
Haiti Short-Term Mission Trips

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the mission base located?

The Life Teen Mission base is located west of Port au Prince, the capitol of Haiti, and the location of the airport. The town we are in is called Petite Riviere. The base is in and under the guidance of the Diocese of Anse-a-Veau and Miragoane.

What is a typical day like on mission in Haiti with Life Teen?

As a Life Teen Mission base, we are committed to living a life of contemplatives in action. We start everyday with a holy hour and morning prayer from Liturgy of the Hours. During the day in mission, we have opportunities for work projects as well as home visits to bring the Gospel to our neighbors. We eat lunch and have a time for rest in the early afternoon. There is a lovely beach right on our base where we can swim and enjoy a little relaxation. In the afternoon, we may host different events for our local teens such as Life Nights, XLTs, Mass, Bible studies, etc. Around 7:30pm each day, we will have a session to debrief about the day and to give everyone the opportunity to share glory stories of how we witnessed God moving that day. Dinner is around 9pm.

What is the weather like in Haiti?

Haiti is traditionally very hot and sunny year round. Sunscreen is a must and you might also want a hat and/or sunglasses. A personal fan and sweat rag will also be useful.

What is security like at the base?

A twelve-foot cement wall surrounds our base. Vanyel, a local Haitian, guards our gate during the day and in the evenings it is locked. All of our dormitories, bathrooms, and the dining hall are 300 yards from the front of the base and the main road.

How do short-term groups travel in Haiti?

Once a group arrives in Haiti, they will be picked up by our full-time missionaries in a cantor and taken back to the base. The cantor is a large truck with a closed-in back with seating for up to about thirty people. The drive is about 3-4 hours due to gravel roads and traffic, plus the cantor does not usually reach over 60 mph. Once at the base, we will walk most places throughout the week, so be sure to bring comfy shoes.

What is the cost of a mission trip?

The trip costs \$650 per person plus airfare. The \$650 includes food, lodging, extra hired help, transportation, mission costs, laundry, and basic work projects.

What is housing like?

There is one large male dorm room and one large female dorm room (with single beds). If a group has many missionaries of the same gender, we may use 2 dorm rooms for them.

How many people can come on a trip?

We can accommodate up to 20 missionaries per trip. If you'd like to bring a priest with you, he can be in addition to the 20 people.

How long is a Life Teen mission trip?

Trips are typically around 8 days. We have found that when trips are shorter than this, it can be difficult to have time to settle in well and really experience mission. We do not allow any travel on Sundays due to the distance from the base to the airport: it is very difficult to coordinate with Mass and needing to be at the airport two hours early.

What do I need to do to come?

Life Teen is a parish based youth ministry movement in the Catholic Church. Our short-term trips are reserved for parish groups whether from a high school youth group or a college Neumann center. If you are a youth minister who wants to bring their teens on mission to Haiti, we highly recommend that you visit the base prior to your teens coming. One of the best times to visit is on our annual Youth Leaders Trip which provides youth leaders the experience and knowledge they will need to prepare teens and lead them on mission in a foreign country.

How old do I have to be to go on mission with Life Teen?

There is no age limit for a mission trip to Haiti. However, if a parent is not accompanying their teen, we require that the teen be entering their junior year of high school or older.

What do I need to pack?

Please see the website for a packing list or contact the short-term mission coordinator at missiontrips@lifeteen.com.

What vaccinations do I need?

We highly recommend that you follow the CDC's recommendations for travel to Haiti. More info can be found here: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/haiti>

What airline do you recommend? What travel suggestions or requirements do you have?

Only four airlines fly into Haiti. We recommend American Airlines, Delta, or Jet Blue. Each of those airlines gives you a free checked bag, they are reliable, and typically have same day arrival. Delta even has some direct flights from Atlanta. Flights arriving in Port au Prince should arrive no earlier than 12 noon due to the travel distance from the base to the airport. Departure flights must be booked to leave Haiti after 1pm to ensure plenty of arrival time at the airport before your flight out. Again, we usually cannot allow travel to and from the mission base on Sundays because it is challenging to coordinate that with also getting to Mass.