




**New to
camping?**

The getting started guide to camping and caravanning

newtocamping.co.uk


**The
Camping and
Caravanning
Club**
The Friendly Club

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Want to know more?

Look out for our hints and tips throughout this booklet and visit our website at newtocamping.co.uk for lots more helpful stuff on getting started



Welcome to The Friendly Club



If you're thinking about going camping or caravanning for the first time you've come to the right place. The Club offers all sorts of benefits but above all, we believe our greatest assets are the knowledge of our members and their willingness to share. Here you'll find years of experience and friendly advice

in one simple guide to get you started. And if you want more in-depth information on any of the sections in this guide, you'll find it on our website newtocamping.co.uk

So remember, if there's anything you ever need to know, just ask!

A quick hello from **Julia Bradbury**

However much you travel, however much of the world you're lucky enough to see, there is nothing quite like a night under the stars.

It's great to see that The Camping and Caravanning Club has gone back-to-basics with its 'New to Camping' campaign.

Camping gives you the freedom to soak up surroundings; the flexibility to go where you want, when you want and it doesn't cost the earth.

The excitement and adventure of a camping break coupled with that chance to explore the local countryside and culture can't be beaten.

The Club's facts and figures prove that camping is appealing to people thirsty for a great holiday.



Happy camping!

Julia Bradbury
TV Presenter

An aerial photograph of a campsite nestled in a lush green valley. The campsite features several tents and a central area with a large hay bale. A dirt path winds through the site. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a sandy area, possibly a beach or a clearing near a river.

We love camping because...

Our members' top 10 reasons why they keep on coming back:

- 1. The Big F**
Freedom to go wherever and whenever you like.
- 2. My dog loves it too**
Pets are always welcome and some sites even have dog walks.
- 3. It's not called the great outdoors for nothing**
Enjoy fantastic views and see wildlife in its natural habitat.
- 4. Remember when?**
Good times camping with family and friends brings us closer together and creates a lifetime of happy memories.
- 5. Gone fishing**
Or walking, climbing, cycling... Whatever takes your fancy, outdoor pursuits are terrific, healthy fun.
- 6. A genuine break**
Leave all the stresses of city life way behind and just relax and unwind.
- 7. Local is best**
Whether it's fresh local food on the barbecue or a stroll to the nearest pub.
- 8. Green in more ways than one**
Camping holidays have a refreshingly low environmental impact.
- 9. Campsites you can depend on**
Good pitches, plenty of hot water and award-winning loos!
- 10. Unbeatable value**
Buy one set of kit and you're set up for countless holidays either in the UK or overseas.



This place looks perfect!

The Camping and Caravanning Club has over 100 award-winning UK sites – all with our reputation for cleanliness and friendliness.

- Our sites boast independent accolades such as Caravan Holiday Park of the Year, Loo of the Year and David Bellamy Conservation Awards
- Become a member and you'll also have access to over 1,350 Certificated Sites (small sites exclusively for members), plus nearly 2,200 Listed Sites (commercially run)
- We also work in partnership with the Forestry Commission to offer 20 Forest Holiday Sites across the UK, in some of the most beautiful secluded woodland locations

- So, if you need a larger site with lots of facilities, or if you really want to get right back to nature – we can help



Speyside

What's right for you?



If you're looking for a safer holiday environment with great facilities for the family, or an intimate site away from it all. Whatever your particular needs or situation, we have a site that will be perfect for you – whether you're in a tent, a caravan or a motorhome.

Here are our top site recommendations if you're new to camping and caravanning. For a full site listing and to locate these sites, see the map on pages 16-17.



● Just the two of you

Camping's a great way to enjoy quality time together. Share some new experiences of the British countryside, get active with outdoor pursuits, explore local culture and history or enjoy local food and drink. The options are endless and the choice is yours!

Top sites for couples:

Lauder Berwickshire

Rhandirmwyn Carmarthenshire

Sandringham Norfolk

These are peaceful sites that serve as an ideal base for exploring your surroundings and the local culture.

■ Family fun

Families come together in shared activities in the great outdoors in a way they almost never do elsewhere. Kids revel in the opportunity to get out and explore, letting you relax knowing there's plenty to keep them busy. There are always other families to have fun with on site and it's a great base from which to visit local attractions.

Top sites for families:

Gulliver's Milton Keynes Bucks

Adgestone Isle of Wight

Conkers National Forest Derbyshire

With great activities and facilities, a theme park at Gulliver's, forest trails at Conkers and a swimming pool at Adgestone, there's always plenty to keep the kids occupied!



▲ The whole clan

There's nothing like all getting together and interacting in the great outdoors to really bring the whole clan closer. Whether it's generations of your family or a group of your friends, our sites are perfect for this with accommodation options to suit all ages and needs.



