

# WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023

harvest  
wyd journeys



## DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

### In the footsteps of Jesus Christ WYD Portugal via Holy Land + Avila Post-WYD Retreat

#### 20 Nights / 23 Days

Bethlehem (2 Nights) • Jericho • Dead Sea • Sea of Galilee (4 Nights) • Nazareth • Cana • Mt Tabor • Caesarea Philippi • Mt of Beatitudes • Haifa • Mt Carmel • Caesarea Maritima • Jerusalem (3 Nights) • WYD Week Lisbon (8 Nights) • Fatima • Post-WYD Retreat – Avila (3 Nights)

*Watch the Gospels come alive on this most authentic faith journey live on location in the Holy Land of Israel. Take the chronological road of Jesus' life from Bethlehem to Nazareth and Lake Galilee to Jerusalem as we prepare for a powerful encounter into the spirit of His passion. Continue into the heart and soul of Portugal to join our Holy Father for World Youth Day in Lisbon, as young pilgrims from across the globe gather for an unforgettable week of prayer, worship and celebration. Following the excitement of the WYD Week in Lisbon, we depart for our Post WYD Retreat where we will spend the following days entering into a time of rest, recreation and retreat, as we unwind and process the amazing past days on pilgrimage and WYD experiences.*

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#### DAY 1: THURSDAY 20 JULY 2023 - FLY TO TEL AVIV

#### DAY 2: FRIDAY 21 JULY - ARRIVE THE HOLY LAND

Welcome to **Bethlehem** where we formally begin our chronological journey in the Footsteps of Jesus. Before dinner, we shall celebrate our first group Mass together in this holy place.

*Bethlehem overnight (D)*

#### DAY 3: SATURDAY 22 JULY - BETHLEHEM & SURROUNDS

*Theme: The Birth of Jesus*

This morning we firstly travel out to **Ein Karem** and ascend the hill to the **Church of the Visitation** where Mary visited Elizabeth and proclaimed her Magnificat prayer – 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord'. From here we come to the **Church of St John the Baptist**, built over a natural grotto identified as the saint's actual birthplace.

Continue to **Shepherd's Field** to celebrate a joyous Christmas Mass in a local cave to commemorate the appearance of the angels to the shepherds on that first Holy Night.

Back in Bethlehem we visit the spectacular **Church of the Nativity**, the oldest complete church in the Christian world (6<sup>th</sup> century) and birthplace of Jesus. Bow low and enter the grotto through the Door of Humility as we descend to the **Holy Manger** where a silver star in the floor marks the actual spot where Jesus was born. The star's inscription reads in Latin: *Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est* (Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born).

Finally, we come to **St Jerome's Cave** where in 386 AD the saint spent 30 years translating the scriptures from Hebrew into Greek and Latin producing the first vernacular version of the Bible!

*Bethlehem overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 4: SUNDAY 23 JULY - VIA DEAD SEA & JERICO TO GALILEE**

*Theme: Ancient Desert Encounters*

We farewell Bethlehem this morning and journey east along the **Jericho Road** where we recall the parable of the Good Samaritan. Soon we arrive at the **Jordan River Baptismal site** (Qasr Al Yehoud), an archeological discovery said to be the actual location where Jesus was Baptised. Celebrate Mass here as we renew our own Baptismal promises.

We then travel to the shores of the **Dead Sea**. Here we will take the exciting opportunity to float in the salty waters said to have healing qualities.

Onwards to **Jericho**, the 'City of Palms', said to be the oldest inhabited city in the world and most famous oasis dating back to around 9000 BC. Stop by the famous **Sycamore tree** used to commemorate the powerful story of the tax collector Zacchaeus. Across the valley we view the **Mt of Temptation**, the site of Jesus' fast of 40 days and there are enough stones to illustrate Satan's words "*If you are the son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves*".

After a lunch stop in Jericho, journey north to Tiberias on the shores of **Lake Galilee** ... "*Go to Galilee and you will find him there*" (Mt 28:7).

*Sea of Galilee overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 5: MONDAY 24 JULY - NAZARETH & CANA**

*Theme: The Formative Years of Jesus*

Today we travel north through the Jordan valley before arriving into **Nazareth**, the hometown of Jesus' childhood.

We begin our pilgrimage at the **Basilica of the Annunciation** where a traditional cave becomes the focal point to Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel "*Let it be done to me according to thy word*" (Luke 1:38). After celebrating Mass we will visit the nearby **Church of St Joseph** to commemorate the life of Mary's beloved spouse. We then enter the nearby **Synagogue Church**, built on the site where Jesus read the Messianic passage in Isaiah 61 "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*" ...

Continue onto **Nazareth Village**, an authentic non-profit re-creation of the village life of Nazareth as in the days of Jesus. Here we will take a parable-rich walk back in time along the path which brings to life the environment and atmosphere which shaped Jesus' early years and ministry. Complete our memorable visit with a fascinating **Biblical Meal** in the original setting of a first-century house.

