



**MISSOURI**





## MISSOURI

The Midwestern US State of Missouri has beautiful State Parks, rivers, caves and rolling wine country. Missouri's rich history - dating from westward expansion in the US and the Civil War - compliments today's exciting art, culture and jazz scene. Check out [www.visitmo.ca](http://www.visitmo.ca) to discover casinos, wineries, museums, golf courses in abundance - plus fascinating cities such as St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield and of course, the music capital of Branson.

There is truly something for everyone in the diverse state Missouri. There are outdoor activities such as boating and golf. You can explore quaint small towns rich in history and cosmopolitan cities. And you will discover every type of music including Kansas City jazz, St. Louis blues and the incredible variety of shows in Branson.

A trip to Missouri is to travel through time – journey from the time of the explorers Lewis and Clark who opened up Westward expansion, to the of-the-moment glitz of Branson's bright lights. And your journey takes you across varied landscapes from the Eastern boundary of the State formed by the Mississippi River to the Western boundary with Kansas and Oklahoma.

Astride the Mississippi, St Louis is a joy to visit. The most perplexing aspect is which of the many attractions to visit. One of the most popular sights is the famous Gateway Arch celebrating St. Louis as the "Gateway to the West". This stainless steel architectural masterpiece is the icon of the city and arguably of the State itself. It blends history (there is an excellent museum and giant screen film devoted to Lewis and Clark) with the modernity and symbolism of the Arch itself. Visitors ascended in a tiny elevator pod 630 feet above the Mississippi River for magnificent views from the apex.

America's largest brewery, the Anheuser- Busch Brewery, has its home in St Louis. Home to Budweiser, the tour of this huge complex is entertaining and informative –from the Clydesdale horses to the mysteries of the brewing process. And a visit to the Saint Louis Zoo is great fun. It is set in 90 acres of beautiful Forest Park and the Zoo is home to more than 600 species of animals, many of them rare and endangered. It is also one of the few free zoos in the nation.

In Kansas City, a four billion dollar construction boom has created an energy about the city and resulted in some magnificent architectural additions to the Art Deco skyline. Visitors to the National World War One Museum will discover themselves on a glass floor suspended over a field of poppies one minute, then immersed in the sights and sounds

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	<p>of the trenches the next.</p> <p>As well as taking in Missouri's cities, any visit to the Mid-West has to include a road trip! And Missouri is home to more than 450 kms of Route 66 - the "Mother Road" - one of the most famous highways in the United States. And the Missouri section features some of the Route's most historic tourist attractions as it meanders through the South West corner of the State.</p> <p>Missouri also has a rich history to explore, including three hundred national historic districts. You can retrace the steps of outlaw Jesse James, revisit the Pony Express, relive the river adventures of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer and walk the Santa Fe Trail. Visitors keep returning to Missouri. And when you come back, there's always something new.</p>
<b>Location</b>	Missouri is located in the Midwestern United States. It is bordered by eight states Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. Missouri was originally purchased from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The Missouri Territory was admitted into the union as the 24th state in 1821.
<b>Geography</b>	The soft hills of the northern plains to the Ozark Mountains in the south, and the many rivers and lakes in between...the geography of Missouri is as varied as the people who live there.
<b>Name</b>	A large tribe of Indians called the OuMissouri lived upstream of the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri. The name had been given to them by their enemies, the Fox tribe of Algonquins, and in the Fox language means "people with big canoes."
<b>Population</b>	<p>The state total resident population is 6.1 million, ranking Missouri 17th among all U.S. states</p> <p>The five largest ancestry groups in Missouri are: German (23.5 percent), Irish (12.7 percent), American (10.5 percent), English (9.5 percent), French (3.5 percent).</p>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Currency</b>	Currency: \$1 CDN = 77 cents US (July 2016)
<b>Tipping</b>	<p>The custom of tipping is a common practice in Missouri: 15% to 20% for waiters; 10% to 15% for taxi drivers; \$1 per bag for bellmen.</p> <p>Occasionally gratuities are automatically added to restaurant checks, but not usually.</p>
<b>Government</b>	The current constitution of Missouri, the fourth constitution for the state, was adopted in 1945 and provides for three branches of government, the legislative, judicial and executive branches. The legislative branch consists of two bodies, the House of Representatives and the Senate. These bodies comprise the General Assembly of the State of Missouri.
<b>Documentation</b>	Passports are required for Canadian visitors arriving by air and land.

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<b>Time zone</b>	Central Standard Time, one hour behind EST
<b>Health</b>	Excellent services available but ensure that you have travelers health insurance as health costs in the US can be very high
<b>Safety tips</b>	Missouri is relatively safe for the tourist. One should use the same precautions as when traveling anywhere - try not to travel alone and avoid deserted areas at night

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	Missouri generally has a humid continental climate, with cold winters and hot and humid summers.
<b>Today's weather</b>	Today (23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2016) is 29C and sunny in St. Louis
<b>Best time to visit</b>	Spring, summer and fall

<b>GETTING THERE</b>	
<b>Airports</b>	There are three main airports in Missouri: Kansas City International Airport was recently completely renovated and now offers WiFi access in the terminal; Lambert-St. Louis International Airport; and Springfield-Branson National Airport. I flew into St Louis and out of Springfield, an arrangement that worked particularly well. Branson also has a regional airport, just 13km from the centre of Branson.
<b>Cities</b>	<p>The ten largest cities and their populations are:            Kansas City, 444,965; St. Louis, 344,362; Springfield, 150,298; Independence, 110,208; Columbia, 91,814; Lee's Summit, 80,338; St. Joseph, 72,661; O'Fallon, 69,694; St. Charles, 62,304; St. Peter's, 54,209</p> <p><b>St. Louis:</b> Established as a French trading post in 1764, St. Louis served as a gateway to the west after the Louisiana Purchase and as a major port for steamboats traveling the Mississippi. Today the city's landmark is the soaring, shining steel Gateway Arch, designed by Eero Saarinen in 1966 to commemorate Thomas Jefferson's vision of westward expansion. Though visitors often make it their first stop, there's plenty more beckoning, including expansive Forest Park with its first-rate museums, one of the nation's top botanical gardens, and numerous attractions geared toward children, many of them free, making St. Louis a prime family destination.</p> <p><b>Kansas City:</b> A \$4 billion construction boom across metropolitan Kansas City has created an energy which can be felt in almost every part of the city, shaping a positive impression on Kansas City which will last for decades to come. Magnificent architectural additions to the city's Art Deco skyline in the Kansas City Live! Downtown Entertainment District, at the Sprint Center Arena, the Performing Arts Center and the</p>

