

ITALY SOCCER TOUR



Day One

- Depart on an overnight flight to Venice Marco Polo Airport.

Day Two

- Arrive at Venice Marco Polo Airport where you are met by your Excel Sports Italian Representative.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to your 3* hotel in the Venice area, where you will be based for the following four nights.
- Check-in and time to unpack.
- Welcome meeting and orientation.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening training session.



Day Three

- Breakfast at hotel.
- This morning, transfer to Riva degli Schiavoni in Venice. Riva degli Schiavoni is near St. Mark's Square, perhaps the most famous square in the world.
- Enjoy a 2-hour guided tour of Venice. The sightseeing walk includes St. Mark's Square and its very expensive "Cafés", St. Mark's Abbey, the Duke's Palace, the "Sospiri" Bridge, the Duke's Palace Prisons and much more.
- Free afternoon to explore Venice on your own.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening, participate in your first friendly game against an Italian side.

Day Four

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning practice session.
- This afternoon, perhaps visit one of the many street markets in Venice. Venice is uniquely famous for local crafts that have been produced here for centuries and are hard to get elsewhere: the glassware from Murano, the delicate lace from Burano, and the *cartapesta* (papier-mâché) Carnevale masks you'll find in endless *botteghe*, where you can watch artisans paint amid their wares.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free for social activities.



Day Five

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Free time for sightseeing and last minute shopping on your own near your hotel.
- This afternoon, participate in your second friendly game against an Italian side.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free for social activities.

Day Six

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to Pisa (approx. a three hour journey).
- Afternoon visit to Pisa and its famous Tower.
- Continue by deluxe coach to Montecatini Terme (approx. an hour journey).
- Arrive in Montecatini Terme, the famous Spa Town in Tuscany, and check into your 3* hotel, where you will be staying for the following two nights.
- Time for sightseeing in Montecatini, visit the thermal spas or the Montecatini Alto.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Evening free for social activities.

Day Seven

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Morning practice session.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to Florence.
- Enjoy a 2-hour walking guided tour of Florence. The sightseeing walk includes the Pontevecchio, the "Duomo", and Santa Maria Novella. You'll also enjoy Michelangelo's David and many other masterpieces at the Accademia di Belle Arti.
- Free time to enjoy some shopping and for additional sightseeing options on own.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening, participate in your third friendly game vs. an Italian side.



Day Eight

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Transfer by deluxe coach to Rome (approx. a three hour journey).
- Arrive at your 3* Rome hotel where you will be staying for the following two nights.
- Check-in and unpack.
- Afternoon free to relax and explore the ancient city on your own. There are many ruins to wander through and many cafes to explore.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Possible visit to a professional game this evening (dependent upon schedule).

Day Nine

- Breakfast at hotel.
- This morning enjoy a 2-hour walking guided tour of Rome. The sightseeing walk includes visits to the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the ancient city Ruins, and the Pantheon.
- Afternoon free for sightseeing.
- Dinner at hotel.
- This evening, participate in your fourth friendly game vs. an Italian side.



Day Ten

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Depart Rome Fiumicino Airport on your return flight.

ABOUT ITALY



Venice - Venezia, La Serenissima, Queen of the Adriatic, city of canals and palaces. Venice's nature is dual: water and land, long history and doubtful future, airy delicacy and dim melancholy. If this precious place does sink, the world will be the poorer. For a thousand years the city was one of the most enduring mercantile sea powers on the face of the earth. Today the brilliance and influence have long since faded, leaving a town of tarnished glories, out of time and out of place, so achingly beautiful it's hard not to look for the back of the set. Sights to

see in Venice: St. Mark's Square, Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs, St. Mark's Basilica, Clock Tower, Rialto Bridge, take a Gondola Ride, Grand Canal, Rialto Market, and much more!

Florence - Few cities are as easy to fall in love with during a short stay as Florence. As the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, Florence is known for its incredible art and architecture, and its vast history and culture. Impressive buildings, remarkable galleries, and beautiful churches are crammed with treasures depicting the Florentine love of display. The russet rooftops and lofty domes of Florence's skyline provide a picturesque view of the striking city. There are also many side trips from Florence, such as Pisa and the Chianti Region. Sights to see in Florence: Michelangelo's David, Palazzo Vecchio, Signoria Square, Old Bridge, Uffizi Palace, Uffizi Gallery, Duomo of Florence, The Dome of Brunelleschi, Pitti Palace, and much more!

Rome - It's hard to say what you'll find most breathtaking about the Eternal City - the historical buildings, the fabulous artwork, the modern vs. ancient duality, the great food, or the interesting mix of people. Make like the locals and arouse your senses in the multitude of pleasures the city has to offer, from the thrill of feeling centuries of turbulent history under your feet to the enjoyment of eating chestnut gelati on a hot day.



Here modern city buildings sit next to ancient city ruins, young college tourist sit next to weathered travelers, this is a city for everyone. Sights to see in Rome: the Coliseum, the Pantheon, Vatican City, the Roman Forum, the Vatican Museums, the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Ruins, and much more!

TESTIMONIALS

"The places we visited were great and having the time to stop and learn the history of the area was fantastic."

Jim Hott, Chaperone, Maryland ODP, Italy

"We had an excellent time in Italy. Everything was well organized, our guide was super, and the competition was exactly what we were looking for as a pre-season tune-up. My concerns with 35 student-athletes were that of logistics, but Excel took care of all the details and had us where we were supposed to be each and every time. We are going to Ireland in three years and we are going through Excel. I highly recommend them."

John Plevyak, Coach, Stevenson University Men's Soccer, Italy