

Lakeside Retreats We Keep Coming Back To

May 25, 2017

The ocean's beautiful and all, but there's something about spending the summer on a lake that has a hold on us. You don't even have to own a house or canoe, because we've picked the best, mostly off-the-radar lakeside spots where you can live that On Golden Pond fantasy this summer.



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Big Cedar Lodge, Table Rock Lake, Missouri

The Ozarks' reputation as the backcountry unfolding somewhere beyond St. Louis, Memphis, and Oklahoma City was forged in the twenties, when bootleggers controlled the low-lying mountains and the term "hillbilly" was coined. But the area's onetime characterization is more than made up for by its still-stunning landscape: Dense oak-hickory hollows give way to

wildflower fields, and jagged limestone bluffs tower above serpentine paths cut from free-flowing rivers. In a region with deep familial ties and a tradition of outdoorsmanship, it's no coincidence that proud local turned Bass Pro Shops billionaire Johnny Morris, who grew up hawking fishing lure from his father's liquor store, restored the buildings that make up the 4,600-acre wilderness retreat Big Cedar Lodge around Table Rock Lake. The huge property somehow gives off a small-town Americana vibe: Families pad toward the water, tackle boxes in tow, then head off to shoot clays, ride horses, or play lawn games. Book a lakeside cabin or knotty-pine cottage and be sure to order a Backyard Basket, which is delivered to your door with everything you need to grill on your deck overlooking the lake. —Lacy Morris