

Winter Conferences, Retreats and Conventions: *The Benefits of Branson!*

Meeting planners and church leaders couldn't ask for a better place to hold conferences, retreats or conventions than in Branson, Missouri! What should be considered when choosing a locale for your function? Here are a few thoughts on why you should look no further than Branson!

Atmosphere: Inspiratin & Relaxation: Do you want a place where you can relax and even be inspired by your surroundings? A place with beautiful views, no smoke-stacks, freeways, or rough parts of town? Come to a small town nestled among scenic mountains and lakes. Condo resorts on the lakes or on the golf links are great for informal retreats. Full service hotels mix mountain and lake beauty with all the necessary comforts and facilities. Most standard lodgings are within walking distance of restaurants, theatres and attractions, and many of those theaters are available to hold your get-togethers.

Atmosphere: Excitement: This is the uniqueness of Branson. While small and peaceful, it has the contradictory quality of having more entertainment and activities choices than just about anywhere. In fact, Branson has been dubbed "America's liveentertainment capitol!"

Moral Atmosphere: It must be said. Cynical national media has called Branson "too wholesome for its own good." That wisecrack comes from a remarkable local consensus that both reflects and celebrates values of God, family, and love of country. Those values come not only from some of the town's founding fathers and civic leaders, but from the many Christians in the work force. Gospel music and bold



witnesses for Christ even come from many performers on stage. Branson is no wild and crazy tourist resort. It's the alternative.

Versatility: The lakes and mountains offer many outdoor activities. Theme parks, over 100 live shows, and a host of indoor and outdoor attractions are fun add-ons for "freedays" during your meetings. A wide variety of lodging options give meeting planners the ability to choose the style (or lifestyle) which best fits the meeting's purpose.

Convenience: Branson is small. Everything is close. It's in the center of America, close to several major interstates. In addition to the new Branson Convention Center, theaters make great locations for conventions. Lodgings are close to each one, as well as restaurants and attractions, lakes and mountains.

Affordability: Many say lodgings and even meals are some of the best bargains in America, often better than in their own hometowns. Come see for yourself!

Capability: Branson is the Number 1 ranked destination for group tours. It's the most popular and best equipped to serve the needs of groups. That means lodgings, restaurants and attractions are manned by the nation's experts in serving your group. That can make the difference. Instead of stress and inconvenience, expect a joyful, peaceful getaway. ✧

Winter Highlights

- **Veterans Observances and Events:** Several events each month. For information contact the Branson Veterans Task Force (417) 337-8387 www.BransonVeterans.com
- **Hot Winter Fun Big Show Feb 9** A grand revue featuring segments from dozens of Branson shows, all to kick off Branson's fun-filled winter season! Call quick for tickets, this is a fast sell-out! Jim Stafford Theatre (417) 335-8080.
- **Hot Winter Fun: Jan-Feb-Mar** Branson's answer to winter blues! Check out the list of exciting events, shows and attractions during this fun season in the Ozarks! www.HotWinterFun.org
- **Ozarks Winterfest-Branson Feb 20-22, 2009** Christian convention at the Welk Resort Theatre featuring teachings, fellowship and top Christian recording artists. For info: Check out our website for the latest info: www.mywinterfest.com or contact the Welk Resort at (866) 337-5454.
- **Titanic Events: Jan 17, Ice Carving Contest, Feb Sweetheart Month, Mar 1-30** Titanic Salutes the Irish Branson's Titanic Museum 866-488-5098 www.TitanicBranson.com
- **NAIA Division II Mens's Basketball Tournament, Mar 11-19** at Branson's College of the Ozarks. www.cofu.edu 417-334-6411 Special Events planned. ✧

Meeting Planner's Fact Sheet

- **Branson Population:** 3,750
- **Annual Visitors:** 6.5 million
- **Restaurants:** 356
- **Theater Seats:** 55,000
- **Accessibility:** Within a day's drive of half the US population.
- **Air:** 1 hour drive from Springfield/Branson Regional Airport, serviced by American, United

