

Travel Information for Haiti
Partners Worldwide 2006

Explanation: This is a format that other team leaders have used in the past. This document is used to prepare team members for a trip to Haiti. It will be accompanied with a country profile sheet, a list of cultural do's and don'ts, and materials for advocacy opportunities in the destination country. Together, this package will make travel through Partners Worldwide more comfortable, enabling us to be more effective ambassadors of Christ.

1. Medical information

- a. Refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

2. Passport and Visa information

- a. United States Citizens do not need a VISA to enter Haiti as a tourist. If a VISA is needed, it is available at the Port-au-Prince airport for \$25 and two passport photos.
- b. At the airport you will be given a departure card. Keep this for future reference in case of an extension of your time in Haiti.
- c. For information regarding travel to the Dominican Republic from Haiti, see the Dominican Republic Embassy.

3. Additional things to know

- a. Time Zone: DST -0400 UTC
- b. Electricity format: Same as USA
 - i. A surge protector is recommended
- c. Computer/Email access
 - i. People can bring their laptops
 - ii. High speed internet access is available at the CRC offices in Haiti.
- d. Phone calls to/from Haiti
 - i. Telephone code: 001 + 509 + local number.
 - ii. Pre-paid phone cards are available for calls to the US.
 - iii. GSM mobile phones can be activated using the following networks
 1. Digicel
 2. Comcel – “Voila” Mobile Phone service.

4. Be sure not to forget to take your:

- a. Insect repellent/lotion
- b. Sunscreen
- c. Camera
- d. Bible
- e. Basic travel items
- f. Good pair of shoes or sandals for walking.

5. Weather

Haiti is hot year round. Temperatures range from 85-95 degrees during the day, while the nights are a bit cooler. After a rainfall, temperatures can be a bit chilly.

6. Dress

- a. Men: Business casual attire is acceptable for day to day business ventures. A suit is recommended for high-level meetings. Well polished and cleaned shoes are also recommended.
- b. Women: Dress pants are becoming more common among women. In the countryside, it is recommended to wear a skirt that falls below the knees. Modest tank-tops (no spaghetti straps) are ok for going around the city.
- c. Remember, people traveling through Partners Worldwide are representatives of business. Avoid wearing sandals or shorts to work outings regardless of the temperature. Dress as you would for a normal day in the office.

7. Safety Information

- a. Refer to the United States State Department (www.state.gov) travel warnings issued for Haiti.
- b. Notes on the travel warning:
 - i. **Kidnappings:** The current travel warning reminds people traveling in Haiti that kidnappings are on the rise. While this is a reason for concern, the kidnappings are usually targeted and the kidnapped person is usually returned in a few days. The desperate economic system is a major factor in these activities and they are mostly driven by money. The most important thing is to avoid certain areas that the CRC staff will tell you about. Avoid wearing your expensive looking cloths or jewelry and even “dress down” a little when going into certain neighborhoods. Because CRC has built rapport with Haitian citizens, you will be in very good hands when traveling with them. More often than not, the attitude of Haitians is not hostile towards whites.
 - ii. **Public Demonstration:** When they occur, public demonstrations are usually known about in advance and are set for a designated location. It is a good idea to avoid these areas when you know there will be a demonstration, as they have gotten violent in the past.
 - iii. **General Notes:** One of the CRC staff members noted that living in Haiti and Port-au-Prince is no different from any other major city around the world. There are isolated incidents here and there. She noted that there are more incidents of random crime in Detroit than in Haiti.