What to Expect

What's the weather like?

World Youth Day will take place in the summer, so the climate can be warm. During that time, the average temperature in Lisbon is 65-83 degrees Fahrenheit, and rain is infrequent but still possible. Check the 10-day forecast when packing. Weather during World Youth Day can be very unusual.

What is the food like?

The food in Portugal is made with simple ingredients that are impeccably prepared. The flavors are fresh and wholesome, and the most popular dishes are "caldo verde", or "green soup", Portuguese cod fish, "bifanas" – a traditional pork sandwich, and chicken piri-piri, a spicy chicken dish cooked with an African spice known as "periperi".

Can we drink the water?

Yes, you can safely drink the tap water in Portugal. You'll see plenty of Portuguese people buying bottled water, but that's just because it tastes nicer.

How will we be getting around?

When traveling to with JMJ Youth, the official pilgrimage provider of WorldYouthDay.com, you will be transferred from and to the airport by chartered bus. The rest of the pilgrimage will primarily require walking. Public transit in Portugal consists of buses, metros, and trains. But this is WYD, so train yourself in advance to do a LOT of walking.

What is the schedule of events?

Below is the traditional outline of events for World Youth Day. The specific itinerary has not been published. Typically, the venues for smaller events are not publicized in advance of arrival.

Tuesday of WYD week

- Opening Mass: celebrated by local bishop
- Youth Festival events: evening (except during Opening Mass) at various locations

Wednesday of WYD week

- Catechesis (teaching) sessions: morning until lunch at many locations, by language, throughout the area
- Youth Festival events: throughout the evening

Thursday of WYD week

- Catechesis (teaching) sessions: morning until lunch at many locations, by language, throughout the area
- Papal Arrival and welcome of the Pope this afternoon
- Youth Festival events: throughout the evening (except during Papal Arrival)

Friday of WYD week

- Catechesis (teaching) sessions: morning until lunch at many locations, by language, throughout the area
- Stations of the Cross: a re-enactment of the last moments of Jesus' life
- Youth Festival events: throughout the evening (except during Stations of the Cross)

Saturday of WYD week

- Pilgrimage walk to Vigil site, plan to begin early in the morning and campout for the day and night
- Evening Vigil with the Pope and sleep out 'under the stars'

Sunday of WYD week

- Final Mass celebrated by the Pope
- Announcement of next host city
- Youth Festival events: at vigil site as many pilgrims depart
- Pilgrim journey back to lodging

Do I need to bring any trading items?

Many pilgrims from across the world bring small items, such as stickers, pins, key chains, patches, and flags to trade with pilgrims from other countries. They can be anything that represents your parish, school, city, state or country. It is not obligatory to bring trading items. It's just fun!