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Please note the information provided in this guide should not be taken as advice and has been written as a matter of opinion. For further information on insurance cover please <u>visit our website</u>.





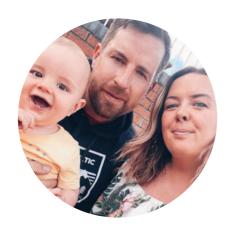




Intro

Planning your next holiday doesn't have to be expensive. We've put together a guide of the best places to visit on a budget in the UK and Europe with your motorhome or campervan. Look out for our expert tips on what to take with you, where to stay, and what to do on your trips.

Meet our motorhome and campervan holiday experts:



Rich, Lisa, and baby Rory—a family of three originally from Stoke-on-Trent have been travelling full-time in their motorhome since the start of 2023 and are documenting their journey via their Instagram account:

@onlyvans_uk. Rich and Lisa now work as digital nomads travelling the world in their motorhome and are here to bring you expert traveling advice!

Best budget campsites in the UK

If you're looking for something closer to home, there are plenty of great spots around the UK to take your motorhome or campervan on your next holiday. Covering the best spots in each region, you don't have to travel far to enjoy much of what the UK has to offer, from historical sites to great views.



North East

STRAWBERRY HILL FARM, COUNTY DURHAM

Based in the village of Running Waters in County Durham, Strawberry Hill Farm is ideally placed close to the city, the coast, and a range of historical sites, depending on how you want to spend your holiday.

The site offers 16A electricity included with each pitch at no extra cost, as well as showers, a laundry

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Salthome RSPB Nature Reserve
- Living Museum of the North
- Hamsterley Forest
- Penshaw Monument
- Ourham Castle

room, a tearoom, a shop, a bar, a children's play area, and a dog walking area. When you head off the site, you'll find that Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the Eastern fells of the Lake District, and the coastal village Crimdon are only a short drive away.

Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle and electric)	Starts at £22
Dogs	£1
Additional adult	£4
Additional child	£2
No additional cost for awnings	FREE

North West

SYKESIDE CAMPING PARK, CUMBRIA

You'll find Sykeside Camping Park in the middle of Dovedale Valley, less than a 30-minute drive from Windermere and Ambleside. With the beautiful sights of Dove Crag, Hart Crag, and Fairfield surrounding the campsite, there are a wide range of walks and hiking trails nearby, so you can easily get out and explore Cumbria and the Lake District. Sykeside Camping Park has a range of amenities available throughout your stay, including showers, a laundry room, electric hook-ups, a shop, and a pub on-site.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Castlerigg Stone Circle
- Dalemain House and Gardens
- Rheged (gallery, café, and cinema)
- Hallin Fell
- Sheffield Pike



Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle and electric)	Starts at £27.50
Dogs	£2.30
Additional adult	Starts at £5.50
Additional child	Starts at £2.90
Awnings	Starts at £0

*The information is correct as at April 2024



Tips for your trip:

"Always try to plan your route. Some places are more rural and have hazards that make it difficult for taller vehicles. We always have a brief plan of where we're going to go."



East Midlands

BARN FARM CAMPING, DERBYSHIRE

Awarded 'Best Campsite' and 'Best Family Campsite' in the East Midlands by campsites.co.uk, Barn Farm Camping has a lot to offer for families looking for their next motorhome or campervan holiday. It has a variety of on-site amenities such as showers, play area, games room, and laundry room. Barn Farm Camping also runs events throughout the year, including live music, children's entertainment, and food. Beyond the campsite, you'll find the picturesque towns of Bakewell and Matlock and an abundance of local walks and cycle paths to explore.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- **Matlock Baths**
- **Chatsworth House**
- Haddon Hall
- Heights of Abraham
- **The Whistlestop Discovery Centre**



Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle and electric)	Starts at £28
Additional adult	£6
Additional child	£3.50
Awnings and dogs are free	FREE

^{*}The information is correct as at April 2024

West Midlands

DODWELL PARK, WARWICKSHIRE

Just two miles from Shakespeare's Birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, Dodwell Park is surrounded by beautiful countryside walks and scenery. From museums to theatres and even a butterfly farm, Stratford-upon-Avon has something for everyone amongst its cobbled streets and thatched cottages. The on-site facilities include toilets, showers, a shop and an off-licence.



