

# great GETAWAYS

Check out these fantastic vacation destinations!

## A Secluded Table Rock Lake Luxury Resort, Tucked into the Ozark Mountains

As you wind through the wooded entrance to Big Cedar, the ruggedness of this remote setting will surely inspire in you curiosity about the Native Americans and wild creatures who roamed these hills for centuries, living in harmony with the land. Tucked deep in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, the area was accessible only by horseback or foot. Just after the turn of the twentieth century, railroads made their appearance, and this phenomenal retreat from the everyday world became a vacation paradise for travelers.

The 1920s found two prominent Missourians making plans to build lavish back country resort homes on land adjoining the Long Creek Arm of the White River known as Big Cedar Hollow. Together, business entrepreneur Jude Simmons and Frisco Railroad executive Harry Worman acquired a total of 300 lushly forested acres,

and construction began. Simmons chose a log mansion, reminiscent of the grand wilderness hunting lodges found in the Adirondacks region (currently the Devil's Pool Restaurant), while Worman constructed his retreat in the traditional Tudor style of stone and stucco (now the Worman House Restaurant). Native materials were used throughout both homes, leaving the hillsides more vulnerable to erosion.

The local legend is that one of the original owners of the property still resides in Big Cedar. Dorothy, the young wife of Harry Worman, is said to have decided to spend eternity in her beloved summer home. There are several stories of sightings of Dorothy in the Worman House Restaurant; the Carriage House Spa, which was the caretaker's home; and the Truman Coffee and Café, the original garage.

The property was later owned, for a short time, by a very consumptive logging firm before being purchased

Big Cedar Lodge. Where memories become tradition.



## Ozark Mountain Christmas Package

RATES STARTING AT \$507

YOUR CHRISTMAS PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Two nights stay in a Valley View Lodge Double Queen Room
- Breakfast buffet at Devil's Pool Restaurant for one morning
- A horse-drawn Holiday Wagon Light Tour on Big Cedar property
- An 8 x 10 family photo from the Big Cedar Photography Studio
- A 2011 Big Cedar Christmas Ornament

ASK ABOUT OUR PRIVATE LOG CABIN OR FALLS LODGE UPGRADES.

Package available November 6, 2011 - December 31, 2011.

Holiday restrictions apply. Not valid on current reservations. Does not include tax and gratuity.

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SL0911



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\*Code FREE3. Enjoy a free night with the purchase of two. Based on availability. Blackout dates apply. Not valid on all room types. Not valid with any other discount, group rate, package or promotion offer. Valid between August 11-December 26, 2011.

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in 1947 by Dan Norris, a real estate executive and hotel operator. His addition of a lodge, swimming pool, and stable created the Devil's Pool Ranch guest resort.

In 1958, the White River was dammed to form Table Rock Lake, and the stage was set for the Ozarks' premier wilderness resort. Following Bass Pro Shops' acquisition of the property in 1987, founder John Morris chose to restore the Simmons and Worman buildings to their original prominence, initiating a rigorous commitment to renew the natural beauty of Big Cedar Hollow.

Today you can embrace the spirit of the outdoors at **Big Cedar Lodge**, a serene Table Rock Lake luxury 800-acre resort, just 10 miles south of Branson, Missouri. Choose from a variety of accommodations—from three tastefully-appointed lodges to cozy cottages and rustic log cabins. Each unique structure, finely appointed with comfort and convenience in mind, provides the level of privacy and seclusion that you desire. Experience the resort's full-service marina, trout and bass fishing, horseback riding, and trails suited for walking, biking, and hiking. Discover all of the amenities expected of a premier luxury resort, in the midst of an inviting wilder-

ness setting that is anything but typical.

