

## **Cap-Haitien Enlightenment Trip – A New Approach to Missions**

**Thank you for taking an interest in visiting Cap-Haitien, Haiti. In this document, you will find everything you need to know to plan the trip that is right for you!**

**Yes, “Mission” trips are about volunteering your time to serve others, but they are also educational and inspiring.**

**The common reason people decide to take these trips is to help those in need. However, sometimes mission’s trips can actually be harmful to the very people you are committed to serving. Those of us that live in Cap-Haitien full-time, have come together to help address this void and use these opportunities to make an impact for everyone involved, those visiting and those we are hoping to impact. The truth is...EVERYONE will be impacted...if we do it in a healthy and beneficial way.**

**We want a trip that impacts you, our organization, and the local economy.**

**All costs associated with these trips, once in Cap-Haitien, benefit local Haitians and provide jobs for the otherwise job-less. In a country where 87% of the people are unemployed, building the local economy is the best way to make an impact.**

**I know what you are thinking...you want to “get your hands dirty!” You will. You will do it in conjunction with local Haitians who are also dying “to get their hands dirty” in an effort to support their families. Volunteering and providing work for locals, working together as one, is how you make the change you desire. That is why you are reading this...you want to help...make an impact...and leave knowing you accomplished this.**

**Definition of a mission: Making a sacrifice. You will be uncomfortable at times. You will be pushed to break down personal boundaries. You will be required to step out in Faith...the Lord awaits you and you will grow in your faith because of this experience.**

**Let’s get started...**

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## A. GROUP TRIPS:

### I. Introduction to Who We Are:

**Streethearts (Guidestar reference Street Hearts Inc.)**

[www.streetheartshaiti.org](http://www.streetheartshaiti.org)

**fbook: Streethearts Haiti**

**focus area: Ending the street kid population**

**contact: Emily Davis, Volunteer Coordinator**

**(703) 674-9353**    [emily@streetheartshaiti.org](mailto:emily@streetheartshaiti.org)

Our mission: Rescue the helpless and hopeless and lead them to a life of significance through Jesus Christ

Streethearts is a change agent for street kids in Cap-Haitien, Haiti helping to redirect the course of their lives. After only 3 years in operation, we have over 60 kids at our facility, over 40 in school, and 12 in workforce development programs.

We offer multiple programs depending on the child's stage of life, enabling them to learn and live a productive, healthy lifestyle and become a positive contributing member of society. We are fully run by a Haitian staff that believes changing lives starts with building relationships.

Our vision: Eliminate the street kid population and empower the next generation of forgotten children

Please visit [www.streetheartshaiti.org](http://www.streetheartshaiti.org) to learn more or check us out on facebook: "Streethearts Haiti" to keep up with our progress.

All trips include a Streethearts trip coordinator who will meet the attendees at Miami airport for the flight to and from Cap-Haitien. Emily Davis, our trip coordinator, will be in touch in advance of the trip via Skype to introduce herself and answer any questions the group may have.

To get started, please contact Emily Davis, [emily@streetheartshaiti.org](mailto:emily@streetheartshaiti.org), to arrange a Skype call for an introduction to the program and how our trips run. Once the group has confirmed number of attendees, Emily will arrange another Skype call with the group to discuss expectations and address any questions you may have.

Let's take a look at what a typical week looks like (options vary depending on group mission).

### II. Schedule:

#### **Day 1: 2:30pm - Arrive in Cap-Haitien airport on American Airlines**

- You will be charged a \$10 entrance fee upon arrival...this is included in your budget
- You will have transportation arranged and waiting for you outside the airport

- Once everyone has been loaded into the vehicle – we will stop by the hotel so that you are able to drop off your stuff.
- We will also stop at a local store so that you are able to grab snacks/water.

**5pm – Arrive at Streethearts Phase II Location (Vertyre)**

- You will be given a tour, explanation of the organization, and an introduction to the founder, Linsey Jorgenson.

**6pm – Arrive at Streethearts Phase I Location (7/L Location)**

- You will be given a tour and get to meet some of our Phase I kids at our night shelter

**7pm- Arrive at hotel**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

**Day 2: 7:30am – Breakfast**

- devotional

**8:30am – Depart for VBS and Working at Streethearts**

- Water/drinks/snacks
- Working at the Streethearts facility/spending time with staff and kids  
\*We work with each group to decide how best the group can impact our staff and kids while visiting (rather its crafts, talent show, building, etc. – the needs vary based on time of year)

**12pm – Head to Second Mile for tour (bagged lunch on the way)**

**2pm – Sports/Field Activity**

- You have the option to watch or participate in a sports field day to include; basketball, karate, soccer, and dance

**3pm – Arrive at Safehouse**

- Popcorn party & crafts to decorate house

**6pm – Depart for hotel**

**6:30pm – Arrive at hotel**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

Note: there is a pool at the hotel!!!! Wahoo!!!!

