

2014 Holland Trip Recap

The CBC Dutchtouch trip to the Netherlands in March of 2014 was another resounding success!! With 42 people in tow, we were greeted by wonderful weather (that is always nice), a busy and exciting itinerary, and a great group of cooperative and interesting people. Holland is such an interesting country and our trip gives a panoramic view of the country and its people. From the small villages to the international cities, we experience a great deal of the culture and the history of this remarkable country.

Needless to say that soccer is king, and you see that anytime you visit any facility anywhere in the country. They put a high value on the learning process, and that involves quality coaching and quality facilities. We were led by our Dutch professional, Jan Pruijn, who spent the entire trip with us, coming in from Cape Town, South Africa. As is the case from previous trips, all of our training sessions were led by highly qualified Dutch professional coaches – what a tremendous opportunity and experience for our young players.

The trip featured many of the usual activities that the past trips also experienced: we stayed in the quiet village of Groesbeek, frequenting the De Oude Molen for meals and relaxation – we had our day in Amsterdam with the canal cruise, shopping in downtown, visit to Ajax and the necessary stop at the Ajax Fan Shop - spent a day in the Dutch school attending classes and mingling with ‘new’ friends – had the most games any group ever played before – attended professional games – toured the Doornenberg Castle – visited the War Museum and the Canadien War Memorial Cemetery - spent a day in Germany at Schalke and Dusseldorf – and ended the trip with fantastic guest families and a final day BBQ in Silvolde with our group and the guest families.

Once again, the trip provided a lifelong experience for all those who joined us. New friends, wonderful memories, a desire to want to go back, a wish that we had more time when we were there, the guest family experience – just some of the many things that will stay with us for quite some time. Experiencing another culture and a different lifestyle, expands our world and allows to see life in a different way.

I want to extend my thanks to all who were on trip, for your cooperation and enthusiasm. From every point of view, this trip was special – starting with the weather and continuing through every day’s activities. From the soccer perspective, our 2 groups combined for a 7 – 1 – 2 record against our Dutch opponents, many of the same clubs we played in the past. It was very rewarding to see the improvement in the players during the 10 days we were in country. Hopefully, they will continue to try to play in the Dutch way.

Dates are set for the 2015 trip – March 11-22, 2015. Make plans now to join us.