

BRANSON FUN TIME EXPRESS

Featuring

The Oak Ridge Boys
Mickey Gilley
Shoji Tabuchi

Jim Stafford
The Shanghai Circus /
The Acrobats of China

April 16 to 21

\$1,395
 Per person
 double occupancy

\$1,690
 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 early dinner options within the station.

An America by Rail representative will assist you in boarding 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.

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

Tour Director will greet and transfer you the short distance to the Holiday Inn Southwest.

DAY TWO - BRANSON

Breakfast is included in our hotel this morning.

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.

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 THREE - BRANSON

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

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

This afternoon we'll continue to the Mickey Gilley Theatre for two hours of great entertainment. Gilley's show is a roller coaster of music and laughs, thanks to an award-winning band and comedian Joey Riley.

Dinner this evening is at the popular Grand Country Buffet.

This evening 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 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 FOUR - BRANSON

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

You'll enjoy an "on-your-own" lunch at Mel's Hard Luck Diner at Branson's Grand Village. The wait staff are talented vocalists.

Following lunch we'll continue on to the Jim Stafford show. Enjoy two hours of great entertainment by this multi-talented singer, songwriter and comic genius.

Critically acclaimed as the "Victor Borge of the Guitar", Jim creates hilarious antics from everyday life – out of his mind and into your heart! Famous for his million-selling records, "Spiders & Snakes", "Cow Patti", and the infamous "My Girl Bill", Jim satirizes the obvious with his music and comedy. Only Jim Stafford can combine hysterical comedy with masterful performances on the classical guitar and heart-warming stories of the human spirit

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.

Following dinner we will see The New Shanghai Circus presenting a revolving line-up of favorite acts such as Big-Big Drums, Diabolo (Chinese Yo-Yo), Bicycle Tricks, Pole Climbing, Russian Bar, Aerial Fish Ballet, Adagio, Plates Spinning, Magic Clock, Roller Skating, Handstand Art, Human Top, Chair Stack and more.

The New Shanghai Circus celebrates 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.
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 north 100 miles to Springfield, Illinois, where we'll spend the night at the attractive Ramada Limited. There are a number of dining options. **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 lounge car. Our arrival into Chicago's Union Station is scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

Tour members will board the west-bound 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 still on board. **CB**

For more information and to make your reservation, call us Toll Free 1-888-777-6605
www.americabyrail.com

TOUR DATES

Mon., April 16 to Sat., April 21

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation via Amtrak rail and deluxe motorcoach.
- Five nights hotel accommodations.
- Eight 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: \$1395
(based on double occupancy)

\$1690 single occupancy.

