

2019 Haiti Mission Trip FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Immunizations

Q. What immunizations do I need and where can I get them?

A. No immunizations are required to travel; however, the CDC recommends Hepatitis, Typhoid and Malaria vaccinations.

Hepatitis: In 1995, the Hepatitis vaccine became part of the required vaccines for infants; therefore, some young people have already been vaccinated. If you did not receive the vaccine as a child, it is recommended you receive it before a trip to Haiti. You should be able to walk into any immunization clinic to receive it. The vaccine has two boosters. You may get as many of the boosters as time allows before your travel. If you cannot complete the shot series prior to your trip, complete it as scheduled upon your return.

Typhoid: You must have a prescription for the Typhoid vaccine. Typhoid can be given in shot or pill form. You can bring your prescription for the shot or pill to most local pharmacies to fill it; however, you should call ahead because they may have to order it. If your doctor is unable or unwilling to provide you with a prescription, you may also contact a travel doctor. There are a few in Beaumont, including American Family Care in Beaumont (409-204-0257). For more information about Typhoid Immunizations is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/typhoid.html>.

Malaria: The Malaria vaccine is only available in pill form and requires a prescription, which can be filled at most local pharmacies. Doctors typically immunize for Malaria either by prescribing a strong dose of Doxycycline (common antibiotic) or Atovaquone/Proguanil (Malarone). These are taken for a short time prior to, during and after the trip. You should see your doctor for a prescription. If your doctor is unable or unwilling, you may also contact a travel doctor. There are a few in Beaumont, including American Family Care in Beaumont (409-204-0257).

Q. What will the immunizations cost?

A. The cost of the immunizations varies greatly depending on your insurance and the doctor you use.

Q. If I have been to Haiti before, do I need to take the immunizations again?

A. The Hepatitis shots are good for life. Typhoid shots are effective for two years and pills for five years. The Malaria medication should be taken each time you travel if you choose to take it.

Expenses

Q. When do I pay and how much?

A. The total cost of the trip is \$1,900 per person. This includes all your expenses EXCEPT passport fees, immunizations, meals in the airport and any spending money you want for snacks or souvenirs while in Haiti. The total cost is broken down into three payments. Below is the amount and deadline for each payment:

\$100 – Upon signing up for the trip.

\$1,200 – Due January 18, 2019

\$600 – Due March 1, 2019

Q. Where do I submit my payments?

A. Checks are best, although cash is accepted. Checks should be made payable to The Manna Foundation and either mailed to P.O. Box 511, Nederland, TX 77627 or given to Alison.

Q. How much money should I plan to bring with me to Haiti?

A. You will need money for 2-4 meals in the airport, depending on how often you like to eat, as well as any snacks you choose to buy at the Guest House. Sodas and ice cream are available for \$1-2 each. (It is best to have small bills for snacks.) The Guest House also has a gift shop. Items range from \$5-\$50. We will attend church on Sunday. They will have an offering you can contribute to if you wish. Everywhere we go will accept American cash. Credit cards are not accepted at most places we will be in Haiti, but you can bring them to purchase food at the airport if you wish.

Q. Can I get my money back if I have to cancel my trip?

A. Once you have made a payment, it is non-refundable. If you have an emergency and have purchased the optional trip insurance, you may file a claim for insurance to refund your expenses.

Packing

Q. How many bags can I bring?

A. You may bring one personal bag, one carry on and one checked bag. Your checked bag may not weigh more than 50lbs, your carry on may not exceed 22"x14"x9" (including handles and wheels), and your personal item may not exceed 18"x14"x8." We recommend your personal item be a backpack or bag that you can also use to bring into the village each day.

Q. What do I need to pack?

A. Refer to the packing list at <https://www.promisedministries.com/mission-trip-2019.html>. You may also want to reference American Airlines rules for packing, such as limitations on liquids in carry-ons and prescription medication in its original container. <https://www.aa.com/i18n/travel-info/baggage/baggage.jsp> Do not pack any money or valuables in your checked bag.

Q. Can I pack donations to leave in Haiti, such as clothes?

A. You can bring donations to leave; however, you will be asked to help pack team supplies and you must stay under the 50 lb limit. Therefore, extra donations should only be included in your bags after you have packed the necessary supplies you have been asked to bring. These supplies will be distributed to you at our last meeting on Sunday, March 3. Any donations (including candy) you bring will be given to the staff at the Guest House or school and not distributed directly to kids or adults.

Itinerary

Q. What time will we leave for the airport and how will we get there?

A. We will depart from the parking lot of Hillcrest Baptist Church at 2:00am on Saturday, March 9th. We will caravan to the airport. I will be recruiting drivers and assigning riders prior to the trip. If you prefer to stay in Houston on Friday night, please plan to meet us at the entrance to the airport terminal at 4:00am.

Q. What is our flight schedule?

A. Saturday, March 9th –

Depart IAH at 6:00am, Arrive MIA at 9:37am

Depart MIA at 10:43am, Arrive PAP at 12:48pm

Friday, March 15th –

Depart PAP at 8:51am, Arrive MIA at 11:10am

Depart MIA at 3:45pm, Arrive IAH at 5:31pm

Q. How will we get home from Houston airport?

A. You will be assigned a car to ride back to Nederland and your family can pick you up in the parking lot of Hillcrest Baptist Church (or you may leave a vehicle there all week).

We should arrive back to Nederland around 8pm. You can text your family during the drive back to provide them a more exact time.

Accommodations

Q. What do I need to bring for my stay at New Life?

A. You will need all your own toiletries. They do provide linens, but you may bring your own if you choose to do so. You do not need personal fans because guest rooms are now air-conditioned.

Q. What should I expect at New Life?

A. New Life is a very nice place with clean rooms. Each room has an ac unit that can be run only between 8pm and 8am. There is no hot water, but each room has a clean shower. Six to 8 team members of the same gender will be assigned to each room. Each team member will have his or her own twin bed. Married couples will not room together, but will room with other team members of their same gender. There is a large wall and 24-hour security guards keeping the facility safe.

Communication

Q. What should my family do if they need to get in touch with me?

A. They can call New Life Guest House at 011-509-4421-3939. Administrators at the Guest House should be able to reach us at anytime throughout the day.

Q. Will I be able to communicate with my family?

A. Free wi-fi is available at New Life. You can use apps that connect to wi-fi to communicate, such as FaceTime, iMessage, or WhatsApp. Your cell phone will also work; however, if you use it you are subject to your plan's international rates. We encourage team members to leave their phones on airport mode for the duration of the trip to avoid unexpected data or cell costs. Your device will still connect to Internet on airplane mode. You will only have access to Internet at New Life, not in the village where we work so your family can expect to hear from you in the morning or evening hours, not during the day. At times the internet goes down for a couple of days so please encourage your family not to panic if they don't hear from you one day. We will have a Haitian cell phone with us in the village in the case of an emergency.