

# The Glamping Sites Pitching New Luxury

High-end camping has already gone big worldwide. Here's the latest about new sites opening across the globe.



The bar at Magashi in Rwanda. Guests can enjoy watching wildlife that includes leopards, elephants, zebras and giraffes. Credit: Credit Wilderness Safaris

**By Nora Walsh**

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As more travelers indicate a desire to escape into nature — escapes that include gourmet dining and plush bedding — so-called glamping continues to grow in popularity.

A new [report](#) conducted by the market research firm [Arizton](#) projects glamping, or luxury camping, revenues to grow steadily in the next five years, reaching an estimated \$1 billion by 2024. The report also notes that the newly founded [American Glamping Association](#) signals the industry's migration to the mainstream.

In an attempt to satisfy this growing need, hospitality companies are continuing to create low-impact tented camps around the world that reconnect travelers with the great outdoors in comfort and style.

## United States

The American Glamping Association was founded by Sarah Dusek, the co-founder and chief executive of [Under Canvas](#), an adventure-hospitality company operating eight eco-conscious tented camps adjacent to national parks.

“Our camps have become infinitely more immersive with designer furnishings, more adventure activities, wellness programs and an elevated culinary offering,” Ms. Dusek said.

With online bookings more than doubling year over year, the company will add 15 new camps to keep up with demand. Under Canvas Yosemite is among those new offerings, debuting as a pop-up this fall. Next spring, expect 90 safari-inspired tents scattered among 85 acres of Sequoia forest, just 15-minutes from the park’s entrance.

Most tents are outfitted with king beds, wood-burning stoves and en suite bathrooms with hot showers. Using 80 percent less water and energy than a similarly sized hotel, the company strives to leave the land as untouched as possible. “We aim to be zero-waste by 2021,” Ms. Dusek said.

The camp will operate seasonally from April to November. Prices start at \$189 for basic safari tents with communal bathrooms.

## Costa Rica

“Travelers have shifted away from amassing material possessions and toward collecting life-altering, perspective-changing experiences,” said Luca Franco, the chief executive of [Luxury Frontiers](#), a design firm specializing in top-quality tented camps. The company is partnering with [Nayara Resorts](#) in northwest Costa Rica to develop 29 [family-friendly tents](#) overlooking spectacular views of Arenal Volcano. They will launch this December alongside two of the brand’s existing properties, [Nayara Springs](#) and [Nayara Spa, Resort & Gardens](#).

Constructed on roughly 1,500-square-foot stilted platforms to minimize the camp’s footprint, each tent contains open-air living areas and plunge pools with mineral water sourced from nearby hot springs.

“By omitting the tent’s fourth wall, our guests are fully immersed in nature,” said Mr. Leo Ghitis, owner of Nayara Resorts. “They sleep to the sounds of the rain forest.”

Rates, from \$1,200 per tent per night, include free daily breakfast and morning yoga.

## Bolivia

The Kachi Lodge, atop the Uyuni Salt Flats. [CreditAmazing Escapes](#)



The Swiss-based outfitter, [Amazing Escapes](#), was tapped by the indigenous Jirira community in Bolivia's Altiplano region to build a sustainable tented camp atop the Uyuni Salt Flats, at the foot of the Tunupa volcano.

“Our challenge was to make the camp completely ‘clean’,” said Paul Kennes, the company's chief executive. [Kachi Lodge](#) opened in May, with six geodesic domes powered predominantly by solar energy. Each of the domes have closed-loop water systems, incinerating toilets, local artwork and access to a culinary partnership with the famed La Paz restaurant, [Gustu](#).

“The menu is entirely local and seasonal, including an impressive selection of Bolivian wines,” said Mr. Kennes.

Prices begin at \$1,980 per person based on double occupancy for a minimum two-night stay, and include airport transfers, guided activities and full board. Each of the geodesic domes offered to guests are powered predominantly by solar energy. Credit Amazing Escapes



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## **Rwanda**

[Wilderness Safaris](#)' new environmentally responsible [Magashi Camp](#) opened in May, on the continent that pioneered the tented-camp experience.

“Established in partnership with the [Rwanda Development Board](#) and nonprofit conservation organization, [African Parks](#), our core purpose is to conserve Rwanda’s diverse savannah ecosystem and threatened species,” said Ingrid Baas, general manager of the camp.

Six tented guest rooms are set on a lakeside perch in [Akagera National Park](#) — a scenic patchwork of riverine woodlands, papyrus marshes and low-lying mountains — where guests enjoy a parade of wildlife including leopards, elephants, zebras and giraffes. Lions and Eastern black rhinos, which were reintroduced to the reserve in recent years, are also at the park.

Starting rates from \$470 per person per night are based on full-board and double occupancy, and include taxes, activities, park fees and laundry.

## **Australia**

Rottneest Island, a car-free nature reserve off the coast of Perth that is popular for its white sand beaches, recently welcomed [Discovery Rottneest Island](#). The retreat, the

island's first new lodging in 30 years, comprises 83 high-grade canvas tents tucked behind the dunes of Pinky Beach.

“We have accommodation options to suit all types of travelers, ranging from budget-friendly tents to deluxe family lodgings with kitchenettes and ocean views,” said Grant Wilckens, chief executive of [Discovery Holiday Parks](#).

On the property, guests can spot rock parrots and native quokkas, friendly marsupials regarded as “the world’s happiest animal.”

“We created a tented camp experience so travelers could embrace nature, disconnect from the world and create memories with loved ones,” Mr. Wilckens said.

Rates from \$119 per night for a standard tent based on double occupancy during low season in July and August.