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2021
TRAVEL GUIDE

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Welcome to
Heart of the Ozarks
BRANSON, MISSOURI!

We're glad you're considering Branson, Missouri for your next vacation destination! Whether you're looking forward to seeing shows, visiting attractions, shopping, dining, or exploring the natural beauty of the Ozarks, there is a little something for everyone!

Who are we?

Branson Travel Group is a full service vacation booking company that specializes in providing discount vacation packages, as well as booking services for Branson's best shows, attractions, and hotels. Our staff is locally based and can provide expert assistance for your next trip to Branson!





Weather through *The Year*

A common phrase here in the Ozarks is, "Don't like the weather? Just wait five minutes." Although sometimes finicky, the weather here in Branson tends to stay mild in general. The summers are warm enough for a ride down a water slide, or a swim in Table Rock Lake, but not sweltering. The winters are cold enough for a blanket of snow, but not bitter. Positioned right in the heart of America, you'll find the best aspects of each season, making Branson an ideal destination all year long.

Natural beauty

With an abundance of hiking trails, caverns to explore, and close access to both Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo, Branson is full of natural beauty!



BRANSON FESTIVALS 2021

- Branson Market Days: April 30 - May 1, 2021
- Fireburst Independence Day Fireworks - Table Rock Lake: July 2
- Moonlight Madness at Silver Dollar City: July 24 - August 8
- Tanger Outlet State Tax Relief: August 7- August 9
- 9/11 Memorial Ceremony - Point Lookout - September 11
- Autumn Daze Arts, Crafts & Music Festival - Downtown: September 16 - September 18
- Christmas in Branson: November 1 - December 31
- Veterans Homecoming Week: November 5 - November 11
- Branson's Festival of Trees: November 3 - November 29



Table Rock Lake

Branson's largest body of water, Table Rock Lake, boasts over 800 miles of shoreline, much of which is covered in lush trees and boasts plentiful wildlife. A man-made body of water, this lake was created when the Table Rock Dam, completed in 1959, captured the White River. The warm, spacious waters make it the perfect place for boating, water sports, swimming and fishing. In fact, it is renowned among anglers for the large bass, crappie, bluegill and catfish that call the lake home, and the area's many coves are prime fishing territory. These coves are also the perfect place for a relaxing afternoon spent on a dock or dropping anchor and kicking back on a boat.

The shores of Table Rock Lake are home to some of the area's most beloved attractions. Swimmers and sunbathers will love Moonshine Beach; a spacious, sandy bit of shoreline that feels just like a tropical getaway. Cape Fair, with its wide open waters, is another popular spot for a swim. Visitors looking for a break from the water can enjoy Table Rock State Park, which provides gorgeous views of the lake along with hiking trails and picnic areas. There are also many caves adjacent to the lake that visitors can explore, such as Talking Rocks Cavern.



Lake Taneycomo

Lake Taneycomo is Branson's smallest lake and has just 40 miles of shoreline, but is considered by many to be the most beautiful. It shares some of this shoreline with the Branson Landing, which incorporates a boardwalk adjacent to the various shops, restaurants and attractions. During the warmer months, visitors can enjoy the Landing's fountain show reflecting off Taneycomo's waters, featuring exhilarating plumes of fire and synchronized jets of water. This is also the perfect place to rent a kayak or sign up for a sightseeing tour of the lake.

Another man-made body of water, Lake Taneycomo (short for Taney County Missouri) was created in 1913, when the Power Site Dam captured the White River. For years Taneycomo was classified as a warm water lake, but 1959 saw the completion of the Table Rock Dam, just 22 miles upstream. The waters flowing from this new dam were much colder in temperature, and, luckily for fishermen, this created the perfect environment for a cold water fishery. Now Lake Taneycomo is home to some of the world's best trout fishing, and three quarters of a million rainbow trout and brown trout are stocked each year. In fact, many state fishing records have been set in the cold, clear waters of Taneycomo. Visitors can also see the trout up close and learn about their life cycle at the Shepherd of the Hills Trout Hatchery, located at the foot of the dam.



Bull Shoals Lake

Bull Shoals Lake might not be as popular as Table Rock Lake or Lake Taneycomo, but with 700 miles of shoreline it's the perfect destination for those that want a quieter get away. Created in 1951 when the Bull Shoals Dam was completed, it is also a byproduct of the White River. Because of the dam's location on the river, the lake levels fluctuate regularly, meaning the shoreline is widely undeveloped. This allows for some of the most beautiful natural sites, with stunning bluffs and rock ledges intermingling with lush trees.

A popular spot for fishing, Bull Shoals Lake is famous for its large mouth bass and spotted bass populations. In fact, many state records have been set on its waters. It's also home to crappie and catfish, and unlike Table Rock and Taneycomo, walleye can be found in abundance. Boating, jet skiing, and kayaking are popular pastimes here, as well as tubing, wakeboarding, and water skiing. At Bull Shoals visitors can enjoy all the same activities on calmer, less populated waters.



DICKEN'S CRAFT MALL

Nestled into Branson's main strip is a unique shopping experience that's perfect for the whole family! The Dicken's Craft Mall, once the home of an entire shopping center, now hosts two stories of flea market style booths and has an antique mall attached. Offering a huge variety of handmade crafts, unique knick knacks, and beautiful antiques, it's the perfect place to get a one of a kind souvenir to remember your Branson vacation.

