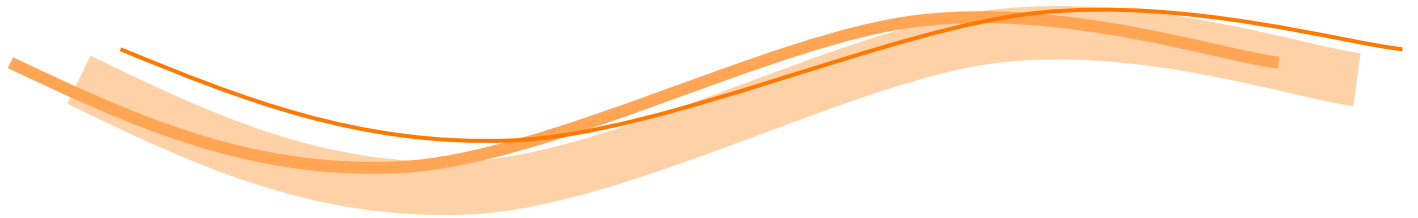




MISSOURI & HANOVER HOLIDAYS





<p>MISSOURI</p>	<p>Missouri – Close to home, far from ordinary... Visit the Midwestern US State of Missouri with its beautiful State Parks, rivers, caves and rolling wine country. Missouri's rich history - dating from westward expansion in the US and the Civil War - compliments today's exciting art, culture and jazz scene. Check out www.visitmo.ca to discover casinos, wineries, museums, golf courses in abundance - plus fascinating cities such as St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield and of course, the music capital of Branson.</p> <p>The music capital of Branson is a remarkable vacation destination with 49 magnificent live performance theatres, more than 100 shows, pristine lakes, 10 championship golf courses, an award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, shopping galore, varied dining options and a host of hotels and resorts... all cradled in the beautiful Ozark Mountains.</p> <p>In Kansas City, a four billion dollar construction boom has created an energy in the city and magnificent architectural additions to the Art Deco skyline. Visitors to the National World War One Museum will discover themselves on a glass floor suspended over a field of poppies one minute, then immersed in the sights and sounds of the trenches the next.</p> <p>Missouri also has a rich history to explore, including three hundred national historic districts. In 2010 Missouri has two important anniversaries to celebrate – the 175th anniversary of the birth of Mark Twain and the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express! You can retrace the steps of outlaw Jesse James, revisit the Pony Express, relive the river adventures of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer and walk the Santa Fe Trail. Visitors keep returning to Missouri. And when you come back, there's always something new.</p> <p>For over thirty years, Hanover Holidays have offered fully escorted motor coach tours – the easy way to discover Canada and North America. Hanover Holidays stress first class accommodation, attractions and meals - with a strong emphasis on service. Visit www.hanoverholidays.com and ask your Travel Agent for more information</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>Missouri is located in the Midwestern United States. It is bordered by eight states Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. Missouri was originally purchased from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The Missouri Territory was admitted into the union as the 24th state in 1821.</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>The soft hills of the northern plains to the Ozark Mountains in the south,</p>

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	and the many rivers and lakes in between...the geography of Missouri is as varied as the people who live there.
Name	A large tribe of Indians called the OuMissouri lived upstream of the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri. The name had been given to them by their enemies, the Fox tribe of Algonquins, and in the Fox language means "people with big canoes."
Population	The state total resident population is 5.9 million, ranking Missouri 17th among all U.S. states The five largest ancestry groups in Missouri are: German (23.5 percent), Irish (12.7 percent), American (10.5 percent), English (9.5 percent), French (3.5 percent).
Language	English
Currency	Currency: \$1 CDN = 87 cents US (27 June 2009)
Tipping	The custom of tipping is a common practice in Missouri: 15% to 20% for waiters; 10% to 15% for taxi drivers; \$1 per bag for bellmen. Occasionally gratuities are automatically added to restaurant checks, but not usually.
Government	The current constitution of Missouri, the fourth constitution for the state, was adopted in 1945 and provides for three branches of government, the legislative, judicial and executive branches. The legislative branch consists of two bodies, the House of Representatives and the Senate. These bodies comprise the General Assembly of the State of Missouri.
Documentation	Passports are now required for Canadian visitors arriving by air and land. An enhanced provincial driving license is also an alternative.
Time zone	Central Standard Time, one hour behind EST
Health	Excellent services available but ensure that you have travelers health insurance as health costs in the US can be very high
Safety tips	Missouri is relatively safe for the tourist. One should use the same precautions as when traveling anywhere - try not to travel alone and avoid deserted areas at night

CLIMATE	
General climate	Missouri generally has a humid continental climate, with cold winters and hot and humid summers.
Today's weather	Today (27 June 2009) is 36C and sunny in St. Louis
Best time to visit	Spring, summer and fall

