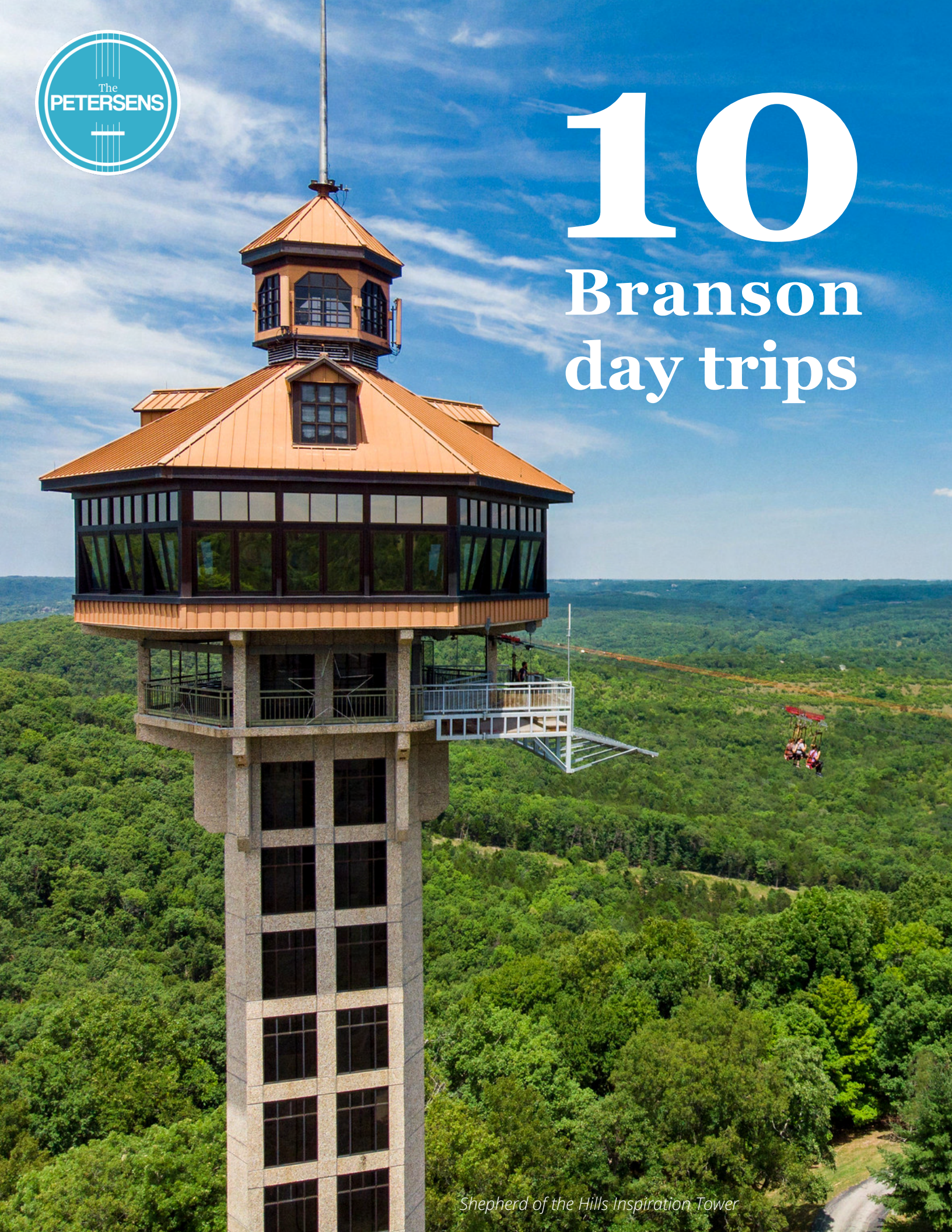
The PETERSENS

10 Branson day trips



Shepherd of the Hills Inspiration Tower

Hi guys!

We hope to see you in Branson some time! Every show is a unique experience and after every performance we feel our family gets a little bit bigger.

