

TIME FLIES!

Guest Guide

2020 2021

2022

2023



**ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL
BALLOONFIESTA®**
The World's Premier Balloon Event

October 2-10



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INFORMATION
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OUR
OFFICIAL APP





WHAT IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK

ALLOWED

- Backpacks/bags (1 per person) are allowed but will be inspected. (Clear bags will expedite the process)
- Blankets or bulky clothing should be carried over the shoulder to be screened more quickly.
- Folding chairs are allowed but will have to be removed from the carrying case for inspection.
- Food of any kind for guest consumption. Resale is prohibited.

PROHIBITED

- Weapons (including knives over 4" blade length), any item that may be used as a projectile or one that is deemed dangerous by Public Safety personnel.
- Any animal with the exception of a service animal.
- Glass bottles and hard sided coolers.
- Alcohol of any kind.
- Religious or Political paraphernalia.

METAL DETECTOR SCREENING

- Prior to entering gates, all patrons may be subject to security screening, including metal detector screening and inspection of bags or other items carried in. By tendering a ticket and entering the field you consent to such searches and waive any related claims that you might have against AIBF. If you elect not to consent to the searches, you will be denied entry into the park.
- The level of security screening may be modified on an event-by-event basis at the discretion of AIBF Public Safety supervision.
- Remove any jackets or other large, bulky items from your bag and carry these in hand. When the contents of your bag are clearly visible, staff can screen bags without requiring any contents to be removed. If blankets or other items conceal the contents of a bag, staff must request that they be removed in order for screening to take place, delaying the process.
- For walk through metal detector screening, remove any keys, coins or other metal objects from your pockets and hold these in hand above your head.
- Guests with implants or defibrillators should notify officers prior to going through the metal detector. Place your hand over your implant and the rest of your person will be wanded.





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WELCOME TO BALLOON FIESTA®

For nine days in October the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, creates an enchanted world of special shape balloon rodeos, twilight balloon glows, and vibrant balloon-filled skies. Brisk autumnal mornings in the Rio Grande Valley create an otherworldly backdrop for the breathtaking majesty of our most popular event, Mass Ascension. The experience of watching hundreds of gentle airy giants take flight is at once humbling and inspiring. It's the allure of these magical moments and more that have continued to bring ballooning fans worldwide together for more than 48 years.

The COVID-19 situation continues to improve in New Mexico, the United States and throughout the world. We certainly don't know what precautions and restrictions will be set in October but important updates have been implemented for your safety at Balloon Fiesta Park.

Cleaning procedures are enhanced throughout Balloon Fiesta Park. Extra attention will be given to high-traffic areas, including benches, tables, handles, restrooms, transportation vehicles and more.

Temporary adjustments will be in place to promote physical distancing including Signage and Ground Markings and Physical Barriers: We're also exploring new ticketing procedures and some cashless payments in the Concessions.

Face coverings will be required for all Guests (ages 2 and up) and Navigators (Staff). Please bring your own face coverings and wear them at all times, except when dining. You may remove your face covering while actively eating or drinking, but you should be stationary and maintain appropriate physical distancing.

At this time, based on guidance from health authorities, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind are not acceptable face coverings. The use of face coverings is not a substitute for physical distancing.

Temperature screenings may be required for entry to some locations. Before you leave home, be sure to check the temperatures of everyone in your party - including yourself - as an extra layer of precaution.

OUR GEOGRAPHY MAKES IT BALLOONING CENTRAL

Autumn is one of the most enjoyable times of year in New Mexico. This peaceful prelude to winter means that brisk mornings give way to warm afternoons with mild temperatures throughout the day and typically still winds. This ideal weather combined with its diverse altitudes and geography, makes Albuquerque an ideal location for ballooning at this time of year. The lower altitude of the river valley to the west, higher altitude of the mountain range to the east and the prevailing winds aloft create the legendary "Albuquerque Box," in which gentle winds blow in a box pattern, sometimes leading balloons right back to where they started. This natural phenomenon makes Albuquerque home to some of the best ballooning in the world.



WHAT IS THE ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA?

Any local will tell you that October is the most beautiful time of year in New Mexico, made so in large part by the much anticipated sight of colorful balloons punctuating the skyline. During this season, the sky is bluer, the days are gentler, and the mornings crisper -- almost as though the landscape has taken a deep sigh -- and on the desert's warm breath sails the annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. For nearly half a century, this age-old form of flight, which has captured the human imagination for hundreds of years, is celebrated in a 9-day event that draws the devout, the curious and the novice balloonists to the world-famous Balloon Fiesta Park.



Balloon Fiesta Park's launch field alone is comparable to the size of 54 football fields, but that 60+ acre area is necessary to accommodate the 500+ balloons that launch during the event. The total expanse of the Park is a whopping 365 acres, custom designed to facilitate the largest ballooning event on earth. Since its humble inception at a shopping mall parking lot in 1972, with a total of 13 balloons, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has grown into the most photographed event in the world.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

7:00am Albuquerque Aloft (at local elementary schools)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:00am Dawn Patrol Show *presented by Route 66 Casino Hotel and RV Resort*

6:30am Krispy Kreme Morning Glow

6:45am Opening Ceremonies

7:00am Mass Ascension

8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

11:00am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Auction

2:00pm America's Challenge Gas Balloon Inflation

3:00 - 6:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

6:00pm America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race Launch

6:00pm Twilight Twinkle Glow™ *presented by Albuquerque Journal*

8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

6:00am Dawn Patrol Show *presented by Route 66 Casino Hotel and RV Resort*

6:30am Krispy Kreme Morning Glow

7:00am Mass Ascension

8:00 - 11:00am Remote Control Balloons Exhibition

8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

9:00am Fiesta of Wheels Car Show (*located on north end of launch field*)

11:00am Balloon Fiesta Pin Trading (*Group Tour Tent, north end of Main Street*)

3:00 - 6:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

6:00pm Balloon Glow, *presented by XTO Energy Inc.*

8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

6:00am Dawn Patrol

7:00am Balloon Launch from the Park

8:00am Fly In Competition Launch

8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 COCA-COLA DAY

6:00am Dawn Patrol

7:00am Balloon Launch from the Park

8:00am Fly In Competition Launch

8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

**AfterGlow™ Fireworks Shows will begin as soon as the launch field is clear of balloons, thus the starting times are approximate and subject to change without notice. Additionally, local police will modify traffic flows to utilize all traffic lanes for outbound traffic only at the conclusion of each glow event. So if you want to watch the AfterGlow™ fireworks shows from the Park, plan to arrive at the Park in time for that evening's glow event.*





