

Travel Tips Made Simple

BRANSON Vacation

GUIDE



So much to see, but so little time! With a host of outstanding attractions, events, tours, shopping and live entertainment, it's hard to fit everything into a single visit to Branson.

Home to a mere 6,050 residents, Branson is one of the top vacation destinations in the United States with more than 8 million visitors annually. Featuring more than 80 live shows, three lakes and world class outlet shopping, Branson offers travelers an array of entertainment and activities.

Whether you like to vacation in the sun or you want an Ozark Mountain Christmas, Branson offers fun and excitement for every season. Branson's unique combination of traditional family fun with a modern twist will have you and your family coming back again and again.

In this guide, you'll find a detailed list of shows, restaurants and hotels along with comments and suggestions from previous tourists and even locals. Our goal is to provide vacationers with the inside scoop on how to make your vacation more memorable than ever. In addition, you'll find money-saving tips and suggestions for the absolute best way to spend your Branson vacation!

<i>History</i>	3
<i>Weather</i>	5
<i>What To Do?</i>	5
<i>Popular Branson Shows</i>	6
<i>Attractions</i>	15
<i>List of Attractions</i>	19
<i>Nightlife</i>	20
<i>Golf</i>	21
<i>Lakes</i>	23
<i>Parks</i>	24
<i>Wine Tasting</i>	25
<i>Cave Tours</i>	25
<i>Shopping</i>	26
<i>Craft Malls</i>	29
<i>Where To Stay</i>	30
<i>Where To Eat</i>	31
<i>A Few Practical Tips</i>	36
<i>Free Things</i>	36
<i>Nearly Free Stuff</i>	37
<i>Day Trips</i>	38
<i>Itineraries</i>	38
<i>The NEW Branson Airport</i>	40
<i>2011 Calendar of Events</i>	40

You may be wondering how a small Ozarks town became the “Live Entertainment Capital of the World” and one of the most popular tourist destinations in America. It all began more than a century ago when Harold Bell Wright published his novel *The Shepherd of the Hills* in 1907. From such small beginnings the city now boasts over 40 theaters, over 70 live entertainments shows, 200 retail outlets, 5,000 camping spaces, three lakes, 9 golf courses, along with numerous other attractions for eager vacationers to explore.

Here is a short time-line of Branson's history:

1907

1907: *The Shepherd of the Hills* is written by Harold Bell Wright. The book, which told the story of the Ozarks people, became an overnight sensation. With inspiration from the novel, people begin pouring into Shepherd of the Hills country and eventually, modern tourism is born. The book is also the inspiration for the Shepherd of the Hills attraction and dinner show which still exist today.

1912: During this year, the idea of Branson as a vacation destination begins to take root. The Winch Spoke Company, which built spokes and wagon parts, came to Branson along with the American Pencil Factory. These two companies brought major industry to the Branson area. In the same year, Powersite Dam was built to which turned the White River into Lake Taneycomo.

1914: A Civic League is organized by the women of Branson. They begin campaigns to help improve the beauty and cleanliness of the streets and improve the community's quality of life. This included building a municipal bathing beach on Lake Taneycomo along with pleasant picnic grounds.

Post WWII: In the years following the war, many artists and craftsmen find Branson to be the perfect location to resume their trade.

1949: Hugo and Mary Herschend buy Marvel Cave from the Lingo sisters and begin hosting square dances in the cave. The Adoration Scene is created by artist Steve Miller. It attracts thousands of awe-struck visitors, starting a Branson tradition.

1959: The Mabe brothers started performing a country variety show called *The Baldknobbers*. This show, Branson's first, is still a must-see for tourists today.

1960

1960: The Herschend family opened the doors of Silver Dollar City, which consisted of just a few shops and craftsmen working near the entrance to Marvel Cave. It was a small amusement park recreating the atmosphere of a frontier town in the 1800s. SDC, as the locals have come to call the park, is one of Branson's main attractions. The park boasts seasonal festivals, thrilling roller coasters and more.

1963

1963: Table Rock Dam is completed and the area's largest man-made lake, Table Rock Lake, was formed.

1974: Mutton Hollow Entertainment opens. Shops and shows begin popping up along Highway 76.

1967: The Presley family began their long-running show, the first on the Highway 76 strip.

1980s: More theaters opened in Branson as it gained notoriety as a family-friendly musical destination. Performers like Shoji Tabuchi, Doug Gabriel, Roy Clark and Boxcar Willie came to the area, followed by countless others. By the 1990s, Branson had come into its own as a premier vacation spot for America's families.

1991: Branson is officially discovered by the national media which begins a storm of attention from the east and west coasts. In August of 1991, "Time" magazine publishes a story about Branson, closely followed by "People", "The Wall Street Journal", and "60 Minutes".

1992: Andy Williams and Mel Tillis each open their own theatres. Jim Stafford begins performing at Stars of the Ozarks Theatre. Kenny Rogers and Silver Dollar City collaborate to open the Grand Palace Theatre.

1995: The Dixie Stampede and the Showboat Branson Belle open their new dinner shows.

1997: The Shepherd of the Hills becomes the most performed outdoor drama with its 5,000th show.

2006: The Branson Landing opens and Branson is re-defined for with modern sophistication.

2011

2011: You are planning your trip to Branson, and use all the tips found in this guide to choose the best shows, lodging, and attractions, and have your best vacation ever!

Today, history continues to be made in Branson. The breathtaking beauty of the Ozark Mountains and shimmering lakes attract visitors year after year. The Branson area offers nine challenging golf courses, world class shopping and even more lodging choices. A Branson vacation provides visitors with a variety of activities, whether it's seasoned veterans performing their unforgettable hits or new faces wowing the audience. Branson is dynamic and ever changing in her innate talent to capture the hearts of young and old.

Branson's climate is temperate, with warm summer days perfect for lake activities and chilly winters that make the Christmas lights dazzle. July is the hottest month, with an average high temperature of 90 degrees; and January is the coldest, with highs averaging in the 40s. A trip to Branson is a great vacation at any time of year — see the dogwoods blossom amid the Ozark Mountain forests in the spring or enjoy the colorful autumn leaves at Silver Dollar City's annual fall craft festival.

Some of the most popular times to visit Branson happen in each of the four seasons. April and May are popular among visitors to Silver Dollar City's World Fest, a celebration of music, dance and cuisine from countries around the world. For families, summer months are peak times to visit. Check out the National Kids Festival at SDC, as well as the free fireworks displays on July 4. And in November and December, visit Branson for the holidays. The Christmas shows and light displays are not to be missed!

What To Do?

With more than 70 shows of all types, the Branson entertainment scene has plenty to offer any tourist. Although musical and variety shows may be the most common, there are also magic and comedy shows. For even more options, try a morning show or a dinner show, where you'll be entertained while you eat.

If you didn't come to Branson for the live entertainment, that's all right because it offers a plethora of different activities such as go-carting, mini-golf and even a Skycoaster that will swing you to the top of the city! You may be visiting Branson for the water sports and we're perfectly fine with that as Branson has 3 lakes that you can explore by para-sail, boat or beach!

Check out the unmatched shopping experience in Branson as well. With outlet malls such Tanger and Factory Merchants, as well as the new Branson Landing, historic downtown Branson, and a wide selection of craft malls you'll be able to find whatever it is your looking for on your vacation!

Eager to taste-test all the dining options in Branson? Head to www.dinebranson.com to get tourist ratings and comments on all the restaurants in the Ozarks.

To find the shows that are right for you, visit www.bransonratings.com to read other visitors' opinions. If you are ready to purchase tickets, head to www.bransonshowtickets.com, where you will find local operators eager to help you book and save money with their low price guarantee. Rest assured, there are show tickets available for all price ranges, typically from \$20 to \$50.

Baldknobbers Jamboree.

You can't come to Branson without seeing THE original Branson show. The Baldknobbers variety show has something for everyone. Take good country music, add in a helping of hilarious, sidesplitting comedy, sprinkle in a taste of the grass roots of gospel and American patriotism, and you've got the recipe of the dynamic Baldknobbers Jamboree Show that has established the benchmark for what Branson is today.

"Great family show! We have seen the Baldknobbers 5 or 6 times over the last 15 years. Enjoyed every one of them and will go again." --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

Dixie Stampede.

Where else can you eat a whole chicken and "possum" soup, all while watching an indoor rodeo? There are pig and ostrich races, Civil War rivalries and trick horse riders galore. Dolly Parton's dinner show is a must-see.

"Truly a fantastic family experience. The horses and other animals had my 3 year old entertained. My 10 year old loved the horses and the amazing job the riders did, and my wife and I were thoroughly impressed with the performance and meal. If you can only see one thing in Branson see this show!"

-- Review from www.bransonforum.com

Locals Say...

You definitely can't go wrong with Dixie Stampede, if you have a variety of ages in your group, this is the best choice because it really will entertain everybody.

The Haygoods.

There are many family acts on stage in Branson, but the Haygoods stand out as some of the best performers. This seven brother and one sister act have been singing and fiddling since childhood, and in all genres from Motown to swing to rock and more. The energy and excitement never stops at the Haygood Family Show!

"We've seen a number of different shows over the years that we've been coming to Branson, and in our opinion, this is the best. We've probably seen this show 5 times, and it is always high energy and very entertaining. They are all great musicians and can play more than one instrument plus they sing and dance (and they do it well). This is one of the few Branson shows that will appeal to young and old alike. They also have a state-of-the-art light show that will make you think you are seeing a show in Vegas or in some other large venue."

--- Review from www.bransonratings.com

Locals Say...

The Haygoods are talented musicians and they're known for being a favorite among the ladies! If you have a teenagers in your group, they will definitely enjoy this show.

Jim Stafford.

This musician, who had hits like “Spiders and Snakes” in the 1970s, puts on a wonderful variety show, located in the heart of Branson on the Highway 76 Strip. Hear his old country songs and new crowd-pleasers, plus silly comedy and more. For a little music and a lot of laughs and a whole bunch of fun, head to the Jim Stafford Show.

