

GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS SOCCER TOUR



Day One

- Depart on an overnight flight to Dusseldorf or Frankfurt Airport.

Day Two

- Arrive at Dusseldorf or Frankfurt Airport, where you are met by your Excel Sports Representative.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to your 3* hotel in the Dusseldorf area where you will be staying for the following four nights (approx. a half hour journey).
- Welcome meeting and orientation.
- Afternoon free to explore the area around your hotel.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening training session.

Day Three

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Enjoy a 2 hour walking guided tour of Dusseldorf. Enjoy an informative and entertaining walk through the heart of Düsseldorf's beautiful old town. See the Kaiserswerth, a historical district with the ruined castle of Barbarossa Frederick I, Holy Roman Emperor, Schloss Benrath, a rococo castle, Hofgarten, the old city park, Gerresheim Basilica, St. Suitbertus Basilica and more!
- This afternoon, free time for sightseeing and shopping in Dusseldorf.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening, participate in your first friendly game against a German side.

Day Four

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning practice session.
- Depart on deluxe coach for Cologne (approx. a 40 minute journey).
- Free time for sightseeing in Cologne. Cologne is located on both sides of the Rhine River. The city's famous Cologne Cathedral (*Kölner Dom*) is the seat of the Catholic Archbishop of Cologne. The University of Cologne (*Universität zu Köln*) is one of Europe's oldest and largest universities. Cologne is a major cultural center of the Rhineland; it is home to more than thirty museums and hundreds of galleries.
- Return to hotel by deluxe coach.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free for social activities.

Day Five

- Breakfast at hotel.
- This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Esprit Arena, home to Fortuna Düsseldorf or Stadion im Borussia-Park, home to Borussia Mönchengladbach.
- Afternoon free for last minute sightseeing and shopping in Dusseldorf.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening play your second international friendly game vs. a German side.

Day Six

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to Amsterdam, Netherlands (approx. a three hour journey).
- Check-into your 3* hotel in the Amsterdam area where you will be staying for the following four nights.
- Afternoon free to explore the area around your hotel.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free for social activities.

Day Seven

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning practice session.
- This afternoon, enjoy a 2-hour walking guided tour of Amsterdam. Amsterdam, the hub of Holland, is unlike any other European city. It boasts a tradition formed by names such as Van Gogh, Rembrandt and Anne Frank, as well as canals and architecture dating back centuries. Amsterdam offers many possibilities for sightseeing, but it is the characteristic atmosphere of the city that makes it so worthwhile.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening play your third international friendly game vs. a Dutch side.

Day Eight

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning free for sightseeing and shopping on own in Amsterdam. Sights to see in Amsterdam: Begijnhof, Zuiderkerk, Rembrandt House, Amsterdam Arena, Dam Square, Royal Palace, Amsterdam Dungeon, and much more!
- This afternoon play your fourth international friendly game vs. a Dutch side.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free for social activities.

Day Nine

- Breakfast at hotel.
- This morning, visit to the stadium of Ajax Football Club, when it opened in 1996, it was the only stadium in Europe to have a sliding, retractable roof, and the first stadium in the world with a road running underneath it.
- Afternoon free for sightseeing and shopping in Amsterdam.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free to enjoy your last night in Europe!

Day Ten

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Depart Amsterdam Airport on your return flight.

ABOUT GERMANY

Dusseldorf - The capital of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf has emerged as one of Germany's most elegant, as well as commercial cities. Site of the country's most active stock-exchange, hundreds of banks and foreign based companies, this rambling city along the Rhine is a commercial/cultural oasis. Seemingly to have reaped only the good from Germany's postwar "economic miracle", a walk through certain sections of Dusseldorf is reminiscent of a stroll in Paris. The stores, especially along Königsallee, are chic, stylish and expensive. The city's inhabitants live up to their native moniker as members of Germany's Fashion Capital. Interspersed among the sleek, modern business towers and historical edifices are a large array of parks, gardens and tranquil corners. One such lovely setting is romantic Hofgarten Park, which is surrounded by the city's numerous, world class museums. Another favorite antidote to the city's teeming, business-oriented lifestyle, is the well-preserved Altstadt, or Old Town, along the Rhein. With its antique squares, cobblestone streets, gothic Rathaus and Castle Tower, there's more than enough to satiate the most romantic of travelers. These historic, winding streets - lined with over 200 elegant cafes and restaurants - are pure Dusseldorf.

ABOUT THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam - The hub of Holland, is unlike any other European city. It boasts a tradition formed by names such as Van Gogh, Rembrandt and Anne Frank, as well as canals and architecture dating back centuries. Amsterdam offers many possibilities for sightseeing, but it is the characteristic atmosphere of the city that makes it so worthwhile. This atmosphere is best experienced on a canal tour. These canals, and the buildings that line them, formed the heart of Holland's thriving trade for centuries. Sights to see in Amsterdam: Anne Frank House, the Canals, Begijnhof, Zuiderkerk, Rembrandt House, Amsterdam Arena, Dam Square, Royal Palace, Amsterdam Dungeon, and much more!

TESTIMONIALS

"Thank you for organizing our trip. It was fantastic!! Everything was well organized and well thought out. Martin, our tour manager, was very informative and had answers for all our questions in Germany. If anyone needs a reference questioning Excel's services, I will not hesitate to recommend you."

Ron Krause, Vernon Euro Gals, England/Germany

"The trip exceeded my expectations. I would spend the money to do it again, and would recommend it to others. Having a knowledgeable tour guide is what made the trip so positive. I would not want to try a trip like this without a local tour guide."

Doug Taylor, Kirkwood Soccer, Holland

"Our trip included 48 people and covered three countries. The attention to detail that Excel provided was essential in making this an outstanding event. Every one of our people came back with the desire to repeat the trip again. We worked for two years to raise the money and thanks to Excel, we felt that we more then got our monies worth out of it. When I next take a team overseas, Excel will be the first call I make."

Russ Scanlon, Lincoln Way Screaming Eagles SC, Italy/Switzerland/Germany



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**Subject to change*