

SUPREME STAYCATION SPOTS... Glamping On Eagle Island



Article by Monica Stouder & Photos by Monica Lea Imagery: MonicaLea.com

While I can appreciate the rustic ups and downs of a good camping staycation there is something to be said for having the luxury of popping back into an RV or camper when the elements become, well...less than favorable. But when I wanted to take my BFF's camping as a group adventure I decided for the sake of our friendships that an RV just wasn't good enough. This kind of trip required glamping! To glamp combines all of the fun elements of camping with luxurious conveniences; glamorous camping - glamping!

That's when I found Captain Andy Hill online. When we spoke on the phone he told me about his property only 1 1/2 hours from Jacksonville that would be perfect for a four day, three night glampover.

Who knew that folks could glamp only a short distance from Jax ...

...on their own private island...

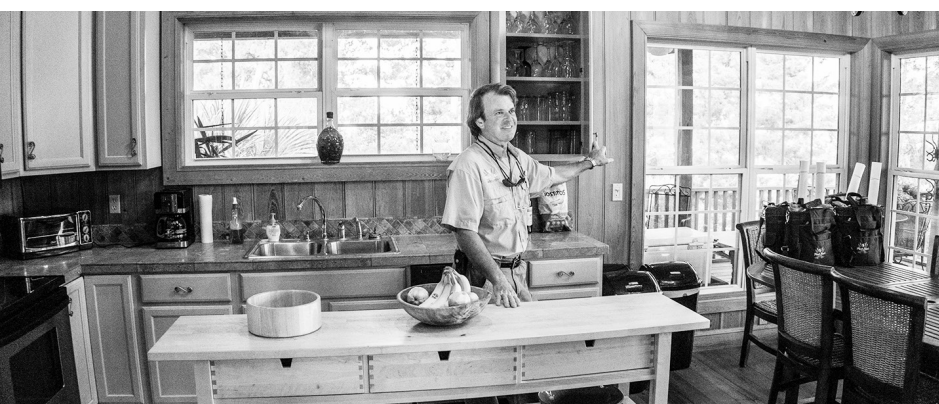
...on the waterfront...

...in a luxurious lodge that sleeps up to 12 people...

So my gaggle of giddy girls and I made the short jaunt to Darien, Ga. When we arrived, Andy and Craig, his assistant, took us out on the water for a beautiful, 15 minute cruise up the Darien River to Eagle Island. Blanketed with blue skies, and calm water, sea gulls and loons were chattering as Captain Andy delightfully turned our mini hop to Eagle Island into a wonderful water tour of eagle nests, shelled beaches and May Hall another Andy Hill island property.

Upon our arrival, the only source of testosterone on the island lugged our groceries and bags off the skiff and we began the trek toward the lodge. Along the way, Andy pointed out that much of the landscaping accessories were sourced from the river. Inverted logs were dug deep and converted into magnificent planters, the trellis over the shelled walkway was made from driftwood and hanging flower baskets were old crab pots.

Then, within a few short steps of the dock you saw it...there at the end of this beautifully meticulous landscaped path, in its rustic grandeur; the Eagle Island Lodge immediately cast its magical spell on its forthcoming guests.



Captain Hill hosts hospitality tour. Photo provided by Eagle Island

This A-framed, wooden structure was stunning with its 1,500 sq. ft. screened-in wrap-around porch (no mosquito Olympics tonight!), window encompassed frontage, beautiful bedrooms, indoor and outdoor fireplaces (one right in front of the six person hot tub), hanging outdoor porch bed and state-of-the-art chef's kitchen definitely exceeded any wildest expectation from any of us. It was all simply beautiful. As we went from area to area on a quick hospitality tour, we quickly found out that no detail was left undone. The kitchen was fully stocked (Andy's staff would even do the grocery shopping for your visit and ship it in prior to your arrival upon request), bedrooms had luxurious linens, fluffy towels and yes - even lavish guest robes were provided. Firewood was stocked, board games provided and bait plus fishing gear was downstairs so that guests could spend time on the dock. There was a small pond outside by the fire pit that had seating and a lovely boat-shaped armoire on the porch housed soft blankets for those who wanted to snooze on the swinging outdoor bed.

For a small extra fee Captain Andy's staff brought in the fixings for a low country boil feast that evening. They prepared a campfire for us and we roasted marshmallows, drank wine and commiserated over having an entire island all to ourselves while the boys toiled over dinner. We ate, drank and immensely enjoyed the company of friends both new and old. After dinner the staff cleaned up and headed home. The island was all ours...

Each day was progressively better than the next, kayaking off the dock, fishing, going to adjacent islands with a rented boat to beachcomb. This eco-glamping adventure was definitely one-of-a-kind and has produced memories that will forever be ingrained in spectacular fashion for our entire group.

Although difficult to sum up this truly indescribable environment, it is without reservation that I highly recommend a staycation here to retreat from stress or any mundane hum drum. Sincerely, I encourage you to give Captain Andy a ring. Because whether glamping or simply wanting a getaway with your most spoonable second, I guarantee you too with even the shortest of visits will experience your own insurmountable magic on Eagle Island.

The Facts

What: Eagle Island - Private Island Staycation and Glamping Eco-Adventure

Where: Darien, Georgia. Driving distance approx 1 1/2 hours from Jacksonville

Price: Variable pricing contingent of packages:

	Weekday (Per Night)	Weekend (Per Night)	Weekly (6 Nights)	2 Weeks (12 Nights)
Guests 2	\$475.00	\$575.00	\$2,900.00	\$5,600.00
Guests 3-12	\$600.00	\$700.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,200.00

Contact:

Andy Hill, Owner
(912) 222-0801

PrivateIslandsofGeorgia.com/Eagle-Island to take a virtual tour

AWESOME AMENITIES

- Pet friendly
- 10 Acres
- Water Views
- 1500 Sq. Ft. Wrap-around Screened-In Porch
- Outdoor Swing Bed
- Contemporary Gourmet Kitchen
- Shampoo/Soap Provided
- Direct TV
- WiFi
- Linens Provided
- Concierge Grocery Service Available

- Central Air/Heat
- DVD Player
- Board Games
- Horseshoe pit
- Ping Pong Table
- Indoor Fireplace
- Outdoor Fireplace
- Firewood provided
- 6 Person Hot Tub
- Washer/Dryer
- Covered Outdoor Kitchen has commercial oyster steamer, smoker, prep table, sink and grill

- In/Outdoor Eating Areas
- Fire Pit With Seating
- Several Bunk and Conventional Beds
- Dock w/Covered Dining Area
- Outdoor Shelling/Fish Cleaning Station and Dock Shower
- Bait and fishing Gear Provided
- Kayaks Provided
- Five-Moon Outdoor Shower With Two Shower Heads, Sink and Heater
- Boat Transportation to and from the Island
- Rental Boat (Fee Applicable)

BuzzWorthy

Named one of six **"Best Winter Escapes in Georgia"** - Southern Living Magazine
Featured with four other islands in **"Your Own Island, On A Dime"** - Wall Street Journal
Featured January 2014 in **"The Island Hunters Episode"** - HGTV