Branson is such a fun place for vacations, anniversary trips and family reunions. There is entertainment for all ages along **the Strip** and out at **Silver Dollar City** theme park.

We are in the **Ozark Mountains**, which aren't in fact mountains, but rolling forests on limestone plateaus. Our favorite things to do mostly involve the outdoors. We love **Table Rock Lake**, sitting around a bonfire and roasting s'mores with friends, or going on a walk at **Dogwood Canyon**.

Part of the fun is getting here! **Springfield**, Missouri is the birthplace of **Route 66**, the 2,400-mile road that ran from Chicago to Los Angeles until it was replaced by interstate highways.



Get your kicks on Route 66 with these pieces of Americana between Carthage and Lebanon in Missouri: **66 Drive-In Theatre**, **Jasper County Courthouse** and its cage elevator *(free)*, **Gary's Gay Parita** replica gas station, **History Museum on the Square**, **Route 66 Car Museum**, and the **Munger Moss Motel** sign.

Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) is 50 miles away and **Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport** (XNA) is 100 miles. You will need a car to both travel from the airport and get around (there are no taxis or Ubers), but some of our **tour dates** are easier to get to without a car.

We play most weeks at **The Little Opry Theatre** within **Branson's IMAX Complex**, 3562 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway. Join us for music, laughter and good times! Visit our **website** for tickets, dates, merch, and more. Sometimes we add weekend and evening shows too.

A hundred years ago visitors started arriving in Branson in search of locations mentioned in *The Shepherd of the Hills* best-selling novel, and to marvel at Marvel Cave that later grew into

Silver Dollar City. But it was the damming of the White River that really put the area on the map as a tourist destination, with **Table Rock Lake**'s 800 miles of shoreline and trout-rich **Lake Taneycomo** that flows like a river thanks to cold waters from the hydroelectric plant. Then, in the 1960s, Branson became known for live entertainment, and now award-winning **golf courses** too.

But we could not talk about the Ozarks without mentioning **Johnny Morris**, who is like everyone's grandpa! He started selling fishing tackle out of his dad's liquor store in Springfield, Missouri in the 1970s, and has gone on to open over 170 **Bass Pro Shops** and many world-class venues around Branson - including **Big Cedar Lodge**, **Top of the Rock** and **Dogwood Canyon Nature Park** - where people can connect with nature, and we film many of our videos.



Just a heads up, if you plan to fish, you will need a **fishing permit**, a **trout permit** for Lake Taneycomo, and those born after January 1st, 1984 need a **Missouri Boater Certification Card** to drive a motorized boat.

Branson really does have it all: music, entertainment and recreation**.** The **Explore Branson website** is great for everything from trip planning, weather trends to a free vacation guide. We have also added some places to eat and stay at the end of this booklet, and you will find more options on **Airbnb**, **VRBO** and Explore Branson's **places to stay** page.

The **zip code** for most of Branson is **MO 65616** - we left it out of the listings to save space! Also, one last tip, check opening hours as places may shut earlier than you expect or only open on selected days.

Thanks for being such awesome friends and encouragers.
Y'all are the best!

Jon, Karen, Emmett, Katie, Ellen, Matt, and Julianne



1 Downtown and Branson Landing







Park your car at either end of the Landing - next to Belk or Bass Pro Shops - to catch **Sparky**, the free trolley that goes around **downtown** from 9am to 6pm every day.

Check out **Clockers Cafe** where we played when we first came to town, and **Dick's 5 & 10** (Five and Dime) for old time candies, postcards and souvenirs.

Visit the **Branson Landing** for shops, dining, a scenic boardwalk, and a free fountain show every hour from noon (three songs at 8 PM). Grab coffee at **Parlor Doughnuts** and mention **The Petersens** for **10% off** your order!

Rent a boat or book an experienced **fishing guide** to make the most of the amazing **trout fishing** waters. The upper 3 miles are great for wading; the rest offer boat, bank, or dock fishing.

