

# Joshua House Field Guide

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## **About the Joshua House Missionary Lodge**

In 1977, two young women of God, Alice Wise and Kathy Gouker, embarked on a short term mission trip to the EBAC Orphanage in Cap Haitien, Haiti. Instead of returning, they chose to stay at EBAC to help raise the orphans in a Christian environment. Several of those EBAC orphans, the "Haitian Team", who are now adults also wanted to stay and give back. Their vision - to build another orphanage to help the staggering number of other orphans and that vision has become a reality, it is IDADEE Orphanage.

The Joshua House Missionary Lodge at IDADEE stems from the need to have a place to accommodate missionaries to stay and assist and serve at the IDADEE Orphanage and its surrounding community.

The Haitian Team have distinct abilities and the trust of the community to make a significant impact ultimately in the country for good through Jesus Christ.

We invite you to come see how God is working at EBAC, IDADEE and in the communities around these orphanages while staying on the safe and secure compound at IDADEE in the Joshua House,

The Joshua House can house up to 36 people. The rooms available are:

- 2 rooms fit 2 people each - 4 people.
- 4 rooms fit 4 people each - 16 people.
- 2 rooms fit 8 people each - 16 people.

Amenities at the Joshua House include: generator for power, bathroom with shower in each bedroom, kitchen with stove and refrigerator, safe drinking water, fans, linens (sheets and towels) and a host family.

## **Serving Opportunities at EBAC, IDADEE, Beyond the Wall and Cap Haitien**

The Haitian Team at IDADEE have distinct abilities and the trust in the community to make a significant impact ultimately at IDADEE, EBAC, beyond the walls of IDADEE and in Cap Haitien for good through Jesus Christ. Because of the relationships between these Christians and the community, there are opportunities to feed, teach skills, educate, worship, play, provide medical services, and build relationships through play and sports with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Depending on the needs of the orphanages and communities at the time of your trip and the skills that your team can offer, Joshua House will introduce you to a person who will help you coordinate specific plans for your team.

### **Pre-Trip Planning and Info**

**Booking Procedures:** Partner groups may reserve spots 12+ months in advance and non-partner groups may start reserving spots 12 months in advance.

*To make a reservation at the Joshua House*

1. Check availability on website calendar, [www.thejoshuahouse.org](http://www.thejoshuahouse.org)
2. Contact Joshua House to tentatively hold spots by emailing [tracywalnoha@gmail.com](mailto:tracywalnoha@gmail.com). (Reservations are not guaranteed until the GFA and deposit have been received.)
3. Download the Good Faith Agreement (GFA) from the website.
4. Mail in GFA and 50% deposit (\$175 per person). Make checks payable to Joshua Foundation and mail them to 1552 Barrington Drive, Wexford PA 15090
5. Deliver fully signed original copies of the Release of Liability forms for each person on the trip.
6. Balance is due 120 days prior to trip departure.
7. Cost: \$350.00/week per person.

### **Cost includes:**

- \*Bed with all of the above described amenities
- \*Transportation to and from the closest airport
- \*Transportation to 1 excursion
- \*Food for 3 meals/day
- \*Security
- \*Team support from the Haitian Team
- \*Note: extra excursions/transportation to and from job sites may cost extra.

### **Costs not included:**

- \*Airfare
- \*Health insurance with evacuation coverage
- \*Service project costs

**Passports / Visa:** You will not need a visa to travel to Haiti however a passport is required. The application may be obtained at most local post offices, however an appointment is needed in order to process the application. Apply as soon as possible to make sure that you have this document. You will NOT be permitted to travel without it. It takes up to 12 weeks to get your passport, so apply early. Go to the following link to get more information:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

If your passport is within six months of expiring we ask that you get it renewed prior to leaving on the trip.

**Travel to and from Haiti:** You will be responsible for booking your own flights to and from the Hugo Chavez International Airport in Cap Haitien, Haiti. This is the nearest airport to the Joshua House and the only airport we will be able to pick up mission teams.

