



Campings in Girona

**Costa Brava
Pirineus**

PRESS DOSSIER

GIRONA CAMPSITES ASSOCIATION

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1. The Girona Campsites Association in numbers

The Girona Campsites Association is the oldest of its kind in Spain. **It was created on 14 April 1977** with the aim of providing the highest quality of services and supporting its members. **It has 75 member establishments**, which represents more than 80% of the campsites in the province.

The associated establishments offer more than 120,000 accommodation places out of a total of 135,000 throughout the region, a figure that puts the sector in first place in terms of the regulated tourism offering. Girona is the only province in which campsites outnumber hotel beds, and it is the province with the most campsites in Spain, accounting for 16% of the total.

The first campsite in Spain was opened in Girona in 1955: the Costa Brava in Sant Antoni de Calonge, which is a member of the Association.

The Girona Campsite Association has been celebrating **70 years of camping in Catalonia** in 2025, showcasing the development of a sector that has been a key economic engine for Catalonia and a pioneer in sustainability, innovation, the transition beyond seasonal tourism, and constant improvement. The project has been undertaken in partnership with Girona Provincial Council. Two outstanding initiatives have been presented as part of the anniversary celebrations:

- The book **"El camping. Historia de los cámpings en Cataluña"** [The campsite. A history of campsites in Catalonia], produced by the University of Girona in partnership with the Calonge-St. Antoni Chair of Gastronomy, Culture and Tourism. This is the first historical overview of the field in Catalonia and Spain, and a thousand copies have been published.
- The documentary **"Pioners del càmping. 70 anys dels càmpings a Catalunya"** [Camping pioneers. 70 years of camping in Catalonia], produced by Visual 13, which reviews the history and central figures in the development of the sector.



For more information click [here](#)



2. Economic impact of the sector in Girona

Girona's campsites are one of the **major tourist industries in the region**. With **11.6 million overnight stays per year**, they account for more than 40% of overnight stays by tourists in the Girona region, and **50% of all overnight stays at campsites in Catalonia**.

The sector has experienced **growth outside the traditional high season**, with stable levels of occupancy in July and August, and significant increases from January to March and between October and December.

A large proportion of the demand comes from **international tourists**, who make up **47.4% of clients** and are responsible for **63.4% of overnight stays**. **There has also been a significant increase in visitors from Spain in recent years**, thereby consolidating the campsites as an increasingly popular alternative among local clients.

Furthermore, it is one of the sectors that creates the most **employment in summer**, with around **7,500 workers**, and it has an economic impact of **over 1,500 million Euros**.

The **campers** who visit the Girona region are mainly families from central Europe, and especially Germany and the Netherlands, who are keen to enjoy outstanding natural surroundings with all the services, leisure and sports activities designed for the whole family.

3. Major investments to remain a leader

Girona's campsites are genuine holiday parks with high-quality services suited to the demands of today's market. They are very environmentally friendly with modern and sustainable management, where visitors can enjoy extraordinary experiences. This is why each season the camping sites make significant investments to improve their facilities, innovate and strengthen their offering with the aim of staying at the top of their game and continuing to make strides in environmental sustainability and inclusiveness, as well as providing visitors with excellent quality services.

The investments focus on **improving energy efficiency** by installing solar and photovoltaic panels and electric vehicle charging points, among others. They also invest in the **quality of the accommodation and adapting it to people with reduced mobility**; in improving the common areas (reception, catering, gardening, swimming pools...); in offering families ever more varied services and in creating spaces to make teleworking possible.



New swimming pool facility at Eurocamping (Sant Antoni de Calonge)

The Girona Campsites Association has made a **commitment to digital improvement**, with a new search engine that shows the range of accommodation its member campsites have to offer, and a website designed specifically for use with mobile phones.

4. Acknowledgements

Girona's campsites have received the most awards and **recognition in Europe and Spain** for their excellent service, value for money and environmental policies.

Year after year, the main international organisations in the sector, such as the German ADAC, the Dutch ANWB, the German DCC caravanners' club and the UK Alan Rogers guide recognise Girona's campsites, **awarding five stars to a quarter of its campsites**.



Moreover, in 2020, Girona's campsites received the **Government of Catalonia's Responsible Tourism award** for the numerous initiatives promoted by the sector in this area. This award highlights the role of the Girona Campsites Association *"as a driving force and catalyst for responsible tourism initiatives, as well as a facilitator of tools and opportunities so that member campsites can adopt responsible measures in their establishments"*.

