and Caravan site at Greetham with reductions for Caravan Club members but no reduction for ACSI members as only ACSI approved not registered. Your Caravan club card is kept during your stay as the deposit for the site security card which you need for all barriers and gates during your stay.

The site has a mixture of both hard standing and grass pitches and there are 2 areas one for adults only and one for families. There are two toilet blocks, the one on the adults only area is much more modern with great under floor heating and wet room showers.

There are dog walks at both ends of the site, an indoor swimming pool , hot tub and limited games room plus a kids play park in the middle of the family area. It is a very large site with about 130 pitches and tenting areas in the middle of the family area. Fees apply for the pool and hot tub; see their website for more details [HERE](#).

We were on pitch 21 in the adult only area. All pitches have all 3 services i.e electrics, drinking water and drain for your grey waste assuming you have the right length of pipe work.

Right next to our pitch was the walkway thru the woods to the perimeter gate which led 2 ways into the village either via church lane or the community centre. Its only about 15 mins leisurely stroll into the village and the autumn colours were beautiful. St Mary's church is a delight and it is such a lovely village with supposedly 3 pubs, we only found one, the Plough, which has great real ales, friendly staff and a gut busting dinner for a reasonable price which we had a lunch time on our second day. The chef even gave me a few tips on veggie cooking

We had a bit of a mosey around after lunch before returning for an afternoon of luxury reading, such a treat! On leaving we went via the south side of Rutland water and visited the village of Manton with its wonderful priory and St Mary's church. We had not been there before and down a public bridleway there were great view of Rutland water.

We liked Greetham a lot and will hopefully return again, it's a great starting point for discovering Rutland. If you would like to see the slideshows click [HERE](#) thanks.



classy selfie greetham village, rutland

1 comments

Filed under: [acsi](#), [slideshow](#), [rutland](#), [hintsandtips](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [2017](#), [travels](#), [camping-and-caravan-club-site](#)

Blog 121 - Index Improvements - Find Blogs Easier

By keef and annie hellinger, Nov 8 2017 12:56PM

Beside the normal indexing page which is in Blog number sequence (and Tags at the end of Blogs) it is now possible to look at the A-Z of blogs which has them in alphabetical order so you can look up what you want and go directly to it.

Of course you can always use the site search to look for things of interest as well.

There will also be Index pages to see stuff by Category i.e Potentially Travel, Hints & Tips, Recommended, Vehicle, Xmas and Social Media, as time goes by this list may increase, who knows.

UPDATE Nov2020 - before Flash vanishes have set some of these categories up under [BLOGTYPE](#), they are travel, hints and tips, campsites, recommended and a smattering under other of some of the largest categories. There is also a **TAG** cloud map which with instructions can be launched within WordCloud software to enable you to click on the tag link and see ALL of the blogs under that tag / category

There will also be a way to go to each of our Motorhome trips in the Wendy house in Order , by Nov 2017 we have made 31 trips in her and travelled about 22,000 miles

Hopefully it will make it easier for you to find what you want

motorhome-travels.co.uk & .net HOME BLOG INDEX SLIDESHOWS

BLOG NAME & DATE CREATED

Happy Xmas 2012 - 20/12/2012
 Harbury, Warwickshire - Fields Farm site - Trip 26 - 14/04/2016
 Hesleyside Hall, Bellingham, Northumberland - Family fun - 14/09/2014
 Holiday of a lifetime 3 - Holiday 2013 site - 30/04/2013
 Hosepipe Ban 2012 - 26/03/2012
 Houghton Mill, Cambridgeshire - NT site - Trip 30 - 09/10/2017
 How do I fit and remove my Milenco wheelclamp? - 12/03/2012
 How many of these 1990 beers have you drunk? Beer labels on show - 04/02/2015
 How much gas is left in the bottle? How can I tell? - 26/03/2012

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 Philippines 3
 Kuwait 3
 Undefined 2
 Malaysia 2
 Luxembourg 2
 Iraq 2
 Morocco 2

Click for detail
 Belarus 3
 Bosnia 3
 Estonia 3
 Arab Emirates 3
 Costa Rica 3
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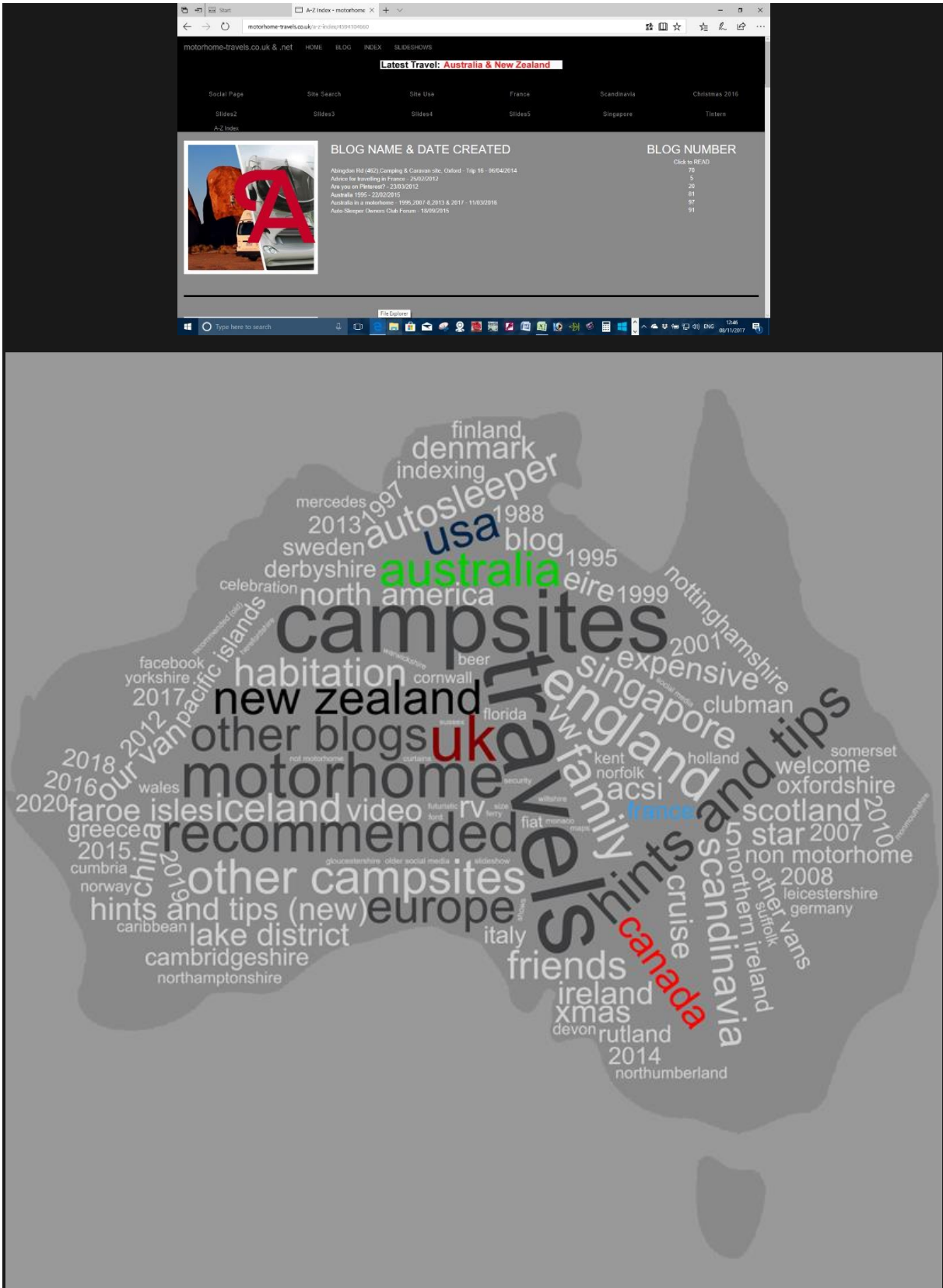
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A-Z Index - find your way around



Use the A-Z Index search button



1 comments

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Blog 122 - Queries via the Search screen

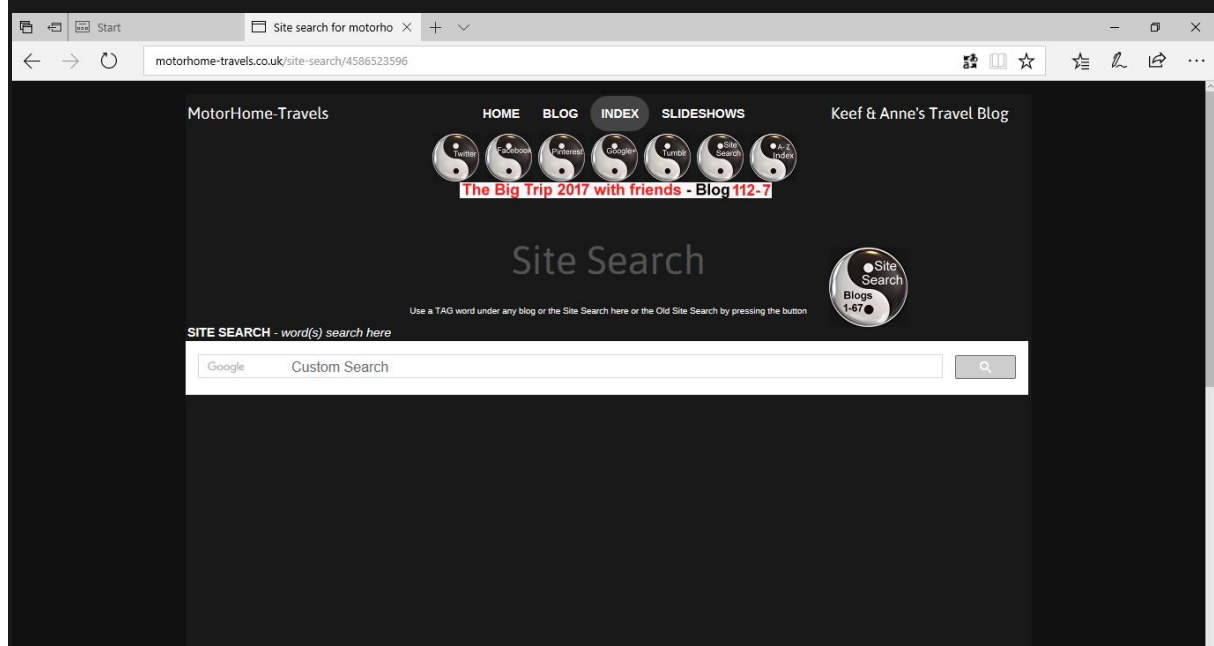
By keef and annie hellinger, Nov 9 2017 07:26AM

The search screen allows you to search for almost anything on the website. Just type it into the search bar on our internal web site page. Note that the 1st set of things that appear will be Googles paid ads but if you skip past them you will see all the references within the webiste to your request, obviously if any.

Then just click on those and it will take you to what you are looking for.

You can of course always use the [A-Z index](#) to search for your Blog request alphabetically, its up to you but we are trying to provide the search tools that make finding what you want easier.

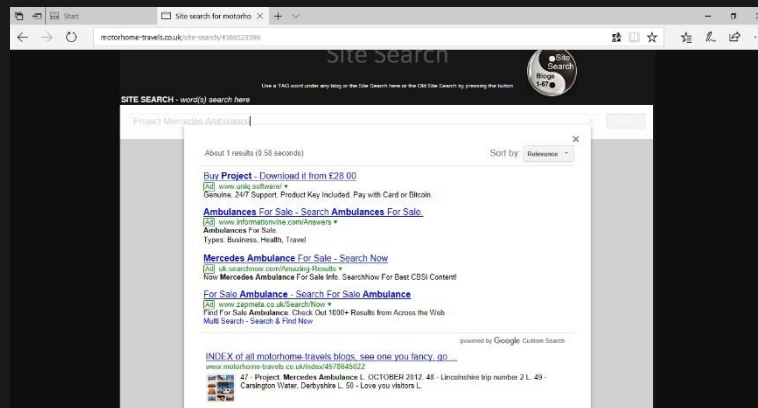
Thanks for looking, kind regards motorhome-travels blog.



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0 comments

Filed under: [hintsandtips](#), [motorhome](#), [indexing](#)

Blog 123 - Zephyr Motorhomes from Tiffin

By keef and annie hellinger, Nov 9 2017 05:07PM

Re-imagined and redesigned, the all-new 2017 Zephyr showcases Tiffin craftsmanship at its finest. From sumptuous interiors to gleaming exteriors, this spacious coach is 45 feet of pure luxury in motion, with every square inch designed to impress: Top-of-the-line materials throughout. Upscale amenities to rival a five-star hotel. Masterful engineering that commands the road, easily towing up to 15,000 lbs. For those who seek the ultimate RV experience, it doesn't get better than this.

THE MOST IMPRESSIVE CLASS A MOTORHOME IN THE INDUSTRY

A real RV, only (what only) 12 a day made. From the [Tiffin website](#) you can take a look around and download the brochure. It is pretty sumptuous... Note 2020 model now shown

2020 ZEPHYR Exterior Features & Specs Interior Floor Plans Decor



The all new Zephyr 2017



ROCKY MOUNTAIN BROWN



RUSTIC CANYON



SILVER SAND

There are more look at the brochure online

0 comments

Filed under: [USA](#), [rv](#), [motorhome](#), [2017](#), [canada](#)

Blog 124 - Kent with Family

By keef and annie hellinger, Dec 1 2017 04:29PM

Not the Motorhome trip No5 : November 23rd – 28th 2017

NOTTS->Kent (Chestfield, Whitstable, Folkestone, Canterbury & Faversham) via Ewell West ->NOTTS 510 miles

A very nice 10 day break firstly 4 days at Mums then Kent with our lovely rellies Brian & Gina who made us feel fabulously welcome. More larfing than you could shake a stick at!

We had nice walk along Whitstable front followed by a nice tea in a beach front hotel then it was Folkestone and the arm, which is all undergoing an expensive make over and will be fab when it is finished.

Then a trip into the centre of Canterbury for the Xmas market after a walk along the Roman walls alongside the fab Dane John Gardens (is there a Viking influence here I wonder as well as Roman?) then followed by a look around the museum / art gallery and a high tea, it was lovely!

Then it was off to medieval Faversham and a lovely Xmas market followed by an Italian meal at the end of Courts lane.

A lovely time all in all, see the gallery and slideshow [HERE](#).



High Tea at High Noon - The Hole in the Wall Gang!



Love this old van

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [kent](#), [non-motorhome](#), [family](#), [2017](#)

Blog 125 - Ruby Wedding Anniversary Cruise

By keef and annie hellinger, Mar 14 2018 08:26AM
Not the Motorhome Trip No.6 5th Feb - 12 Mar 2018

This was our 40th Wedding Anniversary Cruise to the Azores, Carribean & Lower US States including Louisiana, Florida & South Carolina. We encountered Storm Riley on the way back meaning we had 10 days at sea instead of stopping at our 2nd Azores island on the way back.

We had a fun time despite being ill for quite a while and loved our Atul Kutcher meal on the 25th in the Benares offshoot on board called Sindhu.

We sailed 12,865 land miles across the Atlantic on our journey. To see that in more detail go to the [CRUISE18](#) tab on the website

I have also included a copy of the Captains Log Star date 11th March 2018 ;) and here is the Medevac video on Day 34 , scary [CLICK HERE](#)

Proof we crossed the Atlantic



Itinerary

Booking Reference: WLHK2R

KEITH HELLINGER No Loyalty Tier: POF78081M

ANNE HELLINGER No Loyalty Tier: POF78085Y

Cruise

Number: N803 Ship: Ventura Duration: 35 Nights

Cabin Number: A517 Category: Inside Cabin Deck: A

Bed Configuration: Queen

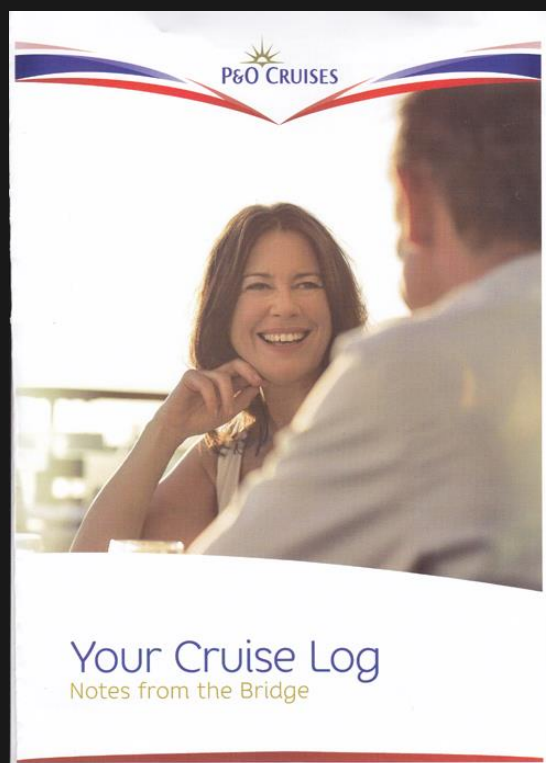
Dress: Dress Codes for your Cruise: 10 Black Tie Nights, 25 Evening Casual Nights POSH or WHAT

Itinerary

05 February Day 1 Southampton Dining:Freedom
Embark Ventura
06 February Day 2 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
07 February Day 3 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
08 February Day 4 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
09 February Day 5 Ponta Delgada Dining:Freedom
Arrive early morning
Depart early evening
Fire Lakes and Mountains Excursion 09:00
10 February Day 6 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
11 February Day 7 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
12 February Day 8 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
13 February Day 9 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
14 February Day 10 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
15 February Day 11
Barbados Dining:Freedom
Arrive early morning
Depart early evening
Coast to Coast Excursion 09:00
16 February Day 12 Guadeloupe Dining:Freedom
Arrive early morning
Depart early evening
Botanical Garden & Paradise Excursion 08:30
17 February Day 13 Antigua Dining:Freedom
Arrive early morning
Depart afternoon
Antigua Island Sights Excursion 08:45
18 February Day 14 At Sea Dining:Freedom
Arrive early afternoon
Depart evening
19 February Day 15 Ocho Rios Dining:Freedom
Arrive early afternoon
Depart early evening
Bob Marley by Zion Bus Excursion 12:30
20 February Day 16 Montego Bay Dining:Freedom
Arrive early morning
Depart early evening
21 February Day 17 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
22 February Day 18 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
23 February Day 19 New Orleans Dining:Freedom
Arrive early morning
Overnight In Port
24 February Day 20 New Orleans Dining:Freedom
Depart afternoon
25 February Day 21 Sea Day
Table For 2 in Sindhu at 19:00
26 February Day 22 Key West Dining:Freedom
Arrive morning
Depart afternoon Possible Tender - No Harbourside
27 February Day 23 Port Everglades Dining:Freedom
Arrive early morning

Depart early evening
 Snapshot of Miami Excursion 09:45
 28 February Day 24 Port Canaveral Dining:Freedom
 Arrive early morning
 Depart afternoon
 01 March Day 25 Charleston Dining:Freedom
 Arrive morning
 Charming Charleston Panoramic Excursion 09:30 Overnight In Port
 02 March Day 26 Charleston Dining:Freedom
 Depart early afternoon
 03 March Day 27 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 04 March Day 28 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 05 March Day 29 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 06 March Day 30 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 07 March Day 31 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 08 March Day 32 Sea Day (see below)
 Praia DA Vitoria Dining:Freedom
 Arrive morning
 Depart afternoon
 South Island Sights and Angra Excursion 09:45
 Sadly NOT Possible due to Storm Riley so day at Sea
 09 March Day 33 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 10 March Day 34 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 11 March Day 35 Sea Day Dining:Freedom
 12 March Day 36 Southampton
 Disembark

CAPTAINs LOG Star Date.....



