Glamping offers all the comforts of a hotel, in a tent.

Glamping: The New Way To Camp

The Martyn House brings luxury tents to Georgia. By Katie Kelly Bell

Add a new word to your vocab. It's "glamping," a combination of two thoughts that seldom go together: glamour + camping. Think the former and you've got a concierge and a minibar; think the other and, well, just buck up. Except at The Martyn House, an away-from-everything experience that brings you the outdoors and then adds indoor amenities such as fluffy pillows, plump beds, mood lighting, heating units, and hot showers.

The Martyn House places you on a ridge above Ellijay, glamping in one of three secluded luxury tents tucked for privacy, into corners of the property. Each has been fully furnished with antiques and styled after traditional India tents. Our magical favorite is the Nightingale Nest with a ceiling of tiny stars twinkling with miniature mirrors. Proprietors Rick Lucas and JoAnn Antonelli invite you to putter around the vegetable and flower gardens, pluck fruit from the cherry trees, or wander down to the pond where you might catch a glimpse of the 16-inch speckled trout. More than 18 acres studded with walking trails provide ample opportunity to explore and capture the peace. Just be back in time for evening. That's when you're invited to the main tent for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a roaring outdoor fire. But despite all the man-made trappings, the finest amenity must be the evening serenade as owls hoot and crickets thrum, in a collective forest symphony.

The Martyn House: themartynhouse.com or 706/635-4759. The $180 nightly rate (two-night minimum) includes breakfast and JoAnn's teas. *

Dinner Coming Up

JoAnn and Rick plan farm-to-table dinners each year. The theme for 2010 is the Elements: Water (seafood), Fire (spicy foods), Earth (fall harvest), and Air (wine, because wine needs air to evolve). Call for more information.

*Includes three meals and two nights starts at $540 for two people.