

WorldMark
BY Trendwest

Destinations

A Magazine Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

August 2006

Go Branson

START WITH THE SHOWS AND KEEP MOVING

ADVENTURE CLUB:
DAYTONA 500

OWNERS MEETING:
HOTEL SPECIAL



PLUS

Lake of the
Ozarks &
Grand Lake

WIN an exotic 8-day Hawaiian Cruise!

Refer your friends and family to Trendwest Resorts. For each qualified referral you provide, you will receive an entry in our drawing for an exotic 8-day cruise through the Hawaiian Islands!

This fabulous vacation package includes:

- Roundtrip airfare for two adults to Honolulu, Hawaii
- 8-day/7-night accommodations in a penthouse stateroom with balcony
- Ports of call on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai
- \$1,000 in spending money
- Retail Value \$8,000

FRIENDS *FIRST*[®]
— by WorldMark

Hurry! Sweepstakes ends Sept. 30, 2006.

**Call 1-877-77-FRIEND (1-877-773-7436)
or send your referrals via e-mail to
friendsfirst@worldmarktheclub.com**

See official rules below. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received.

Official Friends First Hawaiian Cruise Sweepstakes Rules: NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS SWEEPSTAKES. CONSUMER DISCLOSURE: Sweepstakes is open only to WorldMark, The Club owners who submit qualified referral names and are U.S. residents in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah or Washington; or residents of the Canadian province of British Columbia. You will receive one entry for each qualified referral submitted to Trendwest® between July 1, 2006 at midnight PT and September 30, 2006 at midnight PT. Qualified referrals must be 18 years of age or older with a combined annual income of \$35,000 USD or more. You may send in additional referrals and receive additional entries by writing to Attn: Friends First Sweepstakes, 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052. If you wish to enter the sweepstakes but do not wish to provide referrals, you may do so by mailing a 3"x5" card with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Attn: Friends First Sweepstakes, 9805 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052. Referrals must be received by September 30, 2006 at midnight PT to be entered into drawing. Prize is guaranteed to be given away by random drawing. Drawing to be conducted by the Major Prize Coordinator and will be held on October 18, 2006 at Trendwest Resorts' Redmond, WA, corporate headquarters. Grand Prize: One winner will receive a vacation for two adults for an 8-day Hawaiian cruise onboard Norwegian Cruise Line's Pride of America and \$1,000 (U.S. funds) in spending money. The winner and one friend will receive coach airfare to Honolulu, Hawaii to begin their cruise. Included in this package is one penthouse stateroom, onboard meals and entertainment, and visits to five ports of call including Honolulu, Oahu; Hilo, Hawaii; Kahului, Maui; Kona, Hawaii; and Nāwiliwili, Kauai. Total estimated retail value \$8,000 (U.S. funds). Air travel and Cruise package are subject to availability and must be booked through Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511. Norwegian Cruises schedules, cruisetours, port calls, hours of arrival and departure and special programs are subject to change without prior notice. All ticketing is final. Transportation to and from airports of departure and arrival, applicable departure taxes, gratuities and other incidental expenses not covered in this disclosure are the responsibility of the prizewinner. A major credit card must be presented upon boarding. Blackout periods may apply. Vacation must be taken within one year of prize acceptance. At least one passenger must be at least 21 years of age to cruise. Winner may also choose \$5,000 (U.S. funds) in cash instead of the Hawaiian cruise. Prize is non-transferable. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Official notice to winner by certified mail, return receipt requested. Prize must be claimed within 45 days of notification. Winner must agree to the use of pictures, name and/or statements for future promotional purposes without further payment or consideration, unless prohibited by law. Sponsor(s) is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury of any kind resulting from acceptance of this prize or participation in this promotion. Trendwest Resorts and Fairfield Resorts employees and/or associates are not eligible to claim prize. A list of prize winners may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Winners List, c/o TRI, PO Box 97054, Redmond, WA 98073-9754. Sponsor: Trendwest Resorts, Inc., 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052.



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TRAVEL & ADVENTURE SPECIAL AD SECTION

Footloose in Tuscany, Daytona 500 Weekend, Ancient Lands Tour,

Trendwest Travel quarterly special, cruises from Princess, Carnival, and Norwegian.

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ON OUR COVER: Sun in the sky and the wind in your hair: Branson's The Tracks presents the perfect combination for a great ride. Photograph courtesy of Branson Lakes Area Chamber.

A Big Yummy Bite of Vacation

AS A MICHIGAN NATIVE, I have a soft spot in my heart for the Midwest. Lacking the ocean orientation that bestows built-in glamour to both the East and West Coast, it has to work harder for attention. The Midwest is often erroneously tagged as being uninteresting merely for being inland. But just like a cookie with a delicious surprise sandwiched in its middle, the Midwest presents a treasure trove of delights for those who nibble their way through the heartland of America.

We begin with Branson, Missouri, on page 10. You have to be able to deliver the goods if you're going to call yourself the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World," and if our besotted WorldMark owners are any indication, Branson is delivering in spades. The fiery fiddles, tasty vittles, and good old-fashioned fun offered up by this lively burg have earned it the uncompromising loyalty—and repeat business—of many. Just 130 miles north is WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks, and here you'll find the flip side of the dazzle Branson presents. Turn to page 16 to sample the water-centered activities (if you're a fisherman, you've just found your Piscean paradise) and pastoral beauty of this Ozark mountain retreat. And while you're in the neighborhood, head over to page 18 to drop in on a conversation with Randyl Kriner, resort manager for WorldMark Grand Lake. He shares some tasty tidbits about our unique resort located on the Monkey Island peninsula in northeastern Oklahoma.

Everyone's taste in vacation is different. We think we hit on the right idea with WorldMark by presenting you with a buffet of vacation delicacies that's sure to include something for everyone's palate. When you have a WorldMark experience, we hope it's always a satisfying repast that makes you want to open up and say, "Ahhh."

Beata Jachulski Baker
Beata Jachulski Baker
Senior Editor

Remembering Rob Linderman

WorldMark Seaside resort manager Rob Linderman passed away April 14, 2006, at the age of 54 after a two-year battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. An avid sportsman who loved football, fly-fishing, and earned his pilot's license on his 16th birthday, Rob began his career in resort management in 1978, as manager of the Thousand Trails preserve in Chehalis. Rob accepted the position of resort manager of WorldMark Seaside in 2003, where he remained until his death.

"Rob truly embodied the spirit of our company's culture with his approach to staff development, property stewardship, and customer service," says Vice President of WorldMark Resort Operations Dave Akins. "The Seaside resort, under his tutelage, thrived and served our WorldMark and Residence Club owners well. Rob will be best remembered for his unflinching sense of humor, his dedication to those who worked with him, and his positive attitude, no matter what came his way. His legacy continues through the lives he has touched."



Destinations

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(Closed Tue., 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. PT)

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Resort Condominiums International
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your club

Inventory Specials: A Continuous, Amazing Offer

Maintain a Summer State of Mind with These Great Getaways

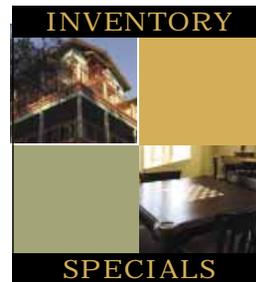
THE SUMMER VACATION SEASON IS COMING TO A CLOSE. But you can still have that sunny feeling in autumn by taking your family—or just yourself—on a fun and economical vacation with Inventory Specials. Instead of sitting empty, selected unreserved WorldMark units can be booked for just 4.2 cents per credit, up to 60 days in advance. Low cost, longer booking window, and wide range of destinations—it all adds up to great, super-cheap vacation opportunities for you each month.

How inexpensive is it? Follow the sun to any one of our Arizona resorts, where you'll find that Monday through Thursday nights in a one-bedroom unit in Red Season are 875 credits each. $875 \times .042 = \$36.75$ a night!

DAN STANIS (2)



Rancho Vistoso, AZ



HERE ARE YOUR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER SPECIALS:

**September—
Midweek and
Limited Weekends**

- Bison Ranch, AZ
- Galena, IL
- Grand Lake, OK
- Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- Ocean Walk (Daytona), FL
- Pinetop, AZ
- Rancho Vistoso, AZ

**September—
Midweek Only**

- Angels Camp, CA
- Big Bear, CA
- Windsor, CA

**October—Midweek
and Limited
Weekends**

- Bison Ranch, AZ
- Galena, IL
- Grand Lake, OK
- Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- Ocean Walk (Daytona), FL
- Pinetop, AZ
- Windsor, CA

**October—
Midweek Only**

- Angels Camp, CA
- Big Bear, CA
- Cascade Lodge, BC
- Clear Lake, CA
- Estes Park, CO
- Indio, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Wolf Creek, UT

WHAT'S THE COST?

YOU CAN FIND A RESORT'S CREDIT VALUES in your *Daily Vacation Credit Values* booklet or through the Resort Gallery on the WorldMark Web site at www.worldmarktheclub.com. The resort gallery link is on the home page, left column. Simply multiply the resort's credit values by .042 to find out its midweek and weekend rates.

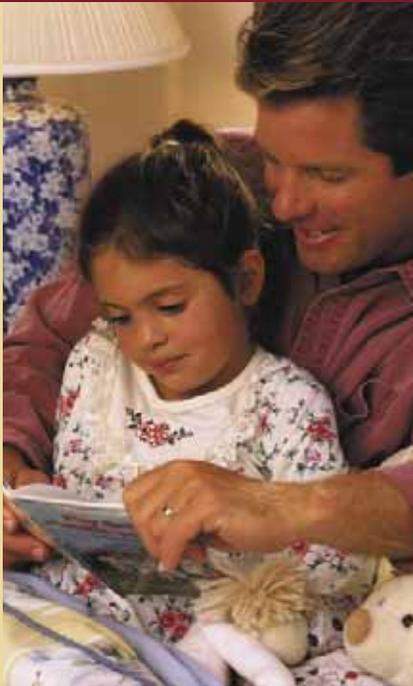
HOW TO BOOK

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS and for more information, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103. **Availability changes constantly!** Keep abreast of the latest Inventory Specials in this monthly magazine (excluding January) or go to www.worldmarktheclub.com.

**Exclusions are
September 1–4.**

These may vary at certain resorts; check with your vacation planning counselor.

Earn 1,000 Lifetime Credits When You Buy or Sell Your Home



CALL US FIRST when it's time to buy or sell your home, and you could earn 1,000 permanent WorldMark credits—renewed automatically every year—for life.

The Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM provides expert service from the nation's top real estate brokers through an exclusive program available only to WorldMark owners. If you're buying and selling a home, you could earn up to 2,000 lifetime credits! Call today and find out if you qualify.

**CALL TOLL FREE AT
1-877-869-9672**

Inquire online at
www.worldmarktheclub.com/owners/realestate.shtml



"We want to let you know real estate agent Rob Thornton with Coldwell Banker was GREAT. He not only sold our house in a timely manner, but did it very professionally. The day we had to move out of our house, he showed up at our door step with his own pickup and helped us move until every last piece was in our rental. Hooray for good people!"

