

## **International Soccer Tour 2024 Itinerary**

### **North Shore United**

### **South of France-Montpellier and Italy-Verona area**

#### **Travel dates:**

March 23-31, 2024. Dates can be adjusted by some days if necessary.

#### **Itinerary:**

- March 23 Departure from Chicago-O'Hare airport.
- March 24 Arrival Montpellier, Marseille or Nice airport and transfer to your accommodation
- March 25 Sightseeing Montpellier. Broad boulevards lined with shady plane trees, a huge car-free central square laid out in the 1700s surrounded by elegant balustrade buildings, even a vast triumphal arch.
- March 26 Visit the seaside town of Sete or enjoy day on the Camargue and take a canal cruise on the Canal du Midi and its many locks (canal cruise tickets not included in price). Another option is to visit Nimes. En route see the medieval Gellone Abbey of Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert or The Pont du Gard, the immense roman aqueduct, or,  
Day at leisure at one of the beaches near Montpellier and/or more sightseeing in Montpellier. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 27 Transfer to your accommodation in the Verona area in Italy.
- March 28 Sightseeing Verona. See sights like the Verona Arena, the third largest open-air amphitheater in Italy, Ponte Pietra, Chiesa di Sant'Anastasia the Casa di Giulietta, the house where the Juliet who inspired the play Romeo and Juliet was born, and Piazza dei Signori, a key square in Verona's historic center. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 29 Day trip to Milan or Venice. Sightseeing options in Milan include Il Duomo, Piazza del Duomo, Piazza della Scala, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, and of course San Siro Stadium, home of AC and Inter Milan.  
Venice sightseeing options include the Grand Canal/Canals, St. Mark's Basilica and Square and Rialto Bridge.
- March 30 More sightseeing in Verona, or day trip Milan or Venice. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 31 Transfer to Milan, Bologna or Venice airport and return flight.

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

Number of people traveling	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Participant prices	\$3,857	\$3,545	\$3,374	\$3,250	\$3,151	\$3,069

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

**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 per team.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

**Montpellier:** 4-star hotel accommodation in the Montpellier area.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Accommodation located in in the Montpellier area and close to the sandy beaches of Montpellier.
- Includes accommodation in triple rooms (3 people per room - 1 double bed + 1 single sofa bed) and all rooms have private bathroom, TV, phone, safe, coffee/tea maker, Wi-Fi and air-conditioning.
- The hotel has a restaurant, lounge/bar, outdoor terrace and sometimes an outdoor swimming pool.
- Double/twin rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$12.00 per person per night.

**Verona:** 4-star hotel accommodation in the Verona area.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Hotel located on the outskirts of Verona/the city center.
- Includes accommodation in triple rooms (3 single beds) and all rooms have private bathroom, TV, phone, safe, coffee/tea maker, Wi-Fi and air-conditioning.
- The hotel has a restaurant, bar, lounge, reception and spa or fitness center.
- Double/twin rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$ 12.00 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:

- We can arrange training sessions with youth academy coaches from French or Italian pro clubs. Supplement for a 2-hour session, including field hire, is approx. \$800.00 total.
- We can arrange tickets to pro games, subject to availability. Ticket costs will depend on the game, but usually ticket costs range from approx. \$75-\$150 per person depending on the game.
- Visit and tour of a pro team stadium – between \$ 25.00 and \$ 30.00 per person.

### 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 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. Based on the itinerary in this tour proposal we estimate ZTL fees to be approx. \$700.00 total (not per person). 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 Montpellier

**PLACE DE LA COMEDIE:** Standing proud in the middle is the statue of the Three Graces, Montpellier's emblematic goddesses. All around you'll see street artists, people on the move, and others taking a leisurely break at one of the many outside cafés. The historic city center, known as the Ecusson, is an enticing downtown area for those who enjoy shopping. From Rue de la Loge, along Grand Rue Jean Moulin, and through the medieval narrow streets in the Ancien Courrier quarter you will experience a rich blend of international high street names and boutiques with the charm of yesteryear.

**THE SAINT-CLEMENT AQUEDUCT:** The Saint-Clement Aqueduct dates from the 17th century, covering an 800m span across the "The Arches" district of the city; it was used to bring water from the St Clément spring 14 km away. The aqueduct emptied into a water tank near the Arc de Triomphe (which is very close by), from where the water would run downhill to fill fountains and public water points.

**CHATEAU DE LA MOGERE:** The Château de la Mogère is a mansion near the city of Montpellier in the French region of Languedoc-Roussillon. It is one of many follies surrounding Montpellier, built by wealthy merchants in the 18th century. In 1706, the grounds of la Mogère were purchased by Fulcran Limouzin, the local *Secrétaire d'État à la Maison du Roi* (one of the types of Secretary of State in France's Ancien Régime). In 1715, architect Jean Giral drew the plan for La Mogère, giving it the appearance, it has today. Its harmonious façade is topped off by a pediment, standing against a background of pine trees, all in Renaissance-style. The grounds and interior, currently owned by the Viscount Gaston de Saporta, are open for visits. The interior has been kept intact since the 18th century, displaying antique furniture and family portraits from the last three centuries. Amongst the painters represented here are Jean Jouvenet, Hyacinthe Rigaud, and Jacques-Louis David. The garden is a mixture of English garden and formal garden styles and houses a large fountain built up out of thousands of little seashells and carrying a number of cherubs.

**ARENA OF NIMES:** The Arena of Nîmes is a Roman amphitheater found in the French city of Nîmes. Built around 70 AD, it was remodeled in 1863 to serve as a bullring. The Arenas of Nîmes is the site of two annual bullfights during the Feria de Nîmes, and it is also used for other public events.

