

ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA Oct 4-17, 2024



14 DAY tour

PRICING

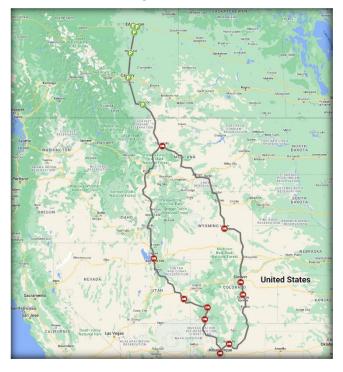
Includes all applicable taxes

Single Occupancy \$6,475

Double Occupancy \$4,040

Triple Occupancy \$3,360

Deposit required: \$400/person Final payment due: August 26, 2024



Activity Level: Active

ACCOMMODATIONS

Night 1: Sleep Inn and Suites Great Falls

Night 2: Ramkota Casper

Night 3: Holiday Inn Littleton Denver Night 4: Hyatt Place Colorado Springs Night 5-6: La Fonda on the Plaza Santa Fe Night 7-8: Hyatt Place Albuquerque

Night 9: Best Western Rio Grande Durango

Night 10: Twin Peaks Lodge & Hot Springs

Night 11: Hotel Moab

Night 12: Holiday Inn Express Layton Night 13: Sleep Inn and Suites Great Falls

Discover the best of the Eastern Rocky States this Fall!

Join us for an unforgettable tour to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, North America's largest hot air balloon festival.

Experience the magic of 500+ hot air balloons soaring at sunrise. Explore Denver, Colorado Springs, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque while enjoying luxurious accommodations.

Don't miss this unique adventure!

Day 1 - Fri, Oct 4

Home Cities to Great Falls, MT Meals Included: None

Begin your journey south today as we pick up in St. Albert, Sherwood Park, Leduc, Red Deer, Calgary, and Lethbridge before heading to the border, stopping at the Duty Free, and then crossing into the USA at Sweetgrass.

From here, carry on to Great Falls where you will be staying at the <u>Sleep Inn</u>. Rest up and get ready for another day of travel tomorrow.

Overnight: Sleep Inn & Suites

Day 2 - Sat, Oct 5

Great Falls, MT to Casper, WY

Meals Included: Breakfast & Welcome Dinner

This morning, you board your motorcoach and continue south into the state of Wyoming. Take in the vast expanses of the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains as you head into Casper, WY along the way we will stop at Judith Gap where we will have a photo op beside a giant wind turbine blade.

We will finish our day at the <u>Ramkota</u> <u>Casper</u> where you will have a chance to mingle with your fellow travelers for an included Welcome Dinner.

Overnight: Ramkota Casper

Day 3 – Sun, Oct 6

Casper, WY to Littleton, CO (West Denver)
Meals Included: Breakfast

We will make our way south to Historic Downtown Fort Collins for some shopping and lunch on your own, you may even partake in a short walking tour of Fort Collins.

Then we are off to Littleton, CO where we will check in to the Holiday Inn Express for the evening.

Overnight: Holiday Inn Express

Day 4 - Mon, Oct 7

Littleton, CO to Colorado Springs, CO Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Get ready for some stunning sights that will fill our day. We start heading just west of Denver to the Red Rocks Amphitheater. This natural wonder is an acoustically perfect and naturally formed amphitheater engraved into the hills where all of the greatest musicians and performers have entertained. Creating a stunning backdrop for amazing photos and a fantastic view down on Denver CO.

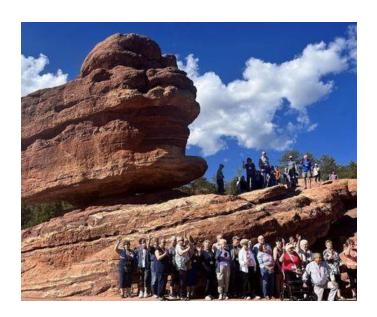
Next, we are off to Colorado Springs with an included lunch at the Garden of the Gods visitor and nature center. We will have plenty of time to shop in the fantastic gift store before we meet our Step-on Guide who will amaze us with a driving tour through all of the rock formations and point out many features that you would be unaware of if you just casually looked.

