



The Nirvana Oasis, designed for people with disabilities

## Advice for campers with mobility problems

Many of us will suffer from decreased mobility as we get older. Usually it takes the form of reduced joint articulation and declining muscle strength. In addition, some of us will have the misfortune to suffer an accident or illness, which robs us of a more significant amount of mobility.

We've not met anyone, no matter how serious their mobility problems, whose quality of life hasn't benefited by 'carrying on camping'. A bullish attitude won't be sufficient though – you'll need to think carefully about the likely problems and buy some specialist equipment to solve them.

A specially-adapted motorhome is the most popular choice of the disabled traveller. Some, if accompanied by carers, prefer to continue using their touring caravan or tent. The big advantage a motorhome has over a touring caravan and tent is that it isn't necessary to transfer from the transport to the living area. This is particularly important if a transfer hoist, lift, or ramps are required to get aboard.

A great way to organise your thoughts is to divide a piece of paper into three columns. At the head of each column put one of the basic activities. These are Access, Driving, and Living.

Now run through what's usually involved to carry out everyday activities and jot down any problems encountered and what's needed to solve them. Then tour the dealers, specialist shops and services to look for something that will help with achieving success at each activity.

**ACCESS AIDS** – Caravanners should try getting in and out of both the tow vehicle and the caravan or motorhome. Decide whether you wish to accomplish this unaided by a carer. Wheelchair users will also need to make sure they can transfer to any lifting system every time and not just on 'good days'. One set of lightweight portable folding ramps can be used for both the towcar and for the caravan. Electrically-operated 12V stand-on lifts are also available.



The Nirvana Oasis has an AMF Bruns cassette lift as standard

Those wheelchair users who can manage a few steps may find a double or triple wide-tread step and a sturdy grab handle or two will be sufficient to get them on-board. Others will have to use a robotised lifting seat such as a Turny to gain entry into the vehicle.

Whatever the method of access, if a wheelchair has to pass through, ensure the door is wide enough. A motorhome built on a panel van may well have an extra-wide full-height side sliding door suitable for wheelchair access, but other units will have to be specially adapted.

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# Camping and Caravanning Club directory of Services and Suppliers (please note inclusion on these page

■ **MOTORCARAVAN MANUFACTURERS**  
willing to undertake a one-off design and build, or alter one of their production models

