



# 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

*Please note: Travelers looking to take a hot air balloon ride must book this independently and far in advance through Rainbow Ryders.*

## 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*

Learn about the culture and history of the Navajo tribe during a stop at the Explore Navajo Interactive Museum. Meet with Navajo leader Peter MacDonald and learn about the World War II Code Talkers.

*Please note: Meeting Peter MacDonald is not guaranteed.*

Then, pay a visit to the Cameron Trading Post before arriving at the Grand Canyon. Upon arrival, take a scenic walk along the South 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.

+ Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

## 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](https://goaheadtours.com/NPB) | 1-800-597-0350

### Day 6: Grand Canyon Helicopter Ride

\$259/\$269\* (30 minutes, departs in the morning)

Enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Grand Canyon aboard a thrilling half-hour-long helicopter ride. Soar over the massive canyon, taking in a unique perspective of the striated terrain far below. From high above the canyon rim, you can begin to fully appreciate the immense scale of this natural wonder. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent.

\*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](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)