

Parade

Igloos, Yurts, Gondolas (and a Hobbit House) That Were Made For Socially-Distant Dining

JANUARY 3, 2021 – 4:42 PM – 0 COMMENTS



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(Gurney's)

Outdoor dining experiences in the form of igloo, yurt, greenhouse—even Hobbit House—pop-ups are everywhere these days. With [social distancing](#) still very much intact and diners weary of eating inside, restaurants and hotels have gotten much more creative with their seating arrangements.

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1,599,153 unique
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From refurbished [Vermont](#) gondolas on the sprawling lawn of Ocean House in Watch Hill, Rhode Island to a community of electric greenhouses on a rooftop pier in the middle of Manhattan, the growing trend shows no signs of slowing down. And these eccentric winter dining rooms aren't just for cold weather locations either. Even warm weather locales like [Miami](#) and Austin are getting in on the fun, with their own activations in the form of teepees, and private [snow](#) globe villages.

So if you want to eat at a restaurant—but prefer to do so outdoors—look no further than this list of 14 of the **best outdoor dining experiences** that bring the whimsy, while still being [COVID-19 compliant](#).

Fondue Village Gondolas at Ocean House in Westerly, Rhode Island



Trip to Aspen not in the cards right now? How about a Rhode Island getaway to Watch Hill, where their [Veuve Clicquot Fondue Village](#) awaits. From a winter après ski menu that checks all the boxes (breakfast and afternoon crêpe service, or a decadent four-course lunch and dinner menu featuring comfort food delicacies served alongside Champagne pairings), to vintage ski gondolas outfitted in warm woods, fine Alpine textiles and chandeliers, this one-of-a-kind dining experience is unparalleled. It will also be offered until March 2021, so book now for a romantic dinner for two, or an intimate gathering for four to six friends.

Hobbit Houses at The Preserve Sporting Club & Residences in Richmond, Rhode Island



Not to discount the igloos on this list, but having dinner inside a real life Hobbit House?? Talk about goals. Situated on 3,500 acres of unspoiled nature preserve, the two [Maker's Mark Hobbit Houses](#) are an experience you'll never forget—even if you aren't a [J. R. R. Tolkien fan](#). After entering the tiny Bilbo Baggins-inspired abode, you'll be treated to a grilled menu with fine bourbon pairings, before unwinding beside a fire pit under the stars. Pro tip: Book this exclusive experience early. Hobbit House seatings go quickly, but they're currently offering lunch on Saturday and Sunday (12:00 p.m.) and dinner Wednesday through Sunday (6:30 p.m). Other reasons to visit The Preserve include accommodations ranging from quaint Laurel Ridge Homes and Cozy Cabins, to a year-round Treehouse Retreat in the sky. Plus, over 50 [adventure options](#) in the form of zip lining, clay shooting, ATV'ing, tennis, snowmobiling, golf and more.

The Igloos at Gurney's in Newport, Rhode Island



Take a break from mansion tours to seek shelter inside a somewhat smaller habitat: the igloos at [Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina](#). Montauk's leading seafood restaurant [Showfish](#) at Gurney's Star Island is hosting a pop-up at its sister property for the season, which means you can enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner in a transparent (and very festive-looking) dome. With the Newport Bridge and Narragansett Bay as your backdrop, and signature dishes like Lobster Kimchi Fried Rice, Butternut Squash Love Letters and Soy Chili Calamari available for noshing, you'll find it hard to leave this storybook winter wonderland.