



# Urban Outfitting

THIS SUMMER'S CAMPING TRIP CAN BE AS CLOSE AS YOUR BACKYARD.

BY KELLEY L. MOORE

**Summertime camping trips** are a long-cherished Northwest tradition. However, given today's hectic schedules (not to mention elevated gas prices), it's more difficult than ever to hit the road in search of a far-flung camping site.

Look no further than your childhood for a solution. Simply stake a tent in the wilds of your backyard (scary stories optional). Whether you want to make it a family outing or invite friends over for a party and sleepover, it's a refreshingly short trip to replace your humdrum indoor ceiling with a starry sky. (Plus, reservations are not required when your campsite resides just a few steps from your back door.)

**Above: A campsite wouldn't be complete without a campfire. Group comfortable chairs around the campfire so that guests stay warm throughout the evening.**

PHOTOGRAPHY  
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FOR COMPLETE DETAILS, SEE FIND IT, PAGE 64.

Setting up any kind of campsite begins with the tent; for comfort's sake, choose one that offers plenty of standing room. Visit the **REI** Flagship Store (222 Yale Ave.; 206.223.1944; rei.com) and explore their handsome Hobitat 4 (\$249) and Paha Qué Temescal Creek (\$369) tents. If you prefer a classic canvas tent or more unusual habitation, **Rainier Industries** (18435 Olympic Ave. S; 425.251.1800; rainierindustries.com) will custom design a tent, tepee or yurt. You can entice even the most reluctant camper by bringing the comforts of the indoors outside and creating "rooms" that have a variety of seating options. Lay out a large natural-fiber area rug (woven jute rug, \$119, **Pier 1 Imports**, 15725 Westminster Way, and various locations; 206.361.0984; pier1.com) and layer it with colorful tweed floor cushions and faux-fur wraps, encouraging campers to stay up and stargaze (floor cushions, \$19.99–\$49.99, faux-fur throw, \$99, **Bed Bath & Beyond**, 1930 Third Ave., 206.448.7905, and various locations, bedbathandbeyond.com; orange fabric cubes, \$49.95, **David Smith & Co.**, 334 Boren Ave. N, 206.223.1598, david-smithco.com).

No camping trip is complete without a cookout. Upgrade from ordinary weenie roasts to grilled gourmet pizzas. You provide the ingredients and let guests design their own creations. "Grilling a pizza adds an element of entertainment for your guests, and it is so easy to do," says Jordi Viladas, chef/owner of **Café Lago**. (A hot tip from the chef: "Get the dough paper thin, and have a hot grill with an even fire before putting the pizza on the grill to ensure a crisp crust.")

After your alfresco adventure, I guarantee when you unflap your tent in the morning, you'll feel as if you've traveled much farther than to just the other side of your house. +

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Clockwise from center photo on opposite page: Proud of their culinary creations! Shown left to right: Sheena Spicer, James Knoblich, entertaining and lifestyle expert Kelley L. Moore, Mike Kicherer with Mikey, Dow Lucurell and Andrew and Tiffany McGehee line up for the classic campsite photo. Moore gets cozy with her dog, Mikey. Even outside, lighting is important for establishing mood and safety; strategically place tiki torches and colorful lanterns throughout the campsite. This grilled cherry tomato, basil and mozzarella pizza is not only colorful but will tempt any palate; "Grilling imparts a smoky flavor to the crisp crust and summer vegetables," says Jordi Viladas, chef/owner of **Café Lago** (visit [nwhomeandgarden.com](http://nwhomeandgarden.com) for the full recipe). The perfect table sets the scene for a dinner under the stars. Sharing in good conversation and wine, these gentlemen know that all grills are not created equal: This stainless steel Viking grill is sure to impress even the most discerning chef. Designing a table reminiscent of a scene from *Out of Africa* adds elegance to the night. Incorporate different textures by placing a large palm leaf under a shell charger and cut strips of faux-fur fabric to create a faux-fur napkin wrap. For a nontraditional centerpiece, arrange "monkey pods" in a faux-shell container, and add a sprig of fresh kumquats near each place setting for a pop of color.