



143 HAITI - MARDI GRAS

Haiti and the Dominican Republic share an island midway along the arch of the Antilles. Port au Prince, the Haitian capital, has over half a million inhabitants. French is the country's official language but the dialect known as Creole constitutes common usage. Haiti has almost five million inhabitants, 85% of whom live in the country.

Painting, dancing, singing - these are the expressions of the Haitian soul. The songs tell of love and sadness, of joy and faith. Bodies sway in graceful, uninhibited accompaniment to the rhythm of the drums. The effervescent merriment of the Haitian people has a contagious effect upon visitors to the island, who are soon held spellbound by the magic of its beauty and the mystery of its ever present past.



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SLIDE

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- 143 A) A couple using the typical costume dance to one of the vibrant Haitian rythms.
 - 143 B) The same couple, with the company of other dancers on the patio of an old residence in Port au Prince.
 - 143 C) and D) More dances in the festival.
 - 143 E) Background chorus singers and dancers at the festival.
 - 143 F) The vibrant rythm of carnival music is accented by the sound of large drums, common in all areas of the Caribbean.
 - 143 G) Under the sun and the Palma Real (Royal Palm) the carnival continues.
 - 143 H) A woman disguised as an aristocratic dame contrasts the rural appearance of a country woman.
 - 143 I) , A picture showing the rapid steps and jumps executed in carnival dances.
 - 143 J) A woman sways to the rythm of the music.
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