

# The BEST Branson Tours! The FUN way to get there!



**B**ranson is like no other place in the U.S. The quality of the talent is as high as you'll find in New York or Las Vegas. The restaurants are excellent. Branson is the number one motor coach destination in America. There are 100 different shows, 53 theaters with 60,000 theater seats (more seats than Broadway) and 18,808 hotel beds in this town of 7,500.

Most tours take you to Branson by motor coach or air. America by Rail takes you there the comfortable, fun way . . . by train! You'll travel on a comfortable Empire Builder train to Chicago and back and the Lincoln Service to St. Louis and back to Chicago. The remainder of the journey is by deluxe motor coach through the beautiful Ozarks. On the Texas Eagle you'll enjoy a reclining coach seat with leg rest, a dining car dinner and a Sightseer lounge. First class hotels, sightseeing and most meals are included in Branson. Additional attractions include the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Springfield, Missouri and the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. You will connect with this tour at your nearest Amtrak station.

We take people to Branson from ten states and two Canadian provinces. Nobody knows Branson better and our volume allows us to negotiate lower prices for transportation, shows, hotels and restaurants.

## Call 1-888-777-6605

### Our shows and accommodations are the best offered by any tour company.

#### October Shows

- ★ **TIM CONWAY.** Count on his comedic sketches, stand-up routines, and musical performances.
- ★ **THE OAK RIDGE BOYS.** You'll hear "Fancy Free", "Elvira", "Bobby Sue" and many more.
- ★ Laughter will abound as we enjoy one of America's brightest comedians, **YAKOV SMIRNOFF.** The Russian immigrant is known for his "What a country!" exclamations.
- ★ **SHANGHAI CIRCUS** featuring the **ACROBATS OF CHINA.** Over 40 acrobats of China bring the Orient to Branson in a fast-paced, exciting production featuring internationally award-winning acts.
- ★ You'll thrill to the outstanding orchestra and lavish production of Japanese violinist **SHOJI TABUCHI.**

#### November Shows

- ★ **ANDY WILLIAMS'** Christmas show has all the magic and charm of his 1960s television specials.
- ★ **DANIEL O'DONNELL** has been captivating international audiences for years with his delightful, heart-touching style.
- ★ **THE OAK RIDGE BOYS.** You'll hear "Fancy Free", "Elvira", "Bobby Sue" and many more.
- ★ **JOHNNY MATHIS** will entertain you with his smash hits "Wonderful, Wonderful", "Misty", "Chances Are" and many more.
- ★ Enjoy the sweethearts of song, the **LENNON SISTERS** as they sing your holiday favorites.

# BRANSON FUN TIME EXPRESS

## Featuring

**The Oak Ridge Boys**  
**Tim Conway**  
**Shoji Tabuchi**

**Yakov Smirnoff**  
**The New Shanghai Circus /**  
**The Acrobats of China**

**October 17 - 22**

**\$1,495**  
Per person  
double occupancy

**\$1,790**  
Single occupancy

### DAY ONE - EN ROUTE/ST. LOUIS

St. Cloud participants will board the Empire Builder at 5:14 a.m. Minneapolis/St. Paul area members will board the famous Empire Builder prior to its 7:50 departure for the 417-mile journey to Chicago.

The Empire Builder features double-decker Superliner equipment. Relax in your comfortable reclining coach seat with leg rest. Go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car for spectacular viewing of the passing scenery. A delicious full-course lunch in the dining car is included. Sandwiches, snacks and beverages are available in the Lounge car.

Your train will roll along the western shore of the broad Mississippi River beneath towering bluffs. Additional tour members will board in Red Wing (8:54 a.m.), Winona (10:11 a.m.), La Crosse (10:47 a.m.), Tomah (11:28 a.m.), Wisconsin Dells (12:09 p.m.), Portage (12:27 p.m.), and Columbus (12:57 p.m.)

The Empire Builder will arrive in Chicago's Union Station at 3:55 p.m. There are several quick "on-your-own" dinner options within the station.

An America by Rail representative will assist you in transferring to a Lincoln Service train for its 5:15 p.m. departure. Sandwiches, snacks and beverages are available in the Cafe car. Sit back and relax in your reclining coach seat as you roll southwest to St. Louis.

