



EU SIMs FOR EUROPE

THE CAMPERVAN TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

Which UK SIM gives you the best data in Europe?

Prices, EU roaming, coverage, hotspotting, routers, excess charges & the catches

Mobile SIM deals and allowances change all the time – I have researched those around today and most of these have been around for a while so should be available in the weeks/month to come

★ THE SHORT ANSWER

It very much depends on individual circumstances, individual needs and individual travel arrangements. There is no 'one size fits all'. We have looked through what is out there, and what follows is what we find as best/good value.

For straightforward European touring, Tesco Mobile currently stands out to us because its Home From Home destinations let you use your full UK data allowance. Lebara is the standout low-cost option around 30GB. iD Mobile is potentially exceptional value while its current full-allowance roaming promotion lasts. O2 is strong for Switzerland/Norway, while SMARTY is excellent value in the UK but has a much smaller EU roaming allowance.

⚠ IMPORTANT — THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT GB

A 200GB UK SIM does not necessarily give you 200GB in Europe. Roaming limits, fair-use rules and long-term roaming restrictions can matter more than the headline UK allowance. If you are travelling for months, read the 'LONG STAY' warning in every provider section.

Research checked: 28 August 2026

*Prepared for campervan travellers • **Always re-check the provider's terms before purchase or travel.***



The five contenders — at a glance

(These are the top 5 that **we consider** the best value – you may find others that suit you better)

Provider	Example UK deal	EU data	Router / hotspot	Long-stay warning	Our take
Tesco Mobile	100GB £20 / £14 Clubcard*	Full UK allowance	Hotspot ✓ • Router △	4-month fair-use monitoring	🏆 Best all-round
iD Mobile	100GB £10	Full UK allowance†	Hotspot ✓ • Router △	63 days in 4months fair-use monitoring	💰 Potential bargain
Lebara	30GB £10 • 50GB £15	Up to 30GB	Hotspot ✓ • Router ✓*	Long-term roaming terms apply	💡 Best low-cost 30GB
O2	100GB £20*	Up to 25GB	Hotspot ✓ • Router △	63 days in 4months fair-use monitoring	📋 Great destination list
SMARTY	100GB £12 • 200GB £17	Up to 12GB	Hotspot ✓ • Router ✓	Long-stay limits apply	📶 Great router choice UK-side

HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE

‘EU data’ means the amount you can use in the provider’s included European roaming destinations. It does not necessarily mean every European country. Norway and Switzerland are especially worth checking for campervan travel because they are outside the EU even though they are in the wider European/Schengen travel picture.

Our ranking for a campervan traveller

- 🏆 Tesco Mobile — strongest combination of large EU data, broad European destination coverage and simple roaming.
- 🥈 Lebara — superb value **if around 30GB/month** in Europe is enough, with strong hotspot/router credentials.
- 🥉 iD Mobile — potentially the cheapest way to get a huge UK/EU allowance while its current promotion continues.
- 4 O2 — very good destination coverage, especially Switzerland and Norway, but 25GB EU cap and long-stay restrictions.
- 5 SMARTY — outstanding UK value and a genuine router/data-SIM option, but only 12GB standard EU roaming.



1. TESCO MOBILE

BEST ALL-ROUND EUROPEAN TOURING OPTION

Tesco's big advantage is simple: in its Home From Home destinations, you can use your UK data allowance without a separate EU roaming fee. That makes the size of the UK plan genuinely useful in Europe.

Cost & data

Current example	UK allowance	EU allowance	Contract	Notes
Unlimited GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	12 months	£30/month; £22/month with clubcard
100GB	100GB	100GB	12 months	£20/month; £14/month Clubcard Price on current offer*
60GB	60GB	60GB	24 months	£15/month; £14 Clubcard Price on current offer*
12GB	12GB	12GB	varies	Lower-data options available

CLUBCARD TIP

Tesco currently shows a 100GB SIM at £20/month, with a £14 Clubcard Price, and says the Clubcard price is frozen for the contract on that offer. Offers change, so treat these figures as a snapshot rather than a permanent tariff.