The dining venues bring the resort's history to life, and while you're surrounded in rustic elegance, you're always welcome to dine in casual attire. The Worman House at Big Cedar Lodge has a long and fascinating history. Originally built in 1921 by Harry Worman, the president of the Frisco Railroad, it was a classically styled Tudor home to be used as a wilderness retreat for Harry and his young wife, Dorothy. Later, in the 1940s, the home passed hands and became the caretaker's home for Devil's Pool Guest Ranch. After the ranch closed, the spectacular home stood empty for almost two decades until 1987. Now the Worman House, a Missouri State Historic Site, is restored with the original railroad tie beams and the handmade stained glass windows that honor its place in history.

Find the best of Ozark cuisine with the rustic elegance of a decades-old log structure, steeped in history as rich as the sumptuous desserts prepared by our chefs at Devil's Pool Restaurant. The gentle hillsides were an ideal backdrop for this rustic getaway that would reflect the grandeur of Adirondack lodges and entertain in casual

elegance. The home featured native materials, including a huge stone fireplace that still warms our dining room when fall and winter chill the air. Today, hand-wrought metal chandeliers cast a warm glow over antique furnishings and our 100-year-old mahogany bar. Bark-covered logs and exposed rafters are a fitting complement to the sporting gear and animal mounts that adorn our walls in the Bass Pro tradition. Indulge in the comfort of our past and present as you savor the taste and aroma of hickory-smoked prime rib, capture the flavor of smoked trout or select one of our local Ozarks favorites.

Whether one is looking for relaxation or adventure, Big Cedar is a special place where memories become tradition. Big Cedar Lodge was recently named one of the Top 100 Resorts by *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine. Make this year's vacation your best yet. Created by Ozarks artists and craftsmen, Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar® Lodge is a great escape. Contact [bigcedar.com](http://bigcedar.com) or 800-BC-LODGE to book your vacation today.

### Not Just a Way of Life, a Way of Living

Designed by internationally acclaimed town planners and painted from a palette borrowed from the sunset and sea, the cottages of Florida's 80-acre **Seaside** community could have been cut from a storybook. Seaside's clusters of tin-roofed, pastel-painted, and picket-fenced cottages were inspired by historic coastal communities and have won multiple awards and accolades for their innovative design.

Seaside hosts a dozen restaurants and is known for its waterfront eatery Bud & Alley's which mixes casual, beachside ambience with a tasty menu relying on a gamut of regional fare. Diners at this award-winning eatery can enjoy fine dining with waterfront views over an entrée a la Tuscan, Louisiana Bayou, or coastal Southern cuisine.

Shopping Seaside style is a relaxing, unhurried pastime. Stroll along pedestrian-friendly streets and landscaped parks lined with one-of-a-kind stores. In all, more than 50 shops reveal wonderful treasures and mementos.

Cottage Rental Agency has been the provider of the best Seaside vacation rentals for decades. The friendly culture has cultivated generations of folks that call this beach theirs, returning again and again. Lodging options include one- to six-bedroom cottages, bed-and-breakfast with private baths, large homes with guest houses, and luxury townhouses, penthouses, and beachfront hideaways. Guests enjoy the private swim, tennis, and fitness club. There are nature walks, bicycle rentals, spas, beach service, and endless fresh-air activities locally. Not surprisingly, bicycles are second to feet as Seaside's favorite mode of transportation.

The changing seasons bring special events. The weather ranges from mild to hot and sunny, thus mak-

ing year-round activities a draw. The holiday town celebrates with parades on more than one occasion, concerts, theater performances, farmers markets, yard sales, town lightings, and on and on. The fall brings the Seeing Red Wine Festival which began in 1990 (tickets now on sale). Spring brings home ArtsQuest, with over 100 local and national artists. Visit Cottage Rental Agency's Web site for event updates, lodging specials, virtual tours of the rental cottages and much more. [cottagerentalagency.com](http://cottagerentalagency.com) or 866-976-9606.

