

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta 2006 Schedule

Friday, October 6

7:00am 10:00am Albuquerque Aloft
Balloons launching at selected elementary schools throughout Albuquerque and Rio Rancho

5:00pm 7:00pm Fiesta Challenge Competition Flight

Saturday, October 7

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol Show**
Dawn Patrol: The Dawn Patrol began at Balloon Fiesta in 1978, when two California balloonists developed position lighting systems that allowed them to fly at night. Dawn Patrol pilots take off in the dark and fly until it is light enough to see landing sites. Fellow balloonists appreciate the Dawn Patrol because they can watch the balloons and get an early idea of wind speeds and directions at different altitudes. On mass ascension days, about a dozen Dawn Patrol balloons perform the Dawn Patrol Show, a choreographed inflation and launch set to music that has been part of the Balloon Fiesta since 1996. Dawn Patrol inflations begin, weather permitting, at about 5:45 AM, with launch around 6:15 AM.

6:45am 7:00am **Opening Ceremonies**

7:00am 8:30am **Mass Ascension**
Mass Ascensions – a launch of all the participating balloons – have been a feature of Balloon Fiesta since its earliest days and is the most spectacular display of sound and color in all of aviation. During mass ascensions, balloons launch in two waves. Launch directors, also known as “zebras” because of their black-and-white-striped outfits, serve as “traffic cops,” coordinating the launch so balloons leave the field in a safe and coordinated manner. Weather permitting, balloons begin to launch at about 7:15 AM on mass ascension days, led by a balloon flying the American flag to the strains of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

10:00am 6:00pm **Fiesta del Vino - Wine Tasting**
Taste wines from around New Mexico. Pick out your favorite one and take it home. \$10 separate entry fee with a souvenir wine glass. You must be 21 to enter. ID will be checked

2:00pm 5:00pm **America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race - Inflation begins**

5:00pm 7:00pm **Fiesta Challenge Competition Flight**
Fiesta Challenge is a “roadrunner-coyote” (hare and hound) competition that will take place from Balloon Fiesta Park. The objective is to see which pilot can drop a marker closest to the center of a target where the “roadrunner” lands. If the balloons are unable to fly, one or both nights due to weather or other conditions, an illumination will be held at the Park.

6:00pm 7:15pm **America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race**
America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race: The America's Challenge is one of the most prestigious long-distance ballooning events in the world, and gives spectators a means to learn about another aspect of ballooning – long-duration gas balloon flight. Most Balloon Fiesta events feature hot-air balloons, which usually can stay aloft for only a couple of hours. Gas balloons, use lighter-than-air gases such as helium and hydrogen for lift, and can stay aloft for 60 hours or more. The balloon that flies the furthest – in accordance with the rules – wins. Some America's Challenge flights reach Canada and the U.S. East Coast. The gas balloons inflate in the late afternoon and take off in the early evening – timing that increases the balloons' flight duration.

Sunday, October 8

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol Show**

7:00am 8:30am **Mass Ascension**

9:00am 10:00am **Car Display of Classic and Special Interest Vehicles**

12:00pm 6:00pm **Fiesta del Vino - Wine Tasting**

5:45pm 8:00pm **Balloon Glow®**
The events now known as “balloon glows” were invented in Albuquerque in 1979, when local pilots inflated balloons on Christmas Eve night as a “thank you” to local residents. The sight of balloons lit from within at night like giant holiday ornaments is breathtaking, and “glow” events are now held all over the world. Balloon Fiesta launched its Balloon Glow – the world's biggest – in 1987. Fiesta Glow “all burns” – when all the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time – are perhaps the most spectacular single moment in all of Balloon Fiesta. The Balloon Glows – followed by New Mexico's most spectacular fireworks displays -- are now among Balloon Fiesta's most popular events.

8:00pm 9:00pm **AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show**

Monday, October 9

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol**

7:00am 8:00am **Flying Events**

Balloon Competitions: It's a little hard to line balloons up on the starting line and have them race to the finish, but balloonists are inventive folks and have come up with some interesting forms of competition. In a ballooning competition, pilots must use the winds at different altitudes to steer the balloon to a target – usually a big “X” on the ground. The pilot then drops a marker from the balloon so that it lands as close to the center of the target as possible. Closest drop wins. On competition days, some balloons take off at Balloon Fiesta Park and fly to targets located north or south of the launch site. Other balloons launch at least a mile away from Balloon Fiesta Park and fly to targets at the park. The overall competition winners are determined by individual pilots' scores over all competition events flown during Fiesta week. The Sandia Casino Black Jack race uses a similar premise, but pilots must drop two markers on giant playing cards laid out on the field and score as close to “21” as possible.

