

Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Your Group














Soccer in the Netherlands

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA
- DAY 2 ARRIVE AMSTERDAM - DELFT - THE HAGUE AREA (3 NIGHTS)
- DAY 3 TRAINING SESSION & THE HAGUE
- DAY 4 ROTTERDAM & FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 5 THE HAGUE - EINDHOVEN - ZAAANSE SCHANS - AMSTERDAM AREA (4 NIGHTS)
- DAY 6 AMSTERDAM & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 7 TRAINING SESSION, UTRECHT & AMSTERDAM
- DAY 8 AMSTERDAM & THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 9 DEPARTURE FROM AMSTERDAM

ITINERARY

Football is the most popular sport in the Netherlands. Dutch football is well known for its national football team, usually dressed in orange. They won the European Championship in 1988, and have competed in many European and World Cups. On this program we will experience "The Big Three" as they are known in Holland, AJAX, PSV and Feyenoord, as well as explore the history, culture and legacy of football in the Netherlands.






 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.
Delft is perhaps the prettiest town in all of Holland. The facades of the Renaissance and Gothic houses here reflect age-old beauty, and a sense of tranquility pervades the air, and linden trees bend over its gracious canals. Indeed, it's easy to understand why Old Master Jan Vermeer chose to spend most of his life surrounded by Delft's gentle beauty. A good part of Holland's history is preserved in memorials in Delft.
-  Enjoy a Walking Tour of Delft as we wind through the historic town centre that is lined with scenic canals. Delft is primarily known for its blue pottery (Delftware) and for the painter Vermeer. The town is also associated with the House of Orange which started with William of Orange in 1572. (Arrival day sightseeing will be subject to flight arrival time)
-  Our base for the first three nights will be The Hague area. While here, we will enjoy breakfast and dinner (or lunch based on the final soccer schedule) at the hotel.
-  We begin with a welcome meeting and orientation. Afterwards, enjoy free time to unpack and explore the area around the hotel.
-  This evening we will enjoy 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).
-  The Hague or Den Haag is often known as the "judicial capital of the world" due to the many international courts that are located in the city such as the International Court of Justice. Beside these institutions, The Hague is also home to more than 150 international organizations, as well as many European Union institutions, multinational companies and embassies which give the city a distinct international character.
-  Enjoy an introductory walking tour of The Hague. We will explore the heart of the city which contains historic architecture from the medieval, renaissance, and Baroque periods. On our walk we will cross the Plein, stroll along the Lange Poten to the Hofweg, before viewing the Hofvijver reflecting pool in front of the stately Binnenhof.






DAY 3

-  Visit the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis which houses the Royal Cabinet of Paintings and is a major pictorial art museum in The Hague. Previously the residence of count John Maurice of Nassau, it now has a large art collection, including paintings by Dutch painters such as Johannes Vermeer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Jan Steen, Paulus Potter and Frans Hals and works of the German painter Hans Holbein the Younger. A highlight will be Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring."
-  We will have some free time for shopping and exploration of the Hague.
-  This evening we will enjoy 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 nearby Rotterdam.
-  Rotterdam is Holland's most futuristic city, centuries away from the capital in both appearance and personality. Here, instead of the usual Dutch web of little streets, alleyways, and winding canals, there are spacious and elegant malls and one of the world's busiest ocean harbors. This bustling metropolis (pop. 590,000) is fascinating to see, particularly when you consider the city was a living monument to Holland's Golden Age until it was bombed to rubble during World War II. Rotterdam has an abundance of modern architecture and the people have created an efficient, workable modern city.
-  We will take a Rotterdam City Tour using both our private bus and by foot. Our tour will give us a wonderful introduction to this modern, historic and important port city. We will view much of the modern architecture, as well as stroll along the canals to soak in the daily life of Rotterdam.

FEYENOORD STADIUM TOUR



We will visit the stadium Feyenoord, also called 'De Kuip' (which means the tub), which is the home of football club Feyenoord Rotterdam, one of the most successful teams in the Netherlands. Most of the games of the Dutch national team Oranje are played in this impressive stadium as well. The five-star stadium has even hosted the most (11) European finals ever! We will see the "holy grass," where Feyenoord and the Dutch national team have celebrated many successes. During an exciting tour through the Feyenoord Stadium and the Home of History Museum we will visit the dressing rooms, the players tunnel and the dug outs. Experience how the worlds best players like Zidane, Ruud Gullit, David Beckham, Ronaldo and many others must have felt when they played in this impressive stadium!



-  We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Rotterdam, which features some world class museums.




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).

-  This evening we will enjoy 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.
-  **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).
-  Today we will leave the Hague and travel to the Amsterdam area. En route, we will explore Eindhoven and stop in Zaanse Schans.



DAY 5



PSV EINDHOVEN STADIUM TOUR

We will take a guided tour of Philips Stadium, an up-to-date stadium, located in the Frederiklaan in Eindhoven, at exactly the same place where the PSV sports grounds were established when PSV was founded in 1913. Our guided tour of the Philips Stadium will take us behind the scenes, giving us access to areas normally reserved for players and officials. The guided tour of the Philips Stadium takes guests on a journey to the players' entrance, dressing rooms, and through the tunnel to the pitch. We will also see special places, including the post-match press conference area, executive boxes and hospitality seats as well as the directors' luxury boxes. All tours include entry to the Museum, with over one hundred years of history.



