

## **Wartburg College Basketball Rome, Florence, and Venice Tour Itinerary May 29 – June 7, 2023**

### **General information:**

**Skeleton Itinerary:** This is a skeleton itinerary only. The definite day to day program will be discussed with you upon arrival. The organized playing times and dates of your games and/or clinics and receptions must be honored.

**Banks:** Please note that banks in Europe are usually closed on weekends. We strongly recommend that you do not utilize traveler checks but use any or all of the following – ATM / Debit Card, Euro pre-paid cards, Credit Cards and take cash. Please take enough funds to cover the first few days, as precious time is wasted if most of your group needs to access cash on arrival.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Most countries now require travelers to have a passport that is valid more than 90 days after your trip return date. If your passport expires within 90 days of your trip return date you should apply for a new one ASAP.

**Copies passports:** We also strongly recommend that your group's coach or team manager collects copies of all travelers' passports and, where applicable, paper airline tickets, prior to departure in case of theft or loss.

**Student ID:** If you are with a student group, please ensure all persons in your party bring their Student ID as this will give access to many discounts on entry fees to various attractions.

**Entrance fees:** Entrance fees, parking fees, unless otherwise stated, are not included.

**Basketballs:** Basketballs will be only provided for the games. Please bring your own basketballs for training sessions and/or clinic sessions.

**Check your tickets:** Please ensure that you cross-reference your airline tickets with your itinerary as departure times and flight numbers may have been amended since your itinerary was forwarded to you, and, if in doubt, check with your airline directly. Make sure the name on the ticket is exactly the same as on the passport.

**Delay:** In case of delay caused by flight or transport issues, please advise our Representative as soon as possible if any amendments are required, so they can adjust your arrangements wherever feasible. The contact information /phone number of this representative is included in the itinerary in this document.

**Availability of rooms:** Most flights from the US to Europe will arrive between 6.00 – 11.00 a.m. European times. However, please note that most hotel bedrooms will only become available between 2.00 and 3.00 p.m., so it is not always possible to check into your hotel room as soon as you arrive at your destination. Your local Representative will suggest a light excursion to occupy your group until your rooms are prepared.

**General Tour Information and Tour Preparation:** Please review your [Tour Confirmation](#) again and our [Travel Guide](#) on our website. If problems arise during the tour, please liaise with your local Representative immediately.

**Security deposit:** Some accommodations may require a small security deposit to be paid on arrival. The security deposit is to be held only in the event of damage by your team to any of the accommodation's property. Upon check out, your deposit will be returned.

**Seat belts:** All passengers, by law, have to wear seat belts on all bus transportation at all times when in Europe. Premier International Tours, its partners and suppliers will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury caused to anyone ignoring this regulation.

**Ground transportation:** During your entire stay in Europe a private bus will be available exclusively for your group. The motor coach can be used for excursions and all local transportation (such as transfers to/from the friendly game locations and for sightseeing). You have a maximum of 700 kilometers available.

#### **Bus Company**

Casucci R e D s.r.l.  
Via Lauretana 35  
52044 Camucia (AR)  
Tel: 0335 6599 484

**Restrictions bus transportation:** The following restrictions have been set by the European transportation departments:

1. The bus driver can drive a maximum of 9 hours per day. Twice a week the driver may use the bus 10 hours. This is usually used for long transfers from country to country.
2. Each day the bus driver must have an 11-hour rest period between his transportation duties.
3. During transfers every 4 hours the driver must make a 45-minute required rest stop.

We kindly ask you to be aware of these rules. **Please notice that if you arrange an excursion which involves parking fees, these fees must be paid by the group.**

#### **Airline reservations:**

We have booked your group with Lufthansa and Austrian airlines. Premier International Tours has partnered with Best Group Airfares who made all your airline's reservations. In case of any questions concerning your airline reservations prior to the tour please contact Premier International Tours. From the day of departure until your return you can contact the 24-hour emergency line of Best Group Airfares at (786) 245-7245. We request that only the group leader (Bob Amsberry) will call them.

#### **Check-in and Seat assignments:**

Groups have blocked seats made at the time when the deposit was paid. Seat requests are accepted, but passengers cannot access their reservation online to make any changes to their seat assignments since it is a group booking. They also are not able to check-in online for their flight, check in will have to be done individually or as a group at the airport upon arrival. Seat changes can be requested at check in.

