



# TOUR: GLEE! - The Branson Experience!

### A specialized 'Performance Showcase Tour' set in the heart of America... Only with Visions!

- Destination: Branson, Missouri, USA
- Specialization: Choral, Dance & Music Theatre
- Itinerary: 7-days / 6-nights in destination

GLEE! - The Branson Experience						
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening			
1	Travel to Branson, Missouri (Boxed Meal)					
2	Branson On Stage Live Clinic	Ride the Ducks Sightseeing Cruise	Performance, Sho	ow & Dinner - Dixie Stampede Dinner Attraction		
3	Silver Dollar City Theme Park		McFarlain's Dinner	Performance & Show - The Haygoods		
4	Go Carts & Mini-Golf	Shopping at The Landing	Golden Corral	Performance & Show - Branson Variety Theatre		
5	Bumper Boats, Arcade & Fun	Mel's Hard Luck Diner	Grand Village Shops	Dinner	Free Time	
6	Table Rock Dam Butterfly Palace	Tanger Outlet Shopping	Performance, Show & Dinner - The Branson Belle			
7	Free Time		Depart Branson			



BRANSON - known and recognized in the USA as the 'Live Entertainment Capital of America!'

### Welcome to the Visions Academy School Specialists in Performing Arts

As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an "example" of a schedule and that the activities included may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



Join us on a spectacular tour where students will perform with the stars! With 120 different live shows in over 50 state-of-the-art theatres and palaces, Visions groups will discover America's true heart of entertainment in Branson, Missouri.

In Branson, student performance groups have a unique opportunity to perform on stage at many of the theatres as well as view some of the most spectacular live performance productions in the USA. You'll discover live music shows of every variety, comedy shows, special effects, acrobats, dance productions, Broadway-style productions, original musicals, dinner shows and themed productions – all within the stunning Ozark Mountains.

During free time, students will have the opportunity to enjoy almost every possibility of entertainment available – from an international award-winning theme park, outlet shopping, go-karts, lake cruises, roller skating, arcades, scenic railway tours, museums and even WWII amphibian Duck Tours!

#### As the leading student performing arts destination in the USA, you will not want to miss Branson!

#### **Premier Performance Opportunities**

In Branson student performing groups won't just watch the show; they take to the stages in state-of-the-art theatres to be a part of the cast and crew for an incredible memory-making experience of a lifetime! Student groups will be the pre-show entertainment performing on the same stages as some of Branson's biggest stars. Only Branson offers this unique opportunity to draw on real-life performance experiences at such a professional and sophisticated level. Only with Visions!

#### Learn about the Entertainment Industry

Student groups are able to benefit from the enormous variety and accessibility to the Branson entertainment industry through educational workshops, master classes and behind the scenes programs with theatre professionals.

Branson is famous for its warm hospitality, safe environment, and family values. Parents will never have to worry about what their kids will see when they visit Branson. It's a place where age is honoured and youth is celebrated!

#### Did you know?

FACT: Branson has more theatre seats than all the combined theatres of Broadway!

FACT: Branson generally hosts up to 8 MILLION visitors annually!

FACT: Branson is ranked in the top 20 among all overnight leisure vacation destinations in the USA!

**FACT:** On a 1 to 5 rating scale, visitor satisfaction in Branson measures 4.63. This rating is higher than most every destination in the USA!

#### <u>Day 1</u>

Dinner

Depart the UK and travel to Missouri via air, transferring to Branson upon arrival. Dependent upon time allowed, we will reconvene for dinner later in the evening, or if a late arrival, enjoy a boxed meal while settling into the hotel. Afterwards, we can retire to our rooms or take advantage of the hotel amenities!





