Winter Sun Camping – what's it all about?





Carefree is the Club's own worldwide travel service. Travel Services Director Richard Grimsdale describes here what's on offer for Winter 2012-13

Escaping the British winter is not just about grabbing some sunshine and throwing in a bit of sightseeing – it's about immersing yourself in another, easy-going lifestyle that brings with it a particular contentment and warmth, and all the health benefits that go with these things.

What's wintering abroad like?

If you've never tried them before, Club Winter Sun rallies are a perfect introduction. You'll have the support and confidence of being with other Club members, help when you need it, activities to dip in and out of (but only if you want to), and friendships you'll cherish for the rest of your life. Try a new skill? Line dancing and crocheting to cycling and mountain navigation – there's something for everyone. It's a wonderful way to keep active and healthy or to simply soak up the sun and relax. Whatever you choose to do, it's a great boost for your wellbeing and happiness.



Audited 2012 by











Try a week, and find yourself hooked for months, year after year. Whether you love socialising and activities, or simply like your own privacy, there's plenty of chance to enjoy both. Stay for as little or as long as you wish, it's always your choice.

The Spanish coast and Portugal's Algarve make a perfect base to explore beautiful beaches and national parks, to sample the local tapas, or to tuck into some good old fashioned fish 'n' chips. The campsites are set up for everyday living and the dedicated Carefree rally team is on hand to help.

If rallies are not for you, you'll have total flexibility to book a campsite, ferry, tunnel crossing or insurance. Pick and mix as much as you like to fit in with your own holiday requirements. But throughout the year you could also try a Worldwide Motorhome Touring holiday to South Africa, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Canada or the USA – or you could try an Escorted Tour with your own unit to Morocco, Iceland, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Holland or Spain.

With you all the way

Travelling abroad without a hitch is essential when you're away for long periods of the winter. The Club is the market leader in this field, and this brochure includes Carefree's indispensable and definitive guide to Winter Sun Camping, while our range of bespoke holiday insurance policies with Europ Assistance ensures a first class back-up service if ever you need it. We also provide a network of En Route sites, to help you plan a comfortable journey to your destination. Meet the Carefree team that's dedicated to helping you, on pages 88-89. 'If I was at home I'd only go out once a week in winter. I'd never see anyone. Here I'm out enjoying every day' Betty Goddard, Wales

News for 2012-13

Every year brings new adventures – new or extended rallies and sites, or new En Route sites to help you to your site or rally.

Destinations news

This winter we are delighted to offer you **three** wonderful new destinations. Two are not far south of Alicante, were brand new in 2011, and boast excellent modern facilities. The other is an already established and popular site in a great location, on Portugal's much sought-after Algarve coast.

A new Winter Sun site in the seaside town of Pilar de la Horadada, **Lo Monte** has already proved such a massive hit that the peak of the winter 2012-13

Remember to book early

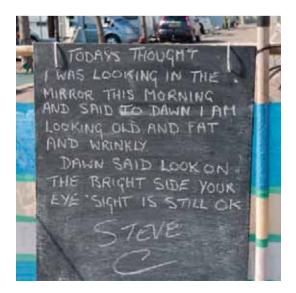
Please be sure to book the whole period of your stay as soon as you possibly can. Otherwise there is a risk that some dates will already be fully booked, which can mean having to break your stay into two and a booking somewhere else for the days in between. This applies most particularly to long stays that go through January and February, usually the busiest period of the winter.

'A rally gives us security and confidence as well as support'

Judy and John Harvey, Plymouth

season was fully booked a year in advance, with a long waiting list. Only the Club's pitches remain available, and early booking is absolutely vital to guarantee your winter stay at this great new destination ... Theres a new Winter Sun rally, at the amazing new Marjal Costa Blanca campsite, with its fantastic array of facilities. It's a great base for exploring the mountains, nature parks, history and rural hinterland of the Costa Blanca, with the coast still only a few minutes' drive away Ria Formosa is a new Winter Sun site, just near the old coastal town of Tavira. Already well-known and popular, you can cycle via the salt marshes and estuary to Tavira, or cross the lagoon by boat to the beach on the little barrier island that lies off the sea front ... In other destinations news, at the time of writing a new washblock was nearing completion near the rally area at **Turiscampo**.... There is also a special new overnight pitch, with a motorhome service point, near the entrance of Kiko Park

We also have news of several **Rally Stewards on the move** this winter. Carol and Arthur Lancaster are taking a well-earned sabbatical from winter duties (though not from summer rally stewarding or worldwide tour escorting!), while David and June Columbine rejoin our winter programme to run the ever more popular rally at Vilanova Park. Paul and Jill Hughes will be stewarding an autumn rally at Playa Tropicana, with Dave and Margaret Pinnington following after them, to take over the reins for winter from Nelson and Barbara Lacey – who themselves are now relishing the prospect of our new rally at Marjal Costa Blanca. We are





delighted to welcome back Derek and Elizabeth Durrant to autumn in La Manga, with Peter and Joan Davison making a return to stewarding the winter rally at this ever-popular site ...