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 6:00am Dawn Patrol Show *presented by Route 66 Casino Hotel and RV Resort*
- 6:30am Krispy Kreme Morning Glow
- 7:00am Flight of the Nations Mass Ascension
- 8:00 - 11:00am Remote Control Balloons Exhibition
- 8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 KIDS' DAY *presented by KOB-TV*

- 4:30 am Kids' Day Goodie Bag Distribution begins *(South of the Main Street Stage)*
- 6:00am Dawn Patrol
- 7:00am Special Shape Rodeo™
- 8:00am Fly In Competition Launch
- 8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition
- 11:00am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Auction
- 3:00 - 6:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition
- 6:00pm Special Shape Glowdeo™
- 8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 6:00am Dawn Patrol
- 7:00am Special Shape Rodeo™
- 8:00am Fly In Competition Launch
- 8:00 - 11:00am Remote Control Balloons Exhibition
- 8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition
- 11:00am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Auction
- 3:00 - 6:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition
- 6:00pm Special Shape Glowdeo™
- 8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 6:00am Dawn Patrol Show *presented by Route 66 Casino Hotel and RV Resort*
- 6:30am Krispy Kreme Morning Glow
- 7:00am Mass Ascension, *presented by XTO Energy Inc.*
- 8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition
- 11:00am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Auction
- 11:00am Balloon Fiesta Pin Trading *(Group Tour Tent, north end of Main Street)*
- 3:00 - 6:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition
- 6:00pm Night Magic™ Glow, *presented by Canon*
- 8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 6:00am Dawn Patrol Show *presented by Route 66 Casino Hotel and RV Resort*
- 6:30am Krispy Kreme Morning Glow
- 7:00am Farewell Mass Ascension
- 8:00am - noon AIBF Chainsaw Carving Exhibition

Miss one of our sessions? Want to re-watch another one? Watch all the activity at <http://balloonfiesta.com/live-stream>





MAP OF THE BALLOON FIESTA PARK



- FIRST AID
- HANDICAP PARKING
- RESTROOMS
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- PARK & RIDE BUS
- PARKING
- RV PARKING
- BIKE VALET
- TRANSIT AREA
- SCOOTER RENTAL
- LAUNCH STATUS FLAG
- CHASE CREW HQ
- NAVIGATOR HQ
- ATM



GATES



ENTERTAINMENT

- 1) KID ZONES
- 2) MAIN STREET STAGE
- 3) CHAINSAW CARVERS



OFFICIAL PARK LOCATIONS

- A) GONDOLA CLUB
- B) SPONSOR HOSPITALITY
- C) CORPORATE VILLAGE
- D) SID CUTTER PILOTS' PAVILION
- E) CHASERS' CLUB
- F) GROUP TOURS HOSPITALITY
- I) OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE + SPORTSWEAR



SPECIAL AREAS

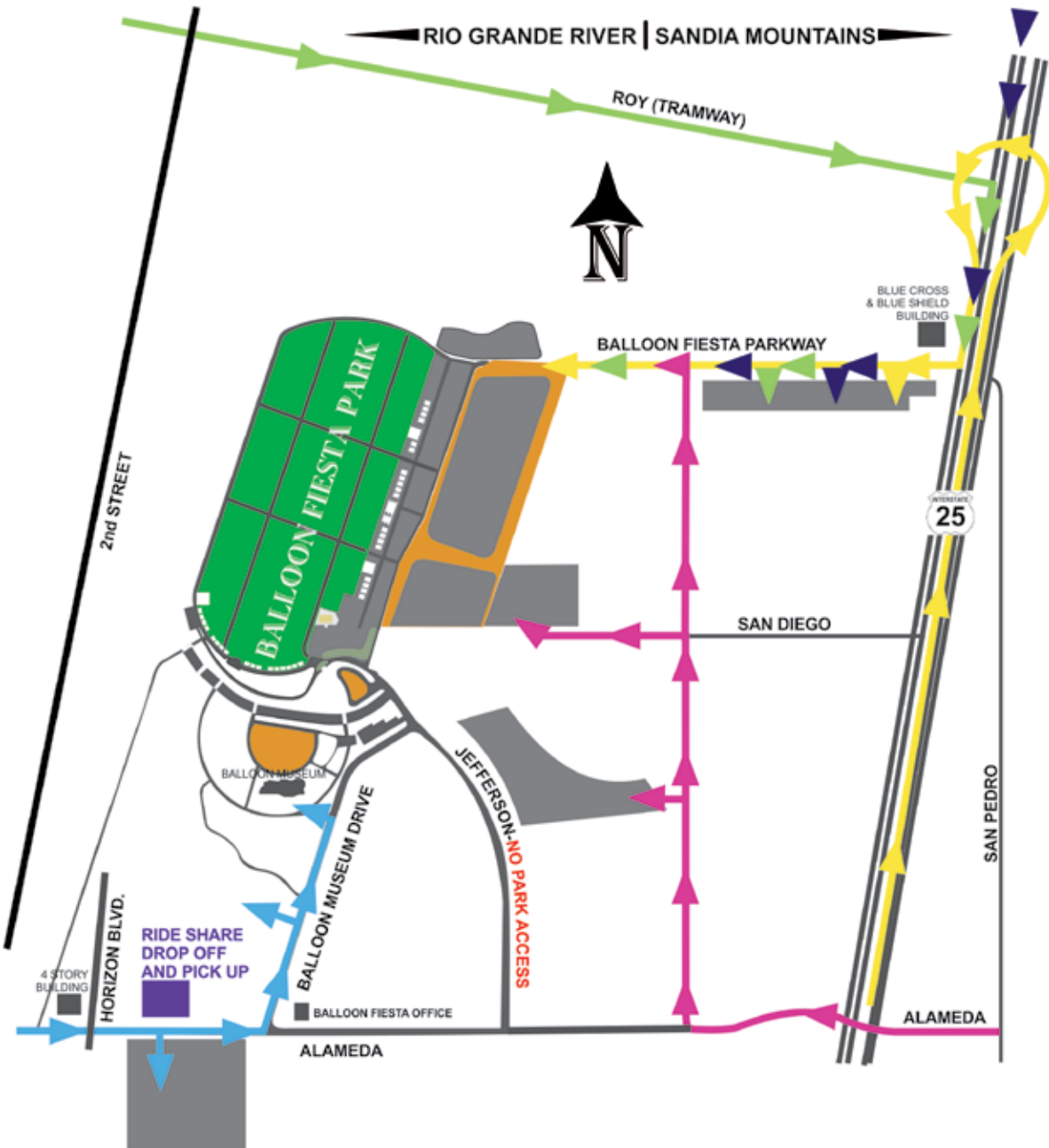
- A) VISIT ALBUQUERQUE MEDIA TENT
- B) BALLOON MANUFACTURERS
- C) VISIT ALBUQUERQUE & NM TRUE INFORMATION
- D) BALLOON RIDES TENT



INFORMATION



GETTING TO THE PARK



Transportation services to the park include convenient Fiesta Express Park & Ride Service and Bike Valet. Balloon Fiesta public parking sites are also available and guests are encouraged to purchase advance admission tickets to avoid lines at the gates.

