



# GROUP TRIP INFORMATION PACKET

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# INTRODUCTION:

## WHO WE ARE

Streethearts works as a change agent for street kids in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, helping to redirect the course of their lives by providing for fundamental needs along their path from childhood to adulthood.

Street kids are different from those placed in an orphanage setting. Our kids have ended up on the streets due to a variety of reasons including suffering prior abuse, not having a home, losing their parents or leaving the prison system. Our program works to rehabilitate children who have a hardened mentality due to these circumstances.

We don't believe in institutionalizing children. Each child steps into an individualized life plan when they enroll. The key to self-improvement starts with each child's acceptance of who he is and developing his plan for the future.

## OUR CORE VALUES

Faith – Perseverance – Love

## HOW WE WORK

We operate using a holistic three-phase system that meets each boy where they are and walks alongside them until graduation day.

- **The Night Shelter:** This is our most basic care for those 14 and under who have not yet chosen to leave the street life behind. Each evening, they can enter our Night Shelter and be given a bed and locker. These are given on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis. The boys receive a meal each evening if they come in before 8:30 PM – this is an incentive to get them off the streets early.
  - o **PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Nutrition, Hygiene, Security, Sports and Recreation, Bible Study, ESOL and Street Church
  - o **KEY MESSAGE:** Encouragement
- **The Heart House:** Each July our enrollment process opens. Boys aged 3-18 who have shown commitment to leaving the street life behind can enter this process to then move into our Heart House facility full-time. During enrollment we must perform a medical evaluation, psychological evaluation, school assessment, and family background investigation. We become their legal guardians and they now enter the Streethearts family.

At the Heart House, the boys are enrolled in school. They live at our facility full-time and are responsible for helping run the house. They participate in sports

and fine arts activities depending on their interests and are expected to complete one community service project each month.

- **PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Nutrition, Hygiene, Education, Security, Sports and Recreation, Community Service, Fine Arts, ESOL, and Bible Study
  - **KEY MESSAGE:** Education
- **Transition Program;** Our boys aged 18-21 move into apartments where they gain guided independence in preparation for graduation at 21. We offer the same programs offered at the Heart House but at a more advanced level. At this stage, we are preparing them to have the skills to live as contributing members of their community with the goal of impacting Haiti in a positive way.

In this phase we work with each apartment to start a small business together. These are not their career-paths, instead a job to help support them as they explore higher education or trade school. The three or four boy small business teams are equally responsible for the business's success and use this money to buy any personal items beyond the basics we provide.

- **PROGRAMS OFFERED:** Nutrition, Hygiene, Education, Security, Sports and Recreation, Community Service, Fine Arts, ESOL, Budgeting, Life Skill Development classes and Bible Study
- **KEY MESSAGE:** Empowerment and Employment

## THE VALUE OF TEAMS

At Streethearts we strive to create a mission experience that is a benefit to both our organization and our visitors as well as being a blessing to the people and economy in Haiti. We focus our trips on relationship building between our boys and the group members. We can all paint houses, build schools or clean up trash- but what are we saying to the 87% of the country that is unemployed that can also do these things?

We instead want to invest in relationships with our staff and kids. We encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to get to know others around you during your time in country. Do not be discouraged by the language barrier – you will be surprised at the many other ways you will find to communicate.

We encourage you to ask questions about the culture, the kids and the country. But to also keep an open mind to what the answers might be. Asking and listening show that you are open to learning about something new! You will experience a lot of “different” during your time in Haiti but remember that different does not mean wrong. You may also experience interruptions, we call this “living on Haitian time”. If the schedule gets moved around just trust that God has put you there for a reason. He will use you in ways you can't even imagine if you trust Him to do so!

## IMPACT ADVENTURES



Our Enpak (or Impact in English) Adventures trips are led by a team of five young men over 18 who are learning tourism skills. Through this initiative the boys are being trained in English, budgeting, and leadership skills with the hope that this will become a self-sustaining tourism project that they can lead independently. Each morning, the Enpak guides will take the group, along with some Streethearts kids, on an excursion to a Haitian landmark. Our typical week has us visiting old fort ruins along the coastline, hidden waterfalls in the countryside, Haiti's biggest historical landmark – the Citadel, and taking a boat taxi to spend the day on the beach at Labadee. We do this to not only showcase the many beautiful sites Haiti has to offer to our visitors but to give our boys the chance to experience these as well and have pride in their country.

Included in your trip cost is a donation that covers the boys' salary for the month. So before even stepping foot in Haiti you have already made a HUGE impact by employing 6 people. The boys have worked hard to learn tourism skills and are very eager to show them off! As with any tourism excursion if you have experienced exceptional service, you are welcome to leave a tip for the boys at the end of your stay!