**Day 3: 7:30am – Breakfast/devotional**

**8:30am – Depart for Hike: Citadel, Ft. Piccolet, Cross (group choice)**

- Water/drinks/snacks
- Kids will also be attending

**12pm – Depart from Hike- stop at Green Charcoal for tour**

**1pm – Lunch (Head to HHA Hospital)**

- Lunch and tour of the hospital

**2pm – Community Service Activity at HHA Hospital**

- This afternoon is spent working alongside our kids, providing community service to those both in the rehab hospital and children in the Maison

**5pm – Depart Community Service**

**6pm – Arrive at hotel**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

**Day 4: 7:30am – Breakfast**

- devotional

**8:30am – Depart for Waterfalls or Beach (group choice)**

- Water/drinks/snacks
- Kids will also be attending

**12pm – DEPENDING ON GROUP ACTIVITY CHOICE: Lunch at Beach with kids OR Lunch and learn at SOIL (bagged lunch of pb&j)**

**3pm –TALENT SHOW at Safehouse!**

\*Volunteer participation is highly encouraged!!!

**5pm – Depart Safehouse (goodbyes!)**

**6pm – Arrive at Hotel**

- Dinner with the Founder
- Reflection/bedtime

**Day 5: 8:30am – Breakfast**

- Devotional with Founder

**10am – Souvenir shop**

**10:45am – Depart for airport**

- There is a restaurant open at the airport if you need a snack, sandwich, coffee, etc.

**BON VOYAGE!!! THANK YOU FOR VISITING US!**

Now, let's talk cost...

**III. Pricing:**

Obviously, costs can vary depending on hotel availability and the number of attendees in each group.

**The current cost is \$1884 per person, for a group of 15.**

This includes: food, hotel, transportation, interpreter fee, Citadel fee, airfare, beach fee, and a donation to Streethearts enabling them to keep running effectively and offering jobs to locals! To see a more detailed breakdown – this can be provided, no problem.

\*All pricing is subject to change based on group mission

**In Preparation:**

- 1. Your flight confirmation and vaccinations need to be confirmed 2 months in advance and will serve as your deposit to reserve your place.**
- 2. Your next payment of \$300 will be submitted online ([www.streetheartshaiti.org/get-involved/direct-donation/](http://www.streetheartshaiti.org/get-involved/direct-donation/)), this goes towards all excursions, transportation, translators, coordinator fees and a donation to Streethearts. This is due 1 month prior to your trip.**
- 3. Your final amount due will be \$260 in cash for your entrance fee into Haiti as well as spending money for souvenirs, snacks and drinks. You can also choose to bring either a credit card or \$400 cash for your hotel fees.**

#### **IV. Trip Availability:**

**We offer group trips during the following times of year:**

**-July: 9th - 13th**  
**-January 8th - 12th**

#### **B. Preparations:**

##### **I. Immunizations:**

This process needs to begin AT LEAST a month before you travel dates. Begin by contacting your local travel clinic. Most do not take insurance, so it is important to understand the pricing before your appointment. In addition to the recommended shots, you will also need a prescription for Ciproflaxin (for upset stomach) and Chloroquine (Malaria prevention). Chloroquine pills start a week before you depart – so be mindful of this. [Learn more on the CDC website.](#)

##### **Recommended Vaccinations:**

Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, MMR, Tetnus, Typhoid, Flu shot

##### **Prescriptions:**

Ciproflaxin (for nausea and upset stomach) & Chloroquine (for Malaria). Please note that you will need to start your malaria medication 2 weeks before departure, so plan appointments accordingly.

\*Shots can cost around \$250-\$350. Your best reference for finding the right clinic for you is a recommendation from your general physician. (This cost is included in the budget)

##### **II. Required Supplemental Materials:**

In preparation for your trip, we ask that you please read and watch the following

- When Helping Hurts by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett
- Serving with Eyes Wide Open by David Livermore
- Poverty Inc. (Netflix Documentary)

In addition, it may be helpful to learn more about Haiti before visiting:

- CIA World Factbook on Hait:  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ha.html>
- Learn some Haitian Creole:  
<http://www.travelinghaiti.com/haitian-kreyol/>

##### **III. Planning - What to pack:**

The weather in Haiti is always hot!!! Also, our trips are geared around a lot of outdoor activity so please plan accordingly.

- 2-3 Running/Work-out shorts or skorts. (Not too short please!).
- 2-3 Work-out tank tops/tshirts.

