



Albuquerque Balloon Festival & U.S. National Parks

12 days

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 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Albuquerque Balloon Festival
- Mesa Verde National Park
- Monument Valley
- Grand Canyon
- Zion National Park
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Grand Teton National Park
- Yellowstone National Park

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved trails and dirt paths, with some hills and high altitudes.

Group size

15–35

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Albuquerque, New Mexico → 2 nights

Day 1: Arrival in Albuquerque

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to New Mexico! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at this evening's welcome dinner.

Day 2: Albuquerque Balloon festival

Included meals: 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
- See the sky light up during the festival's AfterGlow Fireworks Show this evening

Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado → 1 night

Day 3: Mesa Verde via Durango

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross into Colorado, stopping in the Old West mining town of Durango 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.

- 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 iconic "Mexican Hat," a sombrero-shaped rock formation, as you travel to Kayenta, Arizona. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Grand Canyon, Arizona → 2 nights

Day 5: Grand Canyon via Tuba City

Included meals: 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.

Continue on to the Grand Canyon and set off on scenic walk along the canyon 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 meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day at the Grand Canyon or add an excursion.

+ The Grand Canyon, Antelope Canyon & Horseshoe Bend

Zion National Park, Utah → 1 night

Day 7: Transfer to Zion National Park

Included meals: 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 meals: breakfast

En route to Utah's capital city, stop to visit 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

Then, continue on to Salt Lake City.

Jackson, Wyoming → 3 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Jackson & Grand Teton National Park

Included meals: 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

Please note: The visit to Grand Teton National Park may take place on day 10 depending on seasonality and weather.

Enjoy a free evening in Jackson.

Day 10: Yellowstone National Park

Included meals: 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, farewell dinner

Enjoy a free day in Jackson.

Then, head to a local restaurant to celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/NPB | 1-800-597-0350

Day 6: The Grand Canyon, Antelope Canyon & Horseshoe Bend

\$515 (12.5 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Start your full-day journey into the American Southwest by boarding a flight to Page, Arizona. As you fly, you'll be treated to aerial views of the Grand Canyon's East Rim, the Colorado River, and Lake Powell. After landing, meet up with a Navajo guide for a tour of the legendary Antelope Canyon. Then, hop aboard a raft and float along the Colorado River, keeping an eye out for Native American petroglyphs and passing through Horseshoe Bend as you go. Disembark at Lee's Ferry and make a stop at Cameron Trading Post before returning to your hotel. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through October. Travelers must be able to walk 3/4 of a mile through sand/foot bridges when entering and exiting Antelope Canyon. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms