



GONE GLAMPING

THE WHOLE IDEA OF GOING CAMPING IS TO GET SOME FRESH AIR AND LEAVE OUR CARES BEHIND IN THE CITY. BUT THEN THERE ARE THOSE FINICKY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE TO EAT, SLEEP OR SIMPLY GO TO THE BATHROOM. FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SOAK IN THE SPLENDOR OF THE OUTDOORS WITHOUT FORGOING ANY CREATURE COMFORTS – HELLO, HOTEL-STYLE BEDS, WORKING BATHROOMS AND AIR-CONDITIONING – THESE SITES HAVE YOU COVERED.

TEXT JASSMYN GOH

AMANWANA, MOYO ISLAND, INDONESIA

Located in the Flores Sea in East Indonesia, Moyo Island houses a hunting park and waterfalls, as well as options for water sports, bird watching and even Komodo dragon spotting. Amanwana (left), a property from the Aman Resorts stable, provides 20 luxury tents, pitched under the canopy of a lush tropical forest.

Waterproof with solid walls and floors, the tents include a king-sized bed, a writing desk, a large bathroom and interiors decorated with Indonesian artwork and curios.

For those just dipping their toes in the glamping pool, the property's nature experience lets guests choose between a Jungle and Ocean tent, providing all meals, tours of water bodies and waterfalls, a one-hour massage and a beach dive.

Seasoned travellers might opt instead for the Amanwana Komodo Expedition, a seven-night trip through the waters of the Komodo National Park. This experience has guests sleeping both in luxury tents and the Amanikan, a coastal cruiser, and offers the chance to dive and snorkel in untouched waters, as well as get up close with komodo dragons.

AMANWANA

Call: (0371) 22233

Visit: www.amanresorts.com/amanwana/home.aspx



PAPERBARK CAMP, JERVIS BAY, AUSTRALIA

Along the coast of the Australian state of New South Wales is Jervis Bay, which for many years has been a hot spot for scuba diving and fishing trips. Paperbark Camp (above) opened in 1998, a time when Jervis Bay had not yet reached its tourism potential. Founders Irena and Jeremy Hutchings decided to plunge into the luxury camping business nonetheless and pitched 12 safari style tents; each one includes a verandah, private outdoor en-suite facilities, solar powered lighting and luxury linens. The deluxe

PAPERBARK CAMP

Call: +61 (0)2 4441 6066

Visit: www.paperbarkcamp.com.au

tents also have an outdoor lounge area, bath and shower.

All packages include breakfasts and three-course dinners at their treetop restaurant, The Gunyah. The usual camping activities such as canoeing, biking and walking trails are all available not far from the site. Further afield are Jervis Bay, Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay Marine Park, Berry and Kangaroo Valley.



MINARET STATION, LAKE WANAKA, NEW ZEALAND

Only accessible by helicopter, this luxury camping site is in the heart of New Zealand's Southern Alps; patrons have to fly in from nearby Wanaka. With an elevation of 915 metres, Minaret Station has four safari tents equipped with heaters and insulation, ensuite bathrooms, king-sized beds and private decks, each with a hot tub.

In true New Zealand style, each tent also features possum throws and duvets, and soft sheepskin carpets produced from sheep farmed on the station. The site also has a restaurant called the "Mountain Kitchen" which includes a library, dining room, living room and a cellar.

Activities include hiking, mustering during the summer, wild animal viewing, alpine picnics, heli-touring, fishing, farm tours, jet boating, mountain biking, wine touring, water sports, skiing and hunting.

MINARET STATION

Call: +64 (0) 3443 5858

Visit: www.minaretstation.com



SCARABEO CAMP, AGAFAY, MOROCCO

Boasting a gypsy-like feel, the nomadic Scarabeo Camp does not stay stationary in the Agafay desert all year round, instead migrating between two sites to take full advantage of seasonal temperatures.

Tents are decorated with local crafts, each one hand made from natural materials; the kitchen is equipped with a traditional earthen oven, which is used to bake bread and churn out other authentic Moroccan eats.

Activities available include a host of interesting walking trails, Moroccan cuisine workshops, hot-air ballooning, treks on camel or donkey-back, dune buggy driving and much more.

