



Iowa's National Balloon Classic

4 Days July 25-28, 2019

Nearly 100 hot air balloons paint the Iowa sky with brilliant colors and playful Special Shapes! Cheer on skilled pilots as they compete for points and prizes, sit back and enjoy live music nightly, buy a balloon ride for a one-of-a-kind view, and prepare to be awestruck as dark skies come alive with a mystical glow during Dawn Patrol and Nite Glows. Kids Land, fireworks, fabulous food...experience all of this and so much more at the 2019 National Balloon Classic!

Tour Highlights:

- Des Moines Botanical Center
- National Balloon Classic Events
 - Dawn Patrols
 - Nite-Glow
- Bridges of Madison County Tour
- John Wayne's Birthplace and Museum
- Full Day of Touring in Pella, IA
- Three Nights First Class Lodging
- Three Hotel Breakfasts
- Two Dinners including
 - Des Moines Botanical Center Dinner & Tour
- All Taxes & Tips on these services
- Motorcoach Transportation

Per Person Prices:

\$795 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$695 TRIPLE...\$645...\$1,195 SINGLE

\$150 per person deposit due by with reservation

Final Payment due by June 18, 2019

Travel Insurance is available

\$44 per person Double, Triple & Quad Occupancy

\$82 per person Single Occupancy

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Day 1 - Today, you travel to Des Moines, IA which will be your home for the next three nights. Tonight, you enjoy dinner and a tour at the Des Moines Botanical Center, a vibrant, 14-acre public garden in the heart of downtown Des Moines. Guided by a mission of exploring, explaining and celebrating the world of plants, the Botanical Garden cultivates a signature experience through progressive garden design and innovative programming. A sit-down dinner is included following the tour.

Day 2 - Today starts very early this morning with the National Balloon Classic's Dawn Ascension (this is a 6:00am event.) This annual hot-air balloon festival hosts competition and races for over 100 balloon pilots and more than 75,000 spectators. Be prepared to be awestruck as dark skies come alive with a mystical glow.

Bring your flashlight and watch in wonder as Dawn Patrol pilots launch prior to sunrise and fly until it is light enough to land. You then have time to enjoy several hours of free time on the festival grounds this morning to enjoy the festivities to include: competitions, balloon rides, food vendors, games for kids, and live music shows.



The afternoon features sightseeing with a guided Bridges of Madison County Tour. Madison County is the Covered Bridge Capital of Iowa, with the largest group of covered bridges that exists in one area in the western half of the Mississippi Valley. Your tour will cover the construction and history of the bridges, the movie production of "the Bridges of Madison County" starring Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep and a variety of local historical information.

The afternoon of Cinema excitement doesn't end there however, as you also see John Wayne's Birthplace and Museum. John Wayne's modest four-room birthplace home has been lovingly restored to reflect its appearance at the time of his birth.

Adjacent to the home, the brand-new John Wayne Birthplace Museum offers an astounding collection of artifacts and memorabilia from the film legend's career. The only museum in the world dedicated to John Wayne, it features a movie theater and contains the largest diversified collection of John Wayne artifacts in existence, including movie posters, film wardrobe, original scripts, contracts, letters, artwork and sculpture — even one of his custom-built cars!

Stop for dinner this evening at the Machine Shed, honoring the American farmers, the restaurant is located at the entrance of Living History Farms. Enjoy farm to table food at its finest.

Day 3 - Today, you enjoy a day in Pella, IA. Famous for the Pella Tulip Time Festival, you will explore a village where life appears much as it was in the Netherlands. The sights, sounds and smells are Dutch. From the canal, to the architecture, to the 1850's windmill, the community literally appears to be a village in the Netherlands.

Dinner is your own tonight. The evening highlight is the Nite-Glow of Balloons, plus a concert or fireworks. Final schedule of events is available in the Spring. Cheer on as the pilots fire the burners and balloons dazzle with their gorgeous glow. The excitement builds during Nite Glow Extravaganza when guests are invited onto the launch field for an up close, one-of-a-kind view.

Day 4 - After breakfast this morning at the hotel, check out and depart for home.