“I have always loved Jim Stafford, and was thrilled to get to see him in person. His children are truly exceptional and will dazzle everyone. It was wonderful to be able to sing along to all the songs I grew up with.”

-- Review from www.bransonratings.com



If you want to see some super talented kids, then Jim’s show is the one to see.

Kirby Van Birch.

With big cats and illusions galore, this magic show is one of Branson’s best. Watch a helicopter appear in just a few seconds and magician’s assistants be cut in half. Prepare to be tricked, awed and amazed!

New Shanghai Circus.

The New Shanghai Circus is a spectacular extravaganza of elegant eastern dance, dazzling acrobatics, mysterious magic, mystical music, and more. Over 40 amazing performers bring the Orient to Branson with fabulous backdrops, state-of-the-art lighting, and a fast-paced, exciting production! Celebrate the exotic wonders of China and enjoy the dramatic interpretation of classic Chinese dance and physical performance art. You’ll love the playful lion dance, awesome jar juggling, incredible hoop-diving, daring trapeze, thrilling aerial ballet, and marvelous spinning plates in this huge production show. It’s an incredible, stunning experience for everyone!

“I saw the show last night and I was on the edge of my seat in several numbers. They had one where the girl was on top of stacked chairs with blocks. She was upside down and her feet were almost touching the stage lights! There wasn’t a sound in the entire theater and just when it looked like she was going to fall, she caught herself (part of the act I guess) but my palms went cold and clammy just watching her. I couldn’t believe it!”

--- Review from www.bransonratings.com



As locals, we don’t really go see shows that often, but this is one show that most will go see because its THAT mind blowing.

Presley’s Country Jubilee.

As one of the original Branson shows, the Presley extravaganza is not to be missed. The show focuses on classic country and gospel music, with a bit of silliness on the side. Great singing and wacky comedy will entertain the whole family.

“We have been to Presley’s several times and could not ask for anything better. They are the most sincere, talented people. The comedy is excellent. John who plays the piano is such a talent!! Four generations of family who seem to make themselves happy by making you happy. Everyone in the show is great. They always take time to sign autographs and take pictures after the show. As long as we go to Branson we will never fail to see this show!”

-- Review from www.bransonratings.com

[Spirit of the Dance.](#)

The Irish dancing phenomenon is alive and well in Branson, Missouri! Head to Spirit of the Dance to see incredible footwork and feel the rhythm. The talented company performs traditional Irish dances combined with tangos, flamencos and other stunning moves.

“If you love to dance or not, this show is a real crowd pleaser. Best of the Best. We will attend again. What more is there to say.” --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

[The Twelve Irish Tenors.](#)

For even more Irish fun, hear the sparkling harmonies of these talented vocalists, imported straight from the Emerald Isle. They performed to sold out concert halls worldwide before settling in Branson. And the music isn't just Irish — hear opera, pop, jazz and classical favorites.

[Yakov.](#)

This Russian comedian is sure to provide an evening full of laughs. His jokes and heavy accent will tickle any tourist's funny bone. And, don't miss the pre-show surprise and the grand Russian dancing finale!

“I love the Yakov show. He is truly at the top where Branson entertainers are concerned. I have been to see him 4 times in the past 5 years. My wife and I always laugh and leave feeling better for the experience. Laughter always makes you feel better.” --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

[Shoji Tabuchi.](#)

Now in its 20th year in Branson, the Shoji Tabuchi show is definitely a must-see. This talented Japanese violinist and his accomplished band play a variety of music from classical to country and more. The show's dancers are not to be missed, and Shoji's wife, Dorothy, and daughter, Christina, also make up the cast. A recent addition to the spectacle is Taiko drums from Shoji's native Japan. And, don't forget to check out the grandiose rest rooms!

“We heard this was the best show in Branson and it certainly was the best show we saw. A lot of variety, beautiful sets and the wonderful violin playing by Shoji. We hated to see it come to an end. It made our trip to Branson and we would recommend it to everyone. Better than any of the great shows I have seen in Vegas. The building is beautiful and “wow” what a bathroom (men's had a pool table in it). All in all we would rate this very highly. If and when we return to Branson this is the one show we want to see again.” --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

[Andy Williams.](#)

Although he's not always in town, Andy Williams is one of Branson's most famous and most accomplished entertainers. His Christmas show is definitely an area tradition. Andy's Moon River Theater also welcomes 1950's rock acts The Comets and Bill Haley and Paul Revere to its stage. Hear plenty of golden oldies at these fun shows!

“What a thrill it was for us to be in the front row watching Andy Williams. How can one man have so much talent and charm? My sister and I were mesmerized by his voice. I bought his new CD and even my granddaughters (5 and 8) are singing along with “I'll Never Break Your Heart”. Andy is a Class Act!”

--- Review from www.bransonratings.com

Liverpool Legends.

Twice awarded Best Show in Branson, this newer production is just about as close as you can get to the original Beatles. The four impersonators were handpicked by George Harrison's sister, Louise, to recreate The Beatles in concert. Hear all your favorite tunes sung by these master performers, who have appeared all over the world.

"Since my husband and I are HUGE Beatle fans, we decided to see Liverpool Legends when we were in town last week. They are unbelievable. Not only do they sound like the original Fab 4, but they look and act like them too! Paul was always my favorite Beatle and the guy who does him is the best I've ever seen. What a cutie!" --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

#1 Hits of the 60s.

Named Branson's best "decade show," this musical journey back in time is guaranteed to provide a fun-filled two hours. Feel some good vibrations and do the twist during this high-energy show. You'll be entertained by top-notch singing, dancing and comedy, plus decade-related trivia and video clips. The tribute to Vietnam War veterans is another special part of this production.

"...everyone sitting around us was having a great time, old and young. #1 Hits of the 60's is a show you don't want to miss. One couple we talked to said they were seeing the show for the 3rd time, they just loved it. We will see it again on our next trip to Branson."

The Duttons.

This fiddling family has performed in national music competitions and toured abroad. Between them, the six siblings play violin, guitar, bass, viola, banjo, mandolin, keyboard, harmonica and drums! And, they sing and dance, too. The Dutton show features bluegrass and classical music, and more. Be sure to visit the family restaurant for a snack after the show.

"We have seen the Duttons perform 3 times now, and they are always wonderful. It's great to see a family that plays together. It's amazing how they all have so many talents. As a professional musician, I have always felt they are among the very top musicians in all of Branson. They may not have the flashiness of Shoji, but the virtuosity of the oldest daughter was very impressive. It's definitely worth your time." --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

Legends in Concert.

Located in the nostalgic Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theater, Legends showcases some of Branson's best talent. See tribute performances of Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks and more. And, the roster of celebrities changes four times a year, so this Branson show is definitely one to revisit!

"This show is awesome. Very nicely done. Elvis is a hottie! Go see this one... it's worth every penny."

--- Review from www.bransonratings.com

Mickey Gilley.

This dynamic country star has been performing for more than four decades, so he certainly knows how to put on a good show. Hear him sing some of his 39 hits — 17 of which went to number one — and enjoy an evening of great music, entertaining comedy and all-round family fun. Also at the Mickey Gilley Theater, catch the Joey Riley Comedy and Music Review.

Noah.

The Musical. Based on the Bible story of Noah and the great flood, this musical production depicts the experiences of Noah and his family once they, and pairs of every animal species, board the ark. This elaborate Branson show brings the popular Bible story to life like no other show.

Brett Family Singers.

This fast-paced variety show is jam-packed with feel-good music including 40's, 50's, 60's, country, gospel, Broadway and the very best a cappella you'll hear in town. As an added bonus you'll love the hilarious magical comedy of Mike Bliss and the exceptional talent of the Rise-n-Shine Band, comprised of award-winning musicians. You will leave feeling on top of the world and at peace with it as well!

"If you want to start your day with a HUGE smile, this show is a must! It is impossible to feel "down" with this "UP" family's sounds. This incredible group with their beautiful, harmonious, fresh voices, and impeccable blend share such a warmth, love of country, and humor that you just want to keep returning again and again. Their comedian is also a great addition to their show. Genuine sounds, genuine feelings....A real "find" for me. It is at the top of my list!" --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

2010 Show and Theatre Line-Up

SHOW	THEATER	For More Information
#1 Hits of the 60's	<i>Caravelle Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
50's At The Hop	<i>RFD-TV: The Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Acrobats of China featuring New Shanghai Circus	<i>New Shanghai Circus</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Allen Edwards Show	<i>Golden Corral Dining Showroom</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Always Patsy Cline	<i>God & Country Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Amazing Pets	<i>Grand Country Music Hall</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Andy Williams Variety Show	<i>Andy Williams Moon River Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Andy Williams Christmas Show	<i>Andy Williams Moon River Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Baldknobbers Jamboree	<i>Baldknobbers Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Bill Chrastil	<i>Owen's Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Branson Country USA	<i>Grand Country Music Hall</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com

SHOW	THEATER	For More Information
The Branson Divas	<i>Little Opry Theatre at the Imax</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Brett Family Show	<i>Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Broadway! The Star Spangled Celebration	<i>Branson Variety Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Brule	<i>RFD-TV: The Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Buck Trent's Country Music Show	<i>Clay Cooper Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Cassandre The Voice of an Angel	<i>The New Americana Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Cat's Pajamas	<i>Dutton Family Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Cirque Montage	<i>The Starlite Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Chico Vega's Tribute to the Drifters	<i>Branson Hot Hits Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Christmas on the Trail Chuckwagon Dinner Show	<i>Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Circle B Supper Show	<i>Circle B Chuckwagon Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Clay Cooper's Country Express	<i>Clay Cooper Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Comedy Jamboree	<i>Grand Country Music Hall</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Country Stars Concert Series	<i>RFD-TV: The Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Dalena Ditto Country Variety Show	<i>The Tri-Lakes Center</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Daniel O'Donnell	<i>The Tri-Lakes Center</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Dino's Christmas Extravaganza	<i>Yakov Smirnoff Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Dixieland Breakfast Show	<i>White House Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com

