



## **AA CARAVAN AND CAMPING GUIDE 2014**

### **AA Announces winners of AA Caravan and Camping Awards 2014**

The AA today launches the *AA Caravan and Camping Guide 2014*. Now in its 46<sup>th</sup> year, the guide has details of over 900 fully inspected and independently graded camping parks across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Whether it is a rural hideaway, a seaside family resort or a beautifully landscaped park the guide will have the perfect place for all campers and caravanners. There is also a range of self-contained Holiday Centres that offer a wide range of sport, leisure and entertainment facilities.

Campsites are visited by one of the AA's qualified Campsite Inspectors who look at touring pitches, facilities and hospitality before grading the site from one to five Pennants. For 2014 the AA has introduced Gold Pennants to identify the top quality parks that score 90% and above within the two to five Pennant ratings.

Each entry within the guide includes location, ratings, contact details, directions, prices, opening times, a description and facilities to help select the right site for your needs.

The guide also carries details of the winners of the AA Caravan and Camping Awards for 2014.

### **AA BEST CAMPSITE OF THE YEAR 2014**

**England and Overall winner** – Polmanter Touring Park, St Ives, Cornwall

**Scotland** – Cairnsmill Holiday Park, St Andrews, Fife

**Wales** – Tyddyn Isaf Caravan Park, Dulas, Isle of Anglesey

### **THE ROGER ALMOND MOST IMPROVED CAMPSITE**

Grouse Hill Caravan Park, Robin's Hood Bay, North Yorkshire

### **HOLIDAY CENTRE OF THE YEAR**

Hafan Y Mor Holiday Park, Pwllheli, Gwynedd

### **SMALL CAMPSITE OF THE YEAR**

Greenacres Camping, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

### **THE AA REGIONAL CAMPSITES OF THE YEAR 2014**

**South West England** – Woodovis Park, Tavistock, Devon

**South East England** – Swiss Farm Touring and Camping, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire

**Heart of England** – Fields End Water Caravan Park and Fishery, Doddington, Cambridgeshire

**North West England** – Woodclose Caravan Park, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria

**North East England** – South Meadows Caravan Park, Belford, Northumberland

With features on the AA Pennant Scheme and the story of the development of a farm into a campsite the *AA Caravan and Camping Guide 2014* is the bible for all planning a holiday under canvas whether they are seasoned campers or first timers.

The *AA Caravan and Camping Guide* is available from [The AA Shop](#) for £9.99 and as an app for iPhone, iPad and Android.

- Ends -

For information or review copies please contact Katie Stephens in the AA  
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## **Notes to Editors**

### **Polmanter Touring Park, St Ives, Cornwall**

From the moment you pass through the gate at Polmanter Touring Park you now you have arrived at a top quality park. You will immediately be impressed by the smart and welcoming entrance, the ample parking for booking in, the beautiful landscaping across the park, the smooth road surfaces, and the reception area, where the staff are professional and courteous, making you feel relaxed and very welcome after a long drive. In fact, everyone, including the maintenance staff, are polite, helpful and welcoming. The ultra-modern toilet facilities are top quality and kept spotlessly clean, and include first-class, fully-serviced shower rooms and baby bathrooms. You can expect the pitches, grass, shrubs, hedges, play areas, swimming pool and the bar and restaurant areas to be immaculately maintained - even the smallest details are not overlooked. Facilities include tennis courts, pitch-and-putt, arcade games and a popular bar and restaurant which offers entertainment in season and overlooks the outdoor pool. Excellent, ongoing improvements year on year have seen an increase in the number of hardstanding pitches, refurbishment of the bar area and effective changes to the landscaping of the park. Even when full, the park doesn't feel overcrowded with its spacious pitches that offer optimum privacy for campers. The commitment shown by the owners, management and staff to ensure that holidaymakers have a great experience at Polmanter is commendable. A worthy overall winner.

### **Cairnsmill Holiday Park, St Andrews, Fife**

Located on a hillside just outside St Andrews with great views over the countryside and just a short walk or drive into town, Cairnsmill Holiday Park is a perfect base to explore Fife and the surrounding area. This family-owned park has been tastefully developed over the years and now has mature landscaping in the grounds, including a private fishing lochan. The 54 caravan pitches are large, have hardstanding and are sheltered by large well-tended hedges; there are 12 individual grass pitches for campers, all served by modern, spotlessly maintained washrooms and amenity blocks. There are also modern static caravans and smart bunkhouse type accommodation available for hire. The social hub of the park is the newly refurbished entertainment complex, and the sparkling swimming pool is housed in a new, state-of-the-art building with excellent facilities, including a redeveloped lounge and club area. The owners are continually improving the facilities, with free Wifi access, new outdoor play areas for children, a new laundry room and improved security, which clearly indicates they are keeping abreast of customer expectations.

