

No room at the site

In the past seven years with our camper and more than 25 years with our car and caravan, we toured all over Europe, from the north of Norway to the south of Spain.

There was always a pitch for us and now we have found that on several campsites (including the two major clubs) in England there was no pitch available for us, not even for one night.

We asked 'neighbours' on the campsites and found out that they make always or mostly 'reservations' for the next nights. So, we did that and on a few campsites we had 'the last pitch' or 'everything was fully booked'.

On the campsite in Warwick, on which we had 'the last pitch', there were six pitches empty at nine in the evening! A camper from Poland was refused on the site, as it was full.

For campers from abroad it is not easy. We can't simply drive through the country and look for a campsite and, if you find one, it's possible that every pitch is booked.

Further, we noticed that two campsites did not reply to phone calls left on the answering machine or email; what a bad service.

We hope that this letter will give the campsites an idea to be more open for the 'passers-by' from abroad.

**Anneloes and Chris de Bruin,
The Netherlands**



Escorted around Germany

We have just returned from a lovely escorted motorhome tour to Germany. We have been motorhomers now for more than five years and last year was the first time we crossed the Channel, but did not want to be too far away from home, so we stayed in northern France.

This year, we met Audrey and Michael of MandA Tours at the Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show in February at the NEC. As we always wanted to go to Germany and the timing of their tour fell directly in the time we had planned our holidays, we booked the Majestic Rhine & Moselle Rivers Tour, thinking to have a German as a tour guide would give us some reassurance. It was our first escorted tour, but will definitely not be our last.

The organised tour allowed

us to enjoy every day without any worries where we would spend the night, as they had chosen top-quality campsites and pitches in the loveliest locations. The campsites were often directly at the riverbanks and close to the city centres.

We were impressed by the information given to us on every place we visited and the multiple choices of what to see en route, right down to the very last detail, from where we could get fresh bread to the street maps, markets, bus routes, bicycle paths.

The highlights – The Rhine in Flames boat trip during the fireworks and the wine tasting, where we stayed the night between the grapevines at the vineyard – were absolutely fantastic.

For our return journey we also got some excellent recommendations on what to see en route and where to spend the night. We will

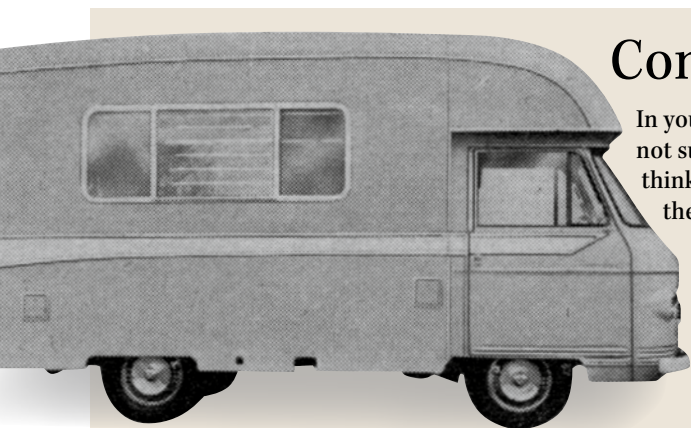


definitely be back on another tour next year, probably the Europe's Christmas Markets or Black Forest tour.

If you think about joining an escorted tour we can highly recommend it. Maybe we will see you on one of its tours. For more information go to www.manda-tours.com
Heulwen & Jeff Hewitt, by email

Muttering about manufacturers

Following the very interesting correspondence in *MMM* regarding choice of vans and the annual awards, I was amused to read *Motormoan's* entry into the September issue (p24) but can endorse the mutterings. I would say that manufacturers do not listen to their customers completely. We currently have all sorts of additions to motorhomes, which are, in the main, marketing and not practical.



Commer chameleon...

In your special anniversary look at 50 years of road tests (August, p131), I'm not sure the Jennings Roadranger in the picture is based on an Austin J2. I think that picture is of a Commer. As the caption said, "they have improved the lines of the ugly old J2!"

Don't you just love pedants!

Paul Sparks, by email

ED You're right, we did mix and match pictures, because some of the road tests from back then didn't even have pictures, and if they did, I'm not sure you would have been able to tell what was in the frame!