

# Aerosaurus Balloons



## Enquiry Pack

**Champagne hot air balloon flights  
across the South West of England**

# **Enquirer Information and Voucher Prices**

## **Flight of Fancy**

A flight in a Hot Air Balloon is a totally unique experience, be it an indulgence to yourself or a gift to a loved one; for birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, wedding presents, coming of age, office parties, thank you's, or corporate entertainment to name but a few.

Many people like you view balloons with mystique and curiosity; what is it like up there? What can you see? What about the landing? How many people go up? Is it cold? When can we go? After more than 20 years experience of giving pleasure, and in turn being given pleasure, by the delight of tens of thousands of passengers we have flown experiencing the magic of a Hot Air Balloon Flight, let us provide some answers. Don't forget your Binoculars, video or camera & spare battery!

## **On The Day**

Having made a pre flight weather check with us, subject to favourable weather we all meet at the pre-arranged meeting place. The majority of our meeting places are country pubs / restaurants at which we can use their facilities and return for breakfast / supper after the flight. (See section on meeting locations). The pilot will then release a helium weather balloon and decide on which launch site to use based on the wind direction at that time, normally within approximately a 20 minute drive of the meeting point based on the wind direction at that time.

Balloon inflation is a tremendous spectacle for those on the ground as well as those participating. Family and friends are very welcome to view the inflation and launch, and to follow the flight in their own transport but they must be independent of you and you independent of them. We do not have room for them in our vehicles. If your friends and family want to follow and watch, they must have their own transport. If you are relying on them for a lift home please make sure they listen very carefully to the pilots briefing. You will be returned to the meeting place at the end of the flight and will be away for 3 – 4 hours. We recommend you do not organise anything important to follow on from the flight since your return can sometimes be delayed. On mid summer evenings flights may not get back until after 11pm.

Inflating the balloon is a time for the cameras and passenger / friends participation. Once the balloon is inflated, passengers climb aboard and in a short time safety checks are completed and you've left the ground. You are now in another world and another time, everything drifts slowly by. Following the balloon and in radio contact will be your retrieve vehicle. Our balloons are fitted with in-flight camera systems and if deemed suitable your pilot will take a photo of the passengers with the landscape laid out below. In flight photographs may be pre-ordered or ordered after the flight.

Towards the end of the flight your pilot will choose for a suitable landing site and after explaining the landing procedure your descent will commence. Flight time is approximately 1 hour. Once landed we request passengers stay in the balloon and their friends and family must not trespass onto the landing site until the retrieve crew have located and spoken to the landowner and permission has been granted to access the land. We rely on the landowners' goodwill and must have passengers' co-operation in this matter.

When deemed suitable by your pilot, champagne (with soft drinks option) will be served - the traditional balloonists drink for over 200 years.

With passenger assistance the balloon will be packed away and we return to the original meeting place where you will receive your individual flight certificates, which are signed by the pilot. You will also be given the opportunity to purchase a range of merchandise should you so wish.

## **Flexibility**

Owing to ballooning being very weather dependent we try to overcome this problem by providing maximum flexibility for our passengers. Aerosaurus Balloons provide a full time, 7 days a week service, have several balloons ranging from 2 passengers to 16 passengers, offer various packages and schedule flights daily from launch sites in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset or Wilts during the main flying season (see section on meeting locations). As a general rule you should book weekend flights 3 - 4 weeks in advance and weekday flights 2 – 3 weeks in advance. To help overcome the problem of weather postponement, up to 3 flight dates may be reserved at a time. During the winter flights are scheduled based upon demand, the weather and the ground conditions

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When are flights available?**

The main flying season for scheduled flights is from April to October. Flights are available at weekends both morning and evenings and weekday evenings, plus the occasional midweek mornings. Daily scheduled flights do not operate over the winter months. However, passengers may elect to go on our 'winter standby' list to be contacted should we get a spell of suitable flying weather. During the winter months an open dated champagne balloon flight voucher makes an excellent present, that can be used in the coming spring.

### **What time of day do the flights take place?**

Balloon flights are made either in the early morning or in the early evening, when the air is at its stillest. Times depend on sunrise and sunset. For example May meeting times are around 6.00am and 6.00pm.

### **Where do we fly from?**

We fly in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset and South Wiltshire. See 'Meeting Locations' section for more detailed information.

