

TRI-STATE TRAVEL

ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA & NEW MEXICO! October 2-7, 2020

Partnering with Plus 55 Club

TO MAKE A RESERVATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 1-800-779-4869

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ 10 Meals: 5 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 Dinners
- ❖ Deluxe Motorcoach Touring in New Mexico with full time Tour Director
- ❖ Coach Class Airfare (Moline, IL – Albuquerque, NM – Moline, IL)
- ❖ New Mexico Airport Transfers
- ❖ Admission to Two Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Events
- ❖ Gondola Club Evening Event
- ❖ Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway
- ❖ Turquoise Museum
- ❖ Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- ❖ National Museum of Nuclear Science and History
- ❖ Old Town Albuquerque Walking Tour
- ❖ Santa Fe Walking Tour
- ❖ Taos Pueblo
- ❖ Bandelier National Monument

Your Tour Price:

\$3,479.00 per person – 2 to a room

\$4,155.00 per person – single



Your Tour Includes: 5 Nights'

Accommodations, Luggage Handling for One Suitcase no more than 50 Lbs., Taxes and Gratuities for Included Accommodations, Attractions Meals, and Step on Guides and New Mexico Motorcoach Driver

Not Included: Travel Protection Plan, Luggage Fees Assessed by the Airline, Transfers to/from Quad Cities Airport, Gratuities to Tri-State Travel Tour Director or Items of a Personal Nature

Note: This tour begins at the Quad Cities Airport. Tri-State Travel will not provide transfers from our guaranteed departure points.

TRI-STATE TRAVEL



DAY 1 – Friday, October 2, 2020

Our adventure begins as we meet our traveling friends at the Quad Cities Airport. “Bienvenidos”, or welcome, to the Land of Enchantment! Our host guide will meet us at the baggage claim area of the Albuquerque International Sunport and direct us to our deluxe motorcoach for the transfer to our hotel accommodation for a three-night stay. After getting settled we will depart the hotel for a Festive Welcome Dinner. **(D)**

DAY 2 – Saturday, October 3, 2020

Leave the hotel bright and early for the Mass Ascension at Balloon Fiesta Park. Few spectacles on earth rival the Mass Ascension of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®, as upwards of five hundred of balloons of every color, size, and shape imaginable, lift off from Balloon Fiesta Park to drift in the crisp high-desert air of New Mexico. The famous "Albuquerque Box" effect enables pilots to ascend from the field, move with the air currents at different altitudes and in different directions, and even backtrack along their original course to land in the spot they took off from. Explore the extensive grounds of Fiesta Park, chat with the pilots and crews as they prepare the balloons for flight, enjoy delicious foods, and shopping for souvenirs at a wide range of vendor booths.

October mornings in the high desert of New Mexico can be chilly so be sure to dress in layers for warmth and bring sunscreen for when the sun comes up. **NOTE: BALLOON FIESTA IS A WEATHER-DEPENDENT EVENT. While early October weather is generally ideal for hot-air ballooning, strong winds or storms may delay or cancel balloon events.*

Later this morning we visit the Turquoise Museum, perhaps the largest private collection in the world. See one-of-a-kind showpieces from more than sixty mines on four continents and enjoy an informative and entertaining presentation that will show you the difference between the Real McCoy and plastic. Next, we visit the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History to gain an in-depth understanding of the Manhattan Project and how the nuclear age has changed our way of life. This museum is dedicated to preserving and presenting to the visitor the history and artifacts that tell the story of the Atomic Age. Next, we'll have a brief walking tour of Albuquerque's Old Town Historic Plaza that was the original center of Albuquerque. Founded in the early part of the 18th century, San Felipe de Neri church and many historic buildings that form an architectural record of this city's unique past are worth visiting. There are restaurants within walking distance of the Plaza for lunch on your own. After returning to the hotel with time to freshen up we head for the foothills of the Sandia Mountains for a ride on the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway. One of the world's longest free-span cable tramways, the 2.7-mile tramway ride to the top will take you through four of the seven life zones found in North America. Traversing these zones is equivalent to taking a trip from Mexico City to Alaska! Once atop Sandia Peak, at an elevation of 10,378 feet above sea level, you will marvel at the thousands of square miles of breathtaking scenery and panoramic views in all directions. After our ride on the tram we enjoy a hosted dinner at a local favorite restaurant. **(BD)**

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DAY 3– Sunday, October 4, 2020

