

DIOCESE OF THUNDER BAY

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WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011 – MADRID

15- DAY PROGRAM, AUGUST 10 – AUGUST 24, 2011

The 26th World Youth Day will occur in Madrid Spain, the first time in that country since the 4th WYD in 1989 when the youth of the world hosted the late Pope John Paul II in Santiago de Compostela, at the end of the famous pilgrimage of St. James route. The country is blessed with its rich Catholic heritage and traditionally the lives of Spaniards revolve around the church, family and friends. Today, Spain is a huge tourism destination as well as a focus for modern pilgrims. Spain, with its population of 40 million, entertains over 50 million visitors annually. This destination will fill your days with excellent art, folk life, exotic foods, friendly people, sunshine and even the opportunity to try flamenco dancing. Tour Design welcomes you to this cultural carnival and we are planning our WYD experience to give you the best encounters in good locations at the lowest possible price. Our WYD programs never sacrifice sleep, nutrition, safety or cleanliness in the name of budget. We simply present to you the local-style alternatives to expensive hotels and restaurants.

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Madrid is the host city in August 2011 for World Youth Day. What a wonderful city in which to meet the youth of Spain and the youth of the world. If there is one thing that characterizes Madrid, it is the deep, contagious passion for life, reflected in its friendly, welcoming people. Today, art and culture are central to Madrid life. The city has over 73 museums that cover all fields of human knowledge. Of these, the most important are the Prado Museum, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum and the Reina Sofia National Art Centre. You will experience the grandeur and charm of Madrid at the lavish Royal Palace and the city's huge Retiro Park, as well as the elegant shops and people-friendly pedestrian zone.

Public transit in Madrid is excellent with the Métro being simple, speedy and inexpensive. The city's broad streets are full of life, but can be hot and exhausting in the summer, so a subway trip of even one or two stops saves time and energy. Meals in Spain are a little different from what we are accustomed to in Canada and the UK. Spaniards tend to have a small, quick breakfast, grab a late morning sandwich to tide them over, and then gather with friends and family for lunch between 1 and 4 P.M. Afterwards they return to work until the cool of the evening beckons them out to enjoy the lively nightlife. Dinner is usually enjoyed from 9 P.M. onwards.

Thoughtful travel engages you with the world, which is more important than even in today's world. As part of your faith journey, a pilgrimage such as WYD changes people. It broadens perspectives and teaches new ways to measure quality of life within the context of one's faith. Join Tour Design in 2010 as we immerse ourselves in Spain.

Day One: Wednesday, August 10, 2011**In flight**

Our pilgrimage begins today as we travel from Thunder Bay via Toronto on Air Canada and onwards with our flight to Madrid, Spain. For all trans-Atlantic flights, you have complimentary meals, beverages and all entertainment on board. For the domestic service between Thunder Bay and Toronto, meals are not included.

Day Two: Thursday, August 11, 2011**Day in the Diocese**

Welcome to Madrid. Tour Design staff will meet you on arrival. You will be traveling on your own deluxe touring coach to your site for Day in the Diocese. Destination to be advised. During the next 4 days, you will be hosted by a diocese in Spain.

Day Three: Friday, August 12, 2011

Day in the Diocese activities

Day Four: Saturday, August 13, 2011

Day in the Diocese activities

Day Five: Sunday, August 14, 2011

Day in the Diocese activities

Day Six: Monday, August 15, 2011

Your deluxe touring coach will return to your site for Day in the Diocese and take you back to Madrid, host city for the 26th World Youth Day. You will be staying at the Aparthotel Espana for the next 9 nights. This Aparthotel was built in 1988 in a contemporary style and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and the most creative of decors. Located on one of Madrid's main traffic arteries Espana Aparthotel is surrounded by numerous theatres, cinemas and shopping areas, as well as the city's most important historic and cultural buildings. From here you are perfectly placed to explore Madrid's (Cathedral and the Royal Palace which is just a few minutes' walk away, a quintessential experience for any visitor to Spain. Nearest Metro stop – Plaza de Espana is just 2 minutes walk.

Tour Design will assist you with locating and handing out all of the World Youth Day backpacks and necessary registration cards to participate over the next 6 days in the World Youth Day activities. (Welcome Dinner)

Day Seven: Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Breakfast this morning followed by some free time to explore the city. Madrid has a very updated and extensive subway system so whether on foot or traveling on your unlimited public transit pass, enjoy the sights of Madrid. This afternoon your group will go to the Opening Ceremonies. (Breakfast)

Day Eight: Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Breakfast this morning followed by your catechesis. Balance of day free to enjoy World Youth Day programs throughout the city. Dinner this evening arranged by Tour Design (Breakfast and Dinner)

Day Nine: Thursday, August 18, 2011

Breakfast this morning followed by catechesis. Today we have the official welcome for Pope Benedict XVI to Madrid. (Breakfast)

Day Ten: Friday, August 19, 2011

Breakfast this morning followed by catechesis. This evening Stations of the Cross. (Breakfast)

