

# TOP SPOTS TO GLAMP

AT THESE GLAMOROUS CAMPS ACROSS THE GLOBE, YOU CAN GO WILD WITHOUT CRAMPING YOUR STYLE – FIVE-STAR PERKS INCLUDED.

## 01 SAL SALIS NINGALOO REEF, AUSTRALIA

Soak up the 'wild bush luxury' of this high-end camp, a solar-powered retreat nestled in the white-sand dunes of Western Australia's Cape Range National Park. Nine spacious tents sit a stone's throw from Ningaloo, the world's greatest fringing coastal coral reef. Trimmings include linen-dressed beds and native herb soaps in en suite bathrooms. Outside, red kangaroos and wallaroos graze among the dunes as humpback whales breach offshore. Chow down on Mod Oz bush cuisine paired with orange sunsets over the Indian Ocean. Swim with whale sharks and manta rays, trek multicoloured gorges in search of black-footed rock wallabies or lie on the beach and gaze at the Milky Way.

*During the wet season (16 January to 10 March, 2012), Sal Salis shuts down. See more at [www.salsalis.com.au](http://www.salsalis.com.au).*

## 02 CLAYOQUOT WILDERNESS RESORT, CANADA

Adventures at Clayoquot, in a UNESCO-protected biosphere reserve on Vancouver Island, kick off with a bear orientation session, because you better behave

correctly in bear country. Waterfront tents feature cedar-planked floors, Persian rugs and four-poster beds. Although most have en suite bathrooms, several come with private shower cabins just a short walk away (bear sightings possible). Spend time hiking or horse riding through old-growth rainforests, whale-watching and chowing down on locally caught wild salmon and meaty delights like bison burgers. Wind down with a soak in the wood-fired cedar hot tub and a body wrap with hand-harvested seaweed at the riverfront Healing Grounds spa.

*Reachable by boat or floatplane only, Clayoquot is open from May to September. Plan your visit at [www.wildretreat.com](http://www.wildretreat.com).*

## 03 FOUR SEASONS TENTED CAMP GOLDEN TRIANGLE, THAILAND

Relive the adventures of 19th-century explorers at this uberluxe camp at the junction of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar (Burma). Dotted a hillside trail amid bamboo jungles, 15 free-standing tents come with elephant-tusk-styled doors, leather-and-hardwood bush chairs, hand-hammered copper bathtubs, outdoor decks and alfresco rain showers. Stays



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include every detail, from drinks and dining (jungle picnics, campfire barbecues and even formal meals) to encounters with local hill tribes, mahout training and elephant trekking – even spa pampering. Try the signature Mahout recovery treatment, during which camphor, lime and lemongrass poultices relax the body before a curative Asian massage.

*Book the Hill Tribe Tent for most spectacular views of the Ruak River and the mountains of Laos ([www.fourseasons.com/goldentriangle](http://www.fourseasons.com/goldentriangle)).*

## ✦ SANCTUARY SWALA, TANZANIA

Spend a night under starry African skies at Sanctuary Swala, which takes luxury to the wildest level – quite literally. Towering acacia trees shade 12 tents in a private portion of northern Tanzania's Tarangire National Park, packed with elephant herds

and spectacular baobab trees. The camp may be in the midst of African bush, but there's no scrimping on style and perks, including a personal attendant. Open-plan tents are decked out with plush sofas, hand-sewn beaded fabrics and en suite bathrooms. Top off the Big Five sightings by spotting spiral-horned kudu and rapier-horned oryx. Post-game drive, sit around the campfire feasting on machalari stew and assorted Swahili treats.

*Check out the luxury awaiting you at [www.sanctuaryretreats.com](http://www.sanctuaryretreats.com).*

## ✦ ECO RETREAT FINCA DE ARRIETA, SPAIN

Go all luxe on Lanzarote in Spain's Canary Islands. Year-round you can rule your very own yurt, from a cosy couple dwelling to a palatial family abode. The most lavish is Eco Yurt Royale, a Mongolian-style

residence with a shaded day bed and bamboo dining gazebo on its own walled garden terrace. Inside there's plush fabrics, Balinese hardwood furniture, a skylight for stargazing and a marble-floored bathroom. Stroll down to a sandy beach or dip into the communal solar-heated swimming pool with sea and mountain views.