GETTING THERE	
Airports	There are three main airports in Missouri: Kansas City International Airport was recently completely renovated and now offers WiFi access in the terminal; Lambert-St. Louis International Airport; and Springfield-Branson National Airport, which is presently adding a new

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	<p>terminal opening later this year (2009). I flew into St Louis and out of Springfield, an arrangement that worked particularly well.</p> <p>A new airport has now opened at Branson itself, just 13km from the centre of Branson and has the capacity to handle more than 1 million enplanements annually. Families and groups flying to Branson have dining and auto-rental services on-site, as well as taxi and shuttle service into Branson. AirTran Airways and Sun Country Airlines are providing flights to Branson from Atlanta, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Dallas-Fort Worth, hubs that connect Branson with most major U.S. cities, as well as international destinations.</p>
Cities	<p>The ten largest cities and their populations are: Kansas City, 444,965; St. Louis, 344,362; Springfield, 150,298; Independence, 110,208; Columbia, 91,814; Lee's Summit, 80,338; St. Joseph, 72,661; O'Fallon, 69,694; St. Charles, 62,304; St. Peter's, 54,209</p> <p>St. Louis: Established as a French trading post in 1764, St. Louis served as a gateway to the west after the Louisiana Purchase and as a major port for steamboats traveling the Mississippi. Today the city's landmark is the soaring, shining steel Gateway Arch, designed by Eero Saarinen in 1966 to commemorate Thomas Jefferson's vision of westward expansion. Though visitors often make it their first stop, there's plenty more beckoning, including expansive Forest Park with its first-rate museums, one of the nation's top botanical gardens, and numerous attractions geared toward children, many of them free, making St. Louis a prime family destination.</p> <p>Kansas City: A \$4 billion construction boom across metropolitan Kansas City has created an energy which can be felt in almost every part of the city, shaping a positive impression on Kansas City which will last for decades to come. Magnificent architectural additions to the city's Art Deco skyline in the Kansas City Live! Downtown Entertainment District, at the Sprint Center Arena, the Performing Arts Center and the Convention Center is drastically changing Downtown Kansas City.</p>
Distances	<p>St. Louis to Kansas City: 380 kms St Louis to Branson: 400 kms</p>
Boats	<p>For a lunch or dinner cruise on Table Rock Lake in Branson, board the showboat Branson Belle, 4800 Mo. 165 (tel. 800/831-4FUN; www.silverdollarcity.com), a luxury paddle-wheeler boat offering 2-hour cruises with dining, music, comedy, and entertainment April through December.</p>
Trains	<p>Amtrak (tel. 800/872-7245; www.amtrak.com) offers two lines in Missouri. The Kansas City Mule runs daily between St. Louis and</p>

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	Kansas City, and the Ann Rutledge line goes from Kansas City to Chicago, both lines making stops in St. Louis, Kirkwood, Washington, Hermann, Jefferson City, Sedalia, Warrensburg, Lees Summit, Independence, and Kansas City.
Car Rental	All the major car rental companies are represented in the major cities and at the airports
Buses	The Cities have excellent urban bus service, whilst the state is crisscrossed by efficient long distance coach services

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	The Missouri Division of Tourism website has a helpful search engine for accommodations; you can pick the type of place you'd like to stay, the city or region, and the time of year and it will provide you with options based on your selections. From resorts to motels and from spa retreats to B & B's, you'll find the accommodation to suit your needs in Missouri!
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	<p>Worlds of Fun, Kansas City has the longest, tallest inverted roller coaster</p> <p>YouZeum: A new attraction in Columbia is the YouZeum, a fascinating interactive learning environment designed to give visitors a better understanding of the workings of the human body and the healthful choices they can make.</p> <p>Bring the whole family to St. Louis for thrill rides, animal encounters, a trip to the moon and more. Sure - lots of cities claim to be "family-friendly" or "kid-centric," but St. Louis means it. Not only are there plenty of activities and attractions that are geared toward kids of all ages, but many of those attractions are free, which makes St. Louis a budget-friendly destination for families. Some of St. Louis' most popular attractions offer free admission, including the Saint Louis Science Center, Missouri History Museum, Saint Louis Art Museum, Grant's Farm, Saint Louis Zoo, Purina Farms, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, and the Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour.</p>
Teens	<p>Six Flags St Louis: Six Flags St. Louis continues its tradition of bringing new thrills to the popular theme park. In 2009, Hurricane Harbor will expand, adding the exciting Wahoo Racer attraction. Riders will race head-first on sled-type mats down 262-feet of steep drops and rolls reaching speeds of 35-mph. In addition to the wet 'n' wild world of Wahoo Racer, Six Flags is adding a spectacular nighttime parade, appropriately named "Glow in the Park." The festivities will feature six custom-designed floats, two additional mobile units and 65 "lighted" performers. The vibrant, multicolored lights will illuminate the streets, and scores of Drummers, puppeteers, singers, dancers and kinetic stilt walkers will surround the floats.</p>

