

February 2021

# Consular Newsletter



Hello everyone. I'm Cedra Eaton, the Head of American Citizen Services here at the U.S. Embassy in Port Au Prince. February is Black History Month and an opportunity for us to reflect on the fascinating and important history of Haiti. We've included a highlight in this month's newsletter which I personally find so inspiring as it reminds me of the strong connections Haiti and the U.S. have had for centuries.

As a reminder, the U.S. Government's travel advisory for Haiti remains at "Level 4: Do Not Travel" due to crime, civil unrest, kidnapping, and COVID-19. The U.S. Embassy in Port Au Prince urges everyone considering travel to Haiti to please read through the State Department's [travel advisory](#) and to sign up for STEP, our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

I would like to focus on how we can all be best prepared for emergencies and stay safe while living and serving in Haiti. Because an emergency can happen at any time, unexpectedly, our Embassy personnel are all urged to have a "go bag" – a bag that contains everything needed to survive for 72 hours, which can be grabbed in an instant. We always recommend including items such as water bottles, a first aid kit, daily medicine, photocopies of your passport and health insurance card, emergency contact information, and a spare change of clothes. You can read more about "go bags" in this newsletter. As you consider traveling to or from Haiti, we want to make sure you understand the new CDC guidance on COVID-19 testing and international travel. Our

Embassy website has a [COVID-19 Information page](#) that we continually update. You can find the latest requirements, a list of clinics that offer COVID-19 tests across Haiti, and other resources that you can use to be prepared.



*Pictured: Cedra Eaton,  
Chief, American Citizen Services*

Despite the constraints and evolving situation, we are working diligently every day to provide services to as many clients as we can. For passport renewals, notarial services, and citizenship claims for children of U.S. citizens born in Haiti, please be sure to book an appointment as early as possible through our [online portal](#). Our staff recently hosted a Facebook Live event on how to prepare for the Consular Report of Birth Abroad appointment – if you have an upcoming appointment for this service, I highly recommend you [watch the recording](#) on our American Citizen Services Facebook page!

To close, please take care of yourselves, reconsider any travel that is not urgent or necessary, be prepared, and let's celebrate the strong ties between the people of Haiti and the United States.

# Celebrating Black History Month

This Black History Month, we'd like to shed light on the strong shared history between Haiti and the United States. Did you know, for example, that many key figures in the Haitian fight for independence gained experience and political insights throughout their participation in the American Revolution, including Henri Christophe.

The intertwined history of Haiti and the United States can also be exemplified by **Jean Baptiste Point du Sable**, often referred to as the "Founder" of Chicago. Point du Sable was the first permanent settler of what would later become the city of Chicago. A school, museum, harbor, park, and bridge have all been named in his honor, as well as educational institutions and museums.



Little is known of his life before the 1770s and there are many theories and legends about Point du Sable. He was a free black man, and some believe he was born in St Marc, Haiti (likely before 1750). From about 1768, du Sable operated as a fur trader with an official license from the British government. In 1779, during the American Revolutionary War, he was arrested by the British under suspicion of being an American Patriot sympathizer.

After the U.S. gained independence, Point du Sable settled on the north bank of the Chicago River. Point du Sable eventually sold his property in Chicago – a house, two barns, a horse-drawn mill, a bakehouse, a poultry house, a dairy, and a smokehouse – and moved to Spanish Louisiana (what is now Missouri), where he was commissioned by the colonial governor to operate a ferry across the Missouri River. He passed away on August 28, 1818 and was buried in St. Charles Boromeo Cemetery in Missouri.

---

## Citizen Liaison Volunteers: Virtual Meeting to be Held March 4 at 10 am



Thank you to those CLVs who attended last month's CLV Conference with Ambassador Michele Sison. Please save the date for our next virtual CLV meeting on **Thursday, March 4th at 10am**, where we will address CLVs' questions and concerns. An email with the meeting's Zoom link and request for your RSVP will be sent shortly. If you have not done so already, please immediately email your Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Personal Information Sheet to

[wardenpap@state.gov](mailto:wardenpap@state.gov). These forms were sent in a recent email to all confirmed CLVs. Please also send us your WhatsApp number to add to our CLV WhatsApp group.

## What Should Go Inside Your “Go Bag”?

Be as prepared as possible: put together your “go bag” today! Get a duffle bag, backpack – anything you can grab in an instant – and pack it with the essentials you would need to survive an emergency for 72 hours. Each family member, including pets and kids, should have their own.

