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TOP TIPS

for smooth motorhoming and campervanning tours



Holidays in motorhomes and campervans have never been more popular. Here we share top tips to ensure your tour is both enjoyable and responsible.

1. BE READY FOR THE ROAD

Before setting off, ensure rooflights, windows and doors including lockers are securely shut, and the gas cylinder is switched off. Be courteous to other road users so check your mirrors frequently and if building a queue behind you, pull over when safe to do so to allow motorists to pass before continuing.

2. KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Learn your motorhome's height and width dimensions to avoid problems when driving towards low bridges, height barriers or along narrow roads. Know your vehicle's speed limits (www.gov.uk/speed-limits) as heavier motorhomes have lower speed limits compared to cars.

3. LOAD YOUR MOTORHOME SAFELY

Each item you put inside your motorhome counts towards its payload and overall weight. Your motorhome has a maximum authorised mass, which is the most it can legally weigh with everything you put inside it including people. So think carefully about what items you take with you and how they are stored.

4. CHECK THE DIRECTIONS

Plan ahead especially if you have a larger vehicle that may not be suitable for certain roads. Unless you have a sat-nav with a motorhome function, it will think you are driving a regular car and will plan your route accordingly. Always check the campsite directions when close by to avoid local restrictions.

5. STAY ON A CAMPSITE

We would recommend you stay on an official campsite or holiday park but if you do overnight you should have the permission of the landowner. If this isn't clear, then park elsewhere. Do not block an entrance to a field or a building and don't damage the verge. If you are parking in laybys or car parks, you must do so in line with the Road Traffic Act 1998 or any parking restrictions on display. Put simply, vehicles may use a designated lay-by for a rest, but you must be able to move on if requested, so no nightcaps. Awnings, tables and chairs, and cooking equipment cannot be set up or undertaken outside – they must remain within the vehicle.

6. LEAVE NO TRACE

Wherever you are, dispose of litter in bins or take your rubbish home with you, and remember to recycle. When you pull away



from your pitch, remember to stop and take one last look for litter or awning pegs.

7. BE MINDFUL OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We've all been through a tough time so remember to treat local communities with respect and do what you can to support local businesses, for example by enjoying a meal in a local pub or visiting a farmers' market.

8. WASTE DISPOSAL

Please ensure you dispose of the contents of toilet cassettes in the correct manner at appropriate chemical disposal points such



as those on campsites. Do not dispose of toilet waste in public toilets because in rural areas they often operate using small-scale sewage treatment or septic tank systems that cannot cope with multiple toilet cassettes being emptied in a short space of time. More publicly-available motorhome waste facility points are being added in parts of Scotland, for example, so locate one nearby using www.campa.org.uk/waste-disposal. And not all toilet chemicals are septic-tank friendly – so consider what chemical product you are using and how it should be disposed of.

For further information:

- Highway Code: www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code
- Scottish Outdoor Access Code: www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot
- Countryside Code: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code
- Campervan & Motorhome Professional Association (CaMPA): www.campa.org.uk
- Visit Scotland: www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/caravan-camping

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