

## **International Soccer Tour 2024 Itinerary Alvernia University Women's Soccer Italy and Greece – Rome and Athens**

### **Travel dates:**

March 2-10, 2024.

### **Itinerary:**

- March 2 Departure from Philadelphia airport.
- March 3 Arrival Rome airport and transfer to your accommodation.
- March 4 Sightseeing Rome. Visit the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, the Arch of Constantine, the Palatine Hill, the most famous of the seven hills of Rome. Then, take a walk along the Via Sacra or 'Sacred Way', the main path through the Roman Forum that was used for triumphal processions, and visit the temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated. Evening game vs. a local club.
- March 5 Additional sightseeing Rome – visit the Vatican and tour Stadio Olimpico, home of pro team's Roma and Lazio. Visit other famous sights as well (Roman Forum, St. Peter's Basilica, Catacombs of San Callisto, Pantheon, etc.), or, Day trip to Tivoli where you will find two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Villa d'Este and Hadrian's Villa. Evening game vs. a local club.
- March 6 Transfer to Rome airport. Flight to Athens. Arrival Athens airport and transfer to your accommodation in the Athens area.
- March 7 Sightseeing Athens. Options include sights like the Roman Temple of Zeus, Agora, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, etc.
- March 8 Optional tour of the Acropolis. Additional sightseeing in Athens after this. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 9 Day excursion to Argolis to tour Mycenae and then continue to Epidaurus to visit the marvelous Ancient Theatre (4th century B.C.), famous for the perfect design and acoustics.
- March 10 Transfer to Athens airport and return flight.

\*The above itinerary is a provisional/suggested itinerary and can/will change depending on your group's specific wishes, the final game schedule for your team(s) and any pro game visit(s) incorporated for your group. Sightseeing admission fees are not included in the prices but can be added and pre-booked based on your group's specific wishes. Consult us for more information.

### **Price per person\*:**

Number of people traveling	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Participant prices	\$3,761	\$3,615	\$3,550	\$3,453	\$3,381	\$3,365

\* Prices are based on contracted airline group fares for 2023. We can confirm tour pricing approx. 11 months prior to departure date, when airlines publish group flights and fares for 2024.

**Price inclusions:**

- Round trip airfare, including airport taxes and fuel surcharges. Prices are always subject to availability of flights and fares at time of booking.
- Accommodations and meals as specified in this proposal – see below. Hotel options and room types are always subject to availability at time of booking.
- Ground transportation – see below.
- Costs for arranging the sport program – see below.
- Services of a local tour assistant – see below.

**Sport program included:**

We will arrange 3 games total per team.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

**Rome:** 4-star Hotel accommodation in Rome.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Hotel located not far from the center of Rome.
- All rooms, triple rooms (3 people) have private bathroom and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.
- Double rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$12.00 per person per night.

**Athens:** 4-star Hotel accommodation in Athens.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Not far from the center of Athens.
- All rooms, triple rooms (3 people per room) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.
- Double rooms (2 people per room) are available as well at a supplement of \$20.00 per person per night.

**Ground transportation included:**

During your entire stay a private bus will be available exclusively for your group – 10 hours a day.

**Local guide services included:**

A local bi-lingual tour manager will be assigned to be exclusively with your group full time each day during your stay in each destination to provide you with any assistance when necessary and help plan or amend your daily schedule as needed.

**Options available (not included in prices)**

**Sport program options:**

- A visit to a pro soccer game. Please calculate between US\$50.00 and US\$110.00 per person depending on the game. Some so-called premium games might be more expensive.
- Visit and tour of a pro team stadium – approx. \$30.00 per person.
- A 2-hour training session with your own coaching staff – costs \$ 300.00 per 2 hours.
- Training sessions with coaches from an Italian or Greek pro club – costs approx. \$650 per 2 hours, including field hire. Consult us for more information.

**Travel insurance option:**

Your participants have the option to purchase accident, illness and trip cancellation/interruption insurance, including a Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (CFAR) – more information about this insurance is included on your team website.

**Not included in prices:**

- Beverages (soda) with meals.
- Gratuities for representatives and bus drivers.
- Admission fees to attractions. This applies to per person admissions for sights and attractions and city admission fees (called ZTL fees) for the touring bus in Italy. These ZTL fees are approx. \$150.00 - \$300.00 when you enter a city ZTL zone. There are options to avoid these fees – consult us for more information on this.
- Single rooms in hotels. Single rooms are available at a supplement of \$40.00 per person per night on top of the double room supplements outlined in the accommodation description.

