

# Tethered Balloon Rides

## Description & Requirements

A tethered balloon operation consists of a hot air balloon that is attached by four (4) ropes to four (4) equally spaced vehicles or fixed points on the ground. The balloon is able to ascend to approximately 50' above the ground before returning gently back to the surface. Tether rides typically last 3-5 minutes. As many as five (5) passengers are permitted to ride each time.

Tether operations generally last about 90 minutes (1-1/2 hours). Longer operations are available if weather conditions permit.

The best hours of operation for tethering are within two (2) hours of sunrise or within one (1) to two (2) hours before sunset. Midday tethering is seldom possible, as winds are typically stronger and less stable. Calm or very light winds are needed for a tether operation to be safely performed. There must be no precipitation occurring or soon approaching.

Tether operations require a minimum clear area of 150-200 feet in diameter, preferably on level, well drained, mowed grass, clear of power lines, light standards, trees, or other obstructions. Pavement is acceptable but not preferred. Areas of dirt, sand, mud or standing water are not acceptable. Trees outside of the 200' area are preferable, as they provide protection from wind.

For best results, a tether operation should be placed close to the public as opposed to being in the "back forty". Staying within easy walking distance is the name of the game.

There is no minimum age limit for passengers, however, young children may be frightened of the burner operation. While steps are provided, people with physical disabilities may have difficulty entering the basket.

For everyone's safety:

- No smoking is allowed on or near the balloon.
- People who appear intoxicated will not be allowed aloft.
- Drinks or food are not permitted on board (they usually end up on the floor).
- Tether operations will be discontinued any time threatening weather approaches (wind, rain, thunderstorms).

I am happy to inspect a site prior to booking to make sure it is suitable for both of us.