Cindy and Erv Stice, Spanaway, WA

Winner!

ROBERTO CUIEL of San Diego, Calif., won a three-night WorldMark stay when we selected his completed resort comment card in our drawing for May. Fill out that card every time you vacation at a WorldMark resort—you could be our next winner.



Holiday Reminder

IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY, the Adventure Club, Owner Services, and Trendwest Travel will be closed on Monday, September 4; the Vacation Planning Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

TWO YEARS
For the price of one

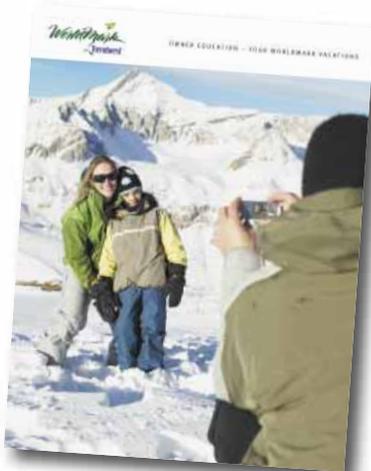
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REFER TO SOURCE CODE 93032
Offer expires September 30, 2006



The New Look of Owner Education

THE OWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM has been revamped—and so has the accompanying handbook. Ask for the new, improved, and updated version when you attend a class near you.

WorldMark's Owner Education program currently offers two different classes:

➤ The **Basic Class** is designed to educate all owners, whether new or experienced, in the best ways to use WorldMark credits and Bonus Time for stays at WorldMark resorts. ➤ The **Exchange (E) Class** is designed to instruct owners on the use of WorldMark credits as payment for exchange vacations outside the WorldMark network. This covers exchanges through RCI—our primary exchange partner—as well as other exchange companies.

Reservations

are required. For reservations and class locations, please call

1-800-457-0103,

Mon–Fri, 6 am–9 pm;

Sat–Sun, 6 am–5 pm.

Class times and locations

are also listed online at

www.worldmarktheclub.com/education.

OWNER EDUCATION CLASSES IN AUGUST

S. CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield, CA

Mon, Aug 7, 6 pm
Mon, Aug 21, 6 pm

Big Bear, CA

Mon, Aug 7, 6 pm
Sun, Aug 27, 1 pm

Indio, CA

Thu, Aug 31, 6 pm

Irvine, CA

Mon, Aug 21, 6:30 pm

Las Vegas, NV

Sat, Aug 5, 2:30 pm
Sat, Aug 26, 6:30 pm

Oceanside, CA

Thu, Aug 17, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 29, 6 pm

San Diego, CA

Sat, Aug 5, noon
Sat, Aug 5, 2:30 pm-E
Tue, Aug 15, 6 pm
Thu, Aug 24, 6 pm

San Dimas, CA

Thu, Aug 3, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 8, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 22, 6 pm

Solvang, CA

Wed, Aug 23, 6 pm

Torrance, CA

Mon, Aug 14, 6 pm
Mon, Aug 28, 6 pm

Westlake Village, CA

Tue, Aug 8, 6 pm
Sat, Aug 19, noon
Sat, Aug 19, 2:30-E

N. CALIFORNIA

Fresno, CA

Sat, Aug 19, 10 am-E
Sat, Aug 19, 2 pm

Modesto, CA

Thu, Aug 24, 6 pm-E

Roseville, CA

Sat, Aug 5, 10 am
Sat, Aug 5, 2 pm
Tue, Aug 15, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 22, 6 pm-E
Sat, Aug 26, 10 am
Sat, Aug 26, 2 pm

San Jose, CA

Tue, Aug 1, 6 pm
Sat, Aug 5, 10 am
Sat, Aug 5, 2 pm
Tue, Aug 15, 6 pm-E
Tue, Aug 29, 6 pm

Tracy, CA

Wed, Aug 2, 6 pm

Walnut Creek, CA

Wed, Aug 9, 6 pm
Sat, Aug 19, 10 am
Sat, Aug 19, 2 pm
Wed, Aug 23, 6 pm-E

Windsor, CA

Wed, Aug 30, 5:30 pm-E

NORTHWEST

Birch Bay, WA

Wed, Aug 2, 6 pm

Tue, Aug 15, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 22, 6 pm-E

Bothell, WA

Tue, Aug 8, 6 pm
Sat, Aug 19, noon
Sat, Aug 19, 2 pm-E
Tue, Aug 22, 6 pm

Burnaby, BC

Mon, Aug 14, 6 pm

Coeur d'Alene, ID

Sat, Aug 26, noon
Sat, Aug 26, 2 pm-E

Depoe Bay, OR

Wed, Aug 30, 4 pm
Wed, Aug 30, 6 pm-E

Discovery Bay, WA

Thu, Aug 3, 6 pm
Wed, Aug 16, 4 pm
Wed, Aug 16, 6 pm-E

Eugene, OR

Fri, Aug 18, 6 pm
Fri, Aug 18, 8 pm-E

Federal Way, WA

Sat, Aug 5, noon
Sat, Aug 5, 2 pm
Wed, Aug 16, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 29, 6 pm-E

Leavenworth, WA

Sat, Aug 5, noon-E
Sat, Aug 5, 2 pm
Thu, Aug 17, 6 pm

Seaside, OR

Tue, Aug 29, 4 pm
Tue, Aug 29, 6 pm-E

Seattle, WA

Fri, Aug 4, 6 pm
Sun, Aug 13, noon

Tri-Cities, WA

Wed, Aug 30, 6 pm
Wed, Aug 30, 8 pm-E

Vancouver, WA

Thu, Aug 3, 6 pm
Thu, Aug 17, 6 pm
Thu, Aug 24, 6 pm-E

MOUNTAIN

Boise, ID

Tue, Aug 8, 6 pm
Wed, Aug 23, 6 pm
Thu, Aug 24, 6 pm-E

Broomfield, CO

Thu, Aug 3, 6 pm
Thu, Aug 17, 6 pm
Fri, Aug 18, 6 pm-E
Tue, Aug 29, 6 pm

Englewood, CO

Wed, Aug 2, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 15, 6 pm
Wed, Aug 16, 6 pm-E
Wed, Aug 30, 6 pm

Idaho Falls, ID

Sat, Aug 26, 10 am
Sat, Aug 26, noon-E

Rancho Vistoso, AZ

Fri, Aug 4, 6 pm-E
Sat, Aug 5, 10 am
Tue, Aug 22, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 22, 8 pm-E

Salt Lake City, UT

Tue, Aug 1, 6 pm

Thu, Aug 3, 6 pm-E
Tue, Aug 15, 6 pm
Thu, Aug 17, 6 pm
Sat, Aug 19, 10 am
Thu, Aug 24, 6 pm
Thu, Aug 24, 8 pm-E
Thu, Aug 31, 8 pm

St. George, UT

Tue, Aug 8, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 8, 8 pm-E
Fri, Aug 25, 6 pm-E
Sat, Aug 26, 10 am

Wolf Creek, UT

Wed, Aug 2, 6 pm
Wed, Aug 2, 8 pm-E
Wed, Aug 16, 6 pm
Wed, Aug 16, 8 pm-E
Tue, Aug 29, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 29, 8 pm-E

MIDSOUTH

Albuquerque, NM

Tue, Aug 8, 6 pm
Tue, Aug 8, 8 pm-E

Branson, MO

Fri, Aug 4, 3 pm
Mon, Aug 14, 3 pm
Tue, Aug 15, 3pm-E

Overland Park, KS

Sat, Aug 5, noon-E
Thu, Aug 24, 6 pm
Fri, Aug 25, 6 pm

Tulsa, OK

Fri, Aug 18, 6 pm
Sat, Aug 19, 10 am-E
Thu, Aug 31, 6 pm

your club

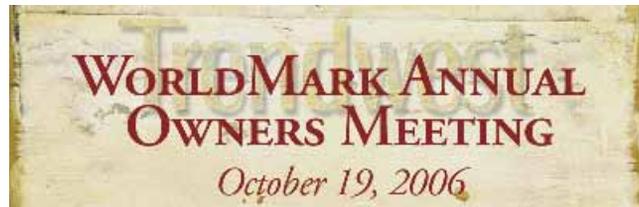
2006 Annual Owners Meeting—Save the Date

THE 2006 WORLD MARK ANNUAL OWNERS MEETING is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2006, at 7 p.m. at the Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE 6th St., Bellevue, Wash. Registration begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 7 p.m. Please mark your calendar to attend.

The Annual Owners Meeting notice materials will be mailed via U.S. mail and—for those who have so chosen—delivered by e-mail during the first week of September. When your

packet arrives, please carefully read all the enclosed information. This will include the WorldMark Board of Directors' selection of nominees for the two open positions along with each nominee's qualifications, background, and candidacy statements. Once you've made your decision, please immediately complete and mail your proxy ballot, or vote online or via tele-

phone to ensure that the 15% quorum required to hold the annual meeting is met.



Annual Owners Meeting Hotel Special

WORLD MARK HAS SECURED special hotel room discounts for out-of-towners planning on attending the 2006 Annual Owners Meeting on October 19, 2006. The Coast Bellevue Hotel, located at 625 116th Ave. NE (.6 miles from the Meydenbauer Center), is offering a rate of \$87 USD (taxes not included) per room. Both king and double rooms are available at this price; additional rollaway beds are \$10 each. This special rate is good for the duration of your stay. Check-in begins at 3 p.m.; checkout is noon. Parking is included.

The Coast Bellevue Hotel provides free shuttle service to Bellevue Square in downtown Bellevue on the half hour; guests can also call for pick up or drop-off to any destination within a five-mile radius of the hotel (including Meydenbauer Center).

Complimentary in-room amenities include high-speed Internet access; local and 1-800 access phone calls; coffee, tea, and hot chocolate service; hair dryer, iron, and ironing board; cable television with in-room movies, WebTV, Nintendo, and digital music; and a *USA Today* newspaper. Other amenities at this full-service hotel include a seasonal heated outdoor swimming pool (typically open in October), espresso bar, and the Eastside Bar & Grill restaurant—which serves complimentary hors d'oeuvres during its happy hour, Monday–Friday, 4–6 p.m.

To receive the special rate, call 1-425-455-9444 by October 6 to make your reservation. Be sure to request the **Trendwest rate**. For maps and additional hotel information, go to www.coasthotels.com/home/sites/bellevue/home.cfm. Space is limited, so make your reservation today.

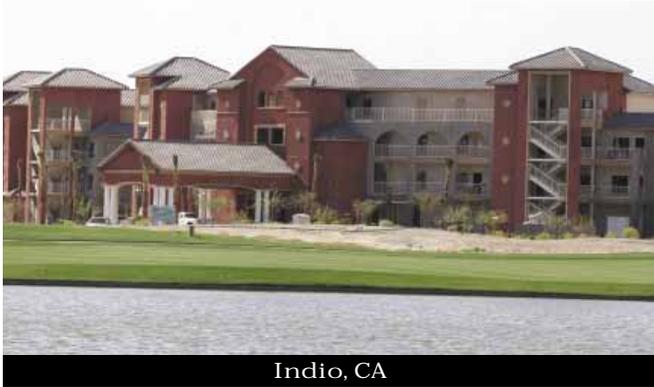


Your Proxy Vote is Your Voice

A three-year proxy authorization is included every year with your Annual Owners Meeting materials. You are encouraged to sign and submit the proxy, which allows WorldMark's Board of Directors to cast your vote at its discretion in the event that you do not vote on an issue.

