

## International Soccer Tour 2023 Itinerary University of Mary Women's Soccer Italy – Rome, Florence and Venice

### Travel dates:

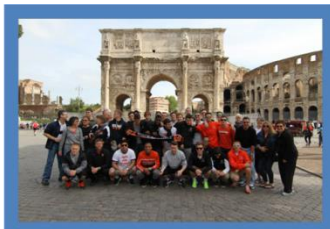
April 30-May 8, 2023.

### Itinerary:

- April 30 Departure from Minneapolis airport.
- May 1 Arrival Rome airport and transfer to your accommodation.
- May 2 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.
- May 3 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.
- May 4 Morning transfer to your accommodation in Montecatini, near Florence with sightseeing in Florence en-route.
- May 5 More sightseeing in Florence. You will visit major sights such as the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, the Oltrarno, the Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria and of course Piazza Michelangelo, or, Day trip to Pisa, known for its Torre Pendente (Leaning Tower) and Viareggio, a popular seaside resort on the Mediterranean. Evening game vs. a local team.
- May 6 Transfer to your accommodation in Venice.
- May 7 Day trip Venice. The famous city of gondolas built on small islands connected by bridges. See the famous Rialto bridge and the San Marco church and its vibrant plaza. Evening game vs. a local team.
- May 8 Transfer to Venice, Milan or Bologna airport and return flight.



Vatican City



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Milan



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\*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	\$3,335	\$3,228	\$2,928	\$2,817	\$2,731	\$2,669

**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.
- 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 shower, toilet 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.

**Florence:** 4-star Hotel accommodation in Montecatini near Florence.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Montecatini is a tourist resort 30 miles from Florence.
- The hotel has a restaurant, bar and lounge with TV.
- Rooms for 3 people (triple rooms) include TV, telephone, bathroom with shower and toilet.
- Double rooms are available at a supplement of \$15.00 per person per night.

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

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Approx. 5-10 kilometers from the center of Venice.
- All rooms, triple rooms (3 people) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.
- Double rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$15.00 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 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 page.

### **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 as well as a Venice per person city entrance fee (approx. \$11.00 per person per day you go into Venice), city admission fees (called ZTL fees) for the touring bus in Italy. These ZTL fees are approx. \$100.00 - \$250.00 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

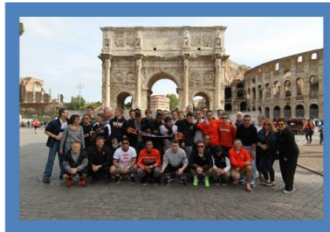
Rome, Italy's capital, is a sprawling, cosmopolitan city with nearly 3,000 years of globally influential art, architecture and culture on display. Ancient ruins such as the Forum and the Colosseum evoke the power of the former Roman Empire. Vatican City, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, has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



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Milan



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**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 Florence

Florence is the capital city of the Italian region of Tuscany and of the Metropolitan City of Florence. It is the most populous city in Tuscany, with 383,083 inhabitants, expanding to over 1,520,000 in the metropolitan area.

**Leaning Tower of Pisa:** The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the campanile, or freestanding bell tower, of the cathedral of the Italian city of Pisa, known worldwide for its unintended tilt to one side. It is situated behind the Cathedral and is the third oldest structure in Pisa's Cathedral Square after the Cathedral and the Baptistry. The tower's tilt began during construction, caused by an inadequate foundation on ground too soft on one side to properly support the structure's weight. The tilt increased in the decades before the structure was completed, and gradually increased until the structure was stabilized (and the tilt partially corrected) by efforts in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

**The Ponte Vecchio:** The Ponte Vecchio ("Old Bridge") is a Medieval stone closed-spandrel segmental arch bridge over the Arno River, in Florence, Italy, noted for still having shops built along it, as was once common. Butchers initially occupied the shops; the present tenants are jewelers, art dealers and souvenir sellers. The Ponte Vecchio's two neighboring bridges are the Ponte Santa Trinita and the Ponte alle Grazie.

**Palazzo Vecchio:** The Palazzo Vecchio ("Old Palace") is the town hall of Florence. This massive, Romanesque, crenellated fortress-palace is among the most impressive town halls of Tuscany.

**Viareggio:** Viareggio is a city and commune in northern Tuscany, Italy, on the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea. It is known as a seaside resort as well as being the home of the famous carnival of Viareggio (dating back to 1873), and its papier-mâché floats, which (since 1925), parade along the promenade known as "Passeggiata a mare", in the weeks preceding Easter.

**SIENA - Piazza del Campo in Siena:** Piazza del Campo in Siena is considered one of the most beautiful places of the world. It has a characteristic shell-shape divided in 9 slices, you can admire this particular form from the top of the tower del Mangia.



Florence



Wartburg College Men's Soccer



Leaning Tower of Pisa



Lake Hill Storm SC

## Touristic information Venice

Venice is the capital of the Veneto region in Italy. It is situated across a group of 117 small islands that are separated by canals and linked by bridges. These are located in the shallow Venetian Lagoon, an enclosed bay that lies between the mouths of the Po and the Piave Rivers. Parts of Venice are renowned for the beauty of their settings, their architecture, and artwork. The lagoon and a part of the city are listed as a World Heritage Site.

**Basilica di San Marco (Saint Mark's Church):** This elaborate church sits on the popular piazza by the same name. The church was built in honor of Saint Mark the evangelist, whose remains were stolen from their home in Alexandria, Egypt, and hidden in barrels of pork by a couple crafty Venetians, intent on bringing him to rest in Venice.

