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The top 10 luxury campsites

Staying under canvas has never been so glamorous. Even in the British countryside there are tents more akin to country cottages. Rhiannon Batten offers a guide to 'glamping'

1 . Eco chic in France

The last word in eco-luxury, Canvas Chic is a collection of 12 stylishly furnished yurts set above a river gorge in a scenic corner of the Ardèche, in southern France. The whole place has been designed to give the feel of wild camping while providing all the facilities - but not the crowds - of traditional campsites. With proper beds, luxury bed linen and private hammocks provided, you may find it hard to drag yourself away but guests are encouraged to make the most of the natural forest surroundings.

Happy camping moment: If you tire of slaving over a hot gas burner, there is a small table d'hôte-style restaurant serving evening meals three or four times a week for €30 (£20.50) per head.

Details: Yurts cost from £255 for two people for three nights, including Continental breakfast (00 33 46 624 2181; canvaschic.com).

2 . Get back to nature in Spain

Genghis Khan might recognise the basic structure of the Hoopoe Yurt Hotel's bedrooms, but surely not the level of luxury. This low-key resort (there are only four yurts) is set amid seven acres of olive groves and cork oak forest in the shadow of Andalusia's Grazalema mountains. Solar cells feed hot showers and reading lights; there's a chlorine-free swimming pool and an atmospheric alfresco restaurant. But the real draw here is nature. Each yurt comes with an acre of private meadow.

Happy camping moment: Watching the local birdlife, including the distinctive hoopoe with its fancy hairdo.

Details: Prices start at £80 per double yurt per night, including breakfast (00 34 696 668 388; yurthotel.com).

3 . Romance in the Tunisian desert

Getting to Pansea Ksar Ghilane is not for the faint-hearted. This newly opened Saharan hideaway is a four-hour drive by 4WD from the city of Djerba, in southern Tunisia. Set on the site of a restored Berber castle, or "ksar", this romantic desert camp features 60 spacious goat-hair tents, surrounded by date palms and tamarisk trees. The decor is nicely traditional, with kilim rugs covering the walls, while more modern comforts include power showers, air-conditioning, large double beds and a natural spring-fed swimming pool. You won't find TVs here but movie buffs can always feed their hunger with a day-trip into the surrounding area, where the early Star Wars films and The English Patient were filmed.

Happy camping moment: Watching the sunset turn the dunes pink from the old watchtower, and spectacular stargazing.

Details: Doubles from €161 (£101), including breakfast. Transfers can be arranged for €250 (£157) return (0117-942 8476; i-escape.com).

4 . On safari in Kenya

It's one thing seeing Kenya's Masai Mara, but quite another being able to do so without even leaving your four-poster bed. In January, the Bateleur Camp at Kichwa Tembo opened a second group of nine tented suites. Style-wise, it's all very Out of Africa, with polished wood floors, antique furnishings and personal butlers. Now is the time to go; from June to October, the wildebeest and zebra undertake their long migration from the Serengeti. Wildlife can be viewed during game drives each morning and evening, as well as on guided walks.

Happy camping moment: Taking an early-morning hot-air ride balloon above the grasslands.

Details: Doubles start at US\$980 (£496) per night, including meals, game drives and transfers from Nairobi (00 27 11 809 4314; ccafrica.com).

5 . Pitch up on an Indian dam

Two hours' drive from Jodhpur, in India, the spectacular Chhatra Sagar camp consists of 11 luxury tents pitched on top of a century-old dam. Elaborately decorated with hand-painted henna floors, each open-sided tent has a private porch that looks out over a bird-filled lake. With peaceful farmland as a backdrop, the only disturbance you're likely to experience is the dawn chorus. The camp's restaurant is said to be one of the best in Rajasthan.

Happy camping moment: Midnight bonfires under the stars, with hot-water bottles provided.

Details: Doubles from 15,000 INR (£186) per night, including meals and a Jeep trip or bird-watching-tour (00 91 941 412 3118; chhatrasagar.com).

6 . The Thai take on tents

If you associate camping with muddy groundsheets, the Four Seasons Tented Camp, in the Golden Triangle, Thailand, may come as a surprise. Reached by boat and surrounded by jungle, the resort's 15 tented suites are more lavishly furnished than Coleen McLoughlin's wardrobe. Each has handcrafted furniture, king-size beds, down pillows, private refrigerated bars, Wi-Fi and twice-daily housekeeping, as well as access to a pool, fine dining and the chance to go out elephant trekking.

Happy camping moment: Bird-spotting from the comfort of an enormous hand-hammered copper bathtub, if you keep the tent flaps rolled up.

Details: Prices start at US\$1,557 (£788) per night per tent (minimum three nights), including transfers, full-board, one spa treatment per person and all activities (00 66 53 910 200; fourseasons.com).

7 . Jungle luxury in Indonesia

Sleeping under canvas was never like this in the Guides. Located on Indonesia's Moyo Island nature reserve (55min flight, and a short boat trip, from Bali), Amanwana's 20 tents are super-swanky hotel rooms, complete with plush sofas, hardwood floors, and coral-stone decking. Guests can choose between "Jungle" or "Ocean" rooms. The same goes for activities. The Flores Sea has some of the best snorkelling and scuba-diving in the region, and you don't have to go far: just to the right of the camp is Turtle Street. This reef ledge, dropping to sandy slope, is a regular draw for hawksbill and green-bill turtles, as well as white-tip reef sharks. Back on dry land, the forest's nature trails teem with macaque monkeys and wild boar, while sea-eagles and ospreys are a common sight.

Happy camping moment: Getting a fresh-fruit facial at the outdoor spa.

Details: Doubles from \$850 (£397) per night for two, including all meals and some activities. Transfers from Bali cost an extra \$650 (£304) return, per person (00 800 2255 2626; amanesorts.com).

8 . Celebrity style in Australia

Situated in the Australian bush at Jervis Bay, New South Wales, Paperbark Camp is like all the best bits of I'm

a Celebrity ... with none of the maggot-eating horrors. This thoughtfully designed resort aims to make as little impact on the environment as possible: the site was cleared by hand to avoid damaging ecosystems; lighting is solar and waste-water is pumped off-site to avoid polluting the local creek. The 12 tents are built on raised wooden platforms, and have indoor-outdoor en-suite showers. Dinner is taken in the "gunyah" (aboriginal for meeting place), a stylish communal lounge from where it's possible to watch possums and sugar gliders as you eat; bush tucker has never been less of a trial.

Happy camping moment: The two deluxe suites come with outdoor baths with a view.

Details: Prices start at AS\$344 (£143) per night for two, including breakfast (00 61 2 4441 6066; paperbarkcamp.com.au).

9. Snuggle up in a pod

Three years ago eco-entrepreneur Sofia de Meyer came up with a plan to build a low-impact resort in the Swiss Alps. Rustic-chic decor (all pods have wood-burning stoves and luxury linen), sustainable ethos and access to uncrowded slopes pulled in the punters. Whitepod (00 41 24 471 3838; whitepod.com) now has nine pods and, from next year, will be open in summer. Pods start at Sfr325 (£134) per night, including morning coffee and afternoon tea.

10. Not quite Old Macdonald

Featherdown Farm (01420 80804; featherdownfarm.co.uk), which operates at nine working farms across Britain, is "boutique" farm camping. Guests book a large, ready-equipped tent (sleeping up to six) and settle down to an experience more akin to a cottage than canvas. Each tent has a flush toilet, a wood-fired oven, proper beds, access to a farm shop and its own henhouse. Prices from £185 per tent for four nights, self-catering.