### **Tyddyn Isaf Caravan Park, Dulas, Isle of Anglesey**

Surely there can't be a more ideally located park than Tyddyn Isaf, which benefits from direct access to an award-winning beach. The pitch density is excellent, and major groundworks in recent years has created large level areas, many fully serviced, on sloping fields to ensure that the stunning coastal views are enjoyed by all – the sunsets are particularly spectacular! The park has been in the same family for many years, and Beverley and Arthur Mount were joined two years ago by their daughter Haley and her husband Simon, so that the family tradition of excellent hospitality and service continues. The touring and level camping areas have neat, lush grass and are surrounded by shrubs and wild flowers, the result of a dedicated planting programme, in order to attract an amazing variety of wildlife; the only sounds to be heard are birdsong and the waves as they break on the sandy beach. The amenities blocks are equipped with modern fixtures and fittings and even the camping unit benefits from under-floor heating and power showers. The licensed bar

and bistro, replete with a large alfresco area and stunning sea views, is at the top of the park and is a great place to relax at the end of the day.

### **Grouse Hill Caravan Park, Robin's Hood Bay, North Yorkshire**

True to his word owner Andrew Butterfield has poured money into improving this stunningly located park, which is set on a sunny south-facing slope overlooking a wooded valley and the heather-covered moorland of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park. From a typical 3-Pennant park, Andrew has transformed it into a top 4-Pennant park with a high quality score of 85%. After completely landscaping the sloping park to create attractive, level, tiered terraces for tourers which make the most of the gorgeous view, he refurbished all three amenity blocks with modern fixtures and fittings, including excellent privacy cubicles and a unisex, fully serviced shower room and bathroom. Also, at great expense, he has installed a water treatment plant to improve the drinking water across the park, built a disposal point for the growing number of motorhomes that visit the park, and improved the security on the park by adding coded barriers and CCTV. The most recent development on park has been the addition of eight Big Chief Wigwams (wooden camping pods) which sleep up to five people and are fully equipped with fridge, microwave, kettle, toaster, heating, electric lights and a bed. Each one has a decked seating area with views across rolling hills. Grouse Hill, with Whitby and Scarborough close by, is now the perfect base for walking, cycling and touring.

### **Hafan Y Mor Holiday Park, Pwllheli, Gwynedd**

Ideally located on the unspoilt Lley Peninsula, near the attractions of Caernarfon, Portmerion and Abersoch, this popular holiday destination has been transformed by massive investment in recent years into a must-do location for an away-from-it-all experience. The beautifully landscaped grounds guarantee colour at all times of the year and include stunning displays of indigenous flora that attracts a wide variety of wildlife. The all-weather attractions include a pool complex with slides and flumes, an indoor sports area for fitness and enjoyment, and lively entertainment is provided in the show bars. For the more adventurous, climbing walls with abseiling, the Leap of Faith and zip wires test both nerves and stamina, and perhaps the roller disco might appeal in order to wind down. In addition to a large lake, the park has the great benefit of direct access to coastal paths and a beach. Great eating options include the Mash & Barrel, Pappa John's Pizza, Starbucks, Burger King and a traditional fish and chip takeaway. The touring park, with its own dedicated wardens and underfloor-heated amenities block, features 75 fully-serviced Euro pitches, each with electric and TV hook-up, water and waste water disposal.

### **Greenacres Camping, Shepton Mallet, Somerset**

Within sight of the famous Glastonbury Tor, this small, family orientated campsite is mainly suited to tents and small motorhomes, and offers a very traditional away-from-it-all camping experience, with plenty of space and a very safe environment for children to explore and enjoy themselves. Greenacres is a very level site surrounded by lovely open countryside, a good network of footpaths and quiet country lanes for enjoyable cycling. The small facility block is excellent, well appointed and spotlessly clean. There are a few electric hook-ups available for the larger family tents and motorhomes. Enthusiastic owner, Duncan Forrester ensures his guests receive a warm welcome and have an enjoyable and pleasant stay. He even organises a 'glow worm safari' at certain times of the year, which both children and their parents really enjoy. The site is well positioned for visiting nearby Glastonbury, the beautiful city of Wells and its cathedral, plus other attractions such as Wookey Hole, Cheddar Gorge and the city of Bath. There are many small campsites across the country which provide a simpler, more traditional style of camping loved by families, and Greenacres is an excellent example and a worthy winner of this new award.

### **Woodovis Park, Tavistock, Devon**

Peacefully located at the end of private, half-mile, tree-lined drive, Woodovis Park is a well-kept and beautifully landscaped park in a remote woodland setting on the edge of the Tamar Valley. It offers superb on-site facilities and high levels of customer care from hands-on owners, John and Dorothy Lewis, and their hard-working team, and makes a top quality base for exploring the attractions of Dartmoor, Plymouth and the South Ham coast and countryside. If you want to know what to do and where to go in the area, just check out the high-tech interactive touch screen system in the information/games room – it's brilliant. Woodovis is well laid out and maintained to the highest level, with well-appointed and spotlessly clean facilities. The toilets are immaculate and pitches are spacious and include excellent hardstandings and 13 fully-serviced pitches. There's a good fenced play area, an open space for ball games and a decent games room to keep children amused, plus an indoor swimming pool and, for adults, a sauna. There are also luxury camping pods, well-appointed static homes and a self-catering cottage for hire. Customer care initiatives include free foraging tours, story-telling evenings, and a weekly and very popular hog roast in main season, which brings campers together for an informal evening. Guests can be assured of a warm welcome at this lovely park.