You can include any other items you feel are necessary for your family’s survival. Make sure to keep your passport, cash, and other important documents in a waterproof bag. And it is very important to update your emergency go bag every six

months to ensure that all food, water, and medication are fresh, all clothing fits, personal documents and credit cards are up to date, and batteries are charged.

### Some recommended items include:

- Passport in a waterproof bag, separate photocopy of passport, and health insurance card (copies and/or originals)
- Copy of legal documents e.g. wills, birth certificates, insurance, etc.
- Local map & local emergency contact info
- Emergency cash, 2+ credit cards
- Pre-paid phone cards
- Weather appropriate clothing & footwear, plus change of clothes & socks
- Sleeping bag, blanket, or other bedding
- Extra masks during the time of COVID-19
- First aid kit
- Enough medicine to last an extended evacuation period
- Essential toiletries, e.g. toothbrush, toothpaste, soap & hand sanitizer
- Radio (crank style or w/extra batteries)
- Flashlights (crank style or w/extra batteries)
- Bottles of water (1 gallon/4 liters per person) & non-perishable food that is easy to open
- Spare house & car keys
- Fire starting tools
- Whistle
- Pocket knife
- Plastic tarps, duct tape & rope/para-cord for shelter, water collection
- Other child, elderly, or pet care needs



# 4

## Haiti – Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has issued the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to crime, civil unrest, kidnapping and COVID-19.

### If you are in Haiti...

- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cell phone & ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people, whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors locks and windows closed.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt/kidnapping.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter and avoid travel after dark in Port Au Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend of where you are going and what time you expect to return. Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.
- **Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in the case of emergency. To enroll, visit: [step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov), or click the image to the right.



# Health Resources & COVID-19

- 👉 **COVID-19:** For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, including where to get tested, entry/exit requirements, and quarantine information, [please visit the Embassy website](#).
- 👉 Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies. Treatment for prevention of rabies after you have been potentially exposed is non-existent in Haiti.
- 👉 Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are located in your area. Please visit the [Embassy website](#) for a [list of hospitals](#) and [medical professionals](#) in Haiti.
- 👉 Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- 👉 Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the U.S. Embassy website for a list of [Air Ambulance Services](#).

4

## Haiti – Level 4: Very High Level of COVID-19

The CDC has issued a [Level 4 health advisory](#) for Haiti. Travelers should avoid all travel to Haiti. Travel may increase chances of getting and spreading COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



## Advice for Travel During COVID-19

U.S. citizens should **avoid** non-essential travel. If you must travel, see our tips for safe and smart travel.



### Travel is Not the Same Be Prepared

- Air travelers bound for the U.S. must have a negative COVID-19 within 3 days of their flight. \* ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html))

### Rules for travel

- Wear a mask over your mouth AND nose
- Avoid crowds and stay 6 feet apart
- Wash hands often



### Every Country is Different

#### Knowledge is Key

- Each country has different entry restrictions and quarantine rules ([travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html))
- Access to medical care varies widely
- Know if travel insurance protects your trip during a pandemic



### Things Can Change Quickly

#### Have a Plan

- Know where to test before you come home and have a backup plan ([travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html))
- Have a financial plan if you test positive
- Enroll in STEP to get important alerts while you are abroad ([step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov))



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Embassy Address:

U.S. Embassy Port Au Prince

Boulevard du 15 Octobre

Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port Au Prince, Haiti

### Phone Number:

+509-2229-8000

### Email:

[acspap@state.gov](mailto:acspap@state.gov)

### Online Resources:

- ✓ U.S. Embassy Port Au Prince's website: [ht.usembassy.gov](http://ht.usembassy.gov)
- ✓ American Citizen Services (ACS) website: [ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services](http://ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services)
- ✓ U.S. Embassy Port Au Prince on Facebook: [facebook.com/USEmbassyHaiti](https://facebook.com/USEmbassyHaiti)
- ✓ ACS on Facebook: [facebook.com/ACSPortauPrince](https://facebook.com/ACSPortauPrince)
- ✓ Haiti Travel Advisory: [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html)



**Disclaimer:** This newsletter is published by the American Citizen Services (ACS) section of the U.S. Embassy in Port Au Prince as a service for U.S. citizens living in or traveling in Haiti. It provides security and other general information to people who have subscribed by enrolling with the Embassy. Please feel free to pass it along to other interested people. If you would like to receive your own copy directly, enrolling with the embassy through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). Comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcomed at [acspap@state.gov](mailto:acspap@state.gov).