**Information for flights in case of flight changes or cancellations:**

Please note that your group is booked through the group departments of airlines under group fare guidelines and conditions. Many times, we must go through the group department of the airline to change flights for the group or individual passengers, etc. Therefore, please follow these guidelines/steps with any flight cancellations or changes during the trip:

- Cancellations or Delays: If your group encounters cancellations or delays, seek help from the gate agents or airline staff immediately! At this time, your tickets are now in airport control and the airline staff at the airport have full authority of the records to provide alternative flight options and accommodations and are responsible for assisting your group! Do not leave the airport until your group has been re-accommodated and all travelers are accounted for.
- Connections: If you have tight connections, concerns with making your connections, or missed a connection, seek help from a gate agent immediately. The airline staff will again have control of your tickets and are responsible for assisting you in your day of travel disruptions.
- Missing Baggage: Travelers must file claims with the airline staff at the airport immediately and provide a personal cell phone number for the airline to reach them directly.

If any individual wants to change flights (dates only, routing changes not permitted), then that individual should contact the airline first to see if the change can be made. If the change cannot be made by the airline, contact us and we will contact the airline group department and attempt to make the change. Please note that the group departments of airlines are closed on the weekends, so we have some limitations.

**Tour Manager:**

A tour manager will be with your group throughout your stay. Your tour manager will help plan your daily schedule and help in the event of any unforeseen problems or changes. This tour manager is not a professional city tour guide although he or she will have a general knowledge of the cities you are staying in and the surrounding areas.

It is very important that the group leader sits down with the tour manager upon arrival to discuss the daily program and sightseeing activities planned. Then, during the trip the group leader should also discuss each day with the tour manager the program for the next day in case of any last-minute changes so the tour manager can communicate any changes to other parties (hotel staff for meals, bus driver, etc.)

Please note that it is customary to tip the tour manager at the end of the trip if he or she has done a good job. We recommend collecting approx. \$10.00-\$20.00 per person (local currency) for each tour manager for the trip.

**Bus Driver:**

It is also customary to tip the bus driver if you have a private bus throughout the trip and the same bus driver throughout the trip. We recommend approx. \$5.00-\$10.00 per person.

**Laundry:**

Please consult your tour manager about laundry services upon arrival. Hotels usually offer an outside company to provide their laundry services for them but be aware that these services can often be quite expensive. There will likely be a self-service Laundromat near your accommodation.

**Sightseeing activities/excursions:**

Sightseeing activities/excursion were suggested/provided in the original itinerary outline sent to the group leader, so please check this itinerary for the sightseeing program. If you have any specific wishes, please consult us no later than 90 days before departure. For groups participating in tournaments, sightseeing excursions and activities are included on the tournament information sheets, and we recommend you plan the sightseeing program once you know your tournament game schedule (tournament schedules usually known approx. 1-2 weeks out). Please also note that sightseeing entrance fees are not included unless otherwise stated in the original itinerary outline sent to the group leader.

**Carry-on luggage:**

We recommend that you take medication with you in your carry-on instead of in a check suitcase.

**Water and medical kit during your basketball activities:**

Please make sure all players bring their own water supply to games and clinics. Our tour manager will advise your group the best places where to buy this. We recommend that your group always has a medical kit with them.

**Premier International Tours 24/7 emergency contact information:**

In case of emergencies (mainly when you are dealing with issues within the USA or matters you cannot resolve with our local – at your destination - staff) please contact us at 720 987-5711.

**Land arrangements:**

eSSeLLe Sports Management  
349 The Green, Ecclestone  
Chorley  
Lancashire  
PR7 5PH  
England.  
Tel. 00 44 (0) 1257 450 991 (office)  
Mobile. 00 44 (0) 7429 056 371

## **May 30 – June 2, 2023 Italy – Rome**

### **Accommodation May 30-June 2, 2023:**

Holiday Inn Rome Eur Parco Dei Medici  
Viale Castello della Magliana, 65,  
00148 Roma RM, Italy  
Phone: +39 06 65581  
Website hotel: [Click here](#)

### **Wifi costs: Free**

### **Meals:**

Daily breakfast and dinner are included  
First meal: Dinner May 30, 2023  
Last meal: Breakfast June 2, 2023  
Both meals will be served at your accommodation

Please notice that drinks (such as bottled water, sodas) during the meals are not included. We have requested with the caterers that our groups be served with tap water at dinner. Tea, coffee, milk & juice are included at the breakfast buffet.