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	Convention Center is drastically changing Downtown Kansas City.
<b>Distances</b>	St. Louis to Kansas City: 380 kms St Louis to Branson: 400 kms
<b>Boats</b>	For a lunch or dinner cruise on Table Rock Lake in Branson, board the showboat <b>Branson Belle</b> , 4800 Mo. 165 (tel. 800/831-4FUN; <a href="http://www.silverdollarcity.com">www.silverdollarcity.com</a> ), a luxury paddle-wheeler boat offering 2-hour cruises with dining, music, comedy, and entertainment April through December.
<b>Trains</b>	Amtrak (tel. 800/872-7245; <a href="http://www.amtrak.com">www.amtrak.com</a> ) offers two lines in Missouri. The Kansas City Mule runs daily between St. Louis and Kansas City, and the Ann Rutledge line goes from Kansas City to Chicago, both lines making stops in St. Louis, Kirkwood, Washington, Hermann, Jefferson City, Sedalia, Warrensburg, Lees Summit, Independence, and Kansas City.
<b>Car Rental</b>	All the major car rental companies are represented in the major cities and at the airports
<b>Buses</b>	The cities have excellent urban bus service, whilst the state is crisscrossed by efficient long distance coach services

<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	The Missouri Division of Tourism website has a helpful search engine for accommodations; you can pick the type of place you'd like to stay, the city or region, and the time of year and it will provide you with options based on your selections. From resorts to motels and from spa retreats to B & B's, you'll find the accommodation to suit your needs in Missouri!
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<b>TARGET GROUPS</b>	
<b>Kids</b>	<b>Worlds of Fun, Kansas City</b> has the longest, tallest inverted roller coaster <b>YouZeum:</b> A new attraction in <b>Columbia</b> is the YouZeum, a fascinating interactive learning environment designed to give visitors a better understanding of the workings of the human body and the healthful choices they can make. Bring the whole family to <b>St. Louis</b> for thrill rides, animal encounters, a trip to the moon and more. Sure - lots of cities claim to be "family-friendly" or "kid-centric," but St. Louis means it. Not only are there plenty of activities and attractions that are geared toward kids of all ages, but many of those attractions are free, which makes St. Louis a budget-friendly destination for families. Some of St. Louis' most popular attractions offer free admission, including the <b>Saint Louis Science Center, Missouri History Museum, Saint Louis Art Museum, Grant's Farm, Saint Louis Zoo, Purina Farms, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, and the Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour.</b>
<b>Teens</b>	<b>Six Flags St Louis:</b> Six Flags St. Louis continues its tradition of

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	bringing new thrills to the popular theme park. On the exciting Wahoo Racer attraction, riders race head-first on sled-type mats down 262-feet of steep drops and rolls reaching speeds of 55 kph. In addition to the wet 'n' wild world of Wahoo Racer, Six Flags has added a spectacular nighttime parade, appropriately named "Glow in the Park." The festivities feature six custom-designed floats, two additional mobile units and 65 "lighted" performers. The vibrant, multicolored lights illuminate the streets, and scores of drummers, puppeteers, singers, dancers and kinetic stilt walkers will surround the floats.
<b>Romance</b>	There are many period inns and quiet resorts set in lush countryside that make for perfect couple retreats from the hectic world
<b>Zoomers</b>	With a population of slightly more than 6,000 and a quaint, historic downtown, <b>Branson</b> attracts more than seven million visitors a year, primarily retirees, families, and RV-ers drawn by the irresistible lure - and improbable pairing - of outdoor recreation and big-time entertainment. Surrounded by three pristine lakes in the scenic, wooded, mountainous region of the Ozarks in southern Missouri, Branson offers fishing, swimming, golfing, and boating, and is also home to big-name entertainers who present everything from country music to comedy and magic acts in more than 100 live shows daily. If that's not enough, Branson also boasts theme parks such as Silver Dollar City and some unique museums.
<b>Famous Missourians</b>	<p><b>Mark Twain:</b> Samuel Clemens, growing up in Hannibal, watched riverboats on the Mississippi. It was from riverboat jargon that he took his pen name – Mark Twain. His love for the river and for his Missouri boyhood is best reflected in his stories about Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. The Twain Home and a statue of Tom and Huck can be seen in Hannibal today. In nearby Florida, Mo., Twain's birthplace is preserved as a state historic site.</p> <p><b>Harry S. Truman,</b> 33rd president of the U.S., is one of Missouri's most famous native sons. Born in Lamar, Mo., in 1884, Truman was a Jackson County judge, U.S. senator and vice president before serving as president, 1945-1953.</p> <p><b>Jesse James,</b> notorious outlaw, was born in Missouri on Sept. 5, 1847. The farm home where Jesse and his brother, Frank, were raised in Kearney. Also in Kearney is Jesse's grave. The best known site associated with Missouri's most infamous citizen is the St. Joseph home where Jesse was shot and killed in 1882 for a \$10,000 reward. Standing today on the grounds of the Patee House Museum, the small frame home has been preserved much as it was when Jesse James lived there as "Mr. Howard."</p>
<b>Surprising</b>	<b>Iced tea:</b> At the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, Richard Blechyden, served tea with ice and invented iced tea. Also, at the St. Louis World's

