



AA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF CARAVAN AND CAMPING AWARDS

AA launches AA Caravan and Camping Guide 2015

The AA has today announced the winners of the coveted AA Caravan and Camping Awards for 2015. Camping and caravanning is growing in popularity and the awards reveal the best of the best when it comes to choosing a destination for next year's camping trips.

The award winners all feature in the new edition of the best selling AA Caravan and Camping Guide. With details of 900 fully inspected and rated caravan and campsites throughout the United Kingdom, this updated guide is a must have for anyone planning a trip away in a caravan, motorhome or tent.

The winners for 2015 are -

AA CAMPSITE OF THE YEAR 2015

England and Overall winner - Oakdown Country Holiday Park, Sidmouth, Devon

Scotland - Witches Craig Caravan and Camping Park, Blairlogie, Stirling

Wales - Bron Derw Touring Caravan Park, Llanrwst, Conwy

AA REGIONAL CAMPSITE OF THE YEAR 2015

South West - Fauxquets Valley Campsite Castel, Guernsey

South East - The Orchards Holiday Caravan Park, Newbridge, Isle of Wight

Heart of England - Longnor Wood Holiday Park, Longnor, Staffordshire

North West - Manor Wood Country Caravan Park, Coddington, Cheshire

North East - Golden Square Caravan and Camping Park, Helmsley, North Yorkshire

HOLIDAY CENTRE OF THE YEAR

Park Foot Caravan and Camping Park, Pooley Bridge, Cumbria

MOST IMPROVED CAMPSITE OF THE YEAR (ROGER ALMOND AWARD)

Wells Holiday Park, Wells, Somerset

SMALL CAMPSITE OF THE YEAR

Churchill Farm Campsite, Buckfastleigh, Devon

The sites in the AA Caravan and Camping Guide 2015 have all been visited by one of the AA's qualified Campsite Inspectors to look at touring pitches, facilities and hospitality before grading the site from one to five Pennants, including the Gold Pennants awarded to the best parks. Each entry within the guide includes location, ratings, contact details, directions, prices, opening times, facilities and a description to help select the right site for your needs.

The 2015 guide not only carries a new 'Glamping' symbol for sites that offer the glamping experience, but also editorial features on *Island Camping*, highlighting what Guernsey, Jersey and other islands have to offer for campers, and *Discovering a haven in North Wales*, in which an inspector recounts his family weekend away at a holiday park.

The *AA Caravan and Camping Guide* is available from [The AA Shop](#) for £12.99 and as a free app for iPhone, iPad and Android.

- Ends -

For information or review copies please contact Katie Stephens in the AA Press Office on 01256 492895 or press.office@theaa.com

Note to Editors

Campsite of the Year for England and Overall winner - Oakdown Country Holiday Park - Sidmouth

For nearly 40 years, this popular, well-established park has been lovingly developed and continuously upgraded by the Franks family and is now one of Britain's top holiday parks. The touring area is divided up into 'groves' or 'drives', each separated by a lovely array of trees or shrubs, which afford plenty of privacy to many of the pitches. Careful consideration of privacy and pitch density is one of the park's strengths and sets it apart from most other sites. The main toilet and shower block, built inside of an old wartime radar building, can only be described as 'stunning', housing very modern and spotlessly clean facilities, including excellent family rooms and bathrooms. In addition to the touring area, there is a beautifully landscaped and imaginatively laid out holiday home area which offers top quality caravans and lodges for purchase or hire. The park also has a well-stocked shop and a really good café, which also doubles as a reception for the popular 9-hole par 3 golf course. Oakdown, situated on the Jurassic Coast just a few miles from Sidmouth, is the perfect holiday base, with spacious pitches, very comfortable facilities and a warm welcome from the Franks family and their attentive team. A worthy winner of the Best in England and Overall Campsite of the Year Award.

Campsite of the Year for Scotland - Witches Craig Caravan and Camping Park Blairlogie, Stirling

In an attractive setting, deep in 'Braveheart' country, this beautifully maintained park stands at the foot of the dramatic Ochil Hills, which form an impressive backdrop. Witches Craig has been tastefully developed by the Dewar family and features an immaculate facility block and mature landscaping, with terrific displays of colourful shrubs and plants, all lovingly cared for by Veda Dewar. All the touring pitches are on large hardstandings set in small areas to provide a feeling of seclusion, while tents are located in a large, well-drained field to the rear of the site, replete with cooking shelters and picnic benches. Year-on-year improvements have recently included WiFi access, a new garden area and a new security barrier, which all clearly demonstrate that the owners are keeping abreast of customer expectations. First time visitors or campers that have been visiting the site since childhood, are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome from Veda and her staff. A regular bus to Stirling passes the entrance and many historical sites are just a short distance away. This is not a big site, with a bar and swimming pool, but certainly a very popular one, annually attracting customers to this stunning area. It is an obvious choice for an AA campsite award.

