

HAITI

Country name	Haiti
State title	Republic of Haiti
Name of citizen	Haitian
Official language(s)	French (fr); Haitian Creole (ht)
Country name in official language(s)	Haïti (fr); Ayiti (ht)
State title in official language(s)	République d'Haïti (fr); Repiblik d Ayiti (ht)
Script	French and Haitian Creole are both written in Roman
Romanization System	<i>Not applicable</i>
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	HT/HTI
Capital	Port-au-Prince (ht: Pòtoprens)

Geographical names policy

Geographical names are for the most part found in a French style and should be taken as found on official sources where possible. All diacritical marks (see below for details), apostrophes and hyphens should be retained.

Language/s

Haitian Creole is the principal language spoken by Haitians; about 10% of the population are also conversant in French.

After the country's independence from France in 1804, French continued to be Haiti's literary language and remained the only language acknowledged in the Constitution until 1961, when a new Constitution permitted the use of Creole "for the safeguard of the material and moral interests of those citizens who do not have sufficient knowledge of the French language"¹. Creole was not explicitly declared official alongside French until the 1987 Constitution².

Much work has been carried out in an attempt to standardise the orthography of Haitian Creole. A system developed by the Institut Pédagogique National, *òtograf (IPN)*, was selected as the official orthography by the Haitian government in 1980³ and has become the most widely used orthography.

¹ Article 35 of the 1964 Constitution.

² Article 5 of the 1987 *Constitution de la République d'Haïti*

³ *The Oxford Handbook of Applied Linguistics*, Robert B. Kaplan, 2005

With its roots in 18th century French, Haitian Creole draws also on several West African languages (such as Wolof and Fon) as well as Spanish and some English. There are two recognised dialects: Fablas and Plateau.

Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings⁴):

French contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
À	00C0	à	00E0
Â	00C2	â	00E2
Ç	00C7	ç	00E7
È	00C8	è	00E8
É	00C9	é	00E9
Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Ë	00CB	ë	00EB
Î	00CE	î	00EE
Ï	00CF	ï	00EF
Ô	00D4	ô	00F4
Œ	0152	œ	0153
Ù	00D9	ù	00F9
Û	00DB	û	00FB
Ü	00DC	ü	00FC
ÿ ⁵ (U+0178)	0178	ÿ ⁵	00FF

Haitian Creole contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
È	00C8	è	00E8
Ò	00D2	ò	00F2

Administrative structure

Haiti is divided into 10 *départements* which are subdivided into *arrondissements* at the second-order level. The *arrondissements* are themselves divided into communes at the third-order level. The list below reflects the current structure with the recommended spelling given in bold.

⁴ See www.unicode.org

⁵ rarely encountered

TOPONYMIC FACT FILE

Artibonite (19°20'N 072°30'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Gonaïves (19°27'N 072°41'W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département de l'Artibonite
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Latibonit
Comprises 5 <i>arrondissements</i> : Dessalines; Gonaïves; Gros-Morne; Marmelade; Saint-Marc

Centre (19° 00'N 072°00'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Hinche (19°09'N 072° 01'W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département du Centre
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Sant
comprises 4 <i>arrondissements</i> : Cerca La Source; Hinche; Lascahobas; Mirebalais

Grand'Anse (18°30'N 074°05'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Jérémie
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département de la Grand'Anse
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Grandans
comprises 3 <i>arrondissements</i> : Anse d'Hainault; Corail; Jérémie

Nippes ⁶ (18°25'N 073°25'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Miragoâne (18°27'N 073°06'W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département des Nippes
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Nip
comprises 3 <i>arrondissements</i> : Anse-à-Veau; Baradères; Miragoâne

Nord (19°36'N 072°18'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Cap-Haïtien (19°45'N 072°12'W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département du Nord
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Nò
comprises 7 <i>arrondissements</i> : Acul du Nord; Borgne; Cap-Haïtien; Grande Rivière du Nord; Limbé; Plaisance; Saint-Raphaël

Nord-Est (19°32'N 071°42'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Fort-Liberté (19°40'N 071°50'W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département du Nord-Est
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Nòdès
comprises 4 <i>arrondissements</i> : Fort- Liberté; Ouanaminthe; Trou du Nord; Vallières

Nord-Ouest (19°45'N 073°05'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Port-de-Paix (19°57'N 072°50'W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département du Nord-Ouest
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Nòdwès
comprises 3 <i>arrondissements</i> : Môle Saint-Nicolas; Port-de-Paix; Saint-Louis du Nord

⁶ This department was created by Law on 4th September 2003

Ouest (18°18'N 072°24'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Port-au-Prince (18°32'21"N 072°20'06"W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département de l'Ouest
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Lwès
comprises 5 <i>arrondissements</i> : Arcahaie; Croix-des-Bouquets; La Gonâve; Léogâne; Port-au-Prince

Sud (18°15'N 073°40'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Les Cayes (18°12'N 073°45'W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département du Sud
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Sid
comprises 5 <i>arrondissements</i> : Aquin; Cayes; Chardonnières; Côteaux; Port-Salut

Sud-Est (18°18'N 072°24'W)
<i>Centre:</i> Jacmel (18°14'03"N 072°32'05W)
<i>Full form in French:</i> Département du Sud-Est
<i>Full form in Creole:</i> Depatman Sidès
comprises 3 <i>arrondissements</i> : Baint; Belle-Anse; Jacmel

Useful internet references

- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>
- Embassy of Haiti, Washington, D.C: <http://www.haiti.org/>
- BBC Country profile: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1202772.stm
- FCO country profile: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/north-central-america/haiti?profile=all>
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ha.html>
- UN Cartographic Section map of Haiti administrative divisions: <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/haiti.pdf>
- Haiti Wikipedia entry: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiti>
- Ethnologue report on languages of Haiti: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=haiti
- Omniglot writing systems and languages of the world: <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/haitiancreole.htm>
- *Institut Haïtien de Statistique et d'Informatique* <http://www.ihsi.ht/index.htm>