



You've been offered a unique opportunity to travel abroad and play softball competitively. You'll travel as an ambassador for the United States, compete internationally, and broaden your educational perspective of the world. In addition, you'll make friends of a lifetime.

USA Athletes International (USAACI) in conjunction with the Federazione Italiana Baseball Softball has developed one such opportunity. The FIBS has invited our US team to participate in Parma, Italy. This multi-stop event that will take place July 19 – 29, 2026. The team will also spend time touring and learning about Italy at a "grass roots" level. With stops in historic Venice, Milan and Rome. The goal is to encourage international cooperation and the further development of softball while sharing in the Italian culture.

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."

- **Saint Augustine.**

Travel broadens one's understanding and perspective.

Such opportunities for athletes to engage in international competition and cultural exchange are limited, so we are grateful for the invitation and look forward to the experiences on and off the field. Remember it's softball that opened the door for this opportunity, but it's much more than just softball.

Kaleigh Roop [bio](#) has been appointed US team coach. With collegiate head coaching experience, including the 2022 NAIA National Championships, she brings both domestic expertise and global interests to the role.

On behalf of Coach Roop, here is an official invitation to be part of the USA team. Please review all enclosed materials carefully and discuss your participation with your family before responding.

For additional information about USA Athletes International, visit [www.usaai.org](http://www.usaai.org), where the FAQ page provides answers to frequently asked questions. For further inquiries, please contact coordinator William Edington at 913-401-6052 or via email at [william@usaai.org](mailto:william@usaai.org).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Edington".

William A. Edington  
Executive Director  
USA Athletes International



## Italy Softball Tour Itinerary

**July 19 – 29, 2026**

USAACI Softball | Cultural Exploration | Team Connections

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### **Sunday, July 19 – Milan (2 nts)**

Depart from the United States (JFK) on an overnight flight bound for Milan (MXP). During the flight, both dinner and breakfast will be served, ensuring a comfortable start to your journey.

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### **Monday, July 20 – Milan – Cultural Exploration**

Arrive in the morning at Milan Malpensa Airport. Upon arrival, you will meet your USAACI tour manager and transfer into the city. Lunch is on your own. We will hit the ground running with a tour of the Milan Cathedral (Duomo) and its rooftop terraces, followed by viewing Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" at the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie. After the tour we will check into the hotel and take time to refresh for dinner. Then return to your hotel for a well-deserved rest.

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### **Tuesday, July 21 – Milan - Cultural Exploration & Softball Competition in Milan (1 nt)**

Start the day with breakfast at your hotel. Next, embark on a walking tour of Milan. Sites include Piazza della Scala, Piazza Duomo, Museo del Novecento, Sforzesco Castle, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, Parco Sempione, Piazza degli Affari, and the Verziere Column. Lunch is on your own. Take some time to explore Milan and do some souvenir shopping. Return to the hotel and relax before our first softball game. (opponent to be determined) Dinner provided.

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### **Wednesday, July 22 – Milan – Parma (4 nts)**

Enjoy a late breakfast at the hotel, before departing for Parma, Italy for the 39<sup>th</sup> Due Torri Tournament & 21<sup>st</sup> "Mario Bacchi Stefani" Memorial Event. Technical meetings and player registration begin at 6:00 pm in the press room, followed by dinner. Opening ceremonies start at 8:00 pm with team presentations, national anthems, welcome speeches from the mayor of Parma and the FIBS President, and live music by Giorgia Camurati. Return to hotel for the night.

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### **Thursday, July 23 – Torneo Due Torri & Maria Bacchi Stefani Memorial Tournament**

Begin with breakfast at the hotel. Tournament begins at 8:30 am (field location and opponent tba). Lunch will be on your own. After lunch, tournament play continues. Dinner at 5:00pm, with entertainment starting at 6:00pm. Homerun derby begins at 8:00pm, after which DJ SET with TIGA will entertain the participants. Return to the hotel.

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### **Friday, July 24 – Torneo Due Torri & Maria Bacchi Stefani Memorial Tournament cont.**

After breakfast at the hotel. Tournament continues at 8:30 am (field location and opponent tba). Lunch will be on your own, tournament play continues. Dinner at 5:00pm, with entertainment starting at 6:00pm. After dinner stay and enjoy the festivities at the complex. Return to the hotel.

