

Hot Air Balloon Tethered Ride FAQs

1. What is the difference between a Hot Air Balloon Flight and a Tethered Ride?

A **balloon flight** is usually a 2 to 3 hour experience from helping the pilot and crew to inflate the balloon, flying for 45 minutes to a little over an hour and landing in a downwind location of where you started. A “Chase Crew” follows your flight path and helps you pack up at the end of the experience. On a shared flight, there may be up to four people on board and will cost about \$250 per person. A private ride for two costs about \$700. For current pricing and availability, please visit www.BCBalloonRides.com

A **tethered ride** is a shorter experience where the balloon is anchored to the ground. You go up about 50 to 75 feet in the air for approximately a 5-minute experience. You will have an FAA certified pilot in the balloon basket. This is a great way to see the sights and sounds around Frankenmuth and get a small sample of flying in a Hot Air Balloon. Tickets for tethered ride are \$25 per adult and \$10 per child, 12 and under.

2. When and where will the tethered balloon rides happen?

The tethered balloon rides will happen May 28 to 30 on the west side of the Bavarian Inn Lodge.

3. Can I purchase tickets in advance?

No - tickets are not available in advance. We cannot guarantee times due to the weather so all tickets are available for purchase at the time of the experience.

4. What may cause the tethered balloon rides from not happening?

Rain, thunder and lightning are all causes for a hot air balloon to be grounded. In addition, moderate winds also cause a tethered balloon to be grounded for the safety of passengers, pilots, and crewmembers.

5. How many people can ride at a time with the Pilot?

Typically, hot air balloons can accommodate four adults weighing 180 pounds or less each OR a maximum of about 700 pounds. Children generally weigh less, so the balloon could accommodate a larger number of people.

6. Can my very young children go up in the balloon with me?

Children five years of age and over would enjoy a tethered ride. A parent or legal guardian must accompany children at all times. Please keep in mind – hot air balloon burners are hot and make a loud sound. If your child is timid or afraid of loud sounds, it may be better to wait until they are older.

7. Is there a way to reserve a private balloon flight?

Yes! Magic Clouds Balloon Corporation is offering one private morning flight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. The typical price for shared flight is \$250 per person for up to four individuals in the basket, along with the pilot. A private flight for two is about \$700. For more information, visit the BC Balloon Rides website here. (Hyperlink: <https://www.bcballoonrides.com/frankenmuth>)

8. How does social distancing work for tethered balloon rides?

The hot air balloon pilot and registration crew will be wearing masks when interacting closely. All participants must sign a digital waiver of liability and pay their fee at a registration table directly on a tablet sanitized between guests. Credit cards and cash are accepted for ticket payment. Social distancing is required between unrelated families while waiting in line. Masks are required in the balloon basket at all times.

9. What else is happening during Balloons Over Bavarian Inn?

There are 24 balloons holding a competition in flight over Frankenmuth all weekend during Balloon Over Bavarian Inn! See the event page on the official Dog Bowl for the full schedule of events. Remember – the annual Fireworks Show presented by Pepsi and Zehnder’s of Frankenmuth takes place at 10 PM on Sunday, May 30 at River Place Shops!