

HAITI VOLUNTEER IN MISSION GUIDEBOOK

THE EGLISE MÉTHODISTE D'HAÏTI

VOLUNTEER IN MISSION PROGRAM
(EMH VIM)

Last Updated September 2018





HAITI VIM GUIDE – INTRODUCTION



GEOGRAPHY: Haiti occupies the western third of the island called Hispaniola in the Caribbean located about 600 hundred miles off the coast of Florida. The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two thirds of the island. Haiti is the third largest country in the Caribbean with the second longest coastline. Haiti is in the Eastern Standard Time Zone and often follows Daylight Savings Time. It has a series of offshore islands, La Gonave in the center and La Tortue at the north are the largest. Haiti is surrounded by the Caribbean Sea to its south and the Atlantic Ocean to its north. Its' Caribean neighbors are Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and the Coast of South America.

BRIEF HISTORY OF HAITI:

- 1492 Columbus landed and claimed the island of Hispaniola for Spain
- 1681-1789 Over 500,000 African men and women were brought to Haiti as slaves
- 1696 Treaty of Ryswick – 1/3 of island to France (San Dominique, which is now Haiti)
- 1791-1804 Slave (mawon) rebellion defeated the French
- Jan 1, 1804 Haiti Independence Day
- 1807-1820 Henri Christophe ruled the Northern Kingdom and Alexandre Petion the South
- 1820-1915 Lack of worldwide recognition of Haiti
- 1915-1934 U.S. Occupation by the U.S. Marines
- 1934-1957 Several failed attempts to democracy lead to military controlled elections
- 1964-1971 President-for-Life: Papa Doc Duvalier
- 1971 Jean Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc) succeeds his father at 19 years old
- 1964-1986 Mass exodus from Haiti (“Boat People”) and widespread protests
- 1986 U.S. arranged for Baby Doc and his family to be exiled to France
- 1986-1990 Haitian Military and others ruled Haiti
- 1990 Father Jean Bertrand Aristide was elected president
- 1991 President Aristide served 7 months until ousted by a military coup in September
- 1992-1994 U.S. embargo against Haiti
- Oct 14, 1994 U.S. troops bring Aristide back. US/UN peacekeeping troops through 12/31/99.
- 2000 Haiti legislative elections are not accepted by the world, embargo threat again
- 2010 Devastating January 12, 2010 7.0 Magnitude Earthquake
- 2016 Hurricane Matthew hits Haiti as a Category 4 hurricane with sustain winds of 140 mph
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HAITI VIM GUIDE – INTRODUCTION



CULTURE: Haitian culture is the result of the fusing of African, French, West Indian, and American cultures. The Haitian people use art and music to tell the stories of their struggles, their joys and great sorrows. Haitian artists use all the resources available to them to paint, carve or otherwise create “pictures” of local scenes, people in their daily lives, and religious symbolism. They use oil paints, woods, clay, stone, bamboo, leather, shells and metals such as copper, silver, and tin. Their art is characterized by vivid colors and simple forms. The music is rhythmic, harmonious and moving, both emotionally and physically. The literature tells the stories of the people. The proverbs reflect their wisdom and philosophy. The many interpretations make them ageless.

CLIMATE: The climate is tropical. Haiti has a rainy season from May-June. Hurricane season is July-November. Haiti also faces the natural hazards of flooding, earthquakes, and droughts. The average temperature is 80-85 F. From February to April, the temperatures begin to climb into the 90’s F. By May through August, the temperatures climb into and stay in the upper 90’s and into the 100’s.

RELIGION: Africans brought with them to the Caribbean basic theological perspectives, principles, and values which linked the different ethnic groups together in the new strange and hostile place. Throughout the enslavement, African tradition and practices were remembered and Voodoo developed and became largely practiced. Traditionally, Haiti is considered a Catholic country. Catholicism was the official religion from 1860 until 1960. Protestant missionaries first came to Haiti in the 1700’s and established churches in the early 1800’s. The first Protestant church in Haiti was the Methodist church. The largest Protestant churches, based on the 2015 CIA Factbook information, are: Baptist, Church of God, Episcopal, Seventh-Day Adventist, and the Church of the Nazarene. During the past decades, Protestantism has been growing rapidly. Recent estimates indicate more than 60% of the Haitian population is Protestant. Church identification does not necessarily go hand-in-hand with church membership, i.e., having a real and active relationship with the church congregation. In the Methodist Church, you will usually only see those that are church members participating in communion. In 2017 The Methodist Church of Haiti celebrated 200 years of Methodism in Haiti.