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Romance	There are many period inns and quiet resorts set in lush countryside that make for perfect couple retreats from the hectic world
Seniors	With a population of slightly more than 6,000 and a quaint, historic downtown, Branson attracts more than seven million visitors a year, primarily retirees, families, and RV-ers drawn by the irresistible lure - and improbable pairing - of outdoor recreation and big-time entertainment. Surrounded by three pristine lakes in the scenic, wooded, mountainous region of the Ozarks in southern Missouri, Branson offers fishing, swimming, golfing, and boating, and is also home to big-name entertainers who present everything from country music to comedy and magic acts in more than 100 live shows daily. If that's not enough, Branson also boasts theme parks such as Silver Dollar City and some unique museums.
Famous Missourians	<p>Mark Twain: Samuel Clemens, growing up in Hannibal, watched riverboats on the Mississippi. It was from riverboat jargon that he took his pen name – Mark Twain. His love for the river and for his Missouri boyhood is best reflected in his stories about Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. The Twain Home and a statue of Tom and Huck can be seen in Hannibal today. In nearby Florida, Mo., Twain's birthplace is preserved as a state historic site.</p> <p>Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the U.S., is one of Missouri's most famous native sons. Born in Lamar, Mo., in 1884, Truman was a Jackson County judge, U.S. senator and vice president before serving as president, 1945-1953.</p> <p>Jesse James, notorious outlaw, was born in Missouri on Sept. 5, 1847. The farm home where Jesse and his brother, Frank, were raised in Kearney. Also in Kearney is Jesse's grave. The best known site associated with Missouri's most infamous citizen is the St. Joseph home where Jesse was shot and killed in 1882 for a \$10,000 reward. Standing today on the grounds of the Patee House Museum, the small frame home has been preserved much as it was when Jesse James lived there as “Mr. Howard.”</p>
Surprising	<p>Iced tea: At the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, Richard Blechyden, served tea with ice and invented iced tea. Also, at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, the ice cream cone was invented. An ice cream vendor ran out of cups and asked a waffle vendor to help by rolling up waffles to hold ice cream.</p> <p>Neighbourly: Missouri ties with Tennessee as the most neighbourly state in the union, bordered by 8 states.</p> <p>Caves: Bonne Terre Mine; Tour a cavernous room supported by giant rock pillars where miners dug with picks and shovels from 1864 to 1962.</p>

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	<p>The temperature is 62 degrees year-round. Take a boat tour of the "Billion Gallon Lake," the largest subterranean lake in the world;</p> <p>Fantastic Caverns: Springfield Region; America's only ride-through cave is located just northwest of Springfield. Tour follows the path of an ancient underground river. Enjoy the beauty of a natural cave without the long walks or steep climbs;</p> <p>Meramec Caverns: only 45 minutes SW of St. Louis, this is a stunning show cave with huge caverns and massive cave formations. Guided tours of this seven story natural wonder are professionally conducted and include reference to the fact that this was a Jesse James hideout.</p>
History	<p>Retrace the expedition of Lewis and Clark, revisit the Pony Express, relive the river adventures of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer, walk the Santa Fe Trail and more. There are 300 national historic districts in Missouri. Here's a brief timeline:</p> <p>Claimed for France by La Salle 1682;</p> <p>First permanent settlement (Ste. Genevieve) 1735;</p> <p>Louisiana Purchase 1803;</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806;</p> <p>Organized as territory 1812;</p> <p>Admitted to the Union (24th State) 1821</p> <p>Historically, Missouri has always been a spot for those with a sense of adventure. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began their famous western expedition on the banks of the Missouri River in St. Louis. Years later, the towns of Independence and Westport marked the start of the Sante Fe, California, and Oregon Trails, routes that marked the westward starting point of the over 250,000 pioneers who settled the wild frontier, and thus gave Missouri one of its nicknames, the "Gateway to the West." With all those covered wagons heading into unknown wilds, it's fitting that some of the most famous adventurers of page and place hailed from here, like author Laura Ingalls Wilder, explorer Daniel Boone, outlaw Jesse James, and military commander John J. Pershing.</p>
Books	Frommer's USA
1000 Places to see before you die	Arthur Bryant's Barbecue, Kansas City
Must Sees	<p>Gateway Arch in St Louis is America's tallest monument, this graceful rainbow of shining steel soars 630 feet above downtown and the Mississippi River, commemorating westward expansion in the 1800s. Tram rides to the top can involve lengthy waits in the summer and on weekends; come first thing in the morning to purchase tickets (or order tickets in advance online at www.gatewayarch.com), then take in the Museum of Westward Expansion, which traces the journey of Lewis and Clark and those who followed. Extra fees are charged for the Arch Odyssey Theatre, which features changing, 45-minute movies on a giant IMAX screen, and the Monument to the Dream film documenting</p>

