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HINCKLEY'S NEW LIFE p.66

THE WONDERFUL STORY
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CAMP IT UP: Don't like roughing it? Try "glamping" in a yurt at Savage River Lodge.

UNDER THE STARS

Forget pitching a tent in your own back yard. Here are seven great spots where nothing but canvas separates you from the night sky.

By Matthew Graham

SKIP THE TENT—TRY GLAMPING

Want to sleep under some canvas, in a wooded setting, yet still have a comfy bed? Try glamping, or "glamour camping." It's essentially sleeping in a yurt—a large, portable, round tent, usually set up on a wooden platform. Savage River Lodge in western Maryland offers eight 30-foot yurts nestled in the woods. Each has a king bed, full bathroom, deck, gas fireplace, and radiant-heat floor. It's a romantic getaway for the nature lover who wants a bit of pampering—including robes, a French-press coffeepot, and house-made hot chocolate. Okay, a lot of pampering. And naturally, a price to match.

Distance from DC:* 156 miles.

For more information: Go to savageriverlodge.com for yurts. Rates start at \$220 a night.

CAMP INSIDE THE BELTWAY

Have the urge to pitch a tent and commune with the great outdoors—but don't want to stray too far from urban life? Greenbelt Park, just inside the Beltway, has 174 wooded campsites. (You can even get there without driving—take the Green Line to the Greenbelt station and transfer to a short, 1.6-mile bus ride.) The 1,100-acre National Park Service facility includes a bathhouse with hot showers, three picnic areas, and nine miles of forested hiking trails where you might spot deer, red fox, and birds of many feathers.

Distance from DC: 16 miles.

For more information: Go to nps.gov and search for Greenbelt Park. Open year-round; reservations can be made at recreation.gov. Fee: \$16 a night.

CAMP NEAR A WATERFALL

The Mathews Arm campground in Shenandoah National Park is off Skyline Drive at mile marker 22—making it the park's closest campground to DC. The spot provides easy access to great hiking trails, including one of our favorites, which leads to a view of 93-foot Overall Run Falls, the park's tallest waterfall. Each of the 164 campsites has a fire ring and a picnic table. While there are no showers, the bathhouse does have flush toilets. A general store is nearby, though being close to the park's northern entrance makes it possible to pop into the town of Front Royal to visit restaurants, shops, and wineries.

Distance from DC: 92 miles.

For more information: Go to nps.gov and search for Mathews Arm. Reservations can be made at recreation.gov or 877-444-6777. Fee: \$15 a night.

KEEP THE KIDS ENTERTAINED

Civil War buffs should love Bull Run Regional Park. It features 41 wooded tent campsites—each with a picnic table, grill, and fire ring—as well as bathhouses with hot showers and toilets, all across I-66 from Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The battlefield covers the sites of both

*All distances are measured from the Washington Monument.