

**Alfred University Men's Soccer
Rome, Florence, and Venice Tour Itinerary
March 1-10, 2024**

General information:

Skeleton Itinerary: This is a skeleton itinerary only. The definite day to day program will be discussed with you upon arrival. The organized playing times and dates of your games and/or clinics and receptions must be honored.

Banks: Please note that banks in Europe are usually closed at weekends. We strongly recommend that you do not utilize traveler checks but use any or all of the following: ATM / Debit Card, Credit Cards and take cash. Please take enough funds to cover the first few days, as precious time is wasted if most of your group needs to access cash on arrival.

VERY IMPORTANT: Most countries now require travelers to have a passport that is valid more than 90 days after your trip return date. If your passport expires within 90 days of your trip return date you should apply for a new one ASAP.

Copies passports: We also strongly recommend that your group's coach or team manager collects copies of all travelers' passports and, where applicable, paper airline tickets, prior to departure in case of theft or loss.

Student ID: If you are with a student group, please ensure all people in your party bring their Student ID as this will give access to many discounts on entry fees to various attractions.

Entrance fees: Entrance fees, parking fees, unless otherwise stated, are not included.

Soccer balls: Soccer balls will only be provided for the games. Please bring your own soccer balls for training sessions and/or clinic sessions.

Check your tickets: Please ensure that you cross-reference your airline tickets with your itinerary as departure times and flight numbers may have been amended since your itinerary was forwarded to you, and, if in doubt, check with your airline directly. Make sure the name on the ticket is the same as on the passport.

Delay: In case of delay caused by flight or transport issues, please advise our Representative as soon as possible if any amendments are required, so they can adjust your arrangements wherever feasible. The contact information /phone number of this representative is included in the itinerary in this document.

Availability of rooms: Most flights from the US to Europe will arrive between 6.00 – 11.00 a.m. European times. However, please note that most hotel bedrooms will only become available between 2.00 and 3.00 p.m., so it is not always possible to check into your hotel room as soon as you arrive at your destination. Your local Representative will suggest a light excursion to occupy your group until your rooms are prepared.

General Tour Information and Tour Preparation: Please review your [Tour Confirmation](#) again and our [Travel Guide](#) on our website. If problems arise during the tour, please liaise with your local Representative immediately.

Security deposit: Some accommodation may require a small security deposit on arrival. (Most of the time by credit card) The security deposit is to be held only in the event of damage by your team to any of the accommodation's property. Upon check out, your deposit will be returned.

Seat belts: All passengers, by law, must always wear seat belts on all bus transportation when in Europe. Premier International Tours, its partners and suppliers will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury caused to anyone ignoring this regulation.

Ground transportation: During your entire stay in Europe a private bus will be available exclusively for your group. The motor coach can be used for excursions and all local transportation (such as transfers to/from the friendly game locations and for sightseeing). You have a maximum of 800 kilometers available.

Bus Company

Casucci R. e D. S.r.l. unipersonale
Tel. +39 0575 048652 & +39 335 6599484

Restrictions bus transportation: The following restrictions have been set by the European transportation departments:

1. The bus driver can drive a maximum of 9 hours per day. Twice a week the driver may use the bus for 10 hours. This is usually used for long transfers from country to country.
2. Each day the bus driver must have an 11-hour rest period between his transportation duties.
3. During transfers every 4 hours the driver must make a 45-minute required rest stop.

We kindly ask you to be aware of these rules. **Please notice that if you arrange an excursion which involves parking fees, these fees must be paid by the group.**

Airline reservations:

Premier International Tours has partnered with Best Group Airfares who made all your airlines reservations. In case of any questions concerning your airline reservations **prior** to the tour please contact Premier International Tours. (303-768-0891) From the day of departure until your return you can contact the 24-hour emergency line of Best Group Airfares at 786-232-0932. We request that only the group leader(s) call them (Gwen Howard Mann) and use the group ID number Alfred University VCE.

Check-in and Seat assignments:

Groups have blocked seats made at the time when the deposit was paid. Seat requests are accepted, but passengers cannot access their reservation online to make any changes to their seat assignments since it is a group booking. Many times, travelers are not able to check-in online for their flight, check-in will have to be done as a group at the airport upon arrival. We will e-mail you detailed information about check-in once tickets are issued.

Information for flights in case of flight changes or cancellations:

Please note that your group is booked through the group departments of airlines under group fare guidelines and conditions. Many times, we must go through the group department of the airline to change flights for the group or individual passengers, etc. Therefore, please follow these guidelines/steps with any flight cancellations or changes during the trip:

- Cancellations or Delays: If your group encounters cancellations or delays, seek help from the gate agents or airline staff immediately! At this time, your tickets are now in airport control and the airline staff at the airport have full authority of the records to provide alternative flight options and accommodations and are responsible for assisting your group! Do not leave the airport until your group has been re-accommodated and all travelers are accounted for.
- Connections: If you have tight connections, concerns with making your connections, or missed a connection, seek help from a gate agent immediately. The airline staff will again have control of your tickets and are responsible for assisting you in your day of travel disruptions.
- Missing Baggage: Travelers must file claims with the airline staff at the airport immediately and provide a personal cell phone number for the airline to reach them directly.