Campsite of the Year for Wales - Bron Derw Touring Caravan Park Llanrwst, Conwy

It is difficult to imagine that this was the location of a dairy farm until six years ago when John and Beryl Edwards decided to change their lifestyle by

creating this stunningly located camping park, surrounded by mountains and within easy walking distance of historic Llanwrst. Following development of the first touring field, a separate adults-only area was later constructed with 23 fully serviced pitches, and each area has its own excellent, stone built, heated amenities block, equipped with modern, top quality fixtures and fittings. Bron Derw has been designed and beautifully landscaped to a very high standard and is now fully mature, and all the facility blocks are immaculately maintained. Superb displays of seasonal flowers along the entrance road greet guests as they arrive, and in the touring areas, the now well-established plants and shrubs surround the generous, well-spaced pitches. Recent improvements include extending one of the toilet blocks, adding three extra toilets and resurfacing the driveway from the main road to both touring fields. This Welsh winner, run by passionate and hard working owners, is the perfect base for exploring Snowdonia – Betws-y-Coed is just five miles away – and for visiting Llandudno and the north Wales coast, including the Isle of Anglesey.

Campsite of the Year for South West England - Fauxquets Valley Campsite Castle, Guernsey

Set in a beautiful sheltered valley, Fauxquets offers a truly peaceful camping environment for all the family. Roland and Teresa Guille, the young owners, have worked exceptionally hard at developing the campsite and its facilities. Each year has seen a 'project' undertaken to improve something and this has resulted in the park achieving a 5 Pennant rating for 2015, a first for a Guernsey campsite. All the facilities are now up-to-date and of an excellent standard. They place great emphasis on customer care and service, and the reception area has become a real focal point for guests to meet, read a newspaper or just chill out, with a decked area, tables, chairs, a gazebo, plus free WiFi and take-away barbecue food. The campsite offers a good variety of pitches, including some that can take the largest tents and these enjoy lovely sea views. Two well-appointed log cabins are available for hire and there is also a super swimming pool as well as some cute farm animals to keep the children amused. Roland and Teresa, plus their young daughter Eva and Morley the dog, are very much part of the day-to-day running of Fauxquets, making all their guests feel very much at home. It's the first time a Channel Islands' campsite has won this prestigious award.

Campsite of the Year for South East England - Orchards Holiday Caravan Park Newbridge Isle of Wight

One of the standout and most well known campsites on the Isle of Wight, Orchards is a much-loved park that has been painstakingly upgraded over the years and now ranks among the best parks in the country. It really does offer a complete holiday experience for both couples and families. There is a stunning facility centre that provides very spacious shower rooms, replete with toilet and washbasin, and one of the best dishwashing areas to be found, with picture windows affording lovely views over the surrounding countryside. The

high-spec building has underfloor heating, water is heated by solar panels backed by a bio-mass boiler, and the latest technology in renewable energy includes timers for showers, slow-release taps, and systemiser controls to save water. Leisure facilities include excellent indoor and outdoor swimming pools, plus there is a poolside coffee shop with a garden conservatory atmosphere, a well-stocked shop, and a take-away food bar offering fish and chips and freshly made pizzas. Situated on the quieter west side of the island, in a peaceful village location amid downs and meadowland, the park is well positioned for visiting The Needles and the more remote coast around Freshwater and Yarmouth. Guests can be assured of a friendly welcome from the helpful staff.

Campsite of the Year for Heart of England - Longnor Wood Holiday Park Longnor, Staffordshire

Tucked away up a long drive and enjoying a secluded and very peaceful setting in the heart of the Peak District National Park, this spacious adults-only park is a hidden gem, surrounded by meadows and beautiful rolling countryside and sheltered by woodland, where there are walks to enjoy and a variety of wildlife to observe. Visitors can expect a warm, friendly welcome from the O'Neill family and excellent, well-maintained facilities, which include spotlessly clean modern toilets, good, spacious hardstanding pitches, high levels of security, a putting green, badminton courts, a 4-acre dog walk and super walks from the park gate. John O'Neill continues to invest and improve the park, extending the reception in 2014 to include a small shop, edging and resurfacing all the hardstandings and internal roads, installing central heating in the toilet block, and adding an excellent information chalet. The park also looks a real picture in summer, festooned with colourful hanging baskets and troughs. The O'Neill's passion and enthusiasm to invest in and develop the park year-on-year, and to ensure a high standard of customer care, has resulted in the award of Gold Pennants for 2015 and they thoroughly deserve the Heart of England Campsite of the Year Award.

Campsite of the Year for North West England - Manor Wood Country Caravan Park Coddington, Cheshire

Enjoying a tranquil country setting with extensive views across the Cheshire Plain to the Welsh hills, this secluded landscaped park has experienced major investment in recent years, which has lifted the overall quality at this notable holiday destination. Improvements include the superb new amenities block that provides excellent privacy options combined with first-class interior fixtures and fittings and underfloor heating. Additionally, the grounds are immaculately maintained, with a wide variety of seasonal and indigenous trees, colourful foliage and stunning floral displays that create an air of peace and tranquillity. Generous pitch density provides optimum privacy; some super pitches have hardstandings and full services, and additional facilities include a heated outdoor swimming pool, an all-weather tennis court and coarse fishing on several lakes. Avid anglers should consider booking the

holiday home that overlooks the adult-only fishing lake as they can cast a line from the decked balcony. Campers here can simply relax and enjoy the many varieties of wildlife, which is encouraged on the site – there are bird tables, bat and owl boxes, and informative nature signs that detail the flora and fauna. Happy memories are sure to be made following a stay at this park.

