SHORT TERM TRIP PLANNING

THE JOSEPH SCHOOL

MISSION
Welcome

Dear Mission Trip Friends,

It is a great honor to have church groups, organizations and friends partner with The Joseph School for the purpose of serving Haiti.

Whether you’ve traveled to other countries, or have never left your home state, I can assure you that a trip to Haiti will forever change your perspective. Haiti is a complex county. Fifty-nine percent of the population lives on less that $2 a day, 50% of the children do not attend school, and life expectancy is exceedingly low. And yet, there is so much beauty in the people there, the culture and the way they treat one another.

Haiti is also special to our hearts because it is where our primary school is located. The Joseph School’s mission is to educate the next future leaders of Haiti. And I truly believe we are doing that. But we have, and want, to continue to better serve our students, their families and the communities they live in. That is why we extend the opportunity for organizations and groups like yours to join us and help in whatever ways you can.

This booklet will provide greater detail about our short-term trips and answer most questions you may have concerning travel. Our Administrative Specialist, Laura Flemming, will organize the details of your trip. She will be your primary point of contact. However, once you arrive in Haiti, our Director of Operations, Bildad Michel, will lead your trip.

Along with our Haitian and U.S. staff and board members, let me extend our gratefulness for your interest in partnering with The Joseph School. We would be delighted to have you join our mission in Haiti.

Annita D’Amico
Executive Director
About The Joseph School

Our Purpose
To develop Haitian servant leaders who transform their world with the love of God.

Our Mission
To educate and prepare tomorrow’s servant leaders in body, mind and spirit.

Beginnings of The Joseph School
On January 12, 2010, a magnitude-7.0 earthquake focused the world’s attention on the plight of Haiti, a poor country with a long and troubled history. From its earliest beginnings, the people of Haiti have faced adversities that led to tremendous human suffering: slavery, epidemics, warring factions, government corruption, coups, and natural disasters.

In the Fall of 2015, The Joseph School opened its doors to provide a world-class education along with leadership training to raise a generation of leaders capable of solving the long-term problems of their country. The school, located in Cabaret, Haiti, has a firm commitment to teaching academics, leadership skills, service and language proficiency. These subjects are wrapped in a deep commitment to a personal relationship with Jesus and celebrating Haitian history and culture.

Why Travel to Haiti with The Joseph School
Empowered to dream, compelled to love, called to lead. That is the vision of The Joseph School. Our school curriculum forms students to be wise and humbled decision-makers who enable others to build a better community and nation. We teach this concept but we also want to example it. Our mission trips do that and so much more.

Our mission trips not only show the beauty and challenges of Haiti and why The Joseph School is needed there, but it also enables other organization to partner with us and help the communities we care so deeply about. We use the power of relational and resource connections to bless others in Haiti.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”
—Isaiah 6:8
Ways to Serve in Haiti

No two mission trips are the same. Our Team will work with your group to plan a trip that meets the need(s) of our school, the community, or both — in partnership with the work your group feels compelled to do. If you have a special activity that you would like to introduce to our short term trips, please don’t hesitate to mention it.

Construction and Painting
The majority of our trips include a construction project as we are in the process of building our new campus location. Construction work is done in partnership with our Haitian friends, and may include landscaping, pouring concrete, building walls, painting or assembling items for the classrooms.

Vacation Bible School
The Joseph School is based on the teachings and love of Jesus, therefore, many groups enjoy leading bible studies with the students of TJS. VBS activities usually include a lesson plan, arts and crafts, music and feeding. TJS will purchase food for this activity, but we ask that your group prepare everything for the lesson and crafts before arriving in Haiti. 

This activity has a small cost for food for the children.

Food Distribution
In the Summer of 2017, we implemented a summer food program. When school is in session, TJS students receive two meals per day. However, when school is out, some students may not eat. Many groups like to participate in the distribution of food supplements to families and students of TJS. This activity is usually done in smaller groups and can be broken up between days if traveling with a larger group.

This activity has an extra cost for the food distribution supplements.

“When I go on one of those trips, I see what the kingdom of God looks like. I can’t describe it, but I can tell stories about it.”

