

OIH

Orphans International Helpline

Serving orphans in their hopelessness

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP
BOMBARDOPOLIS, HAITI

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PACKAGE



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Orphans International Helpline

Mission Trip to Bombardopolis, Haiti

Dear Missionary:

This year *Orphans International Helpline* will conduct medical, evangelistic and building short-term mission trips to Bombardopolis, one of the most neglected, abandoned, and poorest cities in Haiti. See for yourself how God is using *Orphans International Helpline* in Haiti. Your trip will be a blessing to the people you meet and your life will be enriched from the experience. There are no words to describe what it is like to meet your sponsored child!

We at OIH are excited that you have chosen to invest your time, energy and talents in a short-term trip. God will use this opportunity to impact your life in ways beyond what you can imagine.

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE that the trip is at least moderately stressful, and sometimes greatly so. However, there is a place for anyone who feels led by God to go on one of our trips if he or she is in reasonably good health. If you have not already started praying, begin now to pray daily for your upcoming trip. We encourage you to enlist others to pray for you as well. Satan is never happy when Christians take a step of faith, so we know that he will try to discourage you. Encouragement can be drawn from the fact that you can trust in God.

In this package you will find practical information for your trip, including suggested packing list, suggestions for preparation, policies and other helpful items. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this information.

We thank you so much for your interest in the ministry being done in Haiti. Everyone has different expectations and talents. We invite you to share all of these with us prior to your trip so we may be better able to make your trip an enjoyable memory.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact us. We will be praying for you as you plan and prepare for your Haiti mission trip.

Sincerely,

OIH Team

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

PASSPORT:

Americans entering Haiti MUST have a passport. Your birth certificate will not suffice. **DO NOT** allow anyone to convince you that a passport is not needed. You will not gain entry into Haiti without one!

If you lose your passport while abroad, report the loss to the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy immediately. You can get a 3-month temporary passport directly from the consulate, but you must fill out a “loss of passport” form, follow the same application procedure and pay the same fees as the original. We recommend that you make two color photocopies of your passport identity page. One should be given to your mission trip leader and the other to someone at home, in case of theft or an emergency.

You can obtain passport information and applications at your local U.S. Post Office or by calling Washington Passport and Visa Service at 1-800-272-7776 or go to www.wpvs.com or go to www.travel.state.gov web site.

HEALTH:

Everyone is encouraged to have a checkup with your physician and to consult with him/her regarding recommended immunizations since these are subject to change over time. We strongly suggest you travel with a prescription to treat traveler’s diarrhea. Visit www.mdtravelhealth.com for updated information.

MALARIA PROPHYLAXIS:

We recommend that you secure a supply of CHLOROQUINE from your personal physician. A 500 mg dosage should be taken one to two weeks prior to departure and weekly thereafter for four weeks upon your return. Follow your physician’s orders for taking this medication.

PHYSICAL CONDITION/MEDICATIONS:

If you have a chronic medical condition, such as diabetes or heart condition, ***a letter from your physician is mandatory before going on a trip to Haiti.*** Medical identification tag, bracelet, card, etc., must be carried by anyone who has a chronic illness. Please take enough medication to last the entire trip, as well as to replace any that you may happen to misplace or lose. ***Please make a list of all your medications, listing dosage and directions, and give a copy to the mission trip leader.***

MEDICAL PERSONNEL:

Anyone forming part of a medical staff (doctors, nurses, dental hygienists, etc.) will need to provide a copy of each of the following:

- Medical license
- Driver’s license
- Birth Certificate
- Any specialized license within their medical field

If your team is bringing in medical supplies, separate them into as many suitcases as possible. **We are not able to accept any expired medicines.**

CURRENCY:

Most places in Haiti will not accept traveler's checks or credit cards. Throughout Haiti, U.S. currency can easily be exchanged into Haitian currency. It is advisable to only exchange a portion of your money into Haitian currency, because Haitians like to receive U.S. money.

The amount of money you take will depend on your desire to buy souvenirs. Carry your passport in a money pack or fanny pack. Carry only essentials in your wallet, i.e. driver's license or insurance card. Leave your credit cards at home. We recommend bringing at least \$50-\$100 in \$5 and \$10 bills for cash for souvenirs or emergencies. As a note, money exchangers do not like \$1 bills, but \$1 are great for the offering plate at church.

TELEPHONE USAGE:

There will be sporadic phone service available. Do not make plans to contact anyone in the U.S. on a specific day or time because there is no guarantee there will be phone service at that time.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Haiti and its people are very photogenic. There are countless beautiful scenes to photograph and wonderful photos of people to be taken. The Haitians are proud people and very conscious of their poverty and living conditions. Always ask permission before taking a photo of an individual. Do not pay for photos. Let common sense be your guide.

Make sure to plan ahead and bring plenty of film, batteries, battery charger and extra memory cards. Do not expect to be able to recharge your batteries, as there is often no way to recharge your batteries except at a hotel or a mission compound that has a generator.

Airport x-ray equipment may or may not damage your film. If you have concerns about your film, then have it hand checked through the security gates, particularly if it is 1000 speed film. Do not forget about the film in your camera! Digital photography is not affected by the x-ray machines.