Top sites for large groups:

Scarborough North Yorkshire
Windermere Cumbria
Veryan Cornwall

These sites offer a range of on-site facilities and nearby activities such as watersports, picturesque walks or beaches to cater for your group.

Want to know more?

Visit our website at
newtocamping.co.uk
 for lots more helpful stuff
 on getting started

New to tents?



Advice on choosing and buying

Choosing your first tent can be exciting, but with many makes and models on sale in Britain today, you may be glad of our help.

You'll see the different types on our website – from traditional ridge tents through to modern dome tents – allowing you to match your needs precisely. Family-sized Pods are popular, but bear in mind that larger tents can cost more in pitch fees. In contrast, there are tiny backpacking tents weighing less than a bag of sugar, plus instant tents which virtually erect themselves – ideal for kids and outdoor festivals.

Buying from a specialist retailer is a good option, and we can point you in the right direction with our online buying guide. You can also visit exhibitions and dealer shows to see all the latest models. Good deals can often be had in the High Street, although choice may be limited, or you could try to secure a bargain online or from the classified ads.

Members' tips on pitching

It can be fun pitching your tent, but it can also be hard work if you don't know how to. Do a test run – erect the tent in your garden or on a local campsite to ensure everything's there and you know how it all fits together. That way you're guaranteed to get your holiday off to a great start.

Here are other helpful tips supplied by our members:

- Check for stones which can tear the tent or groundsheet and be painful to lie on
- Never pitch in a dip unless you want to be sitting in a puddle when it rains
- Keep clear of trees to prevent staining of your tent from sap and bird droppings

- Wait until the wind has dropped or you'll be battling with a tent that thinks it's a kite
- Note the number of pegs used so that you don't lose any when dismantling the tent



Members' essential checklist

You don't need much to go camping and to help you, our members have compiled this list of essentials:

- Tent – you'd be surprised how often people arrive at a campsite minus their tent
- Tent pegs, mallet and peg puller
- Airbeds or sleeping mats
- Sleeping bags or normal bedding
- Stove or barbecue, with fuel and matches
- Pots, pans and that important kettle
- Plates, bowls and mugs. Unbreakable are best

- Cutlery, a tin opener, corkscrew and bottle opener
- Torch or lantern. Things can go bump in the night. Make sure it's not you

Want to know more?

Visit our website at newtocamping.co.uk for lots more helpful stuff on choosing and buying tents, types of fabric, poles, groundsheets and pegs, pitching, tent care and camping holidays



New to caravans?



Advice on choosing and buying

Caravans come in all shapes and sizes – it's no wonder choosing your first caravan can seem a little daunting. Our website goes into every type and gives details on all of the major manufacturers, to help you make the right decision.

Caravan shows are a great way to see the latest models, but as you're new to this game it may be worth starting with a cheaper used caravan. By trying one out you'll soon see what works for you and what doesn't. You can buy from a dealer, an online auction or privately – our website gives the pros and cons of each.

Most caravans sold in the UK are registered with the Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme (CRiS). Data on file shows the caravan's finance history, and flags up if it has ever been stolen or written off. You can carry out a CRiS check by calling 01722 411430. There is a small charge for this service, but it's worth it.

Members' tips on towing & pitching

Before buying your caravan, check that it is a good match for your car and that your driving licence covers you to tow it. You'll find more details online, including a useful 'Matching Car and Caravan' data sheet ready to download.

Help is also at hand if it's your first time towing. There's a 'Confident Towing' section on our website, and we run one-day Manoeuvring Courses at venues around the country where you'll gain all the necessary skills.

Our members have the following tips on towing:

- Take corners wide so that the back of the caravan doesn't clip the kerb
- If you find traffic is building up behind you, pull into a lay-by to let vehicles pass

- Before you hitch up and head off, check your route and the directions provided by the campsite. Never just rely on your satnav or you could be heading down narrow roads

Our members have the following tips on pitching:

We have a handy online guide to uncoupling and setting up, so it's worth printing out. It's also worth remembering that an awning can give the family extra living space.

- Choose flat ground so you don't need to use a ramp under a wheel or extend your 'jockey wheel' and 'steadies' uncomfortably high
- Stay clear of trees. Rainwater will drip on the roof long after a storm has passed
- Pitch close to the amenity block if you make regular night-time trips to the loo

Members' essential checklist

A few ideas from members of what's essential to take caravanning:

- Barbecue
- Windbreak, in the absence of natural shelter
- Solar powered lighting for summer evenings outside



- Outdoor and indoor games for the kids
- Citronella candles to keep bugs at bay
- TV and laptop

Want to know more?

