



World Youth Day 2008

Volume 4 | March 2008

G'day

G'day and welcome to the fourth edition of Tourism Australia's World Youth Day (WYD) newsletter. In this edition, you'll follow the journey of the Cross and Icon to our National Capital and get a hint of the myriad of adventures that lie beyond Australian cities waiting to be discovered as Pilgrims journey this land of contrast and surprise.

News and Events

Event Sites Announced

Barangaroo in East Darling Harbour has been confirmed by the NSW State Government as the venue for three showpiece WYD events. The 22-hectare site will host the Opening Mass, the Papal Arrival, two Stations of the Cross and several Youth Festival events.

Barangaroo is expected to host up to 150,000 pilgrims when the Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell, celebrates the Opening Mass to mark the start of the six-day event at 4.30pm on Tuesday 15 July.

On Thursday 17 July, Pope Benedict XVI will arrive at Barangaroo by boat for his Official Welcome, and the next evening the venue will host two of the 13 Stations of the Cross - a re-enactment of the last hours of the life of Jesus Christ. All of these events will be televised live to the world.

The other major CBD venues confirmed to host WYD08 events include Royal Botanic Gardens, the Domain, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Darling Harbour, Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park. These venues will either be used for major events, Youth Festival activities or as Live Sites - where pilgrims and Sydneysiders can gather to watch and participate in WYD08 events.

WYD on australia.com

Tourism Australia has launched a new WYD08 section on australia.com. Full of helpful hints and tips to make planning a visit to Australia simple for pilgrims, the section also includes information around unique Australian experiences. The information is available in English, French, Italian German, Spanish and Korean. www.australia.com/wyd08.

WYD Cross and Icon Enter Parliament House

On Monday 18 February, the World Youth Day Cross and Icon entered Parliament House, Canberra for an official reception. His Eminence, Cardinal George Pell; Bishop Anthony Fisher, Coordinator of World Youth Day; Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn; 400 school children and 200 parliamentarians welcomed the Cross and Icon.

Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd and Leader of the Opposition Dr Brendan Nelson both spoke in Parliament about the event. Mr Rudd said "World Youth Day will be a major event, bringing to Australia tens of thousands—probably hundreds of thousands—of pilgrims from around the world. It will also be accompanied by a visit to Australia, the first, by Pope Benedict, the Holy Father. Both the Leader of the Opposition and I have already indicated publicly how much a welcome guest the Holy Father will be when he visits Australia and how important an event World Youth Day will be – not just for the Catholic faith in this country, but for the wider Christian community."

Dr Nelson said this is an extraordinarily important event for all Australians, whether Catholics or Christians, because it is a celebration of faith and of the fragile, yet powerful, belief in hope. "It is also a recommitment by all of us to young people, not only young Australians but all those young people throughout the world who are very much our future," he said.

Follow the journey of the Cross on www.wyd2008.org.

Vocations Expo Welcomes 75+ applications

Demand is high and exhibitor spaces are being snapped up for the 2008 Vocations Expo. The Expo is a unique forum for young adults, who are dedicated to their faith, to seek information and guidance in vocational life including marriage, family and the laity, and the call to holiness through religious and consecrated life. Since applications opened in October 2007, religious orders, vocation networks, and tertiary educational institutions from France, USA, New Zealand, England, Germany, Cameroon and the Philippines have applied to attend. The Vocations Expo will be held in Hall 1 of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from 15-18 July, 2008.

Did you know?

Tourism Australia's online image library has thousands of Australian images that media can download to use with their stories. Media can register for the library at www.image.australia.com



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Media Resources

Download your Australian Media Guide

Tourism Australia and the State and Territory Tourism Organisations have produced a new media guide to assist media travelling to Australia for WYD. Available to download now, the media guide includes destination information on each of Australia's capital cities, facts and figures on Australia, how to access Tourism Australia and STO resources, travel tips, key contacts and useful website links. To download the media guide visit www.tourism.australia.com/wyd08

WYD Media Newsletters

Two monthly media newsletters are being produced to provide information to assist media outlets in writing or producing stories about WYD. The media operations newsletter provides media outlets with practical information on attending WYD08 as a media representative including updates on services and facilities for media, visa and immigration requirements, tourism information and an outline of the WYD08 week. Also available is *Crossroads* which provides story leads and ideas for articles. To download both newsletters visit www.wyd2008.org/media.

Media Registration

Applications for media registration for WYD08 are now open. International media organisations can register online at: www.wyd2008.org/media. Registration closes on Friday 20 June 2008.

Getting Around Australia

Air

Australia has eight major international gateways and is easily accessible from all parts of the world. More than 40 international airlines fly to Australia with many airlines providing the flexibility to fly into, and out of, different gateways allowing greater access to a large number of Australian destinations.

Australia's domestic airlines: Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin Blue, Tiger, Rex and their subsidiaries, operate large fleets of aircraft serving all capital cities and regional centres.

Self Drive

Australia has a vast network of well-maintained roads and highways and vehicle hire is simple. Rental cars are available at major airports, central city locations, suburbs and resorts, as well as a range of rental companies.

Public Transport

All capital cities in Australia are served by a wide variety of public transport, including trains, buses, ferries, monorail, light rail and trams.

Bus/Coach

Travel by bus or coach in Australia is comfortable, easy and economical. Coaches generally have air-conditioning, reading lights, adjustable seats and videos. Services are frequent, affordable and efficient.

Trains

The size and diversity of Australia makes for fabulous train journeys. Rail travel is available from budget to luxury and a range of affordable and flexible rail passes give you the opportunity to see large regions of Australia. Most capital cities have fast and reliable commuter trains. Regional, interstate and key rail journey services also operate from the major cities.

Taxis

Taxis charge according to their meter and you should not be charged for each person if you are travelling in a group.

For further information visit www.australia.com (click on "Getting Around" under the Travel Information heading)



Ask an Aussie Expert

For pilgrims attending WYD there is still time to plan an ultimate Australian experience. For expert advice, pilgrims should ask an Aussie Specialist Travel Agent about planning an Australian adventure.

To find an Aussie Specialist visit www.australia.com and click on 'Find a travel agent'.



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Great Australian Journeys

Inspired by the footsteps of our early explorers and Aboriginal ancestors, Australia is a place of awesome journeys. Across and around our massive land and its 12,000 islands, countless possibilities connect endless unique experiences.

Whether setting off on foot to find yourself in the bush, watching the rugged landscape, from the window of a fast-moving train, or navigating a car up stunningly beautiful coastline as the sun sinks into the ocean – you can create your own stories.

Explore major cities or far-flung towns and communities on the back of a motorcycle. Cruise coastal roads and highways and embrace the freedom of riding all day, or making frequent stops whenever the mood takes you. It's not about getting from here to there. It's what happens along the way.

Key Journey Facts:

- Australia is the world's biggest island – a continent of 7.6 million sq km with almost 36,737 km of coastline. An additional 10,000 sq km of coastline encircle 12,000 islands.
- Highway One, which circumnavigates the Australian continent, is 24,000 km long. More than one million people travel on some part of this road each day.
- Australia is home to two of the world's great train journeys – the Ghan and Indian Pacific. The Indian Pacific spans the entire continent from east to west and includes the world's longest length of straight railway track – 478km through the stark Nullarbor Plain. The Ghan is the only transcontinental train in the world that dissects a continent from coast to coast, north to south – 2,979km from Port Augusta to Darwin.
- The Bicentennial National Trail is the longest marked trekking route of its kind in the world, stretching 5,330km from Cooktown in North Queensland, down the eastern coastline to Healesville in Victoria.
- Our longest rivers, in order, are: The Murray (2485km), Darling, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan – all located in NSW, although the Murray also borders Victoria and runs into South Australia.

Unique Australian Journeys

Take a sightseeing or **sunset cruise on one of our city rivers**. In Sydney, cruise up the Parramatta River on the Rivercat, in Hobart relax on a cruiser or ferry on the Derwent River, while in Melbourne you can cruise along the Yarra River and, in Adelaide, the Torrens River.