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	<p>the Arch's construction</p> <p>Silver Dollar City, Branson: About 5 miles west of Branson, this is the biggest and best of the area's theme parks, featuring more than a dozen thrill rides (such as the Wildfire roller coaster with its 15-story vertical drop and speeds up to 66 mph), imaginative playgrounds, live entertainment at a dozen arenas (from gospel to country and bluegrass), restaurants featuring traditional cuisine, about 60 specialty shops, and nearly 100 resident craftspeople practicing their trades, all in a wooded, 1880s mountain-town setting. Marvel Cave, the site's original attraction, has 32 miles of passages, which you can explore with a guide on a 1-hour tour (included in the admission price to Silver Dollar City).</p>
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SPORTS ACTIVITIES	<p>For sports fans, there are all those pro sports teams – with St. Louis and Kansas City each boasting football and baseball teams. The NFL's Kansas City Chiefs and St. Louis Rams, baseball's Kansas City Royals and St. Louis Cardinals, and there's also hockey's St Louis Blues who came into being with the NHL's first expansion.</p>
Golf	<p>If you're in Missouri, you're close to a golf course. Links range from major resort courses designed by the big names – Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player – to small 9-hole, sand-green, municipal sites. To quote Hale Irwin, World Golf Hall of Fame member: “I've played all over the world, and I can tell you no place offers the incredible variety from course to course like Missouri.”</p> <p>Some of the Branson area's seven 18-hole golf courses, open to the public year-round, are described in the brochure "Branson Golf" available at the Welcome Center. A favorite is the 9-hole par 3 Top of the Rock, 150 Top of the Rock Rd. It's owned by Big Cedar Lodge, was designed by Jack Nicklaus, has great views of Table Rock Lake, includes a practice facility and a good restaurant, and is one of the few courses in the nation to be recognized as an Audubon Signature Cooperative. Eighteen-hole Branson Creek Golf Club (www.bransoncreekgolf.com) is one of Missouri's top public courses.</p>
Fishing	<p>Black bass, catfish, crappie, muskellunge, rainbow and brown trout, walleye or white bass; Spin-cast anglers and fly-fishermen have amazing sprawling lakes and winding streams to explore, many with convenient public access.</p> <p>Fisherfolk in Branson favour Table Rock Lake for bass and Lake Taneycomo for trout.</p>
Horse riding	<p>Stables abound in the countryside with riding suitable for all skill levels</p>
Hiking	<p>Whether you are an avid cyclist, a history buff or a nature lover, planning a tour along the 225-mile long Katy Trail is a perfect option for the active vacationer. Built along the former corridor of the</p>

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	<p>Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, the Katy Trail begins in St. Charles and ends in Clinton. The trail takes visitors through some of the most scenic areas of the state, offering views of towering bluffs, rolling hills and glistening rivers.</p> <p>Serious hikers should be sure to hit the Ozark Trail (www.ozarktrail.com), Missouri's answer to the popular Appalachian version (without the teeming mass of other hikers, they like to tell you). The trail is a hefty 550 miles long with another hundred and change still planned, and stretches from St. Louis all the way into Arkansas. A 30-mile section overlooks the lovely Current River, while the rest the trail traverses through tall pine trees, spring-fed creeks, and the ridge of Stegall Mountain, as well as touches on the highest point in the state, Taum Sauk, where the views of the Ozarks are nothing less than stunning.</p>
Cycling	<p>Missouri's rolling countryside is perfect for bike trips of all kinds, like the Katy Trail above.</p> <p>And how about this for a unique event for cyclists: The 45th Annual Moonlight Ramble...Location: Downtown St. Louis Time: Ride begins at 12:01 a.m. Sunday morning, August 29 2009 For more information call: (314) 644-4660 www.moonlightramble.com</p> <p>This is the World's largest nighttime bicycle ride and it rambles through the streets of St. Louis.</p>
Watersports	<p>Almost every kind of water-sport is available on the many lakes in Missouri. Table Rock Lake is only minutes from Branson and offers boat rentals, waterskiing, pontoon boats, Bass Boats, WaveRunners, wake boarding, para-sailing, catamaran and even scuba diving! See www.stateparkmarina.com for all the details.</p>

CULTURE	
Arts	<p>St Louis Art Museum: The Saint Louis Art Museum is one of the nation's leading comprehensive art museums, containing more than 30,000 works of art. Our collections include works of exceptional quality from virtually every culture and time period. Areas of notable depth include Oceanic art, pre-Columbian art, ancient Chinese bronzes, and European and American art of the late 19th and 20th centuries, with particular strength in 20th century German painting. The Museum also offers a full range of featured exhibitions, a research library, a varied schedule of special events, and community and educational programming. Admission to the Museum and its collection is free every day. Admission fees to featured exhibitions vary; admission to featured exhibitions is always free on Fridays. www.slam.org</p>
Music	<p>Branson is the centre of music in the state: there are nearly 50 theatres, most with performances from mid-March or April to December and with two shows a day in peak season. Ticket prices average \$22 to</p>