Please note: Routes and assignments are subject to change. Please refer to our website at www.balloonfiesta.com/Maps-Directions



AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO BALLOON FIESTA TRAFFIC

Beating the Balloon Fiesta traffic can seem daunting at first, but with some careful advanced planning, you'll find that getting to and from Balloon Fiesta Park can be an easy and painless experience. We are here to help!

USE BALLOON FIESTA PARK & RIDE SERVICES

As attendance has grown, creating an influx in traffic congestion and parking issues, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has teamed with several locations citywide to facilitate park and ride services. Balloon Fiesta offers guests special prices to park their vehicles at one of several Albuquerque locations and take the Balloon Fiesta Express Park & Ride bus to Balloon Fiesta Park.

Please check www.balloonfiesta.com/Park-Ride for schedule or location changes and tickets.

Be aware there is no Park & Ride service Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

WHERE: (subject to change)

- East-side location: Coronado Mall (Southwest corner) - 6600 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110
Hoffmantown Church - 8888 Harper NE; Albuquerque, NM 87111
- West-side location: Cottonwood Mall - 10000 Coors Bypass NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

PARK & RIDE TICKETS- Note: A Convenience fee is added to all online ticket purchases.

Tickets can be purchased online at: www.balloonfiesta.com/Park-Ride or by calling 1-855-725-1824. Tickets will go on sale July 2, 2021.

TICKETS CANNOT BE PURCHASED AT THE REMOTE LOTS

All riders must have a ticket before boarding the bus for arrival and departure. For more information call 505-821-1000.

(Prices valid online before 12 Midnight for morning sessions or before 12 Noon for afternoon/evening sessions)

Balloon Fiesta Park admission is included.

ADVANCE:

Adults (13-61)..... \$22
 Seniors (62 & older)..... \$20
 Children (6-12)..... \$10
 Children (5 and under) Free
 Bus Only \$12

DAY OF PRICES:

Adults (13-61)..... \$25
 Seniors (62 & older)..... \$25
 Children (6-12)..... \$12
 Children (5 and under) Free
 Bus Only \$12

RIDE SHARING OPTIONS

You can utilize your Ride Share App for access to and from the park. The designated drop off and pick up area is south of the park and east of the intersection of Alameda Blvd. NE and Horizon.



A MAP OF THE 2021 PARK & RIDE LOCATIONS

Morning Sessions:

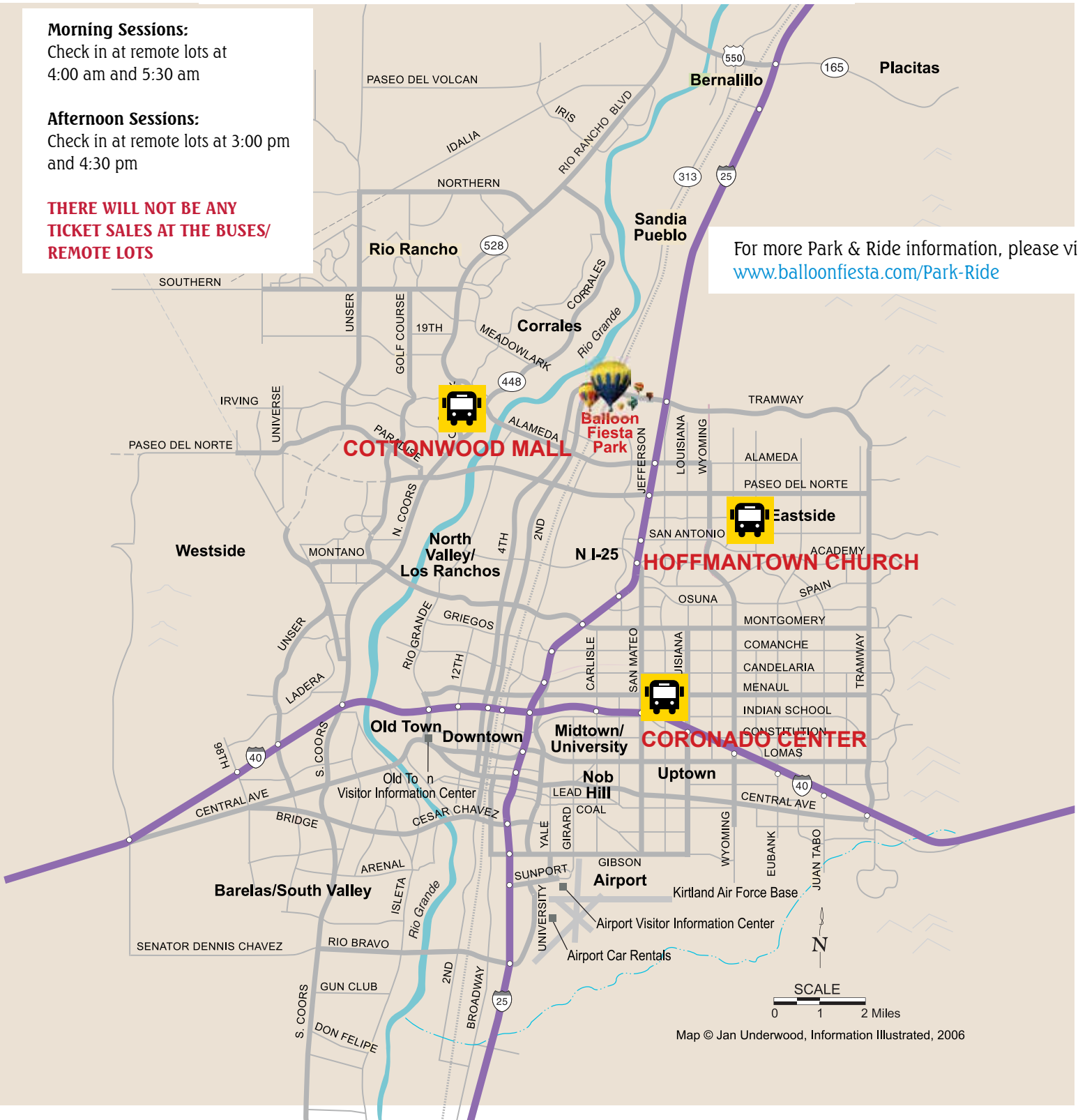
Check in at remote lots at
4:00 am and 5:30 am

Afternoon Sessions:

Check in at remote lots at 3:00 pm
and 4:30 pm

**THERE WILL NOT BE ANY
TICKET SALES AT THE BUSES/
REMOTE LOTS**

For more Park & Ride information, please visit:
www.balloonfiesta.com/Park-Ride





HOSPITALITY

GONDOLA CLUB

The Gondola Club provides a true VIP experience you can't find anywhere else at Balloon Fiesta. This exclusive offering ensures the most comfortable, convenient, and private location for enjoying Balloon Fiesta. For those who want to escape the crowds and take in the experience in comfort, a session at the Gondola Club includes first-class amenities.