**DRIVELODGE MOTORHOMES**  
(Keighley BD20 7RS)  
Tel 01535 637 777  
www.drivelodge.co.uk

**EAST NEUK CAMPERVANS**  
(Anstruther KY10 3XE)  
Tel 01333 310 440  
www.eastneukcampervans.co.uk

**EVENT HOMES UK** (Flixborough DN15 8SJ)  
Tel 01724 847 744  
www.eventhomesuk.com

**IH MOTOR CAMPERS**  
(Knottingley WF11 0BS)  
Tel 01977 677 118  
www.ihmotorhomes.com

**LEISUREDRIVE (FG) LTD** (Bolton BL4 8EL)  
Tel 01204 574 488 leisuredrive.co.uk

**MIDDLESEX MOTORCARAVANS**  
(London HA8 6RW)  
Tel 02089 524 045  
www.middlesexmotcaravans.co.uk

**MURVI MOTORCARAVANS**  
(Ivybridge PL21 9GE)  
Tel 01752 892 200 www.murvi.co.uk

**NIRVANA** (Herne Bay CT6 8JZ)  
Tel 0800 328 1475 www.nirvanarv.com

**NU-VENTURE CAMPERS** (Wigan WN3 4HN)  
Tel 01942 238 560  
www.nvcluxurymotorhomes.co.uk

**NU-VENTURE MOTORHOMES**  
(Wigan WN3 5AT)  
Tel 01942 494 090  
www.nuventure.co.uk

**RAINBOW CONVERSIONS**  
(Wisbech PE13 2XQ)  
Tel 01945 585 931  
www.rainbowconversions.co.uk

**ROY WOOD TRANSITS**  
(Winnersh RG14 5HU)  
Tel 0118 979 0202  
www.roywoodtransits.co.uk

**RS MOTORHOMES** (Goldthorpe S63 9BL)  
Tel 087000 270 055  
www.rsmotorhomes.com

**TIMBERLAND MOTORHOMES**  
(Head Office: Kirmington DN39 6YP)  
Tel 08450 099 998  
www.timberlandmotorhomes.com

**WENTWORTH MOTORCARAVANS**  
(Staines TW18 3JY)  
Tel 01784 433 081  
www.wentworthmc.co.uk

**WILDAX MOTORHOMES**  
(Keighley BD21 1PH)  
Tel 01535 608 555  
www.wildaxmotorhomes.com

**WINNEBAGO**  
(Dudleys American Motor Homes, Whitney OX8 7XA)  
Tel 01993 703 774 www.dudleysrv.com

**YOUNG CONVERSIONS**  
(Milton Keynes MK2 3HU)

Tel 01908 639 936  
www.youngconversions.com

■ **DEALERS**  
Retailers able to assist in the purchase of a VAT exempt specially adapted motorcaravan or touring caravan

## Motorhomes

**BEDFORDSHIRE MOTORCARAVANS**  
(Wilstead MK45 3HU)  
Tel 01234 741 919  
www.bedfordshiremotorcaravans.com

**BROWNHILLS GROUP** (various locations)  
Tel 0800 374 941  
www.brownhills.co.uk and  
www.hymeruk.com

**CHELSTON MOTORHOMES**  
(various locations)  
Tel 01823 662 075  
www.chelstonmotorhomes.co.uk

**CLEVELAND MOTORHOMES**  
(Darlington DL1 1RH)  
Tel 0800 980 5364  
www.clevelandmotorhomes.co.uk

**COTSWOLD MOTOR CARAVANS**  
(Gloucester GL2 9QL)  
Tel 01452 857 131  
www.cotswoldmotorcaravans.co.uk

**DISCOVER LEISURE** (various locations)  
Tel 0845 1200 173  
www.discoverleisure.co.uk

**DON AMOTT** (Derby DE65 5FJ)  
Tel 08454 560 582  
www.donamott.com

**HAYES LEISURE** (Darlaston WS10 9SS)  
Tel 01215 263 433  
www.hayesleisure.co.uk

**LAZYDAYS** (Market Drayton TF9 2SY)  
Tel 01952 550 282  
www.lazydays.biz

**MARQUIS MOTORHOME CENTRES**  
(various locations)  
Tel 08000 267 777  
www.marquismotorhomes.co.uk

**MIDLAND INTERNATIONAL MOTORHOMES**  
(Coventry CV5 9EL)  
Tel 02476 336 411  
www.midland-international.co.uk

**NIRVANA** (Herne Bay CT6 8JZ)  
Tel 0800 328 1475  
www.nirvanarv.com  
(Own range of specially manufactured motorcaravans)

**RICHARD BALDWIN MOTORHOMES**  
(Halifax HX3 0TP)  
Tel 01422 364 222  
www.richardbaldwinmotorhomes.co.uk

**SIMPSON'S MOTORCARAVAN CENTRE**  
(Great Yarmouth NR31 0LN)  
Tel 01493 601 696  
www.simpsonsmc.com

**STEWART MOULAND MOTORCARAVANS**  
(Peacehaven BN10 7ET)  
Tel 01273 587 229  
www.stewartmoulnd.co.uk

**TRAVELWORLD RV** (Telford TF7 4QR)  
Tel 0845 230 5033 www.usrv.co.uk

**TODDS** (Preston PR5 5JD)  
Tel 01772 335 360  
www.toddsmotorhomes.co.uk

**TYNE VALLEY MOTORHOMES**  
(Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE16 6AX)  
Tel 0845 644 5449  
www.tynevalleymotorhomes.co.uk

**WEBBS MOTORCARAVANS**  
(Warminster BA12 8BT)  
Tel 01985 850 850  
www.webbsmotorcaravans.co.uk

**WELLSBRIDGE SALES**  
(Ramsey Forty Foot PE26 2XJ)  
Tel 01487 812 901  
www.wellsbridgemotorhomes.co.uk

**WEST COUNTRY MOTORHOMES**  
(various locations)  
Tel 01278 761 200 (Somerset)  
www.westcountry-motorhomes.co.uk

## Touring caravans

**COACHBUILT GB** (CV11 4MD)  
Tel: 024 7630 4754  
www.coachbuiltgb.co.uk

**FRY'S CARAVANS** (YO25 9QE)  
Tel 01377 271 383 www.frys.co.uk

**NIRVANA** (Herne Bay CT6 8JZ)  
Tel 0800 328 1475 www.nirvanarv.com  
Own range of specially manufactured touring caravans

