

Gibboney's Aerostation LLC

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the balloon steered?

It's not! Some directional control is possible by ascending or descending into air currents going in a different direction. The pilot can raise or lower the balloon by controlling the temperature inside the balloon. We adjust our launch site in order to fly over the desired area.

Where do we land?

We land in fields, yards, farms, parking lots, driveways, and occasionally an airport -- all with landowner permission.

How do we get back to the meeting site?

A chase vehicle will always follow the balloon during the flight. The crew will obtain permission from landowners to land, help pack the balloon, and will accompany the pilot and passengers back to the meeting site.

Can I help?

YES! You actually become part of the crew during your adventure. You get to share the entire experience and see how it all goes together. Several of our crewmembers started out as passengers, and enjoyed it so much that they keep coming back.

Can I bring a camera?

YES! Bring your camera and video device!! You are responsible for it's care during the flight. Take lots of pictures! If you send us your good photos we will post them on our web site.

What should I wear?

This is an outdoor activity. Wear flat comfortable shoes, not sandals. Dress for the day's weather. We recommend layered clothing and a hat if you think the heat from the burners will bother you. Long pants are a good idea. We never know where we will be landing.

How big is the balloon?

105,000 cubic feet, standing approximately 80 feet tall. For comparison 105,000 cubic feet is equal to 105,000 soccer balls.

How high do balloons fly?

Typically a flight is anywhere from the surface to approximately 2,000 feet above the ground. We use available air currents to steer, and occasionally go up to 5000 feet.

What if I have a physical limitation?

We love ballooning and love to share it with everyone, but there are limitations on what we can do to accommodate everyone. We do not have doors in the balloon basket. Getting in the basket is much like climbing over a fence. Getting out is the same thing. You should not fly if you have had recent surgery or any joints replaced in the previous two years, not pregnant, and able to stand for an hour. We do have a seat in one balloon that enables you to sit during the flight. Please consult your physician if you have any doubts about participating in moderate activities. Safety is always first. Please call us with what you would like to do and talk with us about finding a solution to getting you in the air.

A word of caution as you shop for a balloon ride. Don't get ripped off!

There are many good balloon companies in the United States. Ohio has some very good balloon companies. Some people that sell balloon rides are only third party companies that do not own a hot air balloon or have any pilots that you can talk to and ask questions.

Please ask good questions and make sure that whoever you choose to fly with is fully insured and can provide proof of balloon and vehicle insurance. Ask the person where they are located before you give them your zip code. We are local. **Buy here and Fly here.**

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