

Photographed by Don Henderson



SECURE A CAMPSITE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND



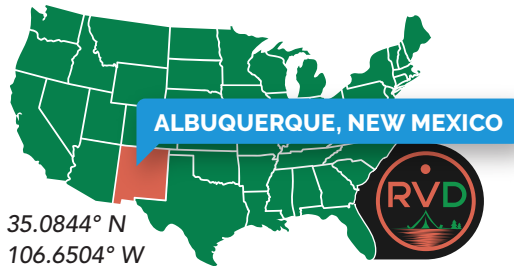
ENGAGE WITH FELLOW RVERS



ATTEND THE SPECIAL SHAPES RODEO



EXPLORE LOCAL CUISINE



Attending the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta is a truly magical experience, where you can witness hundreds of colorful hot air balloons filling the sky in a breathtaking display. With its vibrant atmosphere, unforgettable events like the Mass Ascension and Balloon Glow, and the unique sense of community among RVers, the Fiesta offers a one-of-a-kind adventure for anyone looking to immerse themselves in the world's largest ballooning celebration.

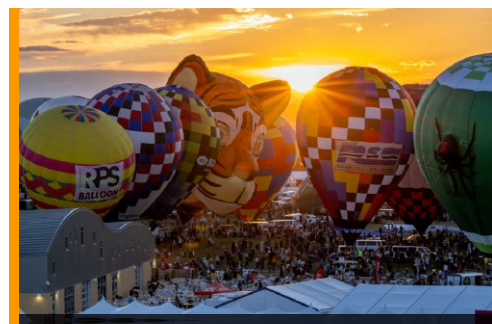
10 As an RVer, securing a spot in the Presidential Compound at the Balloon Fiesta is a major highlight. The location offers panoramic views of the festival grounds, making it the perfect spot for front-row access to the world's largest ballooning event. The convenience of staying on-site means you're just steps away from the action, with amenities like water, electric hookups, and dump service available to ensure comfort and ease throughout your stay.

9 One of the most memorable aspects of the Balloon Fiesta is the sense of community it fosters among RVers. Whether you're staying in the Presidential Compound or one of the other RV lots, you'll have the opportunity to meet fellow travelers from across the country (and even the world). Sharing the experience of this amazing event with other RVers creates lasting memories and friendships, and the camaraderie enhances the overall experience of the Fiesta.

8 The Special Shapes Rodeo is a must-see highlight at the Balloon Fiesta. This event features some of the most unique and whimsical balloon designs, including balloons in the shapes of animals, characters, and even objects like cars or houses. Watching these larger-than-life balloons inflate and take flight is an exciting and fun spectacle that adds a playful twist to the traditional ballooning experience. It's a favorite for families and anyone looking to see something truly out of the ordinary.

7 The Balloon Fiesta isn't just about the balloons—it's also about indulging in the local flavors. Over 75 food vendors line the grounds, offering everything from New Mexico's famous green chile dishes to traditional fair food and international options. Don't miss out on trying local specialties like sopapillas, tamales, and artisan chocolates. The variety of food adds an extra layer of enjoyment, making the Fiesta a feast for both the eyes and the taste buds.

6 After the balloons ascend, the festival grounds come alive with more than 75 vendors offering a variety of goods. You can sample local foods, such as New Mexican cuisine, or pick up unique handmade crafts, such as jewelry, art, and souvenirs. The bustling atmosphere, combined with the vibrant sights and sounds of the Fiesta, makes this a great way to take a break from the balloons and explore the culture of the event.



EXPLORE THE FIESTA GROUNDS



VISIT THE INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER



ATTEND THE SKYDIVER PERFORMANCE



WATCH THE TWILIGHT GLOW



ATTEND THE MASS ASCENSION



TAKE A BALLOON RIDE WITH AIR ROCKY TOP

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While the Balloon Fiesta is the main attraction, taking time to visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) offers a meaningful cultural experience. The center highlights the rich history, art, and traditions of New Mexico's Native American communities. You can explore exhibits, learn about Pueblo culture, and purchase handcrafted art and jewelry, gaining a deeper understanding of the region's cultural heritage.

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The evenings at the Fiesta are action-packed, starting with a thrilling skydiver performance. Watch as skydivers leap from planes and descend into the festival grounds, adding an exciting twist to the evening festivities. This high-energy performance is a unique prelude to the Twilight Glow and fireworks, making the event feel even more electrifying as the day winds down.

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Each evening at the Balloon Fiesta culminates with the breathtaking Twilight Glow, where dozens of balloons light up in sync at dusk. The sight of the burners illuminating the balloons in the fading light is mesmerizing. This magical display is followed by a fireworks show, adding an extra layer of excitement to the evening. It's a beautiful way to end a day filled with colorful balloons and high-energy fun.

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The Mass Ascension is one of the most iconic moments of the Fiesta, taking place early each morning. Starting with the Dawn Patrol—where pilots take to the sky before sunrise to gather wind data—the main event sees over 500 balloons launch into the sky, creating a stunning display of color. With the opportunity to walk up close to the balloons as they're inflated and launched, the experience is awe-inspiring and offers plenty of photo ops.

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For those looking for the ultimate experience, a balloon ride is a must-do. Flying with Air Rocky Top allows you to soar above the Fiesta grounds, watching the balloons from a unique perspective. The peaceful float, interrupted only by the sound of the burners, provides an unforgettable view of the vibrant field below, with the added bonus of floating among hundreds of other colorful balloons. It's a serene and awe-inspiring experience that's bound to stay with you long after the trip.

These activities combine the thrill of ballooning with cultural, culinary, and social experiences, ensuring a well-rounded and unforgettable visit to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.