Start the day with a visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, a Duke City landmark dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of Pueblo Indian culture, history, and art. The Center is committed to educating all generations of visitors and is your gateway to the lifeways and culture of the indigenous inhabitants of New Mexico. There is a museum, gallery, shop, and restaurant. The museum documents the origins, spoken traditions, arts and crafts, and cultural development of the Pueblo Indians. During Balloon Fiesta Native American dancers perform traditional dances here. Experience one of the Duke City’s artisan wineries for a tour and wine tasting. New Mexico’s sun soaked soil and cool high desert nights are nearly perfect for the cultivation of grapes and have contributed to the recent revival of wine making in one of the nation’s oldest wine producing regions. Enjoy a delicious cheese and fruit platter while sampling these fine wines. We return to Balloon Fiesta Park for the spectacle of the evening Glowdeo®. During the glow, balloons inflate at dusk, remain tethered, and light their burners in a synchronized fashion. The “glow” effect is created by the same burner system used in flight; however, pilots use various means to bypass the “pre-heat” coils on the burner. These coils help the burner work efficiently, but the flame is a dull blue and does not emit a lot of light. Guests will enjoy the exclusive Gondola Club, where comfortable seating, luxurious bathrooms and buffet-style dinner await you. After the glow, the AfterGlow Fireworks Show will dazzle and delight you. *NOTE:* In case of inclement weather and the glow is cancelled, dinner will still be served at the Gondola Club. **(BD)**

DAY 4 – Monday, October 5, 2020

Early morning departure for Santa Fe along the historic Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, which links Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and encompasses 15,000 square miles in the heart of central New Mexico. You will drive back into history through the mining towns of Golden, Madrid, and Cerrillos, whose mines once yielded gold, silver, lead, zinc, and turquoise. During its heyday in the 1880s Cerrillos boasted twenty-one saloons, and four hotels. Enjoy a guided walking tour of historic Santa Fe to get acquainted with the historic center of the city. Founded in 1610, Santa Fe was the last stop on the *Camino Real*, the fabled Royal Road that stretched from Mexico City to the northernmost reaches of the Spanish Empire. Today it is the heart and soul of the Southwest and “Santa Fe Style” is synonymous with all the best the region has to offer. Its historic Plaza, winding streets, covered arcades, hidden gardens and courtyards and Pueblo-style architecture reflect the blending of Indian, Hispanic and Anglo cultures. You will visit the Loretto Chapel and San Miguel Mission. Enjoy (lunch on our own) followed by free time to explore the historic Plaza area.

This afternoon we travel to Bandelier National Monument, best known for its mesas, sheer-walled canyons, and the ancestral Pueblo dwellings found among them. This fascinating archaeological site, situated at 7,000 feet above sea level, encompasses over 32,000 acres of wilderness crisscrossed by 60 miles of maintained trails. The Park was designated in 1916 and named for nineteenth-century archaeologist Adolph Bandelier. Frijoles Canyon is famous for its extensive Anasazi ruins and cliff dwellings that date back to about 1100 AD. Upon our return to Santé Fe the remainder of the day is free to explore this beautiful town. **(B)**

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DAY 5 – Tuesday, October 6, 2020

An early morning departure today, as we travel to Taos on the Camino Alto, or High Road. Experience the scenic grandeur of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains while passing the quaint villages that date from the Spanish Colonial era. We will visit the historic village of Chimayo and the Santuario de Chimayo, a venerable religious shrine built over earth that is said to have miraculous healing qualities. Chimayo is also known for the colorful and decorative textiles that its weavers have produced centuries. We'll visit a weaving workshop and see the weavers at work. Enjoy lunch at Rancho de Chimayo, known for its traditional New Mexico cuisine. Arrive in Taos, a picturesque town nestled against the highest mountain peaks in New Mexico at 7,000 feet above sea level. The unsurpassed light of northern New Mexico has drawn artists to this picturesque city since the end of the nineteenth century, and today it is home to many outstanding museums and



galleries. First stop in Taos is the Rio Grande Gorge for a photo op, followed by a visit to the multistoried Taos Pueblo at the northern edge of town. Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, this Pueblo dates from the fourteenth century and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in North America. We return to Santa Fe for a hosted dinner at one of Santa Fe's restaurants. **(BLD)**

DAY 6 – Wednesday, October 7, 2020

After breakfast, we bid farewell to the “land of Enchantment” and transfer to the Albuquerque International Airport for the return flight home. “Adios Amigos”. **(B)**