



BASS PRO SHOPS®

# BIG CEDAR® LODGE

+ AMERICA'S PREMIER WILDERNESS RESORT +

## Big Cedar Lodge Fact Sheet

- ADDRESS:** 190 Top of the Rock Road  
Ridgedale, MO 65739
- TELEPHONE:** 417.335.2777 | 800.225.6343
- WEBSITE:** [www.BigCedar.com](http://www.BigCedar.com)
- OPENING DATE:** 1988
- OWNER:** Johnny Morris, noted conservationist and founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, is often referred to as “the Walt Disney of the Outdoors.” In 1972, Johnny started selling fishing tackle out of the back of his father’s liquor store. Since then, Johnny has earned a reputation as one of the most visionary and influential retailers of the last 50 years. Johnny purchased Big Cedar Lodge in 1987, originally envisioning it as a fishing camp for Bass Pro Shops employees and Tracker Boat customers. Morris, an avid outdoorsman, was inspired by the majestic beauty of Table Rock Lake and his own childhood memories of family fishing trips. He later decided to create a place for all families to reconnect with nature, and established the wilderness resort as a place where preservation, conservation, and family traditions come together.
- LOCATION:** Big Cedar Lodge is located 40 miles south of Springfield, Missouri, which is home to the Bass Pro Shops flagship “granddaddy” store and headquarters as well as Johnny Morris’ Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium. The resort is surrounded by thousands of acres of unspoiled Ozark Mountain wilderness just eight miles south of Branson, Mo.
- OVERVIEW:** Located in the heart of Missouri’s Ozark Mountains, Big Cedar Lodge is America’s premier wilderness resort. A passion of Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris, the 4,600-acre lakeside retreat connects guests to the outdoors with a variety of nature-based experiences including fishing, boating, hiking, spa and wellness offerings. Signature attractions include Top of the Rock, home to world-class golf, dining, and entertainment; Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, a 10,000-acre nonprofit wildlife preserve; and a world-class golf portfolio that includes the Mountain Top Course

by Gary Player and Buffalo Ridge Springs in addition to a Jack Nicklaus-designed 9-hole course at Top of the Rock. Named the No. 1 resort in the Midwest by the readers of *Travel + Leisure* in 2016 and 2017, Big Cedar Lodge offers genuine Ozarks hospitality and a convenient location just south of Branson.

**HISTORY:**

The resort was originally developed in the early 1920s as a luxurious country retreat for two prominent Missourians, business entrepreneur Jude Simmons and Frisco Railroad executive Harry Worman, before being converted in 1947 to Devil's Pool Guest Ranch and then Big Cedar Lodge in 1988.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Big Cedar Lodge offers 260 spacious and well-appointed guest rooms across a collection of lodges, cozy cottages and private log cabins. Accommodations are outfitted with plush, cabin-style décor and offer privacy for an ideal vacation retreat.

**Falls Lodge**

Falls Lodge offers 65 guest rooms with balconies affording treetop views of the resort and lake. Many guest rooms include a whirlpool bath and gas fireplace.

**Spring View Lodge**

This intimate three-story lodge received a full update in 2016, including all new furniture. It features 17 guest rooms, with deluxe rooms including a whirlpool bath, balcony and fireplace. This lodge was built in the 1940s and exudes all the charm of a by-gone era, with a convenient location next to the fitness center, restaurants, pools, and more.

**Valley View Lodge**

With scenic views of the valley and resort grounds, this three-story limestone and cedar lodge offers 57 guest rooms.

**Log Cabins**

Tucked in the woods or situated on Table Rock Lake, the resort's 81 private cabins offer the ultimate in seclusion and include a fully equipped kitchen, gas grill, deck, fireplace and whirlpool bath.

**Knotty Pine Cottages**

Eight cozy cottages exude the old-world charm dating to the resort's early dude ranch beginnings and are decorated in earth tone fabrics and native woods.

**Bass Pro Shops Lakeside Cottages**

These lakeside cottages that opened in Summer 2015 are a cozy retreat, just steps from Table Rock Lake. Cottages feature spacious and open floor plans with vaulted ceilings, contemporary rustic-inspired furnishings, stone wood burning fireplaces and covered porches with gas grills.

