



# Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Albuquerque - Santa Fe



October 7 - 16, 2019 (10 days)



Lovely Santa Fe



National Cowboy Western & Heritage Museum

## **Awesome Optional Opportunity!** **Balloon Fiesta Balloon Rides are available!**

**Rainbow Ryders — Official Balloon Ride Concession**  
**Price: \$449.00 per person**

R&J has reserved 12 Balloon Rides. These are first come, first paid.  
Additional rides based on availability.

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

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**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**

**El Pinto Restaurant**

**Old Town Albuquerque**

**Four Nights in Albuquerque**

**Albuquerque City Tour with Step-on Guide**

**National Cowboy Western & Heritage Museum**

**Oklahoma City National Memorial**

*Fly option available!*





## 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.

### Day 1 - Home to Kansas City, MO

A travel day through Iowa to Kansas will begin our adventure to Albuquerque and the International Balloon Fiesta. We will make a stop for lunch in Iowa before arriving at the Drury Inn Airport in Kansas City. Enjoy the Manager's "Kickback" Reception this evening.

**Included Meals:** Manager's Reception

**Hotel:** Drury Inn Airport

### Day 2 - Kansas City to Oklahoma City, OK

We will depart Kansas City and travel to Oklahoma City with comfort stops and lunch along the way. Our first visit will be at The National Cowboy Western & Heritage Museum. This is America's premier institution of Western history, art, and culture. The museum collects, preserves, and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts. After the museum visit, we will

check into the Hampton Inn in Bricktown for the night.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Hampton Inn

### Day 3 - Oklahoma City to Amarillo, TX

After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for the Oklahoma City National Memorial, a memorial that honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were affected by the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995. After visiting the memorial we will visit The Memorial Museum, which is an interactive learning experience that takes you on a chronological self-guided tour through the story of April 19, 1995, and the days, weeks and years that followed the bombing of Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The story tracks the remarkable journey of loss, resilience, justice and hope. After leaving Oklahoma City we will stop in Shamrock, Texas for a delicious lunch and make a visit to the Groom Cross, a 19-story cross located next to Interstate 40. This 190-foot-tall, free-standing cross can be seen from 20 miles away. Surrounding the base of the cross are life-sized statues of the 14 Stations of the Cross. Our journey will then continue on to Amarillo, TX where we will spend the night. Enjoy the Manager's "Kickback" Reception or a nearby restaurant this evening!

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Manager's Reception

**Hotel:** Drury Inn

### Day 4 - Amarillo to Albuquerque, NM

This morning will begin the last leg of traveling days to Albuquerque! After a light breakfast at the hotel we will continue West on Interstate 40 (old Route 66). After a lunch break we will pick up our fellow flyaway travelers before going to the Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum. Let your imagination soar as you discover the world of ballooning. This world class museum show-

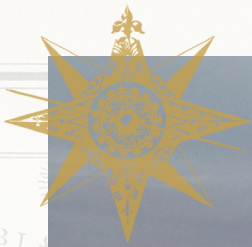


*"Everyone should see the Balloon Festival  
at least once in their lifetime!"  
Lorelle, Paynesville MN*



It's launch time - what a magnificent sight while riding in a balloon!!





## Spectacular Glowdeo!



cases a vast collection of balloons, art work, and aerial artifacts. The exhibits show the history of ballooning and highlight 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 served at El Pinto Restaurant. 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: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: Drury Inn of Albuquerque (4 Nights)**

### Day 5 – Albuquerque

We arise early this morning! Breakfast is ready! (For those who purchased the optional balloon ride, your adventure is right away this morning!) 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 6 – 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 private seating complete with wonderful food while looking out over the Dawn Patrol, Morning Glow, and Mass Ascension. Being that 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 buildings. 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 buildings, 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 7 – Santa Fe

Following a 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 and 1150. One



Groom Cross and the empty tomb



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. Partake in the hotel's Manager's "Kickback" Reception tonight.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Manager's Reception**

## Day 8 - Albuquerque to Pueblo, CO



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. Our tour will end in "Old Town." Have lunch on your own in Old Town before we bring our flyaway travelers to the airport and then start our journey back to Minnesota. We will travel north of Albuquerque to Pueblo, CO, our destination for the evening. We will start to see the Rocky Mountains the further north we travel.

**Included Meals: Breakfast**

**Hotel: Hampton Inn North**

## Day 9 - Pueblo to York, NE

Today will be a travel day. Our journey north will take us through Denver with the Rocky Mountains on our left. Once we are through Denver we will head east through the state of Nebraska with York, NE as our final stop for the day.

**Included Meals: Breakfast**

**Hotel: Best Western Plus**

## Day 10 - York to Home

After breakfast at the hotel we will continue our journey eastward toward home with stops along the way for coffee and lunch at the Pizza Ranch in Ankeny, IA.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

*Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta*



Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi - Santa Fe



We just checked "Hot Air Balloon Ride" off our Bucket List!



Loretto Chapel



View from the Gondola Club



## 2019 DATES & PRICES

DATES:	October 7 - 16, 2019 (10 Days) Motorcoach	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$2,499 Double \$2,359 Triple	\$3,229 Single \$2,239 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	16 Meals & 3 Manager's Reception, Activities & Hotels as stated, Luxury Motorcoach	
DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:	\$100 deposit per person at time of reservation. Full payment due 30 days prior to departure.	
OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:	\$149 Double p/p	\$205 Single

## FLYAWAY TOUR DATES & PRICES



DATES:	October 10 - 14, 2019 (5 Days) Flyaway	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$3,199 Double \$3,079 Triple	\$3,589 Single \$3,019 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	Roundtrip Airfare including taxes, fuel surcharges, & baggage fees. 9 Included Meals & 1 Manager's Reception, Hotels & Activities as stated in brochure, 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:	\$235 Double per person	\$270 Single

## ADDITIONAL TOUR INFORMATION

TRAVEL BUCKS:	\$35 per person on future travel with R & J
TOUR PACE:	Moderate Walking at your own pace.

1-800-758-6877 or [www.rjtoursonline.com](http://www.rjtoursonline.com)