

## Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Your Group



# Soccer in Sydney

## ITINERARY OVERVIEW

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- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA
- DAY 2 IN TRANSIT
- DAY 3 ARRIVE SYDNEY AREA (7 NIGHTS)
- DAY 4 SYDNEY & FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 5 THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
- DAY 6 MANLY & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 7 BONDI BEACH
- DAY 8 GLOBAL AMBASSADORS & THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 9 SYDNEY & FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 10 DEPARTURE FROM SYDNEY

## ITINERARY

Soccer is the most played outdoor team sport in Australia. The national governing body of the sport is Football Federation Australia, which organizes the A-League, W-League, and FFA Cup, as well as the men's and women's national teams. The Men's Australian national soccer team, nicknamed the "Socceroos", represents Australia in international soccer. The Men's team has represented Australia at the FIFA World Cup tournaments in 1974, 2006, 2010 and 2014. The Australian Women's team represented Australia in the Olympics in 2000, 2004 and in 2016.

- |                        |                     |                               |               |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Educational Tour/Visit | Cultural Experience | Festival/Performance/Workshop | Tour Services |
| Recreational Activity  | LEAP Enrichment     | Match/Training Session        |               |



### DAY 1

- Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from North America.
- \* 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

- In transit (crossing the International Dateline)

### DAY 3

- Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final departure.
- We will be met at the airport by our private coach and driver and we will transfer into Sydney. We will have use of our private coach throughout our time in Australia.
- Sydney, the sunny, sexy and sophisticated city that basks in its worldwide recognition as the shining star of the southern hemisphere. Known as the "Emerald City," Sydney is without question one of the most attractive cities on earth.
- The Sydney area will be our base for the next seven nights. Breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be included at the hotel.
- We begin with a welcome meeting and orientation. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore the area around the hotel.
- SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE**  
Walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge, which was completed in 1932, is 3,795 ft. long, and spans the 1,600-ft. distance from the south shore to the north. It accommodates pedestrian walkways, two railway lines, and an eight-lane road. The 30-minute stroll across offers some excellent harbor views. As we walk across the bridge, we will stop off at the Pylon Lookout, located at the southeastern pylon. From the top of this bridge support, you are 591 ft. above the water and get panoramic views of Sydney Harbour, the ferry terminals of Circular Quay, and beyond.
- 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.)
- Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.





#### DAY 4



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will explore Sydney.



##### HYDE PARK & OLD SYDNEY TOWN

Visit the Hyde Park Barracks Museum. The Georgian-style barracks were designed in 1819 by the convict/architect Francis Greenway, and were built by convicts and inhabited by fellow prisoners. Today the museum houses relics from those early days in interesting modern displays. We continue with a visit to Old Sydney Town, where we will spend a few hours wandering around this outdoor theme park. Actors mill about dressed up like convicts, sailors, and the like, and we'll see stores, buildings, and ships from the old days of the colony. Performances are put on throughout the day, as it is the Australian version of an American Wild West-theme town.



##### SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK

Visit the Sydney Olympic Park, site of the 2000 Olympic Games. Most of the Olympic venues are at the dedicated Olympic precinct at Homebush Bay, which offers displays, walking maps, and tour tips. Nearby is Stadium Australia, the site of the Olympic Opening and Closing ceremonies, the track and field events, and some Olympic soccer games, and we will take a "Behind the Scenes" Tour. We will conclude our time at the Olympic Park as we ascend to Level 17 of the Novotel Hotel, located in the park, which features wonderful views of the Sydney Olympic Park and the city.



##### 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



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will take an excursion to Blue Mountain National Park.



##### 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.)



##### BLUE MOUNTAINS

Experience the Blue Mountains, about a two-hour drive from Sydney. We will travel through Parramatta, an early outpost where most of the free settlers coming to Australia settled and farmed. As we near the mountains, you'll notice their distinct blue color, caused by the many fine droplets of oil constantly dispersed by the dense eucalyptus forest. We will visit Echo Point, before Hiking a trail past the Three Sisters Craggy Outcrop. At the end of the trail we will board the railway, which takes us back to the top of the mountain. We will stop in Leura for lunch, before traveling over Mt. Victoria and through the towns of Richmond and Windsor en route back to Sydney.