**Saturday, July 25 – Torneo Due Torri & Maria Bacchi Stefani Memorial Tournament cont.**

Have breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast at the hotel. Tournament continues at 8:30 am (field location and opponent tba). Lunch will be on your own, tournament play continues. Dinner at 5:00pm, with entertainment starting at 6:00pm. After dinner stay and enjoy the festivities at the complex. Return to the hotel.

**Sunday, July 26 – Torneo Due Torri & Maria Bacchi Stefani Memorial Tournament finals**

Start the day with breakfast at the hotel. Participate in the finals of the tournament. (schedule tba) Closing Ceremonies will take place following the championship game. Depart by private coach to Rome, a trip of approximately 5.5 hours. Upon arrival, check into our hotel and relax. Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Monday, July 27 – Rome - Cultural Exploration**

After breakfast at the hotel. Over the next two days you'll get the chance to see some of Rome's greatest sites first-hand. Day One: Colosseum, Roman Forum & Palatine Hill, Lunch on our own. After lunch, Via Dei Fori Imperiali, Altar of the Fatherland, Piazza Navona and the Spanish Steps. Dinner provided.

**Tuesday, July 28 – Rome - Cultural Exploration**

After breakfast at the hotel. Day Two: Vatican City. Lunch on our own. After lunch, take a scenic walk along Tiber River, finish at the Borghese Gallery. Free time and dinner. Return to the hotel and pack for your journey home.

**Wednesday, July 29 – Departure from Rome**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transferring to Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO) for your return flight home. Wishing you safe travels and unforgettable memories!

**Noteworthy stops:**



**Milan Cathedral**



**Last Supper**



Roman Colosseum



Palatine Hill



Altar of the Fatherland



Piazza Navona



Trevi Fountain



The Pantheon



Vatican City



Scenic Walk Along Tiber River



## Why Travel?

- It gets you out of your comfort zone and teaches you about yourself. You'll be surprised.
- It puts life in perspective.
- You'll make friends from across the globe. (networking 101)
- It looks great on a resume. Employers aren't looking for mediocre; they're looking for leaders.
- You'll discover the world's incredible cultural diversity.
- You'll experience places you never imagined existed.
- You might learn a new language.
- You'll have incredible adventures and stories to tell.
- Experience completely new cuisine.
- Travel happiness is infectious, and you'll get to tell YOUR story.

## What's Included in the Cost of the Trip

- Round trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport. (DTW)
- International airport and hotel taxes.
- Service fees.
- International hotel accommodations.
- Uniforms.
- Meals and Tours as outlined in the itinerary.
- International & USA sanctioning and approvals.
- An experienced and knowledgeable tour manager and coaching staff.

## What's NOT Included in the Cost of the Trip

- Connecting airline ticket to gateway city.
- Fuel Surcharges instituted by the airlines.
- Passport fees. A passport is required, begin the application process as soon as possible.
- Visa fees (if applicable).
- Individual medical insurance. Check with your insurance carrier for coverage.
- Customary tipping (Bus drivers) Collected 2 weeks prior to the departure.
- Laundry – laundry for the athletic gear is available for a fee.
- Travel insurance (Recommended).
- Personal items such as gifts, telephone calls, snacks, drinks, etc.

Team members are responsible for raising or paying \$5,425 to cover their share of the team's expenses as set forth by the NCAA, NAIA, & NJCAA with respect to the Foreign Tours guidelines.



## **General Conditions for USA Athletes International Programs**

### **Responsibilities:**

USA Athletes International acts only in the capacity as agent for the owners and contractors providing transportation, hotel, or other services. All tour services, tickets, and vouchers are subject to, any and all terms and conditions provided by the issuer. The acceptance of any service provided as part of the USA Athletes International program or of any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of and consent by the program member to these conditions. All services are subject to the law of the country in which the services are provided.

### **Changes in Itinerary:**

There may be circumstances beyond the control of USA Athletes International 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. USA Athletes International 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. USA Athletes International 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:**

USA Athletes International has full television and video rights in and to, any and all of the programs or events affiliated with the USA Athletes International program.

### **Member's Acceptance:**

USA Athletes International reserves the right, on its own discretion, to decline or accept approval of any individual as a member of USA Athletes International.

### **An Important Note About Fundraising:**

- There are additional fundraising ideas on our website: [www.usaai.org](http://www.usaai.org)
- Each team member is responsible for checking the guidelines for raising funds as they pertain to eligibility within their respective athletic associations.
- All non-personal funds above and beyond the said trip cost become the property of USA Athletes International.