—Mike Janes
Michael’s Orphanage
The Joseph School focuses on giving orphaned and disadvantaged children access to education. Some of our students are from Michael’s Orphanage, and many of our groups like to visit and volunteer at the orphanage. A visit typically includes and activity like a movie night, singing, board games and serving meals.
*This activity has a small cost for food for the children.*

Build A Home
Most houses in Cabaret, where TJS is located, are very poor quality. Many houses are made of materials available in the nearby areas, with no running water or electricity. Teams can help build houses for our Haitian friends in high need of a better, safer home.
*The cost for this activity is $7,500 as it covers the cost of supplies and equipment to build.*

Leadership Trainings
Leadership changes everything. Leadership skills are not widely known in Haiti, but we believe our generation of students will change this. Our TJS curriculum does include leadership training, but we welcome teams to prepare an unique leadership activity for our staff to learn from. We only ask that your group prepare all lesson materials before arriving in Haiti.
*This activity is of no extra cost.*

Preaching
While in Haiti, you may chose to attend church with teachers and families from TJS. If desired, we could arrange for a member of your team to preach or lead an adult bible lesson.
*This activity is of no extra cost.*
Extra Experiences

There are other activities we offer for you to experience the challenges and beauty of Haiti. You do not have to participate in any of these activities, but we do believe one or two will allow your group a healthy balance of service and rest. Additionally, these activities contribute to the tourist industry.

Tour Haiti
View the beauty and challenges of Haiti. Travel throughout the cities of Cabaret, Oust, and Minotrie to see where many of our students live. Head to Port-au-Prince where you may visit the Musée du Panthéon National Haïtien, and on the way, view the Titanyen burial grounds from the 2010 earthquake.

Wahoo Bay Beach
After helping our friends in Haiti, enjoy a day at the Beach. Located between the Matheux Mountain Range and the turquoise waters of the Gulf of La Gônave on the Côte des Arcadins, Wahoo Bay is a great option for a fun day at the beach.

This activity is $20 per person.

Haitian Museum
The Musée du Panthéon National Haïtien (MUPANAH) is a museum featuring the heroes of the independence of Haiti and the Haitian history and culture. Located in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

This activity is $5 per person.

L’Observatoire de Boutilliers
Enjoy dinner with a view. Travel two hours through the streets of Port-au-Prince, and more than 3,000 feet above elevation to perhaps the most magnificent view of Port-au-Prince and the entire bay area. The menu has Creole and international food, but the main attraction is the view.

Groups will cover their own cost for dinner. Range $15-$20 per person.
Sample Itinerary

This is a sample trip itinerary for a six and half day trip to Haiti with The Joseph School.

**Wednesday**
6:30 a.m. Meet at airport.
8:00 a.m. Flight
3:20 p.m. Arrive in PAP
   Travel to guesthouse
   Unpack, settle in
6:00 p.m. Dinner

**Thursday**
7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Trip Briefing
9:30 a.m. Construction Projects
12:00 p.m. Lunch at 12 p.m.
   Nap/Rest time
2:30 p.m. Construction Projects
6:00 p.m. Dinner

**Friday**
7:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. VBS — TJS students
12:00 p.m. Lunch with the kids
1:00 p.m. VBS — Michael’s Orphanage
6:30 p.m. Dinner at Poze Poze

**Saturday**
7:00 a.m. Breakfast at 7 a.m.
   Construction Projects
12:00 p.m. Lunch at Yolty at 12 p.m.
   Nap/Rest time
4:30 p.m. Visit the orphanage (Movie)
   Dinner after movie

**Sunday**
7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Church
12:00 p.m. Wahoo Beach
   Entry fees will be paid by TJS
7:00 p.m. Dinner

**Monday**
7:00 a.m. Breakfast at 7 a.m.
8:30 a.m. Food Distribution
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Eldercare in Minotrie
5:45 p.m. Leave for dinner (2 hour drive)
8:00 p.m. Dinner at L’Observatoire de Boutilliers

**Tuesday**
8:00 a.m. Breakfast & packing
10:00 a.m. Visit the Titanyen burial grounds
11:30 a.m. Arrive at PAP airport
8:45 p.m. Land back home
Identification
Haiti, a name that means “mountainous country,” is derived from the language of the Taino Indians who inhabited the island before European colonization. After independence in 1804, the name was adopted by the military generals, many of them former slaves, who expelled the French and took possession of the colony then known as Saint Domingue. In 2000, 95 percent of the population was of African descent, and the remaining 5 percent mulatto and white. Some wealthy citizens think of themselves as French, but most residents identify themselves as Haitian and there is a strong sense of nationalism.

Location and Geography
Haiti covers 10,714 square miles. It is located on the western third of Hispaniola, the second largest island in the Caribbean, which it shares with the Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic. The neighboring islands include Cuba, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. Three-quarters of the terrain is mountainous; the highest peak is the Morne de Selle. The climate is mild, varying with altitude. A tectonic fault line runs through the country, causing occasional and sometimes devastating earthquakes. The island is also located within the Caribbean hurricane belt.

Demography
Most Haitians are descended from black African slaves (95%). The remaining 5% of the population is primarily mulattoes, Europeans, Asians and Arabs. Hispanic residents in Haiti are mostly Cuban and Dominican.

