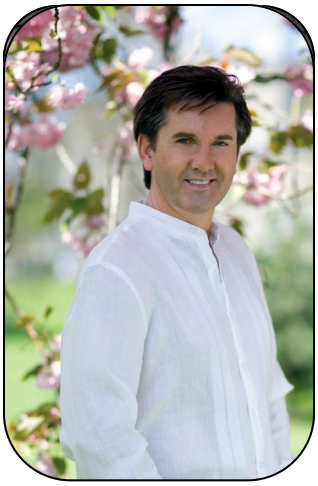
BRANSON

See 13 musical shows including Daniel O'Donnell

October 25, 2018 ~ 10 Days

WELLS GRAY TOURS

a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

$3725 double/twin
$4260 single
$3610 triple

> Tour is exempt from GST.
> **Early Bookers:** $200 discount on first 15 seats; $100 on next 10
> **Experience Points:** Earn 91 points from this tour.
Redeem **91 points** if you book by **August 16**.

Includes

- Transportation to Seattle airport and return
- Flight from Seattle to Kansas City and return
- Current air transportation taxes and security fees
- Coach transportation for 8 days in Missouri
- 9 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Fantastic Caverns underground tour by tram
- *Presley's Country Jubilee* show
- *Yakov Smirnoff* show
- *Broadway's Greatest Hits* show
- Locally-guided sightseeing tour of Branson area with College of the Ozarks
- Ralph Foster Museum
- Titanic exhibit
- *Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies* show
- *John Denver Tribute* show
- *#1 Hits of the Sixties* show
- *The Dutton Family* show
- *Down Home Country* show
- *Pierce Arrow* show
- *Samson* show
- *Brett Family* show
- *Christmas with Daniel O'Donnell* show
- *Oakridge Boys* show
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **17 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 3 lunches,

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255
Vernon > 250-545-9197
Toll Free > 800-667-9552

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Branson, Missouri

Branson had its modest beginning in 1882 when Reuben Branson opened a general store and post office in the area. The first tourist attraction opened in 1894 when William Lynch bought Marble Cave, renamed it Marvel Cave, and began charging for tours. Fame came to Branson in 1907 when Harold Bell Wright published his novel about the Ozarks, *The Shepherd of the Hills*. Hugo and Mary Herschend acquired Marvel Cave in 1950 then, ten years later, built Silver Dollar City, a re-creation of a frontier town which still operates today with rides and shows. The *Baldknobbers Jamboree* opened the first live musical show in Branson in 1959, but the first theatre on Highway 76 was *Presley's Mountain Music Jubilee* in 1967. Branson began its transformation into a major tourist attraction in 1983 when the Roy Clark Celebrity Theatre opened and began to bring famous country music stars to Branson. During the next ten years, performers such as Box Car Willie, Andy Williams, Shoji Tabuchi, and Glen Campbell built their own theatres. The television series *60 Minutes* aired an episode in 1991 which declared that Branson was the "music capital of the entire universe", much to Nashville's chagrin. Currently there are 40 theatres operating in Branson and it has more theatre seats than Broadway or Las Vegas. It has been named the #1 U.S. destination for groups for the past six years and entertains more than six million visitors annually, but has a year-round population of only 11,000. Branson's title today is the "live music show capital of the world."

Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mainly going to/from your theatre seats. There can be longer walks in Seattle and Kansas City airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coaches by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 1, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense. Travel insurance will probably not cover you.

List of the 13 Shows in 2018

Presley's Country Jubilee
Yakov Smirnoff
Broadway's Greatest Hits
Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies
John Denver Tribute
#1 Hits of the Sixties
The Dutton Family
Down Home Country Show
Pierce Arrow
Samson
Brett Family
Daniel O'Donnell
Oakridge Boys

How are the Branson shows selected?

The 2018 tour will be the 22nd time that Wells Gray has visited Branson. Many customers repeat the tour, knowing that some shows will be offered again and some are new. After each tour, our customers turn in their comment sheets, rating each of the shows as excellent, good, average, or poor. A weighting of 3, 2, 1, or 0 respectively is applied. Then 4 to 6 shows with the lowest scores are dropped and replaced with different shows for the next year. With up to 40 shows to choose from, there is always something new and exciting to offer in Branson.

Itinerary

Thursday, October 25:
Transportation is provided to Seattle and we stay tonight near the airport.

Friday, October 26: *Meals: B*
We fly from Seattle to **Kansas City**, Missouri, and stay overnight at the Drury Inn near the airport.

Saturday, October 27: *Meals: B,L*
We journey south across Missouri with a stop at **Fantastic Caverns**. Discovered in 1862 by a farmer's dog, the cave is the only one in the USA that you can ride through on a tram. Near Springfield, we have lunch at Lambert's Café, famous for its generous portions (hope you are hungry). Then it is a short drive into the hills of the Ozarks to reach **Branson**. We stay six nights at the full-service **Radisson Hotel**, located just off Country Music Blvd. It has 10 floors, interior corridors, restaurant, lounge, indoor/outdoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, and fitness centre. Tonight, enjoy the first of our 13 wonderful shows in Branson. **Presley's Country Jubilee** is two memorable hours of music and comedy with one of Branson's longest running shows, still popular after 51 years on the stage.