### Spend Time with Your Family or Get Away with the Girls

Experience fantastic travel values, comfortable temperatures, great events, and a wide variety of free amenities at the beautiful **Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort**, the ultimate Destin, Florida, resort. Glorious temperatures are just the beginning of everything there is to love about Sandestin in fall. There's no better time to relax (or play!) at Sandestin's incomparable beach and resort. Sandestin offers fall vacation savings from sunrise to sunset with a free night's stay and a full slate of complimentary events and activities that take guests from day to evening and beach to bay in style. The savings start before you even arrive with a free night offer this fall valid August 14 to December 26. And getting there is even easier with new direct routes from carriers including Vision Airlines, Southwest, Delta, USAir, and American from many major cities.

Time spent on Sandestin's world-famous beaches, with their white sand and warm emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico, is priceless! And with a full array of beach services, it is effortless as well. Beyond the beach, Sandestin offers enough to stay all week and play a different sport every day: four championship golf courses, 15 world-class tennis courts, a 98-slip marina for deep-sea or off-shore fishing, YOLO Boarding, bicycling, canoeing, and kayaking for those who want to leave the sanctity of the seashore. The treasured girlfriend get-a-way is complete with a trip to Silver Sands Outlet Stores, the nation's largest designer retail outlet; indulgence at Sandestin's Day Spa and Salon; or dining at one of the Village of Baytowne Wharf's quaint restaurants with some friends.

Be sure to check out events this fall at the Village of Baytowne Wharf including: *Labor Day Art Expo*—September 2-4, 2011; 5-10 p.m. The Village of Baytowne Wharf welcomes the fresh fall season under the moonlight with a weekend good for the art and soul with world-class art and live music in the Village Events Plaza. Exceptional artists featured in the area's leading galleries from across the Southeast will gather for this three-day festival featuring the best of the



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best in the world of art. For more information, visit [sandestin.com/events](http://sandestin.com/events). *Baytowne Wharf Beer Festival*—October 21–23, 2011. Known as the “Best Beer Fest on the Emerald Coast,” the popular festival features 40 on-site craft brewers, over 100 domestic and international beers, seminars, samplings, and live music. Beer novices to beer lovers will be able to sample domestic and international options, including specialty, seasonal, and not-yet-released beers. For information visit [baytownebeerfestival.com](http://baytownebeerfestival.com). *Trick or Treat Street at Baytowne*—October 29, 2011; 6–8 p.m. Trick or treat through the Village streets and visit merchants as they provide you with some of your favorite Halloween treats from 5–7 p.m. For more information visit [sandestin.com/events](http://sandestin.com/events).

For reservations or to book the Third Night Free Fall Package, please visit [sandestin.com](http://sandestin.com) or call toll-free 866-91-BEACH and mention the code FREE3 when calling.

## Georgia's Blue Ridge...Surround Yourself with Beauty, Mountain Arts, and Natural Fun

Take a deep breath and relax.... Surround yourself with beauty, relaxation, and natural fun in **Georgia's Blue Ridge**, only 90 miles north of Atlanta via I-575 and Hwy 515 but a million miles away from the traffic, stress, and anxiety of the city. With 106,000 acres located in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Blue Ridge is definitely the cure for whatever ails you. Rent a cozy cabin or a luxury mountain home, or stay in a bed-and-breakfast inn or hotel—and simply relax.

Enjoy Mother Nature at her best.... Renew your spirit on a day hiking to nearby waterfalls or horseback riding on forested trails in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Bring the family and discover the thrill of an Ocoee River whitewater-rafting adventure or a ride on the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. Pick strawberries or blueberries at Mercier's, a 65-year-old family orchard. Catch a trout on the tailwaters of the Toccoa River or a clear mountain stream; Blue Ridge is the Trout Fishing Capital of Georgia.