Tuesday, October 10

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol**
7:00am 11:45am **Flying Events**

Wednesday, October 11

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol Show**
7:00am 10:00am **Flight of the Nations Mass Ascension**

The “international” part of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has been a tradition since the event's earliest days. In 1973 and 1975, the Balloon Fiesta hosted the World Hot-Air Balloon Championships. The Balloon Fiesta has also played host to the world's two most prestigious gas ballooning events, the Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett (twice, in 1993 and 1999), and the World Gas Ballooning Championships (1994). The Flight of the Nations especially honors pilots from all the nations participating in Balloon Fiesta. The Wednesday mass ascension begins with flights by representative pilots from each country, who launch as their country's national anthem is played, flying their national flag. Mass Ascensions – a launch of all the participating balloons – have been a feature of Balloon Fiesta since its earliest days and is the most spectacular display of sound and color in all of aviation. During mass ascensions, balloons launch in two waves. Launch directors, also known as “zebras” because of their black-and-white-striped outfits, serve as “traffic cops,” coordinating the launch so balloons leave the field in a safe and coordinated manner. Weather permitting, balloons begin to launch at about 7:15 AM on mass ascension days, led by a balloon flying the American flag to the strains of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Thursday, October 12

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol**
7:00am 8:00am **Wells Fargo Special Shape Mass Ascension**

Special shape balloons are defined as any balloon that doesn't conform strictly to the normal rounded balloon shape. Some shapes are simple – pointed ears and whiskers added to a “regular” balloon to make it into a kitty's head. Others – the flying houses, cars, cacti, ristras, bottles, cans, critters, and so on – are computer-designed engineering marvels costing tons of money. The very first shapes appeared at Balloon Fiesta in the 1970s, and became increasingly common – and crowd favorites – in the 1980's. In 1989, the Balloon Fiesta created the Special Shapes Rodeo to specially showcase these incredible creations. The special shapes events now include mass ascensions on the Thursday and Friday mornings of Balloon Fiesta, and the “Glowdeo” – a shapes-only glow – on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Mass Ascension: Mass Ascensions – a launch of all the participating balloons – have been a feature of Balloon Fiesta since its earliest days and is the most spectacular display of sound and color in all of aviation. During mass ascensions, balloons launch in two waves. Launch directors, also known as “zebras” because of their black-and-white-striped outfits, serve as “traffic cops,” coordinating the launch so balloons leave the field in a safe and coordinated manner. Weather permitting, balloons begin to launch at about 7:15 AM on mass ascension days, led by a balloon flying the American flag to the strains of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

8:00am 10:00am **Flying Events**
5:45pm 8:00pm **Wells Fargo Special Shape Glowdeo™**

Special shape balloons are defined as any balloon that doesn't conform strictly to the normal rounded balloon shape. Some shapes are simple – pointed ears and whiskers added to a “regular” balloon to make it into a kitty's head. Others – the flying houses, cars, cacti, ristras, bottles, cans, critters, and so on – are computer-designed engineering marvels costing tons of money. The very first shapes appeared at Balloon Fiesta in the 1970s, and became increasingly common – and crowd favorites – in the 1980's. In 1989, the Balloon Fiesta created the Special Shapes Rodeo to specially showcase these incredible creations. The special shapes events now include mass ascensions on the Thursday and Friday mornings of Balloon Fiesta, and the “Glowdeo” – a shapes-only glow – on Thursday and Friday evenings.