It is important to remember that a proxy authorization does not sign away your right to vote and will not override any vote that you have already cast. And when you do vote on an issue, your vote will replace the proxy. You can also revoke your proxy at any time.

When you receive this year's owner meeting materials, mail in the proxy form, or submit a proxy authorization at www.proxyvoting.com/worldmark. Online submissions will require the 11-digit control number located on your proxy form. All proxies and votes must be submitted no later than November 5, 2006, to count in this year's board of directors' election.



Indio, CA

Construction Zone: Resort Update

Opening this year

Indio, CA

- 270 units of Phase I (430 total units planned) in final stages of completion
- Projected occupancy: July 2006



Midway, UT



Bear Lake, UT

Midway, UT

- 36 two-bedroom units in final stages of completion
- Projected occupancy: August 2006

In progress

Anaheim, CA

- 242 units planned; broke ground July 2006
- Projected occupancy: February 2008



Anaheim, CA

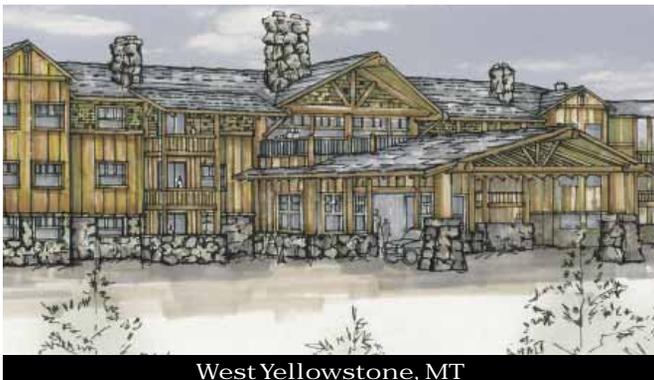
West Yellowstone, MT

- 112 total units planned; broke ground May 2006
- Projected occupancy: February 2008

Expansions at existing locations

Bear Lake, UT - Phase II

- Expansion of 40 additional units in final stages of completion
- Projected occupancy: August 2006



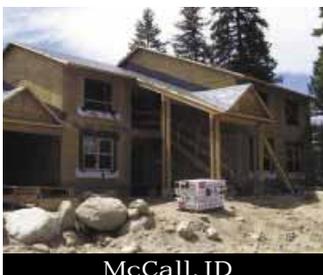
West Yellowstone, MT

Estes Park, CO - Phase II

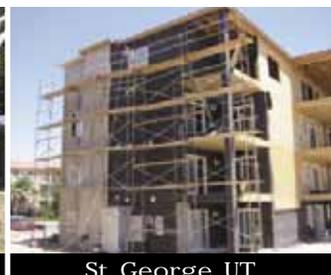
- Expansion of 35 additional units in final stages of completion
- Projected occupancy: August 2006

McCall, ID - Phase II

- Expansion of 36 additional units
- Projected occupancy: March 2007



McCall, ID



St. George, UT

Orlando, FL - Phase II

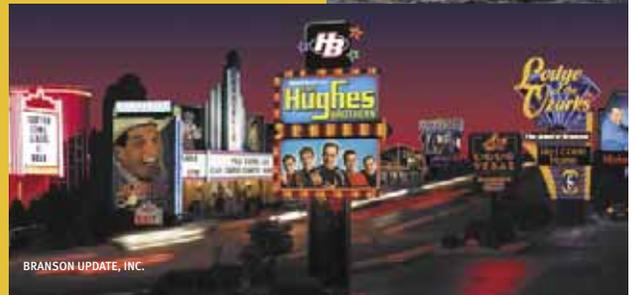
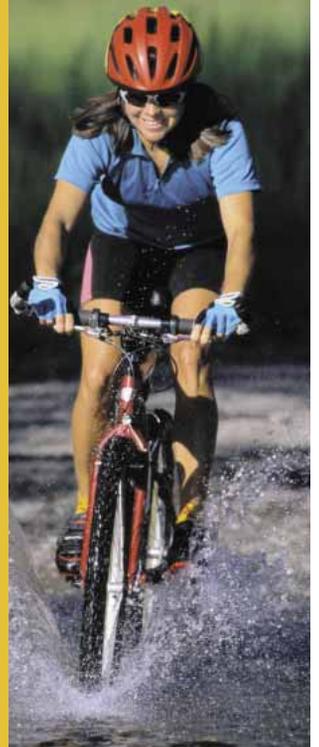
- Expansion of 168 additional units in two new buildings
- Projected Bldg.1 (90 units) occupancy: July 2008
- Projected Bldg.2 (78 units) occupancy: November 2008

St. George, UT - Phase II

- Expansion of 71 additional units (total unit count 130)
- Projected phased opening: July through October 2006



Branson Burning Bright





WITH DAZZLING SHOWS, BELOVED THEME PARKS, AND STIRRING MUSEUMS, **THIS FRIENDLY CITY EXPLODES WITH ENERGY THAT APPEALS TO THE WHOLE FAMILY**

By Hope McPherson

WHEN ASKED TO NAME HIS FAVORITE SHOW IN BRANSON, 9-year-old **Cayle Boster** pauses and frowns. “Do I have to pick just one?” he finally says. “I like the Presleys and the Haygoods—and I can’t forget the Dixie Stampede.” Son of **Cari Boster**, WorldMark Branson’s front desk night clerk, Cayle often attends the local shows with his parents and 3-year-old sister, **Britany**.

“It’s a perfect destination for families,” says Cari, also a WorldMark owner. “No one should hesitate to bring their kids to anything here.”

About 40 miles south of the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport, Branson has successfully combined Las Vegas bling with a family-friendly atmo-

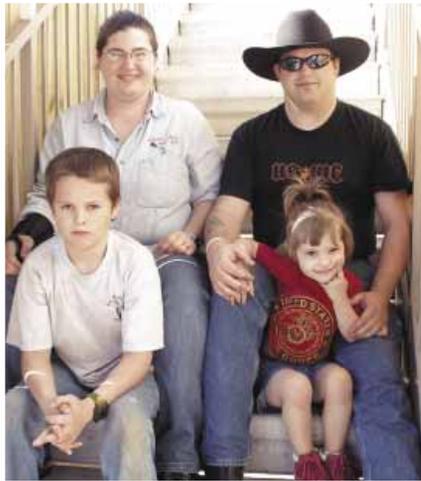
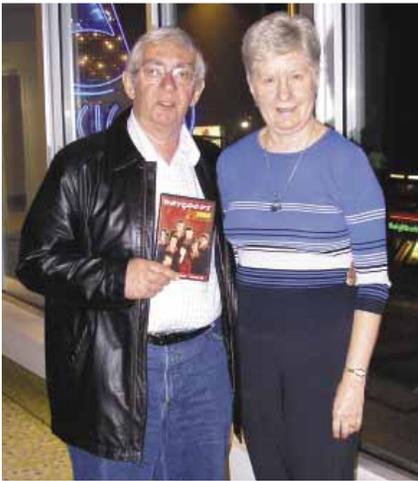
Whether you’re a member of the greatest generation, baby boomer—or child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of either—Branson will capture your heart and keep it pumping with its shows and nightlife, outdoor adventure, endless attractions, and down-home hospitality.

BRANSON LAKES AREA CHAMBER

BRANSON LAKES AREA CHAMBER

Focus on WorldMark Branson

HOPE MATHERSON (2)



This page, clockwise from top left: Owners Lloyd and Esther Rempel extended their Branson vacation. Owner/staffer Cari Boster (with her family) loves to frequent the local shows. The Jumble Lineup tunes up and gets toes tapping. The 50s at the Hop Show will have you searching for your bobby sox.

sphere. Nestled between Lake Taneycomo and Table Top Lake, the 6,500-population city is an entertainment buffet of theaters, museums, and theme parks that keep visitors coming back.

"If you go to three shows a day and stay seven days, you wouldn't have seen half the shows," says **Danny Fletcher**, assistant resort manager and an owner. "They're all good, and each has its own little niche."

While her son loves the Haygoods, Cari says her preschool daughter adores Cecil, a member of the Presleys' Country Jubilee, where country and gospel music are wrapped in humor. "The Hughes Brothers have another good show," she says. "They bring their wives and children in the morning show. In the night show, it's just the brothers." And the Pierce Arrow vocal group, she adds, has a singer who can hit eight notes below the lowest note on a piano. A new singer with the group can dip down three notes lower yet. "They're both in *The Guinness Book of World Records*," she says.

Fifty folding chairs

Since 1959, Branson entertainers have been performing everything from country western and rock to comedy and magic. The Baldknobbers Jamboree—named after a gang of Ozarks vigilantes of the 1880s—started it all when four brothers set up 50 folding



chairs in the old Branson city hall. Fishermen and tourists visiting Lake Taneycomo flocked in. So did other entertainers, when news of appreciative audiences spread.

Today, from April through Christmas (many performers tour and rest between January and March), visitors can choose from more than 100 shows, with many offering two performances a day. "We really haven't seen a bad show," says **Esther Rempel**, a WorldMark owner from Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada. "It would be really hard to pick a favorite," adds her husband, **Lloyd**.

Soon after arriving for a one-week vacation, the Rempels extended their trip. "We're staying four extra days because there's so much to do," says Esther, a retired practical nurse. "We still won't get it all in!" The couple attended Pierce Arrow, the Platters, Showboat Branson Belle, and more.

Finger-food feasts

"We did Pierce Arrow twice," says Lloyd, who retired from a 29-year career in a cedar mill. "And at the Dixie Stampede, they feed you a whole Cornish game hen, ham, corn, potato, bread, and an apple strudel—without any utensils." The



INFO GRAPHIC BY MICHELLE TERILL



BRANSON LAKES AREA CHAMBER

GAMERHARPER/INSIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.



BRANSON LAKES AREA CHAMBER



HOPE McPHERSON

Clockwise from top left: The flying fiddling fingers of Japanese dynamo Shoji Tabuchi have made him the consummate showman of Branson. Front desk staffer—and ex-Nashville artist—Denise Easterling serenades owners weekly. The Hollywood Wax Museum brings a touch of Tinseltown to the Midwest.

popular four-course dinner (think finger food, with plenty of hand wipes) includes a rousing show in a huge arena complete with galloping horses.

At the Music City Center, the Rempels joined a near-capacity crowd to see The Haygoods, a popular singing group of seven brothers and one sister. With tight vocals and an array of instruments (fiddles, saxophones, bass guitars, and a harp, to name a few), the siblings, ages 14 to 30, combined pyrotechnics, talent, and glitz. For two hours, they took the audience on a rip-roaring musical romp through decades of popular music.

During a 1950s set, young females in the audience whooped as Dominic Haygood, dressed in a white T-shirt and blue jeans, took to the stage with an electric guitar and belted out “Johnny Be Good.” After the curtain fell, the Rempels joined a long line waiting to purchase a DVD of that evening’s performance.

