



Hikers on the Park Avenue trail in the Arches National Park near Moab, Utah. (Mark Ralston/AFP via Getty Images)

YURTS, TREEHOUSES, AND OTHER OFFBEAT AND OFF-THE- BEATEN PATH COVID LODGING IDEAS

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Even as many Americans complete their inoculations against Covid-19, one feature of pandemic travel is likely to stick around this summer: People are opting for socially distanced vacations.

Vered Schwarz, chief operating officer at Guesty, a property management software firm for the short-term rental industry, says that while single homes in rural areas continue to see strong bookings, there is an uptick in longer-term urban rentals where people may want to combine work and leisure. The firm's top five bookings are around Disney World in Florida and near two national parks in Utah.

She notes that bookings are up about 110% over 2020, and 6% higher than 2019's prepandemic summer reservations, a sign that people are planning to travel this summer.

With demand spiking, some travelers are opting for quirky lodging. Schwarz has noted an uptick in travelers searching for unusual properties, such as

treehouses, cabins, train cars, or other nontraditional dwellings. “In the past people were looking for experiences,” she says. “Now if you can only go two hours from your home, you might say a treehouse will be exciting and cool.”

To that end, here are some unusual accommodations:

Rent a yurt with a hot tub in Bennington, Vermont: A modern yurt overlooking a small waterfall and amid the trees on 27 acres on the Contoocook River and Powdermill Pond.

Hicksville Palace in Joshua Tree, Calif.: The dog-friendly location has 11 vintage trailers with names such as The Sideshow, The Skipper, and The New World. Claim to fame: Lana Del Ray recently shot a video here for her song White Dress that prominently features The Skipper and The New World.

Stay in a Frank Lloyd Wright house: Bernard Schwartz House, a 1938 home designed by Wright as part of Life Magazine’s “Dream House” design, is one option. About 2.5 hours north of Chicago in rural Two Rivers, Wis., about a mile from Lake Michigan. Includes a 63-foot-long living room with two fireplaces, and a library stocked with vintage books.

Stay in a treehouse (or a cabin): In Southeast Ohio, Hocking Hills has nine state parks, three state forests, and 25 miles of miles of hiking trails, waterfalls and caves. Along with campgrounds and cabins to rent, visitors can also rent treehouses.

Pullman Private Palace train car used by Teddy Roosevelt: Located in Fredericksburg, Texas, this antique train car was built in 1894 by Pullman for the Quanah, Acme & Pacific Railway.