Below are links to the two airlines that we know of that fly into Hugo Chavez International Airport on a regular basis. Please check with both airlines for their availability before making your reservation at the Joshua House. Neither of these airlines fly into and out of Cap Haitien every day of the week. Important: There is a \$60 departure fee to leave Cap Haitien. Missionary Flights International includes that fee in its cost and will pay the fee on your behalf.. Please note that if you fly with IBC Airways you will be responsible to pay the \$60 per person departure fee, in cash, when you are leaving Haiti. The links to the airlines are:.

<http://www.missionaryflights.org>

<http://www.ibcairways.com>

**Health Information/Immunizations:** Consult your family physician as soon as possible. The following immunizations are suggested and you should get prior to the trip:

Tetanus shot

Typhoid

Hepatitis A & B

Malaria (Chloroquine)

Adult Polio Booster

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/haiti.htm>

Some of these shots need to be done weeks in advance and cannot be obtained by your physician. You will need to visit a travel clinic, such as <http://www.passporthealthusa.com> or your county health department to get them.

**Health Insurance:** Most US health insurance companies do not cover expenses incurred on an international trip. Your trip leader should purchase a short-term health insurance policy for each person on the team that includes medical evacuation and provide proof to the Joshua House. IMG Global is an option for such insurance (see link below) but your team is free to purchase from any provider.

<http://www.imglobal.com/index.aspx?gclid=COLRgdLSkrQCFQJx4Aod43IALA>

**Enroll in the STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program):** Your trip leader should register your team with the U.S. State Department so in case of an emergency they can locate you in Haiti. To enroll you will need the address and phone of the Joshua House Missionary Lodge which is : Dos de Petit Morne, Morne Rouge, Cap Haitien, Haiti  
Phone: 011 (509) 3736 9981

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

#### **Release of Liability:**

In order to stay at the Joshua House each team member will be required to read and sign the Waiver and Release of Liability form. If minors are traveling with you they must also have a parent / guardian signature. This form can be found on our website, <http://www.thejoshuahouse.org>.

#### **Dress Codes and What to Pack**

**Dress Code for women:** Women must wear skirts or dresses at all times except in the evenings while at the Joshua House when pants and capris are permitted. Women may not wear shorts at any time which means they should have the proper dress code on prior to boarding the plane to Cap Haitien. Shirts should have sleeves.  
Key words—***be conservative.***

**Dress Code for men:** Men are allowed to wear shorts, pants and t-shirts. For church, men should wear pants and a button-down shirt. Ties are optional but do make a good impression.

**Pack and carry with you:**

Passport with passport holder  
Sunglasses / sunscreen  
Insurance card  
Picture of your family  
Identification with I.C.E. information  
Inexpensive watch  
Hand Sanitizer  
Lip Balm  
Water Bottle / Camelback  
Personal sized medical kit: prescription drugs, band-aids, first aid ointment, diarrhea medication, ibuprofen, insect bite medication, stomach medicine such as Cipro  
Camera, if desired  
Money (small bills: \$1, \$5, \$10)

**Suggested Cloths to Pack**

Ladies: knee length skirts with modest blouses  
Gentlemen: jeans and pants with shirts / t-shirts  
Ladies & Gents: one nice outfit for church (Ladies: nice dress, Gents: button down shirt and khakis)  
Ladies & Gents: at least one long sleeve shirt (no shirts should be sleeveless)  
Bathing suit / beach towel (if applicable)  
Tennis shoes / socks / sandals / water shoes  
Sleepwear / underclothes / hat / bandanas

**Other Things to Pack**

Bible / Journal / Pens  
Bug spray  
Light rain jacket / poncho  
Personal battery operated fan  
Flashlight  
Work gloves, if applicable  
Work clothes, if applicable  
Beach towel / swim suit / water shoes, if beach on schedule.  
Toiletries (shampoo, lotion, razor, shaving cream, toothbrush & paste, deodorant, sun screen)  
\*If traveling with Mission Flights International, the weight limit is 50 lbs. Anything over 50 lbs. will be charges at \$1.50 per pound.  
\*Leave valuables at home. Don't take anything you are not willing to loose or leave.