### **How long does it take?**

Ballooning is an experience NOT to be rushed. The actual flight is approximately 1 hour. It is very important that passengers arrive at the meeting point at the correct time. It will sometimes be necessary to transport passengers from the meeting point to an alternative local launch site, owing perhaps to the wind direction. They will always be returned to the original meeting point at the end of the flight. For this reason you should allow at least 4 hours for the complete experience. Passengers are advised not to book a restaurant following an evening flight, as the return time cannot be guaranteed. Longer duration flights may be arranged on an 'exclusive' basis.

### **What do I wear?**

No special clothing is required. Sensible outdoor clothes and footwear suitable for wearing in the countryside at the time of year will be fine. Remember the grass may be damp, and you may encounter the odd cowpat. No sandals or high heels please. A hat may be useful to protect your head from the heat. Ladies wear trousers please.

### **Can I fly over my house, town or village?**

Ballooning is like serendipity, which is the art of making happy and unexpected discoveries by chance. Where the balloon goes is entirely dependent on the wind, no two flights are the same. A balloon cannot be steered and travels with the wind, so it is not possible to guarantee a flight over a particular house, town or village.

### **Can I take a camera?**

Yes, and twice as much film as you think you might need but you are responsible for looking after your camera and personal possessions.

### **How far will I travel and how high up will I go?**

This again is dependent on the wind. You may travel anything from 2 to 25 miles with the average distance covered being about 10 miles. Altitude wise, the flight will normally be between 500 and 3500 feet above ground level.

### **What happens to friends and followers who are not flying?**

They are welcome to watch the balloon inflation and launch. If an alternative launch site to the meeting location is used, they will have to make their own way there and back.

### **Can I pick a fine day or cancel a flight if the sun isn't shining?**

No. If we consider the weather safe, the flight will take place. Living in the British Isles, it is not possible to guarantee sunshine. Flights will not take place in rain or fog. If you wish to postpone your flight date you must give the minimum period of notice in accordance with our terms and conditions. If you do not turn up for your flight you will not be entitled to reschedule your flight nor will you be entitled to any refund.

### **What happens if the weather is unsuitable for ballooning?**

It must be understood that ballooning is very weather dependent. You will need to telephone our pre-flight weather information line prior to the flight to check the weather. If it is unsuitable, you simply rebook for another convenient day.

### **Is it a champagne flight?**

Yes, a choice of champagne or soft drinks is available, during the flight.

### **How many people will be in the balloon, can I have a balloon to myself?**

On a standard flight you will be joining a group of other people. The balloon baskets are divided into compartments for your safety, and there will not be any more than six passengers in any one compartment. You may book just one person, or as many as you wish. Alternatively you may like to book an exclusive flight where you have an entire balloon to yourselves (plus the pilot of course!).

### **Is it safe?**

Yes, we are certified by the Civil Aviation Authority and all our pilots hold full Commercial Pilot Licences. We carry limited insurance cover against risk of injury to passengers during flights in accordance with international agreements covering air transport. Additionally we carry personal effects cover up to a maximum of £1000 per passenger.

### **Is there an age or weight limit?**

There is no upper age limit, but passengers must be sufficiently agile to climb in and out of the basket, which is about 42 inches (1.1 M) high. Children must be at least 7 years old, over 4' 6" high (1.2 M), and accompanied by an adult. For operational reasons there will be a surcharge for passengers whose weight exceeds 18 stones (114 kg), if you think this may be the case please contact us.

### **Medical Conditions?**

We are not qualified to express an opinion about your fitness to fly, and you must ensure you are fit to fly. You must not fly if you are suffering from any serious medical condition or have recently undergone surgery, unless you have a certificate of your fitness to fly from your doctor. You must not fly if you are pregnant or under the influence of drink or drugs.

### **Can I fly with a disability?**

There are many differing levels of disabilities, please check with us. Sadly for safety reasons we are unable to fly any person who is confined to a wheelchair.

### **How do I arrange a flight?**

You first need to purchase an Aerosaurus gift voucher(s) which will entitle you and/or a third party(s) to a hot air balloon flight or other products up to the value of the voucher. You may reserve a flight date at time of purchase (call 01404 823102 or visit [www.ballooning.co.uk/date-availability](http://www.ballooning.co.uk/date-availability) for scheduled flight dates) or you may prefer to initially purchase an open dated voucher. Whichever option you choose, you or the intended recipient will receive a full information pack explaining the procedure. As a general rule you should book weekend flights 3 - 4 weeks in advance and weekday flights 2 - 3 weeks in advance. To help overcome the problem of weather postponement, up to 3 flight dates may be reserved at a time.