**Sample Hotel – The Welk Resort Branson:** Nestled in the breath-taking Ozark Mountains, the Welk Resort offers our schools luxurious hotel accommodations, a full service restaurant, exceptional amenities and the perfect location to provide guests with the full resort experience. All hotel rooms feature complimentary WiFi Internet access, data ports, cable television, coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, alarm clock/radio, direct dial telephone and all the expected room and bath amenities. Take in the view of the hotel's award winning gardens from the outdoor patio and also enjoy family friendly amenities such as a playground, miniature golf course and game room. Relax in the outdoor pool and cabana covered spa or stay active in the on-site fitness room. The Welk Resort also offers a gift store in addition to banquet facilities and a beautiful 2,300-seat theater. Rooms sleep four students in two queen beds per room. **Continental breakfasts** are taken on property. If students wish to upgrade to full breakfasts, they may do so once in resort.

<u>Day 2</u> Breakfast, Dinner

Welcome to your first Ozark morning! After a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, we'll board our motorcoach and travel to our performance workshop!



**Branson On Stage Live Performance Clinic** – This customized clinic will set the tune for your performing group to inspire and encourage their showcase for the stages of Branson. Work with professional directors, musicians and/or dancers to complete and perfect your stage production for showcasing in the days to come! 2.5-hrs

**Branson Performances** – all performances will be under the direction of our Branson-On-Stage-Live partners who will assist our schools in stage preparation, dress rehearsal, sound check, lighting check and photo opportunities. The goal is to provide the finest cultural, educational and musical experience for your student performance.

After rehearsing and preparing for our Branson performances, we'll travel to the Branson Mall for lunch on our own and a little free time to pick up anything we have forgotten to pack!

In the early afternoon we'll get a chance to learn a little more about this scenic destination in the heartland of America. We're headed for a splashing good time on board the Branson Ducks!

**Ride The Ducks** - Everyone has fun aboard a Ride The Ducks sightseeing tour of Branson; it's the best way to enjoy Branson that combines fun and music with history and sights. Your Captain will entertain you with stories of past and present while travelling on board a remake of a WWII amphibious vehicle. Learn about Ozark Mountain history, the lakes, its famous personalities and its impact on the state and our nation. Find out about Branson's role in film, song and sports too! www.bransonducks.com



After getting our tour of Branson, we'll head back to our hotel to get prepared for our performance. Then, in the early evening, we'll board our motorcoach and travel to the Dixie Stampede Dinner Show for our first Branson performance!

**Dixie Stampede Student Performance** – student groups will perform in Dixie Stampede's Carriage Room for the pre-show performance prior to dinner. Artists will perform in a 'theatre in the round' stage set-up for an audience of up to 1,000 guests! Timing consists of 10-minute photo opportunity; 30-minute dress rehearsal, sound check and lighting check; and a 20-minute stage performance. After the performance, students will be able to enjoy the Dixie Stampede dinner and production.

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**The Dixie Stampede Dinner Attraction** - Amidst the fog, the sound of beating hooves begins to grow...the crowd watches in amazement and the excitement spreads throughout the grand arena...suddenly, as if by magic, a herd of wild buffalo appears. Welcome to the Dixie Stampede! A funfilled, action-packed Dinner and Show extravaganza celebrating the Wild West! It's the only place that brings together stunning performers, amazing horse feats, fantastic stunt riders, magic and audience participation with a delicious four-course dinner extravaganza! http://branson.dixiestampede.com

After a night of great performance and fun, we'll head back to our hotel to rest up for another fabulous day!

#### <u>Day 3</u>

Breakfast, Dinner

Rise and shine and get ready for an action-packed day at The Heartland Academy! We'll have another performance opportunity today, but first we're going to have some fun! Following breakfast, we'll hop on our bus and head over to Silver Dollar City, an international award winning theme park!