## Touristic information Rome

Rome, Italy's capital, is a sprawling, cosmopolitan city with nearly 3,000 years of globally influential art, architecture and culture on display. Ancient ruins such as the Forum and the Colosseum evoke the power of the former Roman Empire. Vatican City, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, has St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, which house masterpieces such as Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes.

**Coliseum:** The Coliseum in Rome is a grand structure which was built over 2,000 years ago as an amphitheater to host legendary gladiator contests and other public spectacles. The Coliseum has been partly destroyed and damaged through the years, however, impressive ruins have been preserved and are open to visitors. This grand historic arena was originally built to hold over 50,000 and many of the original outer walls and facade still stand tall today.

**The Pantheon:** Dedicated to the worship of every god, the Pantheon was built by the Emperor Hadrian between 118 and 125 A.D. over the ruins of another temple dating back to 27 A.D. Statesman and General Marcus Agrippa were responsible for the construction of the original church, to which a dedicatory inscription is clearly visible over today's magnificent portico.



Vatican City



Wartburg College



Milan



SCIAC All Stars

**The Roman Forum:** The Roman Forum is a rectangular forum (plaza) surrounded by the ruins of several important ancient government buildings at the center of the city of Rome. Citizens of the ancient city referred to this space, originally a marketplace, as the Forum Magnum, or simply the Forum. Located in the small valley between the Palatine and Capitoline Hills, the Forum today is a sprawling ruin of architectural fragments and intermittent archaeological excavations attracting 4.5 million sightseers each year.

**St. Peters and Vatican City:** St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City is an iconic and popular landmark of Rome. Regarded as one of the holiest sites in the Christian world, many make a pilgrimage to the cathedral every year to celebrate Mass with the Pope. Building work for this grand structure originally began in 1506 and is the burial site of its namesake Saint Peter, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. One of the key architects of the Basilica was Michelangelo and some of his original drawings for a section of the Dome were found as recently as 2007.

## Touristic information Athens

Athens is the historical capital of Europe, with a long history, dating from the first settlement in the Neolithic age. In the 5th Century BC (the "Golden Age of Pericles") – the culmination of Athens' long, fascinating history – the city's values and civilization acquired a universal significance. Over the years, a multitude of conquerors occupied Athens, and erected unique, splendid monuments - a rare historical palimpsest. In 1834, it became the capital of the modern Greek state and in two centuries since it has become an attractive modern metropolis with unrivalled charm.

**The Acropolis:** The Acropolis is the most important ancient site in the Western world. Crowned by the Parthenon, it stands sentinel over Athens, visible from almost everywhere within the city. Its monuments and sanctuaries of Pentelic marble gleam white in the midday sun and gradually take on a honey hue as the sun sinks, while at night they stand brilliantly illuminated above the city. A glimpse of this magnificent sight cannot fail to exalt your spirit.

**The Acropolis Museum:** This dazzling modernist museum at the foot of the Acropolis' southern slope showcases its surviving treasures still in Greek possession. While the collection covers the Archaic and Roman periods, the emphasis is on the Acropolis of the 5th century BC, considered the apotheosis of Greece's artistic achievement. The museum cleverly reveals layers of history, floating over ruins with the Acropolis visible above, showing the masterpieces in context. The surprisingly good-value restaurant has superb views; there's also a fine museum shop.

**Olympic Stadium/Panathenaic Stadium:**

The Panathenaic Stadium is a classical cultural and touristic monument of Greece and one of the most significant monuments not only for Athens, but for the whole Greece. It is one of our city's most popular touristic attractions and one of Athens' landmarks. Its rich history is directly connected to the Modern Olympic Games as from their revival in 1896 until the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. It is also the place from where the Olympic flame sets up its journey to the cities of the Olympic Games, both Winter, Summer and Youth.

**Olympeion: Temple of Olympian Zeus:** Dedicated to Zeus, the Olympeion was the largest temple in ancient Greece. Though the Parthenon is better preserved, the Temple of Olympian Zeus was an even more monumental structure in its day. The temple dates to the sixth century BC but was not completed until the second century AD by the Emperor Hadrian. It's easy to imagine the grand impression this temple made in its complete form. More than a hundred enormous marble columns once supported the grandiose sanctuary. Only 15 columns remain standing, and another surviving column lies on the ground, but the ruins' monumental presence gives a sense of the massive size of the original building. The gigantic structure was a befitting shrine to Zeus, the ancient Greeks' most all-powerful God, known as the King of Gods. Nearby, just north of the Olympeion, is a small park containing the ruins of Themistokles' wall and the ancient Roman baths.