



General Trip Information

The Hands and Feet Project exists to meet the needs of orphans around the world and to introduce people of the first world to the needs of these orphans. The vision is to foster a generation of orphans with positive native role models, in small consistent family type settings. Hands and Feet Project is a part of education and cultural reform in hopes to reduce or eliminate the need for traditional orphanages in the future.

The Hands and Feet Project currently consists of two Children's Villages in the country of Haiti. The first is in the city of Cyvadier/Jacmel on the Southern coast of Haiti. This Village began in 2004 and continues to provide a caring and healthy environment for many abandoned and orphaned children. The second is in the city of Grand Goave on the Central/West coast of Haiti. This Children's Village began out of a partnership with existing missionaries in the area. This group of orphans was rescued from a neglectful environment and moved temporarily to a school in Grand Goave in 2009. In 2011, new land was purchased and the children now have a permanent home with the Hands and Feet Project.

Our children have come from many different places within the country. Each arrived with their individual story. Most of the children are true orphans with both parents being deceased. However, some have been abandoned or brought by other family who cannot provide for them. The children all live full-time with our staff, attend a local Christian school, and attend a community church. They are beautiful, healthy, growing kids who love to run and play knowing they are loved and protected in their new home environment.

The Hands and Feet Project hosts dozens of short-term mission trips every year. The groups have the opportunity to serve the staff, the children, and the local community. Every new group encompasses unique abilities, ideas, expectations, talents and goals. Our staff will work directly with trip leaders to make your trip as successful as possible.

Teams:

We invite individuals of all ages to visit our Children's Villages. The Classic and The Outfitter trips have the best opportunity to experience Haiti with younger individuals. Minors between 15-18 years of age can travel to one of our Villages, however, a parent or legal guardian must sign and notarize the Parent Consent Form. Each youth group must have at least one mature, adult male and one mature, adult female sponsor to represent each gender traveling. These sponsors are recommended to be twenty-five or older. Minors under 15 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

The Expedition trip, however, is a Hands and Feet Staff lead trip and the requirements differ. Children between the ages of 15-17 require a parent or legal guardian to travel with them. No children under the age of 15 can participate without prior approval of the staff trip leader.

Activities and Projects:

After determining the skills and talents of a group, our staff will provide projects and activities accordingly. Projects may consist of new construction, repairing, painting, block laying, organizing, cleaning, sewing, etc. The projects never stop. Many times, community projects are available in which the groups can participate. There will always be time for the children; playing, singing, crafting, reading, teaching, etc. Visiting the local village and market place is a must which enables one to gain a better understanding of the conditions and flavor of the country.

Housing:

Teams stay on campus of the Children's Villages. The Cyvadier/Jacmel site is HFP's first finished and established Village. There are comfortable dorm rooms with bathrooms. At present, this site can house 24 guests. There are two rooms that sleep 6 and one room that sleeps 12. Teams eat in a large dining room where Creole food will be provided. The Grand Goave village currently consists of temporary buildings. This site is a work in progress. There is space for sixteen guests in one dorm with bathrooms. There are additionally two overflow rooms that sleep 3, totaling space for 24. These overflow rooms do not have their own bathroom, but guests will be able use the dorm bathrooms. The dining room is also in one of the temporary shelters where guests will be provided Creole meals.

Both Villages have electricity (most of the time), generators, and good drinking water (bottled). Bedding and towels are provided, however, more sheets and towels are always accepted. Both Villages are secured and surrounded with high walls or fencing.

Do not expect the same amenities or luxuries found in the United States at either site.

Safety:

Haiti is an unstable country politically. The US Department of State does list Haiti as a dangerous country. However, the majority of the unrest and danger is in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. All air travel into Haiti goes through the Port-au-Prince airport. Both Children's Villages are located three to four hours away in what is typically considered safer areas. Hands and Feet Project takes the safety of our children, staff and guests seriously. We continually monitor the environment and adapt where we see appropriate. The Villages are secured with a wall and at any given time security staff kept on-site. The people of Haiti are friendly and it is safe to walk around town in groups with a staff missionary. However, being foreigners in Haiti, teams will stand out and, therefore, we ask you to use caution when you travel off-site.