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	<p>Fair in 1904, the ice cream cone was invented. An ice cream vendor ran out of cups and asked a waffle vendor to help by rolling up waffles to hold ice cream.</p> <p><b>Neighbourly:</b> Missouri ties with Tennessee as the most neighbourly state in the union, bordered by 8 states.</p> <p><b>Caves: Bonne Terre Mine;</b> Tour a cavernous room supported by giant rock pillars where miners dug with picks and shovels from 1864 to 1962. The temperature is 62 degrees year-round. Take a boat tour of the "Billion Gallon Lake," the largest subterranean lake in the world;</p> <p><b>Fantastic Caverns:</b> Springfield Region; America's only ride-through cave is located just northwest of Springfield. Tour follows the path of an ancient underground river. Enjoy the beauty of a natural cave without the long walks or steep climbs;</p> <p><b>Meramec Caverns:</b> only 45 minutes SW of St. Louis, this is a stunning show cave with huge caverns and massive cave formations. Guided tours of this seven story natural wonder are professionally conducted and include reference to the fact that this was a Jesse James hideout.</p>
<b>History</b>	<p>Retrace the expedition of Lewis and Clark, revisit the Pony Express, relive the river adventures of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer, walk the Santa Fe Trail and more. There are 300 national historic districts in Missouri. Here's a brief timeline:</p> <p>Claimed for France by La Salle 1682;</p> <p>First permanent settlement (Ste. Genevieve) 1735;</p> <p>Louisiana Purchase 1803;</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806;</p> <p>Organized as territory 1812;</p> <p>Admitted to the Union (24th State) 1821</p> <p>Historically, Missouri has always been a spot for those with a sense of adventure. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began their famous western expedition on the banks of the Missouri River in St. Louis. Years later, the towns of Independence and Westport marked the start of the Sante Fe, California, and Oregon Trails, routes that marked the westward starting point of the over 250,000 pioneers who settled the wild frontier, and thus gave Missouri one of its nicknames, the "Gateway to the West." With all those covered wagons heading into unknown wilds, it's fitting that some of the most famous adventurers of page and place hailed from here, like author Laura Ingalls Wilder, explorer Daniel Boone, outlaw Jesse James, and military commander John J. Pershing.</p>
<b>Books</b>	<p>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain gives the reader a wonderful sense of the place.</p>

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<b>1000 Places to see before you die</b>	Arthur Bryant's Barbecue, Kansas City
<b>Must Sees</b>	<p><b>Gateway Arch in St Louis</b> is America's tallest monument, this graceful rainbow of shining steel soars 630 feet above downtown and the Mississippi River, commemorating westward expansion in the 1800s. Tram rides to the top can involve lengthy waits in the summer and on weekends; come first thing in the morning to purchase tickets (or order tickets in advance online at <a href="http://www.gatewayarch.com">www.gatewayarch.com</a> ), then take in the Museum of Westward Expansion, which traces the journey of Lewis and Clark and those who followed. Extra fees are charged for the Arch Odyssey Theatre, which features changing, 45-minute movies on a giant IMAX screen, and the Monument to the Dream film documenting the Arch's construction</p> <p><b>Silver Dollar City, Branson:</b> About 8 kms west of Branson, this is the biggest and best of the area's theme parks, featuring more than a dozen thrill rides (such as the Wildfire roller coaster with its 15-story vertical drop and speeds up to 105 kph), imaginative playgrounds, live entertainment at a dozen arenas (from gospel to country and bluegrass), restaurants featuring traditional cuisine, about 60 specialty shops, and nearly 100 resident craftspeople practicing their trades, all in a wooded, 1880s mountain-town setting. Marvel Cave, the site's original attraction, has 50 kms of passages, which you can explore with a guide on a 1-hour tour (included in the admission price to Silver Dollar City).</p>
<b>New in Branson for 2016</b>	<p><b>Moses</b> – One of the Bible's most epic sagas comes to life for your family at Sight &amp; Sound Theatre. Travel with Moses on his quest for personal identity that changes the course of history. Journey back in time with your whole family as you witness the moment God first speaks to Moses at the burning bush and experience God's awe-inspiring power as you sit in the midst of the parted Red Sea.</p> <p><b>Fritz's Adventure</b> is a dynamic family attraction that brings the excitement and challenges of outdoor adventure into a multi-dimensional indoor environment. Experience three stories and 80,000 square feet where you can experience elements of the world around you that, anywhere else, would be prohibited or discouraged. All ages are encouraged to explore the family adventure together.</p> <p><b>Harlem Globetrotters</b> will celebrate their 90th birthday during the family-focused festival, Star-Spangled Summer at Silver Dollar City. Presenting the Globetrotter Experience show, with highlights from the one-of-a-kind touring show, featuring their trademark basketball wizardry, athleticism and humor. The festival also presents The Magic</p>

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of Peter Gossamer, champion cloggers, cartoon characters and the park's 40-plus rides and family-fun attractions.

**Bigfoot on the Strip** is the fifth attraction investment in Branson for the owners of Branson Zipline Canopy Tours, Parakeet Pete's Waterfront Zipline, Parakeet Pete's Steampunk Balloon and Fast Shot Shooting Gallery. The centerpiece of this \$10M attraction is a 200-foot free-fall tower. Two of the rides are extreme rides for serious thrill seekers, while the third is a calmer ride offering more of an Ozarks viewing experience.

**The Track Family Fun Parks** purchased the iconic 15-story Ferris wheel formerly featured at Chicago's Navy Pier. It will be the newest attraction at Track #4 on Highway 76. The Track Family Fun Parks anticipates the Ferris wheel will continue to draw both repeat and new visitors to the Branson community and will begin operating this summer.

**Daniel O'Donnell** is an international superstar whose fans anxiously await his show schedule in Branson each year. He is back in 2016 with three weeks of shows at the Welk Resort Theatre, starting October 31. A successful and talented Irish singer and international television star, his performances showcase his blend of traditional Irish ballads, country favorites, and traditional gospel with enchanting Irish charm!

