

YOUR GUIDE TO FREEDOM ◀ TO GO ▶

Tips for buying a leisure vehicle

" The sense of freedom to go where you want, especially with your kids, is what makes this type of holiday our favourite way to spend time together."

John, Su and Emily English

LIVE. LOVE. LAUGH.

Get together with family and friends and make the most of the simple things in life. Feel the sand between your toes, the warm sun on your face and enjoy the picturesque views as you toast to perfect company.

This is the freedom to go your own way. Why wait when you can pack up and go?

WHAT IS A LEISURE VEHICLE HOLIDAY?

It's the freedom to go your own way in a trailer tent, campervan, caravan, motorhome or caravan holiday home.

The dream of escaping the everyday, made real by the ability to pack up and go.

A leisure vehicle is whatever you want it to be, a spontaneous weekend away, a relaxing break in the country, a chance to get close to nature, an adventure with family and friends.

Which one is right for me?

Different leisure vehicles give you the freedom to do different things, so the right one for you depends on what your ideal getaway is.

Do you want to be free to sleep under the stars? Bring friends and family? Take a short break or a long holiday?

This guide will take you through what you need to consider before buying a leisure vehicle. You'll find great activities to explore, handy advice and useful links that will help you make the right decision.

"We've rented a motorhome in New Zealand before and thought it was about time we discovered our own back yard. A motorhome seems like the natural choice to explore Britain."

Peter and Barbara Ross

TYPES OF LEISURE VEHICLES



A- Class Motorhome



Coachbuilt Motorhome



Low Profile Motorhome



Campervan



4-6 Berth Touring



2 Berth Touring Caravan



Trailer Tent



Safari Tent



Caravan Holiday Home Lodge



“My passion is cars. With my caravan I can attend festivals and events all over Britain and Europe. It’s the freedom to pack as much into my life as I can.”

Steven Walker

GET ACTIVE

A leisure vehicle gives you the freedom to go and do what you love. So get out, get active and enjoy all the activities the great outdoors has to offer. As well as exploring home turf, it’s also the perfect way to venture further afield. With access to Europe via the Channel Tunnel, and a number of ferry departure points around Britain, pack up what you need, including the family pet and away you go. Don’t forget your pet needs a passport to travel just like you. This, as well as a micro-chip and rabies vaccination, is easily arranged through your vet. The UK government provides detailed information on taking your pet abroad.



WALKING

Whether you enjoy a stroll through the country or a hike up a snow-capped mountain, there’s no greater freedom than setting out and exploring on your own two feet.



CYCLING

From leisurely rides down country lanes to racing over all terrains, getting out and about on a bike is one of the most popular ways to get active in the UK.



WATERSPORTS

There’s water everywhere! Get in it, get under it, get over it – swim, dive surf and paddle. Whatever you want to do, your leisure vehicle will get you there.



FISHING

One of the most peaceful, pleasant and popular hobbies and a great way to enjoy the fresh air and scenery of the great outdoors.



SIGHTSEEING

Whether you’re looking for sunsets, forests or vistas. Go exploring in your leisure vehicle, create amazing memories and take some stunning pictures along the way.



MOTORSPORTS

Two wheels or four, free wheeling or racing, watching or riding... Whatever you’re into, there’s great fun and action-packed weekends to be had!



RELAX

If you’re in need of a break, tour at your own pace or stay put in a lodge in a caravan holiday home. Either way you have the freedom to take it easy and do the things you want to do at your own speed.



ESCAPE

Get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Immerse yourself in the breath taking British countryside, experience a night under the stars and indulge your passions whatever they might be.

WHICH LEISURE VEHICLE SUITS YOUR LIFESTYLE?

With such a wide selection of leisure vehicles to choose from, it's just a question of which one will suit you in your pursuit of freedom...



CARAVANS AND TRAILER TENTS



TOURING CARAVANS

Even if there are only two of you, you might choose a four or five berth caravan to take advantage of the extra space – it's completely up to you. And if the size of your car affects the size of caravan you can tow, you can always supplement it with an awning.



FOLDING CARAVANS

Easy to tow for first timers, this is a great step up towards a fully-fledged caravan. Fold it down for easy storage and transportation, then just lever up the sides for a fully enclosed caravan.



TRAILER TENTS

More spacious than a tent and easy to tow, it takes away the stress of having to put up tents in the dark or disappointing weather.



CARAVAN HOLIDAY HOMES & LODGES

A caravan holiday home lets you enjoy all the comforts of home in a range of fabulous locations across the UK – without having to worry about preparing, transporting or towing your living accommodation.

Renting or buying assures a consistently high quality of accommodation and can provide a nice financial return if you're happy to rent to other holidaymakers.

The NCC's approved programmes of Holiday Home Ownership and Holiday Home Distributors are a great place to start if you're thinking of buying a holiday home.

For more information, please visit thencc.org.uk/Our_Schemes/HHOwnerScheme.aspx

CAMPERVANS & MOTORHOMES



CAMPERVANS

You've got the choice of either a high top or a rising roof. Both are well-equipped and tend to have all the comforts of home. They are compact, easy to drive and even capable of replacing the family car.



A CLASS MOTORHOMES

Usually the most spacious models, they are the pinnacle of luxury leisure vehicles with opulent living space, ultra-comfortable sleeping areas and generous kitchens and bathrooms.



COACHBUILT MOTORHOMES

The most popular type of motorhome, with all the hi-spec equipment you'd expect to find at home. The overcab area provides extra sleeping space that's great for families.



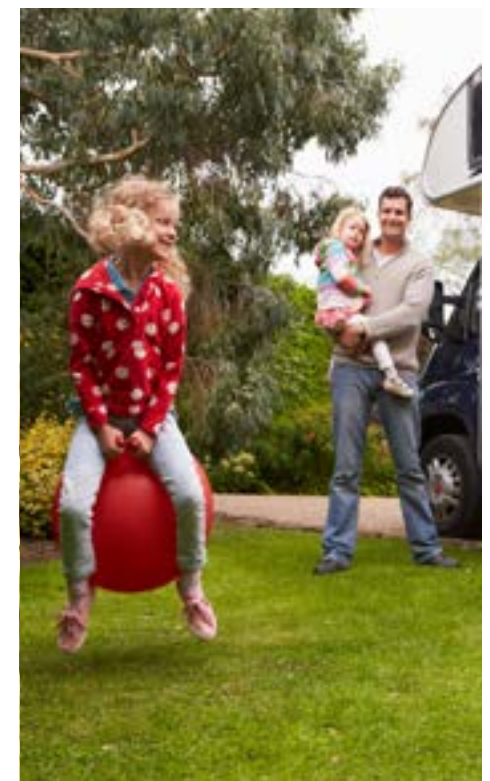
LOW PROFILE MOTORHOMES

A popular alternative to coachbuilt, the overcab is usually not for sleeping but extra storage room. The lower profile allows for lower fuel consumption. Fitted with the same equipment as the coachbuilt, it's the ideal vehicle for two people who want plenty of space.



MICRO MOTORHOMES

The beauty of the micro-coachbuilt is that while it has many of the characteristics of a coachbuilt; it's more compact, car-like and easier to drive. Perfect for touring for two or on your own.





TIPS FOR BUYING A LEISURE VEHICLE

When choosing a leisure vehicle, there are a few important questions you need to ask yourself that will help you find the right one. But don't worry, with our help you'll be on the road to freedom sooner than you think...

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

How far would you like to go in your leisure vehicle? Are you imagining shorter distance touring in the UK or long distance travelling abroad? Or do you want flexibility? Anything is achievable with the right vehicle.

If you'd like your leisure vehicle to also be an everyday vehicle to get you from A to B then you might like a hi-top conversion,

for added space and comfort. For longer trips, the extra living space in a coachbuilt would probably suit your needs better.

