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ITALY

Field Hockey Tour

Rome, Florence, Milan

11 Day / 9 Night Program



SUGGESTED PROGRAM

PLEASE NOTE: Actual sequence and timing of activities will revolve around your game & practice schedule, which will be finalized in the weeks prior to your team's arrival at its destination. All times are approximate and may vary according to flight schedules and other logistical factors.

ALL FIELD HOCKEY ACTIVITIES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED.

Day 1 **USA – ROME**

Evening Fly overnight to Rome via major international scheduled airline with likely change of plane enroute. Dinner and breakfast served aloft.

Day 2 **ROME**

Morning Arrive at Rome's Fiumicino International Airport.

Greeting by your highly-qualified **Tour Manager**. The Tour Managers we select are chosen for their high-energy and commitment to customer satisfaction. For the duration of your stay, your Tour Manager will be coordinating and managing all of your scheduled activities and will be available to you on a 24-hour basis should you need special assistance.

The Roman Empire was one of the most important economic, political and cultural forces in the history of western civilization. Rome is known as the "Eternal City" for its timeless character transcending all historical periods dating back to the city's founding, possibly as far back as 753 BC. Larger-than-life landmarks from pre-Christian times stand side-by-side with more recent edifices that are "only" a few centuries old and modern 20th-century buildings alike. In short, Rome is one of the most compelling destinations anywhere in the world for the traveler looking for an unparalleled historical and culturally-enriching experience.

Brief overview of the city on your way to the hotel. Stop for breakfast en-route.

Arrive at your hotel and check in.

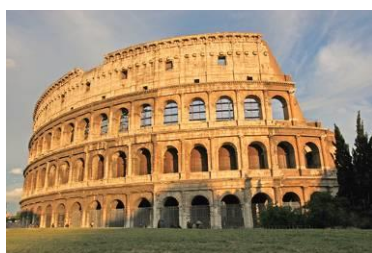
Afternoon **PRACTICE SESSION at an astroturf field to warm-up for the next few days.**

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 3 **ROME**

Morning Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning **Ancient Rome Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included)**



Coliseum



Roman Forum



Palatine Stadium

The juxtaposition between Rome's ancient landmarks and monuments beside its modern buildings and other structures makes for a fascinating contrast between old and new.

Visit the **Coliseum**, one of the world's most iconic and recognizable ancient buildings. Walk among the remains of this amphitheatre which was originally completed in 80 AD as a site for fights between gladiators and other public events.

Continue on to **Palatine Hill**, the most famous of Rome's "Seven Hills" and site of the earliest Roman settlements. From here you can take in great views of the **Roman Forum**, a plaza that was the center of Roman public life for centuries, and Nero's **Circus Maximus**, where a Roman chariot racing stadium once stood. The only remains today are a small amount of the original structure and the former race track covered with grass.

The last stop is a walk along the **"Via Sacra"** or "Sacred Way" which was the main street of ancient Rome and led to the Forum. It ends at the temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated.

Coliseum, Roman Forum, and Palatine Hill tickets are all included.

Afternoon Free time for lunch, relax and to explore the city.

Evening Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Evening **MATCH # 1 vs. ITALIAN FIELD HOCKEY TEAM**



Day 4

ROME

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning

Vatican Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included)

Please Note: Visitors in shorts or sleeveless tops are not admitted to churches and Vatican Museums.



St. Peter's Basilica



Vatican Museum



Sistine Chapel

Start your tour of the **Vatican**, the world's smallest country, with a visit to the **Vatican Museums**, among the world's greatest art museums and home to the largest art collection in Europe with over 65,000 masterpieces.

View the **Pinacoteca Vaticana** featuring works by Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci and the **Collection of Modern Religious Art** with almost 800 works by 250 artists, including such famous names as Rodin, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Kandinsky, Chagall, Klee, Dalí, and Picasso. Continue on to the **Museo Pio-Clementino** of Greek and Roman sculpture.

The **Sistine Chapel** is the last stop and grand finale of a visit to the museums. Admire the fabulous frescoes by Renaissance artists Botticelli, Perugino, Ghirlandaio and the famous ceiling by **Michelangelo**.

Climb the **Scala Regia** steps to **St. Peter's Basilica**, the world's largest Christian Church and burial place of many popes. Enjoy viewing the church's many beautiful works of art, highlighted by Michelangelo's famous **Pietà** sculpture of Jesus on the lap of his mother Mary after the crucifixion.