Travel east this afternoon and on to the village of **Cana** where Jesus, at the request of His Mother, performed His first miracle transforming the water into wine at the wedding feast (*Jn 2:1-12*).

*Sea of Galilee overnight (BLD)*

#### **DAY 6: TUESDAY 25 JULY - SEA OF GALILEE**

*Theme: Galilee encounters with Jesus*

Set off early to a secret location down by the shores of Lake Galilee to enjoy **Breakfast with Jesus** in the spirit of John 21:12 when Jesus said to His disciples "*Come and have breakfast*". 'Taste and See' the Gospels as we recount together this passage of Scripture live on location!

Then set out on a spectacular day of pilgrimage as we firstly board a traditional 'Jesus Boat' sailing vessel for a special Harvest highlight – a **Private Mass in the centre of Lake Galilee**. Here we will turn off the motors and float in quiet tranquility and reflect upon the miracles of Jesus calming the storm and appearing to the apostles walking on this very water.

Back on shore, see the 1<sup>st</sup> century '**Jesus boat**' painstakingly raised and restored from the muddy lakebed in 1986.

Continue onto **Capernaum**, the once fishing village of the first apostles Peter, Andrew, James & John which also became the hometown of Jesus and the scene of many of His miracles.

After our **St Peter's Fish lunch**, we will journey north to **Caesarea Philippi** where the beautiful springs of **Banias** form the source of the Jordan River. It was here where Jesus asked the disciples "Who do you say I am?" and went on to commission Peter "On this rock I will build my Church".

*Sea of Galilee overnight (BLD)*

## **DAY 7: WEDNESDAY 26 JULY - SEA OF GALILEE**

*Theme: The Public Ministry of Jesus*

An early start this morning as we rise to the summit of **Mt Arbel** before the breaking of dawn and await the majestic sunrise over the Sea of Galilee.

From here we will continue on a pre-breakfast walk along a spectacular stretch of the actual **Jesus Trail** frequented by Our Lord between Nazareth and Capernaum. This well-worn shepherd's path through the Valley of the Doves offers a rare and genuine opportunity to prayerfully tread the actual footsteps of Jesus down through the rustic pass between the mountains that has changed little since the days of the Gospels.

After breakfast back at our hotel we head to the **Mount of Beatitudes** for a beautiful Mass here in the tranquil gardens to ponder Jesus' message of blessedness in the **Sermon on the Mount** (Mt 5:1-12).

Nearby visit the **Church of the Primacy of Peter** down by the shores of the lake. Here Jesus challenged Peter and each one of us 'Do you really love me? Feed my sheep.'

Onwards to the adjacent **site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes** (Mt 14:20) to explore the 4th-century church displaying Byzantine mosaics considered to be some of the best in the Holy Land.

AFTERNOON FREE - ADVENTURE WATER SLIDE PARK OPTION / OR REST

*Sea of Galilee overnight (BD)*

## **DAY 8: THURSDAY 27 JULY - VIA MT TABOR, MT CARMEL & CAESAREA MARITIMA TO JERUSALEM**

*Theme: Mountains of the Lord*

We depart the beautiful shores of Galilee and travel to **Mt Tabor**. Here Our Lord's divinity shone forth in **the Transfiguration** (Mt 17:1-2). In this breathtaking setting we will understand Peter's words '*Lord it is good for us to be here*'.

From here continue onto the town of **Haifa**, which is the largest city in Northern Israel, and the third-largest city in the country. The sea wraps around three sides of Haifa with intoxicating blue and gold beaches. Enter here the **Stella Maris Monastery** at **Mount Carmel** where in the lower cave, Elijah was said to have meditated on His victory over the false prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:1-40).

We then enjoy lunch in our hand-picked restaurant with spectacular views over the Mediterranean.

After our lunch we visit the **House of Grace** to hear the inspired story of a Catholic family committed to empowering the most marginalised members of the Haifa community. *(This encounter optional.)*

In the afternoon we travel south to the crusader port of **Caesarea Maritima**, built by Herod the Great. The centurion Cornelius was baptized here by Peter, becoming the first gentile convert to Christianity (Acts 10). Also see the harbour from which St Paul was taken to Rome.

Finally, we journey on and up to **Jerusalem** – the City of our God. Here on the eve of Shabbat we come to witness hundreds of devout Jews chanting prayers at the **Western Wall** (formerly the Wailing Wall).

*Jerusalem overnight (BLD)*

### **DAY 9: FRIDAY 28 JULY - JERUSALEM**

*Theme: The Passion of Jesus*

Begin our Jerusalem pilgrimage as we proceed up to the **Mt of Olives** to visit the '**Pater Noster**' Church where Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer (*Mt 6:7-15*). Walk down the **Palm Sunday Road** as pilgrims to the **Dominus Flevit Church** for Mass, built on the site where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (*Lk 19:41-44*).