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	<p>\$32 for adults (more for dinner shows) and half price or free for children. It's a Branson tradition for many performers to sign autographs after the show. www.branson.com</p> <p>One of the hottest shows in town is that provided by Shoji Tabuchi (www.shoji.com), whose repertoire ranges from country and jazz to classical and Broadway and whose shows include elaborate production numbers, lasers and other stunning visual effects, an 18-piece orchestra, and gorgeous costumes.</p>
Films	<p>Much of Tom Sawyer was shot in the state where the story was set.</p>
Museums	<p>Over 400, all over the state!</p> <p>Visitors to the expanded National World War I Museum in Kansas City will discover themselves on a glass floor suspended over a field of poppies one minute, then immersed in the sights and sounds of the trenches the next. Known for most of its 80 years as the Liberty Memorial Museum, the landmark is the nation's only public museum dedicated exclusively to the history of World War I. Major renovations completed in December 2006 added 25,000 square feet of colorful, "sound-full" experiences. For the first time, the public is able to see the museum's comprehensive collection of World War I memorabilia. http://www.theworldwar.org</p>
Festivals	<p>Mark Twain Anniversary</p> <p>The 30th November 2010 sees the 175th anniversary of Mark Twain's birthday, and with that the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal, Missouri is starting the celebrations early by setting the author off on a 'world tour.' From December 08, each month, the museum will present an educational programme featuring a country that Twain visited on his many world travels. Famed for his tales of two young Missourians Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, Twain brought Missouri to life in all its glory. Twain was an avid traveller and traversed the globe packing houses all over the world on lecture tours where he would humorously talk about his novels as well as telling other stories. Following in his footsteps local Historian Steve Chou will kick things off and start the tour on Twain's doorstep with 'Focus on Main Street'. Using Historic photographs he will paint the picture of Hannibal's Main Street to life as Twain would have grown up seeing it. For more information on which country will be featured each month go to: www.marktwainmuseum.org</p> <p>Pony Express 150th Anniversary in 2010</p> <p>The Pony Express was founded by William H. Russell, William B. Waddell, and Alexander Majors. Plans for the Pony Express were spurred by the threat of the Civil War and the need for faster communication with the West. The Pony Express consisted of relays of men riding horses carrying saddlebags of mail across a 2000-mile trail.</p>

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	<p>The service opened officially on April 3, 1860, when riders left simultaneously from St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. The first westbound trip was made in 9 days and 23 hours and the eastbound journey in 11 days and 12 hours. The pony riders covered 250 miles in a 24-hour day. Eventually, the Pony Express had more than 100 stations, 80 riders, and between 400 and 500 horses. The express route was extremely hazardous, but only one mail delivery was ever lost. The service lasted only 19 months until October 24, 1861, when the completion of the Pacific Telegraph line ended the need for its existence. Although California relied upon news from the Pony Express during the early days of the Civil War, the horse line was never a financial success, leading its founders to bankruptcy. However, the romantic drama surrounding the Pony Express has made it a part of the legend of the American West. For more information on the 2010 celebration go to: www.stjomo.com</p> <p>Missourians take their involvement in westward expansion as a point of pride, and they celebrate the starting point of the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon Trails with Santa-Cali-Gon Days www.santacaligon.com, a 4-day festival in Independence with historical reenactments, an arts and crafts show with over 350 exhibits, and country music acts, like Grand Ol' Opry favorite Mel McDaniel.</p> <p>In early November, local artists open up their studio doors along 50 miles of Route 79 along the Mississippi River for the 50 Miles of Art Tour (www.50milesofart.com). This 2-day celebration of Missouri artists and craftspeople links together the towns of Hannibal, Clarkesville, and Louisiana, allowing visitors to check out working studios, art in progress, and finished pieces for sale.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	A large stretch of Route 66 made famous by the old song and TV show, runs through Missouri and attracts tourists – particularly to the Old Meramec Caves, which aside from some spectacular caverns, is an old Jesse James hideout and has a museum dedicated to him.
Beaches	At many of Missouri's lakes there are beautiful beaches to enjoy in the summer months
Wildlife	The top-rated and free to enter St. Louis Zoo , Forest Park (www.stlzoo.org), features Big Cat Country, Jungle of the Apes, River's Edge with elephants and hippos, Penguin and Puffin Coast, the 1904 Flight Cage aviary, fascinating Insectarium with everything from giant cockroaches to a butterfly house, and animal-contact area called Children's Zoo, and a mini-train ride connecting it all up for you.
Parks	Missouri has some of the most spectacular state parks, forest and conservation areas in the country. From thriving springs and incredible