You'll find everything from clothes to candles, outdoor lawn ornaments, home decor, leather goods, quilts, signs and gifts of all kinds, all at great prices. Make sure to set aside a few hours for shopping if you hope to see it all! With a friendly and knowledgeable staff who is happy to help you find the perfect item, you're sure to find something you'll love!

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Walking and Hiking Trails Near Branson, Missouri

Branson might be bustling, but the surrounding areas are full of scenic nature getaways. Whether you're looking for the perfect spot to picnic, or a day long hike, there is something for everyone here in the Ozarks!

WALKING TRAILS

NORTH BEACH

50 N. Boardwalk, Branson, MO 65616. Positioned between beautiful Lake Taneycomo and the Branson Landing, this 3/4 of a mile path takes you through North Beach Park, which features fishing docks, horseshoe pits, and plenty of picnic space. While you're there check out the Branson Landing, full of shops, attractions for the whole family, and delicious places to grab a bite to eat.



STOCKSTILL PARK

524 Stockstill Lane, Branson, MO 65616. A favorite amongst locals and visitors alike, Stockstill Park sits along Roark Creek, and features a 1/2 mile walking trail right along the course of the creek, just a short walk away from the Branson Landing and historic Downtown Branson.

SUNSET PARK

869 Sunset Lane, Branson, MO 65616. Featuring disk golf courses and views of Lake Taneycomo along a 6/10 mile long path, Sunset Park is aptly named because it remains open until 11:00 PM each night, with bright lights to guide visitors along the walking trail.

NATURE HIKES

WATERFALL TRAIL

Intersection of Roark Valley Road/Shep. of Hills Expry. Waterfall Trail is one of Branson's newest hiking paths, and runs along a tributary of Roark Creek. The trail itself is 2/3 miles, unpaved, and includes two creek crossings, gorgeous rock formations, and a beautiful waterfall, all underneath a dense canopy of trees. This is a fairly easy hike and perfect for the whole family.

LAKES FOREST WILDERNESS AREA

412 Owen Lane, Branson, MO 65616. Located in the heart of Branson, Lakes Forest Wilderness Area features 5.3 miles of rigorous hiking trails nestled amongst beautiful woodland views. A set of 315 stone steps, placed all the way back in the late 1930's, lead down toward Lake Taneycomo, and pass both a cave and a waterfall. The area also features an old homestead and barn, which add a unique historic touch to this nature getaway.

CHINQUAPIN TRAIL AND TABLE ROCK LAKESHORE TRAIL (Table Rock Lake State Park)

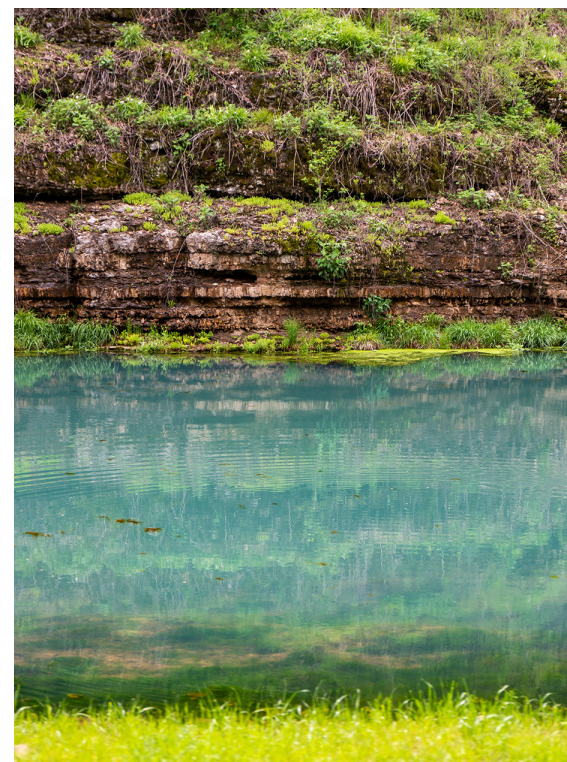
5272 MO-165, Branson, MO 65616. Table Rock Lake State Park features two beautiful trails that wind along the lake and through the surrounding natural areas. The first is the Chinquapin Trail, which is 3.4 miles, unpaved, and winds along stunning rock formations, including a few caves. The second is the Table Rock Lakeshore Trail, which features the Dewey Short Visitor Center, and is 2.25 miles of paved, relatively flat trail perfect for hikers of any experience level.

WHITE RIVER VALLEY TRAIL

5325 MO-165, Branson, MO 65616. Located on sections of Table Rock State Park, as well as US Army Corps of Engineers land, the White River Valley Trail is 10.25 miles long and sectioned into loops that offer a variety of surfaces and challenges perfect for hikers of all skill levels. Featuring views of small waterfalls, both Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo, and an abandoned farmstead, this trail is also perfect for biking.

RUTH AND PAUL HENNING CONSERVATION AREA

West of Branson on Sycamore Log Church Road. Although you might know Paul Henning as the creator of television classics like *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *Green Acres*, and *Petticoat Junction*, he and his wife were passionate conservationists, and wished to keep this area beautiful for all to enjoy. There are a few designated trails in the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area, including the Streamside Trail which is a 1/2 mile intermediate hike, and the Homesteader's Trail, which is 3.4 miles long and classified as difficult. Make sure you visit their 40 foot viewing tower, which boasts gorgeous views of the surrounding land. This is a perfect forested getaway during your trip to Branson.





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