



# BALLOON FESTIVAL

Every Fall near the Sandia mountains of New Mexico balloon enthusiasts gather from all over the world to witness something spectacular. Rising high into the air, and then making their way back to their launch site (*with help from the box winds*) these balloonists compete in various contests of skill and navigation. Be a part of the fun and see who happens to be piloting the balloons in this brightly-colored painting.

1. The Three Amigos is a hilarious movie!
2. The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker nursery rhyme was first recorded in 1798.
3. The legend lives on of the Lone Mariachi.
4. The famous Rio Grande resides in the southwest United States and northern Mexico.
5. New Mexico's state flag is one of only four U.S. state flags not to use the color blue. The symbol is from the native Zia people and it represents the sun.
6. Some people like the metaphor of being married in a balloon. Isn't it romantic?
7. Rabbit Ears Peak—part of the Desert Peaks recreation area.
8. Some fans of the famous Albuquerque roasted red peppers, which is a symbol of welcome.
9. Looks like Mario and Luigi are racing hot air balloons now!
10. Look out ladybugs! Two praying mantis are come for you in disguise!
11. Uncle Sam proudly representing his USA themed balloon!
12. The Chicken finally got out of the mailbox. Eric does love chickens.
13. If you don't know who Sancho Panza is, go read *Don Quixote* the book!
14. The Doublemint Twins love showing off their favorite gum from the 80's and 90's.
15. Two New Mexico Cowboys love to see sunsets from up here.
16. The love of ballooning is more fun than . . . well you get it.
17. Adam and Eve in a strawberry balloon—the forbidden fruit?