

World Youth Day

World Youth Day is a gathering of young people, priests, and bishops from all over the world with the Pope. It's a pilgrimage, a celebration, and an expression of the universal Church, witnessing her Catholic identity but open to everyone. Since its first edition in Rome in 1986, World Youth Day has proven to be a laboratory of faith, a birthplace of vocations to marriage and consecrated life, and an instrument for the evangelization and transformation of the Church

World Youth Day Schedule

World Youth Day is not a one-day event but a 6-day gathering in public (gyms, schools, pavilions) and parish facilities. The main events are Catechesis, the Welcome Mass, The Way of the Cross, the pilgrim walk and Vigil, and Closing Mass.

Day 1, Tuesday – Welcome Mass

Day 2, Wednesday – Catechesis, Youth Festival

Day 3, Thursday – Catechesis, Papal Welcome

Day 4, Friday – Catechesis, Youth Festival, Via Crucis Day 5, Saturday – Pilgrim Walk, Prayer Vigil

Day 6, Sunday – Closing Mass, Pilgrim Walk

Welcome Mass

Tuesday Evening

The welcome mass is celebrated by the local ordinary of the host diocese and inaugurates World Youth Day. It is the first large gathering of all WYD pilgrims

Catechesis

Tuesday – Thursday Morning

For three days, in the morning, cardinals, archbishops, and bishops meet groups of young people that speak the same language for an informal preaching and witness of the faith. Pilgrims are invited to ask questions and few pilgrims share their testimony as well. The gathering ends with a Mass. Pilgrims have the afternoons and evenings to attend various events or explore the region.

Youth Festival

Wednesday Evening

Jesus Youth usually joins the English-speaking center that coordinates talks, music, and Eucharistic adoration. It's a great opportunity to meet others and experience fellowship among Jesus Youth pilgrims. The past adorations have also been moments of profound conversion and healing for many pilgrims.

Papal Welcome Thursday Evening

The welcome is celebrated the same day that the Pope arrives. He will sometimes hover in a helicopter, blessing all those present. The Pope not only welcomes all the young people, but we participate in welcoming the pope. The pope's arrival and papal address inaugurates World Youth Day!

Via Crucis: The Way of the Cross Friday Evening

On Friday, the local diocese and volunteers help pilgrims contemplate the Way of the Cross in a creative way, with reflections that pilgrims follow by listening to translations on the radio and following along in their pilgrim booklets

Pilgrim Walk and Vigil Saturday

Pilgrims gather in a large space, set up for an overnight stay, for adoration. Adoration does not last the whole night! However, the journey to the location of the vigil is a long walk and can be quite tiresome. This is an opportunity to truly "walk together" as the People of God, relying on the Lord to provide in moments of discomfort and weariness.

In the evening the Pope arrives, and passes through the crowds in the "Popemobile." The Holy Father then leads adoration and benediction. Pilgrims spend the night in the open field, sleeping in sleeping bags. Those who aren't sleeping, dance, pray and celebrate their faith through the night until the Closing Mass on Sunday morning.

Closing Mass Sunday Morning

After the vigil, the Pope comes back the next morning to celebrate the final mass. The field is filled with a festive display of many country flags as pilgrims prepare for the final blessing. All priests are invited to concelebrate, and at the end of the mass, the Pope announces the year and location of the next World Youth Day, which is often preceded with great anticipation.

Locations

Traditionally, one large, outdoor space central to the city hosts events during the week of WYD, and the Papal Vigil and Mass are held at a second location outside of the city. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) in Lisbon has not yet announced the sites that will be used for the next WYD's main events.

El Camino De Santiago

Post-WYD Pilgrimage

The Camino de Santiago is the way of St. James. It's often referred to as The Camino or The Way. It is the route that St James took through the European continent in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a network of pilgrimages that ends at the shrine of Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. Pilgrims are invited to start and end at different points as they desire, but Jesus Youth has coordinated a route from Tui to Santiago de Compostela. The journey is to be done by foot, and small towns in between provide food and shelter. Similar to popular Marian sites or holy sites, the Camino is a popular pilgrimage that Catholics, Christians, and non-Christians embark on. Pope Benedict XVI said, "It is a way sown with so many demonstrations of fervor, repentance, hospitality, art, and culture which speak to us eloquently of the spiritual roots of the Old Continent."

August 6: From Lisbon to Tui and stay at Tui

August 7: To 'O Porriño' by foot - 18.1 km
Stay at O Porriño

August 8: To 'Redondela' by foot - 15 km
Stay at Redondela

August 9: To 'Pontvedra' by foot - 18 km
Stay at Pontvedra

August 10: To 'Caldas de Reis' by foot - 22.8 km
Stay at Caldas de Reis

August 11: To 'Padrón' by foot - 18.7 km
Stay at Padrón

August 12: To 'Santiago de Compostela' by foot - 24.9 km
Stay at Santiago de Compostela

August 13: At Santiago de Compostela

August 14: Departure