**"Maxine's Christmas Carol"** – The bright lights of Branson are set to shine on a brand new star of the stage, although there's a good chance she might find a reason to complain about them. 2016 Christmas season welcomes Maxine, Hallmark Cards' self-appointed "Queen of Crabbiness," who will star in "Maxine's Christmas Carol." The live-action musical is a twist on the Charles Dickens' classic holiday story, appearing at Andy Williams Moon River Theatre.

**The Blackwood Singers** come to Branson beginning in March at the Starlite Theatre. After 15 years in Pigeon Forge, The Blackwood's Morning Show is coming home and will feature their trademark harmonies, many of their huge hits, and lots of laughter and heartwarming stories. Following in the nationally acclaimed footsteps of the Blackwood Brothers, the show is built on Country, Gospel, and Patriotic hits.

**Prince Ivan** is a fast-rising new band with a unique Top 40 sound that is quickly gaining popularity. Performing fresh, original music that is current, progressive and throwback all at the same time, Prince Ivan is perfect for youth and music lovers of all ages. Their fully produced live show features an incredible 7-piece band, state-of-the-art lighting and

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video, and high-energy choreography that is masterfully woven together into an electrifying 90-minute concert experience. Limited engagement at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre with select dates April through August

National touring acts: Charles Esten (from the TV show "Nashville"), Trace Adkins, Tanya Tucker, Jennifer Nettles, Charley Pride, Oak Ridge Boys, Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone, Moe Bandy & Johnny Lee, Chubby Checker, "Ricky Nelson Remembered" with Matthew & Gunnar Nelson, T.G. Sheppard, David Frizzell, Jeannie Seely, Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers, Josh Turner, Neal McCoy, Wynonna & the Big Noise, Charlie Daniels Band, Kenny Rogers Farewell Tour and Johnny Mathis with special guest Gary Mule Deer.

**Reza**, at the Starlite Theatre, is one of the fastest rising young stars in the realm of magic, with his mind set on changing the world's perception of the art. Reza has a fresh and cutting edge feel with a largely original show and a magnetic stage presence. He isn't just a magician; he is a phenomenal entertainer who will amaze your entire family.

**Million Dollar Quartet** at the Welk Resort Theatre is based on the Tony Award winning Broadway musical, inspired by the electrifying true story of the famed recording session 60 years ago where Sam Phillips, the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll" brought together icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for one unforgettable night.

**Fireman's Landing at Silver Dollar City** is centered around the headquarters of "Fire Station #3," and includes Fire Spotter; Fire Wagon Frenzy; FireFall; Roundabout; Up the Ladder and Fireman's Flyers. Your family will enjoy Firehouse Splash Yard; Firefighter's Fire Drill; Firefighter's Fire Escape and Firefighter's Junior Fire Escape.

**Dogwood Canyon Nature Park**, an advocate for education, preservation, and conservation, opens a working gristmill, general store and restaurant with a patio and waterfall view. An education center features classrooms with a connected treehouse opening this summer.

**The Escape Branson** is a new, simple, and fun live escape game designed for small groups of 2-6 people. You have 60 minutes to climb a mountain of puzzles and mysteries inside a room. The goal is simple yet challenging: get out in time! Or else you could be trapped. During this engaging and challenging game team members truly live and breathe in unison for an hour.

**Stone Hill Winery** is changing its name to "Curling Vine Winery" in the

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	<p>spring. They will continue to offer tours and tastings for visitors and groups. They are remodeling and adding Twisted Copper Moonshine Still Museum. It will be the world's largest collection of moonshine stills in public view which includes 100+ stills.</p> <p><b>Crown Valley Distillery</b>, based in St. Genevieve, Missouri, plans to locate its newest operation on the Strip in Branson. They will not only distill their own whiskey and give distillery tours, but customers will have the chance to experience other Missouri-made products produced at the company's St. Genevieve operation. Those products include wine, beer, spritzers, deli meats and cheeses, fruit, craft sodas and roasted coffee. Customers will have the chance to taste test and purchase the array of items.</p> <p>Branson is a family destination and the distillery will be family-friendly and inviting to children.</p> <p><b>Mountain Adventure Resort</b> is building a new adventure park that will feature rides brand new to the Ozarks. It will be located along Highway 165 in what used to be known as "Butcher Hollow." The project embraces the extreme topography with a 400-foot elevation change, a zip coaster, zip lines and a ropes course along with a thing called a mountain coaster. A zip coaster is very similar to a zip line except it's not a straight line, but more of a circuitous route that can take curves. Scheduled to open summer 2016.</p> <p><b>Spirit of 76</b> is Branson's dream of a bigger, brighter, more amazing Branson experience than ever before with spacious walkways, landscaping, park benches, interesting landmarks, and amazing spaces for visitors to explore and enjoy. Over the next eight years, Branson plans to invest more than \$75 million and transform five miles of Hwy. 76 into a more vibrant, dynamic, fun, attractive and interactive entertainment corridor certain to delight and amaze the next generation of Branson visitors.</p>
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<b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b>	For sports fans, there are all those pro sports teams – with St. Louis and Kansas City each boasting teams. The NFL's Kansas City Chiefs, baseball's Kansas City Royals and St. Louis Cardinals, and there's also hockey's St Louis Blues who came into being with the NHL's first expansion.
<b>Golf</b>	If you're in Missouri, you're close to a golf course. Links range from major resort courses designed by the big names – Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player – to small 9-hole, sand-green, municipal sites. To quote Hale Irwin, World Golf Hall of Fame member: <b>"I've played all over the world, and I can tell you no place offers the incredible</b>

