



Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta and Cultural Tour!

Enjoy the rich, diverse and vibrant cultures of New Mexico as you experience one of the greatest visual spectacles on earth. During this 6 day journey, you will not only be thrilled by the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, you will also be touched by the enduring Pueblo Cultures that have existed for centuries and continue to thrive today. It is truly a Land of Enchantment!

Day 1 – Arrive Albuquerque

The "Land of Enchantment" welcomes you as you arrive in beautiful Albuquerque today. Meet your tour director and transfer to your hotel. After some time to settle in, join the group for a fun welcome dinner at a local restaurant. **Hilton Garden Inn Uptown, Albuquerque, NM (D)**

Day 2 – Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Today we learn why Albuquerque is called the Balloon Capitol of the World as we experience the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Depart for an early morning transfer to the Fiesta Field to witness the Dawn Patrol and have breakfast at the Chasers Club. As dawn breaks when the winds are calmest, witness the Mass Ascension, a rainbow of colors as hundreds of balloons lift into the air, a sight to behold! After a unique

experience, take a short drive to historic Old Town and enjoy some free time to explore the many specialty stores, shops and galleries around the Plaza. After lunch on your own in Old Town, visit the Turquoise Museum to learn about the gem stone including how it is processed and shaped for jewelry. Of course there is time to visit the gift shop. We return to our hotel with the rest of the evening free to relax and have dinner on your own. **Hilton Garden Inn Uptown, Albuquerque, NM (B)**

Day 3 – Puebloan Cultural - Afterglow

Today is focused on the ancient Puebloan Cultures of New Mexico. First visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center where you can see artifacts, learn about the cultural and religious customs that have helped preserve this society for over 1,000 years and see craftsmen at

From \$1,999

Per person, double occupancy

October 6 - 11, 2021

Tour Rating: TAP Exceptional

GUARANTEED DEPARTURE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Albuquerque
- ★ Dawn Patrol
- ★ Mass Ascension
- ★ Old Town Albuquerque
- ★ Albuquerque
- ★ Indian Pueblo Culture Center
- ★ Acoma Pueblo
- ★ Twilight Twinkle Grow
- ★ Sky City Cultural Center
- ★ Special Shapes Glowdeo™ & AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show
- ★ Turquoise Trail & Madrid
- ★ Santa Fe
- ★ Loretto Chapel
- ★ Turquoise Museum
- ★ Taos

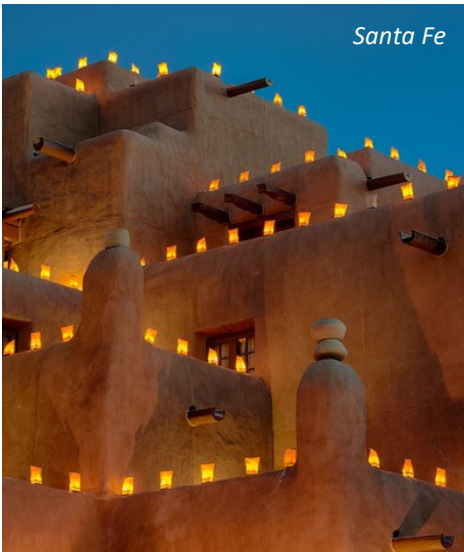
TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- ★ Transportation by Motorcoach
- ★ Services of a professional Tour Director
- ★ Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- ★ 5 Nights Accommodations
- ★ 5 Breakfasts, 2 Lunch and 3 Dinners
- ★ Admissions as listed in the itinerary
- ★ Luggage Handling - one suitcase per person
- ★ Gratuity for included meals



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work. Next travel to Acoma Pueblo for an included lunch and touring. The Pueblo offers a window in time where Native people carry on the customary traditions of their ancestors through Native American pottery making and tribal celebrations. Enjoy a guided tour of the Sky City Cultural Center followed by a visit to Haak'u Museum to view the exhibits, Pueblo pottery and Southwest Indian art created by renowned Native American artists. *(Acoma Pueblo is subject to closure on short notice due to tribal ceremonies or events, a similar experience will be substituted if a closure occurs.) Return to your hotel in Albuquerque with free time to relax on own. Later, return to Balloon Fiesta Park to enjoy dinner at the Chaser Club with direct access onto the field for the Twilight Twinkle Glow™, and AfterGlow™

Fireworks Show. The Twilight Twinkle Glow starts when all the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time. It is perhaps the most spectacular single moment in all of Balloon Fiesta. The Twinkle Glow is followed by New Mexico's most spectacular fireworks display. **Hilton Garden Inn Uptown, Albuquerque, NM (B, L, D)**

Day 4 - Santa Fe

This morning we follow the Turquoise Trail on our way to Santa Fe. Named for the exquisite mineral that was once mined in the area, the Turquoise Trail takes you on the eastern side of the Sandia Mountains leading to the real-life ghost town of Madrid. Madrid looks exactly like a ghost town should, with its rows of empty, ramshackle houses that once were the homes of three thousand miners and their families. Now it is an artist's community with those who come to paint this picturesque area and who display their wares. After time to explore this place from the past, drive on to the "The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis," better known as Santa Fe. Founded in 1609, the city offers a treasure trove of history and culture. Visit the most famous sights including the historic Santa Fe Plaza with a view of the Palace of the Governors, the Loretto Chapel, a miniature model of the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, and the oldest church in New Mexico. After an included lunch, there is free time to explore the many

wonderful shops and art galleries on your own. Check into your hotel with the evening free for dinner on own. **Hilton of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM (B, L)**

Day 5 – Taos Pueblo

Depart for another enchanting day as we take the High Road to Taos. Visit Chimayo, where the descendants of Spanish weavers and woodcarvers still practice their crafts. After a stop to observe the artisans, travel the beautiful high road to the resort town of Taos. Founded in 1617 by the Spanish, Taos has kept its Spanish and Native American influences. Visit Taos Pueblo, a village that has been continuously inhabited for more than 800 years. The adobe structures found here have changed little since the first Spanish explorers saw them in 1540's. Enjoy some free time at Taos Plaza with its shops, restaurants, local artists and wonderful New Mexico atmosphere. On the way back to Santa Fe, stop for a scenic view of the Rio Grande, a legendary river that holds such an important role in the history of the Southwest. Return to Santa Fe with some time to relax, then join the group for a special farewell dinner with wonderful entertainment at La Casa Sena. **Hilton of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM (B, D)**

Day 6 – Home

After breakfast, transfer to the Albuquerque Airport for your departure home. **(B)**

Deposit

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with registration. Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Invoices will be sent out prior to final payment. Early registration is encouraged.

Arrival Instructions

Arrive Albuquerque, NM Oct 6 by 3:00 PM via ABQ

Departure Instructions

Depart Albuquerque, NM Oct 11 after 8 AM via ABQ

Cancellation Policy:

All cancellation or reschedule notices will need to be written via email. Cancellations 61 days or more prior to departure will receive a 10% cancellation fee of the full price of the tour. Any cancellations within 60 days prior to departure will not receive a refund but will receive a credit valid for 2 years from the date of cancellation. This credit is a cash value and can be used toward any tour offered by Southwest Adventure Tours or any of its travel partners.

**We offer optional insurance for cancellation, life, health, and baggage.
We strongly recommend purchase of this insurance.**