- Choose clothing that is breathable – dry fit is preferable!
- Jeans, dresses, skirts, and/or casual tops for the evening \*optional.
- Close-toed shoes (hiking or tennis shoes) for day, and sandals/flip flops for evening.
- 2-3 outfits/1-2 night outfits (be aware that laundry service is a great way to help boost the local economy).
- Bathing suit!!!! There is a pool at the hotel! (Try to be on the modest side – or plan to wear a tank top over your bikini during our water excursions with the kids. We DO NOT have problems with a two-piece, as long as it's modest. Remember – we have a lot of teenage boys ☺).
- Toiletries for your stay (shampoo, conditioner, soap, razor, etc). These may not be readily available to you should you run out.
- Makeup: Bring it! Just keep in mind; it will most likely melt off quickly.
- High SPF sunscreen.
- DEET bug spray. (100% is recommended. You can find it at specialty sporting shops.).
- Anti-bacterial hand sanitizer. We stress that each traveler carries, what may seem like an excessive amount, at all times.
- You DO NOT NEED to bring a camel back!!! We will stop each morning at local stores to buy water, gatorades, or snacks. This is included in your budget. We want to help the local economy!
- You will be asked to bring one 40 pound bag of donations. Bags can be provided by Streethearts, as well as a list of donations. There will be a \$25 luggage fee, however...this is included in your budget.

### **III. Planning: Things to Remember**

- All of your personal items should fit in a backpack. If you need extra luggage (in addition to your donation bag – you are welcome to bring an additional suitcase however, you will be responsible for the luggage fee.)
- All of the local hotels accept credit cards – however, be mindful that using your debit/credit card could result in charges taking up to a month to post to your account.
- There are 2 ATMS located in Cap-Haitien (in case of emergency).
- Looking into temporary international phone plans is not a bad idea! Many are more reasonable than you think and texting your family to update them on your status is not out of reach!
- Check your expiration dates on your passport.
- Wifi is not always reliable...please be aware.

#### IV. Expectations – Yours and Ours

- Do NOT, under any circumstance, give out your personal information to locals!!!
- Please be mindful that you are in a foreign place, please keep valuables secure once you leave the hotel. Everything needs to be in your backpack. We will make sure to secure all bags at all excursions.
- Remember that you are not in the USA – you will see things that may not be normal to you. Be courteous to the Haitian people and embrace their culture.
- Remember that you are a guest...take it all in and observe!!! You are here to learn – enjoy it!
- Many people want to come and “get their hands dirty” however...if you do the work for the people you take jobs away from those in desperate need of work so that they can provide for their family. Your job is to love on the people here and provide expertise and guidance as requested by those you came to serve! Rather than doing the work for them – we want to teach and improve their skill set.
- Please remember – you are in Haiti. The kids may not have as much as you expect, but all of their needs are met. These kids are well-cared for and happy. Remember – The poor wasn’t aware that they were poor, until the wealthy showed that to them.
- Wealth in the Bible is not always referring to money. The Haitian people are rich in their Faith and relationship to the Lord. Often times, that is the only thing they have and trust. Think twice before you start with “poor them – how can we fix them? How can we help them?” They make be thinking the same thing about you.
- If the heat or the atmosphere is too much, tell someone! It’s okay to take a time out. If you need to go back to the hotel, or take some time at a hotel at some point, that is totally fine.
- You are at no point allowed to leave the hotel once you have arrived in the evening.
- Don’t let the language barrier be an issue. It’s MORE AMAZING that you can’t speak the language and yet...you will find a way to communicate!
- YOU MUST DRINK LOTS OF WATER – 24/7...ALL DAY EVERY DAY (2 Liters a day at minimum)– EVEN IF YOU’RE NOT THIRSTY. You will dehydrate and get sick. You do NOT want to end up in a Haitian hospital...however, if you do need a doctor, our medical partner, ASABED is available.
- At no point will you be permitted to take photos, outside of the Streethearts Safehouse, unless you have received prior approval.
- Any inappropriate behavior (sexual or otherwise) with staff or kids will result in immediate expulsion of the trip and you will be asked to remain at the hotel under supervision until your departure flight. You will not participate in any activities going forward.



- If, at any time, a staff member or child makes you feel uncomfortable – you must notify the Streethearts Volunteer Coordinator immediately! (This includes being asked for money and/or things!).
- All volunteers are required to sign a travel waiver and must bring this, signed, upon arrival.

Lastly, and most importantly – ABANDON THE AGENDA! Meaning...Let yourself go and let God lead you. He wants to work through you – let Him! He will put you in the perfect place at the perfect time ☺. You will be amazed and fulfilled at the end of your trip if you try earnestly to seek His plan for your trip. Ex; if a group of cows blocks your car in the road – that’s okay! That’s supposed to happen...enjoy being in the present every minute and take it all in – you will learn a lot about the culture as well as yourself. Patience is imperative!

**NOTE: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A CHRISTIAN TO ATTEND AND ENLIGHTENMENT TRIP!!!** If you feel that this trip is important for you, for whatever reason, we welcome you with open arms!

#### **V. Travel Waiver**

You can find this link on the Streethearts website, or our representative will email this to the team leader.