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	<p><b>variety from course to course like Missouri.”</b></p> <p>Some of the Branson area's seven 18-hole golf courses, open to the public year-round, are described in the brochure "Branson Golf" available at the Welcome Center. A favorite is the 9-hole par 3 <b>Top of the Rock</b>, 150 Top of the Rock Rd. It's owned by Big Cedar Lodge, was designed by Jack Nicklaus, has great views of Table Rock Lake, includes a practice facility and a good restaurant, and is one of the few courses in the nation to be recognized as an Audubon Signature Cooperative. Eighteen-hole Branson Creek Golf Club (<a href="http://www.bransoncreekgolf.com">www.bransoncreekgolf.com</a>) is one of Missouri's top public courses.</p>
<b>Fishing</b>	<p>Black bass, catfish, crappie, muskellunge, rainbow and brown trout, walleye or white bass; Spin-cast anglers and fly-fishermen have amazing sprawling lakes and winding streams to explore, many with convenient public access.</p> <p>Fisherfolk in Branson favour Table Rock Lake for bass and Lake Taneycomo for trout.</p>
<b>Horse riding</b>	<p>Stables abound in the countryside with riding suitable for all skill levels</p>
<b>Hiking</b>	<p>Whether you are an avid cyclist, a history buff or a nature lover, planning a tour along the 360 kms long <b>Katy Trail</b> is a perfect option for the active vacationer. Built along the former corridor of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, the Katy Trail begins in St. Charles and ends in Clinton. The trail takes visitors through some of the most scenic areas of the state, offering views of towering bluffs, rolling hills and glistening rivers.</p> <p>Serious hikers should be sure to hit the <b>Ozark Trail</b> (<a href="http://www.ozarktrail.com">www.ozarktrail.com</a>), Missouri's answer to the popular Appalachian version (without the teeming mass of other hikers, they like to tell you). The trail is a hefty 880 kms long with another hundred and change still planned, and stretches from St. Louis all the way into Arkansas. A 30-mile section overlooks the lovely Current River, while the rest the trail traverses through tall pine trees, spring-fed creeks, and the ridge of Stegall Mountain, as well as touches on the highest point in the state, Taum Sauk, where the views of the Ozarks are nothing less than stunning.</p>
<b>Cycling</b>	<p>Missouri's rolling countryside is perfect for bike trips of all kinds, like the Katy Trail above.</p> <p>And how about this for a unique event for cyclists: The Annual Moonlight Ramble...Location: Downtown St. Louis Time: Ride begins at 12:01 a.m. Sunday morning, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 For more information call: (314) 644-4660 <a href="http://www.moonlightramble.com">www.moonlightramble.com</a></p> <p>This is the World's largest nighttime bicycle ride and it rambles through the streets of St. Louis.</p>
<b>Watersports</b>	<p>Almost every kind of water-sport is available on the many lakes in Missouri. Table Rock Lake is only minutes from Branson and offers</p>

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	boat rentals, waterskiing, pontoon boats, Bass Boats, WaveRunners, wake boarding, para-sailing, catamaran and even scuba diving! See <a href="http://www.stateparkmarina.com">www.stateparkmarina.com</a> for all the details.
<b>CULTURE</b>	The National Blues Museum has opened in Kansas City: <a href="http://www.nationalbluesmuseum.org">www.nationalbluesmuseum.org</a>
<b>Arts</b>	<p><b>St Louis Art Museum:</b> The Saint Louis Art Museum is one of the nation's leading comprehensive art museums, containing more than 30,000 works of art. Our collections include works of exceptional quality from virtually every culture and time period. Areas of notable depth include Oceanic art, pre-Columbian art, ancient Chinese bronzes, and European and American art of the late 19th and 20th centuries, with particular strength in 20th century German painting. The Museum also offers a full range of featured exhibitions, a research library, a varied schedule of special events, and community and educational programming. Admission to the Museum and its collection is free every day.</p> <p>Admission fees to featured exhibitions vary; admission to featured exhibitions is always free on Fridays. <a href="http://www.slam.org">www.slam.org</a></p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>The music capital of <b>Branson</b> is a remarkable vacation destination. It has 49 magnificent live performance theatres, more than 100 shows, pristine lakes, 10 championship golf courses, an award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, shopping galore, varied dining options and a host of hotels and resorts... all cradled in the beautiful Ozark Mountains.</p> <p>Branson is also a great destination for fun family with indoor and outdoor water parks, museums and many fun eating places. Kids and grown-ups alike will also love "Titanic" – billed as the world's largest museum attraction. This is a brilliantly interpreted self-guided tour through the tragic voyage of 1912, in which the visitors assume the identity of one of the passengers or crew. It personalizes the experience, generating a new level of respect and understanding for this fascinating disaster.</p> <p>From the past to the here-and-now: Branson is the entertainment capital of the Mid West. For more than 50 years, live shows have been a staple of a vacation in Branson. Morning, afternoon and night, Branson offers a variety of entertainment options for every member of the family from comedy shows to classic country shows.....and from magic to music. All are good, wholesome family entertainment. No showgirls here – you can take your kids and your grandma to any of them.</p> <p><a href="http://www.branson.com">www.branson.com</a></p> <p><b>Andy Williams Performing Arts Center</b> in Branson is a hub of great entertainment. You can find the 2016 show line-up here:</p>

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[www.andywilliamspac.com](http://www.andywilliamspac.com) Here are some of this year's highlights:

**Illusionist Rick Thomas** – Shows run throughout 2016

Rick Thomas is a premier illusionist having completed five world tours covering over 50 countries. High honors include the coveted "Magician of the Year" by the Academy of Magical Arts and "Stage Magician of the Year" by the World Magic Awards. Thomas has performed for 15 years in his own show in Las Vegas. Thomas has also been featured on numerous national television specials including the NBC specials "The World's Greatest Magic" and his own special on ABC that aired throughout Asia. Thomas performs the most intriguing and innovative grand illusions in the world with a style unlike any other magical entertainer. His stage presence is unmatched as he weaves magic, music and dance into a seamless spectacle. The slick showmanship of Rick Thomas is a riveting visual delight and he is a triumph of personality and presentation!

**Moon River & Me Starring Jimmy Osmond** – April/May dates, now on tour

In this tribute to Andy Williams, Jimmy Osmond sings the songs that made his mentor and friend so beloved by millions. The youngest member of the Osmond family is joined by special guest Charlie Green, the comedy of Chipper Lowell, and the Moon River Band. Jimmy will also be performing some of the chart topping hits that he and his brothers made famous.