In addition, the Girona Campsites Association was recognised in 2015 with the prestigious **Alimara prize**, awarded by the CETT and the B-Travel Show, for the innovative nature of one of its promotion campaigns. And also in 2015, it received the **Xiquet Sabater G! Prize** awarded by the Girona Tourist Board in recognition of the *"work in promoting the territory of Girona and the positioning of the Costa Brava and the Pyrenees of Girona as a quality destination in the main markets of origin"*.

5. Girona's campsites, models in responsible tourism

Girona's campsites are pioneers in adopting measures aimed at preserving the environment and in implementing processes to evaluate the quality of their services. Within the tourist sector as a whole, they hold the most ISO 14001 and EMAS environmental quality management certificates, the most important management instrument of its kind. **A campsite in Girona was the first tourist establishment in Europe to obtain EMAS certification.** Today, the member campsites **have more than 30 sustainability and quality seals.**

The vast majority of them apply energy efficiency, water saving and light pollution reduction measures. In addition, the new installations already incorporate home automation and geothermal energy. At the campsites of Girona, it is more and more common to see ecological chalets constructed with local materials.

The Girona area has the first campsite in Spain with **self-sufficient chalets**: **La Ballena Alegre**, in Sant Pere Pescador (each bungalow has a battery with ten solar panels that accumulate energy and transform it into electricity).



Self-catering chalets at Camping Bungalow Resort & Spa La Ballena Alegre Costa Brava (Sant Pere Pescador)

On the other hand, the **Begur campsite** in Girona was the first establishment of its kind in Europe to obtain the **Biosphere Responsible Tourism certification from UNESCO**. This recognition is testimony to the establishment's commitment to sustainability, certifying that it continuously works to reduce its negative impacts while maximising the positive impacts derived from its activity.



Site area at Camping Begur (Begur)

In addition, a Girona campsite, **Bassegoda Park** in Albanyà, was the first to be **recognised by the Starlight Foundation** and is the first international IDA dark sky park on the Iberian Peninsula. It has an astronomical observatory with state-of-the-art equipment, including the largest telescope in the area. Its facilities provide for a perfect spot for both the popularisation of astronomy for the uninitiated public and scientific research for professional astronomers.



Astronomical Observatory at Càmping Bassegoda Park (Albanyà)

Some Girona campsites also offer recycling workshops to raise awareness among children.

6. A leading sector in digitalisation

Girona's campsites have created **SMARTCAMP**, a pioneering project for the **sector's digital transformation**, in order to make it more **connected, efficient, safe and sustainable**, and using solutions based on **Big Data and Artificial Intelligence**.

SMARTCAMP has been undertaken by the **Girona Campsite Association** in partnership with **WDNA** and **Deepsense**, funded by the **Last Mile program of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and Segittur**, and aims to respond to contemporary challenges: a **changing environment**, the **climate emergency** and **new demands from travellers**.

It is a **tourism intelligence platform** with the following primary objectives:

- Digitalised campsites.
- Improved management, sustainability and safety.
- An enhanced client experience.
- Implementation of this transformation all over Catalonia.

SMARTCAMP aims to turn campsites into **smart and connected spaces**, and genuine **twenty-first century tourist destinations**.