# PRE-TRIP PREPARATION:

We are SO excited you have decided to come visit us in Haiti! Here are some guidelines to help prepare you for your trip!

## PASSPORT

All team members must have a valid passport to travel internationally. It is recommended that your passport have at least six months remaining before expiration and two open pages for new stamps. Because it can take up to eight weeks to complete the process and this information may be needed to confirm your plane ticket, it's important to get started immediately! For more information, visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

There are **no medical requirements or required vaccinations** to enter the country. However, we encourage you to check the CDC website and use your own discretion as to what precautions you choose to take. Most local travel clinics will be able to guide you on what is recommended for Haiti, but this process should begin at least 4-6 weeks before your departure date as some vaccinations need multiple doses.

These can be expensive and are often not covered by insurance. The normally recommended vaccines include *Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, MMR, an updated Tetanus, Typhoid and a flu shot.*

We do however highly recommend filling a prescription for **Ciproflaxin**. This antibiotic is great to have on hand should you experience any stomach issues adjusting to the new foods. This can be filled by your general physician and should be covered through insurance.

In addition, please let us know of any pre-existing medical or dietary needs so we can best accommodate you during your stay. There is **no guarantee** we will have access to any medications so please bring any and all prescription or over-the-counter medicines you think you will need throughout the week.

## PAPERWORK

We ask that each group member complete our Travel Waiver, Social Media Waiver, and Volunteer Code of Conduct prior to your trip to Cap Haitien and either scan/email back to us or bring down a copy to give to us in person upon arrival. Your group leader will receive a copy of the waiver to distribute about a month before departure.

## MENTAL PREPARATION

We expect all members to be familiar with the following to help define your purpose and create a greater understanding of the cultural differences you will experience.

- *When Helping Hurts* by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett
- *Serving with Eyes Wide Open* by David Livermore
- *Poverty Inc.* – available to watch on Amazon Prime Video

It may also be helpful to check out the CIA World Factbook page on Haiti (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ha.html>) and learn some basic Haitian Creole (<http://www.travelinghaiti.com/haitian-kreyol/> or by downloading the Duolingo app).

## THE FINANCIALS

The cost of a Streethearts trip depends on the number of participants and time of year however we average between \$1800- \$2000 per person (including airfare) for group trips.

1. **Booking Your Flight.** You have the liberty of scheduling and purchasing your own ticket, or you can work with your team leader to schedule your flight. However, we ask that all team members arrive at the Cap Haitien airport on the same day. Spirit Airlines is the ONLY airline that flies directly into Cap Haitien (CAP) from Fort Lauderdale (FLL).

The average ticket price to CAP ranges from \$450-\$1,000 round trip depending on your location of travel and the time of year, with summer typically being the most expensive season. Generally, the sooner the commitment, the cheaper the ticket.

*Your flight confirmation will serve as your deposit and we ask that you submit this information 2 months before your trip to reserve your spot!*

2. **Mission Fee.** The mission fee can be paid on our website (<https://www.streetheartshaiti.org/donate/>). Please make sure you write your name in the comments box. This is an “all-in” cost which includes: hotels/missions housing, transportation, food, excursions, Impact Adventure salary and a donation to Streethearts enabling us to keep running effectively and offering jobs to locals!

Your group leader will decide whether you will be submitting individual or group donations.

*Your mission fee must be submitted 1 month before your trip so that we have time to receive the funds in Haiti.*

3. **Spending Money.** The amount of money you travel with is up to you. There is a \$10 entrance fee that will be paid in customs upon arrival at the Cap Haitien airport. Beyond that, we recommend between \$50-\$100 per person to be spent on souvenirs. This is completely optional.

There are ATMs in-country, but service is not always guaranteed. It is better to have the cash on hand in case they are not functioning. If your group is staying in a hotel, they will accept credit cards but be aware that the charges may take a few months to appear. Most places will accept U.S. money, but we can change some of your spending money to Gourde (Haitian currency) upon arrival as well.

## PACKING GUIDE

When packing, remember that Haiti is ALWAYS HOT and our trips are geared around a lot of outdoor activity. Choose clothing that is comfortable, loose fitting, lightweight and washable. We ask that you try to fit everything into a carry-on so that we can utilize the checked bag for donation items.

Here is a suggested packing list:

- Running or work-out shorts/skorts for each day
  - o Not too short please!
  - o Dry fit works best!
- Work-out tank tops or t-shirts for each day
- Jeans, dresses, skirts or casual tops for the evenings (OPTIONAL!)
- Bathing suit
  - o Try to be on the modest side- we have NO problem with a two-piece as long as it's modest!
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots
- Flip flops
- Toiletries for your stay (shampoo, conditioner, soap, razer, etc)
  - o These may not be readily available to you should you run out!
- Make-up
  - o BRING IT! Just keep in mind, it will most likely melt off quickly
- High SPF sunscreen, DEET bug spray, and anti-bacterial hand sanitizer
- Protein or granola bars, nuts, or other snacks.

