

Out & About

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO SEE, NEAR AND FAR

A New Horizon

Adverse winds may have grounded the **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** last year, but the nine-day festival is back on, from October 2 to 10.

“Balloon Fiesta is about flying balloons, but it’s also about relationships,” says Tom Garrity, a spokesman for the festival. “It’s the relationships among pilots and their chase crew and the crowds, and a lot of families have traditions that focus on reconnecting at Balloon Fiesta.”

When the fiesta reopens with its signature morning launch, 600 hot air balloons, including 100 specially shaped balloons, will ascend to the skies overlooking the Sandia Mountains. Be on the lookout for a new balloon called **Eyahne on the Horizon** (pictured). It celebrates New Mexico’s Pueblo culture and is the largest passenger balloon in the state.

Eyahne (pronounced ee-YAH-nee) means “blessing” in the Keres language, says Emily Howard, vice president of corporate strategy for the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, which developed the balloon in tribute to the 19 New Mexico Pueblos. The balloon design incorporates cultural symbols that can be universally recognized in the Pueblo Manta pattern, part of the traditional clothing that Pueblo dancers wear. “We think of it as a blessing from the Pueblo people to whoever happens to see it in the sky,” says Howard. Tickets start at \$15. balloonfiesta.com. » **CYNTHIA J. DRAKE**