A Gondola Club ticket includes the following:

- Prime view of the Launch Field
- Private parking near the Gondola Club
- Admission to the park
- A gourmet buffet (breakfast or dinner, depending on the session) and a hosted bar (except Sunday mornings per NM state law)
- Shuttles to Main Street
- Collectible pin
- Private restrooms
- A Gondola Club souvenir gift



Individuals:

Adult..... \$125 per person, per session
Child (ages 4-12) .. \$65 per person, per session

Groups 14+ People: Must arrive in one vehicle.

Adult..... \$105 per person, per session
Child (ages 4-12) .. \$55 per person, per session

Children ages 3 and under are free

CHASERS' CLUB

The Chasers' Club is a special package option designed to help guests make the most of their Balloon Fiesta experience. This upgraded ticket grants you access to seating in a comfortable outdoor patio next to the Launch Field where you can indulge in hot food items, dessert, and refreshments. With a valid ID you can also enjoy a Bloody Mary or Margarita on any day except Sunday mornings (NM state law), while you sit back, relax, and watch the day's beauty unfold. Located at the northeast corner of the Launch Field, a session in this private patio provides a prime vista of the launch site for a relaxing day of fun and balloon viewing.

Chasers' Club ticket is only \$60 and includes the following:

- Admission to the event if purchased in advance
- Guaranteed seating in our private patio at the north end of Balloon Fiesta Park for excellent viewing
- Private restrooms
- A hot food item, dessert and beverages
- The option to purchase and leisurely enjoy a cocktail while you watch the balloon action unfold

Note: A Convenience Fee is added to all online Gondola and Chasers' Club ticket purchases.





HOSPITALITY

GLAMPING

Experience the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in a whole new way - Glamping! Glamping tents are available in an exclusive location in Balloon Fiesta Park. Enjoy spectacular views of the balloons flying high against a stunning background of the Sandia Mountains from the tent village. No need to battle the traffic, you'll be walking distance to the launch field. In this exclusive location you will have access to restroom and shower trailers, as well as a hospitality area with grills, games and lounge chairs.

Your glamping experience includes:

- 3 night stay in a 168 sq ft safari tent
- Admission to the event for all sessions during your stay
- Premium Parking
- Welcome gift
- Choice of queen bed or 2 single beds
- Linens, comforter and pillows
- Heater and refrigerator
- Lamp and lantern

Cost: \$1,500 (3 nights for 1 - 2 people)

Note: A Convenience Fee is added to Glamping online ticket purchases.



CONCIERGE

For the ultimate VIP experience you can arrange for your own concierge to be your tour guide while at the Balloon Fiesta. You can experience the event from all angles of the Launch Field. You can shop at our many concession booths, check out the chainsaw carvers or find your favorite viewing point. You will have an insider's view of this spectacular event. This service is perfect for Balloon Fiesta first-timers, photographers, guests with mobility issues or guests who want to see all they can in one session.

With this service you will receive:

- A personal concierge for the duration of your session
- Golf cart transportation with driver
- (1) Premium Parking Pass
- (2) General Admission Tickets
- Balloon Fiesta gift

Cost for this service-*maximum 4 people per cart* - \$350 per session (1-2 people), \$50 per additional person

For more information about Gondola Club, Chasers' Club, Glamping and the Concierge Program please contact:

*Shamaine Giannini - sgiannini@balloonfiesta.com
1-888-422-7277*





ENTERTAINMENT AT BALLOON FIESTA AND MORE

EVENT ENTERTAINMENT

Balloon Fiesta features great local and national performers on the Main Street Stage, located in the center of Main Street. You can hear a variety of genres ranging from military brass bands, salsa, funk, soul, rock, jazz, and more during morning sessions on the weekend and evening sessions.

And be sure to watch for exciting strolling performers along Main Street. Capture a glimpse and capture a photo of New Mexico culture with Native American dancers, Flamenco ensembles, Mariachi troupes, and so much more.

Entertainment at the Main Street Stage and along Main Street is free and included with admission into Balloon Fiesta.

To see the full lineup of performances, visit:
www.balloonfiesta.com/Entertainment-Schedule





BALLOON FIESTA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE COST AND WHERE DO I BUY TICKETS?

- General admission \$15 for persons 13 and older
- Children 12 years old and under Free
- General Parking \$20 per car
- Tickets are **NON-REFUNDABLE**, however, your ticket may be exchanged for another 2021 session if an individual session must be canceled due to weather or other safety considerations

To purchase tickets:

Purchase them online at www.balloonfiesta.com, or call 1-855-725-1824, For additional purchase locations, call the corporate office at 505-821-1000. Tickets will go onsale July 2, 2021.

For additional information: www.balloonfiesta.com/Purchase-Tickets

DO TOUR GROUPS GET SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS?

Our Group Tour Hospitality Package makes the Balloon Fiesta experience easy for your planner and extra special for your customers. The package includes admission tickets, access to the Group Tour Hospitality Tent and parking in a lot near the tent. www.balloonfiesta.com/Group-Tours for rates.

WHERE IS THE LAUNCH FIELD LOCATED?

The launch field is located in north Albuquerque, west of I-25, approximately 10 miles north of the Albuquerque Sunport (Airport), 8 miles north of downtown Albuquerque.

WHAT ARE THE GPS COORDINATES OF BALLOON FIESTA PARK?

Latitude: 35° 11.8N Longitude: 106° 35.8W

WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE?

For some of our most popular events, such as Mass Ascension, arriving early is advisable. For weekend events, plan to arrive at the park by 4:30am. During evening events, plan to be at the park by 4:00pm. Gates open at 4:30am and 3:00pm.

IS THE PARK HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?

Yes. We have hard surface handicap parking close to the entrance gates at the general parking fee of \$20. **But please be aware** Balloon Fiesta Park consists of more than 360 acres and the launch field itself is more than 60 acres. If you have a handicap placard you can email (balloons@balloonfiesta.com) or send a copy of that placard with your name and address to AIBF; 4401 Alameda Blvd. NE; Albuquerque, NM 87113 and we will send you one of our handicap placards in August for the handicap areas. We also have a limited number of scooters and wheelchairs available to rent and can be reserved through www.vistamobility.net, if needed, as well as shuttles that operate around the Park.