### **Spa Cottage**

Connected by a bridge to the resort's nature-inspired Cedar Creek Spa, the one-of-a-kind Spa Cottage is a charming and secluded hideaway nestled among leafy trees. The cottage offers an open-concept suite with vaulted wood-beam ceilings, rustic elegant furnishings, a wood-burning fireplace, king bed, heated wood floors, luxurious spa-like bathroom, and sliding glass doors that fully open out to a balcony that perches above the stream below.

### **Carriage House Cottage**

As the resort's newest accommodation that opened in Summer 2016, this historic cottage was built in the early 1920's as the caretaker's cottage for the original property. Located in the heart of the resort, it offers easy access to resort amenities and is within walking distance to Cedar Creek Spa. Newly remodeled, the cottage offers an open floor plan with a king bed, living area with a wood burning fireplace, second sitting area with surround sound and full cinematic screen, a wet bar with microwave and refrigerator and dining table for four. The bathroom features a luxury jetted tub and separate double shower with a waterfall edge.

### **Lodge at Top of the Rock - *Coming Soon!***

Missouri's Ozark Mountains will soon be home to one of the most naturally stunning resort accommodations anywhere in the world. Inspired by America's iconic national park lodges, the soaring timber-and-stone-clad structure will sit directly on the edge of a newly discovered geologic wonder Morris calls, "The Cathedral of Nature" for its sheer size and awe-inspiring grandeur, inviting guests to marvel at dramatic 200-foot canyons and limestone formations from a number of mesmerizing vantage points.

## **DINING:**

Big Cedar Lodge's dining outlets offer inspired heartland cuisine for every palate, in historic settings surrounded by nature's rustic elegance, including:

### **Devil's Pool Restaurant**

Once the home of Jude Simmons, the original 1920s land owner of Big Cedar Lodge, Devil's Pool Restaurant offers scrumptious Southern home-style dishes in a rustic log structure with hand-wrought metal chandeliers, antique furnishings, a stone fireplace and a 100-year-old mahogany bar. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, this casual dining experience offers the best of Southern cuisine including hickory-smoked prime rib, smoked trout and other local Ozarks favorites.

### **Buzzard Bar**

Downstairs from Devil's Pool Restaurant is the warm and welcoming Buzzard Bar that offers a tasty selection of

sandwiches, salads including the famous blueberry poppy seed dressing, and house-made soups in addition to many entrees from Devil's Pool. Guests can choose from indoor and outdoor seating and enjoy nightly live entertainment, including appearances from Clay Self, the resort's Singin' Cowboy who has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry.

### **Truman Café and Custard**

As one of the original structures at Big Cedar Lodge, Truman Café and Custard pairs its preserved 1920s Tudor-style charm with a dramatically refreshed interior and exterior space. This dining option serves breakfast, lunch, and a variety delectable desserts including homestyle apple pie, dark chocolate cake and fresh fruit tart.

### **TOP OF THE ROCK:**

Situated at the highest elevation in Taney County with uninterrupted views of the Ozark Mountains and Table Rock Lake, Top of the Rock is a nature-based heritage preserve nestled among Missouri's most breathtaking scenery. A majestic extension of the award-winning resort experience at Big Cedar Lodge, Top of the Rock is a landmark first for the region that offers a host of world-class recreational experiences and attractions. These include the Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail, Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum, "End of the Trail" All-American Wine Cellar, and three elegant dining options. It is also one of the most stunning mountain wedding venues in Missouri, with the spectacular Chapel of the Ozarks and Jack's Cabin, a Civil War-era accommodation that is ideal for couples. Rooted in rustic elegance and honoring the alluring landscape and spirit of southwest Missouri, Top of the Rock brings together locals, Big Cedar Lodge guests and visitors from around the region, nation and beyond in a wondrous setting that offers world-class recreation in the heart of the Ozarks.

