

The Caribbean is a region where diverse cultures blend and creolize, with Haiti playing a central role.



Haiti is the mother country of Creolization, blending different cultures to create a new one, which took place in the Caribbean. Haiti has a land mass of 27,750 square kilometers and a population of 11.5 million. It is historically known as the first sovereign nation to emerge from a slave revolt and defeat a colonial power. Its culture, born from a blend of three different civilizations (European, African, and American), is filled with unique objects based on the most diverse traditions in human history. Its literary, musical, and artistic richness contrasts with the economic stagnation and institutional difficulties the country has faced over many years. Despite these difficulties, the country still holds on to the dream of becoming a free and prosperous country, the dream of Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Henry Christophe, and Alexandre Sabès Pétion.



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COMMONS-B PAVILION

Haiti PAVILION



**Haiti, the land where Liberty
became a universal achievement**

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Exhibition Concept

Haiti is a name that stands out among the many islands of the Caribbean and remains ingrained in people's memories. Not only has it contributed to the fight for freedom in its own territory, but supported others who have fought for freedom in countries like Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Greece. It is because of this that countries around the world were stunned by the solidarity of the Haitian people, brave supporters of the world, when the country was struck by a major earthquake. Haiti is participating in the Osaka-Kansai Expo to emphasize the realization of an inclusive and fair society in which everyone can live with dignity. It hopes to demonstrate that lives can still be saved even when facing global issues, such as earthquakes, typhoons, and gang violence, and share the Haitian people's story of resilience with the world.



One island for two nations

Before dividing into the Republic of Haiti (total land mass: 27,750 square kilometers) and the Dominican Republic (total land mass: 48,442 square kilometers), the island of Hispaniola (also called Ayti) was inhabited by the Taino people, whose civilization was linked to the Amazonian people. The island was first colonized by the Spanish, and the western part was colonized by the French. Thus, since the Treaty of Ryswick (1697), there has been a border separating French territory to the west and Spanish territory to the east, which later became the basis for the two independent states. This island was the site of the most fierce clash of civilizations in history. Following a mass genocide of the indigenous people, the Spanish began to

enslave large numbers of people from Africa to replace the exhausted Taino people who had been overworked in mines and plantations. When Haiti declared independence on January 1, 1804, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, commander in chief of the indigenous forces, felt he had "avenged the Americans" by abolishing slavery and granting Haitian citizenship to all those who had found refuge there. This is why Haitians call their country Ayiti se man man libète (mother of freedom).



Impact of Latitude

Haiti has a tropical climate due to its latitude. The average temperatures range from 22°C at night in the coolest month (February) to 32°C during the day in the hottest month (July), but conditions vary greatly within the country depending on altitude, location in relation to the sea, and region. The temperature in Furcy in the La Sal Mountains can drop to 16°C in winter.

Diverse geomorphologies and climatic variations combine to form complex environments and ecosystems. The year is divided into two major seasons: the rainy season from May to November and the dry season from December to April. Although annual rainfall in the northern mountainous region can exceed 2,000 millimeters, the savanna region (Savane Désolée) is semi-arid, with an annual rainfall of less than 600 millimeters. Haiti is predominately a tropical rainforest, where a variety of species have found their home. Haiti is part of the Greater Antilles Ecological Corridor, which stretches from Puerto Rico through Cuba to the Bahamas and is crucial to life cycles and ecological balance throughout the region. It is a stopover point for large migratory birds that fly across the continent from north to south, and a stopping point for certain species. There are also some native species that risk extinction due to deforestation and habitat loss (tree ferns, high-altitude amphibians, geckos, birds of prey, and undergrowth hummingbirds).



Collapsed Building in Port-au-Prince, 2010

Building that was torn down in Port-au-Prince in 2010. Haiti sits on two major fault lines that can produce earthquakes that can in turn produce devastating tsunamis, such as the 1842 Cap-Haïtien earthquake and the 2010 Port-au-Prince earthquake. The Cap-Haïtien earthquake killed half the population (5,000 of the 10,000 inhabitants at the time), destroyed the Château de Sans-Souci, and caused enormous material losses, while the Port-au-Prince earthquake killed more than 250,000 people and became the worst natural disaster in Haiti's history. This death toll was equal to the total casualties of the entire War of Independence, which lasted for 12 years from 1791 until the Battle of Vertières on November 18, 1803.



Cooking cassava bread in Limbé Commune

Cooking cassava bread in Limbé Commune. Galettes (a round, flat pastry from ancient taino tradition) made with cassava symbolize continuity that transcends the tides of culture. This pastry, which saved the last of the endangered Taino people and those who came from Africa to work in the Caribbean's mines and colonial farms, is a symbol of humility shared among friends and ancestral know-how. Today, cassava is a sophisticated and ancient dish whose flavor recalls a history of ethnic solidarity and empathy. It is a national food eaten everyday by the Haitian people, and a confection that is always found at the dinner table of both gourmets meals and ordinary people, as a symbol of understanding one another across generations and cultures.

