

# Just go Italian relocation customer Top Tips



Here you can find lots of handy hints and tips from customers who have been on the Just go Italian relocation in past years. Handy for new comers as well as experienced motorhomers!

## Clive James Top Tips

- Although I never used them much there is a brand new Euro road atlas, and UK atlas in the van.
- There is also a full set of adaptors to fill the gas bottle up. Be aware of this as they are usually taped to the pipe work near the bottle in the gas bottle cupboard. The first year we couldn't find anywhere to top us up as we didn't have the adaptors (we did, just didn't know where they were). This cupboard is also handy storage for stuff.
- It's key to understand the heating controls so listen and be clear you understand how it works during the briefing.
- Unless you beat the heating and cooking to death you could make 10 days in a full bottle but the second year we used both extensively and filled up after 5 days. We could then be toasty with the heating.
- The showers are fine but you can't stand under them and let it roar like you would on mains else you'll run out of water. 2 folk will manage 2 days without a top up if you are careful.
- The floor is cold so take thick socks or slippers for bumbling around the van at night. We always buy a bath/shower mat at Pam's. Maybe something to put in your case though they aren't expensive.
- The vans don't have any extra security so like a car so take your valuables with you when you leave. Use the security clips on the window catches.
- The back of the van will swing out in a turn, especially the bigger ones, always leave a restricted parking spot straight, always use your mirrors!!
- When reversing always get a passenger out watching you, it's free!
- Right hand drive vehicle driving on the right side of the road..... Get your passenger to watch for you ending up on the wrong side on the road. Most easily done after leaving a lay-by or parking spot. As a driver you should always be in the gutter.
- Take ear plugs as it's very noisy in the rain and if you end up parked up near busy road.
- Don't forget your music!

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## Clive James Top Tips for your first night

- Go to Pams, get the vitals.
- Then 3kms to Poggibonsi town Aire in the trees up the hill on the road out to the South.
- Park up, 200m walk down the hill to the restaurant you just passed when driving up.
- Next morning 300m walk to get the croissant in town and then you're off!
- Hose adaptors are handy just in case you end up somewhere with a different connection
- Oh, don't forget you'll need a pillow (if you don't hire a linen set from Just go). My wife got in a bad way when we did the sleeping bag option as Pams didn't have any pillows and neither did anyone else for a few days, serious neck ache.
- Enjoy! Our third year but another adventure is about to begin. See ya there!

## Nick Sharpe Top Tips

- When driving out of the factory make sure all doors are tightly shut and crockery/grill are wrapped in towels/cloths as they can make a huge noise due to Italy's potholed roads!
- We plan our 11 days by amount of maximum mileage we want to do a day (250miles max) and where we would want to stay for more than one night. We almost work backwards from Calais - we know when we need to be there and therefore work out how many stops we need - this year it will be 6 sites, doing the Italian/French Riviera, up through Provence and then working across towards Calais. I've chosen which sites to go to but have not booked.
- Check directions as SatNav isn't always accurate.
- I wouldn't recommend pulling over into laybys - especially if doors aren't locked and people wear ear plugs!
- Check campsites are fully open - often even the open ones have limited facilities (no shop/restaurant) so try to camp near a town (walking distance) as you won't want to unhook your MotorHome for a drive into a village!
- If going north (Italy, Switzerland, southern Germany) be aware that it's still the ski season with lots of snow & bloody cold!

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## Alan Young Top Tips

- At the factory they hadn't closed our frost valve, so when we fired up the heating we lost all our water. Make sure you check it!

## Alyson Brown Top Tips

- Tuck your mirrors in when you approach the tolls , we clattered ours several times before we worked out the technique.

## Philip Bull Top Tips

- A cheap plastic watering can is useful to top up your water if you are on a site and don't want to move the van over to the water tap.
- Also we only drink bottled water. Don't drink the water out of the van taps!

