

# **2024 Select Team Tour**

## **Belgium-Holland-Germany**



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# Sample Itinerary

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## Day 1 August

**Gather at USA Airport at least east 3 hours prior to boarding** your trans-Atlantic flight to Amsterdam.

## Day 2 August

Welcome to **Amsterdam** Upon arrival in Amsterdam you will be met by your tour guide before transferring to **Mechelen, Belgium**. You will be taken on a quick tour of the city of Mechelen. After your tour you will then proceed to your sleeping accommodations for the rest of the day to relax, get settled and explore the surrounding area. Light training session that afternoon. Welcome dinner.



## Day 3 August

After a late breakfast we will travel to **Antwerp** for another day of sightseeing and leisure in the town centers for shopping and recreation. **Antwerp** is a major destination of Belgium in the region of Flanders. The overwhelming friendliness of the people of Antwerp and their innate penchant for good food and good living, combined with their low stress lifestyle, makes it a desirable and relaxing place to visit. Renowned for being the "world's leading diamond city", more than 70% of all diamonds are traded in Antwerp. The Diamond Market is the hub of the economic section in Belgium.



## **Training Sessions**

# Sample Itinerary

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## Day 4 August

Breakfast and then depart for a day trip to **Bruges**. The graceful small city of Bruges (Brugge) has drifted down the stream of time with all the self-possession of the swans that cruise its canals, step into the old town is to be transported instantly back to the Middle Ages, when Bruges was among the wealthiest cities of Europe

### **Training Sessions**



## Day 5 August Brussels

After breakfast, we will depart for sightseeing and shopping in Brussels, the capitol of Belgium. We will visit Old Town and the Grand Place, which was built for the 1954 World's Fair, Palais (The Royal Palace) and the famous Manneken Pis Statue. Brussels is quickly gaining a reputation as one of Europe's must-see destinations, with its small-town charm, trendy bars and restaurants, fabulous food, great nightlife, fantastic shopping, numerous museums, and other attractions, including the diverse and interesting exhibitions and festivals organized there every year. The streets of Brussels feature art and architecture created from an unmistakably Belgian point of view that cannot be replicated. This beautiful city is a center for fashion, art, and Belgian culture.

### **Training Sessions**

### **Game #1**

## Day 6 August Gent

Breakfast and then depart for the city of **Gent**

### **Training Sessions**

### **Game #2**



## Day 7 August Cologne , Germany

Cologne, a 2,000-year-old city spanning the Rhine River in western Germany, is the region's cultural hub. A landmark of High Gothic architecture set amid reconstructed old town, the twin-spired Cologne Cathedral is also known for its gilded medieval reliquary and sweeping river views.

### **GAME #3**

# Sample Itinerary

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## Day 8 August

After breakfast we will travel to **Amsterdam**, the capital of the Netherlands. Amsterdam is colloquially known as Venice of the North, because of its lovely canals that crisscross the city, its impressive architecture and more than 1,500 bridges. Amsterdam is something not to be missed! As you glide through the historic city centre you'll see elegant merchants' residences, churches, and warehouses, dating from the Golden Age and steeped in history. There is something for every traveler's taste here, whether you prefer culture and history or just the relaxing charm of an old European city.



## Day 9 August

This morning you will be transported to the airport for your flight home. All good things must come to an end! At the airport you will board your trans-Atlantic jet returning you to the U.S.A. Arrive later this afternoon with many unforgettable memories.

## Hotel Information

Van Der Valk Hotel Mechelen

1 Rode-Kruisplein Mechelen , Belgium

# About Global Sports Academy

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Global Sports Academy is an organization created to arrange athletic competition between equally matched teams at all levels. To "Promote International Goodwill" and a better understanding between nations through sports is our major goal. With Global Sports Academy you will experience the thrill of international sports competition, attend cultural events, and see the historical sites of the world.

Global Sports Academy ("GSA") has been participating in domestic and international competition since 1991. It was initially established to provide athletes overseas playing opportunities in Ice Hockey and it has grown to support a total of 12 different sports that compete in 25 different countries.

In 1991, the organization was incorporated with its mission to create and arrange athletic competitions between equally matched teams at all levels internationally. To "Promote International Goodwill" and a better understanding between nations through sports is the major goal.

## **"Education, Good Will and Sportsmanship through Sports"**

### **Tour Package Includes the Following:**

- Round trip airfare: U S A - Amsterdam - USA
- Luggage: Each person is allowed 1 suitcase and one 1 carry-on (backpack)
- All taxes (airline/road/hotel) and gratuities (see "Exclusions" below)
- Accommodations in 4-star hotels in twin bedded rooms; (single room, additional charge)
- 9 Days and 7 Nights
- Meal plan: Buffet breakfast included.
- English speaking tour guide for entire stay
- Ground transportation as "a group" for entire tour while in Europe
- Games vs. local teams (with number of games to be agreed upon prior to leaving)
- Training Sessions

### **Exclusions:**

- Lunches and beverages (soda) with meals
- Dinners
- Gratuities for motor coach driver and tour escort
- Admission to all attractions not specified in above inclusions.