From The Bridge Of Ventura

In Command

Stephen Howarth

Deputy Captain

James Brown

Safety Officer

Stephan Schjerback

First Officer

Scott Fenton & Iain McConnachie

Second Officers

Antony Plows

John Fleming & Fionan MacAuliffe

Third Officers

Olutosin Ajene

Daniel Trewin & Laurence Searle

Bartłomiej Dziedzic

Deck Cadet

William Creaven

Peter Kelly

Eoin Quinn

N803 - Caribbean & USA
5 February 2018 - 11 March 2018

Ports of Call:

Southampton | UK
Ponta Delgada | Portugal
Bridgetown | Barbados
Pointe à Pitre | Guadeloupe
St John's | Antigua
Ocho Rios | Jamaica
Montego Bay | Jamaica
New Orleans | USA
Key West | USA
Port Everglades | USA
Port Canaveral | USA
Charleston | USA
Southampton | UK

Monday 5 February - Southampton

After a busy turnaround, which saw all new passengers embark, with baggage and enough stores for the duration of the cruise, Ventura was ready to sail. Prior to departure from any port, the Captain receives positive reports from key personnel in every department to indicate that the ship is fit for the intended voyage. This would include confirmation of propulsion and auxiliary machinery readiness and that fuel, fresh water, lube oil and spares are safely stowed for the intended passage. Additionally, that the ship's stability criteria as per the International Maritime Organisation requirement has been met. That all life saving appliances are ready for immediate use and all navigational systems are fully operational. That all guests, crew as well as a local pilot are on board and clearance to sail has been granted by the local immigration authorities. Thus, with physical confirmation that the ships side openings were secured for sea as the final positive report, Ventura commenced the voyage. The Master manoeuvred Ventura off the berth at Ocean Terminal and slowly moved ahead. Officers, who are always stationed forward and aft for every arrival and departure, reported clearances, aiding the turn into the buoyed channel of the Solent. Ventura slowed to pass the Fawley Oil Terminal to starboard, followed by a slight heel to port, and then to starboard she successfully managed the hairpin bends of Calshot Spit and Bramble Bank to sail on to pass Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Having Portsmouth abait the beam, Ventura sailed west of the Nab Tower into the English Channel after disembarking the pilot. Westerly Courses set, Ventura headed into the English Channel, towards the North Atlantic.

Weather: Partly Cloudy
Wind: North-easterly, Force 3 (10 knots)
Temperature: 5°C/41.0°F

Tuesday 6 February - At Sea

Just as the sun rose, Ventura past Casquets amidst moderate marine traffic. As the day drew on, Ventura's bridge team navigated towards Lizard Point and the mouth of the English Channel. By midday, Ventura crossed the 5° West line and committed to a great circle sail across the North Atlantic towards the Azores.

Noon Position: 48° 57.6' N 006° 20.8' W
Distance till Noon: 260 NM
Weather: Overcast with Occasional Showers
Wind: Northerly, Force 8 (35 knots)
Temperature: 6°C/42.8°F

Wednesday 7 February - At Sea

Early morning, in the tiny hours, Ventura sailed out of and away from European waters. Ventura continued committed to her sail along the arc of the great circle track towards the Azores with, turbulent seas predominating her way. By late afternoon, the sea conditions calmed as Ventura sailed on towards crepuscular horizons.

Noon Position: 45° 04.6' N 014° 13.6' W
Noon to Noon: 398 NM
Weather: Overcast with Occasional Showers
Wind: Northerly, Force 8 (38 knots)
Temperature: 11°C/51.8°F

Thursday 8 February - At Sea

No change of course had occurred for some 85NM as Ventura continued south-westerly along the arc of the great circle track towards the Azores. By midday Ventura was some 730 NM to the north west of the Portuguese capital of Lisbon and sailing across the Maciço Dos Azores Biscay.

Noon Position: 40° 39.2' N 021° 07.8' W
Noon to Noon: 405 NM
Weather: Mostly Cloudy
Wind: West-north-westerly, Force 5 (20 knots)
Temperature: 15°C/57°F

Friday 9 February - Ponta Delgada

East of São Miguel Ventura completed her great circle route and continued on rhumb line tracks as she approached to Ponta Delgada neared. With pilot on board, Ventura sailed past the breakwaters and turning to Starboard about 180°, as the winds remained northerly. All the preparations were completed after reversing into position port side alongside. Once clearance was granted by immigration, all were free to proceed ashore in Ponta Delgada. From departure Southampton to arrival Ponta Delgada, Ventura steamed a distance of 1324 Nautical miles. Ponta Delgada, on São Miguel Island, is the capital of the Azores archipelago of Portugal. The striking, 3-arched city gates and the Gothic-style Church of St. Sebastian are near the harbour. The Convent and Chapel of Our Lady of Hope houses a revered image of Christ. The Carlos Machado Museum offers diverse artefacts of Azorean culture. The city is a gateway to the crater lakes of Sete Cidades, to the northwest.

Weather: Partly Cloudy
Wind: West-north-westerly, Force 4 (15 knots)
Temperature: 20°C/68°F

All souls were on board and clearance granted when the gangways were shipped and the Manoeuvre commenced. Thrusting off the berth Ventura turned to Starboard, then proceeded past the breakwaters and out of the harbour. With pilot away, Ventura continued south-westerly courses.

Saturday 10 February - At Sea

Ventura made her way southwestward out of Azorean Territorial waters and committed to a great circle track across the Atlantic towards Barbados. Crossing over the fabled Atlantis Sea Mount before midday, Ventura remained within the range of the permanent high-pressure region, for which the Azores is renowned, throughout the day.

Noon Position: 35° 02.1' N 031° 09.8' W
Distance till Noon: 313 NM
Weather: Sparse Cloud
Wind: Northerly, Force 5 (18 knots)
Temperature: 18°C/64.4°F

Sunday 11 February - At Sea

Overnight Ventura sailed towards the trade wind belt as she continued along the arc of the great circle track to Barbados. Sea and winds started to increase by midday while Ventura commenced crossing the 370 NM wide Mid Atlantic Ridge where the half way mark lay.

Noon Position: 30° 59.4' N 038° 05.8' W
Noon to Noon: 428 NM
Weather: Overcast
Wind: North-easterly, Force 6 (25 knots)
Temperature: 20°C/68°F

Monday 12 February - At Sea

Ventura continued along the arc of the great circle track sailing across the Atlantic towards the Barbados. By mid morning, Ventura past the half way mark, however it was not until late evening that Ventura cleared the 5800 odd meter Ridge, which lay diagonally across her path. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is very close to the height of Mount Kilimanjaro at several points

Noon Position: 26° 27.7' N 044° 39.1' W
Noon to Noon: 438 NM
Weather: Partly Cloudy
Wind: East-north-easterly, Force 5 (20 knots)
Temperature: 23°C/73.3°F

Tuesday 13 February - At Sea

A quiet night and beautiful morning as the sun rose astern, with Ventura south of 23.4° N latitude thus officially in the Tropics. Altering course by one degree every 112 NM Ventura maintained the arc of the great circle track through the Atlantic towards Barbados. With the Mid Atlantic ridge cleared, Ventura began to feel the adverse effects of the North Equatorial Current which, follows the island chain northward, all the way from as far south as Suriname to the coast of Florida.

Noon Position: 21° 50.7' N 050° 26.4' W
Noon to Noon: 421 NM
Weather: Partly Cloudy
Wind: North-easterly, Force 5 (19 knots)
Temperature: 24°C/75.2°F

Wednesday 14 February - At Sea

Into the morning, Ventura continued south-westerly, along the arc of the great circle track towards Barbados. Through the Demarara Abyssal Plain, Flying fish skipped across the ocean's surface propelled by Ventura's wake. By late evening, the Lights of Barbados Shoal on the horizon as Ventura made landfall.

Noon Position: 16° 59.9' N 055° 55.7' W
Distance till Noon: 426 NM
Weather: Sparse Cloud
Wind: North-easterly, Force 6 (24 knots)
Temperature: 25°C/77°F

Thursday 15 February - Bridgetown

The morning was quite busy for the bridge team as they guided Ventura to the end of her great circle passage and onto Rhumb line tracks to round the north coast of Barbados. Once on a southerly course, Ventura made progress to the approaches to Bridgetown. The pilot boarded and Ventura slowly made way past the breakwaters and into the harbour. Steady enterprise saw Ventura make fast amidst high winds, Starboard side to quay and with clearance granted and gangways at the ready, all were free to proceed ashore. From departure Ponta Delgada to arrival Bridgetown, Ventura steamed a distance of 2345 Nautical miles. Barbados is an eastern Caribbean island and an independent British Commonwealth nation. Bridgetown, the capital, is

a cruise-ship port with colonial buildings and Nidhe Israel, a synagogue founded in 1654. Around the island are beaches, botanical gardens, the Harrison's Cave formation, and 17th-century plantation houses like St. Nicholas Abbey. Local traditions include afternoon tea and cricket, the national sport.

Weather: Partly Cloudy with Occasional Showers
Wind: North-easterly, Force 5 (19 knots)
Temperature: 29°C/84.6°F

All Souls on board and clearance granted was the indication to secure the gangways and let go lines. Thrusted off the berth, with stern way Ventura slowly manoeuvred into the basin. The midships had just cleared the breakwaters when Ventura began to swing, stern first, to exit the basin. Ventura's 90° turn was dexterously completed and with engines set to half-ahead, sailed through breakwaters. Not long after, Ventura was full away on sea passage with courses set for the next port of call Pointe a Pitre.

Friday 16 February - Pointe a Pitre

Throughout the night, Ventura progressed northerly on the Caribbean Atlantic front, sailing past Martinique and Dominica to port. It was still twilight, when the pilot boarded and guided Ventura through the narrow perplexities of the channels meander. Into the turning basin and unto the berth, Ventura was in position Starboard side to quay, with lines all fast. From departure Bridgetown to arrival Pointe a Pitre, Ventura steamed a distance of 211 Nautical miles. Guadeloupe, a French overseas region, is an island group in the southern Caribbean Sea. Resembling a butterfly, its 2 largest islands are separated by the Salée River. Hilly Grande-Terre island has long beaches and sugarcane fields. On Basse-Terre island, Parc National de la Guadeloupe encompasses Carbet Falls and the volcano La Grande Soufrière. Smaller islands include Marie-Galante and La Désirade.

Weather: Partly Cloudy
Wind: Light Air (3 knots)
Temperature: 28°C/82.4°F

It was confirmed that all souls were on board and clearance granted when the gangways were shipped and the Manoeuvre commenced. Thrusting off the berth with sternway, Ventura entered the basin and with precise adroitness, the master with the aid of the bridge team spun Ventura 180° and proceeded through the convoluted narrows out into open sea. With pilot away Ventura continued on southerly courses between the isles Marie Galante and Grande Inlet as she navigated to her next port of call St. John's.

Saturday 17 February - St. John's

Weaved between islands courses lead northerly, leaving Guadeloupe to the right and rounding Montserrat to the left as Ventura past the southern tip of Antigua. The morning dew was visible on the lush flora, as the pilot boat left the shore side and approached Ventura. Tentatively, Ventura under pilotage sailed down the exceedingly narrow channel often referred to as the 'Laws of Death', into the harbour where, the master dexterously apposition Starboard side to quay. With gangways at the ready, and clearance granted by the immigration, all were free to proceed ashore in St. John's. From departure Pointe a Pitre to arrival St. John's, Ventura steamed a distance of 142 Nautical miles. Antigua is one of the two major islands that make up the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda. Ringed with coral reefs, it is known for its many sandy beaches, superlative boating, exemplary food, family-friendly activities, and legendary cocktails. Set along English Harbour, restored Nelson's Dockyard, which Admiral Horatio Nelson made his base in the 1780s, includes a marina and the Dockyard Museum. Trails lead up to Shirley Heights, a former military lookout with panoramic views.

Weather: Sunny
Wind: East-north-easterly, Force 5 (21 knots)
Temperature: High 25°C/77°F

All Souls on board and clearance granted was the indication to secure the gangways and let go lines. Thrusting off the berth, with stern way Ventura slowly manoeuvred into the basin and with cool intellect, the master spun Ventura 180° before sailing back the way she came, through West Channel and out of the harbour. Ventura continued north easterly to clear the Coral reefs before adopting westerly courses to the next port of call Ocho Rios.

Sunday 18 February - At Sea

Throughout night and into the morning Ventura continued sailing through the Caribbean Sea westerly, and past south of the British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, which remained visible until mid morning. By midday, Ventura had the mainland Hispaniola to the north off the Starboard beam for the remainder of the day. Late evening, saw Ventura

sail between Haiti and the north coast of Jamaica with lights of the distant Cuba faintly visible on the horizon.

Noon Position: 17° 02.8' N 068° 46.9' W
Distance till Noon: 404 NM
Weather: Sparse Cloud
Wind: East-north-easterly, Force 5 (20 knots)
Temperature: 25°C/77°F

Monday 19 February - Ocho Rios

Altering course to round the isles, Ventura continued into the night on westerly courses along the Jamaican north coast. Turquoise waters were clearly present with sunrise abaft of Ventura, as she maintained a westerly course to the approaches to Ocho Rios. At noon with pilot onboard, Ventura adopted a southerly approach and with a graceful manoeuvre port, she was alongside Starboard side to quay. With gangways at the ready, and clearance granted by immigration, all were free to proceed ashore in Ocho Rios. From departure St. John's to arrival Ocho Rios, Ventura steamed a distance of 88.4 Nautical miles. Jamaica, a Caribbean island nation, has a lush topography of mountains, rainforests and reef-lined beaches. Many of its all-inclusive resorts are clustered in Montego Bay, with its British-colonial architecture, and Negril, famed for its diving and snorkeling sites. Jamaica, known as the birthplace of reggae music, and its capital Kingston is home to the Bob Marley Museum, dedicated to the famous singer. Ocho Rios is a former fishing village adjacent to the parish of Saint Ann, which is home to rainforest, rivers and waterfalls. Dunn's River Falls is a terraced, 180m mountain waterfall with lagoon pools, surrounded by trees.

Weather: Sunny
Wind: Easterly, Force 5 (21 knots)
Temperature: 26°C/78.8°F

All souls were on board and clearance granted when the gangways were shipped and the Manoeuvre commenced. Thrusting off the berth with no headway Ventura turned to port 180° before sailing back the way she came, out of the harbour. Northerly to clear the mainland Ventura made way into open sea, before altering westerly to her next port of call Montego Bay.

Tuesday 20 February - Montego Bay

Throughout the night, Ventura continued westward towards Montego Bay and once within 12 NM, the bridge team began preparations for the arrival. With all checks completed and pilot on board Ventura made her way into the basin. The master's prowess proved evident as Ventura spun on the spot 180°, and then manoeuvred astern at a speed of 4 knots through the channel to apposition Starboard side to quay. With clearance granted and gangways at the ready, all were free to proceed ashore.

From departure Ocho Rios to arrival Montego Bay, Ventura steamed a distance of 86 Nautical miles. Montego Bay, the capital of Saint James Parish on Jamaica's north coast, is a major cruise ship port with numerous beach resorts and golf courses outside its commercial core. Popular beaches include Doctor's Cave Beach and Walter Fletcher Beach, home to an amusement park. There is also snorkelling and diving at coral reefs in the protected waters of Montego Bay Marine Park.

Weather: Sparse Cloud
Wind: Easterly, Force 4 (16 knots)
Temperature: 30°C/86°F

All Souls on board and clearance granted was the indication to secure the gangways and let go lines. Thrusted off the berth, into the middle of the harbour, Ventura progressed ahead through the channel and into open sea. The route to follow lay westward off to the north as American ports beckoned. Engines were set at a constant RPM for the voyage to the next port of call New Orleans.

Wednesday 21 February - At Sea

The passage show little changes in course as, Ventura continued sailing through the Caribbean Sea some 45 NM to the south of the Cuban coast. By evening, Ventura made her way into the 105 NM wide Yucatan Channel. The western tip of Cuba lay to the east or off the Starboard beam and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula to the west, as Ventura altered course north westerly on route to New Orleans.

