



Haiti

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Why Go?

The most common phrase in Haiti might surprise you. It's '*pa gen pwoblem*,' and it translates to 'no have problem.' Haitians use it in a dizzying array of contexts: responding to thank-yous, asserting well-being, filling awkward silences. Despite Haiti's well-documented struggles, exacerbated lately by natural disasters, proud Haitians use the phrase sincerely, conveying an uncanny ability to live in the moment and appreciate what they do have, which is quite a lot.

Tranquil beaches, tumbling waterfalls and pine-tree-capped mountains dot the varied and striking landscape, easily rivaling the natural beauty found anywhere else in the Caribbean. The world's only successful slave rebellion happened here, and the music, art and culture that came with it make Haiti entirely unique. As those who come to assist Haiti often learn, an encounter with the soul of this fascinating, beautiful country often benefits a traveler just as much.

When to Go

Nov-Mar The hottest, driest days in most of the country (with the exception of some rain in the north); these months are also ideal for travel due to attractions such as the countrywide Fet Gédé Vodou festival (November), and Carnival in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel (February).

Apr-Jun Quite a bit of rain in the south, as well as in Port-au-Prince.

Aug-Oct Hurricane season, and many days are humid with considerable rainfall. Still, travel is perfectly feasible if there are no big storms.

Haiti Highlights

1 Jacmel Carnival (p500)

Joining the country's liveliest street party, celebrating Vodou, sex and, death.

2 Citadelle Laferrière

(p498) Discovering the

mountain fortress and

Versailles-like ruined palace, proud symbols of the world's first black republic.

3 Parc National la Visite

(p496) Hiking alongside

local farmers in Haiti's pine

forest, with views out to the Caribbean Sea.

4 Vodou Ceremony

(p499) Heading out from

Gonaïves and attending a

Vodou ceremony.

5 Île-à-Vache (p502)

Kicking back on this white-sand sliver of paradise.

6 Port-au-Prince (p491)

Exploring the soul of the country via thriving art, music and cultural scenes within the buzzing capital.