Passport and Visa:

Everyone must have a valid passport. Your passport must be valid for at least six months after the return from Haiti or you will not be allowed to travel. The cost of these documents is not covered in the trip costs. See the US Department of State website at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. Passports can take a few months to process; the post office can provide current processing schedules. An expedited passport can be arranged for an additional fee. This is highly recommended if time is short. The visa for Haiti will be given while on the plane.

Communication:

There is limited bandwidth available at our Children's Village, so the internet is for missionary use only. The group leader will be permitted to send out an email to the group's family/friends with notification of safe arrival on the first night. Otherwise, we ask that all computers and other handheld devices remain at home. If guests have a phone with them, they will be asked to turn their wireless off upon arrival. Phones are available in case of emergency.

Immunizations:

The Center for Disease Control makes recommendations for immunizations, vaccinations, and other health precautions for every country. However, most are simply suggestions by the CDC and it is ultimately up to you and your doctor to determine which vaccinations or immunizations you will need. These expenses are not covered in the trip costs.

- Tetanus booster and malaria pills are strongly recommended by Hands and Feet Project.

Preparations:

The trip leader should be responsible for scheduling team meetings to help prepare their team for the mission trip. At these team meetings, the leader can discuss what they know about the Hands and Feet Project, what they've learned through research about the country of Haiti and its culture, and converse about what their expectations of this trip will be. It is, also, a good time to get to know

each other better. Upon arrival at the Village in Haiti, the staff will give a brief orientation and be available to help in any way.

Female attire:

At the Village, modest shorts to the knee, T-shirts, modest tank tops, capris, skirts, and sandals may be worn. You will need a skirt or dress for church services with a top that has a short sleeve. When outside the Village, skirts or capris are appropriate. Haitian's values are traditional and conservative, especially on Sundays: no spaghetti strap tops, no belly buttons showing, no bikinis for swimming. Please use Christian discretion in all dress. Some old clothes, tennis shoes, and work gloves, are needed for work projects. A rain parka may be needed. Remember, it's hot in Haiti.

Male attire:

Shorts (no underwear showing) and T-shirts can be worn at the Village or around town. Please use Christian discretion in all dress. Haitian's values are traditional and conservative, especially on Sundays. You will need a pair of good slacks (no jeans) and a shirt with a collar for church services. You will need a modest swimsuit for swimming. Some old clothes, tennis shoes, and work gloves, are needed for work projects. A rain parka may be needed. Remember, it's hot in Haiti.

Supplies:

You should bring in your favorite snack foods. Have snacks and bottled water handy while travelling. Always carry a small hand sanitizer and use it frequently. Many times supplies are needed for the Children's Village that are unavailable, scarce, or overpriced in Haiti. Group leaders will have the opportunity to collect goods or raise money for specific needs for the Village.

Gifts for kids and others:

Hands and Feet Project understands the desire to give gifts to our kids and our neighbors. However, please do not give gifts directly to any individual or staff person. All gifts should be discussed with our site directors. Many times when gifts are given, even with the best of motives, problems arise after teams have gone. This can make it rough on the missionaries, as well as the groups to follow. You are encouraged to help the people, but please follow these rules and it will bless all involved. Hard candy (no gum please), balloons, jump ropes, and kites, are always fun items to bring. Our staff may put them in the depot to be used for birthday gifts, rewards for exceptional behavior/grades at school, helping out in their house, or at another celebration.

Cultural Differences:

Please respect the differences in our two cultures. If in doubt about what to say or do, please ask our staff missionaries.

Personal Items to Bring:

Bring your Bible, a small journal, flashlight, small hand sanitizer, repellent (small), personal medications, a hat, your favorite snack food that will fit, toiletries, beach towel, and water bottle. There is a computer on site and cell phones in case of an emergency.

Other Policies:

Hands and Feet Project campuses are smoke free environments. Alcohol and drugs are prohibited at all times.

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You are very special to the Hands and Feet Project and its mission. We hope this trip enables you to enjoy a new culture, develop new friendships, experience new adventures, and cherish new and lasting memories.