

Big Cedar Lodge – Fact Sheet



Overview

Big Cedar Lodge is a premier wilderness resort in Missouri's Ozark Mountains, spanning approximately 4,600 acres along Table Rock Lake. Founded by Johnny Morris, the resort is designed to connect guests with nature through outdoor recreation, conservation, and family experiences.

Guests can enjoy world-class golf, fishing, boating, spa experiences, and a variety of outdoor nature-based family-friendly activities.

Location

- **Address:** 190 Top of the Rock Road, Ridgedale, MO 65739
 - **Phone:** 417.335.2777 | 800.225.6343
 - **Website:** www.bigcedar.com
 - Located ~10 miles south of Branson, Missouri
 - 40 miles south of Springfield, Missouri
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Ownership & Background

Big Cedar Lodge was purchased in 1987 by Johnny Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops. Originally envisioned as a fishing retreat, it has grown into a nationally recognized destination focused on conservation, outdoor recreation, and family traditions.

History

- Developed in the 1920s as a private retreat for Harry and Dorothy Worman
- Became Devil's Pool Guest Ranch in 1947 with trail rides around the property
- Opened by Bass Pro Shops Founder Johnny Morris as Big Cedar Lodge in 1988

Accommodations

Big Cedar Lodge offers 376 accommodations, including:

- Lodge rooms
- Private log cabins
- Lakeside cottages
- Glamping tents
- Golf cottages
- Thunder Ridge Nature Arena suits

Notable Options

- **Falls, Valley View & Spring View Lodges** – Traditional lodge rooms with scenic views
 - **Private Cabins** – Full kitchens, wood burning fireplaces, lake or wooded settings
 - **Lakeside Cottages** – Modern rustic design near the water. One, two and four bedrooms
 - **Camp Long Creek** – Glamping tents, cabins, and family accommodations
 - **Spa Cottage & Carriage House** – Premium, secluded stays in the center of property
 - **The Villa at Integrity Hills** – 7,000 square feet of lake view luxury for 14 guests
 - **The Governor's Suite** – Rustic charm and luxurious two story 2,500sq ft suite
 - **Payne's Valley Golf Cottages** – Sweeping views of Payne's Valley perfect for buddies
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Dining

The resort features a range of dining experiences, including:

- **Devil's Pool Restaurant** – Southern-inspired comfort food for breakfast, lunch & dinner
- **Buzzard Bar** – Casual dining with live nightly entertainment
- **Truman Café & Custard** – Desserts and light fare for breakfast and lunch
- **Uncle Buck's Fish Bowl & Grill** – Family-friendly dining inside Fun Mountain
- **The Worman House** – Fine dining with sunset lake views and an extensive wine list
- **Harry's Cocktail Lounge & Bar** – Cocktails, live music, cigars and shareable plates
- **Osage Restaurant** – awe inspiring views, regional cuisine and top tier service
- **Buffalo Bar** – Stone patio and indoor dining it's the perfect spot to watch the sunset
- **Arnie's Barn** – Mexican inspired cuisine in a 250 year old barn at Top of the Rock
- **Mountain Top Grill** – Overlooking Payne's Valley perfect for after your round of golf
- **In-Room Dining, Dining Lake Cruises, Poolside Grills, Lounges and more**

Spa & Wellness

Cedar Creek Spa

- 18,000-square-foot full-service spa
- 11 treatment rooms with fireplaces
- Stone lined candlelit grotto pool, ice room, and open-air features
- Salon with cozy fireplace, nail service and upscale pedicure thrones
- Retail area and bridal suite with outdoor seating and fireplace

Fitness Center

- State-of-the-art cardio and strength equipment
 - Personal training and wellness classes
 - Yoga and dance fitness classes
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Outdoor Recreation

Water Activities

- Full-service marina access
- Boat rentals (bass boats, pontoons, ski boats, jet skis)
- Guided fishing experiences
- Kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes

Signature Experience

- **Lady Liberty** – Experience a multi-course meal on a 65-foot luxury yacht
 - **Goin' Jessi** – Tour the lake in a wooden 1934 Chris-Craft while sipping champagne
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Fun Mountain

A 50,000-square-foot indoor activity center featuring:

- 16 lane bowling alley
- Arcade games
- Golf simulators
- Ropes course and go-karts
- Kids' nature discovery area
- Uncle Bucks Restaurant and Blue Fin Lounge

Golf

Big Cedar Lodge is a nationally recognized golf destination with courses designed by legends including Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, and Gary Player.

Courses include:

- **Top of the Rock** – designed by Jack Nicklaus
 - **Buffalo Ridge** – designed by Tom Fazio
 - **Mountain Top** – designed by Gary Player
 - **Ozarks National** – designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw
 - **Payne's Valley** – designed by Tiger Woods
 - **Cliffhangers** – designed by J.P. and Johnny Morris
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Top of the Rock

A scenic extension of the resort featuring:

- Jack Nicklaus designed 9 hole par 3 golf course
 - Osage Restaurant and Buffalo Bar
 - End of the Trail Wine Cellar
 - Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail
 - Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum
 - Signature sunset ceremony with cannon firing
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Dogwood Canyon Nature Park

Dogwood Canyon Nature Park is a 10,000-acre conservation area owned by Johnny Morris and operated by the nonprofit Johnny Morris Conservation Foundation.

Features include:

- Waterfalls, wildlife, and scenic trails
- Tram tours, biking, trout fishing, and horseback riding
- Educational programs and guided tours
- Restaurant and Bar
- Working grist mill

Meetings & Events

- 20,000+ square feet of meeting space
 - Accommodates groups from 10 to 1,000
 - Venues include the Grandview Conference Center and historic Worman House
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Weddings

Big Cedar Lodge offers multiple indoor and outdoor venues, including:

- Chapel of the Ozarks at Top of the Rock
 - Garden Chapel
 - Integrity Hills Chapel
 - Wilderness Chapel at Dogwood Canyon
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Thunder Ridge Nature Arena

- 18,000 seat nature amphitheater
 - Hosts concerts and other live events
 - Premium spaces like Founder Suites, Veterans Tower and Party Barn
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Recent Awards (Full List Available Upon Request)

2025

- USA Today 10Best: Best Golf Resort (U.S.)
- U.S. News & World Report: #2 Best Hotels in Missouri

2024

- Travel + Leisure: Top Midwest Resorts
- Condé Nast Traveler: Top 5 Midwest Resorts

2023

- U.S. News & World Report: #1 Hotel in Missouri
- Good Housekeeping: Family Travel Award

Nearby Attractions

- Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium in Springfield
- Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Springfield
- Finley Farms in Ozark
- Table Rock Lake State Park in Branson
- Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson
- Live music shows in Branson

Media Contact

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