

## Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Your Group



## Soccer in Dublin and Galway












### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

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- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA
- DAY 2 ARRIVE DUBLIN AREA (4 NIGHTS)
- DAY 3 DUBLIN
- DAY 4 FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL MATCH
- DAY 5 DUBLIN & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 6 DUBLIN AREA - NEWGRANGE - CLONMACNOISE - GALWAY AREA (3 NIGHTS)
- DAY 7 GALWAY & THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 8 THE BURREN, CLIFFS OF MOHER & FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 9 DEPARTURE FROM SHANNON

## ITINERARY

Since 1921, Ireland has maintained a proud soccer tradition. "The Boys in Green" found success in the 1990s and 2000s reaching the World Cup's Round of 16 twice. National Team legend Robbie Keane has spent a number of years at the MLS LA Galaxy. The famously green landscape of Ireland makes for perfect fields of play.

 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.

### DAY 2

-  Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure. We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next seven days.  
Dublin is a complex small city, whose 19th-century architecture conceals a modern place filled with trendy shops, pubs, restaurants and boutiques. Long perceived to be stuck in the past, Dublin has experienced a rebirth that has brought new life to the historic, modern, charming, and entertaining city. Spend time wandering the Victorian streets, visiting the incredible churches and museums, exploring the vibrancy of the Temple Bar area, and discovering why Dublin is one of the most popular destinations for Europeans and the world.
-  Our base for the first four nights will be in the greater Dublin area. While here 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.
-  **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 3

-  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).
-  We will explore Dublin today.
-  **ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL**  
Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, the national cathedral of the Church of Ireland. It is said that St. Patrick baptized converts on this site. Consequently, a church has stood here since 450 AD, making it the oldest Christian site in Dublin. The cathedral's design is primarily Early English in style, and features a 300-foot-long interior and a square medieval tower that houses the largest ringing peal bells of Ireland. St. Patrick's is closely associated with Jonathan Swift, who was dean from 1713 to 1745, and whose tomb lies in the south aisle.





### DAY 3



#### DUBLIN CITY TOUR

We will take a Dublin City tour using our private bus and on foot to view and learn about some of Dublin's most important landmarks and attractions. Our tour will include Ha'penny Bridge, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin Castle, O'Connell Street, Merrion Square and St. Stephen's Green. We will also enjoy a stroll along Grafton Street and see the Molly Malone Statue.



#### THE BOOK OF KELLS

Discover Trinity College, the oldest university in Ireland. Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. The beautiful campus features cobbled squares, gardens, a picturesque quadrangle and buildings that date from the 17th to 20th centuries. Trinity College is also home to the Book of Kells, an 8th-century version of the four Gospels decorated with elaborate scripting and illumination. We will view this famous treasure and other early Christian manuscripts in the Colonnades, an exhibition area on the ground floor of the Old Library.



Spend some free time to explore and shop at your leisure in Dublin.



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

### DAY 4



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel to our match and to a professional match.



#### 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).



#### 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 singing, 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 be adjusted to accommodate attending a match).



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

### DAY 5



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel to Aviva Stadium and to our match.



#### AVIVA STADIUM TOUR

We will take a guided tour of Aviva Stadium, which is the culmination of 150 years of Irish Sporting Heritage. It is the birthplace of Irish Rugby and the spiritual home of Irish football and rugby. Aviva Stadium is unique in its architecture, advanced engineering and a world leader in sustainability. We will experience an intimate 'behind the scenes' tour to visit areas normally only occupied by players and officials, such as the home dressing rooms, players' tunnel, the press room and the museum.



#### FRIENDLY MATCH

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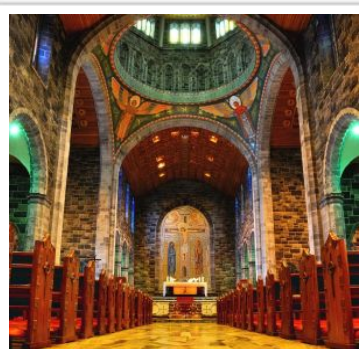


Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.





## DAY 6



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will travel from the Dublin area to the Galway area.



### NEWGRANGE

Visit Newgrange, Ireland's best-known prehistoric monument and one of the archaeological wonders of Western Europe. This amazing feat of engineering is 36ft high, 260ft in diameter and consists of 200,000 tons of stone, including a 6-ton capstone. After time to explore, we make a brief stop to see the Hill of Slane, where the ruins of a Franciscan monastery built in 1512 by Christopher Fleming are capped by the commanding bell tower of Saint Patrick's Church (visit subject to booking availability).



