



June 2020

From the editor

In this month's edition:

- Coronavirus update
- 2020 Tours Still Going.
- 2021 Tour Schedule.
- 2021 Expressions of Interest

Plus our regular features:

- Another great recipe from Dave.
- Keep in touch.



Tallin Old Town—where some of us should be about now

Welcome to the June edition of the newsletter, which is back up to its normal thickness. Regular readers will know that it is written by a thick person.

Obviously 2020 has been a bit of a disaster but there are some positive signs emerging. We are quite hopeful for our August and September Tours and we do now have some availability on our 2020 Tours.

We are also planning on putting our Burgundy Tour on in September. Read more starting on page 2.

The big news this month is that we have now finalised the 2021 Schedule and you will be the first to see it.

We are taking expressions of interest now for 2021 and you can find out how to do this on Page 6.

Dave has another

great recipe and we have the return of the motorhoming tips section. We know that a few of you are now venturing out for day trips so we have some advice on getting back on the road safely after a long lay-up.

As always we continue to think about those who have been badly affected by this virus and those working on the front-line. It's frustrating being sat at home, but at least it's not dangerous.

Take care.

Bob (and Wendy)

Dave & Sue, Colin & Sue, Gary & Eleanor, Ian & Linda.

2020

Coronavirus Update



Florence in Tuscany—spaces available for 2020

“We are taking it on a tour by tour basis and our response is different for each tour as each destination country has its own rules”.

Sadly we have had to cancel eight tours already this year and obviously this has been frustrating and disappointing for all of us. However, there are some positive signs that the remaining tours of the season may be able to go.

We are taking it on a tour by tour basis and our response is different for each tour as each destination country has its own rules. We are also mindful of the fact that many of our customers live in Scotland and Wales and are subject to different rules themselves.

We also know that

many motorhomers are of a certain vintage and this has to be a factor to when decided whether it is safe and practical to travel. We have erred on the side of caution throughout the pandemic and continue to do so.

Our tours only go if the FCO say that it is OK to travel. However, this is not the only consideration. We know that the main concerns that people have is whether we will be able to get through the other countries en route to our destination and whether there are any health checks or quarantine restrictions.

If there are going to be practical reasons such as these making it difficult or impractical to run the tour, then we will cancel it. We do not want to put our customers or our own tour leaders at risk or put them in any difficult situations.

We thank all of our customers for their patience and understanding.

As the season goes on we do have spaces emerging on our remaining tours. Please read on to find out what is still available this year.

2020

2020 Tours Still Planned

Croatia & Slovenia and Tuscany 2020

At the time of writing we are still quite hopeful that our Croatia & Slovenia Tour and our Tuscany Tour will be able to go as planned in September this year. It is still three months until we are due to leave and if things continue to open up and we can travel safely, we will.

We are in constant touch with the ferry company and with our campsites so will be taking advice from them in addition to the FCO guidelines, but we and our tour leaders are all quite keen to get away.

We are aware that there are some people who do not wish to travel this year now whatever happens over the coming months. This is understandable.

However, we also know that there is an appetite to get back out there as soon as it



Auxerre in Burgundy.

is practical to do so. To this end if you are interested in taking up a place on either tour in September, please get in touch by email. We can then talk you through the booking process. Full details of the tours are on the website.

Burgundy 2020

We are also planning on putting on another tour in September! We know that some people are very keen to get away but might not fancy a really long trip. Therefore, we are offering our Burgundy Tour (postponed from this month) in September. Full details of the itinerary are on the website.

We have not finalised

dates yet as at this stage we will see what the level of interest is for it. Therefore, if you are interested, please get in touch as soon as possible.

This is a two week tour covering just over 1000 miles. You are never more than two days drive back to Calais giving you a bit of re-assurance that if the situation does change, then it is only a short hop to get back home.

Please remember that if you are booked on a tour that we cancel for any reason, you are entitled to a full refund.

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2021

2021 Tour Schedule

Regular readers will remember that in March, we put out previews for what we thought would be the 2021 Schedule. This was BV: Before Virus. Subsequently we have had to revise the schedule, for obvious reasons.

