



PARTNER & DEVELOPER API · V1.3

API Developer Guide

Complete reference for integrating Caravan Guide valuations, catalogue cascade, certificates, and trust badges via our versioned REST API.

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Base URL: <https://caravanguide.co.uk/api/v1/>



1. Introduction

The Caravan Guide API gives verified partners programmatic access to the same published guide data that powers our valuation platform - without scraping, manual exports, or fragile workarounds.

All requests must use HTTPS (TLS 1.2+). All responses are JSON (`application/json`). The current version is `/api/v1/`. Breaking changes always introduce a new version path; non-breaking additions ship in the current version.

Pagination uses `page` and `limit` query parameters unless an endpoint specifies otherwise.

Independent caravan valuations built for traders and park groups.

2. What you can build

Valuation lookups

Retail and trade valuations for static, touring, and motorhome models from the current published edition, with market pulse adjustment applied automatically.

Catalogue cascade & pre-fill

Power make → model → year → size → bedroom dropdowns. Pre-fill any field from listing data; validate and resolve alias names before search.

Certificate verification

Verify Caravan Guide certificates by reference number - ideal for finance, insurance, and dealership intake workflows.

Trust badge verification

Check whether a dealer domain holds an active, verified trust badge for due diligence or marketplace listings.

Price movement tracking

Current and previous edition pricing side-by-side, plus multi-edition history for charts and trend graphs.

Certificate issuance

Enterprise clients can issue certificates programmatically with idempotency support for safe retries.

3. Access tiers

API access is manually provisioned. There is no self-service sign-up - we onboard partners individually.

Sandbox

Static sample data for integration testing. Exercise endpoint structures, authentication, and error handling without live valuations. Complimentary for evaluation.

Partner

Live valuations and real certificate data. Monthly included request allowance, HMAC-secured API keys or OAuth 2.0, and dedicated support contact.

Enterprise

Everything in Partner plus higher rate limits, write access for certificate issuance, and negotiable SLA and commercial terms.

4. Design principles

PRINCIPLE	DETAIL
HTTPS only	All requests must use TLS 1.2 or higher. HTTP is not accepted.
JSON throughout	Request bodies and responses use <code>application/json</code> . No XML or HTML on API routes.
URL-versioned	Current version: <code>/api/v1/</code> . Breaking changes introduce a new path; old versions receive deprecation notice before retirement.
Consistent errors	Every error includes a stable machine-readable <code>error.code</code> field.
Request tracing	Every response includes <code>X-Request-Id</code> in headers and <code>meta.request_id</code> in the body.
Rate limit headers	<code>X-RateLimit-Limit</code> , <code>X-RateLimit-Remaining</code> , <code>X-RateLimit-Reset</code> on authenticated responses.

5. Authentication

The API supports machine-to-machine credentials only (no browser or user-session auth). Two mechanisms are available:

5.1 API key (X-API-Key)

Pass the raw key in the `X-API-Key` header on every request. Keys are prefixed: `cg_live_` (production) or `cg_sandbox_` (test). Keys are stored as HMAC-SHA256 hashes - they cannot be retrieved after creation.

```
GET https://caravanguide.co.uk/api/v1/valuations/search?manufacturer=Swift&model_name=Bordeaux&model_year=2017 HTTP/1.1
Host: caravanguide.co.uk
X-API-Key: cg_live_alb2c3d4e5f6...
```

5.2 OAuth 2.0 client credentials

Exchange `client_id` and `client_secret` for a short-lived Bearer token. Re-request when expired (no refresh tokens).

Step 1 - obtain token

```
POST https://caravanguide.co.uk/api/v1/oauth/token HTTP/1.1
Host: caravanguide.co.uk
Authorization: Basic BASE64(client_id:client_secret)
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

grant_type=client_credentials&scope=valuations%3Aread
```

The `scope` parameter is optional. If omitted, all granted scopes are included. Requested scopes must be a subset of your allowed scopes.

```
{
  "access_token": "eyJr...",
  "token_type": "Bearer",
  "expires_in": 3600,
  "scope": "valuations:read"
}
```

Step 2 - authenticate requests

```
GET https://caravanguide.co.uk/api/v1/valuations/catalog?bootstrap=1&manufacturer=Swift HTTP/1.1
Host: caravanguide.co.uk
Authorization: Bearer eyJr...
```

Token endpoint rate limit: **10 requests per 60 seconds** per client, regardless of tier. Cache tokens and only re-request near expiry.

