



What to Expect

“It’s Haiti” – you never know what to expect!

- That’s our favorite saying down here!
- Although we try our best to keep things on schedule, everything is subject to change – things come up because “it’s Haiti”!
- Electricity is not a guarantee.
- Water is not a guarantee either – so always make sure to fill your water bottle every time you have access to clean drinking water!
- Keep an open mind and be flexible – it’s up to you to make it a great experience!

Preparing for your flight into PAP:

- Fill up your water bottle in Ft. Lauderdale – the next time you will have access to clean drinking water is at the BLB site which could take 5 hours to reach after you land in Haiti.
- We suggest that your carry-on bag contain a change of clothes along with other necessities (water bottles, sunscreen, money, passport, tickets, snacks, hand sanitizer, etc.).
- You must wear your yellow Britsionary shirt into Haiti so we know who you are.

Arriving into PAP and Haiti:

- While on the plane, you will be asked to fill out a form for immigration. They will ask you what address you will be staying at. You should write Mission of Hope, Rue du Port #225, Grand Goâve.
- Go to the bathroom on the plane before you land into PAP – traffic is unpredictable and it could be another 5 hours before you can use another bathroom at the BLB site (the bathrooms don’t always work at PAP).

- When you land in PAP, you’ll first pass through Immigrations, pick up your baggage, and then go through Customs.
- Ask for “Big” after you pass through Customs – he is BLB’s security and will bring you to Lex who will drive you to the BLB site.
- Don’t let anyone else take your bags or take you from the airport except BLB staff.
- Don’t eat or drink anything from street vendors!

Guest House and living conditions

- Expect conditions similar to camping: hot, dusty, no electricity or running water, hiking distances up to a mile (vehicles may or may not be available), and no emergency services.
- You will be staying in the Mission of Hope International (MOHI) Guest House.
- All volunteers are expected to abide by MOHI’s rules while in their Guest House.
- Men will sleep in the male bunk room and women will sleep in the female bunk room – there are separate bathrooms as well.
- Bring your change of clothes to the shower.
- There is no internet for personal use.
- The Guest House is gated and has 2 caretakers watching the premises.
- The Guest House has filtered drinking water.
- Never drink or brush your teeth with tap water, and keep water away from your mouth when showering to avoid getting sick.
- Alcohol and drugs are prohibited!
- Smoking is minimally allowed in designated areas only.
- BLB will have a phone and internet available for emergency use only.

Work Site

- Different jobs may come up and everyone is expected to help out with whatever task is needed. You might be asked to help our partner MOHI (who is building a school where BLB orphans will go in the future). Every task ultimately helps our work in Haiti!
- Work can include painting, constructing stonewalls, lifting buckets of concrete, shoveling, helping the construction crew, etc.
- There is no shade on the work site – wear a hat and plenty of sunscreen!
- We will help you “manage the sun” – everyone is expected to take lots of breaks and to stay hydrated.
- Drink LOTS of water!
- We don’t expect you to overwork yourself! If you feel tired or dehydrated, take a break!

Safety

- Safety always comes first – plans may need to be changed in order to stay safe.
- Never leave the BLB site without the permission of the BLB team leader.
- Always stay with the BLB team leader.
- Volunteers must always stay together – the “buddy system” is mandatory!
- Do not share your personal information (address, email, etc.) with local people.

Church on Sundays

- Volunteers will attend mandatory church sessions on Sundays.
- Women should wear a skirt or dress to church and shoulders could be covered (no spaghetti straps, tube tops or halter tops).
- Men should wear long pants and a shirt with at least short sleeves.

Health Issues

- Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer before putting anything in your mouth.
- Only eat foods prepared at the Guest House

- Do not walk around barefoot – wear shoes, sneakers or sandals at all times.
- Avoid touching bleeding cuts or open sores on children.
- Use insect repellent to avoid mosquito bites. Mosquitoes pass malaria from person to person, so it is wise to take precautions.

Cultural Differences

- It’s not unusual to see Haitians bathing anywhere there’s water.
- Children often run around the neighborhood naked. This is normal behavior and you don’t need to feel awkward around them.
- It’s also normal to see men holding hands.
- Please do not reward begging!!!
- Please do not make any promises to people that you cannot keep – this will hurt the relationship of trust between BLB, volunteers, and the Haitians.
- Do not give any gifts personally to any individual without prior approval from the BLB group leader – if you would like to leave gifts behind, please tell the BLB group leader.
- Always ask before taking anyone’s picture – we are not here to exploit anyone!

Weather and Heat

- Be prepared for raining, tropical days!
- Apply sunscreen and DEET daily.
- Carry your water bottles with you at all times – it’s important to stay hydrated!
- Make sure to fill you water bottle every time you have access to clean drinking water – even if your bottle is half full.

Dress Code

- Moderate, lightweight, cotton clothing will be the most comfortable.
- Women should always wear pants or long knee-length shorts – nothing revealing or tight – think conservative!
- Shoulders should be covered.