Afternoon

Free time for lunch, relax and to explore the city.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Evening

MATCH # 2 vs. ITALIAN FIELD HOCKEY TEAM



Day 5

SIENA & SAN GIMIGNANO

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Check out of Hotel and transfer to **Montecatini**. Stop on the way to explore the cities of **Siena** and **San Gimignano**.

Morning

Siena City Tour



Gothic Cathedral



Piazza del Campo



Relaxing on the Piazza

Travel to **Siena**, Italy's best preserved medieval city filled with fine examples of Gothic architecture. View **Piazza del Campo**, a very unusual central plaza shaped like a shell with scalloped edges. Walk along the small medieval streets and admire wonderful buildings. Visit the interior of the **Cathedral** and the **Museo dell'Opera Metropolitana**.

Afternoon

Free time for lunch. Continue your journey to the town of San Gimignano.

Late Afternoon

San Gimignano



San Gimignano is a walled medieval hill town in the province of Siena. The city is known for its numerous medieval structures, especially its towers, which can be spotted from miles away.

This region is also known for the production of "**Vernaccia di San Gimignano**" white wine which is native to the area.

Board your private motorcoach for your transfer to **Montecatini** (30 miles west of Florence). Enjoy the scenery of vineyards and olive trees along the way.

Evening

Check in to your hotel.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 6

FLORENCE

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Florence was founded on the banks of the Arno River as a Roman city in 80 BC and was one of the world's most important cities politically, economically, and culturally from the 14th to the 16th centuries. It was a prosperous trading and financial center and the origin of the great explosion of creativity and innovation in art and architecture of the Italian Renaissance. Today Florence receives approximately 1.65 million visitors annually, many of them visiting the city's historic cultural institutions, such as the Uffizi and Accademia Art Galleries.

Morning

Florence City Tour



Ponte Vecchio



Florence skyline



"Il Duomo"

Tour **Florence**, "the capital of arts", and one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Visit the 15th-century **Cathedral (Duomo)** with its massive "**Cupola del Brunelleschi**", possibly the largest dome ever built, and its bell-tower. Stop at the **Ponte Vecchio** arched stone bridge which has spanned the **Arno River** since the 14th-century. The bridge is lined with jewelry shops and art dealers. Later drive along **Viale dei Colli** road to the **Piazzale Michelangelo** for a wonderful panoramic view of the city.

Afternoon

Free time for lunch, relax or to explore the city.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Evening

MATCH # 3 vs. ITALIAN FIELD HOCKEY TEAM



Day 7

FLORENCE

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning

Uffizi & Accademia Galleries



Uffizi Gallery on Arno River



"David" Sculpture



Uffizi Gallery by Night

Take this opportunity to visit two of the most famous museums in the world.

The **Uffizi Gallery**, originally a 16th-century palace, contains works of art by **Leonardo Da Vinci**, **Botticelli**, **Michelangelo**, **Rubens**, **Rembrandt** and **Goya** among others. One of its most famous works is "**The Birth of Venus**" by Botticelli.

The **Accademia Gallery** houses pieces from **Donatello** as well as the original **David** by **Michelangelo**, the world's most famous sculpture.

Afternoon

Free time for lunch, relax or to explore the city.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 8

PISA

Morning

Breakfast at hotel.

Check out of hotel and transfer to **Milan**. On the way, stop in the city of **Pisa**.

Morning &
Afternoon

Pisa – Half-Day Tour



Duomo



Leaning Tower



Baptistry

Drive through the beautiful Tuscan countryside to the historic city of **Pisa**, world famous for its leaning tower and its architectural beauty.

Walk to the **Piazza del Duomo**, where Pisa's most famous landmarks are concentrated - the famous **Leaning Tower**, the **Duomo** and **Baptistry**.

The **Leaning Tower** dates to the 14th-century and was built in the Romanesque architectural style with an abundance of arches reaching nearly to its top. After extensive corrective work between 1990 and 2001 the lean of the tower was reduced from 5.5 to 3.99 degrees. The tower leans because of the soft sand base that it was built on. Climb the almost 200 feet to the tower's top, take in the views, and appreciate the tower's lean ! (EUR 15 fee)

Afternoon

Lunch on own.