GOVERNMENT: According to the 1981 Constitution, Haiti operates as a republic. Haiti’s capital is Port-au-Prince. The Government consists of an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch, and a Judicial Branch. The Executive branch consists of “chief of state” the President, and “head of government” the Prime Minister, and a “cabinet”. The cabinet is chosen by the Prime Minister in consultation with the President. The President is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. The current president is Jovenel Moïse. He took office on 7 February 2017. This term of office is five years, with a maximum of two terms, but non-consecutive. The Judicial branch’s highest court is the Court of Appeals. It administers its laws under a legal system that is based on Roman civil law and accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.

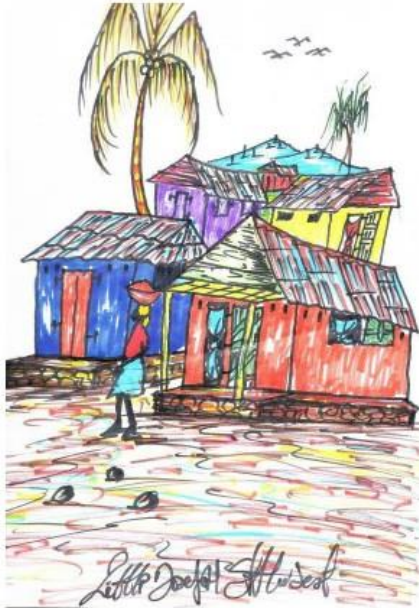




HAITI VIM GUIDE – INTRODUCTION



EDUCATION: By law, education is free and compulsory in Haiti for children between the ages of 7 and 13. However, the government cannot meet the needs of the children throughout the country. Churches and communities have worked to provide schooling for 85% of the children enrolled in education. Only about 50% of children in the country are able to attend school. The children are required to wear uniforms; colors may indicate school colors or the church affiliation. Families must also provide their own school supplies, books, tuition, and transportation. All children are expected to meet one standard and pass the State exams. About a dozen private universities and higher education institutions provide advanced education. The University of Haiti in Port-au-Prince has colleges of medicine, law, business, agronomy, social sciences, architecture, and engineering. It also has branch programs throughout Haiti. There are also many technical trade schools operated by a variety of organizations.



HAITI VIM GUIDE – TRAVELLING IN HAITI



HAITI CURRENCY / EXCHANGING MONEY: The monetary unit is the Gourde (good). 5 Gourdes = 1 Haitian Dollar, but Haitian Dollars do not physically exist. The Current (2018) Exchange Rate is 68 Gourdes or 13 Haitian Dollars = 1 US Dollar. Haitians refer to their own money as dollars, based upon the time of the US occupation. Exchange methods and rates vary among merchants. The exchange rate can vary on a daily basis, although tends to stay about the same for weeks or months at a time. Prices in stores are usually in Haitian Dollars, therefore multiply by 5 to get the price in Gourdes. Visitors must constantly clarify whether the price being quoted is in Haitian or American dollars, or Gourdes. The easiest method for teams to exchange money is in the grocery stores, however, moneychangers are often found along the streets or work out of a small office, which is perfectly legal. For your safety, it is best to use an interpreter in this latter case. An ATM can be found in Epidor (Haitian Fast-Food Restaurant) on Delmas where you can get Gourdes from your bank account. In some cases today, you must notify your bank and credit cards in advance that you will be travelling to Haiti in order to be able to use your cards in a foreign country.

BANKS AND PERSONAL CHECKS: There are several banks in the area around the guesthouse, however, we ask that you don't use the banks. The lines are long, and you are not allowed to take out any significant amount of funds. Banks also hold personal and Traveler's checks for long periods of time for clearance, if they do decide to cash them.