*Silver Dollar City Theme Park* - Travel back in time to the simplicity of 1880s America, and enjoy the best in Branson entertainment! At Silver Dollar City, you'll discover the best attractions, shows and entertainment including toe tapping harmonies, hilarious comedy and traditional favourites! Take a turn on over 30 fun-filled rides and attractions for children of all ages; meet over 100 demonstrating craftsmen whose skills have been passed down from generations of dedicated artisans creating heirloom keepsakes right before your very eyes; sample fares from a dozen delightful restaurants showcasing the Heartland's unique style of country cooking and rated among the best theme park food in the nation by *Amusement Today Magazine!* www.bransonsilverdollarcity.com



In the late afternoon we'll travel back to our hotel and change into our concert attire. Tonight we'll thrill the audiences at the Music City Centre Theatre! We'll start off with an early dinner at McFarlain's Restaurant.

*McFarlain's Family Restaurant* - Located inside the IMAX® Entertainment Complex, McFarlain's Family Restaurant brings to you the culinary history of the Ozarks with traditional Ozark cooking and recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation. A "must do" in Branson cuisine!

*Student Performance Showcase at The Haygoods!* - Vision groups will perform centre stage as the pre-show opening act for the headline performance. Artists will perform on a standard stage set-up for an audience of up to 700 guests. Timing consists of 10-minute photo opportunity; 30-minute rehearsal, sound check and lighting check; and a 30-minute stage performance. After the performance, students will be able to enjoy the Haygoods Show!



**The Haygoods Show** - One of the most exhilarating shows you'll ever experience, the Haygoods continue to deliver the incredible, high energy performances their audiences have come to expect. This dynamic family of eight (seven brothers and one sister) is proficient on a multitude of instruments including, fiddle, saxophone, guitar, drums, piano, harp and more. As if that were not enough, they bring the house down with powerful harmonies and expertly-choreographed, energetic dance numbers! Recently selected as *"Branson's MUST-SEE Show of the Year,"* the Haygoods range in age from 14 to 30 and will blow you away with their musical abilities and electrifying style. Incredible sets along with state-of-the-art sound, lighting, lasers and pyrotechnics set the stage for a fantastic experience! www.thehaygoods.com/video.html

After another high-energy day, we'll travel back to our hotel. If sleep isn't on the agenda, why not check out some of Branson's other great entertainments like ten-pin bowling, cinema, roller skating or miniature golf!



#### <u>Day 4</u>

Breakfast, Dinner

Today we're headed for another outstanding day! We'll start off after breakfast by boarding our bus for a morning of fun at The Track #3!

*The Track* – With 5 Track Family Fun Parks in Branson, you're sure to have a blast. All are different but all include wooden or classic go-kart tracks, water blaster-equipped bumper boats and themed miniature golf courses plus more! The cost for this 2-hour excursion is included with your package. <u>http://www.bransontracks.com</u>



After a morning racing go-karts, we're off the Branson Landing...



**The Branson Landing** - Discover uncharted shopping, dining and entertainment adventures at Branson Landing, located on the waterfront of beautiful Lake Taneycomo in downtown Branson. With over 60 stores and 25 restaurants and specialty food shops, you're sure to find something for everyone! www.bransonlanding.com

Mid-afternoon, we'll depart to our hotel to freshen up for another performance! We'll dress in our performance attire and first head to The Golden Corral for dinner.

**The Golden Corral** - Golden Corral family-style restaurants offer the biggest and best buffet and grill available anywhere. The famous buffet contains an array of food choices including hot meat options, pasta, pizza, fresh vegetables, salad bar and a selection of carved meats at dinner. Grilled chicken, pork, salmon steaks, steak burgers, sausage, and more provide a constant variety of delicious grilled products. The Brass Bell Bakery and Dessert Café serve up fresh baked goods and tempting desserts each and every day. www.goldencorral.net.

After our meal, we'll head to our third performance at The Kings Castle Theatre.

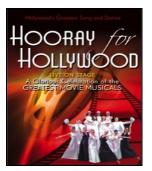
*Kings Castle Theatre Student Performance* - student groups will perform centre stage as the pre-show opening act for the headline performance. Artists will perform on a standard stage set-up for an audience of up to 2000 guests. Timing consists of 10-minute photo opportunity; 30-minute rehearsal, sound check and lighting check; and a 30-minute stage performance. After the performance, students will be able to enjoy one of the four fabulous shows currently performing. Show performances are based upon pre-specified dates.