Local activities and sightseeing:

- The Royal Shakespeare Theatre
- The MAD Museum (Mechanical Art & Design)
- Stratford Butterfly Farm
- Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park
- The River Avon Trail



Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle and electric)	Starts at £28
Additional adult	£3
Additional child	£2
Dogs	£3
Awnings	£4

South East

BRIDGE VILLA CAMPING AND CARAVANNING PARK, OXFORDSHIRE

With the towns of Oxford, Henley, and Windsor nearby, there's no shortage of things to do while staying at Bridge Villa. If you're a fan of Agatha Christie or Midsomer Murders, head to the local town of Wallingford. You may recognise some locations from the show while learning more about Agatha Christie's hometown. The campsite itself offers toilets, showers, and a laundry room.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Wallingford Castle Meadows
- Oxford University Museum of Natural History
- Basildon Park
- Didcot Railway Centre
- Harcourt Arboretum

Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle and electric)	Starts at £24
Additional adult	Starts at £6
Additional Child	Starts at £4
Dogs	Start at £1
Awnings	£2



South West

LITTLE TREVOTHAN CAMPING AND CARVAN PARK, CORNWALL

A holiday at Little Trevothan Camping and Caravan Park puts you in the perfect spot for exploring the Lizard Peninsula. It is less than a mile away from the fishing village of Coverack, with its beach, harbour, and multiple coves waiting to be discovered. There are a range of facilities on-site, including toilet and shower blocks, a laundrette, a playing field and children's playground, a games room, dog exercise areas, and a shop.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Coverack Beach and Harbour
- Cornish Pisky Trails
- Terence Coventry Sculpture Park
- Trebah Garden
- Cornish Seal Sanctuary



Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle)	Starts at £20
Additional adult	Starts at £6
Additional child	Starts at £4
Dogs	Starts at £2
Electric hook-up	£6

Best budget campsites in Europe

Beyond the best spots in the UK, there are loads of places in Europe which will be great for your motorhome or campervan holiday. Below we look at the best places to visit in three of the most accessible countries for motorhomes and campervans when travelling from the UK: Ireland, France, and Spain. But before you start your European adventure, make sure you have EU cover on your insurance policy!

Ireland

If you're considering exploring Ireland with your motorhome or campervan, one of the best ways to do so is by taking the <u>Wild Atlantic Way</u>. A coastal road taking you along the West side of Ireland, the route includes beautiful beaches, cliffs, and quaint towns to discover.



SLEEPY HOLLOWS, COUNTY DONEGAL

An adults-only campsite, Sleepy Hollow is based right on the Wild Atlantic Way in the Gaeltacht region of County Donegal. The site has showers, a kitchen, and a communal area with a log fire to warm up in the evening.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Glenveagh National Park
- Dunleway Heritage Centre
- Mount Errigal

Costs (per night)		
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle)	€25	
Additional person	€11	
Electric hook-up	€5	
Dogs and awnings without a groundsheet are free	FREE	

CLIFDEN ECO BEACH CAMPING AND CARAVANNING PARK, COUNTY GALWAY

Clifden Eco Beach Camping and Caravanning Park is Ireland's first eco-certified, carbon-neutral establishment, and is based on a private beach on Connemara's Wild Atlantic Way. The site provides showers, kitchen and laundry facilities, and bike hire.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Gardens
- Connemara National Park
- Inishbofin Island

Costs (per night)	
Pitch (1 person, 1 vehicle)	Starts at €26
Additional adult	€8
Additional child	€5
Awning	€5
Electric hook-up	€7
Dogs are free	FREE





France

Taking your motorhome or campervan to France is a great way to explore another country and culture on a budget. France's infrastructure is well laid out for those travelling by motorhome or campervan, with aires de camping cars and campsites spread across the country.



Aires de Camping Cars

Aires translated to English means "area", and there are different kinds of aires across France for different purposes (aire de jeux would be a children's play area for example)—make sure you've checked that the aire you're heading to is for campervans and motorhomes before you set off. Aires are a great option for saving some extra money when travelling, as nightly rates rarely exceed around €15, with some even available for free.

Though perfect for an overnight stopover, aires don't usually have many amenities on site—think of them more like large car parks for travellers like yourself—so it depends on what you're looking for. They're a great way of keeping your trips low cost, but it's entirely up to you how you split your time between campsites and aires. It's also good to note that aires are widely available on a first come, first served basis, so it's best to get there early to secure a spot.