Your arrival into St. Louis is scheduled for 10:45 p.m. Your America by Rail

Tour Director will greet and transfer you to the Holiday Inn Southwest. **L**

### DAY TWO - BRANSON

Breakfast is included in our hotel this morning before departing on our deluxe motorcoach.

At noon we'll arrive at Missouri's major attraction, the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Springfield, Missouri. It's the world's largest sporting goods store. There are options for an "on-your-own" lunch.

At mid afternoon we'll arrive at the attractive, full service Radisson Hotel, our comfortable accommodations for the next three nights in Branson. The Radisson is convenient to many shows and attractions.

Dinner is included this evening in our hotel's dining room.

Following dinner our Branson travelers will enjoy a performance by one of America's most popular groups, the Oak Ridge Boys. The Oak Ridge Boys, one of the longest-running groups in country music, are back on America by Rail's Branson schedule, bringing a lot of country and a little bit of rock, blues and gospel.

The talented quartet's four-part harmonies and upbeat songs have resonated with fans across the country, pop, and gospel genres, selling more than 30 million records.

The Boys have ten Gold Albums, two Platinum, and one Double Platinum Album as well as 25 No. 1 hits including: "Elvira", "American

Made", "Bobbie Sue", "Thank God for Kids", and "Y'all Come Back Saloon".  
**B & D**

### DAY THREE - BRANSON

A full plated or buffet breakfast in our hotel is included each morning in Branson.

At 9:00 a.m. we'll embark on a sightseeing tour of Branson and the scenic Ozark countryside. Be sure to visit Dick's old-fashioned 5 and 10 cent store in Downtown Branson.

You'll have time for an "on-your-own" lunch.

The New Shanghai Circus/The Acrobats of China celebrate the exotic wonders of China and the dramatic interpretation of classic Chinese dance and physical performance art. Featuring spectacular backdrops, beautiful costuming, and state-of-the-art lighting this show is a thrill a minute! The show combines extraordinary and inventive feats of strength and skill, control and balance.

For dinner we're off to McFarlain's Family Restaurant and Pie Shop. "Homestyle cookin' like it's supposed to be!" The pie is served first.

After dinner we'll travel to the Shoji Tabuchi Theater where, at 7:30 p.m., you'll enjoy the renowned Shoji Tabuchi. For a number of years, the Japanese violinist has headlined Branson's most popular show.  
**B & D**

## DAY FOUR - BRANSON

This morning you'll have the option of shopping, relaxing in your hotel, attending a show, or visiting the Landmark Titanic Museum/Attraction.

After an "on-your-own" lunch we'll depart for Yakov's American Pavilion for the afternoon performance of the renowned comedian, Yakov Smirnoff. He left Johnny Carson in stitches, was called "amazing" by Jerry Seinfeld, and deemed "a national treasure" by President Ronald Reagan.

For dinner we're off to the famous Grand Country Buffet.

After dinner we will enjoy an evening with Tim Conway and Friends. He is a "comedian's comedian". His hilarious antics on the Carol Burnett Show are legendary, winning numerous Emmys. His talents are vast, and his comedy is memorable. Tim will deliver loads of laughs in a show of sketches, stand-up and audience interaction, not to mention memories. **B & D**

## DAY FIVE - EN ROUTE

Following breakfast, we'll board our deluxe motor coach and depart Branson for Springfield, Illinois. An "on-your-own" luncheon stop is scheduled for the St. Louis Union Station food court.

At 1:45 p.m. we'll arrive at the world famous 630-foot high Gateway Arch in St. Louis. A visit to the Museum is included. Options include a trip to the top of the Arch and a 45-minute film chronicling the history of the Old West.

We'll continue northeast 100 miles to Springfield, Illinois, where we'll spend the night at the Ramada Limited. **B**

## DAY SIX - EN ROUTE

Following a Continental breakfast we'll transfer to the Springfield Amtrak station where at 6:32 a.m. we'll board the State House train for Chicago. Snacks and beverages are available in the café car. Our arrival into Chicago's Union Station is scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

Tour members will board the westbound Empire Builder and depart Chicago at 2:15 p.m. for home cities. You'll travel again in the same comfort

you enjoyed on the southbound Empire Builder.

