

What you need to know about letting our caravan



Address Details

The site address is:

*Church Farm Holiday Village
Pagham,
Near Chichester
West Sussex, PO21 4NR
Tel: 01243 262 635*

The caravan is at 68, Wall Field. It used to be at 91 Wall Field, but we moved it in July 2015 to the other side of the road – because it's a sideways-on pitch, which works much better for the style of van, has much better parking space, more garden and sun from mid-morning through to the end of the day. The site is well sign-posted – just follow the signs through the site ('Other Fields, I think) until you see Wall Field referenced. For some bizarre reason, the signs send you in one direction for the low range of numbers and another for the high – it's actually shorter to take the range that doesn't include 68 – but either will get you there.

Some Expectations...

Dogs / Smoking: Neither are permitted in the van. You are welcome to smoke outside, but please dispose of cigarette ends tidily.

Foodstuffs: There will be some basic provisions in the van – tea, coffee, salt and pepper, sugar, toilet rolls, kitchen roll etc – pretty much anything you'd need there that's non-perishable. You're welcome to use what's in the van, but please replenish if you finish anything: There is a shop on the site, although I wouldn't advise using it except for basics, since it has a monopoly and charges accordingly....

Damage/breakages: Please try not to – but if you do, please let us know. Wanton, drunken wreckage we'll probably seek redress for, anything else we need to know about so we can sort it out. Accidents happen and we're reasonable people :-)

Cleaning: We can arrange to have the van cleaned at the end of your stay, but at a cost of £40 – and you may have to accommodate the cleaner's schedule on your last day. We'd prefer it if you just left the van clean and tidy, in the state that you'd expect to find it yourself. This isn't a big deal - there's not a lot to clean and there is a new vacuum cleaner in the store cupboard, a good selection of cleaning equipment and fluids in the cupboard under the kitchen sink and in the bathrooms.

Missing Items: If you think anything is missing from the van, please let us know. For information, it has never had a jacuzzi, home-cinema system or multigym.

Before You Leave For Pagham...

Bedding: The van has duvets and pillows for all beds, but you will need to bring your own sheets, pillowcases and duvet covers – double for the master bedroom and singles for the others. Exceptionally, we can make bedding available, but only if you agree to launder and return it at the end of your stay (there is a laundry on site). Really, it's simpler to bring your own. If we haven't made other arrangements...don't forget! And...

Towels: You'll need to bring bath/hand towels - and teatowels.

Plastic bags are needed for the bin – there will probably be a load crammed behind it, but might be worth bringing a couple just in case (standard supermarket jobs).

When you arrive...

Unless we've arranged otherwise, passes and key can be collected from the Haven Holidays Reception, which is located near the tennis courts and shown on the park map. If we have arranged 'Owner's Passes' (which we might have done if you're staying for a long time in peak season) then these can be collected from the Owners Exclusive reception, which is right next to it. You'll have to get a mugshot done for these on collection, but they do carry some benefits – ask for details at reception. As a minimum, they'll get you a discount on all onsite purchases (15% at the time of writing) and reduced activities. They'll also get you in the Owners Lounge, with gym etc. Ask at reception for the doorcode, (or ask us!) – I can't put it in a publicly-available document.

If you're not going to turn up during the day, probably best to call the Haven reception on the number above and let them know: They should make the keys available from the night reception in any case, but best to make sure.

There is a spare key in the cupboard opposite the van door, should you need it – please make sure you leave it there when you depart.

And when you leave to go home, please...

Clean up!

Switch off all appliances at the socket– toaster / microwave / TV / Freeview / DVD (and in the bedroom – the socket's behind the TV), lamps etc – but not the fridge or freezer. In particular, ensure the water / heating is off, if you've used it.

Close the windows...

Close the curtains in the main body of the van

Leave the spare key in the glass cupboard opposite the door.

Lock the door!

Return the key to the Haven reception.

Things You Need to Know

Instruction Manuals: There is a folder in the store cupboard containing manuals for all equipment in the caravan (and, indeed, the caravan). You probably won't need to refer to them, but they're there if you do.

