



Trip and Travel Details

The countdown has begun to your arrival in Haiti! The following information should help answer some of your questions about your upcoming trip. Please feel free to contact us at any time for more information. There is never a silly question!



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where do we stay? Is it safe?

A: While in Haiti teams will stay at our fully furnished guesthouse located in Williamson, Haiti. All accommodations are safe, modern and comfortable with ample space for the team to gather as a group.

Q: What are the sleeping arrangements?

A: Accommodations are a mixture of double and quad occupancy rooms with sturdy bunk beds. Genders will be kept separate except in the case of married couples or families.

Q: What will we eat?

A: World Wide Village Haitian staff will cook for the team. They prepare a mix of American and Haitian dishes. Haitian foods consist of things such as fried plantains, beans and rice, delicious Haitian stew... and maybe even goat! American dishes include spaghetti, ham & potatoes and others.

Q: What is transportation like in Haiti?

A: While in Haiti, teams will be transported by SUV's, private buses or open trucks. The type of transportation depends upon the size of the team.



Q: What should I wear?

A: Culturally, Christian women in Haiti tend to dress conservatively, especially in rural areas. Please take this into consideration when packing. Modest clothing is best - modest length shorts, dresses, skirts and shirts with short sleeves. For men, shorts and t-shirts are great. Please do not wear military style clothing or camouflage, overly tight clothing, bra-less tops or other revealing clothing, or muscle shirts.



Q: Is the water safe to drink?

Just as a precaution, do not drink or brush your teeth with the water from the faucets in the bathrooms in the guesthouse. There is a large water cooler provided with clean, filtered water.

Q: Will I be able to contact my family while I'm in Haiti?

A: Yes- there is a voice-over internet phone connection that is free to use at the guesthouse to contact family members in the U.S. Also, there is wireless internet available at the guesthouse that you can use to send email, use Wi-Fi calling, etc.

Q: How can my family contact me in case of an emergency while we are in Haiti?

A: In case of an emergency please call:

- ◆ Peter Seraphin at 011-509-3606-8679
- ◆ Pat Mortensen at 011-509-3697-9099
- ◆ The guesthouse phone at 651-309-1361

Q: If I sponsor a student, will I have a chance to meet him or her?

A: Yes! There will be time during your week in Haiti when you can meet your sponsored student and give him or her a small gift. This is a great time to build lasting relationships with the student you support through the student sponsorship program.

Q: What types of gifts should I bring my sponsored student?

A: Little girls love dolls, art supplies and beads. Older girls enjoy jump ropes, jewelry or small purses. All ages of boys love soccer balls (with a travel air pump!), matchbox cars or marbles. All children love to receive a new backpack, clothing, musical instruments and snacks. Personal care items such as a toothbrush and toothpaste or school supplies are also great to include! Please keep gifts under \$30 US.

Q: How much cash do I need?

A: The Haiti portion of your trip with WWV is all-inclusive. You will have little need to bring or spend additional money. You will need \$10 in cash for the tourist tax paid upon arrival at the Haitian airport. You may also want cash to donate to the local church we attend on Sunday and to purchase souvenirs or soft drinks.

Q: What if I get ill and need medical attention while we are in Haiti?

A: There is an American-run hospital available if needed for immediate medical attention. Also, WWV carries medical evacuation insurance on each trip member as an included part of your trip costs.

Q: What immunizations and medications do I need for my trip to Haiti?

A: You do not need any special care ahead of time in order to enter the country. However, it is advised that you seek out medical advice from either your primary medical provider or a travel clinic prior to coming. In particular, you should make sure you are up to date on immunizations, including tetanus, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B. You may also want to consider a typhoid vaccination, medication for the prevention of malaria and carrying an antibiotic for possible traveler's diarrhea. Talk to your physician about what medication would be best for you.



Q: What if someone asks me for my e-mail or money?

A: We prefer you do not to give out your e-mail or Facebook account information to Haitians or translators unless approved by WWV staff. It is not uncommon for Haitian adults or children to ask for money. Well-meaning Americans have created a culture where Haitians expect to get “stuff” from Americans. We prefer to work with the local church and WWV Haitian staff to provide financial help to those in need. Talk with our staff before individually giving money or other items. Even small items given to children can create chaos. We strongly believe in helping the Haitians create sustainable communities – not just a culture of accepting handouts. Part of this philosophy includes helping the Haitian economy by buying locally when possible.

Q: Do I need a passport?

A: Yes! Travelers are required to have a passport to travel outside the U.S. You will need to present your passport when checking in at the airport. If you are a non-U.S. citizen, please contact the Haitian Embassy to determine what documentation, in addition to a passport, if any, is required for you to enter Haiti. Apply for your passport at least 3 months in advance. Consult the U.S. Department of State website (www.state.gov) for the most up to date information. If you already have a passport, please double check the expiration date to ensure it will be valid, preferably for six months after the time you are scheduled to return from Haiti.

Q. What do I need to know about clearing customs?

A. Please read our “Haiti Arrival Instructions” section.

Q. What tips will help me stay healthy while in Haiti?

A. Part of being a good team member is doing what it takes to stay healthy during your trip. Please make wise choices to benefit not only yourself, but your team members, as well.

- While in Haiti we strongly urge you to drink only the purified water provided.
- Bring an adequate supply of hand sanitizer.
- Insect repellent with at least 40% DEET is advised to prevent mosquito bites.
- Shield yourself from the intense sun and bring sunscreen to protect your skin.
- Pack enough of your personal medications for the entire trip and remember that your prescriptions must be in the original container.
- Know your physical limits and do not push yourself beyond them.
- Stay safe. Team members must always remain with the group. Never venture out without being accompanied by World Wide Village staff. Teams will be transported to work and recreation sites by local Haitians who are very cautious and protective. You will never be taken to any area that is known to be dangerous or unsafe.