Noon Position: 20° 32.9' N 082° 58.6' W
Distance till Noon: 404 NM
Weather: Sparse Cloud
Wind: Easterly up to Force 6 (24 knots)
Temperature: 25°C/77°F

Thursday 22 February - At Sea

Out of the Yucatan and into the Gulf of Mexico, Ventura continued through the ninth largest body of water in the world. By midday, Ventura was on

the cusp of entering US waters, as several offshore platforms were visible on the horizon. Ventura propelled by the North Equatorial Current (now called the Gulf Stream) made good speed; so much so that by mid evening the pilot station, alight by the sea buoy was achieved ahead of schedule. With pilot on board Ventura commenced her ten hour passage up the Mississippi one hour before midnight. The Mississippi River is the chief river of the second-largest drainage system on the North American continent, second only to the Hudson Bay drainage system. The stream is entirely within the United States (although its drainage basin reaches into Canada), its source is in northern Minnesota and it flows generally south for 2,320 miles (3,730 km) to the Mississippi River Delta in the Gulf of Mexico.

Noon Position: 26° 32.1' N 088° 04.8' W
Noon to Noon: 478 NM
Weather: Sparse Cloud
Wind: Easterly, Force 5 (20 knots)
Temperature: 25°C/77°F

Friday 23 & 24 February - New Orleans

Throughout the night, Ventura persisted against four knots of current as the Mississippi remained in flood (outward flowing). Speed reduced not only by the current but also by marine traffic, left Ventura at a steady ten of the expected fifteen knots to arrive at the Julia Street berth. With two new pilots on board for the second Leg, the initial arrival pilot disembarked, and Ventura continued apply negotiating the Mississippi's hairpin meanders. With a third change of the piloting pair just after the half way mark, Ventura continued to the berth. With the river at flood, Ventura commenced the swing bow to port at maximum thrust, with engines set to oppose (one ahead and one astern), as the master endeavoured to reduce the lateral motion as cause by the rivers flow. The rate of turn exceeded 30° as Ventura came about a full 180° and backed past the Paddle Steamers to be all fast port side to quay. From departure Montego Bay to arrival New Orleans, Ventura steamed a distance of 942 Nautical miles on sea passage and 105 Nautical miles of river transit.

Weather: Mostly Cloudy with Occasional Showers
Wind: Easterly, Force 4 (14 knots)
Temperature: 30°C/86°F

All Souls on board and clearance granted was the indication to secure the gangways and let go lines, however river traffic delayed departure. Thrusted off the berth, into the middle of the river, Ventura progressed ahead and commenced the tedious river passage, which took only seven hours, as the flow remained constant at two and a half knots out ward thus aiding Ventura's speed. Ventura continued out of the Mississippi and into open sea, altering course southerly and setting RPM for a day at sea en-route to the next port of call Key West.

Sunday 25 February - At Sea

Ventura continued south easterly throughout the night as she progressed through the Gulf of Mexico. Sailing past the last of the offshore installations by midday, Ventura's course remained unchanged throughout the day.

Noon Position: 26° 56.4' N 086° 47.8' W
Distance till Noon: 288 NM
Weather: Partly Cloudy
Wind: Southerly, Force 4 (14 knots)
Temperature: 29°C/84.2°F

Monday 26 February - Key west

Throughout morning, Ventura altered to an easterly course as she approached Key West. With Pilot onboard, the 88 Meter wide Key West harbour Channel was entered and precision navigation ensued. After 10 NM of persistent accuracy, Ventura entered the harbour and with the usual dexterity, was all fast Starboard side to quay. From departure New Orleans to arrival Key West, Ventura steamed a distance of 505 Nautical miles.

Weather: Partly Cloudy
Wind: South-easterly, Force 4 (15 knots)
Temperature: 30°C/86°F

After all Guest and Crew were back onboard and all pre-departure on Bridge checks were completed, Ventura was ready for sail. Captain ordered to let go all line, when all lines were clear forward and aft, Captain started thrusting off the berth. In safe distance off the berth, engines were set astern. When Ventura reached her turning circle, Master made 180° swing to Starboard. After turn, Ventura used a reciprocal course to pass narrow channel into deep sea. After disembarking the local pilot Ventura set easterly heading into next port of call.

Tuesday 27 February - Port Everglades

At early in the morning Ventura rounded southerly tip of Florida, and set Northerly courses. With Gulf Stream current, which gave us 3 knots of push, Ventura made her final approach to pilot station. Leaving Miami on our Port side and before pilot embarked, wide turn to Port side was made. With local pilot on board, Captain safely navigate vessel into narrow buoyed channel before entering port harbour. Inside harbour waters, Ventura made 90° swing and proceed backwards reached her final docking position. Starboard side to the quay. From departure Key West to arrival Port Everglades, Ventura steamed a distance of 184 Nautical miles.

Weather: Mostly clear skies with scattered clouds
Wind: North-easterly, Force 4 (13 knots)
Temperature: 25°C/77°F

Ventura was ready to sail, with all Guest and Crew on board and clearance granted from local authorities. Just before order from Bridge to let go all lines, an emergency situation occurred. One of fellow Guest had to be taken to the hospital. Fast and efficiency medical evacuation was carried out by local ambulance. When the medical evacuation was completed, all gangways were secured and shell doors closed. Ventura let go all lines and left harbour waters of Port Everglades. After clearing buoyed channel and local pilot was disembarked, engines were put to full ahead and northerly headings were set to our next destination Port Canaveral.

Wednesday 28 February - Port Canaveral

On the course of the night and throughout the morning, Ventura finds herself into northerly heading along to Florida coast. With strong northerly set of Gulf Stream current, which we used as extra power on engines, Ventura made her final approach to the Port Canaveral Pilot Station. At early morning with pilot on board Ventura made her way through buoyed channel. Finally passed breakwater and after 180° turn into the inner harbour basin, Ventura made all line fast, Starboard side to quay. Air Bridges connected, gangways landed, and after clearance granted all Guests were free to go ashore and enjoy pleasant day in Port Canaveral. From departure Port Everglades to arrival Port Canaveral, Ventura steamed a distance of 150 Nautical miles.

Weather: Same scattered clouds with many sunny spells.
Wind: South-easterly, Force 4 (15 knots)
Temperature: 23°C/73°F

All souls were on board and clearance granted when the gangways were shipped and the manoeuvring commenced. Thrusting off the berth Ventura set her engines ahead then proceeded past the breakwaters and out of the harbour. With pilot away, Ventura continued northerly courses.

Thursday 1 & 2 March - Charleston

On the course of the night and throughout the morning, Ventura finds herself into northerly heading towards to our last port of call in to the USA. After leaving behind us Florida State, Ventura commenced sail along coast of South Carolina, still using the favourable set of Gulf Stream currents. With all pre-arrival checks completed and all Bridge Team members in place, Ventura made her approach to pilot boarding station to embark our local pilot. After struggling with strong river current, Ventura was safe alongside into Charleston Passenger Terminal. Starboard side alongside with all line made fast, Air Bridge connected as well ship's gangway landed, all Guest were free to go ashore and explore Charleston. From departure Port Canaveral to arrival Charleston, Ventura steamed a distance of 264 Nautical miles.

Weather: Mostly cloudy throughout with some little patches of blue skies. Occasionally patchy rain
Wind: North-westerly, Force 4 (12 knots), increasing to Force 6 (25 knots) at the evening.
Temperature: 17°C/63°F

Next day after overnight stay in Charleston, Ventura was preparing for departure and passage through Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately, due to bad weather forecast, which was caused by storm Riley, the planned route and itinerary had to be changed. Weather conditions forecast on Ventura's initial route, largely exceeded the conditions for a safe and comfortable trip. After considering all safety aspects, decisions was made that Ventura will use a new route, which lead her south form the most dangerous weather condition. This new route would be longer but more safe and comfortable for guests and Crew. With all souls onboard and after vessel was ready for sea passage as well for heavy weather condition, Ventura with pilot onboard left Charleston harbour. After clearing breakwater as well buoyed channel, pilot was disembarking and Captain rang "Full Away on Sea Passage". Engines were put on full ahead and Ventura commenced her voyage on way back home, towards Southampton.

Saturday 3 March - At Sea

During course of the night and throughout the day, Ventura finds herself into initial course 110°, increasing the distance behind to the coast of North America. Ventura was sailing south to avoid the area with bad weather condition, affected by storm Riley. Ventura experienced more than 8 meters swell, travelling across Atlantic Ocean form storm Riley.

Noon Position: 30° 22.9' N 072° 23.4' W
Noon to Noon: 414 NM
Weather: Overcast with no precipitation.
Wind: North-westerly, Force 9 (45 knots)
Temperature: 22°C/72°F

Sunday 4 March - At Sea

Throughout the night, Ventura set on South-easterly headings, approximate at 8.00am in the morning Ventura change to easterly heading of 090°. Our Noon position placed us same 250 Nautical miles to the South of Bermuda Island. At the evening, at about 6.00pm Ventura altered course into East-north-easterly of 070°, towards to Azores Island, across the Atlantic Ocean.

Noon Position: 28° 29.0' N 064° 31.7' W
Noon to Noon: 431 NM
Weather: Mostly cloudy with same brightening, no precipitation
Wind: North-westerly, Force 6 (25 knots)
Temperature: 22°C/72°F

Monday 5 March - At Sea

Over course of the night and throughout the day Ventura kept the East-north-easterly heading of 070° towards Azores Island on her transatlantic crossing. During the day the nearest land or in Latin Terra Firma was around 550 Nautical miles North-west of us on our Port quarter, which was Bermudan Island.

Noon Position: 30° 22.2' N 056° 00.4' W
Noon to Noon: 463 NM
Weather: Mostly cloudy with same sunny spell, no precipitation
Wind: Westerly, Force 6 (25 knots)
Temperature: 21°C/70°F

Tuesday 6 March - At Sea

Beautiful clear, blue skies greeted us on another Ventura sea day. Ventura throughout the night and day followed East-north-easterly heading of 070° towards Azores Island across the Atlantic Ocean. Our Noon position gives us the same latitude as Tripoli in Libya or San Diego, California in the USA. The average depth beneath the keel was 5000 metres, which equates to approximately 16404 feet. During the day the nearest land was around 855 Nautical miles North-east of us on our Port shoulder, which was Flores Island, the most westward island of the Archipelago of the Azores.

Noon Position: 32° 41.9' N 047° 41.5' W
Noon to Noon: 449 NM
Weather: Pleasant, sunny day with little amount of clouds.
Wind: South-westerly, Force 7 (28 knots)
Temperature: 22°C/72°F

Wednesday 7 March - At Sea

Throughout last night and during the day we have continued to follow our East-north-easterly course across the Atlantic Ocean. During the day Ventura, find herself crossing over the Middle Atlantic Ridge (MAR).

Noon Position: 34° 57.6' N 039° 22.5' W
Noon to Noon: 442 NM
Weather: Overcast in the morning, cleared into the afternoon.
Wind: South-westerly, Force 8 (38 knots)
Temperature: 21°C/70°F

Thursday 8 March - At Sea

East-north-easterly courses along laid down track Ventura continued over night and majority of the day. With the progress of the day, Ventura made her approach to the Archipelago of the Azores. At around 9.00pm Ventura passed between Sao Miguel Island (on which it is located Ponta Delgada) on our Starboard side in distance of 50 Nautical miles and Terceira Island (on which it is located Praia da Victoria) on our Port side in distance of 27 nautical miles. In this point Ventura altered course to North-easterly of 047° and commit to a great circle track across the Atlantic to make way towards the English Channel.

Noon Position: 37° 21.1' N 030° 22.5' W
Noon to Noon: 453 NM
Weather: Partly cloudy with a lot of sunny spells in the morning. Overcast with same occasionally haze in the afternoon.
Wind: South-westerly, Force 8 (35 knots)

Temperature: 18°C/64°F

Friday 9 March - At Sea

Ventura continued to sail the arc along the great circle track towards the English Channel. By midday Ventura was some 600 Nautical miles due North-west of the Lisbon in Portugal, and the nearest land or in Latin Terra Firma was around 560 Nautical miles east of us, which was Cape Finisterre, the North-west tip of Spain.

Noon Position: 41° 28.2' N 022° 01.5' W
Noon to Noon: 476 NM
Weather: Overcast with occasionally rain, Sea spray on deck
Wind: North-westerly, Force 11 (60 knots)
Temperature: 15°C/59°F

Saturday 10 March - At Sea

Early-morning saw Ventura sail across the Azores Biscay Ridge as she continued along the arc of the great circle track towards the English Channel. By midday Ventura was 350 Nautical miles off the French coast of Brest on swift approach of the English Channel.

Noon Position: 46° 26.3' N 012° 46.7' W
Noon to Noon: 460 NM
Weather: Overcast with occasional squalls and showers
Wind: South-south-westerly, Force 8 (38 knots)
Temperature: 12°C/54°F

Sunday 11 March - Southampton

Early morning Ventura finds herself at the entrance to the English Channel. With Lands End only 25 Nautical miles off the Port beam Ventura altered into the English Channel, and maintained throughout easterly courses to remain only 15 Nautical miles off the coast of England.

Noon Position: 50° 02.6' N 003° 22.2' W
Noon to Noon: 448 NM
Weather: Mostly cloudy with same drizzle
Wind: South-south-east, Force 8 (36 knots)
Temperature: 11°C/52°F

Ventura entered the Solent in the evening. The Nab Tower was only 10 Nautical miles away when Ventura slowed, boarded the pilot then proceeded to the west of the Nab. The speed was increased, to pass Cowes on the Isle of Wight, as Ventura prepared to negotiate the hairpin bends of Bramble Bank and Calshot Spit. With a slight heel to starboard and then to port Ventura accomplished the turns then slowed to pass Fawley Oil Terminal and Dock Head. As per the norm for every arrival and departure, the team was briefed, and Officers went to their stations forward and Aft, and reported clearances. The Master delicately pirouetted Ventura into position at Ocean Terminal, Southampton, home. From departure Charleston to arrival Southampton, Ventura steamed a distance of 4142 Nautical miles.

12,865 miles

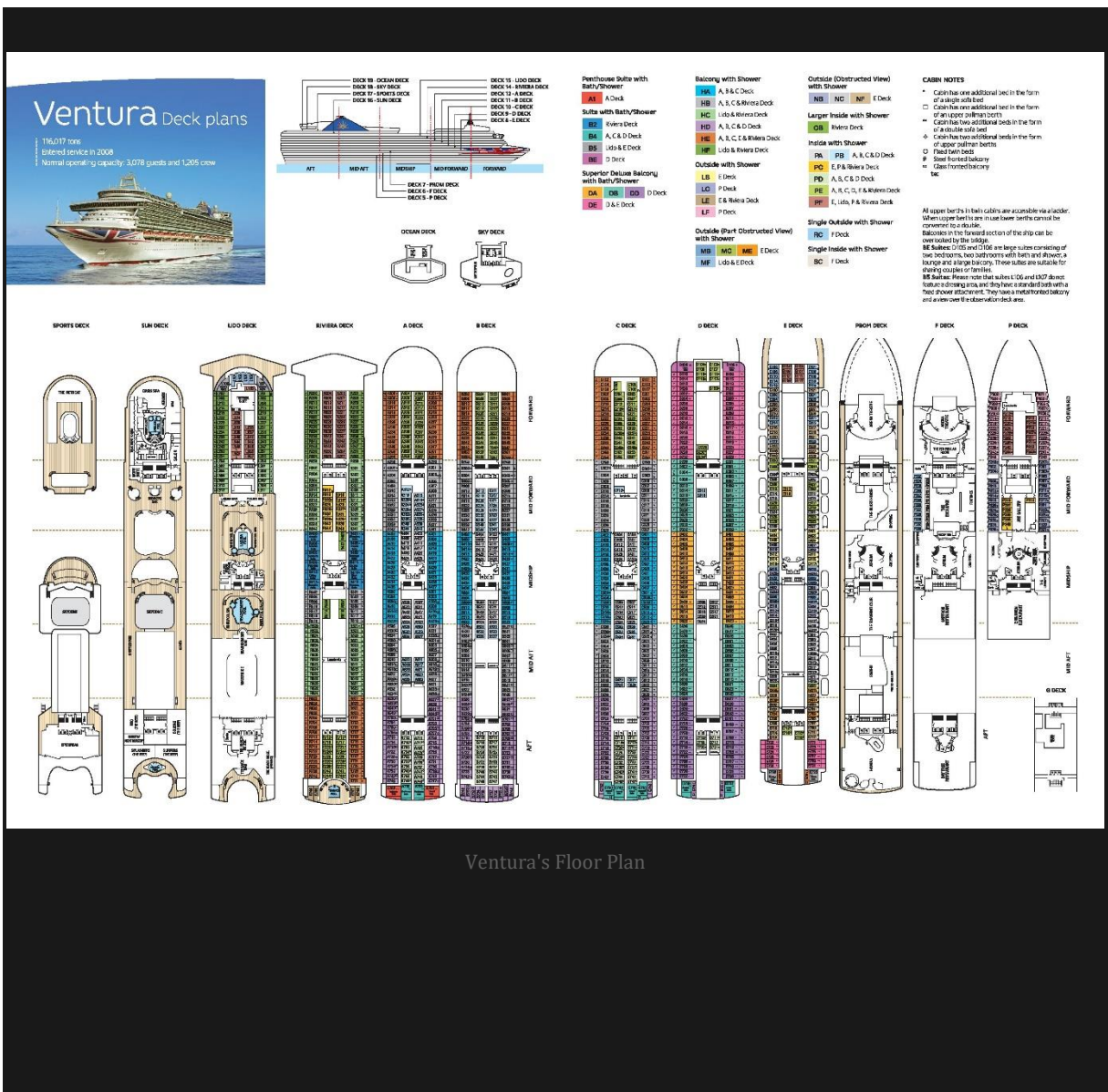
During Cruise N803 Ventura steamed a total distance of 11179 nautical miles on passage.

* Entries are made ahead of time based on passage planning and expected route.

1 Nautical Mile = 1.15 Statute Miles = 1852 meters
Wind force refers to the Beaufort scale.

On behalf of the Captain Marcin Barch, Officers and Crew, thank you for choosing to travel with P&O Cruises, especially on board Ventura, and we look forward to being able to welcome you on board again in the near future.

On behalf of the Captain Stephen Howarth, Officers and all Crew, thank you for choosing to travel with P&O Cruises, especially on board Ventura, and we look forward to being able to welcome you on board again in the near future.