Remember, particularly if you have family wishing to visit, that we can book chalets, mobile-homes, apartments or other **on-site accommodation** for you, at Vilanova Park, Playa Tropicana, Bonterra Park, Monmar, Kiko Park and La Manga.

En Route site news

As we go to press, **El Helguero** is a late and most welcome addition to our winter programme, lying on the Spanish coast 35 miles west of Santander... **Les Rives du Lac** is a very convenient new En Route site, close to Troyes and the A5 and A26 motorways in France... Near the Spanish border, **Larrouleta** has created some new all-service, hardstanding pitches... And remember, it's not just where you go, it's how you get there too – the **attractions near our En Route sites** mean many of them merit a short stay of two or three nights, rather than just a stopover – we've highlighted some of these for you on pages 42-51.

Hot winter prices for 2012-13

With our partner sites, we have once again been working and negotiating hard on behalf of Club members, and there are some excellent prices around this winter. We also continue to strive to keep things as simple and as economical as possible, by including **extra items**, such as dogs and extra cars, free of charge wherever possible. **Many sites** have left their Euro prices unchanged to last winter, so they **are actually cheaper to members this winter**, owing to an improved exchange rate for this year's brochure. Others have made real efforts to accommodate tight budgets in hard times and these include the **price highlights** that follow here.







'We like privacy so didn't think we'd enjoy a rally. So we tried one week and had a blast! We thought it would be too organised and pressure to join in, but it wasn't like that at all'

Carol Lancaster, now a Club Rally Steward

Albufeira is looking forward to welcoming members to its 21st anniversary rally at its wonderful Algarve location, and is again offering fantastic prices - short stays are almost unchanged, and long stays are actually cheaper, than two years ago. Make sure that you book early so that you don't miss out at this long-standing favourite ... Almafra has introduced exceptionally good new long stay prices, slashing many of its rates from last winter, and that many members will find irrestible, especially when combined with the low prices for many local services in the Benidorm area... Turiscampo has brought in a big decrease for members in prices for stays over 15 nights ... Still one of the winter's best bargains, Olhão's unit plus two price is still amazing value, from only £7.25-£8.40 (depending on your unit) including electricity, for stays over 30 nights The unit plus two prices at Vilanova Park and Castillo de Baños remain unchanged, while they have significantly dropped for many lengths of stay at **Kiko Park**



Among our En Route sites, **Aranjuez** has lowered its unit plus two price 10% to just £15.60 for stays longer than one night ... **Haro** has cut its basic nightly price with electricity 13% to only £14.70...

The above examples are the big highlights of this winter's excellent prices but, again, remember that hard times and a recently improved exchange rate (at the time of publishing) have played their part in ensuring that overall **prices are very keen this** winter.

Finally, you may have heard that **tourist tax** is coming to Spain. However, at the time of writing this is only in Catalonia, from November 2012, and only to a maximum of ≤ 3.50 per stay for touring pitches (slightly more for fixed accommodation to rent). You should pay tourist tax direct on site where it applies.

So, lots to tell, lots of change, lots that's new for winter 2012-13 – and still, as ever, plenty of old favourites and so much to enjoy. Come away for some winter sun and you may well see some familiar faces along the way.

Ready to help at every step

You can of course visit the Club's website to book your Winter Sun holiday, but if you prefer to talk your holiday plans through in more detail, then our friendly and experienced team is ready to take your call.

Our Travel Specialists can advise you on all aspects

'Great to talk with helpful people who understand and can explain the options – always friendly and happy!' Muriel and Bryan Matcham

'All the rally stewards were excellent, very helpful and friendly' Peter and Christine Bailey

of your Winter Sun holiday to the continent, on Club escorted tours using your own unit, and on our range of Worldwide holidays.

That includes advice on which campsites or rallies are best for you, but it also means a whole lot more. What kind of route would you like to take to get there? A long or a short sea crossing? What about stops along the way? Personal and Vehicle Holiday Cover are vital, but which options are best for you?

Hopefully you won't find yourself in a position in which you need to take advantage of your Holiday Cover. But if you do you can expect a first class service from our long-standing partner, Europ Assistance. Our Members Abroad Priority Line also operates during normal office hours, while our partner campsites have efficient and friendly staff who are ready to answer your questions and to lend a hand if you need help.

Meanwhile on rallies and escorted tours, you have the dedicated service of the Club's own Rally Stewards and Tour Escorts, all of them Club members and all of them highly experienced in helping other Club members to get the most out of their stay.

We want to ensure that you as Club members feel supported at every stage of your holiday, from booking to site and back home again. Happy travelling!