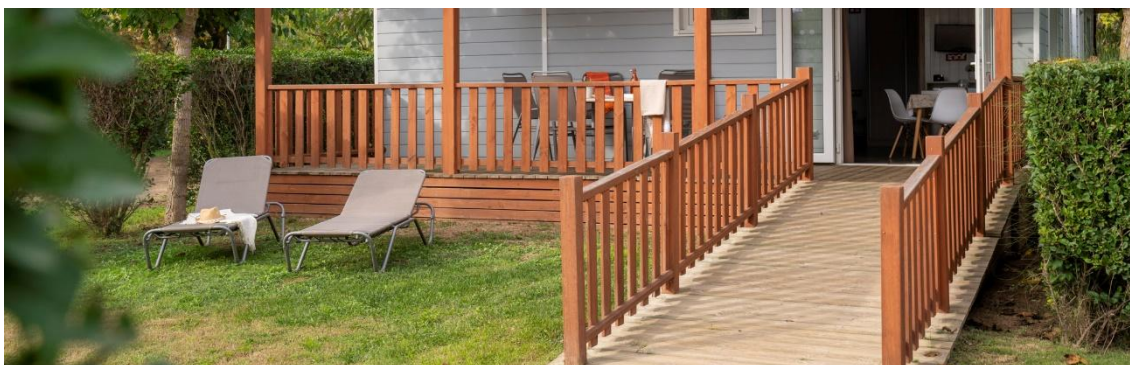


Smartcamp

7. Inclusive tourism in Girona's campsites

More and more campsites in the Girona area are adapting their facilities to cater for people with disabilities. Today there are four that have obtained the **wheelchair-friendly accessible tourism seal**, following the agreement that the Girona Campsites Association signed in 2020 with MIFAS to develop collaborative initiatives in this area with the aim of promoting this type of tourism. The aim is to extend this seal of approval among the partners.

Wheelchair Friendly campsites comply with all accessibility requirements, which have been previously validated by MIFAS users, eliminating any architectural barriers, as well as offering services designed to improve the stay of people with reduced mobility. Apart from the installation of amphibious chairs to enter the water and swimming pool hoists, which already existed in the Girona campsites, there are services such as swimming pools with access ramps and/or hydraulic lift chairs, access ramps to the accommodation and common areas, and inclusive entertainment activities, among many others. In addition, some of the establishments offer accessible activities to campers that take place in the region, as well as provide material such as bicycles for people with disabilities.



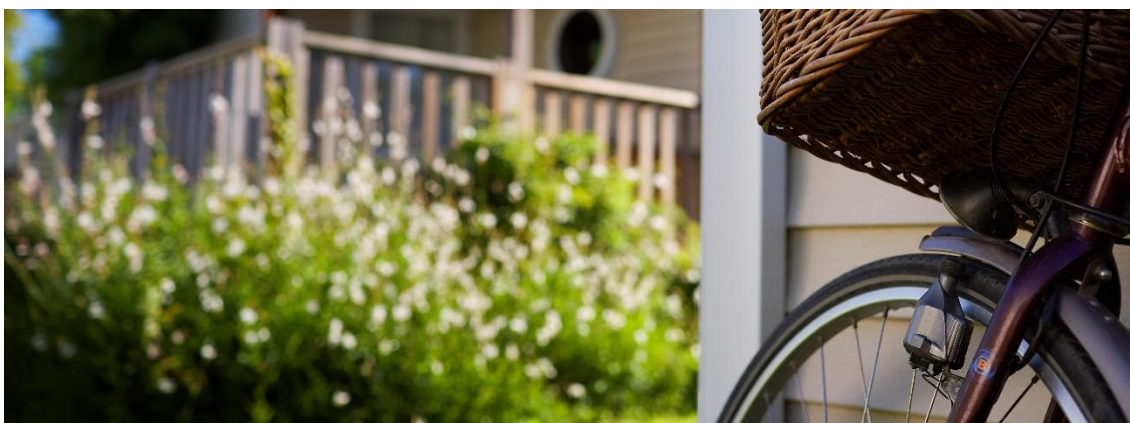
Chalet adapted for reduced mobility at Càmping Amfora (Sant Pere Pescador)

On a similar note, in 2017, a pilot test was carried out with the inclusive tourism company MyGuidoo to launch an **audio-guided application**, without the need for roaming or Wi-Fi, to allow the use of the Greenways by the visually impaired. Girona's participating campsites promote the use of apps at reception desks in order to receive feedback from users and improve the product. The aim is to offer a range of outdoor activities for people with reduced visibility.

➡ For more information click [here](#)

8. Promoting cycle tourism

The Girona Campsite Association is working to **promote bicycle tourism in the sector** and is firmly committed to this type of tourism - a hobby with an increasing number of enthusiasts, especially among Europeans; not only among young people and families, but also among those over 50 years old. It has been noted that Girona's campsites are the most sought-after accommodation among Dutch, Belgian and German cycle tourists.



More than 25 campsites in the Girona area have received the **Bed&Bike seal**, which is an international hallmark awarded by the Greenways Consortium which provides a guarantee for bicycle tourists that the establishment provides appropriate services designed for them, including bicycle storage and washing facilities, and even a bicycle repair workshop.

➡ For more information click [here](#)

9. Promotion of local products

Another of the commitments of the Girona campsites is the promotion of local products. Many serve Catalan cuisine and sell home-made and local products such as DO Empordà wines, oils from Garriguella or jams made in Castell d'Aro.