Continue on your journey to Milan, where you will check in to your hotel.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 9

MILAN

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Milan is a major business and financial center and is also known as one of the world's fashion capitals. It is Italy's second-largest city with about 1.3 million people and has major attractions such as the Teatro alla Scala, Il Duomo Cathedral, the Castello Sforzesco and the Piazza del Duomo, Milan's most important square.

Morning

Milan City Tour



Il Duomo



Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery



Santa Maria delle Grazie

Walking tour of Milan's most important sites, including **La Scala**, one of the world's most famous opera houses, the breathtaking **Duomo**, the city's large and impressive Gothic cathedral and the **Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery** with shops, restaurants and cafés. The tour also includes a guided visit to "**The Last Supper**", the renowned painting by **Leonardo da Vinci**, located in the **Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie**.

Afternoon

Lunch on own and free afternoon to explore Milan.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Evening

MATCH # 4 vs. ITALIAN FIELD HOCKEY TEAM



Day 10

MILAN

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Morning &
Afternoon

Lake Como & Bellagio – Full-Day Tour



Board your private motorcoach to **Lake Como**, a beautiful site surrounded by majestic mountains, with **Monte Legnone** as the highest one. This deep lake has an unusual shape resembling the letter "Y" turned upside down. Admire the charming "villas" along the shore, and the exotic plants and flowers.

Visit **Como**, the city abutting the lake, stopping at the **Sant Abbondio Abbey**, a beautiful Romanesque church, to admire the magnificent frescoes inside.

Take the boat to **Bellagio**, a picturesque small town located on a peninsula where the three branches of the "Y"-shaped lake meet. Enjoy an unforgettable sunset at the border of the lake surrounded by mountains.

Return to your hotel.

Evening

Dinner at Hotel (included in tour program)

Day 11

MILAN – USA

Morning

Breakfast at Hotel.

Check out of Hotel.

Transfer by your private motorcoach to the Milan International Airport for your return flight home.

Relax and sleep during your flight.

Afternoon

Arrive back in the USA later the same afternoon.

Your Italian Field Hockey and Cultural Adventure comes to a close with great memories to cherish for a lifetime !

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

Travel Services:

- Economy-class Air Transportation USA – Italy round-trip.
- Intercity Transportation Rome – Florence – Milan by private motorcoach.

- Three nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Rome, including daily breakfast.
- Three nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Montecatini, including daily breakfast.
- Three nights at a Three-Star Hotel in Milan, including daily breakfast.
- Airport / Hotel / Airport transfers by private motorcoach.
- Ancient Rome Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included).
- Vatican Half-Day Tour (entrance tickets included).
- Siena City Tour
- Visit to San Gimignano
- Florence Morning City Tour
- Morning Tour of Uffizi and Accademia galleries
- Pisa Half-Day Tour
- Milan City Tour
- Lake Como and Bellagio Full-Day Tour
- **Tour Manager** available as necessary in Italy and 24/7 access in case of emergency.
- 24/7 Emergency Support from **Victory Sports Tours'** Operations office.

Field Hockey Program:

- **Four Games with clubs / universities at your level.**
- **One Practice Session.**
- **Bottle of Water provided to each player, each game / practice.**
- **Uniform Laundry Service provided between games.**
- **Round-trip Game & Practice Transfers by private motorcoach.**

Summary of Included Meals:

- 9 Breakfasts
- 9 Dinners

Tour Price:

- Please consult with Victory Sports Tours Staff for the latest pricing estimates.
- Price is based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers.
- Prices are subject to availability of fares at time of booking.
- One **FREE COACH'S TRIP** is included based on 20 paying travelers (21st is free).
- Coach would share twin room with paying traveler and pay only taxes/fees.

Notes:

- The itinerary text outlines both included services and suggested free time activities. For a definitive indication of what is included in the tour price, please refer exclusively to the "TOUR INCLUSIONS" section above.
- No booking has been made yet. Tour dates are subject to availability.
- Tour price is based on current U.S. dollar / foreign exchange rate. Price may vary if the exchange rate were to change significantly prior to receiving your tour deposit.
- Air taxes/fees are determined by the various governments/airlines involved and are those currently in effect. By government regulation, actual air taxes/fees collected will be those in effect at ticketing, approx. 45 days before departure.
- Airlines may add a fuel surcharge if the price of fuel increases significantly.
- Final fuel surcharge is determined approx. 30 days prior to departure.
- Full Terms & Conditions to be provided upon acceptance of this proposal.