Tour Manager:

A tour manager will be with your group throughout your stay. Your tour manager will help plan your daily schedule and help in the event of any unforeseen problems or changes. **This tour manager is not a professional city tour guide** although he or she will have a general knowledge of the cities you are staying in and the surrounding areas.

It is very important that the group leader sits down with the tour manager upon arrival to discuss the daily program and sightseeing activities planned. Then, during the trip the group leader should also discuss each day with the tour manager the program for the next day in case of any last-minute changes so the tour manager can communicate any changes to other parties (hotel staff for meals, bus driver, etc.)

Please note that it is customary to tip the tour manager at the end of the trip if he or she has done a good job. We recommend collecting approx. \$20.00-\$30.00 per person (local currency) for each tour manager for the trip.

Bus Driver:

It is also customary to tip the bus driver if you have a private bus throughout the trip and the same bus driver throughout the trip. We recommend approx. \$10.00-\$15.00 per person for the whole tour.

Laundry:

Please consult your tour manager about laundry services upon arrival. Hotels usually offer an outside company to provide their laundry services for them but be aware that these services can often be quite expensive. There will likely be a self-service Laundromat near your accommodation.

Sightseeing activities/excursions:

Sightseeing activities/excursion were suggested/provided in the original itinerary outline sent to the group leader, so please check this itinerary for the sightseeing program.

Please also note that sightseeing entrance fees are not included unless otherwise stated in the original itinerary outline sent to the group leader.

Carry-on luggage:

We recommend that you take medication with you in your carry-on instead of in a check suitcase.

Water and medical kit during your soccer activities:

Please make sure all players bring their own water supply to games and clinics. Our tour manager will advise your group on the best places to buy this. We recommend that your group always has a medical kit with them.

Premier International Tours 24/7 emergency contact information:

In case of emergencies (mainly when you are dealing with issues within the USA or matters you cannot resolve with our local – at your destination - staff) please contact us at 303-522-5531.

Land arrangements:

eSSeLLe Sports Management
349 The Green, Ecclestone
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 5PH
England.
Tel. +44 (0) 1257 450 991 (office)
Mobile. +44 (0) 7429 056 371 (Aaron Pearson)

Game equipment note:

Please make sure players bring soccer shoes for both grass and artificial grass.

March 2nd – March 5th, 2024 Italy – Rome

Accommodation:

Holiday Inn Rome Parco Dei Medici
Viale Castello Magliana, 65
00148 Roma RM
Tel: +39 06 65581

Wi-fi costs: Free

Meals:

Daily breakfast and dinner are included.
First meal: Dinner March 2nd, 2024
Last meal: Breakfast March 5th, 2024
Both meals will be served at your accommodation.

Please note that drinks (such as bottled water, sodas) during the meals are not included. We have requested with the caterers that our groups be served with tap water at dinner. Tea, coffee, milk & juice are included at the breakfast buffet.

Premier International

Tours Representative: Marco Stanisci **Tel:** +39 328 105 8235

Friday, March 1st, 2024

06:10pm Departure flight BA0092 from Toronto airport.

Saturday, March 2nd, 2024

06:15am Arrival London Heathrow airport.

09:10am Departure flight BA0554 from London Heathrow to Rome.

12:50pm Arrival at Rome Airport.

After passing through customs at Rome Airport your group will be met by Marco (recognizable by an Alfred University sign. Marco will accompany you to your bus, onto your hotel and will stay with you for the duration of your time in Italy.

02:30pm Transfer to your accommodation.

03:30pm Arrival at your accommodation.

Upon your arrival at the hotel please discuss your itinerary and game & excursion program with Marco.

07.00pm Evening dinner.

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

- 09:00am Breakfast.
09:30am Morning at leisure with the option of using the Hotel facilities.
11.15am Transfer on the bus to Santa Lucia
12.00pm Arrival at the football pitch for your first friendly game of the tour.
01.00pm Friendly game kick-off vs. A.S.D. Santa Lucia Calcio, who play in Black and Green.
03.00pm Afternoon sightseeing in Rome. Visit the 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.
08.00pm Evening dinner at Hotel.

Monday, March 4th, 2024

- 08:00am Breakfast.
08.45am Departure to the Vatican to visit the religious city, including its museums and the Sistene Chapel.
09.30am Group One (as per allocation sheet) start of your visit of the Vatican.
10.30am Group Two (as per allocation sheet) start of your visit of the Vatican.
Please note, both groups are to present a sealed University headed letter with the names of all students on it to gain access to the museums at the student cost. Failure to do so will mean all students will have to pay the difference to enter at full cost.
02.30pm Arrival at the Colosseum for your visit of the Roman Arena and the Roman Forum.
03.00pm Start of your visit of the Colosseum, It is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built and famously known for hosting Gladiator battles during the Roman Empire era.
07.00pm Evening dinner.