CREDIT CARDS AND TRAVELER'S CHECKS: Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are now more widely accepted. Traveler's Checks are not recommended as banks generally will not cash them. There are some ATM's you can use to get Gourdes; Epidor, Giant Supermarket, and Caribbean Supermarket, for example.

SHOPPING, BARGAINING, AND TIPPING: Shopping in Haiti offers you the opportunity to purchase wonderful arts and crafts that help the Haitian economy. Food and goods in stores are usually at a fixed price and in Gourdes or Haitian Dollars. There are many arts, crafts, and Haitian souvenirs sold on the side of the streets, in the alley by the guesthouse, and at many of the worksites. Bargaining with these street vendors is part of the Haiti experience. The vendor will start with a high price and you counter with a low price – and you will go back and forth until you both compromise somewhere in the middle. Make sure you verify which currency you are bargaining in. Please do not ask your Haitian hosts or interpreters to bargain for you, you will put them in an uncomfortable position. Here are some steps for bargaining:

1. Choose the items you want – discretely if possible, don't "drool" over it.
2. Know how much you are willing to pay for the item and know how much money you have in your pocket.
3. Bargain respectfully – the vendor needs to make a living.
4. Ask how much for the item in the currency you want to use. Say "Konbyen" (meaning, "How Much") in US \$, Haitian \$, or Gourdes.



HAITI VIM GUIDE – TRAVELLING IN HAITI



5. When the vendor responds, expect the price to be very high; 2-3 times what he/she expects to get.
6. Counter offer – go at least 1/2 or 1/3 of what you want to pay.
7. The vendor and you work your way together by increments of \$1, \$2, \$5, or \$10 depending on the amount for the item.
8. Expect limited ability for the vendor to give you change.
9. If you cannot agree on a price, say “Mèsi” (thanks) and walk/drive away.

NOTES:

- a. Sometimes vendors will combine items to make a sale.
- b. Sometimes vendors will follow you or your vehicle to sell you the item/s.
- c. Sometimes vendors tell “stories” about their goods – maybe true or not.
- d. Sometimes the next person gets the same item for less than you, accept the fact that you helped the vendor and ‘move on’
- e. Remember, you got a good deal if you like what you got, if you think you paid a fair price, and if you bargained fairly.





HAITI VIM GUIDE – STAYING HEALTHY



PRE-TRIP ADVICE – MAKE SURE YOU:

1. Are in satisfactory health – no acute illnesses.
2. Have had a Tetanus shot within the past 10 years.
3. Have enough personal medications in pharmacy or manufacturer labeled bottles to last the length of your trip plus 3 extra days and carry these on you.
4. Have started your anti-malaria medication 1-2 weeks in advance. Consult your Doctor for a prescription.

PREVENTATIVE ADVICE – HAVE WITH YOU OR AVAILABLE TO YOU:

1. First aid supplies – antiseptic wipes, Band-Aids, gauze & tape, Tylenol, Aspirin, or Ibuprofen, Pepto Bismol, Imodium, Benadryl or antihistamine, topical skin lotion for bug bites and minor wounds, and cold and cough medications. (See packing list for more suggestions).
2. Sun Screen – at least 30 SPF and Waterproof.
3. Sun Glasses / Light colored hat with a brim.
4. Insect repellent containing DEET.

OTHER PREVENTATIVE ADVICE:

1. Make sure a traveling companion or your host knows if you have medical problems, medical needs, or allergies.
2. Make wise choices! Most injuries overseas occur as a result of accidents while doing things you would not normally do. The greatest hazard is trauma from motor vehicle accidents.

Avoid riding in the back of a pick-up truck (especially on the National Roads), traveling on overcrowded public vehicles or on motorcycles, and traveling after dark.

3. Be careful what you put to and into your mouth.
3. Wash your hands (or use hand sanitizer) before handling food/eating.
4. Drink only bottled, boiled or treated water, carbonated or bottled beverages (always wipe top before putting to lips) and cooked beverages like coffee.
 - a. Check that ice was made with pure water.
 - b. Do not use tap water to brush your teeth.
 - c. Do not eat anything raw that has not been peeled or washed in bleach water.
 - d. Do not eat raw or undercooked meat, fish, or shellfish.