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	<p>rock formations to grist mills and natural bridges, Missouri's natural areas have something for everyone to explore. With more than 80 state parks and 1.5 million acres of national forest land, you'll find hiking trails and campgrounds that accommodate all kinds of outdoor enthusiasts.</p> <p>While there are tons of great outdoor options in Missouri, one of the most unique is Elephant Rocks State Park, a billion-year-old set of massive, granite rock formations that actually look like elephants. The biggest one, aptly named Dumbo, soars 27 feet high and weighs 680 tons. And in one of the coolest moves ever made in a park, the 1-mile trail through the 129-acre park has information plaques in Braille, describing this amazing natural wonder.</p>
<p>Gardens</p>	<p>Missouri Botanical Garden: Opened in 1859, this is the country's oldest and one of its best botanical gardens: a 79-acre delight featuring the nation's largest Japanese strolling garden, a Chinese garden, a geodesic-domed rainforest greenhouse, an 1882 brick conservatory housing camellias, a scented garden for the visually impaired, a sculpture garden with works by Carl Milles, a hedge maze, a home-gardening resource center, and themed gardens ranging from a Victorian garden to an English woodland garden. A must-see for gardeners, who can easily spend 2 or 3 hours of bliss here. It's birthday time in 2009 at the Missouri Botanical Garden and the sesquicentennial celebration will include a year-full of festivities scheduled to take place. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, the Garden stays open late on Thursdays for "Sesquicentennial Summer Nights." From 5 - 9 p.m., visitors can enjoy live entertainment and a scenic stroll through blooming display gardens. The birthday celebration continues at the Missouri History Museum with an exhibit of archival Garden images and artifacts from February - November 2009.</p> <p>www.mobot.org</p>

<p>OTHER ACTIVITIES</p>	
<p>Shopping</p>	<p>Kansas City's premier shopping district (and the country's first suburban shopping center) is Country Club Plaza, centered around 47th Street and Ward Parkway. Built in 1922 to resemble a Spanish marketplace, it's a tree-lined, 14-square-block area with more than 180 shops, restaurants, and nightspots. Crown Center, is an 85-acre business and residential complex owned by the world's largest greeting-card company, Hallmark. It contains specialty shops, restaurants, hotels, theaters, and the free Hallmark Visitor Center, which chronicles 90 years of history with displays of Keepsake Ornaments and other Hallmark products and memorabilia, educational exhibits, and excerpts from Hallmark Hall of Fame television movies</p>

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Markets	<p>Kansas City: City Market, at 5th and Main streets north of downtown and I-70, is an outdoor market in operation since the 1850s. It's busiest on Saturday, when 150 vendors offer everything from vegetables and flowers to live chickens and T-shirts, while Sundays May through August feature an arts and crafts market. The outdoor market is surrounded by 37 permanent indoor specialty shops, international groceries, and restaurants occupying an Art Deco building.</p>
Nightlife	<p>Much of the Kansas City's nightlife can be found downtown, in Westport, and at Country Club Plaza. In the historic 18th and Vine District, the best spots offering live blues and jazz include the Blue Room, a smoke-free venue (the better to protect its displays of jazz memorabilia) featuring jazz on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and the Mutual Musicians Foundation, a National Historic Landmark where musicians have been meeting for decades to jam after midnight - Fridays it's blues, Saturdays it's jazz.</p> <p>Then there's Branson - 'The Live Entertainment capital of America' – there's more live entertainment on the streets of Branson than there is on Broadway. And before you start stereotyping – yes, it is an older crowd, but far from all blue rinsed. And, with that rapidly growing boomer market, you can send them off to see the music they grew up with, including Andy Williams, Ann-Margaret, Glen Campbell, The Righteous Brothers, the Platters and there's even the Dick Clark American Bandstand Theatre. A lot of big names play Branson, so it's always worth checking at www.Branson.com</p>
Casinos	<p>Twelve, including Ameristar Casino St. Charles brings the finest gaming and entertainment to the banks of the Missouri River, serving the entire metropolitan St. Louis area.</p> <p>Riverboat Gambling - Riverboat gambling takes place on non-cruising boats along the banks of the Missouri River, including Argosy, Route 9 and I-635, Riverside; Harrah's Casino, U.S. 210 and Chouteau Trafficway, North Kansas City; Ameristar Casino, I-435 and Route 210; and the Isle of Capri Casino.</p>