## **MEETING LOCATIONS**

Differing localised weather conditions occur in our flying area, caused partly by the landmass bordering the sea and local effects of Dartmoor, Exmoor, Bodmin Moor and Salisbury Plain. We are also restricted by "no fly" areas caused by the military firing and danger areas. Having initially informed you of the general location of your flight, we nominate the specific pre-flight meeting point at the time of your final weather call based upon the latest weather reports at the time, in order to select the best anticipated flight area.

Detailed directions to meeting sites can be sourced on [www.rac.co.uk](http://www.rac.co.uk)

### **DEVON – (Mid Devon)**

**Jack in the Green Inn, Rockbeare, Nr Exeter, EX5 2EE, Tel 01404 822240** (OS sheet 192, grid ref 019 955) - 4 miles east of Exeter on the **OLD** A30, (follow Rockbeare signs off the **NEW** A30). Their food is undeniably good quality, home cooked and in comfortable surroundings. An excellent Inn with a fantastic reputation.

**The Hartnoll Hotel, Bolham, Tiverton, EX16 7RA, Tel 01884 252777** (OS sheet 192, grid ref 952 147) - Splendidly situated on the River Exe just north of Tiverton ½ mile off the A361 North Devon link road, on the A396 in the village of Bolham. 6 miles west off the M5 Jct 27, 28 miles from Barnstaple. Hotel, bar and excellent restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Please park at the far end of the car park from the hotel.

*Flights from these locations are generally within the **Exeter/Copplestone/South Molton/Wellington/Honiton** area.*

### **DEVON – (South Devon & The South Hams)**

**Tesco Superstore, Lee Mill PL21 9PE** (OS Sheet 202, grid ref 604 560). Minutes up the A38 from Plymouth, turn off at Lee Mill and follow the 'Superstore' signs. Meet in the car park outside of the Tesco Extra cafe. Superstore, cafe and petrol facilities.

**The Westward Inn, Lee Mill, near Ivybridge, PL21 9EE, Tel 01752 892626** (OS sheet 202, grid ref 600 558) just off A38 in centre of Lee Mill. Range of real ales and good traditional freshly cooked pub food from locally sourced ingredients. Open all day at weekends.

**Palston Park Recreation Ground, South Brent** (200 metres on the Exeter side of the London Inn). Just off the A38, 10 minutes east of Plymouth in South Brent on the B3372.

*Flights from these locations are generally within the **Tavistock/South Dartmoor/Ashburton/Torbay/Kingsbridge** area.*

## **CORNWALL**

**BP Services & Subway Cafe, Plusha, Nr Launceston** (OS sheet 201, grid ref 249 803) - 6 miles south west of Launceston on the southbound carriageway of the A30, at the junction of the Bodmin/Launceston A 30 & the B3257 Callington roads.

**The Phoenix Leisure Centre, Coronation Park, Launceston, PL15 9DQ, Tel 01566 772551** (OS sheet 201, grid ref 328 839) - 300 yards on the Launceston town side of the Pennygillam junction off the A30. Drive to the far side of the small housing estate. Entrance on the right.

**The Kings Head, Five Lanes, Bodmin Moor PL15 7RX, Tel 01566 86241** (OS sheet 201, grid ref 225808) - 17<sup>th</sup> century coaching house 8 miles south west of Launceston, on the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor a few hundred metres off the A30 near the village of Altarnun. Real ales & home cooked food.

**Holmleigh Garden Centre, Dutson, Launceston, PL15 9SP, Tel 01566 773147** (OS sheet 201 grid ref 340 858) - Very well known garden centre ½ mile north of Launceston on the A388 Launceston to Holsworthy road. Meet at the entrance to the car park. Café/restaurant facilities during opening hours.

*Flights from these locations are generally within the **Bodmin/Bude/Okehampton/Tavistock/Liskeard** area.*

## **SOMERSET**

**The Blackbrook Tavern, Ruishton, Taunton, TA3 5LU, Tel 01823 443121** (OS sheet 193, grid ref 257 248) - Close to M5 junction 25 on the A358 Ilminster road out of Taunton at Ruishton. Open all day. Usual Pub and restaurant facilities. Carvery. Flights meeting here will depart from a variety of sites in and around Taunton.

**The Hankridge Arms, Hankridge Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2LR, Tel 01823444405** (OS sheet 193, grid ref 254 252) – From M5 junction 25, take the A358 towards Taunton, right at next roundabout then right again into Hankridge Way. Open all day. Usual Pub and restaurant facilities. Flights meeting here will depart from a variety of sites in and around Taunton.