If you're planning to stay on campsites holiday parks that have facilities including restaurants, shower blocks and electrical hook ups, then you won't need all the bells and whistles in your leisure vehicle. But if you'll be venturing off the beaten track, it's better to be well equipped and well prepared.

If you're leaning towards a caravan, be sure to consult our tow check guide to find out which ones can be safely towed by your car.

HOW MANY BERTHS DO YOU NEED?

Even if there are only two of you, you may decide the additional space in a four or five berth caravan, or a medium-sized motorhome would suit you better. Remember though, the size of your car may restrict the

size of the caravan you can tow. Freedom-seekers with smaller cars often supplement a caravan with an awning or tent to give themselves extra living space. You can even do the same for a motorhome.

Finally, if you think a motorhome is the leisure vehicle for you, make sure the model you choose has enough passenger seats with seatbelts, to safely and legally accommodate your group.



HOW MUCH SPACE DO YOU NEED?

Do you want a compact vehicle for increased manoeuvrability or do you need space for family holidays and longer trips? When deciding on size, it's important to consider storage capacity, accessibility and comfort – what are you comfortable sleeping in, living in and driving? Bear in mind though, that once you've been on the road a few times; hitched, pitched and had a taste of freedom, you'll feel right at home in your leisure vehicle.

And if you're looking forward to getting out and getting active, make sure you check that your vehicle has sufficient space and weight capacity for any equipment you might need. Your dealer will be able to advise you of the safe payloads for the model of your choice.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU HAPPY TO SPEND?

Decide on a budget and put a little aside for extras. A caravan mover or awning? A motorhome annex, water carrier or barbeque? Maybe a flat screen TV, DVD player or even a folding satellite dish?

Some of these may be included with your leisure vehicle, but if not then you might want to add them. Remember to talk to your dealer about deals and discounts if you're looking at buying extras and make sure you ask about the weight they will add to your vehicle.

DO YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE TO PARK?

A medium-sized motorhome will be roughly 6m-7m long, 2.5m wide, and 2.9m high. If you're not sure you've got enough room in your garage or on your drive, don't panic, a folding caravan or a secure storage area could do the trick. The Caravan Storage Site Owners Association has an official register of secure sites. For more information, visit cassoa.co.uk



SECURELY STORING YOUR NEW LEISURE VEHICLE

CARAVAN STORAGE SITE OWNER'S ASSOCIATION (CASSOA)

The Caravan Storage Site Owner's Association (CASSOA) is a recognised membership body providing security accreditations to over 500 secure caravan and motorhome storage sites.

Many insurance companies offer policy discounts for vehicles stored on secure CASSOA sites due to its commitment to reducing theft. It awards three levels of security to sites, based on a number of features including CCTV, entry points, perimeter fencing and alarm systems. So you can choose your storage site accordingly and be confident that your leisure vehicle will be kept safe and sound.

CLUB STORAGE

Both The Camping and Caravanning Club and The Caravan Club offer a number of options for safe storage with many of the club sites offering temporary overnight storage.

For a list of Camping and Caravanning Club sites offering this facility:

campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/storage/seasonal-pitches/

For Caravan Club information on safety and security: caravanclub.co.uk/advice-and-training/can-we-help/safety-and-security/caravan-security

CARAVAN SAFETY AND SECURITY GROUP

The Caravan Safety and Security Group is also a comprehensive source of information for ensuring your vehicle is only enjoyed by you. It offers guidance on insurance and up-to-the-minute security products which will help you sleep soundly, even when you're not in your caravan or motorhome.

GETTING ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK

More and more people are taking to the roads in campervans, motorhomes and caravans and experiencing the freedom to go. If you haven't driven a motorhome or towed a caravan or trailer before, there are some great courses and workshops available to help you get on the road with confidence.

You can try our Motorhome Manoeuvring Masterclass and Towing Taster for free at our 2016 show in conjunction with both The Caravan Club and The Camping and Caravanning Club.

