

# Official Group Tour Instructions

## The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®

### October 1-9, 2011

#### Hospitality Tent

For your convenience, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta coordinates a Hospitality Tent specifically for group tours. Upon your arrival a crew of volunteers and Balloon Fiesta staff will welcome your group. Registration fees include the group's admission to our tent. The Balloon Fiesta stickers included in your packet will allow your client's admission to the event and access to the Group Tour Hospitality Tent but you must enter the park through the designated gate indicated on your parking pass. The stickers will not allow admission through any other gate.

#### **Tent Hours:**

- All morning events: 5:30 am – 9 am
- Evening Glows: 5 pm – 8 pm

#### **Tent Refreshments:**

- Coffee, tea, cocoa and snacks for morning events. Cold drinks and snacks for the evening events.
- A hot food item will be offered at a cost of \$10 per person but this option must be by the operator. Wristbands will be given to guests who have paid for this option.
- A variety of food and beverage concessions are available on the field for your group's enjoyment and convenience. Outside food may be brought into the tent but beverages may not be brought in or taken out because of the liquor license regulations.

#### **Tent Capacity:**

- Space and seating is limited to 200 people.
- Groups cannot be guaranteed a seat.
- The tent is designed to provide limited shelter in the case of inclement weather and as a meeting point for groups; it is not appropriate as a lounge. All groups are encouraged to experience the Balloon Fiesta directly from the field and are encouraged to bring their own seating for the field.

#### Arrival & Parking:

##### **Driver Instructions /Group Welcome:**

The map provided on the back of your Motor Coach Parking Pass illustrates a designated route for coaches. If stopped by a traffic control officer please show your parking pass so you will not be diverted from this route. A Balloon Fiesta volunteer will greet your group personally as you enter the coach parking area near the Group Tour Hospitality Tent. It is essential that you advise your driver and/or escort to exercise caution in this heavily congested area. Due to extremely tight parking conditions, drivers are asked to park only where instructed by our volunteers, being careful to watch for pedestrians and control speed, especially in the dark hours before sunrise.

## Travel Times

*Travel Times are estimates*

### **Weekend Mass Ascensions:**

Allow 30-40 minutes in transit from your hotel to the site due to heavy traffic, making sure to follow the route we designate on your parking pass. If you are visiting Balloon Fiesta on opening morning please add 20 minutes to this estimate.

### **Weekday Mornings:**

There is less traffic, more flexibility during weekdays. Transit time from hotel to site is 20-30 minutes depending on your hotel location. Suggested arrival time for these events is 6:00 am.

### **Balloon Glow & Special Shapes Glowdeo:**

Transit time from hotel to site is 30-45 minutes depending on your hotel location. Suggested arrival time for these events is 5:00 pm.

### **Delays:**

Departures may be delayed following each event from ½ hour to 1 hour due to heavy congestion. Plan your itinerary accordingly for any activity you may have scheduled directly following any of these events.

## Weather

October average daytime high: 67°F degrees; average nighttime low: 45°F degrees. Dress accordingly, layering is recommended as Albuquerque mornings at the Balloon Fiesta are cool! Hats and gloves are recommended especially for those taking balloon rides.

## Cancelled Events

It is a good idea to have a flexible itinerary for the morning after your scheduled Balloon Fiesta event, should inclement weather cause cancellation on the first planned day.

Please be advised should inclement weather occur, advance fees paid for parking and admissions will not be refunded, but they may be exchanged for a rain check to attend another event.