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

- 08:00am Breakfast.
10:00am Transfer to your accommodation in Montecatini, near Florence.
En-route stop in Seinna for sightseeing and lunch.
05:00pm Arrival at your accommodation.
07.00pm Evening dinner.

March 5th – March 8th, 2024 Italy, Montecatini

Accommodation:

Grand Hotel Tettuccio
Viale Guiseppe Verdi, 74
51016 Montecatini Terme PT
Tel: +39 0572 78051

Wi-fi costs: Free

Meals:

Daily breakfast and dinner are included.
First meal: Dinner March 5th, 2024
Last meal: Breakfast March 8th, 2024
Both meals will be served at your accommodation.

Please note that drinks (such as bottled water, sodas) during the meals are not included. We have requested with the caterers that our groups be served with tap water at dinner. Tea, coffee, milk & juice are included in the breakfast buffet.

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

05:00pm Arrival at your accommodation.
07:00pm Evening dinner.

Wednesday, March 6th, 2024

08:00am Breakfast.
09:00am Day trip to Pisa, known for its Torre Pendente (Leaning Tower) and Viareggio, a popular seaside resort on the Mediterranean.
02:00pm Due to the size of the Tower the number of guests able to enter the Tower at one is limited and has been booked for you accordingly in several parties. Due to this we have had to split you up into 3 parties.
02:00pm First group of 11 people can enter the Tower.
02:15pm Second group of 15 people to enter the Tower
02:30pm Third and final group of 8 people to enter the Tower
03:45pm Transfer to Pieve a Nievole for your friendly game.
05:00pm Evening game vs. UC Giovanni Vianova who play in Purple.
07:00pm Return to the Hotel.
07:30pm Evening dinner

Thursday, March 7th, 2024

- 08:00am Breakfast.
- 09:00am Morning at leisure to explore the town of Montecatini, with its Roman Baths, local shops and/or take the opportunity to use the Funicular to visit the Panoramic views of the area.
- 10.45am Departure to Pontedera for your friendly game.
- 11.30am Lunch at the host club house.
- 01.30pm Kick-off vs. Pontedera FC who play in dark red.
- 03.30pm Sightseeing around the Tuscan countryside and coastline. We would suggest visiting the Town of Lucca with its Renaissance Walls and Medieval Towers, or the Coastal Town of Livorno, known for the Terrazza Mascagni and the Fortezza Vecchia, a coastal fort.
- 07.30pm Return to the Hotel.
- 08.30pm Evening dinner.

Friday, March 8th, 2024

- 08:00am Breakfast.
- 10:00am Transfer to your accommodation in Venice, with a stop in Florence with options of sights such as the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, the Oltrarno, the Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, the Piazza Michelangelo and of course your pre-booked visit to the Uffizi Gallery.
- 12.30pm Group One (13 people) start of the group visit of the Uffizi Gallery. a prominent art museum located adjacent to the Piazza della Signoria in the Historic Centre of Florence in the region of Tuscany, Italy. One of the most important Italian museums and the most visited, it is also one of the largest and best-known in the world and holds a collection of priceless works, particularly from the period of the Italian Renaissance.
- 12.45pm Group Two (14 people) start of the group visit of the Uffizi Gallery.
- 03.00pm Departure to Venice.
- 06:00pm Arrival at your accommodation.

March 8th – March 10th, 2024 Italy, Venice

Accommodation (Main Group)

Hotel Venezia
Piazza 27 Ottobre, 91
30172 Venezia VE
Tel: +39 041 985533

Accommodation (Six Doubles)

Hotel Vivit
Piazza Erminio Ferretto, 73
30174 Venezia VE
Tel: +39 041 951 385

Wi-fi costs: Free

Meals:

Daily breakfast and dinner are included.
First meal: Dinner March 8th, 2024
Last meal: Dinner March 9th, 2024
Both meals will be served at your accommodation.

Please note that drinks (such as bottled water, sodas) during the meals are not included. We have requested with the caterers that our groups be served with tap water at dinner. Tea, coffee, milk & juice are included in the breakfast buffet.

Friday, March 8th, 2024

03:00pm Departure from Florence after your sightseeing.
06:00pm Arrival at your accommodation, followed by check-in.
07:00pm Evening dinner.

Saturday, March 9th, 2024

07:00am Breakfast.
07:30am Morning trip to Venice using the public transport system located outside of your Hotel. 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.
02:00pm Departure from the Hotel to Barbarano Vicentino for your friendly game.
03:30pm Final friendly game vs. Veca Rivereel U19 FC, who play in white.
05.45pm Return to the Hotel.
07:00pm Evening dinner.

Sunday, March 10th, 2024

06:00am Departure for Venice Marco Polo Airport, €5.00pp will be provided by the Hotel in lieu of breakfast.
06:20am Arrival at Venice airport.
08:20am Departure flight BA0597 from Venice to London Heathrow.
09:55am Arrival at London Heathrow airport.
11:45am Departure flight BA0093 from London Heathrow to Toronto.
03:50pm Arrival at Toronto airport.