HOW DO WE CONTACT THE BALLOON FIESTA DIRECTLY?

E-mail us at balloons@balloonfiesta.com for the quickest response
4401 Alameda Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113
Toll-Free 1-888-422-7277 Phone 505-821-1000 Fax: 505-828-2887





BALLOON FIESTA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES HAPPENING AT THE PARK?

- Main Street is where you will find 100 hand-selected merchandise and food concessions ranging from one of a kind souvenirs to sweet-tooth satisfiers. You will also find performers wandering along Main Street, such as flamenco dancers, Native American dancers, mariachis and other entertainers to make for non-stop fun.
- The Main Street Stage is located at the center of Main Street and features a variety of bands and performances throughout Balloon Fiesta.
- The Fiesta of Wheels car show takes place on the north end of the Launch Field after the Balloon Launch on Sunday, October 3rd.
- The Chainsaw Carving Exhibition at the north end of the Launch Field brings a unique element to Balloon Fiesta with multiple sessions to keep things lively.

WHAT IS A SESSION?

There are two sessions daily, except Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and the last Sunday, which are divided into morning activities and evening activities. For example, the Dawn Patrol and Mass Ascension are a part of the morning session, while the Balloon Glow is a part of the evening session.

Although there are no ballooning activities between the morning and evening sessions, we welcome guests to stay at the Park between sessions but most concessions will close midday. Please keep in mind we are at 5,000 above sea level and if you are not accustomed to this altitude you should be sure to get plenty of fluids and rest during your stay in Albuquerque.

WHAT ARE THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AROUND THE BALLOONS?

Because of our 48-year safety record, we are one of the only balloon (aviation) events where you are actually able to walk among the balloons as they are inflating and talk to the pilots. Please be respectful of the hot air balloons. Do not touch them or step on or over any of them. Please follow the directions of the pilots, crews and Launch Directors (Zebras).

ARE LARGE PACKAGES AND BACKPACKS ALLOWED AT THE PARK?

Yes, but they are subject to inspection upon entering the Park. Please see the complete list of acceptable items at the front of this document.

ARE PETS ALLOWED AT BALLOON FIESTA PARK?

The ONLY animals allowed at Balloon Fiesta Park are ADA service animals. Note: Emotional support animals are not classified as service animals. NMSA 1978, Section 28-11-6

IS SMOKING ALLOWED AT BALLOON FIESTA PARK?

City ordinance prohibits smoking in all city parks and Balloon Fiesta Park is a city park. There is no smoking allowed on the Launch Field.

ARE THERE PLACES TO EAT ON THE FIELD?

There are a multitude of food concessions serving a variety of food on Main Street.



BALLOON FIESTA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN YOU BRING IN OUTSIDE FOOD & DRINKS TO THE PARK?

Yes, but glass and alcohol are not allowed. You cannot use hard sided coolers. Bags and soft sided coolers are subject to search.

ARE LAWN CHAIRS ALLOWED AND IS THERE SEATING AVAILABLE?

Yes. Lawn chairs and blankets are permitted in the Park. Chairs and blankets must be removed from cases or bags at the metal scanners when entering the park. There is a limited number of picnic tables and benches located on the east side of the Launch Field along Main Street.

ARE THERE ATMs IN THE PARK?

Yes. There are ATMs at the north and south ends, as well as near the middle of Main Street. See Survival Guide map on page 6.

WHERE DO I PARK?

General parking is \$20 per car, every time you park. There are no “in and out” privileges. General parking lots are located on the east and south ends of the Park. Each parking lot is color-coded and the gates are numbered, so please remember the color and number of the gate through which you entered the field. We suggest taking a photo with your phone to refer to when you leave the park. You can download the Balloon Fiesta App before you leave home and when you arrive, use our App to mark the location of your car.

IS TRANSPORTATION TO BALLOON FIESTA AVAILABLE? (See Page 8)

Yes, we offer a session-specific Park & Ride from multiple locations throughout Albuquerque.

BIKE VALET

Conveniently located bike trails end just north of the Balloon Museum, where you will find the Bike Valet area. We have created this free service as another way to help guests beat the traffic and make the most of their time with us. Bike Valet hours of operation are as follows:

Morning Sessions 4:30AM to 10:30AM

Evening Sessions 4:30PM to 9:00PM

For more information and route, go to: www.balloonfiesta.com/Bike-Valet

HOTEL SHUTTLE SERVICE

We do not partner with hotels to provide shuttle service. However, the hotel where you are staying may provide this service and it is worth checking with them to find out. Otherwise, please view our Park & Ride information on page 8.

ARE THERE RENTAL CAR COMPANIES IN ALBUQUERQUE?

Don't let the special shape cactus and stagecoach balloons fool you, New Mexico isn't really the old west. Most major car rental companies have an office in Albuquerque. For more information on travel help go to www.balloonfiesta.com/Hotels-Travel-Help

WHO ORGANIZES THE BALLOON FIESTA?

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Inc. organizes the Balloon Fiesta each year. It is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation with 18 full-time staff members, many volunteers and about 120 officials who all work together to make every year an amazing experience for all.

WHO ARE THE ZEBRAS AT BALLOON FIESTA PARK?

Zebbras are Balloon Fiesta's launch directors, identified by the black and white striped shirts they wear. They help launch the balloons every morning, and make up half of all the 120 officials on the field.

HOW BIG IS BALLOON FIESTA PARK?

Balloon Fiesta Park is 365 acres. The Launch Field itself is about 80 acres.



BALLOON FIESTA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DO CHASE CREWS DO?

A chase crew helps the pilot inflate and deflate his/her balloon for each flight. If you are interested in being on a chase crew, you can register online at www.balloonfiesta.com/Crew-Registration (starting July 15). On-site crew registration is 5:30 - 7:30am and 4:30 - 6:30pm daily at the Crew Corral located just north of the Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavillion.

WHAT IS DAWN PATROL?

Dawn Patrol occurs every morning weather permitting. The sponsored Dawn Patrol Show occurs on Mass Ascension days. The Dawn Patrol consists of a group of selected balloons that launch prior to sunrise every morning.

WHAT IS MASS ASCENSION?

Our most popular event, the Mass Ascension is when all 500+ balloons launch from Balloon Fiesta Park during the same time frame. It usually takes less than two hours for all 500+ balloons to launch. Mass Ascension is scheduled on weekend mornings and Wednesday morning. On other days during Balloon Fiesta all balloons are allowed to fly, the difference is half of the balloons will launch at the park and fly away and the others will launch away from the park and fly into the park, most of these balloons will be in various competitions.