SHOW	THEATER	For More Information
Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show	<i>Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Doug Gabriel	<i>Jim Stafford Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Duttons	<i>Dutton Family Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Gatlin Brothers	<i>The Mansion</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
George Dyer	<i>Dutton Family Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Grand Jubilee	<i>Grand Country Music Hall</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Grand Old Gospel Hour	<i>Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Great Passion Play	<i>Passion Play Amphitheatre (Eureka Springs, AR)</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Hamner Barber Variety Show	<i>Hamner Barber Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Haygoods	<i>The New Americana Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Hughes Brothers	<i>Hughes American Family Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Island Fire	<i>Dutton Family Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Jim Owen	<i>Clay Cooper Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Jim Stafford	<i>Jim Stafford Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Joey Riley	<i>Mickey Gilley Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
John Tweed	<i>Clay Cooper Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Joseph Halls Presents Era's of the King	<i>Owen's Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Keith Allen	<i>Branson Star Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Kirby VanBurch	<i>Kirby VanBurch Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Lee Greenwood & The Bellamy Brothers	<i>Welk Resort Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Legends in Concert	<i>Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Legend of Kung Fu	<i>White House Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com

SHOW	THEATER	For More Information
Liverpool Legends- The Ultimate Beatles Experience	<i>The Mansion</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Mickey Gilley	<i>Mickey Gilley Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Mike Walker	<i>God & Country Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Miracle of Christmas	<i>Sight & Sound Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Moe Bandy	<i>Jim Stafford Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Neal McCoy	<i>Clay Cooper Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
New's Country	<i>Little Opry Theatre at Imax</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
NOAH-The Musical	<i>Sight & Sound Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Oak Ridge Boys	<i>The Oak Ridge Boys Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Osmonds	<i>Music City Centre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Ozark Mountain Jubilee	<i>Grand Country Music Hall</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Paul Harris	<i>RFD-TV: The Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Paul Revere & The Raiders and Bill Haley's Original Comets	<i>Andy Williams Moon River Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Penny Gilley & Jeff Brandt	<i>Branson Star Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Peter Pan starring Cathy Rigby	<i>The Mansion</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Pierce Arrow Show	<i>Pierce Arrow Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Presley's Country Jubilee	<i>Presleys' Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Redhead Express	<i>The Duttons</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Red, Hot & Blue	<i>The New Americana Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Ricky Boen & Texas Mud	<i>Hamner Barber Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Righteous Brothers' Bill Medley	<i>The Starlite Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Shake, Rattle & Roll	<i>Branson Variety Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com

SHOW	THEATER	For More Information
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Drama	<i>Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Shoji Tabuchi	<i>Shoji Tabuchi Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The Showstoppers	<i>Showboat Branson Belle</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
SIX	<i>Hughes American Family Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Smoke on the Mountain	<i>Little Opry Theatre at the IMAX</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Sons of the Pioneers Chuckwagon Dinner Show	<i>Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Special Guest Concert Theatre	<i>The Mansion</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Spirit of Christmas	<i>Branson Variety Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Spirit of the Dance	<i>Branson Variety Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Steppin' Out featuring Todd Oliver and his Talking Dogs	<i>Showboat Branson Belle</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Sunday Gospel Jubilee	<i>Grand Country Music Hall</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Sweethearts of Branson	<i>Branson Mall Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Take it to the the Limit: Eagles Tribute	<i>God & Country Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Tillis Family Reunion with Mel Tillis & Pam Tillis	<i>Tri-Lakes Center</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Timeless Treasure with Ralph Custer	<i>Branson Mall Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Tom Mullica's Tribute to Red Skelton	<i>The Mansion</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Tony Orlando & The Lennon Sisters Christmas	<i>Welk Resort Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com

SHOW	THEATER	For More Information
Tony Roi's Elvis Experience	<i>The New Americana Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Tri-Lakes Concert Series	<i>Tri-Lakes Center</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Tribute to John Denver & Country Music Legends	<i>Little Opry Theatre in IMAX</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Twelve Irish Tenors	<i>Branson Variety Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Wade Benson Landry's Swingin Cajun Style	<i>God & Country Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Warnocks Christmas	<i>God & Country Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
The World Famous Platters	<i>The Starlite Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Yakov's Moscow Circus	<i>Yakov Smirnoff Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com
Yakov Smirnoff	<i>Yakov Smirnoff Theatre</i>	www.bransonshowtickets.com

Attractions

Branson is truly a fun-filled destination, with attractions that will please most any tourist. There are amusement parks, museums, malls and more, not to mention the three beautiful lakes. Here are some of the must-see attractions for every Branson visitor. To read reviews from other tourists, head to www.bransonratings.com and www.bransonforum.com.

Great Branson Attractions

Silver Dollar City.

From humble beginnings, this theme park has grown into the quintessential Branson attraction. Nearly 100 craftsmen are on park demonstrating glass blowing, basket weaving, blacksmithing, pottery, candy making, candle making, and many other disciplines. Packed with 17 rides and attractions, 4 major festivals, 60 unique shops and restaurants, and 50 dazzling shows a day, Silver Dollar City appeals to all ages. Open in all seasons, visit the city for World Fest in the spring or see it decked out for Christmas during the holiday season.



Arrive early to get the closest parking spaces, and then eat warm apple turnovers at Eva & Delilah's Bakery.

Shepherd of the Hills.

For another historical Branson experience, head to Shepherd of the Hills. Climb Inspiration Tower for stunning views or watch the play, which tells a story about the majesty of the Ozark Hills. Tour historic buildings, take a scenic horseback ride or visit the many craft shops throughout this multifaceted attraction. The light display during the holiday season is spectacular at Shepherd of the Hills.

“Very nice historical perspective in a great setting. Was very entertaining, even for the youngsters. Pre-show was great, too! I have always heard that this was a must see show when in Branson and I cannot disagree.”

--- Review from www.bransonratings.com

Branson Landing.

One of the newer additions to Branson is the Landing shopping and dining area on the shores of Lake Taneycomo. Find great clothing and souvenirs in the Landing shops — PacSun, Hollister, BassPro Shops and Gifts of Distinction, to name a few — or have a delicious meal at one of the many restaurants including Joe’s Crab Shack and Cantina Laredo. Make sure to stay for the musical water show, which is best seen after dark.

Locals Say...

If you come to Branson in the summer be prepared to fight for parking at the Landing. Also, you should figure out where you want to eat before you get there and put your name down on the list in advance.

Showboat Branson Belle.

Enjoy a dinner and a show as you cruise around beautiful Table Rock Lake on the Showboat Branson Belle. The show’s fantastic vocalists sing Broadway classics and popular hits while you eat.

Ralph Foster Museum.

Located on the scenic campus of College of the Ozarks, this museum has everything from stuffed wild animals to weaponry to old-fashioned toys and dolls. The museum even has the original vehicle used in “The Beverly Hillbillies.” And best of all, it’s free for children; adult admission is \$4.50. While on the C of O campus, have a tasty meal at the newly renovated Doby’s Dining Room in the Keeter Center.

Ride the Ducks.

A trip to Branson is not complete without a ride through town on these funny amphibious vehicles called “ducks.” With two different tours available — Classic Table Rock Lake Adventure and New Branson Landing Adventure — Ride the Ducks provide a bit of local history and make some waves during a short dip in an area lake. You might even get to drive the boat while in the water!

Locals Say...

Definitely check out Ride the Ducks when you come to Branson! When the driver asks “Do you want to go into the water like a turtle or a duck?!” be sure to request that the driver go into the water “like a duck”!

Titanic.

Take a trip back in time as you enter the Titanic: World's Largest Museum Attraction. The museum itself was built as a half-scale model of the original ship! Experience the majesty of the famous vessel with a boarding pass of one of the original passengers on the 90-minute, self-guided tour. See 400 authentic artifacts and feel an iceberg to remember the great tragedy.

Veterans Memorial Museum.

Any American will be moved by this historic and heartfelt tribute to veterans of the U.S. military. See uniforms and other artifacts from every conflict in the 20th Century, as well as the world's largest war memorial bronze sculpture, which is more than 70 feet long and weighs about 15 tons.

Branson Scenic Railway.

To take in the beauty of the Ozark Hills, head to the historic Branson Scenic Railway depot, built in 1905, and take a ride on a vintage train. On this 40-minute journey, travel through tunnels and over trestles as you enjoy the picturesque scenery. An excellent idea for adults is the dinner train.

"This trip takes you out 20 miles and back and the scenery is wonderful. The trains are marvelous and a part of history..." -- Review from www.bransonratings.com

Locals Say...

If you have small children, they will enjoy the 40-minute ride but will probably get bored on the dinner train. Any time of year is perfect for the train, but the best scenery is during the spring to watch the blossoms or in the fall to view the foliage.

The Track Family Fun Parks.

With several locations in the Branson area, The Track is a family-friendly destination for fun. Speed around the two, multi-level wooden go-cart tracks: Wild Woody and The Lumberjack. Or, try your hand at bumper cars, laser tag, mini golf or the Ozark Mountain Skycoaster, a 100-foot tall swing!

White Water.

The biggest water in park in the Ozarks, White Water is the perfect Branson destination on a hot summer day! Relax on an inner tube in the Lazy River or catch some waves in the 500,000 gallon Surfquake Wave Pool. There are plenty of exciting water rides like Pipeline Plunge and Raging River Rapids for the whole family, too.

Locals Say...

White Water is fun but it's also around \$40 dollars a person, so if your family is on a budget check out the Branson Aqua Plex instead for only a few dollars a piece. While the Aqua Plex is a City of Branson facility, it is one of the nicest swimming pools you'll ever see. It also has a splash playground, 2 large slides, diving boards, and water basketball goals.

IMAX Entertainment Complex.

This shopping, dining and theater complex just might have the most things to do under one roof in Branson. Catch a movie on the six-story-tall IMAX screen or in the regular theaters at Elite Cinema III. Enjoy a pizza or a sandwich at the food court or eat at McFarlain's. There's plenty of shopping to be had at the IMAX, too; find anything from quilts to clothing to souvenirs and more.