INSECTS:

Extra-strength insect repellent and insecticide spray is useful for repelling mosquitoes, spraying sleeping quarters and spraying the basket saddles on Haitian horses and donkeys. Mosquito coils can also be used for inside sleeping quarters. Purchase only repellent in pump or squeeze containers. Any aerosol container will be confiscated from you at the airport.

ARRIVING IN HAITI:

Upon arrival at the Port-au-Prince airport, you must pass through immigration. You will need to show your passport at immigration. On the plane, you will receive a Visa card that you must fill out. You will be instructed on filling out the card by the trip leader. The Visa will be processed when you arrive in Haiti at the airport.

Luggage can be claimed at the luggage carousel. There are wheeled luggage carts available for \$1 or \$2 U.S.D., if needed. We will transport our luggage through customs inspection and outside to the vehicle. Before exiting the airport it is often required to hand in luggage claim tickets to a customs officer. **DO NOT** give away these tickets until all luggage has been retrieved. **HANG ON TO ALL TICKETS, LUGGAGE TAGS, ETC.** Never assume you will not be needing them.

We recommend you place a luggage tag on each piece of luggage for easy identification. If your luggage does not arrive, you will need to fill out a lost luggage report before leaving the baggage area.

TRANSPORTATION:

Once leaving the airport, you will find that there will be a large number of people outside the building asking to assist you with your luggage. If you should choose to let them assist you, often up to five people will handle your luggage at a time. Tip no more than \$5 total. If you do not want assistance, say “No” firmly.

LAUNDRY:

Haitian women will provide laundry. This allows them to make a small living by helping us out. This service is not included as part of our package. Laundry normally averages from \$1 to \$3, depending on the size of the load. All laundry is washed by hand.

AGE REQUIREMENT:

We ask that any person traveling independently with OIH must be at least 15 years of age. Anyone under this age is welcome to go on a mission trip to Haiti as long as they are accompanied by a parent.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Haitian customs of dress and social behavior are very important to its people. For this reason, compliance with the following is required:

CUSTOMS AND BEHAVIOR:

Public display of affection between sexes is offensive to Haitians and is not permitted for married or single people.

In addition to our health message of no smoking or drinking, Haitians particularly look down on anyone who smokes or drinks. This behavior will **NOT** be permitted **AT ANY TIME** while on this trip, including at the U.S. and Port-au-Prince airports. This will be **STRICTLY** enforced and will result in immediate dismissal from being a part of the mission trip **AT ANY POINT DURING THE TRIP**. Additional costs incurred due to your early departure will be your responsibility.

BODY PIERCINGS:

Abiding by our Christian beliefs, we ask anyone traveling with us to remove all body piercings. The Haitian culture also views men with piercings as thieves and women with extra piercings as prostitutes. By not following this request, it would undermine the work we are trying to do with these people.

CLOTHING:

Ladies are required to wear dresses or skirts at all times. Lightweight blouses should have at least cap sleeves that cover the shoulder. Undergarments must not be visible. Men must wear a shirt at all times. Lightweight long slacks are preferred, but modest shorts are acceptable for men, except in church. Wear comfortable clothing (lightweight cotton/linen). Modest swimwear is required of everyone (one-piece bathing suits for women).

Rain gear, such as a plastic poncho that folds up compactly, can be a valuable asset.

Whatever type of footwear you would normally use for hiking or walking long distances is the most appropriate, preferably with a closed toe. It is best not to break in a new pair of shoes on any trip where there will be a lot of walking. Terrain is rough and hilly. Sandals are suitable to wear around the mission grounds.

SABBATH ATTIRE:

Ladies need to wear lightweight dresses, skirts or blouses. Men are required to wear lightweight slacks, dress shirt and a tie. Dress clothes are required for church.

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER:

We will meet in groups every day for morning devotions. You can volunteer to lead a devotion or give a personal testimony once you are in Haiti. We will need song leaders as well. We hope this will be an opportunity for you to expand the talents that God has blessed you with.

FOOD AND WATER:

Only eat food prepared by our group. When eating in public places, avoid eating salads or fresh fruit (these are washed in local water). Eat only food that has been thoroughly cooked. Drink only bottled water. Carry a small day pack containing personal items on any expedition that involves you being separated from the primary meal preparation area. It is suggested that you have in your pack such things as granola bars, dried fruit, etc. as emergency rations. We suggest that you bring enough snack

food to carry with you on the car or plane ride to Bombardopolis. Fill your water containers at every opportunity to make sure you have enough water to get you to the north coast, which is an eight hour car ride or 45 minutes by plane. Do not drink or even brush your teeth with any water elsewhere in Haiti (not even at the hotels!) Your drinking container should never be shared with anyone. This increases the risk for spreading any illness contracted by one person to another in the group.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH HAITIANS:

We encourage you to interact with as many local people as possible, keeping in mind the purpose of the trip is to encourage them, bless them through God's Word and to show them compassion. PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE. We STRONGLY advise you not to give out your address or telephone number. If you do, you will most likely be receiving collect calls once you return to the U.S. This is NOT the time to begin a dating relationship with a Haitian. Doing so will terminate your trip and you will have an early departure!