1 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [USA](#), [non-motorhome](#), [travels](#), [cruise](#), [celebration](#), [2018](#), [Caribbean](#)

Blog 126 - Threlkeld, Lake District National Park, Cumbria

By keef and annie hellinger, Mar 29 2018 06:47PM
Motorhome trip No32 : March 22nd – 27th 2018

NOTTS->Threlkeld, Lake District NP, Cumbria ->NOTTS 396 miles

Used the truck nav which took us up the east side of the country i.e M1, M18 , A1(M) until about Scotch corner where we travelled across the fabulous A66 and old roman road route through the Pennines to Penrith and then onto

Threlkeld to the Threlkeld Hall site on a farm. We were meeting up with our group of long time friends who had initially camped over the fell at White Horse Bent by Scales in the Lake District National Park in August 1973 some 45 years ago. This is our 2nd reunion having met up in London in August 2016. Sadly not everyone could make this one but we welcomed back into our fold Peter Linnett who I personally have not seen in the last 45 years, such a joy to reconnect! The whole weekend was a delight and we both still have a heavy glow of happiness and inner well being. The expression may well be "Far out & Solid"!

The campsite was a short walk across fields into Threlkeld where most of our pals were staying in the cottage opposite the Horse & Farrier Inn called Heather View. At night if the A66 was closed for road works we could walk up it back to the campsite with torches in the dark. If not it was generally a muddy trek in the dark avoiding the dog dirt (a personal pet hate.... If you will forgive the pun)

The site was hard standing with all 3 services, water, electrics and grey water disposal which was good. However on the negative side at £25 / night the facilities were very very limited for 20 pitches having only one shower and loo and sink for men and women. Apart from its convenience to us in terms of closeness to Threlkeld I could not recommend it.

We were on pitch 9 and our pals Chris & Allyson were on pitch 12. Some of the things we did were catching up, Keswick, Threlkeld views, eating/ drinking and making merry, Mandy's local fete near Ullveston, Blues festival at Bowness. We were really lucky with the weather in the Lake District for March with 3 days of sunshine, lets not talk about the other days.... There were elements of monkeys and brass involved and the proverbial liquid sunshine.

On the way back we used the M6 and cut across at Stoke. It took 5 hours returning and 3 and half hours getting there.

Want to see the [SLIDESHOWS](#)

Re the fab band we saw at the Bowness Bay Blues at the Hole Int Wall pub they were Changing State and they were fab.

[Changing State](#) are a young South Lakes-based band. This group of talented teenagers play solid blues infused rock music, but they draw their influences from diverse sources including modern jazz and punk as well as classic Led Zeppelin-style rock. Changing State are: Michael (vocals); two Jacks (both guitar); Fergus (bass); and Maddie (drums).



Pitch 9 Threlkeld Hall Touring Park





0 comments

Filed under: [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [campsites](#), [cumbria](#), [lake-district](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [beer](#), [2018](#)

Blog 127 - Houghton Mill, Cambridgeshire

By keef and annie hellinger, May 10 2018 12:40PM
Motorhome trip No33 : May 7th- 9th 2018

NOTTS->Waterclose Meadows Campsite,Houghton Mill, Cambridgeshire ->NOTTS 198 miles

254 years and 30+ camping years under our belts collectively ;)

This was our second visit to Houghton Mill with our dear pals Pete and Joy. See [BLOG 119](#) for our 1st excursion. This time all around the mill was visible, the scaffolding having been removed and Britain's best early May day bank holiday weather for 80 years (allegedly)- Sun, Sun, Sun!

It is a very nice site in a gorgeous location next to an old working mill (owned by the National Trust) with its own pond on the banks of the river Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire. Pete & Joy arrived at the site first in their still lovely new Baileys autograph motor home. We had attempted to arrive at 12 noon but Mill Road leading to the site was crammed with both folks leaving the site late and day trippers approaching the attached public car park. So we decided to head back out towards Huntingdon, parking in a car park besides the Boat house on the banks of the Great River Ouse. We then had a good ½ hour stroll along the tow path enjoying the river activities in the sun, sheer bliss! We were on grass pitches 28 & 29. The site is only grass but has pods at £50 per night and a new one with en-suite at £75 per night, minimum stay 2 nights. We had a look inside and very nice this one was too, but not as nice as motorhoming! The grass pitches are £23 per night.

We had a lovely BBQ on the Monday eve and cooked brekkie on Tuesday before strolling into town for a mooch around and the odd bevy at the 3 horseshoes. We strolled back past the sleeping swan, artist and hordes of bathers to get ready for our evening meal partaken at the 3 horseshoes and very good it was too.

We said our fond goodbyes on Wednesday morning and hope to meet up again soon. Lovely few sunny days in Cambridgeshire. On the way back we visited Grafham water and the lovely village of Ellingham. Have looked up the Grafham water site since returning and will definitely stay there on a future trip, it is only 400m from the waters edge.

The only drawback to the site was the lawn mower man who basically destroyed the peace and tranquillity on 2 days endlessly driving his mover around. We did ask him to desist on May day but to no avail. Annie and I left early on Wednesday morning to escape his noise! Shame it is such a nice site.

If you would like to see slideshows and a video of our fun please [CLICK HERE](#), thanks



Friends 'up Mill

1 comments

Filed under: [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [cambridgeshire](#), [travels](#), [2018](#)

Blog 128 - Family Fun in the UK - June 2018

By keef and annie hellinger, Jun 15 2018 05:53PM

Not the Motorhome trip No6 : 26th May – 12th June 2018

Doug and Phoenix and Charlie visited from Singapore to the UK in May / June 2018. Luckily Craig, Leanne & Edie were off for the 1st week so were able to join in. Such lovely family times. We visited amongst others Supernan, Legoland Windsor, White Post Farm, Twycross Zoo, Strawberry Fields Forever, Heights of Abraham, Bolsover Castle, The Luminarium, Sawley Marina.... such wonderful family times !!!!

If you want to see the full saga of events [CLICK HERE](#), thanks



The Luminarium Nottingham

0 comments

Filed under: [uk](#), [england](#), [non-motorhome](#), [family](#), [celebration](#), [2018](#)

Blog 129 - Eire

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 8 2018 05:06PM

Motorhome trip No34 : Saturday June 16th- Friday July 6th 2018, 21 days

NOTTS->Ireland (Eire) ->NOTTS 1995 miles

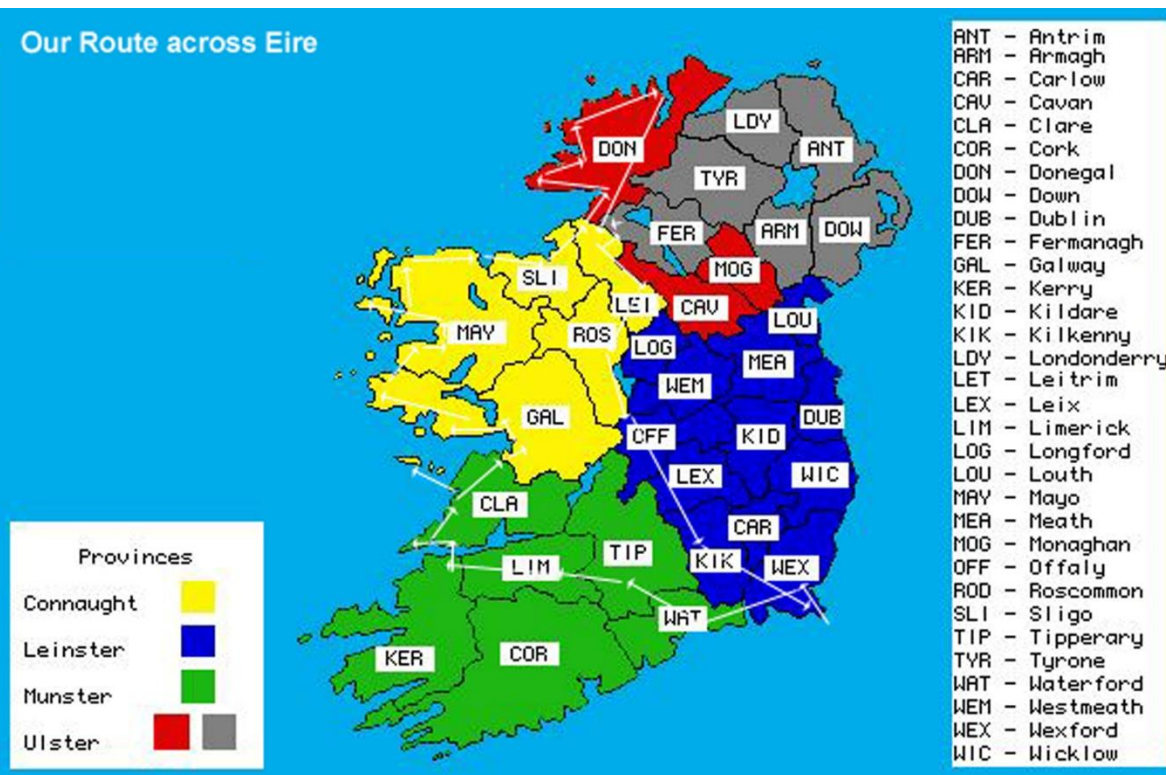
To see associated Slideshows please [CLICK HERE](#)

Overview

We had a fab time in Ireland especially the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) – Sli an Atlantaigh Fhiain (in Gallic) on the west coast from Kilrush, co Clare right up as far as Fanad Head Lighthouse on the Fanad peninsular co Donegal. It was especially great as the weather was amazing for the whole time. We used the ferry from South Wales – Fishguard to Rosslare co Wexford. We stayed on a Apple tree farm in the heart of co Tipperary which was 1st fab cider smells everywhere (did you know Bulmers is from Cahir?) and we experienced our 1st ever campsite eviction at Bennettsbridge. Haha the pitchfork battle with the farmer lined up with his tractor and golf buggy. In terms of cities/ towns/ sights we loved Galway (esp Shop street music & food & atmosphere) , Cahir, Bansha, Carrigaholt, Clifden, Renvyle, Athelone, Spanish Point, Mullaghmore, Ballyshannon, Lough Eske, Muckcross Heads, Slieve League Cliffs, Magheraroarty, Aran Islands, Inishbofin island , Tory Isles, Lough Gill, Parkes Castle, Rosses Point, Ramelton, Carrick on Shannon & Adare... we liked less Tipperary, Limerick, Sligo, Donegal, Bundoran (kiss me quick hats), Portlaois (prisons and speed humps) & Letterkenny. The Irish are so friendly and chatty. Achill island co Mayo & parts of Donegal are breath taking scenery. Had a fab time in the Dog & Duck Athelone on Lough Ree where I watched England Vs Columbia with some lovely friendly folk and 3 pints of fab Guinness. We actually left 3 days earlier than planned after a combo of too much kids holiday noise and missing the Wicklows. No worries we had seen lots and loved it. We will go back again in 2 years time to complete the lower section of the WAW by ferry Holyhead – Dublin (the trip back from Fishguard home thru Wales is a little too arduous at 6.5 hours) then thru Wicklow Mountains (which we missed due to SatNav malfunction... or was it user error ;) this time) then Cork to Kerry and up the WAW as far as Kilrush (Kil means rock!) then the fastest route up to Malin Head in Donegal then thru Causeway Coastal route in NI back to Dublin.

At 2500 kilometres the Wild Atlantic Way is the longest single coastal route in the world, certainly surpassing the Great Ocean Road in Victoria Oz which we have also done. If you want to read more about the WAW [CLICK HERE](#)

Our Route across Eire



Notes (hopefully useful to other motorhomers)

1. Last week and a half of our hols was school hols in Eire, from the weds they get 3 months off in Eire but less half terms.
2. Many towns have heights barriers on car parks and charge parking fees, not exactly motorhome friendly
3. Many campsites charge extra for electrics and showers (ranging from 50c to Euro \$1.50)
4. N roads (equivalent to our A roads) & M roads – great, R roads (our B) variable and very bumpy esp in Donegal, L roads (our C) very very variable... avoid if poss ;)
5. Most signage doesn't say "how far" but brown tourist signs great and WAW history and signs wonderful
6. Get both green books for campsites and always carry small change (i.e euros) for showers
7. Electric splitter useful for outside cooking (we used both tappenyaki and double ring as so hot indoors)
8. Diesel fuel cheaper or about the same as UK, petrol more expensive
9. Best campsites – Doonbeg Strand Camping co Clare, Clifden Eco Beach campsite co Clare
10. Get the Office of Works help sheet if you are interested in cultural history. loads of very interesting places to visit on your travels

Actual route (see maps)

Leinster Day1 ... Counties Wexford

Leinster Day19-20 ... Counties Offaly, Laois, Kildare, Wicklow, Wexford

Munster Day2-7... Counties Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick, Kerry, Kilkenny & Clare

Connaught Day 8-12 ... Counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo

Connaught Day 18 ... Counties Leitrim, Roscommon

Ulster Day 13-16... County Donegal, Fermanagh (NI)

All mileages are approximate – as planned before travel. The reality is we did 1,995 miles from home and back with 2 3.5 hr ferry crossings

DAY1: Sat 16/6 :Visited wonderful friends Neil and Marice in Southerdown, Vale of Glamorgan for a lovely lunch and catch up. Stayed Caravan Club site St Davids south wales... SA626PR... 270 miles 4hrs 30 mins Booked Update: 2hrs 30 mins 174 miles to Neil's CF32 ORW then to St Davids 2hrs 98 miles Total 4hrs 30 mins 272 miles, 1/2hr drive to Ferry Fishguard – Rosslare

DAY2: Sun 17/6 Ferry leaves @ 13.10 (have to be there 1hr early) Stena 75464818 Booked Arrives Eire 16.25 mins Journey ferry 3hrs 15mins Then 24 mins 11 miles drive to 1st campsite Stay at Ferrybank caravan park Private site over the bridge and owned by Local swimming pool \$31 52°20'41"N 6°27'10"W acsi inspected Wexford Great views

DAY3: Mon 18/6 Wexford co Wexford – Cahir co Tipperary 75 miles Looked at Wexford & Waterford 2hrs 15mins... side turning to Wellington bridge R733 which didn't really work (a square loop back onto main road) outta Wexford into New Ross, a very interesting place on River Barrow ancestral home of JFK and old ship. Campsite is the ACSI Cahir one The Apple Farm N52 ACSI 1255. Lovely people lovely shop lovely smell lovely strawberries, apple juice and cider... try Con's craft cider!

DAY4: Tues 19/6 Cahir co Tipperary – Rathkeale co Limerick 50 miles 1hrs 30 mins... visited Swiss Cottage at Cahir, fab visit and Cahir is a great heritage town, really liked it. Tipperary & Limerick town en route. Adare is rated as the best visit in Ireland and have to say it was fab if a little busy! Stayed at Adare Camping And Caravan Park, Dreheadarsna Adare Limerick LK (Rathkeale area)

DAY5: Wed 20/6 Adare campsite, Rathkeale co Tipperary -Tarbert Island co Kerry - Kilkee Co Clare 32 miles 50 mins... goes along Shannon river edge, caught Shannon Ferry to Killimer, Killrush... i.e Kerry to Clare approx \$25 takes 20 mins then stayed at Strand Camping Killard Road, Doonbeg Doonbeg CE one of our fave campsites ever, very small owned by English couple, great showers pitches, facilities. Saw Ballycrinan shingle beach, Moyne , Carrigaholt (lunch by the waves), Kilkee (Victorian seaside town), Spanish Point (and the man who could gab for Ireland ;)), went go to Loophead lighthouse R487, then returned up west coast of clare etc etc Gained extra day from original plan by missing out Green Acres campsite (yuck!) White strands beach nearby is deserted and possible one of the best blue flag beaches in Eire!

BASICALLY FROM NOW ON WE FOLLOWED THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY – Killrush to Fanad peninsular

DAY6: Thurs 21/6 Doonbeg Co Clare -Lahinch Beach-Doolin Total: 30 miles 50 mins... 1st bit of journey to Lahinch beach is 20miles 38 mins then coastal route R478 thru Luogh-Roadford-Doolin / Doolin Pier Met Mr & Mrs Welwyn Garden City and Pete & Jane from Cambridge whom we also remet at Clifden beach Eco site later , basically cos annies leg was playing up we abandoned walk into famous Paddy O'Connors bar in Doolin from Doolin Pier Stayed at Nagles Doolin Camping, NAGLES DOOLIN CAMPING GPS 53.0176827, -9.3945482. Visited Cliffs of Moher site on route, wonderful but hugely touristy

DAY7: Fri 22/6 2nd day at Doolin Pier campsite (very noisy in eve as weekend and we pitched next to kids playpark, note to self DON'T DO IT AGAIN ;))but Boat cruise Bill O'Briens boats to Aran Island, Inis Mor (biggest but called in at Meain & Oirr isles as well) \$30 pp Fab day out in the sun and did tourist bus around island... glad we got out of mr wee's first bus ;) Great jumpers tops bought Stay at Nagles ...