Bass Pro Shops Branson
1 Bass Pro Dr
Clockers Cafe *103 S Commercial St*
Dick's 5 & 10 *103 W Main St*
Parlor Doughnuts
482 Branson Landing Blvd #105
Lilleys' Landing *(boat rental)*
367 River Lane
White River Kayaking
187 First St, Hollister, MO 65672

2 Table Rock Lake

Table Rock State Park is a great place to enjoy the lake with boat rental from **State Park Marina**, **bass fishing**, ideal spots for picnics and sunsets, and **hiking trails** including a two-mile paved lakeshore trail between the marina and **Dewey Short Visitor Center** *(free)*.

The **Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery** *(free)* is a fun little visit, and has amazing views when the dam spillways are open.

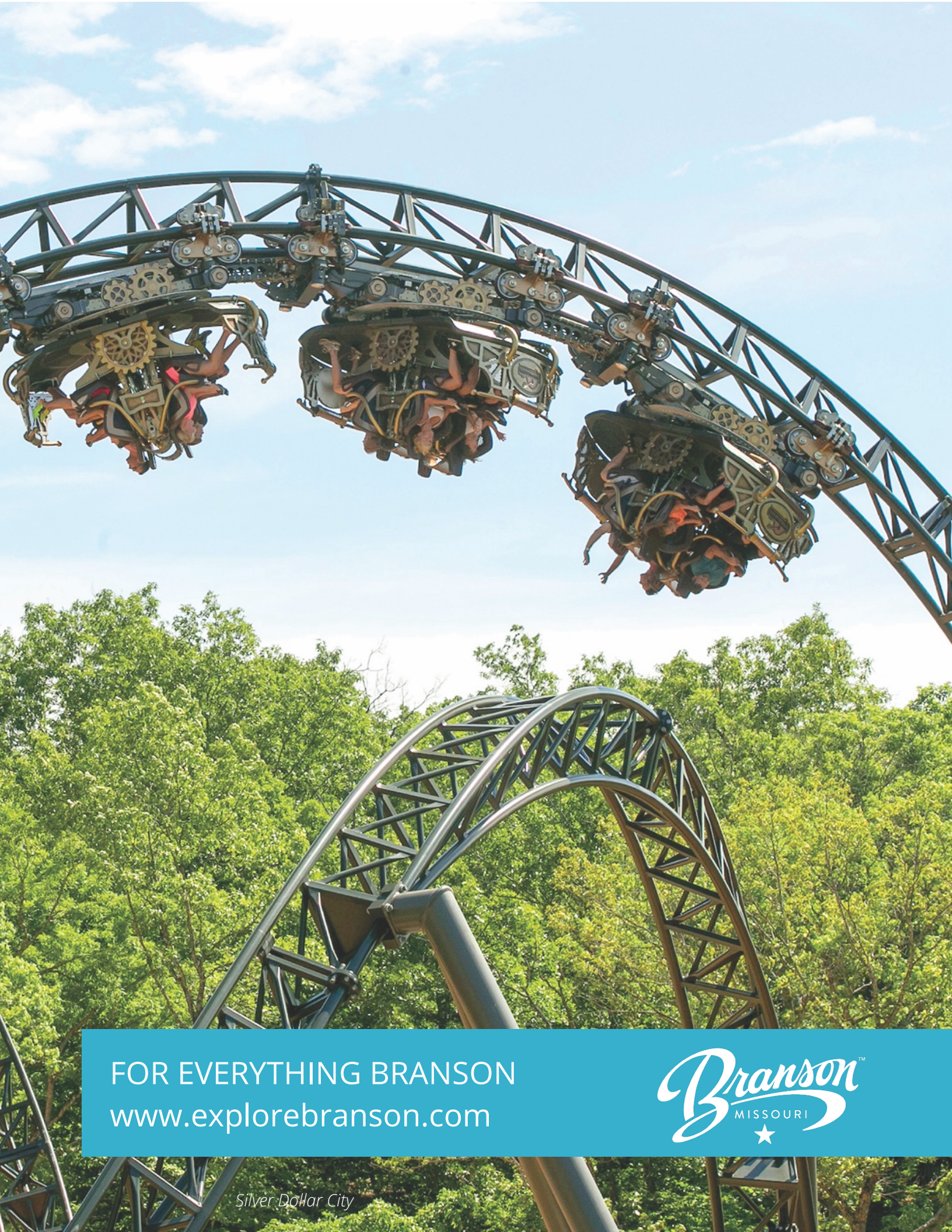




It is also a short drive over the dam to **Peninsula Lookout** and the sandy **Moonshine Beach** in one direction, and **Branson Scenic Overlook** in the other, and opposite the visitor center entrance is a small road up to the **Upper Dam Overlook.**



Dewey Short Visitor Center
4500 State Hwy 165
Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery
483 Hatchery Rd
White River Dive Company bike rental *5325 State Hwy 165*
State Park Marina
380 State Park Marina Rd
Bass Pro Shops' Long Creek Marina
1368 Long Creek Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739



FOR EVERYTHING BRANSON
www.explorebranson.com

Branson™ MISSOURI

Silver Dollar City

3 Silver Dollar City



Silver Dollar City is an 1880s-style theme park packed with **rides**, **shows** and **craftsmen**. It is also where we started out on stage back in 2007.

Whether you go on the rides or not, there is so much to do!

They also have many fun festivals throughout the year including **Bluegrass and BBQ** in May, and **Pumpkins in the City** with thousands of pumpkins and entertainment every evening in the fall.

What we really love out there are their **Christmas** lights and watching their Dickens Christmas Carol play, through November and December.



Marvel Cave is a limestone cave with the largest entrance room in the United States. Go there as soon as the SDC opens to avoid the queues and, beware, there are lots of steps!