The Association signed a partnership **agreement with the D.O. Empordà Regulatory Council** to promote the consumption and knowledge of local wine. Thanks to this agreement, specific campaigns are being carried out so that customers can learn about the wines of the province through tastings in the establishment itself, guided tours of the wineries and specific points of sale for local wines in the camp shops.



Bottle of Empordà Designation of Origin wine

In addition, a seal has been promoted for businesses that offer a series of specific services in this area. Farm trips are organised in the wineries for campsite receptionists so that they can get to know the possibilities of the local wine tourism. A dozen Girona

campsites currently hold the **Land of Wines seal**, created by the Girona Campsite Association.



For more information click [here](#)

10. Commitment to specialisation

Girona's campsites were pioneers in applying a system of specialisation based on the type of tourism they provide, in an innovative initiative that was a milestone in the sector. The Girona Campsite Association was the first accommodation society to create this type of classification, and 80% of the member establishments now participate.

This strategy has evolved over the years and today, the Girona Campsite Association has its own system of seals that enables it to identify establishments based on their product, their infrastructure and the services they offer.

Girona's Campsites can be divided into six main categories:

- **Kids&Fun:** focused on families, it offers an opportunity for adults to relax and fun for the younger members of the family.
- **Sports:** specialising in the enjoyment of nature and outdoor activities.
- **Glamping:** unique deluxe accommodation, including exclusive bungalows, cabins and tents.
- **Wellness:** campsites with wellness and relaxation services and treatments.
- **Land of wines:** establishments located in areas linked to wine production culture and the Empordà Designation of Origin.
- **Bed&Bike:** campsites with services exclusively for cyclists.

The Association has also created six seals for services that enhance values including sustainability, accessibility and the quality of the experience:

- **Pet Friendly:** pet-friendly campsites that offer special services for pets.

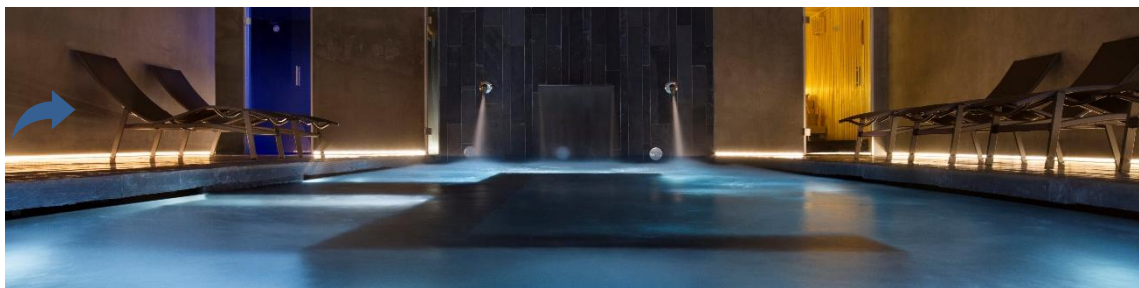


- **Green Life:** establishments with environmental certificates, reflecting the sector's commitment to sustainability.
- **Pure Camping:** created in 2025, it is awarded to campsites that have preserved the traditional essence of camping, with a limited capacity and focusing on "slow tourism".
- **Camp&Go:** focused on campers staying only one night.
- **Open 365:** campsites open all year round, which contribute to the transition beyond seasonal tourism and foster a more sustainable model of tourism.
- **Wheelchair Friendly:** establishments with fully accessible facilities.

All these seals can be viewed on the Campsites in Girona website, in the Experiences section, which also lists the establishments that hold each one.

Other establishments have decided to focus on sporting events, and some of them have been involved with international competitions.

With these seals, the Girona Campsite Association reaffirms its commitment to quality, innovation and sustainability, thereby helping visitors to choose an experience that is tailored to their preferences and needs.



Spa at the Camping Bungalow Resort & Spa La Ballena Alegre Costa Brava (Sant Pere Pescador)

➡ For more information click [here](#)

11. Camp&Go

In response to the increase in the number of people choosing to travel by motorhome, the Girona Campsites Association has launched **Camp&Go**, an initiative aimed at this type of tourist that includes a reduced rate for these itinerant campers, who often do not spend their whole holiday in the same place.

It is worth noting that a study by the University of Girona confirmed some of the perceptions on the part of Girona campsites regarding this type of tourism finding that 80% of overnight stays by tourists travelling in motorhomes or adapted vans take place on campsites. It is a form of travel that is growing in popularity and, according to the study, half of the holidaymakers opting for this mode have a higher-than-average purchasing power.