*Lanzarote must-dos: jump off the pier at Arrieta beach, sip a chilled wine on the top of El Risco at sunset and visit Haria Saturday morning market.*

### ★ **THREE CAMEL LODGE, MONGOLIA**

The traditional tents of Mongolia's nomadic herders get seriously fancied up at Three Camel Lodge in the remote Gobi Desert. Its upmarket *gers* come with wood-burning stoves, hand-painted wood-framed beds and en suite bathrooms with felt slippers and camel milk lotions. Check out ancient petroglyphs, search for dinosaur fossils, spot black- and white-tailed gazelles, visit local families of herdspeople, ride through sand dunes atop a bactrian camel, or explore canyons and valleys of the Gobi-Altai Mountains on mountain bike or horseback. Savour *buuz* (Mongolian meat dumplings) at Bulagtai Restaurant, and down a shot of Mongolian vodka at the Thirsty Camel Bar.

*The best times to visit are the shoulder seasons: May to June and September to October.*

### ★ **AMAN-I-KHÁS, INDIA**

Fancy yourself a Maharaja of bygone days at exclusive Aman-i-Khás, a wilderness camp on the edge of Rajasthan's

Ranthambore National Park. Get lucky by spotting a tiger on the twice-daily safaris through desert terrain pockmarked with brushwood hills. Back at camp, the 10 tents echo the rich Moghul era. Fine cotton drapes separate the 'rooms', with plush trappings like oversized day beds and soaking tubs. And you'll love the lawn dinners of fine Indian cuisine, with chutneys, poppadoms and naan served outside, as the chef whips up tandoor treats. Unwind with a Choorna Sweda poultice treatment in the spa tent, using Ayurvedic herbs from the camp's organic garden.

*The camp is set up annually from October until the end of April, the best period for wildlife spotting.*

### ★ **CHOBE UNDER CANVAS, BOTSWANA**

Get up close and personal with Botswana's wildlife at this mobile camp inside the game-rich Chobe National Park. Accommodating just 10 guests at a time, its tents come with spacious beds, crisp linens, en suite bathrooms and shady verandas. Spend your days scouting herds of buffalo or the elusive oribi antelope. Glide among hundreds of elephant cavorting in the cooling waters on a river cruise, as herds of sable wander the water's edge. Then swap safari stories over cocktails around a blazing fire and dine on bush treats beneath star-speckled African skies. Don't forget to bring earplugs to keep out the noise of roaring lions.

*Your hosts, &Beyond, operate 12 lodges across southern Africa. See [www.andbeyonddafrica.com](http://www.andbeyonddafrica.com).*

SPOT SOME WHALE SHARKS ALONG NINGALOO REEF IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



JEFFREY L. ROTMAN » CORBIS

### ★ **THE RESORT AT PAWS UP, USA**

Indulge your cowboy/girl fantasies as you wander the 37,000 acres of western wilderness surrounding this rural-glam hideaway in Montana. Glampers stay in one of four lavish camps with fancy canvas homes, and the chef creates gourmet fare with local ingredients – handmade elk sausages or juicy pancakes with freshly picked huckleberries, anyone? Bond around a bonfire as your butler attends to whims like s'mores with dark chocolate. Burn off all the fine food by rappelling off a cliff or horse riding through conifer forests. Perk up with pre-breakfast yoga among the ponderosa pine and wrap up with a hot-stone massage at the tented Spa Town. *The camps are open from late May to October. For the best rates, go before mid-June or after 4 September.*

### ★ **PATAGONIA CAMP, CHILE**

Wilderness is paired with eco-chic charms at Patagonia Camp on the edge of Torres del Paine National Park. Flecking the dense beech forests of Lake Toro, 18 plush yurts offer dramatic vistas of the Paine Massif from private terraces. Inside the heated domes, locally woven fabrics and handcrafted furniture make up the pretty decor. Creature comforts include en suite bathrooms and king-sized beds. Pair your active pursuits – lots and lots of hikes included – with culinary pleasures back at camp, where the chef prepares slow-roasted Magellanic lamb while you imbibe pisco sours and fine Chilean wines. *Patagonia Camp (open from early September to late April) is best to visit during spring and autumn, when the colours are more vibrant and the crowds fewer.*