**The Lettermen** – Select dates in May, June, September, October, November and December 2016

The beautiful voices of the singing trio, The Lettermen, first hit the music charts in 1961 with "The Way You Look Tonight." Their voices blended as one and after following that first hit with another chart topper, "When I Fall In Love," they were voted best vocal group of that year. Their beautiful harmony truly is timeless.

**Terry Fator** – August 6 & 7, 2016

Terry Fator: The Voice of Entertainment is a one-of-a-kind experience. Las Vegas Strip headliner and "America's Got Talent" winner Terry Fator captures the audience's hearts and funny bones with singing, comedy and amazing celebrity impressions of musical superstars such as Garth Brooks, Dean Martin, Aretha Franklin, Lady Gaga and more. Voted Best of Las Vegas Award Winner - Best Show - Best All-Around Performer.

**Andy Williams Christmas Extravaganza** - November 1 - December 9,

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	<p>2016</p> <p>Branson's most popular Christmas show is back in 2016 - The Legacy continues...Starring The Osmond Brothers and The Lennon Sisters, with award-winning Illusionist Rick Thomas, plus all the variety that made Andy's show so spectacular. The Christmas Extravaganza also includes the Lennon granddaughters, the Andy Williams Ballroom Champions, The Moon River Band and much more...all performing your favorite holiday songs! Plus a tribute to Andy, the man who started it all!</p> <p><b>Hallmark Presents Maxine's Christmas Carol</b> - November 1 - December 10, 2016</p> <p>Maxine will star in a live-action musical version of A Christmas Carol - The bright lights of Branson are set to shine on a brand new star of the stage, although there's a good chance she might find a reason to complain about them. During the 2016 Christmas season, Maxine, Hallmark Cards' self-appointed "Queen of Crabbiness," will star in "Maxine's Christmas Carol", a twist on the Charles Dickens' classic holiday story, "A Christmas Carol." The live-action musical is getting the full Maxine treatment and will feature ghosts, songs, plenty of attitude, and even a role for Maxine's dog Floyd.</p> <p><b>The Lennon Sisters'</b> 23rd consecutive season in Branson, is typical of the place. The combination of their extraordinary natural vocal talents, hard-working professionalism, striking looks, unassuming personalities and strong family values has earned them a place in the hearts of millions of fans nationwide for over 60 years. As youngsters, they were dubbed "America's Sweethearts of Song," and Americans still admire them today.</p>
<b>Films</b>	Much of Tom Sawyer was shot in the state where the story was set.
<b>Museums</b>	<p>Over 400, all over the state!</p> <p>Visitors to the expanded <b>National World War I Museum</b> in Kansas City will discover themselves on a glass floor suspended over a field of poppies one minute, then immersed in the sights and sounds of the trenches the next. Known for most of its 80 years as the Liberty Memorial Museum, the landmark is the nation's only public museum dedicated exclusively to the history of World War I. Major renovations completed in 2006 added 25,000 square feet of colourful, "sound-full" experiences. For the first time, the public is able to see the museum's comprehensive collection of World War I memorabilia.</p> <p><a href="http://www.theworldwar.org">http://www.theworldwar.org</a></p>
<b>Festivals</b>	<p>Missourians take their involvement in westward expansion as a point of pride, and they celebrate the starting point of the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails with <b>Santa-Cali-Gon Days</b> <a href="http://www.santacaligon.com">www.santacaligon.com</a> ,</p>

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	<p>a 4-day festival in Independence with historical reenactments, an arts and crafts show with over 350 exhibits, and country music acts, like Grand Ol' Opry favorite Mel McDaniel.</p> <p>In early November, local artists open up their studio doors along 50 miles of Route 79 along the Mississippi River for the <b>50 Miles of Art Tour</b> (<a href="http://www.50milesart.com">www.50milesart.com</a>). This 2-day celebration of Missouri artists and craftspeople links together the towns of Hannibal, Clarkesville, and Louisiana, allowing visitors to check out working studios, art in progress, and finished pieces for sale.</p>
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<b>ATTRACTIONS</b>	A large stretch of <b>Route 66</b> made famous by the old song and TV show, runs through Missouri and attracts tourists – particularly to the Old Meramec Caves, which aside from some spectacular caverns, is an old Jesse James hideout and has a museum dedicated to him.
<b>Beaches</b>	At many of Missouri's lakes there are beautiful beaches to enjoy in the summer months
<b>Wildlife</b>	The top-rated and free to enter <b>St. Louis Zoo</b> , Forest Park ( <a href="http://www.stlzoo.org">www.stlzoo.org</a> ), features Big Cat Country, Jungle of the Apes, River's Edge with elephants and hippos, Penguin and Puffin Coast, the 1904 Flight Cage aviary, fascinating Insectarium with everything from giant cockroaches to a butterfly house, and animal-contact area called Children's Zoo, and a mini-train ride connecting it all up for you.
<b>Parks</b>	<p>Missouri has some of the most spectacular state parks, forest and conservation areas in the country. From thriving springs and incredible rock formations to grist mills and natural bridges, Missouri's natural areas have something for everyone to explore. With 88 state parks and 1.5 million acres of national forest land, you'll find hiking trails and campgrounds that accommodate all kinds of outdoor enthusiasts.</p> <p>While there are tons of great outdoor options in Missouri, one of the most unique is <b>Elephant Rocks State Park</b>, a billion-year-old set of massive, granite rock formations that actually look like elephants. The biggest one, aptly named Dumbo, soars 27 feet high and weighs 680 tons. And in one of the coolest moves ever made in a park, the 1-mile trail through the 129-acre park has information plaques in Braille, describing this amazing natural wonder.</p> <p><b>Echo Bluff</b> Opening summer of 2016, Missouri's 88th state park will be an outdoor destination to experience all the Ozarks have to offer. Whether you prefer a rustic campsite, one of 62 full-service camping sites or a night in the park's iconic lodge, Echo Bluff State Park will have something for everyone. Fill your days with floating, hiking, swimming, fishing or just</p>

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relaxing in the shadow of the park's namesake, Echo Bluff. Echo Bluff is the largest sheer bluff feature of the property. Made of Eminence dolomite, the bluff has been cut by water into concavity, creating a stunning effect. Just below this geologic wonder is Sinking Creek, a crystal clear Ozarks stream that serves as the second largest tributary to the Current River. From the park's lodge, guests will be able to enjoy this one-of-a-kind stunning panorama.