The train will arrive in Columbus (5:05 p.m.), Portage (5:34 p.m.), Wisconsin Dells (5:52 p.m.), Tomah (6:30 p.m.), La Crosse (7:14 p.m.), Winona (7:50 p.m.), Red Wing (8:52 p.m.), Minneapolis/St Paul (10:31 p.m.) and St. Cloud (12:40 a.m.).

A delicious dining car dinner is an option for those on board at meal time. **CB**

For more information and to make your reservation, call us Toll Free 1-888-777-6605  
[www.americabyrail.com](http://www.americabyrail.com)

### TOUR DATES

Wed., Oct. 17 to Mon., Oct. 22

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation via Amtrak rail and deluxe motorcoach.
- Five nights hotel accommodations.
- Nine meals.
- Admissions to five major musical attractions.
- All baggage handling, taxes, tips, etc.
- Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director.

**PRICE PER PERSON: \$1,495**  
(based on double occupancy)

\$1,790 single occupancy.



# BRANSON HOLIDAY EXPRESS

## Featuring

**Andy Williams**

**The Oak Ridge Boys**

**Johnny Mathis**

**Daniel O'Donnell**

**The Lennon Sisters**

**November 14 - 19**

**\$1,495**

Per person  
double occupancy

**\$1,790**

Single occupancy

**See pages 2 and 3 for connecting information. (Days 1, 5 and 6)**

### DAY TWO - BRANSON

Breakfast is included in our hotel this morning before departing on our deluxe motorcoach.

At noon we'll arrive at Missouri's major attraction, the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Springfield. It's the world's largest sporting goods store. There are options for an "on-your-own" lunch.

At mid afternoon we'll arrive at the attractive, full service Radisson Hotel, our comfortable accommodations for the next three nights in Branson. The Radisson is convenient to many shows and attractions.

Dinner is included this evening in our hotel's dining room.

Following dinner, we'll travel to the Moon River Theater for an evening with Andy Williams. You'll be delighted by Andy's orchestra as he performs his greatest hits as well as holiday favorites.

**B & D**

### DAY THREE - BRANSON

A full plated or buffet breakfast in our hotel is included each morning in Branson.

At 9:00 a.m. we'll embark on a three-hour sightseeing tour of Branson and the awesomely scenic Ozark countryside. Be sure to visit Dick's old-fashioned 5 and 10 cent store in Downtown Branson.

We'll have an "on-your-own" lunch at a Branson restaurant.

Following lunch, we'll enjoy an incredible Christmas Celebration! The Lennon Sisters sing harmony from their hearts with musical memories from over 50 years as America's Sweethearts of Song.

Dinner this evening is at the popular Grand Country Buffet.

Following dinner our Branson travelers will enjoy a performance by one of America's most popular groups, the Oak Ridge Boys. The Oak Ridge Boys, one of the longest-running groups in country music, are back on America by Rail's Branson schedule and bringing a lot of country and a little bit of rock, blues and gospel.

The Boys have ten Gold Albums, two Platinum, and one Double Platinum Album as well as 25 No. 1 hits including: "Elvira", "American Made", "Bobbie Sue", "Thank God for Kids", and "Y'all Come Back Saloon".

**B & D**

### DAY FOUR - BRANSON

This morning you'll have the option of shopping, relaxing in your hotel, attending a show, or visiting the Landmark Titanic Museum/Attraction.

After an "on-your-own" lunch we'll continue on to the Tri-Lakes Center for one of the most memorable performances of your life. You'll be enthralled by the charming Daniel O'Donnell. Daniel has become one of Ireland's greatest exports, performing to over 500,000 people every year from Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera

House to London's Royal Albert Hall, and, of course, Branson.

Tonight we're off to McFarlain's Family Restaurant and Pie Shop. "Homestyle cookin' like it's supposed to be!" The pie is served first.

Following dinner we'll will be entertained by the legendary Johnny Mathis.