Where can you use it?

- Tesco's Home From Home list contains 48 destinations.
- It includes EU countries plus important non-EU destinations such as Norway and Switzerland.  Hotspot &  router use
- Phone hotspot/tethering: YES — suitable for sharing your phone's data with a laptop, tablet or streaming device.
- Third-party 4G/5G router: TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE.
- If a router is the main purpose, get Tesco to confirm the specific tariff before buying.

What if you run out?

- Home From Home usage is governed by the tariff and fair-use rules; do not assume unlimited out-of-plan data.
- Check the current tariff's out-of-bundle rates and spending controls before travel.

DO NOT CONFUSE 'ROAMING INCLUDED' WITH 'LIVE IN EUROPE'

Tesco's Home From Home service is subject to fair use. Its policy monitors use over a rolling four-month period and can treat prolonged overseas use as excessive. It is designed for UK residents travelling, not as a permanent replacement for a European mobile contract.

Our verdict

9.5/10 Best choice if you want a large allowance that remains large in Europe. Particularly attractive for routes involving Norway and Switzerland.



2. iD MOBILE

POTENTIAL BARGAIN — BUT WATCH THE PROMOTION

iD currently has an unusually generous roaming promotion: customers can use their full UK data allowance in Roam Free destinations at no extra cost. The provider says this runs from 1 October 2024 ‘until further notice’. The underlying fair-use limit is 30GB.

Cost & data

Current example	UK allowance	EU allowance today	Underlying limit	Contract
Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited†	30GB	1 month - £18; 12 month - £16/month; 24 month - £15/month
100GB	100GB	100GB†	30GB	12/24 month - £10/month
80GB	80GB	80GB†	30GB	1 month rolling - £10/month
100GB	100GB	100GB†	30GB	1 month option available

† PROMOTION — NOT A GUARANTEE – CURRENTLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

iD explicitly says the full-UK-allowance roaming promotion is temporary and will end at some point, with the 30GB roaming limit reinstated. If you are buying for a future long trip, check the status immediately before departure.

Coverage

- iD has 50 Roam Free destinations.
- France and many EU destinations are included.
- Switzerland is NOT included in Roam Free — a significant drawback for some European itineraries.

Hotspot & router

- Phone hotspot/tethering: YES.
- Standard consumer SIM in a third-party router: not as clearly documented as SMARTY’s dedicated data/router offering. Confirm with iD if the router is the main use.

Out-of-plan & fair use

- The normal roaming limit is 30GB/month for newer customers; the current promotion temporarily removes that limit.
- iD warns that roaming is for UK residents travelling occasionally rather than living abroad.
- Its permanent-roaming rule is based on 63 days in a four-month period. Continued use after notification can attract surcharges.

Our verdict

9/10 today • 7/10 as a long-term certainty If the full-allowance promotion is still in place when you travel, iD could be the best value of the lot. BUT do not rely on that plan without checking.



3. LEBARA

THE LOW-COST SWEET SPOT

If you want a straightforward 30GB of European data without paying for a huge UK allowance you cannot use abroad, Lebara is extremely compelling.

Current plans

Plan	UK data	EU roaming	Price	Best for
5GB	5GB	up to 5GB	£5 / 30 days	Light users
30GB	30GB	up to 30GB	£10 / 30 days	★ Best value EU 30GB
50GB	50GB	up to 30GB	£15 / 30 days	More UK data
100GB	100GB	up to 30GB	£20 / 30 days	Heavy UK use
Unlimited	Unlimited	up to 30GB	£25 / 30 days	Heavy UK use

Coverage & network

- Lebara's SIM-only plans include EU/EEA roaming and use the Vodafone network in the UK.
- Lebara advertises roaming in over 36 countries in the EU/EEA plus India.
- Check the exact country list before travel, particularly for non-EU destinations.