CUISINE	
Food	<p>If you go to Kansas City and don't eat the hickory-smoked barbecue, you may as well have just stayed home. Check out Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue, 101 W. 22nd St. (www.jackstackbbq.com), in the recently renovated Freight House, a 119-year-old brick warehouse with great views of the Kansas City skyline in the Crossroads Arts District.</p>
Wine and Beer	<p>Wineries: there are 57 in total!</p> <p>Stone Hill Winery and Restaurant is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Missouri wine country. Stone Hill, perched dramatically on a hill overlooking the beautiful German-American town of Hermann,</p>

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	<p>invites guests to take a guided tour of the winery’s cavernous arched underground cellars before settling in for a wine tasting in one of three historic tasting rooms. Stone Hill’s tranquility is accented by the spectacular scenery. The Vintage Restaurant serves gourmet German and American cuisine.</p> <p>Anheuser-Busch, one of the world's largest beer brewers, was established at a site in St Louis the 1860s, and many architectural gems from that time period remain. Tours of the brewing process take in the 1885 Clydesdale stable, the historic 1892 Brew House, and the packaging plant, ending with free drinks. Personally recommended!</p>
Restaurants	<p>Spend the day in Hermann enjoying locally made wine and German sausage or visit Kansas City for savory barbecue and ribs. From Southern fried food to ethnic culinary delights, Missouri has it all. Try Candlestick Inn near Branson for great food combined with great views over downtown Branson across Lake Taneycomo,</p>

MORE INFO	
Brochures	<p>Contact the Missouri Division of Tourism, P.O Box 1055, Jefferson City, MO 65102 (tel. 800/519-2100; www.visitmo.ca), and ask for the Missouri Vacation Planner, which includes an official highway map of the state.</p> <p>Branson also produces an excellent guide: 1-800-BRANSON and www.ExploreBranson.com</p> <p>And so does St. Louis: www.ExploreStLouis.com</p>
Websites	<p>For all your travel needs for Missouri, explore www.visitmo.ca</p> <p>You can also listen to a podcast on “Chris talks travel” on Missouri at www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca and I have just come back from Missouri and can share my experiences on the show’s travel blog – visit HOT NEWS on www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca and there is a link to the blog there.</p> <p>http://christalkstravel.blogspot.com/search?updated-min=2008-01-01T00%3A00%3A00-06%3A00&updated-max=2009-01-01T00%3A00%3A00-06%3A00&max-results=27</p>
Current Deals	<p>Get valuable coupons today from www.VisitMOCoupons.com</p>

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>Missouri Road Trip, June 2008:</p> <p>St. Charles – First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site www.mostateparks.com and Museum, Lewis and Clark restaurant www.lewisandclarksrestaurant.com , antique shops and the old town.</p> <p>St. Louis – Tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery www.budweisertours.com , St. Louis Zoo www.stlzoo.org and visit to the top of the Gateway Arch www.gatewayarch.com and the fabulous</p>
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museum at the bottom. Hotel Hyatt Regency in the old rail station www.stlouis.hyatt.com and www.stlouisunionstation.com .

Route 66 – Portions of the old Route 66 in SW Missouri www.historic66.com ; Meramec Caverns and Jesse James hideout www.AmericasCave.com ; East to west traverse of Missouri

Joplin - Joplin Museum Complex www.JoplinMuseum.org , Joplin Heritage area

Branson – The Hilton Promenade Hotel at Branson Landing www.promenadebransonlanding.hilton.com and the new Branson Landing complex.

The Jim Stafford Show www.JimStafford.com , and The Andy Williams Show featuring Ann-Margret www.AndyWilliams.com

The Titanic Museum: www.titanicbranson.com ;

Silver Dollar City – thrill rides and The Magic of Peter Gossamer magic show; www.silverdollarcity.com

Table Rock Lake State Park and the Showboat Southern Belle www.showboatbransonbelle.com

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HANOVER HOLIDAYS	Hanover Holidays was incorporated in 1974 and is a family owned, medium sized tour operator, where the owners engage in the daily activities of the company, enabling them to continually meet with customers and stay in touch with the ever changing needs of today's consumer. For the past 35 years, Hanover Holidays has produced fully directed tours throughout North America that are built with First Class accommodation, attractions and meals.
Fast Facts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hanover Holidays began in 1974 and is one of Canada's longest and most successful tour companies 2. Hanover began tours to Louisiana many years ago – one of the first Canadian companies to do so 3. Provides a van pick-up service across southern mid western and central Ontario 4. All Hanover tours feature a daily breakfast as part of the tour 5. Hanover has been a proud supporter of the Grey-Bruce Alzheimer Society for last 8 years 6. Only sells through travel agents 7. Jim Diebel is working with the Motor Coach Industry to design a more comfortable coach 8. Exceptional Tour Directors who have regular professional development programs 9. Company theme is "exceeding expectations"
Coaches	Hanover Holidays has recently unveiled their new "deluxe" touring motor coach, in partnership with the main carrier, Cherrey Bus Lines of Drayton, Ontario. This motor coach is equipped with 3 inches more leg room at each seat, tray tables, an upgraded sound system, onboard beverage center and a very modern paint scheme. The first of these motor coaches made its debut in the fall of 2004, with a second similar motor coach unveiled for the winter of 2008
Drivers and Guides	All of the uniformed Tour Directors employed by Hanover Holidays can boast of three to eighteen years of directing experience. Hanover Holidays believes that their professionalism is key to the success of each tour. To enhance each Tour Director's professionalism, an annual Training event is held every January, where each Director can share ideas and learn new techniques from presenters. Additionally, each Tour Director receives a weekly newsletter to assist them in staying in touch with current company and industry issues.
Baggage	Hanover will handle one large suitcase per person at hotels, with hand luggage carried personally aboard the motor coach
Tipping	Guidelines are about \$3.00 per person per day, for each of the Tour Director and Driver
Pick-up Points	There are multiple pick-up points with over 120 across SW Ontario
Singles	Hanover will attempt to match singles for sharing

