

Gainesville Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Haitian Mission Team

Trip to Bombardopolis, Haiti

Authorizations

Please Print

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle: _____

Bombard'Opolis (Bombarde) is a rural city or a village located on the plateau of the North-West department in Haiti. With no electricity, running/drinking water and emergency health care services, Bombarde is located about 8 hours away from the centralized Port-Au-Prince, and possibly, from the nearest hospital. HMT is interested on evangelizing to the villagers by supporting some of their basic needs. And because HMT relies solely on volunteers like you to carry out its mission, we would like you to be ready to have a safe journey into the village.

So, please be sufficiently prepared to travel with the Gainesville Seventh-Day Adventist Church Haitian Mission Team to Bombardopolis, Haiti, by making sure that you are in good health and that you have no physical limitations that will require ambulation during the trip. Your trip leader(s) may take you to a hospital or to visit a doctor in case a medical emergency arises. Please understand that your health insurance may NOT work in Haiti, there are no urgent care services in Bombardopolis, and that all medical bills will be paid off up front and may be your responsibilities. For more information, please review the attached travel information.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing above, you certify that you have received and understood the content of this package and will follow the principles laid by the GVSDA HMT in order for you travel with the team to Bombard'Opolis.

Gainesville Seventh-day Church

Haitian Mission Trip Application

A mission that HEALS through evangelism

Anticipated Trip Date Period: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___ Departure City: _____

Name (on Passport): _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Date of Birth: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell #: _____ Home #: _____ Work #: _____

Gender: Male Female Traveling with Family: Yes No

If you are on medications and/or have a history of asthma, anaphylaxis or heart disease, please bring enough supplies, especially rescue medications that you will need for at least one month past the entire length of the trip. If you have Arthritis, this trip may exacerbate your symptoms. Please tell us how to help you in advance so that we can be efficient if an emergency arises. Remember, there is no urgent care, pharmacy or doctor office in the areas we will be servicing.

Allergies (Medications, Foods): _____

Serious Medical Conditions & Medications: _____

Home Church: _____ Occupation: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Special Skills That You Will Share With the Villagers:

- Singing Musical Instrument(s), if so which one? _____ Public Speaking Teaching
- Medical Construction Agriculture Electricity Creole VBS
- Gospel Worker Preaching Counseling Other: _____

Gainesville Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Haitian Mission Trip to Bombardopolis, Haiti

A mission that HEALS through evangelism

Dear Missionary;

The Gainesville Seventh-day Adventist Haitian Mission Team (HMT) is blessed for your willingness to share your time, energy and talents in missionary work and that you are interested to travel with us. This year, HMT will conduct health education, mobile clinics and VBS in the communities of Bombardopolis, Haiti. We will also initiate our clean drinking water and housing projects for the victims hurricane Mathew.

Located in the Northwest department of Haiti, Bombardopolis is the most neglected and poorest city in the country. Bombard'Opolitans rely mainly on agriculture from the hilly and dry mountain tops and ravines for a way of living. However, because of lack of infrastructure, villagers are forced to live a primitive lifestyle with no running or clean drinking water and very limited medical services.

Although Haiti has many beautiful vacation sites, please be mindful that this trip will not be considered a vacation and may be tiring. So, we suggest that you get a thorough medical check-up to ensure that you are in good health prior to committing yourself to going on this trip. We strongly encourage that you also continue to pray and list others to pray for travelling mercies and spiritual guidance for the entire group.

In this package, you will find pertinent information for your trip. Please make considerable efforts to familiarize yourself with this information and take the steps necessary to make your trip one to remember.

We are looking forward to working with you as you share your many talents with the villagers of Bombard'Opolis. Please return your completed application and trip fees by March 25th for our summer trip. You may contact Nathalie, your team leader, at 352-363-4426 for any concerns.

