

Glamorous Camping:

There's Camping...And Then There's Glamping

Text: Rebecca Bond

Photography: JOHN GRANEN/CLAYOQUOT WILDERNESS RESORT and THE RESORT AT PAWS-UP

If the idea of camping is appealing, minus the sleeping bag, hot dogs and lack of electricity, and if the word vacation is synonymous with high-thread-count sheets, gourmet food and spa treatments, then forget everything you learned in the Scouts. Glamping is clearly for you.

Tailored for couples and families who like the idea of camping but

aren't willing to let go of creature comforts, glamping, or "glamorous camping," combines the great outdoors with all the amenities of a luxury hotel. Originating among wealthy travelers in England and Africa, the glamping trend has recently caught on in North America. Two such resorts, Clayoquot Wilderness Resort in British Columbia and The Resort at Paws Up

in Montana, offer guests the quintessential glamping experience.

Clayoquot has 11 deluxe tents with one queen or two single beds or, for additional room, nine suite tents with one queen bed, a convertible chesterfield with premium queen mattress and a larger lounge area with small games table. Clayoquot's white canvas tents are built on raised platforms and

connected by cedar boardwalks. The tents feature Adirondack-style beds with down duvets, remote-controlled stoves, antique dressers and tea tables, opulent rugs, pressed-glass oil lamps, heirloom china, silver accessories and candles. In-tent amenities include plush robes and slippers, body care products, a welcome basket, insect repellent, a flashlight and, for wildlife emergencies, an air horn. Off-site generators provide hot water to private showers and sinks and power for electric lights, hair dryers and wireless internet. Behind each tent are modern composting toilets set in cedar outbuildings.

Paws Up offers an area for guest accommodations called Tent City, open seasonally from June through September. Deluxe touches in the six oversized, safari-style tents include king feather beds with 300-thread-count linens, "Western chic" furniture, rugs, oil paintings and private decks with Adirondack chairs. Steps away from each tent is a bathhouse with private master bathrooms—one for each tent—complete with heated marble floors, rain showerheads and skylights. Tents are widely spaced for privacy but within call of the "camping butler" who will assist with everything from fishing gear to bringing guests s'mores on a silver platter.

In addition to luxury accommodations, Clayoquot and Paws Up offer luxury activities on site, also under tent. At Clayoquot, two lounge tents on the property—a games tent and a library tent—provide entertainment for guests. With the atmosphere of a gentleman's study, the games tent contains dark woods, burnished leather, a pool table and chess set. The library tent offers guests complimentary wireless internet. Paws Up has a spa area of 11 tents called "Spa Town," which includes a reception and retail tent, six treatment tents and men's and women's changing and bath tents. Treatment tents have ceiling fans and double-zipper doors, which allow the option of complete privacy or the vista of an open meadow, and treatments range from massages to body wraps to reflexology.

Though staying in luxury tents, glampers can still experience authentic camping adventures. At Clayoquot, guests enjoy guided and unguided activities including horseback riding, kayaking, canoeing, whale or bear watching, hiking, a day trip to



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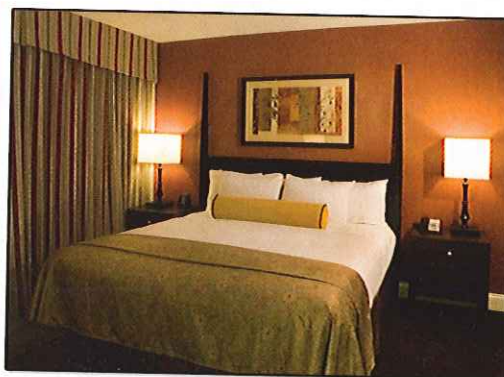


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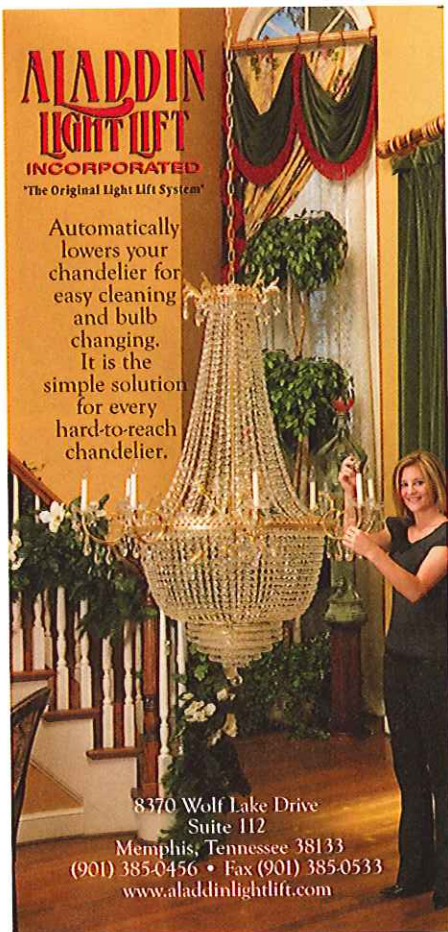
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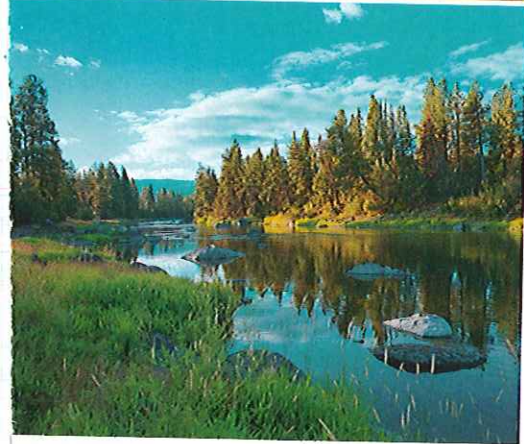