5.3 Scopes

SCOPE	ACCESS
<code>valuations:read</code>	Search valuations, catalogue cascade, resolve aliases, pricing and history
<code>certificates:read</code>	Verify certificates, view history by family
<code>certificates:write</code>	Issue new certificates (Enterprise only)
<code>trust_badge:read</code>	Check trust badge status and verification
<code>parks:read</code>	List and detail caravan parks (where provisioned)

Using an endpoint that requires a scope your credential lacks returns `403 scope_missing`.

5.4 IP allowlisting

Credentials can optionally be locked to CIDR ranges. Requests from unlisted IPs return `403 ip_not_allowed`. Contact your account manager to update restrictions.

5.5 HTTP status semantics

STATUS	MEANING
401	Credential not found, malformed, or expired - re-authenticate
403	Valid credential but access denied (revoked, wrong scope, IP block, commercial restriction)
429	Rate limit or monthly allowance exceeded
503	Endpoint disabled by kill-switch or platform maintenance

6. Partner catalogue workflow

Most partner sites need cascading dropdowns before showing a valuation. Catalogue endpoints return **filter values only** (no GBP prices). Fetch prices via </valuations/search> or </valuations/pricing>.

Recommended flow

- 1 Bootstrap on page load** - GET </valuations/catalog?bootstrap=1> with optional pre-fill params when you have partial listing data from URL, CRM, or ad feed.
- 2 Step on user change** - GET </valuations/catalog?step=...> e.g. [step=models&manufacturer=Swift](/valuations/catalog?step=models&manufacturer=Swift) to refresh downstream dropdowns.
- 3 Resolve aliases** - GET </valuations/resolve> when listing text may not match the published catalogue exactly.
- 4 Search for prices** - GET </valuations/search> using [canonical](#) values from catalogue [selection](#) or resolve.

Cascade order

STEP	PARENT PARAMS	RETURNS
caravan_types	-	Available types in published edition
manufacturers	caravan_type (optional, default static)	Manufacturer names
models	manufacturer	Model names (includes alias mappings)
years	manufacturer , model_name	Model years (newest first); may include default_listing_year
sizes	above + model_year	Size strings (e.g. 36×12)
bedrooms	above (+ optional size)	Bedroom counts; may include null for unknown

Pre-fill & validation

Any catalogue request may include optional pre-fill: [caravan_type](#), [manufacturer](#), [model_name](#), [model_year](#), [size_display](#) (or [sd](#), or [lf + wf](#)), [bedrooms](#) ([__null__](#) when unknown).

Every response includes a [selection](#) object per field: [provided](#), [value](#), [valid](#), [canonical](#). Invalid pre-fill values return [valid: false](#) without failing the request. Use [canonical](#) in downstream search calls.

Example bootstrap:

https://caravanguide.co.uk/api/v1/valuations/catalog?bootstrap=1&manufacturer=Swift&model_name=Bordeaux&model_year=2017&bedrooms=2

7. Endpoint reference - Catalogue

GET </valuations/catalog>

Scope: [valuations:read](#). Stepwise options for cascading dropdowns. Two modes: **step** (one level) or **bootstrap** ([bootstrap=1](#), all applicable lists).

PARAMETER	TYPE	REQUIRED	DESCRIPTION
step	string	Step mode	caravan_types · manufacturers · models · years · sizes · bedrooms
bootstrap	0 1	Bootstrap	When 1, returns all option lists (omit step)
caravan_type	string	No	static touring motorhome (default: static)
manufacturer	string	Parent/pre-fill	Required for models and below
model_name	string	Parent/pre-fill	Required for years and below
model_year	int	Parent/pre-fill	Required for sizes and bedrooms
size_display	string	No	Pre-fill or narrow bedrooms; aliases: sd , lf+wf
bedrooms	int string	No	Pre-fill; use __null__ when unknown