TV / Freeview / DVD: You'll probably work it out for yourself – but the main TV has HD Freeview built in, so needs to be on the 'TV' input to watch TV (which it will be, when you switch it on). To change inputs – press the Source button on the remote. The DVD player is on 'HDMI1'. There'll likely be a spare HDMI cable in the drawer underneath or at the back, to plug in laptop, iPad etc. HDMI sockets are down the right-hand side

*Note: The HD Freeview channels are at the **end of the range** – from 101 onwards.*

There are separate speakers with the TV – for two reasons:

- The inbuilt sound is good, but not great, and I am a fussy audio-visual enthusiast / freak (delete as applicable).
- The speakers have an input for an iPod, laptop etc – the little musical symbol on the front.

If you plug something into the speakers, it will override the TV sound. And to connect an iPod, laptop etc, you'll need a 3.5mm jack to 3.5mm jack cable – you'll likely find one of these in the drawer underneath as well. The speakers sound pretty good and I am very pleased with them – there seemed little point in providing CD playing capability for the .mp3 generation. That said, the DVD player will play CDs through the speakers (via the TV) if you really want to. In an era of Bluetooth speakers, I'll probably dispense with all this malarkey in the near future...

The TV/Freeview in the bedroom is likely to be off at the socket – it's behind the TV. Unlike the main TV, the Freeview is a separate box, so there are two remotes.

Internet: The site – finally – has pretty robust Wi-Fi. 68 is between two APs, so gets good delivery throughout the van. Connect to Haven Wi-Fi on your device and then follow the prompts (will vary for different devices). At the time of writing, the charge was about £25 for the week, which is pretty usurious, but at least it works pretty well – expect 4Mbs down and 1Mbs up.

Door Locking: To lock the doors to the van (both with the key and internally) you have to raise the handle to complete the locking process. This is one of those things that you'd never guess if you didn't know about it.

Gas: Is provided from two huge bottles at the rear of the van. If the gas runs out, there is a simple valve arrangement to switch to the other bottle, which is pretty obvious when you look at it. Should a bottle run out during your stay, please phone the service number (01243 268138 or 07866 417223 out of hours) and request a replacement: There is nothing more annoying than running out of gas and finding the secondary bottle empty too. Ask for this to be put on account, don't pay for it unless you're feeling very generous...

Electricity: There are trip-switches in the master bedroom wardrobe – the van is on a 16A circuit and we've not tripped them yet. There is also a master trip outside the van – if that goes more than once, best to call the service number. Bear in mind that you'll likely trip the switches if you use the big power-consumers at the same time – so no ironing with one

hand whilst hoovering with the other, waiting for the toast to pop up for the baked beans you're microwaving...

Heating: The central heating / hot water control is in the main store cupboard by the twin rooms, behind a secondary door. You'll need to turn on the water when you arrive – just turn the dial with the tap to around 3 o'clock (too hot otherwise). If you need the heating, turn the other dial and set the heating to on. There is a timer facility, but I've never used it (and it appears to be broken in any case) – on / off is pretty obvious though, and the manual is in the folder if you want to check it.

Cooker: Lighting the rings and oven generally requires the control to be held down for a few seconds after ignition.

Waste: Can be disposed of at the central waste collection points – the nearest is in the middle of Wall Field, near the entrance. Don't leave bags outside the van overnight, the hedgehogs will have a field day with them...

Things you don't *need* to know, but which might make life easier...

The coffee table in the van is a nice thing. But you will curse when you decide to move it, loaded with drinks, by dragging it across the floor. Because the fold-out legs will fold in and the drinks will be no more.

The DVD player occasionally starts up with an odd pink cast to the picture. I have no idea why. Turn it off at the power and on again and, invariably, it's fine. Similarly, the remote can be a bit temperamental – try rolling the batteries around if it seems not to work...

The bench table outside has some movement in it, since it's held together with Allen bolts. If you're the...er...heavy person in the family, the table may flex and bump when you sit on it. I considered fixing this with some screws through the frame, but, actually, the flex allows it to sit level on an uneven surface and screwing it up tight would probably have left a rocky table... For the same reason, please don't drag it around, as it loosens the bolts – it's not heavy, just lift it between two of you.

The showers are really good – but the pressure can be down in the morning. At worst, this could result in cold water, because the pressure's not enough for the boiler to fire. I've only known this happen once since we've had the van.

