

THE ARK ENCOUNTER

Includes ... QUEEN ESTHER @ Sight & Sound in Branson!! September 22 - 28, 2024

NOAH found grace in the eyes of the Lord, now let us see what Noah built. We will visit the newest WONDER of the world, THE ARK ENCOUNTER! This phenomenal exhibit is in Williamstown, KY, where you will see how Noah was able to feed hundreds of animals and survive the GREAT FLOOD. Included in this amazing tour, we will enjoy ample time at the CREATION MUSEUM, the AMERICAN SIGN MUSEUM, the GATEWAY ARCH in ST. LOUIS, and enjoy reserved seating in BRANSON at Sight & Sound Theatre as we experience the life of *QUEEN ESTHER*.

Day 1 – September 22, 2024: Tyler to Jackson (TN)

We will depart East Texas at 6:00 AM with much anticipation of what waits ahead as we begin our journey out of Texas, traveling through **ARKANSAS** into **TENNESSEE**, and ending our day's journey in **JACKSON**, **TN**.! HOTEL: Comfort Suites, Jackson (TN) MEALS INCLUDED: Lunch & Dinner

Day #2 – September 23, 2024: Jackson to Florence (KY)

Our journey today will take us through **TENNESSEE**, **KENTUCKY**, and into **FLORENCE**, **KY** which we will call our home for the next three nights. We will arrive in time for you to freshen up before we head back out for dinner at one of the nice restaurants in the area.

HOTEL: Fairfield by Marriot, Florence (KY)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Dinner

Day #3 – September 24, 2024: Florence / Cincinnati (OH) Area

Today, we travel over to **PETERSBURG, KY** as we explore **THE CREATION MUSEUM**. The state-of-the-art Creation Museum allows you to venture through biblical history, stunning exhibits, botanical gardens, planetarium, petting zoo, and much more. This afternoon, we will enjoy an audio tour of the **AMERICAN SIGN MUSEUM**. Dedicated to the art and history of commercial signs and sign making, the American Sign Museum is proud to be the largest public museum dedicated to signs in the United States! Covering more than 100 years of American sign history in 20,000 square feet of indoor space, the museum is a walk through the ages of technology and design.

HOTEL: Fairfield by Marriot, Florence (KY)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Day #4 – September 25, 2024: Florence / Williamstown (KY) Area

Today, we travel to **WILLIAMSTOWN, KY** to experience **THE ARK ENCOUNTER** featuring a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. From the moment you turn the corner, and the towering Ark comes into view, to the friendly animals in the zoo, to the jaw-dropping exhibits inside the Ark, you will experience the pages of the Bible like never before. Although there is an elevator to aide you in

experiencing of this massive structure, there is a good amount of walking involved. This is a **FULL DAY**; so, make sure to have on your walking shoes. This afternoon, we depart in time to freshen up at our hotel before setting out for another wonderful dinner.

HOTEL: Fairfield by Marriot, Florence (KY)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Day #5 – September 26, 2024: Florence to St. Louis (MO)

This morning, we depart **FLORENCE**, making our way through **KENTUCKY** and into **ST LOUIS**, **MO**. We will arrive in time to freshen up before you set out on your own to enjoy the sights and sounds surrounding **THE GATEWAY ARCH**. The Gateway Arch is a 630-foot monument in St. Louis, Missouri, United States. Clad in stainless steel and built in the form of a weighted catenary arch, it is the world's tallest arch, the tallest manmade monument in the Western Hemisphere, and Missouri's tallest accessible building.

HOTEL: Drury Plaza @ The Arch, St. Louis (MO)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Dinner

Day #6 – September 27, 2024: St. Louis to Branson (MO)

Today, we travel from ST LOUIS to BRANSON arriving in time for a wonderful lunch before taking in a presentation of **QUEEN ESTHER by Sight & Sound**. Set in the opulent yet perilous Persian Empire, QUEEN ESTHER is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. Esther's ordinary life changed forever when she was taken through the palace doors, entering a new world of royalty and risk. With a crown on her head and a secret in her heart, can she find the courage to trust in God's plan and believe that she was made for such a time as this? Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament as it comes to life with magnificent sets, special effects, and live animals in this brand-new, original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres. After this wonderful production, we will head to our hotel in time for you to freshen up and set out on your own to eat and shop at BRANSON LANDING. Branson Landing is a 95-acre entertainment and retail destination, offering eclectic shops, fine dining, intimate cafés, and hot nightspots along a waterfront boardwalk-all animated with live entertainment and a merging of water, fire, light, and music. This 1.5-milelong waterfront development features a \$7.5 million fountain spectacular in town square; more than 100 specialty stores; water-front restaurants; a multitude of entertainment options; strolling costumed characters; a variety of events; and the Hilton Promenade Hotel. Experience year-round shopping between the two anchor stores: Bass Pro Shops and Belk Department Store. Visit our website for a complete list, and our events calendar.

HOTEL: Hilton Convention by Marriott, Branson (MO)

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Lunch

Day #7 – September 28, 2024: Branson to Tyler (TX)

Well, it is time to head for home. But WOW, what a lot to take in and remember. We have seen and experienced so much!! As we make our way back to East Texas, you will certainly enjoy visiting with all our new friends as we end **THE ARK ENCOUNTER**! The conclusion of our wonderful tour will have us back in Tyler about 5:00pm. *MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast & Lunch*