



Throughout the evening, our pilots receive periodic updates from various

specialist meteorological forecasters, giving them the most up to date forecast for the following morning.

The more up to date the weather forecast, the more accurate it is.

If a balloon pilot confirms the flight too early, the forecast is less accurate and it will increase the chance of you being cancelled when you get to the launch site.



...BUT I REALLY LOVE MY SLEEP

AN 11PM CALL ON TOP OF AN EARLY START?

We do too!

But ensuring you have a wonderful, unforgettable and safe balloon ride is even more important to us. If you really do need your eight hours a night, going to bed early and setting an

alarm to wake you up just before 11pm to check the flight line works for a lot of passengers.



than one if you need to so you don't miss the update!) Always make sure you listen to the entire message from your pilot. If your flight is cancelled, enjoy the rest of the night's sleep.

(Just make sure you DO set the alarm - and maybe set more

If it is called on, your pilot will give you all the information you need, including the

location and time you need to be there in the morning.





If you're still usually awake by 11pm anyway, then of course just give the flight

...I'M ACTUALLY A BIT OF A NIGHT OWL

line a call before you head to bed. Our only tip here is if your flight is going ahead and you usually enjoy a morning

lie-in, make sure you set sufficient alarms to wake up in time.





Please call your flight information line at 2pm on the day of your balloon ride.

Our pilots again receive regular weather forecast updates throughout the morning on

Again, always listen to the entire message from your pilot.



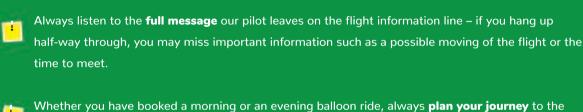


launch site well in advance.

of time.

ALWAYS PLAN AHEAD!

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?



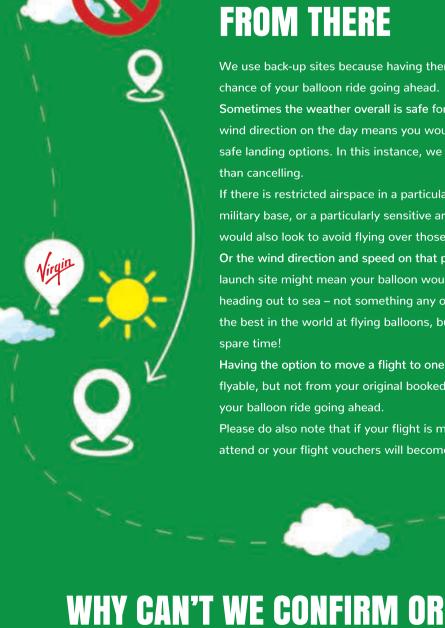
listed on your booking confirmation. Make sure you know how you will get there and how long it will take to ensure you leave in plenty

Do this for both the launch site you have booked for and for each of the back-up launch sites also

We recommend you allow at least 3-4 hours for the entire experience from when you arrive at the launch site.

WHY MIGHT I FLY FROM A

There's more about our back-up sites and why we use them below.



FROM THERE We use back-up sites because having them as an option to fly from increases the chance of your balloon ride going ahead. Sometimes the weather overall is safe for a balloon flight but factors such as the wind direction on the day means you would head over an area with few (if any!) safe landing options. In this instance, we would move it to a back-up site rather

BACK-UP SITE - I DIDN'T BOOK

than cancelling. If there is restricted airspace in a particular direction, for example an airport or military base, or a particularly sensitive area such as some nature reserves, we

would also look to avoid flying over those areas if possible.

attend or your flight vouchers will become void.

Or the wind direction and speed on that particular day from your original booked launch site might mean your balloon would head towards the coast and risk heading out to sea - not something any of us want to happen. Our pilots might be the best in the world at flying balloons, but they're not ship captains in their spare time!

Having the option to move a flight to one of our back up sites when the weather is flyable, but not from your original booked site, really does increase the chances of your balloon ride going ahead. Please do also note that if your flight is moved to a back-up site, you MUST still

CANCEL FLIGHTS ANY EARLIER? Safe hot air ballooning is fully dependent on the weather on the day you have booked.

If weather conditions are not safe to fly our balloons, we won't fly.

they need to have the most accurate, specialist forecasted weather reports. That means forecasts as close to the time they want to fly as possible. For a morning flight, a final specialist forecast is released late at night.

For our pilots to make their decision on whether or not it is safe for them to fly,

So while the earlier forecasts that evening will give our pilot an idea whether he or she will be able to fly the next morning, they still need that final report in order to make their decision, as forecasts can and do change between updates.



I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS...



CHECK OUT OUR FAQ SECTION HERE - www.virginballoonflights.co.uk/faq



