



## Six Picture-Perfect Lakeside Retreats

(August 16, 2023) Picture this: You're standing by a smooth, glistening body of water, listening to birds singing and breathing in the fresh, earthy air. If this sounds like paradise, the team at MBPR would agree! Fortunately for you (and us!), we know several destinations where this picture becomes a reality.

While summertime is filled with visits to the beach and ocean, fall is the perfect time to explore another body of water: lakes. The season brings with it a crispness in the air, a symphony of autumnal colors, and cozy firesides that make a lakeside retreat ideal. Get ready to plan the ultimate getaway to the lake of your choice with our recommendations on the best things to do, finest places to dine and most relaxing lakefront accommodations throughout our client destinations.



Lake Habeeb in Allegany County, "The Mountain Side of Maryland."  
Credit: [mdmountainside.com](http://mdmountainside.com)

### **Allegany County, “The Mountain Side of Maryland” – Lake Habeeb**

- **Best Things to Do:** If you love the great outdoors, [Allegany County, Maryland](#), is the spot for you. Two of nature’s finest spectacles, majestic mountains and the 243-acre Lake Habeeb, come together in this historic region. With 70,000 acres of nature to explore, we’d recommend putting on your hiking shoes (or biking shoes!) and hitting more than 200 miles of trails ... including those at [Rocky Gap State Park](#), which features the 5.3-mile Lakeside Loop Trail that encircles Lake Habeeb.
- **Where to Eat:** For lakefront dining, choose [Lakeside Grille & Lounge](#) at Rocky Gap Casino Resort. The restaurant offers a diverse menu featuring American classics, steaks and seafood.
- **Where to Stay:** For the best views of Lake Habeeb, choose [Rocky Gap Casino Resort](#), which is located adjacent to Rocky Gap State Park. The AAA 4-Diamond resort offers a casino, hotel, two restaurants and a deli, a spa, and the only Jack Nicklaus-designed [golf course](#) in Maryland.
- **About the Lake:** Visitors have come to know [Lake Habeeb](#) for having the “bluest water in the state.” The lake is backdropped by Evitts Mountain, named for one of the first European settlers in Allegany County. Recreational activities include canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing (including ice fishing!) and swimming. Fun fact: This lake is also dog-friendly!

### **Branson, Missouri -- Table Rock, Taneycomo and Bull Shoals Lakes**

- **Best Things to Do:** Situated within the Ozark Mountains and home to three lakes, the scenic views are endless in [Branson, Missouri](#). The watersports are endless here, too, but there are plenty of other [family-friendly activities](#) around town to keep you busy.
- **Where to Eat:** The [Branson Landing](#) boardwalk offers beautiful lakeside dining along Lake Taneycomo intermixed with a variety of shops and entertainment. Try [White River Fish House](#), owned by Bass Pro Shops and featuring floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows and outdoor seating along the lake. The restaurant is a floating barge that serves up seafood dishes.
- **Where to Stay:** [Chateau on the Lake](#) is an iconic resort that overlooks Table Rock Lake. Featuring classic French country furnishings, a spa, indoor movie theatre, onsite dining, and its own marina with activity options like boat rentals, the resort is the perfect getaway to experience all that Branson has to offer.
- **About the Lakes:** Each of Branson’s three lakes offers a reason to visit. Most notable, [Table Rock Lake](#) is known for its variety of watersports, bass fishing, hiking and more than 100 resorts that border it. With almost 800 miles of shoreline, there are plenty of spots to enjoy a spot on the sand, including Moonshine Beach. Featuring crystal clear waters ideal for scuba diving, [Bull Shoals Lake](#) is a popular spot for watersports. Spanning the borders of both Missouri and Arkansas, the lake is best known by fishermen for its “Show-Me State” record catches. [Lake Taneycomo](#) flows through the heart of Branson, bordering Branson Landing. The lake offers more than 40 miles of shoreline and is home to 750,000 rainbow and brown trout, stocked annually.



The Otesaga Resort Hotel along Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, New York.  
Credit: The Otesaga Resort Hotel

### Cooperstown, New York -- Otsego Lake

- **Best Things to Do:** Many people associate [Cooperstown, New York](#), with the [National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum](#), but “America’s Most Perfect Village” is also home to breathtaking Otsego Lake. Watersport activities vary depending on the season (you can go ice fishing in the winter!) and several attractions border the lake, including the award-winning [Leatherstocking Golf Course](#) and [Fenimore Art Museum](#).
- **Where to Eat:** Located inside The Otesaga Resort Hotel, [Hawkeye Bar & Grill](#) offers beautiful views of Otsego Lake year-round. The restaurant serves a diverse menu of comfort foods and regional specialties, including its famous burgers. For additional lakefront dining, head to [The Blue Mingo Grill](#), which is open seasonally from Memorial Day through early October.
- **Where to Stay:** The best spot in town for lakeside lodging is [The Otesaga Resort Hotel](#). The 132-room historic hotel has been part of the landscape of the village since its opening in 1909, and it has prime real estate right along the lake. In addition to its luxurious accommodations, the resort offers a spa, onsite dining, pool, the legendary Leatherstocking Golf Course, and watersport rentals including kayaks, canoes and rowboats.
- **About the Lake:** Located in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, Otsego Lake, nicknamed “Glimmerglass” by author James Fenimore Cooper (for whose family the village is named) because of its incredible, sparkling surface, was glacially formed and runs 7.8 miles long. The lake’s name originated from the Iroquois Indian word for “place of rock.” The lake’s south shore, which is now Council Rock Park, was a meeting place for five Iroquois or Haudenosaunee Nations.