WHAT IS ALBUQUERQUE ALOFT™?

On the Friday before Balloon Fiesta starts, registered pilots of Balloon Fiesta launch from designated elementary schools throughout Albuquerque and Rio Rancho as community flights.

I SEE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BALLOON GLOWS, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Each Glow is a static display of the balloons after sunset in which their burners illuminate them. The Balloon Glow is the original and largest of this type of event and occurs on the first Sunday night. The Twilight Twinkle Glow™ occurs on the first Saturday night, the Night Magic Glow™ occurs on the second Saturday night while the AfterGlow™ after each glow involves a fireworks show. *For evening events, bring a flashlight. Also, take note of where you have parked your car — it may be more difficult to find in the dark. Download the Balloon Fiesta App to use the Find My Car feature to pin your car's location.*

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL SHAPE RODEO™/GLOWDEO™?

Due to their whimsical quality, some of the favorite events at Balloon Fiesta are the Special Shape balloon events, which are showcased on Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings. The Special Shape Rodeo™ is the morning flying event, followed by the Special Shape Glowdeo™ in the evening.

A Glowdeo is a static display of the special shape balloons in which their burners illuminate them. The special shape balloons have included a stagecoach, larger than life animals and space creatures.

WHAT IS FLIGHT OF THE NATIONS?

This event honors all of the countries that are represented at Balloon Fiesta with up to two balloons per country displaying their nation's flag. The Flight of the Nations occurs on the Wednesday prior to Mass Ascension after the "Sponsor of the Day" balloon launches.

WHAT COMPETITIONS HAPPEN AT BALLOON FIESTA?

Competitions for pilots include the Ring Toss, Balloon Fiesta Golf, Multiple Judge-declared Goal, Fly-in Task and Minimum Double Drop. All competitions are based on flying accuracy rather than speed.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE OFFICIAL BALLOON FIESTA SOUVENIRS?

Souvenirs may be purchased at the Park at the official Balloon Fiesta Souvenir tents, online at www.balloonfiestastuff.com or at Balloon Fiesta's gift shop at 4401 Alameda Blvd. NE year-round.



BALLOON FIESTA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS BALLOON FIESTA LIVE!?

For those that cannot make it to the Balloon Park you can still be a part of all the spectacle of everything that is the Balloon Fiesta by watching our live stream of each session's activities. Just go to www.balloonfiesta.com/Live-Stream and start watching from the comfort of your hotel or home. You can also check shows from past years to relive or prepare for your visit.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TAKING PHOTOS?

Photography is welcome and encouraged at Balloon Fiesta. We take great pride in being the most photographed event in the world.

Tips: To achieve bold, intimate photos that are not cluttered with crowds and movements, move in closer, or have your subject move closer to the camera with a balloon filling the frame as the background. Close-ups of detail capture unique, unexpected moments, while an overall view can show the magnitude of the experience.

The best times of day to capture incredible photos are during the "magic hours" of dusk and dawn, when the warm glow of the balloons blends with the richness of the sky. This technique has been coined the "jewel box effect," and is best shot with a tri-pod and high-speed film or ISO because of the low light.

WHAT ARE THE GONDOLA & CHASERS' CLUBS? (See Page 10)

The Gondola and Chasers' Clubs are two different options to upgrade your Balloon Fiesta experience during a morning or evening session. Depending on the venue you select, you will enjoy a variety of VIP treatments and a special viewing area of the day's events. See the complete details on page 10.

To buy Gondola Club tickets, visit the Gondola Club page on our website www.balloonfiesta.com/Gondola-Club

To purchase Chasers' Club tickets, visit the Chasers' Club page on our website www.balloonfiesta.com/Chasers-Club

WHAT DO I WEAR AND WHAT IS THE WEATHER?

Generally, temperatures in the morning are around 40°F, warming up to about 70°F by noon. Bring a jacket and dress in layers. Also remember to wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring sunscreen to put on after the sun is up. You will be at a high altitude and are at risk for sunburn. Bring appropriate eye protection. Sun and wind could be your enemies on a bright, sunny or windy day. For further weather information, visit www.balloonfiesta.com.

WHERE SHOULD I STAY?

Contact Balloon Fiesta Travel to reserve a hotel, www.balloonfiestahotels.com, or at 833.229.9777.

CAN YOU PARK AN RV AT THE FIELD?

RVs can be parked in our general parking for an individual session but not overnight. The cost will be determined by the number of spaces used. You can also check our website at www.balloonfiesta.com/RV-Information to view and make an RV reservation at one of our RV parking areas. There is a three night reservation minimum.

WHAT ARE THE DATES OF FUTURE BALLOON FIESTAS?

2022 October 1–October 9 (Our 50th celebration!)

2023 October 7–October 15

2024 October 5–October 13

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT ALBUQUERQUE?

Visit the website of Visit Albuquerque at www.visitalbuquerque.org to browse an online version of the Official Albuquerque Guest Guide, or request a printed copy by calling Visit Albuquerque's office at 1-800-284-2282. Visitor's Guides are also distributed at their exhibit booth located near the south end of Main Street and the Information Booths on our Park during the Balloon Fiesta.



ALBUQUERQUE FACTS

Albuquerque is the largest city in New Mexico, the state known as the Land of Enchantment. It is situated at 5,000 feet (1,539 meters) above sea level and is a prime location for hot-air ballooning because of the “Albuquerque Box.” The Albuquerque area is home to more than 900,000 residents, and its vibrant cultural diversity can be seen in the many aspects of daily life here. People are drawn to the area for its unique and varying landscape, including the majestic Rocky Mountains, red rock mesas, high desert vegetation and the picturesque Rio Grande river valley.

The area is known for its high quality of life and fair weather. It is also one of the nation’s most dynamic art communities. Albuquerque is centrally located and is an easy drive from Denver, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Phoenix, Tucson, El Paso, Oklahoma City, Colorado Springs and Las Cruces, which cities boast a combined metro population of more than 12 million.



ALBUQUERQUE FACTS

Albuquerque's major streets run on a grid system. Most of the main streets will run either north-south or east-west. The address numbers start at Central Avenue at the railroad tracks in downtown Albuquerque and emanate outward. Sandia Mountains are to the east. Apps such as Google Maps are accurate and reliable and can help navigate you around town. Please review our traffic maps because during Balloon Fiesta sessions roads may be temporarily closed, so be sure to follow our signs.