Wear shoes – do not go barefooted. Bring water shoes for the beach (Recommended).

If you are going to be working in a health care field consider Hepatitis B Vaccination.

6. If you are a frequent traveler or stay for prolonged periods, consider Hepatitis A Vaccination.
- 7.
- 8.





HAITI VIM GUIDE – STAYING HEALTHY



TREATMENT OF TRAVELER'S DIARRHEA:

If you are not allergic to aspirin and/or are not taking aspirin containing drugs, adults may take Pepto Bismol before meals for prevention of diarrhea during short-term trips. For treatment of Traveler's Diarrhea, try one of the recommendations below:

1. Replace and keep replacing the fluids that you are losing. You can use purified water, the dehydration packets mixed with pure water or:

TRAVELER'S WOE COCKTAIL:

- 8 ounces of apple, orange, or other fruit juice (for potassium)
- One pinch table salt (for sodium)
- ½ teaspoon of sugar or corn syrup (for glucose)
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda (optional)

2. The BRAT diet helps settle the stomach / intestines.

BRAT DIET

- Bananas
- Rice
- Applesauce
- Toast (dry) or Crackers

3. Pepto Bismol, Imodium, Kaopectate help symptoms.
4. Prescription antibiotics – such as Cipro 500 mg or Bactrim DS.
5. Seek Medical Attention:
 - a. If you experience bloody diarrhea accompanied by a fever
 - b. Or if the diarrhea persists beyond several days of treatment
 - c. Or if you are unable to keep fluids down
 - d. Or if the diarrhea continues after returning home

(Information from Emory Healthcare Travelwell and the Emory Healthcare Travelwell Handbook for Travel Health.)



HAITI VIM GUIDE – TEAM INFORMATION



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Only drink clean, treated water – same goes for brushing your teeth. Replace your toothbrush immediately if you forgot and put it under the water faucet.
- **BE FLEXIBLE!**
 - Purchase VIM travel insurance. Coordinate with your team leader and Jurisdictional Coordinator.
 - Protect your passport. Make three copies of the first page and record your airline ticket number and flight schedule. Leave one copy at home, one on you, and one with your team leader. You can lock up your passport at the VIM office in the Methodist Guesthouse while in Haiti.
 - Listen to your team leader, hosts, and interpreters. They have a great deal of responsibility to protect, support, and represent you, the team, and your church/conference throughout the trip.
 - Do not feed or play with Haitian dogs. The dogs, in Haiti, are not pets and have not been vaccinated, or dewormed, as American dogs have been.
 - Be modest in your actions and physical appearance. Remember you are a representative of the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church of Haiti. No bikinis, one piece suits only, in the pool or spaghetti strap tanks elsewhere, please, ladies.
 - Feel free to ask your host/s questions.
 - Dress for church. Haitians wear the nicest thing they own to church, so you will want to dress nicely too. Dresses or skirts are best for ladies, although nice slacks work fine as well. Women are not required to wear heels. Men should wear nice slacks and shirt. Alternatively, a team may all wear their team shirts. Pastors who wish to take part in a worship service need to let the host know in advance.
 - Remember to build relationships with the Haitians in your community, the work is not the only important aspect of your trip. Our goal is to be
 - in ministry WITH our Haitian brothers and sisters, not TO them.
 - Be careful when taking photos:
 - Do NOT take photos of the police or of the UN.
 - Ask a person if you may take their photo (Say “Foto Oke?”) They may ask you for some money, proceed at your discretion.
 - Photos of group settings at a distance are ok; parks, markets, buildings. You may see people shy away from the camera and please respect their wishes.
 - Children love their photo taken, and then love to see the result.
 - Do not make promises; including interpreters, drivers, and staff. Promises are taken very seriously in the Haitian culture – even “Maybe’s”.
 - Do not drink or smoke on Methodist Church property and be careful in other situations as you are seen as a representative of the Methodist church.



