

# ***HOT AIR BALLOONING IN THE ALPS***



*-flight information-*



## the experience

Looking forward to flying with a hot air balloon is an amazing experience, which you will always remember. Ballooning is feeling peace and tranquility, offering a breathtaking view over the Tyrolean Alps which is totally unique.

A hot air balloon travels with the wind so you never know exactly where you fly or what you will see. Once in the air, your balloon travels to heights of up to several thousand feet, allowing you to gaze down upon villages, towns and the countryside.

We have more than 20 starting fields in Tyrol. Our starting field depends entirely on the wind on the day, which means every flight is a unique experience.



## picture this

The supremely steady balloon basket provides an excellent vantage point for aerial photography. This un-missable opportunity to record your trip is heightened by the ability of the pilot to turn the balloon using the 'rotation vents' - these provide you with a truly panoramic view as you float through the air.

### Where do you fly from?

We have more than 20 balloon launch sites, across Tyrol depending on the wind situation.

### When do you fly?

We schedule hot air balloon rides in the morning. During the day, the sun heats the ground which in turn heats the air above causing thermals or columns of rising air. These thermals cause updrafts and downdrafts which affect a pilot's ability to safely control the altitude of a hot air balloon.

### How far will we fly?

Hot air balloons can't be steered in the normal sense so they travel on the wind with skilled pilot's controlling the altitude by heating the air inside the balloon. How far you'll fly depends on the wind speed. It also depends on how long it takes the pilot to find a suitable landing spot.

### Where will we land?

Hot air balloons can't be steered so they travel on the wind and you never know where exactly you're going to land. The retrieval crew will track the balloon on the ground and aim to arrive shortly after landing.

### How long is the hot air balloon flight?

A hot air balloon ride with us lasts for around an hour, depending on prevailing weather conditions and suitability of landing sites, but you should allow at least four hours for the whole experience.

### Is there an age restriction?

Children must be aged seven or over and at least 1.4m tall, with children under the age of 16 accompanied by a responsible adult.

### What if I'm pregnant?

Unfortunately, for safety reasons we are unable to fly women who are pregnant. However, if you become pregnant when you already have a voucher, we will extend the validity until after you've had the baby.

### **What should I wear?**

We recommend clothes suitable for a walk in the country depending on the time of year and on the specific day you are flying. Generally warm, comfortable layers are a good idea, plus a cap or other hat for the warmth from the burners. Depending on conditions, you may be walking in wet, muddy fields so sensible shoes or trainers are essential. Usually passengers are asked to help with the inflation and deflation of the balloon which most people really enjoy. This is much appreciated because it helps to make the process much quicker for everyone, so we also recommend you wear clothes which you don't mind getting a little dirty. No designer wear, flip-flops or high heels please, as we are unable to accept responsibility for any damage to clothing and anyone who is dressed inappropriately may not be allowed to fly.

### **What if I have a medical condition?**

All passengers should be sure they do not have any pre-existing medical conditions which could be affected by the ballooning experience or could prevent them from safely taking part and should seek professional medical advice if unsure.

### **Why would a flight be cancelled?**

The weather is our friend because it is what makes every flight unique but unfortunately, we cannot control it no matter how hard we try! This means sometimes pilots will cancel flights because the weather conditions are not safe to fly in. Our pilots are all highly experienced and they decide whether it is flyable. We are not allowed to question a pilot's judgment as this could be seen as pressuring them to fly, which could compromise safety. Our pilots put your safety first at all time. When cancelling a flight, either on the flight line beforehand or occasionally on site, the pilot will usually try to offer some explanation as to why.

### **A 4 to 5 hour experience including:**

- Greeting and registration
- Champagne toast after landing
- Briefing by your pilot
- Presentation of certificate signed by your pilot
- Invitation to help with balloon inflation
- Invitation to assist with the deflation of the balloon
- Around an hour's flight in one of our balloons
- Transport back to our meeting point





Hot Air Ballooning for Andy Nairz is not only every days work, it is also a passion, lifestyle and love for the nature and it's beauty.

Numberless Hot Air Balloon Festivals around Europe and the world which he was able to visit let the spirit of lifting himself even higher up into the sky seek even more for this kind of adventure then ever.

Andy's goal is to share unforgettable experiences and memories, which lifted him in the true sense of words beyond the average normal life, with everybody wanting to feel free as a bird.

In the Alps he is one of the most skilled pilots, his most outstanding and spectacular balloonflight was crossing the alps with a windspeed of 175 km/h, from Innsbruck (Austria) to Trieste (Italy), in barely 2 hours.

**Always according to his Motto:  
„safety first!“**

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