

A scenic winter landscape featuring a snow-covered mountain valley. In the foreground, a small wooden cabin sits on a snowy slope. The middle ground is filled with a dense forest of snow-laden evergreen trees. In the background, majestic snow-capped mountains rise against a clear blue sky. The scene is bathed in soft, golden light, suggesting a low sun. Overlaid on the image are several white and blue geometric shapes, including hexagons and polygons, which frame the text and add a modern design element.

Winter Escape

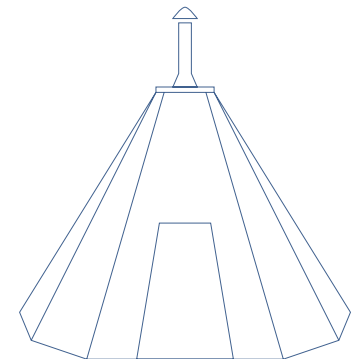
Canada, Tipis



In the last few years, tipis have become extremely popular for events and weddings. They're stunning structures that can fit up to 60 people per tent. Nowadays they're made out of material and plastic, but in the mid-1800s in Canada, they were made out of animal hides and could comfortably fit a family of 6 inside.

The smaller the tipi, the warmer and cosier it would feel. Traditional tipis have a large circular fire in the centre, and they have a hole in the top to allow smoke to escape. Modern day tipis have electrics and heating so you can comfortably get married inside one without worrying about the cold.

The furniture was often arranged in a large circular pattern, with the bed and sofas around the edge so the fire could sit in the middle of the tipi.

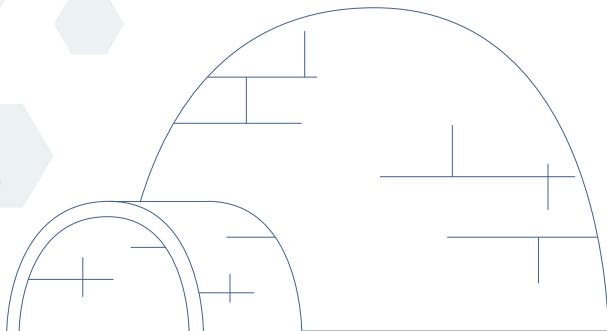


Greenland, the Igloo



Igloos were originally used in Greenland, and are a very clever way of keeping warm using a material that is freezing cold. Not only does snow contain air pockets that traps the heat in, but the freezing temperatures outside the igloo mean that you can light a fire on the inside, and the outside will remain frozen. Similar to the tipi, igloos need a small hole in the top for smoke and heat to escape, otherwise the snow house will become too hot and melt.

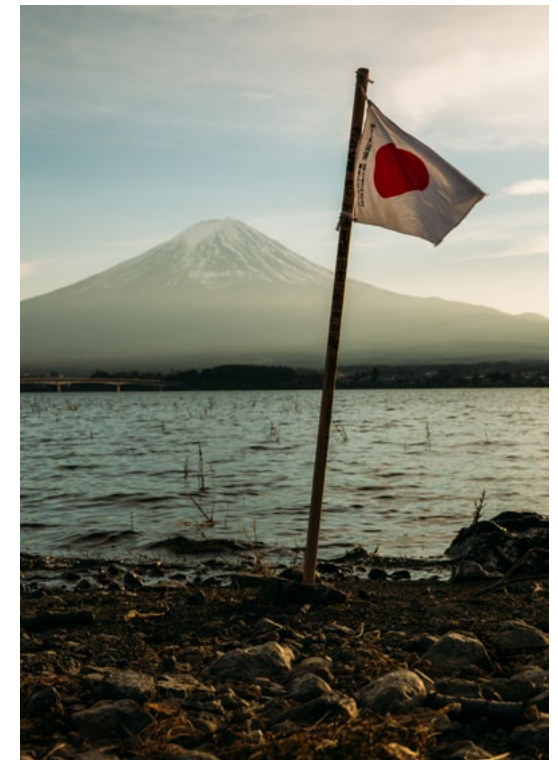
Even thousands of years later, Igloos are a popular accommodation for those travelling to Greenland, Sweden, and Canada. You can stay in a 5* Igloo that comes with an ice bed and furniture. Plenty of blankets and throws are provided to keep you cosy during your -40°C stay. If you fancy something more upmarket (and toastier), glass igloos are complete with full heating and electrics.



Japan, Minka

The Japanese are renowned for their incredible housing that is unlike any other around the world. They're primarily made of wood and other natural materials such as clay, rice straw and paper.

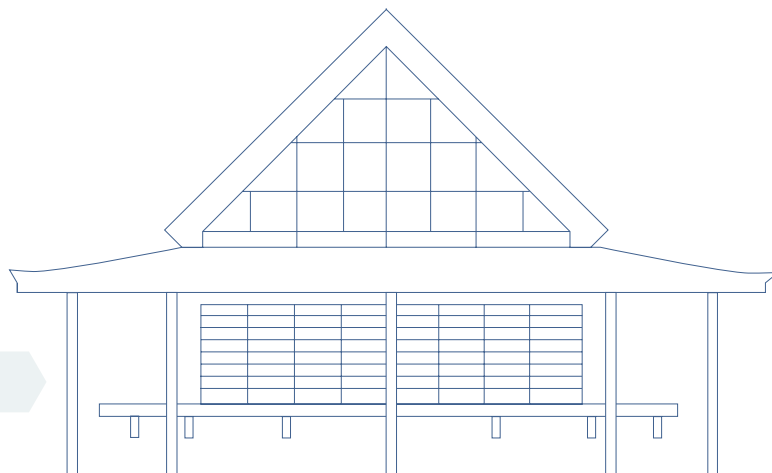
One essential in Winter is a long, hot bath, and the Japanese love these. Their bathtubs have their own room away from the toilet, and tend to have an adjoining dressing room. It's customary to clean yourself in the shower before getting in the bath. Bathing is seen as a leisure activity and takes a long time. Their baths are short in length but very deep and typically made of wood.





