

Glamping Anyone?

Words by Special Features Editor
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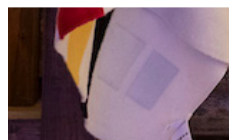
Well, the fact is: glamping isn't for everyone. However, it is an exploding new travel and wedding trend that is expected to grow to \$5.4 billion by 2028. Millennials and the emergence of social media are driving this phenomenon up, but so is the impact of Covid-19—as couples express a desire for more remote, less people-oriented destinations.

For those of you who don't know, the idea of glamping has taken on many different names such as luxury camping or boutique camping. Whatever you name it, glamping is not a simple tent with no amenities or luxury services. The glamping experience typically offers guests real plush beds, sheets, full bathroom facilities, just to mention a few examples. Other amenities like refrigerators, coffee makers, even heaters, and air conditioning are offered by some as well.

This wide range of glamping features is critical when selecting the venue. But, as the old saying goes, "it's all about location, location, location." Here in the U.S., you have over 1,200 different sites that offer glamping for weddings. These locations range from tree houses to large tipis, to massive tents, but they all share one common element — outdoor and rustic environments. Glamping can be so much fun when done properly and when the couple totally embraces the glamping spirit and idea.

At Blame Her Ranch, we have recently added glamping as an additional lodging option. With our new offering, the couple experiences and offers glamping to their guests without giving up the more formal 9,000 sq. ft., 9-bedroom main lodge. In our particular case, our glamping experience consists of two Conestoga wagons right out of the 1850s. Each wagon is 20 feet long, 12.5 feet high, and 10 feet wide for a total of 180 sq. ft. They are decorated with Pendleton bedding, king beds, plus a twin bunk, a small dining table with a refrigerator, and a coffee maker. While each wagon is completely waterproof, each also offers both heating and air conditioning within the wagon itself—definitely something you would not find back in the 1850s.

Just a few steps away from the wagons are two full shower houses complete with toilet, shower, sink, and their own heating and A/C units. We purposely parked the wagons in a remote location from the main lodge to provide a sanctuary and rustic feel.



Guests staying in the wagons have easy access to the Blame Her Ranch barn, ceremony area, great lawn, and lodge, thereby offering our guests the best of both worlds. As you might expect, a fire pit with rocking chairs is positioned between the two wagons for the full glamping experience. As we mentioned earlier about the location, the glamping guests have 70-mile views of the beautiful northern New Mexico wilderness. All in all, it was important for us to create a link between nature and glamping; to respect nature in a way that allows our guests to reconnect with the great outdoors while glamping in style with all the luxuries a private home would offer.

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