## ■ ADAPTIONS AND ADDITIONS DRIVING [D] and ACCESS [A]

**ALFRED BEKKER** [D] Driffeld YO25 9DJ  
Tel 01377 241 700  
www.alfredbekker.com

**AMF BRUNS UK** [A] Manchester M17 1SN  
Tel 01618 727 951 www.amf-bruns.co.uk

**AUTOADAPT UK** [A] [D] Aston B7 4PR  
Tel 0121 333 5170  
www.autoadapt.co.uk

**AUTOCHAIR** [A] Alfreton DE45 1DX  
Tel 0800 214 045  
www.autoadapt.co.uk

**AUTO-SLEEPERS MOTORHOME SERVICE CENTRE** [A] Broadway WR12 7QF  
Tel 01386 853 511  
www.auto-sleepers.co.uk

**AUTOVAN SERVICES** [A]  
Wimbourne BH21 2HD  
Tel 01202 848 414 www.autovan.co.uk

**B & B LEISURE VEHICLE SERVICES** [A] [D]  
Bolton BL5 3XA  
Tel 01942 812 223  
www.bandbmotors.co.uk

**BRIAN PAGE CONTROLS** [D]  
Egham TW20 8AF  
Tel 01784 435 850  
www.brianpagecontrols.co.uk

**BRIG-AYD CONTROLS** [D]  
Welwyn Garden City AL7 1BS  
Tel 01707 322 322  
www.brig-aydcontrols.co.uk

**BROTHERWOOD AUTOMOBILITY LTD** [A]  
Sherborne DT9 6QP  
Tel 01935 872 603

www.brotherwood.com or  
www.hook-i.com

**CHARLES & SON** [A] Poole BH12 3LL  
Tel 01202 733 772  
www.charlesandson.co.uk

**CHRIS ELLIOTT ADAPTIONS** [A] [D]  
Peterborough PE3 7PR  
Tel 01733 333 023  
www.chriselliottadaptions.co.uk

**CITY MOTOR SERVICES** [A] [D]  
Cardiff CF3 2GA  
Tel 02920 364 800  
www.citymotorservices.co.uk

**COACHBUILT GB** [A] [D]  
Nuneaton CV11 4MD  
Tel 02476 304 754  
www.coachbuiltgb.co.uk

**CONVER-TECH** [A] Maidenhead SL6 3ST  
Tel 01628 836 303  
www.conver-tech.co.uk

**COWAL MOBILITY AIDS** [A] [D]  
Great Kingshill HP15 6HL  
Tel 01494 714 400  
www.cowalmobility.co.uk

**DOLPHIN STAIRLIFTS** [A] Poole BH15 2AA  
Tel 01202 669 194  
www.dolphinstairlifts.com

**DS & P MOBILITY ELECTRONICS** [D]  
Aylesbury HP18 0JH  
Tel 01296 658 508  
www.dsp-mobilityelectronics.com

**ELAP ENGINEERING** [D]  
Accrington BB5 1QG  
Tel 01254 871 599 www.elap.co.uk

**KC MOBILITY SERVICES** [A] [D]  
Batley WF17 8LL  
Tel 01924 442 386  
www.kcmobility.co.uk

**LODGESONS LTD** [D] Cardiff CF10 1QJ  
Tel 08700 132 420  
www.lodgesons.co.uk

**MOBILITY CONVERSIONS** [D]  
Manchester M6 6SY  
Tel 01617 459 737  
www.mobilityconversions.co.uk

**PWS** [A] Poole BH12 4PE  
Tel 01202 746 851 www.pwsacc.co.uk

**RATCLIFF PALFINGER** [A]  
Welwyn Garden City AL7 1ET  
Tel 01707 325 571 www.palfinger.com

**RICON UK** [A] Manchester M43 7EF  
Tel 01613 016 000 www.riconuk.com

**SOUTH HEREFORD MOTORCARAVAN CENTRE WORKSHOP** [A]  
Forest of Dean GL16 7NA  
Tel 01594 835 777  
www.motorcaravans-motorhomes.co.uk

