CODE OF ETHICS FOR MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN TRAVELLERS

RESPECTFULLY • RESPONSIBLY • CLEANLY

DRAFT

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I travel so that I will be welcomed back.

RESPECTFULLY • RESPONSIBLY • CLEANLY

This code is for travellers in motorhomes, campervans and touring caravans. It calls for respect for nature, local people, fellow travellers and the road. Its essence is simple - to travel freely while leaving behind order, trust and the opportunity to return.

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14 PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

14 PRINCIPLES

1. I lead by example
2. I travel prepared and use resources responsibly
3. I travel with respect
4. I help others
5. I stay only where permitted
6. I park without obstructing others
7. I respect local people and communities
8. I respect peace and privacy
9. I use fire only safely and legally
10. I protect water and shorelines
11. I do not turn a stopover into my campsite
12. I dispose of wastewater responsibly
13. I leave the place cleaner than I found it
14. I leave no trace in nature

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1

I lead by example

My conduct shapes the reputation of all motorhome and caravan travellers.

Every stop contributes to how local people, institutions and fellow travellers perceive our travelling community. Responsible conduct builds trust. Irresponsible conduct leads to restrictions.

I behave in a way that leaves behind more order, more respect and more opportunities to travel.

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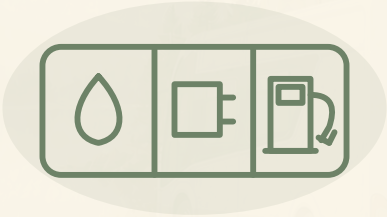
I travel prepared and use resources responsibly

I meet my own needs and use water, energy and other resources sparingly.

I carry water, energy supplies, rubbish bags and a toilet solution; I know where authorised wastewater disposal points are and have a plan for where I can stay legally. I do not expect local people, other travellers or the environment to compensate for my lack of preparation.

I use water, energy, fuel and other natural resources thoughtfully and sparingly. Self-sufficiency brings freedom, while responsible consumption reduces the impact of my journey on each place and on the environment.

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3

I travel with respect

On the road, I act in a safe, courteous and predictable manner.

Driving a motorhome or campervan, or towing a caravan, calls for care with the vehicle’s size, weight and manoeuvrability. I drive safely, follow the rules, do not rush, let others pass, avoid holding up traffic unnecessarily and choose roadside stops responsibly.

Respect on the road is about more than safety. It also means being considerate of local residents, cyclists, pedestrians, agricultural machinery, narrow roads and small settlements. My journey must not become an obstacle or a threat to others.

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4

I help others

I notice a person in difficulty and help as much as I safely can.

Travelling with a motorhome, campervan or caravan means being part of a community. If I see someone who is lost, has broken down or needs help on the road, at a stopover or at a campsite, I do not remain indifferent. I may help with information, a phone, water, a tool, a power source, directions to a repair service or a call for assistance.

Helping does not mean putting myself or others at risk. It means acting with humanity, consideration and community spirit.

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5

I stay only where permitted

I respect signs, private property, protected areas and local rules.

For an overnight stay or a stop, I choose places where parking is permitted. I pay attention to road signs, local regulations, protected-area requirements, private-property boundaries and the interests of the local community.

If I am unsure whether I may stay, I choose a clearly authorised place or ask for clarification. Responsible travel begins with a conscious choice of location.

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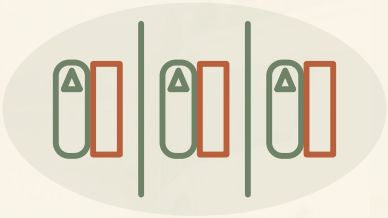
I park without obstructing others

I do not block roads, paths, entrances, views or other people's recreation areas.

When stopping, I consider not only my own convenience but also whether my vehicle or caravan inconveniences anyone else. I occupy no more space than necessary. I do not park in a way that blocks a road, path, access to the water, a view or another person's recreation area.

If a place is small or sensitive, I act with restraint. A stopover should never look like taking possession of the area.