HAITI VIM GUIDE – PACKING LIST



PACKING REMINDERS:

- ☐ Check with your airline regarding acceptable sizes, weight, number of luggage pieces, boxes versus trunks and content restrictions.
- ☐ Pack your carry-on bag with the necessary items to get you through at least one or two days just in case your luggage gets lost.
- ☐ Bring your Bible and your personal devotional material, your journal or a notebook to record in and pens/pencils.
- ☐ Bring an extra pair of glasses if you cannot see without them, or back-up glasses if you wear contacts. Do not forget your sunglasses.
- ☐ Bring a personal canteen or water bottle.
- ☐ Bring hand sanitizer or antibacterial wipes. Always use after using the bathroom if you have no soap and water accessible.
- Bring cash for your personal spending money and tips. You probably won't need more than \$200 for extras. Small bills, especially 5's and 1's are best since change is not readily available. US Coins are not accepted. Make sure there are no cuts in the American dollars. Torn money cannot be acceptable by Haitians.
- ☐ Refer to the packing list below for other important items. Do not bring hair dryers or curling irons, or other equipment requiring electricity since this is at a premium. Many of the worksites do not have electricity.



HAITI VIM GUIDE – PACKING LIST



EACH PERSON

PLANE TICKETS!

PASSPORT!

WORK CLOTHES (Construction Teams)

- Sturdy Shoes (Tennis Shoes or Work Boots)
- T-SHIRTS (No Thin Strap tank tops)
- Pants or Knee-Length Shorts
- Work Gloves

CHURCH CLOTHES

- Women – Skirt, Dress, or nice pants and blouse (no sleeveless) Haitian women wear skirts or dresses
- Men – Nice Pants and Nice Shirt
- ALTERNATIVE – Team Shirts worn together

CASUAL CLOTHES (after work hours)

- Shorts, Shirts, Skirts
- Flip Flops, Sandals

OTHER CLOTHES

- Plenty of Socks and Underwear
- Sleeping Clothes
- Swimming Suit (Pool at the Guesthouse, no bikini's)
- Swim shoes or Sturdy Sandals for the Beach

TOILETRIES

- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Shampoo, Conditioner, and Soap
- Brush and/or Comb
- Sunscreen (SPF 30 or Higher)
- Insect Repellent (Deet Recommended)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Immoium/Pepto Bismol/Tylenol/IBprofen

EACH PERSON (Continued...)

MEDICATIONS

- Prescription Meds (Bring at least 3 extra days in case travel plans change)
- Malaria Pills
- Travel Medications prescribed by doctor (Cipro, etc...)
- Allergy Medications
- Immunizations and Vaccinations in advance: Hep A, Hep B, Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio; See your local travel nurse

OPTIONAL

- Bible, Devotional, Journal and Pens
- Flashlight and Batteries
- Battery Operated Fans
- Sunglasses
- Personal Spending Money (\$150-\$200)
- Camera & Charger
- Earplugs
- iPod or Music Player & Headphones and Charger
- Cellphone and Charger for in the U.S. Airports
- Small Pillow and Light Blanket

• “IN THE FIELD” TEAMS ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Mosquito nets and fishing wire/string
- Clotheslines and Clothespins
- Twin bottom sheet and top sheet
- Warm clothes/blankets if in the mountains
- Battery operated camp lanterns
- Extension Cords & power strips (team items)

Blessings on your journey and
we look forward to seeing you!



THE EGLISE MÉTHODISTE D'HAÏTI VOLUNTEER IN MISSION PROGRAM (EMH VIM) 2018

HAITI VIM GUIDE – PACKING LIST



TEAM ITEMS

- Extra team money “Emergency Funds” (Suggested \$400-\$500 US extra – especially if in the field)
- Ziplock and Garbage Bags (for lunches and food storage)
- Snacks – Granola bars, beef jerky, chips, cookies, nuts, etc...
- Duct Tape and 2-3 Sharpie Markers
- Pocket Knife (must be in checked baggage)
- First-Aid Kit (See Below)