DAY8: Sat 23/6 Doolin - Galway Total: 48 miles 1hr 50 mins... 1st bit of journey to Burren was via Murrogh and Ballyvaughan... Stayed at Galway City Caravan & Camping Park, Ballyloughane Rd, Renmore, Ireland...visit lough (lake) atilia and river corrib Not the best campsite in fact the worst E\$34 and most expensive, lunch at site by Galway bay in sun, fab then caught the 402 bus into Eyre square from opposite campsite and had a great time in Galway city, esp music pubs food etc in Shop street Our fave Eire City.... Had dinner with my Galway girl in a flash restaurant Swiss campers we met at Doolin also here and went in and back on our same bus, although verbal comms tricky we did a lot of hand shaking and back slapping ;)

DAY9: Sun 24/6 Galway-Cleggan beach Galway - Clifden Total: 59 miles 2hr 7 mins... via various lakes and the 12 pins mountains, Stayed at Clifden Eco Camping & Caravan park, Claddaghduff Road, Wild Atlantic Way, Clifden, Co. Galway, H71W024... Loved all of Connemara, River Owenglin. Chris at Eco site had it for 8 years, knew couple at Doonbeg Strand Camping. He kindly gave us slot 1 overlooking the beach, Keef swam in the Atlantic, v cold. Outside cooking on tappenyaki (fun) plus caught up with Pete & Jane from Doolin again

DAY10: Mon 25/6 went to see Omev island (didn't drive across as tidal sand bar but you can park up at the start and walk) and then saw Cleggan ferry to Inishbofin Island (30 mins) £17.50 return pp 11.30 return 1... missed out as didn't have time – it is the island of the white cow. Connamara National Park, v busy, not much space for motorhomes. Lunch by lough in Connamara mountains (such fab views). Letterfrack, Louisburgh, Renvyle (busy but lovely harbour) plus Cleggan to Westport Co. Mayo Total: 43 miles 1hr 27 mins Where we filled up on fuel. Then Westport – Keel West R319 over Achill island (via bridges) Saw Killary fjord and one of the circular coastal routes on Achill, Aasleagh falls, Mallaranny, Keel bay Croaghaun Total: 38 miles 1hr 13 mins then stayed at Keel Sandybank caravan and camping park, Achill island, co Mayo

DAY11: Tues 26/6 Keel West – Ballina, co Mayo . Went to see the fabulous Keem Bay, wild scenery, amazingly steep road but so so worth it. Also did the 2nd coastal loop road on Achill which was wonderful. Don Allum the 1st man to row the Atlantic both ways landed in Achill island. Johnny Kilbane boxer. Doohoma, Ciede Total: 65 miles 1hr 56 mins then stay at Belleek Caravan and camping park, Faranoo, Ballina Co Mayo. Great map of the Wild Atlantic Way here

DAY12: Weds 27/6 Official start of 3 months school hols.... Much more busy at sites from now on Ballina – Sligo, Co Sligo. Total: 37 miles 57 mins Continued on on the Wild Atlantic Way, saw Ballina Quay. Pronounced Bal-ina not like the ozzie Baleena ;) Many Kiwi and Oz names came from Eire, the Famine exodus presumably. Visted amongst others Innishcrone, Split rock, Aughris head, (great pub and bunnies) , Killglass, Easkey R297... Lovely Mr Wippy in Strandhill town shop plus fresh fish from stall from man from Devon... nice on griddle with salad Yummy All near Sligo City, Stayed at Strandhill camping and caravan site. Strandhill rd Sligo, beautiful views of the sea but a very dangerous cliff edge and rips so sign said no swimming or paddling... did anyone take any notice ? rules seem to be made to break in Eire possibly along with driving road rules.... Debate???

DAY13: Thurs 28/6 Strandhill - Sligo, Co Sligo- Ballyshannon, co Donegal Bally means on a river in Gallic , taught in schools compulsory from juniors (xclent) Ulster Nr NI (UK) Ulster then back to Ballyshannon campsite, co Donegal Then to Ross Point (home of W B Yeats – William Butler, Bro John Butler (rich Irish family name) a painter (see his pic under Keel Bay pix)) , Deadmans point, Drumcliffe Friary, Yeats graveside & St Columba, Spanish Armada view , Classiebawn castle at Mullaghmore (where lord louis mountbatten was killed) Total: 40 miles 1 hr 4 mins Road goes along the coast. Stayed at Lakeside caravan and camping, Beleek rd, ballyshannon, Co Donegal. Manged by Mungo who had a huge US pop outs van and offered to buy ours off us – No way Jose! Note very busy at weekends OK otherwise, nice Liverpool/Welsh couple next to us and our pal from Austria with doggie. It is an ACSI site No 1253 and as we had gained 2 days from original plan got 2 days at E\$19 Acsi price.

DAY14: Fri 29/6 2nd day at Lakeside campsite Ballyshannon – supposedly Irelands oldest town (but we saw a few of those) but definitely the birth place of Rory Gallagher. Nice cooked brekkie on griddle outdoors in the sun, plus Irish white pudding – yummy. Supposedly live Irish music on site & restaurant – just Sat for music but I did watch a rather boring Belgium vs England 2nd 11 world cup match with no atmosphere but 1 pint of Orchard thieves. We are Sunday dinner when we came back there later for a second stay and very good it was too

DAY15: Sat 30/6 Ballyshannon, co Donegal along the WAW in co Donegal to Dungloe co Donegal, Rossnowlagh and beach, Donegal town itself, Castle and music festival in town square, not a great city / town, the fab Lough Eske at Arnold point, Fish town Killibeg allegedly Irelands major fishing port and like Grimsby you could smell it coming, but harbour very nice. Shopped here in Supa Value. Muckross Head, lunch at Creenveen, Slieve league cliffs, Glencomille (folk museum not great tho' too new) Stayed at family park in the green book at Dungloe after yet another Mr Whippy 99 Nice family who ran it, very friendly and chatty

DAY16: Sun 1/7 Dungloe - Ballyshannon, co Donegal our only bad day weather wise... low cloud sea mist and very very windy. We went via Kingcasslach, Cnoc Fola (the red sea), Gweedore, Magheraroarty & beach, Queen of aran fishing ferry (passengers only) to the Tory isles, Doe Castle view for lunch, an Irish Romeo & Juliet, Island Roy view (just) and the bridge across, Fanad head and lighthouse. Realising the weather was bad and we still had a 100 mile round trip on very minor roads to Malin Head (star wars fame) and end of WAW we turned back thru Ramelton (Lifford) on the river Lennon, Letterkenny (big town) N13, N15, Ramelton had lovely flowers, old castle, and fishing (pity it was drizzling), back thru Donegal & castle, Ballyshannon town and Rory Gallagher (its famous son) then to campsite again for nice Sunday dinner. I had Irish beef, Annie had turkey and gammon... Yummy

DAY17: Mon 2/7 Ballyshannon co Donegal, Ulster via Cartronbog & Drumshanbo to Battlebridge, co Leitrim on the edge of Lough Allen (this road slipped over the border briefly into NI unbeknown to us at Beleek co Fermanagh and we stopped to see Lough Melvin on the road to Garrison before going back into Eire. Back in Eire we saw the lovely Parkes castle on Lough Gill co Sligo (again - want to read about the spanish armada [captain cuellar](#)) and W B Yeats trail and had lunch on Gill Total: 42 miles 1 hr 16 mins Road goes along the edge of the lake. Tried staying at the Allen centre, Curraghill, Drumshanbo, co Leitrim but it is now a Luxury leisure park on the lake with chalets to buy, the campsite has long since gone so we found a new one in the green book at Battlebridge called Beirnes (not bad facilities, not great position tho)

DAY18: Tues 3/7 Battlebridge co Leitrim - Athlone, co Roscommon via Strokestown House(owned by the Mahons), Gardens and Irish National Famine Museum & Roscommon on the edge of Lough Ree. Had lunch of quiche and salad in the café plus the best lemon meringue pie we have ever had (apart from Annie's he says quickly)Total: 53 miles 1 hr 46 mins Stayed at Athlone, Ballykeeran ACSI site No 1252 \$19 in season. Visited Dog & Duck pub to watch football ENG vs Columbia with lovely Irish people. They shook my hand as I left and wished the team well ;) wonderful

DAY19: Wed 4/7 Athlone, co Roscommon-thru co Offaly - Portlaoise, co Laois (known as Queen's county) to Bennettsbridge co Kilkenny via quick look at lough Ree, Athlone town, Tullamore, Killbeggan Distillery, Lilliput (don't bother - its not Jonathan Swifts ancestral home, that's Dublin)Total: 50 miles 1 hr 18 mins Tried Staying at Laois (pronounced Leash) camping and caravan, r445 portlaoise, clondouglas,mountrath rd 53°0'29"N 7°22'19"W Portlaoise co Laois, even tho we called in at a tourist office in Heritage town Abbeyfeix (lady very helpful) where they thought it was open then decided it wasn't, we spent a long time trying to find driving almost as far as Montreath - Our satnav (or me) cocked up and took us towards Kilkenny city rather than the Wicklow mountains which is disappointing but as it would be a 200 mile round trip we decided to can it and do it on our next visit to Eire. So we stayed at Nore Valley Park, Bennettsbridge, a kid friendly site in the Green book, bad choice! This was the scene of our first ever campsite eviction... the battle of the Pitchforks... appalling campers

DAY20: Thurs 5/7 Bennettbridge, woke up decided as we would probably do 3 days of kids screaming at Enniscorthy site we would reorg our Ferry and come back today, giving us a little more time to prepare for grand daughter minding - Visted Nicholas Mosse pottery in Bennettsbridge which was fab, Annie got a nice blue jug (handpainted) We watched them working and there was some great history around the grain mill and waterwheel. We then stopped for lunch at Johnstown Castle Gardens outside Rosslare for lunch and a lovely stroll around the gardens and lake, very tranquil, peacocks and our last 99 Flake of the hols (at E\$2 I can highly recommend) Alas the castle was under redevelopment so sadly closed. Then it was ferry from Rosslare 6.20pm, arrived Fishguard Sth Wales 9.40 pm... then 6.5 hours of fairly gruelling driving back thru South and North wales coming out at Welshpool - Shrewsbury borders before any "fast" roads

DAY21: Fri 6/7 Arrived back home as the sun was rising about 4.30 am after comfort break, coffee and pasty M54, 3 hours sleep but caught up the next day..... all in all a fab hol in the Wendy house and the best summer since 1976, can't be bad



The West Coast of Ireland

If you want to see a slideshow of our previous visit to Eire in 2000 see below

0 comments

Filed under: [acsi](#), [europe](#), [other-sites](#), [wales](#), [Eire](#), [NorthernIreland](#), [hintsandtips](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [maps](#), [travels](#), [camping-and-caravan-club-site](#), [2018](#)

BLOG 130 - Recommended Campsites - Strand Camping Doonbeg co Clare EIRE

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 14 2018 12:13PM

Possibly **the best campsite we have stayed in the world over** after many a year of camping and travelling.

Run by a couple from the UK, both from Cornwall, who have a motorhome of their own which gives them a great insight into what people want.

It is a small family site with a limited number of hard standing pitches and the wifes attention to detail on a beach theme design is sublime. Nearby is White Strand a blue flag beach.

I would have to say that the shower and washroom facilities are possibly better than ours at home.

5 STAR... If you are in the area motorhome travels suggest you give it a try.

Note: For cyclists it even has a cosy bike barn where you can bed down for the night

Its in the Ireland Green book campsites. There are 2 of these , suggest you pick them up from any tourist office and often the campsites themselves have them

Another campsite we would recommend in Ireland because of its private beach and Eco set up by owner Chris is the **Clifden Eco beach site**, it only gets 4 stars however as if busy (and it was when we were there) there really are not enough showers... only 2 unisex for whole site can be tricky

Want to see the rest of our EIRE trip, [CLICK HERE](#)





0 comments

Filed under: [other-sites](#), [Eire](#), [hintsandtips](#), [5Star](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [travels](#), [2018](#)

Blog 131 - Scottish Islands Tour

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 13 2018 09:18AM

Motorhome trip No34a : Aug 27th- Sept 12th 2018

Slight boo boo - we had 2 trip 34's... Eire came first so made this Trip34 a.... 12/7/20

NOTTS->Scotland and the Isles via Lake District ->NOTTS 1313 miles

Troutbeck nr Penrith, Greystoke, Glasgow, Mull, Iona, Ulva, Kintyre including the Mull of Kintyre, Bute, Arran, much of Argyll & Keswick, Lake District

Summary Overall

A fab time away visiting our dear friends Chris and Allyson in their new home at Ardtun (pronounced Hard – Ton) on the oh so peaceful Isle of Mull plus pulling in 7 ferry trips, 5 Scottish islands, a lot of miles, 2 great days out in Glasgow (which is a truly fabulous city – much better than when we cowered under the bench overnight in Buchanan street bus garage 40 years ago – city of culture now), a great Sunday dinner with friends Lawrence & Yvonne, Strathclyde country park - the old lady who had lived there all her life and not found the Roman fort (lol), classy Charles Rennie & Margaret MacDonald Mackintosh, the Glasgow Boys, Riverside Museum, Hunterian, George Square, Murals, Kelvingrove, real pizzas, Sir John Moore and true scotch food, Hard Rock Cafe, HOHO bus, Bellshill station, scotch mist, wind and rain a plenty on some of the isles plus lots of sunshine, Connel, trying to find the amphitheatre in Oban, humming Mull of Kintyre, Chris reminding me about a lift we had on Mull all those years ago where the lifter played Planxty, the burg, Cnoc Mor, tea and cakes Buinessan, a revisit to Threlkeld, Keswick and a first visit to Tarzan's Greystoke, Fionnphort, great walk to coast on Iona in the sun (now costs to go around the abbey - progress?), learning something about crofting and de-crofting, that multi-seen french yacht, 2 busted ferries to and from the Isle of Arran, Crab & Lobster soup in the Boathouse Ulva, Shiela's cottage, Lachlan MacQuarrie's mausoleum Mull (Benmore estate - born Ulva as were Dr Livingston's grand parents) , Uisken beach and the big chair, Ardalanish beach rain and red admirals, Bob Ryan MBE Ardalanish weavers, Tarbert, Campbeltown, Mull of Kintyre, Machrihanish, views of Islay, Loch Fyne, revisiting Tighnabruaich, Rosneath, Winter gardens and harbour, Port Bannatyne, Ardrossan, Brodick and castle and grounds, shifting from the dog lounge to the coughing suite on Arran ferry, the Big stone (both Arran and campsite Troutbeck), Corrie, Lochranza and castle, hills of Sannox (lunch twice), fake sheep and a very convincing seal, my first red squirrel in the UK, seal shores views - kildonan, Kinloch, Old byre visitors centre - Machrie, wild camp A83, learning more functionality on our camera, waterfalls galore in Loch Lomond NP and oh so much more, very relaxing, we really enjoyed ourselves.

If you would like to see the slideshows and videos please [CLICK HERE](#)

Updated Plan

DAY 1 Mon 27 Aug 3hrs 30mins 178 miles Home to Penrith (straight there 6hrs 10mins 284 miles... too much for 1 day!!!) stay at Troutbeck head site, Troutbeck, Penrith, CA11 0SS (a C&M site) Booking confirmed £33 0008542092
 DAY2 Tues 28 Aug 3hrs 4 mins 155 miles Morecambe Bay to Strathclyde Country Park Caravan Club Site L&Y Bothwellhaugh Road, Bothwell, Bothwell, G71 8NY Booking 0008543275 £70.50
 DAY3&4: Wed & Thurs 29 & 30 Aug 3 nights with Lawrence & Yvonne, 2 days in Glasgow... note that is 12 miles away by bus.. see Y&L tues eve , they are off Weds so we will probably do 2 days in Glasgow. Park and ride (free) at Bellshill

train station, only £4.40 return to Glasgow Central station. What a fab place it is. The hop on hop off bus is only £16 for 2 days. Guess what Glasgow has a Hard Rock Cafe

DAY5: Fri 31 Aug 3hrs 106 miles to Oban, stay at campsite there North Ledaig Caravan Club Site Connel, Oban, Argyll & Bute, PA37 1RU, Scotland C&M club site booked ref 2450 £28.20-£10 deposit paid. Had a quick drive up to find the Victorian amphitheatre at Oban but couldn't find it, interesting climb on single track road. Campsite wonderful, on beach front with clear views of the isle of Mull

DAY6 – 11 Sat 1 Sep – Fri 7 Sep Ferry Oban to Craignure : on Mull with Chris & Allyson. Leave Fri am 6 full days. Take tickets BOOKED leave oban checkin closes 8.10... leave craignure checkin closes 9.25

£41.20 return #wow . Drive to Cnoc Mor takes about 1 hr, allow 1hr 30 on way back because of traffic.

DAY12: Fri 7 Sep Ferry Craignure to Oban Then on way back 50 miles 1hr 30 mins Oban to Tarbert ferry via Lochgilphead (all Argyll & Bute) Camp near Tarbert @ killegruer caravan park, woodend, glenbarr, tarbert, argyll pa29 6xb email sent to book/ now confirmed pay cash We called in at this campsite and it was YUCK! So carried on and stayed at a lovely site just outside Campbeltown (a great town) on the Mull of Kintyre

DAY13: Sat 8 Sep Ferry Tarbert (Argyll mainland) to Portavaidie (across loch fyne) Turn up and go, see timetable then around loch riddon, drive Portavaidie to colintraive ferry terminal 40 mins 19 miles, then Colintraive - Rhubodach Ferry £5 1 way for motorhome plus passengers. Now on the isle of Bute, Spend the rest of the day on Bute... camp there then head to Rothsay. Camp at Roseland Holiday park, Serpentine Road Canada Hill, Isle Of Bute PA20 9EH email sent to book response hardstanding pitch secured. Not the greatest site but high up on the hills overlooking Rothsay so close to ferry. Hardstanding was in basically a car park £20 all in so cheap. Washrooms adequate (just)

DAY14: Sun 9 Sep Ferry Rothsay to Wemyss Bay , then Drive Wemyss Bay to Ardrossan 45 mins 18 miles, Ferry Ardrossan to Brodick - Isle of Arran stay 1+ full days (lots to see and much bigger than Bute)camp at Seal Shore Camping & Touring Site, Kildonan ,Isle of Arran ,KA27 8SE ,01770 820320 £23/night 2 nights.. go anti clockwise around the island... 25 mins 14 miles Brodick to Lochranza, see castle... email sent to book Take tickets BOOKED Arran leave ardrossan checkin closes 12 noon... leave brodick (11th) checkin closes 9.15 £46.70 return Update... due to crane crushing drive on / off ramp had to take a later ferry so had nice lunch and coffee in Asda near the terminal. Drove up to Lochranza – nice place, hills of Sannox fab

DAY15: Mon 10 Sep Day on Isle of camp at same site Seal Shore Camping & Touring Site, Kildonan ,Isle of Arran ,KA27 8SE £23/night £20 deposit paid by card, sending confirmation. Drove right around Arran 30 miles top to bottom so about 60 miles in all. Called in at CalMac Brodick after text re ferry cancellation. As the second ferry from Brodick to Ardrossan was also damaged (how careless, winds from storm , ramp cracked – dry dock) and no vehicles over 2.8 meters high could leave we travelled (for the 4th time) back to Lochranza and got the 5.05 pm small ferry back to Cloanaig (Kintyre), very choppy and getting off was fun. Then A83 Lochgilphead, Inveraray (nice) and wild camp just outside Cairndow with own private waterfall