Hotspot & router

- Phone hotspot/tethering: YES — Lebara explicitly supports tethering multiple devices.
- Router: a strong candidate. Lebara's own information and support material discuss use in routers/mobile broadband equipment, subject to device compatibility.
- For a campervan router, this is one of the five I would test first.

The catch

30GB MEANS 30GB — EVEN ON 'UNLIMITED'

A £25 unlimited Lebara plan is **not unlimited when roaming**. The EU roaming allowance is capped at 30GB. Once that is used, further data is subject to the applicable roaming/out-of-plan rules.

Our verdict

8.5/10 Probably the best low-cost option if 30GB/month is enough. Excellent candidate for a second SIM or router backup.



4. O2

CH THE 'SWITZERLAND MATTERS' OPTION

O2's big strength is its Europe Zone, which includes Switzerland and Norway as well as EU destinations. The downside is the 25GB roaming cap on tariffs above 25GB.

Example plan

Example	UK data	EU data	Current price	Contract
100GB	100GB	25GB	£20/month*	24 months*

PRICE WARNING

O2's published 100GB example shows £20/month currently, with scheduled price changes on that particular tariff. Always check the exact tariff's annual price-change wording before signing a contract.

Coverage

- Europe Zone includes the EU plus Norway, Switzerland and other European destinations.
- That makes O2 particularly useful for routes that cross into Switzerland or Norway.

Hotspot & router

- Phone hotspot: YES in normal use.
- O2's terms distinguish ordinary phone SIMs from modem/router use. Its consumer terms can restrict use of a phone SIM in a modem unless the tariff says otherwise.
- For a permanent campervan router, look at O2's mobile broadband/data products rather than assuming a normal phone SIM is intended for that purpose.

Out-of-plan

- If your tariff is over 25GB, the Europe Zone roaming limit is 25GB.
- At 25GB, data stops and you need a Bolt On to continue, subject to the applicable terms.
- O2's published roaming fair-use policy also allows surcharges after prolonged roaming.

Long-stay warning

63 DAYS IN FOUR MONTHS

O2's current roaming fair-use policy says using inclusive roaming outside the UK for more than 63 days in a four-month period is considered unfair use. After notification, further roaming can attract surcharges.

Our verdict

8/10 A very good European travel SIM if 25GB/month is enough and Switzerland/Norway are important. Less attractive for heavy streaming or months continuously abroad.



5. SMARTY

GREAT FOR ROUTERS — NOT GREAT FOR HEAVY EU ROAMING

SMARTY offers some of the best-value UK data plans and explicitly supports tablets, dongles and Wi-Fi routers. But standard EU roaming is capped at 12GB/month.

Current plans

Plan	UK data	Price/month	Standard EU data	Type
40GB	40GB	£10	12GB	Phone SIM
100GB	100GB	£12	12GB	Phone SIM
150GB	150GB	£15	12GB	Phone SIM
200GB	200GB	£17	12GB	Phone SIM
Unlimited	Unlimited	£20	12GB	Phone SIM
Data-only 100GB	100GB	£17	12GB	Router/tablet
Data-only Unlimited	Unlimited	£20	12GB	Router/tablet

Why SMARTY stands out for the campervan

- SMARTY explicitly says its SIM-only plans work in tablets, dongles and Wi-Fi routers.
- It also offers dedicated data-only SIMs for tablets, mobile broadband and routers.
- Phone hotspot/tethering is supported.
- UK data value is excellent: 100GB £12, 200GB £17 and unlimited £20 on current rolling plans.

EU Europe

- Up to 12GB/month of your plan can be used in EU roaming if your plan is larger than 12GB.
- If your plan is 12GB or less, the full plan allowance is available up to that amount.
- SMARTY offers paid EU roaming passes that can unlock more of your UK allowance for short periods, but this can become poor value for long trips.

