

Glamping

Savage River Lodge

Written by: **Sara Mullins**

Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Glamping – a popular trend defined as glamorous camping – has arrived at Garrett County’s Savage River Lodge in the form of eight custom-built yurts, combining the back-to-nature feel of tent camping with luxurious furnishings and amenities. Loosely clustered in a separate area from the Lodge cabins, the yurts offer guests a taste of Lodge-style luxury in a different flavor.

Traditionally used by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia, the yurt is a circular, portable tent supported by bent wood frames covered with lattice work. Unlike their precursors, the Savage River Lodge model is a permanent structure measuring 30 feet in diameter, with triple layer walls – interior canvas, gel insulation, and weatherproof canvas – that offers year-round protection from the elements. Lattices of Douglas fir and snow-load kits offer additional support for Garrett County’s abundant snowfalls.

“Guests are surprised at how luxurious they are,” says Emily Newman-Edwards, general manager of the Lodge. Each yurt accommodates up to two guests. One, Number 5, is ADA-compliant.

Amenities abound: domed skylights, Warmboard radiant heat floors, gas log fireplaces, leather and suede furniture, king size beds, and fully plumbed bathrooms with showers – and double sinks. Luxury linens, plush robes and eco-friendly toiletries offer a touch of spa ambiance. Guests can sip tea, quench their thirst with filtered water or savor French press coffee from the beverage bar. A breakfast nook provides the perfect spot for starting the day with house-made muffins and orange juice, delivered to the yurt each morning. When the outdoors beckons, guests can enjoy the sights and sounds of the surrounding forest from front and rear porches.

Building yurts at Savage River Lodge was a longtime dream for co-owner Mike Dreisbach. In April of 2013, he headed to Oregon to learn from the masters at Pacific Yurts, the iconic company that reinvented the traditional yurt in 1978.



Yurts in tall trees of the quiet woodlands of Garrett County Maryland.

Below: Interior view of the spacious yurts showing all the comforts of home along with a camping atmosphere.

On August 1, 2013, an oversized and very special birthday gift arrived for Mike in the form of eight yurts. He took charge of constructing the labor-intensive structures and customizing them in Lodge style. The result: a unique and sumptuous lodging experience for two.

Savage River Lodge • 301-689-3200
www.savageriverlodge.com
1600 Mt. Aetna Road, Frostburg, MD 21532

