



INDIA
Oberoi Rajvillas Jaipur
(800) 562-3764
oberoihotels.com
From \$898.



Camp in Comfort

I have a butler, and it's a little awkward. What do you ask for when you're staying in a tent in India? I don't need someone to build me a fire or beat back wild animals; my canvas-walled refuge at Oberoi Rajvillas has polished teak floors, cloth wall hangings, and an exquisite hand-embroidered canopy. There's a bathroom with a claw-foot soaking tub, and outside, a wraparound terrace with chaise longues, where I enjoy my morning coffee. This type of "camping" dates back to Mughal rule (1500s to 1700s), when kings traveling for war, hunting, or commerce set up portable palaces adorned with gold- and silver-stitched cushions and sandalwood furniture. Today, I get a taste of that tradition, on grounds that house a modern restaurant, a swimming pool, and a spa, just five miles from Jaipur's rose-hued city center.

While Rajvillas may be the antithesis of roughing it, the property still provides sensory experiences reminiscent of camping. In the evening,

as I walk the otherwise quiet grounds, I hear peacock shrieks along with gongs from the 270-year-old temple that stands at the resort's center. Torch-lit stone walkways lead to gardens, fountains, and the Ayurvedic spa, which releases scents of sesame oil and roses. I enter the Surya Mahal restaurant (pictured, bottom) for dinner, greeted by the spicy aromas of coriander and chili. The day ends back at my terrace, where I call my butler to request a glass of sauvignon blanc from the Indian winery Sula. I sip it as the sun dips behind desert walls, and I feel grateful that connecting with nature doesn't have to mean sleeping on the ground. **A**



MOROCCO

Kasbah Tamadot, Marrakech

Nine Berber tents welcome guests with warm fabrics and traditional Moroccan furnishings. Each has a deck with Atlas Mountain views, but for a real treat, request one of the five with a private pool. Try authentic dishes such as pigeon pastilla or couscous tagine at the Kanoun Restaurant, and practice your Berber by ordering *atay nlikmt* (mint tea).

From \$652. (877) 577-8777, kasbahtamadot.virgin.com



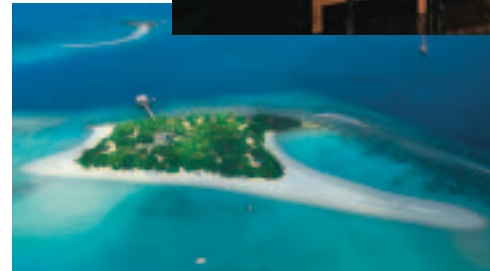
COLORADO

Dunton Hot Springs, Dolores

This year, the owners of Dunton Hot Springs plan to open Cresto Ranch, a tent resort four miles from the main property. For now, you can stay at Dunton in Christy's Tent, right, which features Western memorabilia and a shower with views of the Wilson Mountain Range.

Assist the chef in preparing dinner, then soak in natural hot springs that have seduced visitors since the Gold Rush.

From \$950, all inclusive.
(970) 882-4800,
duntonhotsprings.com



MALDIVES

Banyan Tree Maldives Madivaru, North Ari Atoll

Each tented villa consists of a living room, a bathroom, and a teak-furnished bedroom that opens onto a porch and Madivaru's mosaic-walled infinity pool. After a day of diving or snorkeling, you can arrange for a private dinner on the beach or go night fishing in a traditional *dhoni* boat.

From \$3,165, including meals and excursions. 960/666-0760,
banyantree.com

Other Tempting Tents Around the World

AUSTRALIA

Wildman Wilderness Lodge, Mary River Wetlands

Spot crocodiles on a morning boat ride or venture to Burrungui to see ancient rock art from the oldest living culture on earth. Airy tents with eucalyptus-hewn interiors, modern fixtures, and a raised deck look out over a seasonal floodplain filled with native birds.

From \$384. 61/(0) 8-8978-8955,
wildmanwildernesslodge.com.au

BOTSWANA

Savute Elephant Camp by Orient-Express, Chobe National Park

Elephants splash in the channel that runs through the luxury camp, where sleeping quarters come with hardwood floors, four-poster beds, and thatched roofs. Watch for lions and cheetahs on a game drive, and spend the evening stargazing through the on-site telescope.

From \$2,150, all inclusive. (800) 957-6137, savuteelephantcamp.com

ECUADOR

Galápagos Safari Camp, Santa Cruz Island

Situated near a tortoise reserve that borders Galápagos National Park, tents include a pair of twin beds, writing desks, and private balconies with island-view hammocks. The camp offers many wildlife tours, but you can see finches, owls, and giant tortoises without leaving the property.

From \$385. 593/(0) 9-179-4259,
galapagosafari.com

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Maho Bay Camps, St. John

This laid-back retreat offers wood-frame tents with terraces and barbecue areas that overlook the sea. Guests can kayak and sail along a secluded beach or attend glassblowing demonstrations at the Trash to Treasures Art Center.

From \$140. (340) 715-0501,
maho.org