Photo: JOHN GRANEN




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(above) Clayoquot Wilderness Resort's white canvas tents rest on raised platforms and offer guests Adirondack-style beds, antique furniture and plush rugs. Guests can gather in one of two lounge tents: the elegantly appointed library tent and games tent. (facing page) Visitors to Michigan's Paws Up can expect safari-inspired tents with king feather beds, high thread count linens and a "camping butler." The Blackfoot River provides ample whitewater rafting and fly fishing opportunities.



Flores Island and fishing in the lake, river or ocean. Paws Up offers its guests 37,000 acres of wilderness along the Blackfoot River with more than 120 miles of designated hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and ATV trails. Outdoor adventures at Paws Up include fly fishing, swimming, boating, canoeing, tubing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, bird and wildlife watching and clay shooting.

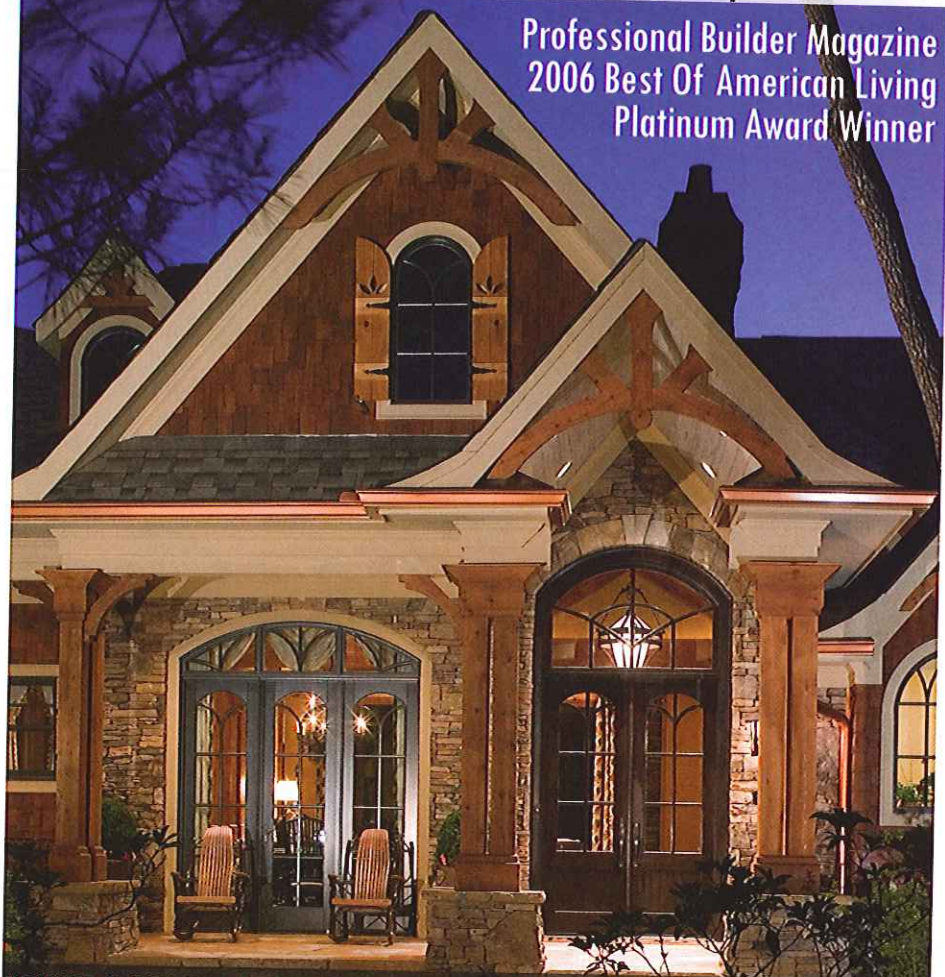
Don't expect glamping to be the budget-minded vacation that camping can be. A three-night package at Clayoquot, including accommodations and meals, runs approximately \$4,500 per person. Nightly rates at Paws Up's Tent City, which include three meals per day, range from \$595 to \$670. If your budget doesn't call for a stay at a glamping resort, many retailers offer items to give a touch of glamping to your next camping trip. Tents now come complete with 12-volt power outlets so you can bring the hair dryer or laptop from home. Raised inflatable beds get you out of the sleeping bag and off the ground. And s'mores on a silver platter? That one is up to you. 

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