We then come down to the **Garden of Gethsemane** where we will enter the **Church of the Agony** containing the rock upon which Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. Prepare then for a memorable pilgrim highlight as we gain private group access inside the adjacent '**Garden of Betrayal**', for an extended time of prayer and reflection, surrounded by ancient olive trees dating back to the time of Christ.

From here we set out by coach across town to the **Israel Museum** for a lunch break. View the **Second Temple Scale Model of Jerusalem** as it was in the time of Jesus. In the adjacent **Shrine of the Book Museum** we will soon gaze upon parts of the original **Dead Sea Scrolls** with our own eyes.

Continue back to **Mt Zion** to the **Palace of Caiaphas** and into the **Church of St Peter in Gallicantu** commemorating Peter's triple denial of Jesus. Here our pilgrimage moves towards the final phase of Jesus' passion. Enter the **Cenacle room of the Last Supper** (Upper Room) where we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Continue to the **Church of the Dormition** identified as the place where the Virgin Mary died or 'fell asleep' as the name suggests.

*Jerusalem overnight (BD)*

### **DAY 10: SATURDAY 29 JULY - JERUSALEM**

*Theme: Death, Resurrection & Ascension of Jesus*

We rise at dawn and return to the Old City to commence our **Stations of the Cross** following in Our Lord's footsteps along the actual **Via Dolorosa**. We culminate at the site of **Calvary** where we will celebrate Mass here in the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Walk the stairway climbing to the actual site where the Cross of Jesus once stood.

After Mass here enter the **Tomb of Christ**, the site believed to be where Our Lord lay buried for three days before rising from the dead.

After Breakfast at our hotel, continue to the **Church of St Anne** with its magnificent acoustics and built over the birthplace of the Virgin Mary. See the adjacent **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the paralysed man (*Jn 5:2-9*).

We then return up to the **Mt of Olives** to the **Chapel of the Ascension** which is believed to mark the place where Jesus ascended into heaven. A befitting end to our chronological pilgrimage in His footsteps as we recall Jesus' Great Commission to the eleven disciples: "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...*" – Mt 28:18

Remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Before dinner we gather to listen to the courageous stories of the **Bereaved Parents Circle** where both a Palestinian and Israeli family members will share their extraordinary journey from grief and loss to a stunning reconciliation that is sure to inspire us deeply. (*This encounter optional.*)

*Jerusalem overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 11: SUNDAY 30 JULY - FLY HOLY LAND TO PORTUGAL**

Departing the Holy Land, we join the streams of young pilgrims converging today on Lisbon, the World Youth Day host city and our long-awaited meeting with the youth of the world and our Holy Father.

Upon our arrival, we will be welcomed and ushered to our designated place of accommodation. At this point we will receive our WYD pilgrim's bag containing the WYD handbook, tourist guide, pilgrim pass, transport card and all the information you need to get around Lisbon and participate in the WYD events.

*Lisbon overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 12: MONDAY 31 JULY - FATIMA PILGRIMAGE**

Today we journey to **Fatima**, where in 1917 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children as 'a lady in white'.

After a memorable Mass at the Sanctuary, we embark on a **tour of the Square** (the largest square in Christendom) including the **site of the Apparitions, Rosary Basilica** with the **Tombs of the visionaries, Blessed Sacrament Chapel** and other main highlights.

Continue to **Valinhos**, the site of Our Lady's appearance to three peasant children Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. Proceed on to the little village of **Aljustrel** to visit the homes where the children lived. Finally, we enter the original **Parish Church** and see the Baptismal font where the children were baptised.

*Lisbon overnight (BD)*

#### **DAY 13: TUESDAY 01 AUGUST - WORLD YOUTH DAY WEEK LISBON (WYD BLD)**

**Theme: "Mary arose and went with haste." (Lk 1:39)**

*AM: MORNING AT LEISURE TO EXPLORE LISBON*

*PM: WYD OPENING CEREMONIES*

#### **DAY 14: WEDNESDAY 02 AUGUST - WORLD YOUTH DAY WEEK LISBON (WYD BLD)**

*AM: MORNING CATECHESIS*

There will be opportunities for Catechesis, Daily Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

*PM: YOUTH FESTIVAL EVENTS*

Featuring music, dance and dramatic performances from around the world in small and large stadiums and venues across the city.

**DAY 15: THURSDAY 03 AUGUST - WORLD YOUTH DAY WEEK LISBON (WYD BLD)**

*AM: MORNING CATECHESIS*

There will be opportunities for Catechesis, Daily Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

*PM: YOUTH FESTIVAL EVENTS*

Featuring music, dance and dramatic performances from around the world in small and large stadiums and venues across the city.

