



FRASSATI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
World Youth Day Pilgrimage 2019
Panama City, Panama | January 19 - 28, 2019

“I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38)

What is World Youth Day?

Inaugurated by Pope St. John Paul II in 1985, the Holy Father has invited youth and young adults to gather periodically with him across the world for international World Youth Days. Though the title indicates a “day,” it is really a week long life-changing experience of the diversity and richness of the Catholic Church. Pope Francis has invited young people from across the world to the World Youth Day in Panama City, Panama. The official website for WYD Panama is <https://www.panama2019.pa/en/home/>

What is the Itinerary for the Frassati Catholic Pilgrimage to WYD Panama?

Saturday, Jan. 19: Depart USA and arrive Panama mid-late afternoon. Check into hotel.

Sunday, Jan. 20: Visit to Gamboa Rainforest Resort for Preparation retreat with Steve Angrisano. Also experience Panama’s beauty with visits to Areal Tram, Monkey Island

Monday, Jan. 21: City tour and visit to Panama Canal Miraflores Locks

Tuesday, Jan. 22: Morning Free to explore. Opening Mass in the afternoon

Wednesday, Jan. 23: Catechesis and WYD events

Thursday, Jan. 24: Catechesis in the morning and Papal arrival in the afternoon

Friday, Jan. 25: Catechesis in the morning and Stations of the Cross in the afternoon

Saturday, Jan. 26: Departure for Vigil Site and evening Vigil with Holy Father

Sunday, Jan. 27: Closing Mass with Holy Father. Farewell celebration.

Monday, Jan. 28: Departure to USA

Who can attend WYD 2019 in Panama?

The pilgrimage is for both youth and young adults. Generally, World Youth Day gatherings are geared toward young people from 16-35 years old. Frassati Catholic High School is offering this pilgrimage to students who will be rising juniors and seniors for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Who will chaperone the pilgrimage?

We will be traveling as a group throughout this pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Panama. Faculty and Staff of Frassati Catholic High School will serve as chaperones for the pilgrimage. The number of chaperones will be dependent on the number of pilgrims.

Where will the pilgrims be staying?

We will stay at a hotel in Panama which will be within walking distance of the World Youth Day events. The actual hotel and contact information will be made known as soon as Dube Travel makes the arrangements with the hotel.

What will the weather be like in Panama in January?

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.

Is it safe to travel in Panama?

Safety is obviously a concern whenever one travels abroad. Frassati Catholic High School is partnering with an organization that has years of experience in international travel in general and World Youth Days in particular. We want everyone to have a grace-filled pilgrimage and return home safely. Because of the valid concerns regarding a pilgrimage to any foreign country, we will be focused on group activities and traveling as a group as much as possible.

What shots/vaccines do I need to visit Panama?

It is recommended to be current on routine vaccinations such as tetanus. There are no vaccinations required to enter Panama at this time, but it is recommended to be vaccinated against Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

Zika is a risk in Panama, especially in more remote areas outside of the city. Because Zika infection in a pregnant woman can cause serious birth defects, women who are pregnant should not travel to Panama. All travelers should strictly follow steps to prevent exposure to the Zika virus during and after the trip.

Mosquito repellent is relatively necessary in the city, and very necessary when going outside the city, especially when visiting the rainforest areas. Stronger repellent containing DEET is especially recommended in order to effectively prevent chances of contracting Zika, or less commonly, malaria and yellow fever.

For more general information, please refer to the country information from the U.S. Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/panama.html>.

Currency in Panama

Panama does have its own currency, the Panamanian Balboa, but the US Dollar is much more commonly used. If you are buying smaller items from shops or at cafes, be sure to bring bills smaller than \$20, as many vendors will not have change for them.

How do I get my Passport and Visa (if required)?

Every person entering Panama needs to have an up-to-date passport. In general, it is a good rule to have at least 6 months left on your passport from the dates of your travel. You will also need your passport to return home. It is the responsibility of each individual to acquire his or her own passport.

It can take up to 4-6 weeks to obtain a passport. The State Department has more information on how to apply for or renew a passport (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>). You can also apply for your passport at your local Post Office.

A visa is not required to travel to Panama for U.S. or Canadian citizens. Here is a list of visa-exempt countries, as well as those which require authorized visas and/or diplomatic passports:

<http://www.embassyofpanama.org/inmigration-and-visas/>

It is the responsibility of each individual to find out and acquire what visa(s) he or she will need.

Minors – It is required that all minors not traveling with a parent have a notarized letter stating that they have permission to travel to WYD with a named group leader or chaperone.

What will be the total cost of the pilgrimage?

The cost can change depending on a few factors. The package includes air travel, ground transportation, lodging, most meals, and World Youth Day event registration. The cost is not finalized, but a preliminary figure has been calculated by Dube Travel at about \$3500 per pilgrim. The cost will not exceed \$3500 per pilgrim. Pilgrims are also encouraged to bring some spending money in addition to the cost of the pilgrimage.

How do we register and when is the deadline?

An initial deposit of \$400 and a signed contract are required to secure a place on the pilgrimage. The contract will be given to the students once we have an official agreement with Dube Travel and all details related to the itinerary and expense are finalized. The first deposit of \$400 is due on April 13, 2018 and the contract is due on or before May 31, 2018. All pilgrims must have obtained or at least begun the application process for a passport by May 1, 2018.

A second payment of \$400 is due on June 1, 2018. All other payment due dates and the total cost will be determined after we finalize the itinerary, know the definite number of pilgrims, and know the real airfare cost.

How do we pay?

Pilgrims may pay by check in one lump sum or in installments following the payment plan. Payments should be sent to Frassati Catholic High School Accounting Office Attn: WYD 2019, 22151 Frassati Way, Spring, TX 77389. Students may also drop checks off in the front office. Please be sure it is labeled clearly.

What about the travel company?

Dube Travel Agency was founded by Paul Dube on July 1, 1962. In the past 55 years, our company has grown to be one of the largest, most respected agencies in the State of Maine, and one of the leading Pilgrimage and WYD companies in the country. We are a family owned company which allows us to insure that our family and faith values are the primary ruling principles in running our company and that is what has allowed us to succeed and continue to grow. Visit their website at <http://www.dubetravel.com/>.

Questions?

Please contact Mrs. Reynolds at 832-616-3217