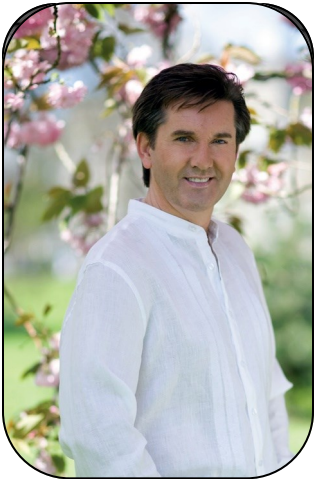


# BRANSON

See 13 musical shows including Daniel O'Donnell  
October 27, 2019 - 10 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$4145** double/twin

**\$4815** single

**\$4015** triple



- > Tour is exempt from GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 on next 10
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 94 points from this tour.  
Redeem **94 points** if you book by **July 23**.

## 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
- *A Tribute to John Denver* show
- *George Dyer* show
- *The Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai* show
- Locally-guided sightseeing tour of Branson area with College of the Ozarks
- Ralph Foster Museum
- Titanic exhibit
- *The Dutton Family* show
- *The Brett Family* show
- *Daniel O'Donnell* show with Meet & Greet
- *Dublin Tenors & Celtic Ladies* show
- *Broadway's Greatest Hits* show
- *Texas Tenors* show
- *The Miracle of Christmas* show
- *The New Yakov Smirnoff* show
- *C.J. Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy* show
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **18 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 4 lunches, 5 dinners

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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 at airline check-in 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 frequent 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 2019

**Presley's Country Jubilee**

**A Tribute to John Denver**

**George Dyer**

**Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai**

**The Dutton Family**

**The Brett Family**

**Daniel O'Donnell**

**Dublin Tenors & Celtic Ladies**

**Broadway's Greatest Hits**

**Texas Tenors**

**The Miracle of Christmas**

**Yakov Smirnoff**

**C.J. Newsom's Classic Country**

## How are the Branson shows selected?

The 2019 tour will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> time that Wells Gray Tours has visited Branson. Many customers repeat the tour, knowing that some shows will be offered again and some are new. After each tour, our travellers turn in their comment sheets, rating each of the shows as excellent, good, average, or poor. A weighting of 5, 3, 1, or 0 respectively is applied. Nine of the 2018 shows scored very high and are being offered again in 2019, while four were replaced with different ones. With up to 40 shows to choose from, there is always something new and exciting to offer in Branson.

## Itinerary

### Sunday, October 27:

Transportation is provided to Seattle. We stay tonight near the airport at the Embassy Suites. Enjoy complimentary cocktails, beer, and wine at tonight's hotel reception.

### Monday, October 28:

Meals: B

We fly on Alaska Airlines to **Kansas City**, Missouri, and stay overnight at the Drury Inn near the airport.

### Tuesday, October 29:

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. After lunch, 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 52 years on the stage.

### Wednesday, October 30:

Meals: B,D

This morning, we go to **A Tribute to John Denver** 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 more in-depth perspective. Garrett performs some of Denver's most beloved hits, including *Leavin' on a Jet Plane* and *Rocky Mountain High*. Our afternoon show is **George Dyer** at the Americana Theatre. With his amazing tenor voice, Dyer soared onto the operatic scene in 1996, making his professional debut to rave reviews with the New York City Opera. He has enchanted countless audiences in the United States and Europe with solo concerts that feature a delightful mix of opera and Broadway favourites. It is this variety of musical performances that he has brought to Branson and 2019 will be his 11<sup>th</sup> season. Dinner is at the Grand Country Buffet, then we thrill to an entirely different show, **Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai**. One of the most celebrated acrobatic companies, these performers have stunned audiences all over the world. Forty acrobats bring the Orient to Branson in a fast-paced production featuring classic Chinese dance, physical performance art, and an awesome highlight of five gravity-defying motorcycles driving around inside a steel ball.

### Thursday, October 31:

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 the 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 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.

### Friday, November 1:

Meals: B,L,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. Lunch is included at the Welk Theatre. Afterwards, **Daniel O'Donnell** is the star performer 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 Uptown Cafe, then we attend the **Dublin 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*.

**Saturday, November 2:***Meals: B,D*

First, we see **Broadway's Greatest Hits** at King's Castle Theatre. 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*. Our matinee show is **The Texas Tenors** at Andy Williams Moon River Theatre. Since first stepping onto the stage of *America's Got Talent*, these three tenors have been wowing audiences around the world. Their unique blend of country, gospel, classical, and Broadway music keeps them in high demand with this memorable show full of music, humour, and cowboy charm. Dinner is at Getting Basted BBQ. Tonight's show, **The Miracle of Christmas**, is an awesome experience on the Sight & Sound Theatre's 100-metre wraparound stage. The story of the birth of Jesus is performed in a grand style with lavish staging, gorgeous costumes, a dramatic storm, colourful characters, live animals, and memorable songs.

**Sunday, November 3:***Meals: Brunch, D*

A sumptuous brunch is included in elegant Keeter Hall at the College of the Ozarks, served by stu-

dents. 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. Our "Farewell to Branson" dinner is at Florentina's Restaurant, then we attend **C.J. Newsom's Classic Country and Comedy show** at the Americana Theatre. Newsom gives Branson the best of country's legendary ladies and has been sharing the music of the incomparable Patsy Cline for years. Her show now features huge hits from other leading ladies of song including Loretta Lynn, Reba McEntire, and Judy Garland. On top of all that phenomenal music, enjoy another of the area's beloved comedians, the king of Branson comedy, Terry Sanders.

**Monday, November 4:***Meals: B,L*

We must say goodbye 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 Embassy Suites near the airport.

**Tuesday, November 5:***Meals: B*

Transportation is provided back to Victoria and your pickup point.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 23, 2019. 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 July 23.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to June 21, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From June 22 to July 23, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From July 24 to August 23, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From August 24 to September 23, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After September 23, 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\$30 for one checked bag 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.

**Home pickups** may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Photo Credit:** Glatz Concerts

**E-points:** This tour earns 94 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 July 23.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**