



**BOB'S
YOUR
UNCLE
INSIDER
TIP**

Families often ask us for "the best rate". In truth the rate when you book directly is often the best available. However, you may still be able to get something. Gone are the days when booking at the last minute got you the best deal, indeed you will probably end up paying more the later you leave it. Remember, income out of season is important for sites. If you place a deposit for your June / July holiday in December or January, the sites will be more eager to have the booking. Also by booking early you will have more choice than if they are dealing with your inquiry, along with a many others, in May. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, so book your summer break in January for the best deal.

Glamping Insights

With Rob Farrow

Rob is from a family that has been operating holiday parks for over half a century. Since 2010, he has been heavily involved with glamping; first on the family park, then bespoke delivery to other parks, followed by consultancy services on creating glamping sites and pop-up sites for events, as well as giving seminars and lectures on operating glamping sites. He also owns and operates glamping sites throughout the South West. Having experienced almost every type of glamping and welcomed thousands of guests ranging from couples through to hen parties, corporate events and weddings, Rob's experience marks him out as one of the foremost glamping experts. This means there few people better placed to answer your holiday conundrums.

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR GLAMPING BREAK

He says; "At this time of year people start thinking of their holidays and a question we get

asked frequently is "we've never been glamping before, what would you suggest?" So, to help here are a few tips on how to get the most from your holiday:

1. Book early for the best deal

The holiday industry is a seasonal business. The best deals are often available when you book in advance and out of season.

2. Be flexible

Don't be too rigid on your dates and avoid weekends. If your booking can fill in a gap you might be able to get a better rate.

3. Talk to us

An automated booking system won't know that it's your anniversary or birthday but the person reading your email may just do something nice because of it.

4. Do your homework

Know all about where you are going and read their website. You know your needs best, explain them before booking and the staff can usually guide you.

5. Be nice

It sounds odd but remember, the person dealing with enquiries receives hundreds

of new messages each day. If you are nice to them, they'll be nice to you; you may even benefit from it.

Ask Rob your holiday questions, email him at robfarrow@countryglampingholidays.co.uk

On the parks we are preparing for the start of another busy year, siting and erecting the latest accommodation that has been delivered by our suppliers. Over the years we've seen a vast array of different accommodation and variations on them. I remember the first shepherd's huts and vintage caravans; cosy, quaint and rustic, keeping close to their origins but more comfortable. Speaking with a colleague recently he mentioned what he called 'shepherd's huts 2.0', beautiful units with in-built bathrooms the size of park homes. It seems glamping accommodation is growing both in demand and size. I just hope these 'supersized' accommodations don't take the camping out of glamping.

Happy Glamping!