

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA

WITH LAS VEGAS, GRAND CANYON & MORE!



14 Days/13 Nights
October 2 - 15, 2019
Tour includes 24 Meals



Day 1: The southwestern United States is a place of subtle beauty and constantly changing landscapes. Experience the majesty for yourself as we board our **Ionosphere Tours** motorcoach for a 15-Day tour of America's southwest. Today we are enroute to **Memphis**, on the banks of the mighty Mississippi, for our first night's stay. **Dinner will be included** tonight, in the area of the hotel. **(D)**

Day 2: This morning we immediately cross the muddy waters of the Mississippi and continue into **Arkansas**. Just past Little Rock we encounter the rolling hills of the southern Ozarks. By late afternoon we arrive in the **Dallas, Texas** area, where Rolexes rub up against red necks and fortune 500 executives drive pickups and wear boots with their suits!. Our overnight stay will be in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. **Dinner will be included** tonight near our hotel. **(B,D)**

Day 3: This morning begins with a short driving tour of downtown **Dallas**. We visit the **JFK Memorial Plaza**, the site of the November 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Now we head west to **Fort Worth**, a city that is as western as Dallas is cosmopolitan. We'll make a short stop for pictures at Fort Worth's famous Water Garden. We continue west to the **Carlsbad, New Mexico** area for our overnight stay. **Dinner will be included** tonight. **(B,D)**



Day 4: Today we take a walking tour of magnificent **Carlsbad Caverns**, one of the world's largest caves. Cowboy Jim White first explored and guided people through the caverns in the early 1900s. You'll be amazed by what you see! Leaving the caverns, we continue on to **Willcox, Arizona**, where we have accommodations for tonight. **(B,D)**

Day 5: Our first stop today is in **Tombstone**, "The Town Too Tough To Die." We'll see a short multimedia presentation offering us a look at Tombstone's history. We'll also see the O.K. Corral where the Earps and the Clanton gang had their famous gunfight. We arrive in **Tucson** where we tour **Saguaro National Park**. We'll drive the loop roads and walk the trails that take us past hundreds of the huge Saguaro Cactus, which grow only in the Sonora Desert. Next we travel to **Phoenix/Mesa** area where we overnight and have an **included dinner** this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 6: Following breakfast we continue our journey continues as we travel to **Las Vegas** for a two-night stay. Enroute we'll make a stop in beautiful **Sedona, Arizona**, with scenery that makes your heart leap. Sedona is nestled among a geological wonderland. Multi-hued stone formations jut upwards from the high desert floor creating a vivid, mesmerizing setting that changes hourly with the light. When USA Weekend compiled their Most Beautiful Places in America list, Sedona claimed the top spot. We'll have time to explore & lunch on our own here. By late afternoon we arrive in **Nevada's** largest city, Las Vegas, which is a razzle - dazzle city of lights, hotels, night clubs, and casinos. A **dinner buffet** will be included. **(B,D)**



Day 7: Today we will visit **Hoover Dam**, built during the Depression when thousands of men and their families came to Black Canyon to tame the Colorado River. It took less than 5 years, in a harsh and barren land, to build the largest dam of its time. Now, more than 60 years later, Hoover Dam still stands as a world-renowned structure, and is rated as one of America's Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders. We'll take an elevator deep into the heart of the dam to learn about the process of construction and to see the massive turbines that provide power for millions of people. Also included will be **lunch at the Hacienda Hotel** and a **tour of Ethel M's Chocolate Factory and Desert Botanical Gardens**. Upon return to Las Vegas we'll have the rest of the day to explore our hotel or some of the other spectacular Casino Hotels for which this city is noted. **(L)**



