



Living Large in Lyons

Why stay at a hotel? At WeeCasa, you can book a tiny house right on the North St. Vrain River

BY ALISON GWINN

Intrigued by the “tiny house movement” but unsure how you’d fit—literally and figuratively—into a 135-square-foot space? We were too. So when we got an invite to stay at WeeCasa in Lyons, we jumped at the chance.

Billing itself as “the world’s largest tiny home hotel,” WeeCasa opened in May 2015 and now has 22 homes, most of them 8½ feet wide, between 16 and 28 feet long, and, by federal law, no more than 13½ feet tall. Each has a bathroom, a small refriger-

ator and at least a one-burner stove. (The setup is like an RV park, with 50-amp electrical boxes and fresh city water flowing through the faucets and showerheads.)

One of the charms of WeeCasa is the wide variety of home styles, from the ultra-modern “Atlas” (built by Longmont’s F9 Productions and featuring a window wall and even a fold-down patio bar) to the whimsical, nautical “Pequod” (built by Durango’s Rocky Mountain Tiny Houses and including a see-through catwalk inside connecting the two sleeping lofts) to the funky, shingled “Hobbit House” (built by Tennessee-based Incredible Tiny Homes and notable for its ivy-covered, shingled exterior). We stayed in the sleek “Nun’s House,” built by Denver’s Om Ah Homes, which was clean, modern and bright and had all the comforts of home, from a large refrigerator and shower to internet service.

Guests often come because they’re attending a wedding at the adjacent River Bend venue or because they are planning





LOFT-Y AMBITIONS Families can cuddle in one of WeeCasa's "upper stories," just relax on the lawn or play outdoor games.

a visit to Rocky Mountain National Park (Estes Park is only 20 minutes up the road). But about a third of the guests, says co-owner (and "WeeEO") Kenyon Waugh, "are just tiny house crazy. They come from all over the world."

If WeeCasa is any indication, it's easy to understand the fanaticism. With the North St. Vrain River burbling nearby, guests lounging outside in Adirondack chairs or gathered around a fire pit, and the, well, tiny downtown of Lyons a five-minute walk away (we dined at the charming Farmer Girl café), our little home felt just like a castle. **DLM**



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