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Haiti (Bradt Travel Guide Haiti)



Synopsis

A new edition of the only standalone guidebook on Haiti available, fully updated and with expanded content reflecting Haiti's recent growth in tourism, and packed with practical information covering everything from accommodation, eateries and travel routes to wildlife and 'Vodou'. A comprehensive section on conservation and natural history and insightful information on Haiti's rich artistic, architectural and musical heritage ensure nature lovers and cultural enthusiasts are well catered for. Paul Clammer discusses the merits of Haitian rum, how to catch a Port-au-Prince taptap (bus) and Graham Greene's connection with the famous Hotel Oloffson. This new edition includes even more information on living in Haiti, more festivals "from local fêtes to big celebrations" and coverage of new tourism developments at the Citadelle Henry (the largest fortress in the Americas and Haiti's first UNESCO World Heritage site). Also provided are details of new museums either under refurbishment or soon to open. Sharing the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, Haiti is culturally the most African of Caribbean countries, and one that is largely unknown to visitors, except through popular clichés of aid dependency and Vodou culture. An early pioneer of Caribbean tourism, since the earthquake of 2010 it has been slowly repositioning itself as an exciting new travel destination. Visitors will find historical sites to explore, hidden beaches, and a proud people rebuilding their country and ready to welcome visitors once more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bradt Travel Guides, with enthusiastic author, Paul Clammer, are filling a void with a new travel book devoted specifically to Haiti packed full of practical information such as where to eat, how

to ride public transportation....and insights about language and culture. (Lakay Weekly, Haiti)Recommended reading. (Wanderlust)An excellent guidebook. (The Independent)

When Paul Clammer first visited Haiti in 2007 he carried with him plenty of the unfortunate media clichés about the country, from mysterious 'Vodou' to endless instability. The Haiti that revealed itself was far more interesting and exciting, and he's been travelling regularly ever since. To write the first edition of the Bradt guide – the first dedicated English guidebook to the country since the early 1980s – he based himself in Haiti for nine months, renting an apartment in Port-au-Prince. He is a big advocate for the role that socially-conscious tourism can play in the development of this emerging Caribbean destination. Follow him at www.facebook.com/HaitiTravelGuide for regular news and updates on Haitian travel.

Being the only travel book on Haiti this is a must-have for anyone visiting the country. It is compact, yet full of helpful information. Clammer has a refreshing, positive view of Haiti and is eager to introduce others to this unique and interesting country. Be sure to read his sections on La Citadelle and the National Museum before you visit. We found that these descriptions were sometimes more helpful than the trained guides. As with all travel books, prices and a few other small things are out of date. That said, we found that the hotel ranges were sometimes a bit off - plenty of the "\$\$\$" hotels had rooms in the \$85-100 range (which is average for hotels in Haiti - limited competition and expensive utilities --> high prices), so don't be afraid to check out hotels that seem to be above your price range. Keep in mind, too, that Haiti is very much a developing country and you should, in general, keep your expectations for accommodation and facilities low. Clammer at times oversells some of the "must-see" sights in the book and, given how challenging transportation can be in the country, we were glad that we did not go terribly out of our way to see some of the places he covers (our two-week trip took us to Cap-Haitien, Montouis, Jacmel, and Port-au-Prince). All-in-all I was really impressed with this guide. It covered the practical basics and provided a terrific history and general overview of the country which made for enjoyable - and often entertaining - reading both before leaving and in-country.

I've read my fair share of guidebooks and this one was perhaps the best, most informative, useful one I've ever read. It was hands down the most entertaining and illuminating into the culture of Haiti. Haiti is difficult and intimidating and Paul gives great historical context as to why things are the way they are as well as practical hints on how travelers can help Haitians most (hint - it's not by throwing

money, clothes or cheap food at the problems of the Haitian people). I loved it. It's dog-eared and abused after just 6 days in Haiti but I'm keeping it as a reference point as I hope to go back and dig deeper into the culture thanks to Paul's insights into the culture. Bravo on a job well done.

I have been to Haiti about 10 times and travel there 3 to 4 times each year because I oversee a partnership between the school where I serve as chaplain and a school in the mountains of the Central Plateau. Each year, I take a group of high school students to Haiti, so they can meet the students, teachers, and families of our partner school and work with them to exchange ideas and gifts. We also visit other places to learn about Haitian culture. The Haiti (Bradt Travel Guide) is an excellent resource to round out such a service trip. The book includes excellent descriptions of places to visit, special attractions, and historical insights to the various regions of the country. Also, the book provides maps of how to travel from one place to another, which can be helpful because since the earthquake street signs are non-existent. The book also offers a small lexicon of Creole phrases and key words that one would use while traveling in Haiti. Finally, the book provides a short history of the country from the landing of Columbus to the present day. The book is a must purchase for any one who ventures to Haiti.

This book has a lot of good history, but it is written from the perspective of a man and somewhat dated from my experience. Yes, it is possible to jump on a tap tap in small cities and do not exist in some rural areas. I did not get the feeling that if you did not have a clue about the routes that a tourist could survive in Haiti without a driver. I heard this from a business type who spoke Creole and English so I am not alone in considering his advice to jump on a moto or catch a bus to different places. As far as driving, the roads in Port au Prince and Petionville are hectic, jammed and somewhat treacherous. You will need 4 wheel drive for some areas and drive stick shift.

Well there is a lot to say. Today I got back from Haiti trying out this book. I feel like this book was not budget oriented for a couple of reasons and that's why I gave it 4 stars. 1. prices were not listed 2. the shoestring budget hotels were listed >50 dollars 3. many options were not listed I can understand why the author did what he did, he wanted travelers to help the economy of Haiti and also knew that hotel prices fluctuate rapidly in Haiti. Also I felt like the city to city bus transportation sections lacked content in terms of cities that were not Les Cayes, Cap-Haïtien, Gonaïves, Jacmel, and Port-au-Prince. The greatest part of the book was the economic, historical, and political excerpts that were quite fascinating. The sections on currency were immensely helpful as well. The hotel descriptions were

quite good too-Thank you Paul Clammer, sorry I couldn't give it 5 stars.

I bought this because, honestly, it was the ONLY travel guide that focused exclusively on Haiti (and not the DR too). I was impressed with the depth of history that Clammer put into the book. He includes good travel and safety information and precautions and this book will prepare you well for getting ready to travel to Haiti. The actual travel guide centers around Port-au-Prince, and then expands to focus on "Southern" and "Northern" regions, all of which are clustered into these sections. Having never been to Haiti before, it was slightly hard to follow the guide and orientation of the book but he has great recommendations for places to stay and things to do and all are laid out in an easy-to-read fashion! Highly recommend!

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