

# 8 glamping retreats that are perfect for bachelorette parties

July 16, 2018 Katie James Watkinson



Whether your squad is East Coast, West Coast, or scattered across the country, nothing brings the girls together like adventurous activities, gorgeous surroundings, and a sense of remoteness. What better way to inspire those vibes than to plan a destination bachelorette party at a luxe glamping retreat? Not everyone is a party girl, and if the thought of popping bottles in a club or attending a music-filled pool party is enough to have you skipping the bachelorette tradition entirely, know that a glamping getaway is a chic, relaxing, and unique alternative. After a day in the outdoors, hiking, biking, fishing, paddle boarding, and more, you'll find no better place to unwind and catch up than while seated around a campfire at night, s'mores, and delicious cocktail in-hand.

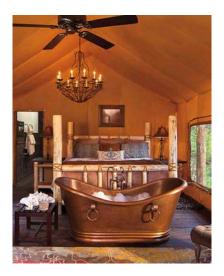
If not all of your bridesmaids are nature-inclined, don't worry. We've rounded up the top lodges and campsites that offer every kind of amenities—private tented suites, heated floors, air-conditioning, full bathrooms, fireplaces, and butler service, to name a few—guaranteed to keep even the most die-hard city dweller comfortable and happy. Though, really, no one would ever dare complain on your bachelorette, right?

Want to fully embrace nature? Head to Big Sur, California, and spend the night in (ultraluxurious) safari-style tents surrounded by towering redwoods. Prefer your glamping with a side of wine? You'll find two great stays that offer easy access to plenty of vino. The only question left is to decide if you'd prefer to visit California's Sonoma or Mendocino County. There's luxe camping options on the East Coast, too: you probably won't believe it, but there's a glamping option just minutes from the heart of New York City.

If you're sold on the idea of a glamping bachelorette weekend, read on here to see some of our favorites.



### 1. Greenough, Montana: The Resort at Paws Up



Montana's Big Sky country is filled with classic western-style dude ranches, but this one tops them all. It's set on 60 square miles of untamed wilderness and has everything from a spa village (get a massage in a tipis) to a wilderness outpost (plan all your adventure activities in one place) and a 29,000-square-foot equestrian center (the largest in the state). The seasonal glamping accommodations are set within individual campsites, allowing you and your girls to take over an entire section of the resort, complete with its own staff, dining pavilion, fire pit, and more. Push one another to new heights on the aerial ropes course, zip around at top speed on a thrill-seeking ATV tour, learn to be real cowgirls on a traditional cattle drive, or plan a leisurely, scenic hot-air balloon ride—the options for once-in-a-lifetime memories are endless, and right at your fingertips.

## 2. Sonoma, California: AutoCamp Russian River





If you're worried your girls can't do a little nature without a lot of wine, try this luxury glamping spot in the heart of Sonoma County, just 90 minutes outside San Francisco. Take your pick among specially designed Airstream trailers, luxury canvas tents, and handcrafted Shelton Huts, surrounded by a grove of native redwood trees. No one will miss a wink of shut-eye: Guests sleep on Casper memory foam beds topped with down comforters. Start the day exploring nearby hiking trails, go kayaking on the Russian River, take a leisurely bike ride to downtown Guerneville—or just hang by the campsite to roast s'mores and sip many a local vintage.



#### 3. Rice, Virginia: Sandy River Retreat

This Central Virginia retreat is like its own adventure park: There are more than 20 zip lines, a 60-stop obstacle course, mountain biking trails, and paddle-boarding areas on the Appomattox River and Sandy River Reservoir. If your squad prefers the insulated indoors, bunk up in a quaint log cabin or a three-bedroom cottage (one's called Meadowview, the other, Eagle's Nest). Those who want an Insta-worthy accommodation, however, should book one of the three glamping tipis: Each is equipped with two queen beds, luxury linens, radiant-heated floors, air-conditioning, a full bathroom, and a kitchenette. After a day of adventure, sit down for a farm-fresh meal, served with seasonal vegetables from the garden and eggs from the hen house.

# 4. Mendocino County, California: Mendocino Grove





This 37-acre retreat, set on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, is one of the most extensive glamping sites around. There are 60 safari-style rooms, some outfitted with bunk beds, others with king beds (just in case you need a little space from the girls). No one will complain about going without—all of the tents have comfy mattresses, down comforters, wool blankets, crisp cotton linens, heating pads, lanterns, and more. Groups can pick-and-choose activities and plan special events as they desire: Want a morning yoga class? Done. Guided hike or sea cave kayaking excursion? No problem. Delicious meal served by a local food truck? Easy. And if you decide to explore off-campus, Mendocino County is home to countless brewing companies and wineries.



#### 5. Cresto Ranch, Colorado: Dunton River Camp

You'll never feel more at home among the great outdoors than at this 1800s-era cattle ranchturned luxury retreat. Much of the land is still used for protected free-range cattle grazing, so expect to feel like proper cowgirls as you scoot around on wildflower-covered valleys and hillsides and sleep in an eight-tent camp, complete with soaking tubs, en-suite bathrooms, and gas fireplaces. All of your meals will be prepared by the chef and served in the original farmhouse; local and regional ingredients (some from the ranch's own farm and vineyard) are used to create a new menu each day. But the best dishes are served with a side of wilderness: Request a picnic lunch or sundowner after your group fishing trip, hike, or horseback ride—a half-day guided activity is offered complimentary for guests.

## 6. Governor's Island, New York: Collective Retreats





For those brides who want to glamp but are nervous about missing the metropolitan creature comforts, good news: you can plan the perfect combo bachelorette in New York City. After SoulCycle, brunch, and a night out on the town's hottest bars, you can rise early (okay, sleep 'til noon) and head to Governor's Island, just a few minutes by ferry from Lower Manhattan. The seasonal island, which hosts free concerts, art programs, cultural events, and more, is now home to a Collective Retreats glamping resort. The 100-person outpost debuted last month, offering the first ever overnight accommodations on Governor's. You can expect full hotel-style service and locally sourced meals. Once all the crowds disperse, it'll be just you guys seated around the campfire, with the city so close—and yet so far.

## 7. Big Sur, California: Ventana Big Sur



Few places can top the romance of California's Big Sur, a larger-than-life coastal paradise complete with sweeping Pacific Ocean views and ancient redwood forests. Embrace the local surroundings and sleep under the stars at Ventana Big Sur's revamped Redwood Canyon Glampsites, nestled on 40 acres of private land. The 15 safari-style tents offer an ultra-luxurious take on traditional camping; each is outfitted



with a queen bed, natural fiber rugs, a picnic table, and wood-burning fire pits. (And don't worry, you won't go without daily maid service and a pristine indoor shower and restroom facility stocked with luxury bath amenities.)

## 8. Memphis, Tennessee: Big Cypress Lodge



If your squad threw any shade your way upon presenting the idea of a glamping bachelorette, then this wilderness-inspired hotel in downtown Memphis is your solution. It substitutes tents for a 32-story pyramid-shaped lodge, with all the trappings necessary to bring the outdoors inside. For example, the 103 rooms have the rustic style of a traditional log cabin (fireplaces and screened-in porches) but with luxury hotel amenities (pillow-top mattresses, room service). Technically, you don't even have to go outside to experience the wilderness: There are 100-foot-tall trees, aquariums filled with 36 kinds of fish, and faux wildlife placed all around (including a taxidermized bear and alligator replicas). Though if you can convince your girls to step away from the cozy lobby bar, bike rides along the Mississippi River are unmatched.

