

World Youth Day ~ 2011~ Madrid, Spain

Friday, August 12 – Monday, August 22

- **Depart** from Chicago on Friday, August 12, 2011
- **Arrive** in the morning in Madrid on Saturday, August 13
- **Depart** from Madrid following breakfast for Toledo
- **Arrive** in Toledo on Saturday, August 13 around 1pm
- **Stay** overnight at Hotel Eurico www.hoteleurico.com
- **Depart** from Toledo on Sunday, August 14 after liturgy and lunch
- **Arrive** in Talavera De la Reina in the early evening
- **Stay** overnight at Hotel Eborra www.hoteleborra.com
- **Depart** from Talavera De la Reina on Monday, August 15 after breakfast
- **Arrive** in Plasencia late morning, Byzantine liturgy for the Dormition of the Mother of God
- **Depart** Plasencia early evening
- **Arrive** in Salamanca in the evening
- **Stay** 2 nights at Petit Palace La Torres in Salamanca <http://petit-palace-las-torres.h-rez.com/>
- **Depart** Salamanca on Wednesday, August 17 after breakfast
- **Arrive** in Madrid Wednesday, August 17 in the afternoon for World Youth Day
- **Stay** 3 nights at Comfortel Pio XII www.comfortelhotels.com
- **Depart** the hotel Saturday, August 20 in the early morning (leave bags at hotel)
- **Arrive** at site for Papal Mass in the AM
- **Stay** overnight at site for Papal Mass
- **Return** to Comfortel Pio XII on Sunday, August 21 in the evening
- **Depart** Monday, August 22 for airport and return flight to Chicago





Our journey will begin at Madrid's Barajas Airport, one of the world's top 10 best airports. All transatlantic flights arrive in the architecturally appealing terminal at left. Madrid is the European Union's third largest city next to London and Berlin, and boasts one of the highest standards of living in all of Europe. It is most famous for its tree-lined promenades, romantic cobblestone streets, quaint neighborhoods and delicious gastronomy with influences from its Moorish and Roman pasts.



Our first stop will be Toledo! This city is world renowned for its Jewish, Christian and Islamic history. It is the only city in Spain to call itself home to a synagogue, cathedral and mosque. Once an important Roman trading city, Toledo is



famous for its intricate metallurgy and is also recognized as a commercial center for ceramics and glasswork. Artisans are always willing to share their crafts with you! Visit the Zocodover, the central marketplace, to purchase your souvenirs. Historic fact: Toledo was the first city to be conquered in the *Reconquista* by Alfonso VI in 1085.

Our next stop along the pilgrimage will be Talavera de la Reina. The city is internationally known for its ceramics, which Phillip II of Spain used as tiled revetments in many of his works, such as the monastery of El Escorial. The nickname of Talavera de la Reina is "The City of Pottery." Interestingly enough, this city was founded by Celtic tribes that emigrated across the Cantabrian Sea and into central Spain during the centuries preceding Christ.



We will then pass through Plasencia en route to Salamanca, home to the oldest university in Spain and two cathedrals from the 12th and 16th centuries. The Old City of Salamanca was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. It is also considered one of the most beautiful renaissance cities in the world and is rightfully nicknamed *La Ciudad Dorada*, or the Golden City. During our stay in Salamanca, we will get the chance to experience the *La Mariseca*, a festival complete with food, music and fireworks. It is something you will not want to miss! Our last days will be spent in Madrid to explore the city and attend the Papal Mass.