

#feature

GLAMPING ACROSS THE USA AND ABROAD

BY SUZANNE MEDCALF

As meeting professionals, we are lucky to get to stay in some top hotels around the world, and while five-star hotels certainly have their perks, sometimes rustic-chic may offer a literal change of scenery.

For most of us, the idea of camping means sleeping on the ground in (hopefully) waterproof tents, walking in the pitch black to an outhouse and dining on hot dogs and s'mores around the fire. Lucky for the Shelley Long in all of us, the idea of glamorous camping is taking off in the U.S. and around the world. If the Real Housewives of Orange County can handle it, so can some NY meeting professionals!

ORENDA, Johnsburgh, NY

Billing itself as "an authentic Adirondack back country retreat," the all-inclusive rustic oasis boasts six canvas cabins, situated in 40 acres of rolling hills, alongside a pristine mountain brook. The cabins feature down comforters, fleece blankets and wood burning stoves – even better, they stock the wood for you. Farm to table meals are cooked fireside (I would bet you won't see any hot dogs here), and there are numerous activities to get your appetite up.

All-inclusive rates are \$190 per adult/per night.

www.camporenda.com

GARDEN VILLAGE, Bled, Slovenia

If an international glamping trip is more your speed, check out Garden Village in Bled, Slovenia. Each "tent" features two bedrooms, a couch, minibar, TV and an outside hot tub (for sipping champagne). There is even a glass roof in the shower so you can watch the stars at night. Rates are dependent on season.

www.gardenvillagebled.com/en

THE TREEBONES HOTEL – Big Sur, California

The Treebones provides its guests with options when it comes to their level of "roughing it," from your very own birds nest high above the trees, to cliff-side Mongolian yurts overlooking the Pacific Ocean, it's a great place to try out your new found love of glamping. You can eat at their restaurant for lunch and dinner, or sit on your porch while snacking on wine and cheese – the views cannot be beat.

Yurts start at \$215 a night, and include use of the pool, hot tub, shower and restroom facilities, as well as self-serve breakfast. If you want to venture into actual camping territory, be sure to book the Human Nest – but don't forget your sleeping bag.

Full disclosure – the author of this article was lucky enough to stay at The Treebones a few years ago, and it still sticks out in her mind as one of her favorite hotels ever.

www.treebonesresort.com

SILVER BULLET RETREATS, Central Florida

If you're more of a rolling stone than a stationary one, why not look at Silver Bullet Retreats – they offer luxury Airstream Trailers towed directly to your favorite Central Florida campsite. They feature ovens, refrigerators and, most importantly, air conditioning. It brings new meaning to "on the road again."

Rates begin at \$125 per night (four-night minimum) but you can rent for a week (\$750) or up to a month (\$2500).

www.silverbulletretreats.com

