



Group Tour Instructions

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®

Group Tour Hospitality Package

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta offers a Group Tour Hospitality Package that includes admission to the event, access to our Group Tour Hospitality Tent and premium parking for your bus. Once you have submitted your registration for the event you will receive a packet that includes admission stickers, parking passes and instructions for your driver. It is important to note the admission stickers you are issued will allow your client's admission to the event and access to the Group Tour Hospitality Tent but they must enter the park through the designated gate indicated on your parking pass. The stickers will not allow admission through any other gate. Upon your arrival, a crew of volunteers and Balloon Fiesta staff will welcome your group.

Tent Hours

- All morning sessions: 5:30 am – 9 am
- Evening Glows: 5 pm – 9 pm

Tent Refreshments

- Coffee, tea, cocoa and donuts for morning sessions. Lemonade, iced tea and cookies for the evening sessions.
- A variety of food and beverage concessions are available on the field for your group's enjoyment and convenience.

Tent Capacity

- Seating is not guaranteed in the Group Tour Tent.
- The tent is designed to provide limited shelter in the case of inclement weather and as a meeting point for groups. All groups are encouraged to experience the Balloon Fiesta directly from the field.
- Guests are encouraged to bring their own seating if they wish to watch the event from the launch field.

Driver Instructions /Group Welcome

The map provided on the back of your Motor Coach Parking Pass illustrates a designated route for coaches. If stopped by a traffic control officer, please show your parking pass so you will not be diverted from this route. A Balloon Fiesta volunteer will greet your group as you enter the coach parking area. It is essential that you advise your driver and/or escort to exercise caution in this heavily congested area. Due to extremely tight parking conditions, drivers will be allowed to park **only** where instructed by our volunteers, being careful to watch for pedestrians and control speed, especially in the dark hours before sunrise.

Weather

October average daytime high: 75°F degrees; average nighttime low: 45°F degrees. Dress accordingly, layering is recommended as Albuquerque mornings at the Balloon Fiesta Park are cool! Hats and gloves are recommended especially for those taking balloon rides.

Estimated Travel Times

- **Weekend Mass Ascensions**

Allow 30-40 minutes in transit from your Albuquerque hotel to the site due to heavy traffic, making sure to follow the route we designate on your parking pass. **If you are attending the opening day ceremony, please add 30 minutes to this estimate.**

- **Weekday Mornings**

There is less traffic and more flexibility during weekday sessions. Transit time from hotel to site is 20-30 minutes depending on your hotel location. Suggested arrival time for these sessions is 5:30 am.

- **Balloon Glow & Special Shapes Glowdeo**

Transit time from hotel to site is 30-45 minutes depending on your hotel location. Suggested arrival time for these sessions is 5:00 pm.

- **Departing Balloon Fiesta Park**

Departures may be delayed following each session from ½ hour to 1 hour due to heavy congestion. Plan your itinerary accordingly for any activity you may have scheduled directly following each session.

Cancelled Events

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. If you have purchased the Group Tour Package but the balloons were unable to inflate, and the session is officially cancelled your parking pass will be returned for use as a rain check for any session in the current year. We do not offer refunds for Cancelled sessions. It is a good idea to have a flexible itinerary for the morning after your scheduled Balloon Fiesta event, should inclement weather cause a cancellation you will have the opportunity to use our rain check.

Balloon Rides

Rainbow Ryders is the official balloon ride company for the Balloon Fiesta. If you have included a balloon rides in your tour program please note, parking and admission to the event is not included in the cost of your balloon ride. In order to streamline your experience, we recommend you purchase our Group Tour Package; the Group Tour Parking area is convenient to the Rainbow Ryders Tent and our volunteers can provide directions to your escort. If you are interested in including a balloon ride in your tour program, please contact Rainbow Ryders directly at 877.741.7690.