Sunday, October 28: *Meals: Brunch, D*
A sumptuous brunch is included in elegant Keeter Hall at College of the Ozarks, served by students. This afternoon, we attend a show starring **Yakov Smirnoff**, an uplifting comedian who tells hilarious tales of life in his native Russia contrasted with his new homeland of America. He has kept audiences laughing in Branson since 1992. Dinner is included at the Grand Country Buffet. Tonight, we go to King's Castle Theatre to see **Broadway's Greatest Hits.** The show has a talented cast, extravagant costumes, and terrific choreography. Songs have been selected from 25 musicals including *42nd Street, Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, Cats, Chicago, Oklahoma, My Fair Lady, Wicked, Chorus Line, Hairspray*, and *Mamma Mia.*

Monday, October 29: *Meals: B,L,D*
This morning, a locally-guided tour visits highlights of Branson including **College of the Ozarks** which has a unique approach to education and is nicknamed "Hard Work U." The Ralph Foster Museum on the campus is included. Lunch is at Grand Country Buffet. Afterwards, we explore the **Titanic Exhibit** which contains hundreds of artifacts from the famous ship as well as experiences such as a slanted deck and a vat of water as cold as the ocean. Dinner is at Florentina's, then we attend the **Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies** show at King's Castle Theatre. The nine singers bring some of Ireland's best music to Branson, including opera, pop, swing, Irish classics, and traditional folk ballads. Their repertoire includes a variety of songs such as *Scarborough Fair, Nessun Dorma, You Raise Me Up, Rolling in the Deep*, and the Irish favourite, *Danny Boy*.

Tuesday, October 30: *Meals: B,D*
This morning, we go to the **John Denver Tribute** show at Little Opry Theatre. Enjoy this opportunity to learn more about Denver from his friend, James Garrett. He shares personal stories that will make you laugh, cry, and hear Denver's songs with a more in-depth perspective. Garrett performs some of Denver's most beloved hits, including *Leavin' on a Jet Plane* and *Rocky Mountain High*. The matinee show is **#1 Hits of the Sixties**. Enjoy a high energy party as this group of 10 revisits the days of the British Invasion, Motown, California Surfin' and the Age of Aquarius with over 100 songs, 100 costume changes, and even some classic Fifties tunes! Dinner is at Landry's Seafood House, then the evening show is **The Dutton Family**. They are international touring and recording artists who play everything from bluegrass to classical in their shows, featuring a variety of instruments: violin, guitar, bass, viola, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, and drums.

Wednesday, October 31: *Meals: B,D*
Breakfast is at Grand Country Buffet. Our morning show, **Down Home Country** at 76 Music Hall, features singer Bob Davidson and "Fiddle Player of the Year" Melody Hart. They present the classics of George Jones, Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, and Waylon Jennings, in addition to the comedy of Harley Worthit. Classic country, western swing, and gospel music are all expertly performed in one show. This afternoon, we see **Pierce Arrow,** the male quartet that celebrates all kinds of country music. They are joined by two female singers for gospel favourites with influences like Patsy Cline, Reba McEntire, Martina McBride, and Nicole Mullen. Dinner is at Buckingham's with music by Kenny Parrott. Tonight, the show **Samson** is an awesome experience on the Sight & Sound Theatre's 100-metre wraparound stage. This powerful and epic Biblical story tells of Samson during his struggle to save Israel from the Philistines. The audience is sure to be wowed and inspired as Samson battles the Philistines, conquers personal demons, and even wrestles a lion along the way.

The show is performed in a grand style with lavish staging, a dramatic storm, colourful characters, live animals, and memorable songs.

Thursday, November 1: *Meals: B,D*
The day starts with the **Brett Family show** at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre. Tom and Andrea Brett and their children, Briahna, Brydon, and Garon are best known for beautiful harmonies. The show is filled with Broadway, bluegrass, gospel, swing, patriotic, and barbershop music, as well as songs from the 1930s to 1960s. Each family member has a dynamic solo voice and, when combined, they create world-class harmony and an a cappella sound that is second-to-none. **Daniel O'Donnell** is the star this afternoon and one of the week's entertainment highlights. His annual show in Branson and his touring shows around the world always play to sold-out audiences. O'Donnell's early attempts at recognition were failures until he put his savings into recording *My Donegal Shore* as a single. His incredible rise to the top began modestly when he signed with Ritz Records in 1986 and released his second album, *I Need You*. By 2002, he had achieved 19 singles and 17 albums. He is the only performer ever to have had six records on the British charts at the same time. After his show, there is a meet and greet opportunity. Dinner is at the Welk Theatre, then our last show is the **Oak Ridge Boys**, a well-known band that has been around since the 1940s. Its current members are William Lee Golden, Duane Allen, Richard Sterban, and Joe Bonsall, and today they concentrate on country music. The band has won five Grammy awards, four CMA awards, four Academy of Country Music awards, and an induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Friday, November 2: *Meals: B,L*
We must bid farewell to Branson and the Ozarks after six days of fabulous entertainment. The coach takes us to **Kansas City** and we fly to Seattle. We stay overnight at the Quality Inn in Renton.

Saturday, November 3: *Meals: B*
Transportation is provided back to the Vancouver area.
Home pickups and drop-offs are available within Metro Vancouver for a small additional cost.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of $400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 16, 2018. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.
Discounts: Early bookers receive $200 discount on first 15 seats and $100 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after August 16.
Cancellation Policy: Up to July 16, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of $50 per person. From July 17 to August 16, the cancellation charge is $300 per person. From August 17 to September 6, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From September 7 to September 21, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After September 21, there is no refund.
Fare changes: Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from airlines and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond Wells Gray Tours' control, therefore we reserve the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.
Airline luggage fee: Please note that this fee of US$25 per piece each way is not included as the airline requires payment individually at airport check-in.
Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.
Photo Credit: Glatz Concerts

e-points: This tour earns 91 points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points or e-points. One point equals $1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until August 16.
Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924