Details of the new schedule are only available to newsletter readers at this stage. As every year, we start by taking expressions of interest and there are details of how you can do this on Page 6.

We will then open the bookings exclusively to newsletter readers in July, before we then announce the schedule on the website.

As every year, this means our newsletter readers gets first dibs on the new schedule. We have also committed to maintaining our 2020 prices as we are aware that so many of



Abbey de Senanque in Provence

you were unable to travel this year through no fault of your own.

Outlines of all the tours were sent to you as a PDF with this month's email. Please excuse the lack of snazzy design but we have not had time to get them to our very talented Dutch designer lady just yet.

Here's a summary of the 2021 Schedule:

Three-Country Starter Tour April/May 2021
14 days | £1750
The return of our popular starter tour with the focus on Holland, from Amsterdam to the bulb fields of Keukenhof.

The Baltic States

May/June 2021
25 days | £2700 plus approx £700 ferry
This fascinating tour for our more adventurous guests taking in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Idyllic France

May/June 2021
16 days | £1850
A new tour designed for the Francophile wanting to avoid the touristy hot-spots. Taking in the best bits of Burgundy, Dordogne and the Loire.

Provence & The Ardeche

May/June 2021
18 days | £1950
This tour focuses on inland Provence and the Ardeche,

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2021

“We then follow the southern slopes of the Pyrenees in Spain to the Catalan coast at Barcelona before heading home though central France”.

...continued

characterised by the stunning Provence Haute Alps, medieval cities, idyllic hill-top towns and villages, wide open plains, ridges and gorges.

The Swiss & Austrian Alps

June 2021

18 days | £1950

This popular tour provides a varied introduction to the mountains, lakes and cities of the Swiss and Austrian Alps including the Swiss capital, Bern and the spectacular Tyrol region.

The Pyrenees: Biarritz to Barcelona

June 2021

25 days | £2700

We head down the west coast of France with the chance to visit Bordeaux and Biarritz. We then follow the southern slopes of the Pyrenees in Spain to the Catalan coast at Barcelona before heading home though central France.

Summer in Sweden

August 2021

25 days | £2700



La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona

One of our more adventurous tours, we head overland to Denmark before crossing the Oresund Bridge into Sweden. The tour skirts the southern and eastern archipelagos arriving in Stockholm. En route we visit Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Malmo and Kalmar.

Croatia & Slovenia

September 2021

25 days | £2700

In addition to the two capitals, Zagreb and Ljubljana, the tour encompasses the beautiful Istrian coast in Northern Croatia along with the spectacular Plitvice Lakes and various historical sites including the Pula amphitheatre.

In Slovenia we have the opportunity to visit the UNESCO-listed Postjama caves, Lake Bled, the Vintgar Gorge and Triglac National Parks and the castles at Bled and Predjama.

Tuscany

September 2021

25 days | £2700

Tuscany is world-famous for its culture, history, wine and cuisine and could be described as quintessentially 'Italian'. Highlights include: the Renaissance delights of Florence, Pisa, Siena, Lucca, Montepulciano, San Gimignano, the Chianti wine-growing region and the coast.

2021

Expression Of Interest: 2021

To be clear, the 2021 Tour Schedule has changed from the one we went out at the beginning of March. The revised previews have been sent along with newsletter reminder you just received.

The list is:

1. Three-Country Starter Tour
2. The Baltic States
3. Idyllic France
4. Provence & The Ardeche
5. Swiss & Austrian Alps
6. The Pyrenees: Biarritz to Barcelona
7. Summer in Sweden
8. Croatia & Slovenia
9. Tuscany

If you see a tour you like then you can express an interest at this stage. There is no commitment do go on and book, it just means that when we open the bookings, we will come to you first. We will be opening the bookings in July.

The process is the same regardless of whether you are an existing customer or a new customer. However, if you have had a tour

cancelled this year then we will prioritise your expression of interest.

To express an interest, simply email us with the tour or tours you are interested in, or you can use the 'contact' form on the website, or just give us a call. Then, just wait.