### **Swiss Farm Touring & Camping, Henley-On-Thames, Oxfordshire**

The progress that this campsite has made over the past few years has been quite remarkable – it has been transformed from a very mediocre site to a top 5-pennant park, and full credit must go to owner Joseph Bolase and his enthusiastic team. Swiss Farm occupies an enviable location within walking distance of Henley-on-Thames, a beautiful town beside the River Thames and famous for the annual Henley Regatta, when booking is essential for a stay on the park. The site offers excellent facilities throughout, including spacious pitches, many of which have hardstandings, electric and waste water. There are two modern and well-appointed toilet and shower blocks plus an excellent outdoor swimming pool, as well as a very tasteful bar area. There is also a peaceful fishing lake for the keen angler to enjoy. The whole park is well landscaped and makes for a peaceful and relaxing camping environment, the attention to detail across the park is excellent and campers are guaranteed a warm welcome from the whole team. Further exciting improvements are planned and the park is now a member of the prodigious Best of British group of campsites, which underlines its overall quality.

### **Fields End Water Caravan Park & Fishery, Doddington, Cambridgeshire**

Owner Charlie Broughton has invested considerable time, energy and money in transforming this former small Certified Location site for five caravans into a top quality 5-pennant park. What's more amazing is that he has achieved it all in just six years! Thorough research and careful attention to detail has seen this excellent park evolve and rise out of the flat Fenland landscape. Situated on a bank of clay above the surrounding countryside, skilful use of natural contours resulted in the construction of three wide terraces accommodating 38 fully serviced pitches, each with very spacious gravel hardstandings and fringed by varied and colourful shrubs. For tents, there is a separate lush grassy paddock and all pitches here have electric. The entrance and interior roads are of deep, well-managed gravel and all the buildings, including the stunning reception building, the modern, pristinely kept toilet block and the owner's residence, are smartly clad in dark stained timber, which combine with the excellent landscaping to create a park with huge visual appeal. The two large fishing lakes are well stocked with a wide variety of species and five acres of woodland offer good opportunities for gentle walks. The most recent development has been the construction of three swish timber lodges, all luxuriously furnished and equipped with log burners; two have hot tubs.

### **Woodclose Caravan Park, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria**

A warm welcome is assured at this ideally located park that is situated between the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Park, in the Lune Valley. Set in nine acres, with stunning rural views, this mature, well-equipped park that has been upgraded after major investment to ensure a memorable holiday experience. The beautifully landscaped grounds attract a large variety of wildlife and the generous pitch density ensures optimum privacy. On arrival, customers are greeted by a stunning display of seasonal flowers, neat, lush grass and scented shrubs that create an excellent first impression. Additional wigwams of various sizes have been introduced to create a separate Wigwam Village amongst mature trees, and this area benefits from its own top-notch toilets and showers. Touring areas, located on tiered fields, shielded by trees and flora are serviced by the main amenities block; these offer excellent standards and privacy options with unisex shower rooms that also contain a toilet and wash basin. There is no need to leave the park for exercise, as extensive woodland walks from the park ensure a 'back to nature' experience, and the well-stocked shop provides both essentials and locally sourced and reared produce.

### **South Meadows Caravan Park, Belford, Northumberland**

Set in 40 acres of beautiful Northumbrian countryside, a short drive from unspoilt beaches and magnificent Bamburgh Castle, South Meadows has been transformed in recent years and is now a top quality touring and holiday park. Joining the AA Pennant Scheme for the first time in 2014, and achieving an excellent 5-Pennant 87% rating, the park is extremely spacious and no expense has been spared in its landscaping and development. Tree planting on a grand scale has been carried out, grassy areas are beautifully mown and most of the generous hardstanding touring pitches are fully serviced. The new solar heated amenity block is ultra modern and has definite 'wow' factor, with quality fittings, unisex fully-serviced cubicles, and smart family rooms (with double-headed showers), and everywhere is spotlessly clean, fresh and well maintained. Key additions in the last year included a stunning children's adventure playground, complete with a zip-wire, an excellent motorhome service point and free WiFi across the park. Campers can expect high levels of customer care from owner Simon Dunham and his professional team in the swish reception building and across the park. Dogs are very welcome too and they have two walking areas, one in a glorious bluebell wood. South Meadows is the perfect base to explore Holy Island, the Farne Islands and the Scottish Borders, and Belford which is just a five-minute walk from the park.