

# Global Sports Academy

August 2022



## 2022 Select Team Basketball Goodwill Tour Belgium, Germany & Holland



Global Sports Academy  
Roy Blumenthal- Founder and President  
info@globalsportsacademyus.com  
(610) 742-5000

# Tentative Itinerary

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## Day 1

**Gather at Airport at least 3 hours prior to boarding** your trans-Atlantic flight to Brussels. Enjoy meals and snacks in route and arrive the next morning with a grand time of sightseeing, touring, fun and activities ahead.

## Day 2

Welcome to **Brussels, Belgium!** Upon arrival in Brussels 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 evening followed by a “Welcome Party” for all.



## Day 3

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.



## Day 4

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 criss-cross 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.



**Game One vs. TBD** (Team and Coaches will be given dinner after the game)

# Tentative Itinerary

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## Day 5

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.



**Game Two vs. TBD** (Team and Coaches will be given dinner after the game)

## Day 6

After breakfast we will depart for **Cologne (Köln as the Germans call it)** to see sights in this great city. Lively with many pubs, restaurants, and nightlife, but also old with much history, monuments, and sights. Carnival celebrations in **Cologne** are famous. Cologne is one of Germany's leading gastronomic lights. From venerable breweries offering unique Kölsch beer and typical Cologne delicacies to first class restaurants. No other city in the Federal Republic boasts so many public houses top-class restaurants.



**Game Three vs. TBD** (Team and Coaches will be given dinner after the game)

## Day 7

After breakfast we will travel to **Ghent** a city in Flanders, the northern part of Belgium. Ghent is a city with a population of a quarter of a million. Its size and position allow the inhabitants to enjoy a city with an interesting crossover between open cosmopolitanism and the quiet atmosphere of a provincial town. During the middle ages, it was one of the richest and most powerful cities in Europe. It was once considered the second largest city north of the alps, after Paris. The impact of this rich past can be clearly seen when viewing the imposing architecture of churches and the houses of rich traders. Lunch is on your own.



**Game Four vs. TBD** (Team and Coaches will be given dinner after the game)

# Tentative Itinerary

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## Day 8

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. To step into the old town is to be transported instantly back to the Middle Ages, when Bruges was among the wealthiest cities of Europe. Unlike so many European cities that have had their hearts torn out by war, Bruges has remained unravaged, its glorious monumental buildings intact. You will enjoy all the sights, shops and food. Lunch is on your own.



**Game Five vs. TBD** (Team and Coaches will be given dinner after the game)

## Day 9

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.

## Mechelen Hotel

Van der Valk Hotel Mechelen  
1 Rode-Kruisplein, 2800  
Mechelen, Belgium

With a stay at Van der Valk Hotel Mechelen in Mechelen, you'll be a 5-minute walk from Beguinage Church and 6 minutes by foot from Grand Beguinage of Mechelen. This hotel is 19.1 mi (30.7 km) from Atomium and 19.3 mi (31 km) from Mini-Europe. Enjoy recreation amenities such as a fitness center or take in the view from a terrace. Enjoy a meal at the restaurant, or stay in and take advantage of the hotel's room service (during limited hours). Buffet breakfasts are available daily from 6:30 AM to 10:30 AM for a fee. Featured amenities include dry cleaning/laundry services, a 24-hour front desk, and multilingual staff. This hotel has 6 meeting rooms available for events. Make yourself at home in one of the 124 guestrooms featuring minibars. Complimentary wireless Internet access keeps you connected, and cable programming is available for your entertainment. Private bathrooms with bathtubs or showers feature rainfall showerheads and complimentary toiletries. Conveniences include phones, as well as safes and desks.



<https://www.hotel-mechelen.be/en/rooms>

**COVID-19 Statement: GSA will schedule and conduct its foreign tours based upon and in compliance with current COVID-19 pandemic domestic and international protocol and regulations.**

# 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 competition 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: USA Location -Brussels- USA Location
- 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 3 or 4 star hotels in twin bedded rooms; (single room, additional charge)
- 9 Days and 7 Nights
- Meal plan: Buffet breakfast included daily  
Team and Coaches only will be given dinner after every game
- English speaking tour guide for entire stay
- Ground transportation as "a group" for entire tour while in Europe
- 5 games vs. local teams (with number of games to be agreed upon prior to leaving)

### **Exclusions:**

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

**The itinerary and tour is 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.

**Airline & Airport Taxes, Surcharges & Levies:** Are not included in the tour cost as they are continually changing. Any of these charges imposed by the airline will be notified to you at the time of final payment 2 months prior to departure.

Frequent flyer/mileage accrual : Some group airfares are not eligible to accrue frequent flyer points (due to discounted group airfares). Please advise your travel consultant if you are a member of the airlines associated frequent flyer program to see if your fare is eligible for frequent flyer point accrual.

**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

## **Can I get a cell phone for my trip?**

If you would like to use a phone while overseas, and your carrier does not have a plan or coverage that is suitable for you, there are some other options. You can rent a cell phone upon arrival at your destination or buy a disposable phone in the country of travel or purchase a compatible SIM card for your existing phone, in the country of travel.

Make sure to review the capabilities, limits and charges of your new cell phone plan. If you use a phone other than your own, you will not have access to your address book, so you may wish to print out a copy before you leave.

## **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 your 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.

## **Are there any exceptions to the new rules in the USA?**

A few. You can still bring baby formula, breast milk or juice if you're traveling with a child; prescription drugs if your name is on the bottle; and insulin or other "essential" non-prescription medications. Screeners should not make you sample the liquids.

## **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.

## **Am I allowed to purchase toothpaste, drinks or other liquids after I get through security and then take them aboard the flight?**

No. You are not allowed to carry aboard any liquid, no matter when or where you purchased it.

## **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)
- Toiletries
- (You may want to pack small cloths line to put wet clothes on)
- Garbage bag for dirty cloths
- Snacks – example packages of crackers, cookies, etc.