The building encloses an elliptical central space 133 m long by 101 m wide. It is ringed by 34 rows of seats supported by a vaulted construction. It has a capacity of 16,300 spectators and since 1989 has a movable cover and a heating system.

**ANTIGONE:** Antigone is a neighborhood of Montpellier, France, east of the city center. It is best known for its architectural design by Ricardo Bofill. The district is built on the grounds of the former Joffre Barracks, of which only Montpellier's citadel remains. In 1977, Mayor Georges Frêche started the process that led to the construction of the district. The district's architect was the Catalanian Ricardo Bofill. He designed a series of grand neo-classical structures, enlarging classical motifs such as pediments, entablatures, and pilasters to gigantic scale. The district is located between the old center of Montpellier and the river Lez.

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Day at leisure at one of the beaches near Montpellier and/or more sightseeing in Montpellier. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 27 Transfer to your accommodation in Barcelona.
- March 28 Bus or boat tour Tossa de Mar: visit the beautiful old fishing town made famous in the 1950's by Ava Gardner and James Mason in the film Pandora and the Flying Dutchman. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 29 Visit Barcelona by bus, covering the Bullring, the Gaudi buildings Casa Batlló and the Pedrera, Plaza Francesc Masia, the Nou Camp - home of FC Barcelona, followed by Gaudi's unfinished Sagrada Familia Cathedral and lastly Parque Guell.
- March 30 Free day in Barcelona visiting the places the bus cannot reach. Drop off and pick up point in the central Plaza Catalunya. Recommended are the: Ramblas with its human statues and street artists, Boqueria covered market, Palau de la Musica, Barrio Gotico with its maze of narrow streets and Plaza Real. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 31 Transfer to Barcelona airport and return flight.



Wartburg College



Camp Nou



University of Mary



La Sagrada Familia

**Price per person\***

Number of people traveling	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Participant prices	\$3,415	\$3,256	\$3,142	\$3,060	\$2,991	\$2,789

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- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Accommodation located in in the Montpellier area and close to the sandy beaches of Montpellier.
- Includes accommodation in triple rooms (3 people per room - 1 double bed + 1 single sofa bed) and all rooms have private bathroom, TV, phone, safe, coffee/tea maker, Wi-Fi and air-conditioning.
- The hotel has a restaurant, lounge/bar, outdoor terrace and sometimes an outdoor swimming pool.
- Double/twin rooms are available as well at a supplement of \$12.00 per person per night.

**Spain:** 4-star (Spanish classification) hotel accommodation in the Costa Brava region of Spain in seaside towns like Lloret de Mar or Santa Susanna

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- The accommodation is situated near the town center and/or beach.
- Distance to Barcelona is approx. 30-35 miles. All rooms (3 and 4 bedded rooms) have a shower and toilet as well as air-conditioning.
- The hotel has a restaurant, bar, lounge, reception and sometimes an outdoor swimming pool.
- Double/twin 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:**

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

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## **Touristic information Barcelona**

Barcelona is the capital city of the autonomous community of Catalonia in Spain, as well as the country's second most populous municipality, with a population of 1.6 million within city limits. It is the largest metropolis on the Mediterranean Sea. Barcelona has a rich cultural heritage and is today an important cultural center and a major tourist destination. Particularly renowned are the architectural works of Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech i Montaner, which have been designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Barcelona is also home to two top pro clubs in Spain, FC Barcelona and RCD Espanyol.

**CAMP NOU:** Visit the Home of Barcelona FC, the away team changing room and the players' tunnel, the dugouts, the press room, commentators box and of course the Museum. The Museum is the most modern football museum thanks to its interactive wall spaces, large scale audiovisual displays and an extensive display of objects to explain the history of FC Barcelona and understand the values that make Barça "més que un club" -- "more than a club".

**SAGRADA FAMILIA:** The unfinished Cathedral by Gaudi, The expiatory church of La Sagrada Família is a work on a grand scale which was begun on 19 March 1882 from a project by the diocesan architect, Francisco de Paula del Villar (1828-1901). At the end of 1883 Gaudí was commissioned to carry on the works, a task which he did not abandon until his death in 1926. Since then different architects have continued the work after his original idea.

**MONTSERRAT:** Montserrat is a multi-peaked mountain located near the city of Barcelona. It is well known as the site of the Benedictine abbey, Santa Maria de Montserrat, which hosts the Virgin of Montserrat sanctuary and which is identified by some with the location of the Holy Grail in Arthurian myth. The mountain is composed of strikingly pink conglomerate, a form of sedimentary rock. Montserrat is Spain's first National Park.

**CASTELL DE MONTJUIC:** Barcelona's Montjuïc is a broad shallow hill to the southwest of the city center. The eastern side of the hill is almost a sheer cliff, giving it a commanding view over the city's harbor immediately below. The top of the hill (a height of 184,8 m) was the site of several fortifications, the latest of which the Castle of Montjuïc remains today. The fortress largely dates from the 17th century, with 18th-century additions. It served as a prison, often holding political prisoners, until the time of General Franco. The castle was also the site of numerous executions. On different occasions during the Spanish Civil War, both Nationalists and Republicans were executed there, each at the time when the site was held by their opponents. The Catalan nationalist leader Lluís Companys i Jover was also executed there in 1940, having been extradited to the Franco government by the Nazis.

**LA RAMBLA & BOQUERIA MARKET:** This busy street is just for pedestrians and is lined with outdoor markets, shops, restaurants and cafes. La Boqueria is a large public market in the Ciutat Vella district of Barcelona, and one of the city's foremost tourist landmarks, with an entrance from La Rambla, not far from the Liceu, Barcelona's opera house. The market has a very diverse selection of goods.