Just a few short miles away we will visit the Manitou Cliff Dwellings. Explore the fascinating architecture of the ancient cliff dwellers and browse through two museums featuring cultural displays all overlooking the historic town of Manitou Springs and once again time to browse in the gift store.

From here we will check into our hotel for the evening at the Hyatt Place on Garden of the Gods Road.

Overnight: Hyatt Place





Day 5 – Tue, Oct 8

Denver, CO to Santa Fe, NM

Meals Included: Breakfast

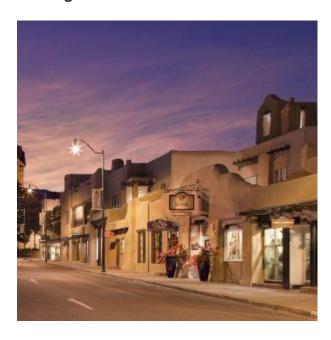
Today we will head into the state of New Mexico. With lunch and coffee stops along the way, we go right into the heart of Santa Fe arriving midafternoon for check-in at La Fonda on the Plaza. Step into the past and experience the splendor of the American Southwest at La Fonda on the Plaza, the only Santa Fe, New Mexico hotel situated on the historic Santa Fe Plaza.

An authentic example of one of Santa Fe's 4-Diamond hotels, La Fonda on the Plaza offers three classic New Mexican dining experiences including a one-of-a-kind seasonal, outdoor cocktail bar. As one of the preferred hotels in Santa Fe, with breathtaking event venues, the hotel showcases views of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and is located a 2 minute walk from the Loretto Chapel. The evening is free to enjoy all the Plaza has to offer.

Radiating from the four-centuries-old <u>Palace of the Governors</u>, the most historic area of the city is completely walkable, with quaint winding streets featuring charming boutiques, restaurants, bookstores, and art galleries tucked into every

block. Aspects of the past remain in the look and feel of the traditional Spanish Plaza, including a certain flavor of the Old West and the time-honored tradition whereby local Native artisans sell their amazing creations beneath the <u>portal</u> of the Palace of the Governors.

Overnight: La Fonda on the Plaza



Day 6 – Wed, Oct 9
Santa Fe Free Day
Meals Included: None

Today is a free day to explore the plaza on your own, there is so much to see here you simply cannot take it all in in a single day but know you will fall in love with it as we have. You may choose some art tours or a history tour on your own or just wander around enjoying everything at your own leisurely pace.

Trolley-type tours by Loretto Line Tours depart from La Fonda Hotel at 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, and 2:30 PM seven days a week from the San Francisco Street entrance.

Art Tours by Santa Fe Art Tours



Walking tours by **Santa Fe Footprints**

Overnight: La Fonda Plaza



Day 7 – Thurs, Oct 10
Santa Fe, NM to Albuquerque, NM

Meals Included: Lunch

This morning we will say goodbye to Santa Fe and head just an hour south to Albuquerque. Here, take a fascinating flight up the <u>Sandia Peak Tramway</u>, where you will have a bird's eye view over the city of Albuquerque and the surrounding expanse of desert. After we get back down to ground level you will be treated to an included lunch at the <u>County Line</u> BBQ of Albuquerque.

Then it is over to <u>Old town Albuquerque</u> to take in the history of the city before heading over to our hotel for the next two evenings at the <u>Hyatt Place</u> <u>Albuquerque</u>.

Rest up as the first flight for the <u>Albuquerque</u> <u>International Balloon Fiesta</u> is at dawn tomorrow morning!

Overnight: Hyatt Place Albuquerque



Day 8 - Fri, Oct 11

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Meals Included: Breakfast Bags, Coffee & Donuts at Balloon Park

The hot air balloons take flight at dawn, it's a sight you cannot miss! Wake up early as we depart with breakfast bags to check in at the Group Hospitality tent which will have hot coffee and donuts awaiting us.

