



# Southern Haiti

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Cyvadier Plage Hôtel, Jacmel (p301)
- » Congo Beach, Jacmel (p301)
- » Beach Bars, Port Salut (p305)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Cyvadier Plage Hôtel, Jacmel (p301)
- » Dan's Creek Hotel, Port Salut (p304)
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## Why Go?

Haiti's south is about taking it easy. Pulling out of Port-au-Prince, the urban hustle is soon replaced by a much more relaxed air as you head towards the Caribbean Sea.

Of the southern coastal towns Jacmel is the gem. It's an old port full of pretty buildings, with a friendly welcome. Some hit the handicrafts shops to load up on local art, while others time their visit for the famous Carnival.

Further west, things get pretty sleepy. The town of Les Cayes is an embarkation point for the gorgeous beaches of Île-à-Vache, while there are more palm-fringed sandy delights for all budgets in nearby Port Salut.

The southern 'claw' is bisected by the Massif de la Hotte, home to Haiti's last remaining cloud forest. After a spectacular mountain crossing, the road terminates at Jérémie, the sometime City of Poets.

## When to Go

Jacmel enjoys its biggest day of the year – and Haiti's most surreal street-theatre – during its colourful annual Carnival celebrations in February. The hurricane season means the heaviest rainfall and strongest winds are during August to October, but between November and March there's little annual fluctuation in temperature, and these months are the driest and least humid.



## Southern Haiti Highlights

- 1 Exploring the architecture of **old Jacmel** (299)
- 2 Having your mind blown by the street theater of Jacmel **Carnival** (p300)
- 3 Diving into the cool waters of **Bassins Bleu waterfall** (p299)
- 4 Getting away from everything by heading to **Île-à-Vache** (p304)
- 5 Lazing on miles of sandy beaches at **Port Salut** (p304)
- 6 Finding the city at the end of the road in **Jérémie** (p305)
- 7 Cutting an adventurous trail into remote **Parc National Macaya** (p305)