They do one, two and three-day passes, and people often upgrade to a season ticket if they plan to return later in the year. The **mobile app** is the best way to plan and navigate on the day.

Silver Dollar City *399 Silver Dollar City Pkwy*

4 Top of the Rock



The Top of the Rock **restaurants** have all the hallmarks of a Johnny Morris property with bespoke stone, timber and ironwork, and the best views in town. Watch the cannon **sunset ceremony** *(free)* from the terrace every evening in the warmer months.

Chapel of the Ozarks *(free)* has picture postcard views of Table Rock Lake and is open from 5pm to 9pm.



Their electric cart **Lost Canyon Cave and Nature Trail** is fun, and tickets include entry to the **Ancient Ozarks Natural History Museum** full of Native American and Civil War artefacts.

There is also a gift shop, **golf course** and next door is **Big Cedar Lodge**, a resort with activities and eateries open to everyone, including **Devil's Pool** restaurant and live entertainment every night at **Buzzard Bar**.



Top of the Rock *150 Top of the Rock Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739*
Big Cedar Lodge *190 Top of the Rock Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739*

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www.patreon.com/thepetersens

The PETERSENS



Somewhere deep in the Ozarks

5 Finley Farms

Not many venues where we film are open to the public, but with **Finley Farms** *(free)* you get three-in-one with:

- **The Ozark Mill** restaurant
- **The Workshop** coffee shop
- **The Chapel**



A former flour mill and industrial garage, Johnny Morris bought the buildings in the hope of preserving the history in some way and his daughter, Megan Stack, took on the project.



They also relocated a 100-year-old bridge from a mile away, and it now leads over the Finley River to a chapel modeled on historic ones dotted about the region.

They grow seasonal vegetables for the restaurant on the **farm**, and often offer tours and events.



The whole place is a 30-minute drive from Branson, in Ozark, out towards Springfield. There are also a load of big **antique malls** in the area.