Step response

```
{
  "success": true,
  "data": {
    "edition_date": "2026-04-01",
    "step": "models",
    "values": ["Challenger", "Conqueror"],
    "selection": {
      "caravan_type": { "provided": true, "value": "static", "valid": true, "canonical": "static" },
      "manufacturer": { "provided": true, "value": "Swift", "valid": true, "canonical": "Swift" }
    }
  },
  "meta": { "request_id": "...", "version": "v1" }
}
```

Bootstrap response

```
{
  "success": true,
  "data": {
    "edition_date": "2026-04-01",
    "mode": "bootstrap",
    "options": {
      "caravan_types": ["static"],
      "manufacturers": ["Swift", "ABI"],
      "models": ["Challenger"],
      "years": [2022, 2021, 2020],
      "sizes": ["36x12"],
      "bedrooms": [2, 3]
    },
    "selection": { "...": "per-field provided / valid / canonical" }
  }
}
```

Errors: [400 invalid_request](#) (missing step, unknown step, missing parent params); [503 internal_error](#) (no published edition).

GET /valuations/resolve

Scope: [valuations:read](#). Resolve trade or alias manufacturer/model/year to canonical catalogue identity before pre-fill or search.

PARAMETER	REQUIRED	DESCRIPTION
manufacturer	Yes	As shown on partner listing
model_name	Yes	
model_year	Yes	1900-2100
caravan_type	No	default: static
size_display / sd / lf+wf	No	Optional size filter
bedrooms	No	Optional; <code>__null__</code> for unknown

```
{
  "success": true,
  "data": {
    "edition_date": "2026-04-01",
    "matched": true,
    "resolution_type": "family",
    "family_id": 1234,
    "manufacturer": "Swift",
    "model_name": "Challenger",
    "model_year": 2020,
    "mapped_from": { "manufacturer": "...", "model_name": "...", "model_year": 2019 },
    "mapped_to": { "manufacturer": "Swift", "model_name": "Challenger", "model_year": 2020 }
  }
}
```

Outcomes: [matched: false](#) (HTTP 200, no match); [resolution_type: note_only](#) (informational only); [multi_layout: true](#) with [family_ids](#) array when alias resolves to several layouts.

8. Endpoint reference - Valuations

GET /valuations/search

Scope: `valuations:read`. Search by manufacturer, model, year, and type. Returns retail and trade for the current published edition. Falls back to alias mappings when no direct match.

PARAMETER	REQUIRED	DESCRIPTION
<code>manufacturer</code>	Yes	Prefer selection.*.canonical from catalogue or resolve
<code>model_name</code>	Yes	
<code>model_year</code>	Yes	4-digit year (1900-2100)
<code>caravan_type</code>	No	static touring motorhome (default: static)
<code>page / limit</code>	No	Pagination; limit 1-50 (default 24)

```
{
  "success": true,
  "data": {
    "edition_date": "2026-04-01",
    "page": 1, "limit": 24, "total": 3,
    "market_pulse_pct": 100,
    "mapping": null,
    "results": [{
      "family_id": 1234, "manufacturer": "Swift", "model_name": "Bordeaux",
      "model_year": 2017, "variant_key": "SE", "caravan_type": "static",
      "bedrooms": 2, "size_label": "36x12", "length_ft": 36, "width_ft": 12,
      "retail": 18500, "trade": 15200, "retail_base": 18500, "trade_base": 15200
    }]
  }
}
```

When a mapping applies, `mapping.mapped` is true with `mapped_from`, `mapped_to`, and `public_note` for end-user display.

GET /valuations/cascade

All variants for manufacturer + model across all years (flat list with sizes, bedrooms, and prices). For interactive dropdowns, prefer `/valuations/catalog`.

Required: `manufacturer`, `model_name`. Optional: `caravan_type` (default static).

GET /valuations/pricing

Current and previous edition pricing for a specific family. Required: `family_id` (from search, resolve, or cascade).

Response fields: `retail`, `retail_base`, `trade`, `trade_base` (market-pulse-adjusted vs guide base); `previous` object with same fields for prior edition (null if first appearance).

