# FRANCE MONTGOLFIERES SARL



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**When is the flying season?** The flying season lasts from April - October - as the most favourable weather conditions are during these months, early in the morning or in late afternoon.

#### How high do we fly ?

The advantage of flying a balloon as opposed to other types of aircraft is simply its diverse ability to literally skim over rivers, brush over the treetops and attain a height of more than 1000 metres whilst providing panoramic landscape views ! Essentially, the flights depend upon the climatic conditions at the given time as well as the disposition of the passengers.

#### How long are the flights ?

The balloon flight itself lasts a minimum of an hour and a quarter depending on the region whilst the whole excursion takes about three hours. This includes the preparation and inflation of the balloon in the open air and afterwards, the traditional balloonist landing toast – very important – and the return journey by minibus with the ground crew.





#### What is the temperature during the flight ?

Approximately the same as on the ground ! The fact that the balloon flies in the air mass means there is no air current aboard the basket. But don't forget the heat emanating from the burners....

#### What will we see ?

Literally an amazing birds-eye view of the landscape you will be flying over. And don't forget that each flight is unique in that a balloon cannot be steered....it is always the wind which decides how the true beauty of nature will be revealed to you.



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#### Will I be airsick ?

No, because there is no physical link between the balloon and the ground (like a ladder or a bridge) there is no feeling of dizziness or vertigo. During the flight the basket remains stable and there is a feeling of incredible ease whilst taking-off.



#### What should I wear ?

You should bring along a sweater or a fleece as it can be cool whilst the balloon is being set up and for after the landing. Also please wear comfortable footwear, something you would wear for a walk in the country.

#### Heart problem ?

If you have a cardiac problem and you're planning to fly in the mountains, it is better to ask your doctor about the maximum altitude you should go.





### Why are flights sometimes cancelled in good weather conditions?

This is due to the strength of the wind – which isn't at the same strength on the ground as higher up. We're obliged to cancel flights when the wind is more than 20 km p.h. for safety reasons.

#### Why are there only two flights per day?

Balloons go with the wind, the pilot can only control the altitude of the balloon by heating the inside of the envelope with the burners. Stability in the air is necessary aswell as a slight wind and a mild temperature. The only way to get all these conditions is to take off just after sunrise or just before sunset. Happily dawn and dusk are the most beautiful moments of the day !





#### Where do we take off ?

The pilot chooses the take off point according to the direction of the wind e.g. to avoid flying over forests land and to ensure the flights is as interesting as possible.) As a general rule the take off site isn't normally more than half an hour away from the meeting point.

**Can we sit in the basket during the flight?** No, all passengers should stand for the duration of the flight and have bent knees for the landing.

### **How many passengers are there in the basket?** Depending on the balloon base, we have baskets for 4,6, 8,10,12 or 16 passengers.

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