Sports Travel Experience Designed Especially for DC Stoddert Soccer U16 Boys

Soccer in Italy
April 13 - April 21, 2019

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.
DAY 2 ARRIVE MILAN AREA (2 NIGHTS)
DAY 3 SAN SIRO STADIUM TOUR & FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
DAY 4 MILAN - COVERCIANO - FLORENCE AREA (2 NIGHTS)
DAY 5 FLORENCE & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
DAY 6 FLORENCE - ROME AREA (3 NIGHTS)
DAY 7 VATICAN CITY & THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
DAY 8 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL SOCCER MATCH
DAY 9 DEPARTURE FROM ROME
ITINERARY

One of the traditional European soccer powers, Italy has won four World Cups. Italy’s domestic league, Serie A, boasts some of the best talent in the world. Juventus, AC Milan, Internazionale Milan and A.S. Roma are just a few of the clubs that make Serie A competitive in European competition. The Italian way of soccer is known for its disciplined defending and passionate support.

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**DAY 1**

**Saturday, 13 April 2019**

Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from Dulles Intl Airport to Milan, Italy

* Please note that the final itinerary may be slightly different from this program. The final itinerary will be determined based on the size of the group, any adjustments that are required (such as adding additional matches), and the final schedule of the matches. (If additional matches are required, then some sightseeing content will be replaced by the additional matches needed.)

**DAY 2**

**Sunday, 14 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.

Two legendary clubs, Internazionale and AC Milan, call Milan home. Both clubs play at the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza, most commonly referred to as the San Siro. The San Siro has hosted four Champions League finals, and is considered the prime football venue in southern Europe. Milan has hosted the FIFA World Cup in 1934 and 1990, and each year Milan and Inter bring Derby della Madonnina action to the city.

**MILAN CITY TOUR**

Discover Milan on our private bus as we view some of the most important landmarks in the historic heart of the city. We will then take a tour on foot of the enormous and magnificent Piazza del Duomo, flanked by the Duomo, La Scala Opera House and the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II.

**GALLERIA VITTORIO EMANUELE II**

We will stroll around the four-story covered double arcade of shops in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II; it was originally designed in 1861 and built by Giuseppe Mengoni between 1865 and 1877. The imposing street is covered over by an arcing glass and cast iron roof, and the central octagonal space is topped with a glass dome. The Galleria connects two of Milan's most famous landmarks, the Duomo and the Teatro Alla Scala.

Our base for the first two nights will be in the greater Milan area. While here, breakfast and dinner will be included.

**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.)

This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.
DAY 3  Monday, 15 April 2019

This morning you will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will visit San Siro Stadium and play a friendly match.

SAN SIRO STADIUM TOUR
Pay homage to ‘the beautiful game’ in Milan with a guided tour of San Siro Stadium, where both AC Milan and FC Internazionale Milano (aka Inter Milan) play. Inside we will explore the stadium’s public areas and gaze down at the pitch from the tiered seating stands. We will visit the press room where post-match interviews and photo sessions take place, and then take a walk through the ‘tunnel of champions’ to the pitch. Often you can also visit the changing rooms. We conclude in the stadium museum, a place full of football paraphernalia with trophies, cups, shirts and more.

CASA MILAN
Visit Casa Milan and the new headquarters of AC Milan. The contemporary new building, unveiled for the 2014-15 season, is complete with a museum, store and the Cucina Milanello restaurant. Browse AC Milan history in the museum, shop for more souvenirs.

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.)

This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 4  Tuesday, 16 April 2019

This morning you will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will travel from Milan to Tuscany. We will stop in Coverciano, located just outside of Florence, is the state-of-the-art training complex and headquarters for the Italian Football Federation. Established in 1958, Coverciano trains everyone from upcoming Italian coaches to youth and senior national teams. Amenities include a customized hotel, restaurant, library, and conference hall.

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. (ECOE 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.)

FOOTBALL MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME
We will visit the Museo del Calcio is part of the Centro Tecnico Federale di Coverciano national football training grounds and showcases the past and present of the Italian National Football Team. We will experience a stroll through the Italian National team victories including 4 world cups, as well as view memorabilia donated by world cup players to the museum. The museum is also home to mementos and shirts of great champions who have contributed to making soccer popular all around the world: from Di Stefano to Pelé and Maradona.

Our base for the next two nights will be in the greater Florence area, where breakfast and dinner will be provided daily.

This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 5  Wednesday, 17 April 2019

This morning you will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will transfer into central Florence.

Fiorentina, one of Italy’s most successful clubs, hails from Florence, where they play in the Stadio Artemio Franchi. Florence is also the home of Coverciano, the official training complex of the Italian National Team and headquarters for the Italian Football Federation.
DAY 5  Wednesday, 17 April 2019

- **FLORENCE CITY TOUR**
  We will take a Florence Walking Tour where we will view the Piazza del Duomo, the Piazza della Signoria, the Piazza Santa Croce, and the Ponte Vecchio. We will then have some free time to shop or explore Florence at our leisure.

- **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.)

This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 6  Thursday, 18 April 2019

This morning you will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will make an early departure and travel from Tuscany to Rome.

