



Sports trip additional information

Travel

Coach

Your travel arrangements are an important part of your tour, and it is our belief that you should **travel in comfort and safety**. An executive coach is typically provided for door-to-door travel throughout the tour. Your coach will be fitted with seatbelts and typically with reclining seats, DVD, stereo, air circulation system and microphone. A toilet will be available on coaches that we send on overseas trips and sometimes in the UK. Various coach sizes and capacities are available. Tour drivers are an important part of the tour, so you should find your drivers to be friendly, experienced and reliable. Where coach travel is provided by suppliers in overseas countries, we contract reputable local companies to handle all the necessary journeys as stipulated, but while they comply with local regulations, please bear in mind that these may be different to those here in the UK.

Ferry

We use **the ferry services** from Dover to Calais for most of our tour groups travelling to Europe. With refurbished and improved vessels, you can eat and drink on board in comfort as you sail across to the Continent. We also use the fast and popular **Eurotunnel service** from Folkestone to Calais. A supplement is sometimes required for groups wishing to use this service and as coach space is limited, availability can seldom be guaranteed until closer to departure.

Flights

For **flight-inclusive packages**, we will always take into consideration your preferred departure airport and travel times, however we cannot always guarantee these as many bookings are accepted in advance of airline schedules and route confirmations being released. Please also bear in mind that there may be very little flexibility in booking seats with a number of these airlines. As such, any requests for passenger name changes after a booking has been received may well be subject to substantial amendment fees as imposed by the airlines and such conditions are outside of our control. The airlines have reduced capacity – and increased prices – since the pandemic, so we have less flexibility than before. Please beware of baggage restrictions pertaining to the airline you are travelling with as supplements and fees will apply to excess luggage and weight should you exceed your allowance.

Accommodation

We offer a varied selection of accommodations, all of which have been visited by our staff, agents or representatives and checked for their suitability for our groups. Most bedrooms are en-suite (this means that they have a shower and usually a toilet in the room) although some units, cottages and hostels may have shared washroom or toilet facilities along the floor and not actually in the bedrooms. As local **accommodation classifications vary** in different countries, please read the descriptions carefully or ask us for further details before deciding whether a particular destination or accommodation is right for you and your group.

Meal plans

Different meal plans are available, so please check your Tour proposal for details of the meals that have been included in your package. These may be referred to as **room only/self-catering** (no meals included); **bed and breakfast** (only breakfast included); **half board** (breakfast and dinner included) or **full board** (breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included). Meals will usually be provided at your accommodation, but sometimes might be at a local restaurant or host sports team clubhouse for example instead.

Damage Deposits

Some accommodation providers require a **damage deposit** to be paid in advance or directly to them on arrival, refundable after the stay subject to an inspection of your rooms.

Tourist tax & City tax

Some countries/cities/resorts charge a city tax or tourist tax, which by law, are collected by the accommodation to pass on to the Authorities. This needs to be paid directly on arrival at the accommodation. Whenever possible we include these costs within your package, but this is not always allowed. Please check on your Inclusions for details and check with us first if you are at all unsure.



Sports

It is important that you choose the right tour to suit your budget, goals and ambition. Our hugely experienced team of sports tour experts are here to help you, so please get in touch for a chat. Whichever destination and package you choose, you will need to check in advance with your governing body regarding **permission to tour overseas** as a team. Forms often need to be completed and returned several weeks in advance of your tour dates to allow approval to be granted so please give consideration to starting this process as soon as possible, especially if you are unfamiliar with the exact procedures. We can assist you with the completion of any such documentation on request, so please do not hesitate to ask.

Festivals

We organise a number of **multi-sport festivals** including the popular **SportsSchool events** in Holland, Spain and England. These typically include coaching sessions from qualified staff, festival matches with other British schools, organised evening social events and a selection of recommended excursions. A team of our staff and representatives is on hand to manage the events and help you to make the most of your time on tour. Matches with foreign teams are not normally included in these tours. We also organise a number of our own tournaments/festivals here in the UK.