Visit our website at newtocamping.co.uk for lots more helpful stuff on choosing and buying your caravan, towing advice & the law, caravan care, awnings and caravan holidays



New to motorhomes?



Advice on choosing and buying

Motorhomes have long been associated with freedom and fun. Today's exciting choices are shown on our website, and range from micro versions to coachbuilt giants.

A show is a great place to view manufacturers' latest offerings and often get a good discount. Also visit dealer premises to check out their

new and used units, search online or through classified ads. You can check the history of a motorhome at www.hpcheck.com.

Members' tips on driving & pitching

If you worry about driving a larger vehicle, a dealer may let you try before you buy. Don't forget to check your driving licence, because it will determine how big a motorhome you can legally drive. After you've made your purchase, you can spend a day on one of our Manoeuvring Courses to hone your skills. Our website will tell you all you need to know. It also provides complete setting off and setting up checklists.

Here are some helpful tips from Club members:

- Many car parks have height barriers, so be certain your unit can fit under
- If driving a high-sided vehicle, be mindful of the buffeting you'll be giving cyclists, motorcyclists and horses when overtaking

The essential checklist

- Road map. Don't rely on a satnav to identify the best route to rural sites and take note of any specific 'large-vehicle-friendly' directions in your campsite guide

- Levelling ramps are essential for sloping sites

For more members' suggestions see page 11.



Want to know more?

Visit our website at newtocamping.co.uk for lots more helpful stuff on choosing and buying your motorhome, towing advice & the law, motorhome care, awnings and useful checklists

New to trailer tents?



Advice on choosing and buying

There's an excellent choice of trailer tents on the market but whether you're buying new or second hand, always try before you buy. Ask the seller to erect the trailer tent for you, then get them to take it down and let you have a go.

Trailer tents and folding campers come in all shapes and sizes, so you'll need to check whether your car is suitable to tow your chosen unit. Our website will give you all the essential facts, figures and legal requirements.

When you first own a trailer tent, there seems a 1001 things to do – though after a couple of trips most of it comes naturally. In terms of choosing a pitch, much of what has been already said for caravans and motorhomes also applies here.



Members' tips on towing & pitching

The checklists on our website will help you hitch up, choose a pitch, then uncouple and set up.

Here are some Club member tips for you:

- The Club's Manoeuvring Course can help you get used to towing
- While pitching, keep the kids amused with toys or their own pop-up tent
- Most trailer tents have fabric tops. Try not to pack away wet as mould and mildew will grow, allow to dry at earliest convenience

For your essential checklist look at pages 9 and 11 and you'll get a good idea for what you should take.

Want to know more?

Visit our website at newtocamping.co.uk for lots more helpful stuff on choosing and buying your trailer tent, towing advice & the law, trailer tent care and useful checklists

Self-catering can ease you in



Want to get started in camping and experience that unique Club Site atmosphere, yet not quite ready to splash out on your own kit? Self-catering could be the easy answer and there are several options available.

At many sites, we have innovative Camping Pods. These sleep four to six people, and are built from locally-sourced timber and insulated with wool, to keep you as warm as toast.

At Gulliver's Milton Keynes – our new family site in the grounds of a theme park – we have Camping Dens which will add excitement to any holiday.

Around the country, we offer more traditional options too, like caravans, chalets and bungalows. There are also the most luxurious lodges, and in Cumbria we've a fantastic eight berth Camping Barn with a fully equipped kitchen, camp beds and a wood-burning stove.



Camping Barn

How to book

You can book a short break or longer stays up to a fortnight, and our rates include price reductions for the over 55s.

Visit our website for more information at campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk

Make the most of the great outdoors

With so much to see and do, you'll enjoy every precious moment of your time outdoors. You'll feel relaxed and rejuvenated, being free to do the things you want to, whether it's playing games, having a barbecue or simply listening to the birds.

There's every activity to keep the whole family amused. Horse riding. Pony trekking. Fishing. Walking. Cycling. Exploring the local area. Visiting places of interest. Our Holiday Site Managers have great local knowledge so feel free to contact them before or during your holiday for fun ideas.

Alfresco living is the perfect tonic for our stress-filled lives, and spending more quality time as a family can bring everyone closer together. You'll have lovely memories to last forever, so don't forget your camera to capture those extra special moments.



