



Explore Branson: What to Look for in 2024

February 22, 2024 – Nestled in the lakeside beauty of the Ozark Mountains, [Branson, Missouri](#) is one of America's greatest family destinations. Because it sits right in the middle of the country, Branson is within a day's drive for about half of the American population, and there's always a reason to visit and discover what's new in the destination. Here's a look at 10 new things to know about in Branson this year:

ATTRACTIONS

[Silver Dollar City](#): Ride the Midwest's Largest Indoor Family Roller Coaster

399 Silver Dollar City Parkway, Branson, MO 65616

Legendary family-owned theme park [Silver Dollar City](#) opens for the season on Saturday, March 9. And this spring, the 1880s-themed park will debut the Midwest's largest indoor family roller coaster, "[Fire In The Hole](#)." Steeped in Ozark Mountain history, the experience of Fire In The Hole is a fictional account of the night a former Ozark Mountain mining town – which Silver Dollar City sits on today – was burned to the ground by vigilantes. Riders board their own pumper wagons and band together to save the town and battle the fire as they travel through a five-story building. During the ride, recruits experience three drops, a quick splash-landing, and high-resolution onboard audio. The coaster is inspired by the park's 1972 Fire In The Hole attraction, which retired at the end of 2023, after operating 51 seasons and carrying more than 25 million riders. The \$30 million investment will be unveiled in the park's newly incorporated Fire District, which also includes 10 family-friendly attractions, a new merchandise location, and new food venue featuring the park's famous handmade "pretzel dogs."



Fire In The Hole will be unveiled in the park's newly incorporated Fire District this spring.
Photo Credit: Silver Dollar City

[Ozark Nights](#): Take an Immersive Night Walk Where the Forest Glows and the Folktales Grow

1001 West End Parkway, Branson, MO 65616

Opening this spring, [Ozark Nights](#) will give its guests the opportunity to experience the forest in an enchanting new light while exploring a nighttime mystery. The immersive night walk sits on the former homestead of the Owen family, settlers who disappeared without a trace on the winter solstice in the late 1880s. The experience takes visitors back in time on an adventure that includes a 7/10-mile paved, self-paced walk along an illuminated trail and the opportunity to enjoy time around the property's firepits. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bookings are available beginning May 2.

[Shepherd of the Hills](#): Walk Among the Treetops on a New Trail

5586 West 76 Country Boulevard, Branson, MO 65616

The Ozarks caught everyone's attention in 1907, when Harold Bell Wright's novel, *The Shepherd of the Hills*, was published ... and the [Shepherd of the Hills](#) farm has been a favorite attraction among Branson visitors for decades. Today, the family entertainment park and farm is centered around the historic farm tour and legendary outdoor drama of the namesake novel, with a variety of other attractions, shows and festivals. New this year, [Shepherd's TreeTop Sky Trail](#) allows visitors to walk among the treetops on more than 600 feet of suspension bridges overlooking the Ozarks.



Shepherd's TreeTop Sky Trail allows visitors to walk among the treetops on more than 600 feet of suspension bridges.

Photo Credit: Shepherd of the Hills

[Ballparks of America](#): Grand Slam Entertainment Awaits

1000 Pat Nash Drive, Branson, MO 65616

In addition to providing the ultimate youth baseball experience in the heart of Branson, [Ballparks of America and Grand Slam Entertainment](#) now offer on-site entertainment. Here, you can research if Bigfoot really exists or fight as a team of secret agents trying to escape in one of the Puzzle Parlour Escape Rooms, participate in Operation Laser Tag, and try your hand at games in the On-Deck Arcade.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

[Mythical 'Wich](#): Order a Fun-Themed Sandwich in Historic Downtown Branson

113 East Main Street, Branson, MO 65616

Branson's newest sandwich shop, [Mythical 'Wich](#), features more than 15 specialty sandwiches. With such themed sandwich names as Missouri Monster, TheCyclops, The Full Monte, and Legendary Status – along with all-day breakfast, soup, salads and desserts – reading the menu is almost as enjoyable as eating the food!

[The Yard Milkshake Bar](#): After Your Mythical Sandwich, Enjoy a Specialty Themed Milkshake

906 West Main Street, Branson, MO 65616

Another fun and filling new addition near Historic Downtown is [The Yard Milkshake Bar](#). The family-friendly bar offers specialty milkshakes that look like works of art, and visitors can choose their own flavor or try one of the themed desserts. And just like Mythical 'Wich, these themes don't disappoint. The chain is offering two Branson exclusive items for a limited time: "Red Kingdom," featuring a brownie football, and "In My Taylor Era," which comes with a free friendship bracelet.

LIVE SHOWS

[The Man in Black, A Tribute to Johnny Cash](#): See the Number One Johnny Cash Tribute Show

1600 West 76 Country Boulevard, Branson, MO 65616

On select dates between June and August, Johnny Cash fans can see the number-one tribute show [The Man in Black, A Tribute to Johnny Cash](#) at the Pepsi Legends Theater. Bearing a striking resemblance to the legend himself, Shawn Parker brings the legacy of Johnny Cash to life in this new show.

[Dustin Tavella, Now I See](#): Watch the "America's Got Talent" Winner on Stage

645 Missouri Highway 165, Branson, MO 65616

Performing from March to December, "America's Got Talent" winner Dustin Tavella brings his "[Now I See](#)" production to Branson's Reza Live Theatre. Tavella's unique blend of magic and storytelling is how he won "America's Got Talent," and now he's brought the wonder to Branson.

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

[Wranglers Star Studded Honky Tonk](#): Dance the Night Away with the Wranglers All Star Band

625 Missouri Highway 165, Branson, MO 65616

Part food and beverage, part live show and part attraction (dancing!), Branson is now home to its own "Star Studded" Honky Tonk. [Wranglers](#), which held its grand opening earlier this month, features dinner, live music and – of course – dancing. Not to worry if you're a beginner: Line dance lessons are offered every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

LODGING



The Ozarker Lodge is Branson's first true boutique hotel experience.

Photo credit: The Ozarker Lodge

The Ozarker Lodge: An Ideal Basecamp for Your Branson Adventures

995 Branson Highway 165, Branson, MO 65616

Located in the heart of the Ozarks, Branson's newest lodge is the first true boutique hotel experience in the region. [The Ozarker Lodge](#), which opened in June 2023, features 102 all-new guest rooms (including family bunk-bed guest rooms), modern amenities, a heated outdoor pool, cedar soaking tubs and outdoor fire pits perfect for roasting s'mores. A stay here is sure to evoke nostalgia of family road trips, exploring nature and more.

About Branson, Missouri

Branson is a one-of-a-kind family vacation destination nestled in the lakeside beauty of the Ozark Mountains, offering dozens of live performance theaters; three pristine lakes; championship golf courses; an international award-winning theme park; family attractions and museums; a Historic Downtown district; shopping galore; a full range of dining options; and a host of hotels, motels, resorts, RV parks, campgrounds, sports venues, and meeting and convention facilities. Branson is located less than one day's drive for about half of the United States' population. It's also accessible via flights to the Branson Airport (BKG) and nearby Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF). Call 1-877-BRANSON for help planning your next vacation, convention or reunion. See more at <http://www.explorebranson.com>

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