*Kings Castle Theatre* – this beautiful theatre set on the Branson Strip is home to three awesome, inspiring shows based upon pre-specified dates. <u>http://www.kingscastletheatre.com</u>

**Performance Example: The Twelve Irish Tenors** - This hugely talented group of Ireland's finest singers are taking the concert world by storm as they perform their award winning show in concert halls everywhere. Sold out tours in Europe and America have made this show one of the 'hottest' production in years. From Opera to Pop, from Jazz to Classical, this show is a spine-tingling fabulous smash hit! Songs include "Danny Boy", "That's Life", "You Raise Me Up", "Hey Jude", "Twist and Shout", "Yesterday", "Cockles and Mussels", "Nessun Dorma", "Music of the Night", and more!

**Performance Example: Hooray for Hollywood - WINNER! "BEST NEW SHOW" & "BEST DANCE TROOP" -** It's the all singing, all dancing Movie Musical Hooray for Hollywood! Featuring the most famous song and dance moments of the last 50 years of movie history - recreated live on stage at the Branson Variety Theatre. Join us as we take you on a nostalgic journey through the most popular movie musicals of the last 50 years. You will see film clips of your favourite movies, and then watch the action unfold, live on stage, as our wonderful cast of singers and dancers perform the greatest song and dance from the greatest movies- live in concert. Featuring highlights from famous movies, from Singing in the Rain to Disney's "The Lion King", this all new, all singing and dancing production will thrill and excite you as your favourite movie moments come alive before your eyes!



After our show, we'll head back to the hotel. Tonight is a great night to enjoy our hotel amenities. Perhaps a swim in the pool or a dip in the hot tub!

#### <u>Day 5</u> Breakfast, Dinner

Rise and shine for another spectacular day! We've got a full day to enjoy so we're set to make it great! Following breakfast, we'll travel to a different location of **The Track** (#5) and enjoy some outdoor fun! We'll take two hours to race go-karts, ride bumper boats and play miniature golf then we're heading to Mel's Hard Luck Diner for lunch!

*Mel's Hard Luck Diner* – Located next to the Grand Palace Theatre of Branson, Mel's is a small '50s-style diner guaranteed to take you back to yesteryear. The staff is made up of aspiring actors, singers, musicians and songwriters, and it is not uncommon for one or a group of them to break into song and dance as they cavort around the tables. The menu is themed as well, featuring selections like 'Cheese Release Me', a grilled cheese sandwich with all the trimmings. You can also try the 'Love Me Tender Fried Steak'. A complete soda fountain lines the back wall with more than 15 flavours of soda and over 25 flavours of ice cream. This special lunch is included as a part of your Visions package. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihCdrWNmxds">www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihCdrWNmxds</a>

After filling ourselves at lunch, we'll have time to browse the shops at The Grand Village!

*Grand Village Shops* - The Grand Village is host to 26 unique shops, 2 themed restaurants and a collection of specialty stores created by Silver Dollar City. If Christmas is your holiday, you'll love Kringles' six shops form Missouri's largest Christmas Store with enough holiday items to keep even Santa happy featuring collectibles, glass, ornaments, keepsakes, and the Village Collection. Abbey Rose, Peter Engler Designs, Thomas Kinkade, Angels Amongst Us, Queen Anne's Lace and many more are found at the Grand Village from March through December. www.grandvillageshops.com



In the evening, we'll have dinner in town and then an open evening to relax, enjoy the hotel pool, or kick up our heels at a show!

#### <u>Day 6</u> Breakfast, Dinner

Good morning Branson! We'll enjoy our hotel breakfast then we're off for some exploring!

