

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

7:00am Albuquerque Aloft
(at local elementary schools)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol Show
6:30am Morning Glow
6:45am Opening Ceremonies
7:00am Mass Ascension, *presented by Canon*
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
1:30pm - 5:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
2:00pm America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race Inflation
6:00pm Twilight Twinkle Glow™
6:00pm America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race Launch
7:45pm Laser Light Show
8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol Show
6:30am Morning Glow
7:00am Mass Ascension
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
9:00am Fiesta of Wheels Car Show (Located on north end of launch field)
11:00am Balloon Fiesta Pin Trading (Group Tour Tent, north end of Main Street)
1:30pm - 5:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
6:00pm Balloon Glow
7:45pm Laser Light Show
8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

PROPANE DAY *presented by Airgas, an Air Liquide company*
5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol Show
7:00am Balloons Launch
8:00am Competition Flying Begins
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Demonstrations

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

COCA-COLA DAY
5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol Show
7:00am Balloons Launch
8:00am Competition Flying Begins
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Demonstrations

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol Show
6:30am Morning Glow
7:00am Flight of the Nations Mass Ascension
8:00am Competition Flying Begins
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Demonstrations

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

KID'S DAY *presented by KOB-TV*
5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol
7:00am Special Shape Rodeo™
8:00am Competition Flying Begins
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
1:30pm - 5:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
6:00pm Special Shape Glowdeo™
7:45pm Laser Light Show
8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol
7:00am Special Shape Rodeo™
8:00am Competition Flying Begins
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
1:30pm - 5:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
6:00pm Special Shape Glowdeo™
7:45pm Laser Light Show
8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol
6:30am Morning Glow
7:00am Mass Ascension
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
11:00am Balloon Fiesta Pin Trading (Group Tour Tent, north end of Main Street)
1:00pm - 5:00pm Music Fiesta™
1:30pm - 5:00pm AIBF Chainsaw Carving Invitational
6:00pm Night Magic™ Glow, *presented by Canon*
7:45pm Laser Light Show
8:00pm* AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

5:45am Laser Light Show
6:00am Dawn Patrol
6:30am Morning Glow
7:00am Farewell Mass Ascension
8:30am - 11:30am AIBF Chainsaw Carving Q&A

*AfterGlow™ fireworks shows will begin as soon as the launch field is clear of balloons, thus the starting times are approximate and subject to change without notice. Additionally, local police will modify traffic flows to utilize all traffic lanes for outbound traffic only at the conclusion of each Glow event. So if you want to watch the AfterGlow™ fireworks shows from the Park, plan to arrive at the Park in time for that evening's glow event.

INFORMATION

WWW.BALLOONFIESTA.COM

The latest schedule. Hotels. Balloon rides. Maps and directions. Print-at-home, discounted Park & Ride tickets. Photo galleries. Travel & Parking information. Free news updates. History. Much more...

Admission for balloon sessions is \$10 per session for guests 13 and older. Children 12 years and under are FREE. No refunds are available but tickets for cancelled sessions may be used for future sessions.

For Music Fiesta admission prices, please visit www.balloonfiesta.com/event-info/music-fiesta.

PARKING

There is a \$15 fee for parking for each session. All session parking passes may be purchased in advance at the Balloon Fiesta office.

FIESTA EXPRESS PARK & RIDE

The fastest way into the park! Leave from one of several convenient locations around the city and arrive inside Balloon Fiesta Park. Pricing, locations, schedules, and discounted tickets are available online at www.balloonfiesta.com/guest-guide/park-ride.

BALLOON RIDES

Rainbow Ryders
Official Balloon Ride Company
800-725-2477
www.rainbowryders.com

TRAVEL & HOTEL RESERVATIONS

www.balloonfiestahotels.com
505-346-0522

VISITOR INFORMATION

Visit Albuquerque
Toll Free 800-284-2282
www.visitabq.org

RV TRAVEL

888-422-7277 or
505-821-1000, ext. 107
www.balloonfiesta.com/guest-guide/rv-information



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SCHEDULE
of EVENTS

2018
OCT
6-14





INSIDE THE PARK

Dawn Patrol Show

Watch balloons take flight in a celestial predawn dance during this choreographed display. The Dawn Patrol is more than an airy promenade; it is also a chance for pilots to determine the day's winds aloft conditions and for early bird guests to send our balloonists off with a cheer.

Mass Ascensions

Witness hundreds of prismatic balloons lift off and fill the horizon in this unforgettable, two-wave mass ascension. An excellent photo op, be sure to experience the drama and serenity of ballooning in this popular Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday morning event lasting up to two hours.

America's Challenge

Inaugurated in 1995, this gas balloon race continues to break ballooning distance records. Celebrating the sportsmanship aspect of hot air balloon culture, this event brings together pilots from around the world to compete in a challenge to "Go the Distance!"

