

International Soccer Tour 2024 Itinerary MD Strikers Italy – Rome, Florence and Venice

Travel dates:

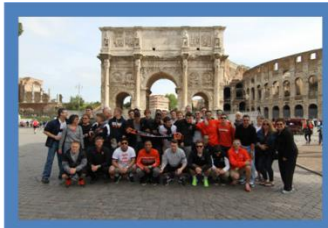
Late June-early July. Exact dates TBD.

Itinerary:

- Day 1 Departure from Washington Dulles or Baltimore airport.
- Day 2 Arrival Rome airport and transfer to your accommodation.
- Day 3 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.
- Day 4 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.
- Day 5 Transfer to your accommodation in Montecatini, near Florence.
- Day 6 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. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 7 Day trip to Pisa, known for its Torre Pendente (Leaning Tower) and Viareggio, a popular seaside resort on the Mediterranean.
- Day 8 Transfer to your accommodation in Venice.
- Day 9 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. Possible evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 10 Transfer to Venice, Milan or Bologna airport and return flight.



Vatican City



Wartburg College



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	\$3,830	\$3,639	\$3,500	\$3,402	\$3,329	\$3,274

* 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 4 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.
- Accommodation in triple rooms (3 people per room with two double beds). All rooms have private bathroom, phone and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.
- Double rooms (2 people per room – two twin beds or one double bed) 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.
- Accommodation in triple rooms (3 people per room with three twin beds). All rooms have TV, telephone, and private bathroom.
- Double rooms are available at a supplement of \$15.00 per person per night.

Venice: 3-star Hotel accommodation in Venice.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Approx. 5-10 kilometers from the center of Venice.
- Accommodation in triple rooms (3 people per room with 3 Twin beds or Double & Single bed). All rooms have private bathroom and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.
- Double rooms (2 people per room – two twin beds or one double bed) 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.

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).
- 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 2024 Itinerary

MD Strikers

Spain – Barcelona

Travel dates:

Late June-early July. Exact dates TBD.

Itinerary:

- Day 1 Departure from Washington-Dulles or Baltimore airport.
- Day 2 Arrival Barcelona airport. Transfer to your accommodation.
- Day 3 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.
- Day 4 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.
- Day 5 Visit the city of Girona. Sightseeing possibilities include St. Mary's Cathedral, built between the 11th and 17th centuries, Passeig de la Muralla, Monastery of Saint Pere de Galligants and Chapel of Sant Nicolau, the Arab Baths, Cases de l'Onyar, etc. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 6 Visit the sacred mountain-top monastery of Montserrat with its breathtaking views.
- Day 7 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, Palau de la Musica, Barrio Gotico with its maze of narrow streets, Plaza Real, Cathedral. Evening game vs. a local team.
- Day 8 More sightseeing in Barcelona. Visit Montjuic, a prominent hill overlooking Barcelona with amazing views of the city and visit the Olympic facilities.
- Day 9 Transfer to Barcelona 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.



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	\$3,312	\$3,160	\$3,052	\$2,973	\$2,874	\$2,841

* Prices are based on contracted airline group fares for 2023. We can confirm 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.
- 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 three friendly games per team.

Accommodation and meals included:

4-star Hotel accommodation in the Costa Brava region in a seaside town like Santa Susanna, Calella, etc.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- The accommodation is situated near the town center and/or beach. Distance to Barcelona is approx. 30-35 miles.
- Accommodation in rooms for 3 people (3 beds or a double bed and twin bed typically) and all rooms have a private bathroom, TV, phone, Wi-Fi access and air-conditioning.
- The hotel has a restaurant, bar, lounge, reception and an outdoor swimming pool.
- Double rooms (2 people per room) 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 tour assistant 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 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.
- A 2-hour training session with your own coaching staff – costs approx. \$300.00 per 2 hours.
- Training sessions with coaches from a Barcelona area pro club like RCD Espanyol – costs approx. \$1,050.00 total per 2 hours, including field hire. Consult us for more information.
- Visit and tour of a pro team stadium – approx. \$ 35.00 per person for Camp Nou Stadium Tour.

Accommodation option Barcelona:

On request, we can accommodate the group in a 3/4-star hotel in Barcelona, close to the city center while in Spain instead. Hotel is within walking distance of a train station and not far from the Sagrada Familia. All rooms have private facilities/bathroom, satellite TV, phone and climate control. Hotel has a bar, lounge, workout room and small outdoor pool. Supplemental cost for this hotel option is approx. \$40.00 - \$60.00 per person per night (to be confirmed – depends on time of the year).

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 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 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.