DAY16: Tues 11 Sep then back to mainland via drive Kildonan to Brodick 30mins 13 miles ferry Brodick to Adrossan, then drive Adrossan to Penrith Lake District 3 hrs 6mins 158 miles Stay at Troutbeck head site, Troutbeck, Penrith, CA11 0SS (a C&M site) Booking confirmed £26.80 0008542045 Update from Cairndow (up early) drive A83/ A82 past Glasgow back to Troutbeck campsite

DAY17: Wed 12 Sep Penrith home 3hrs 30mins 178 miles longer time wise via M6 about 186 miles

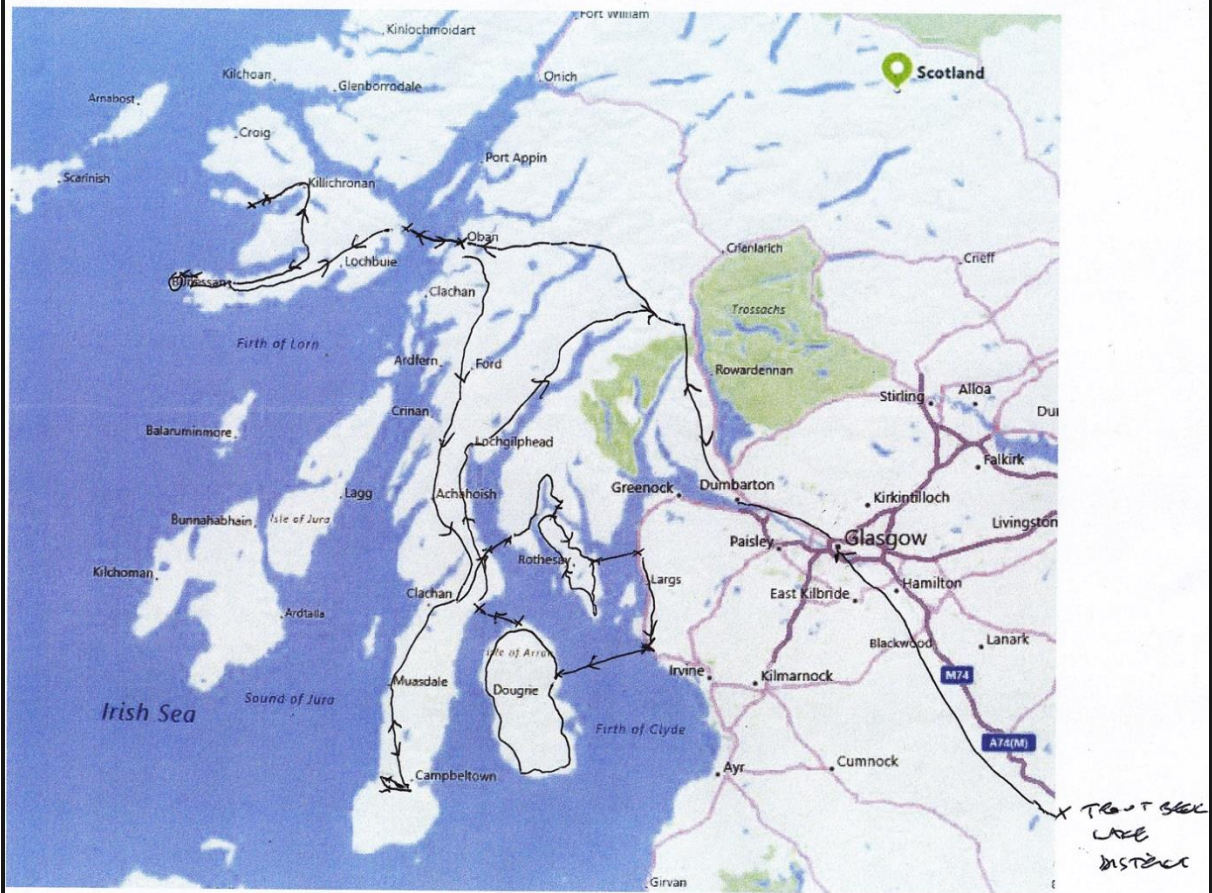
If you would like to see details of our previous trip to Scotland in the wendy house please [CLICK HERE](#)

If you would like to see details of our trip to the Shetlands in 2001 [CLICK HERE](#)

If you would like to see Slideshows of our trip to the Isle of Lewis, the Uists and Benbecula in 1988, Edinburgh in 1993 when we holidayed in Lowick, Northumberland or Tighnabruich, Cowal peninsular which we revisited on this trip and it was Craig's 1st holiday back in 1982 [CLICK HERE](#)

UPDATE 2020: if you would like to see the older Blogs for Cumbria, click the [TAG](#)

OUR SCOTTISH ISLANDS TOUR



AUG - SEPT 2018



Panorama: The Burg from Cnoc Mor, Ardtun, Isle of Mull #BLISS



just gotta do it tried it once thats enough



fionnphort - isle of mull, argyll and bute

0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [other-sites](#), [Scotland](#), [5Star](#), [friends](#), [caravan-club-site](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [lake-district](#), [cumbria](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [travels](#), 2018

Blog 132 - Waterloo Farm, Great Oxendon, Northamptonshire

By keef and annie hellinger, Nov 19 2018 09:53AM
Motorhome trip No35 : Nov 16th- 18th 2018

NOTTS->Waterloo Farm Leisure, Great Oxendon, Northamptonshire ->NOTTS 127 miles

258 years and counting and 30+ camping years under our belts collectively ;)

We visited Waterloo Farm with our dear pals Pete and Joy. One of the few adult only sites open at this time of year. Although late on in the year we had 2 very sunny (yet crisp) days and one overcast day on arrival. We were on grass pitches 53 & 54 next to one of the 3 fishing lakes on the site. An anglers paradise only none of us fish, only eat it! Lakeside hard standing pitches were only £17.50 per night at this time of year, a bargain esp. when

the early morning sun rose over the lake a fantastic breakfast outlook. The facilities were not bad but one would guess in high season inadequate in number. The very large shower /loo/washrooms could be converted into a greater number of separate loos in my humble opinion however we were not complaining. I didn't even get time to read the National Geographic on offer.

Such fun to catch up once we all set up over a few bebies. We had a lovely goulash meal on Friday eve that Pete had prepared earlier and Joy rustled up in the van, fantastic and oh those cheesecakes to die for.

Saturday after bacon butties we walked along the old railway track into Market Harborough past all the sloes and rosehip bushes. The farm seemed to grow masses of winter feed type greens. We crossed the border into Leicestershire (smile) At the outskirts of Market Harborough the Millennium Mile starts and we took that past allotments, Bowden recreation park into the town centre. A lovely place with great architecture, the old grammar school / butter cross, indoor market where Keef bought some black bomber cheese. P&J had bought some from their local butcher, a huge slab, I love it! The church , Crimbo Deccies, River Welland, Old town hall and Everest & West shop were most interesting. We then rested and refreshed in the Old Swan pub and finally caught a cab back to the site for more chat over cheese and bikkies.

In the eve we had a meal up in the site restaurant and very nice it was too in their conservatory.

Sunday after brekkie A&I went back along the old railway line to collect sloes, which were in abundance, for homemade sloe gin. A task to be undertaken with relish! We then all packed up and said our fond farewells. Another fab relaxing weekend with our pals.

If you would like to see slideshows and a video of our fun please [CLICK HERE](#), thanks



the old grammar school, market harborough

0 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [video](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [leicestershire](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [northamptonshire](#), [beer](#), [travels](#), [2018](#)

Blog 133 - Singapore & China for Xmas 2018 & New Year 2019

By keef and annie hellinger, Jan 13 2019 08:37AM

Not the Motorhome trip No7 : 10th December 2018 - 10th January 2019

NOTTS->Gatwick to Singapore to China to Singapore ->NOTTS 19,346 miles

Spent Christmas and New Year with Doug , Phoenix & Charlie in Singapore and China. Wonderful times and so nice to be able to spend so long with them all.

It should be noted that the concept of Motor homing in Singapore (not big enough, but tent camping is possible in East Coast Park) and China (just culturally so foreign to their nature) is unlikely but who is to say in the future whether or not it will happen. When our daughter-in-laws parents visited us in the UK way back when and I showed her father around our Wendy House he asked if English people lived in them. This trip allowed us the opportunity to repay the visit by spending time with them in their home town of Foshan, Guandong province, China and most welcome they made us too. It is fair to say that language is a barrier but Phoenix and Charlie (as interpreters) and a snazzy app on the iPad meant we could communicate just a little. We loved China, what an opportunity, not somewhere I suggest westerners try without some language skills and WeChatPay and Alipay or a whole stack of cash. Most purchases are via the aforesaid app via your phone!

We were extremely lucky travelling with Norwegian from Gatwick to Changi that we got a Premier economy upgrade, the extra comfort and luxury made the 14+ hours journey to Singapore a whole lot better. Top films in my humble opinion – Hoover by Clint Eastwood (way out), Bad times at the El Grande (way back)

We went to Balalaki Greek Taverna in the historic Tiong Bahru heritage area for Doug's birthday, and very nice it was too, plus a revisit to Muddy Murphy's for Xmas dinner, although a new venue this time at the other end of Orchard Road.

We flew out to China the day after Boxing day and spent time in Foshan, Guangzhou and Zhuhai (on the border with Macao). Such an experience, loved every moment. We celebrated Annes' 65th birthday there at a local village wedding and the Western New Year (clearly not Chinese New Year.. 2019 being the year of the Pig).

We returned to Marine Terrace, Singapore on the 4th and made good use of the pool etc at Nora & Michaels at Cote D'Azur near Parkway Parade before sadly saying our good byes and returning home to a somewhat cooler UK. Singapore was 34c, China sometimes 3c and UK 6c

Among the many highlights in Singapore apart from seeing family were the Q8 at SAM , Singapore Art Museum's spin off for new Artists (the old colonial art museum is currently closed for refurbishment for 3 years), this is located at Bras Basah, The Singapore Heritage Museum, Muddy Murphys in Orchard Road, The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum in Chinatown, Parkway Parade, the ever wonderful East Coast park, Cote D'azur pools, Tiong Bahru heritage area, Gardens by the bay, Asian civilisation museum, Cavenagh bridge area of the Singapore river and the Parakan Museum and restaurant in Armenian Street.

Among the many highlights of our time in China I would list shop and chop house establishments, Starry Four Seasons Hotel, Lingnan quarter, Lion dancing, old orange peel, turtle soup, Zumiao museum, firecrackers, Titian village family wedding, Annes 65th, Nanfeng ancient kiln, Ming & Qing pottery, the Canton or Pearl river, Guangzhou south station (so busy), High speed trains, Yuwenquan hot springs resort, Macao boat trip, MGM studios (Macao), Tea, Dim Sum, cantonese food, deep fried scorpion, geese intestines, worms, beef knuckle, Hong kong-zhuhai-macao bridge, Cold and Warmth, Rickshaws, Paw-Paw & Gong-Gong, straw hats, Air B&B, Chen Clan academy, Starbucks, Guandong museum, Fans & western trade historically, Canton Tower, young chinese girls wanting their photo with me (what an ego boost ;)), Buddha in many forms, chinese weighing scales, crocodile and goat, buttons and zips.

Looking forward to the next family meet up, "missing you already"
Longer term 2020 Beijing for 600th anniversary of the Forbidden city but hopefully also before then!

If you wish to see the [SLIDESHOWS CLICK HERE](#), thanks





Near Tiong Bahru Heritage area , Singapore

What your Chinese zodiac animal is:

- **Rat:** 2008, 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960
- **Ox:** 2009, 1997, 1985, 1973, 1961
- **Tiger:** 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962
- **Rabbit:** 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963
- **Dragon:** 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964
- **Snake:** 2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965
- **Horse:** 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966
- **Goat:** 2015, 2003, 1991, 1979, 1967
- **Monkey:** 2016, 2004, 1992, 1980, 1968
- **Rooster:** 2017, 2005, 1993, 1981, 1969
- **Dog:** 2018, 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970
- **Pig:** 2019, 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971

Chinese New Years



0 comments

Filed under: [video](#), [slideshow](#), [2019](#), [china](#), [5Star](#), [recommended](#), [singapore](#), [not-motorhome](#), [non-motorhome](#), [family](#), [travels](#), [celebration](#), [2018](#)

Blog 134 - Clumber Park C&MC site, the Return

By keef and annie hellinger, May 2 2019 03:51PM
Motorhome trip No36 : Apr 30th – May 1st 2019

NOTTS (home)->Clumber Park, C&MC site, Nottinghamshire ->NOTTS (home) 98 miles

Almost exactly 7 years on from our first trip in the Wendy House we returned to the Caravan and Motorhome clubs site at Clumber Park, an area of preserved special interest. How nice to see the wild life, trees everywhere especially Lime trees and listen to the endless bird sounds of Cuckoos, Woodpeckers, Chaffinches, Robins and a whole host more. Beyond relaxing!

This time we were on pitch 9, last time [Blog 60](#) retrospective we were on pitch 7.

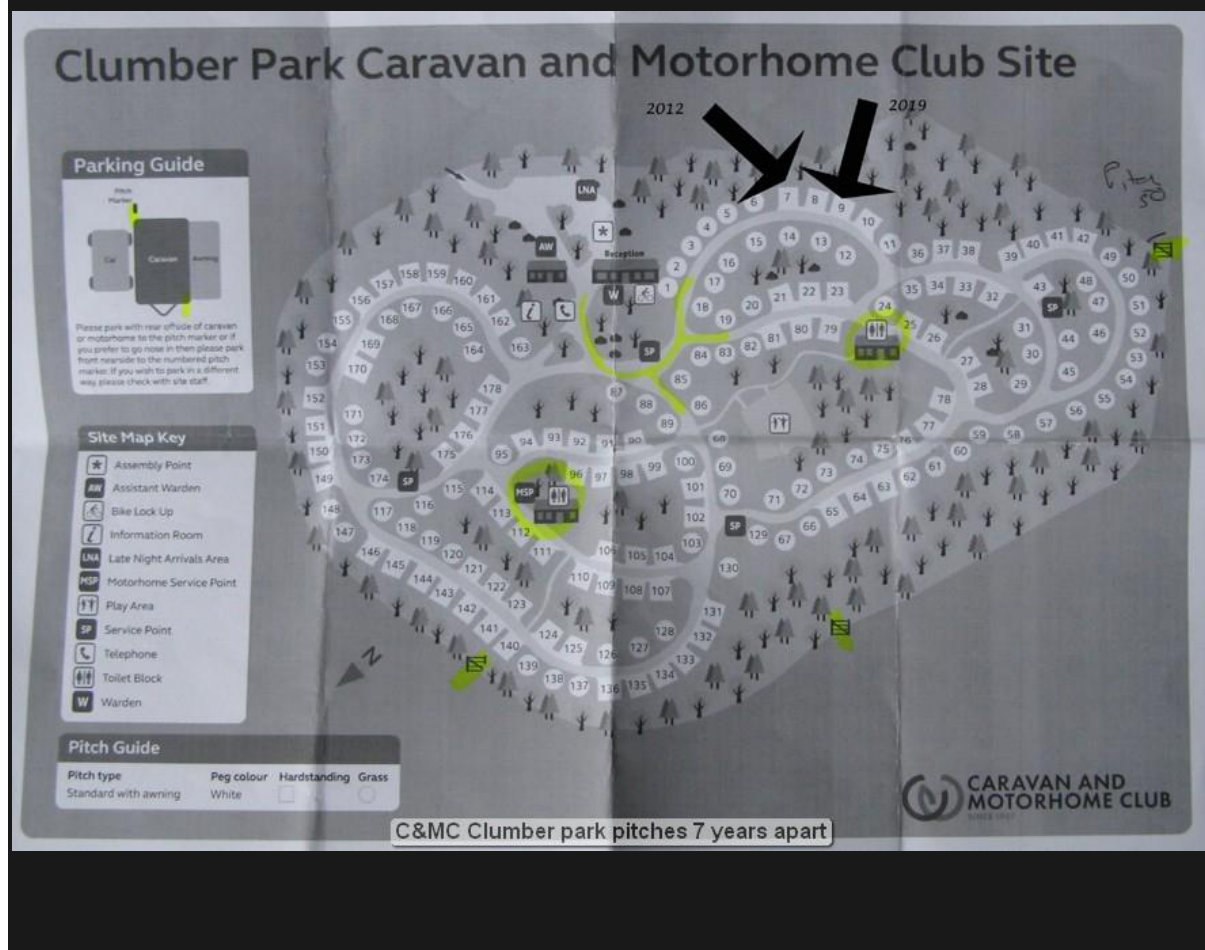
We can thoroughly recommend the site, it is peaceful and extremely well serviced with new facilities and at least 3 motorhome service points.

Whilst there we were principally trying out the van for the season after its engine and hab services. All tickerty boo thank heavens!

We decided to walk into Hardwick Village on the understanding it was 10 mins away and less than a mile, 2 2/3 hours and 5 miles later we returned but it was a fun walk. Stopping for coffee and a mars bar / kitkat at Beryl the land rover café on the edge of Lake Clumber by the weir. It was so so sunny and the views spectacular. Even the village owned by the Dukes of Newcastle was spectacular.

We will return!

If you would like to see slideshow of our fun please [CLICK HERE](#), thanks



0 comments

Filed under: [caravan-club-site](#), [nottinghamshire](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [travels](#)

Blog 135 - Faroes & Iceland

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 6 2019 04:38PM

Motorhome trip No37 : May 5th – July 3rd 2019

NOTTS (home)->Faroes & Iceland via Holland, Germany & Denmark ->NOTTS (home) 5257 miles

What a fantastic 2 months away, scenery to die for, lovely people, couldn't have asked for better weather in Iceland, as an example the preceding June it rained non stop for 28 days. We had 16 consecutive days of 24 hour sun. You get used to the sun falling and then re-arising moments later. It just never got dark in either the Faroes nor Iceland so it was really weird when returning to Germany via Denmark when it did go dark.

Besides 6 countries, 5257 miles by road (wendy house was amazing up some of the mountain sides) , snow, sun , fog, polar winds, more sun we also spent 7 days at sea so it was like throwing in a mini cruise as well on both Stena lines Harwich-Hoek Van Holland return and Smyril lines MS Norrona from Hirtshals top of Jutland, Denmark to initially Torshavn in the Faroes then Seydisfjordur, East Iceland return. Smyril line is a Faroese owned passenger and cargo ferry / transportation company.

