BRANSON LAKES AREA

Branson is a charming, unique, and friendly small town located in the Ozarks region of southwest Missouri. Known as the "Live Music Show Capital of the World," Branson has more than 50 live performance theaters, three pristine lakes, an international award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, and a Historic Downtown district. Tourism is the primary growth industry in Branson. While Branson’s population is about 10,000 people, the city has many services that equal or surpass larger urban areas and can handle the needs of the eight million annual visitors traveling here. Branson’s music industry began in 1959 and has steadily grown, offering a variety of musical entertainment for every taste. And now there are numerous attractions, shopping, golf courses, fishing, outdoor recreation, dining, and much more.

Branson is widely known for its wholesome, family-friendly atmosphere, along with its pride in our veterans, and with a mild climate and four seasons, an affordable year-round recreation.

WEATHER

CITIES & AIRPORTS

Closest airport: Branson Airport (BKG) or Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF)
Closest international airport: Lambert - St. Louis International Airport (STL)
About 45 minutes from Springfield, Missouri
About 3 hours from Saint Louis, Missouri and Kansas City, Missouri
About 4 hours from Memphis, Tennessee

COMMUNITY GROUPS & RESOURCES

An organized group is starting to form, but it is in the early stages. The local chamber of commerce has a welcome guide that students and employers can give out. However, students in the past have said that it is very easy it is to make friends with locals in Branson who are always willing to give them rides around town (not a guarantee, but a potential perk!).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Second job availability: Possible
Average cost of housing per week: $50-75
State's minimum wage: $7.65
Typical transportation: Bike
THINGS TO DO & CULTURAL EVENTS

• Visit Moonshine Beach (a sandy beach on a lake, not the ocean)
• Use a discounted pass to visit local amusement parks like Silver Dollar City
• Splash and play at the White Water water park
• See TONS of variety shows (music, theater, acrobats, comedy) that are discounted or free!
• Go to Dogwood Canyon Nature Park
• Shop, go go-karting, play mini golf or see a movie

PROS & CONS

PRO: Affordable housing, welcoming community, affordable cultural activities, lots to do, good opportunity for working 40 hours per week and second jobs. In every Branson job profile there are multiple listings for housing options.
CON: No public transportation. However, there is a community member that organizes transportation for student to/from work, the airport, and social security. It’s an affordable fee and is listed in all Branson job profiles.

HOT TIPS

Branson is HOT in the summer time and students walk/bike. Bring sunscreen and be ready to go for a swim in the local lakes or water parks!

MAP OF THE AREA

http://www.nationonline.org/oneworld/map/USA/missouri_map.htm