### **Premier International Tours Representative:**

Irene Dal Lago      Tel: +39 347 795 0401  
Paola Giancola      Tel: +39 328 905 6502

### **May 29, 2023**

09:10pm      Departure flight LH 435 from Chicago ORD to Munich

### **May 30, 2023**

01:05pm      Arrival Munich airport

04:45pm      Departure flight LH 1870 from Munich to Rome FCO

06:10pm      Arrival Rome airport

After passing through customs at Rome Airport your group will be met by Irene and Paola (recognizable by a (Wartburg College Basketball) sign. They will accompany you to your bus, onto your hotel and will stay with you for the duration of your time in Italy

07:30pm      Transfer to your accommodation

07:45pm      Arrival at your accommodation

**Upon your arrival at the hotel please discuss your itinerary and game & excursion program with your Tour Managers.**

08:30pm      Evening dinner

**May 31, 2023**

- 08:00am Breakfast.  
09:00am Sightseeing Rome. With options to visit the Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, the Arch of Constantine, the Palatine Hill, the most famous of the seven hills of Rome.  
07:00pm Evening dinner at the Hotel.

**June 1, 2023**

- 08:00am Breakfast  
09:00am Morning at leisure at the Hotel relaxing by the pool, with the option of local sightseeing on foot.  
11.00pm Bus transfer into Rome, and drop off at Via Claudia with a short walk to the Colosseum, one of Romes most famous sights.  
12.35pm Start of your visit to the Colosseum, with the first group of 36 people entering.  
12.50pm Start of the Colosseum visit for the second group of 40 people.  
02.00pm Spend the rest of the afternoon sightseeing on foot by visiting the Via Sacra or 'Sacred Way', the main path through the Roman Forum that was used for triumphal processions, and visit the temple which houses the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated.  
05.30pm Bus pick-up at pre-arranged spot within the ZTL B Zone and transfer to your friendly game, being played at Via Dell' Arcadia 108.  
05.45pm Arrival at your friendly game.  
06.30pm Game tip-off vs. San Raffaele Roma, who play in Blue & Yellow.  
08.00pm Return to the Hotel  
08.30pm Evening meal at the Hotel

**June 2, 2023**

- 09:00am Breakfast.  
11:00am Hotel check-out and transfer to the Vatican City for your prebooked visit with a pit stop for lunch beforehand. Vatican City, a city-state surrounded by Rome, Italy, is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. It's home to the Pope and a trove of iconic art and architecture.  
01.00pm Start of your visit to the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. The Vatican Museums house ancient Roman sculptures such as the famed "Laocoön and His Sons" as well as Renaissance frescoes in the Raphael Rooms and the Sistine Chapel, famous for Michelangelo's ceiling.  
Please ensure you have your 3 sealed letter headed letters from the College to hand to ensure you are able to gain access accordingly.  
The first two groups of 25 people will enter at 01.00pm, with the remaining 26 entering at 2.00pm. You may also visit St. Peter's Basilica (the Dome) – entry for this is free, however for those wishing to climb the Dome a fee would be applicable and to be paid in cash to staff on the day (approx. €8.00 - €10.00 according to online info). For those wishing to visit the Dome it would be suggested doing this first and then entering the Museums with the 3<sup>rd</sup> group at 2.00pm.  
04.30pm Transfer to your accommodation in Montecatini.

## **June 2-5, 2023 Italy, Florence**

### **Accommodation June 2-5, 2023:**

Hotel Ariston  
Via Alessandro Manzoni, 30,  
51016 Montecatini Terme PT, Italy  
Phone: +39 0572 79535  
Website hotel: [Click here](#)

### **Wifi costs: Free**

### **Meals:**

Daily breakfast and dinner are included  
First meal: Dinner June 2, 2023  
Last meal: Breakfast June 5, 2023  
Both meals will be served at your accommodation

Please notice that drinks (such as bottled water, sodas) during the meals are not included. We have requested with the caterers that our groups be served with tap water at dinner. Tea, coffee, milk & juice are included on the breakfast buffet.

