



The glam outdoors

The art of luxurious camping on a backpacker's budget — how to glamp with the stars

➤ **After encountering bugs, wild animals and unexpected thunderstorms, your first venture into the wonderful world of camping can easily become your last. There's a new frontier in camping, though, and it has a touch of *Troop Beverly Hills*. In the up-and-coming trend of luxury or glamorous camping, also known as glamping, you can enjoy all of Mother Nature's bounty with the conveniences of home.**

Think of glamping as the traditional camping experience with a few extra add-ons that make roughing it a little smoother. Along with the can't-forget insect spray, flashlight and Nalgene water bottle, seasoned glampers typically bring

Off the map

full spring mattresses, three-course meals and tents rigged for electricity.

Glamping originated with the popularization of the safari and has re-emerged with posh camping resorts, safari campgrounds and eco-resorts offering luxury amenities including five-star restaurants and spas. Glampers throw down big bucks to have all the comforts of the indoors while in the great outdoors.

If you have champagne taste on a Harpo's dollar bottles budget, consider this your guide to glamping on the cheap. With little cost or effort, take a bit of luxury with you on your next getaway to Missouri's Finger Lakes or Lake of the Ozarks state parks. Happy glamping.

Setting up glamp

Forget childhood camping memories of tree-stump seating circled 'round a campfire for group renditions of "Kumbaya." Glamping is all about creating an environment of upscale luxury and comfort. But if you left your antique furniture, Persian rugs and solar-powered lanterns at your other vacation home this season, there's no need to worry.

A gl camper's tent should be spacious enough to walk around in. The Bass Pro Shops 4-room Family Dome Tent sleeps 10 and might feel larger than your freshman year dorm room.

Bring a light area rug from home to cover your outdoor living space or your tent's plastic groundcover. To stay on budget, trade a leather loveseat for a camping hammock, such as Byer's The Traveller Lite Hammock, \$19.95 (at campmor.com), for Queen of Sheba-worthy lounging. And what's a glampsite without background music? Don't forget an iPod and portable speakers, and feel free to blast Fergie's "Glamorous" on repeat without shame ... well, maybe a little shame.

Dinner is served

Although a no-holds-barred gl camper might prepare for a menu of steak, salmon, champagne and caviar, even the frugal gl camper doesn't have to resort to heating a can of chili over an open flame.

Don't want to slave away during your overnight excursion cooking Fettuccini Alfredo with chicken, garlic-and-herb mashed potatoes and dark chocolate cheesecake? Glamping-approved foods such as these are sold freeze-dried at Columbia's Bass Pro Shops. Just add water to make food flourish. For dessert, pack a cheap bottle of wine and strawberries with chocolate fruit dip to heat over your stove top. Bring a French press or a stove top espresso maker for a five-star rise and shine to jumpstart your next morning.

Glampers are all about leaving as little impact on the environment as possible, so substitute a set of dishes or biodegradable tableware for the plastic and Styrofoam — bonus points for anything that warrants a "fragile" label.

A gl camper's beauty sleep

Your it-used-to-be-my-dad's sleeping bag won't cut it on a glamping getaway. When it comes to getting beauty sleep, hardcore glampers bring nothing less than a bed frame, a boxspring and a mattress with luxury linens and pillows.

If you're glamping on the cheap instead, make sure to include an air mattress, a sheet set (the higher the thread count, the higher the glam), blankets and pillows on your packing checklist. Glampers with a princess-and-the-pea complex should invest in a memory-foam mattress topper to catch some quality glamping zs.

"Air mattresses pack really small and are a lot more comfortable than lying on the ground," says Erik Mauney, group sales manager of camping, marine and tracker boats at Bass Pro Shops. Mauney recommends the Coleman Double High Air Mattress for \$89.99.

Can't afford anything more than sprucing up your sleeping bag? Try a silk or cotton sleeping bag liner such as the Sea to Summit 100 percent Premium Cotton Standard Liner, \$24.95 (at Alpineshop.com), to have sweet gl camper's dreams.

✪ KELSEY MIRANDO

WHERE TO GET YOUR GLAMP ON:

ALPINE SHOP

WHERE: 1102 E. Broadway
WHEN: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.
CALL: 817-2955
ONLINE: Alpineshop.com

BASS PRO SHOPS

WHERE: 3101 Bass Pro Drive
WHEN: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
CALL: 886-7100
ONLINE: Basspro.com

FINGER LAKES STATE PARK

WHERE: 1505 E. Peabody Road
WHEN: Park hours, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
CALL: 443-5315
ONLINE: mostateparks.com/park/finger-lakes-state-park

LAKE OF THE OZARKS STATE PARK

WHERE: 403 Missouri 134
Kaiser, MO 65047
WHEN: Park hours, sunrise to sunset
CALL: 348-2694
ONLINE: mostateparks.com/park/lake-ozarks-state-park

MUTHEATRE

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Proof
by David Auburn
directed by Emily A. Rollie



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