**STEERING DEVELOPMENTS** [A] [D]  
Hemel Hempstead HP2 7HF  
Tel 01442 212 918  
www.steeringdevelopments.co.uk

**SVO SPECIALISED VEHICLE OPTIONS** [A] [D]  
Calne SN11 9PR  
Tel 01249 815 141  
www.specialisedvehicleoptions.com

## Does not mean endorsement by the Camping and Caravanning Club)

**UNWIN SAFETY SYSTEMS [A]**  
 Martock TA12 6EY  
 Tel 01935 827 740 [www.unwin-safety.com](http://www.unwin-safety.com)  
**WAV-EVOLUTION [A] [D]**  
 Southport PR8 6LU  
 Tel 01704 546 600  
[www.aspectconversions.co.uk](http://www.aspectconversions.co.uk)

### ■ LIVING AIDS

**ALL TERRAIN WHEELCHAIRS LTD**  
 (Telford TF4 2RW)  
 Tel 01952 504 623  
[www.allterrainwheelchairs.co.uk](http://www.allterrainwheelchairs.co.uk)  
 Off road electric and manual wheelchairs  
 including 4-wheel drive

**ABBAY HEALTH** (Northallerton DL6 2XE)  
 Tel 0800 783 1020 [www.abbeyhealth.com](http://www.abbeyhealth.com)  
 General aids, electric and manual  
 wheelchairs

**ETAC UK formerly BALDER UK**  
 (Hook RG27 9GR)  
 Tel 01256 767 181 [www.etacuk.com](http://www.etacuk.com)  
 Electric and manual wheelchairs

**BEAMER** (Salisbury SP5 2QW)  
 Tel 01794 885 814 [www.tramper.co.uk](http://www.tramper.co.uk)  
 Mobility vehicles

**BROMAKIN WHEELCHAIRS**  
 (Loughborough LE11 5GU)  
 Tel 01509 217 569 [www.bromakin.co.uk](http://www.bromakin.co.uk)  
 Manual wheelchairs, adapted manual  
 bikes and trikes

**CHARTERWOOD MOBILITY**  
 (Maidstone ME14 5LH)  
 Tel 01622 730 519  
[www.charterwood.co.uk](http://www.charterwood.co.uk)  
 Mobility vehicles

**CLARKS INDEPENDENCE CENTRE**  
 (Leeds LS18 4JX)  
 Tel 01132 588 888  
[www.clarksmobility.com](http://www.clarksmobility.com)  
 Mobility vehicles and general aids

**CONNEVANS** (Reigate RH2 9YR)  
 Tel 01737 243 134  
[www.connevans.com](http://www.connevans.com)  
 Equipment for the deaf

**DRAGONMOBILITY** (Cambridge CB4 3JD)  
 Tel 01223 464 460  
[www.dragonmobility.com](http://www.dragonmobility.com)  
 Manufacturer of power chairs

**EASYLIFTER** (Leicester (rural) LE11 1JY)  
 Tel 01509 268 400 [www.easylifter.co.uk](http://www.easylifter.co.uk)  
 Removable hydraulically assisted rack

**ELECTRIC MOBILITY EURO**  
 (Ilminster TA19 9DL)  
 Tel 01460 258 100  
[www.electricmobility.co.uk](http://www.electricmobility.co.uk)  
 Mobility vehicles and electric wheelchairs

**EUROMEDICAL MOBILITY**  
 (Maidstone ME16 0PU)  
 Tel 01622 755 744  
[www.euromedical.co.uk](http://www.euromedical.co.uk)  
 General aids, folding lightweight  
 wheelchairs

**G & B FLEXITOWERS** (Leek ST13 7TG)  
 Tel 01538 304 391 [www.flexitowers.co.uk](http://www.flexitowers.co.uk)  
 Platforms, racks and trailers

**GERALD SIMONDS HEALTHCARE**  
 (Aylesbury HP19 8UA)  
 Tel 01296 380 200  
[www.gerald-simonds.co.uk](http://www.gerald-simonds.co.uk)

Electric wheelchairs, swivel seats and  
 wheelchair accessible vehicles

**GOWRINGS MOBILITY**  
 (Newbury RG14 5UE)  
 Tel 08456 088 020  
[www.gowringsmobility.co.uk](http://www.gowringsmobility.co.uk)  
 General aids, mobility vehicles, electric  
 and manual wheelchairs

**GLCC LTD** (Newport NP20 2AQ)  
 Tel 01633 216 644 [www.gl100.com](http://www.gl100.com)  
 Wheelchair accessories including gloves

