Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Flight - Albuquerque, New Mexico
Today fly to Albuquerque, founded in 1706, where you will meet your Tour Director. Later check into your hotel for a two night stay. Tonight enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers.

Meals: (D)  Overnight: Albuquerque

Day 2: Dawn Patrol - Mass Ascension - Albuquerque City Tour - Balloon Glow
Today experience one of the most photographed events in the world, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Early this morning view over 100 colorful balloons from around the world at Dawn Patrol, followed by the Mass Ascension. The balloons make the sky become a pallet of multicolored orbs dancing in the cool morning light. Later enjoy an Albuquerque City Tour featuring the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center depicting the history and culture of New Mexico’s 19 Native American pueblos. Stop in historic Old Town to stroll the historic adobe buildings that house over 150 shops, galleries and restaurants. Also see the icon of Old Town, the San Felipe de Neri Church. Later witness the Balloon Glow, where just before dusk burners from hundreds of balloons light up the evening sky.

Meals: (B)  Overnight: Albuquerque

Day 3: Bandelier - Los Alamos - Santa Fe
This morning travel to Bandelier National Monument, best known for mesas, shear-walled canyons, rock art and ancient Pueblo dwellings. Next visit the Los Alamos Bradbury Science Museum to learn about the Manhattan Project and the creation of the world’s first atomic bomb. Later today arrive in Santa Fe for a three night stay.

Meals: (B)  Overnight: Santa Fe

Day 4: Santa Fe - Taos - Santa Fe
Depart this morning and travel north via the “High Road to Taos” passing through ancient canyons, rock art and ancestral Pueblo dwellings. Next visit the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Taos has lured artists and writers since the 19th century. Taos is a fascinating city rich in culture and scenery. Atop a plateau between the Rio Grande and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Taos has lured artists and writers since the 19th century. Enjoy lunch on your own and shopping in the Taos Plaza. Later enjoy a tour of the Taos Pueblo, one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in North America before returning to Santa Fe.

Meals: (B)  Overnight: Santa Fe

Day 5: Santa Fe
Today discover Santa Fe, the upscale resort and artist community with Spanish-Pueblo roots. Enjoy a wonderful Santa Fe City Tour including details about the history, culture and unique architecture of this interesting city. See the Plaza, Loretto Chapel and the Palace of the Governors’, a Santa Fe landmark built in 1610. Enjoy the rest of the day and evening at your own pace in this historic city to explore the many art galleries, museums, restaurants and shops. Tonight enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant in the Santa Fe area.

Meals: (B,L,D)  Overnight: Santa Fe

Day 6: Santa Fe - Albuquerque - Home
Fly home with wonderful memories of your Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Tour.

Meals: (B)
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Travel with us to the Land of Enchantment to enjoy New Mexico's beautiful landscapes, history and architecture. A highlight will be the world famous Albuquerque Balloon Festival, the world’s largest & most famous hot air ballooning event. Witness the Mass Ascension, which includes over 500 balloons taking to the sky. Also experience the balloons up close and illuminated on solid ground during the Balloon Glow.

Enjoy 3 nights in Santa Fe, founded in 1607 making it America’s oldest state capital city and 3rd oldest continuously inhabited U.S. city. Enjoy a Santa Fe City Tour with a local guide featuring the Santa Fe Plaza, the Palace of the Governor, built in 1610, and a visit to the Loretto Chapel to learn of its mysterious past. Santa Fe is part of the UNESCO Creative City Network as one of the most important art markets in the world, and is renowned for its beauty, Pueblo-style architecture & museums.

Learn more about New Mexico’s Native American history and culture with visits to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Bandelier National Monument and the Taos Pueblo. The Taos Pueblo is a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring ancient Pueblo homes which have been continuously inhabited for over 1,000 years. A few of the other attractions during this program include Old Town Albuquerque, a Taos City Tour, the “High Road to Taos” & Los Alamos Bradbury Museum, which tells the story of this isolated town and its role in the Manhattan Project.

Please review the itinerary details and keep in mind that roundtrip airfare is included in the tour price. We hope that you can join us on this incredible trip!

Cheers,

Gwen D. Harrington  
Director of Travel Program  
Virginia Tech Alumni Association