This will be our gathering area and you are welcome to explore the balloon field where you can walk right up and see the balloons in their flight preparations. There are also tons of stores and food options set up along the mile-long balloon field for you to browse. After the morning events, the grounds quiet down for the afternoon.

We will return to the Hyatt Regency for some rest, for anyone wanting to go back down to Old Town Albuquerque we will drop you off back downtown as well as anyone interested in the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History we will drop you off and pick you up for a visit on your own.

Overnight: Hyatt Place Albuquerque





Day 9 – Sat, Oct 12

Balloon Fiesta-Durango

Meals Included: Breakfast bags, Coffee, and Donuts at Balloon Park & Lunch

Wake yourself extra early again today! The hot air balloons take flight at dawn. We will head back to the park again with admissions into the group hospitality tent again. Once again enjoying coffee and donuts and a seated area for your viewing pleasure. We are only at the park long enough for the mass ascension and time for some more shopping at some of the gift stores you saw yesterday. Once the ascension has taken place we will regroup and leave the park on our way to Durango.

We will stop in Aztec where you will be treated to some down-home cooking at the Aztec restaurant. Once we have enjoyed lunch, we will take a short ride over to the <u>Aztec Ruins</u> for a film and tour. Then it's off to Durango where we will check in to our hotel <u>Best Western Rio Grande</u> just a few short steps from the Durango train station.

You will have time to visit the museum on your own (admission is free) as you will not have time to visit in the morning if you have chosen the **Add-On Train Ride** to Silverton. If you do not wish to go to the museum this small walkable downtown offers many gift stores, a Christmas store, and many

restaurants, or perhaps you can have a look at the amazing **Stratter Hotel** built in 1887.

Overnight: Best Western Rio Grande



Day 10 - Sun, Oct 13

Durango to Silverton Train - Ouray, CO Meals Included: Breakfast

After breakfast this morning if you have chosen the optional <u>Durango to Silverton Narrow Gauge Train Ride</u> you may bring your luggage to the coach and walk over to the train station or opt to ride the coach over. Get checked in for an exhilarating train ride through narrow canyons and mountainsides along the way to Silverton.

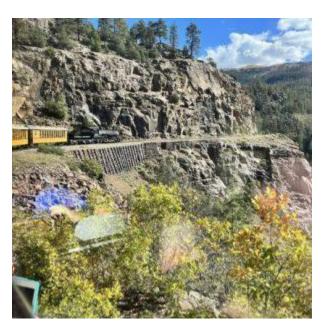
This is a truly stunning 3 ½ hour journey that will have you amazed by the fall colors of the Colorado Rockies. There is a snack and beverage car where you can purchase coffee or alcoholic beverages as well as some hot items to eat. If you have not chosen the add-on tour you can have a bit more leisurely morning in Durango and depart around 10:00 AM on the coach to Silverton, upon arrival at Silverton you will have time to shop and browse on your own and watch as the train arrives in town. At Silverton, we will all have time to browse, shop, and enjoy lunch on your own before we depart on the "million-dollar" highway to Ouray with amazing views.



This short 23-mile highway usually takes about an hour to traverse. Once in Ouray, we will check into the our hotel where you can soak away in the crisp cool mountain air. Or choose to wander the streets of this hot springs town. Dinner is on your own at one of the local restaurants or pubs.

The town of Ouray is full of hot springs. A place of profound renewal, the natural hot springs at the breath-taking Twin Peaks Lodge have been carefully preserved as the nation's best hot springs experience. Enjoy picturesque views and spiritual healing in a calm, peaceful experience that will transform your mind, body and spirit.