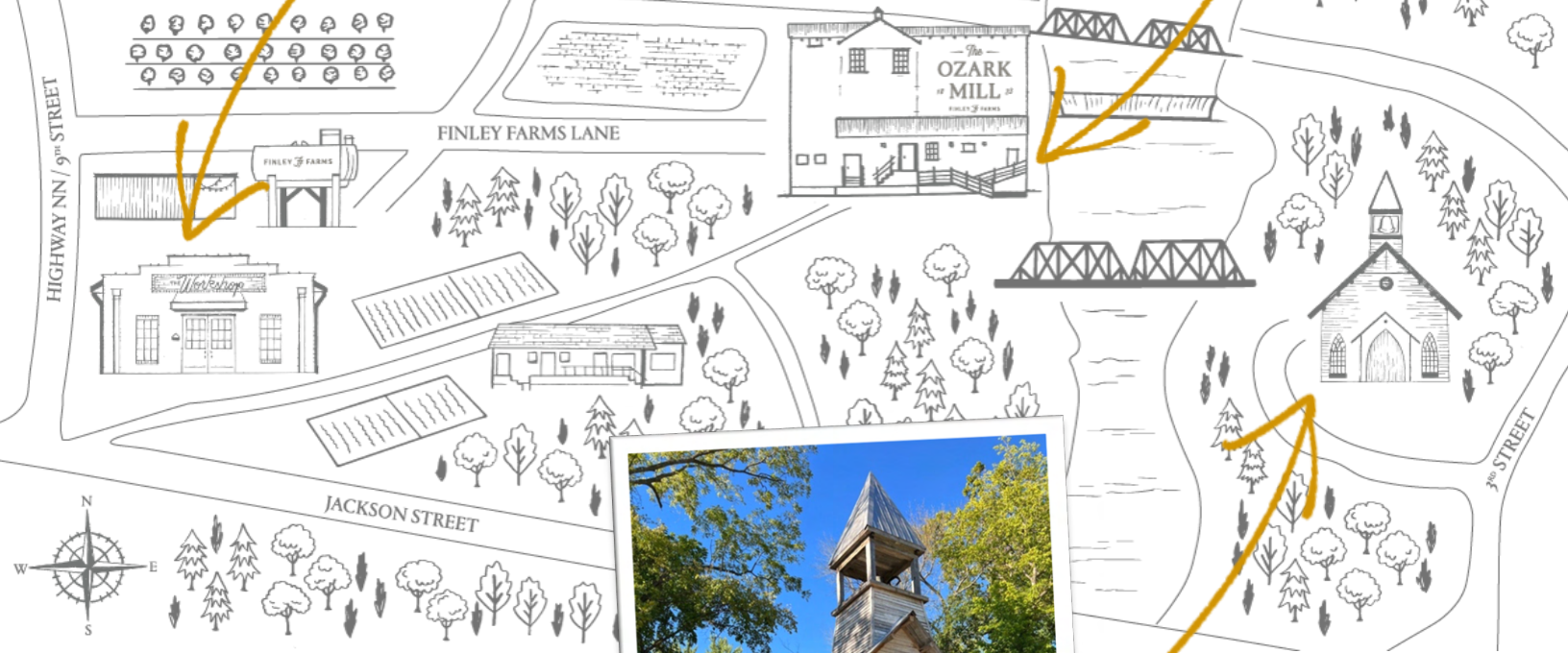
Finley Farms *802 Finley Farms Ln, Ozark, MO 65721*

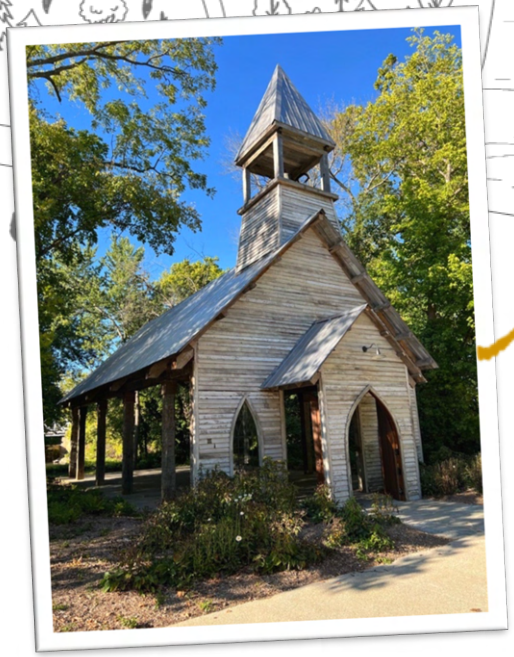
The Workshop (virtual tour)
- Bohemian Rhapsody
- The Scientist
- The Thanksgiving Song
- Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

