



Soar into
the excitement with
the Balloon Fiesta's 2026
theme—The Scenic Route—
celebrating 100 years of
Route 66!

Southwest Grand Adventure

Experience the Wonders of the Scenic American Southwest

OCTOBER 5-14, 2026

Discover Arizona's stunning cliffs and canyons, displaying their magnificent geological formations. In New Mexico, witness the vibrant spectacle of the International Balloon Festival, indulge in delectable cuisine at the Santa Fe School of Cooking, and take in panoramic views from Sandia Peak. Along Route 66, explore the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and reflect at the moving Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE SOUTHWEST!

Arrive in Phoenix for a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers. **D**

DAY 2: SEDONA

Discover the stunning beauty of Sedona from the comfort of a narrated trolley tour, where dramatic red rock vistas unfold around every turn. Visit the renowned Chapel of the Holy Cross, seamlessly integrated into the rugged cliffs. Then, enjoy a leisurely lunch downtown and explore Sedona's artistic side with a visit to its eclectic galleries, boutique shops, and handcrafted treasures. **B, L**



DAY 3: WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT

Begin your day with a visit to Walnut Canyon National Monument to view ancient cliff dwellings built by the Sinagua people over 700 years ago. Take a guided tour of Riordan Mansion, an elegant example of American Arts and Crafts architecture known for its detailed woodwork, handcrafted finishes, and rich history. Tonight, explore the wonders of the cosmos with an optional visit to Lowell Observatory (additional expense), where you'll witness celestial marvels firsthand through powerful telescopes and expert-guided stargazing. **B, L**



DAY 4: GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

In 1903, Teddy Roosevelt said about the Grand Canyon "... it is beyond comparison—beyond description; absolutely unparalleled throughout the wide world...one of the great sights which every American should see." Enjoy a visit to Grand Canyon National Park and marvel at the canyon's sheer majesty and inspiring beauty where the unique geologic colors change throughout the day. Enjoy time to explore the rim or visit shops and lodges nearby. **B, D**

DAY 5: ALBUQUERQUE, NM, BALLOON GLOW!

Journey east through New Mexico to Albuquerque, home to the magnificent 2026 International Balloon Fiesta, the world's premier hot-air balloon event. This evening, enjoy the rare opportunity to walk among the balloons on the launch field during the spectacular Balloon Glow, as glowing burners illuminate the night sky and create a truly unforgettable sight. Relax in your reserved viewing area as the evening concludes with the dazzling AfterGlow fireworks display. **B, D**

DAY 6: THE INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER

Begin your morning with an optional hot-air balloon ride (additional expense), soaring above New Mexico's stunning desert landscapes at sunrise. Visit the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, celebrating 50 years of sharing the history, traditions, and living culture of New Mexico's 19 Pueblo communities. Enjoy lunch at the Center, recognized as one of North America's premier destinations for Indigenous tourism and education. **B, L**

DAY 7: MASS ASCENSION, SANTA FE

Wake to the wonder of the Dawn Patrol and 2026 Farewell Mass Ascension, one of the most spectacular traditions of the Balloon Fiesta. As hundreds of vibrant balloons ascend into the crisp New Mexico sky, enjoy a front-row view from your reserved launch field seating. Later, savor the flavors and traditions of the Southwest with a cooking demonstration and meal at the Santa Fe School of Cooking, followed by a guided exploration of Santa Fe's historic center, colorful markets, and the legendary Loretto Chapel. **B, L**

DAY 8: SANDIA PEAK

Before saying goodbye to Albuquerque, take a ride on the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway, the longest aerial tramway in the world. Travel 2.7 miles high above the forested slopes of the Cibola National Forest to the summit of Sandia Peak, where breathtaking panoramic views stretch across the vast landscapes of the Southwest. After taking in the stunning scenery, continue your journey to Amarillo. **B, D**

DAY 9: NATIONAL COWBOY MUSEUM, OKLAHOMA CITY MEMORIAL

Start your day with a journey into the heart of the American West at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, immersing yourself in cowboy history and Western art. Afterwards, visit the Oklahoma City National Memorial, where peaceful grounds and thoughtful exhibits are brought to life through powerful first-person accounts that convey the profound impact of the 1995 bombing, honoring the memories of those lost and the strength of the community. **B, L**

DAY 10: RETURN HOME

Return home with some amazing photos to share and exciting stories to tell of your adventure in the American Southwest! **B** 🌟



TOUR DETAILS

Oct 5-14, 2026

10 Days • 18 Meals

Price Per Person:

DB \$3,599, TP/QD \$3,239, SG \$4,509

Depart:  St. Louis
Springfield

Return:  St. Louis
Springfield

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the Grand Canyon
- Enjoy the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- Visit the miraculous Loretto Chapel
- Ride the Sandia Aerial Tram
- Reflect at the OKC memorial

ACCOMMODATIONS

Night 1: Drury Plaza Hotel

Phoenix, Tempe, AZ

Nights 2-4: Little America

Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ

Nights 5-7: Drury Inn, Albuquerque, NM

Night 8: Drury Inn & Suites, Amarillo, TX

Night 9: Wyndham Grand,

Oklahoma City, OK

// In particular, the Oklahoma City Memorial was incredible. It was moving and the extra talk with the survivor's spouse was so great. //

—Melinda L.
2025 TRAVELER