

CAMPCOMPASS UK

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The Ultimate UK Autumn/Winter 2026-27 Guide

10-point cold-weather checklist · 10 winter-ready regions
Backed by 21,999 UK campsites in the CampCompass DB

Community-first. No affiliate spin. No ads.

Free to download, free to share. Print or keep on your phone.

10 things to sort before the first frost

1

Winterise the water system

Drain fresh + waste tanks fully. Add caravan-grade antifreeze to the U-bend traps. A single hard frost splits a boiler drain plug — cheap fix now, £400 lesson later.

2

Swap butane for propane

Butane stops gassing off below 5°C. Change to a full Calor 6kg propane bottle now — the heater, hob and fridge all depend on it once night temps drop.

3

Service the diesel heater / Truma

Book a burner clean and glow-plug check before the first cold snap. Sooted-up heaters trip on autumn's first frost — always at 3am, always miles from anywhere.

4

Thermal blinds + window insulation

Reflectix silvers or bespoke Silverscreens on every window cut condensation dramatically and drop overnight heat loss by up to 30%.

5

Tyres, wipers + winter screen wash

Check tread + sidewalls. Fit fresh wiper blades. Top up screen wash with a -20°C mix — supermarket 'summer blue' freezes on Highland A-roads by November.

6

Test the leisure battery + solar

Solar drops to ~20% of summer output by December. Charge to 100%, then measure standing draw. Consider a compact 30W panel or 12V mains lead for hookup nights.

7

CO alarm + gas locker vents

Replace CO alarm batteries and confirm the low-level gas locker drop-vent isn't blocked by leaves. Autumn debris around the vent is a genuine killer.

8

Layers, down bag, hot-water bottle

Merino base + fleece mid + down puffy + waterproof shell. Sleeping bag rated to -10°C comfort (not extreme). One hot-water bottle changes everything.

9

Book hardstanding + full hookup

Grass pitches waterlog from October. Filter CampCompass for hardstanding + EHU (electric hookup). Cheaper than you'd expect off-season — often £16-22/night.

10

Off-grid comms + offline maps

Download offline OS Maps + your CampCompass shortlist. Consider a mifi with a Three or EE eSIM for reliable signal in Snowdonia, the Dales and Highland glens.

Where to point the van in winter

Every region below has honest, up-to-date pitch info on CampCompass (1964 distinct regions, 21,999 sites total).

01 Northumberland Coast + Kielder

Dark Sky Park — genuinely black skies for the aurora when solar activity peaks. Empty beaches in November are one of the UK's best-kept secrets.

02 Cairngorms + Aviemore

Snow-camping proper. Aurora chances from October onward. Pitches at Glenmore stay open all winter with hardstanding + hookup.

03 Lake District (Cumbria)

Waterfalls at peak flow after autumn rain. Aira Force and Lodore Falls thunder like nowhere else. Skiddaw + Blencathra crowd-free.

04 Yorkshire Dales

Misty mornings, hot pub lunches, log-fire snugs. Malham Cove without a queue. Hardstanding pitches near Hawes stay open through winter.

05 Snowdonia / Eryri (North Wales)

Dark Sky Reserve. Snow-topped Yr Wyddfa from a valley pitch. Beddgelert Forest has year-round hardstanding.

06 Peak District

Dry-stone walls in the frost, gritstone edges silent. Under 3 hours from Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham for a proper mid-week reset.

07 Cornwall + North Devon

Mild coastal winters (rarely below 5°C). Surfing peaks — cold-water wetsuit sessions at Fistral, then a wood-burner pitch a mile away.

08 New Forest (Hampshire)

Ancient woodland turns copper. Ponies loose on the road, deer at first light. Sandy Balls and Ocknell keep hardstanding open.

09 Cotswolds

Honey-stone villages framed by bare beech woods. Mild + rarely muddy. Pitches near Broadway and Stow-on-the-Wold under £20.

10 South Downs + Sussex Coast

Chalk paths drain fast — best all-weather walking in England. Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters at 4pm sunset is unforgettable.

READY FOR THE FIRST COLD TRIP?

Open the full app.

21,999 UK campsites, one honest search.

CampCompass turns the checklist above into a plan you can book:

- Filter for hardstanding, EHU, dog-friendly and open-all-year
- See real trip photos from campers who've stayed in winter
- Watch short video reels of the site before you book
- Save your shortlist and check it offline in the van

OPEN THE APP

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