

International Soccer Tour 2024 Itinerary

IFA New England

Italy – Rome, Florence, and Venice

Travel dates:

August 6-15, 2024

Itinerary:

- August 6 Departure from Boston airport.
- August 7 Arrival Rome airport and transfer to your accommodation.
- August 8 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.
- August 9 **Morning or afternoon training session with a youth coach from a Rome area pro club.** 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.**
- August 10 Transfer to your accommodation in Montecatini, near Florence.
- August 11 **Morning training session with an Italian FA coach at Coverciano, headquarters of the Italian Soccer Federation.** 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.
- August 12 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.**
- August 13 Transfer to your accommodation in Venice.
- August 14 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.**
- August 15 Transfer to Venice airport and return flight.



Vatican City



Wartburg College



Milan



SCIAC All Stars

*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 estimate per person:

Number of people traveling	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Participant prices	\$3,938	\$3,716	\$3,551	\$3,441	\$3,359	\$3,293

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.
- City admission fees (called ZTL fees) for the touring bus in Italy.
- 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.

We will also arrange a training session per team with a youth coach from a pro club in the Rome area, and we will arrange one training session per team with an Italian Soccer Federation coach at Coverciano (near Florence), headquarters of the Italian Soccer Federation (subject to availability).

Accommodation and meals included:

Rome: 4-star Hotel accommodation in Rome.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- The hotel is located not far from the center of Rome.
- Accommodation in triple rooms (3 people per room with two double beds). All rooms have private bathrooms 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.
- Be aware that hotel rooms/beds are smaller than we used to in the USA.

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.
Be aware that hotel rooms/beds are smaller than we used to in the USA.

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 bathrooms 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.
- Be aware that hotel rooms/beds are smaller than we used to in the USA.

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 tickets for pro games, subject to availability. Ticket costs will depend on the game, but usually ticket costs range from approx. \$75.00-\$150.00 per person depending on the game.
- Visit and tour of a pro team stadium – between \$25.00 and \$30.00 per person.
- A 2-hour training session with your own coaching staff – costs \$260.00 per 2 hours.

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.

SIGHTSEEING IN ROME AND SURROUNDINGS 2024

Recommend excursion(s) to pre-book:

- The Colosseum – **Fee**
- the Vatican Museum & Sistine chapel - **Fee**
- St. Peters & the Vatican City

1) **THE COLOSSEUM**

Full price: \$24.00 per person. Includes The Roman Forum & The Palatine.

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. Please note that the Colosseum allows us to pre-book this excursion only 12 days before arrival of the group – subject to availability.

2) **THE VATICAN MUSEUM & SISTINE CHAPEL**

Full price: \$23.00 per person

Reduced price: \$12.00 per person – this is for young people, 6 to 25 years old. Must bring Student ID Cards.

A Guided tour of Vatican Museums hold a treasure to be discovered in active and creative ways thanks to the extraordinary richness and variety of the art collections, which embrace the history of human civilization, from the Ancient Egyptians and Etruscans to the Greeks and Romans, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance up to contemporary times. Schools can choose a didactic activity which is compatible with the school syllabus.

3) **ST. PETERS SQUARE & THE BASILICA**

Price: Free of charge

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.

Optional:

4) **TREVI FOUNTAIN**

Price: Free of charge.

The Fontana di Trevi - or Trevi Fountain in English - is a fountain in Rome, Italy. It is the largest Baroque fountain in the city and the most beautiful in the world.

5) **THE PANTHEON**

Price: Free of charge.

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 was responsible for the construction of the original church, to whom a dedicatory inscription is clearly visible over today's magnificent portico.

6) **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.

7) **THE SPANISH STEPS**

Price: Free of charge

With its characteristic butterfly plan, the Piazza di Spagna is one of the most famous images in the world, as well as being one of the most majestic urban monuments of Roman Baroque style.

Prices and availability for these excursions may change a little at the time of booking.

SIGHTSEEING IN FLORENCE 2024

Recommend excursion(s) to pre-book:

- Tower of Pisa - **Fee**
- Uffizi Gallery - **Fee**

1) **Tower of Pisa**

Prices: Leaning Tower \$38.00 - Cathedral admission free

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.

2) **Uffizi Gallery**

Prices: Adults: \$27.00 per person.

The Uffizi Gallery is an art museum located in Florence, and among the oldest and most famous art museums in Europe. In high season (particularly in July), waiting times can be up to five hours. Visitors who reserve a ticket in advance have a substantially shorter wait. Tickets can also be purchased from a lesser-used ticket window at the Orsanmichele that serves multiple museums.

Optional:

3) **The Ponte Vecchio**

Prices: Free of charge.

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, but the present tenants are jewelers, art dealers and souvenir sellers. The Ponte Vecchio's two neighbouring bridges are the Ponte Santa Trinita and the Ponte alle Grazie.

4) **Siena - Piazza del Campo in Siena**

Prices: Free of charge.

Piazza del Campo in Siena is considered one of the most beautiful places in the world. It has a characteristic shell-shape divided in 9 slices; you can admire this form from the top of the tower del Mangia. The Torre del Mangia in Siena requires an admission fee of \$14.00 - U11s Free.

Prices and availability for these excursions may change a little at the time of booking.

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.