



Glamping: The best of both worlds

Marla Cimini, Special for USA TODAY 11:18 a.m. EDT August 20, 2014



CONNECT



TWEET



LINKEDIN



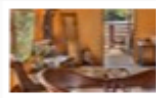
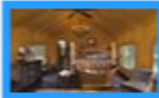
COMMENT



EMAIL



MORE



Campers love the great outdoors, and today's nature enthusiasts are frequently choosing to combine adventure and sophistication with their wilderness vacations. Some innovative US resorts are introducing elements of "glamping" (glamorous camping) to attract those who appreciate posh accommodations, gourmet dinners, and sublime service while still enjoying hiking, fishing, wildlife spotting and otherwise becoming one with the natural world.

Hilton Head, S.C.

[Westin Hilton Head Resort and Spa](#) guests can partake in an evening under the stars with the resort's "Glamping at the Beach" package, featuring a private poolside cabana with a TV and two ultra-luxe lounges adjacent to a fire pit — complete with "make your own" s'mores. A "glamping" survival kit includes flashlights for nighttime beach strolls, a telescope and stargazing map.

Finger Lakes region, N.Y.

With a name like [The Quiet Place](#), travelers are immediately ushered into a zone of tranquility, rest and relaxation. Dozens of secluded cottages and cabins are nestled in the woods (some with outdoor hot tubs), and the resort is a zen-like destination with stunning scenery. The Quiet Place includes fully equipped kitchens, fireplaces and fire pits. When seeking a little more action, the resort is close to the area's wineries, hot air balloon rides, biking, hiking and more.

Beverly Hills, Calif.

Upscale residences [AKA](#) is located in the heart of Beverly Hills and has transformed the classic American RV into a luxury mobile suite glamping experience. Launched in May, this sleek, top-of-the-line Airstream 2 Go is outfitted with high-end amenities. AKA Beverly Hills guests can book a custom California road trip up the coast, which begins with a styling session with designer Trina Turk. The adventure includes glamping at a Santa Ynez Valley winery, as well as the Ocean Mesa campground overlooking the Pacific.

Barnard, Vt.

[Twin Farms](#) is a five star Relais & Chateaux resort featuring 20 stylishly designed unique rooms with upscale amenities, situated on 300 pristine acres in Vermont. Nearby activities seem limitless, and include fly fishing, bonfires, stargazing, kayaking, hiking, biking, or just relaxing at the property's spa and soaking in the natural surroundings. This resort inspires guests to celebrate the seasons, with distinctive outdoor offerings all year long. All meals are cooked fresh every day, and feature local ingredients paired exceptional wines.

Bradford, Pa.

With just 16 exclusive and private accommodations scattered across 1,500 lush acres adjacent to the Allegheny National Forest, [The Lodge at Glendorn](#) is an ideal destination for a peaceful getaway that offers a taste of the simple life, with a generous helping of solitude. Featuring two picturesque lakes and striking views of the countryside, the lodge offers travelers a variety of camping activities such as kayaking, hiking, fishing, skeet shooting, and stand-up paddle boarding. Healthy cooking classes are available to guests as well.

Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

The [W Retreat and Spa on Vieques Island](#) can be compared to stepping into a seascape painting. An exclusive, chic resort overlooking the turquoise sea with a decidedly rustic feel, it features modern, stylish guestrooms, while winding, sandy pathways lead to a sprawling pool deck, a circular, starlit plunge pool, and hidden hammocks along the shore. Guests might spot wild horses or baby sea turtles on this island, and can go glamping on the beach with nighttime bonfires, complete with complimentary marshmallow roasting during high season.

Adirondack Mountains, N.Y.

An authentic all-inclusive luxury camping retreat, [Orenda](#) provides comfort and luxury in the wilderness. Featuring custom canvas cabins, the resort includes Adirondack-inspired spa services, a rustic open-air kitchen and dining pavilion, heated outdoor showers, wood-burning stoves and a fire pit. Orenda personalizes itineraries for guests, and offers many opportunities to explore the backcountry, including walking trails, archery and swimming. Additional off-site activities include white-water rafting and horseback riding. Farm-to-table meals are served in an open air dining space prepared with locally-sourced ingredients.

Greenough, Mont.

[Paws Up](#) is a working cattle ranch that blends luxury and camping in a big way, encouraging guests to truly "rough it like a royal" throughout their 37,000 acres. With five separate posh campgrounds, each lush tent is reminiscent of an exclusive safari experience, with a master bedroom, private bathrooms, cooling fans, heat, furnishings and all the comforts of home. This resort is ideal for those who wish to soak in the natural environment while experiencing the finer things in life, as each camp has its own professional chef and butler to cater to guests' every whim.

Stowe, Vt.

[Topnotch Resort](#) in Vermont's Green Mountains invites guests to enjoy a glamping getaway with plenty of hiking, biking, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, fishing, and even a world-class equestrian center. This destination's newly renovated lobby bar and restaurant offers farm to table dining, while Topnotch's outdoor living room features a rustically charming stone fire pit. A variety of accommodations and resort homes of varying sizes are available. For some post-adventure bliss, this resort's award-winning spa features over 120 sublime treatments.

Malibu, Calif.