Explore Zaanse Schans which is a neighborhood in the Zaan region and famous for its windmills and quaint timber houses. The windmills produce local goods which include mustard, oil and paint.



Amsterdam, the largest city and the capital of The Netherlands. A major European center of commerce and culture, Amsterdam is a lively combination of old and new, with picturesque canals, beautiful 17th century architecture, world-renowned museums, and an international harbor and airport.



Our base for the final four nights will be in the greater Amsterdam area, where breakfast and dinner (or lunch based on the final soccer schedule) will be provided at the hotel.



This evening we will enjoy 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 into central Amsterdam.



Enjoy a guided City Tour of Amsterdam to view Amsterdam's canals, boats, and spectacular architecture. Highlights of our tour will include the Anne Frank House; the Rijksmuseum, featuring one of the finest art collections in western Europe, Coster Diamonds, and Koninklijk Paleis.



Visit the Van Gogh Museum, which houses an unrivaled collection of 200 paintings and 400 drawings by the famous Dutch artist.



We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Amsterdam. Our tour director will be available to assist you in finding the attractions or activities that are available in this amazing city.



FRIENDLY MATCH

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This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.



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

DAY 7



This morning we will have breakfast at the hotel.



TRAINING SESSION

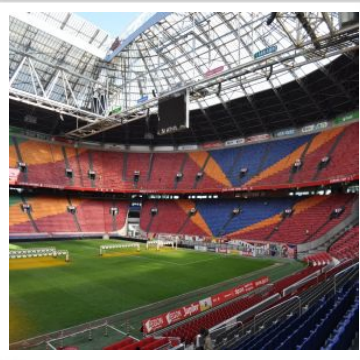
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Take an excursion to nearby Utrecht.






The bishopric and university town of Utrecht is a vibrant and compact city. Medieval churches and monasteries and magnificent 16th century canalside houses are typical characteristics of the old town center.





DAY 7

-  As a wonderful introduction to the city we will take a Utrecht Canal Cruise where we will view the magnificent gables, sidewalk cafes, bridges and churches along the way.
-  We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Utrecht.
-  **AJAX STADIUM TOUR**
We will take a guide tour of ArenA Stadium, the home of A.F.C. Ajax (Amsterdamsche Football Club Ajax), the most famous Dutch soccer club. Amsterdam's most modern stadium features impressive architecture. Like many modern stadiums, ArenA has a retractable roof, which can be opened when it does not rain. After its construction in 1996, the stadium was able to seat 51,000 spectators. During the tour, we will be able to see the press room where press conferences take place before each match; visit the control room of the stadium; look at the pitch from the ArenA's highest seat and often observe first Ajax team training, depending on the actual training schedule. We will conclude in the official Ajax Fan Shop, featuring Ajax clothes, sports equipment and gadgets. The shop may print your own name or the name of your favorite player, as well as your favorite number on an Ajax shirt.
-  This evening we will enjoy 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 transfer back into central Amsterdam.
-  Visit the place where the young Jewish girl Anne Frank had to hide during the Nazi occupation of Holland during World War II. During the two years she was in hiding, she kept a diary, published after the war and her death by her father. This diary has made Anne a symbol of the children who were murdered in the Holocaust.
-  We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Amsterdam. Our tour director will be available to assist you in finding the attractions or activities that are available in this amazing city.
-  **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).
-  This evening we will enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.
-  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
- 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 programs Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers and touring
- All soccer arrangements, including matches, training sessions or clinics (as per the itinerary)
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- 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
- 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
- One free place in a single room throughout

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

2017 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE DRAWING

Win a four-day trip for two and attend the final 2017 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 2017 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 March 1, 2017 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:



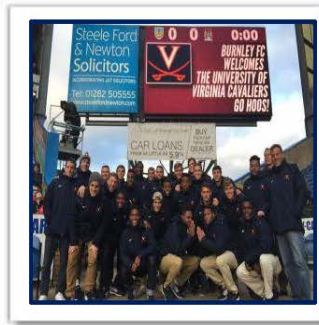
"Our England trip with WorldStrides Excel was a top quality experience for our program. The training facilities we used were excellent and for our players to face the reserve teams of three top EPL teams were a great opportunity for them. Our players also toured Old Trafford Stadium and attended the Manchester United v Liverpool and Spurs v Arsenal games. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for our players."

Sasho Cirovski, University of Maryland, Head Coach, England



"Our entire team and coaching staff had an amazing 8-day tour to Barcelona, Spain. The trip was the perfect mix of competitive games against local professional teams, some fantastic sightseeing and cultural experiences in and around Barcelona and the opportunity to watch close-up a number of professional games and training sessions. Thank you WorldStrides Excel Sports for making this happen!"

Luke Wildy, George Washington University, Assistant Coach, Spain



"WorldStrides Excel's attention to detail and customer service were outstanding! I have taken athletes abroad on a number of occasions and this trip was outstanding! The lodging, transportation, sightseeing, matches and food were excellent! Moreover, our tour manager was the best I've ever experienced on a trip abroad!"

Lon Pringle, Assistant Coach, Catholic University, Spain



"Our trip to Germany and Holland with WorldStrides Excel was a fantastic experience for our team. The experience of traveling and playing overseas was a bonding experience for my team and we all came back with an enthusiastic attitude towards the upcoming season. Our tour manager, Stephanie was a great leader and the trip was a success due to her knowledge and work ethic. Thanks WorldStrides Excel for a memorable and fantastic trip!"

John Plevyak, Head Coach, Stevenson University, Germany