## Peter Butler Top Tips

- 2016 was my first trip. Lots of lessons learned.
- First job at supermarket was to repack every piece of crockery and glasses with paper towel to stop everything rattling.
- Figure out how to hang a towel across the front seats to create a screen as there was no curtain in the front of the van – though you will be provided with a windscreen cover to give you privacy- with suction pads for quick on/off.
- Plan where to stop first night as I regretted leaving the supermarket and getting lost in the dark on small roads, before hitting the motorway in the middle of the night to arrive out side Ducati factory at 0130h.
- We didn't have the right hose/tap adaptor so bought the right one (they travel with me now). You can find these at PAMS if you don't manage to get them in the UK.
- Happiness is an overnight power cable, water and drainage
- Take plenty layers as it is indeed cold over the high passes in March
- Do not ever turn off a good wide road onto a small narrow road just because GPS suggests it (I had a couple of tricky turnarounds).
- A 2 night stop may sound good, but watch your timing as it's a long way to Calais and you don't want to be rushing.
- Oh - check you know where the cutlery drawer is hidden and where the toilet light switch is - I confess it took me some time to find these 2 little babies

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## Bert & Doris' Top Tips

Bert & Doris had travelled in a motorhome around New Zealand for a few weeks before but had never travelled Europe. They decided to give it a go with the Just go Italy trip and have kindly forwarded us some top tips for beginners.

- Follow the Just Go advice and load up with basics at the Pam supermarket near the Poggibonsi factory.
- Read the Just Go 'Sidekick' document before you do anything in the motorhome for the first time e.g. removing the toilet cassette.
- Make sure you have some two night stops so that you're not travelling every day and you can have a full day enjoying a city or walking. For example, the campsite outside Florence (Firenze) is easily reachable on the first night and there's a good bus service to the city centre (or use the hire cycles to go along the river cycleway). Alternatively give yourself some short distance days so that you are parked up by lunchtime.
- As everyone knows Sat-Navs are not perfect and can be an issue when you're in a motorhome. On your routes we suggest that you use the Sat-Nav to get to the closest village and then look for local signs for the camp site / motorhome parking. Also you might want to switch off 'unpaved roads'.
- The AutoRoute's in mainland Europe have far less traffic than those in South East England and so 150 miles is easily possible in 3 hours. The Aires on the AutoRoute are often really good stopping points for home-made lunch stops. The ones on the other roads are sometimes not so pleasant (toilet paper debris etc.).
- Prepare yourself the week before your trip by looking at bridge heights when you are driving your car. Remember 3m and below is not good, it's bad. And on some of the French AutoRoute toll booths the debit/credit card-only booths do not take vehicles higher than cars.
- Fresh water, toilet disposal, grey water, and electricity hook-ups can become obsessions if you don't plan to stay on fully-serviced campsites all the time. But don't worry there are plenty of facilities elsewhere. Fill up, empty and charge up where and when you can. The AutoRoute service stations are great for everything but electricity – look for the motorhome symbol. The facilities are usually on the perimeter of the services on the HGV side.

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## Bert & Doris' Top Tips

- We found that even small villages in France often have really good facilities for mobile homes perhaps with a nominal charge (with coins or credit cards) that included charging points.
- If you want to pick up local produce then get off the AutoRoute's, although some services did have some local specialities for sale. Like the UK, the butchers and bakers are struggling against the supermarkets and were very friendly wherever we went.
- If you have an idea of staying at a particular camper stop (often a local authority parking area) check it out on Street view before you set out to make sure that it is suitable. Our parking area at Levanto on the Cinque Terre coast was perfect for the town and station. Our view is the smaller villages and towns were a better bet for camper stops.
- The Champagne region is directly between Poggibonsi and Toddington (almost). It would be a shame to miss it. In terms of a small producer, Monsieur Gabriel at Trepail near Epernay produces a fine glass of his own Premier Cru at a very reasonable price of 16 Euros.
- For the last overnight stop, if you are wary about stopping near to Calais then campsites in Belgium near the coast are a good alternative with a fast, if busy, AutoRoute to Calais. (e.g. Westende)
- If you want to hang anything up inside the motorhome take your own coat hangers as they are not provided.
- If you feel the cold at night and are planning to go up in the mountains travelling early in March a hot water bottle is good idea.
- Lastly, Enjoy Yourself and have a great trip

## Linda Siggins Top Tips

- To stop the crockery rattling (and fear of breakages) , we always take a roll of non-slip matting, then cut it up into about 4" squares and place between the plates/cups.
- Easily available from Poundland and other similar shops.
- One roll is usually sufficient.