



### Missouri Home for the Holidays

Branson, Carthage, Joplin, Kansas City, Independence

#### Day 1 –Branson

Upon arrival in **Branson**, we find this popular destination blanketed with holiday decorations and lights. Check into one of Branson's hotels before an evening full of song, dance, and comedy at one of Branson's theaters. Branson - It's Your Show. Overnight Branson, MO.

[www.explorebranson.com](http://www.explorebranson.com)

#### Day 2 – Branson

After breakfast at the hotel, spend the morning enjoying one of the many morning shows the theaters offer. Then with Christmas list in hand arrive at one of Branson's two outlet malls or **Branson Landing** located on the waterfront of Lake Taneycomo for a shopping extravaganza. Or enjoy An Old Time Christmas at **Silver Dollar City** combining treasured traditions and spectacular lights. Take in another Christmas show this evening then visit the **Branson Area Festival of Lights** to complete your Ozark Mountain Christmas experience. Overnight Branson, MO.

#### Day 3 – Branson – Carthage – Joplin

We depart Branson after breakfast and travel to Carthage, MO. We arrive at the **Precious Moments Park** where we will tour the **Chapel** that Sam Butcher designed and constructed as his way of sharing his faith with the world. See beautiful stained glass windows and Precious Moments characters in hand-painted murals that Sam has used to tell well known stories of the Bible. Visit the **Precious Moments Visitors Center** that houses the most complete selection of Precious Moments figurines, gifts and dolls. Dine at one of Joplin's restaurants before checking into the hotel for the night. Overnight Joplin, MO. [www.joplincvb.com](http://www.joplincvb.com)

#### Day 4 – Joplin – Kansas City

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before we depart for Kansas City, also known as the **"City of Fountains"**. Our first stop is the **Arabia Steamboat Museum** which tells the story of a group of men that uncovered the Arabia which had been lost over 100 years earlier when it sank in the Missouri River just north of Kansas City. The men were amazed when they found that the 200-tons of cargo had been preserved in a remarkable condition. Fine china, clothing, tools, canned food, buttons, cloth, and perfume were among the cargo that the Arabia had on board. At the **Hallmark Visitors Center** we learn the Hallmark story, from J.C. Hall's humble beginning in 1910 to the creation of the world's largest greeting card company. Among the exhibits is the collection of 17 unique Christmas trees created and decorated by Hallmark employees. See a demonstration of hot-foil stamping and the process of die-cutting used in the manufacturing of Hallmark cards. Next, we will enjoy free time at **Crown Center** and be awed by the 100-foot tall Mayor's Christmas Tree. Overnight Kansas City, MO. [www.visitkc.com](http://www.visitkc.com)

### **Day 5 – Independence – Kansas City**

After breakfast, experience Christmas in a simpler time with nine holiday attractions and a wealth of unique gift shops in historic Independence. Beginning in November and continuing through the New Year, homespun Yuletide events highlight the warmth of the season and the city allowing **Independence** ([www.visitindependence.com](http://www.visitindependence.com)) to share a special Christmas at home with thousands of holiday visitors. One not to miss is the **Vaile Mansion**. Doors open to a vision of elegance and opulence for a “Queen Victoria Christmas”. Enjoy the elaborate decorations, crystal chandeliers, and magnificent gilded mirrors. The 31-room Second Empire Victorian Mansion boasts hand-painted and stenciled ceilings and elaborate hand graining on woodwork. Enjoy lunch on the Historic Independence Square and continue your holiday tour. Back in Kansas City; visit the city’s premier holiday attraction, the lights of the **Country Club Plaza**. The over 80 miles of lights have been carefully strung and have illuminated the Country Club Plaza for over 80 years. Overnight: Kansas City.

### **Day 6 Return Home**

Leave Missouri with warm memories of a magical Missouri holiday season!