### **SPA & FITNESS:**

#### **Cedar Creek Spa**

Blending cottage-style charm with the rustic elegance of Big Cedar Lodge, the 18,000-square-foot destination spa features nature-inspired spaces, 12 luxurious treatment rooms with cozy in-room fireplaces, and unique features including a candle-lit grotto pool and ice room, open-air showers, a full-service salon and indoor-outdoor suite for celebrations. A charming Spa Cottage for overnight stays is also connected to the spa by a bridge walkway.

#### **Fitness Center**

The fully-equipped fitness center offers a premier workout experience with a 15-station Star Trac training circuit with elliptical machines, treadmills, bikes and more, plus Olympic-style free weights and dumbbells. John Bennett, the resort's certified personal trainer, designs efficient and effective fitness programs for guests of all ages, fitness levels and health goals. The resort also offers a host of fitness classes, ranging from yoga hikes to Ozark Indoor Cycling

and paddle board fitness classes on Table Rock Lake

## **LAND & WATER ACTIVITIES:**

The resort's **Bent Hook Marina & Market** serves as a gateway to water fun on Table Rock Lake, which is considered one of the country's top bass fishing & recreational lakes and offers 43,000 acres of sparkling blue-green water, along with postcard-worthy lakefront scenery. Bass and large bluegill are abundant here, along with catfish of all sizes.

The marina offers professional bass fishing and bowfishing guides and 100 covered slips. Rental options include fully-equipped White River Marine bass boats, ski boats, pontoons, party barges, pull tubes, kneeboards, wakeboards, water skis, paddleboards and fishing equipment. Kayaks, canoes, and paddle-boats are complimentary. Guests can also enjoy sunset cruises aboard **Lady Liberty**, the resort's 65-foot leisure yacht. Bent Hook Market offers a variety of grocery items and lake essentials from Bass Pro Shops. Guests can also enjoy the market's box lunch and room service menus. The **Bass Pro Shops Long Creek Marina** on Table Rock Lake near the resort offers boat and personal watercraft rentals, fishing services, and a ski school.

## **FUN MOUNTAIN:**

A 50,000-square-foot adventure wonderland, Fun Mountain at Big Cedar Lodge celebrates the young at heart and offers countless ways for families to connect to the great outdoors. From an underwater-themed ocean bowling experience, golf simulator and high-tech climbing wall to a wilderness fort laser tag arena, Fun Mountain has something for everyone. The one-stop playground also offers an arcade of dreams with 60 of the most exciting new games and classic favorites. A Nature Discovery Center offers interactive activities for kids ages 4-12. It also serves as a childcare facility for parents who would like to enjoy a date night while the kids are having fun with features such as a treehouse with rope bridge and slide, reading caves and hand painted murals depicting Ozarks wildlife. For fuel before the fun, Fun Mountain's signature restaurant Uncle Buck's Fish Bowl & Grill serves lunch and dinner plus nostalgic soda fountain treats including shakes, floats and banana splits. An expansion of Fun Mountain recently added a 4-story, Timber Ridge Ropes Course and Thunder Alley, NASCAR-themed go-carts set on two thrilling tracks.

## **GOLF:**

Southwest Missouri and Big Cedar Lodge have become a world-class golfing destination, with acclaimed courses designed by the top names in golf: Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Tom Fazio. Along with these legendary names, Johnny Morris is changing and growing the game of golf while incorporating Missouri's natural beauty into every shot.

### **Top of the Rock Golf Course**

Top of the Rock Golf Course, the first-ever Par-3 course

included in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event, features nature and golf at its finest. Perched high above Table Rock Lake, the peaceful waterfalls, wandering creeks, bass filled ponds and pristine lakes of Top of the Rock complete a true celebration of nature, the Ozarks and the game of golf. The experience includes **Top of the Rock**, a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course, and an Arnold Palmer-designed **Practice Facility**, recognized for its rolling hills and famous “cliffhanger” green.

### **Buffalo Ridge Springs Golf Course**

Matching the beauty of Top of the Rock is the Tom Fazio-designed Buffalo Ridge Springs Course (formerly Branson Creek Golf Club). Already acclaimed as the region’s top golf course, Buffalo Ridge has been transformed by the guiding hands of visionary conservationist Johnny Morris and renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio. Adding new approaches, water features and bunkers, Morris and Fazio have redesigned the course layout to bring players in close contact with nature, native grasses and free-ranging bison from nearby Dogwood Canyon Nature Park. The course has been rated the #1 Public Course in Missouri by Golf Magazine and has been named one of the Top 10 Missouri Courses by Golf Digest since 2001. The course holds a Golf Digest rating of 4.5 stars out of 5.