Locals Say...

IMAX Cinema has the most comfortable seats if you want to watch a Hollywood Hit film.

Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery.

Located at the foot of Table Rock Dam, the fish hatchery is the largest trout production facility in the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Hatchery produces more than 1,125,000 trout annually. Many of these are released into Lake Taneycomo to be caught by eager fishermen. On a tour of the hatchery, you will see all the stages of trout development. Afterward, take a hike on the four scenic area walking trails.

Locals Say...

Probably one of the most inexpensive ways to spend an afternoon in Branson. The fish are lively and create a feeding frenzy when you toss the fish food in the water for them to eat.

Branson Family Fun Factory.

New in 2007, this Branson attraction is perfect for any time of year because it's all indoors. The glow-in-the-dark, 18-hole miniature golf course is made up of four themed areas: an enchanted forest, the dragon's nursery, an undersea adventure and the volcano and treasure room. For something a little more energetic, play laser tag in the 3,000-square-foot arena. Check out the game room for even more fun!

"My adult family came to Branson, and due to the extremely hot weather, thought that laser tag and indoor golf sounded like a good way to spend an hour or two in the air conditioning. The laser tag was so much fun, even for this group of "older" players. You get plenty of playtime, and there are some great walls/hiding spots. The glow in the dark golf was also fun for those of our group who had never done it before. Definitely worth it if you have an hour or two and want to just relax with your family!" --Review from www.bransonratings.com

Ripley's Believe it or Not.

This wacky museum is the most photographed site in Branson because of its cracked-up exterior. On the inside, you'll be amazed at the more than 400 incredible exhibits. See a replica aircraft carrier made of matchsticks, a stuffed two-headed calf, a vampire-killing kit and more!

World's Largest Toy Museum.

Perfect for both kids and kids-at-heart, this museum is literally home to thousands of toys. See old-fashioned, antique toys from the Civil War era alongside more modern amusements like Star Wars figures and Barbie dolls. There's even a full-sized Rolls Royce! In the same location, you can also visit the Harold Bell Wright Museum to learn the history of one of Branson's most famous sons, the author of Shepherd of the Hills.

The Butterfly Palace and Rainforest Adventure.

Step into another world at the Butterfly Palace's botanical garden, where you're surrounded by more than 1,000 live butterflies from across the globe. Don't forget to check out the interactive 3D movie adventure and Emerald Forest Mirror Maze!

Hollywood Wax Museum.

Want to get up close and personal with the stars? Head to the Hollywood Wax Museum and snap a photo of "Mount Hollywood" on the strip. Inside, you'll see amazing replicas of stars like Cameron Diaz and Johnny Depp, as well as legends like John Wayne and Marilyn Monroe.

Locals Say...

The wax museum was recently renovated and for a group price you can do the maze of mirrors and haunted castle as well. It's pretty pricey though so if you choose this attraction you'll want to make sure that's what everyone really wants to do.

Bonniebrook.

Nestled in the hills just north of Branson, the family home of Kewpie-creator Rose O'Neil has been a museum since the 1990s. Full of memorabilia and original artwork, the museum offers a glimpse into O'Neil's life and times gone by.

Locals Say...

If your a huge fan of Kewpies, this is the spot for you.

List of Attractions

- Branson Auto Museum
- Branson Aqua-Plex
- Branson Ballknocker
- Branson Family Fun Factory
- Branson Scenic Railway
- Castle of Chaos
- Dinosaur Canyon Mini Golf
- Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede
- Ejection Seat
- Fun Spot at Grand Country
- Grand Country Indoor Mini Golf
- Greatest Adventure Mini Golf
- Hannah's Maze of Mirrors
- Hollywood Wax Museum
- IMAX Entertainment Complex
- Kid's Kountry
- Mount Pleasant Winery
- Ozark Medieval Fortress
- Professor Hacker's Lost Treasure Mini Golf
- Ride the Ducks
- Segway
- Silver Dollar City
- Skate World
- Skycoaster
- Splash Country Indoor/Outdoor Waterpark Grand Country
- Stone Hill Winery
- The Track Family Fun Park
- The Titanic
- Water Chute
- White Water

Although Branson isn't known for its nightlife, there are a few places around town that cater to our night loving tourists! Whether you love the club vibe, or a sports bar atmosphere, Branson offers a variety of places where you can get your fun on!

[Ernie Biggs Piano Bar.](#)

This popular bar is an energetic atmosphere with live entertainment. Request a song and watch as the dueling piano's play and sing along. The pianists may even let you sit with them as they entertain the crowd. Located at the Branson Landing.

[Garfields.](#)

This restaurant and bar features a fantastic view of Taneycomo Lake from its outdoor patio that hosts live music weekly. What could be better than American food, great drinks and outdoor bands?

[Hillbilly Inn.](#)

If your in love with karaoke then this is the place for you! Offers Karaoke Tuesday through Sunday from 7 PM until close.

[The Outback Pub.](#)

This pub is a Branson staple. Pool tables, live music and even a beer garden create the perfect atmosphere! Great food with excellent specials!

[Rowdy Beaver.](#)

One of Branson's newest bars in town, it's a family restaurant by day and tavern by night! Enjoy live bands, karaoke and DJ nights!

[Timeout.](#)

The ultimate sports bar in Branson. Featuring over 8 big screen TV's, daily specials and pool tables, this is one bar that sports enthusiasts won't want to miss. Don't forget to check out Timeout's live music and karaoke as well. Located behind the new Branson Auto Museum.

[Tsunamis.](#)

Attached to Shoguns Japanese Steakhouse, Tsunamis is a dance club that you need to see!

Waxy O'Shea's.

In true Irish pub form, Waxy's offers a variety of draft beers from all over Germany and Ireland. They also have all your favorite Irish foods. Experience the luck o' the Irish in Branson and check out Waxy's at the Branson Landing today!

Golf

Holiday Hills Golf Resort

630 E. Rockford Dr., Branson • 18 Holes • Par 68

Holiday Hills, located on East Highway 76, approximately 4 miles from downtown Branson, is a resort style course perfect for golfers of all skill levels. The course is fairly flat and features only one par five. Water comes into play on seven holes, but the layout is very forgiving. After your round, be sure to have lunch and a cold drink at The Grille on the Greens!

Locals Say...

Easiest course in town, if you can't score well here than you probably can't score well at any other course.

John Daly's Murder Rock Golf and Country Club

Golf Club Dr., Hollister • 18 Holes • Par 71

As one of Branson's newest courses, Murder Rock has proved to be popular for its sweeping vistas and moderate pricing. The course features huge changes in elevation and trouble is found on both sides of each hole. However, at only 6,600 yards from the back tees, if you can keep the ball in play a very low score is there for the taking. Glenn's, the on-site restaurant, is a great place to hang out and enjoy the panoramic views after your round.

Locals Say...

Hit it straight and a low score is yours.

The Pointe at Pointe Royale

158-A Pointe Royale Dr., Branson • 18 Holes • Par 70

A Branson golf scene staple, Pointe Royale has recently undergone a \$1.5 million dollar makeover and also got a new name: The Pointe. With out of bounds tight on every hole combined with severely sloping greens (and tough pin placements), The Point plays much harder than the 6,000-yard layout and a course rating of 69.9 would suggest. Be sure not to miss this course if you want to play a challenging, shot maker's course during your Branson vacation.

Locals Say...

Keep the ball below the hole if you want to score well. The greens are not what most would consider fast, but putting from above the hole on some of the greens at The Pointe is like putting on the hood of a car.

Branson Creek Golf Club

1001 Branson Creek Blvd., Hollister • 18 Holes • Par 71

This Tom Fazio design is a must play. Perennially listed on Golfweek's Top 100 Courses in the United States, Branson Creek is long, tough and absolutely beautiful. Wide zoysia fairways and meticulous bentgrass greens give way to breathtaking views on every hole. With a great layout and fantastic scenery to boot, how could you go wrong? Though it is on the expensive side, it is definitely worth the money.

Locals Say...

Best course in town, so don't miss it. Play in the afternoon for discounted rates or on Tuesdays for a twosome rate.

Thousand Hills Golf Course

245 S. Wildwood Dr., Branson • 18 Holes • Par 64

Branson's most convenient golf course, located less than a mile off the 76 Strip, is an enjoyable course to play. With nine par threes, eight par fours and only one par five ringing in at only par 64, you've probably never played a course like Thousand Hills. Great for beginners and more advanced players alike, Thousand Hills is Branson's most popular course on a rounds per year basis, though the pace of the place is still around four hours.

Locals Say...

Have your mid-irons ready for all those par threes. Deceptively difficult to shoot low scores.

Top of the Rock Golf Course

612 Devil's Pool Rd., Ridgedale • 9 Holes • Par 27

A Jack Nicklaus masterpiece, plain and simple. Awesome views of Table Rock Lake paired with a fun par three layout make Top of the Rock a joy to play. Perfect for beginners or the casual golfer looking for a fun afternoon on the links, without having to spend all day doing it. Whatever you do, do not leave without eating at least one meal at Top of the Rock Restaurant — it is Branson's best-kept secret and is very reasonably priced considering the spectacular views and resort atmosphere.

Locals Say...

Fun, easy course, you'll enjoy the views as much as the course. Don't leave without trying the pizza at the Top of the Rock Restaurant.

Ledgestone Golf Course

1600 Ledgestone Way, Reeds Spring • 18 Holes • Par 71

Immaculate maintenance coupled with slight rerouting in 2008 make Ledgestone a must play on your golf vacation. The poster child for golf in the Ozarks, the change in elevations from tee to green make club selection one of the hardest parts of mastering this 6,800 yard layout. While a little on the pricey side, Ledgestone is a can't miss and is worth every penny!

Locals Say...

Some of the best greens in town, but huge elevation changes makes club selection the most difficult part of your round.

