

## What is a Treehouse?



Picture: a treehouse yurt supported by posts and the tree growing through the middle.

While you might think that the definition would be self-evident... Tree + House...presto! Treehouse! there isn't an agreed upon definition. Dictionaries such as Webster's categorize it as "a structure (such as a playhouse) among the branches of a tree". This limits the location on a tree and is misleading about the possible uses. By going back to the more basic of roots and common understandings of the words "Tree" and "House" we can easily find a simple definition.

- Has an enclosed structure that can be used for shelter (hint this is the "house" part).

AND

- Uses a living tree or trees as an integral part of the support structure.

OR

- Has a live tree or trees growing through the interior living space.

The word tree in the last two should be a giveaway that they are the "tree" portion of a "Treehouse".

*"A structure with an enclosed living space, supported by a live tree or with a tree growing through the interior."*

To put it simply. A structure with an enclosed living space supported by a live tree or with a tree growing through the interior.

**Let's look at a couple of examples.**

**Treehouse supported by trees:**

Here is an example of a treehouse supported by trees. There is an area to take shelter and, while the trees don't go through the living area, they support the living area as well as the deck.



The enclosure is placed between the support trees. Log post supports were also used.



Tree growing through the deck and used as a support point. This picture was taken before the walls were erected.

**Treehouse with a tree through the living area:**

This example is a treehouse Yurt. The structure is a Yurt (made of wood and cloth) instead of more traditional stick built structure, it has an area used for shelter including a bed, sitting area, and small cooking area. It is also hard to miss the giant Cedar tree in the middle!



Fully furnished treehouse yurt with tree in the center. (same structure as the picture at the top of this article)

**Email me:** If you have further questions, think I missed something, or would like to disagree with me please email me (Reid) using the Contact Us form on [www.TreeWiseDesigns.com](http://www.TreeWiseDesigns.com).