FIRST-AID KIT

- Latex/Rubber Medical Gloves (use when doing first-aid on someone)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Salt Tablets
- Powdered Gatorade w/ Electrolytes (NA, K)
- Cotton balls & Q-Tips
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Alcohol Swabs
- Gauze Rolls
- Betadine Ointment
- Bacitracin Ointment and/or Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Silvadene Ointment (burns)
- Band-Aids (Variety of Sizes/Water-Resistant Type)
- Gauze Pads (2x2 and 4x4)
- ½” Adhesive Tape (roll)
- ½” – ¾” Micropore Tape (roll)
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- 4-inch Ace Bandage
- Super Glue
- Tylenol and Ibuprofen
- Aspirin
- Benadryl tablets
- Hydrocortisone cream

- Dramamine
- Pepto-Bismol/Lomotil/Other Anti-Diarrhea Medicine
- Laxative
- Aloe Vera Gel
- Eye Drops – Saline Moisture
- Eye Drops – Antibiotic
- Loratadine (Claritin) or Zyrtec for allergies (non-drowsy)
- Antifungal cream – athlete/s foot, ringworm

• FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ON YOUR TEAM

- Add at least one IV setup and normal saline IV in case you get a really dehydrated team member in the remote area.
- Cipro/Flagyl/Cephalexin/Amoxicillin – at least enough for team members.
- If you are taking a suture kit and lidocaine, you need drapes, instruments, syringes, gloves, etc.

Register with the US embassy

• DONATIONS

- Please refer to our separate document (Donation Guidelines)



HAITI VIM GUIDE - AIRPORT INSTRUCTIONS



WELCOME TO HAITI!

FILLING OUT FORMS

- While on the plane, you should fill out a Green Immigration Form and a White Customs Form. Please make sure you have your Passport Number handy.
- Make sure your team marks "PLEASURE" on the form and completes the top and bottom of the green form. **You will want to make sure your team members know they will need to keep up with the bottom portion of the green form in a safe place, it will be turned in as they depart from Haiti.
- Your address in Haiti is 95 Delmas #15, Petionville, Haiti. Phone numbers can be found at the bottom of the page.

IMMIGRATION

- As you de-plane, you will go to a spacious air-conditioned receiving area to stand in line for immigration.
- Each visitor will be asked to pay \$10 US as an entry tax. You will be given a receipt for this tax payment.
- Have your passport, green form, and tax receipt form ready to give to the immigration official.
- Keep your white form handy and your baggage claim, as you will turn that into the customs official right before you leave the airport. Some team leaders find it easier to collect all white forms and leave the customs area as a team.

BAGGAGE CLAIM

After that, head down to baggage claim area.

- It is suggested that you rent carts (\$2/cart) for every 3-4 bags that you bring so that our porter friends can deliver your luggage to our vehicles without much issue.
- The bags come out on a baggage carousel, but instead of bags continuing to circle, porters take them off and put them in an area in the back, far-right corner. Simply walk over and take your bags.
- (Do not allow other porters inside the airport to assist you. They will expect payment for their efforts, no matter how small.)
- You will need to have baggage claim tickets available as you leave the baggage area.



HAITI VIM GUIDE - AIRPORT INSTRUCTIONS



CUSTOMS

- After leaving baggage claim area, you are almost out. You will need to hand your customs form to a person at a small podium.
- They may just take your form and let you go or they may take you to another area and look through some of your bags. Usually if you are taking big cases of some sort or suspect medications and medical equipment, they may want to look through these. Suitcases are usually fine.

JACKSON

Jackson (a Haitian man with one-arm) will meet you when you exit the airport.

- He serves as our representative to assist teams and deliver them safely to the Guest House vehicle.
- He might have a sign with your team name on it. If he is not there, he will hand off the sign with your name on it to someone else. Sometimes the sign is under his arm, so don't be worried if you don't see your sign at first.
- Jackson, with his crew, will then take you to the Methodist Guest House vehicle. Generally, teams are picked up in our big blue and white tap-tap as it most easily fits all of the team's luggage and people.
- Once everything is loaded, please pay Jackson about \$2/bag plus a little extra. A good amount for 20 bags would be around \$30-\$45. Give the money directly to Jackson, but apart from the other porters. He will distribute the money to his helpers. It

is best to pay him with \$1 bills and \$5 bills to enable Jackson to pay his helpers.