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Other Destinations	Hanover Holidays has a wide range of tours throughout Canada and the USA, from Alaska to Savannah and from Arctic Cruising to Victory Lane NASCAR Tours!
For more information	Call 1-800-265-5530 for Hanover Holidays and pick up the Hanover Holidays Memories From Coast to Coast 2009 brochure from your local travel agent. Visit www.hanoverholidays.com
Prize Trip	<p>The featured prize trip is the Branson Missouri and the Ozarks tour which takes travelers via Joliet Illinois down to Branson for 3 days of excitement and sights before returning to Toronto via Indianapolis Indiana.</p> <p>Prices are from \$1189 with departures from March to November 2009 Included highlights are: Shoji Tabuchi Show; lunch and show onboard the Branson Belle; Dalena Ditto Variety Show; Mickey Gilley Show; Presley's Show; Branson Railroad; Oldtown Branson; two dinners For more information visit www.HanoverHolidays.com</p> <p>Trip itinerary: (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner included)</p> <p>Day 1: Toronto to Tinley Park, Illinois Join your motor coach early this morning as you depart from Southern Ontario and travel to the border where you cross into the United States. Your destination today is Tinley Park, where we spend your first overnight.</p> <p>Day 2: Branson, Missouri Your journey today takes you southwest through St. Louis to Springfield, and then south to Branson, Missouri where you spend the next four nights. (CB)</p> <p>Day 3: Branson, Missouri These days will be filled with excitement as you enjoy Branson and the Ozark Mountain area. Hanover have included admission to five music shows during your stay, and have also allowed you free time to see more of your favorite entertainers on your own. Today begins with a tour of "Branson's strip" to orient you with the area. You will also be taken to the old town area...a quaint Ozark mountain community. This afternoon you cruise on Tablerock Lake aboard the Showboat Branson Belle, for a terrific lunch and show. Also included today, is one of Branson's original shows, the Presley's. From dance, to music, to comedy, one thing's for sure, the Presley's know how to put on a great show! (B,L)</p> <p>Day 4: Branson, Missouri After Breakfast, we head on over to the Dalena Ditto show, where this beautiful award winning young lady will dazzle you with a terrific show that's sure to start your day off right. During different times this week, you will be able to book extra shows of your choosing, with the help of</p>

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	<p>your Tour Director. This afternoon will be one of those times. Dinner is included today, and this evening you attend the Mickey Gilley Show, reliving the hits from the well known star.(CB,D)</p> <p>DAY 5: Branson, Missouri Today we start with a much different view of Branson aboard the Branson Scenic Railroad. A narrated rail excursion through the hills, valleys and tunnels of the region. Learn of the history and stories that have come to make the area famous. This afternoon is another opportunity to choose the show of your choice, or possibly visit Silver Dollar City, an Ozark Mountain Theme Park. Dinner is included this evening followed by a very special finale to your Branson tour – the Shoji Tabuchi Show. For years Shoji has been entertaining thousands with a grand show that will simply amaze you...(B,D)</p> <p>DAY 6: Indianapolis, Indiana Continental Breakfast is included this morning prior to our departure from Branson. Re-board your motor coach once again and say farewell to the Ozark region, with fond memories of all of the entertainers that have performed for you in the last few days. From Branson, travel northeast to St. Louis, Missouri where you cross the mighty Mississippi River, then continue east through Illinois and Indiana. Your overnight accommodations are in Indianapolis. (CB)</p> <p>DAY 7: Home Today travel north through Indiana into Michigan as you make your way back to the border. Following time to shop Duty Free, you cross the border back into Ontario. (CB)</p>
Louisiana Tour	<p>The price of Hanover Holidays' Louisiana tour is \$1499 for the tours on April 25 and May 23, and \$1599 for the tour leaving October 16, 2009 for departures from Toronto.</p>

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