

8 Day Albuquerque

New Mexico's Balloon Fiesta



2019
Revised Tour #19132
 Oct. 09-17



MOTORCOACH

1 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Our journey takes us west through Tennessee across the Mississippi River, and into Arkansas, the 29th largest in square miles of the 50 United States. The capital and most populous city is Little Rock, our destination for the night.

2 OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

We continue westward this morning through Arkansas and Ft. Smith on our way to Oklahoma City for the night. Oklahoma City is the capital of the state of Oklahoma, known for its cowboy culture and capitol complex, surrounded by working oil wells. The reflecting pool and empty glass and bronze chairs of the Oklahoma City National Memorial recall the victims of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The Buffalo Bill statue at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is perched on the southeast ridge of Persimmon Hill. The statue has been located at the museum since 1977 and serves as a tribute to the spirit of the West and to the man who embodied this spirit. The statue is one of the largest bronze sculptures west of the Mississippi. Take a seat and enjoy the sites of OKC's Entertainment District on the Bricktown Water Taxi. Once on board a water taxi, you'll be entertained as you learn all about our city's unique history. Dinner is included this evening at the Cattleman's Steakhouse. **D**



3 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

This morning we depart Oklahoma City as we continue west stopping in Amarillo for lunch. After lunch we arrive in New Mexico as we continue to Albuquerque for a two night stay. Albuquerque, New Mexico's largest city, sits in the high desert. Its modern Downtown core contrasts with Old Town Albuquerque, dating to the city's 1706 founding as a Spanish colony. Old Town is filled with historic adobe buildings, such as San Felipe de Neri Church, 5 museums, and shops selling Native American handicrafts. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®, the world's largest hot air balloon festival, takes place each October, when you'll see hundreds of balloons in the sky at a time. This magical hot air balloon festival is considered to be the most photographed event in the world, drawing a huge international crowd of balloonists and spectators. The 48th Balloon Fiesta will be held on October 05-13, 2019.

4 BALLOON MASS ASCENSION / BALLOON GLOW

We visit the 78-acre Balloon Fiesta Park early this morning for the Mass Ascension—where hundreds of hot air balloons take off, turning the sky into a virtual rainbow of colors. What began as a gathering of thirteen balloons

over thirty years ago has since turned into the largest ballooning event in the world. The Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum is the world's premiere facility dedicated to the art, culture, science, history, sport and spectacle of ballooning. It features one of the finest collections of ballooning equipment and memorabilia in the world. We will visit the museum after the Mass Ascension. We will return to the hotel in the afternoon with free time for relaxing or shopping. This evening we return to the park for the main event—The Balloon Glow at dusk when all 800 balloons ignite on the ground. It's an exhilarating sight! The glow is followed with an After Glow Fireworks Show. Be sure to bring your camera!

5 SANTA FE / AMARILLO, TEXAS

It's a short drive to Santa Fe, the oldest capital city in the United States and where the desert meets the Rocky Mountains. We begin with a sightseeing tour of Santa Fe including the State Capitol, the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, San Miguel Mission, the Palace of the Governor, and Loretto Chapel's "Miraculous Stairway." After lunch in Santa Fe, we continue through New Mexico entering Texas for overnight in Amarillo.

6 FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS / POCOLA

Departing Amarillo this morning, we continue through Texas into Oklahoma City area for lunch. After lunch we travel through Oklahoma into Arkansas. Fort Smith lies on the Arkansas-Oklahoma state border, situated at the confluence of the Arkansas and Poteau rivers. We spend the night in Pocola, Oklahoma at the Choctaw Casino. Buffet Dinner included this evening. **D**

7 MEMPHIS / TOUR MEMPHIS / SUN STUDIO / BEALE STREET

We arrive in Memphis for lunch. After lunch, we will tour Memphis with a local guide including Beale Street, Sun Recording Studio where Elvis recorded his first record. Visit the Peabody hotel to see the "Peabody Ducks" before checking into the beautiful Cedar Lodge located in the Pyramid. Dinner included this evening at B B Kings Blues Club on Beale Street. **D**

8 HOMEWARD BOUND

Today we begin our last day of travel through the state of Tennessee stopping for lunch in Nashville. After lunch we begin to bid farewell to our new-found friends as our tour comes to an end. We will have memories to last a lifetime!

3 MEALS INCLUDED

B - Breakfast • L - Lunch • D - Dinner

Price Per Person:

Single \$2250

Twin \$1695

Triple \$1550

9-day tour from these cities departing one day earlier: Attalla, Decatur and Huntsville, AL; Lexington, KY. Add \$130 to the above prices for twin or triple and \$150 for single.