Campsites

CAMPING LE COIN CHARMANT, ARDÈCHE

Just a few metres from the Ardèche River, the campsite offers a wide range of activities both on-site and in the surrounding areas. The site includes showers, a washing machine, a snack bar, a shop, and a swimming pool.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Ardèche Gorges
- Balazuc
- Ruoms
- **✓** Vallon Pont d'Arc

Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle)	Starts at €15
Additional adult	Starts at €4.50
Additional child	Starts at free
Dogs	Starts at €2
Electric hook-up	Starts at €5





CAMPING DU PAQUIER FANE, CHAGNY

Less than a 15-minute walk from the picturesque village of Chagny, Camping du Paquier Fane offers the opportunity to experience French culture and countryside in its nearby vineyards. The site itself has showers, a laundry room, a restaurant, a shop, and a swimming pool.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- La Voie des Vignes (The Way of the Vines cycle route)
- La cathédrale Saint-Vincent et
- Musée du Vin de Bourgogne (Wine Museum)

Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people, 1 vehicle, and electric)	Starts at €18.32
Dogs	FREE

Spain

Similar to those found in France, Spain offers a network of aires across the country if you're looking for a short stopover whilst travelling—although they're less common here. We've compiled a list of some of the best campsites in Spain to visit with your motorhome or campervan on a budget so you can explore everything the nation has to offer.



CAMPING LA VIORNA, CANTABRIA

Overlooking Picos de Europa National Park, Camping la Viorna is ideally situated for a relaxing holiday surrounded by the Spanish countryside. The campsite has a restaurant, café, shop, showers, laundry room, playground, and swimming pool.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Torre del Infantado
- Potes
- Walks and cycling routes in Picos de Europa National Park

Costs (per night)	
Large pitch	Starts at €14.90
Adult	Starts at €5.90
Child	Starts at €5.40
Electric	€5







NAUTIC ALMATA CAMPING AND CARAVANNING, COSTA BRAVA

Nautic Almata is surrounded by the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Nature Reserve and is right next to the beach in Costa Brava. The site offers a range of facilities including showers, sports facilities and gym, swimming pool, restaurant, and beach club bar.

Local activities and sightseeing:

- Sant Martí d'Empuries
- Port Lligat
- Cap de Creus

Costs (per night)	
Pitch (2 people and 1 vehicle)	Starts at €27
Additional adult	Starts at €4.20
Dogs	Starts at €5.70

*The information is correct as at April 2024



Tips for your trip:

"If you're staying for a while, choose your pitch wisely. If we get the chance to pick, we always work out where the sun is coming up and setting. We once parked under a tree in autumn, and now and then, a branch would fall and clatter on the roof along with some acorns. It was a nightmare! I always check the pitch for things like ants and ant nests too."



Best routes to take your motorhome or campervan abroad

There are various ferry routes from around the UK that can take you to places like Ireland, France, or Spain. If you're heading to mainland Europe, there's also the Channel Tunnel, which runs from Folkestone to Calais. The Channel Tunnel is a good option if you're tight on time, as it's only 35 minutes from one end to the other on the LeShuttle. However, be warned—if you're travelling during peak times, you might find a massive queue waiting for you.

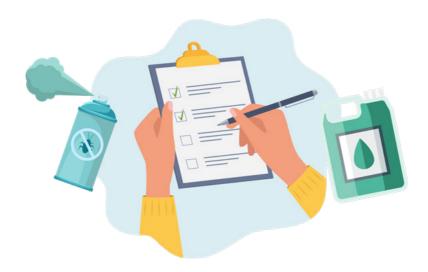
Catching a ferry is your other option, and there are multiple ports across the UK that will get you to where you need to go. Some routes are cheaper than others depending on the time of year, but you'll need to factor in the cost of petrol and time lost if you plan to travel further to a cheaper port.

Overall, finding the best and cheapest route for you requires a bit of research and some calculations on your part, as there isn't a one-size-fits-all answer.



Tips for your trip:

"In the past we've taken a trip from Portsmouth to St Malo on the overnight ferry. We then drove the west coast of France, into Spain and drove to the Galicia region of northern Spain. There are some amazing places to visit on that route like La Rochelle and II de Ray, Biscarosse, Dune Du Pillat, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Gijon, and Santiago De Compostela."