The Ozark Mill (virtual tour)
- In You Came
- Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas









We have filmed many videos here

The Chapel (virtual tour)
- Amazing Grace
- Wayfaring Stranger
- Down to the River to Pray

6 Springfield, MO

20 minutes on from Finley Farms is **Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World** in Springfield, the granddaddy of all outdoor stores, and next door to that is the **Wonders of Wildlife** aquarium from the Wade in the Water video.



Just down the road is **The Acoustic Shoppe** where we filmed The Ballad of John and Becky, run by the Chapman brothers who help on many of our albums.



Other places worth checking out are **Springfield Botanical Gardens** *(free)*, **Fantastic Caverns** ride-thru cave, and **Springfield Cardinals** (St. Louis Cardinals Double-A Affiliate) baseball games at Hammons Field.



Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World
1 Bass Pro Dr, Springfield, MO 65807
Wonders of Wildlife
500 W Sunshine St, Springfield, MO 65807
The Acoustic Shoppe
1913 E Seminole St, Springfield, MO 65804
Fantastic Caverns
4872 N Farm Rd 125, Springfield, MO 65803
Springfield Cardinals *Hammons Field, 955 E Trafficway St, Springfield, MO 65802*

Springfield Botanical Gardens
Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO 65807

7 College of the Ozarks

Katie, Ellen and Matt all studied at **College of the Ozarks**. The campus is a hive of student activity and they allow people to wander around the **workshops** and **greenhouses** *(both free)*.

Make sure to visit **The Keeter Center** where there is Dobyns restaurant (arrive early for lunch, or book in advance for dinner), ice cream and a gift shop full of student-made products.

There is also the **Ralph Foster Museum**, which is home to mountains (ba dum tish!) of Ozarks history and the original Beverly Hillbillies truck. And if you walk around to the left of the museum, you will find **Point Lookout** *(free)* with views of Lake Taneycomo and Branson over to the right.





Purchase products year-round in their **online store**, with shipping within the US.



Campus maps are available in most buildings, and on the website where there is more about all the sights.

College of the Ozarks
100 Opportunity Ave, Point Lookout, MO 65726



Ellen's husband Michael performs with his family, The Haygoods

8 The Strip

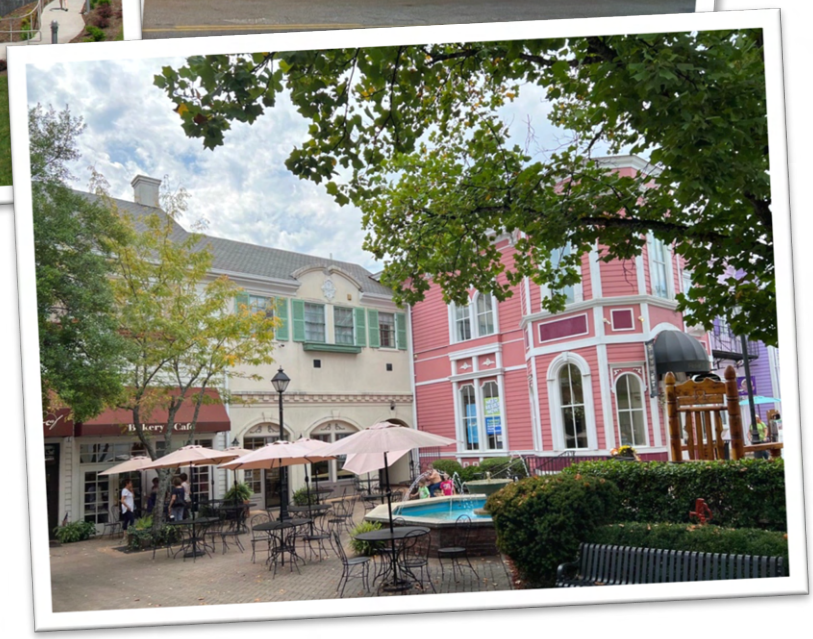
Branson's famous 76 Strip is filled with bright lights, **live shows**, unique attractions, and fun for all ages. Enjoy **mini golf** at Lost Treasure or indoors at Grand Country, browse the shops at **Grand Village**, and mom recommends the **Titanic Museum**.