Sinking Creek flows into the Current River approximately a quarter-mile from the park, allowing park visitors great opportunities to float the Current using the park as both a starting point and an ending point for their floats.

<http://echobluffmissouri.com/>

### **Top of the Rock Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail**

Hop aboard an electric cart for an exhilarating 4km nature trail journey, which overlooks Table Rock Lake, just to the south of Branson.

Beginning at the Welcome Center of Top of the Rock Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail visitors are surrounded by the breathtaking natural beauty of the Ozarks. Top of the Rock Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail provides a one-of-a-kind nature park experience, where you will pass through covered Amish bridges, marvel at dramatic natural rock formations, waterfalls and caves.

Tours Daily 9:00AM - One Hour Before Sunset

Adults \$25+tax

Children (ages 4-12) \$12.50+tax

Children 3 and under Complimentary

Your Top of the Rock Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail experience will begin at the Top of the Rock Welcome Center. Four-seat golf carts are available and you must be 18 years or older to operate a golf cart.

Tour lasts approximately 40 to 50 minutes.

### **Top Of The Rock Adventure Pass.**

Experience both the Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum and the Top of the Rock Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail.

Adults \$32+tax

Children (ages 4-12) \$15+tax

Children 3 and under Complimentary

### **New! Lost Canyon Cave & Nature Trail - Scenic Nature Walk**

Join in a scenic, 4km guided adventure along the Lost Canyon Nature Trail. Enjoy magnificent views of Table Rock Lake, stunning rock formations and waterfalls and the breathtaking Lost Canyon Cave featuring a four-story cascading waterfall. This walk leads you across a 140 foot Amish bridge and all the way to Top of the Rock, where you can continue your experience by relaxing while dining on the balcony at

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	<p>Arnie's Barn.          \$25 per person. Must be 16 years of age or older to participate.          Address: 150 Top of the Rock Road, Ridgedale, MO 65739  <a href="http://www.topoftherock.com/attractions/lost-canyon-en.html">http://www.topoftherock.com/attractions/lost-canyon-en.html</a></p> <p><b>Dogwood Canyon</b>          Aside from a few amenities to make Dogwood Canyon Nature Park more accessible to guests, the rugged landscape has been left untouched and, with just a little imagination, you can travel back to a time when European settlers first entered the area or, even further, to explore the mark that Native Americans left on these Missouri hills and hollows.          The first parcels of the property were acquired in 1990 by Johnny Morris, the founder of Bass Pro Shops. It was his dedication to conserving the natural environment that has become the cornerstone for development of this spectacular wilderness experience. So many opportunities await you at this incredible 10,000 acre Ozark paradise. The park is managed by the Dogwood Canyon Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the canyon's natural plant and wildlife environment. The Foundation promotes environmental conservation by maintaining the park and providing the public with an unspoiled setting for exploration and the enjoyment of various outdoor activities.          You can find Dogwood Canyon just to the southwest of Branson at 2038 West State Highway 86, Lampe, Missouri.  <a href="http://www.dogwoodcanyon.org/">http://www.dogwoodcanyon.org/</a></p>
<b>Gardens</b>	<p><b>Missouri Botanical Garden:</b> Opened in 1859, this is the country's oldest and one of its best botanical gardens: a 79-acre delight featuring the nation's largest Japanese strolling garden, a Chinese garden, a geodesic-domed rainforest greenhouse, an 1882 brick conservatory housing camellias, a scented garden for the visually impaired, a sculpture garden with works by Carl Milles, a hedge maze, a home-gardening resource center, and themed gardens ranging from a Victorian garden to an English woodland garden. A must-see for gardeners, who can easily spend 2 or 3 hours of bliss here.  <a href="http://www.mobot.org">www.mobot.org</a></p>

<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Shopping</b>	<p>Kansas City's premier shopping district (and the country's first suburban shopping center) is <b>Country Club Plaza</b>, centered around 47th Street and Ward Parkway. Built in 1922 to resemble a Spanish marketplace, it's a tree-lined, 14-square-block area with more than 180 shops, restaurants, and nightspots. Crown Center, is an 85-acre business and residential complex owned by the world's largest greeting-card</p>

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	company, Hallmark. It contains specialty shops, restaurants, hotels, theaters, and the free Hallmark Visitor Center, which chronicles 90 years of history with displays of Keepsake Ornaments and other Hallmark products and memorabilia, educational exhibits, and excerpts from Hallmark Hall of Fame television movies
<b>Markets</b>	<b>Kansas City: City Market</b> , at 5th and Main streets north of downtown and I-70, is an outdoor market in operation since the 1850s. It's busiest on Saturday, when 150 vendors offer everything from vegetables and flowers to live chickens and T-shirts, while Sundays May through August feature an arts and crafts market. The outdoor market is surrounded by 37 permanent indoor specialty shops, international groceries, and restaurants occupying an Art Deco building.
<b>Nightlife</b>	<p>Much of the <b>Kansas City's nightlife</b> can be found downtown, in Westport, and at Country Club Plaza. In the historic 18th and Vine District, the best spots offering live blues and jazz include the Blue Room, a smoke-free venue (the better to protect its displays of jazz memorabilia) featuring jazz on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and the Mutual Musicians Foundation, a National Historic Landmark where musicians have been meeting for decades to jam after midnight - Fridays it's blues, Saturdays it's jazz.</p> <p>Then there's <b>Branson - 'The Live Entertainment capital of America'</b> – there's more live entertainment on the streets of Branson than there is on Broadway. And before you start stereotyping – yes, it is an older crowd, but far from all blue rinsed. And, with that rapidly growing Zoomer market, you can send them off to hear the music they grew up with, including Andy Williams, Ann-Margaret, Glen Campbell, The Righteous Brothers, the Platters and there's even the Dick Clark American Bandstand Theatre. A lot of big names play Branson, so it's always worth checking at <a href="http://www.Branson.com">www.Branson.com</a></p>
<b>Casinos</b>	<p>Twelve, including Ameristar Casino St. Charles brings the finest gaming and entertainment to the banks of the Missouri River, serving the entire metropolitan St. Louis area.</p> <p><b>Riverboat Gambling</b> - Riverboat gambling takes place on non-cruising boats along the banks of the Missouri River, including Argosy, Route 9 and I-635, Riverside; Harrah's Casino, U.S. 210 and Chouteau Trafficway, North Kansas City; Ameristar Casino, I-435 and Route 210; and the Isle of Capri Casino.</p>

