

G'day

G'day and welcome to the third edition of Tourism Australia's World Youth Day (WYD) newsletter. The world's biggest youth event, the 10th international WYD, will be held from 15-20 July 2008. In this edition, you'll find news about media and volunteer registrations, award-winning designers and, in an Australian first, limited edition coins depicting the Pope. Follow the journey of the Cross and Icon and discover some of the coastal experiences our beautiful beachside communities offer pilgrims.

News and Events

Media Registration Opens

Media registration for WYD08 is now open. Between 3,000 to 5,000 media are expected to attend and report on WYD08. Early registration is highly recommended. Australian and international media organisations are invited to register online at: www.wyd2008.org/media. A dedicated team within the WYD08 Communications Department will manage media registration and accreditation, which closes on Friday, 20 June 2008. For any further questions email media.accreditation@wyd2008.org

Performers Line Up for Youth Festival

More than 5,000 entertainers and artists from across the globe have applied to showcase their talent at WYD08 Youth Festival. Among the range of Australian and international applicants are German Christian punk bands, African drummers, Polynesian choirs and Indian pop bands. The WYD08 Youth Festival team now has the task of selecting the best performers to entertain audiences, expected to number in the thousands, from Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 July at venues across Sydney.

Volunteers Wanted

WYD08 organisers are seeking volunteers from around the world to help run the largest event Australia has ever hosted. With around 8,000 roles on offer, there is something to suit everyone - from enthusiastic locals looking to lend a hand to seasoned international event volunteers and skilled professionals. Volunteers can either work during the event week (14 - 20 July), or in roles available in the months preceding WYD08. All volunteers must be over the age of 18. For more information or to apply visit www.wyd2008.org/volunteer.

WYD Commemorative Coins

The Perth Mint has released two Vatican-approved coin designs to celebrate the first visit by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to Australia. The 1oz Gold Proof Coin and 1oz Silver Proof Coin, each depict the Pope, the WYD08 logo, and the inscription 'World Youth Day Sydney 2008' on the reverse. With a strictly limited mintage of 1,000 Gold Proof Coins and 25,000 Silver Proof Coins, they will be snapped up quickly. All coins come with numbered Certificates of Authenticity and can be purchased from The Perth Mint (www.perthmint.com.au).



Award-winning Designer Takes On WYD08

Award-winning set designer Michael Scott-Mitchell is looking forward to what may be his greatest design challenge yet; the sets for WYD08 Stations of the Cross. Michael will design 14 separate sets to depict the last stages of Jesus' life, also known as The Passion of Christ. This spectacular event will move across the city of Sydney on Friday 18 July 2008 and will be televised live in Australia and overseas. Michael's best known work includes designing the Cauldron and Ceremonial Stages for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the 2006 Asian Games and the Opening Ceremony for CHOGM 2002.

Melbourne's Telstra Dome To Host Commissioning Mass

Known for its AFL football matches and large-scale concerts, Melbourne's Telstra Dome will host the Commissioning Mass to farewell pilgrims on their journey to Sydney for the WYD08 week of events. The Mass, held on Friday 11 July 2008 in front of an expected crowd of 50,000, will be the highlight of the Melbourne Days in the Dioceses program. The Most Rev Archbishop Denis Hart will preside over the Mass, which will be celebrated by more than 200 clergy.

Did you know?

The Final Mass on 20 July is expected to draw up to 500,000 people – making it one of the biggest single gatherings ever held in Australia.



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Travel Tips

Tours in Australia

With experience spanning six World Youth Days, Harvest Youth Tours has been appointed to book and coordinate the domestic travel arrangements of international and local pilgrims attending World Youth Day (www.wydtours.com).



Australia's only Catholic/WYD tour specialist, Harvest Youth Tours and its team of faith-oriented guides can help visitors experience all Australia has to offer, from planning faith and adventure experiences to hotel, coach and Mass bookings. There will be a 24/7 Harvest Help-line during the WYD period.