The catch

12GB IS THE BIG LIMIT

A £17 200GB plan does not give you 200GB in Europe. **Standard EU roaming is limited to 12GB.** That makes SMARTY much more attractive as a UK/router SIM or backup than as your only heavy-use European SIM.

Our verdict

7.5/10 Fantastic UK value and one of the clearest router/data-SIM choices. European roaming is the weak point.



Phone hotspot or proper router?

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHOICES FOR A CAMPERVAN

A phone SIM and a mobile-broadband/router SIM are not automatically the same thing. A SIM may work technically in a router but still be subject to tariff terms. For a campervan internet system, check both the device compatibility and the provider's acceptable-use wording.

Provider	Phone hotspot	SIM in 4G/5G router	Best interpretation
Tesco	☑ Yes	☑ Confirm tariff	Good phone/backup SIM; confirm router use
iD	☑ Yes	☑ Confirm tariff	Good hotspot; router suitability less explicit
Lebara	☑ Yes	☑ Strong candidate	Good low-cost router candidate
O2	☑ Yes	☑ Check tariff	Dedicated mobile broadband may be better
SMARTY	☑ Yes	☑ Explicitly supported	Best documented router/data-SIM option

What I would do in a campervan

- Use a normal phone SIM for calls, messages, navigation and emergency hotspotting.
- Use a dedicated 4G/5G router SIM for TVs, laptops, streaming and multiple connected devices.
- If possible, have a second network available — e.g. one SIM on Vodafone coverage and another on Three/O2 coverage.

STREAMING CHANGES EVERYTHING

30GB can disappear quickly if you use a Fire TV Stick or stream HD video. A SIM that is brilliant for WhatsApp, maps and social media may be a poor choice for Netflix every night. Decide your expected monthly data consumption before choosing the plan.



🎯 Which SIM should you choose?

If your priority is...	Start with...	Why
Maximum EU data	🇬🇧 Tesco	Full UK allowance in Home From Home destinations
Cheapest 30GB EU	🇬🇧 Lebara	30GB plan at £10/month
Huge allowance for little money	🇬🇧 iD	Current full-allowance roaming promotion
Switzerland + Norway	🇬🇧 Tesco / O2	Both include these key destinations
A proper campervan router	🇬🇧 SMARTY / Lebara	Clearer router/data-SIM credentials
Heavy UK data use + light EU use	🇬🇧 SMARTY	Excellent UK value; 12GB EU is the trade-off
Phone hotspot only	Tesco / iD / Lebara / O2 / SMARTY	All support hotspot/tethering in normal use

🏆 Our practical shortlist

OPTION A — ONE MAIN SIM

Tesco 60–100GB is the simplest choice if you want one SIM to do almost everything and you are travelling around Europe periodically.

OPTION B — PHONE + ROUTER

Phone: Tesco or iD. Router: SMARTY data-only or Lebara. This separates your personal phone allowance from the data-hungry devices in the van.

OPTION C — LOW-COST BACKUP

Lebara 30GB at £10/month is an excellent insurance policy if your main connection fails or you find yourself somewhere with better Vodafone coverage.

OPTION D — SWITZERLAND/NORWAY FOCUS

Tesco or O2. Check the exact destination list before travel, especially if your route crosses non-EU European countries.



The small print that really matters

1. 'EU roaming' does not mean 'all Europe'.

Providers publish destination lists. Norway and Switzerland are not EU members, so always check whether your chosen provider includes them.

2. Your UK allowance is not necessarily your EU allowance.

SMARTY caps standard EU roaming at 12GB; O2 at 25GB on larger tariffs; Lebara at 30GB; iD's underlying limit is 30GB although its current promotion removes it temporarily.

3. Long-term roaming is a different issue.

Tesco, iD, O2 and SMARTY all have fair-use mechanisms intended to stop a UK SIM being used as a permanent European service. These can matter much more on a months-long campervan trip than the headline data allowance.

