



WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

CO | IA | KS | MN | MO | NE

Albuquerque Balloon Festival

with Women of the Midwest

September 30 - October 5, 2022



Dear Women of the Midwest,

“Up, Up and Away, in my beautiful, my beautiful balloon!” Ever since I heard that I would be escorting a group to the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival, this song by the 5th Dimensions has been stuck in my head! (Now it is stuck in your head too, right?). How can you NOT sing it when you think of all the hundreds of hot air balloons that we will be seeing!?! This trip has been on my wish list for many years. And now by wish has come true! Hot air balloons are magical! They are intriguing! They are so big and beautiful! I truly, enjoyed myself. I think it is best described as “Eye-Candy”!

Along with seeing their choreographed inflation and ascension as they rise in waves of near-unison starting at dawn, we get to return again for the evening “Balloon Glow” at dusk, as they all “light up” to showcase their beautiful and unique balloons. It is a vision of what sweet dreams are made of, and one that you will never forget!

But the balloon festival is not the only thing on our agenda... While in New Mexico we will also tour various sites to experience a bit of their history and culture. We will go to the historic Old Town in Albuquerque, tour ancient cave dwellings, museums, churches, various cultural villages, Santa Fe, and so much more! And there is lots of shopping opportunities for those hunting for a good bargain or for souvenirs. And then there is the food ... Mmmmm! Recipes handed down, a melting pot of influences from the Pueblo Indians, the Spanish, the Mexican, and the Old West in general, inter-mingling to provide the amazing, tasty, unique, and delicious cuisine of the area. That is all that need be said of this subject matter!

I hope that you will consider joining me on this whimsical, magical, adventure to International Balloon Festival of Albuquerque, NM.

Sincerely yours in travel,
Ann K. Bruntz, Women of the Midwest Ambassador



Call our Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.



**September 30, 2022
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 1, 2022
Saturday**

Albuquerque
After a hearty breakfast, we head out to



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 tchotchkes - 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



**October 2, 2022
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



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

**October 3, 2022
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

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

**October 4, 2022
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,

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 5, 2022
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





To register contact:



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 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
 www.executivetravel.com

SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:
<https://fs28.formsite.com/vLu8mE/WMWBAL22/>

Package Price including air:

Per person in a shared double room: \$3,295
 Per person in a single room (limited rooms): \$3,995

*Triple rooms on request

Remember our "Pair & Share" service for solo travelers.

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check or credit card. The balance is due on January 6, 2022, and is non-refundable. The 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% fee.

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please contact us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 travelers. Should the number of travelers fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded by January 6, 2022.

Tour Activity 1 2 3 4 - This Journey is level 2:

Between the scheduled sightseeing tours included in the program and personal exploration, you can expect to walk 3 miles or more over the course of a day typically on pavements. This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are recommended.

Accommodation:

Local 3+ and 4-star hotels.
 Final accommodation will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure.

Air, included in your package:

Group airfare is included. Pricing and specific itinerary will be available by the beginning of February 2022. All registered travelers will be notified.

If you wish to travel from a different city than Omaha, please let us know and we will make sure to customize your air. A supplement could occur.

Included:

- Roundtrip airfare Omaha-Albuquerque-Omaha*, economy class
- 5 overnights at 3+ and 4-star hotels
- 5 x breakfast
- 2 x dinner
- All tours and admissions as per tour program
- Transportation with private deluxe motor coach
- Baggage handling at hotels (1 suitcase per person)
- Tour host/Women of the Midwest Ambassador, September 30 - October 5, 2022
- Professional, local tour director from arrival to Albuquerque on September 30 until departure from Albuquerque on October 5, 2022
- All local taxes and fees

*Direct flights not guaranteed.

Not Included:

- Airline Baggage fees (estimate \$35 for first checked bag)
- Gratuities for local tour director (at your own discretion, we recommend \$5 per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fees, \$50.00 per person due at time of reservation
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

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5/17/2021