## Day of Travel

- Arrive early at the airport—international flight security may take longer.
- Pack a snack
- Dress in proper clothing (men = pants, no tank tops; women = long skirts, no shirts with exposed shoulders. This is the dress code for the entire trip)
- Keep baggage claim tickets accessible—you will need them to get your bags when you land in Haiti.
- Before you land you will have to fill out an immigration card with your address and phone in Haiti. You should put the address as: Dos de Petit Morne, Morne Rouge, Cap Haitien, Haiti; Phone: (509) 2230 1593. Fill out both the top and bottom part. **KEEP** the bottom part. You will need it to leave Haiti (see example at the back of this Field Guide).
- When you land, retrieve your bag and take it to customs to clear.
- Try to handle your own baggage. If someone touches your bag you will be obligated to tip them. Sometime it is unavoidable. If this happens ask for the “Boss” and tip him (\$1/bag) and have him pay the rest of the group.
- When leaving the airport do not hand out any money or food.
- If you are riding in an open vehicle, stack luggage and bags in the front and keep your passports inside the vehicle or in your pockets.
- While riding through town, be discreet when taking photos and video.

## Trip Information Setting an Example

While we are ministering, it is important for us to remember that we will be very visible. The language, work ethic and manner of dress will be on display to the Haitians. It is important to keep this in mind so that we are representing Christ in an appropriate manner at all times. We want to be maintaining the attitude of a servant’s heart and set a good example. We will provide you with a list of do’s and don’t to assist you as you prepare. **We strongly suggest that your group complete the cross cultural training provided in this link:** <http://www.culturelinkinc.org>. The approximate cost is \$25 for the leaders guide and an additional \$25 for team member manuals if you choose to use them.

## Common Courtesies

The following are common courtesies, rules and information that have been developed after years of ministering in Haiti and working with teams and with situations in the country of Haiti. These were not made because of any one team or any reason other than the safety and protection of both the team, the staff at IDADEE, EBAC and the Joshua House. You must understand that if there is a rule, there is a reason for that rule. We ask for your compliance with these rules. Failure to follow rules may result in ending a way for the person to return immediately to the United States, at their expense. The ultimate authority while in Haiti is the host couple and the Haitian team. If this is a situation that isn’t acceptable, then you may want to reconsider your trip.

**DO NOT** hand out anything at the airport when you land. The country of Haiti has a gross national income per capita of US\$660, and is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. More than 75% of Haitians are poor (less than US \$2 a day) and more



than half (54%) live in extreme poverty (less than US\$1 a day). Life expectancy is 61 years. Half of children under five are malnourished. That means there are many, many starving and hungry people. There are many who have nothing and they see you as rich Americans. From the time you land in Cap Haitien you will be hit with "Give me a dollar, I'm poor, I'm hungry, give me something." Although it sounds harsh, the best thing to say is "I'm sorry, I have nothing for you." Regret is the best word to use. Once you give out a piece of candy or even change, you will be swarmed and swamped by beggars. You will have ample opportunities to help and assist people through-out your stay and beyond in a sustainable plan. PLEASE do it with the guidance of either the Haitian group you are working with or the IDADEE team at the Joshua House.

**DO NOT** give out anything without checking. You can cause some very hard and difficult circumstances by doing so. Many people, although they look poor, are doing just fine by Haitian standards. Professional beggars know how to get to people by the way they dress and the look in their eyes. This is children and adults alike.

**REFRAIN FROM** promising to leave something for someone, this places your hosts and team in a very awkward position. If you do wish to leave something special for someone, either discretely give it to them on your last day or better yet leave it with their name on it for the host couple to distribute.

**DO NOT** throw anything from the truck / bus. Doing so puts the host in a bad light with the whole community. Even though they like candy and things people throw from trucks, it causes kids to run up to and in front of trucks at other times, it is a very dangerous practice.

