



# El Paso to Albuquerque

May 14-21, June 16-23, September 24-October 1, 2013

8 days/7 nights

**Exhilarating, Exciting, and Enchanting! Capturing the essence of the culture, history and geography of New Mexico, this journey creates a myriad of experiences. Descend to the underground wonders of Carlsbad Caverns; soar to 10,000 feet on the Sandia Peak Tramway; re-live the excitement of "Billy the Kid" at Ruidoso; travel back 1,000 years to the Acoma Pueblo Indians; explore space travel and "UFOs" in Roswell; soak up the culture and history of Santa Fe, Taos and Las Cruces and enjoy the excitement of Albuquerque, the Hot Air Balloon capital of the**

## Day 1 El Paso – Carlsbad

Arrive at the modern airport in El Paso, Texas and board your private motorcoach for a relaxing ride across the Chihuahuan Desert and into the "Land of Enchantment", New Mexico. Your journey to Carlsbad takes you past the gates of the infamous Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Tomorrow morning go underground to explore several of the unique limestone caves including the famous "Big Room". Tonight, if conditions permit, you may witness the famous Bat Flight as thousands of bats exit the caves at sunset in their daily search for food.

*Overnight Carlsbad – Dinner*

## Day 2 Carlsbad – Ruidoso

This is a day of amazing contrasts starting with a tour of the "underground" wonders of Carlsbad Caverns then shifting to the "out-of-this-world" experiences of Roswell and the UFO Museum. Continue west into the Capitan Mountains. This is "Billy the Kid Country"; rich in the history of the Mescalero Apache, Buffalo Soldiers and the Lincoln County War. Take some time for lunch and a walk through historic Lincoln before continuing on to the popular mountain resort of Ruidoso. Enjoy some free time exploring the shops and galleries in mid-town before heading to the exciting Flying J Ranch for a chuck wagon dinner and entertainment.

*Overnight Ruidoso – Breakfast/Dinner*

## Day 3 Ruidoso – Las Cruces

Begin the day with a short journey to the Tularosa Basin on the western slopes. A tour of the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo explains the city's vital role in NASA's space program. Then, marvel at 60 ft high wave-like dunes at White Sands National Monument where the world's largest gypsum sand field has engulfed 275-square miles of desert. Then on to Las Cruces, nestled in the beautiful Mesilla Valley. Enjoy the region's colorful past in Old Mesilla and the New Mexico Farm and Heritage Museum. Salute your New Mexico adventure tonight as you enjoy the wines, peppers, nuts and other culinary treats of the region.

*Overnight Las Cruces – Breakfast/Dinner*

## Day 4 Las Cruces – Santa Fe

This is a day of transition as you travel north along the famous Rio Grande River. During a morning break in the iconic town of Truth or Consequences, you'll learn about the nearby Spaceport America where the world's first commercial space flights will soon depart. Today's adventure continues with a scenic drive along the famed Turquoise Trail Byway on the way to Santa Fe. A stop at the artist colony of Madrid will provide an opportunity to purchase hand-made jewelry and other crafts. Tonight you are free to relax and enjoy the ambiance and culinary delights of Santa Fe.

*Overnight Santa Fe - Breakfast*

## Day 5 Santa Fe

Enjoy a relaxing day exploring this beautiful city with its wonderful mix of Spanish, Pueblo Indian and Mexican culture and history. This morning, tour historic Old Town and view the State Capitol Building, Cristo Rey Church, and the Loretto Chapel with its miraculous staircase. Take some time to view the Governor's Palace and the many exhibits in the world-famous Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. The afternoon is free to explore the 300 year old Plaza and shop for silver and turquoise jewelry crafted by Native American artists. Tonight enjoy a special Santa Fe culinary experience.

*Overnight Santa Fe – Breakfast/Dinner*

## Day 6 Santa Fe – Albuquerque

Today's adventure takes us into Albuquerque - the home of the world's largest gathering of Hot Air Balloons every October. To get a sense of the excitement of watching 500 balloons floating in the air, visit the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum. Later, take a walking tour of Old Town and view the historic buildings and churches. Visit the Albuquerque Museum of History & Art and take a few minutes to enjoy the silver and turquoise shops along the way.

*Overnight Albuquerque – Breakfast/Dinner*

## Day 7 Albuquerque

Be prepared for a truly incredible experience as you travel west to visit the Acoma "Sky City". This is a trip back in time for a brief glimpse of the traditional lifestyle of the Pueblo Indians. Situated on a 360-foot sandstone rock, it is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited villages in the US. Return to Albuquerque and enjoy some free time to relax, shop for some native crafts or enjoy a gallery or museum. Tonight celebrate your New Mexico adventure as you ride to the top of Sandia Peak Mountain on North America's longest aerial tramway for dinner and an amazing panoramic view.

*Overnight Albuquerque – Breakfast/Dinner*

## Day 8 Albuquerque - Home

If flight schedules permit you may have time for an optional early morning Hot Air Balloon flight before you travel to the airport for your flight home. Up...Up and away!

*Breakfast*

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Carlsbad Caverns National Park
- Roswell UFO Museum
- Lincoln & "Billy the Kid"
- White Sands National Monument
- Las Cruces – Mesilla Old Town
- Truth or Consequences / Spaceport America
- Santa Fe walking tour
- Georgia O'Keefe Museum
- Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum
- Albuquerque "Old Town"
- Sandia Peak Tramway
- Acoma "Sky City"

### INCLUDED FEATURES:

- Deluxe accommodation for 7 nights
- 7 Breakfasts and 6 dinners 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:

- \$1,599 per person Double
- \$1,479 per person Triple
- \$1,979 per person Single