



Morning Ascension



San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe

# Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

October 5 - 14, 2026 (10 days)



Groom Cross



Albuquerque Balloon Museum



Old Town Albuquerque



Ready for launch - optional balloon ride

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Three Visits to the Balloon Fiesta
- ★ Exclusive Reserved Hospitality at the Fiesta
- ★ Special Shapes Rodeo & Glowdeo
- ★ Mass Ascension
- ★ Balloon Fiesta Fireworks
- ★ Anderson-Abruzza International Balloon Museum
- ★ Day Trip to Santa Fe with Step-on Guide
- ★ Old Town Albuquerque
- ★ Four Nights in Albuquerque
- ★ National Cowboy Western & Heritage Museum featuring "Party on the Prairie" BBQ Dinner & Live Entertainment
- ★ Oklahoma City National Memorial
- ★ Indian Pueblo Cultural Museum
- ★ Garden of the Gods
- ★ Archway Museum



Cadillac Ranch

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

**Rainbow Ryders — Official Balloon Ride Concession**  
Price includes pilot gratuity. \*Call after Feb. 20 for pricing.

R&J has reserved a limited number of 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!

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## 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 Overland Park, KS

A travel day through Iowa to Kansas will begin our adventure to Albuquerque and the International Balloon Fiesta. We'll make a lunch stop in Iowa before arriving at the Drury Inn. Enjoy the Drury's evening "Kickback" Reception, which is a complete light meal.

**Included Meals: Drury Kickback**

**Hotel: Drury Inn**

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

We will depart Kansas City and travel to Oklahoma City, enjoying comfort stops and lunch along the way. After checking into the Embassy Suites, we'll head to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, America's premier institution of Western history, art, and culture. As special guests for the museum's "Party on the Prairie," we'll have the entire museum to ourselves as we're welcomed with a hearty Western-style BBQ dinner and live entertainment from a local Western musician! We'll also be free to wander their extraordinary collections of renowned Western art, artifacts, and cultural treasures.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

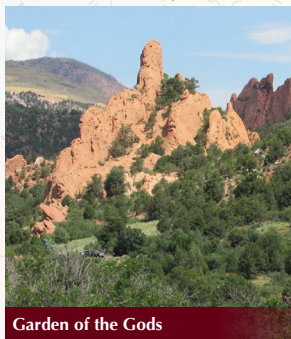
**Hotel: Embassy Suites**

### 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 bomb-



National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum



Garden of the Gods



Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum Grounds

ing 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. A delicious lunch is included in Oklahoma City before we depart for 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 Drury's "Kickback" Reception.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Drury Kickback**

**Hotel: Drury Inn**

### Day 4 - Amarillo to Albuquerque, NM

This morning will begin the last leg of traveling days to Albuquerque! After breakfast at the hotel we will continue West on Interstate 40 (old Route 66). This afternoon we head to 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 highlight the science that has thrilled human imagination for more than a century. On our way to the hotel, we will stop in Old Town Albuquerque and pick up our local, step-on guide for a short tour of Old Town. We'll then check into the Drury Inn, our comfy home the next four nights. It has been selected for its convenient location just a short distance from the Balloon Fiesta Park. This evening our included welcome dinner is served at Mimi's Cafe. Founded in 1978, Mimi's is a neighborhood bistro offering fresh, hand-prepared comfort food and bistro classics. They're famous for their bakery items, including muffins and croissants.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

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

### Day 5 - Albuquerque

We rise 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 we can enjoy hot food items & 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! Next is some relaxing time

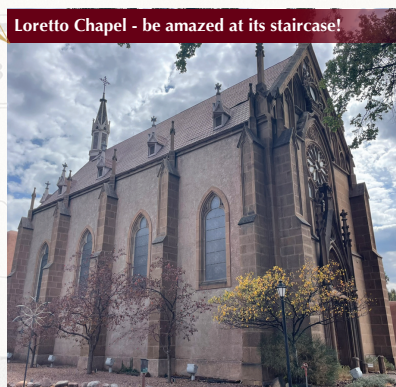
Glowdeo - So many unique and colorful hot air balloons!

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

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at the hotel 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 outdoors, 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 southwest 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. After all the morning festivities, we'll return to the hotel for some R & R. Following lunch, we will visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) located in Albuquerque for a self-guided tour. The Center is comprised of museum and gallery space, a collection of murals and other Native arts and artifacts, a library, archives, an education department, a teaching kitchen/restaurant, and cultural programming and events – each celebrating the accomplishments and evolving history of the Pueblo culture of New Mexico. During the Balloon Fiesta the center has Native dance performances scheduled throughout the day as well as artistic booths. Afterwards, there will be free time in Old Town to explore and shop before an included dinner at the High Noon Restaurant, located in Old Town.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

## Day 7 - Santa Fe, NM

Following a hot hotel breakfast, we board the coach along with our step-on guide for today's destination, Santa Fe: a magical, exuberant, colorful journey at any time of year. Its legendary history & culture will fascinate and inspire! The city of Santa Fe was originally occupied by a number of Pueblo Indian villages, with founding dates between 1050 and 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. Partake in Drury's "Kickback" Reception tonight.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Drury Kickback**

## Day 8 - Albuquerque to Denver, CO

Our last breakfast in the Southwest fairyland is appreciated before we will start our journey back to Minnesota. Traveling north into Colorado, the landscape gradually rises until the majestic Rocky Mountains come into view. In the afternoon, we'll make our way through the beautiful Garden of the Gods, where towering red rock formations create a breathtaking, otherworldly panorama. We'll end the day in Denver with an overnight stay at the Drury Plaza.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Drury Kickback**

**Hotel: Drury Plaza Denver Central Park**

## Day 9 - Denver to Lincoln, NE

Today we will continue our journey eastward with a stop at the Archway Museum at Kearney, NE. The Archway spans I-80 at exit 275. At the Archway, we'll walk with the pioneers over the Oregon Trail, watch a rider switch horses at a Pony Express Station, hear Mark Twain's account of a stage coach trip, and much more! After enjoying a catered lunch in the Archway's event room, there will be plenty of time to explore the museum as well as visit the gift shop. Upon leaving, we'll continue our journey to our hotel tonight.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Drury Kickback**

**Hotel: Drury Plaza**

## Day 10 - Lincoln 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

### 2026 DATES & PRICES

DATES:	October 5 - 14, 2026 (10 Days)	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$3,799 Double \$3,529 Triple	\$4,879 Single \$3,349 Quad
PRICE INCLUDES:	17 Meals & 5 Kickbacks, 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:	\$300 Double per person	\$388 Single
TRAVEL BUCKS:	\$50 per person on future travel with R&J	
TOUR PACE: (See page 9 for description)	Moderate Walking at your own pace	

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