



May 10, 2023

Dear Pilot:

We would like to congratulate you on being one of the Balloon teams in the 66<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett to be held at the 2023 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta! The entire staff is hard at work preparing for your arrival. We are doing everything to ensure that you have the best possible experience. We anticipate a great race with 18 teams which could be one for the record books.

This will be the first of many pilot memos which will provide important details about this year's race with you.

We will provide the following items for your team's participation in this year's race:

- Lifting Gas (Hydrogen) and inflation/flight sand
- 2 Pilot Packs (Pilot 1 and Pilot 2)
- Gordon Bennett Merchandise
  - 2 Pilot Jackets
  - 5 Gordon Bennett Hats
- Shipping/Accommodation options (See below)
- 2 Parking Passes
- 2 VIP/Sponsor Hospitality Passes
- 5 Tickets to Opening Ceremony
- 5 Tickets to the Hot Air Pilot Welcome Party
- 5 Tickets to the Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony
- Professional Meteorologists
- 24/7 Command Center
- Intense Media Coverage



## Accommodations Options

In the application notice we provided you with options that you would have regarding accommodations and shipping. We are now in process of finalizing some details and need to know your selection, details are listed below. Please complete the selection no later than **May 25<sup>th</sup>**. [Shipping/Accommodation Selection](#)

**Each international team will have the option to choose between two shipping/lodging opportunities:**

**Option A:** Each team will receive \$2000.00 USD and 2 rooms for 7 at the Gordon Bennett Official Hotel (Isleta Resort and Casino)

**Option B:** Each team will receive \$4000.00 USD Shipping/Lodging allowance (You secure your own accommodations)

**Each United States of America based pilot who qualifies for lodging will have the option to choose between two lodging opportunities:**

**Option A:** Each team will receive 14 hotel nights at the Gordon Bennett Official Hotel (Isleta Resort & Casino)\*

**Option B:** Each team will receive \$1000.00 USD Lodging allowance\*

(\*Lodging options are available for pilots who are residing more than 50 miles from Albuquerque, NM USA)

## Shipping Options

We welcome Blaser as the official shipping partner for this year's Gordon Bennett Race. To take advantage of this shipping option, please see below:

### Contact:

David Strasmann  
Global Balloon Marketing Manager  
Blaser Swisslube AG  
Winterseistrasse  
CH-3415 Hasle-Rüegsau

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Office: +41 34 4600615  
Mobil D: +49 177 4689272  
Mobil CH: +41 79 8289736  
[d.strasmann@blaser.com](mailto:d.strasmann@blaser.com)

**Cost:** 1000 CHF/ Per Team for both ways



**Fee is paid to:**

Blaser Swissslube AG  
Winterseistrasse  
CH-3415 Hasle-Rüegsau

(Cash payment is possible. Please note: No Transport of the balloon without paying shipping fee.)

**Deadline for System/Fee to be received:** August 1 (Calendar Week 31)

**Address for delivery of System:**

Blaser Swissslube AG  
Winterseistrasse  
CH-3415 Hasle-Rüegsau

**Expected return date of System:** 8-10 weeks

**Please note:**

If you choose to not use the Blaser shipping option you will need to secure your own shipping of system to Albuquerque, NM prior to Friday, October 6 briefing.

**Trucks/Vans**

In preparation for your flight and retrieval, vehicle pricing for the dates of picking up on October 6 and returning October 15 range from \$1625.00 to \$2200.00 USD. Both of the agencies renting the 15 passenger vans are rental agencies. They both allow international drivers as long as you have your passport, you may need an international driver’s license permit. Unlimited mileage, travel into Canada is allowed. Rentals must be picked up and returned to the Albuquerque International Sunport.

**Hertz/Dollar/Thrifty**

Tamara Davenport  
[trdavenport@hertz.com](mailto:trdavenport@hertz.com)

**AVIS**

[www.AVIS.com](http://www.AVIS.com)  
1-800-352-7900

**Gordon Bennett Merchandise Pre-Order**

We are offering an opportunity to pre-order additional Gordon Bennett Merchandise for your team. The Pre-order will need to be completed prior to May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will also have merchandise on-site for purchase prior to the race.

[Gordon Bennett Merchandise](#)

**Schedule**

The schedule for this year’s Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race will be:

Pilot Registration	Thursday, October 5	1000 – 1900 hrs.
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	Friday, October 6	1000 – 1700 hrs.
General Briefing	Friday, October 6	TBD
Opening Ceremony	Friday, October 6	TBD
Pilot Briefing	Saturday, October 7	1200 – 1330 hrs.
Launch Preparation	Saturday, October 7	1300 hrs.
Launch Window Opens	Saturday, October 7	1800 hrs.
Launch Window Closes	Wednesday, October 11	2359 hrs.
Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony	Saturday, October 14	TBD

We look forward to see you very soon. Additional details about this year’s Gordon Bennett are also available online, <https://balloonfiesta.com/Gordon-Bennett-2023> . If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to myself, Jennifer Garcia at [jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com](mailto:jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com) .

Sincerely,

Jennifer Garcia  
AIBF Event Director