- You will be sweating more than you probably ever have – which will cause you to be hungrier than normal!
- We may not be able to accommodate all dietary restrictions- YOU are responsible for bringing snacks to keep you full during your stay!
- A reusable water bottle
  - We will refill the water bottle each morning and have jugs to fill up throughout the day! We do not want to contribute to Haiti's trash problem so reusable is the way to go!

In addition, we will send a list of needed donation items that we ask the group to collect and bring down in checked bags. We try to buy everything in-country to help support the local economy, but some items are hard to find or expensive. We rely on groups to help support us in this way by collecting and bringing these items when they visit.



## IN-COUNTRY INFORMATION:

To keep your trip as safe and enjoyable as possible we ask that you please follow these rules and tips we have learned along the way.

### ARRIVAL IN HAITI

**FORMS.** While en-route from Fort Lauderdale to Cap Haitien, Haiti, you will be given two forms to fill out. Please keep these forms with you. You will need to show them several times at the airport once you are off the plane.

For the "Address in Haiti" section of the forms please write: #7 Vilaj Christophe, Vertiere Cap Haitien.

**IMMIGRATION.** Arriving in Cap Haitien, your first stop will be immigration. Here they will need your passport and the white & green forms that you filled out on the plane. This is where you will pay the **\$10** entrance fee, which must be paid in cash.

The officer will stamp your passport and the form. They will give the bottom of the green form back to you. **BE SURE TO SAVE THE SMALL GREEN FORM - YOU WILL NEED IT TO EXIT THE COUNTRY.**

**BAGGAGE CLAIM.** Your next stop will be baggage claim. Baggage carts will be available for \$2 US if you need one. We recommend forming smaller groups that will exit baggage claim together to avoid getting charged by customs officials.

Once you receive all of your luggage, you will be expected to show your baggage claim ticket to an official before exiting for a final baggage check by a customs officer. He will open your bag and look around. We recommend keeping any valuables or electronics in your personal backpack as to not attract attention.

**EXITING THE AIRPORT.** Streethearts' representatives will be waiting for you right outside the airport doors in a blue "Enpak Adventure" shirt. We will ensure your group leader has our contact information ahead of time in case you need to get ahold of us due to delays or issues in the airport.

We will escort you to the group vans. There will be a lot of noise and confusion and people everywhere. Many people will try to help you carry your luggage- firmly tell them "No thank you". We have airport workers that we know and trust. Hold onto your own luggage until we make arrangements with them.

## WHILE IN HAITI

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE.** Remember that the schedule CAN and most likely WILL be changed. Abandon the agenda- let yourself go and let God lead you! You will be amazed at the end of your trip if you try to seek His plan for you.

Here is what our typical week looks like:

### Day 1:

**12:30pm - Arrive in Cap-Haitien airport on Spirit Airlines**

- We will be waiting right outside the airport for you!

**2:00pm – Tour of Streethearts Heart House Location**

- Tour and spend time with our boys
- Arts/Crafts/Sports Activities

**3:00pm – Tour of Streethearts Night Shelter Location**

- Tour and spend time with our boys
- Arts/Crafts/Sports Activities

**4:00pm – Head to Hotel and tour of Cap Haitien**

- Unpack/Relax

**6:00pm- Dinner**

### Day 2:

**8:00am – Breakfast**

- Devotional

**9:00am – Depart for Ft. Picolet**

- Tour this historical landmark led by our Impact Adventure boys!
- Kids will also be attending

**1:00pm – Break for lunch in town**

- We will go to one of Cap Haitien’s “hot spots” along the Boulevard
- This will be a time for devotional on best ways to serve in third world countries

**3:30pm – Arrive at Streethearts Heart House Location**

- Spend time serving alongside our boys through VBS, sports, art, or community service activities

**5:00pm – Depart for hotel**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

**Day 3:****8:00am – Breakfast**

- Devotional

**9:00am – Depart for Waterfalls**

- Hike in the countryside that ends in waterfalls led by our Impact boys
- Kids will also be attending
- Bring shoes you do not mind getting wet

**12:00pm – Lunch at Waterfalls**

- We will bring supplies to make PB&Js at the Waterfalls
- This will be a time for devotional on best ways to serve in third world countries

**2:00pm – Head to Streethearts Heart House location**

- Spend time serving alongside our boys through VBS, sports, art, or community service activities

