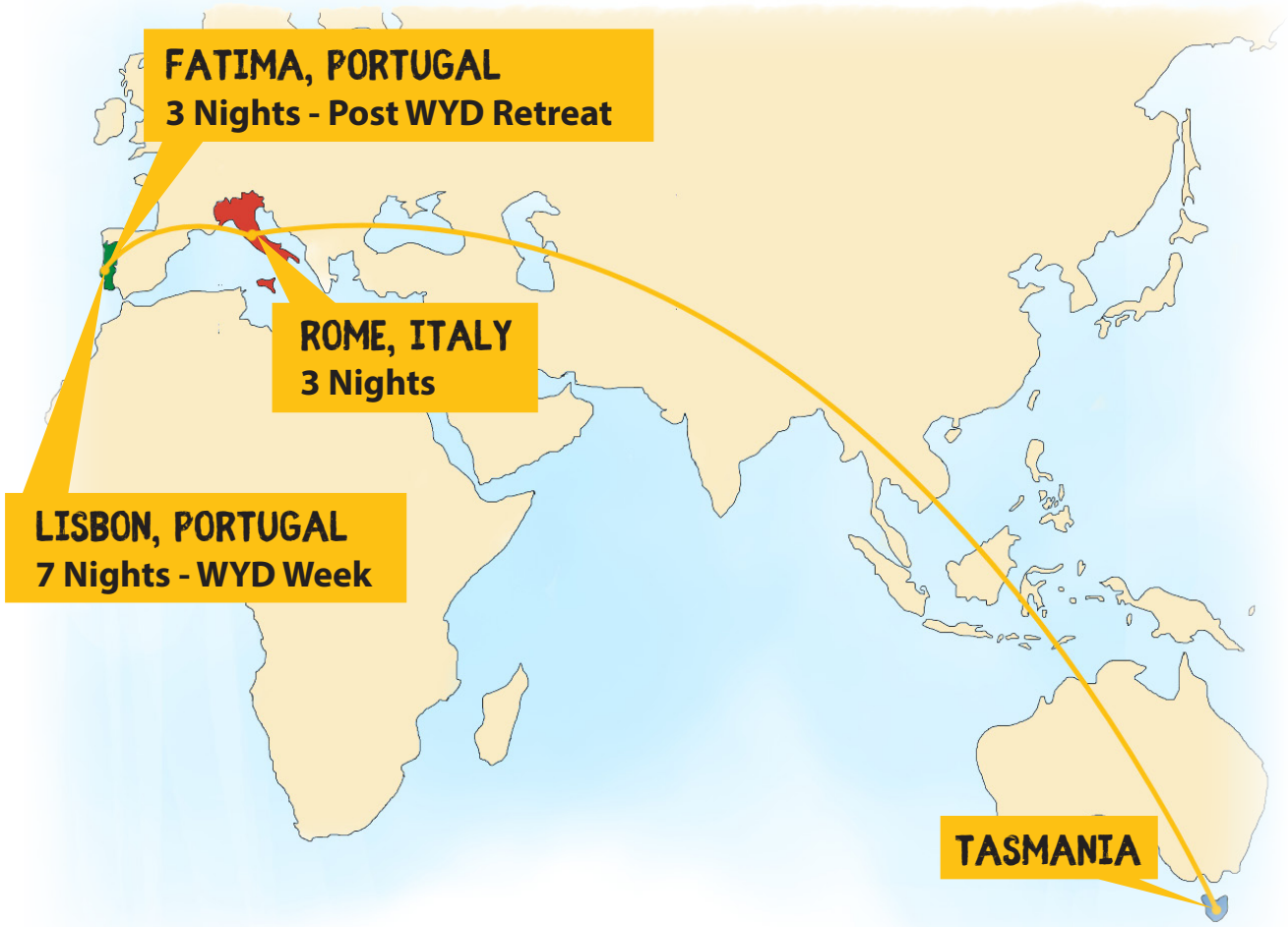
WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

LISBON, PORTUGAL VIA ROME, ITALY

Archdiocese of Hobart



ITALY - a land of unforgettable charm and beauty, made rich in grace by its colourful history of holy men and women. Follow their paths etched into our faith heritage from the great Christian centre of **ROME**, then journey into the heart and soul of **PORTUGAL**, to join Pope Francis for the 16th International World Youth Day in **LISBON**, where young pilgrims from across the globe come together for a week of prayer, worship and celebration. Following the excitement of the WYD Week, we depart for our post WYD Retreat in **FATIMA** 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.

FEATURED SAINTS

St Peter

St Francisco & St Jacinta Marto

St Pope John Paul II

Our Lady of Fatima

St John the Baptist

St Paul

PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY DETAILS

DAY ONE: THURSDAY 27TH JULY 2023 – DEPART FOR ITALY

Image: Vatican City. (Photo by Christopher Czermak on Unsplash)

DAY TWO: FRIDAY 28TH JULY – ARRIVE IN ROME

After being met on arrival, we will enjoy an **orientation drive through Rome** to our place of accommodation. Before dinner, we shall celebrate our first group Mass together in the Eternal City, rich in the traditions of our Church.