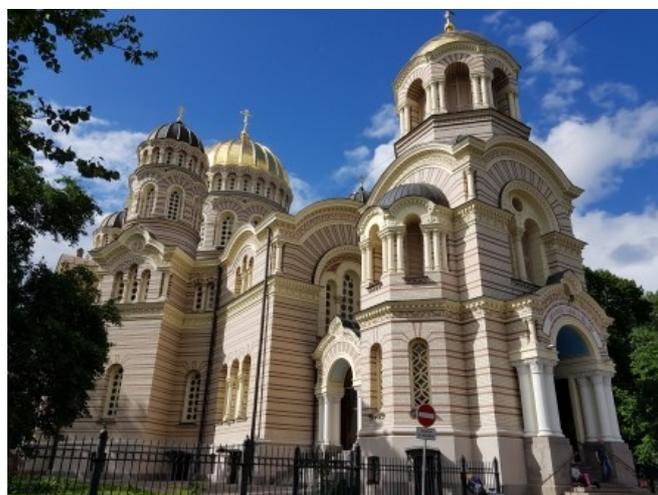
As always, we have a limited number of spaces available on every tour, although we will be increasing this on most tours next year to 15 motorhomes in light of the exceptional circumstances we have encountered this year.

Full details of all tours including confirmed dates and itineraries will be available soon.

Where the tour is one of

our established tours, you can look at the 2020 itinerary for to get more details.

If you would like to have an informal chat about any of the tours, then please feel free to call on 01522 861715.



Riga Russian Orthodox Church. Baltic States Tour 2021

Coq au Van: the amusingly titled recipe section

Ingredients:

- 3 sausages.
- 200g spaghetti.
- Small pack of broccoli florets.
- Handful of fresh spinach.
- 1 or 2 cupfuls of grated cheese.

Cooking Method:

Squeeze the sausage meat from the skins and fry in a large pan for 3 - 4 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook 200 g of Spaghetti for 1 minute less than packet instructions.

2 minutes before draining, add chopped broccoli florets.

Drain the Spaghetti and broccoli, then add to pan with the sausage meat and a splash of pasta water.

Toss to combine, adding a handful of spinach, black pepper and the grated cheese.

Enjoy.



Keep in touch

We are very happy to hear from newsletter readers throughout the year. If you have ideas for features, questions, motorhoming tips or questions about any of our tours, please feel free to get in touch at any time.

Email: bobandwendyreeves@crossingsmotorhometours.com

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Calls to our landline will automatically bounce to our mobile when we are away at no cost to yourself.

Motorhoming Tips

I have not been doing motorhoming tips over the last couple of months due to ongoing despondency!

Suggested topics were: "How to not be depressed when looking at your expensive motorhome parked up on the drive" and "How to simulate a foreign holiday while sitting in your van at your storage facility". However, I have no experience of either of these so I simply binned the tips.

Now that some of us are starting to get about a bit, it is worth thinking about those first drives of the season.

First of all, we are NOT encouraging people to go out and stay overnight in their motorhomes. This is still against advice (unless you are testing your eyesight of course). Seriously though, at the time of writing, is not OK to stay away in your van. We have heard reports of local police fining wild campers.

We have seen many people using their vans for day trips and to us this seems more appropriate as you can be completely self-contained in your unit. We are not doing this yet as we are concerned that some destinations are going to be overwhelmed with unnecessary visitors. We are choosing to stay local but are taking the van out for runs to stop is seizing up.

Therefore, the tips are mainly for getting the mechanicals going again.

1. Bit late for this, but generally speaking we park up with the van in first gear and handbrake off. Your handbrake might stick a bit when you first set off otherwise, but it should soon free up.
2. Check all your levels; water, oil and tyre (pressures).
3. Clean your van, particularly windscreen and

mirrors. They get covered in dust when laid up.

4. Double check around the van that you haven't left anything open that you have forgotten about; skylights, fridge doors, cabinet doors etc.
5. Charge your leisure batteries before you go out via your mains cable. Then put the 12v fridge on to check that this is still working.
6. Check lights, indicators, reverse camera etc before you set off.



Should have kept an eye on the van during lockdown!