Day 8: We depart this morning and travel back into **Arizona**. Enroute we will cross the "Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge", which is a new bypass bridge over the Colorado River at Hoover Dam. On the north side of the Bridge we will make a stop for optimum viewing of the Hoover Dam. Our destination is the **Grand Canyon**, a spectacle so impressive that words just can't describe it. It's hard to grasp the reality of a cut that's a mile deep and as much as 18 miles across and more than 200 miles long. We'll spend the night in **Tusayan**, just outside the south entrance to Grand Canyon National Park. We'll enjoy a **sunset tour** along the south rim onboard the Park Transportation Bus

this evening, following an **included dinner** in the park. **(D)**

Continued on next page

Day 9: Following breakfast this morning, we turn east toward **New Mexico**. Our destination is **Albuquerque, New Mexico**. Spread out before the dramatic Sandia Mountains, Albuquerque is the Metropolis of New Mexico. Past and present mingle here. **Dinner will be included** tonight and accommodations for the next two nights are in Albuquerque. **(B,D)**

Day 10: Following breakfast we're off for an exciting ride on the **Sandia Peak Tramway**, an aerial tram which lofts passengers to the top of 10,000-foot Sandia Peak. The 2.7 mile ride is the longest clear and unsupported span in North America. The view,, both east and west, is spectacular. Next, we'll have free time and lunch in **Old Town**, the original Albuquerque founded in 1706. Old Town clusters around a plaza and San Felipe de Meri Church. The warmth of aged adobe adds a special charm to its shops, galleries, restaurants and hidden patios. We can look here for bargains on silver and turquoise jewelry. Following our time in Old town we make our way to the festivities at the **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta**. Events this afternoon include a Chainsaw Carving Invitational, a Special Shape "Gloweo". Team Fastrax Sky Divers and an After Glow Fireworks show in the evening. **Dinner will be included tonight** at the Fiesta area. **(B,D)**



Day 11: Very early this morning we will depart for the Fiesta grounds where we will be in awe as we witness the **Mass Ascension of Hot Air Balloons**. By mid-morning we depart the Albuquerque area. Our destination today is **Amarillo**, in the Texas panhandle. Enroute we will make a stop at the **Route 66 Auto Museum in Santa Rosa, New Mexico**. This museum considered by some to be the best classic car museum they've ever been to! We can bask in the warm glow of sweet nostalgia as we explore. Besides great cars and trucks, they also display old tools and car parts! Later today checking into our hotel in Amarillo, we'll depart for and included dinner at the World Famous **Big Texan Steak Ranch**, home of the free 72 oz. steak challenge. **(B,D)**



Day 12: Just outside of Amarillo, we'll stop at the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The cross stands 190 feet and is visible up to 20 miles away. We finish crossing the Texas Panhandle and continue to **Oklahoma City**. **Lunch will be included** prior to our visit to the fascinating **National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum**. Here we find the world's largest exhibition of Western lore. See famous western art, including many Remingtons, and the John Wayne collection of guns, knives, and personal items along with part of his collection of Kachinas dolls, valued at over one million dollars. We also visit the **Oklahoma City National Memorial**, site of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. We overnight in the Oklahoma City area. **(B,L)**

Day 13: Following breakfast we head east, traveling through Arkansas and into Tennessee. We arrive in the **Memphis** area, where we have accommodations for the night. **Dinner will be included** in the area of our hotel. **(B,D)**

Day 14: We'll spend our last day of this tour traveling through Alabama as we turn our thoughts toward home. We are reminded of the words to America, the Beautiful. We'll never forget our experiences and our fellowship with our friends. **(B)**

\$2620 PP Double / \$2460 PP Triple
\$2250 PP Quad / \$4000 Single

Deposit/Payment Requirements:
\$400.00 Deposit Per Person due with reservation

Plus cost of travel protection, if desired
(travel protection offers insurance benefits & non-insurance services)
cost per person is: \$172 Double - \$ 145 Triple - \$145 Quad, \$242 Single



Final Payment Due by August 16, 2019

IONOSPHERE TOURS - 307 N. MAIN ST. - ANDERSON, SC 29621
800-972-1741 OR 864-225-7783
www.ionospheretours.com