



PILGRIMAGE TO WORLD YOUTH DAY - LISBON 2023

WHAT IS WORLD YOUTH DAY?

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and everyone is welcome!

It is celebrated at the diocesan level each year, and every two, three, or four years as an international gathering in a city chosen by the Pope, bringing together millions of young people to celebrate their faith and sense of belonging to the Church.

Since its first WYD in Rome in 1986, it has been a place of transformation, fostering a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. World Youth Day also seeks to promote peace, unity, and fraternity among peoples and nations around the world.

A typical day during the week starts with catechesis sessions. Pilgrims gather in language groups for a few hours; to hear from an International Cardinal or Bishop; to pray; go to confession and celebrate Mass. After that, pilgrims are free to explore the variety of festival events around the city: concerts; vocations events; social and cultural events; to name but a few!

Each evening there is usually a central event where all pilgrims will gather. These are; the official opening Mass; the welcoming ceremony for the Pope; and the Way of the Cross. On the Saturday of WYD, pilgrims pack up sleeping bags, food, and clothes to journey to the site of the overnight prayer vigil and closing Mass, together with what could be millions of other young Catholics from across the globe they sleep out under the stars.

WYD is a fantastic opportunity to grow in faith and personally encounter Christ, witness the Church on a global scale, meet with young Catholics from nearly every country, and to experience the warmth, friendship and culture of the host city's residents. WYD for many, is a once in a lifetime experience. Everyone who takes part in WYD has a fantastic time, many come back with a deeper knowledge and understanding of their faith, and confidence and renewed strength to live this out. Many discern a stronger sense of their vocation and calling in life and many make firm christian friends and retain a great sense of belonging to the church.