Lakes

Visitors to the Branson area are lucky that they are able to enjoy three beautiful lakes in one great location. Each lake has its own special attraction, whether it be fishing or water sports or just sparkling waters.

Table Rock Lake.

With more than 750 miles of shoreline in Missouri and Arkansas, Table Rock is a lake that offers all types of activities. Go bass fishing, perhaps escorted by an area pro guide, or spend the day doing water sports like skiing, tubing, cliff jumping and more! If you're feeling really adventurous, try scuba diving or parasailing. Or, explore Dewey Short Visitors Center to learn about the lake's fascinating history. There are both public and private access areas to the lake, with plenty of places to rent any equipment you might need for a day of fun on the water.

Locals Say...

This is the best lake to go boating on, but it is very busy in the summer. Don't expect the glassy water that's ideal for skiing and wake-boarding in the main channel near Branson. For smooth water head south past the Hwy 86 bridge down to the cliff lined part of the lake near the Arkansas border.

Lake Taneycomo.

Although it almost looks more like a river than a lake, Taneycomo is Branson's premier spot for trout fishing. Small resorts dot the 40 miles of shoreline, adjacent to downtown Branson, Branson Landing and Hollister. This lake is perfect for enjoying fishing by day, and Branson by night.

Locals Say...

Hire a guide if you want to find the honey holes on Taneycomo. Also, the regulations on Taneycomo are somewhat daunting, with slot limits and the Trophy Trout Zone bait restrictions. Just make sure you know the regulations so you don't get a fine from the conservation agents that patrol the lake.

Bull Shoals Lake.

The least “touristy” of Branson’s lakes, Bull Shoals is also a great place for bass fishing and water sports. Its more than 740 miles of shoreline stretch to the southeast of Branson and into northern Arkansas. If you’re looking for secluded, pristine waters on your Branson vacation, Bull Shoals is the lake for you. Take Highway 76 east to Highway K for some of the best spots.

Locals Say...

Bull Shoals is one of the most serene lakes in the midwest. There are practically no boats on the lake, which is great when Table Rock gets packed in July. Bull Shoals is a mud bottom lake, unlike Table Rock which is a rock bottom lake. This makes the water less clear, but the lake is just as clean, if not more so than Table Rock. Watch the water levels, as the lake is not very deep in certain places and can be dangerous if the water levels are low (don’t let this scare you -- just a warning for extreme low water conditions). Lastly, launch your boat at K dock, which is the closest dock / launch area to Branson.

Parks

A great way to experience the beautiful Ozarks while staying dry is by visiting one of the many area parks. Pack a picnic lunch or just spend the afternoon amid the lush forest.

Moonshine Beach Park.

On a sunny Summer day, there’s nothing better than a day at the beach. This sandy beach on Table Rock Lake is a great place to catch some rays, go for a swim or play beach volleyball. Located near the dam, it’s just a quick drive from town!

Locals Say...

For an inexpensive day on the lake, you can’t go wrong at Moonshine Beach. They also have grills and picnic tables that are available for public use.

Busiek State Park.

Just north of Branson on U.S. Highway 65, this park showcases the true beauty of the Ozark Mountains. Its 2,500 acres offer plenty of natural wonders for visitors to explore.

Locals Say...

About 10 miles outside of town, so unless you are here to explore the Ozark Mountains, your time might be better spent at Paul an Ruth Henning Conservation Area or Moonshine Beach.

Paul and Ruth Henning Conservation Area.

Just west of Shepherd of the Hills Expressway on Highway 76, this park offers a quick getaway from the hubbub of the tourist traffic. Take a hike on one of the many nature trails or just enjoy the scenic views.

Wine Tasting

Stone Hill Winery.

The winery, which is located near the intersection of Highway 165 and Green Mountain Drive, offers free tours every 15 minutes. See how sparkling wine and cream sherry are made, and then have a complementary taste.

Locals Say...

The tour is short and isn't as informative as many wine enthusiasts would like, but if you're just there to taste the wine, you won't really mind the tour.

Branson Ridge Winery & Marketplace.

Newly opened at Branson Landing, this winery provides tastes of wines from across Missouri and around the world. Afterward, try some of the delicacies at Café diVine.

Lindwedel Wine Garden.

For fine wines and beautiful views, head to Lindwedel Wine Garden, nestled in the hills just outside Branson. There are many different wines to taste, handcrafted in Missouri and across the United States. Order a savory sausage and cheese tray or chicken salad sandwich as an accompaniment to the fine wines.

Cave Tours

You don't have to be an avid spelunker to visit the caves in the Branson area. They reveal yet another beautiful aspect of the Ozarks, which is often hidden underground.

Marvel Cave.

When you're exploring all Silver Dollar City has to offer, don't forget to take a tour of Marvel Cave — it's included in your admission! The tour takes you down 300 feet to the majestic Cathedral Room, full of beautiful limestone formations.

Locals Say...

Marvel Cave is probably your best bet if you want to explore a cave since you don't have to pay extra to get in and it's one of the prettiest of all the caves in the Ozarks. Plan carefully for a visit to Marvel Cave because the tours leave on a schedule and fill up quickly!

Talking Rocks Cavern.

Tucked away in the hills of Reeds Spring, this cave is full of living crystals, still growing and forming, yet completely beautiful already.

Fantastic Caverns.

This cave system, located near Springfield, is great for the whole family because the entire tour is done via tram.

Cosmic Cavern.

Located just south of the Branson area in Arkansas, Cosmic Cavern offers spectacular views of two bottomless lake caves to its visitors.

Shopping

The world is full of perfect pairs - peanut butter and jelly, ying and yang, Branson and shopping! Everywhere you turn there are outlet malls, souvenir shops and unique gift stores. Here are some of the best places to shop in Branson for deals as sweet as chocolate and vanilla swirl ice cream. For reviews and feedback from other shoppers, check out www.bransonratings.com.

Branson Landing.

One of the newest shopping attractions in Branson, the Landing is a beautiful collection of clothing stores, novelty shops and restaurants. Visit retailers like Chico's, Victoria's Secret, Belk's and Bass Pro Shops. Located on the banks of Lake Taneycomo, Branson Landing offers a picturesque shopping experience, complete with a colorful, musical fountain show!

Apparel

- Aeropostale
- Apricot Lane
- Charlotte Russe
- Chico's
- The Children's Place
- Christopher & Banks
- C.J. Banks
- Coldwater Creek
- Deb Shop
- Dressbarn
- Grand Glitz
- Hollister
- Hot Topic
- J. Jill
- Justice-Just for Girls
- Lane Bryant
- Limited Editions For Her
- Maurice's
- PacSun
- Strasburg Children
- Victoria's Secret
- White House Black Market

Shoes

- Famous Footware
- Finish Line
- Journeys
- New Balance Branson
- Payless Shoes
- Rack Room Shoes
- Tradehome Shoes

Health & Beauty

- Bath & Body Works
- Bath Junkie
- GNC Live Well

Jewelry & Accessories

- Brighton Collectibles
- Claire's
- Francesca's Collection
- Kay Jewelers
- Stone Smith Jewelry

Other Retail

- Lids
- Sunglass Hut
- Sunglass Station

Specialty Foods

- Auntie Anne's
- Branson Ridge Winery
- The Big Popper
- The Fudgery
- Marble Slab
- Northwoods Candy Emporium
- Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
- Subway

Gifts & Specialty

- As Seen On TV
- Branson Quilts
- Brookstone
- Build-A-Bear Workshops
- Calendar Club and Go Games
- Cardinal's Clubhouse
- Cozy Creek Trading Co.
- Disney Store
- Earthbound Trading Company
- Five & Dime General Store
- Gifts of Distinction
- GiftsJock's Nitch Locker Room

Gifts & Specilaty Con't.

- Kirkland's Home
- Never a Dull Moment
- Oreck Clean
- Ride Makerz
- Yankee Candle

Anchors

- Belks
- Bass Pro Shops

Dining Restaurants

- Cantino Laredo
- Ernie Biggs
- Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que
- Garfield's Restaurant and Pub
- Joe's Crab Shack
- Romano's Macaroni Grille
- San Francisco Oven
- Shorty Small's
- Texas Land & Cattle Steakhouse

- Waxy O'Shea's Irish Pub
- White River Fish House
- Old Chicago

Locals Say...

If you know you want to shop while in town, you can't leave without going to the Branson Landing. It has all the more upscale and modern shops that Branson has been lacking for a long time. Plus, it has a great atmosphere, as long as the sun's out.

Tanger Outlet Center.

One of Branson's three outlet malls, Tanger offers a range of popular clothing stores like Banana Republic, GAP, Ralph Lauren and more. Plus, it's conveniently located on the Highway 76 Strip.

Accessories

- Chico's Outlet
- Claire's
- Coach Factory
- Dress Barn
- Fossil
- Liz Claiborne New York
- Polo Ralph Lauren
- Rue21
- Seiko, The Company Store
- Sunglass World/Totes
- Wilson's Leather Outlet

Apparel

- Aeropostale
- Alfred Dunner
- American Eagle Outfitters

- Ann Taylor Factory Store
- Banana Republic Factory Store
- Bass
- BCBG MAX/AZRIA Final Cut
- Bon Worth
- Casual Male XL Outlet
- Eddie Bauer Outlet
- Gap Outlet
- Haggar
- Izod
- Jockey
- Koret
- Leggs Hanes Bali Playtex
- Levi's
- Liz Claiborne New York
- Lucky Brand Jeans
- Maidenform Outlet

- Nautica
- Nike Factory Store
- Old Navy
- PacSun
- Polo Ralph Lauren Factory
- Reebok
- Rue21
- Sag Harbor

Children's Apparel

- Bass
- Carter's
- Children's Place
- Disney Store
- Gymboree
- Justice
- Osh Kosh B'Gosh

Locals Say...

Tanger Outlets will have more sales and will generally be much less expensive than the Branson Landing and they also have some shops that the Landing doesn't have.

Factory Merchants Branson.