**Wheathill Golf Club, Nr Lovington, 4 miles west of Castle Cary, TA11 7HG, Tel 01963 240667** (OS sheet 183, grid ref 582 306) - Just off the A37 Foss Way approx 8 miles south of Glastonbury & Shepton Mallet. Club house facilities during opening hours (approx 10:00am – dusk), lovely setting in 400 acres of rolling Somerset countryside.

**Morrisons Supermarket Car Park, Lysander Rd** (OS sheet 183, grid ref 540 151) - We meet in the car park (Petrol station/McDonalds facilities also available). Owing to the flying restrictions caused by the proximity of Yeovilton Royal Naval Air Station, flights meeting in this area generally fly a few minutes up the A30 dual carriageway on the edge of Sherborne.

*Flights from these locations are generally within the **Wellington/Ilminster/Wincanton/Glastonbury/Quantocks** area.*

## **DORSET**

**The Three Elms, North Wooton, Nr Sherborne, DT9 5JW, Tel 01935 812881** (OS sheet 194, grid ref 658 143) - 2 miles south east of Sherborne on the A3030 Sherborne to Sturminster Newton road. Daily home cooked specials, range of real ales and regularly changing guest beers. Landlord's collection of over 1200 model cars and vehicles. Flight meetings here will normally fly from historic Sherborne.

**The Terrace Playing Fields (Dancing Hill), Sherborne, DT9 5NS** (OS sheet 183, grid ref 642 158) - On the southern edge of the town as you exit Sherborne on the A352 Sherborne to Dorchester road, just as you leave the speed restriction area. Meet in the car park.

**The Half Moon, Salisbury Rd, Shaftesbury, SP7 8BS** (OS sheet 183, grid ref 872 224) - On the Southern edge of Shaftesbury on Chase Roundabout at the junction of the A30 and A350. Good range of ales and large restaurant with wide choice of home cooked food.

**Blandford School and Leisure Centre, Blandford Forum, DT11 8LL** (OS sheet 194, grid ref 883 069) - In Milldown Road, Blandford Forum opposite Blandford Hospital. Meet in the car park outside the entrance to the leisure centre. (*This site is used as a satellite site for flights meeting at Sherborne or Shaftesbury but where at the last minute, due to breeze direction, the pilot feels Blandford would be a more suitable meeting location*).

*Flights from these locations are generally within the **Crewkerne/Bruton/Warminster/Blandford** area.*

## **WILTSHIRE**

**Salisbury, 5 Rivers Leisure Centre, SP1 3NR** (OS sheet 184, grid ref 142 310) - In Hulse road, off the A345 Salisbury City Centre to Amesbury road. Usual café facilities but may not be open in the evenings. Meet outside of the leisure centre at the entrance to the car park.

**The Greyfisher Hungry Horse, Ayleswade Rd, Salisbury, SP2 8DW**, Tel 01722 327511 (OS sheet 184, grid ref 144 290) - Just prior to the Avon river bridge on the left hand side of the dual carriageway as you enter Salisbury Centre from the south on the A 354. We meet in the large car park adjacent to the beer garden. Large range of real ales & extensive menu including 17 inch 'Big Plate Specials'.

*The sites below are used as a satellite site for flights meeting at Salisbury but where at the last minute, due to breeze direction, the pilot feels one of them would be a more suitable meeting location;*

**Codford St. Peter, Village Recreation Field, BA12 0PP** (OS sheet 184, grid ref 970 397) - Just off the A 36 Warminster to Salisbury road, 7 miles southeast of Warminster. Meet at the recreation field.

**Sandy Balls Camping Park, Nr Fordingbridge, SP6 2JY, Tel 01425 653042** (OS sheet 195, grid ref 169 146) - 10 miles south of Salisbury, 1 mile east of Fordingbridge, at Goshill on the B3078. Meet in the reception car park. Static & touring caravans, log cabins, tents.