➡ For more information click [here](#)



Site for the Camp & Go rate at Camping Pirineus (Guils de Cerdanya)

12. Girocamping PRO

The Girona Campsites Association promoted **Girocamping PRO**, the Professional Tourism and Camping Congress, with the aim of providing tools to innovate and climb



positions in the tourism sector. The event, which has been held since 2018, offers top-level presentations and debates on topics of interest to the sector, as well as a networking space. Girocamping PRO has established itself as the benchmark congress for tourism in the province of Girona and for the camping sector in Catalonia.

Celebration of the annual Girocamping PRO congress

During Girocamping Pro, the **Jaume Genover i Roig Award** ceremony is held, in honour of the man who presided over the Association for 22 years. The award, which was launched in 2014, recognises the people whose hard work has contributed to the positioning of the sector.

In 2013, the sector's benchmark trade fair, **Girocamping**, was launched, which was held until 2018; at the same time the **Camping Experience** was devised, the first experience pack devoted to the world of camping.

 For more information click [here](#)

13. Empowering sector training

The Girona Campsites Association is taking part in the creation of the **first European Master's degree in sustainable campsite management**. The project reaffirms the leadership of Girona's campsites in the sustainability of the sector. The University of Girona and the University of Applied Sciences in Breda (The Netherlands) are also involved, with The Leading Camping & Caravanning Parks of Europe and the Croatian National Union of Campsites as partners. The programme, which combines work placements in campsites, is designed to provide students with a wealth of professional experience and immediate value in the job market. The idea is for students to participate in the management of sector structures and develop leadership skills. Through this training programme, which will be in line with the Bologna agreement, participants will develop the skills necessary to lead multicultural and multilingual teams.

 For more information click [here](#)

In addition, the Girona Campsites Association has been partnering since the 2018-2019 academic year with the Illa de Rodas secondary school in Roses, which offers the **first dual cycle of advanced vocational training aimed at working as a social and sports tourism animator**. It was a long-standing demand that the organisation had made to the Department of Education of the Government of Catalonia in order to have sufficient specific and qualified staff in this field.



Degree courses at the University of Girona

The Girona Campsites Association has been a pioneer in introducing the subject of campsites in **university degree courses in Catalonia**, and since 2013 has promoted **the subject of Campsite Management**, which is taught at the Faculty of Tourism of the University of Girona and at the CETT, a centre affiliated with the University of Barcelona.

14. Corporate social responsibility in Girona's campsites

Girona's campsites are not just establishments that manage tourists' holidays. Some individual campsites have long been involved in charity initiatives, but the Association has decided to join forces to promote a powerful and innovative joint project to support children with disease and their families and further research in this issue. With this objective in mind, the **Girona Campsites Foundation** was created and since 2018 it has been working to channel this initiative and involve the camping industry in raising awareness of this issue in Catalonia.

With the creation of its Foundation, the Girona campsites seek to stand alongside children and their families with financial support for research projects and the treatment of childhood diseases which are carried out throughout Catalonia. It also aims to offer them campsite stays with holiday project for all.

Apart from this, with the aim that the establishments and their visitors continue to get involved in different social causes that benefit the general public, the Association launched **Camping Solidari**, a pioneering charity campaign in the sector coordinated by the company GAP Servicios Turísticos.

The initiative, which has been running since 2019, takes place in partnership with the Candela Bracelets Association [Asociación Pulseras Candela] and aims to raise funds for research against childhood cancer carried out at the Sant Joan de Déu Hospital in Barcelona, the Astrid 21 Foundation to raise funds to improve the quality of life and job opportunities for people with mental and functional disabilities, and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, in order to raise funds to curb the disease's impact on the lives of people with multiple sclerosis and those closest to them.



Mulla't per l'Esclerosis Múltiple in Càmping Valdaro (Platja d'Aro)

Girona's campsites also contribute to the Mójate por la Esclerosis Múltiple [Dive In for Multiple Sclerosis] events by selling the foundation's merchandising and organising the traditional communal dip in the campsites' swimming pools, and with the "Restaurants that take the plunge!" initiative with the choice of a dish for charity. Girona's campsites are also partners with the Association of Relatives and Friends of Children with Cancer in Catalonia (AFANOC, by its initials in Catalan), in the "Campsites put their caps on" campaign.