He broke through in 1957 with his debut album, "Wonderful Wonderful", which spawned the number one hit "Chances Are". He has been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame twice -- once for "Chances Are" and for "Misty". He's also known for his top hit "It's Not For Me To Say". **B & D**

For more information and to make your reservation, call us Toll Free 1-888-777-6605  
[www.americabyrail.com](http://www.americabyrail.com)

#### TOUR DATES

Wed., Nov. 14 to Mon., Nov. 19

#### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation via Amtrak rail and deluxe motorcoach.
- Five nights hotel accommodations.
- Nine meals.
- Admissions to five major musical attractions.
- All baggage handling, taxes, tips, etc.
- Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director.

**PRICE PER PERSON: \$1495**  
(based on double occupancy)

\$1790 single occupancy.

# More than 12,000 people have traveled to Branson with America by Rail. Fall 2012 is YOUR time to go!

I'm Larry Swartz, the Chairman/CEO of the company. Back in 1999, I had no interest in going to Branson, although we were sending groups there. One of our Tour Directors "Shanghaied" my wife and me, taking us to Branson for a tour operators meeting in June of 1999. I've been there thirteen times since then and I'm ready to go back tomorrow.

The unique Branson "spirit" will "swallow you up" once you get there. Go with us this Fall so you can experience it yourself.

The Ozark Mountains that surround Branson are beautiful. Table Rock Lake is one of the top three or four bass fishing sites in the world. Branson is a city of 7500 permanent residents who entertained 8.4 million visitors in 2008. There are over 100 shows (all of which are good or they wouldn't be competing in Branson), 100 hotels, and 268 restaurants.

As your motorcoach travels throughout the Branson area you'll pass new Titanic Museum/Attraction, the Veterans Museum, helicop-



There's Branson . . . I can't wait!

ter rides, WWII amphibious ducks to ride, a tethered balloon, an amusement park, the Showboat Branson Belle (the largest land-locked paddle-wheeler in the world), a major theme park (Silver Dollar City). I'll stop here, you get the picture.

One thing you can't see but will sense as you move around the Branson area is the warmth and graciousness of the service people you'll encounter. Why shouldn't they feel happy? They're privileged to live and work in one of the most beautiful and exciting spots in the world.



The Branson "Strip".

# TRAVELERS ENDORSE AMERICA BY RAIL TOURS

## The Branson Program

Jerry and Anne were great. We felt very much at ease because they were organized and exercised the ability to please everybody. The reservationist answered all questions. Knowledge of the tours was excellent.

**James and Carolyn Specht - Roanoke, VA**

Everything was great-a real fun group-thank you very much. See you again.

**Nancy Markelwitz - Dillsburg, PA**

Best trip I ever had. I thought I was on a cruise. Actually this was better. Winifred is the best. Tried to accommodate everyone.

**Arlene Slagh - Grandville, MI**

It was an excellent tour, good variety of shows. Very nice people where we stayed; clean hotel. Plenty of food. Excellent reservation staff and telephone system. Leave question; they call back same day. Tour director was excellent, always good natured, knowledgeable very considerate to disabled travelers, with me. Bus driver very good.

**Leila Bauer - Chelsea, MI**

Excellent communication - info was prompt, reliable and on time.

**Wayne Morris - Queenstown, MD**



**Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Springfield**

Loved the trains. Great selection of Branson shows. Great info before the trip and very pleasant 800# staff to answer questions. Catalog/flyers are very clear and informative.

**Sharon Postnieks - Rochester Hills, MI**

Best tour director I've had. We're planning on joining your Nova Scotia tour in Fall.

**Alan McManus - Beverly Hills, MI**

We would travel with America by Rail again! This was our "first" and we enjoyed it. Our Tour Director was very caring of all our needs, efficient, and upbeat, funny and good company! Our bus driver was great!! All of our travel materials were in good order and promptly received. Our phone calls were not considered unnecessary by a courteous staff.

**Kenneth and Jacquelyn Willman - Saginaw, MI**

This was our first train trip of this distance and our first trip to Branson. The shows that were chosen were excellent as well as the tour of the Ozarks. The sleeping and lounge car attendants were great; the dining car servers were great. Jim and Jan are lovely people and helped us in making this trip most enjoyable.

