Sports Travel Experience Designed Especially for NCFC 03 Girls ECNL

Soccer in Madrid & Barcelona
April 12 - April 20, 2019

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1  DEPARTURE FROM RALEIGH
DAY 2  ARRIVE MADRID AREA (3 NIGHTS) & PROFESSIONAL MATCH
DAY 3  TRAINING SESSION & REAL MADRID STADIUM TOUR
DAY 4  TOLEDO & FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
DAY 5  MADRID - ZARAGOZA - COSTA BRAVA (4 NIGHTS)
DAY 6  TRAINING SESSION & BARCELONA
DAY 7  PROFESSIONAL COACHING CLINIC & PROFESSIONAL MATCH
DAY 8  BARCELONA & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
DAY 9  DEPARTURE FROM BARCELONA
The most successful side of the past decade, the Spanish National Team (La Roja), has won two European Championships and a World Cup. Spain also boasts the most dominant club teams in Europe headed by FC Barcelona and Real Madrid. The two sides form the most famous rivalry in the world. The derby is referred to as "El Clasico" and is underlined with decades of political and cultural tensions. The Spanish way of soccer is renowned for its "total football" approach.

### ITINERARY

**DAY 1**  
Friday, 12 April 2019  
Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from Raleigh.

**DAY 2**  
Saturday, 13 April 2019  
Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure.
We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next seven days.
Spain's capital city of Madrid lies at the heart of the country. Despite its modern and cosmopolitan culture, the city has preserved its traditional architecture and charm. This is a city of great monuments and great art, all against the backdrop of a rich culture and an exciting nightlife.
Our base for the next three nights will be in the Madrid area, where breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be provided at the hotel.

**ATTEND A PROFESSIONAL MATCH**
We will attend a professional soccer match featuring teams from the top leagues. Seeing the top talent in the world in person would itself be an unforgettable experience, but add the passionate crowds signing, cheering and chanting and you will enter an atmosphere that can only be understood through personal experience. (Excel Programs will secure tickets for the group after time of booking and upon release of the official schedule. Due to scheduling your final itinerary may need to adjusted to accommodate attending a match.)
Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 3**  
Sunday, 14 April 2019  
This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
Today we will explore Madrid.

**TRAINING SESSION**
We will participate in a Training Session at a local field. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)

**MADRID CITY TOUR**
Take an introductory City Tour of Madrid to learn about and view some of Madrid’s top landmarks and attractions using our private bus and on foot. Highlights will include The Prado, the Plaza de Cibeles, the Puerta de Alcala, the Gran Via, Plaza de Espana, Palacio Real, and the Puerto del Sol.
DAY 3  Sunday, 14 April 2019

REAL MADRID STADIUM TOUR
Tour of the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, home of the Real Madrid football club. The third most visited museum in Madrid. The museum compiles all of the history surrounding the club and has interactive screens to learn everything about the team. Our tour will include a walk on the field and an opportunity to enter the dressing room of the team to feel the excitement the players feel before going out on the pitch. (The tour may be modified in the event of a match day.)

Take some time to explore or shop at your leisure in Madrid.

Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 4  Monday, 15 April 2019

This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will take an excursion to nearby Toledo.

The historic city of Toledo, capital of La Mancha, is a cultural fusion of Christian, Arab, and Jewish traditions from the Middle Ages. With numerous churches, museums, mosques, synagogues, and artistic treasures, the city has definitely earned its World Heritage Site designation.

TOLEDO WALKING TOUR
Enjoy a Walking Tour of central Toledo, with streets barely wide enough for a man and his donkey. During our walk, there will be the opportunity to visit spectacular shops that produce and sell Damascene gold jewelry, as well as medieval swords. There will also be some time to relax in the Plaza de Zocodover, a bustling triangular square in the heart of Toledo.

TOLEDO CATHEDRAL
Walk to Toledo Cathedral, considered one of the greatest Gothic structures in Spain. The cathedral actually reflects several architectural styles, and features many art treasures, including: the Transparente, a Last Supper in alabaster, El Greco’s Twelve Apostles and Spoliation of Christ, Goya’s Arrest of Christ on the Mount of Olives, and works by Juan de Borgona. The Treasure Room features a 500-pound, 15th-century gilded monstrance, allegedly made with gold brought back from the New World by Columbus, which is still carried through the streets of Toledo during the feast of Corpus Christi.

FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH
We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)

Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 5  Tuesday, 16 April 2019

This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will travel from the Madrid area to the Costa Brava. En route we will stop in Zaragoza.

