

OCTOBER 3-6, 2025

Dating back more than four decades, the first week in October has brought the smell of roasting chiles and the beautiful, magical moving picture show of hot air balloons sailing silently through the crisp air. Guests from all over the world come to Albuquerque to celebrate ballooning. From its modest beginning in 1972 with 13 balloons launching from a shopping mall parking lot, Balloon Fiesta has grown to multiple events launching at the custom-designed, 365-acre Balloon Fiesta Park, Balloon Fiesta. with 500+ balloons, is the largest ballooning event on earth, the most photographed event on earth, and the largest annual international event held in the United States.

## **TOUR INCLUDES**

- Three (3) nights' deluxe hotel accommodations at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
  - Check-in: Friday, October 3
  - · Check-out: Monday, October 6
- · Welcome table with SET Staff
- Welcome reception with Balloon Fiesta ambassador speaker including food and drinks
- Deluxe roundtrip motor coach transportation from the hotel to Balloon Fiesta Park including preferred parking
- Admission to the Balloon Fiesta for three sessions (Saturday morning and evening; Sunday morning)
- Special admission to Gondola Club hospitality at the Balloon Fiesta Park including guaranteed seating for breakfast and dinner, bar and premier viewing location.
- Sunday evening Tablao Flamenco dance performance with dinner and drinks
- · Group breakfast at the hotel on departure day
- Official Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta souvenirs
- Experienced SET Staff available throughout the tour
- Detailed pre-travel and on-site travel documents

Optional Tour Add-On - Private Hot Air Balloon Ride and Albuquerque Tour information can be provided by request.

**Optional Santa Fe Post-Tour** - Discover Santa Fe, a city unlike any other, truly living up to its tagline, The City Different, at every turn. Explore everything from an introduction to the Spanish culture and cuisine of northern New Mexico in Chimayo to an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the creative processes of the "Mother of American modernism" Georgia O'Keeffe in Abiquiu.

## **TOUR ITINERARY**

**Friday, October 3 -** Arrival Day – Check into the Hotel Albuquerque and meet SET Staff to pick up souvenirs and on-site travel documents. Evening welcome reception with Balloon Fiesta ambassador speaker including light hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

**Saturday, October 4 -** Depart early morning for Balloon Fiesta Park for Dawn Patrol and Mass Ascension. Mid-morning return to Old Town. Afternoon at leisure. Late-afternoon return to Balloon Fiesta Park for the evening Balloon Glow. Access to Gondola Club hospitality (food and drink) available for both sessions. Musical performances, attractions, concessions and shops are located throughout the park.

**Sunday, October 5 -** Return to Balloon Fiesta park early morning to continue exploring all the park has to offer. Mid-morning return to Old Town. In the evening, revel in an Albuquerque tradition - the Flamenco Dinner at Tablao.

Monday, October 6 - Departure Day - Group breakfast at the Hotel Albuquerque. Check out of the Hotel Albuquerque and have a safe trip home!

Book now through Vanderbilt Alumni Travel at VanderbiltSETTours.com or call 888.218.8222

