

# Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta 2018

October 8 – 12, 2018





## Day 1 – Arrive Albuquerque - After Glow (10/8 Mon)

The “Land of Enchantment” welcomes you as you arrive in beautiful **Albuquerque** today. (\*please arrive by 1:00pm) Meet your Western Leisure tour director and transfer to your hotel. After some time to settle in, join the group for a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant featuring the cuisine of New Mexico.

**Hyatt Place Uptown, Albuquerque, NM (D)**

## Day 2 – ABQ Balloon Fiesta - Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (10/9 Tue)

Today you will learn why Albuquerque is called the Balloon Capitol of the World. Depart for an early morning transfer to the **Fiesta Field** to witness the Dawn Patrol and have **breakfast at the Chasers Club**. The Dawn Patrol began at Balloon Fiesta in 1978, when two California balloonists developed position lighting systems that allowed them to fly at night. Dawn Patrol pilots take off in the dark and fly until it is light enough to see landing sites. Just at dawn when the winds are calmest, watch the mass ascension in a rainbow of colors at the world-famous **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta**. Later this morning enjoy a driving tour of Albuquerque, “The Jewel of the American Southwest.” You will see the downtown area as well as the University of New Mexico before stopping in **Albuquerque’s Old Town**. Old Town’s tree-lined plaza and charming adobe buildings and churches are sure to delight the sightseer and the shopper! After time for lunch on own, visit the **Turquoise Museum**

where you will enter the museum through a mock mine tunnel and see the veins and nugget formations just as if you are a miner. Learn about rare specimens and the process of grinding and shaping the stones before time at leisure in the gift shop. Then we’ll experience a fascinating introduction to the way of life enjoyed by America’s first “apartment dwellers,” the Pueblo tribes of the Southwest. At the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center**, you’ll see their artifacts and crafts, and learn a little about the cultural and religious customs that have helped preserve this society for over 1,000 years. After an early morning and busy day, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free to relax and have dinner on own.

**Hyatt Place Uptown, Albuquerque, NM (B)**







Sandia Peak, Tram

### Day 3 –Santa Fe (10/10 Wed)

Today we're off to **Santa Fe**. The **Turquoise Trail**, named for the exquisite mineral that was once mined here, leads you to your first stop of the day, 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. The only sign of life now is the artists who come to paint this picturesque place, and who display their wares to the interested buyer. After time to explore this relic of the past, continue on to the first state capitol in the United States, "The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis," better known as **Santa Fe**. Founded in 1609, the city offers many historic and scenic delights. Your tour will be a combination of driving and walking to the many 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 and more. There will be free time to explore the many wonderful shops, art galleries and restaurants for lunch on own. Take a chance to stroll through the **Indian Market**, where native arts and crafts are available directly from the artists who created them. In the late afternoon, travel back to Albuquerque and join the group for dinner at a local restaurant.



**Embassy Suites, Napa, CA (B,D)**

### Day 4 - Acoma Pueblo Sky City – Balloon Fiesta (10/11 Thu)

This morning, travel to **Acoma Pueblo** for 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, stunning Pueblo pottery and Southwest Indian art created by renowned Native American artists. Lunch will be included today. \*(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) In the afternoon, return to **Albuquerque** and visit **New Mexico's famous Sandia Peak**, home to the **tram** 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. This evening return to **Balloon Fiesta Park** for one last Balloon Fiesta experience. Enjoy dinner at the **Chaser Club** with direct access onto Fiesta 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**. Together they are Balloon Fiesta's most popular events.

**Hyatt Place Uptown, Albuquerque, NM (B,L,D)**

### Day 5 – Home (10/12 Fri)

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



### Travel Package Includes:

- Roundtrip transportation on a deluxe motorcoach
- 4 nights accommodations
- Services of a professional tour director
- 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Entrance fees to attractions, National Parks and Monuments as mentioned in itinerary
- Tips for included meals
- Luggage handling (one suitcase per person)

### Not Included:

- Airfare (Call iMAGINATION DESTINATIONS to arrange)
- Pre-night/Post-night accommodations (Call iMAGINATION DESTINATIONS to arrange)
- Meals (other than mentioned in the itinerary)
- Customary gratuities for the tour director, driver, local guides and outfitters
- Items of a personal nature (i.e., room service, telephone, liquor, etc.)
- Travel Protection Plan

Travel Protection Plan is available and strongly recommended. Premium is non-refundable unless the entire tour is canceled. Any surcharges and/or tax increases received from suppliers for this package (Airlines, Cruise Companies, Hotels, etc.) may result in an increase in the per person price of your tour package. For those individuals who have purchased the Travel Protection Plan, this may also result in an increase in your Travel Protection Plan premium.

\*iMAGINATION DESTINATIONS reserves the right to change any arrangements listed in this itinerary. Should conditions necessitate changes: substitution of equal value or cancellations of the arrangements may occur.

\*iMAGINATION DESTINATIONS reserves the right to add any fuel surcharges that we receive from all of our vendors i.e.: airlines, cruise lines, motorcoach companies, etc. Additional costs may be added any time prior to travel.

### Responsibility Clause:

iMAGINATION DESTINATIONS in offering this tour, do so only as agents as outlined in this brochure. Therefore, iMAGINATION DESTINATIONS shall not become liable or responsible for any loss, injury or damage to person, property or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, dangers incident to the waters, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of governments or other civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, defaults, delays, or cancellations of or changes in itinerary, accommodations or schedules. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person should a person's health, mental or physical condition or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare or enjoyment of the other passengers and a refund of the unused land tour services is the limit of the agent's liability should such a person be required to terminate the tour. The right is reserved to withdraw the tour at any time and liability is limited to refund of all monies received. No refunds will be granted for unused portions of this tour unless arranged with the operator's approval in writing in advance. Application for membership and / or posting deposit for this tour shall constitute the participant's consent to the above terms and conditions.

### Your Tour Cost:

\$1,415.00 per person – 3 to a room

\$1,545.00 per person – 2 to a room

\$2,009.00 per person – single

### Contact Information:



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