

Official Group Tour Instructions

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®

October 6-14, 2018

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 that 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:

- Space and seating is limited to 400 people.
- 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; it is not appropriate as a lounge. 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.

Chasers' Club Upgrade

If you would like to include a meal and guaranteed seating for your guests, you can include the Chasers' Club Upgrade. The Chasers' Club is an open-air patio located across from the Group Tour Hospitality Tent next to the balloon launch field. The Chasers' Club is the perfect place to sit and watch the morning ascensions and the evening fireworks show. There is a cash bar on site for guests who wish to enjoy a cocktail. Once payment is received, wristbands will be issued to you and will allow your group access into the Chasers' Club. **Cost for the Upgrade is \$18 per person. We do not offer refunds for canceled sessions but will offer rain checks to the next available session.**

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.

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.

Canceled Events

We do not offer refunds for canceled sessions but we do issue rain checks good for use at any session in the current year. 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.

Please be advised should inclement weather occur, advance fees paid for parking and admissions will not be refunded, but they may be exchanged for a rain check to attend another session within the current year.