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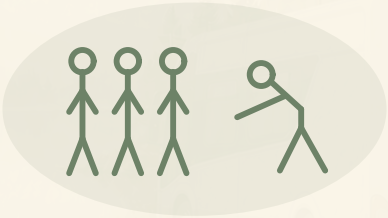
I respect local people and communities

I behave in a way that ensures motorhome and caravan travellers remain welcome in the future.

Local residents, farmers, fishers, businesses, local authorities and public services are not merely the backdrop to my journey. I am a guest in their environment. I communicate courteously, do not obstruct their work, do not burden the area with litter or problems and follow local rules.

Whenever possible, I support local businesses: I buy locally, use services and pay for infrastructure. This creates mutual benefit and trust.

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8

I respect peace and privacy

I do not disturb other people or animals with noise, light, behaviour or pets.

I avoid loud music, noise, shouting, bright lights or lights directed into another person's space, prolonged engine idling and unnecessary generator use. I respect quiet hours, other travellers' personal space and rest, and the daily lives of local residents.

I supervise and control my pets: I do not allow them to approach other people or animals freely, create noise or disturb the surroundings. Even in nature or a remote place, I am not alone – sound, light and behaviour extend beyond the boundaries of my pitch.

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9

I use fire only safely and legally

I use a campfire, barbecue or any other open flame only where it is permitted and safe.

I light fires only in designated places or where the rules allow it. I observe fire-risk restrictions and consider the wind, dry grass, nearby woodland and other people. I never leave a fire or embers unattended.

If in doubt, I do not light a fire. One careless evening can damage a place for years.

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10

I protect water and shorelines

I leave bodies of water clean and undisturbed.

I take particular care near lakes, rivers, springs and the sea. I do not park too close to the shore if doing so could damage it or inconvenience others. I do not wash dishes or use shampoo, soap, chemicals or detergents in natural water.

Water is a shared resource. My convenience must not become pollution.

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11

I do not turn a stopover into my campsite

I stay temporarily, keep things tidy and occupy no more space than necessary.

I do not erect long-term structures, fence off an area, spread out more belongings than necessary or occupy a place longer than is appropriate. If the area is shared, I leave room for others.

A stopover should remain a stopover, not the privatisation of a place.

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12

I dispose of wastewater responsibly

I empty grey and black water only at designated disposal points. Never into nature.

Wastewater from motorhomes, campervans and caravans requires particular care. I dispose of chemical-toilet waste, black water and grey water only at authorised disposal points. I never empty it into woodland, meadows, bodies of water, ditches, storm drains or along roadsides.

Responsible wastewater disposal is essential if this way of travelling is to remain acceptable to local communities and safe for the environment.

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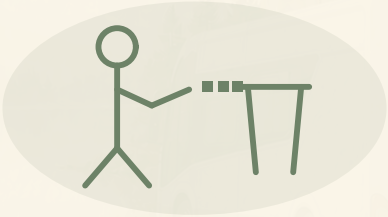
I leave the place cleaner than I found it

I leave the place clean and tidy, clear up any mess I create and, when I can, deal with what others have left behind.

After I leave, the place must be at least as clean and tidy as I found it – preferably cleaner. I take away all waste, food scraps, cigarette ends, toilet paper and small pieces of litter, collect my belongings, remove traces of spills or food preparation and restore the area I used.

I do not leave waste or mess beside overflowing bins, fire pits, roadsides or anywhere simply because it was already untidy. Whenever possible, I also clear up what others have left behind. A clean and orderly place is a direct expression of respect for the environment and for other people.

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14

I leave no trace in nature

I do not disturb the place where I stop.

I do not drive across meadows, dunes, forest floors, wet ground, shorelines or other sensitive areas. I do not break branches, dig, move stones, pick plants, disturb wildlife or alter a place for my own convenience.

Nature is not infrastructure. If a place cannot withstand my presence, I choose another one.

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SAFE TRAVELS.

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