4. Ferries can create surprise roaming.

A phone can connect to maritime/satellite networks at sea, which can be expensive. Turn roaming off or use flight mode on ferries unless you know the maritime service and price.

5. Border areas need care.

Near national borders, a phone may connect to a neighbouring network. Manual network selection can prevent accidental roaming.

6. Prices are snapshots.

Mobile pricing changes frequently. This guide records the position checked on 28 August 2026, not a guarantee of future prices.

Before you buy

- Check the exact plan, not just the provider's headline SIM page.
- Check the European destination list.
- Check the roaming fair-use period if you will be away for more than a few weeks.
- Check whether the plan permits the intended router/modem use.
- Check out-of-plan data prices and whether a spending cap can be enabled.
- Re-check all five providers shortly before departure.



Official sources & further checking

This guide is based primarily on the providers' own current pages and terms checked on 28 August 2026. Prices and promotions can change.

Tesco Mobile — SIM-only deals

<https://www.tescomobile.com/shop/sim-only-deals/sim-only-contracts>

iD Mobile — SIM-only deals

<https://www.idmobile.co.uk/sim-only-deals>

iD Mobile — Fair Usage Policy

<https://www.idmobile.co.uk/help-and-support/eu-roaming/fair-usage-policy>

Lebara — SIM-only deals

<https://www.lebara.co.uk/en/best-sim-only-deals.html>

O2 — Roaming

<https://www.o2.co.uk/help/international-and-network/using-your-phone-abroad/roaming>

O2 — Roaming Fair Usage

<https://www.o2.co.uk/termsandconditions/mobile/roamfairuse>

O2 — Consumer Fair Usage Policy

<https://www.o2.co.uk/termsandconditions/mobile/o2-consumer-fair-usage-policy>

SMARTY — All plans

<https://smarty.co.uk/all-plans>

SMARTY — EU roaming help

<https://help.smarty.co.uk/en/articles/2090500-roaming-and-international>

SMARTY — Data-only plans

<https://smarty.co.uk/data-sim>

DISCLAIMER

This is an independent consumer guide, not financial, legal or telecommunications advice. Network coverage, prices, fair-use policies, roaming destinations and promotions can change. Always check the provider's current terms immediately before purchase and before a long trip. It is up to you to check the details of the package you purchase with the relevant provider.



Satellite Alternative to SIM data

For the best chance to have unrivalled DATA coverage, almost anywhere on the planet, then, depending on your budget we think you need to look at :

Starlink

We take Starlink Mini with us in the campervan and historically we have been on the Roam Unlimited Package. This gives outstanding coverage wherever you go (almost) – the only thing you have to make sure is that the Starlink ‘dish’ can see the sky.

The issue with Starlink is that it is expensive. For the unlimited package we are paying £100 per month. BUT we get unlimited data wherever we are.

There are some restrictions to this – Oceans for example where you must subscribe to their ocean package. Also there are limits imposed on out of home country allowances- but overall we find the unrivalled connectivity to be a winner all round

Having said this, and the reason we have put this information sheet together is that to reduce this monthly cost, we are now going to alternating our data usage with an EU enabled SIM card with the Starlink Mini.

Specifically, we are going to be moving onto the ROAM 100GB package. This reduces the cost to £55 per month and gives us 100GB of high-speed internet. Once this is used, we go onto Starlink slow speed – the service does not stop, we still get internet but at much slower speeds until the next month’s allowance begins.

Alongside this we are going to be using the TESCO unlimited package at £22 (with Clubcard), reducing our spend from £100 per month to £77 per month.

There are also Pre-Paid SIMS and eSims which can be looked at but we have found that these tend to be more expensive.

Finally – you can purchase a SIM card in the country you are in, HOWEVER if you want a good value plan (and who wouldn’t?!?), you tend to need an address in the country you are in. So more hoops to jump through.

**We hope you found the information useful – keep connected
and travel safely. Marvellous 😊**