



# FLYING HIGH



My soul is in the sky. — William Shakespeare,  
'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' Act V. Scene I.

# Flying High

## Bristol Balloon Fiesta

They say you snooze, you loose which is quite true when it comes to Balloon Fiestas. The thermals are perfect as the sun rises and there is nothing quite like watching a mass balloon ascent when the dew is still on the grass and the sun is just rising above the horizon. This years Bristol Balloon Fiesta, now in its 35 th year, was one of these magical times as in the early mornings up to 150 rose skyward in the space of less than an hour.

When we attended we munched on hot bacon sandwiches and drank steaming cups of coffee as the billowing multi coloured canvases each began to take form.

Morning time sees many advertising balloons joining the swell so we watched as Monster Munch seemed to gobble up a Dragon, a full size house went from flat pack to fully erected and Million and Snow White took to the skies accompanied by a great Scottish Football trophy and a very large box of wine. Then from amongst them more conventional balloons began popping like peas from a pod as their burners shattered the still air and lifted them skywards over the neighbouring trees. Hanging over the sides and waving to the crowds below the lucky



*Soon they begin to pop like peas from a pod.*

occupants shrieked with delight. For many no doubt their first experience at this kind of flight. Caught up in the frenzy those on the ground responded with the same level of enthusiasm. A state which persisted till all were airborne. The rest of the day was then filled with activity and a full program of entertainment to keep everyone happy until the evening ascent and then the evening glow.

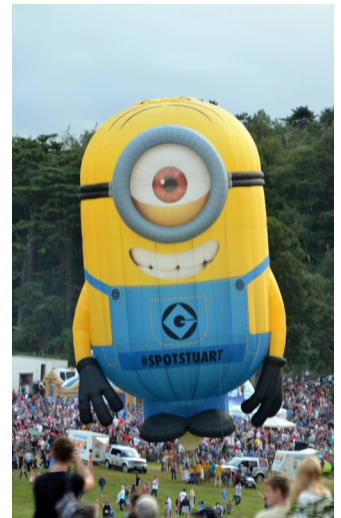


*Inflating one of the balloons in the early morning.*

Ahh ... the evening glow, another of those Fiesta moments, which bring the crowds in their thousands. This time the balloons remain on the ground but as it grows dark their burners flash on and off illuminating their bright colours. Music is then added to the mix and in time to the beat they pulsate like giant candles.



*The Scottish Trophy*



*Minion*

The performance lasts a good half hour and the crowds become more vocal as they join in as the music becomes more patriotic. Then to top it all the sky above is filled with exploding fireworks. Over the years the popularity of the night glow means that the four day event now has two evenings set aside for the spectacular and with mass ascents at 6 am and 6 pm even the English weather cannot rule all of them out and the Bristol skyline becomes a place of magical proportions.



*The evening glow*



*On a personal balloon flight you get to join in or just watch as the balloon is inflated, and at the end of the flight enjoy a glass of champagne.*



## DISABILITY FLIGHTS

A hot air balloon flight is on the 'bucket list' of most individuals but until now it has just been a dream for those with disabilities, but now you can think again.

### Wheelchair Accessible Flights

Our wheelchair service is unique – we are the ONLY UK CAA certified air operator offering wheelchair equipped balloon flights and disabled hot air balloon flights. Flights usually take place in the morning, around sunrise, when the weather is at its calmest.

The specially made wheelchair accessible basket has a bespoke door which is opened to allow entry for the passengers. The wheelchair is secured to the basket using a specially designed restraint system. Both the basket and the restraint system are certified by the CAA and tested for safety.

The wheelchair passenger can be joined by a guest and you'll have the balloon all to yourselves along with the pilot, of course. This means that you receive a completely private and personal service.

### CONTACT US

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