Language
Haiti has two official languages: Haitian Creole and French. It is said that Creole is the language of the people, and that French is that of government, law and the elite. Creole is thought to have evolved in the slave plantations and is about 300 years old. It includes a bit of French, Spanish and English – and even some Taino from the native inhabitants. Haiti houses the largest population in the world of Creole speakers. There is some movement towards the promotion of Creole, but French is still seen as the superior language.

Religion
Haiti is a deeply religious country. Despite resisting the religion when brought over by the Spanish and then the French, since independence, it has been embraced. Most Haitians are Roman Catholic, with a growing number claiming Christianity (Baptist or Protestant). Surveys have also found the vast majority of Haitians — regardless of religious affiliation—hold at least some Voudou beliefs.

History
Haiti was the first Black Republic and the second country in the world to become independent. Its history is rich with stories of a people's struggle to be free of chains and outside rule.

On December 6th, 1492 Christopher Columbus landed at Mole St. Nicholas in Haiti's north. Most people are aware that Christopher Columbus landed at San Salvador in October 1492, thus
“discovering” the New World for Spain. However, it is less known that his second land fall was at Mole St. Nicholas, Haiti, on December 1492, and that the first settlement in the New World was La Navidad, on Haiti’s north coast. This settlement, which housed sailors from the Santa Maria which sank off Haiti’s coast, was founded on December 24th, 1492, giving place to its name, which means ‘Christmas’ in Spanish.

Columbus did not discover a lost or unknown land. There was a flourishing civilization of native Americas. The particular group of Arawak-speaking people who lived on the island of Hispaniola were the gentle Taino Indians, who had been inhabiting their land of ‘Ayiti’ for 700 years prior to the Spanish arrival.

The French settled on the island of Hispaniola in the 16th century and had control over it by the 17th. In the 1700s, France turned Haiti into the richest colony in the world: producing the most sugar and coffee in the world, as well as being an important exporter of products that were important in France’s economic growth. However, this great wealth was founded on great violence – the slave trade was rife in Haiti. The French revolutionary slogan: liberté, égalité et fraternité, resonated in Haiti and revolt was ignited. In January 1804, the rebel generals declared independence, inaugurating Haiti as the first sovereign “black” country in the modern world and the second colony in the Western Hemisphere to gain independence from imperial Europe.

Since gaining independence, Haiti has had fleeting moments of glory. An early eighteenth century kingdom ruled by Henri Christophe prospered and thrived in the north, and from 1822 to 1844 Haiti ruled the entire island. The late nineteenth century was a period of intense warfare in which ragtag armies backed by urban politicians and conspiring Western businessmen repeatedly sacked Port-au-Prince. By 1915, the year in which U.S. marines began a nineteen-year occupation of the country, Haiti was among the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere.

Political life was dominated between 1957 and 1971 by the initially popular, but subsequently brutal, dictator François “Papa Doc” Duvalier, who was succeeded by his son Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier. The Duvalier reign ended after popular uprising throughout the country. In 1991, five years and eight interim governments later, a popular leader, Jean Bertrand Aristide, won the presidency with an overwhelming majority of the popular vote. Aristide was deposed seven months later in a military coup. The United Nations then imposed an embargo on all international trade with Haiti. In 1994, threatened with the invasion by United States forces, the military junta relinquished control to an international peacekeeping force. The Aristide government was reestablished, and since 1995 an ally of Aristide, Rene Preval, has ruled a government rendered largely ineffective by political gridlock.

The current President is Jovenel Moïse, who took office on February 7, 2017.

About Haiti information provided from www.experiencehaiti.org.
Frequently Asked Questions

Do we need passports and/or tourist visas?
U.S. citizens do not require a Tourist Visa to enter Haiti. However, a U.S. passport is required: Your U.S. passport must be valid for a minimum of six (6) months from the date you plan to depart Haiti.

Nationals of all other countries do not require a Tourist Visa either. A passport, valid for a minimum of six (6) months, is required.

All Foreign passport holders travelling to Haiti must pay a tourist fee set at $10.00 at the airport.

Will The Joseph School book our airfare?
We do not book airfare. We recommend Highpoint Travel agency or Fly for Good. Flight payments can be made directly to their organizations or through a tax-deductible payment to The Joseph School.

For the best deals on airfare, Highpoint Travel requires booking 90 days prior to travel and payments 30 days prior to travel.

Fly for Good requires a $100 deposit per seat two (2) weeks after booking the flight. The remaining balance is due around 35 days before departure.