**DO NOT** drink the water. This a general rule in most countries. But it covers more than just the water. Do not drink anything that you have not checked out with the hosts. You don't know where it has come from or how it was prepared. Take caution so you don't have to pay the price.

**DO NOT** eat anything unless you check with the hosts. They will know how to make anything that we purchase there (fruit, vegetables etc.) safe for consumption.

**AT NO TIME** are you to leave the Joshua House / IDADEE compound without letting the team leader and host know. There is no time it is acceptable to go ANYWHERE alone. There must be at least two people to go anywhere, three is best in case of emergency, one can go for help. This is a safety factor.

**PLEASE REFRAIN** from smoking or drinking while on the ground in Haiti. Women should not go anywhere without a male accompanying them. This is a cultural thing as well as a good safety measure. Do not ride on tap-taps or other public transportation without the consent of the host or team leader.

**DO** stay WAY off the road while walking As you will observe, traffic laws are rather sporadic. Pedestrians do not have the right of way.

**DO FOLLOW** the dress code at all times. Dress code is included with the list of things to pack.

**DO** keep valuables and passports at the compound with the host. They will be kept in a safe place. If lost, it can take much time and money to replace a passport. Have a copy of your passport with you but separate from the original, also give a copy to someone in the States, in case of theft or loss.

**PLEASE** observe lights out times. There are others that will want to get their rest. You may want to stay up later; but please keep the noise to a minimum. You may want to bring a small night light for reading if you choose to stay up. Consideration of others must be a priority.

**DO NOT** eat outside the dorm or in front of others, many of the people here only have one meal a day and it is very impolite to eat in front of them.

**NO ONE** is allowed onto the compound area. This is for your protection and comfort. The dorm is your place of rest and relaxation. People in the surrounding areas know the rules, but may try to convince you to change them. **PLEASE** do not!!! There is **NO** buying or selling of items on the compound. The only thing that is bought on the compound is from designated people that the host approve. Souvenir purchasing will be done on the day you go to the market or in other areas. Do not make arrangements for someone to drop off items at the Joshua House. They will not be allowed to leave them.

**DO NOT** take pictures / video of people without asking. If taking pictures / video from a vehicle, be discrete and respectful.

If you have questions about anything, **ASK**. Don't be afraid and don't assume, **ASK**.

All fruits and vegetables bought in country will be washed in water with bleach. This is a precaution to kill any bacteria. It does not mean there is anything wrong with the produce; it is for your protection.

**DO DRINK PLENTY** of fluids. You will dehydrate in this climate very quickly so you must drink **A LOT OF WATER**.

### **Communication**

There will be a cell phone at the Joshua House. If you desire to make calls from this phone you should plan on paying the host to purchase a calling card in Haiti for you. They will buy the card and then add the minutes onto the phone for your team to use. The cost is about 25cents a minute to call the USA. This is the cheapest way to call home.

You are free to bring your own cell phone but please check with your service provider on their international rates and plans before you travel to Haiti. The phone system in Haiti operates on GSM technology and you will need a phone that uses this technology. Most carriers in the USA use GSM except Verizon. However there are several phones that have dual CDMA/GSM technology and will work in Haiti if the international plan is activated before your trip.

Power and plugs are the same as in the US.

### **Weather**

Haiti is in the tropics and it is very hot in the summer and warm the rest of the year. There are two rainy seasons (spring and fall) when it might rain in the afternoon. For details on the weather for your trip please go to:

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/ht/haiti-weather>

Once you have determined the weather forecast during the time of your trip please advise your team to pack appropriately. In general no heavy clothing will ever be necessary; please see the rules for appropriate dress. Modesty is the norm throughout the Haitian culture. Please try to understand you are visitors to a different culture and must respect their way of life in all regards. Again we urge you to complete the cross-cultural training for which we provided the link.

