



## NEW RESORT OPENS ON ILLINOIS RIVER, OFFERING UPSCALE GLAMPING TENTS AND CABINS WITH STUNNING WATER VIEWS

*Sankoty Lakes, a 2.5-hour drive from Chicago in the Central Illinois River Valley, offers the perfect family-friendly escape for outdoor adventure*

**SPRING BAY, Ill. (June 16, 2022)** – Situated on the edge of the Sankoty Aquifer and on the banks of the Illinois River, [Sankoty Lakes](#) is the newest destination of its kind in the Midwest, managed and operated by Columbia Hospitality. Located just 20 minutes from Peoria and 2.5 hours from Chicago, Sankoty Lakes offers a variety of lodging options, including glamping tents, beautiful RV campsites, upscale cabins and the [1840 Ranch](#), an exclusive and private guest ranch house. Guests can find respite in the outdoors, where water recreation abounds: fly-fishing in a dedicated trout stream, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, bird watching, boating and more. The resort experience is made complete with [The Woolly Bugger](#), a local ingredient-driven restaurant that serves comfort cuisine and Midwestern favorites and boasts a sprawling patio.

Located in Spring Bay, Illinois, Sankoty Lakes is the vision of Kim Blickenstaff, a Midwesterner who grew up fishing and swimming in the lakes along the Illinois River. His experience kept him outside exploring no matter what the season, heading inside only to eat, sleep and clean off all the mud to make room for more the next day. He knew this place was special and wanted to share a dynamic resort experience to share with those looking for an outdoor adventure in the American Midwest.

“We look forward to welcoming guests just in time for the busy summer travel season so they can experience the outdoor playground we call Sankoty Lakes,” said Shawn Dixon, the general manager. “Our resort is for all ages and perfect for families, and we welcome travelers that are looking for a place to soak in the great outdoors while enjoying

unparalleled service and upscale amenities. We are ambassadors of nature. We also provide an experience that is meant for everyone, whether a multigenerational family visiting with grandparents and a toddler or a couple looking for an outdoor adventure together. We are the perfect place to consider for your next getaway.”

Lake fishing and trout stream fly-fishing are highlights at Sankoty Lakes, providing opportunities for beginner and intermediate anglers to enjoy the catch and release of a variety of trout. For those casting their rod for the first time, [guided fly-fishing](#) is available, in which participants can learn the art, enjoy pristine waters and have all their gear provided. Guests are invited to take advantage of day passes so they can enjoy public beach access along with boat, kayak or canoe rentals, as well as swimming, now through September.

The accommodations at Sankoty Lakes provide opportunities to be surrounded by nature every step of the way. Lodging options include the following:

- **Glamping tents:** Located on the banks of the trout stream, these upscale canvas tents provide a connection to the outdoors, with amenities and comforts for up to six guests, including a queen-sized bed, twin bunk bed, full bathroom, fire pit, outdoor deck and small refrigerator. Glamping tents with a loft include an additional full loft bed and futon couch. All tents are pet friendly. *Rates start at \$219.*
- **RV pull-through sites:** All RV sites come with stunning views of Lake Canada, where travelers can watch the picturesque sunsets over the 30-acre lake. Sankoty Lakes provides pull-through sites, 50 amp and 30 amp electrical hookups, clean water and sewer pump-outs. Each site has a picnic table and a fire pit for evenings around the campfire. *Rates start at \$69/night.*
- **Cabins:** Located on the banks of the trout stream, each single-story cabin sleeps up to eight people, making it an ideal refuge for families and couples. Guests will enjoy a fully equipped kitchen, a deck and an outdoor fire pit. All cabins are pet friendly. *Rates start at \$239/night.*
- **1840 Ranch:** Situated on a private 30-acre lake, the 1840 Ranch is the perfect blend of comfort and adventure. This three-bedroom, two-bathroom home and nearby Bunk House can comfortably sleep up to 14 people. Located just 11 miles from Sankoty Lakes, this homestead property offers over a mile of

shoreline that is perfect for fishing, kayaking, canoeing, grilling or just relaxing by the fire pit for a truly peaceful yet wild retreat. Amenities include canoes, kayaks, fishing gear and a fire pit. The Ranch House is pet-friendly. *Rates start at \$489/night*

After a day out on the lake or exploring the outdoors, guests can enjoy fresh and comforting cuisine at [The Woolly Bugger](#), currently open Wednesday through Sunday. The menus rotate with the seasons, highlighting the freshest and most delicious ingredients from local farms, creameries and producers. There is a rotating selection of hearty fare, including shrimp and grits, a cheese curd platter and “The Bugger Burger,” which features beef from nearby Kilgus Farmstead. Brunch is served on Sunday. As the menu changes frequently with the seasons, guests will find dishes featuring fish from area freshwater lakes and streams and wild foraged ingredients from Spring Bay and its surrounding forests.

For those traveling with children, Sankoty Lakes is a kid’s paradise. Family-friendly adventures include fly-fishing and lake fishing, biking, swimming, playing on the beach and picnicking, all designed for endless hours of fun. Additionally, the resort offers kid-friendly environmental education and guided adventure packages for families.

Reservations can be made at [www.sankotylakes.com](http://www.sankotylakes.com).

### **ABOUT SANKOTY LAKES**

*Nestled on the banks of the Illinois River at the edge of the Sankoty Aquifer, Sankoty Lakes is a stunning resort and retreat in Spring Bay, Illinois. Its lakes are perfect for endless adventure and fun on the water. A variety of accommodation options, including canvas glamping tents, cabins, an RV park with pull-through sites, and the 1840 Ranch House, all exude Midwestern charm and upscale comfort. Sankoty’s restaurant, [The Woolly Bugger](#), features comforting, locally inspired cuisine with ingredients sourced from nearby farms and foraged from the surrounding grounds of Spring Bay. Guests can enjoy fly-fishing in dedicated trout streams, lake fishing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, bird watching and more. For more information, visit [www.sankotylakes.com](http://www.sankotylakes.com).*

### **ABOUT COLUMBIA HOSPITALITY**

*Columbia Hospitality (Columbia) is a national management and consulting company established in 1995 by founder and CEO John Oppenheimer. Its growing portfolio includes award-winning hotels and resorts, premier residential communities, restaurants and bars, private and public golf clubs, conference centers and distinctive venues. Columbia creates exceptional experiences for guests and team members while achieving phenomenal results for property owners. Columbia has also consulted on hundreds of hospitality projects worldwide, delivering a high level of customized service to partners and investors. For more*

*information about Columbia and to view the entire portfolio, visit [www.columbiahospitality.com](http://www.columbiahospitality.com).*

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