

## Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Your Group



# Soccer in Pachuca & Mexico City

### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

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- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA - ARRIVE MEXICO CITY - PACHUCA (3 NIGHTS)
- DAY 2 PACHUCA & PROFESSIONAL MATCH
- DAY 3 FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY MATCH & UNIVERSITY OF FUTBOL
- DAY 4 PACHUCA - TEOTIHUACAN - MEXICO CITY AREA (4 NIGHTS)
- DAY 5 SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY MATCH & THE ZOCALO
- DAY 6 PROFESSIONAL CLINIC & AZTECA STADIUM TOUR
- DAY 7 THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY MATCH & XOCHIMILCO
- DAY 8 DEPARTURE FROM MEXICO CITY

## ITINERARY

Mexico is soccer-crazy and the Mexican people are enthusiastic and involved in the soccer culture. Mexico began its foray to the World Cup in as early as 1930, but it was only in the 1970's where Mexico was able to qualify for six consecutive World Cups. Since then, especially during the 1990's, Mexico has displayed more consistency in gaining international success with the sport. The domestic league, the Primera Division de Mexico, has increased in terms of the football prowess of the different teams. Mexican football clubs rank high among the richest clubs outside of Europe.

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. Our Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us 24-hours per day until our final airport departure.
- Our private coach and driver will meet us at the airport and we will have the use of a private bus exclusively for our group throughout our time in Mexico. Pachuca is the capital of the state of Hidalgo, and it is referred to as the cradle of Mexican football after the country's first club was founded there back in 1901. Today the city of Pachuca is the home of the first-ever FIFA World Football Hall of Fame of global and domestic football figures and home of Mundo Futbol, an interactive museum that encourages visitors to experience the emotions and sensations specific to the beautiful game. Pachuca is directly linked to the mining industry since its foundation. It is a dynamic and growing city located in the center of the Mexican. It is also home to Club de Fútbol Pachuca, a Mexican professional team that competes in Liga MX and was founded by Cornish miners in 1901. It is one of the oldest football clubs in the Americas.
- Our base for the first three nights will be in Pachuca, where breakfast and dinner will be included each day.
- 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 are 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 2

- This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
- 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 are 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).
- Lunch will be provided today.
- 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. An engaging and entertaining atmosphere, along with incredible skill will make attending a match a highlight of any program. (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).



**DAY 2**

- Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

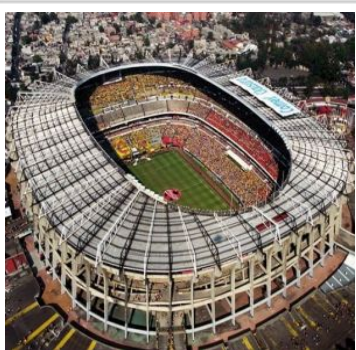
**DAY 3**

- This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
- FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH**  
We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or school 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).
- Lunch will be provided today.
- FUTBOL HALL OF FAME**  
We will visit the FIFA World Football Hall of Fame, a place devoted to recognizing the great personalities of soccer football in Mexico and the world. It is here where due recognition is given to the idols who devoted their lives to soccer. Moreover, as it is located in Pachuca, the place where Mexican soccer was born, the Hall of Fame promotes practicing this soccer through different activities and partnerships with clubs, companies and governments. To belong to this elite Hall, the only requirement is that the candidates must have participated in the Mexican League during their amateur or professional stage, for the national hall, or have participated in at least one world championship endorsed by FIFA, for the international hall. The hall features memorabilia and objects used by epoch-making players such as Enrique Borja, Jorge Campos, Horacio Casarin, Franz Beckenbauer, Diego Armando Maradona and, of course, Hugo Sanchez.
- INTERACTIVE SOCCER WORLD CENTER**  
We will experience the Interactive Soccer World Center, which features 51 interactive exhibits divided into four main themes: History, preparation (team, training, play), party (stadium, actors, hobby) and promotion (marketing and media).
- Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.