Shoji’s fiery fiddling

They also made a point to see Shoji Tabuchi, a classically trained violinist who left his native Japan as a young man

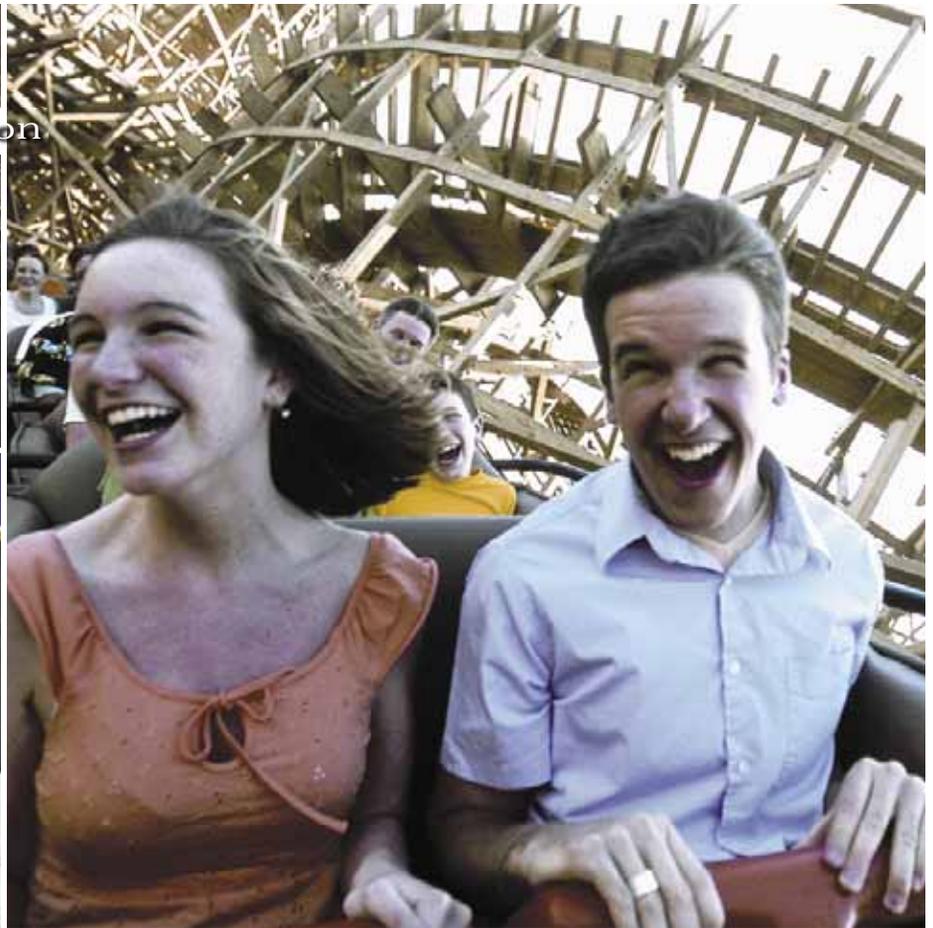
with the dream of becoming a country western star. His long-running show attests to his success—and his audiences are dotted with people who’ve returned over and over. Changing his dazzling dinner jackets numerous times throughout the evening, Tabuchi, along with his troupe of singers, dancers, and musicians, brought down the house with everything from classical numbers to fiery fiddling.

That same energy explodes at other city venues throughout the day, and WorldMark owners can arrange for tickets to many popular shows right at the front desk—for a discounted price. For example, a ticket to the Haygoods costs \$29, but a WorldMark owner pays only \$25. In all, through the resort, owners can get discounted tickets to more than 50 shows—suitable for any age.

Headliners with barbecue

To give owners a taste of their many entertainment choices, the WorldMark Branson staff offers a Tuesday Night Social, inviting performers to give owners a glimpse of their shows. Owners enjoy an all-you-can-eat dinner brought in from Odee’s Barbeque, as well as entertainment from more than

Focus on WorldMark Branson



HOPE MATHESON

Clockwise from above: The Titanic Museum recreates the lethal crash into an iceberg; inside, hundreds of rare artifacts are on display. Thrill to the WildCat rollercoaster at Celebration City. No earthquake—just Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, the most photographed building in town.

a dozen headliners, such as singer-actor Jim Owen, singer Dalena Ditto, performers from Braschlers Music Show, and magician Bart Rocket.

Assistant manager Danny recalls one couple so impressed with singers from the Dutton Show that they hurried to the resort's front desk to buy tickets for all 18 family members in town for a family reunion. Beginning in mid-April and running through autumn, the resort's popular social costs \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

WorldMark Branson gives owners other reasons to stay on-site, as well, including Thursday afternoon root beer floats with live music from **Denise Easterling**, a WorldMark

front desk staffer who recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, in the late 1990s. Strumming on the guitar given to her by a teenage nephew when she left Mississippi behind, she takes requests from owners and sings original songs, including the admittedly autobiographical "Cheatin' Side of Town" about her ex-husband.

Mind-boggling museums

When not in the theaters, owners have another array of options from which to choose. WorldMark families with children especially enjoy Ripley's Believe It or Not, a museum dedicated to the mind-boggling—including a to-scale



HOPE McPHERSON

WorldMark Branson welcomes one and all

Clockwise from top left: At WorldMark Branson you can literally roll out of bed and onto the Thousand Hills Golf Course; all skill levels will find it rewarding—although keep in mind Robert E. Cupp designed the course to be very challenging. Relax in a pool surrounded by the beauty of the Ozarks, or soak under the stars in the outdoor hot tub (kids even have a pool to call their own). WorldMark Branson’s very friendly and accommodating staff include manager Danny Fletcher (center), front desk clerk Denise Easterling (left), and front desk manager Rhonda Queer (right). All units have gas fireplaces and private patios so snuggle by the fire, have breakfast on the balcony—or both.

replica of the Roman Coliseum built from playing cards, and an authentic shrunken head. Built askew, and with a giant crack running from top to bottom, the museum is the most photographed building in the city. (Ticket price for adults is \$14.95; for ages 5 through 11, \$7.95.)

Just across from Ripley’s on Highway 76, the new Titanic-World’s Largest Museum Attraction features more than 400 artifacts from the doomed ocean liner. With an exterior wedged into an “iceberg,” recreating its fateful collision, the museum has exhibits throughout the self-guided tour that include replicas of the grand staircase, a first-class and third-class cabin, and an interactive area for children. (The ticket price for adults is \$16.95; for children, \$9.95.)

“I always suggest the fish hatchery to families because it’s free,” says **Rhonda Queer**, front desk manager. “I tell them to take a small cup and a handful of quarters to buy fish food.”

Some owners enjoy cruising Table Top Lake in the Showboat Branson Belle, an authentic paddle wheeler from the 19th century. With discounted tickets through the resort’s front desk, they can choose either a 4 p.m. or 8 p.m. dinner show with entertainment by popular Branson performers, including three talented dogs.

Visiting Branson for the first time from Gig Harbor, Washington, owners **Mike and Alison Bowling** navigated Table Top in another interesting vessel, an amphibious “Duck.” Their 70-minute tour of Branson included dry land and a mini-cruise. “The ride was incredible,” says Alison. “Our captain was Ron and he let anyone who wanted to, drive the Duck in the water.” Alison, a former kindergarten teacher, took Captain Ron up on his offer.

“The Ducks gave us a great overview of the city,” says Mike, adding that once they had the lay of the land, they

Focus on WorldMark Branson

were more at ease with finding their way around Branson.

With tourists flowing into the city throughout the year, traffic on Branson's main drag, Highway 76, often slows to a crawl. Yet the WorldMark front desk crew is quick to provide city maps that not only list specific theaters, theme parks, museums, and such, but also show well-marked red, blue, and yellow routes that bypass the Strip. (The resort is a little over a mile from the "yellow" route, and about six miles from Highway 76.)

Time-travel theme park

Just off Highway 76 and eight miles from the resort, Silver Dollar City, a 1880s-style theme park, has been wowing visitors since 1960. The park stretches across 50 acres and presents more than 40 live comedy and music shows daily. It also features more than 100 American artisans, who demonstrate crafts such as glassblowing, furniture making, and soap making. The town square lets visitors step back in time to experience a general store, blacksmith shop, ice cream parlor, and other authentic 19th-century shops. The park's costumed "residents" perform street theater, including laugh-out-loud feuds between the Hatfields and McCoys. And then there are the rides.

Visitors choose from more than 30 rides—including the indoor rollercoaster Fire-in-the-Hole, the Flooded Mine, and Geysers Gulch, the world's largest tree house. Visitors can't see everything in a day, but that doesn't matter for WorldMark owners, who can get a two-day pass for the price of one through the resort's front desk. Celebration City is another amusement park located off the yellow route, offering rides, shops, and an awesome nightly laser show.

Veterans' meeting place

In 2000, the Veterans Memorial Museum opened about three miles from the resort, on Highway 76. Filled with sculpture, murals, and authentic memorabilia from the 20th century's wars, the museum was the brainchild of sculptor Fred Hoppe, whose father served in World War II. Also along the main highway, in Grand Country Square, the Veterans Patch Wall displays hundreds of donated, personal patches from all military branches and modern-day wars and conflicts. Branson has long been a gathering place for veterans and their reunions, hosting numerous events throughout the



Above: Each hall of the Veterans Memorial Museum features dramatic and thought-provoking exhibits. **Left:** Silver Dollar City vividly brings the 19th century to life.

year. Especially during festivities, WorldMark owners who are veterans stay the resort.

College of the Ozarks was an unexpected treat for owners **Roger and Debbie Anderson**, whose previous WorldMark trip had been to Fiji. Founded in 1906, the college's 1,000-acre campus overlooks Lake Taneycomo and the Andersons stumbled onto it while exploring the area with their travel companions, Roger's parents. "This is a way that we can spend quality time with family," says Roger, owner of a roofing company in Eugene, Oregon.

Multigenerational magic

At the college, they visited the Ralph Foster Museum, with thousands of objects highlighting the history of the Ozarks. Another surprise was finding Walnettos in a candy shop in downtown Branson. The chewy walnut-and-caramel squares are an old family favorite that they hadn't seen in years. "These are one of my mom's favorite candies," says Roger. "I told my dad this will have to be our Walnetto trip."

In spite of the huge selection of offerings for young families, Branson has arguably had a reputation for being the destination for baby boomers and their parents—but not for Generation X, Y, or Millennials. Yet Branson is one of those rare destinations where the whole family—from kids to parents to grandparents—can laugh and play together. And that keeps visitors coming back in ever more growing numbers. Says Danny Fletcher, "For us, our main goal is to make WorldMark owners feel like they're part of the family—and to leave Branson with a big smile and full of joy." 