SCARABEO

Call: +212 (0)6 6144 4158

Visit: www.scarabeo-camp.com

4 RIVERS FLOATING LODGE, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Catering to environmentally-minded travellers is Phnom Penh's 4 Rivers Floating Lodge. Located on the Tatai river, halfway between Bangkok and Phnom Penh, the lodges were built with locally-sourced, sustainable materials and the property boasts its own waste-water treatment system.

With views of the Cardamom mountains, each of the 12 double or twin-bed tents even comes with a flat-screen television, minibar, quality furnishings and – for those who really can't live without it, even while out camping – a wireless internet connection.

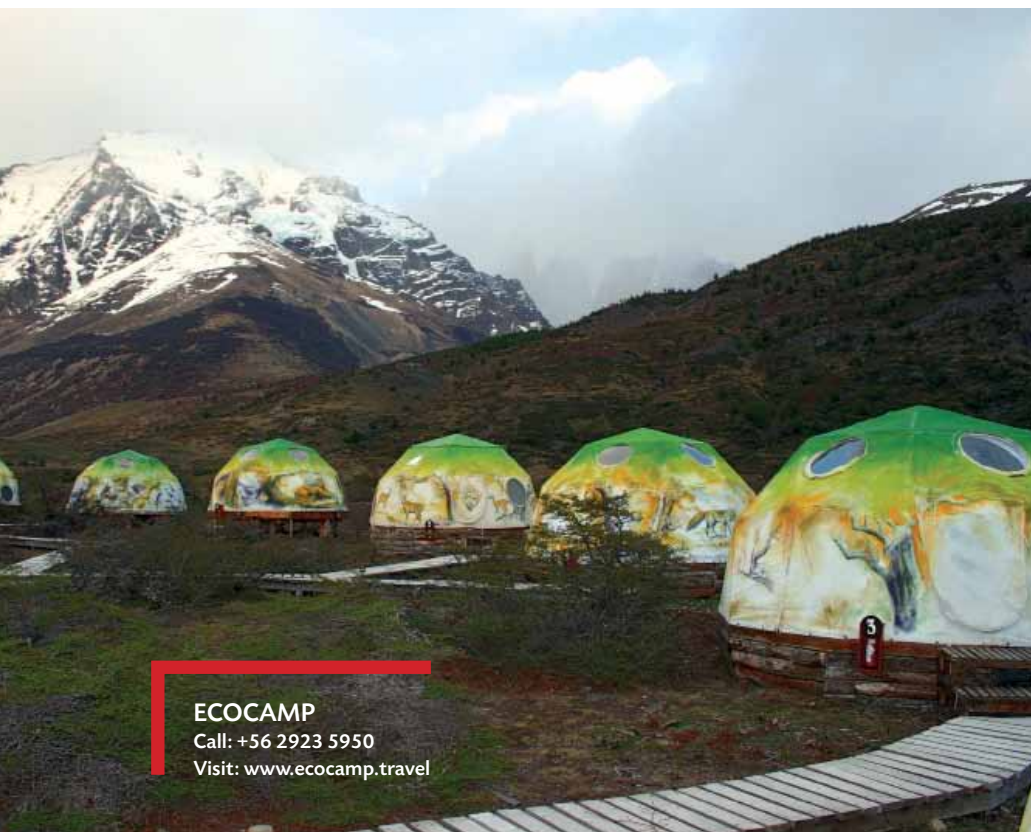
Should you be able to tear your attention away from your email inbox, the camp offers activities such as a waterfall boat tour, mangrove and jungle trekking, kayaking, fishing and water skiing.



ECOLOGDGES

Call: +855 (0) 2321 7374

Visit: www.ecolodges.asia



ECOCAMP

Call: +56 2923 5950

Visit: www.ecocamp.travel

ECOCAMP PATAGONIA, CHILE, SOUTH AMERICA

Where other camps sites may encourage visitors to sit still and enjoy Mother Nature quietly, EcoCamp goes the other way, providing week-long, guided excursions packed full of activities like trekking, hiking, driving and biking around the nearby lakes, passes, glaciers and valleys.

When they're done for the day, guests retreat to one of the property's domed tents, which include include king-sized, twin or single beds with heaters, a private bathroom, open terraces, as well as an enclosed porch and sofas.

True to its name, EcoCamp prides itself as being 100 per cent sustainable wherever possible, through the use of green technology, environmental management, low impact design, as well as energy renewal and environmental education.