The ferry goes right past the Shetlands, indeed when we were younger it did stop there but as not enough traffic now Smyril stopped it. Bad news for Brits as you now have to go all the way thru Europe to get there!

It is worth saying that the Faroes has 18 islands connected either via Ferry, Bridge or undersea Tunnel. Some we weren't able to do especially Sandoy... ferry over subscribed and the far north islands as the tunnel at 3.1m was a little too low for comfort when taking the van thru. The Smyril line provide you with a booklet for download of the Faroes campsites. A selection of our fave places where Gasadalur on Vagar, Torshavn campsite views of Hestur, Kaldbak on Streymoy, Vestmanna, Gjogv on Eysturoy, Hosvik, Saksun (both Streymoy), Vikings at Leirvik, Trollanes on Kalsoy. See the pictures to get a feel. We loved it , a week and a half is probably enough but you are guided by the ferry timetable! Also glad we went there 1st before Iceland, I think on balance it's the right order.

Iceland is a magnificent place to visit. Absolutely bowled over by it. Apart from my scary 2nd day morning climbing over the mountain out of Seydisfjordur in driving snow and winds where you could barely see the road, much less that it was surrounded on both sides by frozen lakes... it was all a joy! Get an Iceland camping card if you are staying more than 2 weeks, sites are plentiful in the east, south west, western fjords and the north... not so in big stretches of the southern coast. Sites are not great but mostly adequate with the exception of Reydarfjordur, Isafjordur and Siglufjordur which are wonderful. If you are not using the card it can be very costly. Reykjavik for example is not part of this scheme and about £39 / night. Take as much canned food, rice, pasta etc with you that you can fit in your van to control your expenditure. Sadly whale watching for us at Husavik was off, foggy and blowing a hoolie! A selection of our fave places were Reydarfjordur (east) and areas out to Nordfjord, whole of the western Fjords, Vatnajokull NP, Jokulsarlon Lagoon Icebergs, Porshavn (north), many of the lovely fjords and Waterfalls, the Kerfla active volcano area (north west) , Siglufjordur (north), Husavik (north), Grindavik (south west) and as a city Akureyri. See the pictures to get a feel.

If you would like to see the slideshows of our fun in the Faroes please [CLICK HERE](#), or for Iceland please [CLICK HERE](#) thanks

For the videos please [CLICK HERE](#)

The calendar here shows our day by day activities / whereabouts... enjoy x



Siglufjörður, North Iceland

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Camp Harwich The Castle Inn CO12 5HH bank hol Monday	6 Ferry Stearn 9am arrive 8am, CO124SR - Hook Holland 5.15pm 7min, 3 mh: Camp Gouds NL 45 min: 33miles: \$8	7 Camp 612 Acsi Heideanu, Ger, Gouds to Heideanu 4hrs: 270miles: \$E20 valid Pg262 Weird auto Payment machine, Nice Greek meal	8 Camp 662 Acsi Medelby, Ger, Heideanu to Fleisburg 2hr 10min: 130miles: \$E20 valid Pg279 Pitch 1 owned by nice Danish couple the LUNDs	9 Camp 82 Acsi Lisbjerg, Den, Medelby to Aarhu: 2hr 10min: 120miles: \$E20 valid Pg70 Visited AARHUS OK-ish UNI town	10 Camp 76 Acsi Hjorring, Den, Lisbjerg to Hjorring 1hr 45min: 100miles: \$E20 valid Pg58 Swimming Pool, odd electric	11 Ferry depart 3pm Hirtshals (DK) Hjorring to Hirtshals 12 miles: 21 min: Bought Arctic Hat & Gloves
12 At sea - North Atlantic Norrøna has fab food, Lovely School teachers, so friendly + concert	13 Arrive Torshavn (Far Is) 6am See town and surrounds: Torshavn campsite No9 CONFIRMED	14 Vestmanna campsite No8 see that end of Stromo Is 30min: 23 miles: CONFIRMED Chat with Mrs Sea Captain, so friendly	15 Hwy 11 to Vagar Is: Gijanes campsite No11 see Vagar Is 45min: 27m to Sorvag: CONFIRMED Aweful Stayed at TORSHAVN	16 2 nd day on Vagar Is: Gijanes campsite No11 CONFIRMED Aweful Stayed at TORSHAVN	17 Hwy 11 back to Stromo Is: Vestmanna campsite No8 approx £23pm CONFIRMED Loved Mrs Sea Captain	18 Stromo Is to Eysturoy Is: Eidi campsite No 1, 50 min: 33miles: See Stromo and Eysturoy CONFIRMED Weird Football Field, very windy
19 Eysturoy Is Gjogv campsite No 2, fab views, gr facilities, 7m 20 min: CONFIRMED & PAID Nice site and town, too many tourists	20 Eysturoy Is Gjogv campsite No 2 CONFIRMED & PAID Cooked and read outside, v cold and windy	21 Eysturoy Is Aeduvik campsite No 5 southern tip 24 miles: 50 min: CONFIRMED Good facilities, watched Faroese TV channel :)	22 Kakoy Is Ferry £44 via Bordey & Kunoy Is: Mikladalur campsite No 6 explore 3 islands: 28 miles: 90min: CONFIRMED Wonderful Tunnah, Trollville	23 Eysturoy Is Fuglafjordur campsite No 4 explore Bordey, Kunoy & Vidoy by road \$16 CONFIRMED Tunnah too low on outer island: Stayed at TORSHAVN	24 Eysturoy Is Fuglafjordur campsite No 4 explore Eysturoy, Bordey, Kunoy & Vidoy by road CONFIRMED Stayed at TORSHAVN	25 Eysturoy Is Fuglafjordur campsite No 4 explore Eysturoy, Bordey, Kunoy & Vidoy by road CONFIRMED Stayed at TORSHAVN
26 Torshavn campsite No9, explore Eysturoy, Stromo 1hr 30 return, 35 miles CONFIRMED	27 Ferry for Iceland leaves Torshavn 2pm on at sea	28 Arrive Seyoisfjordur Iceland 9am Camp there (2 choices) Snow, nice village	29 Iceland because of snow decided to go south clockwise. Over min: (seary) Egkstadur, Camped Reykafjordur	30 Iceland saw Eikifjordur, Nordfjordur, Camped Djupuvogur. Nice craft lady Faskruofjordur	31 Iceland Eggs: @ Djupuvogur, Krossanes, Glaciers: Camped at Hofn, v unfriendly camp commandant	

2019

257
miles

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HINTS: Iceland/Faroes: Vik-Bay, Havn/Hofn-Port, Jokull - Glacier, Kirk-Church, Fjordur-Water finger, Foss-Waterfall, Vatn-Lake	CAMPS: Iceland card £140 28 days; camping, only charge electricity 700-1350 ISK, 333 ISK lodging tax. Stayed mostly those although not always available	STRATEGY: Were gonna go anti clockwise, decided because of snow to go clockwise. Warmer south first plus less miles as on inside	WEATHER: Amazing. 1 st 2 days snow, then 16 straight days of 24 hour sun tempered by Polar winds, less than 1 week cloud/rain whole time, even got sunburnt	SCENERY: Stunning and so varied. Fjords, Waterfalls, Snow Mountains, Geology... breath taking all of it except Golden Circle!!	TUNNELS: Mostly undersea Faroes, thru mountains Iceland. Generally 4.2m older 60s ones in Faroes only 3.1m so didn't do, too low	1 Iceland 2000 miles by now. Hofn to Vik, south coast via Jokulharon Iceberg Lagoon & Kirkjubae.
2 Iceland Vik to Stokkseyri via Reykir freak waves, Skogar falls, LAVA ex. & Bobby Fischer in Sullfoss	3 Iceland past blue lagoon, Golden Circle - Geyrir/Gullfoss, Lava @ Grindavik, Camp Snaggar, electricity fun!	4 Iceland Keflavik + airport, Camp Reykjavik. 2 days: HOHO bus	5 Iceland Reykjavik. Walk old town / harbour. Keef docs acute bronchitis	6 Iceland Reykjavik to Varmaland, SW area around Hvalfjorður then via Borgarnes	7 Iceland Around Snæfellsnes, loved Strykkirholmur, camped Tröndur, lost it re shower...oops	8 Iceland Tröndur to Laugar (worst site on hob) Hwy 60 and Borgarnes again!
9 Iceland Southern western fjords. Laugar 2 Flockasundur via 17 miles gravel road, bonebaking fun!	10 Iceland Back to Reykholur via gravel road. Hot tub in the sun. Outside cooking / relaxing	11 Iceland Reykholur 2 Hafjorður via Hwy 61, wonderful mtns, snowmelt, forests etc	12 Iceland Hafjorður for 3 nights. Visited hospital for annie, bronchitis. Then Bolungarvík / Flateyri	13 Iceland Hafjorður day at campsite, washing, reading, sunbun etc	14 Iceland Hafjorður 2 Dranganes, via seal, bird and duck families. Grimset Island view. Hwy 61	15 Dranganes 2 Hvammstangi via Hwy 61/60 and 1. Bit boring. Tundra at end
16 2 the wonderful Siglufjörður via Blönduós, Skagastroand, Sandarkirkur (ugh!) fog	17 Siglufjörður... Sun on arrival, all day cold and damp and foggy, such a shame. Iceland Day Hole	18 Iceland 2 Heidarbær via Olaf/FJD, Dabvik, Akureyri (nice 1 st city), Godafoss & Hmavik Hwy 85	19 Iceland 2 Rauvarhofn, Into Arctic Circle, via Hmavik, Akureyri (Glacier NP)	20 Iceland 2 Heidarbær via Þorshofn, Kópasker & Hmavik again. 4000 miles	21 Iceland 2 Modrudalur (highest farm) via Krafli volcano area, My Vatn lakes, Dettifoss. Hwy: 87,862 & 1	22 Iceland 2 Reydarfjörður via Egikotadur, valley wonder, Eiki/FJD campsite no good
23 Iceland 4 nights in our fave Reydarfjörður campsite relaxing	24 Iceland our fave Reydarfjörður campsite relaxing	25 Iceland our fave Reydarfjörður campsite relaxing	26 Iceland Camp Seydísfjörður overnight over that somnig mtn, no snow this time. Car park campsite 4 ferry	27 Leave Seydísfjörður Iceland 10.30 am by MS Norraun, Smyril line ferry	28 at Sea 30min stop Thorshavn	29 Arrive Hirtshal 12.30, Camp 662 Acci Medelby Hirtshal to Flemlburg 4hrs 30min: 225 miles SE20 Pg279
30 Camp Acci 622 Omsbruck 4hr 30, 237 miles SE18 Pg265						

2019

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Osnabruck Ger to Leiden NL 170 Miles - ACSI 159. 2 1/2 days in Leiden Pp100 Drove thru Leiden no parking, nice place, arrived about 2pm	2 Ferry 2.15pm Hoek Van Holland. Arrive Harwich 7.45pm Home c midnight Leiden to Hoek. 25 mile: 51 min: via the Hague, A14 nightmare journey home, 3am	3	4	5	6
7 Doug Phoenix and Charlie arrive, collect from EMA, 8.45 pm	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Doug Phoenix and Charlie depart Garwick 15.15 via Nam Nursing Home Dorking	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2019



inside the van (panorama) gjogv, esturoy, faroe islands



funningur - lovely village, esturoy, faroes

0 comments

Filed under: [europe](#), [acsi](#), [2019](#), [other-sites](#), [5Star](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [faroe-islands](#), [iceland](#), [ferry](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [scandinavia](#), [germany](#), [holland](#), [denmark](#), [cruise](#)

Blog 136 - Sherwood Forest Holiday Park, Notts with the Family

By keef and annie hellinger, Jul 15 2019 05:11PM
Motorhome trip No38 : 12th-14th July 2019

NOTTS (home)->Sherwood Forest Holiday Park, Nottinghamshire ->NOTTS (home) 59 miles

A fab time with all the family at the campsite, in a lovely setting with many amenity blocks and playgrounds for the grand daughters. Also a lovely raised stream walk around the edge of the park backing onto Sherwood Forest. Outside the far end gate is a fishing lake and inside a duck pond and stream for kids to paddle in.

Nearby is Sherwood Pines and the Sherwood Forest steam railway and associated playpark both of which we visited.

We camped on pitch 1 and 2 at the far end of the park, lovely large grass pitches but the place was heaving , not a slot left so well done to Craig for booking. It was the first time they had put up their 8 person tent with awning so that was a fun family experience with all chipping in. Mostly good weather except overnight Saturday. We had lasagne and garlic bread for Friday eve, BBQ Saturday and lunch old at the nearby fab Dog & Duck Inn in Kings Clipstone.

We did the Gruffalo orienteering course thru the Sherwood Pines woods with varying degrees of success... the girls loved the assorted wooded play parks, and minus granny and granddad they all did the Green route cycle track.

It was so nice having Doug and family over from Singapore to be able to do this.

If you would like to see slideshow of our fun please [CLICK HERE](#), thanks

If you wish to see the rest of the fun we had whilst they visited [CLICK HERE](#)





0 comments

Filed under: [2019](#), [other-sites](#), [nottinghamshire](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [family](#), [celebration](#)

Blog 137 - Swiss Farm, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire

By keef and annie hellinger, Sep 9 2019 06:51AM
Motorhome trip No39 : Sept 6th- 8th 2019

NOTTS->Swiss Farm Touring and Camping, Henley-on-Thames ,Oxon->NOTTS 290 miles

Almost 260 years around the table and 30+ camping years under our belts collectively , you could call us the Master Campers *smile*

We visited Swiss Farm Touring and Campsing with our dear pals Pete and Joy. A very well laid out site with good amenities, camping ground for tents, café and swimming pool (heated outdoors). If the weather had been warmer outside I would have gone in but on Sunday morning chickened out as 10c but it certainly warmed up later in the day.

We were on hard standing pitches 37 & 29 respectively on the same row but sadly not adjoining as we had rather gate crashed their weekend away and booked later, also we were on a 6m(etre) pitch and Pete & Joy on a 7m pitch. The lady on reception however had done a good job of getting us reasonably close.

After setting up we all walked into town , about a 20 minute walk at my slow pace. A lovely old market town on the river Thames with some amazing architecture. We had a few bebies in the 3 Tuns pub and a good catch up. In between it bucketed it down, just glad we were inside. Henley seems to have more pubs and dogs than people and the dog of choice for how shall I say this , "the somewhat wealthy" is the pug, not the most beautiful dog in my humble opinion. Stands back to deflect hurls of abuse *smile*

We then strolled down to the old river bridge sandwiched between the angel and red lion pubs, see what I mean about the number of hostelryes and surprisingly they are all still trading, great views, great stories, great pictures.

We then moseyed back to the site along the edge of the boating Thames, well as best we could. Between Henley and Hurley is the Leander club, home of some very famous rowers. More chatting and supper of lasagne, garlic bread, salad followed by cheese and bikkies and some good wine, #bliss

Saturday we made our way back into town for a slightly longer explore and a bit of retail therapy. Asquiths world famous TEDDY bear shop was a real hit. Amazing animals in there as well as the very expensive Stief bears under lock and key. We then strolled along some of the back streets , half timbered houses, Georgian palatial abodes down to the river and back up to the Angel Inn on the bridge where we had lunch and ale / wine / soft drinks. Pete Joy & I had seafood chowder and very good it was too. Annie had terrine salad and rustic toast. The place was packed!

Bit more shopping as we strolled back to the campsite, sitting outside for a bit until the chill set in. Lovely evening BBQ steak, halloumi, kebabs, burgers salad and cheese and bikkies. Yummy! Thanks Pete & Joy.

Sunday after breakfast of croissants, pack up time and fond good byes until the next time. We went via Beaconsfield in search of Annie's granddads grave in the historic Jordan's Quaker burial ground 1688 and with the help of John in the Quaker meeting house found it easily. After that we returned via M25 / M1. All in all a lovely weekend and would recommend campsite and area. We will be back

If you would like to see the slideshow of our fun please [CLICK HERE](#), thanks



Friends lunching, Angel Inn on the bridge, Henley on Thames



Portrait time

1 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [2019](#), [other-sites](#), [friends](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [england](#), [uk](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [beer](#), [travels](#), [oxfordshire](#)

Blog 138 - London and Kent

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 11 2019 05:55AM

Not the Motorhome trip No8 : Oct 4th- 10th 2019

NOTTS->Dorking, London:- Centre, Raynes Park, Clapham, Tooting, Wimbledon and Kent :- Chestfield, Margate, Sandwich, Whitstable, Meopham->NOTTS 397 miles

Left early on the Friday morning for London, M1 closed so used M42 and M40 to get down to Surrey to visit Mum in her care home, she was bright and cheery and I fed her lunch. Annie packed away all her winter clothing we had delivered. After that we called back in at Mums house to pick up post, eat lunch, and update neighbours. Then it was off to the Travelodge at Raynes Park for our 2 night stay.

Friday evening I went up to meet Chris in London for his 65th birthday. We went to a blues bar in Kingly Street just off Oxford Circus and then after to a Lebanese restaurant.

Saturday was the 3rd White Horse Bent reunion at initially the Windmill on Clapham Common, then the Spice Village Indian restaurant in Tooting and finally the pub at Tooting Bec with Chris, Allyson and Kev, the rest having to get away to various things. Lovely to see David and Cathy over from Canada. Annie got to finally use her new bus pass as we rediscovered the delights of London travel, over ground, underground wombling free bus pass ;0)

Sunday morning after our mega breakfast for the 2nd day at the Travelodge we went to see Mum again via Wimbeldon where Keef took family residents pictures, then onto Kent to stay with Brian and Gina. Had a lovely time with them visiting initially Margate, Turner contemporary and seeing entrants for Turner prize 2019, weird and wonderful! Plus a Earl of Sandwich sandwich in Sandwich. Nice circular walk around Sandwich, a very interesting place. We had a quick walk around Chestfield the next day and finally a quiz walk around Whitstable, all great fun. Loved Ginas home cooking plus a fab Thai meal in Whitstable. The odd laugh thrown in *smile*

On the way back home we called in at Meopham for Keef to sell some old concert programmes and to see Craig and Leanne, all in all a lovely week away.

