Not being able to sleep tonight, I started to think about my country as I often do. Why? Because Haiti has so much hidden beauty and so much history that, for its part, tourism can bring great riches. The Voûte à Mainguet situated in Dondon is the hidden treasure I wish to share with you today.

Dondon, this corner of Haiti is situated between the mountain Morne Bouc and the Bonnet à l’Evêque, where the Citadel Ferrière is built, the masterpiece of Henry Christophe. Its Amerindian name was Kano and the river that runs through it still carries the name. During the era of the Taino, Dondon was in the province of Ca Ana, that is to say the region of flowers, and of forests. It deserves its name as today we can still find all sorts of fruit trees, such as mango, avocado, orange, banana, coffee, soursop cainito, melon, pomegranate, pineapples, apricots, etc.

The indigenous used Dondon as their place of meetings and dance. Every year they arrived for the summer solstice, from every corner of the island en masse, to celebrate “louka,” their god who signifies the first one created. The festival took place in a cave that is today unknown to most and called Voûte à Mainguet.

To get to the Voûte à Mainguet you have to walk upstream along the river for about thirty minutes. Once you’ve arrived across from the cave, you have to cross the river to enter. There is a wonderful hall there with a large opening in the main part which lets in the sun’s rays. Bats come and go as well.

On the walls of the cave and particularly at the entrance are figures drawn by the indigenous. They symbolize the transition between day to night, light and dark. Other figures, most specifically bats and frogs, represent respectively the male and female sexes.

This cave is a pure wonder from a cultural, mystical and tourist standpoint, and it is the secret place that I would like to share with this friend, to give him a sense of the treasures held by this land of mine, this small country that I cherish with love and passion, Haïti. My dream is to see it once again as the Pearl of the Antilles and to become the number one tourist destination of the Caribbean.