Friendly Matches

A typical tour package will include the organisation of friendly matches for your teams. Subject to your dates, destination and tour duration, the number of matches may vary as appropriate. We shall endeavour to organise fixtures to match your ages and ability, but you should be aware that age categories in other countries normally vary to those here in the UK. Throughout Europe, **sports team age categories** are based on calendar year birthdates (i.e. 1st January - 31st December) and not Academic year dates as operated in England. As such, there will always be some disparity in ages when teams travel and play abroad and touring teams should take into account that we are the exception rather than the rule as a nation with this in mind. Furthermore, school groups should bear in mind that most games will be organised against local club teams – especially in Europe – being mindful that school sport is far less developed than in the UK (or indeed not played competitively) in most European countries. Further details on categories and local variations are available on request.

Tournaments

These vary in size from large international competitions to local club events. All are governed by their own rules and regulations and are not owned or organised by us unless specifically stated. Strict age rulings often apply, although due to differing age categories between countries, **dispensation** can sometimes be applied for in order for some overage players to participate in an age group. Further information about each event is available on request. Most are open **tournaments** meaning that they accept bookings from teams of all ability levels. Often the results of your matches in the initial group stages will determine your subsequent progression in the tournament. Please bear in mind that although we can enter you into tournaments and offer best advice, when these are not managed by us, we cannot influence the tournament structure, facilities or regulations.

Pro Coaching

Coaching programmes with various **professional clubs** are available. These vary as to the exact inclusions within the package, although some may be tailor-made to meet more specific requirements. Coaching staff either work for the relevant club or are specifically approved by the club and all have a recognised national governing body qualification. Venues used are owned, operated or contracted by the club. As such the delivery of any sessions is determined by the coaches and access to facilities and venues is at the discretion of the club on each occasion. Individual ad hoc coaching sessions with professional staff are also possible at many of our featured destinations at a supplement on request.

Match-day packages

Match tickets are allocated at the discretion of the host club, whose staff will endeavour to seat you all together as a group whenever possible, in a safe and suitable section of the stadium. Please bear in mind that **the wearing of team colours** (other than those of the host club) is strictly forbidden and any breach of this ruling can lead to immediate expulsion from the stadium and the termination of our contract with you.

Equipment

Please ensure that you take the appropriate kit and equipment with you and that you have checked what equipment and facilities will be available for you in destination too. Please ask us well in advance if you need any help or advice.



Activities & Excursions

We are happy to work with you to build a programme of activities during your tour. These may include excursions to theme parks, swimming pools, stadium visits, museums and places of educational and cultural interest. These can often be pre-reserved on your behalf and paid for in advance. Further local activities such as ten pin bowling, karaoke and discos will be available in some resorts. Tickets to sports matches can often be purchased in advance too, should scheduling allow.

Representation

You will always be able to talk to an English-speaking representative. Depending on the nature of your tour, this could mean a local representative to meet with you on arrival to assist with check in; English-speaking assistance during your tour or local agency support. A full-time tour representative dedicated to your group is not included in your tour package unless specifically shown as an inclusion. Our 24-hour emergency Duty Manager service is available to all our groups.

Sports tour 'what to pack' checklist:

Here's a sample checklist below although you may wish to amend or use your own of course. Consider carefully before deciding whether to bring valuable items such as jewellery or gadgets which might get damaged, lost or stolen during the trip.

Sports Clothing & equipment

Sports kit (for matches)

Training kit (for coaching sessions)

Equipment that may also be required (balls, cones, bibs and specialist accessories)

Footwear (appropriate to the sports and surfaces you may be using, which may be indoor and outdoor, natural and artificial)

Other Clothing

Leisurewear appropriate to the climate of the trip and destination

Underwear (including normal socks)

Trousers/Jeans/Jogging bottoms/shirts

Hoodie or sweatshirt

Swimming trunks/costume

Comfortable and appropriate footwear

Sliders/Slippers/indoor shoes

Personal items

Wash kit & tissues & travel-sick pills (if required)

Towel(s)

Water bottle (drink water regularly to prevent dehydration)

Essentials

Passport

GHIC (the replacement for the old EHIC)

Travel insurance documentation

Medication & Wet wipes and hand sanitiser

Small backpack / personal kit bag

European plug adaptor / USB adaptors / cables / chargers

Sunscreen (depending on destination) & sunglasses

Extras

Phone (and gadget or device if you wish – making sure these are suitably insured)

Camera (consider a disposable camera)

Reading book / Language phrase book / Paper or notebook and pen/pencil and tour folder/itinerary etc.

Travel pillow (for coach or flight)