

# SOUTHWEST BALLOON & BEYOND

October 6-14, 2026

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
- Water Taxi Tour of Bricktown
- Route 66 Transportation Museum
- Old Town Albuquerque
- Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- The Mass Ascension
- Sandia Peak Tramway
- Santa Fe Plaza
- Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi
- Garden of the Gods
- Pikes Peak
- United States Air Force Academy

A \$500 deposit per person is required with your registration form in order to reserve your spot.

**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE:  
MAY 1, 2026**

**To register online, visit:**

<https://www.stardestinations.com/unllolli/>

## TOUR PRICING\*

**\$3,635 per person, double occupancy**

**\$4,100 per person, single occupancy**

**Optional Insurance available.**

\*A credit card convenience fee of 3% will be applied to all transactions. This fee is charged to cover the processing costs associated with credit card payments. Please note that this fee is non-refundable if a credit card refund is processed.

\*No transaction fee if paid by check or ACH.



Lori Duckworth/Oklahoma Tourism



National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

Lori Duckworth/Oklahoma Tourism



Water Taxi Tour of Bricktown

Lori Duckworth/Oklahoma Tourism



Route 66 Transportation Museum



Old Town Albuquerque

## SOUTHWEST BALLOON & BEYOND ITINERARY

### DAY 1 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

WICHITA, KS

(D)

This morning, we'll board our deluxe motorcoach and set off on a new adventure! Today's travels will take us to **Wichita, KS**, to visit **The Exploration Place**. This dynamic science center features hands-on exhibits, interactive displays, and engaging activities for all ages. Following our visit, we'll check into our hotel and have time to settle in before gathering for a delicious welcome dinner to kick off our trip together.

### DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

(B)

After breakfast at the hotel, our day begins with a stop at **Botanica Wichita**, where beautifully landscaped grounds, themed gardens, and radiant seasonal displays create a peaceful escape. Stroll through lush greenery and colorful floral exhibits that delight the senses. From there, we'll make our way to **Oklahoma City**, stopping for lunch on our own along the way. Upon arrival, explore the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, an iconic institution celebrating the legacy of the American West through remarkable exhibits of Native American artifacts, cowboy memorabilia, and world-class Western art. After settling into our hotel in the heart of **Bricktown**, the evening continues with a peaceful guided **Water Taxi Tour**, offering a unique look at this lively district's charm, history, and attractions—all from the scenic canal.

### DAY 3 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

AMARILLO, TX

(B, D)

Today, we set off to discover the **Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum**. This powerful and moving site honors the victims, survivors, and heroes of the 1995 bombing through immersive exhibits and heartfelt tributes that offer a deep and meaningful reflection on this historic event. After our visit, enjoy lunch on your own before we continue westward toward Amarillo. We'll stop at the **Route 66 Transportation Museum** in Elk City, where vintage vehicles, nostalgic memorabilia, and engaging displays bring the story of America's famous highway to life. Upon arriving in **Amarillo**, we'll check into our hotel and have time to relax before gathering for a memorable group dinner to close out the day.

### DAY 4 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

(B, D)

Enjoy breakfast before we venture west to the electric city of **Albuquerque**. We'll pause for lunch on our own along the way, then arrive at our first stop—the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center**. This compelling museum and cultural gathering place brings the history, artistry, and traditions of New Mexico's nineteen Pueblo tribes to life through mesmerizing exhibits, beautiful pottery, and powerful storytelling. After exploring, we'll make our way to the hotel and get settled before heading to the heart of the city, **Old Town Albuquerque**. There, a delightful group dinner awaits, followed by time to wander the historic streets, browse charming shops, and soak in the colorful spirit of the Southwest.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

- 1 Night - Wichita, KS - Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview
- 1 Night - Oklahoma City, OK - Hyatt Place Oklahoma City Bricktown
- 1 Night - Amarillo, TX - TRU by Hilton Amarillo West
- 3 Nights - Albuquerque, NM - Hyatt Place Albuquerque Airport
- 1 Night - Colorado Springs, CO - Fairfield Inn & Suites Colorado Springs South
- 1 Night - Denver, Co - Centrally Located



**DAY 5 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10      ALBUQUERQUE, NM      (B, D)**

Get ready for a truly unforgettable day as we head to the world-famous **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**! Watch in awe as hundreds of vibrant hot air balloons rise with the sun, filling the sky in a breathtaking swirl of color during the **Mass Ascension**. Soak in the excitement, explore the lively festival grounds, and savor delicious local flavors for lunch. In the afternoon, we'll uncover the beauty and legend of the Southwest's most treasured gem at the **Turquoise Museum**, where dazzling displays and rich history await. We'll return to the hotel before coming together for a group dinner.

**DAY 6 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11      ALBUQUERQUE, NM      (B, L)**

Following breakfast, prepare for a day packed with discovery and spectacular views. We'll begin at the **National Museum of Nuclear Science & History**, where captivating exhibits and powerful stories reveal the secrets of atomic energy. Then, step back in time to the charming town of Belen with a visit to the beautifully restored **Harvey House Museum**. Explore rich railroad history, vintage artifacts, and tales of the iconic Harvey Girls. If available, enjoy lunch in the historic café that echoes Fred Harvey's golden era of hospitality. In the afternoon, soar high above the desert aboard the **Sandia Peak Tramway**, one of the world's longest aerial trams. As we climb to over 10,000 feet, take in sweeping views of the Rio Grande Valley and the dramatic New Mexico landscape. We'll cap off the day in Albuquerque's colorful **Nob Hill** district, where you can wander among neon-lit storefronts, eclectic boutiques, and a variety of tempting restaurants for dinner on your own.