## **Our Hosts**

### **Destin and Family**

Destin came to the EBAC orphanage when he was about 6 or 7 years of age. When he was 8 years old, he became severely dehydrated and almost died. The Lord healed him and since that time Destin has wanted to serve the Lord in any way that he can. Destin is married to Charmant and they have a 6-year-old little girl, Naomi. Destin teaches history, geography of Haiti and beginning French at EBAC Christian Academy at the EBAC orphanage. He has a passion for children's ministry and teaches over 150 at the children's church at EBAC orphanage each week. Their responsibilities will be to care for the lodge and make sure that guests are well cared for during their stay.

### **Nadine**

Nadine Pierre also grew up at EBAC orphanage and will be acting as the liaison between the Haitian team and the guests at the Joshua House. She will be making sure that meals, water and transportation are taken care of for the team. Nadine Pierre came to the EBAC orphanage along with her older sister, Irmana, when they were in their early childhood. Pastor Neance Odera brought them here from a town south of Port-au-Prince. According to Kathy and Alice, who run EBAC, she is very persistent in her studies and anything else that she attempts. She enjoys putting groups together to teach children's Bible classes in areas where the children have not had an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

### **About The Joshua Foundation**

Joshua Schweiger was a little boy who was born on May 5, 1999 and died unexpectedly on July 14, 2000. The Joshua Foundation was created by his parents to honor him. Joshua's parents felt he was truly a gift from God and because Joshua's life exuded such love, they felt the Lord put him into this world for a purpose far greater than the 14 months they were able to enjoy his presence. After 12 years of work the foundation has finally built "The Joshua House Missionary Lodge" in Cap Haitien, Haiti as part of that greater purpose.

The purpose of The Joshua House Missionary Lodge on the IDADEE compound in Haiti is to house short-term mission teams and serve as a retreat center in Haiti. It is located outside of Cap Haitien, Haiti on the property of the IDADEE orphanage. It boasts spectacular views of the countryside and the mountains of Haiti as well as the ocean. It can house up to thirty people and comes equipped with all that a short-term team will need to experience an amazing week in serving God by taking care of his orphans and the poor Haiti.

# In Case of Emergency

Address of Joshua House:  
Dos De Petit Morne  
Morne Rouge  
Cap Haitien, Haiti  
Phone: 011 (509) 3736 9981

Joshua House Missionary Lodge Contact:  
Tracy Walnoha  
tracywalnoha@gmail.com

## Creole Translations

English	Creole	Phonetically
Hello	Alo Orevwa	Ah-IO oar-ev-wah
Goodbye	Kòmen ou ye?	CO-mO oo yAl am àne,
How are you?	Mwen tré byen, mesi.	MwA trA bE-ehn, Meh-sAy
Thank you.	Pa pi mal	Pah pE mahl
Not too bad	Bonjou	Boh-shjoo
Good Morning	Bonswa	Boh-swah
Good Afternoon/Evening	Tanpri	Tah-prE
Please	Mesi anpil	Meh-sAy ah-pEl
Thank you very much	Pardekwa	Par-dAy-qwah
You're welcome	Mwen rele	Mway rAy-lAy
My name is	Kisa ou rele?	KEy-shjah oo rAy-lAy
What is your name?	Wi	Wee
Yes	Non	Noh
No	Kilaj ou?	KEy-lah-sh oo
How old are you?	Mwen sa Amerikan	MwA sah ah-mar-E-kahn
I am American	Mwen sho	MwA shOh
I am hot	Mwen regret sa	MwA rE-gret-zah
I am sorry	Mwen grangou	MwA grah-ghoo
I am hungry	Mwen swaf	MwA swah f
I am thirsty	Dlo	Dlow
Water	Bondye Beni'ou	Boh-jE-A Ben-U
God Bless You	Reté	Reh teh
Stop	Vit	Veet
Quickly	Vini	Vin-nee
Come	Ann ale	Uhn ah-lAy
Let's go	Sak Pase?	Sahk pah-sAy
What's up?	Mwen pa konnen	Mway pah koh-nAy
I don't know	Bon nwit	Boh whet
Good night	Respekte liy a	Respecta lEya
Respect the Line		

# Sample Haiti Immigration Paper

**FORMULAIRE POUR PASSEPORT ETRANGER**  
**RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI**  
 MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR ET DES COLLECTIVITÉS TERRITORIALES  
 DIRECTION DE L'IMMIGRATION ET DE L'ÉMIGRATION  
 Formulaire d'Arrivée / Départ  
 Bienvenue en Haïti  
Répondre en français ou en anglais. Les informations doivent être vérifiées à l'arrivée. Les informations doivent être vérifiées à l'arrivée.