Your ultimate motorhome and campervan holiday checklist

Beyond what you'll have packed in your suitcases, there's a list of things to pack into your motorhome to ensure your holiday goes off without a hitch. Covering everything from the essentials, to packing for a winter holiday, use our checklist below to make sure you haven't missed anything for your next trip.

Documentation

- Passport
- VISA
- UK Driving Licence
- ✓ Insurance certificate for the vehicle
- Health insurance
- √ Travel insurance
- Registration certificate
- Breakdown cover policy number and documents

Motorhome essentials

- Oil and coolant
- Awning(s)
- First aid kit
- High visibility vest
- Maps
- Levelling ramps
- Wheel clamps
- Toilet chemicals
- Warning triangle
- √ Vehicle logbook (V5C)
- Spare keys
- Parking disc
- Vignettes
- Handheld hoover
- Extra lightbulbs
- ✓ Water carrier
- ✓ Hose pipe and fittings
- Waste hose
- ✓ Electric hook-up cable

Kitchen

- Plates
- Cups, glasses, and bottles
- Cutlery
- √ Washing up liquid
- √ Sponges and scourers
- Bin bags
- √ Tin and bottle opener
- Coolbox
- Pots and pans
- Scissors
- Tea towels
- Chopping board
- ✓ Kettle
- Tupperware



Winter holidays

- Snow tyres
- Snow chains
- ✓ Antifrost screen cover
- Antifrost spray
- Extra blankets
- ✓ Ice scaper

Summer holidays

- Insect repellent
- Fans
- Mosquito nets
- Suncream

Electrics

- Power strips
- Adapter plugs
- Extension cords
- Navigation system





Tips for your trip:

"Keep all of your documents in the same place, somewhere safe so if you need passports and other documents you know where they are and can get them at short notice."



Insuring your motorhome or campervan for travelling abroad

Insuring your motorhome or campervan through Ripe protects your vehicle against hazards you may not expect whilst exploring on your holiday. Ripe Motorhome or Campervan Insurance lets you build your own policy with the option to add on cover for Continental Europe, including a range of European countries for up to 90 days in one trip or 180 days in the year.

The policy includes public liability, theft, and accidental damage and can also cover you and your passengers for personal injury and protect you against third-party claims if you're involved in a traffic accident and damage another person's property.

Read our brochure for more in depth information on what is included in Motorhome or Campervan insurance through Ripe. Visit our website to get a quote for your Motorhome or Campervan insurance today!



Where to park your motorhome or campervan



In the UK and Ireland

In the UK, there are different rules depending on the local authority regarding where you can and can't park your motorhome or campervan. This includes parking on the street, in car parks, and on public land. Rules and regulations vary by region, so it's always better to check for yourself if things change and always follow parking rules set out in The Highway Code.

In Ireland, you must park your motorhome or campervan in approved campsites unless you have the property owner's permission. For extra peace of mind and to save yourself time looking into where you can safely and legally park, it's best to park up at a campsite or campervan park. This way, you'll have all of the amenities you need at your fingertips, and you won't have anyone knocking on your door in the night and asking you to move on.



In France

The parking rules for motorhomes and campervans in France are similar to those in the UK, although you are legally allowed to park your motorhome or campervan at the side of the road as long as it is designated for parking.

Having said this, don't start getting out your camping table and cookware, as this is prohibited and could get you moved on by the police (not that the side of the road is a great place for a picnic anyway). It's best to only use this rule if you're really in a pinch, as staying at designated campsites and caravan parks is also a lot safer and more secure.



In Spain

When travelling in Spain, you can park your motorhome anywhere as long as the vehicle fits properly into the space. However, you must keep everything contained inside your vehicle (so no pulling out your awning and your chairs when you set up camp). Some places might have signs banning large vehicles, which you will need to abide by, so keep an eye out for those, too.



Tips for your trip:

"We usually try and do a supermarket shop before we reach our destination and check out the car parks on Google to make sure we are not going to have any problems once we get there."