**DAY 7 MONDAY, OCTOBER 12      COLORADO SPRINGS, CO      (B, D)**

This morning, we'll set out for Colorado Springs with a captivating stop in Santa Fe. Wander the historic **Santa Fe Plaza**, alive with colorful shops, local artisans, and the unmistakable charm of the Southwest. Step inside the majestic **Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi**, an architectural masterpiece that's both serene and awe-inspiring. Savor lunch on your own at one of the many inviting cafes nestled around the plaza before we continue through stunning landscapes toward **Colorado Springs**. Upon arrival, settle into the hotel before we gather for a lovely group dinner.

**DAY 8 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13      DENVER, CO      (B, D)**

We kick off the day with a visit to the timeless **Garden of the Gods**, where towering red rock formations and panoramic views of **Pikes Peak** create a truly unforgettable backdrop. From there, we'll journey through history at the **National Museum of World War II Aviation**, where gleaming restored aircraft and powerful exhibits bring the heroic stories of the past to life. After lunch on your own at a local favorite, we'll head to the prestigious **U.S. Air Force Academy** (*subject to availability*) to tour its impressive campus and notable Cadet Chapel. Our day concludes with a special farewell dinner, celebrating the memories we've made along the way.

**DAY 9 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14      HOME      (B)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we begin our journey home.

## INCLUSIONS

- Private Motorcoach Transportation
- 8 Nights' Accommodations
- 15 Meals (8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 6 Dinners)
- Admission to Attractions as Stated on Itinerary
- Porter Service of One Bag Per Person at Hotels When Available
- Taxes & Gratuities for Included Services
- Star Destinations Tour Manager



Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta



National Museum of Nuclear Science & History



Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi



Garden of the Gods

# WHERE TO?



## Activity Level: Moderate

Balanced blend of activity and relaxation with walks or stands of 60-90 minutes, occasional stairs, and daily walks of two to three miles.

For further information or questions, please contact:

**Star Destinations**

**(712) 792-9793**

**kasey@stardestinations.com**

## OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

**OLLI at UNL RECOMMENDS that all travelers purchase a Travel Protection Plan. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan provided by Travellex Insurance Services.**

**See the included Travellex Insurance Services flyer for pricing.**

Travel Protection Plan may be purchased any time before or with final payment to Star Destinations.

Travellex Insurance Services Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209 ("Travellex Insurance") maintains an updated list of alerts, restricted destinations, and financial defaults on its website available at <https://www.travellexinsurance.com/customer-service/travel-alerts/travel-supplier>.

Insurance coverages underwritten by Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York), 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196.

Travel arrangements  
provided by



**DOCUMENTATION:** A current government-issued photo ID is required for this trip.

**OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN:** OLLI at UNL recommends that you purchase a Travel Protection Plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected so you can relax and enjoy your trip. Participants may purchase this coverage from the provider of your choice. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan, provided by Travellex Insurance Services, that helps provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, theft or damage, medical expense and emergency evacuation coverage, and more. For more information, please see the included product flyer. If you would like to purchase the offered plan, please check the applicable box on the registration form. Please Note: The plan must be purchased at or before final payment in order to be eligible for a waiver or pre-existing medical conditions. If the reason for cancellation is due to a medical or other eligible reason, you may be eligible for reimbursement for such fees from your Travel Protection Plan provider. To view/download the Policy, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, go to: <https://policy.travellexinsurance.com/385ZA-1224>. To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travellexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. The purchase of this product is not required in order to purchase any other travel product or service. Your travel retailer might not be licensed to sell travel insurance and will only be able to provide general information about the product. An unlicensed travel retailer may not answer questions about the terms and conditions of the insurance offered and may not evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. The products being offered provide insurance coverage that only applies during your covered trip. You may have insurance coverage from other sources that provide similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon the coverage. You may wish to compare the terms of the travel policy offered through Travellex with any existing life, health, home, and automobile insurance policies you may have. If you have questions about your coverage under your existing insurance policies, contact your insurer or insurance agent or broker. Travellex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is offered on behalf of and under the direction of Travellex Insurance Services. Insurance coverages underwritten by Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York), 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196.

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**TRAVELERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** You must advise Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) at the time of registration of any disability requiring special attention. SDI will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of travelers. The Americans with Disabilities Act is applicable only in the U.S., and accommodations outside the U.S. may be more limited. Travelers requiring assistance are required to be accompanied by a companion who is capable of, and totally responsible for, providing the assistance. Neither SDI personnel nor its suppliers may lift or physically assist with travelers' special needs including, but not limited to, walking, dining, or other routine activities. Travelers thinking they may need assistance should call SDI to determine what accommodations may reasonably be provided. Arrangements at an additional cost are the financial responsibility of the traveler.

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It is the sole discretion of SDI to refuse transport to any passenger, or require any passenger to leave the tour, if it is reasonably believed that the passenger (1) is dangerous to others or himself or herself; (2) is engaged in or is threatening to engage in behavior that may adversely affect the safety, security, enjoyment, or well-being of other passengers, including behavior that is disruptive, verbally or physically abusive, obnoxious, harassing, or obscene; or (3) has failed or refused to follow SDI's rules and procedures or the instructions of its representatives. In the event a passenger is removed, such passenger may be left at any location without any liability to SDI or its representatives. SDI shall not be required to refund any portion of the price paid by any passenger who is removed, nor shall SDI be responsible for any further expenses incurred by the passenger. SDI shall be entitled to recover from the passenger any costs or expenses incurred by SDI or its representatives in the removal of the passenger or the exercise or enforcement of this clause.

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