



**BUDDY
BOMBARD'S
EUROPE**

Swiss Winter Alps & Chateau d'Oex International Balloon Festival with Buddy Bombard



9 Days, 8 Nights Seven balloon flights scheduled

Our winter program is built around the spectacular Chateau d'Oex International Balloon Festival, now in its 34th year. During our four Festival days we'll fly with approximately 100 colorful and uniquely shaped balloons invited from all over Europe to participate in the nine day event. Drifting through the beautiful snow-covered valleys with this enormous fleet of whimsical balloons is a lifetime experience of privilege and fun. During the remaining three days of balloon flights, we will fly beyond the Chateau d'Oex valley for flights of longer duration, skillfully exploring the magnificent winter Alps.



**BUDDY
BOMBARD'S
EUROPE**

Swiss Winter Alps & Chateau d'Oex International Balloon Festival with Buddy Bombard



Our pilots have been flying with us for over 20 years and are highly skilled in creating a steady flow of wonderful experiences to enjoy in our balloons, such as:

Slowly drifting along the tops of snow-covered pine trees, close enough to reach out and gently caress the powdered boughs...

Easing up a snowy ridge as a herd of wild mountain goats, just below your basket, scamper through deep snow and over rocky outcrops on an energetic mission to no where. And then there will be the fox who thought he was alone on the mountain side...



Floating through quaint mountain villages at window level, as villagers step onto chalet terraces to joyfully embrace our magical appearance in their lives...

Dipping down into a pretty valley to follow a crystal mountain stream, and the pleasant babble of its fast-moving water...

Leisurely crossing the walled and massive medieval castle of Gruyere, exchanging greetings with delighted people in the square...

Gently landing on a snowy slope for a brief visit with surprised and greatly amused skiers...



and the never-ending views of the majestic snow-covered Alps, surrounding us as we carry you over fascinating rock formations and into valley after snow covered Alpine valley.

Day 1 – We will meet you at Hotel le Richemond in Geneva at 3:00 p.m. and drive to the lovely Alpine village of Gstaad, the gracious winter playground for Europe's well-to-do. Known for its elegant lifestyle, the pedestrian-only promenade is lined with intimate restaurants and fashionable boutiques. The charming Hotel le Grand Chalet, perched on a hilltop overlooking the village, will be our home during our eight nights in Gstaad. Dinner this evening will be at la Bagatelle, the acclaimed gourmet restaurant located in our lovely hotel.



**BUDDY
BOMBARD'S
EUROPE**

Swiss Winter Alps & Chateau d'Oex International Balloon Festival with Buddy Bombard



Days 2, 3 & 4 – Each day after breakfast we will be driven to our balloon take-off site, carefully selected to make the most of that day's wind direction. By 11:00 a.m. we will be drifting through some of the most breath-taking scenery in the world. For approximately the next three hours the magnificent wonders of the Swiss Alps will gently slip by as we enjoy lavish buffet luncheons in our balloons, prepared each day by our very own chef and complete with fine wine. Our mid afternoon landings are often greeted by excited locals who share in our champagne celebrations. If time permits we might sightsee or shop in the village, or return to the hotel for a drink by the fire or to snuggle in a mountain of down before gathering for dinner. Throughout our trip, our gracious evening parties in Gstaad's finest restaurants are the perfect ending to each day. This list includes le Grand Chalet's gourmet la Bagatelle, Cafe du le Cerf serving superb raclette and cheese fondue for 400 years, the Sonnenhof, one of our top favorites for food and spectacular views of Gstaad, and venerable "Guido's" at the 5 star Palace Hotel.

Days 5, 6, 7, & 8 – Balloon Festival! Each morning we will be driven to the snowy take-off field in Chateau d'Oex to watch the spectacular inflation of many original and bright balloons. The round balloons in many colors and patterns come first, including Buddy Bombard's flowered balloons carrying you and your fellow guests. Then the playful shapes come to life, the winged cow, giant frog, the Scotsman with his kilt, a pink pig, an elephant, the mammoth cell phone, and many more fun and original designs. During Festival days we'll fly through the Chateau d'Oex Valley with this magnificent fleet of colorful balloons. Starting at noon entertainment is provided on the ground with professional parachute teams, hang gliders and large hot air dirigibles, all in a wonderful winter carnival atmosphere.

Day 9 – After breakfast we will drive you to Hotel le Richemond in Geneva with approximate arrival at noon.



**BUDDY
BOMBARD'S
EUROPE**

Swiss Winter Alps & Chateau d'Oex International Balloon Festival with Buddy Bombard



Swiss Winter Alps & Chateau d'Oex International Balloon Festival

9 Days, 8 Nights

These two trips are the mirror image of each other.

January 17 – 25, 2012 Including 1st half of Festival

January 25 – February 2, 2012 Including 2nd half of Festival

\$17,988 per person, double.
supplement \$1,920.