Also known as the “Red Roof Mall,” Factory Merchants offers more than 90 outlet stores to eager shoppers. Check out stores like Nautica, Eddie Bauer, Lenox and more!

Locals Say...

Unless your looking to shop at Nautica or grabbing a pretzel at Auntie Anne’s, Factory Merchants probably isn’t your best option. Sadly, it tends to be dead and doesn’t see much action most of the time.

Factory Shoppes at Branson Meadows.

This mall is home to the VF Outlet, with multiple brands like Vanity Fair, Wrangler and Lee all in one location. Tired of shopping? Take a popcorn break in the Branson Meadows Cinema, also at the mall.

Apparel

- Bon Worth
- Christian Gift Outlet
- Dressbarn
- Hush Puppies
- Lovings
- Scuba Sports
- Touch of Class
- VF Outlet

Other

- Cyber Street
- Forsyth Furniture
- Mertz Book Outlet
- Ozark Quilts & More
- Paper Factory
- Tool Town USA

Locals Say...

Branson Meadows selection is very limited. Basically, locals only go here to see a movie at the Branson Meadows Cinema. You can find some good deals, but there’s not much to browse as many stores here are empty.

Grand Village.

Yet another of Branson’s fine retail locations, Grand Village offers a variety of specialty stores, as well as restaurants. Be sure to visit Kringles Village Shop, one of the largest Christmas shops in Missouri.

Apparel

Grand Glitz
Katerine’s Boutique
On the Ball Sports

Gallery & Fine Arts

- Thomas Kinkade Signature Art Gallery
- Helwig Art Glass

- Sunrise Leather Works
- Ozark Quilts

Collectibles

- Kringles

Jewelry

- Phillip Zachary’s Gallery
- Tatman’s Fine Jewelry

Gifts & Specialty Shops

- Mulberry Mill
- Peter Engler Woodcarving & Design

Toys & Books

- Alice in Toyland
- T. Charleston’s Books & Gifts

Locals Say...

While these are mostly gift shops, the experience and the atmosphere is unique enough that it’s a great place for tourists to explore.

Branson Hills Plaza.

A new shopping development in north Branson, this area has a variety of stores including Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Target and TJ Maxx. After you've shopped and dropped, recover by enjoying some tasty Tex-Mex at Chili's.



One of your best bets for discount shopping is at TJ Maxx. If you are from a metro area with plenty of options, you may skip this shopping area, but if you are from an area without these stores you will have a blast.

Branson Mill Craft Village.

Another shopping area in Branson that focuses on craftsmanship, visitors to the Mill Craft Village can watch glass blowing, leather carving, oil painting and other demonstrations. Or, visit Mountain Man Fruit and Nut Company for a tasty snack!

Historic Downtown Branson.

Countless shops of all types line the streets of downtown Branson — it's definitely the place to buy souvenirs. There are also clothing stores, a pharmacy and several restaurants. One place not to be missed is the classic general store, Dick's 5 & 10. This old-fashioned dime store offers the most diverse selection of goods for sale at any store in Branson. From clothes to candy to souvenirs and more, Dick's truly has it all. Take a look at the collection of antique items on display, too.

"As everyone says, Dick's 5 & 10 was great. Everyone was very nice to me. I found several things one doesn't find anywhere else. Prices are exceptionally good. This store will be on the must-visit list next time I'm in Branson."

--Review from www.bransonratings.com

Grand Country Square.

Located in the Grand Country Inn complex, these stores are a great place to shop for unique souvenirs.

Amish Country Store.

This is the only store of it's kind in Branson. With a wide selection of Amish made items such as quilts, unique gifts, and even jams, this country store is the perfect place to find hand-made Amish crafts.

Craft Malls

There is no shortage of ingenuity and creativity in the Ozarks. Branson's craft malls introduce you to a variety of unique country crafts, scrapbook materials, and distinctive tools to create your own masterpiece at home! Visit the Appletree Mall, Craft Palace, Whitney's World of Crafts, Coffelt Country, and Branson Craft Mall to explore Branson's inspired side.

There are more than 10,000 hotel rooms in Branson, not to mention the countless condos, vacation homes and more! Tucked away throughout town are quaint bed and breakfasts too. Timeshare resorts are also popular in the tri-lakes area, and they offer an enticing deal to interested travelers. Listen to a 90-minute presentation about the property, and even if you don't buy, you still get some discounted theater or amusement park tickets. Here are some of the more unique places to rest your travel-weary head while on vacation in Branson. For more information, visit www.bransonratings.com

Great Branson Hotels

Big Cedar Lodge.

This deluxe yet rustic resort is located just south of Branson on beautiful Table Rock Lake. All the rooms are cozy, with a hunting lodge atmosphere. Relax in the on-site spa or enjoy delicious food of all kinds at the many eateries.

Castle Rock Resort and Waterpark.

Located just off the Highway 76 strip, this family-friendly resort is a vacation unto itself. The indoor water park offers pools, water slides, lazy rivers and more! There's also a tasty restaurant and weekend activities for the kids.

Chateau on the Lake.

For truly luxurious lodging, head to the Chateau. Its views are unparalleled and its amenities divine. Eat a meal in the four-star restaurant, get relaxing treatments at the spa, or explore Table Rock Lake from the hotel's own marina!

Fall Creek Inn.

Guests at this Branson hotel can escape into the Ozark scenery, though they are just minutes from the action in town. Stay in a Jacuzzi suite and eat at the two on-site restaurants!

Grand Country Inn.

This Branson lodging complex is full of fun! There's an indoor-outdoor water park, indoor mini golf, arcade games, shopping and dining, not to mention lovely hotel rooms.

Grand Plaza Hotel.

Conveniently located near Tanger Outlet Mall, this hotel knows how to start the tourist's day right — with a free, full hot breakfast! Guests can also enjoy the sun deck, game room, indoor pool and more.

Hilton Promenade and Convention Center.

As one of the newer hotels in Branson, these Hilton properties are conveniently located at Branson Landing. They offer guests a pool, fitness room and two on-site restaurants.

Lodge of the Ozarks.

Located right in the middle of the Highway 76 strip, the Lodge is a great, convenient place to stay. The hotel offers an indoor pool and spa, and it's connected to The Celebrity Theater where both The Hughes Brothers and Six perform.

The Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center.

No other Branson hotel offers such a variety of themed rooms! Stay in the night in "Garden of Eden," "Taj Mahal" or "Caesar's Palace."

Welk Resort.

Guests who stay at this resort won't be disappointed. It offers a game room, playground, mini golf, pools, hot tubs and the new "Splash-A-Torium," in addition to standard hotel amenities like room service, laundry facilities and meeting rooms.

Where To Eat

The hungry traveler can choose from a huge variety of tasty restaurants in Branson. There's plenty of fine dining, casual eatery and ethnic food options. And, don't forget about dinner shows! Here are some of the best bets for a good meal in Branson. For even more dining advice, visit www.dinebranson.com or www.bransonratings.com to read restaurant reviews.

Restaurants

Andy William's Moon River Grill.

Adjacent to Andy Williams' theater, his restaurant is one of the newer ones in Branson. Open for both lunch and dinner, the restaurant's mission is to provide fine dining and spirits at affordable prices. The atmosphere is especially nice in the evenings with live musical acts. The kitchen is also open after performances at the Moon River Theater, so stop in for an after-show snack.

"Andy Williams' new Moon River Grill was a great surprise. In terms of food, service and atmosphere, they really have it all together. I ordered the standard burger and fries. Both were top-notch, the service was brisk, the waitress friendly and efficient. The price (around \$7) was extremely reasonable. And the decor, just like the Moon River Theater itself, is impeccable. I highly recommend the restaurant and plan to return myself."

--- Review from www.dinebranson.com

Billy Bob's Dairyland.

For an old-fashioned drugstore soda fountain experience, look no further than Billy Bob's Dairyland on the Highway 76 strip. Now in a new and improved location, this restaurant offers classic fare like tasty hamburgers and hot dogs. The milkshakes are deliciously thick and the sundaes, heavenly.

Locals Say...

Seriously, the burgers are the BEST here!

Big Cedar Lodge.

If you're in Branson on a Sunday morning, head to Big Cedar for a delicious champagne brunch at either Devil's Pool Restaurant or Worman House.

Locals Say...

Unless your staying at the resort, Big Cedar is farther away than most restaurants. It's near Ridgedale so its a 30 minute drive outside of Branson. The food and service is great if your willing to take a drive outside of town.

Bleu Olive Mediterranean Grille & Bar.

This semi-upscale restaurant is a newer addition to Branson's dining scene. Located in The Chappy Mall complex in downtown Branson, the Bleu Olive offers tasty European and Mediterranean foods, with an emphasis on Greek cuisine.

Locals Say...

Literally one of the best places to eat in Branson because the food is so incredible. Know that it is expensive though.

Cakes and Creams.

This hometown favorite has a menu full of tasty treats that will satisfy even the most serious sugar craving. Have a chilly ice cream soda, a gooey funnel cake or a delicious piece of fruit pie with flaky crust. There's no better place to go for dessert!

Locals Say...

Cakes N' Creams is a popular hang out spot on summer nights in Branson.

Candlestick Inn.

This fine-dining establishment has been a Branson favorite for many years. Located on the bluffs overlooking Lake Taneycomo and the Branson Landing, it has one of the best views around.

Locals Say...

There aren't many fine dining restaurants in Branson, but this is one of them. The most impressive part about the restaurant are its views even though it's in a strange location.

Casa Fuentes.

Although it's not much to look at on the outside, Casa Fuentes offers some of the best Mexican cuisine in Branson. Inside this tiny restaurant, you'll find delicious guacamole, crispy flautas and refreshing margaritas. Enjoy your meal amid the colorful Mexican décor of sombreros and flags that adorn the walls.

Charlie's Steak, Ribs and Ale.

Located on the Branson strip, this casual dining restaurant is a great place to relax after a day of sightseeing. The burgers, ribs and thick French fries are sure to satisfy any appetite.