### **Mountain Top by Gary Player**

World Golf Hall of Famer Gary Player and Johnny Morris teamed up to create a world-class, family-friendly golf course that opened at Big Cedar Lodge in August 2017. The 13-hole course was designed to bring a more accessible experience to families, juniors and golfers who are learning the game as it routes through unforgettable rock formations and includes some of the best vistas in the region.

### **Ozarks National by Coore and Crenshaw - Coming Soon!**

The golf course architect team of Coore & Crenshaw shares Johnny Morris’ passion and appreciation for nature and conservation. The design of the new course will be a striking display for the senses and a fitting tribute to the Ozarks region. It will test avid players and golf travelers from around the country and provide the perfect complement to the existing 18-hole layout at Buffalo Ridge Springs, designed by Tom Fazio. This new course will serve as a gateway to the Ozarks National Forest and cement Big Cedar Lodge’s place as America’s next great golf destination

### **Payne’s Valley Course by TGR Design - Coming Soon!**

Scheduled to open in 2019 and named in honor of the late Payne Stewart, the new Payne’s Valley golf course will be the first fully public-access course in the world completed by Tiger Woods’ design firm TGR Design. A partnership between Johnny Morris, Tiger Woods and the Payne Stewart Family, the course will showcase the region’s natural beauty through a 19-hole

championship course, as well as a family-friendly par-3 short course.

Payne's Valley will pay tribute to the legacy of the late Payne Stewart, a friend of both Morris and Woods as well as an Ozarks native who won 11 PGA TOUR events, including three Major championships.

## **MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

Big Cedar Lodge is one of the largest meeting resorts in the region, featuring more than 20,000 square feet of flexible space across more than 20 meeting venues with sophisticated, mountain-inspired settings ideal for family gatherings, corporate retreats, conferences and incentive trips. Fun group activities include Chuckwagon dinners at a rustic campsite, group photos courtesy of our on-site photographer and team building adventures ranging from Ozark Olympics to casino nights.

### **Lady Liberty**

Lady Liberty is a custom-built 65-foot luxury yacht that captures the beauty of a by-gone era while employing the modern amenities of today. Docked at the Bent Hook Marina, this distinctive yacht has a beautifully appointed main cabin, unique fantail veranda and a spacious, open-air upper deck. Groups and events are able to book Lady Liberty for a private cocktail cruise.

### **Grandview Conference Center**

The Grandview Conference Center blends rustic luxury and expansive window walls that offer panoramic views of Table Rock Lake with the latest technologies and more than 20,000 square feet of flexible event space including a serene Grandview Lawn setting. It can accommodate groups of 10 to 1,000.

### **The Worman House**

The Worman House, which originally served as the 1920s country retreat for Frisco Railroad executive Harry Worman, is available as a private event rental. It offers breathtaking views and a charming patio area with a fountain.

## **WEDDINGS:**

Big Cedar Lodge offers breathtaking settings for weddings, rehearsal dinners and receptions for up to 500 guests. Banquet rooms are fashioned in an elegant Adirondack design theme and feature large windows, with outdoor spaces including intimate terraces and the spacious Grandview Lawn. Along with countless stunning outdoor venues, Big Cedar and its sister properties offer four uniquely different wedding chapels.

### **Chapel of the Ozarks at Top of the Rock**

Resting at the highest point in Taney County, this enchanting, three-story chapel boasts incredible floor-to-ceiling views of Table Rock Lake through arched windows, native limestone detailing and a steeple with a bell tower. Beyond the antique pine

wood entry doors, the chapel opens to soaring 23-foot vaulted ceilings and broad bay windows that perfectly frame the overlook of Table Rock Lake. Built by Ozark artisan craftsmen, the chapel seating area accommodates up to 200 guests with a balcony that is ideal for a string quartet or soloist.

