

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Includes Santa Fe and Durango



October 8 - 14, 2018
(7 days - 6 nights)

Mon, Oct. 8
Santa Fe, NM

With everyone aboard our motorcoach we will be on our way to the "Land of Enchantment" and our tour to include Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Durango. Today will be a day to

get acquainted with fellow travelers and to share in everyone's excitement. Tonight we overnight in Santa Fe, the capital city of New Mexico.

Tue, Oct 9 **Durango, CO**

Today we begin with some of the city's highlights. Old Santa Fe will include visits to Cathedral of St. Frances of Assisi and Loretto Chapel, whose spiral stairway is 22 feet high, has no center support and was assembled with wooden pegs instead of nails. Free time is allowed for strolling the Plaza where you will see many Native American artisans selling their crafts. You will have the option of visiting The Palace of the Governors (admission required). Built in 1610, it was the seat of government under Spanish, Native American, Mexican and U.S. territorial rule until 1909. Mid-afternoon we depart for Durango, CO.

Wed, Oct 10 **Durango, CO**

We will all be excited this morning as we board the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Train at the depot in Durango. The train travels 45.4 miles along the Animas River to Silverton while the train

Highlights Include:

- Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- Mass Ascension
- Balloon Glow
- Old Town Albuquerque
- Albuquerque City Tour
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Santa Fe Plaza
- Loretto Chapel
- San Francisco de Asis Mission
- Santa Fe city tour
- Durango and Silverton Train
- Mesa Verde National Park
- 4-Corners Monument

crosses the river 5 times en route. In Silverton, enjoy time for lunch and shopping in this former silver mining town with an elevation of 9318.

Thu, Oct 11 **Farmington, NM**

Heading to the west, our first stop will be Mesa Verde National Park, created in 1906 to protect some of the best preserved cliff dwellings in the world. Our visit will afford you great photo opportunities and a better understanding of the Ancestral Pueblo people who made it their home. Leaving the park, we route to 4-Corners, the only point in the US where 4 states (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah) come together at one place. Navajo artisans and

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vendors will be nearby selling jewelry and other crafts. We continue to Farmington, the commercial hub of northwestern New Mexico, to overnight.

Fri, Oct 12 **Albuquerque, NM**

Today we route to Albuquerque, the largest city in the state. The Rio Grande River runs through the city and the Sandia Mountains form a beautiful backdrop to the area. The word "Sandia" means watermelon in Spanish and the mountains glow a watermelon pink at sunset. The city will be filled with tourists in town for the 2018 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and this evening we will attend the Balloon Glow followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

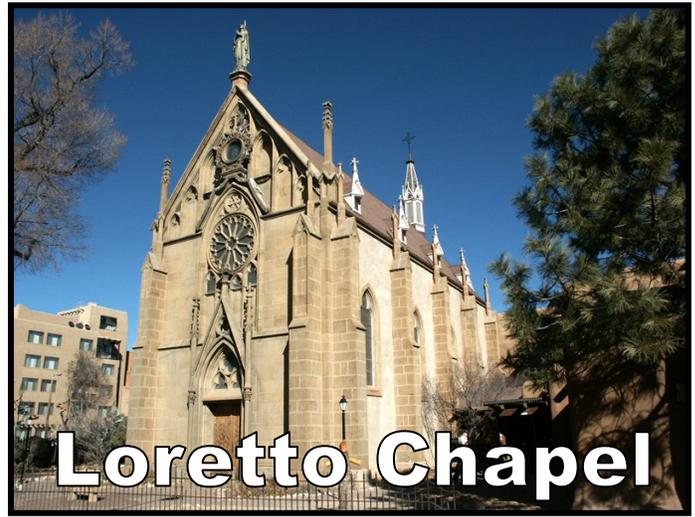
Sat, Oct 13 **Albuquerque, NM**

This morning we will rise early and transfer to the balloon grounds in anticipation of Mass Ascension, the most photographed event in the world, with over 600 balloons going up in waves. Later today you will have time to enjoy Old Town Albuquerque and shop around the Plaza.

Sun, Oct 14 **Return home**

After a whirlwind tour of northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado, we must prepare for our return trip to Texas, but we will long remember the memories we have shared with our friends on this great tour.

**Thank you for traveling with
Bilbrey Tours!**



Price Includes:

- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation from:
- **Abilene, Big Spring and Lubbock**
- 6 nights accommodations
- Baggage handling for one piece of luggage
- Admissions to included attractions per itinerary
- Meals: 5 continental breakfasts and 1 breakfast
5 lunches or dinners
- Gratuities for motorcoach driver and local guides
- Services of a tour escort

Cost per person:

\$1599 (2 people per room)	<u>Ins.</u> \$177
\$2079 (1 person per room)	\$239

\$25 deposit due upon booking

Final payment due July 3, 2018

Travel Protection Insurance is optional and available at a cost of \$177-239 per person. A complete outline of coverage is available upon request. All insurance payments must be received with or before final payment of tour. We strongly urge you to purchase this insurance to protect yourself in the event of a **medically related cancellation**. **All cancellations must be reported to Bilbrey Tours, Inc. within 72 hours of the problem causing the need to cancel. All claims must be completed by attending physician.**

Luggage tags and a detailed itinerary will be provided 2 weeks prior to tour.

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