"I went to Charlie Steak Ribs and Ale the other night and it was absolutely amazing! I suggest to everyone who visits Branson that this is a must place to eat while they are here. I am a huge fan of BBQ and their ribs were fantastic! They were so juicy and perfectly seasoned. My husband ordered the ribeye and loved it too. Charlie's also has a microbrewery which makes this place so unique because it is the only one in Branson."

-- Review from www.dinebranson.com

Chateau Grille.

For one of the finest dining experiences in Branson, head to this four-star restaurant at the Chateau on the Lake. If you're a real foodie, you can even schedule a meeting with the chef.

"This place is incredible. We stayed over for the "Sunday Brunch Buffet". It included complimentary champagne and everything from the simplest of dishes to the more extravagant. It certainly was quite a treat, but worth every penny!" -- Review from www.bransonratings.com



For an upscale meal, you can't go wrong with the Chateau Grille. Although it's extremely expensive, you pay for amazing food, perfect service, and a great atmosphere.

Farmhouse Restaurant.

For some truly down-home cooking, head to Farmhouse in old downtown Branson. The chicken fried steak and blackberry cobbler are to die for!

Golden Corral.

This classic American chain offers a wide selection of food on its vast buffets. Even if you don't want to eat at the restaurant, be sure to stop by because it's the largest Golden Corral in the world.

Landry's Seafood House.

If you're a seafood-lover, head to Landry's, arguably one of the best fish restaurants in Branson. Once inside, you'll almost feel the sea, surrounded by the appropriate décor and fish tanks.

"We've been here numerous times & each time we go, we're never disappointed. Always clean. Always excellent wait staff. Consistent quality on the menu. One of the best, if not THE best seafood restaurant in Branson."

-- Review from www.dinebranson.com

McFarlain's Restaurant.

Located in the IMAX Entertainment Complex, this restaurant offers classic country cooking for the hungry Branson tourist. It is well-known for its delicious pies.

"My family enjoyed eating here, the atmosphere was great! The food was excellent, especially the fried green tomatoes, corn bread and fried sweet potatoes. Oh, and the dessert (pie and cheesecake) was wonderful as well. Looking forward to the next time we get to eat here."

-- Review from www.dinebranson.com

Mel's Hard Luck Diner.

Enjoy the comfortable atmosphere of an old-fashioned diner while your servers serenade you! This diner is unique in that all the servers are professional singers and entertain you while you eat. What's better than a sweet milkshake along with some sweet tunes?

“Mel’s Hardluck Diner was excellent! The food was reasonably priced and tasted terrific! The service was excellent too! The servers are all talented entertainers and they are all very good at what they do! They make you feel like you are at a concert just for you and your family! They sing right to the kids and make them feel really special! You can tell that all of these people enjoy being around people! They make you feel welcome! My 4 year old said it was the best place to eat ‘in the world.’” -- Review from www.bransonratings.com

[Mr. G’s Chicago Style Pizza.](#)

If you’re in the mood for pizza, it doesn’t get better than Mr. G’s. The restaurant, located in old downtown Branson, is a bit of a hole-in-the-wall, but the food is delicious.

[The Outback.](#)

Voted “Best in Branson” by the Springfield Newsleader, The Outback is an authentic Aussie experience. Stop in and try their thick steaks, rack of lamb, alligator tail, or their famous frog legs! After dinner, quench your thirst at the Outback Pub, a Branson favorite!

[Rocky’s Italian Restaurant.](#)

Located in the heart of old downtown Branson, this Italian restaurant offers delicious food at reasonable prices. Try the house salad and any appetizing pasta for a taste of bella Italia.

[Shogun Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar.](#)

For a dining experience that is itself entertaining, try Shogun. Watch the talented chefs prepare your hibachi meal right before your eyes — the knife tricks and onion volcano are truly amazing. For something a little calmer, try the delicious sushi bar.

[Shorty Small’s Great American Restaurant.](#)

This themed restaurant takes diners back to 19th Century America, with its 1880s mining town café atmosphere. The vast menu has delicious steaks, ribs and burgers; and for dessert, try a deep-fried Twinkie.

“Great catfish and ribs. The onion ring loaf was great. Nice atmosphere and great waitress. You won’t be disappointed!” --- Review from www.bransonratings.com

[Starvin Marvin’s.](#)

For 22 years, this country-themed restaurant has attracted many starvin’ tourists. Open for breakfast, brunch and dinner, the restaurant offers both menu service and an all-you-can-eat buffet.

“I have eaten here probably 15 times or more over the past 7 years. I am a seafood lover so I have a great time...They usually have snow crab and dungeness crab. Sometimes king crab. And you don’t wait there at the buffet looking at empty bins. They have it piled high, hot and ready to go. Also boiled shrimp, fried shrimp, frog legs, clams, chicken, potatoes and gravy, fruit, etc. I think it’s one of the best seafood buffets in the state.”

-- Review from www.dinebranson.com

Whipper Snapper's.

A favorite of both tourists and locals, Whipper Snapper's all-you-can-eat buffet offers a wide selection for the hungry diner. Load up your plate with lobster, crab and other tasty seafood. There is also a menu offering sandwiches and pastas.

Locals Say...

Whipper Snappers has the best seafood in town for an affordable price.

Other Restaurants

Baldknobbers Country Restaurant.

Menu: What Branson does best! Ozark home style cooking with your choice of menu selections or the large buffet. Serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Buckingham's Restaurant and Oasis

Menu: Table side preparations and exotic safari-themed dishes. Also features a martini bar.

Doc's Sports Club.

"Branson's Hometown Bar"

Menu: Traditional bar cuisine and great beer!

Locals Say...

Feel good about stopping in to catch the game and a cold one because Doc's is also a not-for-profit business that contributes to the community by supporting a number of charitable causes.

Luigi's Pizza Kitchen.

Menu: St. Louis style thin-crust pizza

Mazzio's.

Menu: Thin-crust or Thick-crust pizza.

Peppercorns Restaurant.

Menu: Classic home cooking in style. Offers breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Plantation Restaurant.

Voted best breakfast buffet in Branson 3 years in a row.

Menu: Ozark style home cooking like fried chicken and peach cobbler. Offers breakfast lunch and dinner.

Restaurant at D'Monaco.

Menu: Upscale dining with favorites such as steak, seafood, and pasta dishes. Offers lunch and dinner.

Rowdy Beaver.

Family restaurant with a separate tavern.

Menu: Certified Angus steak, chicken, pork, turkey and fish. Great selection of beer and cocktails.

Sushi House.

Menu: Japanese cuisine such as Miso Soup, seaweed salad, sashimi, and tempura sushi.



This place isn't much to look at from the outside but it has the absolute best sushi in town.

Wasabi.

Menu: Japanese cuisine. Miso Soup, seaweed salad, sashimi, tempura vegetables, seafood and sushi.

A Few Practical Tips

A trip to Branson is always a fun and exciting adventure. But, there are some things that are nice to know before you go. Here are a few insider tips to help make your vacation go extra smoothly.

1. Gasoline is almost always cheaper in Ozark, Nixa and Springfield than in Branson proper or other surrounding lake towns. So, fill up on your way in and out.
2. If you're coming into town on a Friday night during the on-season, try to avoid the Highway 76 strip. Everyone else is coming into town at that time, too, so it's often a traffic nightmare.
3. Try to use the back roads whenever you can. To the south, Green Mountain Road runs parallel to Highway 76; to the north, try Highway 248. Other good thoroughfares are Fall Creek Road, Gretna Road and Shepherd of the Hills Expressway.
4. Always ask about an AAA or AARP discount at hotels and other lodging. Some restaurants may offer such deals, too.
5. If you are going to go to both White Water and Silver Dollar City, purchase the "City Hopper" pass. It will save you money compared to buying both separately.

Free Things

Parades.

Branson hosts annual Veterans Day and Christmas parades in the old downtown. See area marching bands, bedecked floats and more. These fun events are a great way to experience the Branson community for free!

Entertainment.

Many Branson restaurants present musical acts for the enjoyment of their diners. At Golden Corral and Hard Luck Diner, among others, you can be serenaded and more while eating a tasty meal.

Amusement Park.

If you enter Silver Dollar City after 3 p.m., the next day is free!

Festivals.

The city of Branson, and surrounding towns, host many fun festivals throughout the year. Try the Plumb Nellie Arts & Crafts Festival or the Grape & Fall Festival, both of which are free and open to the public.

Parks.

Not only are area state parks free to visitors, so are Branson city parks. Play tennis at Stockstill Park or practice your moves at the city's new skateboard park.

Branson Landing Fountain Show.

Every hour on the hour is the Branson Landing Fountain Show. Fountain and fire erupt in tune with various songs. Sit at one of the landing's fabulous restaurants or just sit on the steps and enjoy a dazzling show!

Winery Tours.

Take a free tour in one of Branson's amazing wineries and afterward enjoy a complementary wine tasting.

Scenic Overlook.

Enjoy the expansive views from this roadside attraction on Hwy 165 overlooking Table Rock and Lake Taneycomo. Grab an ice cream cone from Scoop's, located across the street and spend a sunset just relaxing and enjoying the natural beauty of the Ozarks.

Nearly Free Stuff

Moonshine Beach.

A great little beach on the shores of Table Rock Lake, right next to the dam. The cost is typically \$5 per car, which makes it one of the most affordable activities in Branson.

Branson AquaPlex.

If you have small children and want to save some money, consider skipping White Water and heading to the Branson AquaPlex. It features two large slides, splash fountains, water basketball, and all sorts of great stuff. The cost is minimal, \$3-\$4 or so depending on age.

Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery.

The Fish Hatchery is one of the largest trout conservation areas in the country. Feed the fish and learn a little bit more about the fishing in Branson!

Sunday Shows.

Gospel and religious ceremonies

Tri-Lakes Church.

Led by Pastor Brian Wiseman. Offers services on Sundays at 10:30AM and Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

Faith Life.

Led by Pastor Keith Moore. Offers services on Sundays at 9AM and 11AM and Fridays at 7PM.