Caravan Towing experience – to book your free place before the October show visit <http://www.motorhomeandcaravanshow.co.uk/whats-on/towing-experience>

Motorhome Manoeuvring - free 20 minute session can be booked on the Caravan Club Stand 79 in Hall 20 during the show. <http://www.motorhomeandcaravanshow.co.uk/whats-on/motorhome-manoeuvring>



The Camping and Caravanning Club offer a full range of towing courses for beginners right through to experienced refresher courses, starting from £105.

[More information](#) on the Camping and Caravanning Club courses and to book

The Caravan Club offers a variety of courses including 'Practical and Caravan Manoeuvring Courses' and 'Motorhome Manoeuvring Courses' starting from £135. Attendees will also receive a free copy of the 'Essential Guide to Touring'. For other courses, contact the Caravan Club <http://www.caravanclub.co.uk/advice-and-training/training-courses>

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR TOWING A CARAVAN?

If you passed your driving test before the 1st of January, 1997 you can tow a caravan on your standard licence, however, if you passed after that date there are restrictions on what you can tow and you may need to sit a separate driving test.

For further information on what your vehicle is able to tow visit www.towcheck.co.uk



HAVE YOU DONE YOUR RESEARCH?

Shows are great places to compare lots of different makes and models all in one place. We recommend that you visit either the February 'Caravan, Camping and Motorhome Show', both held at the NEC, Birmingham or the October 'Motorhome and Caravan Show'. Even if you're not looking to buy, the shows are a great way to explore leisure vehicles, pick up tips and find inspirational holiday ideas.

OUR SHOWS

WHERE SHOULD I BUY?

Once you've set your heart on a leisure vehicle, the best place to buy is from your local dealer – preferably from an NCC Approved Dealership. They'll answer all your questions and ensure that you make the right choice with confidence. They can also advise you on handling, servicing, finance and warranties.

Pre-owned caravans and motorhomes offer excellent value and can be a handy first step towards the freedom a leisure vehicle guarantees.

With prices starting at about £20,000 for a two/three-berth van or caravan holiday home (from £7,000 to £10,000 for second hand) it could pay for itself in just a few years on the savings made over hotel or package holidays – plus you get that freedom to go when and where you please.

For more information visit: tourerinfo.co.uk/ and motorhomeinfo.co.uk/

IS MY LEISURE VEHICLE NCC APPROVED?

Peace of mind comes as standard for an NCC member dealership. Whatever you are looking for, when buying from an approved dealer you can be sure you are dealing with a fair and reputable business.

Our code of practice ensures that approved dealers treat consumers fairly, provide greater consumer protection and rights than provided in law, and deliver high levels of customer satisfaction.

To find dealers closest to you use our freedom to Go dealer search or look for the NCC APPROVED badge.

SEARCH NOW



IS MY LEISURE VEHICLE REGISTERED WITH CRIS?

CRiS is the caravan industries secure registration and identification scheme. All caravans manufactured by NCC members from 1992 onwards have a unique 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and when a caravan is sold, the new owner's details are sent to CRiS. Since 1997, new touring caravans have also been electronically tagged for additional security.



WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO CARE FOR MY NEW LEISURE VEHICLE?

As with a car, regular servicing of your caravan or motorhome will ensure a longer lifespan, greater reliability and an improved resale value. New leisure vehicles are required to be serviced in order for the warranty to be valid, but for your safety and peace of mind you should regularly service your leisure vehicle.

Many dealers offer [Approved Workshops](#) for quality servicing.

DO I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY?

There are a number of useful websites and blogs on the topic which might prove be useful when researching holidays. For more information on access in general, visit the [Tourism for all website](#).





WHERE TO STAY?

There are thousands of campsites and holiday parks that you can stay on with your leisure vehicle.

The Camping and Caravanning Club and The Caravan Club are two of Britain's largest membership clubs for people who love this style of holiday and want to make the most of them. Britain is also rich in holiday parks with a huge choice offering quiet rural retreats in outstanding areas of beauty to bustling centres with their own on-site entertainments, sports facilities and leisure complexes.

For great locations, handy

travel information, expert technical advice and much more, it's worth joining either one of the UK's largest clubs dedicated to help you find your freedom.