What does the cost of the trip include?
The cost of your trip is determined by the size of your group and dates of travel. In-country trip cost (excluding airfare) covers:

- Lodging Fee .......................................................... $50/person each night
- Food ....................................................................... $15/ person each day
- Transportation .......................................................... $150/ vehicle
- Translators .............................................................. $15/day for each translator needed
- Medical Evacuation Insurance ................................. $20/person
- TJS Trip Guide ........................................................ $1,000
- Activities .............................................................. determined from Trip Reservation Form

Individual Costs
- Passport
- Immunizations
- Tourist Fee ($10/person entering Haiti)

Where will we stay?
You will stay at The Joseph School guesthouse. Our guesthouse has three (3) rooms and three (3) bathrooms available for guests. There is moderate air conditioning and multiple fans located throughout the house. Running water is available, but we recommend you do not drink the tap water. Instead, please bring a water bottle with a coverable spout. We have water dispensers on the main and second floor that you may use to refill your water bottles.
What is Medical Evacuation Insurance?
In the case of an emergency, we purchase medical evacuation insurance for each participant. Medical evacuation insurance provides some benefits that are similar to health insurance, but it is not the same.

Health insurance defrays the cost of regular medical care, emergency medical treatment, medicine and other medical-related costs inside your health insurance network. Whereas medical evacuation insurance is focused on emergency medical evacuations, international security evacuations and repatriation.

What is the age limit?
We ask that our mission trip guests be at least 16 years or older. Exceptions may be made for anyone younger than 16 as long as their parent or guardian accompanies them. We also ask that for every four (4) minors (under the age of 18), for there to be one adult traveling with them.
Example: 12 minors = at least 3 adults

Are there any immunizations or medications we need before our travel?
Yes, you should see a medical professional to ensure that you have all appropriate immunizations and medications for international travel to Haiti. You will need the following:
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A & B
- Typhoid (pills)
- Malaria (pills)

For complete information, please visit the CDC website, https://www.cdc.gov/.

What about our group’s safety?
Every trip we take to Haiti is led by our Director of Operations, a native Haitian, as well as members of our Haitian staff. You will always have a TJS representative, translator and local driver with you. We have never experienced any problems bringing groups to The Joseph School and surrounding communities. However, we do recommend that you leave valuables/large sums of money at home.

How much money should we bring?
United States currency is accepted at most locations in Haiti. You will need to bring $10 cash, as a “Tourism Tax,” to enter Haiti. You may also wish to bring $20-$60 in spending money. The currency conversion is 1.0 Haitian gourde to 0.016 U.S. dollar (1 dollar in U.S. = 63 gourde in Haiti). Please bring small bills.

If you plan to bring a credit card, it is recommended that you contact your credit card company before leaving the U.S. to confirm that you can spend internationally.

What if we don’t speak Creole?
We provide translators. However, we do encourage every participant of your group to review and learn some common creole phrases (list will be provided for each participant).
Someone in our group sponsors a student at TJS, can we bring him/her a gift?
We are so grateful for your child sponsorship, however we discourage bringing single items to one or a few students. We never want other students to feel left out. If you choose to bring a gift, we require you bring gifts for each student (we currently have 90 students).

Also, any items brought to Haiti in bulk may be subject to a bag check while going through Customs.

Is there anything we should do when the trip is done?
Yes! We would love to see and share any pictures your group takes on your trip. We would also like to hear any testimonials of your experience and how it has impacted your life perspective. These can be sent to our TJS Nashville office at info@thejosephschool.org.

How do we book a trip with The Joseph School?
To plan and book your travel, please complete and submit the Reservation Form (NEXT PAGE). To best accommodate your travel, we encourage groups to submit trip dates four months ahead of preferred travel.

Within a week, you will receive a Travel Reservation Confirmation. This will begin the process of planning your trip to Haiti with The Joseph School. For further questions, please email bildadm@thejosephschool.org or call 615-724-6073.
Join Us in Haiti!

Group Information

Group Name: ____________________________________________________________________________
Church/Organization: _____________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________________________ State: ________ Zip: ________________
Group Leader: ___________________________________________________________________________
Contact Email: ___________________________________________________________________________
Contact Phone (Primary): __________________________________________________________________
Contact Phone (Secondary): __________________________________________________________________
Number of Participants: (Approx.; Final Number given later) _____________________________________

Travel Information

Interested Dates (At minimum, please list at two options):
Arrival Date: ___________________________ Departure Date: __________________________
Arrival Date: ___________________________ Departure Date: __________________________
Arrival Date: ___________________________ Departure Date: __________________________

Please describe what your group would like to accomplish on this mission trip (activities):
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Would your group be willing to transport items from our Nashville office to The Joseph School?
Group must be departing from Nashville International Airport. Extra baggage fees will be compensated.
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ______________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to Bildad Michel,
bildadm@thejosephschool.org
or
161 Rosa L. Parks Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37203

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 615-724-6073.
We recommend groups confirm trip dates four months ahead of travel.