<b>CUISINE</b>	
<b>Food</b>	If you go to Kansas City and don't eat the hickory-smoked barbecue, you may as well have just stayed home! Check out Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue, 101 W. 22nd St. ( <a href="http://www.jackstackbbq.com">www.jackstackbbq.com</a> ), in the recently renovated Freight House, a 119-year-old brick warehouse with great

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	views of the Kansas City skyline in the Crossroads Arts District.
<b>Wine and Beer</b>	<p>Wineries: there are 57 in total!</p> <p><b>Stone Hill Winery and Restaurant</b> is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Missouri wine country. Stone Hill, perched dramatically on a hill overlooking the beautiful German-American town of Hermann, invites guests to take a guided tour of the winery's cavernous arched underground cellars before settling in for a wine tasting in one of three historic tasting rooms. Stone Hill's tranquility is accented by the spectacular scenery. The Vintage Restaurant serves gourmet German and American cuisine.</p> <p><b>Anheuser-Busch</b>, one of the world's largest beer brewers, was established at a site in St Louis the 1860s, and many architectural gems from that time period remain. Tours of the brewing process take in the 1885 Clydesdale stable, the historic 1892 Brew House, and the packaging plant, ending with free drinks. Personally recommended!</p>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<p>Spend the day in <b>Hermann</b> enjoying locally made wine and German sausage or visit Kansas City for savory barbecue and ribs. From Southern fried food to ethnic culinary delights, Missouri has it all. Try Candlestick Inn near Branson for great food combined with great views over downtown Branson across Lake Taneycomo,</p>

<b>MORE INFO</b>	
<b>Brochures</b>	<p>Contact the Missouri Division of Tourism, P.O Box 1055, Jefferson City, MO 65102 (tel. 800/519-2100; <a href="http://www.visitmo.ca">www.visitmo.ca</a> ), and ask for the Missouri Vacation Planner, which includes an official highway map of the state.</p> <p>Missouri Travel Guide:  <a href="https://www.visitmo.com/official-missouri-printed-travel-guide-order-form.aspx">https://www.visitmo.com/official-missouri-printed-travel-guide-order-form.aspx</a></p> <p>Branson also produces an excellent guide: <a href="http://www.ExploreBranson.com">www.ExploreBranson.com</a>          And so does St. Louis: <a href="http://www.ExploreStLouis.com">www.ExploreStLouis.com</a></p>
<b>Contacts</b>	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.visitmo.com">www.visitmo.com</a>          Tel: 1-855-VisitMO (1-855-847-4866)          Email: <a href="mailto:tourism@ded.mo.gov">tourism@ded.mo.gov</a>          Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VisitMO">https://www.facebook.com/VisitMO</a>          Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/visitmo">https://twitter.com/visitmo</a>          You Tube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/VisitMO/videos">https://www.youtube.com/user/VisitMO/videos</a></p>
<b>Current Deals</b>	Get valuable coupons today from <a href="http://www.VisitMOCoupons.com">www.VisitMOCoupons.com</a>

<b>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</b>	<p><b>Missouri Road Trip:</b>  <b>St. Charles</b> – First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site  <a href="http://www.mostateparks.com">www.mostateparks.com</a> and Museum, Lewis and Clark restaurant</p>
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[www.lewisandclarksrestaurant.com](http://www.lewisandclarksrestaurant.com) , antique shops and the old town.  
**St. Louis** – Tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery  
[www.budweisertours.com](http://www.budweisertours.com) , St. Louis Zoo [www.stlzoo.org](http://www.stlzoo.org) and visit to the top of the Gateway Arch [www.gatewayarch.com](http://www.gatewayarch.com) and the fabulous museum at the bottom. Hotel Hyatt Regency in the old rail station [www.stlouis.hyatt.com](http://www.stlouis.hyatt.com) and [www.stlouisunionstation.com](http://www.stlouisunionstation.com) .  
**Route 66** – Portions of the old Route 66 in SW Missouri [www.historic66.com](http://www.historic66.com) ; Meramec Caverns and Jesse James hideout [www.AmericasCave.com](http://www.AmericasCave.com) ; East to west traverse of Missouri  
**Joplin** - Joplin Museum Complex [www.JoplinMuseum.org](http://www.JoplinMuseum.org) , Joplin Heritage area  
**Branson** – The Hilton Promenade Hotel at Branson Landing [www.promenadebransonlanding.hilton.com](http://www.promenadebransonlanding.hilton.com) and the new Branson Landing complex.  
The Jim Stafford Show [www.JimStafford.com](http://www.JimStafford.com) , and The Andy Williams Show featuring Ann-Margret [www.AndyWilliams.com](http://www.AndyWilliams.com)  
The Titanic Museum: [www.titanicbranson.com](http://www.titanicbranson.com) ;  
Silver Dollar City – thrill rides and The Magic of Peter Gossamer magic show; [www.silverdollarcity.com](http://www.silverdollarcity.com)  
Table Rock Lake State Park and the Showboat Southern Belle [www.showboatbransonbelle.com](http://www.showboatbransonbelle.com)

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