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**Table Rock Dam Visitors Centre & Fish Hatchery** - Table Rock Lake is a stunning lake nestled in the beautiful Missouri Ozarks and located just outside Branson. Beneath the dam, the Missouri Department of Conservation operates a fish hatchery used to stock trout in adjacent Lake Taneycomo. Since trout cannot naturally reproduce in Lake Taneycomo because of the fluctuating water levels, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery produces more than 400,000 pounds of trout every year. Not only does it supply Lake Taneycomo with trout, but also to most Missouri hatcheries and some Missouri rivers and creeks. The dams have created the ideal environment for trout, a fish that thrives at lower water temperatures.

http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/southwest/shepherd-hills-fish-hatchery

**The Butterfly Palace & Rainforest Experience** - This 9,000 square-foot glassed-in butterfly garden is located at the Welk Resort. The exhibit was developed for scientific and leisure purposes and inside the building, you will find a number of bright, aromatic flowering plants that are known to attract butterflies. This manmade ecosystem can support up to 2,000 of the colourful flying creatures. Exhibits throughout the greenhouse describe various items of interest about the butterflies, including how their life cycle works. www.thebutterflypalace.com



Next up, we're in for some final shopping at The Tanger Outlet Mall. Students will enjoy lunch on their own while at the mall.



**Tanger Outlet Mall** - Tanger Outlet Centre offers a large selection for quality merchandise with up to 40% off retail every day. When you shop at Tanger you can always find the joy of a pleasant and complete shopping experience for famous brand names at outlet values. With a wide range of adult and children's clothing, footwear, fashion accessories, housewares and specialty items, Tanger has it all! Liz Claiborne, Polo, Ralph Lauren, Gap, Reebok, Black & Decker and The Children's Place are just a few of the names you will find.

After we've made all of our purchases, we'll travel back to our hotel to prepare for one final performance. This performance is a special one as we'll be on board The Showboat Branson Belle! Students will depart the hotel in performance attire.

**Showboat Branson Belle Student Performance** - student groups will perform centre stage as the pre-show opening act for the headline performance. Artists will perform on a standard stage set-up for an audience of up to 700 guests. Timing consists of a 10-minute photo opportunity; 30-minute rehearsal, sound check and lighting check; and a 30-minute stage performance. After the performance, students will be able to enjoy dinner and the Branson Belle Showstoppers evening show.



*The Showboat Branson Belle* – Your adventure begins as soon as you step aboard the Showboat Branson Belle! Be whisked away on the authentic 1880s-style paddle-wheeler to the days when showboats reigned over the water with style and grace. Explore all 3 decks of this remarkable vessel and capture glimpses of wildlife along the pristine shoreline. Wrap yourself in the beauty of brilliant orange sunsets as light dances on the crystal clear waters of Table Rock Lake. Your 2-hour cruise features a delicious 3-course meal prepared fresh daily, served by first-class wait staff and spectacular entertainment unlike any other dinner show in Branson.

http://www.showboatbransonbelle.com

After the show, we'll disembark, travel back to the hotel and prepare for tomorrow's journey home.

<u>**Day 7**</u> Breakfast

Time to awake to our last day in the heartland of America. This morning is free to do as we please. Sleep in and pack up leisurely, swim in the pool, take a stroll or enjoy a number of fabulous local activities. Groups will generally check-out by late morning to travel back to the airport for your departure; taking memories with us that will last forever!



## PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Visions' Heartland Academy Performance Showcase Tour is partnered with Branson-On-Stage-Live to give our school groups the 'best of the best' in live performance opportunities. This program is offered for Choral groups, Show Choirs, Orchestras, Concert Bands, Jazz Bands and Dance groups.