Sincerely,

GSVDA Church HMT

Travel Information

Leaving the USA

Passport

Anyone visiting Haiti must have a valid passport. Obtaining or renewing a passport may take between 4-8 weeks. So, we advise that every missionary makes sure that his/her passport is valid for at least one month beyond the entire length of the trip. For more information on passports, please contact the University of Florida passport services on Radio road (for those living in Gainesville, FL, the Washington Passport and Visa Service at: 800-272-7776 or visit: www.travel.state.gov or www.uscis.gov.

Should you lose your passport, please report the incident to the nearest United State Consulate or Embassy immediately at 509-2229-8000. The consulate may issue you a 3-month temporary passport upon completion of the "Loss of Passport Form" and the payment of the required fees. For this trip, HMT requests that you provide the leader with a color copy of your passport and leave at least one extra copy with your emergency contact person. Carry your passport in a money or fanny pack.

Health

Because the nearest hospital may be about 8 hours away from Bombard'opolis, HMT suggests that everyone travelling with the team has a checkup by his/her primary care provider to ensure that he/she is in good health before leaving for trip. For those who have chronic medical conditions, we request a signed note from a doctor showing that the condition is well managed prior to signing up for this trip and that a medical alert be worn at all the time during the trip. If you are on medications, please bring enough supply that will last at least one month from your departure date and provide us with a list of your meds including dosage and directions. Please be mindful that this trip may aggravate certain conditions such as arthritis or those conditions requiring limitation or assistance in ambulation.

Prophylaxis

Please contact your primary care doctor or your local health department for proper shots and prophylactic medications required for people who are travelling to Haiti. Nonetheless, you should know that malaria and traveler's diarrhea are prevalent and that you should take enough medication with you in case they occur. For more information, you may contact your local health department or visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.

Packing

Each bag must NOT exceed 50lbs in weight 102 inches total height, width, and depth for people travelling economy and 70 pounds for who prefer business ticketing class.

- a.) Two check bags. First one is free, second on is \$40, third is \$150 for economy
- b.) One carry-on bag (no weight limitation but much smaller than 102 inches as in above)
- c.) One carry-on purse or handbag.
- d.) Any liquid in container bigger than 3 ounces must be placed into the check bags.

** Bags will be physically measured, so load wisely to minimize inconvenience**

Once you check in at the airport in USA, place a completed luggage tag on each piece of luggage you are travelling with for easy identification. If your luggage does not arrive at your destination, please fill out a loss of luggage report before leaving the baggage area.

Pack your belongings in the carry-on bags. The check bags will contain items that the team will share with the communities in Haiti. You may find those items in your closets or at the dollar stores.

Currency

You may not be able to use your checks or credit cards in Haiti. So, please carry only essential things such as your driver's license and health insurance cards in your wallet and leave those checks and cards at home. Although the US currency can easily be exchanged into the Haitian dollar, we suggest that you bring about fifty to a hundred dollars in \$5 and \$10 bills. However, you are welcome to bring as much money as you want (not to exceed \$10,000) to buy souvenirs. Please pull out only the necessary amount of money needed to make a purchase at each time you are buying something to minimize your risk of being robbed.

NO WALLETS, MONEY, OR ID in jeans. Be your own antitheft officer!

Telephone/Internet Services

Please note that because of lack of infrastructures in Haiti, Bombard'Opolis has no electricity, internet services, or a reliable transportation system. So please, do Not make plans to contact anyone at any specific time on any specific day because HMT cannot guarantee you phone and internet services during this trip. Should you need to contact your love ones for emergency purposes, HMT may try to connect you to a company that handles international calls when possible. You may also contact AT&T to see how you can add international call to your mobile phone plan before you leave the states.

Insect Repellents

Bring extra-strength insect repellents in pumps or squeeze containers. Mosquito coils will also be useful inside sleeping quarters. Mosquitos bites may cause malaria, so be proactive.

Photography

From the top of the mountains to the deepest valleys, you will find many wonderful opportunities for once in a lifetime pictures in Haiti. If you want to take pictures of the people, ask for permissions first. Do not pay to take pictures. Just make sure to have enough film, storage, batteries, memories and a working camera to retrieve and store enough souvenirs from Haiti. Remember to share your pictures with the HMT leader when you come back to the state.

