

WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

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Dear Women of the Midwest,

In 2006 my niece went to view the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival and the next Christmas, gifted me with an amazingly spectacular framed photo of those balloons, which now graces my living room. I was so jealous - well, maybe I was SO wishful that I had gone too.

Now you and 19 of your closest friends and I can go to Albuquerque from October 11-16, 2019! Be prepared to experience those amazingly colorful hot air balloons rising in Mass Ascension in the early morning, and then put them to bed that evening when we view the Balloon Glow at dusk! The Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque is the world's largest such gathering of hot air balloons from around the globe.

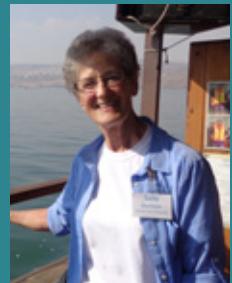
The word Albuquerque is thought to be derived from "quercus" which means "white oak". This is probably referenced from the numerous cork oaks in this region which, when the bark is removed, display white wood. Albuquerque is still a center of the Spanish cork industry, and the town coat-of-arms displays a white cork oak.

But that isn't all! We will be captivated by the history of New Mexico, the primitive art of the Pueblos, the surrounding canyons and rock formations plus visits to Los Alamos, Taos and Santa Fe. And that is just scratching the surface of our six-day wondrous adventure! Don't forget your camera and you too may gift a fortunate someone with that perfect photo.

Come, join me, solo or two-by-two.

Sincerely yours, Sally Dunham

Women of the Midwest Ambassador





October 11, 2019 Friday

Albuquerque - New Mexico

Our wonderful Balloon Festival adventure begins as we fly to Albuquerque, founded in 1706. We meet our professional tour director upon arrival to Albuquerque airport, board our deluxe motor coach, and check in to our hotel for a two night stay. Then there is time to relax, explore a bit or unwind before we enjoy a welcome dinner with our fellow Women of the Midwest travelers. D

October 12, 2019 Saturday

Albuquerque

After a hearty breakfast, we head out to



October 13, 2019 Sunday

Bandelier - Los Alamos - Santa Fe

This morning we will depart from Albuquerque and travel to Bandelier National Monument, best known for mesas, sheer-walled canyons, rock art and ancestral Pueblo dwellings.

Deserted caves ingeniously built into the living rock of the mountain, attest to the Indians who lived here long ago. Like the Anasazi of Utah and Colorado, the beautiful cave dwellings are a testament to these people's hard work and creativity. Warm in winter, with clever openings in the roofs to let out the smoke, and cool in summer, one has to climb up a ladder to access the gently curving openings. And from inside, you view spectacular vistas over the valley: a perfect dwelling. Next on today's program is Los Alamos. Just like an episode of the X-Files, you can't actually visit the Los Alamos National Laboratory (shhhh, The Truth is Out There). However, the next best thing is the Bradbury Science Museum, a great spot for history and science buffs interested in Los Alamos and the Manhattan Project - which produced the atomic bomb. There is an ample display of declassified experiments from the laboratory, artifacts and documents from the World War II along with life-size replicas of "Fat Man" and "Little Boy", the atomic bombs dropped on Japan. Santa Fe is our last stop and home for a three night stay. Perched at 7,000 feet above sea level, the historic, high-desert city of

experience one of the most photographed events in the world, the Albuquerque International Balloon Race and Fiesta.

We will view over 100 colorful balloons from around the world at Dawn Patrol, followed by the Mass Ascension. The balloons make the sky become a pallet of multicolored orbs dancing in the cool and crisp morning light.

We will then appreciate an Albuquerque city tour featuring the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center depicting the history and culture of New Mexico's 19 Native American pueblos. The Pueblo Harvest Cafe is a top spot for traditional and modern Pueblo fare. From mutton stew and fry bread, to cedar plank salmon or rainbow trout, there's something for everyone's taste.

We stop for a stroll in historic Old Town. Formed as a square to defend against invaders, Old Town's adobes extend several blocks that were once private homes, but now compose shops, galleries, and restaurants. Like most top tourist destinations, Old Town has a commercial veneer, but beneath this layer of tchotchkies - or souvenirs, lies a roadmap through Albuquerque's history. The Plaza has been the town's focal point since it's 1706 founding. San Felipe de Neri Church sits on the northside of the Plaza and is noted for its more than 300-year-old parish.

