

Global Sports Academy

May 21-29, 2013



West Chester University Women's Basketball Tour Belgium, England, Holland & France



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

What They Said About the Tour

I feel like the trip was definitely an once-in-a-lifetime experience and it has opened up my curiosity to visiting other countries. I loved the hotel but if we could've had the option of staying in a bigger city, I would've preferred that. I also would have liked to get more time in Brussels because that was my favorite city! I wasn't very fond of the boat trip but the information was interesting. I loved the different cities we visited and I'm glad we got free time to explore on our own.

My favorite thing about the trip was definitely the good FOOD!

Brittany Powell
Resident Assistant, The Village at WCU
Women's Basketball Team
West Chester University

Tentative Itinerary

Day 1

Gather at US Airport and board 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.

Tentative Flight Information

Global Sports Academy

info@globalsportsacademyus.com

(610) 742-5000

USAir Flight 750 Departs Philadelphia 6:10pm
Arrives Brussels 7:55am

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 breakfast we will travel to **Antwerp** for a 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. This is a great leisure day to prepare you for game one of the tour.



Game One – 7:30pm vs. Topsportschool @ SKW Heiveld (15 min from Novotel)

Day 4

After breakfast, we will be spending a day in **Paris, France**. Paris has the reputation of being the most beautiful and romantic of all cities, brimming with historic associations and remaining vastly influential in the realms of culture, art, fashion, food and design. Capture the excitement and romance of Paris best loved sights as you glide down the Seine on a guided river cruise (which is included as part of the tour). Dubbed the City of Light (la Ville Lumière) and Capital of Fashion, Paris contains numerous iconic landmarks, such as the world's most visited tourist site the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Notre Dame Cathedral, the



Tentative Itinerary

on your own and we will return back to Belgium in the late evening.

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



Global Sports Academy

info@globalsportsacademy.us

(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 – afternoon vs Nat Belgium Team U20 @ SKW Heiveld

Day 6

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. Once in Amsterdam and included in the tour is a river cruise along its picture-book canals - it's something not to be missed! The cruise takes you along several canals and past the city's most spectacular spots. 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 Three – 7:30pm vs. Nat Belgium Team U18 @ SKW Heiveld

Day 7

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



Tentative Itinerary

Game Four – 8:00pm vs. EUROPE-TECH (DIV II)

Day 8

After an early breakfast we will depart for **London, England** via EuroStar train through the Chunnel. Once in London we will spend the day sightseeing and shopping. Some of the highlights include the Tower of London, London Bridge, St. James Palace, Buckingham Palace, the London Eye, Piccadilly Circus and of course Westminster Abbey and Big Ben, both recognized



worldwide as iconic buildings of London. **Lunch and dinner will be on your own** and we will return back to Belgium in the late evening.

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.

Tentative Flight Information

**USAir Flight 751 Departs Brussels 10:45am
Arrives Philadelphia 1:20pm**

Hotel Information:

Novotel Mechelen Centrum
Van Beethovenstraat 1
2800 Mechelen Belgium
Phone Tel. (+32)15/404950
Novotel Mecure

The Novotel Mechelen Centrum is a 3-star hotel located in the heart of Mechelen, in the trendy and lively Marché aux Poissons district just a stone's throw from the river Dyle. It has 122 spacious and comfortable rooms, a bar-brasserie and 5 conference rooms. Free Wifi is available in the entire hotel.



<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-3154-novotel-mechelen-centrum/index.shtml>

About Global Sports Academy

Global Sports Academy is a non-profit 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.

Global Sports Academy

info@globalsportsacademyus.com

(610) 742-5000

In 1991, the organization incorporated and received its 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status. As a not-for-profit organization its mission is 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: Philadelphia-Brussels-Philadelphia
- 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
1st night “Welcome Party”
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
- London Trip to include Euro Star and Tube pass
- Tour includes River Cruise Pass in Amsterdam and Paris
- 3 or 4 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