**G P S P** (Lincoln LN6 9ZW)  
 Tel 01522 688 388  
[www.disabledstickers.co.uk](http://www.disabledstickers.co.uk)  
 Stickers and aids

**C F HEWERDINE** (Egham TW20 8HF)  
 Tel 01784 451 258 [www.hewerdine.co.uk](http://www.hewerdine.co.uk)  
 Electric and manual wheelchairs, mobility  
 vehicles

**INVACARE** (Bridgend CF31 3PY)  
 Tel 01656 753 200 [www.invacare.com](http://www.invacare.com)  
 Electric and manual wheelchairs, general  
 aids, lifts and slings

**JETMARINE LTD** (Stockport SK7 5AA)  
 Tel 01614 871 648 [www.jetmarine.co.uk](http://www.jetmarine.co.uk)  
 Access ramps

**LONDON RECUMBENTS** (London SE21 7BQ)  
 Tel 020 8299 6636  
[www.londonrecumbents.com](http://www.londonrecumbents.com)  
 Specially designed manual bikes and  
 trikes

**MOBILITY AIDS CENTRE**  
 (Peterborough PE2 8EZ)  
 Tel 01733 342 242  
[www.themobilityaidscentre.co.uk](http://www.themobilityaidscentre.co.uk)

General aids, wheelchairs, mobility  
 vehicles, ramps. Proprietors are active  
 caravanners and motorcaravanners

**MOUNTWAY LTD** (Tredgar NP22 3AA)  
 Tel 01495 723 300 [www.mountway.co.uk](http://www.mountway.co.uk)  
 General aids

**MPC CAR-GO** (Northampton NN2 6LJ)  
 Tel 01604 721 006 [www.mpccargo.co.uk](http://www.mpccargo.co.uk)  
 Removable mobility vehicle platforms

**NEW MOTIVATION LTD**  
 (Wolverhampton WV10 7BY)  
 Tel 01922 798 633  
[www.fieldmaster224.co.uk](http://www.fieldmaster224.co.uk)  
 Convertible 2 or 4 wheel-drive  
 wheelchairs plus accessories

**NU-DRIVE** (Watford WD18 0GX)  
 Tel 08450 542 930 or 01923 200 050  
[www.nu-drive.com](http://www.nu-drive.com)  
 Lever drive propulsion for manual  
 wheelchairs

**NIPPI VEHICLES** (Tutbury DE13 9HF)  
 Tel 01283 520 620 [www.nippi.co.uk](http://www.nippi.co.uk)  
 Specialist mobility fun vehicles

**OTTO BOCK HEALTHCARE**  
 (Egham TW20 0LD)  
 Tel 01784 744 900 [www.ottobock.co.uk](http://www.ottobock.co.uk)  
 Specialised high-spec wheelchairs,  
 mobility vehicles and general aids

**PDQ INTERNATIONAL** (Royston SG8 0HW)  
 Tel 01223 208 800 [www.pdq.tv](http://www.pdq.tv)  
 Mobility vehicles

**PORTARAMP UK** (East Harling NR16 2QN)  
 Tel 01953 714 599 [www.portaramp.co.uk](http://www.portaramp.co.uk)

Access ramps

**POWABYKE** (Bath BA1 2SQ)  
 Tel 01225 443 737 [www.powabyke.com](http://www.powabyke.com)  
 Mobility vehicles

**RJ MOBILITY** (Halifax HX3 5AF)  
 Tel 01422 358 888 [www.rjmobility.com](http://www.rjmobility.com)  
 Manual wheelchairs including compact  
 folding ones

**SEW N SO'S** (Spalding PE11 1HU)  
 Tel 01775 767 633 [www.sewnsos.co.uk](http://www.sewnsos.co.uk)  
 Bespoke wheelchair and mobility  
 equipment covers

**SIMCROSS SERVICES**  
 (Abbotts Langley WD5 0PL)  
 Tel 01923 264 415  
 Fabrication service, ramps, steps handrails  
 etc

**SCOOTERMART MOBILITY SCOOTERS**  
 (Brierley Hill DY5 1TB)  
 Tel 08448 880 177 Web  
[www.scootermart.co.uk](http://www.scootermart.co.uk)  
 Mobility vehicles, electric wheelchairs

