BALLOON

# OCTOBER 8-14, 2019



Cadillac Ranch

Dawn Patrol launch & hot air balloon mass ascension

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

Balloon Glow & AfterGlow Fireworks Show

Santa Fe touring

Taos Pueblo

Royal Gorge Park

Garden of the Gods





#### DAY1 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

#### OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

(BD)

We depart Grand Island this morning and enjoy breakfast on board the motorcoach as we begin a day of travel to Oklahoma City with stops for comfort and lunch on our own along the way. Upon our afternoon arrival in Oklahoma City, we will make our way to the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum** to view one of the most comprehensive collections of Western art in the world. The museum contains more than 28,000 Western and American Indian artifacts and works of art that tell America's story as it unfolded across the West. Our accommodations this evening are located in the wonderful Bricktown. Once a busy warehouse area, Bricktown is Oklahoma City's hottest entertainment and dining district. After settling in, we will enjoy dinner together at one of the numerous restaurants in the area and then take a **water taxi ride along the mile-long Bricktown Canal**. The canal ends in Lower Bricktown, where we will see the **Oklahoma Land Run Monument** featuring 45 heroic, larger-than-life figures of land run participants frozen in motion as they race to claim new homesteads. Our evening will come to an end with an inspiring nighttime stroll through the **Oklahoma City National Memorial**. The Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is a place of quiet reflection which honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were changed forever on April 19, 1995. It encompasses the now-sacred soil where the Murrah Building once stood, as well as the surrounding area devastated during the Oklahoma City bombing.

#### DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

(BD)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will journey from Oklahoma City to Albuquerque along the iconic **Route 66**. We'll stop to stretch our legs and have lunch on our own as we pass through the great state of Texas, before continuing west for a photo stop at **Cadillac Ranch** in Amarillo. In 1974, ten Cadillacs were half-buried, nose-down, by a group of art-hippies and a local billionaire. Visitors soon covered the cars in graffiti – a practice that was quickly embraced and is still encouraged to this day! After admiring this unique roadside attraction, we will continue on to **Albuquerque**, **New Mexico**, to meet our local tour manager. We'll settle into our hotel before enjoying the traditional cuisine of the area and the company of our fellow travelers at a wonderful dinner.

#### DAY 3 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Today we will learn why Albuquerque is called the "Hot Air Balloon Capital of the World."\* We'll depart for an early morning transfer to the Balloon Fiesta Park to watch the Dawn Patrol and have breakfast in the Chasers' Club. The Dawn Patrol began at the world-famous Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta in 1978 when two California pilots developed position lighting systems that allowed them to fly at night. Dawn Patrol pilots take off in the dark and fly until it is light enough to see landing sites. Then, just at dawn, when the winds are at their calmest, we will witness the mass ascension of special-shape hot air balloons in a rainbow of colors during the Special Shapes Rodeo. Next on our agenda is a visit to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to explore the amazing interactive exhibits on the history and stories of the native Pueblo people. As we continue touring through Albuquerque, we will see the University of New Mexico and enjoy some free time in Old Town to wander through the many shops, art galleries, and restaurants for lunch on our own. Old Town's tree-lined plaza and charming adobe buildings are sure to delight both the sightseer and the shopper! Time will be available to relax and freshen up at the hotel before we return to the Balloon Fiesta and the Chasers' Club for a buffet dinner, the Balloon Glow, and the AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show. The Balloon Glow occurs when all the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time. It is one of the most spectacular moments in all of the Balloon Fiesta and is followed by New Mexico's most impressive fireworks display.

\* If there is some problem with the weather today, we will be able to enjoy the Balloon Fiesta activities on one of the next two days.

#### DAY 4 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

SANTA FE, NM

#### (BD)

After breakfast this morning, we will say goodbye to Albuquerque and venture to **Santa Fe**, the first state capitol in the United States. Our tour of this historic city will include the **Palace of the Governors**, which is the oldest continuously occupied public building in the United States, plus **St. Francis Cathedral** and the **Loretto Chapel**. The chapel is a miniature model of the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris and is famous for its miraculous staircase. The afternoon is yours to stroll through the **Indian Market** and browse the native arts and crafts that are available directly from the Indians who created them. Santa Fe also boasts a wonderful variety of shops, art galleries, and restaurants to explore! Dinner this evening will be enjoyed as a group.

