



2016 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® Event Overview

World's Largest Ballooning Event Hosted 550 Balloon Teams

For Immediate Release

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Albuquerque, NM – October 1-9 marked the 45th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta presented by Canon. This year there were 550 registered balloon teams, including 108 special shape balloons.

Balloons representing 19 countries filled Albuquerque skies during the nine-day event, including those from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States. There were 43 states represented in this year's Balloon Fiesta.

Balloon Fiesta's estimated attendance was 839,309 visits. The number is down from 2015's estimated 955,700 and slightly over Balloon Fiesta's 5-year average of 817,899.

Over 1,000 members of the media registered to attend and cover the event, from 183 different organizations. Attending media representatives represented seven different countries including China, Japan, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the United States.

Most mornings' flying events went off successfully, except for October 3, when winds kept balloons from launching. Weather conditions for evening events were agreeable, except for events on October 7 and 8, which were canceled. In all, 11 of the scheduled 14 sessions were successful this year.

This year marked the fourth annual Music Fiesta, a star-studded country music concert on the final Saturday of the Balloon Fiesta featured Chris Young, Parmalee, and New Mexico's own rising country star Sim Balkey.

The first prize in the hot air overall competition was awarded to Scott Allsup, of Arizona. Second place winner was Pat Fogue of Missouri and third went to Jerry Copas of Indiana. Scott Allsup took home a new Buick Encore as the overall Balloon Fiesta Champion.

The first place winner of the 2016 Women's National Championship was Cheri White of Texas. Second place winner was Elisa Trillanes of New Mexico and third place went to Janet Lutkus of Ohio.

The 46th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, with the theme "Inflate your Imagination" is scheduled to launch October 7-15, 2017.

About the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is an annual festival of hot air balloons that takes place every October in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. It is the largest gathering of balloons and balloonists in the world. For details on events, schedule, entertainment and photographs visit our website www.balloonfiesta.com and follow us in on Twitter [@BalloonFiesta](https://twitter.com/BalloonFiesta) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BalloonFiesta).