



The World's Premier Balloon Event

2021 – FINAL NUMBERS

Event Theme: Time Flies

Final Numbers: Following are the official numbers for the 49th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta held October 2-10, 2021.

- Total number of registered hot air balloons: 543
- Total number of registered special shape balloons: 84
- Total number of registered pilots (primary and additional): 648
- Total number of America's Challenge Gas Race teams: 4
- Total number of estimated guest-visits: 783,866
- Total number of media organizations: 138
- Total number of registered media representatives: 787
- Total number of views on Balloon Fiesta Live: 693,043

Total numbers of countries represented (registered pilots): 7 (Brazil, Canada, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States of America).

Event Sessions: Three of the 14 sessions were cancelled due to poor weather conditions (10/8 evening, 10/9 evening, 10/10 morning)

America's Challenge: Noah Forden and Bert Padelt of the United States of America (Team 4), are the winners of the 24th America's Challenge. Forden and Padelt flew 356.20 miles (573.25 km), landing near Big Spring, Texas.

Balloon Competition Winners: The first prize in the hot air overall competition was awarded to Zerek Welz, of New Mexico. Second overall highest score went to Ray Bair of New Mexico and third to Joe Zvada of Texas.

Navigators: More than 950 Navigators volunteered during this year's event. Navigators (not including chase crew) are volunteers who provide guest services, administrative services, balloon coordination and safety, set-up and logistics, and more in over 40 different areas.

X Marks the Spot: Landowners picked up 650 X-Packs to mark their land as an approved spot for balloonists to land during this year's event. There were also many, colored sheets that were displayed to indicate the land was open for landings. X Marks the Spot is sponsored by the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce.

Additional information about the 2021 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta can be found at www.balloonfiesta.com. The 50th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta will be held October 1-9, 2022.

* It's difficult to accurately track the number of spectators attending the nine-day event. In order to fulfill media requests on the number of people attending the event, the Balloon Fiesta generates "estimated guest visits." The estimate is generated by combining the number of advance tickets and passes issued to guests, media, balloon teams, chase crew, park and ride, sponsors, service vehicles, corporate buses, entertainers, recreational vehicles, Balloon Fiesta staff, Balloon Fiesta contractors and Balloon Fiesta VIPs. In some instances, different multipliers are used to compensate for multiple and return visits to the Balloon Fiesta Park.