**FORM FOR FOREIGN PASSPORT**  
**REPUBLIC OF HAITI**  
 MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR ET DES COLLECTIVITÉS TERRITORIALES  
 DIRECTION OF IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION  
 Form of Arrival / Departure  
 Welcome to Haiti  
This form in capital letters information must meet date in your passport.

**Arrivée / Arrival**

1. Nom / Last name  
*Last Name*

2. Prénom(s) / First name(s)  
*First Name*

3. Date de naissance (JJ/MM/AAAA) / Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)  
*Birthday: day/month/year*

4. Sexe / Sex  
 Male / Masculin  Female / Féminin

5. Pays de naissance / Country of birth  
*USA*

6. Nationalité / Nationality  
*American*

7. Numéro de passeport / Passport number  
*Your Passport #*

8. Port d'entrée / Port of entry  
 Air / Air  Sea / Mer  Land / Terre

9. Numéro de Transporteur / Carrier number  
*Your AA Flight Number*

10. But du voyage / Travel purpose  
 Affaires / Business  Vacances / Recreation  Autre / Other

11. Type et Numéro de l'autorisation d'entrée (si nécessaire) / Type and number of entry authorization (if required)  
 Visa  Permis de Séjour  
*Leave Visa Area Blank*

12. Lieu d'émission / Issued from  
*Leave Visa Area Blank*

13. Adresse de résidence / Residence address  
 Rue / Street: *Your Address Here*  
 Ville / City: *Your City and State Here*  
 Pays / Country: *USA*

14. Adresse en Haïti / Address in Haiti  
 Rue / Street: *Delmas 31 / Hatte 3 No 6*  
 Ville / City: *Port-au-Prince, Haiti*  
 Téléphone / Phone: *011-509-3-760-1485*

Utilisation officielle / Official Use: *Leave Blank*  
 Signature / Signature: *Your Signature*

**Départ / Departure**

1. Nom / Last name  
*Last Name*

2. Prénom(s) / First name(s)  
*First Name*

3. Date de naissance (JJ/MM/AAAA) / Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY)  
*Birthday: day/month/year*

4. Sexe / Sex  
 Male / Masculin  Female / Féminin

5. Pays de naissance / Country of birth  
*USA*

6. Nationalité / Nationality  
*American*

7. Numéro de passeport / Passport number  
*Your Passport #*

8. Port d'entrée / Port of entry  
 Air / Air  Sea / Mer  Land / Terre

Signature / Signature: *Your Signature*

Conservez ce document / It must be kept when you leave Haiti.  
 Retain this document / you must present it when you leave Haiti.

Fill out top

Address and Phone to use  
 (Street) Dos De Petit Morne  
 (City) Morne Rouge, Cap Haitien, Haiti  
 (Phone) 011 (509) 3736 9981

Fill out when landing and keep.  
 You will need this to depart from Haiti.

## Cultural Tips

**Religion:** 80% Roman Catholic, 16% Protestant, (appr 10% Baptist, 4% Pentecostal)

Voodoo is practiced exclusively by a small group but is widely mixed within most of the other religious traditions. Voodoo is a mixture of African and Haitian beliefs. It has a complex cosmology made up of a large number of supernatural spirits. These spirits are believed to have great influence on human beings and for that reason, they must be respected. The term in Kreyòl for a spirit is lwa. Each family has a lwa associated with it. Daily life is conducted according to what would make these spirits happy. Voodoo practitioners believe lwa make their desires clear by possessing someone and speaking through them. lwa also make their presence known in dreams. Often lwa will ask a mother to dedicate their newborn or unborn child to them. If the lwa's request is not honored, the lwa may possibly punish the mother or child by giving them a disability. Nobody wants to make a spirit angry, for the lwa will punish those who do not obey and respect them.

