Sports Travel Experience Designed Especially for Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association

**Soccer in Scotland**
April 5 - April 13, 2020

**ITINERARY OVERVIEW**

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Home to the famous “Old Firm” rivalry between Celtic F.C. and Rangers F.C., Scottish soccer dates back to 1872. The first ever international soccer match took place at Hamilton Crescent Park in Patrick, Scotland where England and Scotland drew even at 0-0. Since, Scotland has held a proud soccer tradition boasting such legends as Kenny Dalglish and Denis Law.

**ITINERARY**

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**DAY 1  Sunday, 05 April 2020**

Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight to Edinburgh, Scotland.

* Please note that the final itinerary may be slightly different from this program. The final itinerary will be determined based on the size of the group, any adjustments that are required (such as adding additional matches), and the final schedule of the matches. (If additional matches are required, then some sightseeing content will be replaced by the additional matches needed.)

**DAY 2  Monday, 06 April 2020**

Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure.

We will have use of a private coach and driver, while touring for the next seven days.

Our base for the next seven nights will be in the Central Scotland area. Breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be included at the hotel. (Central Scotland may include the Glasgow, Edinburgh or Stirling areas)

We will begin with a welcome meeting and orientation. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore the area around the hotel.

**TRAINING SESSION**

Participate in a Training Session at a local field in the central Scotland area. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DAY 3  Tuesday, 07 April 2020**

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

**PROFESSIONAL COACHING CLINIC**

Participate in a special Professional Coaching Clinic in the central Scotland area. The clinic will be led by a guest coach, player or instructor. The clinic will be designed exclusively for the team and to enhance skills in areas identified by the coaching staff. (Excel Sports has contacts at every level and can provide your team with some of the finest instructors in the industry. Specific clinics and coaches will be selected after time of booking.)

Glasgow is the heart of Scottish football and home to both Rangers and Celtic. At least twice a year, Rangers and Celtic contest the Old Firm, one of football’s fiercest and most enduring rivalries. The rivalry between Celtic and Rangers recalls deep socio-political divisions in Scottish history, and a trip through Glasgow will strengthen an understanding for how the history of these clubs is intimately tied to the history of the city.
DAY 3  Tuesday, 07 April 2020

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB STADIUM TOUR
Celtic Park is one of the biggest football stadiums in Europe, making it the perfect place to learn all about the colorful history and heritage of Celtic Football Club from its inception in 1888. Experience firsthand, Celtic’s heritage and culture that has made the club famous and renowned the world over. Take a guided tour of the stadium as well as a trip through the history of the club through our various informative and impressive exhibitions. (Please note dressing room access on the day before a match may be restricted depending on first team activity at the stadium.)

CELTIC FC SUPERSTORE
Spend time on the Celtic FC Superstore at Celtic Park, the place to shop for all Official Celtic FC merchandise. Items include the latest Celtic New Balance kit, a wide range of shirts, and a comprehensive range of Celtic FC fashion, gifts and accessories.

GLASGOW FREE TIME
Enjoy some free time to shop and explore the sights of Glasgow.

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 4  Wednesday, 08 April 2020

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

LIGHT TRAINING SESSION
Participate in a Light Training Session or a walk through at a local field in the central Scotland area. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Light training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)

Today we will travel to Edinburgh.

Edinburgh is widely regarded as one of Europe’s most attractive cities, due primarily to its impressive medieval and Georgian districts and surrounding Lothian Hills. It is as famous for the arts as it is for its long and turbulent history. Both the Old and New towns are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

EDINBURGH CASTLE
Visit Edinburgh Castle, a place filled with history, legend and lore. Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline from its rocky outcrop towering above the jumble of medieval tenements, a brooding presence gazing down over the gracious Georgian New Town. This ancient stronghold has history seeping out of the stonework, with an undeniable ‘wow’ factor. Our visit will include St. Margaret’s Chapel, the State Apartments, the Great Hall and the Crown Chamber, which houses the Honours of Scotland (Scottish Crown Jewels).

THE ROYAL MILE
From Edinburgh Castle we will walk down the Royal Mile, one of the most famous and scenic city walks in Europe. We will view St. Giles’ Cathedral and conclude at Holyrood Palace. We will enjoy plenty of shopping along the way.

