



By the Numbers – Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Inc. Shares 2026 Event Statistics
54th Balloon Fiesta, held October 3-11, 2026, total number of balloons, attendees, and more

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Stephanie Kitts, skitts@balloonfiesta.com, 505-309-0851

Makayla Roberts, media@balloonfiesta.com, 505-898-8689

Albuquerque, N.M. – The 54th ExxonMobil Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® drew more than 901,000 people to Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque, N.M., over 50,000 more people than last year. New guests and returning attendees alike showed up in full force to enjoy “The Scenic Route” and all Balloon Fiesta had to offer.

Total Numbers:

- Estimated Guest Visits: **901,720**
- Registered Pilots (primary and additional): **584**
- Registered Hot Air Balloons (including special shapes): **664**
- Registered Special Shape Balloons: **114** (13 new to Balloon Fiesta)
- Globitos (remote-control balloons): **101**
- Balloon Fiesta Live! Viewers: **1,047,295**
- Media Organizations: **140**
- Media Representatives: **891**

“From pilots and crews to guests on the field and fans watching on Balloon Fiesta Live!, this year’s Balloon Fiesta was an incredible success,” said Neil Jackson, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Board President. “Beautiful ballooning weather and the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers made it possible to deliver 14 unforgettable sessions. We’re grateful to everyone who helped make it so special.”

Event Sessions: All 14 scheduled sessions took place. One morning flying event took place as a static display on Wednesday, October 7, and one evening glow took place as a candlestick glow on Saturday, October 10. Music Fiesta™ returned as part of the evening events on Saturday, October 10. The busiest overall day was Saturday, October 10, with an estimated 193,761 guests, followed by Friday, October 9, with an estimated 162,317 guests.

Participating Countries: 18

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of North Macedonia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Tanzania, United States of America.

Participating States: 47

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South

Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Navigators: 1,057 volunteers worked this year's event. Navigators (not including chase crew) are volunteers who provide guest services, administrative services, balloon coordination and safety, setup and logistics, and more in over 40 different areas across all facets of Balloon Fiesta.

"After experiencing several weeks of record-breaking rain across the Albuquerque metro, Mother Nature blessed us with gorgeous weather for the 2026 Balloon Fiesta," said Julie Morgas Baca, Executive Director of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. "I am incredibly grateful to the hundreds of thousands of pilots, crews, volunteers, and guests that make each Balloon Fiesta one to remember."

The 55th ExxonMobil Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® will take place October 2-10, 2027, with the theme "Adventure with Altitude."

For more information about the ExxonMobil Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, visit balloonfiesta.com.

###

About the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Inc.

The ExxonMobil Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® is an annual festival of hot air balloons that takes place every October in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. It is the largest gathering of balloons and balloonists in the world. For details on events, schedule, and entertainment, visit our website, BalloonFiesta.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), Instagram, [Twitter/X](#), or [TikTok](#).