



ALBUQUERQUE'S INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA!

✧ Chaser Club Seating for the Glowdeo and Mass Ascension ✧
Santa Fe and the Turquoise Trail ✧ Acoma Pueblo ✧ Sandia Peak

Every October, hundreds of hot air balloons of all shapes and colors paint the clear blue desert sky over Albuquerque during the International Balloon Fiesta. From its modest beginnings, the event now features over 700 colorful balloons in events ranging from the beautiful evening glow to the mass ascension that will take your breath away! Join TRIPS as we take you to the "Land of Enchantment" to experience the Fiesta the TRIPS way! You'll have reserved Chaser Club seating providing the best view possible! Traveling the Turquoise Trail, you head for Santa Fe, one of the top destinations in the country. Stroll the historic Plaza, the end of the famed Olde Santa Fe Trail, ringed by buildings in the Pueblo, Spanish and Territorial styles reflecting its diverse history. Visit the Acoma Pueblo and discover the traditional Native American culture. And no trip to Albuquerque is complete without traveling to the top of Sandia Peak via the tramway for views that truly go on forever! After just a short time here, you'll truly be Enchanted!

Day 1

Your journey to the "**Land of Enchantment**" begins this morning as you depart for beautiful **Albuquerque**. On arrival, you'll be met by your TRIPS representative and will be assisted with your hotel transfer. After getting settled, depart for **Fiesta Field** to begin your Balloon Fiesta experience at the **Chasers Club**! You'll have guaranteed seating in a private patio located near the launch field with deluxe views! Enjoy a buffet dinner before the evening feature, the **Special Shape Glowdeo** and **AfterGlow Fireworks Show**. The fantastic special shape balloons are breathtaking in the glow of the early evening! Watch as balloons shaped like bees, birds, bears and more fire their burners and light up at the same time. It is perhaps the most spectacular single moment in all of Balloon Fiesta. Next, you'll be treated to New Mexico's most spectacular fireworks display! These are two of the most popular events at the Balloon Fiesta and with your Chasers Club seats, the view is unparalleled!

Overnight: Albuquerque - Hyatt Place Uptown

(D)

Day 2

Today, see why Albuquerque is the **Balloon Capitol of the World**! Early this morning, you return to Fiesta Field and your Chasers Club seats to witness the **Dawn Patrol while enjoying breakfast**! Started in 1978, Dawn Patrol pilots take off in the dark and fly until it is light enough to see landing sites. Then, just at dawn when the winds are calmest, watch a rainbow of colors during **mass ascension** as hundreds of balloons ascend in a spectacle of sound and color! After an exhilarating morning, set out on a **driving tour of Albuquerque**, "The Jewel of the American Southwest." See the downtown area as well as the University of New Mexico before stopping in **Albuquerque's Old Town**. With a tree-lined plaza and charming adobe buildings and churches, discover quiet hidden patios, winding brick paths, gardens and balconies in this 10 block area of historic adobe buildings. This afternoon, enjoy lunch on your own as well as some free time. This evening, enjoy a Balloon Fiesta tradition with dinner at the **El Pinto Restaurant**. Featuring a wide selection of New Mexican food, it has been voted Best of the City!

Overnight: Albuquerque - Hyatt Place Uptown

(B/D)

Day 3

Your day starts at the **Turquoise Museum** which focuses on the beauty, mythology and physical properties of this sought after gemstone. The semiprecious, but adored stone is reminiscent of the color of New Mexico's beautiful skies and is widely sought after. Your guided tour begins by entering a simulated mine shaft and leads you to one-of-a-kind showpieces and samples from more than 65 turquoise mines on four continents. Learn how to distinguish the real McCoy from plastic, and of course you'll have time to browse in

gift shop for that perfect piece. Next, visit the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center**. The Museum here features an exhibit that provides an overview of the Pueblo world as well as a contemporary exhibit featuring original artwork and craftsmanship of the 19 Pueblos in New Mexico. Learn about the characteristics that are specific to each and see short films on the life of two distinguished Pueblo women. Internationally known potter Maria Martinez whose black ware pottery is much sought after and Pablita Velarde a well known painter whose works are in exhibited in the Smithsonian. Then, travel to **Sky City Cultural Center** and **Haak'u Museum**, the reception center for the **Pueblo of Acoma**, the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in North America. The museum showcases the history, art and lifestyle of these people, enduring for a thousand years. From stunning Pueblo pottery and Southwest Indian art and tribal celebrations, you will gain a deeper understanding of the Acoma People. Your visit includes lunch and you'll be able to visit the gift shop showcasing pottery and Native American turquoise jewelry. Return to Albuquerque and visit New Mexico's famous **Sandia Peak**, where you'll enjoy a tram ride that will whisk you 10,680 feet into the air for an unsurpassed view from the summit. On a clear day, you can easily see the wonderful New Mexico landscape in a 100-mile circle at your feet. Return to the hotel with the evening free in historic Old Town. Stop in at one of the many restaurants featuring delightful chile dishes or anything from an delicious burger to fine Continental cuisine!

Overnight: Albuquerque - Hyatt Place Uptown

(B/L)

Day 4

Today you're off to Santa Fe traveling along the **Turquoise Trail**. Your first stop of the day is the real-life **ghost town of Madrid**, looking exactly like a ghost town should! With empty, ramshackle houses that once housed three thousand miners and their families, the only signs of life today are the artists who come to paint this picturesque place. Continue on to **Santa Fe** the oldest capital city in North America and today a magical, exuberant place that holds its past near. Named by Travel and Leisure as the #1 Cultural Getaway, your tour includes the **Olde Santa Fe Trail**, the famed **Loretto Chapel** with its miraculous staircase and time to stroll the **Indian Market** where you'll find native arts and crafts available directly from the Indians who created them. There is plenty of shopping around town, and whether you're looking for cowboy boots or concho belts, salsa or turquoise jewelry, you'll find that and so much more! Of course Santa Fe is world renowned for it's art scene and you'll find galleries galore with art spilling out into yards and moving sculptures fueled by the wind. Too soon, you'll return to Albuquerque with some time to relax at your hotel before a delightful farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Albuquerque - Hyatt Place Uptown

(B/L/D)

Day 5

After breakfast, transfer to the Albuquerque airport for your flight home. **The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta and your days in the "Land of Enchantment" won't soon be forgotten!**

(B)



Inclusions

- Roundtrip airfare to Albuquerque (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 4 nights hotel accommodations in Albuquerque
- Breakfast daily
- 2 lunches
- 3 dinners, including dinner at the Chase Club
- Reserved Chase Club seating for Balloon Fiesta and Fireworks
- All sightseeing and admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary including Balloon Fiesta, Loretto Chapel, Acoma Pueblo, Sandia Peak Tramway, Turquoise Museum, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Ghost town of Madrid and more!
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout your tour
- Tour Guide/Director throughout your tour
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags
- Porterage of 1 suitcase per person
- All government taxes and fees

The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.