### CLONMACNOISE

Take a visit to Clonmacnoise Monastery. Clonmacnoise was a great center of learning, and many manuscripts, including the Annals of Tighernach and the Book of the Dun Cow were written here. The site is entered through the visitor center, where a number of cross-slabs are displayed. The centerpiece of the new Interpretative Center is the 9th-century Cross of the Scriptures.

The historic city of Galway is strongly associated with Irish language, music, and dance, and is one of the most Irish cities in the country. The lively and bustling university town was very prominent in the Middle Ages, and was the site of a nine-month siege during the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. With history, culture, and beautiful surroundings, Galway is a favorite of visitors to the west coast.



Our base for the final three nights will be in the greater Galway area, where breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be provided at the hotel.



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

## DAY 7



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will explore Galway.



### GALWAY CATHEDRAL

Visit Galway Cathedral, one of the largest and most impressive buildings in the city. The architecture of the Cathedral draws on many influences. The dome and pillars reflect a Renaissance style. Other features, including the rose windows and mosaics, echo the broad tradition of Christian art. The Cathedral dome, at a height of 145ft, is a prominent landmark on the city skyline.



### GALWAY WALKING TOUR

Take a Walking Tour of Galway's city center. We will view many of Galway's most important areas and landmarks, including Eyre Square, Shop Street, the Latin Quarter, Lynch's Castle, the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, the Quays, the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, and the Spanish Arch.



We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Galway.



### FRIENDLY MATCH

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Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.



## DAY 8



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will explore the beauty of western Ireland.



### THE BURREN

Enjoy one of Ireland's and Europe's most interesting and scenic areas, The Burren. Carved by nature from carboniferous limestone, the view manages to be both desolate and beautiful. Sheets of rock jut out and seem to undulate in a kind of moonscape as far as the eye can see. We will stop to view the unique rock formations, as well as the Poul nabrone Dolmen, a portal tomb dating back to 2500 BC. Somehow delicate wildflowers and curling ferns thrive in this strange landscape that was created 300 million years ago.



### THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

Spend time at the Cliffs of Moher, a series of dramatic undulating cliffs plunging 700 feet down to the Atlantic Ocean, offering unforgettable views of Ireland's west coast. On a clear day we may be able to see the Aran Islands in Galway Bay as misty shapes off in the distance. Those who choose may climb O'Brien's Tower, a viewing point built for the benefit of Victorian tourists.



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This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

## DAY 9



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 rooms (with an occasional triple) 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
- All admissions, activities and excursions as per the itinerary
- All soccer arrangements for international friendly games, training sessions or clinics (as per the itinerary)
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers, touring and soccer content throughout (where and when 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
- USTOA Extensive Consumer Protection up to \$1,000,000 in coverage for advance deposits through our USTOA membership
- Manchester United Raffle fundraiser
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of \$50,000,000 in coverage, which extends to certain individuals acting on behalf of Excel Sports
- One free place in a single room throughout the tour

**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)
- Third daily meal or 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
- 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:



*"What an amazing trip to London! From the very beginning to the ending at Heathrow, our WorldStrides Excel Tour Guide – Woodie- was always with us; practices, games, tours, underground transport, and meals. The international friendly matches were exciting to watch realizing this was a first for many, including the UK players. Coach Steve Senna was awesome in his coaching style and manner with each individual player, turning the switch from playing matches to fun as he set the example each day. Thank you WorldStrides Excel for another memorable trip!"*

**Linda Norton, Board Member, MSYSA Girls ODP, England**



*"The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the young girls. They were able to compete in international play and learn more about the game. Each day was well-planned and full of activities. I believe this trip would be beneficial to any young player looking to learn more about soccer and enjoy a cultural experience."*

**Teresa Reiner, Head Coach, EPYSA Girls ODP, London**



*"Just want to drop you a quick note to let you know how much I enjoyed the London trip. Our tour manager was an outstanding guide who showed us the heart of the city and kept us organized and on schedule for training and matches. I had a blast with everyone! Thank you WorldStrides Excel for a memorable experience. You guys run a top-notch program!"*

**Michele Rodriguez-Smith, Coach, MSYSA Girls ODP, England**



*"I want to thank you WorldStrides Excel for an incredible trip to London! Everyone had an amazing experience and absolutely, hands-down the best trip I've ever experienced. It was EXTREMELY well organized your professionalism, planning and attention to detail made it easy for us to prepare for the trip. It was an amazing trip, thank you again!"*

**Susan Kearney, Chaperone, EPYSA Girls ODP, England**