HEALTH NOTES:

Stay out of direct sun for long periods of time. Always wear sunblock. Do not touch open sores on anyone. Hugs are safe and go a long way.

BEGGARS:

Do not give anything to anyone who asks for money from you. If you do, this will only encourage the begging mentality and some people can become very aggressive.

SOUVENIRS:

There will be many opportunities to purchase souvenirs while in Haiti. Customs has advised us not to purchase or touch any goat skin items. Goat skins carry disease and will not pass through customs.

We ask you to refrain from purchasing items used in voodoo practices, i.e. a statue of an old man with a pipe leaning on a stick and voodoo drums.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- Passport/airline ticket
- Bible
- Journal/Pens
- Prescription medications
- Traveler's diarrhea medication (strongly recommended)
- Anti-malarial medication (if desired)
- Camera/film/extra batteries/charger/extra memory cards
- Cash in small bills
- Water bottle
- Water filter kit (not necessary, as bottled water is available for purchase in most places)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Lightweight cotton/linen slacks or modest shorts (men)
- Sabbath shirt/tie (men)
- Lightweight cotton/linen skirts/dresses/blouses (Sabbath: shoulders need to be covered)
- **Modest** swim wear/sunscreen
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Two towels and face cloths
- Water sandals or flip flops
- Toiletries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Mosquito repellent
- Band-Aids
- Tylenol
- Motion sickness medication (if you need it)
- Sunglasses
- Snack food (granola bars, dried fruit, etc.)
- Travel alarm

Try to pack all of your belongings in one suitcase following the weight limit restrictions set forth by the airline. If you are allowed to take two suitcases, the second can be filled with items needed in Haiti. Some missionaries purchase gently worn clothing at Goodwill to wear while in Haiti and leave it behind for a Haitian to wear. This not only helps them, but gives you more room to bring home souvenirs, if you desire.

Solids such as deodorants will not be allowed in carry-on luggage. Any liquid toiletries you want to put in your carry-on luggage must be in see-through containers of 3 oz. or less. These need to be able to be secured in a one-quart sized Baggie that will easily close. Everything else will need to be checked.

The best means of sending supplies to the mission in Haiti is by the luggage allowance of airline passengers. Please go to the web site of the airline you will be using to see what their guidelines are. Please check the OIH needs list for our mission trip on our web site at www.oihonline.org or contact our office for a current list of priority items needed in Haiti.

OIH makes NO money on group trips to Haiti. If you decide not to go, you will be responsible for any and all penalties as stipulated by the airline.

TRIP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Trip prices vary according to where your trip originates, but the average total trip price is \$1500 to \$1800*. The breakdown is as follows:

\$500-800	Origination to Port-au-Prince (round trip) **
\$350	In-country transportation (round trip from Port-au-Prince to Bombardopolis)
\$650	Lodging (Port-au-Prince), food, Culligan water, interpreter.

* Travel insurance and personal spending money is not included. Cost of lodging in Port-au-Prince is based on double occupancy only. If you want your own room, the difference would be your responsibility.

** You would be responsible for any additional fees assessed by the airline if you change your reservation.

It is preferable to submit the total amount of the trip when submitting your application.

- If you cannot submit the total cost of the trip when submitting your application, a deposit of \$250 is required when sending in your application to reserve your spot on the team.
- Your trip must be paid in full one month prior to leaving for Haiti.



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APPLICATION Short-Term Mission Trip

Anticipated Trip Date: _____ Departure City: _____

Name (as it appears on Passport): _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Date of birth: _____ Frequent Flyer Account? (circle one) Yes No

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Gender: Male Female Traveling with Spouse (needed for room assignment): Yes No

Home Church: _____ Occupation: _____

T-shirt Size (Circle one): S M L XL XXL

Emergency contact person: _____ Relation: _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____

CHECK ANY SPECIAL SKILLS YOU HAVE:

Auto Repair Construction Cooking Medical
Speaking Radio/Electrical Singing Other _____

TEACHING SKILLS:

Vacation Bible School Teaching in Primary School Health Care
Nutrition Other _____

What is the general state of your health?

If your doctor requires you to take any medication on a regular basis, please explain what the medication is and why you are taking it:

Recent immunizations:

Are you able to sit or ride in a vehicle for long periods of time (circle one)? Yes No

Are you able to walk long distances (circle one)? Yes No

Do you tire easily (circle one)? Yes No



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PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM

I, _____, do hereby certify that I am willing, physically fit and sufficiently prepared to travel with the Orphans International Helpline mission trip to Bombardopolis, Haiti.

Trip sponsors have my permission to take me to a doctor for medical treatment, hospitalization or emergency surgery if the need should arise. Should it be necessary for me to return home prematurely (due to medical reasons or disciplinary action), I will assume total responsibility for any additional costs incurred.

I have read and agree to abide by the regulations and all the information on this application.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
(If under 18 years of age)

Recommending pastor: _____ Date: _____

(Please include title and name of congregation. A requirement for first time travelers is to obtain a recommendation from a minister from your congregation. Please include their name and the date they gave you permission to submit this form.)