**The itinerary and tour are not intended to be a scripted event but rather a time for the student athlete to explore and experience a different culture in their own way and time.**

# Conditions of Travel – Please Read Carefully

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## **General Conditions for Global Sports Academy Programs**

Global Sports Academy (which expression shall for the purpose of these conditions include and parents subsidiary affiliate or associated company and hereinafter shall be called “the Company”) acts only as agents providing accommodations, transportation or other services, and all coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contacts and tickets issued are issued subject to any and all tariffs, terms and conditions under which any accommodation, transportation or any other services whatsoever are provided. The Company shall not be liable or responsible for death of or injury to any person or loss of or damage to any property or otherwise (including baggage) whether due to its servants agents or employees negligence or otherwise arising out of or in connection with any accommodation transportation or other services or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, dangers incident to the sea, hijack, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of governments or other authorities, de jure or de facto, wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations delays or cancellations of or changes in itinerary or schedules or over bookings or defaults, or from any causes beyond the Company’s control or through the acts of default of the hotels, airlines, bus or car companies, railroads, steamship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodation, transportation or other services or for any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and that neither the Company nor its servants agents or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour members as a result of any of the foregoing causes. All prices quoted are subject to change without notice having regards to unforeseen circumstances, foreign exchange fluctuations and variations in airline operating costs including but not limited to say an escalation of fuel prices. Unused services cannot be refunded or exchanged. The Company reserves the right to cancel the tour and/or modify the itineraries in any way it thinks desirable and further reserves the right to decline to accept any person or any tour and may substitute hotels where necessary. The issuance and acceptance or receipts, tickets, vouchers, coupons or travel orders shall be deemed consent to the above.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ ALL THESE BOOKING CONDITIONS CAREFULLY AND ENSURE ALL TOUR PARTICIPANTS ARE MADE AWARE**

*ALL LAND COSTS SHOWN ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION (UP OR DOWN) DUE TO EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS (SELLING RATE) AND INCREASES IN LAND AND AIR COSTS WHICH MAY ARISE BETWEEN NOW AND THE DATE OF DEPARTURE*

**Refunds:** The refund policy is as follows:

75 days from Departure: 75% refund, loss of deposits

60 days from Departure: 50% refund

45 days from Departure: NO REFUND

**Amendment Fee:** Any person wishing to amend from the group tour arrangements will be charged a standard \$100.00 amendment fee per person plus any additional charges involved with the amendment (increase in airfare, additional transfers, accommodation etc).

**Insurance Protection:** We strongly recommend you take out a Travel Insurance policy which is available from Global Sports Academy. Policy booklets are available from Global Sports Academy

**Changes in Itinerary:** There may be circumstances beyond the control of Global Sports Academy and our suppliers that necessitate revisions (including tour dates) of the itinerary. Every effort will be made to have changes maintain the intent of the original itinerary. Global Sports Academy shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way whatsoever for loss, injury, or damage due to sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine, and injury during program events; however caused or arising. Global Sports Academy reserves the right to alter any part of the tour it deems necessary or advisable. The additional cost resulting from such change shall be paid by the program participant.

**Television and Video Rights:** Global Sports Academy has full television and video rights in and to any and all of the programs or events affiliated with the Global Sports Academy program.

**Member's Acceptance:** Global Sports Academy reserves the right, in its own discretion, to decline or accept approval of any individual as a member of Global Sports Academy.

# Conditions of Travel – Please Read Carefully

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## **What's included in the Cost of My Trip?**

- Round trip airfare from the team's gateway city airport (hotel taxes & Service fees)
- International hotel accommodations
- Uniforms
- Meals and Tours as outlined in the itinerary
- An experienced and knowledgeable tour manager and coaching staff

## **What's NOT included in the Cost of My Trip**

- Connecting airline ticket to gateway city
- Fuel Surcharges (when applicable)
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Individual medical insurance (Primary)
- Customary tipping (Bus drivers, etc.)
- Laundry
- Travel insurance (Recommended)
- Personal items such as gifts, telephone calls, snacks, drinks, etc

**Documentation:** Australian citizens require a passport with minimum 6 months validity from date of departure from final destination. Other passport holders may require additional documentation. Please check your applicable requirements with our Travel Consultant. A copy of each person's passport is required.

**Travel Advisories :** We strongly suggest that you consult the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) website and register (either group or individual) so that you are kept up to date with any travel warnings or advisories that may be in place for your destinations ([www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)). You should also advise DFAT of your travel details such as date of departure and itinerary.