Sail the **Murray River** on a houseboat and see it as it once was – a working river and a placid waterway. From basic house boats to luxury floating 'apartments', there's a Murray River holiday to suit every taste and budget.

Take a four-day guided walk in Tasmania's **Freycinet National Park**. Each night is spent in the Friendly Beaches Lodge with delicious food and wine included.



The Blue Mountains, one hour from Sydney, are full of fabulous walks through cool, crisp forests of gum trees. This World Heritage listed park covers one million hectares. Explore underground caves and crystal streams, wade along brooks, swim in crystal-clear pools, stroll under groves of huge tree ferns or walk through canyons unchanged since the Jurassic era.

Trek **The Snowy Mountains** high country of NSW with its sparkling trout-filled mountain streams, breathtaking vistas, rugged gorges, alpine lakes and fresh mountain air. The 690,000 hectare Kosciuszko National Park in the heart of the mountains has outstanding scenery and many rare plants and animals including the hairy-nosed wombat.

The Lakeside Walk, 1.8km along the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra takes you past some of the national capital's main attractions, including the National Gallery and Parliament House.



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Step back in time on Tasmania's Heritage Highway

between Hobart and Launceston, a journey into our colonial past, full of historic sandstone buildings and stunning scenery.

The Great Ocean Road follows the stunning coastline of Victoria's south-west stretching 300km past the breathtaking Twelve Apostles. The road winds along cliff tops, up breathtaking headlands, down to the edge of beaches, across river estuaries and through lush rainforests offering panoramic views at every turn. Discover small seaside villages along the way.



Be postman for a day on the one day Oodnadatta Mail Run out of Coober Pedy. You'll travel more than 600km with the postman in his 4WD delivering post to Outback towns and remote cattle stations.

A great way to travel from Sydney to Melbourne is via the **Great Alpine Road**. Australia's highest year-round accessible sealed road winds past lofty mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, vineyards and farms. See the stunning mountains, valleys, lakes and waterways of this region, the land of high country cattlemen of *The Man from Snowy River* fame. Hear about the bushrangers who roamed the historic gold villages of the area during the gold-rush years.

On a **Cairns to Cooktown** rugged driving adventure, you'll cross the Daintree River and discover the world's oldest rainforest, ancient Aboriginal rock art sites and the historic village of Cooktown. Experience the adventure of driving yourself through one of the last great wilderness areas of Australia, right to the most northerly point on the Cape York Peninsula. Along the way, swim in water-lily lined lagoons, fish for barramundi and discover ancient indigenous rock art.

Explore the spectacular **Kimberley coastline** of Western Australia from the air on a six-day Kimberley Coastal Air Safari flying from Kununurra to Broome. Fly over the Mitchell Plateau, vast cattle stations and King George Falls before touching down at the bush camp at Faraway Bay. Spend time exploring this ancient land before taking off for the Kimberley Coastal Camp and the chance to catch barramundi and see amazing wildlife.

Awaken your adventurous spirit on the **Savannah Way**, an epic drive across northern Australia. Feel the heartbeat of an ancient land when an Aboriginal guide shows you hidden rock art, and experience an Outback sunset over a cold beer at a country pub. Spanning a 3700-kilometre arc across the top of the country, and starting from tropical Cairns, you'll see the Gulf Savannah grasslands, the fishing town of Borrooloola, the natural splendour of the Katherine region and the great wilderness of Western Australia's Kimberley, ending in Broome.

Seek out seasonal wildflower blooms on the **Wildflower Way**. Extensive tracts of Western Australia erupt each year with wildflowers in the spring. Throughout the state you can follow one of 10 wildflower trails by car, stopping along the way.

Experience a journey symbolic of **Australia's history** on a visit to Parliament House. The Forecourt, with its featured mosaic dot painting, recognises the long history of Aboriginal culture in Australia.

Useful Websites

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