Rome overnight

DAY THREE: SATURDAY 29TH JULY – ROME

We start our pilgrimage this morning with a spectacular Mass at **St Peter's Basilica** before coming to the nearby **Vatican Museums**. Wander the spectacular chambers leading to the **Sistine Chapel** to view Michelangelo's masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment. Continue through to the awe-inspiring **St Peter's Basilica**, the largest church in the world for an informative exploration. Our guided tour will feature among other highlights Michelangelo's stunning **Pieta**, the **tomb of Pope St John Paul II**, the great **Confessional** and the **Crypt** containing the tombs of several Popes.

Image: Vatican Museums. (Photo by Corey Buckley on Unsplash)

Continuing on we visit the impressive **St Mary Major Basilica**. Onwards to the **Basilica of St John in Lateran** (First Papal residence) and the adjacent **Holy Stairs** brought from Jerusalem to Rome in 326AD by St Helena (as a favourite of pilgrims, these steps may only be ascended on the knees).

Visit the **Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme** with its extraordinary collection of relics from the Holy Land.

Set out after dinner to view **Rome by night** as we discover the city's renowned monuments from inside our comfortable coach. See the **Colosseum** alight, the **Victor Emmanuel Monument**, the **Piazza Della Republica**, **St Peter's Basilica** and **Capitol Hill**. Disembark to throw a coin in the **Trevi Fountain** before strolling to the **Piazza Navona** to soak up the vibrant atmosphere.

Image: Trevi Fountain. (Photo by Francesco Bruno on Unsplash)

Rome overnight

DAY FOUR: SUNDAY 30TH JULY – ROME

This morning we enter into the most visited attraction in Rome - the **Colosseum**. In 1749, Pope Benedict XIV declared the Colosseum a sacred site, as it was a place where early Christians had been martyred. View also the **Circus Maximus** and the **Roman Forum** en route.

Continue along the ancient **Appian Way**, the oldest road from Roman times, to the ancient **Catacombs** for a memorable guided tour to marvel at these underground burial tunnels for Christians and Hebrews. On the way, drive by **Domine Quo Vadis** – the chapel that stands at the site where, according to tradition, St Peter met Christ when he fled from Rome to escape martyrdom.

Our Christian Rome pilgrimage culminates this afternoon at the **Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls** as a special tribute to the Church's greatest evangelist. Here we will celebrate our group Mass.

This evening we will celebrate dinner at a special restaurant which is a place of evangelisation in the heart of Rome, run by missionary nuns who actually sing the Ave Maria to us between courses!

Rome overnight

Image: Roman Forum. (Photo by Jens Peter Olesen on Unsplash)

Image: Lisbon. (Photo by LIsboa2023 WYD)

DAY FIVE: MONDAY 31ST JULY – ROME TO LISBON

Departing Italy today, 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

DAY SIX: TUESDAY 1ST AUGUST – WYD WEEK LISBON

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

AM: FREE TO EXPLORE LISBON

PM: WYD OPENING CEREMONIES

DAY SEVEN: WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST – WYD WEEK LISBON

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 EIGHT: THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST – WYD WEEK LISBON

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 NINE: FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST – WYD WEEK LISBON

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 TEN: SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST – PILGRIMAGE WALK TO WYD VIGIL

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

DAY ELEVEN: SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST – 16TH INTERNATIONAL WYD

As the sun rises, we will 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

DAY TWELVE: MONDAY 7TH AUGUST – DEPART FOR POST-WYD RETREAT

Today we farewell Lisbon for the tranquillity and relaxation of our Post WYD Retreat in the **Fatima** area. As we depart out of the city, see Europe's longest suspension bridge and view the inspiring **Statue of Christ the King** pointing the way north to Fatima.

Enroute, we will visit the **Holy Miracle Church of St Stephen** at **Santarem** containing the oldest recorded Eucharistic miracle.

Arriving at our post-WYD retreat lodgings, 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.

Fatima overnight

Image: Christ the King. (Public domain)

Image: Basilica of the Rosary. (Image by Natacha De Hepcee on Unsplash)

DAY THIRTEEN: TUESDAY 8TH AUGUST – FATIMA AND RETREAT DAY

This morning in **Fatima**, where in 1917 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three children as 'a lady in white', we will enjoy a **tour of the Square** (the largest square in Christendom) including the **site of the Apparitions**, **Rosary Basilica** with the Tombs of the visionaries, **the Museum**, **Blessed Sacrament Chapel** and other main sites.

Back at our lodgings this afternoon, we enter a time of retreat, prayer and recreation.

Fatima overnight

DAY FOURTEEN: WEDNESDAY 9TH AUGUST – FATIMA AND RETREAT DAY

This morning we will walk and pray the Stations along the beautiful **Way of the Cross (the Sacred Way)** culminating in the **Chapel of Calvary** which overlooks all of Fatima. 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.

Back at our lodgings this afternoon, we enter a time of retreat, prayer and recreation.

Fatima overnight

Image: Aljustrel. (Image public domain)

DAY FIFTEEN: THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST – DEPART PORTUGAL

Today we will be transferred to the airport for our homebound flight connections to Australia.

DAY SIXTEEN: FRIDAY 11TH AUGUST – ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Indicative Price - $5,990 per person

Image: Lisbon. (Imageby Katya Shkiper on Unsplash)

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2022 – Bookings Open to pilgrims

February 2023 – Interim group numbers update

March 2023 – Final Price Check and Group review

April 2023 – Full payment due from pilgrims

To register your interest, or for more information, please contact **youth@aohtas.org.au**