Day Eleven: Saturday, August 20, 2011

Breakfast this morning before beginning our pilgrimage to the site for the Overnight Vigil. (Breakfast)

Day Twelve: Sunday, August 21, 2011

Final Mass for World Youth Day. Pilgrims will make their way back to our hotel and once the entire group is once again together, enjoy a relaxing dinner. (Dinner)

Day Thirteen: Monday, August 22, 2011

Breakfast this morning. Today, we drive from Madrid to Toledo. Toledo was the capital of medieval Spain until 1560 and to this day remains one of the country's greatest cities where the Jewish, Moorish and Christian cultures once lived together in relative harmony. Nowadays Toledo is a living museum of synagogues, mosques and churches, which provide outstanding architectural diversity throughout the city. On foot walk through its narrow streets and visit to the Cathedral, Church of St. Thomas and the synagogue of Santa Maria La Blanca.

The Cathedral, which took over 250 years to complete, displays magnificent architecture from the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods. Next visit the Church of St. Thomas which houses one of El Greco's most commended paintings, 'El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz' (Burial of the Count of Orgaz). The Synagogue of Santa Maria La Blanca was once the main 12th-century synagogue in Toledo. It obtained its present title after its conversion to a church. The building's structural similarity to a mosque is explained by the fact that Muslim craftsmen constructed it. The synagogue has had many uses that include being a convent for 'fallen' women, a Catholic chapel and an army barracks. Return to Madrid after having some time at leisure. (Breakfast)

Day Fourteen: Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Breakfast this morning. - Full day *Avila and Segovia* Excursion: Drive to Avila (wonderfully well-preserved middle-age walled city). Upon arrival, you will visit the Cathedral and Santa Teresa Church. The Cathedral is the oldest Spanish Gothic cathedral. The Sanctuary of the cathedral is built into the wall, making it part of the city's defenses. The **Convent of St. Teresa** is one of two main destinations for Catholic pilgrims to Avila. The 17th-century convent was built after the canonization of St. Teresa (1515-82) over the house where she was born. It contains her relics, along with those of her friend St. John of the Cross, in a small museum.

Continue to drive to Segovia (includes the famous Roman aqueduct) and visit the Alcazar and the Cathedral. See the aqueduct, which was probably built by the Romans between the late 1st and 2nd century AD. This amazing construction was built to bring water from the Acebeda River, situated near the Royal Palace of La Granja (around 10 kilometres away). The Romans used no other material apart from stone to hold the structure together and those stones are as solid today as they were the day they were first lifted into place. Next, visit the Alcazar. It is probably one of its most famous monuments. It is said that its design influenced the castle in Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*. There has been some sort of fortress situated on the site of the Alcázar since the 12th century. It has a number of impressive towers and a large hall. Finally, have a visit to the Cathedral. It is located in the city's Plaza Mayor and is called the dame of Spanish cathedrals. Its location is on the highest point of the city and is built on the site of the old Romanesque cathedral. It was begun in 1525, was completed in 1528, during the reign of Carlos V, and was a very impressive building. Return to Madrid following this tour. Farewell dinner this evening. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day Fifteen: Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Transfer to the airport in Madrid for our return flight to Thunder Bay.

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

- Round trip airfare from Thunder Bay via Toronto to Madrid
- Transfers from Madrid Airport to site for Day in the Diocese, from site for Day in the Diocese to the Aparthotel Espana Madrid and back to Airport.
- 9 night's accommodation at the Aparthotel Espana twin or triple. All pilgrims have their own bed.
- Breakfast daily in Madrid
- Four dinners
- Deluxe Package Insurance from RBC Insurance – Youth/Student group program up to 29 years. Includes cancellation insurance (\$1100 prior to departure, unlimited after departure) , hospital medical, (unlimited coverage) air flight accident (up to \$100,000) and baggage coverage (up to \$1000 for loss or damage and \$400 for delay)
- One day trip to Toledo with guide and admissions included
- One day trip to Avila and Segovia with guide and admissions included
- Tour Design assistance 24-hours a day during WYD

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

- Airport taxes currently at \$380 but we have no way of estimating this cost for 2011.
- World Youth Day registration fees

COST PER PERSON CANADIAN DOLLARS

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| TWO TO ROOM | \$ 3150.00 |
| THREE TO ROOM | \$ 3105.00 |

Deposit and Cancellation:

- Deposit of \$300 is due at the time of booking or by March 16, 2010. Names must be submitted as per the passport. All participants must have a passport that is valid for 6 months after your departure date from Spain.
- Further deposit of \$500 per person due by November 16, 2010
- Final payment due by March 16, 2011.

Cancellation Charges:

- Deposit of \$300 per person is refundable until December 30, 2009 and non-refundable after this date, change of name is permitted.
- Deposit of \$500 per person is totally non-refundable, change of name permitted
- Between March 17 and May 17 final payment is 50% non-refundable, change of name permitted
- Between May 18 and date of departure, 100% non-refundable, change of name subject to airline penalties.

Non-refundable deposits can be claimed through cancellation insurance if for a medical reason that is supported by a doctor's certificate.

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