If you want to see the slideshow of pictures please [CLICK HERE](#)





1 comments

Filed under: [slideshow](#), [2019](#), [5Star](#), [friends](#), [not-motorhome](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [non-motorhome](#), [family](#), [beer](#), [travels](#)

Blog 139 - Greetham 2, Rutland and Surrounds

By keef and annie hellinger, Oct 18 2019 03:44AM

Motorhome trip No40 : Oct 14th- 17th 2019

NOTTS->Greetham, Rutland and Surrounds ->NOTTS 247 miles

This was our second trip to Greetham after a failed attempt with Craig and Edie in August because of too much rain.

Having packed last minute stuff we headed off initially to Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire where we did the Treasure Trail quiz similar to that which we did in Whitstable. Sadly it was raining so a brolly for our walk around the town and parks was essential. The trail quizzes are a great way to get to know a town better and although we had been through Melton on many occasions it is not a place we really knew. It is a lovely place with many blue plaques celebrating the famous, especially Thomas Cromwell, Anne of Cleves and Henry VIII amongst others. Ye old Pork Pie Shoppe for which Melton is famed allowed us to buy at a reduced price a huge chicken, ham and pork pie, just so yummy!

By the time we got back to the van after our 2 hour quiz it was very dark and what can only be called a dramatic storm, which sadly was to continue for the rest of the day and night causing some rural flooding. Back at the van we had pre made sandwiches and some of our lovely pie.

Then it was onto the campsite at Greetham. Although we have been there before in November 2017, Blog 120 ([CLICK HERE](#) to view) we had forgotten how to get to the site as the SatNav coordinates don't work. Luckily whilst pulled up opposite the Plough Inn Terry from the Camping and Caravan site rang as they wished to close early because of the weather and gave me great directions. It was almost 5pm. We will not forget if and when there is a next time. We

were on pitch 25 for 3 nights, in the adult only area. All pitches have all 3 services i.e electrics, drinking water and drain for your grey waste, there is a mixture of grass and hard standing pitches

We went out each day, the weather being slightly better on the Tuesday and much better, indeed some sunshine on the Wednesday and typically full sunshine on the way home on Thursday.

We visited amongst others Apethorpe Palace, Northamptonshire – closed after English Heritage sold it to a French Aristocrat for a snip, Peterborough Cathedral, Cambridgeshire, Rutland Water, Eyebrook reservoir, the River Eye (very swollen), Lyddington Bede house, Lyddington, Rutland plus lunch at the Old White Hart, yummy and most of the villages in south east Leicestershire, the best of which in our humble opinion are Great Easton, Tur Langham and Carlton Curlieu.

All in all a very relaxing 3 days away in our lovely Wendy house.

If you would like to see the slideshow of our fun please [CLICK HERE](#), thanks

UPDATE 2020: if you would like to see the older Blogs for Cambridgeshire, click the [TAG](#), Rutland this [TAG](#), thanks



Best Chicken, Ham and Pork Pie Ever



Peterborough Cathedral

1 comments

Filed under: [2019](#), [rutland](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [vw](#), [motorhome](#), [england](#), [leicestershire](#), [auto-sleeper](#), [northamptonshire](#), [cambridgeshire](#), [travels](#), [camping-and-caravan-club-site](#)

Blog 140 - Knockerdown Farm

By keef and annie hellinger, Feb 22 2020 06:40AM

Not the Motorhome trip No9 : Feb 17th – 21st 2020

NOTTs->Knockerdown Farm, Peak District, Derbyshire, DE6 1NQ ->NOTTs 103 miles

This was our 4th visit as a family to Knockerdown Farm, twice when the boys were younger and then for Annie's 60th and now again during the half term break with Craig, Leanne and Edie. Lovely time although the weather as expected in early February was not that great being both very cold and wet, however this did not dampen our spirits one iota.

Our full list of visits is

1. 3-6 Dec 1993, Wisels Cottage
2. Feb 1996, Wisels Cottage

3. 3-6 Jan 2014, Farwell Cottage
 4. 17-21 Feb 2020, Sabinhay Cottage

Left home about 1 pm on the Monday and went to Carsington water (see [BLOG 49](#)) where we had a bit of a damp stroll to the Visitors centre and a lovely cup of freshly brewed coffee in the mainsail café overlooking the lovely waters.

We could not get into the cottage until 3pm and were surprised how close to the visitors centre the Cottages were. This time we were in Sabinhay, the one over the archway. In the past we have stayed in both Wisels and Farwell.

Leanne and Edie arrived very soon after us and we all spent a bit of time unpacking the cars from in front of the cottage and then reparking them in the car park out front. Having settled in we went off for our daily swim. A ritual (including sauna for Grandpa) that we re-enacted daily, one of the real advantages of Knockerdown when the weather isn't so great. Edie is really coming on in the swimming stakes, won't be long now before she is a fully fledged dolphin ;)

The other advantage is the very close proximity of the Knockerdown Inn, 2 yards over the road where we ate on both Tues and Weds evening. A very friendly family run pub with great food and Edie loved their doggies. We also discovered they run a campsite with facilities at the back of the pub so we may well yet we back in the motor home.

Craig arrived after work at about 5.30pm. Grandpa cooked halloumi burgers with salad accompaniment for tea. We all retired pooped fairly early which was quite a theme throughout the hols , mostly a combination of fresh air and relaxing in my humble opinion.

On the Tuesday C&L cycled around Carsington Water, a distance of about 8 miles. We took Edie to the playpark, Stone Island, button pressing in the Severn Trent exhibition area and then for a massive slab of choccy cake in the mainsail café. C&L joined us there after their ride.

Wednesday we visited Matlock Farm park where Edie cuddled a guinea pig called Cinnamon. We saw lots of other lovely animals but it was seriously cold so we warmed up with lunch in their café then some indoor fun for Leanne and Edie in the Rainforest shed on the big slide.

Thursday Leanne left for her spa days with Claire and we headed off to the Crich Tramway museum only to find on arrival it was sadly closed. Maybe we should have checked first, DOH! Anyhow no worries we spent most of the day at the Unesco World heritage site of Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mills, great fun and educational. Grandpa cooked Hunters chicken, Jacket pot , Cauli cheese and carrots for tea.

Friday morning we were all up early to breakfast and pack the cars, then we visited the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth where Granny bought Edie some polished stones. Quite an interesting walk around and somewhere we had never been before. We then returned to the Priory at Loughborough for a final family lunch together before heading homewards. All in all a fab family break. Annie and I loved spending time with family!

If you would like to see the slideshows and videos please [CLICK HERE](#)

UPDATE 2020: if you would like to see the older Blogs for Derbyshire, click the [TAG](#)



Annie in the Kitchen, Sabinhay Cottage



Edie at Carsington Water playpark



Lovely Carsington Water, Derbyshire

0 comments

Filed under: [5Star](#), [recommended](#), [uk](#), [england](#), [family](#), [2020](#), [derbyshire](#), [travels](#)

Blog 141 - "Lockdown" Quiz via our Facebook Page

By keef and annie hellinger, May 19 2020 07:52AM

During this Coronavirus / Covid-19 Pandemic lockdown why not break up your day by doing my "Where in the World " motorhome travels quiz...every picture is a place we have visited and can be found here on the website. Answers are applied after a while so you can check back. Thanks for looking

If you want to look [CLICK HERE](#)

Below is also my take on whats happening, recorded for memories sake, troubling times, but it sure helps one focus on what is important and what & whom you miss!

In future when this appears in my memories, I will look back on hard times and will hopefully appreciate what are the important things in my life.

Living life in coronavirus times , which could be a while yet!

Prime Minister Boris Johnson started lockdown on the evening of 23rd of March 2020 On the 5th April he was admitted to hospital after 10 days self isolating with the Corona Virus On the 6th April he is in intensive care with deteriorating symptoms The Queen addressed the nation at 8pm on 5th April
 Excel now known as NHS Nightingale and will be a hospital for up to 4,000 patients, most of whom are on ventilators. Similar venues being used in cities across the country. Opened by Prince Charles at 11am on 3rd April
 Community support groups established, to support the vulnerable, elderly, immunocompromised and people in enforced isolation due to exposure, in their community
 Petrol price close to home was less than £1... the first time since 2007, but when there is no where to go hardly surprising
 Schools closed on Friday 20 March.Remote learning in place either via Home schooling or BBC Bitesize
 Self-distancing measures required Don't stand so close to me, i.e 2m
 Tape on the floors at grocery stores and others to help distance shoppers (2 mtrs) from each other.
 Limited number of people inside stores, therefore, line-ups outside the store doors
 Non-essential stores, pubs and businesses mandated closed People who can work from home should do, Boris decreed back to work 14 May 2020 for construction workers and folk who can't work from home
 Parks , trails, entire cities closed or restricted to locals only in their bubble.
 Entire sports seasons cancelled.
 Olympics postponed to 2021 Concerts,tours, festivals etc cancelled
 Weddings family celebrations holiday gatherings even funerals cancelled, although relaxed to allow upto 9 attendees mid may
 No masses, churches are closed No gatherings of 50 or more, then 20 or more, then 10 or more. Now, Don't socialize with anyone outside of your home bubble , but rather confusingly from 14 May you can see 1 person from outside your household in an open space BUT if your parents are your cleaner or buying your house you can see both of them, confuseddotcom!
 Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, and all other TV networks are on in every home daily now Children's outdoor play parks are closed Reruns of the Chelsea flower show. Have I got news for you and just about anything else done via Zoom or Skype. Everyones bookcase as a background is the new Claim to fame, especially if you strategically place Stephen Hawkings a brief history of Time. We are to distance from each other. Shortage of masks gowns gloves for our front-line workers.Both NHS and Care Homes. Care homes sadly an afterthought. At least a 3rd are dying there. Very worrying. Government main priority to "Protect the NHS" NOT surprisingly to "Save Lives" PPE (new vocabulary along with social distancing) meaning Personal Protective Equipment
 Shortage of ventilators for the critically ill in many parts of the world.
 Refrigerated trucks for the dead outside hospitals in the USA Italy Spain China and more. Sadly mid May UK becomes 2nd highest number of deaths in the world behind the US and highest in Europe 35k by 18 May although ONS figures show 3k higher (never explained rationally)
 Panic buying sets in and we have limits on toilet paper disinfecting supplies, paper towels, staple foods (Eggs & milk become issues, definite supply chain issues as farmers say they are throwing away litres of milk) hand sanitizer Flour is hard to get because the packaging comes from China and borders are closed , interestingly not in the UK until 18 May announcement (and then not for allegedly selected countries Eire & France. Weird and inconsistent)
 Manufacturers distilleries and other businesses switch their lines to help make visors, masks hand sanitizer and PPE , Multiple hand washes per day becomes the "New Normal", even allowing post to sit on the door mat for 3 days, the time for Covid19/Coronavirus to go from packaging
 Fines are established for breaking lockdown rules Initially £30 then increased to £100 although some debate about whether or not the police can enforce them
 Stadiums and recreation facilities overseas open up for the overflow of Covid-19 patients.
 Public Park areas turned into caravan parks for stranded tourists to self isolate
 Press conferences daily from the PM and other government officials (Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty becomes bit of a hero, Chief Scientist Sir Patrick Vallance the opposite after his Herd Immunity idea). Daily updates on new cases, recoveries, and deaths . Initial idea in March was < £20k deaths good target , by mid May it was £35k+
 Government incentives to stay home. Barely anyone on the roads initially by mid May almost back to normal yet the death rate continues to rise steadily
 People wearing masks and gloves outside . Mid May advice changes from probably not a good idea to YES it is a good idea. Especially on crowded public transport and narrow shop spaces

Also took months to lock down our borders (mostly) and that was only for airplanes, ferries and channel tunnel still OK... Hmmm!

Essential service workers are terrified to go to work with good reason

Medical field workers are afraid to go home to their families, some great folk live in caravans in the front garden to protect their love ones. "Key worker" is another phrase to enter the English language. There is a national clap every Thursday evening 8pm for NHS & Care workers. Sadly teachers who kept schools open o mind the children of Key workers seem to have been overlooked. Also true of Boris's 5% off for NHS & Care workers buying new homes in what he hopes will "kick start" the economy

A 99 year old WWII veteran Captain Tom Moore raised £33 million for NHS charities walking 100 lengths of his garden before he turned 100. His target was £1000. People from all over the world donated to his cause.

319K deaths globally so far.(19 May 2020)

This is the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic, WHO declared March 11th, 2020.

Why, you ask, do I write this status? One day it will show up in my memory feed, and it will be a yearly reminder that life is precious and not to take the things we dearly love for granted We have so much! Be thankful. Be grateful Be kind to each other - love one another - support everyone, and enjoy your garden and your grandchildren and families and friends everywhere

We are all one! Despite what a US president may think!

To see our "where in the world" quiz slideshows with all of the questions you will get, [CLICK HERE](#), note every answer is somewhere on our website but you may have to dig around a bit, good luck, have fun



Phase 1 - March to May-Ish



Phase 2 - Mid May



Phase 2 - Reality

0 comments

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BLOG 143 - All Major Holiday Sites Reworked 2020

By keef and annie hellinger, Nov 10 2020 09:33AM

Just in time before Flash vanishes at Dec 2020 I have remastered all our major holiday websites

Motorhome memorabilia and fun

Why not take a look, thanks, just click on the highlighted links below

[2007-8](#) Our Gap Year after work

[2010](#) Across Canada in a Motorhome

[2013](#) Southern Hemisphere, Our 3rd Holiday of a lifetime ;)

[2017](#) Back Downunder with our Good Friends

Enjoy



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BLOG 144 - Enhanced Indexing on the Site

By keef and annie hellinger, Dec 4 2020 07:29AM

A new BLOG TYPE indexing structure has been added to the site to enable you to use both a TAG cloud map and searches via Travel, Hints & Tips, Campsites, Recommended and Other , which features mostly Blogs by UK countries & England's counties

To go directly to the TAG Word Cloud [CLICK HERE](#), you can then download the associated file and use it to click on the words in the cloud to go directly to all the blogs associated with that word, have fun, it is secure and fully tested



0 comments

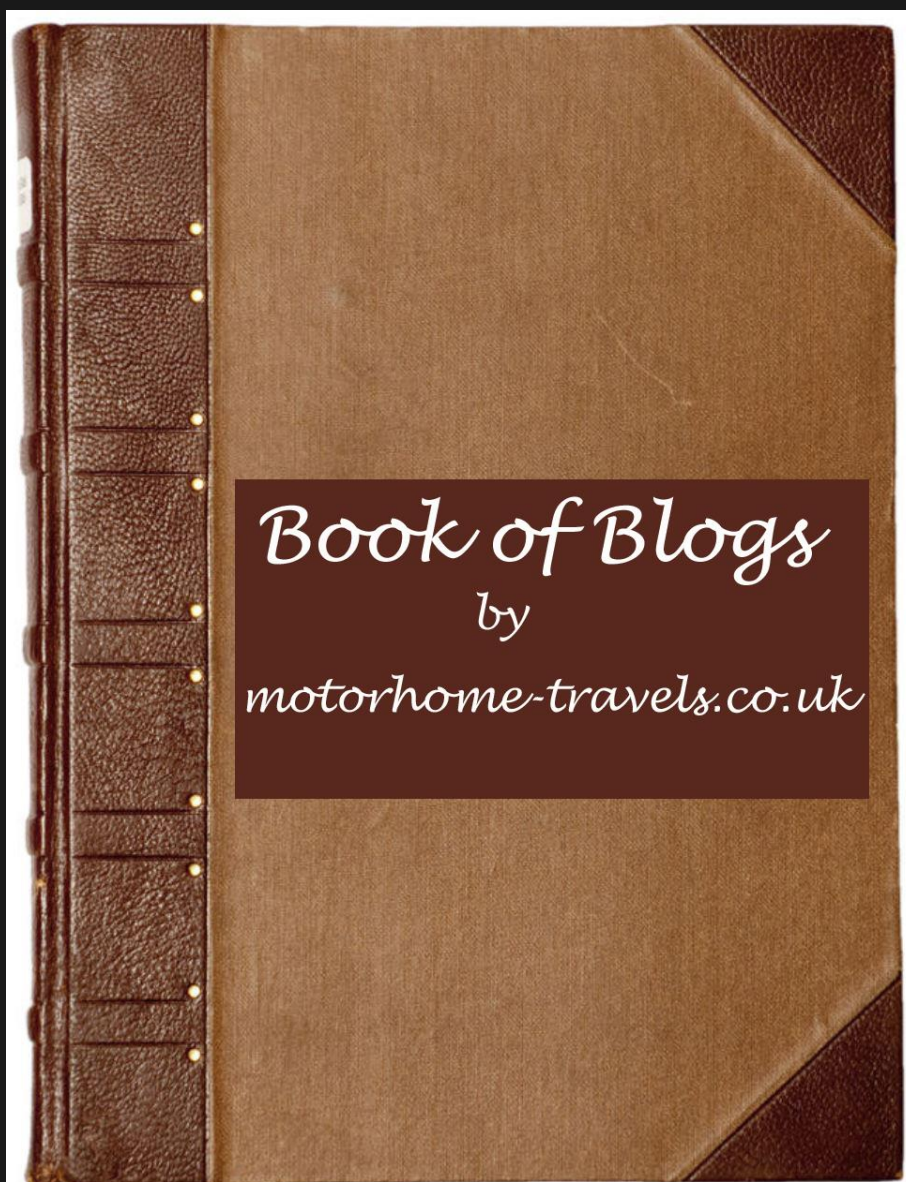
Filed under: [hintsandtips](#), [5Star](#), [recommended](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [indexing](#), [2020](#), [travels](#)

BLOG 145 - Book of Blogs

By keef and annie hellinger, Dec 11 2020 06:13PM

Created to enable one to download the complete set of Blogs as an offline PDF so one can read it all at ones leisure wherever one wants without the need for a broadband / wifi service i.e no need to be online

Go directly to the new page on the site to get that download [HERE](#)



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Filed under: [recommended](#), [not-motorhome](#), [campsites](#), [motorhome](#), [uk](#), [non-motorhome](#), [2020](#), [travels](#)