



Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

October 6 – 11, 2012

6 days/5 nights

This is the largest “Mass Ascension” of balloons in the world with over 500 balloons lifting off from Balloon Fiesta Park in the gorgeous early morning light. Combined with the evening Glow show and fireworks, the event is nothing short of spectacular! But, there is much more to see and experience as the tour continues on to Santa Fe and Taos. Here, the Spanish, Pueblo Indian and Mexican cultural histories weave a beautiful web of historic plazas, Cathedrals, and ancient community landmarks. Take the time to breathe in the fresh mountain air and enjoy this “Land of Enchantment”.

Day 1 - Arrive Albuquerque

Welcome to Albuquerque and New Mexico, “The Land of Enchantment”. Your private motorcoach will take you to your conveniently located accommodations. Tonight enjoy a friendly Welcome Dinner and turn in early. Those balloons rise very early in the morning!
Overnight Albuquerque - Dinner

Day 2 – Albuquerque – Balloon Fiesta and Evening Glow

It will be an early morning today when you leave the hotel, but the spectacle you are going to witness will be worth it! You will be joining balloon enthusiasts from all over the world to watch upwards of 500 balloons lift off from the Balloon Fiesta Park. The unique thermal air currents enable balloons to circle the area en mass for several hours and return on target to their original spot. In the afternoon, enjoy a change of pace with a visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center before an evening return to the park for a spectacular balloon “Night Glow” Show and fireworks display. What an amazing day!

Overnight Albuquerque - Breakfast

Day 3 – Albuquerque

An exciting day lies ahead as you travel west to visit Acoma “Sky City”. This is truly a trip back in time for a brief glimpse of the traditional lifestyle of the Pueblo Indians. Situated on a 360 foot sandstone rock and it is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited village in the US. In the afternoon return to Albuquerque and join a guided walking tour of “Old Town” that includes San Felipe de Neri Church and many historic buildings. After a tour along Route 66, enjoy an exhilarating ride to the top of 10, 375 foot Sandia Peak on North America’s longest free-span cable tramway. An elegant dinner is served at the top.

Overnight Albuquerque – Breakfast/Dinner

Day 4 – Albuquerque – Santa Fe

Start your journey today with a scenic drive along the famed Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway to Santa Fe. This route showcases the mining history of the area and passes through the historic towns of Golden, Madrid and Cerrillos. Located in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, Santa Fe was first established in 1610. Enjoy a guided walking tour and visit the historic Plaza, the Loretto Chapel with its “miraculous” staircase and the Museum of International Folk Art. There will be time to view the silver and turquoise jewelry crafts under the awnings at the Presidents Palace.

Overnight in Santa Fe – Breakfast/Dinner

Day 5 – Santa Fe – Taos

What a way to start the day! The picturesque drive along the Rio Grande River Valley and spectacular views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains create the perfect preview for your arrival in Taos. You’ll visit the historic village of Chimayo, the religious Shrine of Santuario de Chimayo and have lunch at the landmark Rancho de Chimayo. A spectacular view waits as you enter Taos and gaze at Taos Mountain and the majestic Rio Grand Gorge. Next, visit the Taos Pueblo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which dates back to the 14th century and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in the world. This evening enjoy a special festive Farewell Dinner.

Overnight Santa Fe - Breakfast /Lunch/Dinner

Day 6 – Santa Fe – Home

If flight schedules permit you may have time for an optional early morning Hot Air Balloon flight before you travel to the Albuquerque Sunport for your flight home. Take this opportunity to experience the thrill of seeing the beautiful New Mexico landscape from another point of view!

Breakfast

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- Evening Glow party & fireworks
- Acoma “Sky City”
- Walking tour of Old Town
- Sandia Peak Tramway
- Turquoise Trail Byway
- Museum of International Folk Art
- Historic village of Chimayo
- Royal Grand Gorge
- Taos Pueblo UNESCO Site

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- Deluxe accommodation for 5 nights
- 5 Breakfasts, 4 dinners and 1 lunch including gratuities
- All attractions and activities as listed on the itinerary
- Private deluxe motorcoach for the duration of the tour
- Services of a professional Tour Manager
- 10% Commission on Package

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare
- Luggage Fees
- Medical and Trip Insurance
- Gratuities for Tour Manager and Coach Driver

TOUR COSTS:

- \$ 1,189 per person Double
- \$1,099 per person Triple
- \$1,529 per person Single