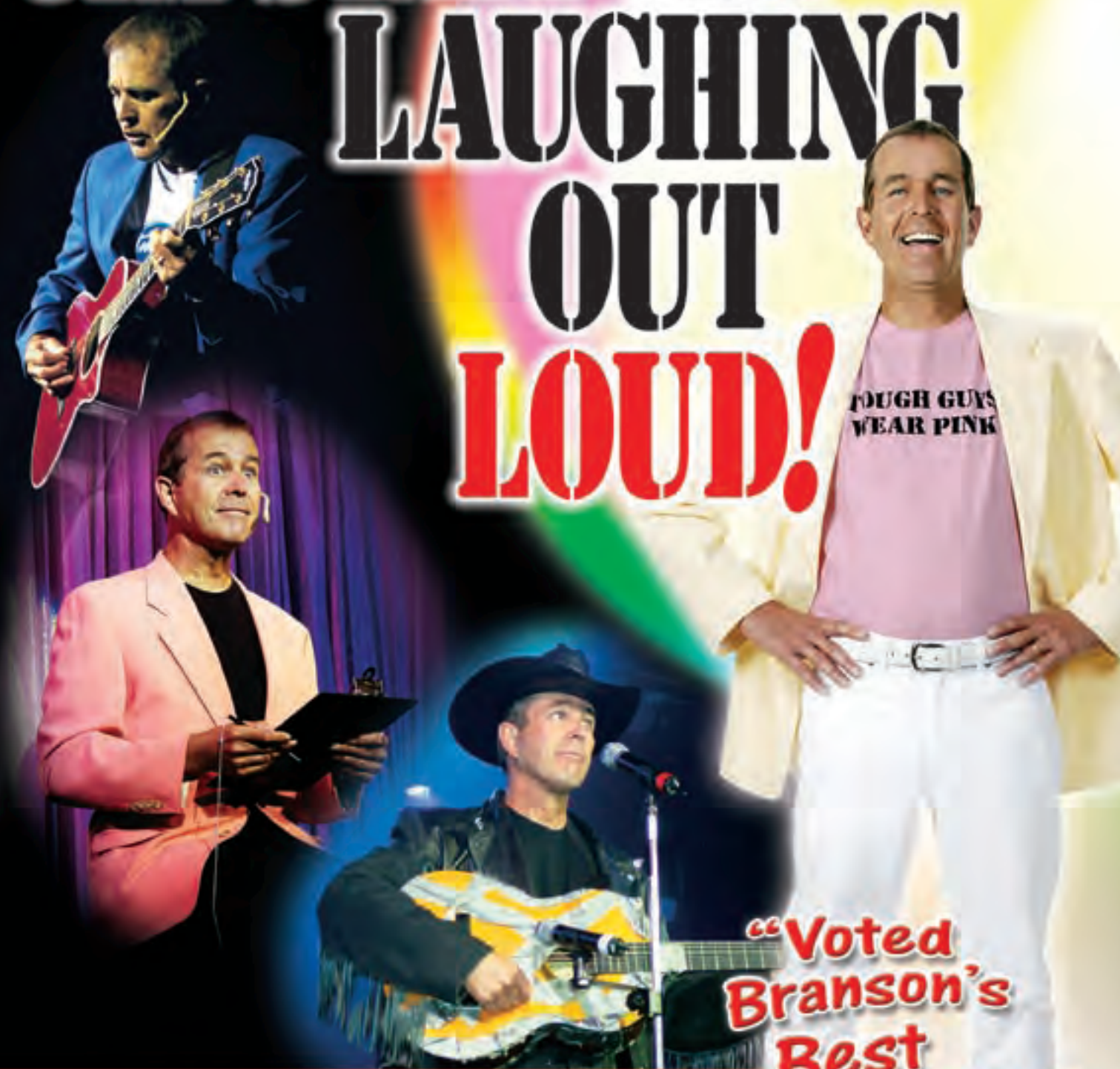
Express and Northwest Airlink, with daily non-stop flights to and from St. Louis, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Memphis, Dallas, Chicago and Denver.

■ **National Ratings:** #1 Motorcoach Destination (1995-2001) – American Bus Association & National Tour Association. "Best All-around city for motorcoach travel." – National Motorcoach Network.

■ **Traffic Improvements:** Branson's legendary traffic snarls are now largely in the past thanks to over \$200 million worth of road improvements, including 50 new and reconstructed roads. Today Highway 65 connecting Springfield to Branson is all four lane.



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