

# Light Flight Balloons Inc.

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Join us in the celebration of man's earliest and surely most romantic form of flight – the Hot Air Balloon. Free of the earth and all your cares, you will float as if by magic to places where only your imagination has soared. As children we dreamt of floating among the clouds. Let us take you back to a time when you believed in fairy tales and longed to fly on the wings of a bird. The adventure of a lifetime awaits you as you drift silently over the countryside laughing at the folly of an unknown destination. The world seems an almost perfect place from the basket of a balloon. Your flight descends to land after approximately an hour and you share in the two hundred year old tradition of a champagne toast. A celebration of both new found friends and the heavens above.

If the romance and adventure of balloon flight appeals to you, allow us to introduce ourselves. We are Light Flight Hot Air Balloons, a full time, full service balloon company offering balloon charter flights and tethered balloon promotions. We have been flying for twenty-seven years without incident. Your enjoyment and the safety of the flight are our first priorities. Accordingly, our aircraft are certified, licensed, and inspected as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Your flight will be piloted by an experienced and professional FAA licensed Commercial Balloon Pilot. Our pilots have a combined experience of over sixty years of accident free flying. Our Chief Pilot served as an Accident Prevention Counselor for the FAA for 23 years and is both a Commercial Balloon and Airplane pilot.

## General Flight Information and Frequently Asked Questions

### When and where do you fly, and for how long?

We fly the first hours after sunrise and the last hour or so before the sun sets; meeting times for flights vary with sunrise and sunset time based on the time of year that you fly. Balloons only fly these times of day due to the lack of thermal activity, for safety, and to take advantage of calm winds. Flights may be scheduled on a mutually agreeable date at any time of the year, seven days a week. We fly over the northern portions of Maryland's Harford and Baltimore counties as well as southern Pennsylvania's York and Lancaster counties. The scenery is rural and picturesque. While we meet passengers at one of two meeting locations in Harford County, we have nearly three-dozen launch sites located throughout the flying area. Which launch site we select is based upon wind speed and direction on the day of your flight. The entire adventure lasts 2.5 to 3.5 hours from start to finish with approximately an hour spent aloft. It entails picking you up at one of the two meeting locations and transporting you in one of our chase vans to a launch site. Once on the launch site it takes twenty to thirty minutes to inflate the balloon and provide you with a passenger briefing. We will fly for an hour, land, pack everything up, have a champagne or sparkling cider toast, and return you to your vehicle.

### How high, how fast, and how far will we fly?

We usually fly at tree top height to enjoy an "aerial nature walk." Our altitude is dependent upon the wind and what is below us, but generally up to 1,000 feet and sometimes higher. We fly in light winds of less than ten miles per hour. Our speed is always that of the wind and the distance we fly will vary with the speed. We generally fly from four to eight miles on a flight. Where we fly to and from will be based solely on the wind.

### What about motion, airsickness, and fear of heights?

There is no sensation of motion in a balloon and no passenger has ever suffered motion sickness. It is completely tranquil and stable. It is inexplicable that there is also no sensation of height in a balloon. Even the faintest of heart and those fearful of heights find the basket very secure and relaxing moments after takeoff. In 24 years we have flown hundreds of passengers who, before the flight, were absolutely certain that a balloon was the device specifically designed to torture them. They have been dragged, cajoled, brow beaten, and shamed into flying by Moms, Dads, Brothers, Sisters, Husbands, Wives, Friends and significant others. To date, we have never had anyone take us up on the offer to land early and deliver them back to Mother Earth. This includes a person who crosses the Bay Bridge while lying on the floor of the back seat of the car! We have never had anyone say they wouldn't do it again! It takes five minutes for you to realize that your fears were unfounded and that this experience is just plain fun.

## **How do I dress and what should I bring?**

Dress as you would for any outdoor activity. If you are comfortable on the ground you will be comfortable in the air. In fact, you may actually be warmer aloft due to the radiant heat produced by the burners, making a cap or hat a good idea for those who are tall or sensitive to heat. We suggest long pants and footwear appropriate for walking in fields. Skirts, shorts, sandals, and high heels are not recommended due to the fact that we may be walking in fields with less than good footing and the occasional bramble. For safety reasons, natural fiber clothing, such as cotton, is preferable to synthetics. Bring a camera to record your adventure and to take advantage of the unobstructed view. Decide how much film, or memory, you may use and then bring at least twice as much! Due to limited space in the basket, large camera bags, purses, backpacks, and coolers are best left in our vehicle. Alcoholic beverages and impaired or intoxicated persons are not permitted aboard; we will serve complimentary champagne or cider at the conclusion of the flight.

## **What about the weather?**

As with all aviation, weather is the most critical aspect affecting balloon flight. Rain, threat of rain, storms within 50 miles, fog, and strong, gusty, or breezy winds on the surface or aloft are all reasons for postponing a flight. If your pilot feels that flying conditions may be unsafe, we will reschedule your flight to the next mutually agreeable date and time. We are very conservative in our evaluation of the weather as safety is paramount. We hold days open each week to accommodate rescheduled passengers.

## **When is the best time to fly?**

We are often asked which is better, the morning or evening flight. Frankly we enjoy them all. Our morning flights capture the awakening of Mother Earth and the warmth of the early morning sun while our evening flights enjoy the splendor of spectacular sunsets. Every flight is unique. Morning flights are recommended over evening flights during the hot months; the cooler it is, the more enjoyable it is. As for the time of year, spring bloom and fall foliage are two of our busiest times of the year. All flights are by reservation and with more notice there is a greater likelihood of getting the date that you wish. Generally, weekdays book one week in advance and weekend's book two weeks in advance. All flights are first come, first served and based on unpredictable demand; do not hesitate to call on short notice as we are often able to accommodate passengers. Our flying season is year round.

## **What is the cost? Who may fly, and are there a minimum number of passengers required?**

The champagne charter flight is our basic ride and the fare is \$220.00 per passenger plus 5% tax. A deposit of \$100.00 per passenger is all that is required to book a flight or to obtain a gift certificate. The balance of the payment is due at the time of flight. Rides may be paid for in full if you wish. We accept personal checks and all major credit cards. You must be a minimum of 8 years old, there is no maximum age, and no minimum number of passengers is required; nearly thirty percent of our passengers are singles. We operate ten aircraft with capacities ranging from two to ten passengers; the number of passengers aboard any particular flight is based on unpredictable demand. We do offer private charters at an additional cost.

## **What is the refund and cancellation policy?**

Our refund policy is one of the most lenient in the business. Refunds will be made for any reason within six months of purchase, less fifteen percent. Changing passengers or transferring a certificate to someone else is permitted and there is no cost to do so. Canceling a scheduled flight and removing passengers with insufficient notice for us to find replacement passengers, failing to show for a flight, or a late arrival that causes you to miss the flight, will result in the forfeiture of the fare for those passengers including any balance due. A minimum of 72 hours notice is required for all schedule changes.

## **Do you have gift certificates?**

Gift certificates are available and ideal for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, weddings, and any other special occasion. It is truly a gift that the recipient will never forget. We offer a complete selection of custom embroidered hats, shirts, sweatshirts and outerwear to accompany your certificate, if you so desire.

We are happy to answer your questions, provide further information, or assist you in booking a flight.

**Let your imagination soar  
Come fly with us and experience the Romance and Adventure of Balloon Flight  
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