



WorldStrides®

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Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Your Group














Soccer on the Riviera Maya

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA - ARRIVE CANCÚN (6 NIGHTS)
- DAY 2 PROFESSIONAL CLINIC AT OLIMPIC STADIUM ANDRES Q. ROO
- DAY 3 ISLA MUJERES & FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 4 CHICHEN ITZA, CENOTE & TRAINING SESSION
- DAY 5 TULUM, XEL-HA & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 6 THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY & BEACH TIME
- DAY 7 DEPARTURE FROM CANCÚN

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	    

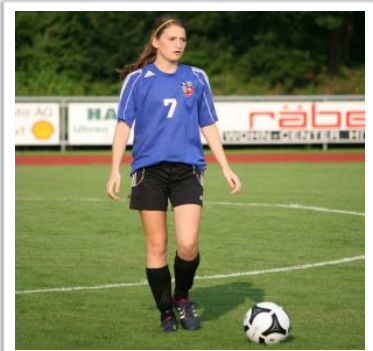
DAY 1



-  Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from North America. Our Tour Director will meet us at the airport and accompany our group exclusively through our departure.
-  Our private coach will be waiting to transfer us to our hotel on the Riviera Maya. We will have the use of a private bus and driver for all sightseeing and soccer content.
-  Cancún is a coastal city in the tourist destination called The Mexican Caribbean, i.e. the state of Quintana Roo on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. It is a popular vacation spot on the Caribbean coast.
-  Our base for the next six evenings will be along Mexico's magnificent Riviera Maya. While here breakfast and dinner will be included at the hotel daily, and on occasion lunches as well.
-  **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.
-  Today we will enjoy a stadium tour, a coaching clinic and some time on the beach.
-  **ANDRES QUINTANA ROO OLIMPIC STADIUM**
Take a Stadium Tour of the home to the Atlante Futbol Club, which competes in the Liga de Ascenso. It was founded in 1918 in the colony Rome of the City of Mexico, is one of the oldest soccer teams in Mexico. Popularly identified as "The Village Team" because of the social origin of its founders, who integrated sectors of the popular strata (workers and traders) in humble neighborhoods of Mexico City. The team has 5 titles in the league, 3 in the Mexican Cup, 2 in the Champion of Champions, and twice in the international arena they won the CONCACAF Champions' Cup.
-  **PROFESSIONAL COACHING CLINIC**
We will participate in a special Coaching clinic with a guest coach, player or instructor from Atlante Futbol Club. 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.
-  The afternoon will be free to relax on the magnificent beaches of the Riviera Maya.
-  Tonight we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.



DAY 3



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel to Isla Mujeres.



Isla Mujeres remained a sanctuary until it was discovered by Francisco Fernández de Córdoba in 1517. Legend has it that the only inhabitants of the island were the priestesses of Ixchel and her court of women. Scattered around were numerous gold, silver and clay statues of Ixchel, and so the island got its name, Isla Mujeres, the Island of Women. In the 1950's, long before Cancun was even a glint in developer's eyes, Isla Mujeres opened her arms to visitors and is now one of the most beautiful places for snorkeling in the world.



ISLA MUJERES SNORKELING

Visit Isla Mujeres and refresh in the turquoise, crystal clear water while discovering the amazing beauty of the island's reefs. We will enjoy the wonderful sea life with all its variety of fish and coral. An experienced guide will show us the best of this beautiful, shallow reef (6 ft. deep) and we will view colorful fish and beautiful varieties of coral. Then we get back on the boat and sail to the MUSA (Underwater Museum of Art) and Manchones reef that are 30 ft deep. Here we will see even more marine life such as sting rays, turtles, hundreds of fish, lobsters, and more! Finally we will go to Playa Tiburon, a nice beach on the other side of the island where we will enjoy a delicious lunch, followed by some time on the beach or time for optional activities, such as the Turtle Farm, or swimming with nurse sharks.



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club, academy 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).



Tonight we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 4



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will make an early departure and travel inland to Chichen Itza, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.



CHICHEN ITZA

Explore the ruins at Chichén Itzá, which has two parts: the northern zone, which shows distinct Toltec influence, and the southern zone, with mostly Puuc architecture. Our visit will include: the El Castillo Pyramid; the Main Ball Court; the North Temple; the Temple of Jaguars; the Temple of the Skulls; the Platform of the Eagle; the Platform of Venus; the Sacred Cenote; the Temple of the Warriors; the Tomb of the High Priest; the Observatory; and the Temple of Panels.



Today lunch will be included in a local restaurant.



IK-KIL CENOTE

Experience Ik-Kil, a large, deep cenote near Chichen Itza. The view from both the top and the bottom is dramatic, with lots of tropical vegetation and hanging tree roots stretching to the water's surface. Getting down to the water's edge requires navigating many steps. Those that choose can swim in the cenote and jump from one of several platforms.

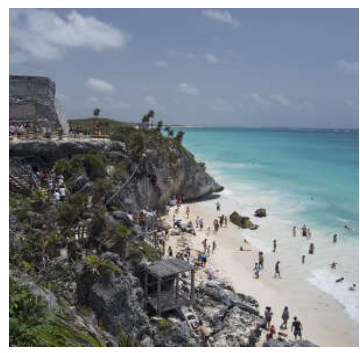


Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.




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).



DAY 5

 This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.

 Today we will travel to Tulum and Xelha.


TULUM

Discover the Tulum Archaeological Site, a Mayan fortress city overlooking the Caribbean. By 900 A.D. the Mayan civilization had begun its decline, and the large cities to the south were abandoned. Tulum is one of the small city-states that rose to fill the void, and came to prominence in the 13th century as a seaport, controlling maritime commerce along this section of the coast. The most imposing building in Tulum is a large stone structure above the cliff called the Castillo, which was a temple, as well as a fortress.

 Today lunch will be included.

XEL-HA PARK


Experience Xel-Ha, centered around a large, beautiful lagoon where freshwater and saltwater meet. We will be able to swim, float, and snorkel in beautifully clear water surrounded by jungle. A small train takes us to a drop-off point upriver, and we will float back down on water moving calmly toward the sea. With no waves or currents to pull you around, snorkeling here is more comfortable than in the open sea, and the water has several species of fish, including rays. Adventures include snorkeling, a River Tour, Xel-Ha Cave, a Cliff Climb, Trepachanga, Zip lines, rope swing, mangrove tubing, biking grottoes, jungle trails and cenotes.


 Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club, academy 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).


DAY 6


 This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.


 Today we will travel to our final match and then to the beach.

THIRD FRIENDLY MATCH


We will play a Friendly Match against a local club, academy 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).


 Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

 We will spend the afternoon on one of the Riviera Maya's magnificent beaches.

 Tonight we will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

DAY 7

 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)
- 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
- Manchester United raffle fundraiser for each player
- One free place in a single room throughout the tour
- 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
- Personal beverages with meals
- Laundry services on tour
- Visas (if required for non-US citizens)
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- Any cost for the hire or transportation of equipment or instruments by land or air
- 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
- Single rooms for adults (will be available at a supplement of \$50 per night)
- 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



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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