*Flights from these locations are generally within the **Shaftesbury/Stonehenge/Tytherley/Fordingbridge** area.*

*If your preferred location is not listed above please call us for additional information including Nationwide.  
For details of accommodation local to the above, please visit our web site or talk to our office staff.*

**Additional Sites. Available via Balloons Over Britain, using a Nationwide Voucher**

In addition to our own main flying areas we are members of Balloons Over Britain [www.balloonsoverbritain.co.uk](http://www.balloonsoverbritain.co.uk) which comprises the UK's top 10 Public Transport Hot Air Balloon Companies, all CAA certified, and we therefore are able to provide the option to fly from a further 70+ Balloons Over Britain launch sites throughout the U.K. If you require a nationwide voucher, please see booking form enclosed or speak to our office.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Launchsite</u>
Bath	Bath
Berkshire	Reading, Padworth
Bristol	Bristol
Buckinghamshire	Milton Keynes
Cheshire	Chester, Nantwich
Cornwall	Bodmin, Launceston
Derbyshire	Haddon Estate, Tissington Hall
Devon	Exeter, Plymouth, Tiverton
Dorset	Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Blandford
County Durham	Slaley Hall
Essex	Braintree, Billericay, Chelmsford, Colchester
Gloucestershire (South)	Cirencester, Stroud, Bourton on the Water
Gloucestershire (North)	Cheltenham, Moreton In Marsh
Hampshire (North)	Basingstoke, Hartley Wintney, Old Basing
Hampshire (South)	Winchester, Popham/Micheldever, Alton
Herefordshire	Eastnor Castle (Near Ledbury)
Hertfordshire	Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage, Watford & Tring
Kent	Leeds Castle, Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood
Norfolk	Norwich
Northamptonshire	Northampton
Northumberland	Hexham, Morpeth, Wooler, Rothbury
Nottingham	See Derbyshire
Oxfordshire (North)	Banbury
Oxfordshire (South)	Oxford
Shropshire	Whitchurch
Somerset	Taunton, Castle Cary, Yeovil, Chard
Staffordshire	Shugborough Hall (Near Stafford)
Suffolk	Eye (Near Diss)
Surrey	Farnham, Godalming, Guildford
Sussex (East)	Buxted Park, Uckfield
Warwickshire	Warwick, Stratford upon Avon
Wiltshire (North)	Swindon
Wiltshire (South)	Salisbury
Worcestershire	Evesham, Worcester
<b>Scotland</b>	
Borders	St Boswells, Kelso, Coldstream
Lothians	Edinburgh
Perthshire	Kinross
<b>Wales</b>	
Monmouthshire	Tintern, Monmouth, Usk Valley, Wye Valley

### **Private and Longer Duration Balloon flight vouchers**

Wherever possible your flight itinerary will start and finish at a location suitable for breakfast/ tea/ coffee etc after a morning flight and a supper after a late afternoon / evening flight (breakfast/ supper costs not included). Please see our web site [www.ballooning.co.uk](http://www.ballooning.co.uk). Subject to geographical or aviation limitations, it may be possible to fly from your own personal launch site, in which case a small additional balloon positioning charge may apply. Please call us to discuss your requirements. All prices are inclusive of Champagne, Flight Certificates, VAT and Insurance.

### **Exclusive, Extended Duration Balloon Flights**

Approximately 1:5 hour flight plus standard pre and post flight itinerary for a weekday AM (excluding Bank holidays)

2 pax	(max 580lbs/264kg)	£699
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### **Exclusive Balloon Flights**

Approximately 1 hour flight plus standard pre and post flight itinerary for a weekday AM (excluding Bank holidays)

3/5 pax	(max 1166lbs/530kg)	£795
6/9 pax	(max 1166lbs/530kg)	£900
10 pax	(max 1584lbs/720kg)	£1000
11/12 pax	(max 2000lbs/909kg)	£1200
13/14 pax	(max 2486lbs/1130kg)	£1400
15/16 pax	(max 2486lbs/1130kg)	£1600

Approximately 1 hour flight plus standard pre and post flight itinerary for a weekday PM (excluding Bank holidays)

3/5 pax	(max 1166lbs/530kg)	£895
6/9 pax	(max 1166lbs/720kg)	£1080
10 pax	(max 1650lbs/720kg)	£1190

Approximately 1 hour flight plus standard pre and post flight itinerary, available 7 days a week AM or PM (including Bank holidays)

10 pax	(max 1650lbs/750kg)	£1295
11/12 pax	(max 2000lbs/909kg)	£1428
13/14 pax	(max 2486lbs/1130kg)	£1666
15/16 pax	(max 2486lbs/1130kg)	£1840

### **Our standard pre and post flight itinerary includes:**

Passenger Information Pack; Participation with balloon inflation;

Approximately 1hr flight (approximately 1½ hours for extended duration flights);

Complimentary Champagne or Soft Drink; Commemorative Flight Certificate.

Total standard itinerary approx 3 ½ - 4 hours (approximately 4 ½ hours for extended flights)

*You may upgrade standard vouchers to the above options. Please contact our office on 01404 823102 for details.*