

Branson – We Believe in Encores Challenge

Tourists have made their way to Branson, Missouri, for over a century. As part of the Ozarks region, Branson offers captivating scenic beauty, southern hospitality, and wholesome entertainment for all ages. Whether you want to enjoy the booming live show scene, explore the Ozark Mountains and lakes, or be thrilled by all the attractions in town, there is something for everyone in Branson. Each season offers something special – spring provides beautiful blooms scattered throughout the town, summer has perfect lake weather and vibrant greenery around every corner, fall brings colorful foliage, and Christmas transforms the town into a holiday wonderland. To top it off, voted No. 4 in Forbes’ “Top Ten Best Places in America to Travel Right Now and Avoid the Pandemic,” Branson can be experienced with safety in mind.



*The Branson – We Believe in Encores Challenge is sponsored by **Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau**. Welcome to Branson! Experience world-famous live entertainment, thrilling attractions, outdoor beauty, delicious food and genuine Ozarks hospitality that will make you feel right at home. In Branson, those precious moments with your family become memories to last a lifetime. The live entertainment scene can't be beat. Plenty of places to catch a show and snap a selfie. We feature the first theatre in Branson, the Owen Theatre; the first outdoor drama, and it's still being performed sixty years later at Shepherd of the Hills; the first theatre built in our entertainment district, the Presleys Theatre; and the newest featuring the Bible stories we love onstage, Sight and Sound Theatre. There's no shortage of great things to see and do.*



Branson – We Believe in Encores Challenge ... Visit 6 sites. Remember: Missouri Explorers must be registered in the program, and they are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites. Upload your verification photographs using the online submission form at <https://missouri2021.org/missouri-explorers/> to receive your merit badge button.

Remember, Missouri Explorers, you are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites before arriving.

Branson Centennial Museum

120 S. Commercial Street
Branson, Missouri
417-239-1912

Learn about the development of Branson tourism and entertainment at the Branson Centennial Museum. The Museum showcases the history of Branson and surrounding Taney County and features rotating exhibits throughout the year. Snap your photograph at the music exhibit inside the museum during business hours.

Branson Landing Fountain Show

100 Branson Landing
Branson, Missouri
417-239-3002

Branson Landing, near the Taneycomo Lakefront, features a water spectacular with a choreographed interplay of water, fire, and music. Shows happen on the hour beginning at noon each day. Snap your photograph in front of the show.

<http://bransonlanding.com/Fountains.html>

Branson Mural

114 E. Main Street
Branson, Missouri

The Branson Mural in historic downtown Branson showcases the wide variety of experiences available to Branson visitors. Snap your photograph in front of the mural, located at the corner of Main Street and Sycamore Street.

Dewey Short Visitor Center at Table Rock Lake

4500 State Highway 165
Branson, Missouri
501-340-1943

The Dewey Short Visitor Center is temporarily closed due to the pandemic.

Named for former United States Representative Dewey Jackson Short, the Visitor Center features exhibits about the White River Watershed, local habitats, Table Rock Dam, and the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as several interactive exhibits including maps, power generation and water safety. Snap your photograph at the main entrance with the US Army Corps of Engineers castle on the wall.

Dick's 5 & 10

103 W. Main Street
Branson, Missouri
417-213-8020

Founded in 1961 by Dick Hartley, Dick's 5 & 10 provides a window into the past, when variety stores dotted small-town America. Dick's 5 & 10 is a Branson treasure and with lots of surprises to offer. Snap your photograph at the coin operated horse ride out front.

<https://www.dicks5and10.com/>

Legend of the Ozarks

Southwest corner of Commercial Street and College Street
Branson, Missouri

Legend of the Ozarks features three figures – a fiddler, a quilter, and a young boy fishing – which symbolize different parts of the culture and heritage of the Missouri Ozarks. Snap your photograph with the sculpture.

Marvel Cave \$

399 Silver Dollar City Parkway
Branson, Missouri
417-336-7100

Access to Marvel Cave requires a ticket to Silver Dollar City. Marvel Cave itself is temporarily closed due to the pandemic.

