

# The Globalist

FOR MODERN TRAVELLERS, BY MODERN TRAVELLERS



Grid  
preference

Pitch  
perfect



**Andrew Day**  
The *Cool*  
Camping editor  
on five Alpine  
camp sites

Illustration by  
**Charlie Davis**

For more campsites  
in the UK and  
Europe, visit  
[coolcamping.com](http://coolcamping.com)



**01. Camping Arolla**  
**Best for** Head-clearing fresh air.

**What** Just short of 2,000m up the Swiss Alps, it's Europe's highest campsite.

**Fly to** Geneva.

**Go for** Sweeping Alpine views: pitch on the shoulder of the hill and enjoy epic mountain scenery looking up the 4,000m summit of Mont Collon.

**But don't miss** Café du Pigne in Arolla village, serving Belgian fruit beer on a sunny terrace.

**02. Huttopia Wattwiller**  
**Best for** Glampers.

**What** Woodland camping and pre-pitched safari tents, where France, Switzerland and Germany converge in a mix of rivers and rolling countryside.

**Fly to** Zurich.

**Go for** First-rate facilities, including a pizzeria, library, tennis courts and three swimming pools (both indoor and outdoor).

**But don't miss** Colmar town (40km from site), with cute Hansel-and-Gretel-type houses.

**03. Camping Les Dômes de Miage**  
**Best for** Alpine views.

**What** Remote campsite 900m up the Rhône-Alpes, welcoming travellers for more than 50 years.

**Fly to** Geneva.

**Go for** Champagne views at cider prices, with most pitches offering unparalleled vistas of Mont Blanc.

**But don't miss** The lovingly restored wooden *mazot* (traditional Savoyard chalet) if you're staying in winter.

**04. Camping des Glaciers**  
**Best for** Serious walkers.

**What** Vast, postcard-worthy campsite with a forest glade, wildflower meadow and glacial river.

**Fly to** Geneva.

**Go for** The challenge of conquering the twin peaks above the site, which lead over to France – one of Europe's premier hiking routes.

**But don't miss** Durnand Gorge in Bovernier, with footbridges and wooden staircases bolted to cliff walls, overhanging 14 impressive waterfalls.



**"The dry martini: the only American invention as perfect as the sonnet"**

HL Mencken, quoted in *Aperitif: A Spirited Guide to the Drinks, History and Culture of the Aperitif* by Kate Hawkins, published by Quadrille



02

01

05.

#### **Camping Terre Ferme**

**Best for** Farm life.

**What** Blissfully quiet rural hideaway on an old maize farm, with 20 large pitches and spotless facilities.

**Fly to** Geneva.

**Go for** The feeling of simple authenticity, with camp fires crackling late into the evening and the sound of bleating sheep waking you in the morning.

**But don't miss** The traffic-free back roads surrounding the site; perfect for idling around on a bike.

 Etihad offers one daily direct flight from Abu Dhabi to Geneva and Zurich.  
[etihad.com](http://etihad.com)



## Change of tune



**Ludovic Hunter-Tilney**  
*The Financial Times* arts writer on the rise of Saudi rock and roll



**The Takeaway**  
New rules on culture in Saudi Arabia could mean long-awaited acceptance for the kingdom's musicians. So how long before we're flying to Riyadh for a concert?

**Y**eah ladies, go make it happen, take the wheel with a loving embrace," the Saudi Arabian band Most of Us sang last year. The song was a version of Steppenwolf's classic ode to the open highway Born to Be Wild, altered to welcome the edict permitting women to drive in the kingdom. Its video went viral. Like female drivers, Saudi Arabia's tenacious set of rock musicians are beneficiaries of the cultural liberalisation programme instigated by a recent change of leadership. Based in Jeddah, Most of Us have spent much of their 20-year history operating under trying circumstances. They were among the first wave of Saudi rock bands in the 1990s, back when musical equipment was hard to get and CDs had to be smuggled from the West. Gigs took place in an informal circuit of private compounds and embassies. There were periods when it was best to lie low.

Despite the difficulties, a wide array of Western-inspired musical acts managed to establish themselves in the kingdom. Sound of Ruby, a punk band from Dammam City, is another survivor from the ranks of the 1990s pioneers. The Jeddah-based rapper Qusai Kheder, AKA Don Legend the Kamelion, released his first album in 2002 and last year persuaded the state authorities to recognise hip-hop as an official art form.

Still, these bands, and others like them, may soon see broader acceptance in Saudi Arabia. Conditions remain challenging, but the winds of change are blowing rapidly. There are plans to spend \$64 billion building up the country's barely existent entertainment industry. Music spearheads the scheme, with ambitions to make Saudi Arabia a fixture on the international touring circuit. This, if it happens, could be transformative not just for young Saudis but for the wider region. With over 60 per cent of one of the Middle East's most populous nations under 30, a new and open Saudi Arabia could signal a serious boost in output of Arab pop culture. And, in time, the notion of the kingdom as a musical superpower may not seem so far away. Rock on.