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

#### DAY 6



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will visit nearby Manly.



##### MANLY

Enjoy your day with an excursion to Manly. You will embark on a ferry ride from Circular Quay to Manly. You will have the opportunity to enjoy the rejuvenated Manly wharf with a lively carnival that occupies the adjacent pier and the tranquil harborside beach known as Manly Cove. You may choose to visit Oceanworld on the far end of Manly cove or choose to take surf lessons at the surf school. There are an array of shops and eateries for you to explore during your time in the area.



**DAY 6**



**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 7**



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel to Bondi Beach.



**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.)



**BONDI BEACH**

We will spend the remainder of the day relaxing on Sydney's most famous beach, Bondi. The beach is well-known for its surfing and also features lovely areas for walks on the beach or on the nearby clifftops.



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 8**



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will return to the Sydney area.



**GLOBAL AMBASSADORS THROUGH SPORT**

Our team will have a wonderful and rewarding opportunity to provide a Coaching Clinic for a youth or special needs team. We will volunteer our time and expertise to serve as global sports ambassadors and to spread the love of our sport to the youth of another country. This is certain to be one of the most rewarding elements of the trip.



**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.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 9**



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.

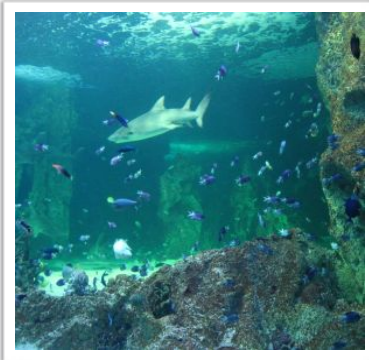


Today we will continue to explore Sydney.



**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**

Visit the world famous Sydney Opera House, where we will take a guided tour. Only a handful of buildings around the world are as architecturally and culturally significant as the Sydney Opera House. But what sets it apart is that this white-sailed construction caught midbillow over the waters of Sydney Cove is a working building. Most are surprised to learn it's not just an Opera House, but a full-scale performing-arts complex, with five major performance spaces.



**DAY 9**



**SYDNEY AQUARIUM**

Explore the Sydney Aquarium, which is undoubtedly one of the world's best aquariums. The main attractions are the underwater walkways through two enormous tanks, one with an impressive collection of creatures found in Sydney Harbour, the other full of giant rays and gray nurse sharks. Other excellent exhibits include a giant Plexiglass room suspended inside a pool patrolled by rescued seals, and a magnificent section on the Great Barrier Reef, where thousands of colorful fish school around coral outcrops.



**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.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



**DAY 10**



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 with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
- Accommodation in three star hotels in twin or triple rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- Full breakfast daily at the hotel
- Lunch or dinner daily (determined by the final sporting arrangements)
- A full-time 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)
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- All sporting arrangements, including matches, training sessions or clinics (as per the itinerary)
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers, friendly games and sightseeing (where and when required)
- Three free college credits for all high school students (option for each participant & post trip work is required)
- 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 USTOA membership
- Manchester United Raffle fundraiser
- One free place in a single room throughout
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of \$50,000,000 in coverage, which extends to certain individuals acting on behalf of Excel Sports as Coaches and Chaperones

**This Does Not Include:**

- Any items not mentioned above or in the detailed itinerary
- Single rooms for adults (available for \$75 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 (or cruise staff if applicable)
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- Any cost for the hire of, or transport of equipment or gear
- Travel insurance - We offer and always recommend our Trip Mate travel insurance policy to all participants. This comprehensive policy includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of \$149 (\$199 for tour programs with a price of \$5,000 +)

## 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 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**

## 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)**



## Don't Just Take Our Word for it. Here is What Our Participants Had to Say:



*"The trip to Barcelona was the experience of a lifetime for our soccer team – a perfect mix of sport and cultural activities. The training arranged was excellent with high caliber coaches from the Espanyol and Barcelona youth teams. The matches against local Spanish teams were challenging and a great learning experience. Thank you WorldStrides Excel for arranging this once in a lifetime trip! Given the chance, we would do it all again!"*

**Dennis Cowley, Head Coach, 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 team had an awesome time. 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, Spain**



*"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, 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."*

**Rich Ruiz, Board Member, Spain**