Arriving in Haiti

Security

On the airplane, the flight attendant will give you a Visa Card to fill out. Once you arrive at the airport in Haiti, you will go through immigration, where your visa will be processed. The immigration personnel will ask to see your passport.

You will claim your luggage at the luggage carousel. We will transport our luggage through customs then to the vehicle. A custom officer will request that you give him/her the luggage claim tickets. **DO NOT GIVE TICKETS AWAY UNTIL ALL LUGGAGES HAVE BEEN RETRIEVED.** Hand onto all ticket and luggage tags because they may be needed in the future.

Once you pass the doors of the airport, crowds of people will offer to help you with your luggage. If you allow them to help you, make sure you hand them no more than \$5. If you do not want them to help you, say "NO" firmly.

Weather

Haiti and South Florida share similar weather forecasts, with possible heavy rainfalls between the months of May and June. Therefore, be ready to enjoy a hot, sunny, rainy and muddy summer while on this trip. (Wear brown or black shoes that you don't have a personal relationship with).

Electricity

Although most Haitians who can afford it rely on generators and solar panels for source of power, HMT may not have that privilege in Bombard'Opolis. As a result, please bring your own flashlights and batteries so you can identify your surrounding at night. There will not be air conditioning.

Haitian Culture

Public display of affection is offensive to Haitians, especially to those leaving in the rural areas. Smoking and drinking are not allowed and will result in dismissal from team and early returns to USA, where the offender will be responsible for incurring fees. Haitians view display of public affection as immorality; they look down on people who drink or smoke.

Body Piercings/Tattoos

In the Haitian culture, men with body piercings/tattoos are thought to be thieves and women with multiple piercings, as prostitutes. So, please remove all body jewelries and cover tattoos as much as possible prior to travelling and during this trip. Also, be mindful that our purpose is to reflect Christ in our actions, thoughts and behaviors in an irreproachable manner. Please be reverent to God and follow the SDA ethics as we share the good news of the Gospels with our brothers and sisters in Bombarde.

Clothing

HMT asks that you wear comfortable clothing, lightweight cotton or linen.

Ladies are required to wear dresses or skirts at all time on the field. Lightweight blouses should have at least cap sleeves that cover the shoulders. Undergarments must not be visible.

Men must wear a shirt at all time. Lightweight long slacks are preferred; modest shorts are acceptable, except in church. Undergarments must not be visible.

Closed toe shoes normally used for hiking or walking long distance are preferred because the terrain is rough and hilly. Sandals are suitable around mission ground. Rain gear (fold up plastic ponchos) can be useful. We suggest dark brown or black shoes to better deal with the dirt and modest swimwear.

Sabbath Attire

Ladies must wear lightweight skirts, dresses and blouses while men wear slacks, dress shirt and a tie. Sleeveless clothes are NOT acceptable, especially at church.

Devotions and Prayers

HMT will meet every morning for devotions and prayers. Anyone of us may volunteer to lead and/or give a testimony during that time.

Food and Water

Eat and drink only the food (vegetarian) and liquid that is provided by our group.

If you have to eat outside of the mission ground, we suggest that you avoid eating salads and fresh fruits.

Please bring enough snacks such as granola bars, nuts, and crackers to munch on while we are on the go.

Do not share your water bottle with anyone. Use the drinking water to brush your teeth.

Relationships

Interact with the people. Encourage them. Pray with and for them. Share the words of God with them, give them brotherly love. But you must use common sense. Do not give anyone your personal information. Contact your trip leader if you think someone is stalking you.

Stay Healthy

Wear sunscreen/sunblock and insect repellents as directed on product packages. Stay away from direct sun rays. Do not touch body fluids, open sores or blisters. Hug with cautions. Do not touch animals because they are not domesticated and treated. Bring hand sanitizers and wipes.

Eat only our food and your snacks. Drink and brush your teeth with only our drinking water.

Beggars

Do not give money away to anyone because beggars may become very aggressive. For more info, please visit: www.HMTcare.org, www.GVSDA.org or email: narlarobert@gmail.com. Thanks, GVSDA HMT