**Travel and Immunizations:** It is essential that all tour participants discuss their personal travel plans with a health professional to ensure you have the correct vaccinations for your trip and any booster doses of childhood vaccinations you may need.

Upon re-entry, Customs & Immigration will request a copy of your vaccination certificate if you have visited areas that have current health risks or hazardous diseases. For further information, visit the following website to check the current health alert and warnings for the destination/s you are visiting.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Do I need a passport for international travel?**

**Yes.** A passport establishes your identity and United States citizenship to anyone who needs to know. It also guarantees your admittance to the U.S. following an international trip. It is a requirement for any person traveling out of the country.

## **Will my electrical appliances (ex. electric shavers, hair dryers, irons, chargers, etc) work abroad?**

Not always. The outlets abroad may support a plug that looks different than the one used in the U.S. and may use a different voltage. Most U.S. outlets are 110V while most European outlets are 240V. Many non-U.S. electrical outlets have differently shaped plugs. To get the correct setup for your device, you should check the power standards of the country of travel. Some devices only work on 110V (U.S. standard) and therefore need a transformer. You will want to check the documentation for your device to determine what you need.

If you plan on bringing electric shavers, hair dryers, irons, laptop/phone chargers or other electrical appliances, you should bring a small converter kit. These can be found at most hardware and electronic stores (i.e. Radio Shack). Do not forget to bring one, as the converter kits can be very expensive while abroad.

## **Will I be able to make calls with my cell phone while overseas?**

Your coverage will depend on the service provider or carrier that you use and roaming charges can be high. If you have a personal cell phone, check with your provider on coverage issues. You will want to know whether your existing phone will work in your country of travel, and whether you will be able to get both voice (phone) and data (email/web) services.

AT&T: widely available; [coverage page](#)

T-Mobile: widely available; [coverage plan](#)

Verizon: available in [some countries](#)

Nextel/Sprint: no international coverage

## **Will I be able to access the Internet with my laptop while overseas?**

Most laptops have both WIFI (802.11) and wired Ethernet ports that can be used in many hotels and convention centers around the world. Check your computer manual for basic instructions on configuring Windows XP, Windows ME and Apple Macintosh computers.

There are other alternatives if wireless and Ethernet service is not available, including cellular cards, WIFI hot spots and dial-up connections at your hotel.



# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **How do I exchange my money?**

You can exchange currency before you depart at some banks and currency exchange outlets. However, we recommend you wait until reaching your destination to exchange your money. There are several ways to do this:

The quickest and most convenient method is through ATM machines. ATM cards are widely accepted across Europe and generally give you the best exchange rate. Please contact your bank with specific questions regarding fees and eligibility.

Traveler's checks are also accepted at some places, but they may require more time to exchange. Many exchange outlets and banks will also accept U.S. cash dollars in exchange for the local currency. Please be aware that some places charge commission or adjust the exchange rate.

International exchange rates change on a daily basis. Be sure to write down the exact exchange rate of your destination before departure to ensure you get a similar rate.

## **What will the weather be like where I'm going?**

As with any place, the weather in your destination will vary depending on the time of year and time of day. Be sure to check an [official weather report](#) to get an idea of the current conditions. It's also beneficial to research the climate of your destination(s) during the time of year you expect to travel.

## **How long is the flight? What is the time difference?**

Flights vary depending on distance, amount of stops and direction of travel. You can check with your airline reservations to find the exact time of departure and landing. Often times the airline can tell you the duration of your flight or trip. Remember, the departure and arrival times listed apply to the local time of the corresponding city.

## **What *can't* I pack in my carry-on bag?**

The new rules ban almost all liquids, creams, and gels from being carried aboard flights. That means you should not pack sunscreen, lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, hair gel or beverages in a carry-on. Those items must be put in your checked bags. If you are in doubt about an item, pack it in a checked bag or leave it home.

## **Can I still bring medicine along if it's not in liquid form? What about bars of soap?**

Yes, it is OK to put those in a carry-on bag.

## **Besides the ban on liquids and gels, what else will be different about security?**

The TSA said screeners will be checking passengers more thoroughly at checkpoints, including inspecting more bags by hand. They also will be searching some passengers a second time immediately before boarding — a practice instituted shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks but discontinued several years ago.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Things to Bring**

The clothes you need to pack will differ depending on your destination, the length of your trip, and the nature of the activities. Besides the basics, here are some things we recommend you bring for any international adventure:

### Pack according to the number of days you will be gone

- Underwear
- Socks – numerous pairs
- Shorts
- Long pants (Jeans)
- 2 pair of sneakers (if desired)
- Jacket (Wind Breaker for evening)
- Sweatshirt
- Towel (large) **The opposing teams will not have towels for you to shower**
- Toiletries
- (You may want to pack small cloths line to put wet clothes on)
- Garbage bag for dirty cloths