



Our in-flight photos make great souvenirs.



Our balloons.

## Safety and insurance

A balloon flight has been shown to be the safest way of getting into the air. Its very simplicity and slowness provides occupants with inherent protection against the unlikelihood of any failure or accident. Each year, our balloons undergo a rigorous inspection and your pilot, who will possess a British Commercial Balloon Pilot's license (yes, there is such a thing!), is flight tested.

Weather is the limiting factor for ballooning and your pilot will use extensive experience to decide whether conditions allow for a safe flight.

Everyone who flies in the balloon is insured against injury subject to advising us well beforehand of any condition they may have that a balloon flight could affect.



You can be involved in the balloon inflation.

## Fitness and health

Ballooning is not a particularly energetic activity. Nevertheless, you should be able to climb into the basket (footholes are provided) and be able to adopt a crouched posture to safely absorb the bump of a landing, which can sometimes be a little hefty. It is thus not suitable if you are pregnant or have any ankle, back or bone weaknesses. Talk to us and your doctor if you are in any doubt. We do need some passengers or spectators to help to assemble and later pack away the balloon but this is all part of the experience!

## Fear of heights

Everybody can have a fear of heights, but it is oddly rare in a balloon! The sides of the basket reach up to lower chest height (unless you're particularly tall), giving a good feeling of security. The balloon doesn't so much as leave the ground as the ground leaves the balloon! You'll feel no acceleration as you do in a lift or aeroplane. We float gently along with the wind, so there is level smoothness and stability when we're in the air. The first few minutes can sometimes be a little unsettling for some people, purely because of its unusualness, but the pilot is there to reassure and help you with this novel feeling and you'll soon be in awe of your surroundings like everyone else.

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Civil Aviation Authority certified operator BL184  
Member of the British Association of Balloon Operators  
Member of the Scottish Tourist Board

# Alba ballooning

*Carried by the wind*

*the experience of a lifetime*



## Champagne hot air balloon flights

- Lothians & Peeblesshire
- Perth & Kinrosshire and Fife
- Scottish Borders
- Northumberland



# Alba ballooning

*Carried by the wind - the experience of a lifetime*



## Alba Ballooning

Founded in 1999, Alba Ballooning has firmly established a reputation for a friendly and professional service with many letters of thanks and recommendations from its customers. If you have Internet access, you might like to view some more photographs and read comments from our passengers on our website where you can also purchase a voucher and book a flight date.

Alba Ballooning is a member of the Balloons over Britain group. A voucher purchased with us can be transferred and used instead with one of the other group members providing flights in many locations in England and Wales.

## When we fly

Ballooning is only possible in light wind and dry conditions with reasonable visibility. It therefore isn't unusual for flights to be cancelled (about one in four go ahead) but then it's just a matter of rebooking another flight and so on until we get suitable weather conditions to fly. Although we try to fly all year round, mid-March to late October is the main flying season with winter flights only occurring exceptionally if conditions allow. Flights only take place shortly before dusk or early morning.

## Arranging a flight

To arrange a balloon flight, a flight voucher can be purchased and a flight date arranged then or subsequently. These vouchers make excellent presents for Christmas, birthdays and special occasions and can be purchased online or by completing our booking form and returning it to us with your payment. Vouchers are initially valid for a year but can be extended indefinitely (a small fee may be payable).

We provide balloon flights in four locations: Perth & Kinrosshire and Fife, Lothian & Peeblesshire, Scottish Borders and Northumberland. Once you have booked a flight date and location, you will be asked to call us sometime before the meeting time to check whether the weather forecast is favorable or not. If it is, we will confirm the time for you to be at the location meeting point.

From the meeting point, we may drive to the chosen launchsite which is selected, based on the wind direction, to give us the best chance of staying airborne for an hour and finding somewhere suitable to land.

## The balloon flight

Our balloons normally carry between 8 and 12 persons in four separated 2 to 3 person padded compartments. The pilot flies in the central fifth compartment.

On Kinrosshire flights, we may launch from Balado near Kinross or Bridge of Earn near Perth and enjoy views over the spectacular Ochil hills and Loch Leven. On Lothian & Peeblesshire flights, we may launch from one of several sites we have within Midlothian and fly over its picturesque arable landscapes or within Peeblesshire and fly over or just view the dramatic Pentland and Moorfoot hills. On Scottish Borders flights, we may launch from St Boswells or Kelso and enjoy the rural widely stretched Tweed valley. On Northumberland flights, we will launch from one of several sites we have to the north and west of Morpeth and fly over this particular scenic area adjacent to the Northumberland National Park.

After landing at wherever we have finished up and packing away, we celebrate our flight in traditional style with a glass of champagne or orange juice and a commemorative certificate is awarded to everyone. We will then return you to the meeting point.