Known to many as the "Eternal City", Rome is the capital of Italy, with an uninterrupted history spanning two and a half thousand years. As one of the founding cities of western civilisation, Rome is filled with incredible historical sites. It is a city with many faces, encompassing medieval, renaissance, and modern. To define Rome is an impossible task, but to enjoy Rome is a wondrous experience.

- **COLOSSEUM & ROMAN FORUM**
  Enjoy a guided tour, through the spectacular remains of the Roman Empire. The Colosseum, considered to be the greatest symbol of Ancient Rome’s power and glory, was completed under Titus in 80 A.D. The Colosseum could hold 55,000 spectators, on a par with many of today’s modern sports stadiums. Among the sights included is the Arch of Constantine, a triumphal arch finished in 315 A.D., commemorating the victory of Constantine I over Maxentius in the year 312 A.D. We will also tour the ruins and excavations of the Roman Forum, which features the remains of magnificent temples, basilicas, and triumphal arches that once formed the heart of the Empire.

- **PANTHEON**
  Visit the Pantheon, Rome’s best-preserved monument. The Pantheon is a masterpiece of architecture with its huge hemispherical dome. It also contains the tombs of the kings of Italy and that of the artist, Raphael.

- **PIAZZA NAVONA**
  We will spend some time in the Piazza Navona area. Built on the foundations of Domitian’s Circus, this magnificent square was designed by Borromini in 17th century. It is full of life and is highlighted by one of Rome's most spectacular fountains, the Four Rivers designed by Bernini. The square is often filled with local artists. The surrounding neighborhood is also one of the best places in Rome to get a tasty tartufo or gelato ice cream.

Our base for the final three evenings will be in the greater Rome area. While here breakfast and dinner will be included.

- **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.)

This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 7  Friday, 19 April 2019

This morning you will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will travel into Vatican City within Rome.
DAY 7  Friday, 19 April 2019

**VATICAN MUSEUMS & ST. PETER’S BASILICA**
Experience a specialist-guided tour of the Vatican City, including the Museums, home to one of the world's most impressive collections of art. Our tour includes the map tapestry rooms, the magnificent Raphael Rooms, and the spectacular Sistine Chapel, highlighted by Michelangelo's ceiling and his Last Judgment. We will continue into St. Peter's Square to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the western world and the centre of Catholicism. Highlights of our visit include Michelangelo's Pieta and Bernini's magnificent Baldacchino over the high altar.

**TREVI FOUNTAIN & SPANISH STEPS**
View the Trevi Fountain, where it is traditional to toss a coin into the fountain to ensure a safe return to the Eternal City. Spend time at Rome's meeting place, the Piazza di Spagna, home of the famous Spanish Steps. The piazza and steps are both named in reference to a 16th century Spanish ambassador who lived here. English poet John Keats lived and died in the house to the right of the steps, which is now a memorial.

**THIRD 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.)

This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 8  Saturday, 20 April 2019

This morning you will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Today we will play our final match and attend a pro match.

**FOURTH 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.)

**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.)

This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 9  Sunday, 21 April 2019

This morning you will enjoy 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
- The expertise and perspective of local guides during your tour (where required)
- 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
- One professional soccer ticket (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
- Manchester United Raffle Fundraiser - all proceeds earned go directly to the cost of the tour
- WorldStrides Excel Sports 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
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to $7,500) and $50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation
- USTOA Extensive Consumer Protection up to $1,000,000 in coverage for advance deposits through our USTOA membership
- Exclusive 24-hour Doctors On-Call partnership with George Washington University Hospital
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of $50,000,000 in coverage

**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
- Laundry services on tour
- 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 team had a great time in Italy this year as we got to tour a lot of different cities and see many amazing sights. Our tour guide Leo was a great first class guide that took the time to organize everything and made sure everyone was taken care of. Our team did great in their games coming away with two wins and two losses. Thanks WorldStrides Excel!”

Zack Flores, Head Coach, MSYSA Boys ODP, Italy

“We had an excellent experience in Italy. Our travel was great; the guides were very knowledgeable and professional. As always the sights, smells and tastes of Italy were amazing and the team discovered the rich history from roman ruins, to the marble streets of Verona and Venice. It truly was the trip of a lifetime for them to play against very good Serie A and B teams. I would highly recommend WorldStrides Excel for your team’s next trip abroad.”

Chris Wilson, Head Coach, EPYSA ODP, Italy

“This trip far exceeded our expectations! I would highly recommend a trip with WorldStrides Excel. From the tour directors, sightseeing, games and everything else, it was an incredibly fantastic trip. Thank you very much”

Sarah A., Parent, EPYSA ODP, Italy

“This trip far surpassed my expectations. Our tour guide Leonardo did a fantastic job with both the players and the parents. Attending the Hellas Verona vs. Inter Milan professional match was great. But for me the best part was being able to watch my son play soccer in Italy! I just wanted to make sure that I sent you a thank you for all of your hard work and efforts that went into this trip!”

Jim Hott, Parent, MSYSA Boys ODP, Italy