The barbecue under the van is new for 2015! There's some charcoal under the van and probably some firelighters under the sink. Barbecue tools in the kitchen pull-out thing facing the main door. I've used it exactly once at the time of writing and it works pretty well, once you get the bloody thing lit. Much like all barbecues then...

We put some **decent knives** in the kitchen because, frankly, we hate cooking with crappy ones. But I am anal about knives being sharp, so they are: Be careful when washing up!

If you're wondering...the **spatters on the fireplace** are almost certainly splashes of window cleaner from cleaning the mirror. Lesson: don't leave splashes of window cleaner on the fireplace. I have plans to fix them with some emulsion and black pepper, but am still mulling it over...

The net curtains are easily trapped in the van doors, which is a real pain. Please try and keep them tied back.

The oven's pretty good – certainly up to a roast – but it gets much hotter at the very back: Keep the contents nearer to the door.

If you fancy **cleaning the cooker** thoroughly, the knobs can be pulled off and sunk in the washing up.

We leave a **selection of DVDs** in the van in case you don't bring any... if our taste is not yours, well... sorry ☺

Inventory

When we bought the van, we had the option to take the 'standard inventory' – which wasn't a bad thing to do, since it meant we were pretty much ready to go without having to do too much thinking. But it was all crap, frankly, so we've replaced or augmented the vast majority of it.

The standard inventory:

8 Dinner Plates	Door Mat	3 Saucepans	Carving Fork
8 Side Plates	Dustpan and Brush	Frying Pan	Tin Opener
8 Cups	Carpet Sweeper	Cheese Grater	Corkscrew
8 Saucers	Broom	Electric Kettle	Toilet Brush
8 Glasses	Fish Slice	Colander	Potato Masher
4 Egg Cups	Clothes Dryer	Casserole Dish	Fire Extinguisher
8 Cereal Bowls	Potato Peeler	Pudding Basin	Slotted Spoon
1 Roasting Dish	Serving Spoon	Salt and Pepper	Carving Knife
8 Knives	4 Single Duvets	Tea Pot	Chopping Board
8 Forks	2 Double Duvets	Washing Up Bowl	Bread Bin
8 Spoons	Pillows	8 Tea Spoons	Waste Bin
Bucket	Coathangers	2 Table Spoons	Ironing Board
Swing Bin	Measuring Jug	Cutlery Tray	World's cheapest
Wooden Spoon	Sugar Bowl	Vegetable Knife	toaster and
			microwave

We've subsequently added or replaced:

Kitchen

Replaced all cutlery with better	Timer	Sieve
Replaced all crockery with better (8 of each)	Electric Hand-Mixer	Tea strainer
Vast selection of better / bigger mugs	Small fruitbowl	Drain tray and cutlery drainer
Knife racks with decent knives	Large pyrex dishes for oven use	Better sink bowl (it fits properly!)
Stainless steel tea/coffee/sugar jars	Glass / wood / acrylic chopping boards	Cheese grater
Decent stainless steel toaster	Large wine glasses.	Knife sharpener
LG Intellowave 800W Microwave	Large glass tumblers	Cheese slicer
Microwave plate cover.	Bread bin	Decent can opener
	Kitchen scales	Sundry other utensils and bits and pieces.
	Measuring jug	
	Selection of tupperware dishes for microwave / fridge / freezer	

Master Bedroom

14" TV (slides out from
cupboard above wardrobe)

Alba Freeview Box
Freestanding fan

Wall clock

Main Living Area

Samsung 32" Flat Screen
TV. Which is really jolly
fantastic.
Toshiba SD360E Upscaling
DVD Player

3 touch sensitive lights (and
additional sockets for them)
Clock
Selection of maps and local
guides

Variety of reading books
Variety of DVDs
Two large jugs for drinks
etc in cupboard

In boiler cupboard

Goblin Vacuum Cleaner
Swingball and various
children's toys

Selection of tools
Brooms / Mops

Iron (in boiler cupboard)
and ironing board

In left-hand bedroom, under bed

Fold up chairs (there are also some under
the van)

Gelert recliner – the world's most fantastic
recliner: Try it. Note the locking levers
beneath the arms.