Later we will witness the Balloon Glow, where just before dusk, burners from hundreds of balloons light up the evening sky. B



Santa Fe, with its low-slung adobe architecture, exists as a cultural epicenter with deep roots in Spanish, Native American, and Mexican traditions. The charming, 400-year-old state capital, also known as the "City Different," is an intimate haven for music, diverse art galleries and museums, with memorable outdoor adventures, and renowned Southwestern dining. The magical city backs up to the mysterious Sangre de Cristo Mountains and lures us with its stunning skies, pure and rarefied air, vast open landscapes, and earthy pueblo architecture. B

experience a tour of the Taos Pueblo, one of the oldest, continuously inhabited communities in North America, before returning to Santa Fe. B

art collections, and vintage finds. Tonight we will delight in and have fun during our farewell dinner at a local restaurant in the Santa Fe area. B | D

October 15, 2019 Tuesday

Santa Fe

After a filling breakfast, it's time to discover Santa Fe, the upscale resort and artist community with Spanish-Pueblo roots. We will appreciate the wonderful Santa Fe City Tour including details about the history, culture and unique architecture of this interesting city. Points of interest are the Plaza, Loretto Chapel and the Palace of the Governors, a Santa Fe landmark built in 1610.

What's up for lunch? The diverse food scene is a melting pot of Spanish, Mexican, Cowboy, Mediterranean, and Pueblo Native American influences. Earthy tamales, enchiladas, and chile rellenos are classic Southwestern offerings. The official New Mexico state question, "Red or Green?", asks what chili sauce you want smothered on your dish (red is more pungent, green is packed with heat). For a taste of both, the marriage of red and green is known as Christmas.

Savor the rest of the day and evening at your own pace in this historic city and explore the many art galleries, museums, restaurants and shops. Rest assured, there's no shortage of unique souvenirs and quality shopping. Santa Fe takes top honors for Southwestern artisanal wares,

October 14, 2019 Monday

Santa Fe - Taos - Santa Fe

After breakfast, we head out and travel north via the "High Road to Taos" passing through ancient villages founded in the 1700's. This drive is best described as poetic, on the 56-mile day trip from Santa Fe to Taos. We will make a stop in the Spanish village of Chimayo to visit El Santuario, a small adobe chapel where people gather for mass and scoop up "Holy Dirt" purported to have magic healing properties.

We arrive in Taos, the historic home of the Pueblo Indians, where we will enjoy a brief Taos City Tour and learn about this fascinating city, rich in culture and scenery. Atop a plateau between the Rio Grande and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Taos has lured artists and writers since the 19th century.

There is time for lunch on your own and shopping in the Taos Plaza. Later

October 16, 2019 Wednesday

Santa Fe - Albuquerque - Return home

This morning we return to Albuquerque airport for our flight home filled with unforgettable memories of our Albuquerque Balloon Festival tour with Women of the Midwest! B

Itinerary subject to change
B = Breakfast D = Dinner





Package Price:

Per person in shared double room:	\$3,195
Per person in single room:	\$3,895
Per person in shared triple room: (triple rooms consists of 2 queen beds)	\$3,145

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up for the tour. Deposit can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Balance is due on July 6, 2019 and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 20 travelers. Should numbers fall below, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)
Fax: 402-435-2735
GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:
executivetravel.com/albuquerque-balloon-festival

Included

- Roundtrip motor coach transportation from one central meeting point in Lincoln to and from Omaha airport (spot to be advised)
- Roundtrip airfare Omaha-Albuquerque-Omaha, economy class, schedule will be advised 30 days prior to departure
- 2 nights first class accommodation in the Albuquerque area
- 3 nights first class accommodation in Santa Fe
- All motor coach (private) transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- Admissions as per itinerary
- 5 x breakfast
- 2 x dinner
- Baggage handling at hotel
- Professional local tour director from arrival in Albuquerque until departure from Albuquerque
- All local taxes and fees
- Tour host and Women of the Midwest Ambassador, Sally Dunham

Not Included:

- Baggage fees (usually \$25 for first checked bag, 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance, ask us!
- Gratuities for local tour director (estimate \$5 per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$50 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Accommodations:

Hotels will be announced 90 days prior to departure.



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Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found at
<http://executivetravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

8/14/2019