**Piazza San Marco (St. Mark's Square):** St. Mark's Square, or Piazza San Marco, is considered by many to be the heart of Venice. As the largest square in Venice, St. Mark's Square is the only "piazza" in the city. All other squares are campis or campielli. Lining the square are multiple historical sites including St. Mark's Basilica, St. Mark's Campanile and Doge's Palace, as well as a number of restaurants, making it the perfect spot for leisurely people-watching and wine sipping. Along with intricate architecture and hearty plates of spaghetti carbonara, visitors will also be met with throngs of tourists, pigeons and vendors selling souvenirs. If you hoped to pick up a gondola hat or a carnival mask during your trip, this is the place you will find them.

**Rialto Bridge (Ponte di Rialto):** Several centuries ago, if you wanted to cross the Grand Canal, the Rialto Bridge was the only way. Now there are other options, including the Accademia Bridge. The bridge's current incarnation is the handiwork of Antonio da Ponte, whose name translates to "Anthony of the Bridge," is built entirely of marble after collapsing multiple times from previous wooden designs. Predicted to fail by critics, the bridge still stands and is considered an engineering marvel.

**Grand Canal:** Considered to be the main street of Venice, the 2-mile-long Grand Canal is one of the city's most popular and highly photographed attractions. Recent travelers recommend hiring a gondolier for a romantic (but expensive) row along the canal.

**Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale):** Views from the Venetian Lagoon give the Doge's Palace an ethereal look — almost like it's floating on top of water. But it's fitting, as the Doge's Palace (or Palazzo Ducale) has witnessed an intriguing history in its role as the residence of the doge (leader), the seat of government and the palace of justice. Everything from execution orders to the affairs of Venetian leaders was carried out here; and a web of secret passageways and hidden doors reveals a decidedly mysterious past.

## **International Soccer Tour 2023 Itinerary University of Mary Women's Soccer Greece – Athens and Thessaloniki**

### **Travel dates:**

April 30-May 8, 2023.

### **Itinerary:**

- April 30 Departure from Minneapolis airport.
- May 1 Arrival Athens airport and transfer to your accommodation. Sightseeing Athens. Options include sights like the Roman Temple of Zeus, Agora, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, etc.
- May 2 Optional tour of the Acropolis. Additional sightseeing in Athens if any free time. Evening game vs. a local team.
- May 3 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. Evening game vs. a local team.
- May 4 Transfer to Thessaloniki.
- May 5 Guided tour of Thessaloniki. Thessaloniki is a Greek port city on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea. Evidence of Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history remains, especially around Ano Poli, the upper town. The ruins of Roman Emperor Galerius' 4th-century palace include the Rotunda that has been both a church and a mosque.
- May 6 Visit ancient cities of Vergina and Pella. Get to know the imperial capital, the ancient city where Alexander the Great was born and raised. The excursion travels you to the ancient Greek, byzantine and modern history bringing back in light the lost prestige of Aigai, the first city of the Macedonians. Discover the museum of Aigai; a World Heritage site of UNESCO, against the natural beauty of the area and the view of the Macedonian plain that travels our eye till the end of the horizon, or, Visit famous beaches of Halkidiki. Halkidiki is a region in northern Greece known for its jutting peninsulas, which feature Mediterranean forests that give way to sandy beaches in sheltered bays. Cassandra, the westernmost peninsula, is the most developed, offering modern resorts and nightclubs. Evening game vs. a local team.
- May 7 Morning transfer back to Athens for a one night stay. Afternoon/evening free time in Athens.
- May 8 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	\$3,537	\$3,342	\$3,222	\$3,147	\$3,075	\$3,024

**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.
- 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 a total of 3 games per team.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

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

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Not far from the center of Athens.
- All rooms, double/twin rooms (2 people per room) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.

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

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Not far from the center of Thessaloniki.
- All rooms, double/twin rooms (2 people per room) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.

**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 2-hour training session with your own coaching staff – costs approx. \$300.00 per 2 hours.
- Tickets to a pro game – cost approx. \$60.00 - \$100.00+ per person, depending on the game.

**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 page.



**Not included in prices:**

- Beverages (soda) with meals.
- Gratuities for representatives and bus drivers.
- Admission fees to attractions.
- 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 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.

## **Touristic information Thessaloniki**

Thessaloniki is a Greek port city on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea. Evidence of Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history remains, especially around Ano Poli, the upper town. The ruins of Roman Emperor Galerius' 4th-century palace include the Rotunda that has been both a church and a mosque. Much of the city center was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1917. The rebuilt 20th-century city has a modern European layout.

**Church of Saint Demetrius:** The Church of Saint Demetrius, or Hagios Demetrios is the main sanctuary dedicated to Saint Demetrius, the patron saint of Thessaloniki (in Central Macedonia, Greece), dating from a time when it was the second largest city of the Byzantine Empire.

**Ladadika District:** Ladadika is the name of a historic district and a landmark area of the city of Thessaloniki, Greece. It locates near the Port of Thessaloniki and for centuries was one of the most important market places of the city. Its name came about from the many olive oil shops of the area.

**Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki:** The Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki is a museum in Thessaloniki, Central Macedonia, Greece. It holds and interprets artifacts from the Prehistoric, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods, mostly from the city of Thessaloniki but also from the region of Macedonia in general.

**White Tower of Thessaloniki:** The White Tower of Thessaloniki is a monument and museum on the waterfront of the city of Thessaloniki, capital of the region of Macedonia in northern Greece.