

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Albuquerque Balloon Festival & US National Parks

12 DAYS: Friday, October 9-Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Per person double occupancy \$3,619; Single reservations \$4,639

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$600.

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

- You will walk for about 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved trails and dirt paths, with some hills. Some activities will take place at high altitudes.
- Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour.
- You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at times.

Albuquerque, New Mexico | 2 nights

Day 1: Arrival in Albuquerque Included meal: **Dinner**

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

Day 2: Albuquerque Balloon festival Included meal: **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 | 1 night

Day 3: Mesa Verde via Durango Included meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Cross the Colorado border, stopping in the Old West mining town of Durango, Colorado en route to Mesa Verde. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Kayenta, Arizona | 1 night

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

Sit down for an included dinner in Kayenta this evening.

Grand Canyon | 2 nights

Day 5: Grand Canyon via Tuba City & Cameron Trading Post Included meal: **Breakfast**

Pay a visit to the Navajo Code Talkers Museum to meet with Navajo leader Peter MacDonald and learn about the World War II Code Talkers.

Please note: Meeting Peter MacDonald is not guaranteed.

Then, stop at 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 meal: Breakfast

Enjoy a 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 (additional cost)

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.

Zion National Park, Utah | 1 night

Day 7: Transfer to Zion National Park Included meal: 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 | 1 night

Day 8: Salt Lake City via Bryce Canyon National Park Included meal: 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 arches, spires, and bridges
- View colorful rock pinnacles known as "hoodoos"

Jackson, Wyoming | 3 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Jackson & Grand Teton National Park Included meal: 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 meal: 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.

Head to a local restaurant to celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.