



World Youth Day 2008

Volume 5 | May 2008

G'day

The 23rd World Youth Day (WYD) from 15-20 July will bring 185,000 international and domestic visitors to Sydney. Together with the tens of thousands of Sydneysiders taking part, this will be one of the biggest events in Australia's history, bringing enormous tourism and economic benefits to Australia. There's still time to get involved in this enlivening celebration, but you'd better hurry!

News and Events

Pope Benedict to holiday in Australia

The Vatican has confirmed that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI will spend three extra days holidaying in Australia before heading to Sydney for World Youth Day 2008 (WYD08). The announcement by the Vatican confirms that the Holy Father will spend eight days in Australia, five days of which will involve World Youth Day activities. His Holiness will arrive in Australia on Sunday 13 July and fly out on Monday 21 July.

Australia joins a very exclusive club in July; we will be only the third nation (outside Italy) to have been visited by each of the three 'travelling' Popes – Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II and now Pope Benedict XVI. The other two countries are the United States and Turkey. Pope Benedict will be officially welcomed into Sydney in a harbourside ceremony on Thursday 17 July and will take part in WYD08 events until Sunday 20 July.

Indigenous welcome for World Youth Day

Indigenous themes, symbols and colours will permeate WYD08 events and allow our visitors to experience the wonderful culture and history of Australia's Indigenous people. Sydney community leader Elsie Heiss says WYD08 will draw the attention of the world to this Great Southern Land and its people. "It will be a marvellous opportunity to show the Indigenous face of the Catholic Church in Australia," she said.

We've found Jesus!

...and Mary, Pontius Pilate, Peter and Judas. The main cast members for the Stations of the Cross have been announced. Jesus – Alfio Stuto; Mary – Marina Dickson; Pontius Pilate – Don McDonald; Judas – Chehade Richa; Peter – Mark McCormack; are now rehearsing for their big moment on the world's stage, which will be telecast live to the world on the afternoon of Friday 18 July.

Sydney Icons join WYD08

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI will arrive via a 13-vessel "boat-a-cade" – a seaworthy version of the Papal motorcade thanks to official cruise operator Captain Cook Cruises – on Thursday 17 July at Barangaroo for an official welcome ceremony. Mercedes-Benz, official automotive partner for WYD08, will provide Popemobiles for His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI during his first visit to Australia as well as vehicles from its passenger car and commercial vehicle range.

Leading tourist attractions BridgeClimb Sydney and Taronga Zoo have become official providers for WYD08 offering pilgrims a special experience of these spectacular Sydney attractions. Sydney's two biggest-selling metropolitan newspapers The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph will be the official newspapers at the event.

Catechesis themes announced for WYD08

Bishops from around the world will lead Catechesis, teaching sessions for WYD pilgrims, in over 300 Sydney Churches and venues on the theme of *Holy Spirit and Mission*. The sessions are:

- Wed 16 July – *Called to live in the Holy Spirit*
- Thu 17 July – *The Holy Spirit, soul of the Church*
- Fri 18 July – *Sent out into the world: the Holy Spirit, the principal agent of mission*

The Scripture verse for this day is also the theme for WYD08: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).

Ray Martin to host official WYD08 coverage

Australian television legend Ray Martin will host the official broadcast of WYD08. He will lead a presentation team of clergy and young people to deliver the official broadcast of the week-long youth event to the English speaking world.

Did you know?

Ten inspirational patrons, chosen from Saints and blessed who inspire young people, have been approved by the Vatican in a WYD tradition and Australian artist, Richard de Stoop has recreated their images, which are available online at the WYD08 photo gallery: www.wyd2008.org/media



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Chic Clergy Couture

Vestments for the world's Cardinals, Bishops, priests and deacons to wear during WYD08 are now being produced by Solivari, in northern Italy. Designed by Stuart Pettigrew Design and Sr Rosemary Crumlin RSM, the vestments are an earthy red colour to reflect Australia's unique landscape and feature the Southern Cross and *Marjorie's Bird* created by Indigenous artist Marjorie Liddy from the Tiwi Islands.

Sydney invites Seniors to join the WYD family

Whilst WYD participants are typically between 16-35 years, WYD08 organisers are seeking representatives from all age groups and backgrounds to contribute and help renew the Church and society in Australia. There are many ways older Australians can offer their support:

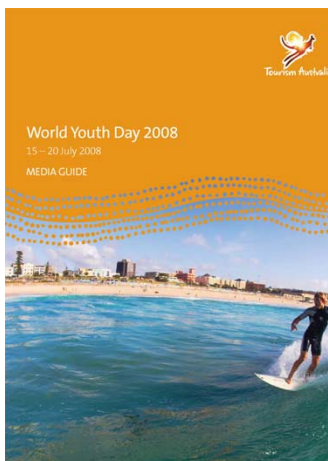
- Become a HomeStay Host and accommodate pilgrims during the WYD08 week
- Volunteer for WYD08: 8,000 positions are available during the event week
- Sponsor a pilgrim from Oceania or a remote Australian Indigenous community through the Pilgrim Partnership Support Program

Tourism New South Wales "new look" website

Find out all you need to know about WYD08 Sydney. Visit www.sydney.com to plan your holiday, discover what to experience in Sydney and its surrounds, find out about working and studying in Sydney and more.