### M

(BD)



#### DAY 5 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

ALAMOSA, CO

(BD)

Today's adventure takes us on the **High Road to Taos**. Along the way, we will visit the village of **Chimayo**, where the descendants of Spanish weavers and woodcarvers still ply their crafts. After a stop to observe the artisans, we'll continue along the picturesque high road to the world-class resort town of **Taos**. Founded in 1617 by the Spanish, Taos has a magical blend of Indian and Spanish cultures and is the former home of frontiersman Kit Carson and novelist D.H. Lawrence. We will visit **Taos Pueblo**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that has been a continually-inhabited Native American community for more than 1,000 years. The adobe structures in the village have changed very little since the first Spanish explorers saw them in the 1540s. We will also visit **Taos Plaza** and enjoy free time to wander the streets, enjoy the atmosphere, and browse the offerings of the many artists who have come here to capture the allure of this delightful place. This afternoon, we will continue north into Colorado to do some sightseeing in **Great Sand Dunes National Park**. The park boasts the tallest dunes in North America, which serve as the beautiful centerpiece in a diverse landscape of grasslands, wetlands, conifer and aspen forests, alpine lakes, and tundra. Our day comes to an end in the small town of **Alamosa**, where dinner and our overnight accommodations await.

#### DAY 6 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

#### COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

(BLD)

We'll begin the day with breakfast before boarding the motorcoach for the scenic drive north to Canõn City to visit **Royal Gorge Park** and take in the view of the canyon from above. Built in 1929, the Royal Gorge Bridge is one of the world's highest suspension bridges, soaring 956 feet above the Arkansas River and stretching 1,270 feet across. During our free time to explore the park, consider crossing the bridge by foot and peering down to see the rafters on the river below. Or, take a leisurely ride across the gorge via aerial gondola. The afternoon will bring us to the **Garden of the Gods**. This 1,340-acre park contains an abundance of plant and animal life and is well-known for its magnificent red sandstone rock formations. As we tour through the park, be on the lookout for unique formations such as the Kissing Camels, Balanced Rock, and the Three Graces! After checking into our Colorado Springs hotel, our group will gather for a wonderful farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

### DAY 7 MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

HOME

(B)

We will depart this morning on our journey home with stops for comfort and lunch on our own along the way.









## INCLUSIONS

- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- 6 Nights' Accommodations
- 14 Meals (7 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 6 Dinners)
- Local Tour Manager from Albuquerque to Taos
- Travel Protection Plan

Not included in the price of this tour: meals/beverages other than those listed on the itinerary, beverages other than tea or coffee with included meals, items of a personal nature/souvenirs, phone calls and faxes from hotels, and any service not listed in the above inclusions.

## TOUR PRICING

\$2,459 per person, Double Occupancy \$2,995 per person, Single Occupancy

A \$500 deposit per person is required with your registration form. FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE: JULY 15, 2019

> For further information or questions, please call: Linda Green (308) 389-8783 or email: linda.green@5pointsbank.com

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL

EASY	1	2	3	4	5	ENERGETI
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#### Activity Levels

- 1. Easy to Minimal: Mostly panoramic sightseeing; 1-2 hours of easy-paced walking at a time; minimal stairs and uneven surfaces; must be able to physically get on/off the motorcoach.
- 2. Minimal to Moderate: 2-3 hours of easy-paced walking at a time; some stairs and uneven surfaces due to nature of attractions.
- 3. Moderate: 3-4 hours of walking/standing at a time; some stairs, inclines, and uneven surfaces due to nature of attractions.
- 4. Moderate to Energetic: 4-6 hours of walking/standing/physical activity; stairs, inclines, and uneven surfaces due to nature of attractions.

• Admission to Attractions as

• Porter Service of One Bag

Stated on Itinerary

Per Person at Hotels

**Included Services** 

Taxes and Gratuities for

5. Energetic: Excellent health is required for this on-the-go tour; involves strenuous activities and more than 6 hours of activity at a more vigorous pace.

DOCUMENTATION: A government-issued photo I.D. is required for this trip

BASIC SECONDARY TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN INCLUDED: Five Points Bank is including a Travel Protection Plan in your tour pricing. Travel Protection means passengers are covered when unforeseen medical circumstances arise which may force you to cancel or interrupt your vacation. Coverage is as follows: Accidental Death and Dismemberment (\$25,000), Emergency Medical Expense/Emergency Assistance (Emergency Accident and Sickness Medical Expense - \$50,000 / Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation - \$250,000), Trip Cancellation (Trip Cost), Trip Interruption (150% of Trip Cost), Missed Connection (\$750), Travel Delay \$750 (up to \$150 per day), Baggage and Personal Effects (\$2,500), Baggage Delay (\$250). A brochure with full details is available. To review full plan details online, go to: www.tripmate.com/wpF450D.

CANCELLATION: Full refund of all monies is made if cancellation is received in writing to Five Points Bank prior to final payment. A 100% fee is charged if the cancellation occurs between final payment and departure. If the reason for cancellation is due to a medical or other reason that is covered by Travel Protection, you may be eligible for reimbursement for such fees from your Travel Protection Plan provider.

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