Club Site list

Scotland

Ardgartan (also a Club Site) ○
Cashel ○
Cobleland ○
Culzean Castle
Dingwall
Dunbar
Glencoe
Glenmore ○
Inverewe Gardens
Jedburgh
Lauder ● 1
Luss
Milarrochy Bay
Moffat
Nairn
Oban
Rosemarkie
Scone
Skye
Speyside
Tarland

Wales

Bala
Beddgelert ○
Cardigan Bay
Llanystumdwy
Rhandirmwyn ● 2
St David's

Northern Ireland

Delamont Country Park

Northern England

Barnard Castle
Beadnell Bay
Bellingham
Boroughbridge
Clitheroe
Crowden
Derwentwater – The Oval
Derwentwater – Walker Park
Dunstan Hill
Eskdale
Haltwhistle
Hayfield
Kendal

Northern England

Keswick
Ravenglass
Scarborough ▲ 3
Sheriff Hutton
Slingsby
Spiers House ○
Troutbeck
Windermere ▲ 4

Central England

Ashbourne
Bakewell
Blackmore
Bracelands ○
Cannock Chase
Chipping Norton
Christchurch ○
Clent Hills
Conkers, National Forest ■ 5
Delamere Forest
Ebury Hill
Hereford
Kingsbury Water Park
Leek
Mablethorpe
Oswestry, Cranberry Moss
Teversal
Winchcombe
Wolverley
Woodhall Spa

East Anglia

Cambridge
Kessingland
Norwich
Polstead
St Neots
Sandringham ● 6
Thetford Forest
Thorpe ○
West Runton

South East England

Adgestone ■ 7
Aldridge Hill ○
Ashurst ○
Canterbury
Chertsey
Chichester

South East England

Crowborough
Denny Wood & Matley Wood ○
Folkestone
Graftham
Gulliver's, Milton Keynes ■ 8
Hertford
Hollands Wood ○
Holmsley ○
Horsley
Kelvedon Hatch
Norman's Bay
Ocknell and Longbeech ○
Oldbury Hill
Oxford
Roundhill ○
Setthorns ○
Slindon
Theobalds Park
Walton-on-Thames

South West England

Bodmin
Bude
California Cross
Charmouth
Cheddar, Mendip Heights
Corfe Castle
Damage Barton
Dartmoor, Barley Meadow
Dartmouth
Devizes
Lynton
Minehead
Moreton
Postern Hill ○
Salisbury
Sennen Cove
Slapton Sands
Tavistock
Tregurrian
Trewan Hall
Umberleigh
Verwood New Forest
Veryan ▲ 9
Weston-super-Mare

Places to camp

Visit 'Places to camp' at newtocamping.co.uk and let SiteSeeker find you the perfect pitch from over 2,000 UK sites.



- Club Sites
- Top sites for couples
- Top sites for families
- ▲ Top sites for large groups
- Forest Holidays – Camping & Caravanning

Little experts

Camping is for everyone, young and old. Here are the tips and comments from some of our smaller members.

"I like catching bugs in sticky jam jars"

Katie, age 8

"Don't pitch on an anthill"

Adam, age 7

"A good job is rolling on the mattress to get the air out"

Amy, age 5

"To go camping I take clothes, food, toys and a big smile"

Anna, age 9

"Don't forget your wellie boots"

Amy, age 4^{1/2}

"Take a toy box as you can turn it over and it's a table"

Matthew, age 8

"Remember to be by the seaside"

Ben, age 5

"Camping is fun but always stay with your mummy and daddy"

Lucy, age 6

"Mum says always wear your flip flops in the shower to keep your feet clean"

Molly, age 8



Need help getting started?

Through this New to Camping guide, our aim has been to show people like you what you're missing. You can begin to unzip your new camping adventures overleaf, but if you need help before setting out on your first adventure, just give us a call.

Phone 0845 130 7632 or 024 7647 5442 for more information.

Our thanks go to the following sponsors who helped to bring you New to Camping.



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Please note, the views contained within this booklet are those of our members and not necessarily those of The Club.

Visit our website at newtocamping.co.uk, call 0845 130 7632 or 024 7647 5442 for more information

Join in!

The Camping and Caravanning Club is the most experienced organisation of its kind in the UK.

As a member you'll have the widest choice of pristine sites, expert advice on any camping matter and a range of member services designed to help you make the most of the outdoors.

What's more, members pay reduced site fees on UK Club Sites. So the savings you make will effectively pay for your membership in just six nights' camping.

Stay up to date with all the news

As a member, you'll receive regular publications that include:

- **Camping & Caravanning monthly magazine**
packed with travel tips and information
- **Your Big Sites Book**
featuring more than 4,000 sites across the UK
- **Your Place in the Country**
giving you more information on our Club Sites
- **Carefree Travel Service brochures**
access to a range of overseas sites
- **Member Services Guide**
with more information on the benefits of being a member

Unzip your new camping adventures with us

It's easy to join

online: newtocamping.co.uk

by phone: **0845 130 7632** or **024 7647 5442** quoting reference **2952**

in person: pop in to any of our Club Sites.