Taking your motorhome or campervan across borders

Taking your motorhome or campervan across borders may be entirely new to you—if so, there are a few things to bear in mind before you begin travelling. We've already covered documents such as your passport and proof of insurance in our ultimate holiday checklist, but we've added a few more necessary documents, plus an explanation of why and when you'll need them, below. For further advice on driving abroad, please see the GOV.UK website on driving abroad.

Crit' Air Sticker (Clean Air)

This sticker is needed for certain areas of France that are trying to control pollution levels. The sticker puts your vehicle into a category dictated by its emission levels and should be placed on your windscreen.

International Driving Permit

You'll need an International Driving Permit if you still only have a paper licence or if your licence was issued in Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, or Gibraltar. Otherwise, you're good to go!

UK Sticker

You'll need a UK Sticker applied to the rear of your vehicle if your number plate contains the GB identifier, Euro symbol, the national flag of Scotland, England, or Wales, or has no identifier at all. It's also necessary if you're driving in Spain, Cyprus, or Malta, no matter what's on your number plate.

European Accident Statement (EAS) Form

Although not mandatory, it's a good idea to have an EAS form to hand when travelling through Europe so if the worst were to happen, you can get the necessary details as soon as possible. Your insurance company may be able to provide you with one of these.

Mandatory Equipment

Beyond the documentation you must take, there is also some mandatory equipment you'll need when taking your motorhome or campervan through Europe. This includes a warning triangle, high visibility jackets for each passenger on board, and a first aid kit (mandatory in France, Germany, and Austria).

What can't I take with me to Europe?

There are some restrictions on what you can take into Europe, mainly on food, drink, and plants. Restrictions include:

- no meat, milk, or any products that contain them (unless its powdered baby milk, baby food, or pet food needed for medical reasons)
- some plant products are also not allowed (visit the official <u>European Union</u> website for more information)



Tips for your trip:

"Before you cross a border, always make sure you are not taking anything with you that you shouldn't. For example, you shouldn't be taking meat and dairy products to or from the EU and it's easy to forget what you've packed on board during your trip."

Taking your pet across borders in your campervan or motorhome

What to consider before taking your pet abroad

Firstly, there are a few things to check to ensure you're fully prepared to take your pet with you on your travels. Pets should be over 15 weeks old and comfortable with travelling in a motorhome or campervan, so the journey causes them as little stress as possible.

You'll also need to research where you're going, as different countries and campsites will have varying rules on the animals, or breeds, they allow and how they must be kept on-site. It's a good idea to check how hot it will get while you're there too, so you can decide whether it's better to leave your pet in someone else's care while travelling.

It's your responsibility to ensure that your pets are suitably restrained whilst driving in your motorhome or campervan, for their own safety and so that they don't distract the driver. Further information is available in the Highway Code on driving with pets.

Lastly, make sure you're fully prepared with all of the correct documentation before you go. If you're not properly prepared, you could face delays, and your pets could even be sent back to the country you travelled from, which you'll have to pay for.





What you'll need to take your pet across borders

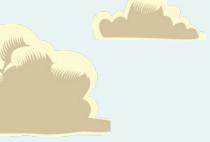
- ✓ Pet passport (make sure it's filled out correctly)
- Microchip
- Rabies vaccination
- Animal health certificate
- √ Tapeworm treatment (Finland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, Malta)
- Proof of all of the above
- A dog tag with the owner's name and address

For further information on taking your pet abroad, please visit the <u>UK Government</u> webpage.



Tips for your trip:

"Make sure you do your research and know exactly what you need before you go. Sometimes the rules can change quite quickly so make sure you have all the relevant paperwork and jabs for your pets. At the same time, don't be afraid to take them! We have seen people take cats, dogs, and know someone who has a pet duck as well. Pets love holidays as much as we do."





Motorhome and Campervan insurance that sets you free

We hope you found this guide useful. Why not explore our <u>blog</u> for even more inspiration?

If you're planning to embark on an open-road adventure, make sure your journey is fully protected with specialist motorhome and campervan insurance through Ripe. Motorhome and Campervan insurance includes public liability cover, theft, accidental damage, equipment and accessories, and emergency accommodation.

Policies are designed to be quick, easy, and can be purchased entirely online, meaning you and your motorhome can be protected in just a few minutes. You can even opt for extended cover which includes travel to a wide range of European countries!



Motorhome & Campervan holidays on a budget © Ripe Thinking 2024





