



Too posh to pitch

Photos and words by
Lauren Emmerson

'Glamping' – or glamorous camping – is gaining popularity throughout the world. Lauren Emmerson takes us on a first-hand journey to Wellington National Park.

With the sound of poles clanging and zips zipping filling the crisp forest air of Wellington National Park, and “where’s the insect repellent?” “I don’t know, I thought you had it.” “No, you said you were going to pack it!” occurring around me, I glance over at my pre-assembled luxury tent and wonder if I’d ever enjoyed a glass of cab sav so much.

The hardest thing we have had to do in the 10 minutes since arriving was find the cheese board amongst the organised tubs of absolutely everything one needs to enjoy a night of camping.

Feeling very self-righteous and indulgent, I cut another slice of camembert and continued to look over the brochures and maps Diane and Stephen Greville from Kiosk at the Dam have given us, just before Diane personally escorted us to our fully equipped camping area. Thank you Wellington Dam glamping package. Yes, I’ll have a top up, ta.



● Wellington National Park

DOIN’ IT IN STYLE

Anyone who’s ever been camping knows the sweet satisfaction of finally being able to sit down after a relationship-testing exercise of putting up the tent and consoling yourself that it doesn’t really matter that you forgot your pillow; a rolled up jumper will be just as good.

‘Glamping’ essentially involves all of the joys of camping without the annoying bits – like packing everything under the

sun and lugging it to and from the car, and cleaning the tent when you’re tired once you get home.

The glamping experience includes creature comforts like a gas stove, linen and blankets, fluffy pillows and a bed. And the best part is that it is all set up and ready for you when you get there. All you need to bring is food and clothes.

The glamping experience has taken off in Western Australia and indeed the rest of the country and the world. Experiences range from more ‘assisted-camping’ style options where your tent is set up and you are provided with all the essentials you need, to luxury domes with air-conditioning, fridge and a private spa bath.

SUITS A RANGE OF TYPES

Kiosk at the Dam operators Diane and Stephen offer a unique glamping experience in Wellington National Park



Opposite page

Main Enjoying some of the perks of glamping at Wellington National Park.

Top left Diane from Kiosk at the Dam provides a warm welcome.

Above Kiosk at the Dam.

Far left Bedding is provided at Wellington National Park.

Left Honeymoon Pool.

Do it yourself

Where is it? Eight kilometres from Collie, two-and-a-half hours' drive from Perth.

Total area: 17,000 hectares.

What to do: Camping, fishing, swimming, seasonal marroning, abseiling, rock climbing, bushwalking, canoeing/kayaking, mountain bike riding, horse riding, white water rafting.

Facilities: Wood and gas barbecues, Kiosk at the Dam, Wellington Mill Cottages, parking, two-wheel-drive and four-wheel-drive access, toilets, picnic tables, barbecue shelter, fire rings with firewood supplied, access to water for swimming and boating.

Camping: Camping is permitted at Honeymoon Pool and Potters Gorge within the park. Fees apply.

Park fees: There are no entry fees.

Nearest Parks and Wildlife office: Wellington District Office, 147 Wittenoom St, Collie, phone (08) 9735 1988.

For more information about glamping at Wellington National Park visit www.kioskattthedam.com.au.

and tell us that the first person to book a night of glamping with them was a single mum who wanted her kids to experience camping but didn't have all the equipment.

"Most people spend a lot of years acquiring all the camping equipment they need, or borrow it from friends," said Stephen. "But for those who want to get out of the city but don't have all the gear, glamping is a really good option."

Other 'glampers' include international visitors who want to experience camping in the Australian outdoors as well as interstate visitors, couples, families and inexperienced campers.

A number of glamping experiences are available around the State, with prices ranging from around \$160 per night to upwards of \$1,200 for more luxury experiences.

For more information about glamping in WA, visit www.westernaustralia.com.

Discover more about
glamping at Wellington
National Park

Scan this QR code or
visit Parks and Wildlife's
'LANDSCOPE' playlist
on YouTube.



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Editor's note: The author paid for her own glamping experience, which was undertaken outside work hours.