### **June 2, 2023**

04.30pm Departing from the Vatican transfer to your accommodation in Montecatini  
08.00pm Arrival at the Hotel Ariston followed by check-in.  
08:45pm Evening dinner

### **June 3, 2023**

09:00am Breakfast.  
10:00am Day trip to Pisa, known for its Torre Pendente (Leaning Tower) and Viareggio.  
11.00am Upon your arrival into Pisa you have a couple of hours at leisure to explore the local and historical surroundings and the opportunity to buy some lunch before you enter the Tower.  
01.00pm Start of your pre-booked visit into the Tower of Pisa, you will need to enter sporadically every 15 minutes in groups of 10 to 15 people due to the size of the monument, with the group sizes and timings being determined by the booking confirmations held by the Tour Managers.  
02.30pm (Exact time TBC). Afternoon visit to Viareggio, a popular seaside resort on the Mediterranean.  
05.30pm Return to the Hotel  
07:30pm Evening dinner at the Hotel

**June 4, 2023**

- 08:00am Breakfast.
- 09:00am Sightseeing in Florence. You will visit major sights such as the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, the Oltrarno, the Palazzo Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria and of course Piazza Michelangelo.
- 04.30pm Departure to Via Chiantigiana for your friendly game.
- 05.30pm Arrival at your friendly game.
- 06.00pm Game tip off vs. Pallacanestro Femminile Firenze, who play in Red and White.
- 07.30pm Return to the Hotel
- 08.30pm Evening meal at the Hotel

**June 5, 2023**

- 08:30am Breakfast
- 09:30am Hotel check-out, and place all luggage in the bus.
- 10.15am Morning at leisure, exploring Montecatini Terme on foot, with the options of visiting the Roman Baths and Spa, or take a trip on the Fornicular.
- 01.00pm Lunch in lieu of dinner at the Hotel.
- 02.00pm Departure on the bus towards Isola Vicentina.



## **June 5-7, 2023 Italy, Venice**

### **Accommodation June 2-5, 2023:**

Hotel Venezia  
Piazza 27 Ottobre, 91,  
30172 Venezia VE, Italy  
Phone: +39 041 985533  
Website hotel: [click here](#)

### **Wifi costs: Free**

### **Meals:**

Daily breakfast and dinner are included  
First meal: Dinner June 5, 2023  
Last meal: Breakfast June 7, 2023  
Both meals will be served at your accommodation

Please notice that drinks (such as bottled water, sodas) during the meals are not included. We have requested with the caterers that our groups be served with tap water at dinner. Tea, coffee, milk & juice are included on the breakfast buffet.

### **June 5, 2023**

09:00am Breakfast  
10:00am Hotel check-out, and place all luggage in the bus.  
10.15am Morning at leisure, exploring Montecatini Terme on foot, with the options of visiting the Roman Baths and Spa, or take a trip on the Fornicular.  
01.00pm Lunch in lieu of dinner at the Hotel.  
02.00pm Departure on the bus towards Isola Vicentina for your friendly game.  
05.30pm Arrival in Isola Vicentina with a stop off at a local supermarket/Mall/Restaurant for food.  
07.00pm Arrival at your Basketball Court for your friendly game vs. the local team.  
07.45pm Game Tip-Off vs. Via Vallorcola, who play in pink.  
09.00pm Transfer to Hotel Venezia, in Mestre.  
10.15pm Hotel check-in.

### **June 6, 2023**

08:00am Breakfast  
09:00am Using public transport, with a bus stop located just outside the Hotel enjoy a day trip Venice. The famous city of gondolas built on small islands connected by bridges. See the famous Rialto bridge and the San Marco church and its vibrant plaza.  
07:00pm Evening dinner

**June 7, 2023**

04:15am Collect breakfast bags at the Hotel before checking-out.  
04:30am Departure for Venice Airport  
05:00am Arrival at Venice airport  
07:20am Departure flight OS 528 from Venice to Vienna  
08:25am Arrival at Vienna airport  
10:30am Departure flight OS 065 from Vienna to Chicago ORD  
01:20pm Arrival at Chicago ORD airport