

Haiti Short-Term Mission Trips - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost of a mission trip?

The trip costs \$650 per person (airfare not included). The \$650 includes food, lodging, extra hired help, transportation, mission costs, laundry, and basic work projects.

Where is the mission base located?

The Life Teen Mission base is located in Madian, 60 miles west of Port au Prince. Here, 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 every day 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. Each evening, 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.

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 rain jacket, personal fan, and sweat rag will also be useful.

What is security like at the base?

Our base is situated right between mountains and a beach. The base is completely surrounded by a cement wall and has a gate to let in visitors and vehicles. The gate is guarded by our gatekeeper, Vanyel, during the day and kept locked at night with security guards on the premise. There are specific rules set in place for missionaries not to leave the base by themselves at any time.

How do short-term groups travel in Haiti?

Once a group arrives in Haiti, they will be picked up by our full-time missionaries and taken back to the base. Our 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 housing like?

There are two large dorm rooms and 4 smaller rooms all with bunk beds.

How many people can come on a trip?

Trips are typically composed of two parishes/groups with 10 missionaries each. Priests do not count towards this number & their mission fee is waived. We also require a gender-specific 1:6 adult to teen ratio. Each chaperone must be at least 21 years old.

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 BUT it is not a requirement. One of the best times to visit is on our annual Youth Minister Mission Trip which provides YM's with 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?

Rising Sophomore (15+) can come on mission without parent/guardian. However, airlines might require more documentation for minors traveling internationally.

What do I need to pack?

The Short-Term Mission Coordinator will send you the packing list after your group is registered.

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?

Before booking flights – your groups must make contact with our Mission Trip Coordinator. We recommend American, Delta, or Jet Blue. 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 **between 12pm and 4pm** 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 **DO NOT** allow travel to and from the mission base on Sundays because it is challenging to coordinate that with also getting to Mass.