GET /valuations/history

Retail and trade price history across published editions for charting. Required: `family_id`. Optional: `limit` 1-24 (default 12). History returned oldest-first.

```
{
  "data": {
    "family_id": 1234,
    "manufacturer": "Swift", "model_name": "Challenger", "model_year": 2020,
    "history": [
      { "edition_date": "2025-04-01", "retail": 14995, "trade": 11500 },
      { "edition_date": "2026-04-01", "retail": 15495, "trade": 12000 }
    ]
  }
}
```

9. Endpoint reference - Certificates

Read: `certificates:read` · Write: `certificates:write` (Enterprise only)

GET /certificates/verify

Verify a certificate by number. Required: `certificate_number`.

```
{
  "data": {
    "certificate_number": "CG-2026-abc123",
    "valid": true, "status": "active",
    "issued_at": "2026-01-15 10:00:00", "expires_at": "2027-01-15 10:00:00",
    "manufacturer": "Swift", "model_name": "Challenger", "model_year": 2020
  }
}
```

GET /certificates/history

Certificates issued for a caravan family. Required: `family_id`. Optional: `limit` 1-50 (default 20).

POST /certificates/issue

Enterprise / write access only. Requires `Idempotency-Key` header (max 190 chars). Same key + same body = replay (200, `X-Idempotency-Replayed: true`). Same key + different body = 409.

```
POST /api/v1/certificates/issue
Content-Type: application/json
Idempotency-Key: issue-ref-45678-20260401

{
  "family_id": 1234,
  "valid_months": 12,
  "notes": "Issued via API for dealer ref #45678"
}
```

201 Created on first successful issue.

10. Endpoint reference - Trust badge

Scope: `trust_badge:read`

GET /trust-badge/status

Active trust badge status for a domain. Required: `domain` (e.g. acme-caravans.co.uk - no scheme, no trailing slash).

GET /trust-badge/verify

Lightweight check returning `verified: true/false` with verification timestamp.

11. Other endpoints

GET /health

No authentication. Platform status with database connectivity check. Returns 200 when healthy, 503 when degraded. `HEAD` supported for lightweight polling.

```
{ "status": "ok", "version": "v1", "checks": { "database": "ok", "platform": "operational" } }
```

GET /announcements

Active platform announcements (edition releases, partner notices). Optional `limit` 1-50 (default 10). No specific scope beyond valid credential.

GET /account/me

Authenticated client identity, access tier, granted scopes, and current-month usage. Use to verify credentials and display subscription status.

```
{
  "data": {
    "client": { "name": "UK Caravan Portal", "environment": "live", "status": "active" },
    "access": { "commercial_tier": "partner_pro", "monthly_request_allowance": 50000 },
    "scopes": [ "valuations:read", "certificates:read" ],
    "usage": { "month": "2026-04", "requests_this_month": 1842, "allowance": 50000 }
  }
}
```

12. Endpoint summary

All paths relative to <https://caravanguide.co.uk/api/v1/>.

METHOD	ENDPOINT	SCOPE	PURPOSE
GET	/health	-	Health check
POST	/oauth/token	-	OAuth Bearer token
GET	/valuations/catalog	valuations:read	Cascade dropdowns & pre-fill
GET	/valuations/resolve	valuations:read	Alias → canonical
GET	/valuations/search	valuations:read	Retail & trade search
GET	/valuations/cascade	valuations:read	Flat variant list
GET	/valuations/pricing	valuations:read	Current & previous pricing
GET	/valuations/history	valuations:read	Multi-edition history
GET	/certificates/verify	certificates:read	Verify by number
GET	/certificates/history	certificates:read	History by family
POST	/certificates/issue	certificates:write	Issue certificate
GET	/trust-badge/status	trust_badge:read	Badge status
GET	/trust-badge/verify	trust_badge:read	Lightweight verify
GET	/announcements	-	Platform announcements
GET	/account/me	-	Client identity & usage

13. Responses & headers

Success envelope

```
{ "success": true, "data": { ... }, "meta": { "request_id": "abc123", "version": "v1" } }
```

Error envelope

```
{ "success": false, "error": { "code": "invalid_request", "message": "..."}, "meta": { "request_id": "abc123", "version": "v1" } }
```

The `error.code` field is stable and machine-readable. The `error.message` is human-readable and may change.

