

Relax on your terrace at Bear Lodge

HAPPY CAMPERS

Forget pitching a tent in the dark and dining on Pot Noodles by torchlight, now you can enjoy the outdoors in stylish surroundings

ULLSWATER HEIGHTS



There are log burners to keep out the chill

BEAR LODGE, PORT LYMPNE HOTEL & RESERVE

THE LOWDOWN: You won't need to cram your car boot full of sleeping bags and fold-up chairs – or remember to pack your own loo roll – for a stay at Bear Lodge. The 19 safari-style tents come with comfy pillows, en-suite facilities and a private decking area with seating, so you can relax and enjoy the wonderful views of the nature reserve's bear paddock and the surrounding Kent countryside.

The tents sleep up to eight people and there's also a small kitchen with a sink, fridge and kettle. You can bring your own food or head to the modern bar and restaurant on site – or, like us, you can have your favourite takeaway delivered straight to the front gates and scoff a pizza on your terrace. And if you have room for dessert, marshmallows are provided, which you can toast at the communal campfire.

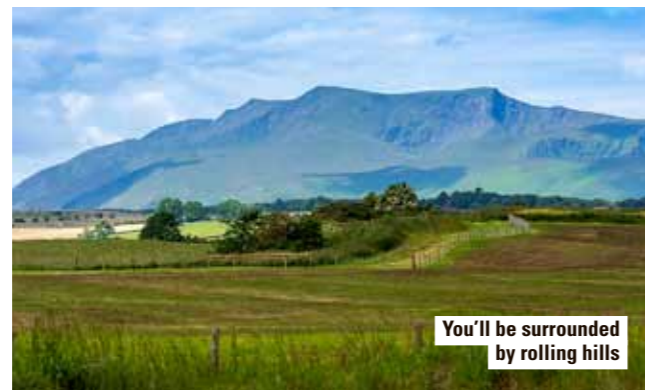
THE LOWDOWN: Ullswater Heights' modern safari tents take all the stress out of camping. There'll be no more arguments over missing tent poles and trying to get comfy on a deflating air bed – instead, think crisp white sheets, spa-worthy dressing gowns and hot, powerful showers. You even have a private Jacuzzi on the deck, so you can relax in the bubbles as you stargaze, drink in hand.

Designed for year-round breaks, the tents have a cosy log burner and central heating, as well as a well-equipped kitchen. But if the weather permits, be sure to make use of the communal barbecue area on your doorstep.

If you do decide to venture out for dinner, The Lake House Restaurant & Bar is a five-minute walk from the tents. You'll find the tastiest local produce in a tranquil setting and friendly staff make everyone feel welcome.

The site also has a petting farm, Chloe Ann's, which is home to alpacas, pigs and goats. It's a must-visit for families, and kids will love the play park, too.

OUT AND ABOUT: Ullswater Heights is set in the picturesque Cumbrian countryside and is the ideal base for exploring all that the Lake District has to offer. Rolling hills and colourful



You'll be surrounded by rolling hills

wildflowers surround the grounds, and there are plenty of scenic walks on offer. Or you can head out on a steamboat at Ullswater Steamers, which is a 20-minute drive away. This award-winning attraction connects you to some of the most iconic walking routes in the national park.

There are also lots of family attractions within easy access, including Rheged arts and entertainment centre, Lowther Castle & Gardens, which has an adventure playground for kids, and the Rookin House activity centre, where you'll find everything from go-karting to pony trekking.

NEED TO KNOW: Book at leisureresorts.co.uk/parks/ullswater-heights-holidays, from £486 a week for a single-storey tent that sleeps six or £558 per week for a two-storey tent that sleeps eight. Ullswater Heights also offers luxury holiday lodges for ownership and rental.



The site has a petting farm

LANTERN & LARKS



Wake up to fantastic scenery



Inside one of the cosy tents

THE LOWDOWN: Putting the glam into glamping, these five luxurious safari-style tents are dotted around a field deep in the Lancashire countryside. Inside, there are three bedrooms – the main with a king-sized bed, one with bunk beds and the other with two singles. The open-plan kitchen, dining and living area has a wood-burning stove to keep you toasty on cooler nights. And

at the back of the tent, in a separate area, there's a boiler-heated shower room and a loo, so thankfully there's no need for any late-night dashes to a toilet block.

As the site is next to the Forest Of Bowland, an Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, you can expect to see stunning scenery, beautiful sunsets and a wide variety of wildlife. It's also the perfect place to attempt a digital detox, as you'll get very little phone signal. There's no electricity in the tents, so at night-time, light is provided by candles, lanterns and the glow from the fire pit outside. And you'll have nature's very own alarm clock – the calls of grouse – to wake you up in the mornings.

OUT AND ABOUT: Visit the ancient Bleasdale Circle 20 minutes' walk from your tent, explore the 271 acres of woodland at Beacon Fell or head down to the River Brock, which runs down the side of the site, to splash in the rock pools. Children will love exploring the cycle routes and building dens in the woods, while animal lovers can go pony trekking nearby or visit Bowland Wild Boar Park.

NEED TO KNOW: Visit lanternandlarks.co.uk or call 01638 779 311 for more information and to book. Prices start from £250 for two nights mid-week. You can make your stay easier by having a barbecue pack and a breakfast pack waiting for you on arrival.

Down the road from the site, you'll find an honesty shop, where there are games and fishing rods to borrow and charcoal, snacks and drinks for sale. Dogs are welcome at the site, too, so your pooch needn't miss out on the fun.



See amazing animals up close on a safari tour