The capital of Aragon, Zaragoza is a walled city filled with Roman ruins, a Moorish architecture, and a popular pilgrimage cathedral. This picturesque ancient city lies along the Ebro river, and its lively culture charms visitors who stop to wander and explore.

ZARAGOZA CITY TOUR
We will enjoy a short City Tour on our private bus. During our tour we will learn about and view the Palacio de la Aljafería, the Catedral de la Seo, La Lonja, the impressive Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, and the Arco de Dean.

We continue to our hotel on the Costa Brava.

The Costa Brava is a 160-kilometre stretch of beautiful, rugged coastline in the region of Catalonia in the North East corner of Spain. Natural beauty, endless miles of sandy beaches and sunshine. You’ll find modern, international tourist resorts with high-rise hotels alongside unspoilt fishing villages, sheltered rocky coves and medieval towns with ancient castles. The Costa stretches from Blanes, North of Barcelona, to Roses near the French border.

Our base for the final four nights will on Spain’s Costa Brava. Breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be included at the hotel.
DAY 5  Tuesday, 16 April 2019
- Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 6  Wednesday, 17 April 2019
- This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
- Today we will transfer into Barcelona.
- TRAINING SESSION
  We will participate in a Training Session at a local field. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)
- Barcelona is the heart and soul of Cataluña, and, with one of Spain’s largest ports, has grown through trade and tourism. The city is characterized by the work of Antonio Gaudí, whose unique worldview created some of Europe’s most distinctive architecture. This beautiful city charms visitors at every turn with its vibrant spirit.
- BARCELONA CITY TOUR
  Take a City Tour of Barcelona, which will highlight many of the city’s magnificent and interesting landmarks. Highlights will include Las Ramblas, the Gothic Quarter, and the modernista architecture of the Quadrat d’Or. Our tour will be both on our private bus and on foot.
- BASÍLICA DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA
  Visit La Sagrada Familia, the symbol of Barcelona and the vision of Antoni Gaudí, whom from 1912 forward made the design of this soaring basilica his life’s work. If it is not the grandest church in all of Spain, it is certainly the grandest constructed within living memory. The grand church of the Holy Family, based on stories from the New Testament, is a strange and wonderful building that represents the intersection of the imaginative style of Modernisme with the medieval faith that drove construction of the great Gothic cathedrals.
- BARCELONA FREE TIME
  We will have some free time for shopping and exploration.
- Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 7  Thursday, 18 April 2019
- This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
- Today we will attend our professional coaching clinic and a professional match.
- PROFESSIONAL COACHING CLINIC
  We will participate in a special Coaching Clinic with a guest coach, player or instructor. The clinic will be designed exclusively for the team and to enhance skills in areas identified by the coaching staff. (Excel Sports has contacts at every level and can provide your team with some of the finest instructors in the industry. Specific clinics and coaches will be selected after time of booking.)
- PARC GUELL
  Spend time in Parc Güell, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, ‘Works of Antoni Gaudí’. Designed primarily by Gaudí, particularly interesting areas of the park include a mosaic pagoda, a lizard fountain spitting water, an undulating bench decorated with ceramic fragments, and an array of unique Doric columns, which are hollow and serve as part of Gaudí’s drainage system.
- ATTEND A PROFESSIONAL MATCH
  We will attend a professional soccer match featuring teams from the top leagues. Seeing the top talent in the world in person would itself be an unforgettable experience, but add the passionate crowds signing, cheering and chanting and you will enter an atmosphere that can only be understood through personal experience. (Excel Programs will secure tickets for the group after time of booking and upon release of the official schedule. Due to scheduling your final itinerary may need to adjusted to accommodate attending a match.)
- Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.
**DAY 8  Friday, 19 April 2019**

- This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
- Today we will return to Barcelona.
- **CAMP NOU STADIUM TOUR**
  Take a visit to Camp Nou, the home ground for Barcelona’s biggest and most popular team, and one of Europe’s greatest footballing ‘cathedrals’. FC Barcelona are the only major football club in the world that doesn’t sell advertising space on its strip, and this is because the club does not want to spoil the aesthetics of its famous red and blue jersey. Camp Nou is the biggest stadium in Europe with a capacity of 98,600 people, and it also has shops and a museum of the club’s history.
- We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Barcelona. Or, we can choose to relax on the beach near our hotel.
- **SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH**
  We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)
- Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 9  Saturday, 20 April 2019**

- This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
- Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.
What is Included:

- Round trip airfare, including all airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- Accommodation in three star hotels in twin and triple rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- Breakfast and dinner (or lunch) at the hotel daily (determined by the final sporting arrangements)
- WorldStrides Excel Sports Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- Transportation by private coach for transfers and touring, as required based on your itinerary
- Excursions, cultural activities, stadium tours and admissions as per your itinerary
- International Friendly Matches per your itinerary (Excel Sports is a FIFA approved match agent, holding the rights to arrange soccer matches between teams from different confederations and will provide full documentation of the sanctioned games)
- Training Sessions and/or Professional Coaching Clinics per your itinerary
- Two professional soccer tickets (subject to travel dates and match schedule)
- Three free college credits for all high school students (earning credit is optional for each participant and post trip course work is required)
- Free Professional Development Points/Credits (35 points or equivalent) for any educators traveling with the group
- WorldStrides Excel Sport App - featuring itinerary, flight and hotel details, as well as instant messaging capabilities
- Financial assistance program through the Future Leaders of American Government (FLAG) Foundation (for qualifying participants)
- Payment plans to meet the needs of all participants - EZPay and our Advantage Payment Plan (APP), where participants can make equal installment payments up to six months after the trip
- USTOA Extensive Consumer Protection up to $1,000,000 in coverage for advance deposits through our USTOA membership
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to $7,500) and $50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of $50,000,000 in coverage
- Exclusive 24-hour Doctors On-Call partnership with George Washington University Hospital
- Laundry services for soccer gear (The number of loads will be equalivant to the number of matches included in your program.)
- Water and snacks for training sessions, matches and coach transfer

This Does Not Include:

- Any items not mentioned above or in the detailed itinerary
- Single rooms for adults (will be available at a supplement of $50 per night)
- Third daily meal or personal beverages with meals
- Public transport pass in capital or major cities
- Visas (if required)
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage, or any costs for the hire of, or transport of, equipment or gear
- Travel Insurance - we offer and encourage you to consider our comprehensive policy which includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of $149 (available upon registration)
Manchester United GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE DRAWING

Win a four-day trip for two and attend the final Manchester United home game at Old Trafford Stadium

The Winner Will Receive:

- Two round trip flights to Manchester
- Two nights at the 3-Star Willowbank Hotel in Manchester
- Two tickets to see Manchester United’s final season home game at Old Trafford

The Ultimate Fundraiser

WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs is pleased to offer your individual participants or your team with the ultimate fundraiser. Your participants will be able to sell raffle tickets to people in their community or to other friends and family members. The money they raise will be theirs to apply towards the cost of their sports tour.

We will provide a PDF of the raffle tickets. The participants will print the tickets at home, and then they will proceed to sell the tickets for $10 each. WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs will provide the grand prize and hold a drawing on the 1st of March each year in order to choose a winner.

“This raffle fundraiser is sending me to Spain to play soccer. When my parents told me I had to pay for the trip myself I was determined I could do it and with the help of this raffle I was able to pay for the entire trip. Thank you so much!”

Sydney Larkin, St. Mary’s College Women’s Soccer (MD)

“The Manchester trip was an awesome experience that I will never forget. It’s been a dream of mine to see a Premier League game so this trip helped that wish come true for me. The atmosphere at the game was awesome and I got to see some great goals from Manchester United. I was also impressed with how accommodating Excel International Sports was while arranging extra days and flights for the trip. Overall, I am so grateful that I got this opportunity to go to Manchester and fulfill one of my dreams!”

Mike Smith, Grand Prize Raffle Winner
Don’t Just Take Our Word for it. 
Here is What Our Participants Had to Say:

“Our trip was spectacular from start to finish. The opportunity to train, play, and experience Barcelona is something that will not soon be forgotten. The cultural influences we encountered will be lasting and the memories will last a lifetime.”

Mark Biagi, Head Coach, Arizona ODP, Spain

“The trip was amazing and so well organized. Your folks on the ground that led the groups were excellent and so impressive. The schedule was full of wonderful events and the boys had an awesome time. Our family loved the trip and we are all so glad to have had the opportunity to go. Thank you so much for everything you do to make these trips happen. All of your hard work and organization really pays off on the user end when the trip goes as great as this one!”

Gabi Koeppel, Chaperone, MSYSA ODP, Spain

“Our tour guide Christina was fabulous! The trip overall was a tremendous experience! Every aspect is well planned and implemented. A memory making experience of a lifetime. Thank you WorldStrides Excel!”

Jim C, Chaperone, AZ ODP, Spain

“Simply outstanding. The entire experience. From pre-trip planning, WorldStrides Excel did a fantastic job covering all the details, to the trip itself – was truly exceptional. Thanks again for the opportunity to take part in this awesome trip!”

Rich Ruiz, Board Member, MSYSA ODP, Spain