Include `X-Request-Id` (or `meta.request_id`) when contacting support.

14. Idempotency (write endpoints)

POST write endpoints (e.g. `/certificates/issue`) require an `Idempotency-Key` header. Generate a unique key per distinct operation.

SCENARIO	RESULT
Same key + same body (retry)	200 with original response; <code>X-Idempotency-Replayed: true</code>
Same key + different body	409 <code>idempotency_conflict</code>
New key	Normal processing (201 on success)

15. Environments

ENVIRONMENT	KEY PREFIX	DESCRIPTION
Sandbox	<code>cg_sandbox_</code>	Test fixtures; safe for development
Live	<code>cg_live_</code>	Production data; metered against allowance

Using a live credential in sandbox context (or vice versa) returns `403 credential_environment_mismatch`.

16. Error codes

CODE	HTTP	DESCRIPTION
<code>api_platform_disabled</code>	503	API platform disabled by operator
<code>missing_credentials</code>	401	No X-API-Key or Bearer header
<code>malformed_credentials</code>	401	Credential header could not be parsed
<code>invalid_api_key</code>	401	Key does not match any active key
<code>expired_token</code>	401	Bearer token expired - request new token
<code>invalid_client</code>	401	Token endpoint: invalid client_id/secret
<code>revoked_api_key</code>	403	Key explicitly revoked
<code>revoked_token</code>	403	Token explicitly revoked
<code>client_suspended</code>	403	API client account suspended
<code>ip_not_allowed</code>	403	Request IP not in allowlist
<code>credential_environment_mismatch</code>	403	Live key in sandbox or vice versa
<code>scope_missing</code>	403	Endpoint requires scope not granted
<code>api_access_disabled</code>	403	API access not enabled for account
<code>api_write_scope_not_commercially_enabled</code>	403	Write requires Enterprise access
<code>rate_limit_exceeded</code>	429	Per-minute rate limit exceeded
<code>api_usage_allowance_exceeded</code>	429	Monthly allowance exhausted
<code>endpoint_disabled</code>	503	Endpoint temporarily disabled
<code>idempotency_conflict</code>	409	Idempotency-Key reused with different body
<code>invalid_request</code>	400	Missing or invalid parameter
<code>invalid_grant</code>	400	Token endpoint: grant_type not client_credentials
<code>invalid_scope</code>	400	Token endpoint: scope not allowed
<code>internal_error</code>	500	Unexpected server error

17. Retry guidance

HTTP	RETRY?	NOTES
400	No	Fix the request first
401 (expired)	Yes, after re-auth	Re-request token then retry
401 (other)	No	Credential issue - contact support
403	No	Access denied - won't change on retry
409	No (change key)	Use a new Idempotency-Key
429 (rate limit)	Yes, after reset	Wait until X-RateLimit-Reset
429 (allowance)	No	Monthly quota exhausted
500	Yes, with backoff	Retry once; if persistent, contact support with X-Request-Id
503	Yes, later	Poll for restoration

18. Getting started

1. **Request access** - Contact us with your use case. Sandbox credentials typically provisioned within one business day.
2. **Integrate authentication** - Choose API key or OAuth 2.0 client credentials.
3. **Build your selector UI** - Use `/valuations/catalog` for dropdowns and pre-fill; call `/valuations/search` when selection is complete.
4. **Test in Sandbox** - Validate payloads, error handling, and rate limits before going live.
5. **Go live** - Graduate to Partner or Enterprise with agreed commercial terms.

Interactive documentation portal

Active partners also have access to the full online API reference portal with live examples, changelog, and searchable error codes via their account.

Support

Email: api@caravanguide.co.uk

Include the `X-Request-Id` from any failing response.

Recent changes (v1.3 - May 2026)

- New: `GET /valuations/catalog` - cascade dropdowns with bootstrap pre-fill and per-field validation
- New: `GET /valuations/resolve` - alias/trade name resolution before search
- Catalogue returns filter values only; prices remain on search and pricing endpoints