**Ron & Pat Finkenbinder - Bowmansdale, PA**

Over the past 20 years I have taken a great number of trips/tours but my recent outing to Branson, MO, was my first experience with America by Rail. And I enjoyed every minute of it! The advance planning, accommodations, shows, transportation, etc. made the entire trip a relaxing and great vacation. I hope to take additional America by Rail trips in the future.

**Mary Pare - Washington, MI**

Highly recommend to anyone. The Tour Director was one of the best-better than Excellent.

**Dean Esslinger - Richmond, VA**

We had a ball!

**Billy & Audrey Sawyer - Memphis, MI**

Well planned, very enjoyable, a lot of fun, good music and jokes. Everyone should do this at least once in their life.

**Lenora Collins - Ann Arbor, MI**

Couldn't be much better!

**Betty M. Gerstler - Ann Arbor, MI**

Have traveled with many tour companies. America by Rail rates with Tauck Tours (the Cadillac) in my estimation. You are extremely well organized.

**Terese L. Kalosis - Northville, MI**



**Ozark Sunset**

5 star! It was well organized and well orchestrated.

**Roberta Fall - Paw Paw, MI**

It was a great tour - friendly people, excellent tour director and bus driver, excellent selection of shows and restaurants and shopping centers.

**Paul and Pat Leaf - Shoreline, WA**

The food was great, the accommodations were real nice, the people I met were nice and we all mixed well. The shows were outstanding!! The price was right!!!

**Pam Misenaar - Wenatchee, WA**

The shows you selected in Branson were the best! We saw the top ones!! Everything worked perfectly.

**Judy Connelly - Haslett, MI**

All of our friends and family will hear our high praise of America by Rail!

**Darrell and Rita Konopka - Jackson, MI**

We've done many trips with America by Rail. Thanks for another wonderful experience.

**Bob and Carolyn Kilgour - Conestoga, PA**

I can't let this trip go by without writing to tell you what a wonderful job your tour company did when planning this trip. I was totally impressed with the folder we received in the mail a few days before departure. You didn't forget a thing. It was really well done. Thank you! Our trip was perfect. Our tour guides, Ann and Jerry Bray, are wonderful people and they did everything to make our vacation as nice as we hoped it would be. This was a wonderful vacation and we thank everyone involved!

**Annis and Bob Knakal - Ravena, NY**

We travel quite a bit and this was one of the best tours, tour director and bus driver we've ever had. Thanks a lot!!

**Geneva Skeens - Richmond, VA**

We have just returned from our first America by Rail trip and want you to know how much we enjoyed it! The itinerary was well planned -seating at shows was excellent-we always had very good seats, and the choice of shows was perfect! On top of that, our tour directors could not have been any better. They were always available to answer questions, give advice to the train novices, and treated each one of us as if we were the only ones on board! We look forward to another trip with America by Rail.

**John and Pat Wilker - San Juan Capistrano, CA**

# Branson Fall 2012

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... FALL 2012 IS YOUR TIME. TRAINS ARE  
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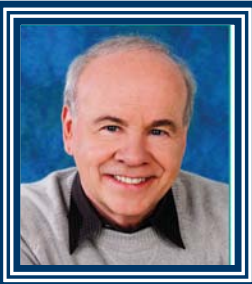
**Escorted Tours  
by Rail**

America by Rail, Inc.  
5000 Northwind Dr, Ste 226  
East Lansing MI 48823

## OCTOBER ENTERTAINERS



The Oak Ridge Boys



Tim Conway



Acrobats of China

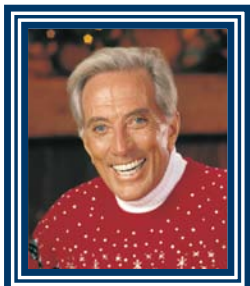


Yakov Smirnoff



Shoji Tabuchi

## NOVEMBER ENTERTAINERS



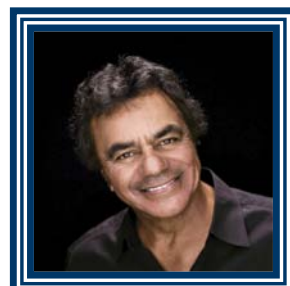
Andy Williams



The Oak Ridge Boys



Daniel O'Donnell



Johnny Mathis



The Lennon Sisters