



Jollydays' airy and expansive tents are decked out in a modern-country style, with retro touches, such as vintage signs and ditzzy-floral fabric bunting, to add the fun factor. Wooden floors and chic furniture ensure there's nothing traditional about this under-canvas experience.



Weekend escape...

Glam camping

North Yorkshire's enchanting woodland sets the scene for a luxe break, under canvas...

WORDS JENNIFER HASLAM

Chuck out any childhood memories of Guides, uncooperative weather and fires that won't light. The modern camping experience, as offered by Jollydays, is all about four-poster beds, wooden floors, super-soft blankets and wood-burning stoves.

Tucked discreetly in the heart of North Yorkshire, the unspoilt, sun-dappled woodland provides the idyllic setting for carefree japes. On arrival, you're invited to the communal tent for lashings of homemade cake and hot tea or coffee served in pretty vintage china. Then, refreshed and ready to set up camp, it's time to move your cases from car to canvas via the Jollyday's version of porters' trolleys – wheelbarrows!

The main camp, which is made up of 10 lodge tents, combines privacy with a cheerful community feel. More Tardis than tent, your accommodation contains an

open-plan living/dining area (complete with Cath Kidston fabric-covered sofas and painted salvaged furniture), two crisp-white bedrooms and a separate kitchen kitted out with modern camping essentials: melamine wine glasses, retro storage, chintzy china, and not a paper plate in sight. Livingetc loved the private bathroom – aka The Shed. With its slipper bath, hot shower and flushing loo (oh yes), it's a far cry from the traditional shared facilities.

While kids can run wild through the woodland, the *Midsummer Night's Dream* location is also ideal for groups of friends, or couples wanting a romantic and peaceful countryside retreat. Wizard!

READER TREAT

Mention Livingetc when you book and receive a free breakfast basket on your first morning in camp.

Weekend essentials

STAY AT Jollydays Luxury Camping, Buttercrambe, North Yorkshire (01759 371776 jollydaysluxurycamping.co.uk). From £310 per week for a four-person bell tent, or from £545 per week for a six-person lodge tent.

GO OUT Head east over the tops of the North York Moors to reach Yorkshire's diverse coastline. Eat fish and chips at Whitby's famous harbour, explore rock pools at Robin Hood's Bay or go for a paddle on Scarborough's sandy beaches – all just over an hour's drive away.

EAT If you tire of eating barbecues around the camp fire, there are plenty of country pubs nearby, such as The Blacksmith's Inn in Westow, which serves up tasty dishes made from local produce.

DRINK Nothing beats sharing a few glasses of wine under the stars.

RETAIL FIX If it all gets a little too country, York is only a 20-minute drive away. Within the boundaries of the Roman-built city walls, explore boutiques, such as Vivienne Westwood's, that line the cobbled streets.



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