*PM: WELCOMING CEREMONIES FOR THE HOLY FATHER*

**DAY 16: FRIDAY 04 AUGUST - WORLD YOUTH DAY WEEK LISBON (WYD BLD)**

*AM: MORNING CATECHESIS*

There will be opportunities for Catechesis, Daily Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

*PM: YOUTH FESTIVAL EVENTS*

Featuring music, dance and dramatic performances from around the world in small and large stadiums and venues across the city.

*PM: STATIONS OF THE CROSS*

The focus tonight is on the moving Way of the Cross when we as young pilgrims will contemplate the reality of Christ's passion and the call to true freedom.

**DAY 17: SATURDAY 05 AUGUST - PILGRIMAGE WALK TO WYD VIGIL SITE (WYD BLD)**

Today will begin the mass mobilisation of pilgrims along set walking paths through the city as we converge on the site chosen for the historic WYD gathering here in Lisbon.

An afternoon of concerts, performances, and song will unfold as we await the arrival of the Holy Father.

This begins the main event! Millions of young people together with the Pope – a summer evening of unforgettable atmosphere. The celebrations continue all night as we share in a global sleep-out under the stars.

*WYD Vigil Site Sleepout (WYD BLD)*

**DAY 18: SUNDAY 06 AUGUST - 16TH INTERNATIONAL WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD BL)**

As the sun rises, we'll share in Morning Prayer, breakfast and the climactic WYD Papal Mass with the youth of the world.

*AM: MORNING MASS WITH THE HOLY FATHER*

The Pope will concelebrate Mass with thousands of bishops and priests, addressing us and sending us out to the world to witness to our faith, as the Lord did with his Apostles. At the end of the Mass, the Holy Father will announce the place where the next international World Youth Day will be held.

*PM: PILGRIMAGE WALK BACK TO LODGINGS*

*Lisbon overnight (dinner at own arrangement)*

### **DAY 19: MONDAY 07 AUGUST - LISBON VIA SALAMANCA & ALBA DE TORMES TO AVILA**

We farewell Lisbon this morning and as we depart out of the city, we see Europe's longest suspension bridge and view the inspiring **Statue of Christ the King** pointing the way north. We then journey inland through Portugal, before crossing the border into Spain.

Our first pilgrimage stop is **Salamanca**, known as the 'Golden City', owing to the colour of its historic sandstone buildings. We explore **Plaza Mayor**, an 18th-century baroque square acclaimed as the most beautiful public plaza in Spain and stop and admire the façade of the landmark **Casa de las Conchas (House of Shells)**. The restored 1483 house is noted for its façade of 400 simulated scallop shells. It was created as a monument to Santiago de Compostela. Lastly, we visit the **Cathedral Vieja (Old Cathedral)** built in 1140.

We farewell Salamanca and travel to **Alba de Tormes**, the little village where St Teresa died. Her incorrupt heart and arm are enshrined and displayed here at the Carmelite convent. Here too we enter the convent for Mass, where **St John of the Cross** lived and who companioned St Teresa in her spiritual walk.

Next our pilgrimage journey takes us to the historic walled town of **Avila**, where the atmosphere has changed little since the days of **St Teresa**, to whom the city is dedicated. It was here that she entered the Carmelite convent and encountered many mystical experiences during her time.

*Avila overnight (BD)*

### **DAY 20: TUESDAY 08 AUGUST - AVILA**

We begin our day with a visit to the **Convent of Saint Teresa** (La Santa), built over the saint's birthplace and located just inside the South Gate of the old town. Most of the convent remains in cloister but you can see the very spot where she was born, now a chapel in the Baroque church.

Another highlight is a visit to **Avila's Cathedral** which was started in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. We then visit the **Church of San Juan Bautista**, where St Teresa was baptised in 1515, and the school she attended at the **Nuestra Senora de la Gracia Monastery**. Later venture outside the city walls where we enter the **Monastery of the Incarnation** where St Teresa's cell can be seen as well as other relics of her life.

In the afternoon we enter a time of retreat and prayer, as we unwind and process the amazing past days on pilgrimage and WYD experiences.

*Avila overnight (BD)*

### **DAY 21: WEDNESDAY 09 AUGUST - AVILA RETREAT DAY**

Today we enter a time of retreat and prayer, as we unwind and process the amazing past days on pilgrimage and WYD experiences.

We culminate our pilgrimage with a group Mass in thanksgiving for the graces received and celebrate with a final farewell dinner tonight.

*Avila overnight (BD)*

### **DAY 22: THURSDAY 10 AUGUST - DEPART SPAIN**

Today we will be transferred to Madrid airport for our homebound flight connections to Australia. (B)

### **DAY 23: FRIDAY 11 AUGUST - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**

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**Meal Code**

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner