

A hot-air balloon flight – all you need to know

1. After you have received your flight voucher, please fill in the attached reply coupon and send it back to the address marked on the voucher. Once we have received your voucher, your coordinates will be registered on our passengers list, which is accessible to all the CLA pilots. As soon as the weather permits, we will contact you by phone in order to fix the date, time and meeting point for your flight. In between April and October, the meteorological conditions only allow for balloon flights in the very early morning hours, or shortly before sunset. Although the chances for a balloon flight in winter are slim, such flights can normally be done throughout the whole day.
2. A balloon flight depends totally on the meteorological conditions. We do not fly if there is a risk of thunderstorms, rain, or if the wind speed exceeds 10 knots (18 km/h) on the ground.
3. We appreciate if you participate actively in the flight and its preparations. In order to contribute to your own and everybody else's safety, it is absolutely crucial that you respect the pilots instructions at all times. According to the law, the pilot is the only one responsible for taking the take-off and landing decisions. The pilot may cancel the flight at the very last moment if he judges that not all conditions for a safe flight are met.
4. Considering that the meteorological conditions are evolving constantly, it is very difficult to plan a balloon flight much in advance. If the conditions look good enough, we will contact you at the earliest 2 days prior to the flight. We may however also call you at a much shorter notice. If you are available on the date we suggest, we will give you the final go-ahead shortly before the flight in order to avoid that you have to come to the meeting point in vain. Generally for the morning flights, we confirm the flight on the preceding evening between 6 and 10 PM, and for evening flights we generally call on the same day between 12 AM and 2 PM.
5. When taking a balloon ride, we suggest that you dress like if you were going for a walk during the same season. Do not wear your best clothes, ballooning is a manual outdoor activity. Ladies should prefer trousers to skirts, and it is important to wear solid shoes with flat heels. Wool or cotton clothes are recommended. In the morning, the fields are normally wet, so think about waterproof shoes! During the flight, the higher we fly the cooler it gets. Even though the temperature difference is normally only a few degrees C°, it might be advisable to take an additional jacket or pullover with you. Don't forget to bring your camera!
6. Children who wish to join the a balloon ride should be tall enough to see over the basket (approx 1,2 meters), and the authorisation of their parents is required. People suffering from lung or heart conditions, or people with tension problems should first contact their doctor to ensure that ballooning is not a risk for them. During their pregnancy, we prefer not to fly with ladies. We do not recommend the consumption of alcoholic beverages before or during the flight. We reserve the right not to take drunk passengers on board.
7. Your flight lasts at least one hour. However if you count the search for a take-off spot, the preparations, and the packing after the flight, the whole expedition might last up to 4 hours. As the balloon is not able to come back to its take-off spot, a retrieve vehicle is following the balloon through the whole flight. Any accompanying persons of yours are free to follow the retrieve vehicle at their own initiative. In any case we will bring you back to the initial meeting point.