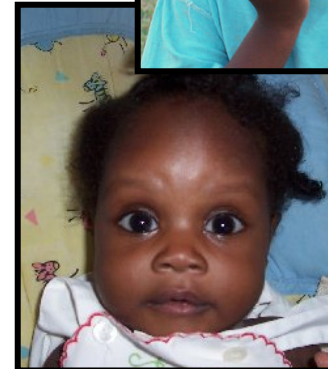
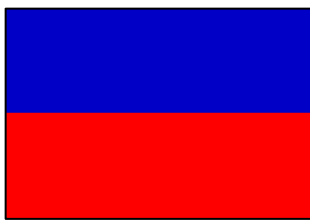


# Haiti



**Geography:** The nation of Haiti comprises the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola, west of the Dominican Republic and between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. Haiti is approximately 600 miles from Florida and a short 1.5 hour flight. The capital of Haiti is Port-Au-Prince. Haiti is one hour behind EST time; five hours behind GMT time.

**History:** The recorded history of Haiti began on December 5, 1492 when the European navigator Christopher Columbus happened upon a large island in the region of the western Atlantic Ocean that later came to be known as the Caribbean Sea. Haiti thus emerged into the world as the first black independent republic on January 1st, 1804. It's revolution against colonialism and slavery was the first successful black movement resulting into an independent state headed by blacks. After a prolonged struggle, Haiti became the first black republic to declare its independence in 1804. The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has been plagued by political violence for most of its history. Haiti finally inaugurated a democratically elected president and parliament in May of 2006.



**Language:** The official languages of Haiti are French and Haitian Creole (Kreyòl Ayisyen.) Virtually all Haitians speak the latter natively, a French-based Creole language that harbors significant African influence. French, however, is the principal written and administrative language, spoken by many educated Haitians. Spanish is

spoken near the border with the Dominican Republic. English is also a very popular language, due to its position as an international language and Haiti's close ties with the United States.

**The Climate:** Tropical; Average Summer Temperature (July) 30°C - 35°C; Average Winter Temperature (December) 20°C - 26°C; The rainy season is between May & November. Although Haiti's climate is tropical in nature, some of the mountainous areas are semi-arid.

**Cuisine:** Haitian cuisine is a mixture of various cuisines, of a similar nature with fellow Latin American countries. It employs similar techniques with the rest of the Caribbean with influences from French, Spanish, and African cuisines, and a few derivatives from native Taino culinary techniques. Though similar to other cooking styles in the region, it carries a uniqueness native only to the country and an appeal to many visitors to the island. Haitians use vegetables and meats extensively and peppers and similar herbs are often used for strengthening flavor. Haitian cuisine tends to be moderately spicy, not mild and not too hot. In the country, however, many businesses of foreign origin have been established introducing several foreign cuisines into the mainstream culture.

**Children Available:** The Adoption STAR Haiti program is different than any other that you will find. Haitian children available for adoption often reside in poorly run overcrowded and understaffed orphanages, however the Haitian children matched with Adoption STAR families receive one-on-one attention and are more acclimated to living within a family structure. The ages of children at time of match are newborn and up. Siblings or unrelated children can be adopted at the same time.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Couples and single women may adopt from Haiti. Adoptive parents must be at least 30 years old, though 35 and up is preferred. No maximum age. Couples must be married or living together for 10 years. No more than 2 to 3 biological children. There will be some referrals where only Christian adoptive families will be considered and some referrals will have no religious requirement of the adoptive families.

**Time Frame:** After dossier submission, a referral may be immediate and travel to meet the child can be planned shortly after match, however approval of the adoption may not occur for 9 months to 24 months. No commitment can be made regarding time frame.

**Travel:** One trip is required, however trips by the adoptive family to visit the child(ren) they are matched with is possible and encouraged.

**More Information:** Contact Adoption STAR. Toll Free: **1-866-691-3300** or **716-639-3900**

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