

Travels with Doris Presents National Hot Air Balloon Championship and Old West Balloon Fest August 13-15 2020



The 2020 OLD WEST BALLOON FEST & NATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON COMPETITION (approx. 75 balloons in attendance) is going to be held on August 10 - 17, 2020, at the Mitchell, NE Airport. Following an extensive, two-month written bid proposal process Old West Balloon Fest Board of Directors and the communities of Gering, Mitchell, Scottsbluff, Mitchell Western Nebraska were awarded the three-year contract to host the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship (Nationals) for 2019, 2020 and 2021”.

Tentative schedule (2020) Depending on weather conditions allowing for ascensions

Bus will pickup at Beatrice Walmart Parking Lot Northwest side 6:30 a.m., Fairbury Walmart Parking Lot South End, 7:15, Dorchester Fire Hall across from Gas Station 8:10 a.m., Hastings Walmart Parking Lot North End 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 13th Courthouse and Jail Rocks are two rock formations located near Bridgeport in the Nebraska Panhandle. The Oregon-California Trail, the Mormon Trail, the Pony Express Trail and the Sidney-Deadwood Trail all ran near the rocks. Dinner at Double L Country Store & Café Harrisburg

- Evening Hot Air Balloon Glow at Western Nebraska Community College – dusk
- Lodging at Fairfield Inn Scottsbluff
- Friday morning (August 14, 2020); hot air balloon mass ascension with 80 hot air balloons taking flight in the early morning (sometime between 6:30 am and 8:00 a.m. at the Mitchell Air Field)
 - Before balloons fly; vendors, food trucks, live entertainment and spectators are on the field assisting pilots getting their balloons ready to fly
 - Post hot air balloons taking flight; food, vendors and entertainment remain on the field until approximately Noon
 - 1:00 Scotts Bluff National Monument. Road will be closed to other traffic. This prominent landmark was used by American Indians, fur trader and Oregon and Mormon trail pioneers as a guide for their journey west. A drive to the summit gives a tremendous view of the entire valley and the wagon ruts that are still visible at the base. If you are so inclined you can walk down from the summit, distance of 1.6 miles.
 - 3:00 Return to Gering to Legacy of Plains Museum
 - 6:30 Dinner Log Cabin
- Saturday hot air balloon mass ascension 90 hot air balloons taking flight in the early morning
 - Then, depart to Bayard to stand beneath Chimney Rock via NE 92 E, a landmark along the Oregon Trail. Continue
- **\$329/Double occupancy. Includes motorcoach, 2 nights hotel Fairfield Inn,**
- **4 meals, admissions, & gratuities**

To reserve a seat call Doris at 402-821-2547 Cell 402) 641-7132

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