Campsite of the Year for North East England - Golden Square Caravan and Camping Park Helmsley, North Yorkshire

This friendly, immaculately maintained park is set in a quiet rural location with panoramic views across farm, forest and moorland towards the North York Moors. Sheltered and terraced on three levels and surrounded by mature trees, it caters particularly well for families, with two excellent outdoor play areas, an indoor play area, plus crazy golf and a field for ball games. There is a spacious feel to the touring area – with beautifully mown grass and the carefully planted, mature hedges and shrubs offering shade and privacy to the individual pitches, some of which are fully serviced with larger hardstandings, a grass patio and picnic benches. The spotless, well-maintained facilities include two stone-built and fully tiled toilet and shower blocks, each with underfloor heating and a well-equipped fully served cubicle, replete with bath and shower. The reception building has now been extended to include an excellent shop, which offers a range of home-baked bread and cakes, in addition to newspapers, books and caravan accessories. Country walks and mountain bike trails start from the park gate and routes are available from reception. This award is well deserved and the owners are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm, high levels of customer care and the continuous investment in the park.

Holiday Centre of the Year - Park Foot Caravan and Camping Park Pooley Bridge, Cumbria

In a stunning location, surrounded by dramatic fells and overlooking Lake Ullswater, Park Foot Caravan & Camping Park provides the perfect base for exploring the Lake District National Park. Set on the shores of Ullswater it offers a superb and memorable holiday destination for families who wish to enjoy a range of activities while benefiting from excellent on-site facilities. Pitch density is generous and most, including tent pitches, have electric hook-ups. There are three touring areas, each with its own modern and very well-equipped amenity block; the Aikbeck camping field has direct access to the lake. The park has its own beach and launching facilities, so boating and canoeing are very popular activities, as are pony trekking, mountain biking, tennis and fishing, all of which are available on the park. The Country Club bar and restaurant is open each evening, providing a wide range of interesting meals, from breakfast to dinner, large screen TVs and regular entertainment in high season. The park also has a well-stocked shop, two excellent adventure playgrounds, a games room and a summer kids' club. There are

also many areas where you can simply relax and enjoy the stunning surroundings, including direct access to Barton Fell for some wonderful Lakeland views.

Most Improved Campsite of the Year (Roger Almond Award) - Wells Holiday Park Wells, Somerset

Jason and Debbie Wilton and their enthusiastic team have successfully transformed this popular, adults-only park, situated within walking distance of Wells and its cathedral, from a relatively poor quality 3 Pennant park to a high quality 5 Pennant park in just three years. A new, spotlessly clean and well-appointed toilet and shower block has been built and the park has been completely re-landscaped to offer a wide variety of pitches, many of which have hardstandings; some are fully serviced and spacious enough to accommodate large RVs. All of the changes to this park have been carried out to the highest standards. A small function room, with outside patio area and tables, and a petanque pitch have been added, plus an area for private luxury lodges, and the park also boasts a beauty salon. The whole park, which is set on slight sloping land with lovely views over the nearby Mendip Hills, is always kept in tip-top condition making it a really pleasant place to stay. It is also well positioned for visiting Wookey Hole Caves and Cheddar Gorge, with Bath and Weston-Super-Mare a short drive away. Wells Holiday Park receives this award in recognition of the tremendous improvements that Jason and Debbie and all their team have achieved.

Small Campsite of the Year - Churchill Farm Campsite Buckfastleigh, Devon

Set in the hills above Buckfast Abbey, between the villages of Buckfastleigh and Buckfast, this small, beautifully maintained campsite is part of a working farm owned by the Pedrick family. It's a real hidden gem for those who love traditional camping; the two neatly mown paddocks, separated by post and wire fencing from pedigree Charollais and Dorper sheep, offer total peace and quiet. There are 25 spacious grass pitches (eight with electric hook-up) for caravans, motorhomes and tents, and stunning panoramic views towards Dartmoor from every pitch. Both Andrew and Ann Pedrick are just as passionate about running the campsite as they are about looking after their sheep, so visitors can expect a high level of customer care and spotlessly clean unisex toilet facilities. Housed in refurbished farm buildings across the drive from the paddock, these facilities may be simple but they're freshly decorated each year, boast smartly tiled, free showers, and are always well maintained. Churchill Farm is a relaxing and peaceful base from which to explore the South Hams area and Dartmoor, and it's close to a local bus service and within walking distance of Buckfastleigh, the Abbey and the South Devon Steam Railway.