Marvel Cave opened for tours in 1894, making it, in all likelihood, Branson's first tourist attraction. The cave is one of the deepest in Missouri. Snap your photograph at the entrance to Marvel Cave.

<https://www.silverdollarcity.com/theme-park/Attractions/Rides/Marvel-Cave>

Owen Theater \$

205 S Commercial Street
Branson, Missouri
417-336-4255

The Owen Theatre opened in 1936 in Branson, and was named after its owner, Jim Owen, who was the former mayor of Branson. It first opened as a silent movie theatre and later became a theatre showcasing live shows, as well as films, concerts, and conservatory arts education programs. It is now managed by the Branson Regional Arts Council and is the oldest remaining theatre in Branson. Shows, such as The Complete Works of Shakespeare - Abridged, Peter Pan, Jr., and The Sound of Music, are just a few of the seven shows that will be performed on the stage this year. Snap your photograph with the current show poster in the theatre window.

<http://siteline.vendini.com/site/bransonregionalartsCouncil/>

Shepherd of the Hills \$

5583 76 Country Boulevard
Branson, Missouri
417-334-4191

Shepherd of the Hills was first published by Harold Bell Wright in 1907 with endearing characters that lived in the beautiful Ozarks. This novel became very successful and many

people began to flock to the area. Readings on the lawn in front of the cabin were the first entertainment in Branson. In the late 1950's the owners decided to make a theatre out of an Old Mill that was on the property. Over the years, Shepherd of the Hills has added attractions for many people to visit time and time again. It has become an award-winning family entertainment park centered around the legendary outdoor drama and historic homestead of the namesake novel, The Shepherd of the Hills. Snap your photograph in front of Inspiration Tower.

<https://theshepherdofthehills.com/>

Presleys' Theatre \$

2920 76 Country Boulevard
Branson, Missouri
417-334-4874

The Presley family used to play their music on a stage in an underground cavern in the Missouri hills. People from all over loved to listen to their performances and eventually they had to get a bigger place to perform. They decided to buy a piece of land just outside of Branson and opened up a brand-new theatre. It was Branson's original country music theatre. After many years, other theatres started to open right around the Presleys. However, the Presleys' Theatre is still going strong and is a big success in the Ozarks. Snap your photograph by the historical pictures in the lobby.

<https://www.presleys.com/>

Ralph Foster Museum at College of the Ozarks \$

1 Cultural Court
Point Lookout, Missouri
417-690-3407

The Ralph Foster Museum is temporarily closed due to the pandemic.

The Ralph Foster Museum collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits items relating to the Ozarks region. Perhaps its most unique artifact is the original vehicle used in the television series "The Beverly Hillbillies." Snap your photograph at the 1921 Oldsmobile Model 46

Roadster, the truck used in the original TV series.

<https://www.rfostermuseum.com/>

Sight and Sound Theatre \$

1001 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway
Branson, Missouri
800-377-1277

The founder of Sight and Sound Theatres, Glenn Eshelman, used to present his scenic photography with a slide projector and used a microphone to add narration and music to each slide. The audience absolutely loved it, and this finally led to the first Sight and Sound Theatre opening in 1976 in Pennsylvania. The name "Sight and Sound" was inspired by Christ's teachings and Eshelman's goal of dramatizing biblical truths through live stage productions. In 2008, Sight and Sound Theatre opened in Branson with the huge success of "Noah" that ran for two years. Many years later, the stories of the Old Testament are still the favorites at this beautiful theatre. Snap your photograph by the lion statue in front of the building.

<https://www.sight-sound.com/>

Top of the Rock \$

150 Top of the Rock Road
Ridgedale, Missouri

Situated at the highest elevation in Taney County near Branson, with uninterrupted views of the Ozark Mountains and Table Rock Lake, Top of the Rock is nestled among some of the most breathtaking scenery in Missouri. There are multiple attractions available to visitors, but perhaps the view might be the best. Snap your photograph at the Lost Trail of Tears sculpture – a Native American on horseback – in the infinity pool near the restaurants.

<https://bigcedar.com/attractions/top-of-the-rock/>