**DAY 4**

- This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
- Today we will travel from Pachuca to Mexico City.
- Teotihuacán is one of most impressive cities of the ancient world, which was founded before the Christian era, and once housed up to 125,000 people. The founders of the city are still a mystery, but many civilizations (including the Aztecs) held it sacred. In fact, the Aztecs believed giants built it.
- TEOTIHUACAN TOUR**  
Enjoy a guided tour of the Ancient Remains including: the Avenue of the Dead, The Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the Pyramid of the Sun, the Palace of Tepantitla, the Quetzalpapalotl Palace Complex, the Pyramid of the Moon and the Museum.
- We will enjoy lunch today in a local restaurant.
- Mexico City, also known as the Valley of the Damned, is the capital city of Mexico and is located in the Valley of Mexico. It is the most important center for financial, economic and cultural events of the country. Mexico City is one of the world's largest and most populated cities. The city was originally built by the Aztecs in 1325 on an island of Lake Texcoco, with the municipality of Mexico City established in 1524.
- For the final four evenings our base will be in the greater Mexico City area, where breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be included each day.
- 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 are 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 5

-  This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
-  **SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH**  
We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or school 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).
-  Lunch will be provided today.
-  **THE ZOCALO**  
Explore the section of Mexico City known as the Zocalo, which is the historic center and is dominated by the Plaza de la Constitucion, the third largest square in the world.
-  **TEMPLO MAYOR**  
Enjoy a visit to the Templo Mayor, sight of the great Aztec temple, which stood at the heart of Tenochtitlan. Our visit will include a tour of the Excavations and the Museum.
-  **CATHEDRAL METROPOLITANA**  
Visit the Cathedral Metropolitana, the biggest church in Latin America, and the heart of the world's largest Catholic diocese.
-  **PALACIO NACIONAL**  
Take a visit to the Palacio Nacional, which is dominated by the great mural by Diego Rivera painted above its main staircase and along two walls of the courtyard. This spectacular mural was painted between 1929 and 1935 in the aftermath of the Revolution.
-  Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

### DAY 6




-  This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
-  **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).
-  Lunch will be provided today.
-  **AZTECA STADIUM TOUR**  
Explore one of the world's most famous sport venues on a 3-hour tour of Azteca Stadium in Mexico City. Experience the atmosphere of the official home of Mexico's national soccer team, and where Maradona and Pele became world champions. We will explore the Azteca Stadium on a football focused arena tour, see the inner tunnels and locker rooms, walk through the benches and press room, learn some great sporting moments at the only stadium to host 2 World Cup finals, and marvel at the stadium seating for more than 100,000 spectators.
-  Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

### DAY 7



-  This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.
-  **FRIENDLY MATCH**  
We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or school 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).
-  Lunch will be provided today.
-  **ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUM**  
Visit the Museo Nacional de Antropologia, a vast and airy museum that houses a spectacular collection of finds from Mexico's pre-Columbian cultures, including the Teotihuacán, Toltecs, Oaxaca, Maya and Aztecs.



**DAY 7**

-  Xochimilco is the only part of Mexico City to still have the canals and semi-floating flower and vegetable gardens, or chinampas, built by the Aztecs.
-  **XOCHIMILCO BOAT TOUR**  
Take a relaxing Flower-Decked Punt Ride, piloted by a local boatman through the canals of Xochimilco. The brightly colored boats that transport passengers through the canals of Xochimilco are called trajineras. They are flat-bottomed boats similar to gondolas. On your ride around the canals you will come across other trajineras, some selling food, others offering musical entertainment. You can often be serenaded by mariachis.
-  Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 8**

-  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 a four star hotel in twin (or occasional triple) rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily (as per the itinerary)
- A full-time WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- 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)
- One pro soccer ticket
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers and touring
- Three free college credits for high school students (optional for each participant and post trip course 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 our USTOA membership
- A free place in a single room throughout the program
- Additional free places in shared twin rooms (as determined by the number of full paying participants stated below)
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of \$50,000,000 in coverage, which extends to certain individuals acting on behalf of Excel Sports
- Free Professional Development Points/Credits (35 points or equivalent) for all faculty chaperones

**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)
- Personal beverages with meals
- Laundry services on tour
- Public transport pass in capital or major cities
- 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 costs 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



## 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:



*"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**