BRANSON LAKES AREA CHAMBER (2)

Focus on WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks

Halfway to Everywhere

SET CENTRALLY IN THE SHOW-ME STATE, **WORLD MARK LAKE OF THE OZARKS** OFFERS A MIX OF WOODS, WATER (LOTS), CAVES, OUTLET SHOPPING, AND BUILD-YOUR-OWN BIRDHOUSES

By Hope McPherson

ON A SPRING MORNING, Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks glitters as though someone is skipping diamonds across its surface. Dogwoods, with small white blossoms, and redbuds dressed in pink, dot the surrounding hills, along with maples, red cedars, hickories, and

oak. "And if you think it's pretty now, you should see it in the fall," says WorldMark owner, **Phyllis Vander Wert**, a retired school teacher from Pella, Iowa.

"I think this is our fourth time here," adds her husband, **John**, a retired vice president for Vermeer Manufacturing. >>

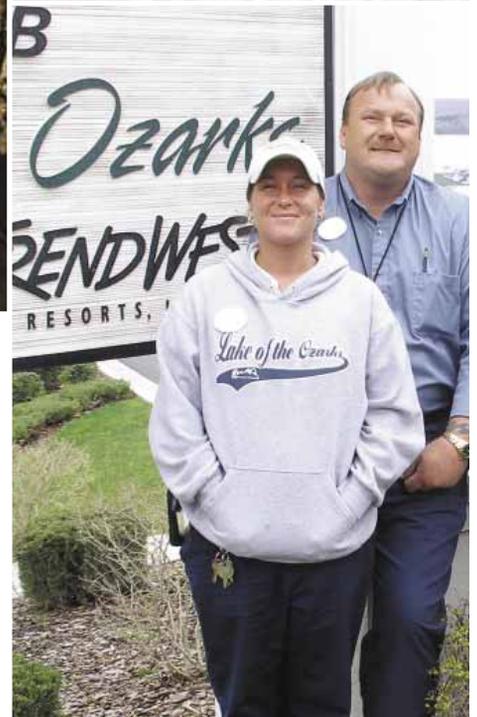
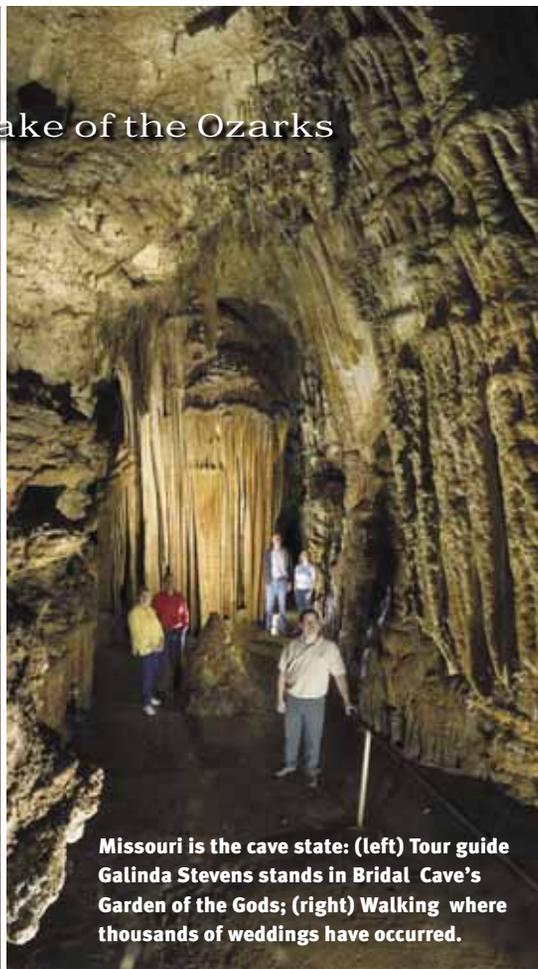


WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks perches on the shores of its spectacular namesake. Its mid-country location—and units ranging up to four-bedroom penthouses—make it the perfect water-oriented spot for a family reunion.

Focus on WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks



Missouri is the cave state: (left) Tour guide Galinda Stevens stands in Bridal Cave's Garden of the Gods; (right) Walking where thousands of weddings have occurred.



Ozarks R & R

Since 2000, WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks has welcomed owners from across the country for Show-Me-State vacations. With 72 units in three buildings, the resort lures owners eager to relax, fish, swim, boat, hike, and shop. "The thing about Missouri is that it's halfway to everywhere," says **Ed Shannon**, the resort's manager.

New owner **J.C. Rupe** stopped at the resort on her way home to Fairfax, Virginia, following a convention in Dallas. "My intent for this trip was to kick back and enjoy myself," says the operations research analyst. "I let everyone know I had no plans."

But "no plans" at Lake of the Ozarks means an owner is free to find plenty to do. After a few days of lounging and enjoying the panoramic view of the lake, Rupe was joined by two brothers, a sister, and their families. "We've been hitting the shops, and both my brothers did some fishing," she says, adding they took her grand-nephew to the nearby Miner Mike's Indoor Family Fun Center. "It's like Chuck E. Cheese on steroids."

More coast than California

Lake of the Ozarks is the confluence of four rivers—the Osage, Big and Little Naingua, and the Glaize. Formed by the creation of Bagnell Dam, the sprawling lake is nearly 110 miles long and boasts more coastline than California: 1,150 miles. Completed in 1931, the dam supplies power for the

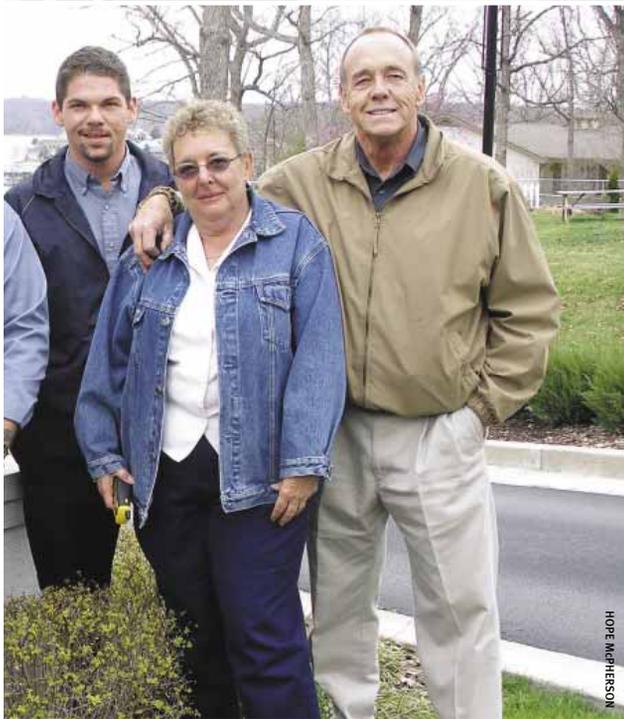
St. Louis area, about 150 miles to the northeast. It also supplies water sport fun, such as swimming, Jet Skiing, and parasailing.

Owners visiting WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks with their own boats (up to 24 feet long) can dock them in one of the resort's 17 slips (for free, but first come, first served). Boats and Jet Skis can also be rented.

Adds Shannon: "Fishing is good off our dock, too. You can limit out within a couple of hours with the right bait." Crappies, blue gill, and largemouth bass are just some of the fish in the lake, and owners shouldn't be surprised if they have an audience: local wildlife. Year round, deer, turkey, waterfowl, eagles, and other birds are also enjoying the lake. (In fact, bald eagles have been known to congregate at the dam.)

During the spring and summer, owners gather at the resort for Tuesday picnics, complete with hotdogs, roasted marshmallows, lemonade, and local live music. At the event, kids can also build and decorate their own birdhouse souvenirs.

"I suggest day trips to Jefferson City 40 miles north to see the Missouri state capital, or to Boonville to enjoy a casino,"



Clockwise from top left: Ha Ha Tonka State Park has 15 miles of trails. The Rupe family “go fish” in another format. Happiness is shopping at the Osage Beach outlets. John and Phyllis Vander Wert enjoy their balcony. Staffers (l-r) Sharon Hamm, resort manager Ed Shannon, Avery McAninch, Margie Seitsinger, and Dave Rawson.

says **Margie Seitsinger**, front desk manager. “On the way to Boonville, owners should stop at Lehman’s, a great Mennonite restaurant.”

Families also should visit “The Strip,” the historic area at the Bagnell Dam that offers mini golf, paintball, go-cart tracks, and candy stores, says **Avery McAninch**, assistant manager (who in May 2006 became the manager of WorldMark Branson).

Shops, parks, and outlaw caves

More candy stops—and Brooks Brothers, Coach, Coldwater Creek, and 100 other shops—are at the Osage Beach Premium Outlet Mall, just minutes from the resort. “We walked our toes off there,” says Rupe, who bought three tops and found a book by her favorite author. Golfers have several

local courses to choose from, including The Golf Club at Deer Chase, where WorldMark owners get a discount.

The region also has a plethora of caves once used as hide-outs for the likes of Jesse James. One of the most unusual is Bridal Cave, about 20 minutes from the resort on Highway 54. Since 1949, more than 2,000 couples have been married inside its calcite (i.e., onyx) walls near “The Pipe Organ,” the cave’s most famous formation.

Another don’t-miss stop is Ha Ha Tonka State Park, which is just south of Camdenton on State Road D. Visitors regularly hike its miles of trails (some handicapped accessible), picnic, and sightsee from the bluffs.

With something for everyone, “Lake of the Ozarks is becoming more and more popular,” says manager Ed Shannon. “WorldMark owners need to come and experience it.”

Grand Times at Grand Lake

COURTESY OF THE CHRONICLE OF GRAND LAKE

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT FROM A PLACE CALLED MONKEY ISLAND? A BARREL OF FUN AWAITS AT YOUR RESORT IN OKLAHOMA'S "GREEN COUNTRY."

By Nicole Meoli

CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG the top fishing lakes in the United States, Grand Lake O' the Cherokees has long been the premier water park of Oklahoma. **Randyl Kriner**, resort manager at WorldMark Grand Lake on Monkey Island, shares a bit more about the area and your resort.

Why is the peninsula on which you are located called "Monkey Island"?

Before the Pensacola Dam was built in the late 1930s, a local landowner named Gove Bunch went to the Tulsa Zoo where he fed the monkeys. The primates were kept on a small island with a moat around it. Soon after this day, a *Tulsa World* reporter came through Bernice (town on the lake next to Monkey Island) and was interviewing Bunch about the changes the new lake would make to the landscape. Since this area was to be surrounded by water, Bunch jokingly remarked, "And over there will be Monkey Island, that's where the monkeys will be." The reporter printed it and the name stuck.

Describe the countryside around you.

It's actually known as "Green Country," and that's exactly what it is. No dust bowl here. Anything north of Tulsa looks nothing like the rest of Oklahoma. It's just beautiful. You can actually stand outside during the spring rains and watch everything turn green right in front of your eyes.

What's the best-kept secret around this part of Oklahoma?

This place we discovered last year called the Hungry Holler. It's a really cool place where they hand-carve gourds into bowls and birdfeeders and also makes beautiful wood spoons. Owners love it. Sometimes they have a workshop or demonstration going on where you can interact and have a hands-on experience. Check out the Web site: www.hungryholler.com.

Why should owners choose Grand Lake O' the Cherokees as a destination?