TO THE GUESTHOUSE

Your VIM and Guesthouse staff will be waiting at the Guest House to greet you! The ride to the Guesthouse is between 30-45 minutes, depending on traffic – please use the restroom before leaving the baggage area if you need to go!

If you run into any issues and need to get a hold of someone to help, ask to borrow someone's phone, give them \$1-\$2 for the call, and call us.

Brulan Petionville Guesthouse Manager 509 3162 0508 or 509 3384 4741
David Draeger EMH Mission Volunteer Coordinator (812) 890-6145 or (509) 4393-0098
Blessings on your journey and we look forward to seeing you!



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HAITI VIM GUIDE – LANGUAGE



LANGUAGE: The languages of Haiti are French and Haitian Creole. Even though the two languages share linguistic items and phonetical structure, they differ substantially at the grammatical level. Haitian Creole developed out of a pidginized form of French. The process is called “creolization”, a word which is used to name the process of the intermingling of two or more cultures including language, religion, knowledge and traditions in an informal process. The African languages that have been identified as influencing Haitian Creole include: Wolof, Fon, Mandingo, and Ewe. Haitian Creole has several different dialects within the country. In school, classes are taught in French, as that is the language also of the school books. For most children that attend school, they know both French and Haitian Creole, as well as some English and Spanish. But for those that can’t afford to go to school, the only language they usually know is Haitian Creole.

LIMITED CREOLE WORDS AND PHRASES:

ENGLISH:

Airplane
Bathroom
Bible
Breakfast
Building
Car
Church
Child/Children
Customs
Food / Eat
God
Good Afternoon/evening
Good Bye
Good Morning
Good Night
Hammer
House

CREOLE:

Avyon
Watè / Twalèt
Bib la
Ti Dejene
Biwo
Machin
Legliz
Timoun / Pitit
Lodwann
Mange
Bondye
Bonswa
Babay
Bonjou
Bon Nui(t)
Mato
Kay



HAITI VIM GUIDE – LANGUAGE



ENGLISH:

Jesus
Methodist
Mosquito
Money
Please
Prayer
School
Song
Team
Thank You
United States

CREOLE:

Jezi
Métodist
Marengwen
Kòb / Lajan
Souple / Tampri
Priyè (priye (verb)
Lekòl
Chante
ekip
Mèsi
Etazini

What is your name?
My name is. _____
Hello, how are you? _____
I'm fine
What are you doing?
What time is it?
See you later.
Did you have a good day?
What happened?
What do you want?
Thanks a lot!
What do you mean?
Where's everybody?

Ki jan ou rele?
Mwen rele _____
Bonjou, Ki jan ou ye? _____
Mwen byen
Ki sa ou ap fè?
Ki lè li ye?
N'a wè pita.
Ou pase bon jounen?
Sa k' pase konsa?
Ki sa ou vle?
Mèsi anpil!
Kouman?
Kote moun yo?



(Words from A Learner's Dictionary of Haitian Creole by Albert Valdman, Indiana University Creole Institute, 1996. Phrases extracted from an pale kreyol An Introductory Course in Haitian Creole – Albert Valdman, Indiana University Creole Institute, 1998.)



HAITI VIM GUIDE – REFERENCES



Suggested Current Reading:

- Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder
- Haiti After the Earthquake by Paul Farmer
- The Uses of Haiti by Paul Farmer
- On that Day, Everybody Ate by Margaret Trost
- Farewell Fred Voodoo by Amy Wilentz
- The Big Truck that Went By by Jonathan Katz
- When Helping Hurts by Brian Fikkert, Steve Corbett, and John Perkins
- Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton
-

Websites:

- www.haiti.org: Embassy of the Republic of Haiti
- <http://www.usembassy.gov>: U.S. Embassy
- <http://www.who.int>: World Health Organization
- www.hesperian.org: Hesperian Health Guides (Where There is No Doctor)

U.S. Embassy Contact Information:

Address: Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Telephone: 011 – (509) – 2229-8000

