

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Albuquerque Balloon Festival & US National Parks

12 DAYS: Friday, October 11-Tuesday, October 22, 2019

\$3,269 per person double occupancy; \$4,289 for single reservations

Discover America's high-flying traditions and natural wonders. You can't help but gaze in awe as you watch hundreds of balloons fill with hot air and float gracefully upward, covering the sky with color. You'll have the same reaction again and again on this inspiring tour, as you marvel at the Grand Canyon, see the famed Old Faithful, and stand in the shadow of the Grand Tetons. Each day displays a new destination—and with it new landscapes and adventures.

Your tour package includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels, 11 breakfasts, 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 9 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- The Albuquerque Balloon Festival, Mesa Verde National Park, Monument Valley,
- the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Grand Teton National Park,
- Yellowstone National Park,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved trails and dirt paths, with some hills and high altitudes.



Albuquerque, New Mexico

Day 1: Arrival in Albuquerque

Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to New Mexico! Arrive in Albuquerque and transfer to your hotel. Then, get together with your fellow travelers at this evening's welcome dinner.

Day 2: Albuquerque Balloon festival

Included meals: Breakfast

Wake up early to start your day at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the largest hot air balloon festival in the world. • Watch hundreds of balloons take to the sky en masse during the "mass ascension" • Enjoy access to a hospitality tent stocked with hot drinks and light snacks • In the evening, see the sky light up during the festival's AfterGlow Fireworks Show

Mesa Verde National Park

Day 3: Transfer to Mesa Verde National Park

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cross the Colorado border, stopping in the Old West mining town of Durango, Colorado en route to Mesa Verde. • Pass by Chimney Rock and Abiqui Reservoir • Experience Durango's frozen-in-time charm

Kayenta, Arizona

Day 4: Mesa Verde National Park & transfer to Kayenta

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Take a guided tour of Mesa Verde National Park before transferring to Kayenta, Arizona through Monument Valley. • Enter Mesa Verde National Park on a sightseeing tour, and view fascinating 800-year-old cliff dwellings that honeycomb the walls of the canyon • Enjoy free time to visit either the gift shop or Spruce Tree House and Museum • Pass by Monument Valley's "Mexican Hat," a sombrero-shaped rock formation

The Grand Canyon

Day 5: Grand Canyon via Tuba City & Cameron Trading Post

Included meals: Breakfast

Learn about the culture and history of the Navajo tribe during a stop at the Explore Navajo Interactive Museum. Then, pay a visit to the Cameron Trading Post before arriving at the Grand Canyon. Upon arrival, take a scenic walk along the South Rim with your Tour Director. • Marvel at the rocky formations that reflect millions of years of geological evolution • View the Colorado River running one mile below

Day 6: Free day at the Grand Canyon

Included meals: Breakfast

Enjoy a full free day at the Grand Canyon to explore its rims and plateaus on your own or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

\$199/pp

Enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Grand Canyon aboard a thrilling half-hour-long helicopter ride. Soar over the massive canyon, taking in a unique perspective on the striated terrain far below. From high above the canyon rim, you can begin to fully appreciate the immense scale of this natural wonder. Please note: This excursion is weather dependent. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$209).

Zion National Park

Day 7: Transfer to Zion National Park

Included meals: Breakfast

Pass by the beautiful Vermilion Cliffs National Monument before arriving in Zion National Park. • Discover why 19th-century Mormon settlers named the park after their heavenly city • View the yellow- and orange-hued dramatically eroded sedimentary rocks • Take in magnificent vistas on an open-air tram ride with guided commentary

Salt Lake City, Utah

Day 8: Transfer to Salt Lake City via Bryce Canyon National Park

Included meals: Breakfast

En route to Utah's capital city, stop for a visit to Bryce Canyon National Park. • Tour the park by bus and on foot • Take in up-close views of its distinctive pink limestone and sandstone formations, including awe-inspiring pinnacles and cones often referred to as hoodoos

Jackson, Wyoming

Day 9: Transfer to Jackson

Included meals: Breakfast

Cross into Wyoming on a scenic drive to the resort town of Jackson. Then, set out to explore Grand Teton National Park, home to the youngest mountain range in the Rockies. • Drive through stunning Logan Canyon and past turquoise Bear Lake • Tour Grand Teton National Park by bus and on foot • Try and spot elk, coyotes, black bears, wolves, and the elusive mountain lion Enjoy a free evening in Jackson.

Day 10: Yellowstone National Park

Included meals: Breakfast

Venture out for a full day of sightseeing in Yellowstone National Park, designated as the world's first national park in 1872. • Drive through the park with stops for photos • See cascading waterfalls, bubbling mud pots and the famous geyser, Old Faithful • Keep an eye out for the bison, mountain goats, moose, and grey wolves that call the park home

Day 11: Free day in Jackson

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Enjoy a free day in Jackson to spend at your leisure. This evening, celebrate your trip with your fellow group members at a farewell dinner.

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.