For fishing and boating on the lake, and golf. But if you're into cars, you'll be awed by Darryl Starbird's National Rod and Custom Car Hall of Fame. His main workshop is here. For *Antiques Roadshow* types, Har-Ber Village in Afton is also a must-see. The whole village is an outdoor museum—set up the way things were here a century ago. You could easily spend a whole day exploring the village.

What's the farthest distance an owner has traveled to get to WorldMark Grand Lake?

Australia. They stayed with us for four days.

Is anyone famous from the area?

Garth Brooks is from nearby Tulsa. In fact, some people around here can still remember when they could hear Garth



Clockwise from top left: Scenic Grand Lake arose from the damming of the Grand River by the Pensacola Dam. Har-Ber Village displays more than 100 period cabins with vintage exhibits. Scores of American White Pelicans return to Grand Lake annually; this year's PelicanFest is Sept. 29–30. WorldMark Grand Lake's sweeping staircase and welcoming exterior.

for free at Spats Nightclub on Monkey Island (now the infamous Big Shots Rhythm & Booze).

Steve Owens, who was a Heisman Trophy winner, graduated from Oklahoma University and is from Miami (Okla.) in the northeast corner of the state. He has a vacation home here on the island.

(The late) Mickey Mantle came from Commerce, about 20 miles from the island. He once held his charity tournament here and has a marker on the local Blue Golf Course.

Best place to hear live music in the evenings?

Anna Banana's right on the island—it's a restaurant and bar that has live music every weekend. Or owners may make an evening of The Shebang restaurant two miles from the resort or Island Joe's with its deck dining, followed by dancing at Big Shots Rhythm & Booze. There's a free limo service that runs between these places and the resort, and all you have to do is tip the driver.

What is the greatest number of times an owner has visited?

I'd say about six or seven. We have quite a few repeat

owners. The Mohrs were our very first owners to stay with us, and they've been here many times.

What's something cool about Grand Lake that not too many people know already?

The Pensacola Dam at the lake is the world's longest multiple arch dam—stretching almost a mile. It was built in 1940 and was the first hydroelectric system in Oklahoma.

Favorite owner who has visited and why?

There was a husband and wife here last summer who came to our "Watermelon Welcome." Their goal was to visit every WorldMark resort before his wife couldn't travel anymore. They were so great to talk to—very fun and outgoing.

What is the biggest or most unusual fish caught (among owners) since you've been at the resort?

An owner caught a 2-foot-long crappie. Maybe not the biggest fish to ever come out of the lake, but it was the biggest fish he'd ever caught. The most unusual fish here is the spoonbill. They jump like marlin and people catch them below the dam.



THE OZARKS ARE CALLING

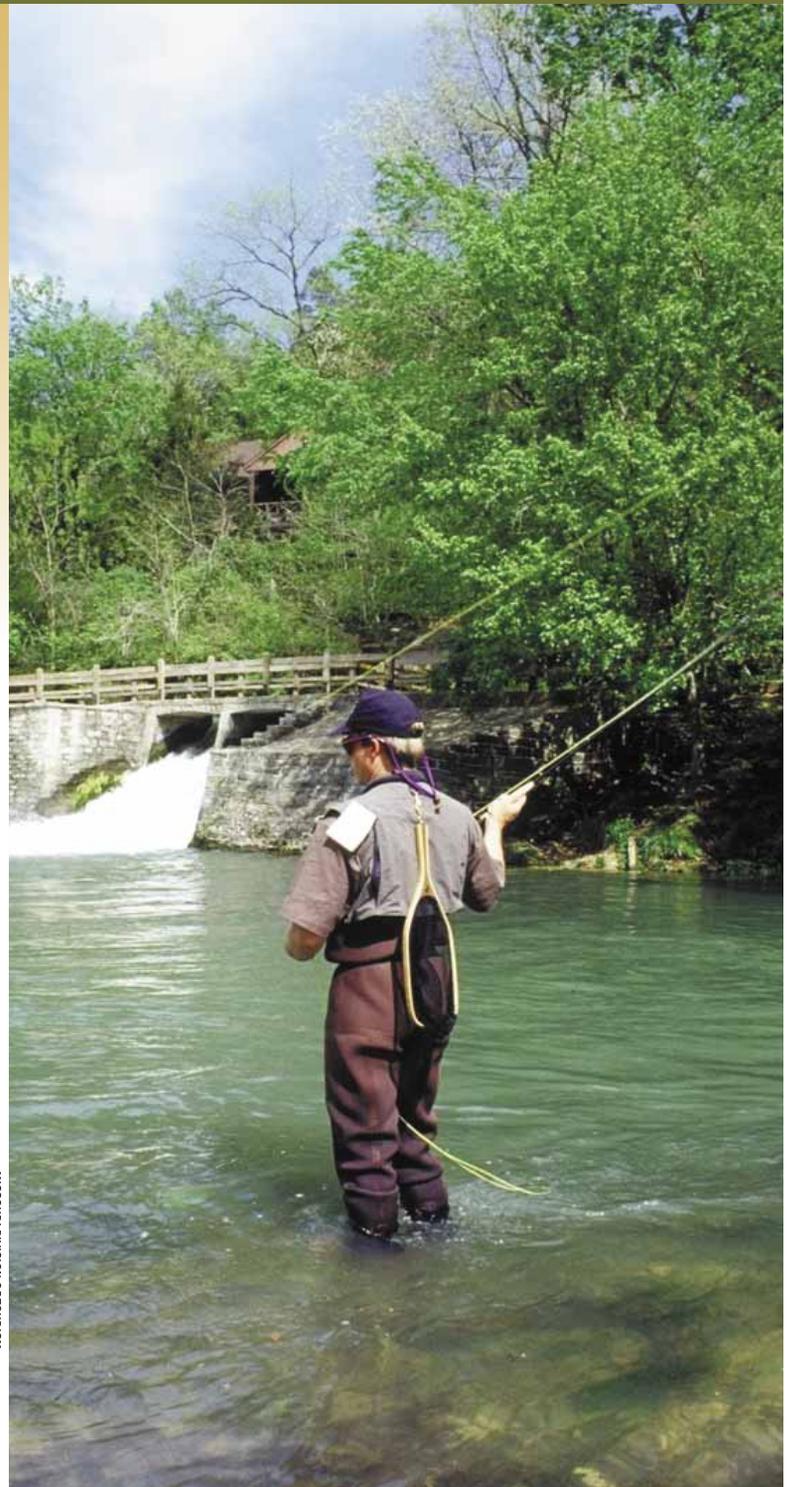
These are the OZARK MOUNTAINS—rugged, wooded hills and rocky hollows binding MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS with a belt of peaceful forest and cool, clean streams. It's a land alive with COLORFUL HISTORY AND TRADITIONS, thriving communities, sprawling theme parks, live music shows, and other unique attractions.

By Dave Rawson

STAY FOR A WHILE ON AN ISOLATED OZARK MOUNTAIN ridge, and you can almost sense the pain felt by the early settlers of these rugged hills. They faced hardships that only the sturdiest people could endure: thin, rocky soil that strained the muscles of their mules and bent the homemade plows; nearly impassable peaks and valleys; dense forests guarded by wary Indians.

Ponder longer and you can imagine other sights and sounds from the past: proud, independent people carving homesteads into wooded mountainsides, praying together, playing their unique music, hunting and fishing to feed their families, and protecting one another from the many dangers. This is the heritage of the mountain people of the Ozarks.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 included the Ozarks and brought about the end of rule by the powerful Osage Indians. Wagonloads of settlers, mostly Irish/Scotch from Tennessee and Kentucky, began pouring into the scenic valleys along spring-fed streams. These were tough, independent people who knew how to survive on their own. Medicine came from wild plants, sweetener from honey found in bee trees, meat from the plentiful wildlife. Clothes, tools, and



MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM



Facing page: Trout fly-fishing at Roaring River State Park. **This page, left:** Surveying the splendor of Ha Ha Tonka State Park's 3,000+ acres; **above:** The Dickerson Park Zoo is home to more than 500 animals and 170 species.

creation of large, sprawling lakes such as Table Rock, Bull Shoals, and Lake of the Ozarks attracted thousands of visitors. Many stayed, and new communities arose almost overnight. The people of the hills found it impossible to hide from progress and the modern world.

Although the heritage is still honored today in themed parks and attractions at Lake of the Ozarks, Branson, Springfield, Eureka Springs, Ark., and other Ozark communities, the region now is home to large retail malls, music shows and other attractions, condominium developments, vacation homes, and prospering cities and towns with a wealth of services.

Popular places

Lake of the Ozarks attracts some two million visitors each year, coming to enjoy the water sports, golfing, tennis, great food, nightlife, parks, nature trails, and shopping. Branson, known internationally as America's live music show capital, claims to host some seven million visitors annually who come for the shows, attractions, and outdoor adventures.

Situated between Lake of the Ozarks and Branson is the dynamic, thriving city of Springfield with its family-friendly combination of activities and nightlife. Highlighted by the headquarters and showplace of Bass Pro Shops, Missouri's most visited "attraction," the state's third-largest city is a popular vacation destination site on its own merit. Among other popular attractions, it houses the Museum of Ozarks History, and the Dickerson Park Zoo.

lodging were made by hand with whatever available material proved useful. The Ozarks began taking on the unique, flavorful "hill folk" traditions it is renowned for today.

Taming the rivers

The government and private industry had plans, though, that would forever change the isolated country: the construction of power and flood control dams on some of the wild streams, including the mighty Osage and White Rivers. The

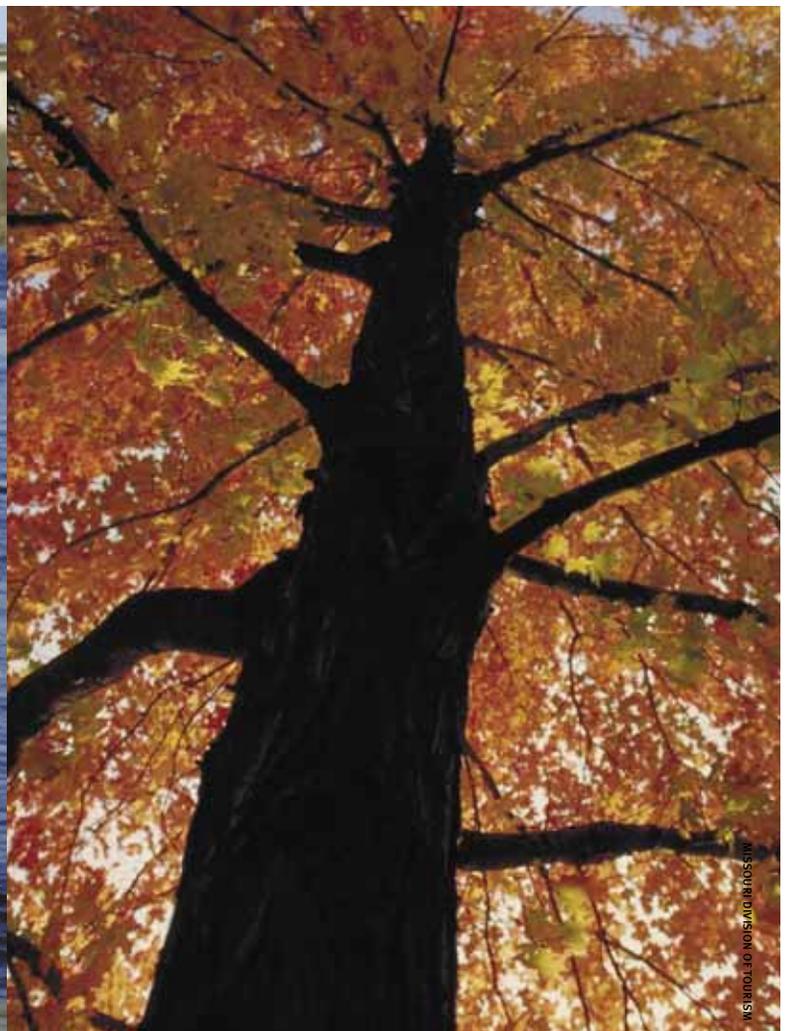
life. Highlighted by the headquarters and showplace of Bass Pro Shops, Missouri's most visited "attraction," the state's third-largest city is a popular vacation destination site on its own merit. Among other popular attractions, it houses the Museum of Ozarks History, and the Dickerson Park Zoo.

