

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Detailed Itinerary

Friday, October 8, 2021



Depart for Albuquerque. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel, the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid Hotel, ideally located just minutes from the Balloon Fiesta Park. After check-in and time to freshen up, depart for the Special Shapes Glowdeo at Balloon Fiesta Park with over 100 Special Shape Balloons lighting up the evening sky. Enjoy dinner on your own at one of the hundreds of food vendors at the park or purchase the optional exclusive Private Chasers Club* admission which includes food and beverages as well as premium seating (cash bar for

alcoholic beverages). Transfer back to the hotel for a good night's rest.

Saturday, October 9, 2021



Early morning coach pick up for transfer to Balloon Fiesta Park for the Morning Mass Ascension. This world-renowned event where hundreds of balloons are launched into the crisp New Mexico sky is considered the most magnificent display of color in all of aviation. Enjoy breakfast on your own at one of the hundreds of food vendors or purchase the optional exclusive Private Chasers Club* admission which includes food and beverages as well as premium seating (cash bar for alcoholic beverages). In the mid-morning, our coach will transfer us to Albuquerque's

Old Town. You'll have free time to explore this historic district and have lunch on your own. In mid-afternoon, return to our Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid Hotel with time to freshen up before attending the exciting Night Glow where balloons are fired up after dusk like giant holiday ornaments. Enjoy dinner on your own at one of the hundreds of food vendors at the park or purchase the optional exclusive Private Chasers Club* admission which includes food and beverages as well as premium seating (cash bar for alcoholic beverages). Then marvel at the spectacular Fireworks Show before return transfer to the hotel.

Sunday, October 10, 2021



After a delicious breakfast buffet at the hotel, depart Albuquerque for Santa Fe. Upon arrival, take a city tour where you will witness the fascinating history, art and architecture of the downtown historic district. Then transfer to the hotel, the La Fonda on the Plaza, a Four Diamond Rating Luxury Hotel. Spend the remainder of the day enjoying the sites, shopping, artisan galleries & delicious Southwestern food at one of America's most "artsy" towns. Evening is at leisure. Perhaps enjoy the magnificent sunset at one of Santa Fe's rooftop lounges.

Monday, October 11, 2021



After a delicious breakfast buffet at the hotel, our professional local guide will take us on a full day tour to Taos, which offers a vivid experience of the Southwest: stunning scenery, rich artistic traditions, and Taos Pueblo - the oldest inhabited building in the United States. The Taos tour is as much about the journey as about the actual visit to the town of Taos and the Taos Indian Pueblo.

We'll travel through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the scenic "High Road" with breathtaking views as we climb to over 9,000 feet in elevation. Picturesque villages dot our route where long time settlers and more recently arrived artists reside in the beauty of the landscape. We'll make a brief visit to the Santuario de Chimayo, a pilgrimage site for those who seek healing.

Once in Taos, we'll enjoy lunch on your own in a downtown restaurant and have some time to visit Taos' famous galleries. Taos is the original center of New Mexico's art world. We'll proceed to Taos Pueblo to visit a Pueblo Indian village that has stood largely unchanged since prehistoric times and has been designated a UNESCO site. A native guide will provide a walking tour of the village. Our return journey is equally scenic as we travel back to Santa Fe via the Rio Grande Gorge and follow the river through the Espanola Valley.

Tuesday, October 12, 2021



Spend the final morning in Santa Fe on your own. Perhaps take the complimentary *Art and History Tour* of the La Fonda Hotel at 10:30 am, visit one of the historic museums near the Plaza, or visit nearby Canyon Road, a street dedicated to the country's finest art. On a road that encourages a pleasant stroll, you will be able to see fine art from artists throughout the United States and the world, all in one place. After lunch on your own, transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

*Note: The Chasers Club is approximately 1/3 mile walk from the coach drop off/pick up point. Non-refundable payment of the \$60 admission fee must be made with the initial trip deposit.

Itinerary may be modified if necessary due to weather and traffic conditions.