International visitors who want to make the most of their Australia trip should contact their local Aussie Specialist travel agent. Aussie Specialists are experts on all things Australian. They receive in-depth training and most have travelled to Australia, gaining first-hand

experience of all the country has to offer. To find your nearest Aussie Specialist Travel Agent visit www.australia.com and click on 'Find a travel agent'.

Accessible Travel

There is a host of services and special deals for pilgrims with a disability who are planning to explore Australia. Begin with the NICAN site www.nican.com.au for in-depth information on accessible travel needs. Search for accommodation and tourism venues at www.australiaforall.com.au.

Getting Around

Australia is the world's smallest, flattest continent and largest island. It is also one of the world's most urbanised countries with 70 per cent of the population living in our 10 largest cities. So what is the best way to travel while you are in Australia for World Youth Day?

For a short trip, air travel fits the bill. Australia's domestic airlines: Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin Blue, Tiger, Rex and their subsidiaries, operate large fleets of aircraft serving all state capital cities and regional centres.

For a more leisurely pace, travel by rail or road. Australia has an enormous network of well-maintained roads and highways with some of the most beautiful road touring in the world. Visit www.australia.com or Harvest Youth Tours www.wydtours.com for more information.

Crossing Australia

The Journey of the Cross and Icon enters 2008

The first leg of the Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon of Our Lady is complete after travelling 31,000kms through five States and Territories visiting 200 communities and engaging over 250,000 people in five months.

Considered the "Olympic torch" of World Youth Day, the Journey is a World Youth Day tradition in which a team of young volunteers take the 3.8 metre Cross and 15 kilogram image of Our Lady (the Icon) to communities around the host nation.

The first leg of the Journey was undertaken by a team of five volunteers under the care of Fr Chris Ryan MGL and Pastoral Planner Alice Priest. The volunteers embarked on a physical, emotional and spiritual journey, taking the WYD message to many places that may not have had the chance to experience this great event.

The second Journey of the Cross team is now beginning their Journey taking the Cross and Icon to Armidale, Bathurst, Canberra and Goulburn, with many locations to come in the lead up to the vent.

Follow the journey via the dedicated blog, found at www.wyd2008.org.



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Experience Australia: Coastal Lifestyle

We love them. Revel in them. Play, party, eat and laze on them. Swim, fish and sail by them. Something magical happens the closer you get to the beautiful seas that surround Australia. Perhaps it's the laughter, the smell of fresh air, the casual atmosphere or the sound of crashing waves.



Our beaches belong to everyone. Stretching almost 50,000 kilometres, Australia's coastline offers one sandy beach for around every five kilometres. And with more than 80 per cent of our population living within 50 kilometres of the coast, the beach has become an integral part of the Australian laidback lifestyle. Our coastline is also where you can see our wildlife and interact with native animals and marine life. The coast is where mountains, rainforest and the outback meet the sea – where land and ocean become one.

The Aussie coastline is more than just white, glorious beaches. Small towns and huge cities bustle at the shore. There's accommodation to suit every mood (and budget) – grand hotels, humble holiday shacks, caravan parks and camping grounds.

With blissful scenery and a vast range of activities, you can do as much, or as little, as you like. Indulge in retreats and spas, or try your hand at surfing, snorkelling, sailing and scuba diving. Take a whale watching tour, ride a camel at sunset, join in a game of cricket, cast a rod and fish for tonight's dinner or kick back with the freshest fish and chips.