Media Resources

Tourism Australia media resources



Tourism Australia has a range of resources available to assist media with information on Australia's tourism industry, our Australian experiences and upcoming events. Visit www.tourism.australia.com to download our WYD Media Guide and find out more about the resources available to you including media B-Roll and Image Library.

Media B-Roll

The Media B-Roll brings to life the best of Australia's experiences. It is available for loan to International and Australian broadcast media including: Broadcast – Free to air TV, Pay TV and Satellite and Broadcast – Internet. Contact your local Tourism Australia office for a copy.

Image Library

For fantastic images of Australia's people, environment and lifestyle register with Tourism Australia's online Image Library. The library features images covering a range of Australia's best experiences including our beaches, nature, outback, cities, Indigenous culture and food and wine. Visit the website for more information and registration: www.images.australia.com

Filming in Australia

As a general rule, permits are required to film in all cities and at all national parks in Australia. Various fees apply. For more information download the Tourism Australia Media Guide or contact the relevant State or Territory Tourist Office or your local Tourism Australia office.

Time is running out for media registration!

If you are one of the 3,000-5,000 media expected to attend and report on World Youth Day in Sydney, you should complete your registration now. Once accredited, you can access detailed information about media services. Register online at: www.wyd2008.org/media by Friday, 20 June 2008.

WYD Events

So much more than a day

WYD08 will be an extraordinary event mobilising thousands and reaching millions. A week-long program of events includes an Opening Mass, Catechesis, Youth Festivals, Arrival of Pope Benedict XVI, Stations of the Cross, Pilgrimages Walk and a Final Mass.

Opening Mass: Tuesday 15 July

The Opening Mass of Welcome will be celebrated by Cardinal George Pell. This event is the first gathering of all the WYD08 pilgrims in one place and marks the official beginning of WYD08 week. The event will take place at Barangaroo in East Darling Harbour. The 22-hectare site will host the 150,000 pilgrims expected to attend the Mass, which will be followed by a concert.

Catechesis: Wednesday 16 July

The Catechesis meetings provide an opportunity for pilgrims to grow in their understanding of their faith. The sessions will be led by Priests, Bishops and Archbishops from across the world and are organised into different language groups to cater for as many people as possible.

Youth Festival Events: 15-20 July

In the afternoons and evenings of WYD week Youth Festivals offer pilgrims and the public an opportunity for cultural and spiritual exchange. Parks and playing fields, churches, halls, galleries and performance spaces across Sydney will spring to life with the Festivals featuring live music, dance, film, visual arts, street theatre, workshops, guest speakers, prayer centre concerts, community gatherings and more.

Arrival of Pope Benedict XVI: Thursday 17 July

This is the first visit to Australia by Pope Benedict XVI and the first Papal visit to Australia for 13 years. Pope Benedict XVI will arrive by boat at Barangaroo in East Darling Harbour for his official welcome.



Barangaroo in East Darling Harbour

Stations of the Cross: Friday 18 July

In a re-enactment of the final journey of Jesus Christ, the Stations of the Cross begins with the last supper and ends with the crucifixion. This event will be one of the most visually spectacular events of WYD08, taking place across the Sydney CBD and making the most of the stunning landscape Sydney has to offer.

Pilgrimage Walk: Saturday 19 July

The Pilgrimage Walk starts at North Sydney, and finishes at Randwick Racecourse. Pilgrims will sleep under the stars of the Southern Cross at Randwick Racecourse, in preparation for the Final Mass.

Final Mass: Sunday 20 July

Celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI, the Final Mass at Randwick Racecourse is expected to draw the largest

gathering of people in the history of Australia. The altar will be set up at the 1,000-metre mark and the pope-mobile will tour the track at the event. An additional 200,000 people will be able to take part in the Mass from Centennial Park where crowds can watch via big screens.

Experience Australia: Nature

It took the forces of earth, wind, fire and water 250 million years to create the spectacle of nature that is our home. From the smallest wonders of our tropical fish, rare plants and gems, to world treasures like the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru and Kakadu National Park – the country is a spectacular canvas of nature's finest work.

We are home to plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth and we are custodians of 17 unique World Heritage Areas, some of the oldest rainforests on Earth and one-third of the world's protected marine areas, treasured by human-kind for their importance to us all.

Our landscape keeps the stories left by Indigenous people 50,000 years ago and, according to their Dreamtime, bares the marks of the spirits' journeys as they created all landforms and life.

Take your time to be mesmerised by the land as it meets the sea. Explore craggy cliffs continually carved by sea, walk on beaches with sand like talcum powder, enjoy the startling contrasts of red desert merging with blue water, and languish in the shade of rich rainforests at the water's edge. Mountains, caves, snowfields and palm jungles are just the beginning. Most of our great cities flank National Parks, spectacular coast or rivers and offer peeks at the great forces of nature we treasure.