Fall in Love with Blue Ridge.... Fall in love with the authentic mountain towns of Blue Ridge and McCaysville. Blue Ridge is an art town, filled with art galleries, antiques and specialty shops, restaurants, a small-town atmosphere, and friendly people. A river runs through the quaint town of McCaysville, twin city with Copperhill, Tennessee. Stand in both states at one time at the Blue Line, which marks the spot where Georgia ends and Tennessee begins. Here the Toccoa River becomes the Ocoee River, flowing northward into Tennessee.

## Enjoy a Magnificent View in an Above the Rest Cabin

**Above the Rest Luxury Cabins**, located 90 minutes from Atlanta and Chattanooga, is set on 1,500 acres of private mountain forest with magnificent panoramic views. Accommodations are available to fit every budget, and all guests receive the same luxury amenities, attention to detail, and superior service that is our hallmark. Activities such as hiking, boating, rafting, tubing, dining, antiques, fly-fishing, waterfalls, lakes, and shopping in the upscale yet quaint shops of historic downtown Blue Ridge, GA, are all a short drive from our mountain. Cabins are fully equipped homes with all linens, dishes, flatware, laundry facilities, and more. All you need to bring are your personal items and shop for groceries at the fabulous market 5 miles away. Complimentary wireless internet, hot tubs, satellite TV/DVD, large decks, fireplace(s), and grills are standard. Many homes offer game rooms featuring pool, foosball, electronic games, and/or darts. Your stress will melt away the minute you arrive at your private mountain sanctuary. For a vacation experience that combines superior service and the comforts of home, book a stay at Above the Rest Luxury Cabins. [abovetherestcabins.com](http://abovetherestcabins.com). 706-374-2057. Mention *Southern Lady* for a 5% discount off your stay!

## Historic Thomasville, Georgia—Enjoy Fall, Festivals, Food, and More!

Escape to an elegant era where you can relax in the serenity of a bygone time. Located 30 minutes north of the Florida border and with easy access via three major highways, **Thomasville** enjoys a climate of refreshing falls, short mild winters, and glorious springs. Come experience a piece of Georgia paradise where the air is clean, the people are friendly, and traffic jams are unheard of.

A visitor can imagine the splendor of Thomasville when it was known as the “Winter Resort of the South,” hosting America's wealthiest families in their “winter cottages,” which are more like Victorian mansions today.

Today, Thomasville's Historic Downtown is a shopper's dream come true, offering dozens of charming retail shops, antiques, art galleries, and restaurants. Stroll the brick-paved streets of downtown, relax at one of the bed-and-breakfast inns or hotels, or discover our rich heritage at one of our history museums. Set apart from many tourist destinations because of its award-winning downtown and attention to historic preservation, Thomasville is truly...Worth the Trip!

## Discover the Magic of a Refined Country Inn at Whitestone!

Located near Kingston, TN, on Watts Bar Lake with views of the Smoky Mountains, the 600-acre property includes a luxurious AAA 4-Diamond Bed-and-Breakfast, restaurant, wedding chapel, and conference facilities.

From the moment you enter through the unique drive-through barn, you are transported into another era. With the gracious look of a quaint New England Village, **Whitestone Country Inn** gives you permission to slow down, take a deep breath, and relax. This is truly “a sanctuary for the soul”.

Whitestone has 22 rooms available in 6 separate buildings. Every room has a private bath with a whirlpool tub, cozy fireplace, king bed, comfortable chairs, and writing desk. Eight rooms have a waterfall spa shower with massage jets. The rooms are named for birds in the neighboring Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuge. Room rates, including breakfast, range from \$165–\$325. Overnight guests are treated to a hearty country breakfast in the restaurant at the Farmhouse. Dinner and lunch are available by reservation.

Guests can enjoy the Day Spa or a variety of outdoor activities including tennis, canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, croquet, horseshoes, corn hole, shuffleboard, and ten miles of hiking trails that meander through the property.

Whitestone Country Inn is centrally located, only 40 minutes southwest of Knoxville, for exploring all East Tennessee attractions. It's just down the road but a world apart.

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