

## What to Expect

### What's the weather like?

World Youth Day will take place at the end of January, but as it is a tropical country, the climate can be quite warm. During that time, the average temperature in Panama is 73-88 degrees Fahrenheit, and rain is less frequent but still possible. Check the 10-day forecast when packing. Weather during World Youth Day can be very unusual.

### What is the food like?

Panamanian food is not a very well-known cuisine, but is delicious and diverse! It is a mix of African, Spanish and Native American styles, dishes, and ingredients, reflecting its diverse population. Since Panama is a land bridge between two continents, it has a large variety of tropical fruits, vegetables, and herbs that are used in native cooking. Typical Panamanian foods are mildly flavored, and common ingredients are maize, rice, wheat flour, plantains, *yuca* (cassava), beef, chicken, pork and seafood.

### Can we drink the water?

Tap water in Panama City is safe to drink, as is the water in most other parts of the country. However, you're better off buying bottled water or purifying your own water in the provinces of Bocas del Toro and Guna Yala. If you have the means, vigorous boiling for one minute is the most effective method of water purification.

### 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 Panama consists of buses and one metro line, with a second metro scheduled to be open in time for World Youth Day. 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, 22 January 2019**

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

#### **Wednesday, 23 January 2019**

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

#### **Thursday, 24 January 2019**

- 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, 25 January 2019**

- 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, 26 January 2019**

- 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, 27 January 2019**

- 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!