Outside

Bench table

Hideously green kettle barbecue

Shopping

Tesco Express
194/196 Pagham Road
West Sussex
PO21 3QB
1 mile

Sainsburys
Westhampnet Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7YR
5.4 miles

Morrisons
Bedford Street
Bognor Regis
PO21 1RP
3 miles

Tesco
Shripney Road
West Sussex
PO22 9ND
(24 hr)
6 miles

Waitrose
Via Ravenna
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RD
5 miles

The shop on site is OK, but predictably expensive. Tesco Express in Pagham is OK, but a bit limited – drive straight out of the site, it's on your right after a mile or so. We tend to use Waitrose or Sainsbury's in Chichester:

It's also worth checking out the Runcton Farm Shop, which, out of the site, is on the right about a mile before you get to the Walnut Tree roundabout (about 3 miles) – very good for farm-fresh produce and has a Cook shop inside.

There is a 'Cook' in Chichester which does fantastic 'gourmet' frozen food – we seem to end up there every visit.

Eating Out

The pubs in Pagham are all pretty good on the beer front and we can vouch for the food at the Inglenook and the Lamb – The Bear looks good on that front too. The Inglenook does good food, is child-friendly and has good beers and we go there so often we are recognised by the staff as regulars. Has a really lovely garden. The Walnut Tree is not bad for lunch etc.

We tend to go to Chichester if the weathers not good, or we fancy some shopping...from an eating perspective, we can vouch for:

Ask
Zizzi
Harvester
Pizza Express

All really good, in a way that they're often not in London (and if you're not from London, you may have no clue what I mean by that): Clean, excellent service, decent food etc. The Harvester is really good value midweek in the daytime.

There are also some good takeaways in Pagham that deliver to the site – we've left menus in the van for the ones we think worth it. The chippie at the top of Sea Lane (outside the site) is far better than the one in the site...

Stuff to Do

I have a Google Map of stuff to do around the van on the paghamcaravan.co.uk site (follow the Site Info link), which is regularly updated and has placemarks for all the places mentioned in this document.

If you've paid for passes, you'll have access to the site facilities – the pools are nice, and our kids love the 'character show'. I don't. Outside it's worth checking out:

- Walk to Pagham Spit – through Lagoon Field toward the sea: Take a site map, there are some in the van or you can get them from the Bourne Leisure Reception. You can walk across to Pagham beach from here (go left) and peer into the interesting 'railway carriage' houses. If you spot an architecturally interesting looking building, that will be the one that Baby Spice bought for her Mum. Apparently.
- Jump over the wall (or walk around via the Main Entrance and down Church Lane) to the Nature Reserve. Really nice walk, if you're a twitcher you'll love it - the RSPB notes it as a coastal site of special interest for birds. If you're feeling energetic you can walk all the way to Sidlesham and have a pint at the Crab and Lobster. This used to be a proper pub, but has now gone all up itself with pretensions to be a restaurant. They'll still serve you a beer though.
- Walk to Pagham Beach – turn right out of the site (up Sea Lane) and keep going.
- If the weather's crap, go to Chichester – great shopping, pretty town, cathedral, theatre etc. Portsmouth is about 30 mins away down the A27 and has great shops (Gunwharf Quay), good places to eat and the Spinnaker Tower – well worth a visit.
- I love Pagham Beach, because it tends to be empty and has great rock-pools for the kids when the tides out at Pagham Spit. But it's pebbly – if it's sand you're after, head to West Wittering. A really beautiful beach, about twenty minute's drive away. Don't begin to fantasise about owning one of the beach huts as we did: Bill Wyman bought one recently for.....£65k....
- Butlins Southcoastworld (Bognor) has a water park and is, apparently, pretty good – no first-hand experience in recent years. Bognor, generally, is pretty shabby and I wouldn't bother visiting.
- If you want to drop £50 in an hour on fairground rides for the kids, Littlehampton is your destination... It's actually quite fun, and has an architecturally noted cafe along the sea-front. We haven't tried it, but it does look very nice.
- The Amberley Working Museum is really good for a day out. Other obvious options are Fishbourne Roman Palace, Arundel Castle, Uppark House and the Weald and Downland Museum. We liked the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Arundel so much we signed up for family membership. There's a whole bunch of other stuff around West Sussex too – we try and keep a good selection of leaflets in the van.