### **The Garden Chapel**

Set on a picturesque hillside with dramatic Ozark Mountain views at the heart of Big Cedar Lodge, the Garden Chapel reflects the resort's tradition of honoring the past with classic exterior whitewashed lap siding, floor-to-ceiling gothic windows with hand crafted operable shutters and custom screens. Inside, traditional church pews and lanterns add to the chapel's special ambiance. The chapel can host up to 80 guests.

### **Integrity Hills Chapel**

Integrity Hills Chapel stands atop a hill, crowning a European-inspired estate overlooking Table Rock Lake. From its stone floor to iron chandeliers, each element of the chapel was custom crafted by local artisans. Couples marry in front of a 19-foot cedar cross flanked by picture windows and a panoramic view of Table Rock Lake and the Ozark Mountains while two sets of large double doors swing open to reveal the bride before she makes her entrance. The chapel seating area accommodates up to 200 guests.

### **Hope Wilderness Chapel**

A replica of traditional places of worship from the 1800's, Hope Wilderness Chapel was handcrafted by staff members at Dogwood Canyon Nature Park. The chapel features local materials including native short-leaf pine logs, rough-sawn oak flooring and an eastern red cedar ceiling. The chapel's back wall, made entirely of windows, frames a picturesque view of one of many waterfalls at Dogwood Canyon. The chapel seats 120 guests and is available for weddings, vow renewals, meetings, and special services.

## **DOGWOOD CANYON NATURE PARK:**

Dogwood Canyon Nature Park is a 10,000-acre wilderness paradise centered in the Ozarks region of southwest Missouri. In 2016 Dogwood Canyon underwent a thoughtful re-imagination led by Johnny Morris, the founder of Bass Pro Shops and nearby Big Cedar Lodge. Morris, who still calls the region home, is driven by his longstanding commitment to environmental conservation that led him to acquire the first parcels of the park in 1990. The park is managed by the Dogwood Canyon Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes environmental conservation by maintaining the park and providing the public with an unspoiled setting for exploration and enjoyment. Following an expansion guided by a deep ethos of conservation, Dogwood Canyon Nature Park is open to the public with a mission to conserve, preserve and educate. The natural beauty of the park includes towering bluffs, waterfalls,



creek beds, hand-crafted bridges and wildlife such as bison, elk and Texas longhorn cattle.

Adventures and amenities include:

- Dogwood Mill
- Canyon Grill Restaurant
- Education Center
- Treehouse built by the *Treehouse Masters*
- Little Indian Stables
- General Store & Outfitters
- Horseback Riding
- Tram Tours
- 3D archery
- Biking
- Trout fishing
- Walking/hiking

**BASS PRO SHOPS  
SHOOTING ACADEMY:**

Designed for all skill levels, the 920-acre Bass Pro Shops Shooting Academy is a world-class facility available to Big Cedar guests and soon the public, as an ideal destination for family and group activities. It offers training and shooting sport activities set against the stunning backdrop of the Ozark Mountains and Table Rock Lake. Various shooting disciplines including ATA Trap, Wobble Trap, American Skeet and Sporting Clays are available. Guests will be supplied with a shotgun, ammunition, clay targets and all required safety gear. The academy and its outdoor amphitheater are also available for private functions and special events. The Shooting Academy is open to ages 14 and up.

**ADDITIONAL RESORT  
AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES:**

- Arcade
- Big Cedar Beach
- Board Games
- Canoes
- DVD Checkout
- Fitness Center
- Horseshoes
- Hot Tubs
- Kayaks
- Mini Golf Course
- Paddleboats
- Paved Jogging & Walking Trails
- Playground
- Sand Volleyball
- Scenic Hiking Trails
- Shuffleboard
- Five Swimming Pools
- Ice Skating Rink (seasonal)

## AWARDS:

Big Cedar Lodge's recent accolades include:

