

Nan Nannan AYITI

*(A Journey into
the Soul of Haiti)*



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Credits: Hunter Kinnell



Credits: Marie Arago

NAN NANNAN AYITI (A JOURNEY INTO THE SOUL OF HAITI)

TOUR FOR THE BUSBOYS AND POETS TRIBE

July 25th-August 1st, 2017

The Embassy of Haiti in Washington D.C., in partnership with Busboys and Poets, invites you to embark on a unique exploration of Haiti.

The Nan Nannan Ayiti (A Journey into the Soul of Haiti) Tour takes inquisitive travelers on a journey to discover and engage with a country which transcends the negative headlines and stereotypes. The Tour will offer the Busboys and Poets tribe (the Tribe) the opportunity, during eight days (7 nights), to delve into a fascinating universe created and imagined by a people whose unique culture, rich history, creativity and determination to thrive continue to inspire and galvanize freedom lovers the world over.

MEANINGFUL AND AUTHENTIC CULTURAL IMMERSION

Haiti, the world's first Black Republic, stands tall and proud in spite of the innumerable attacks on its spirit. Travelers will discover the cultural elements which have created a psyche of resistance, embedded in its people's religious rituals, regional celebrations, literary and artistic expressions, culinary traditions, music and folklore. The travelers will go from rural expanses to gritty urban spaces, and experience the spaces where the youth, artists and artisans have revolutionized and redefined Haitian art forms. In this land which sits in the geography of clashing imperial wills, the Tribe's exploration of Haiti's historic sites, sacred spaces, and rich cultural heritage will be guided by historians, researchers, civic and business leaders in a journey of learning, questioning and understanding.



Credits: Véronique De Viguerie

THE PUZZLE UNRAVELED - A HOLISTIC VIEW OF HAITI'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LANDSCAPES

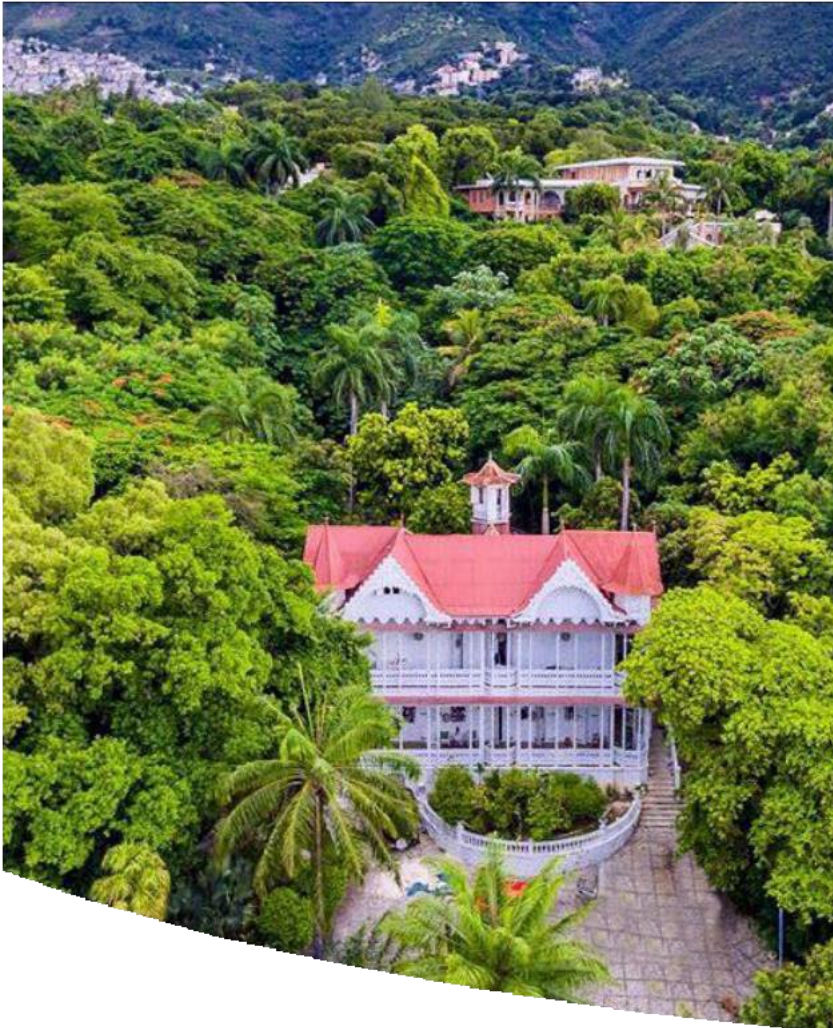
Travelers will gain a more nuanced understanding of Haiti's socio-economic landscape, as they visit mostly Haitian-led initiatives, implementing strategies linked to sustainable growth. Through these encounters, they will meet a diverse and representative cross section of social actors, including: the traditional business sector, emerging entrepreneurs, women's organizations, elected officials, NGOs involved in education, individuals and organizations promoting sustainable environmental strategies, artisans business networks, farmers cooperatives etc.

