

MISSION TRIP PLANNING

Passport

You must have a current passport. Apply for a new passport six to eight weeks prior to making your mission trip. Processing time for a new passport varies depending on the U.S. State Department's workload and other circumstances. During busier times, such as the summer travel season, the State Department encourages you to expedite your passport application if you are traveling in less than 10 weeks. Contact the nearest post office or county court house for an application and mailing information. You must have an original birth certificate and two passport photos to apply for your passport. These photos can be obtained from some drug stores, photo shops, or Wal-Mart. For comprehensive information about passports, the passport application process, and other important details visit the [U.S. Department of State International Travel website](#).



Shots, Immunizations, Medications

When traveling to Haiti and other countries, it's advisable to protect yourself from medical risks. For health information on traveling to Haiti, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and their [Health Information for Travelers to Haiti](#).

For a checklist and additional health information on vaccinations and travel, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Disease Directory](#).

Luggage

On most airlines you can take one check-on pieces of luggage that will go into the airplane's storage compartment. Luggage is limited to 62 inches total for length/width/height and a maximum weight of 50 lbs. Each. (Check to make sure of restrictions as they change regularly.)

Trunks (footlockers) pack much easier and better protect the contents. You can also use large pieces of luggage instead of trunks. You cannot lock your luggage on the plane. Use plastic ties to keep them from opening during travel (only after airport security checks them).

You can usually carry one or two small pieces of luggage or backpacks onto the plane. They must fit under your seat or in the overhead compartment. Consider carrying a backpack for use throughout Haiti for snacks, personal items, camera, etc.

Suggested Backpack or Other Carry-on-type Bag Items

(Check with airlines; typically only 3 oz. size or smaller liquids are allowed and should be together in a quart-size ziplock bag.)

Airplane Tickets

Book for Travel and Down Times

Camera (or smart phone)

Change Of Clothes

Lip balm

Eye Drops

Extra Batteries

Gum

Small pack of tissues

Hat

iPod or Tablet

Liquids (All must be in a separate clear Ziploc bag.)

Medicine

Passport

Rain Jacket with Hood

Small Bible
Small Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
Snacks
Sunshades
Sunscreen
Water Bottle
Writing Pens

Suggested Checked Luggage Items

Roll of toilet tissue to leave at Guesthouse
Small Alarm Clock (or smart phone)
Bible
Books for down time
Bug Repellent
Camera (or smart phone)
Cap/Hat
Lip balm
Dirty Clothes Bag
Ear Plugs – (optional for street noise, dogs, roosters, etc. at night)
Flashlight (small)
Flip Flops or Sandals (for shower)
Journal
Lock for Luggage (while away from guesthouse)
Medicine
Passport Photocopies (in all pieces of luggage with phone number)
Personal First Aid Kit with Imodium (for upset stomach) and headache relief
Rain jacket with hood or poncho
Soap and Soap Dish (or Ziploc Bag)
Shoes—Old sneakers or shoes for work, nice pair for church
Snacks (dried fruit and granola bars, raisins, crackers - nothing that melts)
Swimsuit (one-piece only, ladies/ no “Speedos”, men - Only bring if an excursion to a beach or pool is planned.)
Sun Block

Sunglasses
Toiletries
Washcloth
Water Bottle- labeled with your name
Ziploc Bags

Work Clothes

Men

Shorts or work pants (jeans are usually too hot)
Pants for evening or church
Polo shirts – something nicer than T-shirts

Ladies

Dresses or Skirts below the knees, or Culottes (Haiti's Christians don't approve of ladies in pants or shorts)
Dresses or Skirt and Blouse.
Pants/Shorts for use at the guesthouse in the evening

Men & Women

T-shirts or Collared Shirts (something you don't mind leaving behind)
Ball Caps or Hats for Sun Protection
Work Shoes (old sneakers)
Bandanna to keep sun off neck
Sweat Towel (small)
Casual and Church Clothes
Shoes (comfortable walking/work shoes and nice shoes for Sunday (sneakers are ok)
Hat or Cap (for riding in the back of a truck and sometimes working in the sun)

Giveaway Items (optional)

Treats for Kids (Smarties, Sweet Tarts, soft mints)
Soccer balls and balls of any size
Hand pumps
Frisbees
Notebooks

School supplies

Old Clothes and shoes (in good condition)

New underclothes – underwear especially

Dollar Store or Wal-Mart Items – especially soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, hair ties, combs, forks, spoons, journals, photo albums, pencils, pens

Nothing Requiring Batteries

Printed photographs from previous trip to hand out

Money

(Should be in small bills and in like-new condition)

Do not give money to children or adults; only give to team leader to distribute

Limited amount for meals or drinks in airport and souvenirs

Small amount for church service tithe