

AFTERHOURS

The cooler side of camping

Terrified by the thought of going camping or sleeping out under the stars? Perhaps you were scarred by teenage experiences or memories of Carrying On Camping? Relax, and let Tina Nielsen guide you through the coolest campsites, from spartan eco-lodges to the luxury of a "glamping" holiday

5. Huttopia, Various locations, France

The three sites run by Huttopia in Versailles, Rillé and Rambouillet follow eco-tourism guidelines and aim to fit into existing nature rather than invade it. The wooden huts are therefore mounted on stilts in order to preserve the natural slope of the ground. In addition to regular tent pitches, campers can rent different types of accommodation including huts, "gypsy style" mobile homes and ridge tents. All are built with untreated wood and come fully equipped, some with more comforts than others. The Huttopia sites are all light and peaceful and offer various activities depending on the location. The one in Versailles has particular appeal, as visitors can nip into Paris in 20 minutes, combining a city break with an eco-holiday.

From £67 per night for a 4-person hut at the Versailles site.
www.huttopia.com