



# BIG CEDAR LODGE

† AMERICA'S PREMIER WILDERNESS RESORT †

## **BIG CEDAR LODGE NAMED No. 1 RESORT IN THE MIDWEST BY TRAVEL + LEISURE**

*Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards Winners announced; Missouri Resort Receives No. 1 Ranking*

**Ridgedale, Mo. (July 7, 2016)**— [Big Cedar Lodge](#) has been named the [No. 1 Resort in the Midwest](#) by reader-voted *Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards*, one of the world's most respected hospitality award institutions. Spread across hundreds of acres in Missouri's Ozark Mountains, the family-friendly Bass Pro Shops resort encompasses several properties that all focus on connecting people with the great outdoors. Big Cedar Lodge debuted at No. 1 in the new category that ranked world-class resorts across an 11-state area as part of the 2016 World's Best Awards survey.

The vision of renowned conservationist and Bass Pro Shops Founder and CEO Johnny Morris, Big Cedar Lodge offers a world-class resort experience that has continually expanded its amenities and offerings throughout its nearly 30-year history.

"Everyone at Big Cedar Lodge is honored to be recognized as the best resort in the Midwest by the readers of *Travel + Leisure*," said Johnny Morris. "We take tremendous pride in providing our guests with an experience that showcases the best the region has to offer—unspoiled natural beauty and genuine Ozarks hospitality."

Originally envisioned as a fishing camp for Bass Pro Shops employees, the property has since grown to be known as America's Premier Wilderness Resort. The resort today encompasses several world-class amenities that each offer unique opportunities for families to connect with nature.

### **THE BIG CEDAR LODGE RESORT EXPERIENCE:**

#### **BIG CEDAR LODGE**

As America's premier wilderness resort, Big Cedar Lodge is spread across 800 acres in the heart of Missouri's ruggedly serene Ozark Mountains, overlooking the sparkling 43,000-acre Table Rock Lake. With genuine Ozarks hospitality and unmatched attention to detail, Big Cedar Lodge features a collection of lodges, cottages and cabins rooted in rustic elegance complete with all the modern comforts and amenities. The resort also offers four restaurants, a world-class spa measuring 18,000 square feet, five swimming pools, more than 40,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, over 20 breathtaking wedding venues, and dynamic land and water adventures, including hiking, bass fishing, water skiing, and much more.



*The Grotto Pool at Cedar Creek Spa*

#### **DOGWOOD CANYON**

Nearby Dogwood Canyon Nature Park is a 10,000 acre nature lover's paradise. Owned and operated by the not-for-profit Johnny Morris Foundation, Dogwood Canyon offers guests the opportunity to truly experience the unspoiled beauty of Mother Nature. Miles of streams flow through the spectacular limestone canyon wilderness, and the pristine natural environment provides a perfect setting for an array of activities and wildlife sightings. The park has added numerous exciting additions in 2016. A salvaged grain mill is powered by the cold water of Little Indian Creek and extends into an artifact hall highlighting local ancestral tribes. A Nature & Conservation Center provides interactive classrooms that inspire learning with hands-on plant and animal demonstrations. This center will soon connect to an immersive two-story treehouse with a swinging bridge.



*The Mill at Dogwood Canyon*



The "End of the Trail" at Top of the Rock



Buffalo Ridge Springs Golf Course



Top of the Rock Golf Course



Underwater-Themed Bowling Alley at the Activity Center

## TOP OF THE ROCK

Top of the Rock is a nature-based heritage preserve and majestic extension of the award-winning resort experience at Big Cedar Lodge. A true celebration of the land, animals, and people that came before us, Top of the Rock honors the alluring landscape and rich history of southwest Missouri. The preserve offers two award-winning golf experiences, adventures through ancient limestone canyons, remarkable restaurants with awe-inspiring views, and at the heart of it all, a 35,000-square-foot history museum featuring the foremost collection of Native American art and artifacts ever assembled making Top of the Rock a landmark first for the region.

## CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF

Big Cedar Lodge is home to two world-class golf facilities. Top of the Rock, the first-ever par-3 course to be included in a PGA TOUR event, is a true celebration of nature, the Ozarks, and the game of golf. The experience includes a Jack Nicklaus 9-Hole Signature Course, an Arnold Palmer Driving Range, and a Tom Watson Himalayan Putting Course. Matching the beauty of Top of the Rock is the redesigned Buffalo Ridge Springs Golf Course. Already acclaimed as the region's top golf course, Buffalo Ridge Springs has been transformed by the guiding hands of conservationist Johnny Morris and renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio. Two new courses are currently being constructed at Big Cedar Lodge – an 18-hole course designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw and a 12-hole family-friendly course designed by Gary Player. With these developments, Big Cedar Lodge more than doubles its golf offerings and confirms Johnny Morris' vision to create a rich golf experience in Missouri to attract visitors from across the nation.

## COMING SOON

Big Cedar Lodge continues to add amenities and experiences for its guests to enjoy. Set to open in 2017, Big Cedar's Activity Center will feature a state-of-the-art arcade, ropes course, underwater-themed bowling alley, Kids' Adventure Club, and NASCAR-themed electric go-kart track. Scheduled to open in 2016, the all-new Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium will be one of the largest, most immersive conservation attractions in the world. The 315,000-square-foot adventure celebrates the critical role responsible hunting and fishing plays in wildlife conservation and inspires visitors to enjoy, love, and conserve the great outdoors. Located next to Bass Pro Shops National Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, Wonders of Wildlife further establishes the site as America's Conservation Capital.

For information about Big Cedar Lodge, please visit [www.bigcedar.com](http://www.bigcedar.com) or call 1-800-225-6343.

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### **About *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards**

As one of the travel industry's most esteemed accolades, *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best Awards are determined from an annual readers' poll by *Travel + Leisure*, which serves as one of the world's most prestigious and highest-circulation travel magazines. Readers define excellence in travel by rating their experiences and evaluating hotels on the following characteristics: rooms and facilities, location, service, restaurants and food and value. The 2016 World's Best Awards and survey methodology are featured in the August issue of *Travel + Leisure* and on [TravelandLeisure.com](http://TravelandLeisure.com).

### **About Big Cedar Lodge®**

Bass Pro Shops' [Big Cedar Lodge®](#) has offered guests rustic elegance in the heart of the Ozark Mountains since 1988. Johnny and Jeanie Morris, inspired by their love of the area, created the popular vacation spot as a special place where family traditions, conservation, and preservation come together. The luxury resort spreads across multiple properties that together offer world-class spa and wellness experiences; two full-service marinas; horseback riding; a 35,000-square-foot museum; world-class golfing, fishing, and shooting; and nature trails suited for walking, biking, and hiking. Big Cedar Lodge is also home to the annual PGA TOUR Champions event, the [Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf](#). The resort includes Johnny Morris' [Top of the Rock Ozarks Heritage Preserve](#); [Dogwood Canyon Nature Park](#); [Buffalo Ridge Golf Course](#); and [Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Academy](#). For more information, visit [www.bigcedar.com](http://www.bigcedar.com) or call 1-800-225-6343. Follow Big Cedar Lodge on [Facebook](#).

### **About Bass Pro Shops®**

Bass Pro Shops, which specializes in outdoor fun, operates [98 stores](#) and Tracker Marine Centers across America and Canada that are visited by more than 120 million people every year. Bass Pro Shops stores, many of which feature restaurants, offer [hunting](#), [fishing](#), [camping](#) and other [outdoor gear](#) while their catalogs and website serve shoppers throughout the world. The company's [Tracker Marine Group®](#), a leading brand of fishing boats for more than 37 years, manufactures and sells a variety of boats for fishing and cruising. Family fun is on tap at Bass Pro Shops resort [Big Cedar Lodge®](#), voted by *Travel + Leisure* as the No. 1 Resort in the Midwest. For more information, visit [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com). To request a free catalog, call 1-800-BASS-PRO. Follow Bass Pro Shops on [Facebook](#).

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