

World Youth Day

Madrid, Spain

With Pope Benedict XVI

Tentative Travel Dates: August 12th - August 22nd, 2011

Estimates Costs: \$2200-\$2600

1. What is World Youth Day?

From the WYD website:

World Youth Day is a great meeting of young people from the whole world around the Vicar of Christ. It is an evangelizing means of the Church, which through these Days continues proclaiming the message of Christ to young people.

The WYD is an evangelizing endeavor in which the Church manifests her constant concern for youth:

"All young people should feel cared for by the Church: to do so, the whole Church, in union with the Successor of Peter, must feel increasingly committed at the world level, in favor of youth (...) to correspond to their expectations, communicating to them the certainty of Christ, the truth that is Christ, love that is Christ through an adequate formation, which is a necessary and updated form of evangelization" (John Paul II, Address to the College of Cardinals, December 20, 1985).

2. When and where is World Youth Day?

World Youth Day is in Madrid, Spain. The events that take place in Madrid are divided into three categories.

- A. **Days in the Diocese (DID): August 11-15th, 2011.** These events take place pre-WYD. All the diocese surrounding Madrid have religious, cultural and catechetical programs for WYD pilgrims. Currently, more than 40 diocese will be participating in DID.
- B. **World Youth Day Events: August 16th-20th, 2011.** On August 16th, all the WYD pilgrims arrive in Madrid for ongoing programs, festivals, and cultural immersion.
- C. **World Youth Day: August 20th-21st, 2011.** The evening of August 20th, pilgrims walk to a designated place where they participate in a prayer vigil with the Pope Benedict XVI, hearing his specific message to the youth of the world. That evening, all the pilgrims (up to 1 million) sleep overnight, and then participate in the sending Mass with the pope.

3. How much will World Youth Day cost?

We are expecting that WYD will cost between \$2200-\$2600 for the entire trip. This includes air and land transportation, lodging, food, WYD tickets, and extras (like t-shirts). The price is not yet finalized because, at a year and a half away, the WYD office in Madrid has not provided all the details regarding lodging and transportation. Plane tickets are also not on sale yet and their prices can only be estimated.

4. What will we do in Spain?

It's important to remember that our trip in Spain is not a vacation, but a pilgrimage. Most of the time, students will be sleeping on floors at churches, and eating meals generously provided us by the World Youth Day organizers. World Youth Day is not only significant in the faith lives in all the pilgrims, but invigorates the entire host country. We will be participating in Days in the Diocese, as well as World Youth Day events and the Vigil.

We will also be planning a few shorter pilgrimages to some of the holy sites in Spain (such as Avila and Segovia, places of importance to St. Theresa, St. John of the Cross, and St. Dominic) as well as engaging in cultural tours and eating traditional Spanish meals. While we are tentatively putting together our itinerary now, our exact itinerary will be finalized once the diocese of Madrid releases more information regarding travel and lodging.

5. Is it safe to travel to Spain?

Absolutely. The safety of the youth traveling with us will be a primary concern. We will be taking an average of 1 chaperone per 6 students and the WYD organizers will also have significant security in place.

6. How can we pay for World Youth Day?

We will be conducting extensive fundraising efforts for our trip. Students who work hard at fundraising can expect to raise at least half of the cost of the trip. We expect all students to fundraise at least a portion of the cost of the trip. Fundraising not only develops community within the group of pilgrims, but as we always say: Some give by going, others go by giving.

7. How can I sign up?

We are currently taking registrations for World Youth Day. Turning in paperwork and a \$100 deposit will be necessary to secure your spot. We will be taking a maximum of 40 students. All deposits **will be refundable** until May 1st, when we expect to have our itinerary finalized and WYD tickets purchased.

Throughout the year, we will have fundraising/payment benchmarks which correspond to our need to register for WYD and buy airline tickets. All those wishing to attend WYD will also need to secure the appropriate travel documents, including a passport. We will host regular meeting to keep all pilgrims abreast of fundraising and paperwork requirements, as well as to develop community and spiritually prepare for the trip.

8. Other questions?

If you have any other questions regarding WYD, please direct them to Matt Bruce or Ellen Vanden Eykel at 414-771-4626, matt@sjsmym.org or ellen@sjsmym.org.