**SILVERSCREENS** (Cleckheaton BD19 5YR)  
 Tel 01274 872 151 Web  
[www.silvercreens.co.uk](http://www.silvercreens.co.uk)  
 Waterproof wheelchair covers

**SPOKZ** (Sutton Coldfield B73 9LJ)  
 Tel 0845 2577 496 [www.spokz.com](http://www.spokz.com)  
 'Barely there' wheelchairs and accessories

**SOLAR SOLUTIONS** (Poole BH16 5BW)  
 Tel 01202 632 488  
[www.solarsolutions.org.uk](http://www.solarsolutions.org.uk)  
 Solar charging systems for mobility  
 vehicles

**SUNRISE MEDICAL** (Stourbridge DY8 4PS)  
 Tel 01384 446 688  
[www.sunrisemedical.com](http://www.sunrisemedical.com)  
 Mobility vehicles

**TALLEY MEDICAL** (Romsey SO51 9AQ)  
 Tel 01794 503 500 [www.talleygroup.com](http://www.talleygroup.com)  
 General medical aids

**TEST VALLEY MOBILITY**  
 (Test Valley SO51 0HA)  
 Tel 01794 521 217 [testvalleymobility.co.uk](http://testvalleymobility.co.uk)  
 Slings, lifts, hoists and overhead tracking  
 system

**TGA ELECTRIC LEISURE**  
 (Sudbury CO10 1WH)  
 Tel 01787 882 244 [www.tga-electric.com](http://www.tga-electric.com)  
 Mobility vehicles

**THOR-WORLD INDUSTRIES**  
 (Chesterfield S41 9QX)  
 Tel 01246 260 981 [www.thorworld.co.uk](http://www.thorworld.co.uk)  
 Ramps

**TOWTAL** (Stoke-on-Trent ST4 3DB)  
 Tel 01782 333 422 [www.towtal.co.uk](http://www.towtal.co.uk)  
 Mobility vehicle platforms, trailers,  
 towbars, general fabrication service

**VICARIOUS BOOKS** (Kent CT20 1JP)  
 Tel 01312 083 333  
[www.vicarious-shop.co.uk](http://www.vicarious-shop.co.uk)  
 Specialist retailer of motorhome books  
 and campsite guides

**VINYL VALUE** (Charmouth DT6 6BY)  
 Tel 01297 560 651 [www.vinylvalue.co.uk](http://www.vinylvalue.co.uk)  
 Bags and canopies for wheelchairs and  
 mobility vehicles

**WICKER MOBILITY SHOP** (Wicker S3 8HT)  
 Tel 01142 723 729 [www.wicker.co.uk](http://www.wicker.co.uk)  
 General aids, mobility vehicles, electric  
 wheelchairs. Proprietor is an experienced  
 motorcaravanner

### ■ HERE TO HELP

**BATH INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL  
 ENGINEERING** (Bath BA1 3NG)  
 Tel 01225 824 103 [www.bime.org.uk](http://www.bime.org.uk)  
 Medical engineering charity. Successful  
 designs are made available on a 'not for  
 profit' basis

**DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT**  
 Tel 08701 226 236 [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

**DPTAC (DISABLED PERSONS TRANSPORT  
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE)**  
 Tel 02079 448 011 [www.dptac.gov.uk](http://www.dptac.gov.uk)  
 Advises Government on the transport  
 needs of disabled people in the UK

**ENGLISH HERITAGE**  
 Tel 08703 331 181  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
 Disabled visitors' guide to English Heritage  
 Properties

**HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE (CHARITIES &  
 HEALTHCARE TEAM)**  
 Tel 08450 109 000 [www.hmce.gov.uk](http://www.hmce.gov.uk)  
 VAT notice 701/59 'Information on the  
 zero-rating of VAT on the purchase of  
 specially-adapted road vehicles'

**MOBILITY CHOICE**  
 Tel 08452 410 390  
[www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk](http://www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk)  
 Organisers of the Mobility Roadshow

**MOBILISE**  
 Tel 01508 489 449 [www.mobilise.info](http://www.mobilise.info)  
 Formerly Disabled Drivers' Association.  
 Charity with monthly magazine

**MOBILITY INFORMATION SERVICE**  
 Tel 01743 340 269 [www.mis.org.uk](http://www.mis.org.uk)  
 Advice for disabled people who want to  
 drive

