



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Pre-Departure Itinerary

# ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA

Thursday, October 1, 2009 – Monday, October 5, 2009

You won't believe your eyes! More than 1,000 glorious hot air balloons, representing 21 countries and 41 states, take to the sky in **Albuquerque's 36th Annual Balloon Fiesta**. This extraordinary event is among the most photographed in the world, so have your mini-DV cams ready to capture this stunning panorama of color as the balloons ascend into an early October sky. Witness the outstanding evening **Balloon Glow** event: just before dusk hundreds of balloons are illuminated turning the sky into a huge array of color. And—for good measure—a fireworks display caps off the night! It's also an incredibly beautiful time of year to walk the charming, winding streets of **Santa Fe**—your home for four nights—while visiting cafes, galleries and, of course, jewelry and artisan shops offering stunning handcrafted silver and turquoise. And we recommend an afternoon in **Old Town** or **Taos Pueblo**—a village inhabited by Native Americans for more than 800 years.

### Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Albuquerque, NM
- Four nights' stay at Lodge at Santa Fe
- Five meals: 4 breakfasts & 1 dinner
- Round-trip hotel/airport transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

### Highlights

Balloon Fiesta Opening Ceremonies ~ Taos Pueblo  
Evening Balloon Glow ~ Historic Old Town

### Rates

**\$1,579** per person double occupancy

**\$1,569** per person triple occupancy

**\$1,949** single occupancy

Add \$60 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Cancellation/unused services waiver is \$90. Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at time of booking.

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Albuquerque & Santa Fe

Experience the beauty and charm of the Southwest along with the most photographed event in the world...the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Today you'll jet away to the "Land of Enchantment" fabulous New Mexico. Your beautiful accommodations for the next four evenings are located at the Lodge at Santa Fe. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at your hotel as well as an orientation by a local guide to the magnificent Balloon Fiesta. **(D)**

### Day 2: Taos

This morning travel the "highroad" to Taos Pueblo, a village that has been inhabited forever 800 years by Native Americans. Later you will explore historic Taos Plaza for lunch and sightseeing. This evening enjoy a fabulous dinner in Santa Fe. **(B, D)**

### Day 3: Albuquerque - Balloon Fiesta Opening Ceremony

This morning you depart early for the Fiesta grounds to witness the Opening Ceremonies to the 36th annual Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque Founded in 1972, the Fiesta began with 13 balloons and has grown to over 1000 participants representing 27 countries and 41 states. It has emerged as the most photographed event in the world. . At sunrise, after a light breakfast, witness the mass ascension of hundreds of balloons as they paint the sky with picture postcard brilliance. Later, discover Albuquerque's fabulous Old Town with a local guide. You'll have plenty of time for shopping before returning to Santa Fe via the "Turquoise Trail" and picturesque Sandia Peak. This evening relax at your hotel or take the complimentary shuttle to Santa Fe's central plaza area. **(LB)**

### Day 4: Santa Fe & Evening Balloon Glow

This morning explore Santa Fe with a local guide. You'll see the Palace of Governors, Loretto Chapel and the State Capitol. Later you're free to explore one of America's most fascinating cities on your own. Discover century old buildings and narrow winding streets filled with museums and unique Southwestern shopping. Later today, witness the outstanding Balloon Glow Event. Just before dusk hundreds of balloons are ignited, transforming the evening sky in a kaleidoscope of brilliant colors. This unforgettable event is topped off with a vivid fireworks display. **(B)**

**Day 5: Depart for Boston**

Today you'll depart Santa Fe and be transferred to the Albuquerque airport where you'll jet back home with fond memories of New Mexico and the unforgettable display at the International Balloon Fiesta. **(B)**

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveller.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.