Special Shape Rodeo™ and Glowdeo™

We wouldn't be a Balloon Fiesta without a little rodeo thrown in, or should we say Glowdeo™! These unique events showcase some of the most uniquely shaped balloons at our event, such as a family of bees, stagecoach, cow, and whales, in an AM flight and a PM glow.

Twilight Twinkle Glow, Balloon Glow™, and Night Magic™ Glow

Celebrated for their ethereal whimsy, these events are among the most widely anticipated of the Balloon Fiesta. At twilight the burners of tethered balloons are ignited, illuminating the night with colorfully glowing envelopes that guests can wander amongst before enjoying the AfterGlow™ Fireworks show.



AfterGlow™ Fireworks

Following each glow event the night blooms with the most spectacular firework show in the state. Bring your blankets and chairs for this popular extravaganza. Shows begin as soon as the Launch Field is clear of balloons. Once the balloons are glowing, only outbound traffic is allowed, so attendees who wish to watch the show must arrive at the park for the beginning of the evening's glow event. Starting times are approximate and subject to change without notice.

Flight of the Nations – Mid-Week Mass Ascension

During this mid-week flight, preceding the Mass Ascension, select pilots of participating countries will carry their country's flag during this multinational flight. This exciting event recognizes the international ballooning community that participates in Balloon Fiesta to help make it the largest of its kind in the world.

The Gondola Club

Make Balloon Fiesta the most comfortable experience possible by purchasing a morning or evening session at the Gondola Club where you can watch the festivities from the most scenic location at the park. The club is a V.I.P. area that offers convenient parking, private seating, gourmet food service and open bar, luxury bathrooms, shuttle service, and live entertainment during evening sessions. For more information call 505-821-1000 or 888-422-7277, or visit Balloonfiesta.com.

Main Street

Between ballooning events, be sure to visit this one-third mile stretch at Balloon Fiesta Park where you will find a plethora of steamy food vendors, unique merchandise, and hands-on exhibits, including the 7-Eleven Balloon Discovery Center where kids can learn ballooning basics.

Chasers' Club

With the purchase of a Chasers' Club AM or PM session, you get the chance to upgrade your Balloon Fiesta experience to a more upscale setting. This club is in a reserved area at the north end of the field. It includes an outdoor patio with an exceptional view of the field from which you can enjoy a cocktail and light buffet and pastries while watching the day's balloons take to the sky or glow. For more information call 505-821-1000 or 888-422-7277, or visit Balloonfiesta.com.



COMPETITIONS

Weekday mornings offer the best shows at the Balloon Fiesta. They combine the launch of hundreds of balloons from the Launch Field with the allure of hundreds more maneuvering to the Launch Field for their chance at prizes and fame, creating a theatrical ebb and flow of color in the sky. Through our various competitions during the Balloon Fiesta, pilots can demonstrate their flying finesse, control, and accuracy while competing with international peers for points and prizes.

Judge Declared Goals

In this competition, pilots demonstrate their knowledge of surface and upper level winds to navigate their balloons to a target destination at least one mile away. Pilots compete to drop a marker closest to the goal destination selected by the BalloonMeister.

Fly-in Task

During this exciting competition, pilots launch their balloons from a minimum distance from a selected target on the Launch Field. Pilots compete to drop a marker from a range of heights above the target, including task variations such as Balloon Fiesta Golf and Minimum Double Drop.

Ring Toss

This competition is among the most popular and requires pilots to launch from one mile away from the Launch Field before navigating to one of five tall poles and placing a ring over one. Pilots receive prizes for each ring that is successfully tossed.



WELCOME to BALLOON FIESTA

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is the world's largest celebration of man's first flight technology – the hot air balloon. During this nine-day fiesta in Albuquerque, New Mexico, balloon enthusiasts from around the world come together to enjoy an art form that has delighted spectators and participants for two centuries. Whether on the ground or in the sky, the allure of the hot air balloon is undeniable. The whimsy and showmanship that surround this colorful event inspires spectators of all ages, inflating the imaginations of children and inner children alike.

During October in New Mexico the soft Autumnal light, changing leaves, and crisp blue sky make a breathtaking backdrop for hundreds of vibrant balloons that ascend daily from Balloon Fiesta Park. Whether you are watching The Dawn Patrol lift off as the sun breaks over the Sandia Mountains, or the evening Glowdeo begin against a neon sunset, there is a special charm at Balloon Fiesta that draws you in and leaves you forever changed by its magic.



Our Geography Makes it Ballooning Central

Autumn is one of the most enjoyable times of year in New Mexico. This peaceful prelude to winter means that brisk mornings give way to warm afternoons with mild temperatures throughout the day and typically still winds. This ideal weather combined with its diverse altitudes and geography, makes Albuquerque an ideal location for ballooning at this time of year. The lower altitude of the river valley to the west and higher altitude of the mountain range to the east create the legendary "Albuquerque Box," in which gentle winds blow in a box pattern, sometimes leading balloons right back to where they started. This natural phenomenon makes Albuquerque home to some of the best ballooning in the world.