**Day 1**

- Watch the sun rise from the basket of your hot air balloon as you float over and along the Rio Grande and Sandia Mountains.
- Spend the rest of your morning visiting Old Town. See the plaza and its historic church; take a walking tour to learn the history of the area. Have lunch in one of the unique cafés or authentic restaurants lining the plaza.
- Visit one of Old Town’s Museums: the Albuquerque Museum of Art & History, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Explora, the Rattlesnake Museum or the Turquoise Museum. A short distance away you will also find the BioPark Botanic Gardens, Zoo and Aquarium.
- Get your kicks having dinner at a Nob Hill restaurant along Route 66.

**Day 2**

- Discover arts and crafts from the 19 native pueblos of New Mexico at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center; dances are held on weekends year-round. The center has a restaurant, museum and gift shop.
- Continue your Native experience a short distance west on I-40 at the oldest continuously inhabited community – Acoma Pueblo. Sky City features museum exhibits and a guided tour of the ancient village crowning sandstone cliffs.
- Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway whisks you 2.7 miles to the observation deck atop 10,378 foot Sandia Peak in the Cibola National Forest affording panoramic views of the Rio Grande Valley.

**Day 3**

- Depart this morning for Virgin Galactic’s Gateway to Space at Spaceport America, the first spaceport facility designed and built specifically for space travel and commerce. Access to this unique site is exclusive. Be sure to make advance arrangements with Follow the Sun Tours.
- Arrive in sunny Las Cruces, located in the Mesilla Valley at the base of the majestic Organ Mountains. Head straight to Historic Mesilla. Its plaza, anchored by Basilica San Albino, is lined with unique shops and two great restaurants: La Posta, offering reasonably priced Mexican food in a festive environment and the Double Eagle, famous for aged steaks and award winning margaritas.

**Day 4**

- Experience living history at the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum with milking and blacksmithing demonstrations in this facility devoted to chronicling our state’s rich agricultural past.
- Visit the world’s only Chile Pepper Institute, dedicated to education and research of Capsicum, the heat stimulating chemical found in our state vegetable.
- Author and playwright Denise Chávez of the Casa Camino Real Cultural Center will regale your group with stories on a variety of topics from outlaw Billy the Kid to La Frontera and local cuisine.
- Vineyards and tasting rooms follow the path of Spanish explorers along New Mexico’s Wine Trail, the oldest wine growing region in the country.

**Day 5**

- Depart for White Sands National Monument, encompassing 275 square miles of gypsum white dunes, this iconic park offers ranger-guided tours every day.
- Continue to Alamogordo for the New Mexico Space History Museum and New Mexico’s only IMAX Theatre where visitors learn about the history, science, and technology of space.
- Heart of the Desert Pistachio Farm and Winery has daily farm, factory and plant tours, with free tastings of course!
- Continue past Valley of Fires National Recreation Area, one of the youngest lava flows in the continental U.S. and into Socorro’s Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge, home to more than 100,000 water fowl during their semi-annual migration.
- Depart from El Paso International Airport, just an hour south of Las Cruces, return to Albuquerque or continue to Santa Fe for more authentic experiences.