EDINBURGH FREE TIME
Enjoy some free time to explore the sights of Edinburgh or do some shopping to bring home some mementos from your trip.

FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the central Scotland area. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.
DAY 5  Thursday, 09 April 2020

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

LIGHT TRAINING SESSION
Participate in a Light Training Session or a walk through at a local field in the central Scotland area. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Light training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)

Today we will travel to Stirling.

The medieval town of Stirling grew up around one of Scotland’s most important fortresses and the Old Town is still surrounded by its original 16th century walls. The town served as the backdrop for one of William Wallace’s 13th century battles and continued to be of strategic importance in the Jacobite uprisings.

STIRLING CASTLE
Tour Stirling Castle, which dates from the Middle Ages and was an important seat of two kings; James IV and James V. View the Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, presenting an excellent exhibit of colors, pipe banners, and regimental silver. From the castle there is a wonderful view of the Wallace Monument.

STIRLING FREE TIME
Enjoy some free time to explore the sights of Stirling or have some time to shop.

SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the central Scotland area. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 6  Friday, 10 April 2020

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

TRAINING SESSION
Participate in a Training Session at a local field in the central Scotland area. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)

ATTEND PROFESSIONAL MATCH
Attend a professional soccer match in the Central Scotland area featuring teams from the top leagues. Seeing the top talent in the world in person would itself be an unforgettable experience, but add the passionate crowds singing, cheering and chanting and you will enter an atmosphere that can only be understood through personal experience. (Excel Programs will secure tickets for the group after time of booking and upon release of the official schedule. Due to scheduling your final itinerary may need to be adjusted to accommodate attending a match.)

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 7  Saturday, 11 April 2020

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

LIGHT TRAINING SESSION
Participate in a Light Training Session or a walk through at a local field in the central Scotland area. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Light training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)

Today we will take an excursion to St Andrews.
DAY 7  Saturday, 11 April 2020

Located on the east coast of Fife, St Andrews is Scotland’s oldest university town. It was built out of stones pillaged from St Andrews cathedral (now in ruins), which was at one time the largest cathedral in Scotland. St Andrews is also the ‘Home of Golf’, where the game was first played in around 1400 and today attracts visitors from all over the world to play on the world famous courses.

ST ANDREWS CITY TOUR
Take a Walking Tour of St Andrews and get an idea of its long and rich history and where those fond of golf can pay homage to the famous ‘Old Course’. The walk will also include the grounds of the University of St Andrews; founded in 1410, it is the third oldest university in Britain after Oxford and Cambridge.

THIRD FRIENDLY MATCH
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the central Scotland area. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 8  Sunday, 12 April 2020

LIGHT TRAINING SESSION
Participate in a Light Training Session or a walk through at a local field in the central Scotland area. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Light training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL MUSEUM
Based within Hampden Park, the Scottish Football Museum will take you on a football journey like you have never seen before. There are thousands of objects on display, tracing the history of football in Scotland and highlights some of the most memorable games and players. Sit in what was the original dressing room from the old Hampden and listen to Craig Brown addressing his Scotland team. Marvel at the original Scottish Cup, the world’s oldest national trophy and even visit the Scottish Football Hall of Fame which features some of the greatest Scottish players to ever play the game.

GLASGOW FREE TIME
Enjoy some free time to shop and explore the sights of Glasgow.

FOURTH FRIENDLY MATCH
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the central Scotland area. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 9  Monday, 13 April 2020

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.
What is Included:
- Round trip airfare, including all airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- Accommodation in three star hotels in twin and triple rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- Breakfast and dinner (or lunch) at the hotel daily (determined by the final sporting arrangements)
- WorldStrides Excel Sports Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- Transportation by private coach for transfers and touring, as required based on your itinerary
- Excursions, cultural activities, stadium tours and admissions as per your itinerary
- International Friendly Matches per your itinerary (Excel Sports is a FIFA approved match agent, holding the rights to arrange soccer matches between teams from different confederations and will provide full documentation of the sanctioned games)
- Training Sessions and/or Professional Coaching Clinics per your itinerary
- One professional soccer ticket (subject to travel dates and match schedule)
- Three free college credits for all high school students (earning credit is optional for each participant and post trip course work is required)
- Free Professional Development Points/Credits (35 points or equivalent) for any educators traveling with the group
- Manchester United Raffle Fundraiser - all proceeds earned go directly to the cost of the tour
- WorldStrides Excel Sports App - featuring itinerary, flight and hotel details, as well as instant messaging capabilities
- Payment plans to meet the needs of all participants - EZPay and our Advantage Payment Plan (APP), where participants can make equal installment payments up to six months after the trip

