



# Welcome to Haiti

By AUGUSTIN Dieuseul « Joël » of TERRE DES JEUNES

[contact.terredesjeuneshaiti@terredesjeunes.org](mailto:contact.terredesjeuneshaiti@terredesjeunes.org)

## **A mosaic of culture and heritage for sustainable development**

Haitian culture is a mosaic, it was enriched by the contribution of other cultures. That of African, Amerindian and European descendants.

African heritage is first to come to mind with its myths, legends, stories of zombies, undead, colourful characters such Uncle Bouqui and Ti Malice, Master Rabbit and Turtle Lady. It is also our cockfighting, card games, children's rounds, the poetry of our dances. Without mentioning rich heritage of visual arts, music, literature and religion.

Pre-Columbian American culture is also still fresh in our culture. An example is Haitian rural architecture, specifically the Chemes ajoupas. Pottery, cotton hammocks and various cassava processing techniques are also derived from pre-Columbian times, as is a fairly important contribution to the Haitian language and names such as Henry, Anacaona, city names such as Hinche, Gonave, Goave, Aquinas (Yaquino) Cibao, Gonaibo (Gonaives); and common nouns such as pistachio, hammock, canary, canoe. The Indians also left us dances, musical instruments such as the maraca or tchatcha, and wooden trumpets in the bands of raras.

Finally, European heritage, especially French culture which reaches us as a distant echo of our colonial past. The legacy is still alive in the field of language, cultural traits, literature and religion. Also a testament to Haiti's European heritage are French-style colonial monumental architecture, both public and private; urbanism which uses colonial patterns. And, of course, French culture permeates popular culture, our institutions, religion both voodoo and Christian, customs and the arts

## The Haitian Carnival

In Haiti, the carnival therefore remains a time of great popular festivities and intense *défoulements*. Called "Fat Tuesday"

During the Haitian Carnival, Haitian designers are tested for dazzle us during Shrovetide with original costumes.

Beauty, scenery, costumes and musical entertainment are the party in all cities



## HAITI rara

Rara is a musical form originated in Haiti, played in street parades, usually during Easter week, just after the carnival period is Lent. This period is especially marked by festivities rara.





**Haitian national rice (rice stuck to the red dots)**

In addition, several dishes are specifically from Haiti, including rice Djon Djon, the recipe requires the use of Haitian black mushrooms



## HAITIAN Tap-tap

Tap-tap is the name given to taxis in Haiti, which is the country's main means of transport and also its capital Port-au-Prince.

These artworks are arranged harmoniously with the colors at once reference to the divine and protective spirits. The invocations such as "Well good God," "Praise to the Lord," "Thank you Jesus", reproduced in all colors are supposed to protect against misfortune and road accidents.

It is the Tap-Taps, authentic pictorial creations where each vehicle bears the signature of the artist.



## **Voodoo, a culture of Haiti marronnage**

Voodoo in Haiti is considered as the religion of our ancestors.



## Historic Monuments and Sites

Indeed, Haiti has a catalog "200 Landmarks and Historic Sites of great cultural value in Haiti" according to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Preservation Institute (ISPAN).

Here are a few:



La Citadelle Laferrière of Milot is a military structure built in the early nineteenth

Place d'Armes - Dessalines Monument - St.  
Charles Cathedral Des Gonaives

Gonaives is where was proclaimed the  
independence of Haiti or the first Black  
Republic in the world, January 1, 1804



## Haitian painting

Haitian painting, this unique voice that has no other referent than its own history, which is inspired that of herself and never imitates raises exciting questions. And the mystery of his singular force, it is naïve, inhabited by mystical voodoo or modern, addressed a number of intellectuals, among them Breton, Sartre, Malraux or Césaire, to which it owes its recognition on today international art markets.



## The Music Compas Direct

The Compas Direct, music is closely linked to the cultural tradition of the Haitian people. And the culture of a people never dies.

Historians born Compass Direct July 26. In our culture, we do not baptize a newborn (a baby) the day of his birth but after. Compass Direct was established long before but he was baptized on July 26, 1955. There is nuance.