**PEOPLE FIRST LTD**  
 Tel 01754 899 202  
[www.peoplefirstltd.com](http://www.peoplefirstltd.com)  
 Advice on aids, driving and access

**RADAR (ROYAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
 DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION)**  
 Tel 02072 503 222 [www.radar.org.uk](http://www.radar.org.uk)  
 Radar key, information

**RICABILITY**  
 Tel 02074 272 460 [www.ricability.org.uk](http://www.ricability.org.uk)  
 Information on products for consumers  
 with disabilities

**RNID (ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
 THE DEAF)**  
 Tel 08088 080 123 or textphone  
 08088 089 000 [www.mid.org.uk](http://www.mid.org.uk)  
 Information, advice and products for the  
 deaf

**SCOPE**  
 Tel 020 761 97100 [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)  
 Help, advice and support for people with  
 cerebral palsy

**THE NATIONAL TRUST**  
 Tel 01793 817 634 (Type Talk aware)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)  
 'Access for All' guide to NT properties and  
 'Admit One' scheme

**DRIVING AIDS** – On offer is everything from a steering wheel knob (spinner) to voice-activated control of all auxiliary systems including heating/air-con, wipers, lights, indicators and horn. Drive-from-wheelchair systems are very sophisticated now, though if you're a caravanner you'll need to change your towcar for something with sufficient interior height.



Don't forget to check with the DVLA whether there are any restrictions on your driving licence regarding vehicle class (type), transmission, weight and your entitlement to tow a trailer.

**LIVING AIDS** – Do consider how you're going to get the water and empty the waste or loo. Many just hook the Aquaroll or Wastemaster on to the back of their electrically propelled mobility scooter. This is fine for transporting the water, but what about emptying or filling? Disabled motorcaravanners usually require much less assistance as motorcaravans have large on-board water tanks.



It will pay to replicate the most helpful living aids used around the house (devices such as a one-handed can-opener and kettle cradles) and keep them in the 'van rather than rely on memory or a packing list.

Many motorcaravanners carry a mobility scooter in the 'van's garage, on a rack, or on a trailer. KD (Knock Down) mobility

scooters – ones that quickly and easily disassemble into several stowable components – will fit easily into a caravan seat locker, though be aware that many have small wheels that will struggle on campsites with no defined pitch access and/or long grass. Choose a Club Site with Tarmac roads and either hardstandings or 'all weather' (reinforced) grass pitches.

Siting a caravan on a pitch can be completed with a remote-controlled motorised mover and an electric battery drill attachment will lower and raise the steadies with ease.

## Designed to be different

A standard caravan or motorhome with a few minor adjustments will often make a big difference, but sometimes a special unit needs to be designed from the outset to be able to accommodate those with the most limiting disabilities.

Before tackling your present unit in a well intentioned, but possibly misguided, flurry of DIY have a look at what the professionals can do for you. Providing certain conditions are met, a specially-adapted motorhome can be purchased VAT free. The disabled member of the party does not have to be the driver.

For caravans, only adaptations can qualify for VAT relief unless the caravan is specifically designed and built for disabled use. However, the Motability scheme can be used to assist in the leasing of a towcar, but there will be an additional premium payable for larger cars and SUVs. More enlightened lenders will count Disability Allowance paid at the higher rate as 'income' when assessing suitability for a loan to purchase a motorcaravan, touring caravan or towcar.



Specially adapted touring caravans are available from Nirvana RV, Fry's Caravans and Coachbuilt GB



The Nirvana Mirage specially adapted high-top motorhome has space for a wheelchair alongside swivelled driver's seat to facilitate easy transfer

## Club together

New members may not be aware of just how appealing our site network is. A careful glance at the symbols accompanying each site entry in Your Place in the Country will reveal that most Club Sites cater for the walking disabled and the majority also offer separate facilities for wheelchair users.

In addition, the Club has an ongoing programme to improve its site facilities for the more severely impaired but independent disabled travellers.

Holiday Site Managers and their staff are always happy to assist disabled members with siting and setting up their 'van, but please phone ahead if you are going to require help on arrival. More useful information is available in Your Big Sites Book which uses similar information symbols to indicate the level of disabled facilities on the Club's five-van Certificated Sites and listed commercial campsites.

We're not finished yet! Providing you have your own facilities on board, a warm welcome awaits disabled travellers at any DA or Section weekend meet or Temporary Holiday Site.

## Contact

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