The Minka has sliding doors known as Fusumas, but also sliding walls so that a space can be opened up or closed off much more easily. The whole house can be completely refigured if required. In winter, it might be preferred to keep the rooms closed off to give a feeling of warmth and cosiness. Open plan can feel rather cold and may be best saved for summer.

With the weather being so unpredictable in Japan, the Minkas also have storm shutters that wrap around the entire outside of the house. It creates a sort of corridor that goes around the veranda, so you can walk between the closed shutters and the walls of the house. These are quickly folded back up once the storm has passed. Our storms are not so severe in Britain to warrant these sort of changes, but is a very clever idea thought of by the Japanese.

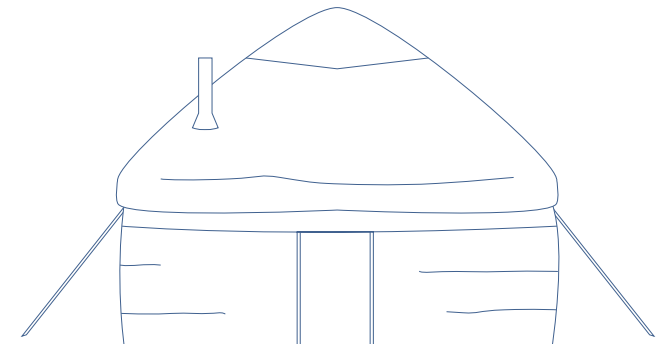


Mongolia, Yurt



The design of a yurt is actually very similar to that of a tipi, which is interesting considering Canada and Mongolia are on different sides of the world. The yurt is made from bamboo, wood and animal hides, just like the tipi. It is a shorter structure than the tipi, wider than it is tall, and it also has a hole in the roof to allow smoke from the fire to escape.

The yurt was made to be easily taken apart, moved, and put back together. It has wooden lattice walls that can be removed and stacked specifically so horses can carry them.



The interior of a yurt uses many soft furnishings including throws, rugs, and large cushions or pillows to sit on. All of these things have strong patterns, traditionally in red, orange and purple, creating an oriental look. This also helps to give the impression of warmth and cosiness in a cold country.

Nowadays, you can stay in a yurt in whichever country you want to. Many campsites offer them as a form of 'glamping', instead of sleeping in a traditional tent. They have full electrics and lighting so you can have a kettle and an electric heater to keep you toasty.



North America, Craftsman



The Americans are renowned for their large, imposing houses that normally have plenty of land, and are spread over thousands of square feet. But as large as they are, they're charming with their outdoor porches, low brick garden walls and brightly coloured front doors.

The Craftsman style was first 'created' by brothers Charles and Henry Greene in the early 20th Century. The houses use natural materials such as wood and stone, and are made to blend in with nature and the surrounding scenery.





Their interiors are made for family life. Free-flowing and open plan, they have large kitchens ideal for social occasions and big families, usually with the dining room and living room included in one space.

The interior is traditionally filled with wood, creating a warm and cosy atmosphere so you can truly feel snug in winter. The wood is used most often in built-in furniture, such as shelving and bench seating.



Norway, House



There is no specific name for the brightly coloured houses that are dotted around Norway, but they are all similarly built. They are made out of wood, and have either slate tiles or grass on the roof. Because of Norway's cold climate, houses cannot be made out of brick as it is more prone to cracking and water damage.

The roofs were originally made from tree bark but the bark had a tendency to roll upwards and away from the house structure. Grass was used to weigh the bark down, but it was quickly discovered that the grass also worked well as insulation. Nowadays, the roofs are made from slate.





The Norwegian houses are made to be as warm as possible. The windows are small to keep the heat in. Legally, all houses have to have a chimney and an open fire because of the low temperatures, and an outside light that remains on constantly through the dark season. If the houses lose power when it gets really cold, the residents need to be able to stay warm. This means that most people stock up on firewood and blankets in the winter.



Switzerland, Chalet



Chalets are constructed from wood and are made to fit their snowy environments. They have a large sloping roof that is specifically built for areas that expect a lot of snow fall.

The use of chalets as accommodation for travellers and skiers only happened within the last 70 years. Chalets were originally built to house cattle during the summer, and were left derelict during the winter.

Luxury chalets can now include a hot tub, more than four bedrooms, car garages and over 325 square metres of space. The interior is made up of mostly natural materials such as wood, and hide rugs/leather seating. They are made to feel cosy through the use of plenty of cushions, rugs and blankets.



Wales, Celtic Cottage



Most of the cottages that can be found in West Wales were built during the 18th and 19th Century, when there was a demand for housing.

The tradition goes that these cottages had to be built overnight from whatever materials the builder could get. In the morning, the builder would stand at the front door and throw an axe as far as he could. Wherever it landed set the property boundary. The owner would then replace the 'overnight' building with a more secure one made from stone.

These Welsh cottages are renowned for their rough brick, roaring fires and thatched roofs (probably a combination that doesn't go too well together).



Preparing your Interiors for Winter

One thing all of these winter dwellings have in common is the warming fires, and the individual construction that is designed to keep as much heat in as possible.

The cold weather outside means we need to get our homes feeling warm and cosy. As we come out of the summer period and settle in for the winter, we think of fires, blankets, bed throws, glasses of red wine or cups of hot chocolate.





This eBook was created by Julian Charles.

**JULIAN
CHARLES**
SINCE 1947