The Balloon Fiesta Office and Gift Shop are located on Alameda Blvd. one mile west of I-25. During the event, the access routes into Balloon Fiesta Park will change based on the day of the week (weekday or weekend), as well as the direction from which you are coming (east or west). Please view our Getting to the Park section starting on page 7 for maps and directions.

LOCAL EDITORIALS AND CURRENT EVENTS

The Albuquerque Journal
www.abqjournal.com

The Paper
www.abq.news

INTERESTING NEW MEXICO STATE FACTS

Flower:	Yucca
Tree:	Pinon Pine
Bird:	Roadrunner
Nickname:	Land of Enchantment
Official Question:	Red or Green (Chile)
Tie:	Bolo
Statehood:	January 6, 1912 (47th state in the Nation)
State Capital:	Santa Fe (At nearly 7,000 ft. above sea level, it is the highest and oldest U.S. capital.)
Highest Point:	Wheeler Peak, 13,161 ft.
Aircraft:	Hot Air Balloon





BIKE VALET



HOW DO I NAVIGATE AROUND ALBUQUERQUE?

Albuquerque is in the north-central part of New Mexico and is bisected by east-west Interstate 40 and north-south Interstate 25.

www.balloonfiesta.com/uploads/pdfs/Albuquerque_City_Map_Detail.pdf

Mileage from selected cities:	
Dallas/Fort Worth	644
Denver	437
Las Vegas	586
Los Angeles	811
Phoenix	458
Salt Lake City	604





HOW DO I NAVIGATE AROUND ALBUQUERQUE?

TRAIN

NM Rail Runner Express
(505) 245-7245
www.nmtrainrunner.com

The Railrunner is a commuter rail running through the heart of Albuquerque. Spanning 100 miles from Santa Fe to Belen through the beautiful Rio Grande Valley, the train corridor has 13 stations, operating seven days a week. For more information on this excellent transportation option, please follow the link to Rail Runner Express or call (505) 245-7245.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

For ABQ Ride bus schedules and routes, call (505) 243-RIDE (7433).

For Sun Tran bus schedules and routes, call (505) 843-9200.
www.cabq.gov/transit/tran.html

TAXI SERVICES

Albuquerque and Santa Fe are serviced by multiple cab companies:

- ABQ Metro Taxi Service**(505) 450-8580
- Checker Cab**(505) 243-7777
- Giant Cab**.....(505) 293-4222
- NM Black Car Service**.....(505) 316-1100
- Rio Rancho Cab**(505) 506-1111
- ZTrip**.....(505) 633-6430
- Albuquerque Taxi Service**(505) 331-3903
- zTrip**.....(505) 247-8888

RIDE SHARE SERVICES

Please use your Ride Share Apps for scheduling rides with Ride Share services.

SHUTTLE SERVICES

Santa Fe Shuttle (505) 243-2300 / 1-888-833-2300 or online at www.shuttlesantafe.com Provides safe, comfortable travel between Albuquerque and Santa Fe.



WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE BALLOONS?

MUSEUMS

Anderson Abruzzo Balloon Museum

At Balloon Fiesta Park

View the development of ballooning through historic, scientific & artistic exhibits.

(505) 768-6020 | 9201 Balloon Museum Dr NE

Albuquerque Museum

A collection of contemporary and historical art

(505) 243-7255 | 2000 Mountain Road NW

Explora Museum

A children's science museum

(505) 224-8300 | 1701 Mountain Road NW

Hispanic Cultural Center

Dedicated to the study, advancement, and presentation of Hispanic culture

(505) 246-2261 | 1701 4th Street SW

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

Dedicated to the preservation of Pueblo Indian culture, history and art

(505) 843-7270 | 2401 12th Street NW

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

Offers exhibits and programs relating to cultures around the world

(505) 277-4405 | University of New Mexico, University Blvd.

National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

Learn the story of the Atomic Age, from early research to peaceful uses

(505) 245-2137 | 601 Eubank SE

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

Foster an understanding of the diverse natural history of New Mexico

(505) 841-2800 | 1801 Mountain Road NW

Tinkertown Museum

Man-made eccentric memorabilia museum

(505) 281-5233 | 121 Sandia Crest Road, Sandia Park, NM

University of New Mexico Art Museum

Our efforts allow people throughout the world to enjoy our acquisitions

(505) 277-4001 | University of New Mexico, Center for the Arts

Turquoise Museum

Showcases the world's most colorful gemstone

(505) 433-3684 | 400 2nd Street SW

Unser Racing Museum

All about the Unser family and their racing history

(505) 341-1776 | 1776 Montano Road NW

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Albuquerque Aquarium and Rio Grande Botanical Garden

(505) 764-6200 or (505) 768-2000

2601 Central Avenue NW

Dave & Busters

Arcade, Sports bar, Restaurant

(505) 881-0205

2100 Louisiana Blvd. NE

Hinkle Family Fun Center

Rides, games, lazer tag, bumper cars, and mini golf

(505) 299-3100 | 12931 Indian School Road NE

Main Event

Family entertainment, lazer tag, billiards, games, bowling

(505) 884-3114

4040 Pan American Frwy NE

Meow Wolf

Unique & immersive art installations with multimedia elements

(505) 395-6369 | 1352 Rufina Circle, Santa Fe, NM

Movie Venues

Cinema venues include Century 14 Downtown, Century

Rio 24, Rio Rancho Premier Cinema, UA High Ridge 8, Icon Cinema

Four Hills, UA Cottonwood Mall Stadium, Cinemark Movies 8, Regal

Winrock Stadium 16, Cinemark Movies West, and Flix Brewhouse. For

more information, check local newspapers or visit www.fandango.com.

Old Town Plaza

Shopping and arts in the original City Plaza

(505) 243-3215

One block N. of Central Avenue, at Rio Grande Blvd

Popejoy Hall

New Mexico's grandest multi-use theater

(505) 277-9771 | University of New Mexico, Popejoy Hall

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

270 acres flourishing with native grasses, wildflowers, and cottonwoods

(505) 344-7240 | 2901 Candelaria Road NW

Rio Grande Zoo

Encounter more than 250 species of exotic and native animals

(505) 764-6200 or (505) 768-2000 | 903 Tenth Street SW

Sandia Peak Tramway

The world's longest aerial tramway

(505) 856-7325 | 10 Tramway Loop NE

Top Golf

Outdoor recreational golfpark

(505) 437-4399 | 1600 Desert Surf Circle NE

Urban Air Adventure Park

Trampoline and Adventure Park

(505) 910-4389 | 3930 Pan American Freeway NE

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE BALLOONS?

BREWERIES

When you want to sip on something locally made, you'll find plenty of options in and around Albuquerque. The craft beer scene has exploded here, earning such accolades as a Top 10 beer destination from Travelocity and one of America's best beer vacation spots from Beer & Brewing Magazine. A number of local brewers have been awarded medals at prestigious events like the Great American Beer Festival.