Into the woods

When driving through the countryside, don't expect to find towering, snow-covered peaks in the Ozark Mountains. >>



MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM



MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

Opposite page: Big Spring near Van Buren feeds the Current River—part of the Ozarks’ 134-mile managed-river system. This page, clockwise from top left: Pride follows hooking a spoonbill at Bagnell Dam. Stunning in any season, local foliage is particularly breathtaking in autumn. The Black River offers outstanding canoeing, rafting, camping, and fishing.

erns, at Stanton, claims to have the world’s largest and most rare formations.

Dedicated spelunkers also like to check out less-known caves during their visit to the Ozarks, such as Fantasy World Caverns and Bear Cave, both near Lake of the Ozarks; Crystal Caverns at Cassville; and Talking Rocks Cavern near Branson.

Water sports and fishing

Don’t be surprised to see people floating on Ozark waters in a wide variety of boats, tubes, and rafts. Some will be just lying back and “going with the flow” on a lazy, warm day; others stopping perhaps for some scuba diving or a walk in the woods. Many seek more hectic sport, preferring power-boat trips, Jet Skiing, parasailing, or waterskiing.

Others will be loaded with fishing gear. After all, there are more than 150 kinds of fish in the Ozarks, and many of the lakes and streams are famous for their plentiful trophy fish.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass, trout, bluegill, and crappie are the most sought after, but other fishermen go



MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

after white and striped bass, cat, and other fish that thrive in Ozark waters. Impoundments such as Lake of the Ozarks, Table Rock, Taneycomo, Bull Shoals, Greers Ferry, Beaver, Pomme de Terre, and Norfolk are famous nationally for their outstanding fishing as well as for their boating and other water sports.

There are also dozens of fish-laden streams and rivers such as the White, North Folk, Buffalo, Niangua, Osage, Big Piney, Current, Jacks Fork, Eleven Point, Big Spring, Big Sugar, Macks Creek, and Gasconade. You’ll find others, too, that are not well known, but are favored by today’s generation of local hill folk.





MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

The highest point is only about 2,500 feet above sea level. Instead, you'll see wooded ridges—most about the same height—and bluffs overlooking rocky, shaded hollows. You won't be disappointed, though, at the view or the adventure that goes along with it.

The forests, overflowing with oak, elm, maple, hickory, red cedar, and pine, also feature a wide variety of other trees ranging from river birch, sycamore, and beech to pecan, red-bud, and dogwood. The forest is an equally dramatic sight in both the spring and fall.

More than 3,500 species of plants can be found in the Ozarks. Mosses, lichens, and ferns line bluffs along the spring-fed streams that wave with watercress, milfoil, saltwort, and duckweed. Small mountain meadows are covered with prairie grass and dotted with flowering tickweed. Brightly blooming bloodroot, honeysuckle (wild azalea), lobelia, and bugbane add color to the woods.

Water's wonders

One of the biggest concentrations of springs in the United States is here, ranging from thousands of small ones to some that produce millions of gallons of water each day. Big Spring, near Van Buren, Missouri, gushes nearly a billion gallons a day during peak flow!

There are so many springs for a variety of reasons. The

porous limestone and dolomite rock formations found in the area provide many underground water reservoirs that receive and hold rainwater. There are also many rivers that feed in the area and help keep the reservoirs filled. Some of the springs boil up dramatically, but others gently push the stored water up onto the surface.

The porosity and solubility of rock in the Ozarks has also led to the formation of thousands of caves. Water creeping into soft spots and between ledges dissolves the rock. Over the years, this process has created some of the most unique caves found in the United States.

Caves galore

There are more than 5,000 registered caves in Missouri, with 22 "show caves" that are open to the public. Most notable in the Ozarks are Bridal Cave, Marvel Cave, Meramec Caverns, and Fantastic Caverns. Since a legendary Indian wedding in the early 1800s, Bridal Cave in Thunder Mountain Park near Lake of the Ozarks has witnessed more than 2,000 underground weddings.

Marvel Cave at Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson was discovered by Osage Indians in the 1500s, and features a 20-story main chamber. Fantastic Caverns at Springfield is America's only ride-through cave where visitors enjoy the colorful formations from Jeep-drawn trams. Meramec Cav-



Footloose in *Tuscany*

May 18–27, 2007
38,600 credits per person*

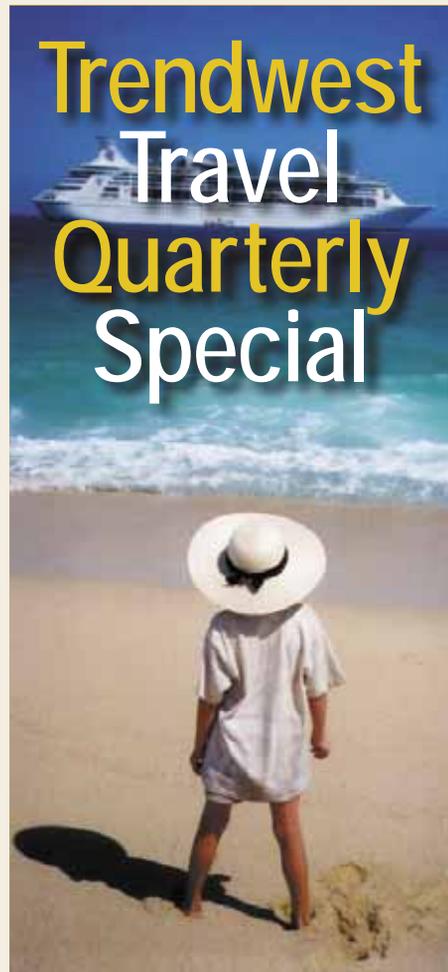
Rolling landscapes, heady wines, savory food, and stunning architecture—welcome to Tuscany. Start your journey with

an overnight stay in Rome. From there, travel to the medieval walled city of Assisi on your way to the famous spa resort town of Montecatini Terme, your home base for this adventure. Spend the next six days immersing yourself in Italian history, culture, and cuisine as you tour the celebrated cities of the Tuscan region with the service of an expert local guide. Highlights include viewing Michelangelo's masterpiece marble *David*, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa; guided tours of the Basilica of St. Francis, city of Sienna, and Florence's Pitti Palace; and a winery tour and tasting.

Package includes nine nights' total first class hotel accommodation in Rome (2) and Montecatini Terme (7); guided day tours of the cities of Assisi, Pisa, Lucca, Sienna, and Florence; daily breakfast and five dinners.

**Tour under the Tuscan sun next spring—
call 1-800-457-0103 today**

*Based on double occupancy. Footloose tours cater to solo travelers; however, all owners are welcome. Solo owners will be paired up to meet double occupancy requirements. Single occupancy rooms are available for additional 7,800 credits per person. Package includes walking tour and walking on uneven terrain. Some sightseeing locations restrict motor coach access and may only be reached on foot. Airfare and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.



Trendwest Travel Quarterly Special

CHOOSE YOUR CRUISE— USE YOUR CREDITS

If you've ever pictured yourself aboard a cruise ship, it's time to make your seafaring self come true. For a limited time you can use your credits toward any cruise on Carnival, Norwegian, Royal Caribbean, or Princess cruise lines when you book through Trendwest Travel. You may travel anytime, but you must purchase by **September 30, 2006**, to take advantage of this special offer. Imagine touring the Eastern or Western Caribbean, Mexican Rivera, Mediterranean Coast, or even Alaska.

If you've ever pictured yourself aboard a cruise ship, it's your time to set sail.

**Call Trendwest Travel at
1-800-953-5511**

Exchange fees apply. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827.
Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307



FEED YOUR NEED FOR SPEED

DAYTONA 500 NASCAR EXPERIENCE

February 16–19, 2007

26,900 credits per person*

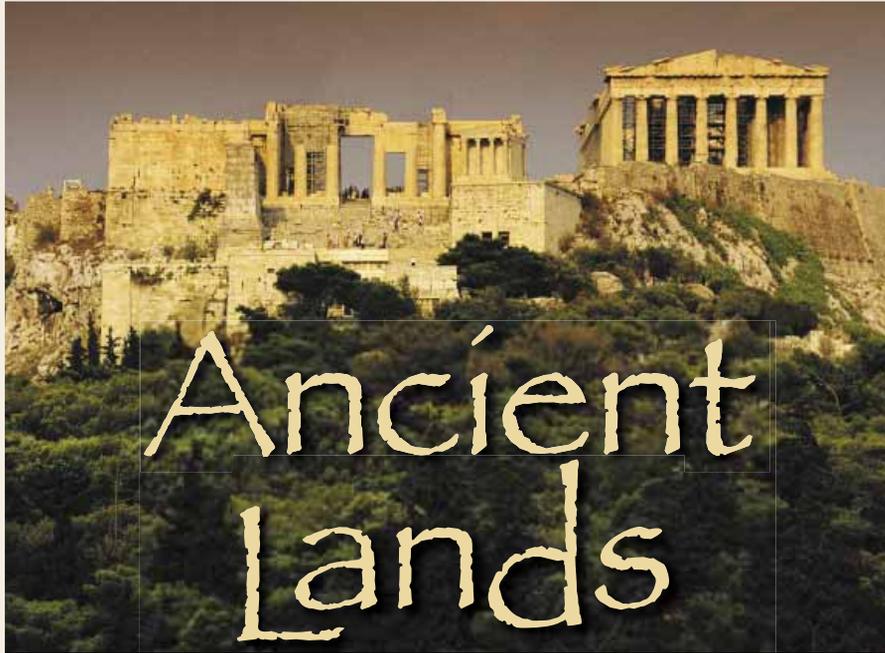
This Daytona 500 race tour package has everything you need for the weekend of “The Great American Race.” Stay in Orlando and enjoy roundtrip motor coach transportation to Daytona International Speedway for both the Saturday Busch race and Sunday Nextel Cup Daytona 500. You’ll have an optimal view of all the action from front-stretch tower seating at both races. On Sunday prior to race time, indulge in food and beverages (including beer) at the track’s privately catered hospitality area. Pre-race individual Sunday pit passes give you access to pit road tours and the Fan Zone. Round out your adventure with a visit to Daytona USA, a 60,000-square-foot interactive motor sports attraction that will totally immerse you in the history of America’s fastest—and most popular— sport.



