Sports Travel Experience Designed Especially for Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association

Soccer in London
April 5 - April 13, 2020

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1  DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA
DAY 2  ARRIVE LONDON AREA (7 NIGHTS)
DAY 3  PROFESSIONAL COACHING CLINIC & LONDON
DAY 4  LONDON & FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH
DAY 5  WINDSOR & SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH
DAY 6  TRAINING SESSION & LONDON
DAY 7  THIRD FRIENDLY MATCH & ATTEND A PROFESSIONAL MATCH
DAY 8  LONDON & FOURTH FRIENDLY MATCH
DAY 9  DEPARTURE FROM LONDON
Soccer was born in England when the "Laws of the Game" for association football were originally codified by The Football Association in 1863. Since then, the sport has become the passion of England where the national team, the Three Lions, won the World Cup in 1966. Today the most famous soccer league in the world, the Premier League, calls England home, and features some of the most recognizable and important clubs in the world, including Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea.

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**DAY 1  Sunday, 05 April 2020**

- Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight to London-Gatwick, England.

* 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.
- Our private coach and driver will transfer us to our London area hotel. We will have use of our coach for all transfers, touring and soccer content as required throughout.
- Our base for the next seven nights will be in the greater London area. Breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be included at the hotel each day.
- 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 greater London 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 greater London 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.)
  - London is the hub of soccer in Britain. With five Premier League sides stationed within the capital, London exudes tradition with regard to rivalries, trophies, famous stadiums, and loyal fans. Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham, Crystal Palace and West Ham all play in London, contributing to Europe’s densest football city.
DAY 3  Tuesday, 07 April 2020

**LONDON CITY TOUR**
Take an introductory tour of London on our private bus and on foot. We will see St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, St. James's Park and Buckingham Palace, where we may have an opportunity to see the Changing of the Guard ceremonies (subject to final tour schedule).

**LILLYWHITES**
Founded in 1863, Lillywhites is one of the oldest and most famous shops in London. Specializing in sporting goods, the shop has always prided itself on being able to obtain items related to even the most minority sports. Housed in a beautiful early Victorian building on the edge of Piccadilly Circus the shop has attracted the greatest sportsmen, celebrities and royalties for well over a century. Unrivalled in its service and quality, the shop is just as much as an attraction as a working example of an old English department store as it is a place to buy sporting goods. Today it is considered the UK's largest sporting goods retailer and operates a diversified portfolio of sports, fitness, fashion and lifestyle brands.

**LONDON FREE TIME**
We will have free time to explore or shop in London at our leisure. Our tour director will be available to make suggestions of attractions and activities in or around London. The group may wish to visit London's top attractions, including Westminster Abbey, the British Museum, St. Paul's Cathedral, Madame Tussaud's, or Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. We can also take advantage of London's diverse and fascinating museum options, many of which are free of charge, including the National Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum, the Imperial War Museum or the Natural History Museum.

This evening we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

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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 greater London 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.)

**Visit the Tower of London, one of Britain's most fascinating and important historical structures. Begun as a fortress by William the Conqueror, the Tower is now primarily associated with the legendary figures imprisoned and executed here over the centuries. Our visit includes the armories, a display of instruments of torture and execution and the breathtaking Crown Jewels Exhibit.**

**LONDON FREE TIME**
We will have free time to explore or shop in London at our leisure. Our tour director will be available to make suggestions of attractions and activities in or around London.

**FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH**
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the greater London 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.

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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 greater London 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 explore nearby Windsor.
DAY 5  Thursday, 09 April 2020

WINDSOR CASTLE
Visit Windsor Castle, the world’s largest inhabited castle, and one of the official royal residences of the British monarch. Our visit will include the richly decorated State Apartments and St. George’s Chapel, a pantheon of English monarchs.

SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the greater London 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 greater London 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.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK
Take a guided Walking Tour of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Relive the 2012 Olympic Games and visit the world-class sporting venues where the likes of Michael Phelps, Mo Farah and Usain Bolt won gold, with stories, commentary and insights from an expert Blue Badge guide. We will explore world-class Olympic venues, including the London Aquatics Center, the Copper Box, an architectural wonder and now a major premier basketball venue, the award-winning Lee Valley Velopark, and the beautifully-designed Velodrome. Learn about how the 560-acre Park has been transformed since the Games and discover 65km of waterways and 111 acres of beautiful parkland, woods and wildlife habitat which have been developed to make this a beautiful part of London.

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 greater London 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.)

THIRD FRIENDLY MATCH
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the greater London 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.)

ATTEND PROFESSIONAL MATCH
Attend a professional soccer match in the greater London 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 signing, 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 8  Sunday, 12 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 greater London 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.)

LONDON PREMIER LEAGUE STADIUM TOUR
Take a behind-the-scenes Stadium Tour of one of London's five Premier League sides, Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham, Crystal Palace or West Ham. Most of the tours include a guided tour to visit areas such as the Director's Box, the Home and Away Changing Rooms, the Players' Tunnel, and the opportunity to go Pitch side. Most tours then conclude with a visit to their Museum or Trophy Room, followed by time to shop in their super store. (After time of booking, the group can choose the club they would like to visit. All tours are subject to the schedule of the team and are not available on game days.)

LONDON FREE TIME
We will have free time to explore or shop in London at our leisure. Our tour director will be available to make suggestions of attractions and activities in or around London.

FOURTH FRIENDLY MATCH
Play an International Friendly Match against a local club or academy team in the greater London 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)
- U.S. Soccer Federation sanctioning of all games, which includes full documentation
- 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
- Financial assistance program through the Future Leaders of American Government (FLAG) Foundation (for qualifying participants)
- USTOA Extensive Consumer Protection up to $1,000,000 in coverage for advance deposits through our USTOA membership
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to $7,500) and $50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation
- Exclusive 24-hour Doctors On-Call partnership with George Washington University Hospital
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of $50,000,000 in coverage, which extends to certain individuals acting on behalf of Excel Sports as Coaches and Chaperones

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
- 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)

“A 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 with 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:

“What an amazing trip to London! From the very beginning to the ending at Heathrow, our WorldStrides Excel Tour Guide – Woodie- was always with us; practices, games, tours, underground transport, and meals. The international friendly matches were exciting to watch realizing this was a first for many, including the UK players. Coach Steve Senna was awesome in his coaching style and manner with each individual player, turning the switch from playing matches to fun as he set the example each day. Thank you WorldStrides Excel for another memorable trip!”

Linda Norton, Board Member, MSYSA Girls ODP, England

“The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the young girls. They were able to compete in international play and learn more about the game. Each day was well-planned and full of activities. I believe this trip would be beneficial to any young player looking to learn more about soccer and enjoy a cultural experience.”

Teresa Reiner, Head Coach, EPYSA Girls ODP, London

“Just want to drop you a quick note to let you know how much I enjoyed the London trip. Our tour manager was an outstanding guide who showed us the heart of the city and kept us organized and on schedule for training and matches. I had a blast with everyone! Thank you WorldStrides Excel for a memorable experience. You guys run a top-notch program!”

Michele Rodriguez-Smith, Coach, MSYSA Girls ODP, England

“I want to thank you WorldStrides Excel for an incredible trip to London! Everyone had an amazing experience and absolutely, hands-down the best trip I’ve ever experienced. It was EXTREMELY well organized your professionalism, planning and attention to detail made it easy for us to prepare for the trip. It was an amazing trip, thank you again!”

Susan Kearney, Chaperone, EPYSA Girls ODP, England