This Does Not Include:
- Any items not mentioned above or in the detailed itinerary
- Single rooms for adults - available at a supplement of $75 per night
- Third daily meal or personal beverages with meals
- Laundry services on tour
- Public transport pass in capital or major cities
- Visas (if required)
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage, or any costs for the hire of, or transport of, equipment or gear
- Travel Insurance - we offer and encourage you to consider our comprehensive policy which includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of $149 (available upon registration)
Manchester United Grand Prize Raffle Drawing

Win a four-day trip for two and attend the final Manchester United home game at Old Trafford Stadium

The winner will receive:

- Two round trip flights to Manchester
- Two nights accommodation
- Two tickets to see Manchester United’s final season home game at Old Trafford

The Ultimate Fundraiser

WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs is pleased to offer your individual participants or your team with the ultimate fundraiser. Your participants will be able to sell raffle tickets to people in their community or to other friends and family members. The money they raise will be theirs to apply towards the cost of their sports tour.

We will provide a PDF of the raffle tickets. The participants will print the tickets at home, and then they will proceed to sell the tickets for $10 each. WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs will provide the grand prize and hold a drawing on the 1st of March each year in order to choose a winner.

“This raffle fundraiser is sending me to Spain to play soccer. When my parents told me I had to pay for the trip myself I was determined I could do it and with the help of this raffle I was able to pay for the entire trip. Thank you so much!”

Sydney Larkin, St. Mary’s College Women’s Soccer (MD)

“The Manchester trip was an awesome experience that I will never forget. It’s been a dream of mine to see a Premier League game so this trip helped that wish come true for me. The atmosphere at the game was awesome and I got to see some great goals from Manchester United. I was also impressed with how accommodating Excel International Sports was while arranging extra days and flights for the trip. Overall, I am so grateful that I got this opportunity to go to Manchester and fulfill one of my dreams!”

Mike Smith, Grand Prize Raffle Winner
Don’t Just Take Our Word for it.
Here is What Our Participants Had to Say:

“The cultural experience of traveling to Scotland with our 2003 boys was absolutely fantastic. WorldStrides Excel crafted an itinerary which did an excellent job of balancing match play, training schedules and sightseeing for our week abroad. The boys were constantly upbeat when exploring historical cities, stepping out of the tunnel at Celtic Park and even on the bus as we drove through the countryside. I would recommend this type of trip to anyone. For a first time traveler or an experienced adventurer, a soccer tour is a totally unique way to explore the world.”

Conor Prachar, Head Coach, MSYSA ODP Boys, Scotland

“I had an amazing experience, and we had the perfect mix of soccer and taking in the sites and culture that Scotland has to offer. Our tour guides we’re passionate about the country and encouraged the players and adults to make the most out of the trip. The games were competitive and allowed our boys to see firsthand how the international game is played. Even if they don’t realize it right away, this trip was a great learning experience for all of our boys.”

Marcus Barr, Head Coach, EPYSA ODP Boys, Scotland

“I was honored and humbled to have represented MSYSA and accompany the 2003 ODP Boys on their trip to Scotland. The boys travelled well, adjusted quickly to the new culture and soaked up the amazing soccer atmosphere. They were a very close group that worked hard at training every day, and rose to the challenges at the friendly matches. Worldstrides Excel and our very experienced tour manager had planned every detail which made for a very successful trip. Players and parents alike all came back with new friends and lots of memories that will be with all of us for the rest of our lives.”

Laurie Lane, Board Member, MSYSA ODP Boys, Scotland

“I would highly recommend Worldstrides Excel for an international soccer tour. Our tour director was amazing - he even jumped in with the boys during a training session. Great job planning an event for the boys. Very impressed with the professionalism and mix of sightseeing and soccer.”

Kathy, Parent, EPYSA ODP Boys, Scotland