

Kay Visite Rules, Information and Policies

Definitions:

Kay Visite – Haiti Outreach (HO) Guest House (pronounced Ki-Vee-zeh-tay)

Trip Leader – Haiti Outreach employee/volunteer leading the travelers

Group Leader – Optional role, identified when all or most travelers are from one organization.

They assist with pre-trip planning and the itinerary when in Haiti.

Traveler – Person joining a Haiti Outreach group for a particular trip

Guest – Individual reserving space at Kay Visite, paying to stay at Kay Visite or invited by Haiti Outreach to speak with travelers

Guard – HO employee whose job it is to maintain the security of the building and grounds

Facility:

- Rooms and Commons areas are open to travelers and guests. Roof, Office, Storage Room, Battery Room and Kitchen are off limits.
- Kitchen is for kitchen staff and personnel only (for sanitary reasons), and Trip Leader if necessary.
- Kay Visite is a non-smoking facility, including outdoor balconies and courtyard.
- Fire extinguishers and first aid kits are available at the guest house.

Security:

- Individual Room Keys. Travelers are advised to lock their door when they leave the room.
- Guest House Manager (Jonise Muscadin) holds a Master set of keys. The Guard, Jim Scheller (Director of Operations), and the Trip Leader have access to the master set of keys.
- One key issued per person – to be returned when traveler leaves and receives passport back.
- Lost Key policy: a traveler losing a key will pay for its replacement.
- Curfew: Guests are to be at the Guest House by 10pm. If a guest needs to be out after 10pm, discuss with the trip leader so that arrangements can be made with the guards and everyone knows what to expect.
- In case a guest gets locked out, go to the trip leader's room or guard's room in the main building.
- In case of an Emergency, all guests are asked to regroup at the Kay Visite.
- Windows are secured. In case of fire, exit through the front porch, back door in the dining room/living space or through the kitchen.
- Passports are collected upon arrival and kept in a safe at the Haiti Outreach office.

Evening Routine:

- Common area lights out at 10pm.
- Quiet after 10pm.
- Be respectful of your roommate when listening to music, etc.
- Evening Activities: May include a guest speaker from the community, a time to debrief with fellow travelers and socialize, just talk or play games, etc.

General:

- Room Description: Designed for minimum of double occupancy, each has its own private 3/4 bath, warm shower, dressers.
- Room Assignment: Minimum 2 people per room. It's been our experience that people enjoy rooming together, but guests may request a single room if available for an additional fee.
- Rooms will be assigned upon arrival. Guests may arrange to room with a certain individual.

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Communication:

- Internet access is now available. However, Haiti Outreach has a limit on the connection time with their internet provider. Exceeding the allowed limit causes a shutdown of HO's internet access and the Vonage phone then won't work. If a guest needs internet access, speak with your Trip Leader and please keep it to a minimum. Just use it for email purposes or searches but no major downloads.
- Phone: There is a phone at the HO Office for emergency communications. International cell phones do work in Haiti. Check with your cell phone provider. Beauty of being there is being "unplugged".
- Communicate with the Trip Leader. If there are places you want to go, concerns, medical issues or emergencies, etc. communicate with the Trip Leader.
- First Aid kits are available and will be carried by the Trip Leader.

Energy

- We are self-sufficient and "off the grid" due to our solar panels. Please be mindful. Turn off fans and lights when not in the room. Hats not hairdryers - hairdryers are strongly discouraged. Limit time spent using electricity (charging phones). Don't leave anything plugged in when leaving your room.

Water Usage

- Limit the time showering as much as possible. We have a solar hot water tank (black tank heated by the sun), so once that water is gone, new water needs to be warmed. We recommend a "Navy shower" (turning water off while soaping up, then turn water on to rinse).
- Much of the work of Haiti Outreach is to create water systems for people who don't have access. Be respectful of the limited access to water.
- We also have limited septic - so again, please minimize water usage.

Conduct

- You are a guest in a foreign country and an ambassador of USA and Haiti Outreach. We want to avoid being seen as the "ugly American".
- Leaving the Premises - check in with Trip Leader when leaving the group. Buddy system is advised.
- Quiet music; headphones or earplugs.
- Please respect our neighbors and do not consume alcohol on private property.
- Gifts to new found friends or children: Children quickly learn to beg from travelers. This can be extremely uncomfortable for guests and the community we live in. Haiti Outreach is adamant about not giving money, food, clothing or other items to children and people in the community. There are opportunities for gift-giving and donations at the orphanage, schools and other designated places. While small amounts of money or gifts may seem easy and harmless to give away by our US standards, it sets a poor precedent and habit in the community. Many parents work very hard for very little money. We cause a rift in family relationships and their community work ethic when children come home with money that is more than the amounts their parents brought home after a long, hard days work. Moreover, our Haiti Outreach employees, viewing this, become very discouraged at what you are doing to the character of their community and how the organization they work for is viewed. After many years of working in this community, we do not permit giving money or gifts unless specified by the Trip Leader. We know this may be difficult, but it is extremely important. If you break this rule, you harm the community and the begging will escalate for subsequent groups. Responses that are appropriate if you are asked for money or items are:

"I can't give you money, but I would like to give you my friendship."

"I am here to donate my time and money to your entire community, not just one person."

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- People allowed in Kay Visite – Only Haiti Outreach travelers, Haiti Outreach employees, guest speakers, other travelers staying there, and community groups who have reserved space are allowed inside the designated property areas and Kay Visite unless approved by the Trip Leader or Country Director. The building manager approves any guests using Kay Visite when trip groups are not present.

Eating and Drinking, Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

- Guests may bring their own food into the guest house, but it must be kept in their zippered-up suitcases or sealable container.
- Water inside Kay Visite is from our closed well system. It is safe for drinking.
- Alcohol is not allowed inside Kay Visite or on Haiti Outreach property.
- Clarin - Is distilled at the rum factories in town. It is similar to Everclear and is used as a disinfectant at the hospital. It is a very strong alcohol. Be extremely careful about consuming it. Everyone reacts differently and some people get quite ill if they drink too much of it.
- Excessive consumption of alcohol is inappropriate.
- Illegal drugs are not allowed.
- Inappropriate sexual behavior is unacceptable.

If a Trip Leader decides a traveler's behavior is disruptive or inappropriate, that person will be sent home at their own expense.

Signage

Eventually, on the back of each room door will be posted an information sheet, in Creole and English, containing rules, information and procedures of Kay Visite. Other signs will remind you of: No smoking, Please turn off the lights, Remember your Key, Exit procedures, etc.

Meals are served at a prescribed, regular time every day, and this will be posted. Please be on time for meals, as it will slow up the group if some people come much later, and, if you are late as a group, it will cause the cooks to stay extra late, forcing them to be late going home to their families.