

Camping Manager

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: PHYSICAL COPY ONLY!!!

Developer: Astragon
Publisher: Excalibur Publishing

RYG's VERDICT

72% **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**
Between 65% and 84%

1. Product Info

Note: Camping Manager (Disc Version) was released DRM Free.

Looking at how much information is provided on Camping Manager (Camping Manager) on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Manual and Readme provided with Camping Manager
- ✗ Camping Manager was released with different global dates
- ✗ Available only on Windows
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ No DRM notifications
- ✗ EULA is only found within the game
- ✗ All game-related information on **Camping Manager** is difficult to find

2. Privacy Policy

Note: Camping Manager will not connect to any servers if PCs are still connected via. the Internet.

Looking at Camping Manager's Privacy Policy

- ✓ Privacy Policy not required

3. EULA TOS

Note: 1,360 Words found within Camping Manager's EULA.

Note: Users are allowed to install their game on more than one machine, play the game concurrently

Looking at Camping Manager's End User License Agreement via. Excalibur Publishing

- ✓ EULA / TOS is only found within the game
- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Camping Manager and its DRM-Free aspects
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Terms and conditions for "DRM-Free" are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Camping Manager
- ✓ Can opt-out of any monitoring services / software

Note: Limited warranties, waivers of liability and indemnity are commonly found within many software EULAs and TOSs

4. Setup / Install

Note: Camping Manager will not install any registry keys onto the system!

- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can initiate legal action if the arbitration process fails
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of the US
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ Can't review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ License to play the game only provided
- ✗ No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- ✗ Replacement copies not provided
- ✗ Camping Manager's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Not permitted to create "mods"
- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Termination process dictated by Excalibur Publishing

Looking at how Camping Manager is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ No DRM files or registry keys installed
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 5 minutes (Average time 1 minutes and less)

- ✗ No installation logs of registry keys provided after installation

5. Updates / Patching

Looking at how Camping Manager is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Camping Manager and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline (Internet connection not required)
- ✓ No hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited installations
- ✓ Activation is simple and hassle-free

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: Camping Manager is not a graphically-intensive game

Note: Savegame and Config files are found under the \ Documents\Camping Manager 2012\ section.

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Camping Manager and how it interacts with PC Windows.

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✓ Disc not required for gameplay
- ✓ Can play in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ Won't "phone home"
- ✓ Can play without connectivity issues on an ADSL connection
- ✓ Can play error-free for more than 5hrs
- ✓ Won't interfere with services and background software
- ✓ Will resume at the last checkpoint
- ✓ Can play on more than one PC simultaneously
- ✓ Can modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- ✗ Only playable on mouse and keyboard
- ✗ Minimal graphical settings provided

8. PC Checkup

Looking at whether Camping Manager will modify certain PC settings without users permission / consent.

- ✓ PC clean after scanning for viruses
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for malware and spyware
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for rootkits
- ✓ HOSTS wasn't modified
- ✓ Played Camping Manager without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM / monitoring services running in the background after shutting down
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

9. Removal Uninstall

Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for Camping Manager (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Camping Manager?)

- ✓ Direct uninstallation shortcut provided
- ✓ Backup savegames prompt provided / Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation

10. Customer Support

Note: We encountered no bugs nor issues with Camping Manager.

Looking at the customer support side of Camping Manager through Excalibur Publishing

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at Excalibur Publishing
- ✓ Their website is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
- ✓ Options provided for giving feedback on the service of customer support

RYG's VERDICT

72%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

While much of Camping Manager's failings lay with their EULA / TOS (and their lack of disclosure of its DRM status) its positives were many: self-contained game that can be installed on multiple systems with little footprints, no surreptitious connections to servers and is stable and playable across multiple Windows OSes. It's what to expect from standard DRM-Free games published physically.



Colophon

This analysis of Camping Manager was compiled by Lisa and Martin Pham. Typeface used is ITC Stone Sans. RYG thanks Anna Henriksson, Josh Bush, Ethan Lee, Adam Ames and David Hatch for their insights and suggestions in the design of this analysis. Camping Manager was bought with RYG funds through EB Games.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Camping Manager as a product. We believe everyone should perform their own research and reach their own conclusions. This is one view of many, we hope. Again, we thank you for taking the time to read our analysis of Camping Manager and hope you continue to support our work.

RYG is a user research and design studio for video game developers and publishers. Our focus is planning and designing games with a gamers'-first mentality through user and product research. RYG is led by a husband-and-wife team of Lisa and Martin Pham. RYG is operated in the heart of Sydney.

RYG Analysis: Camping Manager
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