A Typical Day in Haiti

Even though there is never a “typical” day in Haiti, here is a daily itinerary with a rough idea of your week, followed by a packing list.

Travel day –

When you arrive in Port-au-Prince, your team will be transported to the WWV guesthouse (about an hour drive from the airport). You will have dinner and free time to unpack and settle in. Evening devotions and prayer will begin that evening.

Sundays in Haiti –

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 8:45 am Depart for Church
- 9:30 am Church service
- 12:00 pm Depart for lunch at local restaurant
- 2:00 pm Afternoon activity
- 5:00 pm Return home – free time
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm Evening devotions and prayer

Typical Work Day –

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Morning Prayer
- 8:45 am Depart for work site
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm Evening devotions and prayer

Departure Day –

- 7:30 am Breakfast & pack
- 9:30 am Final prayer time
- TBD Team shuttled to airport



Packing List



- ☐ Backpack or other bag (you will want something to hold your water bottle and food when we are out during the day)
- ☐ A large water bottle
- ☐ Snack food (Haitians do not typically eat a formal lunch so you will want to bring things to munch on during the day such as granola bars, crackers, dried fruit, nuts, etc...)
- ☐ Insect repellent (with DEET) to prevent mosquito bites
- ☐ Flashlight and batteries
- ☐ Earplugs (there can be noises at night from outside the house that prevent sleep- think dogs and roosters with bad internal clocks!)
- ☐ Sunscreen- the stronger the better
- ☐ Imodium or other anti-diarrheal medication (just in case)
- ☐ Wet wipes to clean hands as needed
- ☐ Bible and a journal or something to take notes in about your experience
- ☐ Personal toiletries and hygiene supplies
- ☐ Personal medications (put in your carry on)
- ☐ Cash (check FAQ's for more details)
- ☐ Photocopy of your passport and any credit or debit cards you bring on the trip (keep these separate from the originals)
- ☐ One pair of nice clothes for church on Sunday (dress pants and a polo for men, skirts to your knees with a blouse or a dress for women with shoulders covered)
- ☐ Cool, comfortable clothing to wear at the worksite each day
- ☐ Comfortable, closed-toed shoes to wear outside of the house
- ☐ Cool, comfortable clothing to wear in the evenings at the house
- ☐ Flip flops for the shower and house
- ☐ Spare glasses/contacts

Do NOT bring:

- ☐ Electric curling irons and hairdryers
- ☐ Tobacco or alcohol or items with logos or advertisements for these items on them
- ☐ Valuable jewelry or watches

Haiti Arrival Instructions

The countdown has begun for your arrival into Haiti. The information below is our standard for our guests arriving into Port au Prince.

We will be following your inbound flights and will monitor the progress. If you are delayed for any reason, we will track the revised time of arrival. Should you have questions while still in the U.S. please feel free to call Pat Mortensen at 321-317-2262.

While checking bags in the U.S. please be sure to keep the luggage claim tags with your name and luggage ticket numbers (the receipt given when you check your bag). Bag tags are verified in Haiti as you depart the baggage claim area to be sure you have the correct luggage. If you lose your luggage claim tags it can delay your exit.

What happens when you get to Haiti:

On the Plane:

While you are on the plane to PAP you will be handed a green immigration card and a white customs form. On the green card you are asked for the address where you will be staying while you are in Haiti. Please write "Rue Korel, #14, Williamson-Arcahaie, Haiti" The phone number is 509-3697-9099. You are in Haiti for "pleasure" and you shouldn't need to declare anything on your customs forms.

On the ground:

Once you depart the jetway, follow the signs and the crowd to the immigration area. Take the first sharp left when you enter the customs area. You will first go to the window where you will pay the entry tax for visitors to Haiti. It is \$10 US per person and must be paid in US cash. Have your passport, immigration form, and your customs form available. The agent will give you a receipt. Keep the receipt for exit.

You will then proceed to the immigration counter. The agent will stamp your passport, take your green card and look at your receipt for the tax. The immigration agent will return the bottom portion of your green form back to you. Place it in your passport - you will need this when you leave the country.

Next, you will take the escalator downstairs to the baggage claim area. There is a vendor available for renting luggage carts for \$2 USD if you need one. Each cart can carry about 4-5 bags. Our airport staff member, Alexi, will meet you in baggage claim. He will have a sign saying "World Wide Village." Alexi speaks VERY limited English but is uncanny at finding our guests. Alexi will collect your luggage claim tags to help identify luggage. Be sure to use the restroom before leaving and have your white customs forms ready for exit.

PLEASE NOTE: The airport and parking lot is often very busy and chaotic, but do not be alarmed. Simply follow Alexi to the World Wide Village vehicle where our English-speaking staff will be waiting for you.



There will be other workers at the airport that will try to help you with your luggage. They are not trying to steal your luggage they are simply trying to earn a living. Alexi will already have asked for help, if needed. When the workers approach you simply say, "No thank you. Alexi will help me."

As noted earlier, Alexi will take you from the baggage claim area to our vehicle in the airport parking lot.

Intro to Haiti / Settling In:

From the airport you will go directly to the WWV guesthouse in Williamson, which is about an hour drive. You will be introduced to the WWV staff and others at the guesthouse, have a chance to get settled in and get ready to start your grand adventure!

In the event your family needs to contact you while you are in Haiti, following is a list of contact numbers:

- ◆ Patricia Mortensen: 011-509-3697-9099
- ◆ Jamil Lucien (Guesthouse Manager): 011-509-3125-0240
- ◆ Peter Seraphin (Operations Manager): 011-509-3609-8679

Alexi...your first face in Haiti!

