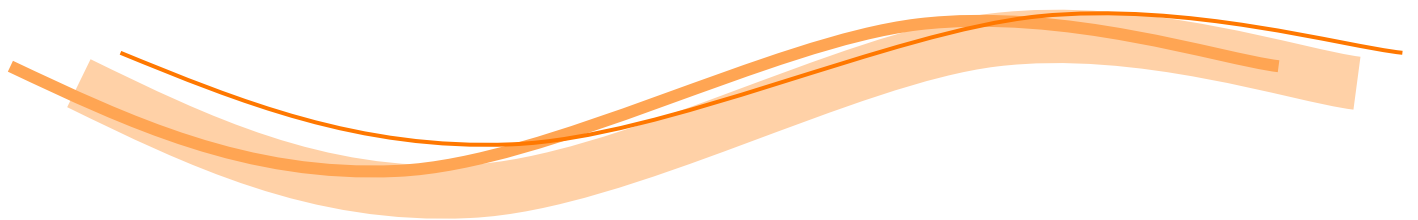




MISSOURI & HANOVER HOLIDAYS





DESTINATION INFO	Missouri
Location	Missouri is a state 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.
Geography	The soft hills of the northern plains to the Ozark Mountains in the south, 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	Population: The state total resident population in Census 2000 was 5.6 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 = 94 cents US (2 June 2007)
Tipping	As in Canada
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	If you are traveling by coach tour to Missouri you currently do not need a passport, just picture ID; however, a passport is strongly recommended. If traveling to the state by air, all Canadians now need a passport for entry to the US.
Time zone	Central Standard Time, one hour behind EST
Health	Health: as Canada, but make sure you have insurance!
Safety tips	Safety: normal precautions

CLIMATE	
General climate	Climate: Temperatures in April in Branson range from day time highs of 18 Celsius to a low of 5. Take along an all-weather coat or a heavy sweater for the cooler evenings
Today's weather	29 degrees Centigrade with sunny periods (2 June 2007)
Best time to visit	Spring, summer and fall

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GETTING THERE	
Airports	There are three 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 terminal, slated to open in 2009.
Cities	Cities: St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Branson, Columbia, Joplin 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 will drastically change Downtown Kansas City by 2007.
Distances	St. Louis to Kansas City: 250 miles
Boats	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.
Trains	Amtrak (tel. 800/872-7245; www.amtrak.com) offers two lines in Missouri. The Kansas City Mule runs daily between St. Louis and 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 criss-crossed 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.
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	Worlds of Fun , Kansas City has the longest, tallest inverted roller coaster YouZeum : Columbia's newest attraction in 2007 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.

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Teens	Six Flags St Louis: The latest expansion at Six Flags St. Louis is Bugs Bunny National Park, an environment children and parents can enjoy together. The park has a hot air balloon replica; a flying rocket ship; a miniature drop ride; spinning tea cups; a rocking, spinning tugboat; a miniature train; a three-story tree house; and a water play fountain. On a more heart-pounding scale at Six Flags is a new 230-foot extreme free-fall ride called the Superman Tower of Power.
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 RVers 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	Caves: Bonne Terre Mine; Tour a cavernous room supported by giant rock pillars where miners dug with picks and shovels from 1864 to 1962. The temperature is 62 degrees year-round. Take a boat tour of the "Billion Gallon Lake," the largest subterranean lake in the world;

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	<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; Meramec Caverns: Stanton Region: Northeast, Guided tours of a seven story natural wonder that 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. Claimed for France by La Salle 1682; First permanent settlement (Ste. Genevieve) 1735; Louisiana Purchase 1803; Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806; Organized as territory 1812; Admitted to the Union (24th State) 1821</p> <p>Historically, Missouri has also 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 our 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 both the Arch Odyssey Theatre, which features changing, 45-minute movies on a giant IMAX screen, and the Monument to the Dream film documenting 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</p>

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	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).
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SPORTS ACTIVITIES	Sports: The 2006 season brings another first for St. Louis Cardinal baseball fans with the opening of the new Busch Stadium
Golf	Golf: 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." 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.
Fishing	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. Fisherfolk in Branson favour Table Rock Lake for bass and Lake Taneycomo for trout.
Horse riding	Stables abound in the countryside with riding suitable for all skill levels
Hiking	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 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. 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

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	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.
Cycling	Missouri's rolling countryside is perfect for bike trips of all kinds

CULTURE	
Arts	St Louis Art Museum: St. Louis is one of only three stops for an elite exhibit. The Saint Louis Art Museum in Forest Park will host "Symbols of Power: Napoleon and the Art of the Empire Style, 1800-1815." The exhibit, which runs June 17 through Sep. 16, includes more than 150 objects such as furniture, jewelry, gowns, paintings and silver—many of which have never been displayed outside of France.
Music	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 \$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. 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.
Films	Much of Tom Sawyer was shot in the state where the story was set.
Museums	Over 400, all over the state! National World War I Museum 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.
Festivals	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. 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

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	(www.50milessofar.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.
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ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	At many of Missouri's lakes there are beautiful beaches to enjoy in the summer months
Wildlife	The top-rated St. Louis Zoo , Forest Park (www.stlzoo.org), with its Big Cat Country, Jungle of the Apes, River's Edge with elephants and hippos, Penguin and Puffin Coast, the 904 Flight Cage aviary, fascinating Insectarium with everything from giant cockroaches to a butterfly house, and animal-contact area called Children's Zoo, is free
Parks	<p>Missouri has some of the most spectacular state parks, forest and conservation areas in the country. From thriving springs and incredible 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>
Gardens	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

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	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

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	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
Markets	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.
Nightlife	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.
Casinos	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 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

CUISINE	
Food	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.
Wine	Wineries: 57 in total; eg 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, 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.

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	<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.</p>
Restaurants	<p>Restaurants: 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.com), and ask for the Missouri Vacation Planner, which includes an official highway map of the state.</p>
Website	<p>www.visitmo.ca Listen to "Chris talks travel" on Missouri at www.chrisrobinsontavelshow.ca</p>

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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 33 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 Missouri in 1992 – 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 7 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 2006
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 motorcoach
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

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Singles	Hanover will attempt to match singles for sharing
For more information	Call 1-800-265-5530 for Hanover Holidays Visit www.hanoverholidays.com
Prize Trip	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. Prices are from \$1 139 with departures from March to November Included highlights are: Silver Dollar City; Shoji Tabuchi Show; lunch and show onboard the Branson Belle; New Titanic Museum; Factory Merchant Outlet Mall

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