- AY's Best of 2018: Best Resort in Northwest Arkansas, *AY Magazine* 2018
- Trendiest Resorts: The South's Top 15 Trendiest Resorts, *ConventionSouth*, 2018
- South's Best: #8 South's Best Resorts, *Southern Living*, 2018
- Best Hotels Rankings: #3 Best Hotels in Missouri, *U.S. News & World Report*, 2018
- Best of Weddings: Hall of Fame Winner, *The Knot*, 2018
- Best of Northwest Arkansas Reader's Poll: Best Getaway Destination Lodging, *Citiscapes Magazine*, 2017
- Readers' Choice Awards: #3 Top Resort in the Midwest, *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2017
- Readers' Choice Awards: Top Resort in Missouri, *ConventionSouth*, 2017
- Best New Center - Fun Mountain at Big Cedar Lodge, *Bowlers Journal International Architectural & Design Awards*, 2017
- World's Best Awards: #1 Resort in the Midwest, *Travel + Leisure*, 2017
- World's Best Awards: #15 Best Hotels and Resorts for Families, *Travel + Leisure*, 2017
- Best Venues in America: The Midwest, *Brides*, 2017
- America's Most Inspiring Practice Ranges: #1 Top of the Rock, *Golf.com*, 2016
- World's Best Awards: #1 Resort in the Midwest, *Travel + Leisure*, 2016
- Family Vacation Critic Favorite Hotels Award, *Family Vacation Critic*, 2016
- Best of Weddings: Best Venues and Best Receptions, *The Knot*, 2016
- Premier Resorts: Silver Medal Winner, *GOLF Magazine*, 2016-17
- Best Courses You Can Play in Missouri: #1 Course, *GOLF Magazine*, 2016-17 (Buffalo Ridge Springs)
- Best State-by-State Courses You Can Play: #3 Course, Missouri, *Golfweek Magazine*, 2016
- The Top 10 Public Par-3 in America: #2, *Golf Advisor*, 2016 (Top of the Rock)
- The Best Golf Courses in Missouri: #8, *Golf Digest*, 2015-16 (Buffalo Ridge Springs)
- America's 100 Greatest Public Courses: #98, 2015-16 (Buffalo Ridge Springs)
- Reader's Choice Awards: #2 Best Resorts in the Midwest, *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2015
- Top 50 Wedding Venues in America: Midwest, *Brides*, 2015
- Best of Northwest Arkansas' Reader's Poll: Best Getaway Destination Lodge, *Citiscapes Magazine*, 2015
- Best State-by-State Courses You Can Play: #3, *Golfweek Magazine*, 2015 (Buffalo Ridge Springs)
- America's Most Inspiring Practice Ranges: #1, *GOLF Magazine*, 2015 (Top of the Rock)
- Best Courses You Can Play in Missouri: #1, 2014-15 (Buffalo Ridge Springs)
- World's Best Awards: #49 Best U.S. Hotel for Families, *Travel + Leisure*, 2014
- Reader's Choice Awards: #3 Best Resorts in the Midwest, *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2014
- Top 10 Golf Courses: #4 Top of the Rock Course, *Yahoo*

- Travel*, 2014
- Top 10 Golf Courses: #8 Buffalo Ridge Golf Course, *Yahoo Travel*, 2014
  - World's Best Awards: #25 Best U.S. Hotel for Families, *Travel + Leisure*, 2013
  - Readers' Choice Awards: #2 Top Resort in the Midwest, *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2013
  - Top 500 Hotels, *Travel + Leisure*, 2013
  - Gold List, *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2013
  - World's Best Awards: #6 Best U.S. Hotel for Families, *Travel + Leisure*, 2012
  - Readers' Choice Awards: #6 Best Resort in the Southern U.S., *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2012
  - Best of the Best, *The Wall Street Journal*, 2011
  - Top 10 Resorts in the Country, *Southern Living*, 2011
  - Top 100 Mainland U.S. Resorts, *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2010
  - Best Weekend Getaway, *417 Magazine*, 2010
  - Architecture and Design Award, *Hospitality and Design Magazine*, 2010

**AREA ATTRACTIONS:**

Attractions near Big Cedar Lodge include:

- Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World – “The Granddaddy Store”
- Bass Pro Shops Outpost at the Branson Landing
- Dogwood Canyon Nature Park
- Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium
- Table Rock Lake State Park

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