



April 27, 2023

Dear Pilot:

We are excited about hosting the 66<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett to be held at the 2023 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta! We expect 17 balloons from 9 countries and anticipate this will be a great race. **This is your final reminder to apply to participate, the application window closes on April 30<sup>th</sup>, just 2 days away!** If you have already submitted your pilot application, we thank you!

The schedule for this year's Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race will be:

Pilot Registration	Thursday, October 5	1000 – 1900 hrs.
	Friday, October 6	1000 – 1700 hrs.
General Briefing	Friday, October 6	TBD
Welcome Party	Friday, October 6	TBD
Pilot Briefing	Saturday, October 7	1200 – 1330 hrs.
Launch Preparation	Saturday, October 7	1300 hrs.
Launch Window Opens	Saturday, October 7	1800 hrs.
Launch Window Closes	Wednesday, October 11	2359 hrs.
Awards Banquet	Saturday, October 14	TBD

Registration and completion of your pilot application(s) must be no later than **April 30, 2023 at 11:59PM MDT**. You will need to select the appropriate application link below:

Pilot 1 (Primary Pilot)	<a href="#">Gordon Bennett Application-Pilot 1</a>
Pilot 2 (Co-Pilot)	<a href="#">Gordon Bennett Application- Pilot 2</a>



Balloon Fiesta is once again offering a first-class package for the participants of the Gordon Bennett. Hydrogen gas for one fill.

Each international team will have the option to choose between two shipping/lodging opportunities:

Option A: Each team will receive \$2000.00 USD and 14 Hotel Nights at the Gordon Bennett Official Hotel (Isleta Resort and Casino)

Option B: Each team will receive \$4000.00 USD Shipping/Lodging allowance

Each United States of America based pilot who qualifies for lodging will have the option to choose between two lodging opportunities:

Option A: Each team will receive 14 hotel nights at the Gordon Bennett Official Hotel (Isleta Resort & Casino)\*

Option B: Each team will receive \$1000.00 USD Lodging allowance\*

(\*Lodging options are available for pilots who are residing more than 50 miles from Albuquerque, NM USA)

Each Pilot and Co-Pilot will receive a gas gift card and cash, Gordon Bennett apparel, a pilot pack and tickets to the Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet.

The entry fee is \$500.00 USD per balloon team, \$250.00 USD will be refunded when the event tracker is returned safely to Race Headquarters.

In preparation for your flight and retrieval, vehicle pricing for the dates of picking up on October 6 and returning October 15 range from \$1625.00 to \$2200.00 USD. Both of the agencies renting the 15 passenger vans are rental agencies. They both allow international drivers as long as you have your passport, you may need an international driver's license permit. Unlimited mileage, travel into Canada is allowed. Rentals must be picked up and returned to the Albuquerque International Sunport.

We look forward to see you very soon. Additional details about this year's Gordon Bennett are also available online, <https://balloonfiesta.com/Gordon-Bennett-2023> . If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to myself, Jennifer Garcia at [jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com](mailto:jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com) .

Sincerely,

Jennifer Garcia  
AIBF Event Director



