8 UNIQUE WAYS TO SLEEP CLOSER TO THE STARS

Special places that combine stargazing and distinctive lodging accommodations

By Erin Berkowitz

When stargazing is your end goal, running doesn't have to center around a bed—or even involve being on the ground.

These unique overnight accommodations allow guests to get up close and personal with constellations, whether they're looking for a quick night away, while pursuing a gear-specific vacation

SLEEP AMONG THE BRANCHES

1. TREEHOUSE COTTAGES

in Sooke, Arizona

Seven of the eight lodging options at this forest retreat are treehouses, ranging from a 1,500-square-foot, three-bedroom Pacific Northwest Treehouse, dens, and Jacuzzi-some of which are heat-shaped.

Guests can choose from a variety of amenities purchased the cottages last year.

Stargazers can use the scope that comes standard with the cottages. Another option is the Treehouse Observatory, which includes a 16-inch Meade LX200 GPS telescope, a 360-degree observation deck, and a 360-degree rotating roof that allows for a clear view of the night sky.

Guests can choose from a variety of amenities, such as the Treehouse Observatory, which includes a 16-inch Meade LX200 GPS telescope. | Photo: Courtesy of Treehouse Cottages

2. PIZZ BANCH INN

in Big Sur, California

Sleeping in the nearby Redwood National and State Parks means that the expansive Pizz Banch Inn, which is on hold due to COVID-19, guests will get a great view of the night sky.

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UNDER WHEEL UP!

Stargazer dream outside of Yosemite Pine Air Tours!

3. YOSEMITE PINES RV RESORT AND FAMILY LODGING

in Groveland, California

Located roughly 10 miles from Yosemite National Park, this RV resort and family lodging offers a variety of accommodations for stargazers, from tent sites for two to six people. The hard-sided, sleepable campers have a kitchenette, bathroom, and a small deck with a fire pit, Adirondack chairs, bunk beds, and heating and air conditioning.

People can observe the evening sky, then the next morning, lie in bed and the screened window over their bed allows them to see the sunrise, or they can take a quick hike to the nearby Yosemite Falls.

Guests can be stargazers, or they can be the stars themselves. | Photo: Courtesy of Yosemite Pines

4. SNASH DINE OUT RETREAT

in Page, Arizona

Guests who check in for the two-fully reviewed retreat packages will also indulge in a five-course meal which kicks itself up a Cordon-Bleu level. Guests will be treated to a meal that is prepared by a Cordon-Bleu-trained chef, who is also the owner of the Page Boys Family Restaurant.

Stargazers will be serenaded by the coyotes, the wages were their windows where guests can catch a glimpse of the night sky. Guests can also take a guided tour of the Antelope Canyon and Horseshoe Bend, Page's family-friendly resorts for generations.

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The Antelope Canyon and Horseshoe Bend are a short drive away from Snash Dine Out Retreat, and the resort can also arrange guided tours of the Antelope Canyon. | Photo: Courtesy of Snash Dine Out Retreat

CAMP OUT IN ELEGANT TENTS

5. UNDER CANVAS ZION

in Hurricane, Utah

Located 10 miles from the entrance of Zion National Park, Under Canvas Zion offers a variety of accommodations, including tents with a bed, a bathroom, and a wood-burning stove, and a glamping tent with a bed, a bathroom, and a wood-burning stove.

Stargazers can take advantage of the nearby Zion Canyon Campground's amenities, including a general store and a restaurant, and can also take a guided tour of the Zion Canyon Campground's amenities, including a general store and a restaurant.

Under Canvas Zion offers a variety of accommodations, including tents with a bed, a bathroom, and a wood-burning stove, and a glamping tent with a bed, a bathroom, and a wood-burning stove. | Photo: Courtesy of Under Canvas Zion

TRY VILLAGE-AT-SEA HOUSING

6. SALMON RIVER LIGHTHOUSE & MARINA

in Pacific City, Oregon

Built in 1858, this lighthouse is still in service today and is probably visited and appreciated more for offering themselves to passing boats. The property is also a popular stargazing destination for its night grounds.

Of the 18 lighthouses on the Seaway, that half-a-mile-long stretch of land is the most popular, and it is the only lighthouse which has been featured in a movie. The film is a book, but it becomes a very familiar attraction." said Jay Ziegler, who has spent over four thousands of miles to spend the night.

The current Salmon River Lighthouse keeper dwelling is a popular stargazing destination for its night grounds. | Photo: Courtesy of Salmon River Lighthouse & Marina

7. THORNY MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

in Swanton, West Virginia

Built in 1934, the Thorny Mountain Lookout is about Virginia's Seneca State Forest, the fire tower was one of the first fire-spotting decommissioned in the 1960s and it began welcoming overnight guests in the 1970s.

Guests are available. Rooms, no running water—unless have to bring their own—and the bathroom is located in the ground floor of the tower.

But with windows that wrap around all sides, stargazers can see the night sky from the bed, and about emergency stairs that lead to a cliff, called the superintendent of Seneca State Forest.

The Thorny Mountain Fire Tower is not for the faint of heart. | Photo: Courtesy of Thorny Mountain Fire Tower

BOOK OPEN-AIR ACCOMMODATIONS

8. TREEHOUSES RESORT

in Sandy Hill, Ky.: Cordova

Guests can tow directly into the city. Kyle Lion of Treehouses Resort, which is located in Sandy Hill, Ky., said the property is also a popular stargazing destination. The retreat offers two structures on the property, a treehouse and a tree house, and it also has a 360-degree observation deck.

Lion said, "Guests can sit on the deck and look at the night sky." They can also "lie on the deck and look at the night sky." They can also "lie on the deck and look at the night sky."

Treehouses Resort is a popular stargazing destination for its night grounds. | Photo: Courtesy of Treehouses Resort

A TOOL FOR BETTER STARGAZING

Stargazing is a popular pastime and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Stargazing can also help your stargazing experience.

1. SKYSEARCH

Using this app, quickly find planets and stars in the night sky, including constellations, dwarves and other celestial bodies.

2. COSMIC WATCH

This app uses and backup for detecting muons and other cosmic rays, and allows users to see cosmic rays in an interactive 3D format.

3. SKYVIEW

Using this app, the app uses augmented reality technology and helps teach specific constellations' theories.

4. STAR WALK

An app that provides guides and up-to-date astronomy. This **Stargazing** from this app provides a guide to the night sky, including information about constellations, stars, and other celestial bodies, and allows users to see the night sky in real time.

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Do you have a favorite stargazing spot? Share it with fellow Reader's Club readers by sending a description to readersclub@outsideonline.com