Overnight: Twin Peaks Lodge & Hot Springs



Day 11 – Mon, Oct 14

Ouray, CO to Moab, UT

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

This morning after breakfast on your own and a chance for one more hot springs soak, we will make our way to Moab where we will have lunch at Grand Junction, CO before heading into Moab, UT. On our arrival, we will visit the Arches National Park Visitor Center for a film and gift shop. Then we will enter the park where you will be transfixed

on the stunning rock formations on our drive over to the windows which have the most stunning array of arches.

We will have plenty of time to wander over to a few of the arches on good walking paths for many photo opportunities. Once we have viewed the stunning area we will make our back into Moab and check-in for the night at Hotel Moab Downtown Walk to all of Moab's most popular restaurants and shops, take a stroll along Mill Creek trail, or unwind under the stars in our outdoor pool and jacuzzi.

Overnight: Hotel Moab



Day 12 – Tue, Oct 15

Moab, UT to Layton, UT

Meals Included: Breakfast

We will make our way north today but not before a stunning visit to Canyonlands National Park a wilderness of countless canyons and fantastically formed buttes carved by the Colorado River and its tributaries. Rivers divide the park into four districts: Island in the Sky, The Needles, The Maze, and the rivers themselves. These areas share a primitive desert atmosphere, but each offers different opportunities for sightseeing and adventure.

In Layton we will check in to the Holiday Inn Express Layton where just steps away is a Cracker Barrel, Golden Corral, Outback Steakhouse or Applebee's for your evening dining pleasure.

Overnight: Holiday Inn Express

Day 13 - Wed, Oct 16

Layton, UT to Great Falls, MT
Meals Included: Breakfast & Farewell Dinner

Once again, it's back on the coach after breakfast, as you continue your journey north. Today, you'll travel through Idaho and back into Montana. We will stop for an included Farewell Dinner in Helena at The Pizza Ranch before making the last leg of our day into Great Falls where you will spend your last evening of the tour back at the Sleep Inn and Suites. This evening you will be treated to a farewell reception at the hotel to have time to visit with your travel companions on your last evening together.

Overnight: Sleep Inn and Suites

Day 14 – Thurs, Oct 17

Great Falls, MT to Home Cities
Meals Included: Breakfast

Today is the last day of the tour as you load up on the bus and head north to the Canadian border.

After a stop at the Duty Free, we will cross back into the great white north where you will be dropped back off at your respective pick-up location, with the fondest memories of this once-in-a-lifetime experience of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and the Eastern Rocky States!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation on an air-conditioned, washroom-equipped motorcoach with a professional driver
- Services of an experienced Tour Director from Pro Tours
- Onboard entertainment
- 13 nights accommodation
- Meals Included: 10 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches,
 2 Dinners
- Welcome Dinner
- Downtown Fort Collins
- Red Rocks Amphitheater
- Manitou Cliff Dwellings
- Garden of the Gods
- Old Town Santa Fe
- County Line BBQ lunch
- Sandia Peak Tramway

- Anderson Abruzzo Balloon Museum
- 2 days Admission to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta in a private group hospitality tent with coffee and donuts
- Old Town Albuquerque
- Aztec Ruins
- Ouray Hot Springs
- Arches National Park
- Canyonlands National Park
- Farewell Dinner
- Miles of Smiles!

Not Included:

OPTIONAL: Contact us if you are interested in

adding on a Hot Air Balloon Ride

OPTIONAL: Durango to Silverton Railway Ride -

Price TBA in early 2024

PICK UP LOCATIONS

St Albert: St. Albert Inn & Suites - 156 St Albert Trail Sherwood Park: Super 8 Hotel - 26 Strathmoor Drive

South Edmonton: Location TBD

Leduc: Royal Hotel Edmonton Airport - 8450 Sparrow Drive

Red Deer: Radisson Hotel - 6500 67 Street Innisfail: McDonalds - 4203 50th St.

Calgary: Doubletree Hilton - 2120 16th Ave NE Lethbridge: Park Place Mall - 501 1 Ave S #131

Book This Tour!

Book online on our website: Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Call or Text: 780-460-4408 Email: <u>hello@protours.ca</u>

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Creating Miles of Smiles.