The events now known as “balloon glows” were invented in Albuquerque in 1979, when local pilots

inflated balloons on Christmas Eve night as a “thank you” to local residents. The sight of balloons lit from within at night like giant holiday ornaments is breathtaking, and “glow” events are now held all over the world. Balloon Fiesta launched its Balloon Glow – the world’s biggest – in 1987. Fiesta Glow “all burns” – when all the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time – are perhaps the most spectacular single moment in all of Balloon Fiesta. The Balloon Glows – followed by New Mexico’s most spectacular fireworks displays -- are now among Balloon Fiesta’s most popular events

8:00pm 9:00pm **AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show**

Friday, October 13

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol**

7:00am 8:00am **Wells Fargo Special Shape Mass Ascension**

8:00am 10:00am **Pole Grab Competition**

Pole Grab: Want to win great prizes? A lot of balloonists do. And it’s easy. Launch at least one mile away from the field, fly to the field, grab an envelope and you win great prizes! Simple, right? Wrong! In getting to the field, you have to successfully navigate among the other 700+ balloons heading for the same spot, not break any rules, and use the winds to get to the pole, at the right altitude, at the right time. And you have to grab the keys with your hands – no hooks, please! Despite the difficulties, the Balloon Fiesta has given away a lot of incredible prizes such as cash and even vehicles since the event began in 1978. For spectators, this is one of Balloon Fiesta’s most watchable – and spectacular – events.

5:45pm 8:00pm **Wells Fargo Special Shape Glowdeo™**

8:00pm 9:00pm **AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show**

Saturday, October 14

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol Show**

7:00am 8:30am **Mass Ascension**

5:45pm 8:00pm **Night Magic™ Show**

The events now known as “balloon glows” were invented in Albuquerque in 1979, when local pilots inflated balloons on Christmas Eve night as a “thank you” to local residents. The sight of balloons lit from within at night like giant holiday ornaments is breathtaking, and “glow” events are now held all over the world. Balloon Fiesta launched its Balloon Glow – the world’s biggest – in 1987. Fiesta Glow “all burns” – when all the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time – are perhaps the most spectacular single moment in all of Balloon Fiesta. The Balloon Glows – followed by New Mexico’s most spectacular fireworks displays -- are now among Balloon Fiesta’s most popular events.

8:00pm 9:00pm **AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show**

Sunday, October 15

5:45am 6:45am **Dawn Patrol Show**

5:45am 9:30am **Propane Day**

7:00am 8:30am **Farewell Mass Ascension**

Visitors to the Balloon Park are welcome to wander the field and get up close to the balloons (please don’t step on the balloon envelope)

There are many food services on Main Street for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Provided by
VirtualAlbuquerque.com
“We show Albuquerque to the World”

Fiesta Express Park & Ride Services!

Beat the Traffic to Balloon Fiesta!

Each year the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta teams up with sponsors to help Balloon Fiesta goers avoid congested traffic and parking conditions near the Balloon Fiesta by offering incentives to park their vehicles at one of several Albuquerque locations and take a Balloon Fiesta Express Park & Ride bus into Balloon Fiesta Park.

Please note that the cost of Fiesta Express Park & Ride tickets has been reduced. Now it makes even more sense to park & ride!!

Tickets will be available for purchase online, at the Balloon Fiesta Gift Shop Monday-Friday 9am-5pm or by calling (505) 821-1000 or 1-888-422-7277. **They will also be available at the parking lots.**

Where:

- **Calvary Chapel of Albuquerque (North Lot)**
(No service Saturday evenings, Sunday mornings)
- **Coronado Center (Southwest Corner)**
- **Hoffmantown Church (North Parking Lot)**

Additional lots and services will be added before Balloon Fiesta!

Fees:

- **In Advance** (online available soon):
 - Adults (13-61) \$10 (admission included)
 - Seniors (62 & older) \$10 (admission included)
 - Children (6-12) \$5 (free admission)
 - Children (5 and under) ride & admission are free.
- **At the Parking Lots**
 - Adults (13-61) \$15 (admission included)
 - Seniors (62 & older) \$12 (admission included)
 - Children (6-12) \$5 (free Park admission)
 - Children (5 and under) ride & admission are free.

Park & Ride service will be available for every Balloon Fiesta event except for Friday (10/6), Saturday PM (10/7), Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday AM. Parking should be plentiful and traffic is expected to be light for those events.

- Weekend Morning Events: Buses start at 4:30 am
- Weekday Morning Events: Buses start: at 5:00 am
- Afternoon events: Buses start at 3:30 PM
- Last Buses Depart Mall and Church Lots at 7:00 AM and 6:30 PM
- Last Buses Depart Balloon Fiesta Park at 11:00 AM for morning sessions and 10:00 PM for evening sessions.

Park & Ride tickets online... Coming Soon!

Provided by
VirtualAlbuquerque.com
"We show Albuquerque to the World"