The Caravan Club and The Camping and Caravanning Club offer great ways to meet people and take advantage of membership benefits including dedicated camp sites, deals on insurance and storing your leisure vehicle.

THE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB

For anyone new to camping or caravanning, the idea of joining a Club may seem a little daunting. However in reality, it's our new members - with the least camping experience - that can benefit most from all the services and products that the Club has to offer. The Camping and Caravanning Club really is a one-stop-shop for everything you need to start your camping adventures.

The purpose of the Club has always been to provide a host of camping experiences for its members both in the UK and abroad - we've been doing it for over 100 years. Whatever you could want from your camping holiday, we can help point you in the right direction. We have over 3,000 different campsites to choose from - at least one of these will be perfect for you. It doesn't stop there: we have an army of camping enthusiasts that are on hand to talk you through every stage of your camping and caravanning journey.

We understand that if you're new to camping or rediscovering memorable experiences from days gone by, you may need information to put your mind at ease, so

you can relax and enjoy your holiday - after all this is what camping and caravanning is all about.

Whatever your question, we have the answer:

- What's the best equipment to take on my first camping holiday?
- Which sites are closest to the best beaches?
- What technical details of caravan specifications do I need to know?
- What about breakdown cover and insurance?

We have a dedicated UK contact centre waiting for your calls - ready to help. So, rather than scouring the internet for hours researching a plethora of websites about caravans, campsites and everything in between, join The Friendly Club and let us take care of everything.

Visit <http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/> to find out how The Camping and Caravanning Club is a great way to start your next adventure.

THE CARAVANNING CLUB

The Caravan Club provides services for around 1 million caravan motorhome and trailer tent owners. With the knowledge and expertise built on 100 years of caravanning 'The Club' provides support for every aspect from journey planning, technical advice and insurance.

The Club's site network offers an unrivalled choice of around 200 superb sites in glorious locations, as well as member-only access to around 2,500 small five-van only sites, set in the UK's most picturesque rural

and coastal settings.

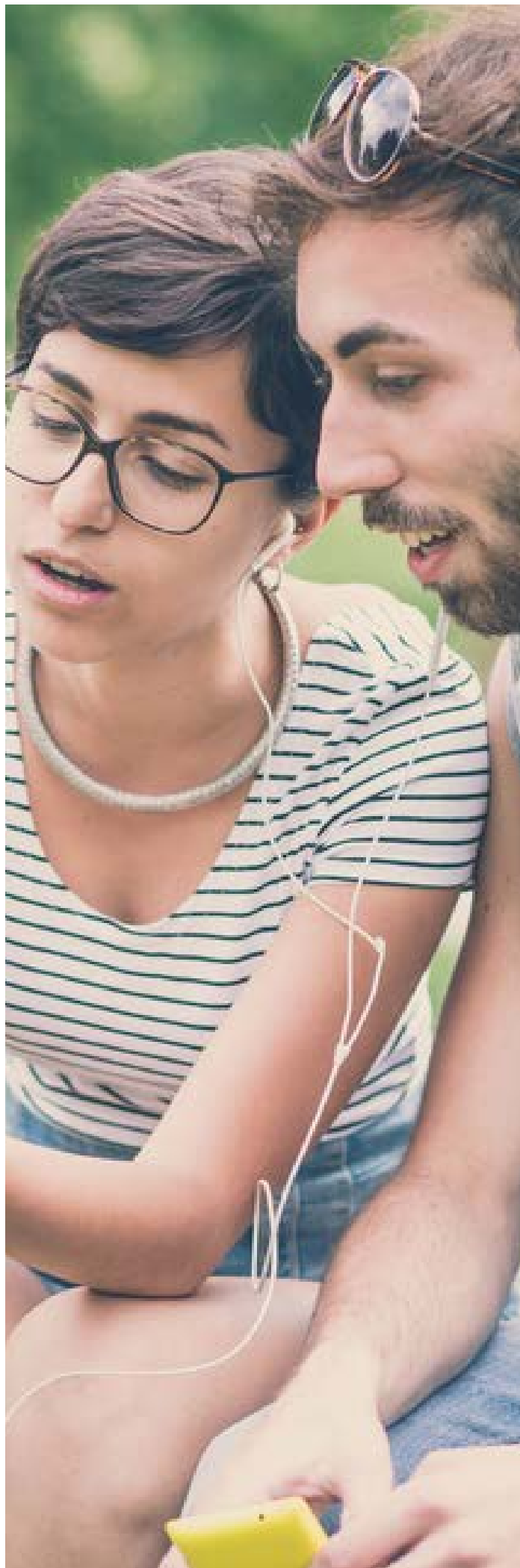
Membership of The Caravan Club provides access to the largest network of superb sites in the UK Europe, and the best value for money, support and advice for caravanners, motorhomers and trailer tenters everywhere. Member benefits include:

- Access to the largest network of superb sites in UK and Europe
- Exclusive access to caravan and motorhome insurance
- Exclusive access to 2500 five-van sites – we call these Certificated Locations
- Exclusive access to practical and technical advice
- Exclusive Monthly Club Magazine – which is worth the subscription alone
- Exclusive overseas travel service
- No deposit to pay and FREE cancellation up to 72 hours in advance of the booking
- Save £10 a night on pitch fees at Club Owned Sites in the UK

- Exclusive access to Club Together – our online community, which gives members the chance to support, provide advice, meet new friends and share stories.

Our sites are situated in attractive locations across the UK and Europe, with all types of sites on offer, we have something to suit your needs - from family fun to a complete from it all.

New to Caravanning? Relax! The Caravan Club's wealth of knowledge means we're in the best possible place to be able to make your first trip. We can provide a lot of practical advice



on what you need to start caravanning. Is a motorhome, caravan or trailer tent right for me? Which layout is right for me? How do I tow? Where can I buy? What can I expect on my first visit? The Caravan Club can help to answer all of these questions and more!

Visit the website caravanclub.co.uk/advice-and-training to find out more about getting started on your adventure with us.



THE PERFECT PARK

It doesn't happen very often. You go somewhere and you think 'We could keep coming back here...' Maybe it is returning to find new things to do and see, or maybe it is just doing exactly the same you did last time. You have found the perfect holiday spot.

And that's where you want your holiday home. For some the answer is a second home, but for many more, the solution is a holiday home on a park.

Caravan holiday homes have come a long way. Glance inside and you'll find them spacious and superbly equipped with a fantastic choice of styles and layouts. Your holiday home can resemble anything from a Scandinavian log cabin to a chic apartment or a beachside villa from the outside. Inside it can be comfortable and practical or state of the art living with the most up-to-date features for 21st century living.

They can also cater for big families and groups of friends typically up to 8 people and include:

- Stylish lounge, smart dining and TV entertainment areas
- Top quality fully equipped kitchens with integrated appliances
- Central heating, double glazing and fully insulated



- En-suite shower room and separate bathroom
- Comfortable sleeping areas and clever storage

In the latest homes, you can expect a wide range of interior layouts, exceptional build standards but above all exceptional quality of design. The high-end holiday homes are often designed and sited to take advantage of spectacular views.

PRIME PARKS

NCC members offer quality touring and holiday parks that range from serene retreats, perfect as a base to explore the great outdoors, to family friendly centres with entertainment and pool complexes, luxurious spas and past-times ranging from golf to watersports.

Freedom to Go has more information on the types of caravan holiday homes and lodges available or visit www.thencc.org.uk to start your search for a park that's right for you.

Please note that caravan holiday homes on holiday parks are not intended for permanent year-round occupation.

Want to find out more? For further information on touring caravans and motorhomes visit www.tourerinfo.co.uk or www.motorhomeinfo.co.uk

Produced by: National Caravan Council Limited
Catherine House
Victoria Road
Aldershot
Hampshire, GU11 1SS

freedomtogo@thencc.org.uk
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