## East-West Global Travel

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## Itinerary Outline for YOUR TEAM

Friendly Games and Sightseeing, Tuscany; Milan Football Festival, Milan, Italy. April 9-17, 2017.

- April 9: Players and staff gather at your gateway city airport for an overnight journey to Florence, Italy. After connecting in either Rome or Milan, arrival in Florence will be in the early afternoon of the next day.
- April 10: Arrival in Florence. After clearing Italian Customs and Immigration, the group will be met by a local representative and a privately chartered motor coach and driver. Your guide and private bus will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that all aspects of the trip run smoothly.

The group will transfer to a tourist class hotel located in the town of <u>Montecatini</u>, located in the heart of <u>Tuscany</u>, very near Florence. Montecatini is a resort city which features many natural spas and therefore attracts people from all over Europe. Surrounded by rolling hills and located within an easy drive of some of the most spectacular sights in Italy, Montecatini is the perfect setting to begin the tour.

The group will be staying in a tourist class (3 star minimum) hotel in the heart of the city. Players will be in triple bedded rooms, while staff and any accompanying adults will be in double or single rooms, as needed. Two meals a day will also be provided for all travelers while here.

After checking in to the hotel, there will be time for a light training session if desired. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be free.

April 11: After breakfast at the hotel, the group will travel to the nearby city of <u>Pisa</u>, where you can see the famous Leaning Tower and the cathedral which dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Your group will have a guided tour here, after which you will have some free time on your own.

In the afternoon the group will transfer to a local club where your team will play a friendly match against a high level team from the region. Following the match, you will return to the hotel for dinner and a free evening.

April 12: After breakfast the group will transfer to the Florence area for a day of sightseeing. First you will visit the "<u>Centro Tecnico Federale</u>" (Federal Technical Center) of the Italian Soccer Federation in Coverciano, just outside the city. This is the national headquarters and training center for the Italian National Teams of

all levels. You will have the chance to tour the facilities and see where the Italian National Team trained for their recent World Cup winning performance. As you might expect for a world soccer power, this facility is amazing, and any soccer person is sure to draw some inspiration from visiting.

From Coverciano it is a short ride to the city center of <u>Florence</u>. Here the group will have a chance to see all of the sights that have made this place so famous, including the old city center, the Ponte Vecchio, Michelangelo's Statue of David, the Duomo and the Plaza della Signora. Florence is also a great place for shopping, and there will be lots of time for this as well.

In the late afternoon each team will transfer once again to a local sports center, where another friendly game will be played against a local select team or a professional youth team.

Following the match, the group will return to the hotel in Montecatini for a free evening.

April 13-16: From Montecatini the group will travel by bus to the city of <u>Milan</u>, Italy's second largest city. Milan has ancient roots and many sights to see, including the famous <u>San Siro Stadium</u>. The group will be staying in a tourist class hotel, located just outside the city center, with players once again accommodated in triple rooms (staff and adults in double or singles, as needed). Two meals daily (breakfast and dinner) will be provided for all travelers while here.

The tournament begins with opening ceremonies and a welcoming party on April, 13, and concludes with the finals on April 16. This Easter tournament is well known in Europe as one of the best. The team will be guaranteed a minimum of three matches during the tournament, with a possibility of five if the finals are reached. During the times when the team is not playing there will be opportunities for sightseeing and shopping in the city.

April 17: After checking out of the hotel, your bus will transfer the group to Milan's Malpensa International airport, where you will catch an international flight back to the USA. After making a connection, the group will arrive back in your gateway city in the late afternoon.