Top shows include **The Petersens** (of course!), **The Haygoods** (featuring Ellen's husband, Michael), **Presleys' Country Jubilee**, and the spectacular **Sight & Sound Theatres**.

For a sweet treat, **Andy's Frozen Custard** is a must—go at night to catch the **Branson Ferris Wheel light shows** at 9:00 PM, 10:00 PM, and 10:55 PM, and tune in from your car on 98.1 FM!







The Haygoods *Clay Cooper Theatre, 3216 W 76 Country Blvd*
Presleys' Country Jubilee
2920 W 76 Country Blvd
Titanic Museum *3235 W 76 Country Blvd*
Grand Village Shops
2800 W 76 Country Blvd
Sight & Sound Theatres
1001 Shepherd of the Hills Expy

9 Dogwood Canyon road trip



A drive to **Dogwood Canyon Nature Park** makes a great 60-mile round trip over two of Table Rock Lake's bridges.

The canyon is pretty all year, especially with flowering dogwoods in the spring and **fall colors**, and is one of our favorite places to film.

With 10,000 acres to explore, you might want to **rent a bike**, join a **Segway tour**, or take a **wildlife tram tour** that goes out to pastures with bison, elk and whitetail deer. There is also **horseback riding**, **trout fishing** and **kayaking**.

Do book tours and activities in advance as they often sell out.





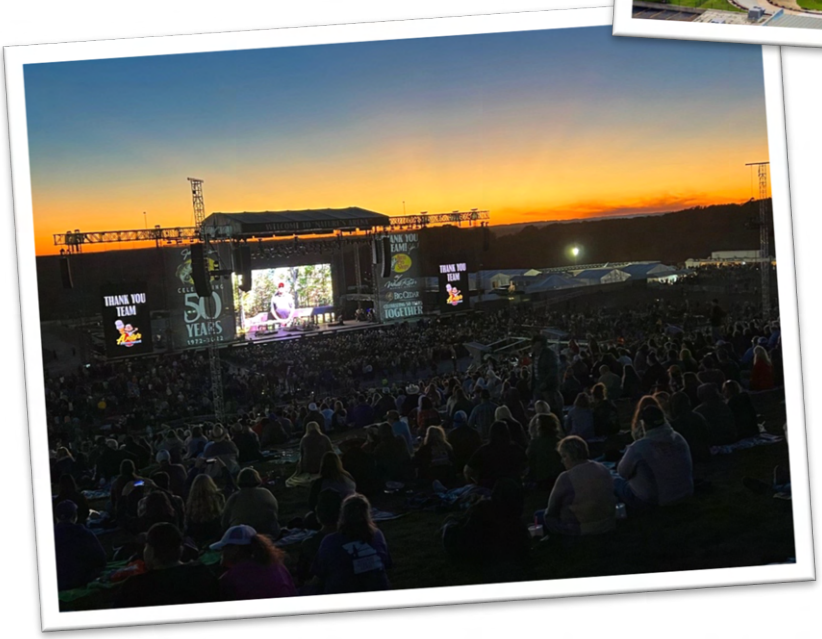
Bonus points if you can spot our **video locations**! A couple of easy ones are Steel Rails up near the **restaurant**, and Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior in the **chapel**.

