

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

October 8 - 12,
2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Direct flights to & from Albuquerque

Three visits to the Balloon Fiesta

Exclusive reserved hospitality at the Fiesta

Special Shapes Rodeo & Glowdeo

Mass Ascension

Balloon Fiesta Fireworks

Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum

Day trip to Santa Fe with Step-on Guide

Albuquerque Museum

El Pinto Restaurant

Old Town Albuquerque

Four nights at the Drury Inn in Albuquerque

Albuquerque City Tour with Step-on Guide



Why Albuquerque for the Fiesta?

Part of the reason for the success of the Fiesta is the cool Albuquerque morning temperatures in October and the Albuquerque box. The "box" is a set of predictable wind patterns that can be exploited to navigate the balloons. At low elevations the winds tend to be southerly (from the south), but at higher elevations they tend to be northerly. Balloonists use these winds to navigate in a vertical box: they ascend slightly from the launch park, move south, ascend further, move north, descend, and repeat the box or land back in the launch park or quite nearby.

Awesome Optional Opportunity!

Balloon Fiesta Balloon Rides are available!

Rainbow Ryders — Official Balloon Ride Concession

Price: \$429.00 per person

Make this reservation, by June 1st, with R & J Tours. Full payment must be included with the reservation.

ALL SEATS FIRST CLASS! So come join the fun, embark upon a journey of uniqueness!

Incredible Designs
and Colors!



Launch Time!



Santa Fe Trail





Day 1 - Home to Albuquerque, NM

We board our morning flight excited and full of anticipation to experience first-hand and up-close one of the world's most spectacular and colorful events. To get ourselves adequately prepared for the adventure of the next few days, we visit the Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum. Let your imagination soar as you discover the world of ballooning. This world class museum showcases a vast collection of balloons, art work, and aerial artifacts. The exhibits show the history of ballooning and highlights the science that has thrilled human imagination for more than a century. Our comfy home the next four nights is the beautiful Drury Inn, carefully selected for its convenient location just a short distance from the Balloon Fiesta Park. This evening our included welcome dinner is proudly served at El Pinto Restaurant, voted Best New Mexican Restaurant in Albuquerque, New Mexico according to the "Best of City" annual survey conducted by Albuquerque the magazine. Come see why El Pinto is the local favorite for authentic New Mexican Cuisine! They use the recipes of the owners' grandmother, Josephina Chavez-Griggs. Their family was the first to differentiate their cuisine as "New Mexican."

Included Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Drury Inn of Albuquerque (4 Nights)

Day 2 - Albuquerque

We arise early this morning! Breakfast is ready! This year's theme is "Where Dreams Take Flight" and we have to be settled in our reserved viewing spots by sunrise. R & J has arranged for our group to enjoy the morning session at the Chasers Club, which gives us guaranteed private seating in an outdoor patio located next to the launch field on the north end of the field. Here you can enjoy hot food items along with refreshments. The morning session features the largest exhibition of Custom Shaped Balloons in the world as

well as the "Flying Competition." Get out on the field and experience not only the excitement but the actual process of inflating the balloons. We depart the Fiesta and head to the Route 66 Diner for lunch! The Route 66 Diner is full of nostalgia, history, and great food! We head back to our hotel for some relaxing time before we return to the Fiesta. For the evening session we have reservations at the Gondola Club for a once in a lifetime evening with an included dinner buffet. This reserved area gets you away from the crowds with private seating indoors and out, delicious food and luxury bathrooms just for Gondola Club members. Just imagine being able to have a private seat complete with wonderful food while looking out over tonight's featured Special Shapes Glowdeo. Fiesta Glow is when all the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time! This is perhaps the most spectacular single moment in all of Balloon Fiesta, plus it's followed by New Mexico's most spectacular Afterglow Fireworks Show!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 - Albuquerque

Another early morning with the same routine as yesterday with the exception of our location! Today we will return to the Gondola Club. Again we will have a private seat complete with wonderful food while looking out over the Dawn Patrol, Morning Glow, and Mass Ascension. Being the Gondola Club is located next to the launch field on the southeast end of the field, club membership includes a gourmet breakfast buffet and shuttle transportation to and from the Fiesta's "Main Street." The Mass Ascension of hundreds of colorful hot air balloons in the early morning New Mexico sky is one of the most awe-inspiring scenes you will ever experience. Words are incapable of describing this. You will have the freedom to "walk the field," observing the balloonist crew prepare for flight and feel the power and thunder of their mighty burners.

This afternoon the Albuquerque Museum enriches our visit to this beautiful area. The museum's regional art collection focuses on the American Southwest and its history & photo archive collections primarily relate to the life and culture of Albuquerque and the middle Rio Grande Valley. The museum is also perfectly located in Old Town where we will have extended time to explore this interesting, historic area. Old Town has been the focal point of community life since it was founded in 1706. Centered around the plaza, Old Town encompasses about ten blocks of historic adobe building. On the north side of the plaza is the San Felipe de Neri Church, the oldest building in the city, built in 1793. Surrounding the church, settlers built their homes, shops and government offices, many of which have since been converted into the restaurants, art galleries, and shops that comprise Old Town today, leaving it look much like it did when it was built centuries ago. Its Pueblo-Spanish style architecture with flat-roofed buildings and soft contours of adobe mirror the Southwestern landscape. Long portals (porches) line the fronts of most building, offering shade from the New Mexican sun. Bancos (benches) are often found built into the back walls of the portals, providing the perfect place for weary walkers to sit and watch the world go by. For almost three centuries, Old Town has been the crossroad of the Southwest. Enjoy dinner in Old Town at the High Noon Restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 - Santa Fe

Following hot breakfast at our hotel, we board the motorcoach along with our step-on guide for today's destination, Santa Fe, New Mexico - a magical, exuberant, colorful journey at any time of year. Its legendary history & culture will fascinate and inspire you. The city of Santa Fe was originally occupied by a number of Pueblo Indian villages, with founding dates between 1050 to 1150. One of the earliest known settlements, in what today is downtown Santa Fe, came sometime after 900 CE. A Native American group built a cluster of homes that centered around the site of today's Plaza and spread for half a mile to the south and west. This is some of the oldest living history in all of America! There will be time for shopping & exploring. We make the restaurant choice easy however, as we host lunch at a popular venue noted for its superb and authentic cuisine. We return to Albuquerque via the scenic route.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 - Albuquerque to Home

Our last breakfast in the Southwest fairyland is appreciated at the hotel before our City Tour of Albuquerque! Our Step-on-Guide will take us around the city of Albuquerque and show us the sights before dropping us at the airport for our direct flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast



2015 DATES & PRICES



DATES:	October 8 - 12, 2015 (5 Days)	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$2,199 Double \$2,099 Triple	\$2,499 Single \$2,049 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	Roundtrip Airfare including taxes, fuel surcharges, & baggage fees! 9 Meals, Hotels & Activities as stated, Luxury Motorcoach	
DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:	\$200 deposit per person at time of reservation. Full payment due 45 days prior to departure.	
OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:	\$164 Double per person	\$164 Single p/p
TRAVEL BUCKS:	\$35 Travel Bucks earned on this tour.	
TOUR PACE:	Moderate Walking at your own Pace.	

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