**CALL 1-800-457-0103
TO EXPERIENCE THE
THRILL OF NASCAR**

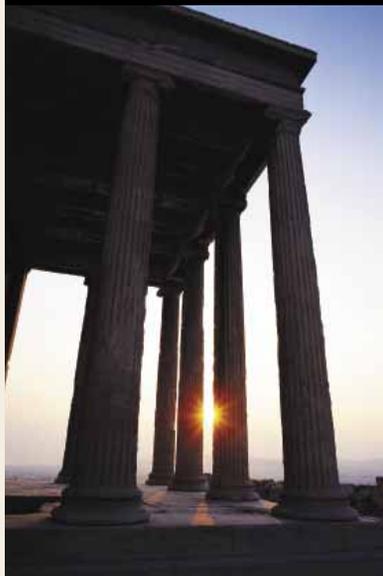
Package includes three nights’ accommodation at Hampton Inn’s Orlando North–Altamonte Springs Hotel; two days’ roundtrip motor coach service to Daytona Speedway; front-stretch tower seating for races mentioned above; Sunday pre-race unlimited time pit passes and Fan Zone access; admission to Daytona USA; daily breakfast and Sunday pre-race hospitality buffet; all taxes and gratuities.

*Based on double occupancy. Solo owners will be paired up to meet double occupancy requirements. Single occupancy rooms are available for additional 4,800 credits per person. Airfare, airport transfers, and meals other than those noted above not included. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.



Ancient Lands

GREECE AND TURKEY BY LAND AND SEA



May 12–19, 2007

32,750 credits per person*

65,500 credits per room*

Begin your amazing ancient lands adventure in the city of Athens: a wellspring of art, culture, and democracy. You'll tour the Acropolis and Parthenon; view the Agora where Socrates taught; and see the Royal Palace, Temple of Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, and the stadium built for the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. In Piraeus port you'll board a luxury ship and cruise to stylish Mykonos for a brief tour; then on to Turkish Kusadasi and Patmos to view the fortress-monastery. In Rhodes you'll explore the Old Town and visit Lindos before sailing to Heraklion on the island of Crete. A shore excursion to Knossos is followed by a cruise to the island of Santorini, where you'll tour Akrotiki. Return to Piraeus for a final night in Athens and a chance to relax or do some souvenir shopping.

TRAVEL THE PATHS OF
ANCIENT HISTORY—
CALL 1-800-457-0103
AND BOOK TODAY

Package includes seven nights' total accommodation at Royal Olympic Hotel (3) and Louis Cruise Lines' *Ausonía* cruise ship (4); seven breakfasts, four lunches, and four dinners; hostess service in Athens; tours listed above; complimentary travel bag and document wallet.

*Based on double occupancy. Airfare and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.

Get the Royal Treatment on a Princess Cruise



Seven-night Western Caribbean cruise

Princess Cruise Line's *Star Princess* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Fort Lauderdale to Ocho Rios, Jamaica; George Town, Grand Cayman; Cozumel, Mexico; and Princess Cruise Line's private island in the Bahamas.

JANUARY 13–20, 2007

Inside cabin: 16,750 credits per person/
33,500 per cabin*

Balcony cabin: 24,250 credits per person/
48,500 per cabin*

Seven-night Mexican Riviera cruise

Princess Cruise Line's *Diamond Princess* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Los Angeles to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

JANUARY 27–FEBRUARY 3, 2007

Inside cabin: 16,000 credits per person/
32,000 credits per cabin*

Balcony cabin: 23,250 credits per person/
46,500 credits per cabin*

Mini-suite cabin: 28,750 credits per person/
57,500 credits per cabin*

Call 1-800-457-0103
to reserve your cabin today



PRINCESS CRUISES
escape completely®

*All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government fees. Airfare and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Subject to change and availability. Princess Cruise Line ships' registry: Bermuda. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.

Cruise the Panama Canal with Norwegian

Twelve-night Panama Canal cruise

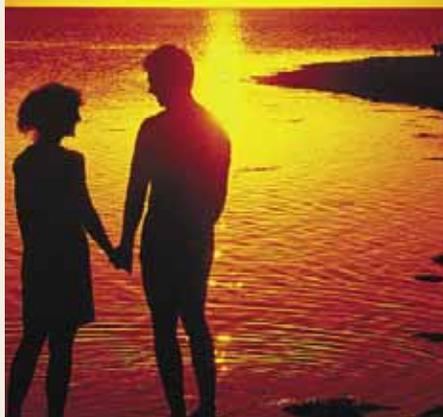
Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Crown* sails one-way for 12 nights from Valparaiso, Chile to Miami, Florida. Highlights include stops in Coquimbo, Iquique, and Arica, Chile; as well as Lima and Trujillo, Peru; daytime transit of the Panama Canal; and a crossing of the equator.

APRIL 8-21, 2007

Inside cabin: 33,250 credits per person/66,500 credits per cabin*

Outside cabin: 39,750 credits per person/79,500 credits per cabin*

Call 1-800-457-0103 to reserve your cabin



*All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government fees. \$129 USD exchange fee and airfare not included. Subject to change and availability. Norwegian Cruise Line ships' registry: Bahamas and Panama. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.



Sail Into Next Spring on a Carnival Cruise

Three- and four-night Baja, Mexico, cruises

Carnival Cruise Line's *Paradise* sails roundtrip for three nights from Long Beach Pier in Los Angeles to Ensenada, Mexico.

APRIL 20-23, 2007 | APRIL 27-30, 2007

Inside cabin: Starting at 8,500 credits per person; 17,000 credits per cabin*

Outside cabin: Starting at 9,500 credits per person; 19,000 credits per cabin*

Carnival Cruise Line's *Paradise* sails roundtrip for four nights from Long Beach Pier in Los Angeles to Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico.

APRIL 16-20, 2007 | APRIL 30-MAY 4, 2007

Inside cabin: Starting at 8,000 credits per person; 16,000 credits per cabin*

Outside cabin: Starting at 9,000 credits per person; 18,000 credits per cabin*

Seven-night Eastern Caribbean cruise

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Glory* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Port Canaveral to Nassau, Bahamas; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; and St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles.

APRIL 14-21, 2007

Inside cabin: 15,000 credits per person; 30,000 credits per cabin*

Outside cabin: 18,250 credits per person; 36,500 credits per cabin*

Balcony cabin: 21,500 credits per person; 43,000 credits per cabin*

Seven-night Western Caribbean cruise

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Valor* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Miami to Belize City, Belize; Isla Roatan, Honduras; George Town, Grand Cayman; and Costa Maya, Mexico.

APRIL 29-MAY 6, 2007

Inside cabin: 14,750 credits per person; 29,500 credits per cabin*

Outside cabin: 18,000 credits per person; 36,000 credits per cabin*

Balcony cabin: 21,500 credits per person; 43,000 credits per cabin*

Seven-night Mexican Riviera cruise

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Pride* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Long Beach Pier in Los Angeles to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

APRIL 22-29, 2007

Inside cabin: 15,750 credits per person; 31,500 credits per cabin*

Outside cabin: 19,000 credits per person; 38,000 credits per cabin*

Balcony cabin: 21,500 credits per person; 43,000 credits per cabin*

Call 1-800-457-0103 to reserve your cabin today



*All rates are based on double occupancy and include port charges and government fees. Airfare and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Subject to change and availability. Carnival Cruise Line ships' registry: Panama and Bahamas. CSR 2067820-50. WA UBI 601190827. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307.

lasting impression

WorldMark Staff Creates “Park at Lake of the Ozarks”

By Dave Rawson

ED SHANNON, MANAGER FOR WorldMark Lake of the Ozarks, kept eyeing a small, unused parcel of land next to the resort entrance and pondered how it could be put to good use.

Today, thanks to the effort of Ed and his staff, a well-landscaped, manicured park has been created for owners and their guests. Offering a spectacular view of the lake and resort facilities, the park features a fire pit for group cookouts, a horseshoe-pitching arena, large barbecue grill, flower beds, ornamental shrubs, birdhouses, and picnic tables.

“We’re so pleased with our pet project—called ‘Park at Lake of the Ozarks,’” Ed says. “Our guests really like it as a peaceful site to read, visit with friends, and gather everyone together in a great outdoors environment.”

Numerous park activities are in the works, including craft competitions and wildlife information classes for kids, along with horseshoe-pitching contests for all ages. 



The “Park at Lake of the Ozarks” has been outfitted to be both critter- and people-friendly. Hummingbird feeders, birdhouses, and birdbaths attract the avian crowd; picnic, lounging, barbecue, and game areas—and the water view—draw the humans.

TWO MONTHS LEFT TO SHARE THE MAGIC!

The 2006 *Destinations* PHOTO & ESSAY CONTEST

The *Destinations* Photo and Essay Contest will be over on September 22—have you sent in your entry?

This year's theme is "Vacation Magic." If you've had a wondrous, transforming, or seemingly magical moment while on a recent WorldMark vacation, share it with us through your photos or your words. All photo and essay contest entries must pertain to a WorldMark or exchange vacation taken between the years 2000 and 2006.

Your participation has helped WorldMark win several industry honors. The OZZIE Silver Award for Best Use of Photography—Custom Magazine was given to the December 2004 *Destinations*, which featured your winning photographs from the "Time of Your Life" photo and essay contest. The December 2005 *Destinations* showcasing the winners of the "Caught in the Act!" contest has likewise been honored. The American Resort Development Association (ARDA) named that issue a finalist for their prestigious ARDY Award for Best Newsletter—Print.

By entering the contest, participants agree to free and unlimited use of their photographs and essays by WorldMark and Trendwest Resorts, including publication in future issues of *Destinations*. Winning entries will appear in the December 2006 issue of *Destinations*. Prizes include gift cards and non-renewable WorldMark credits—up to 10,000 credits for first place winners. For a complete list of contest rules and prizes, go to www.worldmarktheclub.com/destinations.



Mail all photos and essay entries to:
Destinations Photo and Essay Contest
Destinations Editor
Trendwest Resorts, Inc.
9805 Willows Road NE
Redmond, WA 98052

All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, September 22, 2006.

"It was great to win! We're using our 10,000 extra credits to help take the kids to Disneyworld in January 2007."

—Kathy Price, First Place Winner, 2005 *Destinations* Photo Contest



Do Your Summer Shopping at the WorldMark Store



Why maneuver through sticky retail crowds in the summer heat? Relax in the cool comfort of your easy chair by shopping online at the WorldMark Store for all your summer needs. We have a wide variety of quality merchandise: cameras, sports equipment, electronics, luggage, clothing, and more—everything you need for a perfect vacation season. Enjoy the convenience of using your credits too! Easy summer shopping is yours at your WorldMark Store.

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