Dogwood Canyon *2038 State Hwy 86, Lampe, MO 65681*
Persimmon Hill Farm *(jams and pick your own berries) 367 Persimmon Hill Lane, Lampe, MO 65681* (**online store**)
Road trip route

10 Choose your own adventure

The **Explore Branson website** is full of ideas of things to do and places to go in every season. You can also order a free **vacation guide** or take a **virtual tour** of the area.





Look out for more events coming to the new 20,000 seat **Thunder Ridge Nature Arena**, an outdoor concert venue where you bring your own cushion or blanket to sit on. In 2022 we had a blast there, opening for Garth Brooks!

Explore Branson *www.explorebranson.com*
Thunder Ridge Nature Arena *1901 State Hwy 86, Ridgedale, MO 65739*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Best Western Center Point Inn
3215 W 76 Country Blvd

Big Cedar Lodge *(a luxury Ozarks experience)*
190 Top of the Rock Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739

Chateau on the Lake *415 N State Hwy 265*

The Ozarker Lodge
995 Historic Highway 165

Holiday Inn Express Branson
2801 Green Mountain Drive

Lodge of the Ozarks *(popular with our guests)*
3431 W 76 Country Blvd

Mabee Lodge at The Keeter Center
College of the Ozarks, 100 Opportunity Ave, Point Lookout, MO 65726

USEFUL STORES

Aldi *1231 Branson Hills Pkwy*

Country Mart *1447 State Highway 248*

Nature's Wonder *(natural living store)*
1601 Shepherd of the Hills Expy

Rhodes Family Price Chopper
2210 West 76 Country Blvd

Walmart *2050 W 76 Country Blvd*

Walmart Supercenter *1101 Branson Hills Pkwy*

Target *1200 Branson Hills Pkwy*

FOOD: BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

Billy Gail's at Hwy 265 *5291 State Hwy 265*

Billy Gail's at Branson Mill *3300 Gretna Rd*

Dobyns Dining Room at The Keeter Center
(brunch on Sunday only, book far in advance) College of the Ozarks, 100 Opportunity Ave, Point Lookout, MO 65726

FOOD: DOWNTOWN AND THE LANDING

Cantina Laredo *(Mexican)*
1001 Branson Landing

Mr. G's *(Italian) 202 1/2 N Commercial St*

MoMo *(sushi) 120 North Sycamore St*

Parlor Doughnuts *(doughnuts, drinks and light breakfasts) 482 Branson Landing Blvd*

FOOD: THE STRIP

Cold Stone Creamery *(ice cream)*
1615 W 76 Country Blvd

Expresso Branson *(drive thru drinks and light breakfasts) 2010 W 76 Country Blvd*

India Clay Oven *2005 W 76 Country Blvd*

LongHorn Steakhouse *2821 W 76 Country Blvd*

Sugar Leaf Bakery *(bakery, drinks and lunch)*
2800 W 76 Country Blvd

Thai Thai Cuisine *1615 W 76 Country Blvd*

FOOD: NEAR THE IMAX

Little Hacienda (Mexican) *3375 Little Pete's Rd*

FOOD: FURTHER AFIELD

Buffalo Bar at Top of the Rock
(great for special occasions too)
150 Top of the Rock Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739

Buzzard Bar at Big Cedar Lodge *(downstairs, entertainment every night)*
612 Devil's Pool Rd, Ridgedale, MO 65739

Dobyns Dining Room at The Keeter Center
(book dinner in advance) College of the Ozarks, 100 Opportunity Ave, Point Lookout, MO 65726

Downing Street Pour House *(pub classics)*
24 Downing St, Hollister, MO 65672

Mill & Grill Restaurant at Dogwood Canyon
2038 State Hwy 86, Lampe, MO 65681

The Ozark Mill Restaurant at Finley Farms
802 Finley Farms Ln, Ozark, MO 65721

TICKETS, DATES, MERCH AND MORE
www.petersenband.com



The Little Opry Theatre

Explore Branson
www.explorebranson.com

The Petersens
www.petersenband.com



Ferris Wheel lights, installed by Ellen's husband, Michael