**5:00pm – Depart for hotel**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

**Day 4:**

**FREE DAY! – We will work with each group to determine what their interests are for the free day.**

**8:00am – Breakfast**

- Devotional

**9:00pm – Head to Night Shelter Location**

- Spend time serving alongside our boys through VBS, sports, art, or community service activities

**12:00pm – Break for lunch in town**

- We will go to one of Cap Haitien's "hot spots" along the Boulevard
- This will be a time for devotional on best ways to serve in third world countries

**2:00pm – Arrive at Heart House Location**

- Spend time serving alongside our boys through VBS, sports, art, or community service activities

**5:00pm – Depart for hotel**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

**Day 5:**

**8:00am – Breakfast**

- Devotional

**9:00am – Depart for Citadel Hike**

- Tour this historical landmark led by five of our Impact boys
- Kids will also be attending

**12:00pm – Lunch at the hike**

- We will head to a local Bed & Breakfast to enjoy a Haitian meal
- This will be a time for devotional on best ways to serve in third world countries

**2:00pm- Arrive at Streethearts Heart House location**

- Spend time serving alongside our boys through VBS, sports, art, or community service activities

**5:00pm – Depart for Guesthouse**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

**Day 6:****8:00am – Breakfast**

- Devotional

**9:00am – Depart for Beach Party!**

- We will head out to check all that Labadee has to offer including fishing, swimming and snorkeling in the water

**10:30am – Arrive at Paradise Beach**

- Lunch with everyone
- Beach party to celebrate our week together

**3:00pm- Head to Streethearts Heart House and Night Shelter location**

- Goodbyes! ☹️

**5:00pm – Depart for Guesthouse**

- Dinner/reflection/bedtime

**Day 7:****8:30am – Breakfast**

- Final wrap-up of your week

**10:00am – Souvenir shop**

- Stop to purchase some locally made Haitian goods

**10:45am – Depart for airport**

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

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Please do not give out anything to the locals without clearing it with Streethearts' staff. This includes giving out **personal information**. There will be a time when we give treats out to the kids but please wait until then to avoid causing problems, jealousy or greed among our boys.

Along with this, **NEVER** promise or give a hint of a promise to anyone that you are not prepared to back up immediately.

Remain alert as we travel. You are in a foreign place. Secure all valuables when leaving the hotel and keep only small amounts of money on you.

**Always** ask permission to take photos outside of our centers. We never want to offend anyone by sticking a camera in their face. You are welcome to take photos of the landscape, town and sights from inside the van- but please be aware that some people may not like their picture being taken.

If the heat or atmosphere is too much, **TELL SOMEONE!** It's okay to take a time out. If you need to go back to the hotel, that is totally fine. Along the same lines, please tell us if you are beginning to feel sick so we can get you started on antibiotics ASAP! We would rather you take an afternoon off than have to stay back the rest of the trip.

**DO NOT** drink the water from the taps or showers in your hotel room. There will be water bottles to use to brush your teeth and filtered water to drink at the hotel bar or restaurant.

At no point are you allowed to leave the hotel once you have arrived in the evenings. If we are planning to go out to dinner, a staff member will be up to get you. But please **do not leave alone**.

You **MUST** drink lots of water... 2 liters a day at minimum!! You will be sweating more than ever before so even if you do not feel thirsty PLEASE DRINK WATER! You will end up dehydrated and sick and you do **NOT** want to end up in a Haitian hospital.

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.

If, at any time, a staff member or child make you feel uncomfortable please notify a Streethearts staff member immediately (this includes being asked for money and/or things!)

## RETURNING HOME:

Heading home will leave you with a mix of emotions! The reverse culture shock of being back in the States will be bittersweet. You are back in the land of hot showers and reliable electricity but have returned with new perceptions.

You are now a part of our Streethearts family, and we hope your experiences with us will lead you to be a more informed donor, a better prayer-partner, and an advocate for our boys and staff in Haiti.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

We love seeing your pictures from throughout the week and hope that you will share them with us. However, we ask that any photos shared represent Haiti and Streethearts in a positive light. Meaning... you will see trash and poverty BUT we do not want that to be the takeaway from your trip. We hope that by the end of the week you come home wanting to share the BEAUTY of Haiti and our children.

We also have a zero-tolerance policy for adding our boys on Facebook or other forms of social media. Our staff are completely fine, as long as you **100%** know who you are adding. We do not want you adding a random person and then being inundated with requests for money or gifts. We would **NEVER** send a staff member your way to ask for things so if you accidentally add someone who begins asking you for things... PLEASE DELETE THEM IMMEDIATELY!

*N'ap tann ou! (We are waiting for you!)*

SEE YOU SOON IN HAITI!!