There are dozens of breweries scattered around the city. If you want to hit multiple breweries in a single stop, drop by the bustling Brewery District, which can be found on Candelaria between Edith and I-25.

Here are a few of the city's award-winning breweries.



Rio Bravo Brewing Company
1912 2nd Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102



Steel Bender Brewery
8355 2nd Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114



Desert Valley Brewing Company
3700 Ellison Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114



Toltec Brewing Company
10250 Cottonwood Park NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114



Boxing Bear Brewing Company
10200 Corrales Road
Corrales, NM 87048



Casa Vieja Brewing
4541 Corrales Road
Corrales, NM 87048



Drafty Kilt
4814 Hardware Drive NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109



Nexus Brewery
4730 Pan American Freeway NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109



Starr Brothers Brewing
5700 B-1 San Antonio Drive NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109



Red Door Brewing Company
1001 Candelaria Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107



Ponderosa Brewing Company
1761 Bellamah Avenue
Albuquerque, NM 87104



Canteen Brewhouse
2381 Aztec Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107



Marble Brewery - 3 locations
Downtown
111 Marble Avenue NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Westside
5740 Night Whisper Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

NE Heights
9904 Montgomery Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111



Bow & Arrow Brewing Company
602 McKnight Avenue NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104



Broken Trail Spirits & Brew
2921 Stanford Drive NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107



Lava Rock Brewing Company
2220 Unser Blvd.
Albuquerque, NM 87107



Santa Fe Brewing Company
3600 Cutler NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110



High and Dry Brewing Company
529 Adams Street NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110



Quarter Celtic Brewpub
1100 San Mateo Blvd. NE - Suite 50
Albuquerque, NM 87110



Alien Brewpub
6601 Uptown Blvd. NE.
Albuquerque, NM 87110



Black Snout Brewhouse
11500 Menaul Blvd. NE - Suite M-2
Albuquerque, NM 87120



San Mateo Tap Room
8900 San Mateo Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Nob Hill Public House
106 Girard Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Bosque North
834 US-550
Bernalillo, NM 87004



Ex Novo Brewing Company
4895 Corrales Road
Corrales, NM 87048



WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE BALLOONS?

TOURS

Discover many ways to explore Albuquerque.

Albuquerque Tourism & Sightseeing Factory

505.200.2642

Offering daily city tours, a top rated Breaking Bad tour and ghost tours.

Routes & Rentals Bike Tours

505.933.5667

Themed tours offered in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Themes range from history, culinary and Breaking Bad tours.

ABQ Glide Tours

505.967.7705

Eco-friendly city tours of ABQ using Segways.

NM Jeep Tours

505.633.0383

Mountain and Mesa guided jeep tours.

NM Food Tours

505.465.9474

Guided culinary tour of Old Town Albuquerque.

History and Ghost Tours of Old Town

505.246.8687

Guided walking tours in Old Town Albuquerque.





WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THE BALLOONS?

CASINOS

Sandía Resort & Casino

30 Rainbow Road NE
Albuquerque 3.8 miles
Off I-25, exit 235 at Tramway
(505) 796-7500 / 1-800-526-9366

Isleta Resort & Casino

Pueblo of Isleta 20.3 miles
11000 Broadway Blvd. SE
(505) 724-3800

Route 66 Casino Hotel & RV Resort

14500 Central Ave. NW
Albuquerque 16.7 miles
W. on I-40, exit 140
(505) 352-7866

Black Mesa Casino

25 Hagen Rd 22 miles
San Felipe, NM 87001
(505) 867-6700 / 1-877-529-2946

Santa Ana Star Casino

54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road
Santa Ana Pueblo, Bernalillo 13.4 miles
N. on I-25, exit 242
One mile W. on Hwy. 550
(505) 867-0000

Dancing Eagle Casino

Interstate 40 Exit 108
Casa Blanca, NM 87007 59.9 miles
1-877-440-9969

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino

30 Buffalo Thunder Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87506 69 miles
15 minutes north of Santa Fe Plaza
Exit 177 off highway 84/285
(877) 455-7775

Sky City Casino

I-40 Exit 102
Acoma, New Mexico 71.1 miles
W. on I-40, exit 102
(505) 552-6123



TRAVEL HELP



HOW DO I FLY INTO ALBUQUERQUE?

Albuquerque's Airport / Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ)
Sunport Information (505) 244-7700
2200 Sunport Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

AIRLINES THAT FLY INTO ALBUQUERQUE

Advanced Air
1-800-393-7035

Boutique Air
1-855-268-8478

Southwest Airlines
1-800-I-FLY-SWA (435-9792)

Allegiant Air
1-702-505-8888

JetBlue
1-800-538-2583

United Airlines
1-800-864-8331

American Airlines
1-800-433-7300

Delta Airlines
1-800-325-8224

Alaska Airlines
1-800-252-7522

Frontier Airlines
1-801-401-9000

TRAIN:

Amtrak provides service to Albuquerque. Online information at www.amtrak.com or call 1-800-USA-RAIL (or TDD/TTY 1-800-523-6590). The station is located at 214 First Street SW.

WHERE DO I STAY IN ALBUQUERQUE?

For your convenience in locating hotel accommodations, we offer the assistance of Balloon Fiesta Travel, located through our Travel Link at www.balloonfiestahotels.com, or call 505.346.0522 for further assistance.

CAR RENTALS:

Advantage Rent a Car
855-580-5110

Budget Rent a Car of NM, Inc
www.budget.com
1-800-826-5510
Hearing Impaired/TDD
1-800-872-9541

Hertz Corporation
1-800-842-4235
Hearing Impaired/TDD
1-800-654-2280

Alamo Rent A Car
1-800-GO-ALAMO
1-844-366-0504

Dollar Rent a Car
1-800-800-4000
Hearing Impaired/TDD
1-800-232-3301

National Rent a Car
1-844-366-0506

Avis Car Rental
1-800-366-7900
Hearing Impaired/TDD
1-800-331-2323

Enterprise Rent a Car
1-844-366-0505

Thrifty Car Rental
www.thrifty.com
1-877-283-0898





FOR MORE
INFORMATION
DOWNLOAD OUR
OFFICIAL APP



NEW MEXICO *True*
Adventure that Feeds the Soul.

Tourism Department
800-733-6396
www.newmexico.org
TTY Users, call 1-800-659-8331



**ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL
BALLOON FIESTA®**

4401 Alameda Blvd NE • Albuquerque • New Mexico 87113
505-821-1000 • Toll Free 1-888-422-7277 • Fax 505-828-2887
balloons@balloonfiesta.com • www.balloonfiesta.com