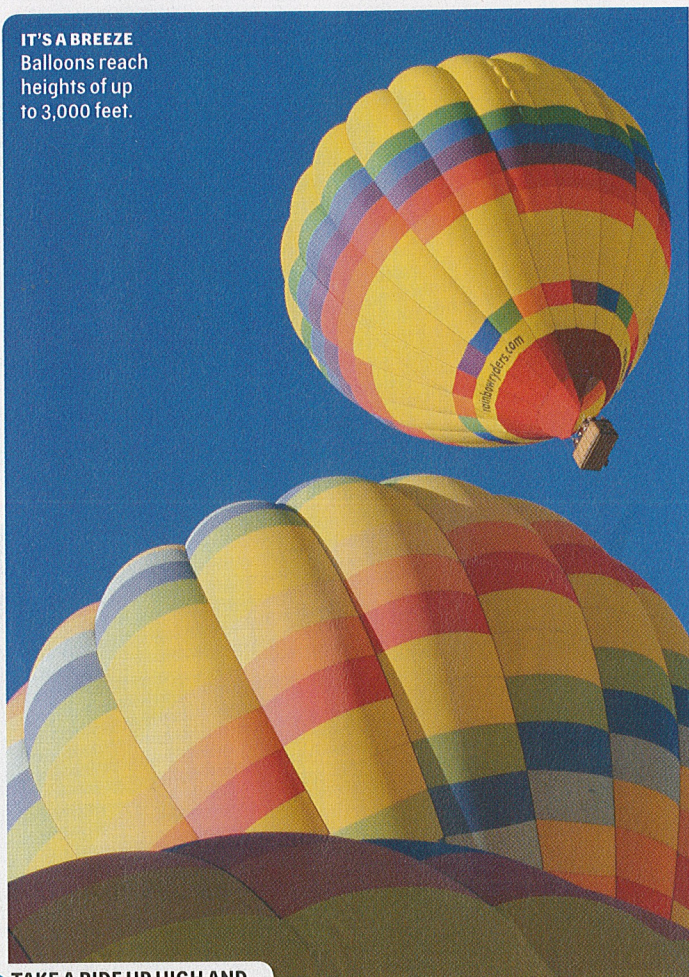


If you prefer to get around via...



**IT'S A BREEZE**  
Balloons reach heights of up to 3,000 feet.



TAKE A RIDE UP HIGH AND...

## Catch a Drift

Clear skies, calm winds, and mild temps make Albuquerque a year-round hub for hot-air ballooning, so it's no surprise that the city has become the world's capital for this high-flying sport. Earn your wings with Rainbow Ryders, a 30-year-old company that offers both sunrise and sunset outings. The journey begins on the ground with the balloon rising to an upright position as the cool air inside it is heated. Once airborne, you'll enjoy an hour of fly time high above the Rio Grande Valley. "Hot-air balloons move with the wind, which changes direction with altitude," says president Scott Appelman. Consider that part of the fun, and also this: Upon landing, each guest is presented with a flight certificate, balloon pin, snacks, and a glass of champagne—just what every high roller deserves. [rainbowryders.com](http://rainbowryders.com) Your adventure continues...

Continued

THEN MAKE A BEELINE TO...



**ABQ Trolley Co.**  
Reserve a seat on this open-air trolley for a tour of the city's most dazzling holiday light displays, such as the 55-foot-tall tree that towers over Old Town.



**Valles Caldera National Preserve**  
Located about 90 miles north of Albuquerque in the Jemez Mountains, this 90,000-acre expanse, situated inside a collapsed crater, offers horse-drawn sleigh rides each winter.

## GETTING AROUND

ABQ Ride, the city's bus system, totes travelers to popular attractions around town. If further exploring is on your agenda, a rental car is your best bet. [cabq.gov/transit](http://cabq.gov/transit), [itsatrip.org](http://itsatrip.org)

Which aspect of Albuquerque piques your curiosity more?

