

Tucson Hot Air Balloon Adventures

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Think the only way to explore Tucson is by strolling through the streets and hiking the desert mountains? Well, you are right that traversing the town by foot is a popular pastime, but if you are in the mood for something a bit more unique, why not experience Tucson from above—in a hot air balloon that is. Whether you're visiting Tucson for the first time, or you are just looking for something different to do with the family this weekend, here are a few of Tucson's best hot air balloon companies that will take you up, up and away.



Fleur de Tucson Balloon Tours

Owned and operated by husband and wife team, Mike and Becky Fleury, this hot air balloon company will take you over the Tucson Mountains and Saguaro National Park West on Tucson's northwest side. In addition to the breathtaking desert landscape, you are also likely to spot wildlife—think javelina, deer, bobcats, rabbits, foxes and red-tailed hawks—on your journey. After takeoff, you'll be presented with a delicious continental breakfast and champagne with which to toast your journey, while hearing about the history of ballooning. Fleur de Tucson Balloon Tours is unique in that it offers smaller, more personal tours than its competitors, featuring trips with only 2-5 passengers per balloon, versus 10-12 passengers that is more typical for balloon rides. www.fleurdetucson.net.



Southern Arizona Balloon Excursions

As a well-respected hot air balloon company, Southern Arizona Balloon Excursions has been flying in and around Tucson for more than 22 years. With flights that take you over the Catalina and Tucson Mountain ranges, each Southern Arizona Balloon Excursion is directed by a FAA licensed commercial balloon pilot with decades of experience. Safety is a priority with this hot air balloon company, as they only fly when the winds are the gentlest, including near sunrise, late afternoon or near sunset. Southern Arizona Balloon Excursions offers trips for large or small groups, or couples or singles, and they also offer fun-shaped balloons, which is sure to entertain the kids. www.tucsoncomefly.com.



Tucson Hot Air Balloon Rides

Offering flights that span a variety of locations, including the Sonoran Desert, Tucson Mountains, Saguaro National Park West and the agricultural expanse of Avra Valley, Tucson Hot Air Balloon Rides offer trips that are over an hour long and sometimes much longer, depending on wind conditions and landing opportunities. Traveling 10-15 miles at an altitude of 500 to 4,000 feet, Tucson Hot Air Balloon Rides also offers convenience with their free pickups and dropoffs from all Tucson hotels and resorts. Also, don't worry about leaving anyone behind to take photos, as pictures of your flight are included and are taken by a Tucson Hot Air Balloon Rides representative who follows the flight via chase vehicle. www.tucsonballoonrides.com.