Some Nature Facts:

- Many of our unique plants and animals descended from those living on the super-continent, Gondwana, and have survived nowhere else. The Huon Pine, one of the world's oldest living plants is found only in Tasmania. Some trees date back at least 2,000 years while others are believed to be around 10,000 years old.
- More than 80 per cent of Australia's flowering plants, mammals, reptiles and frogs are unique to Australia, along with most of the fish and almost half the birds.

- Australia's marine environment is home to 4,000 fish species, 500 coral species, 50 types of marine mammal, seabirds, rare sea dragons and whales, dolphins, dugongs, turtles, giant rays and whale sharks.
- The kangaroo is unique to Australia and one of our most easily recognised mammals. It is also a marsupial and a macropod.
- Australia has more than 140 species of marsupials, including koalas, wombats and the Tasmanian devil, now found only in the Tasmanian wilderness.
- The platypus and echidna are the only two egg-laying mammals in the world.

Nature Experiences

Visit the Blue Mountains, just outside Sydney, one of those rare world cities that have a UNESCO World Heritage-listed national park on its doorstep. See the Three Sisters rock formation, thick eucalypt forests and dramatic sandstone cliffs. This is the perfect environment for bushwalking, waterfall spotting and seeing kangaroos and native birds in the wild.

Instead of a day trip or cruise to the **Great Barrier Reef**, why not actually stay on it? Heron Island, a five-star resort with an eco-focus, is located right on the reef so you can wade out to swim amongst fish or baby turtles. Simpler cabin-style accommodation is available on Lady Elliot Island. Dive, snorkel, fish or learn about the reef from a marine biologist.



Great Barrier Reef, Qld

South Australia is one of the best places in the world to **watch the Southern Right Wales** make their annual northern migration with numerous vantage points on the Fleurieu, Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas from mid-May to October.

Watch the sunset march of the penguins on an exclusive beach viewing with a private ranger. Phillip Island is home to a colony of little penguins, that make their way from the sea to their burrows every day at dusk, and Australia's largest colony of fur seals.

Swim with wild dolphins in their natural environment, a rare and exhilarating experience. Dolphins are common along our entire coastline, but Western Australia, Baird Bay and Port Phillip Bay are the places for these unforgettable encounters.

Follow comedian Billy Connolly's steps from his World Tour travel show, in which he waxed lyrical about his favourite part of Australia – the Tiwi Islands (Melville and Bathurst) across the Torres Strait from Darwin in the Arafura Sea, which are inhabited by Torres Strait islanders. Eat witchetty grubs and fresh crab, see crocodiles and ibis, and go swimming in the Arafura Sea with the Tiwi people.

Walk among the treetops on a walkway suspended high in the rainforest canopy at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, tucked away in Lamington National Park in the Gold Coast Hinterland, less than two hours from Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The rainforests, vast array of bird life, waterfalls and spectacular views of the rugged escarpment attract people from all over the world to this lush paradise of palms and birds. You may even spot a brush tail possum or sugar glider or two.

Watch water birds on the mudflats on the shores of Western Australia's **Roebuck Bay** near Broome, a habitat for 800,000 migratory water birds, some of which migrate from the Arctic tundra. Trek through the magnificent gorges of the **Bungle Bungles**, then return to the luxury of a hot shower in a tented camp.

Escape to the **Dandenong** or **Grampian Ranges** where you can find a host of rural retreats for a quiet getaway. Stay in the Candlelight Cottages Retreat, a hidden 1890 heritage cottage, the Balinese Retreat or the Japanese Mountain Retreat, exotic hideaways set in nature, under an hour from Melbourne.



World Youth Day 2008

Volume 5 | May 2008

Dodge the wildlife as you hike through bushland on **Kangaroo Island**. A third of the island is protected wilderness where you'll find sea lions basking on the beach, koalas napping in the gum trees and echidnas foraging among the leaf litter. Many native plants and animals which inhabit the island have been isolated making them clearly different from their relatives on the mainland.



Kangaroos on the beach in Esperance, WA

Spend a couple of days relaxing at the **Avalon Coastal Resort** – soak up the magnificent coastal views and unwind. Prepare your meals from the gourmet provisions provided or search out your own favourites from local producers, wineries and roadside stalls while exploring Tasmania's East Coast.

Play golf with the kangaroos as they wander on to any course set in or near bushland – an experience you can only have in Australia. At Federal Golf Course, a short drive from Parliament House in our national capital Canberra, a large group of kangaroos live freely on the golf course; you might even be lucky enough to spot a mother and baby.

See the mighty Kakadu from the water as you get away from the mainstream on a Katherine River safari. Canoe by day, spotting birds and crocodiles, and camp at night; this is the best way to see the area as the rivers of the Katherine region continue to run even through the long dry season.

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