### Jefferson Parish, Louisiana -- Lake Pontchartrain

- **Best Things to Do:** Located along the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain and just 10 minutes from downtown New Orleans, Jefferson Parish offers outdoor recreation, quirky festivals and your fix of oysters. You won’t want to miss the [Jefferson Parish Louisiana Oyster Trail](#), complete with delectable foods and three-foot-tall painted oyster sculptures at participating restaurants.
- **Where to Eat:** Located minutes away from Lake Pontchartrain and the Bucktown Marsh Boardwalk in Metairie, Louisiana, try the family-friendly [R & O Restaurant](#) featuring its

signature roast beef po-boy and other seafood and Italian dishes, or [Deanie's Seafood](#), with its fried platters and array of oysters including barbeque, charbroiled and oysters on the half shell.

- **Where to Stay:** For the best views of Lake Pontchartrain, stay at the [New Orleans Marriott Metairie at Lakeway](#) featuring 220 guest rooms with a classic style.
- **About the Lake:** [Lake Pontchartrain](#) is the largest inland body of water in Louisiana, covering 630 square miles. The lake is actually an estuary, fed by numerous rivers and bayous, and was renamed Lake Pontchartrain in 1699 by French explorer Pierre le Moyne d'Iberville for Louis Phelypeaux, the count of Pontchartrain. The lake was originally called "Okwata," meaning "wide water" by Native Americans.



Giant oaks line Mandeville's lakefront in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

*Credit: Visit The Northshore*

### St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana – [Lake Pontchartrain](#)

- **Best Things to Do:** One thing's for certain when visiting [The Northshore](#): Water is everywhere and never more than 15 minutes away! Beyond Lake Pontchartrain, "Louisiana's Easy Escape," which is just 40 minutes north of New Orleans, offers rivers and bayous to explore by kayak, canoe, paddleboard or charter. And yes, they've got their fair share of alligators, too.
- **Where to Eat:** For seafood with a casual, waterfront vibe, try [Pat's Rest Awhile](#). Located along Lake Pontchartrain in Mandeville, the restaurant offers delicious Gulf fish, classic American entrees, po-boys and gumbo.
- **Where to Stay:** Head to what's considered old Mandeville to stay at the charming [De La Bleu](#) bed and breakfast. Offering lake views and just steps away from fine dining, the Tammany Trace bike trail and more, guests will enjoy uniquely designed rooms inclusive of private baths and dinette sets.
- **About the Lake:** Though we already told you about this famous lake in the Jefferson Parish listing, one other remarkable fact about [Lake Pontchartrain](#) is its Causeway. When leaving New Orleans to head to The Northshore, you'll be crossing the 24-mile-long pair of bridges

known as the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge, considered the longest continuous bridge over water in the world.

### **Lake Charles, Louisiana - *Lake Charles and Prien Lake***

- **Best Things to Do:** With two lakes, the Calcasieu River, Gulf of Mexico, and access to the [Creole Nature Trail All-American Road](#) (one of the first National Scenic Byways in the Gulf South) [Lake Charles, Louisiana](#), offers an expansive outdoor scene. Choose from birding or shelling or kayaking for your outdoor fix. For more lake views, walk along the [Lakefront Promenade](#) or drive along Shell Beach Drive, where you'll also see million-dollar homes.
- **Where to Eat:** For delicious, authentic Cajun and Creole seafood, try [Steamboat Bill's on the Lake](#). The restaurant offers boiled crawfish, crabs, seafood dinners, gumbo, etouffee and more just minutes from the lake and North Beach, the only white-sand inland beach found from Texas to Florida.
- **Where to Stay:** Some of the best places to stay in this destination are at its gaming resorts, including [Horseshoe Lake Charles Hotel & Casino](#), located along Lake Charles. The casino hotel was renovated and opened at the end of 2022, featuring 62,000 square feet of gaming with 800-plus slots, a newly redesigned hotel tower and restaurant offerings including the award-winning Brew Brothers.
- **About the Lakes:** Home to two lakes, the city of Lake Charles overlooks the [lake](#) it's named for. The 1,125-acre body of water is thought to have been a hideaway of infamous pirate Jean Lafitte. In the southwest region of the city lies [Prien Lake](#), featuring a 29-acre park with walking paths, canoe and boat launches, a kid's playground, and more. The lake once welcomed 19<sup>th</sup>-century schooners and offers magnificent sunset views. While both lakes are accessible by land, they also can be navigated by water from the Gulf of Mexico.

We hope that we've inspired you to consider a lakeside retreat this fall. If you're interested in more information or if you would like to plan a trip to any of our client destinations, don't hesitate to reach out.

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