SOULFUL ENCOUNTERS BEGIN AT HOME

To prepare for the trip, visitors will be invited as special guests at the Embassy of Haiti in Washington, D.C. All travelers will be encouraged to attend cultural events, cooking classes, speaker series, and Haitian Creole classes offered at the Embassy. All travelers will receive a reading list in preparation for the journey.



Credits: Marie Arago



Credits: Fritzer Lamour - "Caté Amer" picture is by Gael Mominin

YOUR HAITIAN EXCURSION

Travelers will start their visit in the north of Haiti, the region where all decisive battles for Haiti's independence were won. Travelers may have the opportunity to:

- Visit the city of Cap-Haitien (City of arrival) and explore its architecture and history. Participants will partake in the celebration of *Notre Dame de l'Assomption*, protector of the City of Cap-Haitien, and experience the revelry of the *Fèt Chanpèt*, where local residents, joined by the prodigal sons and daughters of the Diaspora, celebrate Catholic patron saints and Vodou spirits, two sides of the same coin in syncretistic rites
- Make the scenic trek to the *Citadelle Laferrière*, a historic fortress and powerful symbol of liberty designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Travelers will wonder as they climb, how this monument could have been conceived, designed and constructed by former slaves
- Tour Bois Cayman, where enslaved Africans drew a sacred covenant which birthed a revolution
- See the hieroglyphics at *Sainte Suzanne* dating back to the time of the Tainos, the indigenous inhabitants of the island, whose soul survives in Haiti's language, rituals, and name
- Experience the intense flavors of Haiti's Northern cuisine and learn about the country's culinary landscape and traditions
- Witness the making of typical Haitian products which may include *kasav* (manioc bread) preparation and the traditional distilling method of *kleren* (white rum)

- Enjoy the pristine beaches which have coined Haiti as one of the best kept secret beach destinations of the region

While traveling south towards Port-au-Prince visitors will experience Haitian rural life and will:

- Make the obligatory pilgrimage to one of Haiti's most sacred and spiritual Vodou temples, *Lakou Souvenance*, (located in the Artibonite/rice-growing region of Haiti); and will experience firsthand the power of a religion created to unify and liberate
- Visit *l'Habitation Dion* – the vestigial ruins of an eighteenth century coffee plantation and its slave quarters

In the bustling capital, Port-au-Prince, participants will:

Visit Haiti's National Museum, MUPANAH, and participate in a roundtable discussion with Haiti's historical and cultural experts:

- Explore the old neighborhood of Pacot with its regal gingerbread houses. Learn about these vibrant structures specific to Haitian architectural heritage
- Meet with artists and artisans, visit the art collections of *Atis Rezistans* of the *Grand Rue*, and observe craftsmen and artisans at work in the village of *Noailles* which is well-known for its metal work
- Engage with university students and civically active youth groups and learn about their perspective on Haiti's development



Credits: LAL

- Tour the Barbancourt distillery, whose eponymous rum is the most famous Haitian export and considered one of the best in the world. Meet with Barbancourt’s senior staff to learn about the company’s history and its operations.
- Explore the *Marché en Fer* / Iron Market, an iconic public market considered a historic and architectural landmark located in downtown Port-au-Prince.
- Savor the best culinary creations of Haiti’s most renowned chefs of the Capital city
- Visit the Parc de Martissant, a 45 acre park located in the heart of one of the capital’s densely populated neighborhoods. In addition to green walking trails, the park includes features like a medicinal herb garden, and a memorial to the 2010 Earthquake victims. The Park sits on land bequeathed by the legendary Katherine Dunham, an African-American dancer and choreographer who lived in Haiti for over 30 years. The Park also offers programs on reforestation, environmental education and sustainable community gardens
- Visit the iconic colonial city of Jacmel where travelers will witness the making of *Papier Maché* masks and other art works, and discover *Bassin Bleu*, an immaculate natural water site hidden in the hills above the city.

Travelers will also visit the South and will:

- Explore *Grotte Marie-Jeanne* (the largest cave system in the Caribbean)
- Tour vetiver plantations to observe the extraction of the vetiver oil from its roots; vetiver is exported to luxury perfume makers in Europe and America.

Estimated Cost of Trip

Tour Haiti estimates that the cost of the trip is **USD 2, 347.38 PAX** (per traveler) for a minimum of 18 PAX and includes:

- All contacts and trip preparations
- All transportation in Haiti
- Accommodation in 3 and/or 4 star hotels in double rooms and single rooms (\$500 extra)*
- All meals
- A local English speaking guide for the duration of the trip

The cost will not include

- Airfare from and to Miami
- Travel Insurance
- Gratuities

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