For those who love blending hardcore fitness with the outdoors, [The Ranch at Live Oak / Malibu](#) offers an intense wellness and nutritional program in a luxe setting. Situated in the Santa Monica Mountains, the ranch's location is unparalleled with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. An exclusive experience, the guest list is limited to only 16 visitors each week, and requires four hours of daily mountain hiking and exercise classes. When not working out, guests can enjoy the resort's pool, afternoon massages every day, and private, luxurious accommodations.



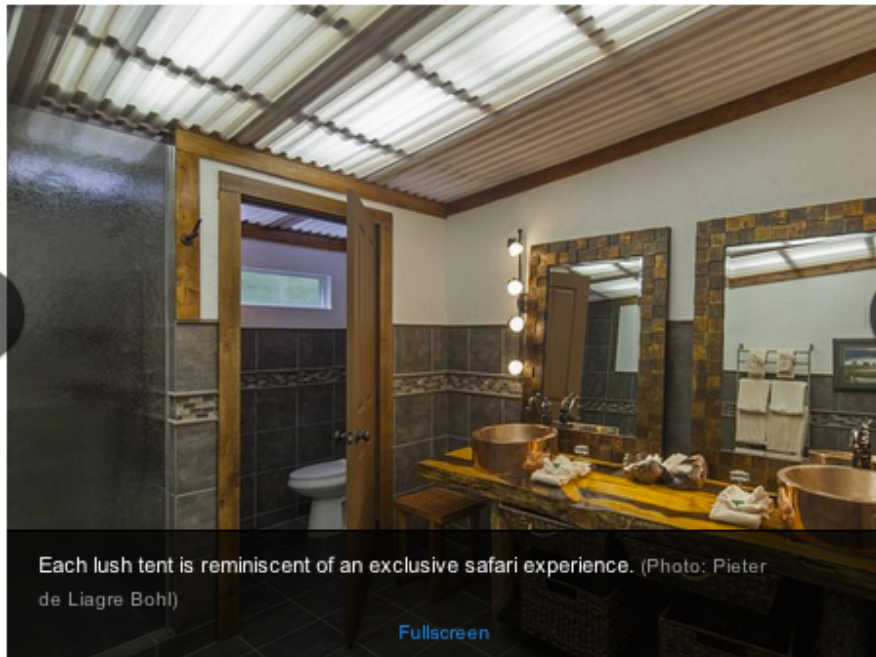
Each camp has its own professional chef and butler to cater to guests' every whim. (Photo: Pieter de Liagre Bohl)

[Fullscreen](#)



Tents include a master bedroom, private bathrooms, cooling fans, heat, furnishings and all the comforts of home. (Photo: Pieter de Liagre Bohl)

[Fullscreen](#)



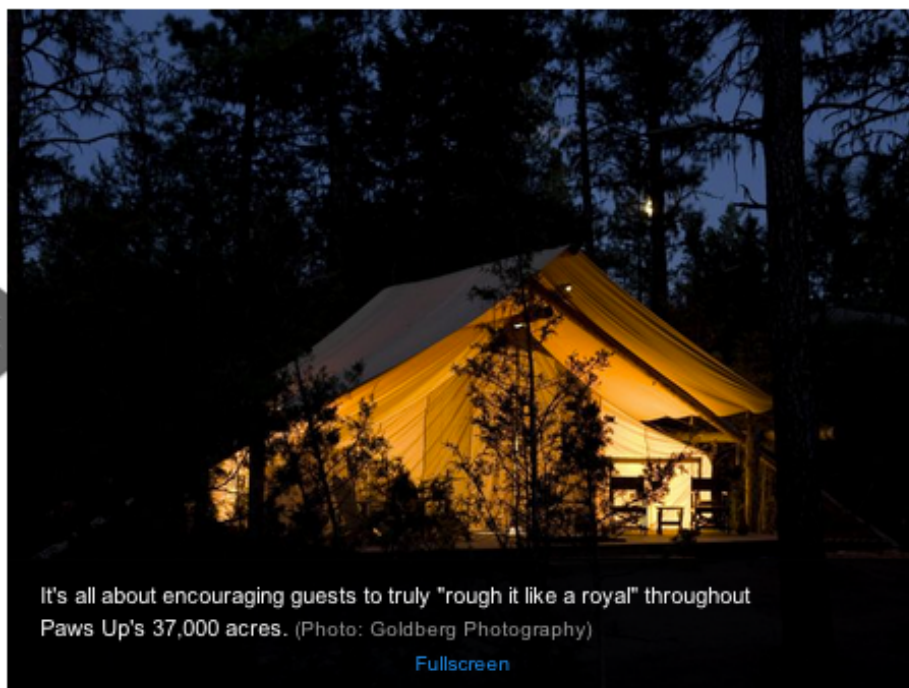
Each lush tent is reminiscent of an exclusive safari experience. (Photo: Pieter de Liagre Bohl)

[Fullscreen](#)



Not to mention vintage bathtubs. (Photo: Pieter de Liagre Bohli)

[Fullscreen](#)



It's all about encouraging guests to truly "rough it like a royal" throughout Paws Up's 37,000 acres. (Photo: Goldberg Photography)

[Fullscreen](#)



Paws Up is a working cattle ranch that blends luxury and camping in a big way. (Photo: Pieter de Liagre Bohl)

[Fullscreen](#)



This resort is ideal for those who wish to soak in the natural environment while experiencing the finer things in life. (Photo: Paws Up)

[Fullscreen](#)