

## 5 Prime, Secluded Places For Vacationing Privately This Summer/Fall

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The Boathouse at The Point / THE POINT

As travel experts look ahead to what will appeal to travelers in the near term once stay at home restrictions lift, two themes come up time and again. One is privacy: taking over a vacation spot exclusively so that the travelers who come with you are the only ones you see. The other one amplifies this on- your-own philosophy: picking a place in deep countryside with extensive grounds and/or a long distance from anywhere else. In the U.S., where prospective travelers are especially sensitive to this, there are places that fit these criteria available to take over on an exclusive basis.



The Great Hall at The Point / ©KINDRA CLINEFF

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**The Point** This historic Great Camp originally built for William Avery Rockefeller II in the 1930's on Upper Saranac Lake in New York State's upstate Adirondack Region is a **Relais & Chateaux** lodge open to buyouts and slated to reopen May 31. Everything about it is rustic style Gilded Age patrician: a collection of intricate timber lodges filled with art and antiques, sumptuous fabrics, immense stone fireplaces, an array of boats from canoes to a 33 foot handcrafted mahogany speed boat. There are also 75 acres of gardens and lawns and a Michelin star trained chef serving detailed, farm to table meals in casual settings or the long dining table in the Great Hall, scene of past society dinner parties. The 11 rooms, each unique, are scattered among several structures but the most popular is the 1200 square foot Boathouse in a freestanding structure with a wrap around deck over the water replicating the sense of gliding in a canoe.



The Master Bedroom of The Treehouse at Lake Kora / © GARY HALL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Lake Kora** Elsewhere in the Adirondacks, another historic Great Camp under private ownership only open to exclusive rentals, is slated to reopen July 1 and expected to remain open until October. This 1000 acre property with three private lakes was built in 1898 for Timothy Woodruff, then the Lieutenant Governor of New York but was acquired later by another Gilded Age name Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt. The 12 rooms are in seven lakeside lodges with many of the furnishings carved in wood by the property's on site craftsmen a century ago. Activities include boating on the lake, fly fishing for small mouth bass and native brook trout, hiking or playing softball on the field where the Harvard and Yale teams once held a competition. Meals can be formal around the 20 foot long dining table or a barbecue on the lawn.



One of the restored log cabins at Magee Homestead / © DAN HAM PHOTO 2012

**Magee Homestead** Although it's located within the 30,000 acres of **Brush Creek Ranch** in southern Wyoming, the 12 room Relais & Chateaux member Magee Homestead, reopening June 7th, is off on its own, a compound of lushly appointed log cabins with its own main lodge and spa being offered as a **buyout** for a week or longer for the first time this year. Activities include riding trails around the property on horses brought over from the Ranch, hiking, fly fishing or mountain biking. Meals feature sophisticated dishes with rich mostly ranch grown ingredients such as crispy duck breast with Bing cherry gastrique or simple and addictive ones such as the cream cheese frosted cinnamon buns at breakfast. And when served on the outdoor deck, diners are rewarded with views over the peaks of Medicine Bow National Forest.



The interior of Echo Cabin at Dunton Hot Springs / DUNTON HOT SPRINGS

**Dunton Hot Springs and Dunton River Camp.** The 13 cabin former 19<sup>th</sup> century mining camp turned resort surrounded by hot springs and its eight tent offshoot four miles away are both available for buyouts, either alone or together. (Dunton River Camp, reopening Memorial Day Weekend, is only available as exclusive use.) The setting—500 acres in southwest Colorado—is blissfully pastoral and serene, surrounded by the San Juan Mountains and the rustic décor in each

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property, detailed and authentic. Activities at both include guided hikes or rock climbing in the San Juan peaks or fly fishing in an exclusive nine mile stretch of the West Fork of the Delores River. And, naturally, at Dunton Hot Springs, soaking in the springs.



A tent at Dunton River Camp / DUNTON RIVER CAMP

**The Green O** Originally scheduled for summer and now pushed to fall, this collection of 12 design forward cottages is set in the mountains of the Blackfoot River Valley of western Montana on the edge of the 37,000 acre Paws Up Ranch. (Site of its sibling property glamping specialist **The Resort at Paws Up**.) Even though the emphasis is on the privacy of the setting—nestled deep in a forest of towering pine trees—the four idiosyncratic, original designs also demand attention. The 1030 square foot duplex Tree Haus is elevated 15 feet in the air with floor to ceiling windows giving the sense of living at the top of the trees, the Round Haus also with floor to ceiling windows gives as its name suggests, a curved 180 degree view of the outdoors and the various animals scurrying around, Green Haus has a roof garden of native grasses and a skylight above the bed for gazing at the stars, Light Haus is a glass pavilion that brings the bounced light of those stars in. All guests get a Lexus SUV as part of their stay, the Social Haus restaurant features local/ranch ingredients many of which are cooked on live fires and activities include horseback riding, fly fishing and hiking.



A Tree Haus at The Green O / THE GREEN O

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