First Baptist.

Led by Pastor Neil Franks. Offers services on Sundays at 8AM and 10:30AM.

Our Lady of the Lake.

Led by Reverend Rick Jones. Offers Mass on Saturday at 5PM and Mass in Spanish at 7PM, Sundays at 8AM and 10:30AM, Tuesdays at 9AM and Thursdays at 9AM.

Day Trips

Buffalo River

There is so much to do and see in Branson, Mo. but sometimes tourists can forget about the surrounding areas attractions. If your trip is as long as a week you may want to take a day trip outside the city limits. River floating is fast becoming one of the most popular water activities and Arkansas's Buffalo River is the perfect location for a lazy day in the sun. With the state line just 15 minutes past Branson, getting to the Buffalo is a short hour and fifteen minute drive away! Be sure to pack a map as the drive can get a bit windy once you get into Arkansas.

Eureka Springs

Nestled in the heart of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas was named as one of the "Dozen Distinctive Locations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The streets are lined with Victorian style businesses and the area's 19th century charm is remarkably intact. Trees, gardens and gingerbread cottages surround America's largest collection of bed-and-breakfast inns. If your just there for the day however, the streets are packed with unique shops, restaurants, boutiques, museums, spas, and fine art galleries.

Bass Pro Shops

If your an outdoor enthusiast then you can't miss a visit to the largest Bass Pro Shop in the world! Located just an hour drive north of Branson in Springfield, Mo., this store is a fishing, hunting and camping mecca. Each section specializes in various types of outdoor activities along with indoor waterfalls, saltwater and freshwater aquariums, live alligator snapping turtle exhibit, archery and pistol ranges, and restaurants. A tribute to the Missouri hunting experience--you'll want to maximize your outdoor fun and visit Bass Pro today!

Itineraries

When vacationing in Branson, you'll want your family to have the most fun possible but lining up the fun with your budget can be a challenge. Here is a sample of itineraries you can follow depending on what your budget will be during your Branson vacation!

Sample Luxury Itinerary

Day 1: Rent a room at Welk Resort, just 2 miles from the 76 Strip. The Welk Resort is conveniently located a cross the street from Pointe Royale Golf Course and next door to a variety of shows. You may also want to take a 40 mile scenic trip around Branson, Mo. on the Branson.

Scenic Railroad. You'll get to experience the beauty of the Ozarks while enjoying one of the oldest forms of transportation.

Day 2: Experience the fun of shopping, dining, and entertainment at the new Branson Landing! Browse through favorites like PacSun, Victorias Secret and Apricot Lane. Don't forget to satiate your sweet tooth at the Fudgery and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

Complete your successful day of shopping at one of the Landing's restaurants--Cantina Laredo, Texas Land and Cattle, and Macaroni Grille are ideal for a view of the Landing's Fountain Show.

Day 3: As live entertainment capital of the world, Branson, Mo. offers a diverse selection of shows for the young and old. Broadway, Irish Tenors, and the Showboat are a few extraordinary productions that you won't want to miss!

Branson is famous for its live entertainment, but if that's not your scene some of the most exciting things to do are right on Branson, Missouri's Highway 76. For example, at the Titanic Museum you can sail with John Jacob Aster, feel the temperature of the icy Pacific waters, and discover fun facts about the passenger you've been assigned.

Day 4: A day on the lake is the perfect way to end your Branson vacation. Whether your looking to go tubing and skiing, or just cruise around the lake, you'll want to rent a boat from one of Table Rock Lake's premiere marinas. State Park Marina rents a variety of boats from pontoons to speedboats. The more adventurous family can choose to rent a jet ski and race around Table Rock's numerous coves.

Sample Moderate Itinerary

Day 1: Rent a room at the Ramada Resort and Conference Center just 22 miles west of the Branson Landing. The Ramada is conveniently located across the street from Dixie Stampede and next door to a variety of shows. You may also want to take a 40 mile scenic trip around Branson, Mo. on the Branson Scenic Railroad. You'll get to experience the beauty of the Ozarks while enjoying one of the oldest forms of transportation.

Day 2: Your vacation isn't complete without a trip to one of Branson's most popular attractions--Silver Dollar City. Go back in time and jump right into the excitement of the historical Ozark mountains. You'll enjoy good country cookin', catch a show, or soar to amazing heights on one of the park's state-of-the-art roller coasters. From creating family fun, to molding old time crafts right in front of your eyes no one brings

Day 3: A walk around historic downtown Branson is the perfect way to become better acquainted with the city and to take care of some much needed shopping! Downtown Branson has that "old time" feel with modern shops around every corner. It's also right next door to the Branson Landing and Lake Taneycomo.

Day 4: A fun summer day in Branson is usually described as a day on Table Rock Lake, but if you'd prefer to stay dry Branson has many other attractions. Streak across wooden or classic go-kart tracks at the The Track Family Fun Parks. In addition to go-karts, The Track features bumper boats, mini-golf, and arcades.

Sample Budget Itinerary

Day 1: Lodging in Branson, Mo. will be the least of your worries as it is packed with money-saving hotels. Stop in at Starvin Marvin's -a Branson favorite for high quality food at an affordable price. Afterwards you can stroll down the famous Highway 76 and enjoy the bright lights of Branson.

Day 2: Museums and mini-golf are fun but why pay 40 dollars a person when you can spend a day at Moonshine Beach for around \$5 per car! Moonshine Beach has amenities such as picnic tables and grilles as well as sand volleyball and good family fun. After the beach you and your family can head over to the Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery where you'll be able to feed the trout and learn about the hatcheries trout conservation program.

Day 3: Another way to have some inexpensive fun is to check out Branson's admired wineries. Stone Hill Winery offers free guided tours, and after the tour you'll want to participate in the complementary wine tasting. If you brought the kids, then check out the Branson Aqua Plex, you can enjoy kid-friendly pools and waterworks for half the price of a day at White Water.

Day 4: Finish out your Branson vacation by planning the next one! In exchange for attending a 90 minute interactive resort preview, a handful of vacation ownership companies will offer free and discount tickets and lodging. This can be a great way to offset the cost of vacationing, plus you might just learn something about how to vacation for less. Be sure to browse around historic downtown Branson while learning a bit about our exciting history. Dick's Five& Dime, The Fudgery, and the Plum Bazaar are one-of-a-kind shops that you're sure to appreciate.

The NEW Branson Airport

While most tourists travel south down Highway 65 to Branson, a lot of people have begun taking advantage of low-cost airfare at the new Branson Airport, the first privately-financed commercial airport in the country. Branson currently attracts more than 8 million travelers a year. Of those, 5.4 million travel from beyond 300 miles. By offering low-cost flights from large U.S. cities, the airport is positioned to propel tourism and revenue to the next level and become the front porch of Branson for millions of would-be travelers.

The airport is located within the Branson Creek Development. It offers complete ground transportation and rental car services; exit to Highway 65 is a simple drive down Branson Creek Boulevard. Not including check-in counters at the airport's rental drop-off area, the terminal is approximately 58,000 square feet. The Branson Airport also offers hangar facilities including fueling, catering, and aircraft wash service.

And because the Branson Airport is the first privately-financed and operated commercial airport in the country, service and hospitality is their number one goal. At the Branson Airport you'll be treated like a guest rather than another airline ticket.

2011 Calendar of Events

- April 8-9:*** ***2011 Collector Car Auction***
Location: Branson Convention Center
Phone: 800-335-3063
- April 13-17:*** ***Kewpiesta***
Location: Bonniebrook
Phone: 4175611509
- April 28-30:*** ***Hand-in-Hand Purple Heart Veterans Event***
Phone:4173342360

April 29-30: 3rd Annual Missouri Food & Wine Festival

Location: Chateau on the Lake

Phone: 4176996199

May 5: Cinco de Mayo at Outback

Location: Outback Pub

Phone: 417-334-7003

May 6- 7: 4th Annual MOPARS in May

Location: Dick Clark's Area 57

Phone: 877-588-1957

May 12- 30: Bluegrass & BBQ

Location: Silver Dollar City

Phone: 800-831-4FUN

May 19 - 22: 10th Annual Branson Motorcycle Rally

Location: Dick Clark's Area 57

Phone: 800-342-6230

May 20 - 22: - Mountain Man Rendezvous

Location: Rockaway Beach

Phone: 417-561-4280

May 20 - 22: Armed Forces Weekend

Phone: 417-337-8387

May 20 - 22: Plumb Nellie Days

Location: Historic Downtown Branson

Phone: 888-322-2786

May 27: Lynyrd Skynyrd & ZZ Top in Concert

May 30: Memorial Day

June 10: Branson Z Fest

Location: Dick Clark's Area 57

Phone: 877-588-1957

***June 11-
July 24: National Kid's Fest***

Location: Silver Dollar City

- June 18 - 19: Fathers Day Bass Pro Boat Show*
- July 4: Fireworks at the Chateau*
 Location: Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center
 Phone: 417-334-1161
- August 11 - 13: Shepherd Super Summer Cruise*
 Location: Shepherd of the Hills
- August 20: Larry the Cable Guy*
- Aug.26-28: The 23rd Annual Downtown Branson Fiddle Festival & Mid-American Fiddlers
 Championship*
 Location: Branson Landing
- September 11 Hillbilly Chili Cookoff*
- Sep. 12 - Oct. 30: Salute to Veterans*
- September 18: K-Swiss IronMan 70.3 Branson Triathlon*
- Nov.1-
 Dec.31: Shepherd of the Hills Trail of Lights*
 Location: The Shepherd of the Hills Homestead
 Phone: 417-334-4191
- Nov.1-
 Dec.31: Branson Area Festival of Lights*
 Location: 700 Expressway Lane
 Phone: 417-334-4084
- Nov.11: 78th Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony*
 Web: BransonVeterans.com
- Dec.4: 63rd Annual Adoration Parade & Lighting Ceremony*
 Location: Downtown Branson/ Branson Landing