**Language:** Most Haitians speak Haitian Creole which is a mixture of French and some West African dialects. This is the language of the streets. Most schools in Haiti are taught in French. Very few Haitians speak English

**Time:** Punctuality is not highly valued. Arriving on time for events is not expected. Public transportation does not run on time. Daylight savings is practiced and follows the USA schedule.

**Education:** Access to education varies greatly. Although the Haitian Constitution states that primary education is free and compulsory, primary school enrollment is about 65 percent. Overall, only about 56 percent of children are enrolled in primary and secondary schools, with less than 15 percent graduating from secondary school.

In rural areas there are virtually no schools. The literacy rate in Haiti is about 45 percent. Approximately 90 percent of schools are private, with 10 percent run by the state.

Even though primary school is free, costs of uniforms and textbooks make it difficult for poorer families to send their children to school. At times, families will ration their money and send only male children to school. The schools often lack basic resources and the school buildings may not be in good condition.

**Family Structure and Role of the Community:** In Haiti, households often consist of multiple generations. Adult siblings and their families may live together in a common space. The Haitian home is geared towards the needs and strengths of the extended family.

Within the family, there is a traditional patriarchal dynamic. Men are considered to be the breadwinners. Their responsibility is to find paying work to support the family. At home, men typically do not get involved in child care. For this reason, men do not usually interact with the school system regarding their children's education. Both parents may consider education to be the job of schools and not the parents.

**Food:** Haitian cooking is a unique blend of many cultural influences. It is a mixture of the traditions of Europeans, West African slaves and indigenous people of the island. The most common ingredients used in Haitian cuisine are black-eyed peas, squash, pumpkins, cassava, rice, cornmeal and plantain. The meat served tends to be spicy and high in salt and fat. In Haiti, Sunday dinners often consist of spicy chicken and goat, rice and djondjon, a dried mushroom.



**Colonial History and the Haitian Revolution:** The original inhabitants of Haiti were the Tainos who were part of the Arawak people. The island first came to the attention of Europeans when Columbus landed on it, thinking that he had arrived in India. Almost immediately, the colonizing powers of Europe set their sights on this island, rich with natural resources and stunningly beautiful lush forested mountains. During its early history of colonization, France, Spain and England struggled to control parts of the island. Within decades of landing, Europeans wiped out the Tainos through outright slaughter and through the introduction of diseases to which the Tainos were not immune. This genocide meant that colonizers did not have the labor to collect the resources they wanted, so they imported slaves from the west coast of Africa. These slaves came from many different tribes, and melded together to form the African population of Haiti.

There was long period of struggle between European colonizers. By the early 1700s, France had established control over the western side of the island (Haiti), while Spain ruled the eastern side (the Dominican Republic). At this time, there were 40,000 colonists and almost 500,000 slaves within the French colony of Haiti. There was also a sizable mulatto population. They played an ambiguous economic and political role between the French and the African slaves. Slave owners, who for the most part owned large plantations, were known to be the most brutal of their class throughout the region. It was common practice for slave owners to torture and maim their slaves.

While there had been sporadic resistance to French Rule, the final series of rebellions began in 1791. A former slave named Toussaint L'Ouverture took command of an army that consisted of rebellious slaves and mulattos. The army killed thousands of colonists and chased the rest away. However, it was not an overnight success. It took years of violent struggle. Eventually, L'Ouverture was tricked into visiting Paris where he was immediately jailed. He died in prison. Jean-Jacques Dessalines led the revolution to its conclusion, uniting the country and driving out the remaining vestiges of French colonial power.

**While out in public:** Haitians can be very expressive and speak loudly. Non Haitians may misinterpret this as anger. Men may hold the hand of other men when walking as a sign of friendship. It is considered rude to eat in public. Money should not be taken out in public. Haitians generally dress up when going out

