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A

Your guide to Traveling

Trivia



Celebration City's all wooden roller coaster, the Ozark WildCat, features a spectacular laser show each evening.

BRANSON FUN PARK OPENS

What are you going to do when every day's the Fourth of July?

Celebration City, a new nighttime theme park in Branson, Mo., closes each night with a pyrotechnic flourish. A nightly outdoor multimedia laser production show called "Celebrate" whisks guests through the 20th century. High-tech special effects highlight World War II Victory parades — the first steps on the moon, rock 'n' roll, disco, the computer age, Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne, James Dean, Elvis Presley and the Beatles — culminating with the Stars and Stripes, all projected against the side of a mountain.

The park, which opened in May, also unveiled 30 themed rides and attractions designed for the brave and the free. The three different roller coasters are the Ozark WildCat, a new retro wooden coaster that reaches speeds of 45 mph and drops riders eight stories; the Thunderbolt, a 60-foot steel coaster that peaks at 35 mph; and Jack Rabbit, a 52-foot coaster that provides camel-back features. Other thrill rides include the Accelerator, which takes riders up an 80-foot tower and plunges them back down, and the Fireball, which spins riders more than 60 feet in the air.

But the main theme of the park is to take visitors back to the early 1900s and to show that "Branson isn't only about music," said spokeswoman Lisa Rau. Visitors enter through Celebration Street, which is filled with vintage cars and carousel. They proceed to a Coney Island-style boardwalk and go onto Route 66, which celebrates the '50s and '60s with shiny cars and drive-in diners.

The park, a Silver Dollar City attraction, is open daily from 3 to 11 p.m. Call 800-831-4386; www.silverdollarcity.com.

— Rhoda Amon,
Newsday

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