Key Coastal Lifestyle Facts:

- There are no privately owned beaches in Australia – beaches are public places for all to enjoy.
- There are more beaches here than anywhere else on Earth: 10,685 of them.
- Some of the world's leading surf and adventure brands, such as RipCurl, Quiksilver and Billabong started in Australia.
- Australians are custodians of one-third of the world's protected marine areas, with more than 360 protected marine areas covering 65 million hectares.
- The warm, clear waters of the north sustain two of the world's great coral reefs. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's modern wonders while Ningaloo Reef on Australia's Coral Coast in the west, is the most accessible reef experience in the world.
- Australia's marine environment is home to 4,000 fish species, 500 coral species, 50 types of marine mammals, seabirds, rare sea dragons and whales, dolphins, dugongs, turtles, giant rays and whale sharks.
- Bondi (Boondii) is an aboriginal word meaning, "water breaking over rocks", or "noise of water breaking over rocks". Bondi Beach was recently added to the National Heritage List.





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Unique Coastal Experiences

Play on **Bondi Beach**, home of Australia's oldest lifesaving club and one of Australia's most famous beach. Take a surf lesson, rollerblade, play beach volleyball or lie on your beach towel in the sun.

Learn how to be truly laid back at **Byron Bay**. Famous for its great surfing beaches, Byron is also known for its mix of bohemian chic, alternative lifestyle, and indulgence.

Walk among seals at Seal Bay; explore massive sculptured rocks at Remarkable Rocks or sample niche island cuisine such as marron, honey, wine, sheep-milk cheeses and eucalyptus oil on **Kangaroo Island**. The island is a half-hour flight from Adelaide or a two-hour journey by bus and ferry.

Head to the popular beachside suburb of **Glenelg** in South Australia, with its up-tempo resort village atmosphere, plenty of entertainment, and a diversity of restaurants and shopping along Jetty Road.



Go wild with a multi-day fishing safari that you can customise. With experienced guides by your side you will be chasing barramundi in the **Northern Territory's** best fishing spots.

Be one of the thousands who throng around the 200 stalls on Thursday and Sunday evenings at **Mindil Beach Sunset Markets, Darwin**. With nearly 60 food stalls from more than 30 different countries, the hardest part about eating at the Markets is making a choice.

Scattered along our coastline are World Heritage gems like Queensland's **Fraser Island, the Great Barrier Reef** and **Daintree Rainforest**.

Camp on a different tropical island each night as you sail through the 74 island of the **Whitsundays**, tucked inside the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea. With only eight islands inhabited, you can be sure to find one to make your own.

Head to one of the 75 surf beaches that hug the 130-kilometre coastline of the famous winegrowing region of **Margaret River** in Western Australia. Don't forget to sample the full-bodied wine, luscious olive oil, delicious cheeses and hand-made chocolates to make your day of indulgence even more special.

Take in the sinking sunset on camel back along **Cable Beach, Broome** and slip into Broome-time. You might catch a natural phenomenon called "the Staircase to the Moon", a hauntingly beautiful illusion caused by the full moon reflecting on mud flats at extremely low tide or see 130 million year-old dinosaur footprints.

Rated as one of the world's 10 best beaches, Tasmania's **Wineglass Bay** on the stunning Freycinet Peninsula will enter your soul and stay with you forever. The bay's perfect curve of white sand, set against the jagged range of pink and grey granite peaks, is breathtaking. For a luxury nature retreat try the guided walking trips of the Freycinet Experience.

Experience Aussie surfing culture at its strongest in Victoria's surfing capital, **Torquay**, 97 kilometres from Melbourne, home to the world's most famous surf spot – Bells Beach and Jan Juc – where surfies from all over the world gather to ride huge swells.

Visit **Brighton Beach** to see the quaint brightly coloured bathing boxes that line the sand, set against the spectacular Melbourne city skyline. There are walking and cycling paths, or you can windsurf, go yachting or boating.

Useful Websites

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| Australia | www.australia.com |
| ACT | www.visitcanberra.com |
| NT | www.travelnt.com |
| NSW | www.seesydney.com |
| QLD | www.queenslandholidays.com.au |
| SA | www.southaustralia.com |
| TAS | www.discovertasmania.com |
| VIC | www.visitvictoria.com |
| WA | www.westernaustralia.com |