Our 'GLEE! – The Branson Experience!' offers magnificent theatre venues for school performance groups so care must be taken to ensure the quality of presentations. The following criteria have been established to assist in providing the theatre guests the best entertainment possible:

- 1. Groups must play or sing musically in tune.
- 2. Groups must display precision in execution of music and/or movement.
- 3. Dance teams must have a choreographed, rehearsed stage presentation.
- 4. Content selections should be upbeat and suitable for audiences of every age.
- 5. Costumes or uniforms are required for all performers and others appearing on stage with the group. All costumes or uniforms must be well maintained. Unacceptable attire includes T-shirts, tank tops, shorts, denim jeans or inappropriate footwear. **Performers must wear shoes at all times due to safety considerations.**
- 6. Chewing gum, food and drinks are not allowed during your performance.
- 7. Please recognize that guests expect your very best performance!
- 8. All Party Leaders are required to sign and submit the North American Code of Conduct prior to travel.

#### The following application guidelines apply:

- 1. To register, an application must be submitted at the time of first deposits. Applications may be obtained from Visions Head Office by dialling 01444.226348 in the UK, or 802.239.3010 in the USA. Please do not fill in any detail regarding performance dates as these will be coordinated with your itinerary scheduling.
- 2. If you school is bringing multiple performance groups, one application must be submitted per independent group.
- 3. All applications should be originals; no photocopying please.
- 4. Each group is required to submit an audition tape (CD, VHS or other format). The tape submitted will be non-returnable and will enable the Branson-On-Stage-Live team to accept or deny your application request. The tape (no excerpts, please) should be representative of the actual number of performers that will be performing and feature selections typical of the group's proposed performance while in Branson. We request upbeat, positive music, vocals or dance numbers suitable for public theatre entertainment. Please include TWO selections of performance on the tape submitted. Please place your video camera close enough so that specific movements of the group can be easily and clearly seen, but far enough away to capture the whole group at one time. Please avoid close-ups and individual performer shots. All students should be in stage costume as they will appear in a performance. Finally, the tape should be clearly labelled with the school's name and the Choral/Music/Dance Director's name and telephone number. Promotional videos and/or tapes that include other groups do not meet selection criteria.

- 5. In addition to the audition tape, groups must also submit a non-returnable, colour photograph of the group featuring the uniforms/costumes to be worn during the performance. This should be no larger than an 8 x 10 inch photograph. Please label the photograph on the back with the school's name and the Choral/Band/Dance Director's name and telephone number. Costumes/Uniforms/Robes should be the same or consistent to a theme, clean and well-maintained. Proper footwear is required, and must be the same style.
- 9. All documentation is to be submitted to the Visions Operations Office who will transfer required documentation to the Branson-On-Stage offices at the time the tour is fully booked.

As always, our staff is available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

> Kaleidoscope Adventures | 800-774-7337 <u>www.kaleidoscopeadventures.com</u> | info@kaleidoscopeadventures.com



# GLEE! The Branson Experience

Minimum Booking Numbers:	20 students
What's Included:	Round-trip flights with a scheduled carrier 6-nights' accommodation in Branson Breakfasts & dinners in Branson Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers 1 Academy Live Performance Workshop 4 Showcase Student Performances Admission to Ride the Ducks Admission to the Dixie Stampede Dinner Show Admission to the Dusic City Theatre Admission to the Branson Variety Theatre Admission to Silver Dollar City Theme Park Admission to Silver Dollar City Theme Park Admission and Dinner at The Showboat Branson Belle 1 Lunch at Mel's Hard Luck Diner 2 2-hr sessions at The Track(s) Excursion to Table Rock Dam & Fish Hatchery Admission to the Butterfly Palace & Rainforest Experience Shopping excursion at The Branson Mall Shopping excursion at The Grand Village Shopping excursion at Tanger Outlet Mall Full Tour Local Ambassador Service 24-hour emergency cover
What's Not Included:	Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory) Transfers to/from home airport Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary Lunches in resort Cost of visas, full or collective passports Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid service, bellman service, area guides, tour ambassador

As always, our staff is available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kaleidoscope Adventures | 800-774-7337www.kaleidoscopeadventures.com | info@kaleidoscopeadventures.com

