

INFORMATION NOTE COTE D'IVOIRE AND ABIDJAN

Ivory Coast, also known as Côte d'Ivoire,[a] officially the **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**, is a country on the southern coast of West Africa. Its political capital is Yamoussoukro, in the centre of the country; while its largest city and economic centre is the port city of Abidjan. **Abidjan** is the economic capital of the Ivory Coast and one of the most populous French-speaking cities in Africa. According to the 2014 census, Abidjan's population was 4.7 million, which is 20 percent of the overall population of the country, and this also makes it the sixth most populous city proper in Africa, Abidjan is characterised by a high level of industrialisation and urbanisation.

Abidjan remained the capital of the Ivory Coast after its independence from France in 1960. The country's three largest population centers are Abidjan (2.6 million), Daloa (1 million), and Man (957,706). In 1983, the city of Yamoussoukro was designated as the official political capital of Ivory Coast. However, almost all political institutions and foreign embassies continue to be located in Abidjan.

Because Abidjan is also the largest city in the country and the centre of its economic activity, it has officially been designated as the "economic capital" of the country. The Abidjan Autonomous District, which encompasses the city and some of its suburbs, is one of the 14 districts of Ivory Coast.

GENERAL FACTS

Time Zone	GTM
Currency	West African CFA franc(FCFA/XOF)
Exchange Rate (as of June 2022)	USD 1= 622.81 FCFA Euro 1= 658.59 FCFA
Official Languages	French
Electricity and usages	220V supply voltage and 50Hz, power sockets types C / E
Religion	Predominantly Christian, and Muslim
Fixed, Mobile, and Internet services Operator	MTN and Orange
International Dialling Code	+225 area/service code number, followed by local number
Fire and Police	Call (+225) 20 2587 88
Visa	Visa is required for travel, which can be processed through Côte d'Ivoire Embassy consular offices at country or through electronic visa process as applicable. Passports shall be valid for at least six-month during travel.

POPULATION

Ivory Coast's first national census in 1975 counted 6.7 million inhabitants. According to the 2014 census, Abidjan's population was 4.7 million, which is 20 percent of the overall population of the country, and this also makes it the sixth most populous city proper in Africa

GOVERNMENT

The Politics of Ivory Coast takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President of Ivory Coast is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the President and the Government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament.

LANGUAGES

It is estimated that 78 languages are spoken on Ivory Coast.[100] French, the official language, is taught in schools and serves as a lingua franca in the country. A semi-creolized form of French, known as Nouchi, has emerged in Abidjan in recent years and spread among the younger generation. One of the most common indigenous languages is Dyula, which acts as a trade language in much of the country, as well as a language commonly spoken by the Muslim population.

RELIGION

Ivory Coast is religiously diverse. Adherents of Christianity (mainly Catholic and Evangelical) represented 44% of the total population in 2020, while followers of Islam (mainly Sunni) represented 37.2% of the population. In addition 8.1% of Ivorians claimed to be irreligious, and 10.5% reported following traditional African religions.[1][2] In 2009, according to U.S. Department of State estimates, Christians and Muslims each made up 35 to 40% of the population, while an estimated 25% of the population practised traditional (animist) religions.[107]

LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHY

Côte d'Ivoire occupies approximately 124,500 square miles (322,460 square Kilometers), an area slightly larger than New Mexico. Located on the south coast of West Africa. The country is made up of three distinct geographic regions: the southeast is marked by coastal lagoons; the southern region, especially the southwest, is densely forested; and the northern region is called the savannah zone.

CULTURE AND HOSPITALITY

The Ivorian culture is extremely rich and diverse. Côte d'Ivoire is country with a legendary hospitality, and local gastronomy reflecting the cultural diversity and the richness. The population of Côte d'Ivoire is ethnically diverse and delineated by the places the more than sixty indigenous ethnic groups live, although this number is often reduced to four major cultural regions—the southeast, sometimes referred to as the Atlantic East (Akan), the southwest, sometimes referred to as the Atlantic West (Kru), the northeast/north-central (Voltaic), and the northwest (Mande)

HEALTH AND VACCINATION

On entering and leaving Côte d'Ivoire all visitors **shall present a negative CoVID-19 PCR test result done within 72 hours. Fully vaccinated passengers who can provide the evidence, DO NOT require to take a COVID-19 test to travel to Côte d'Ivoire.**

The medical certificate must show full vaccination with an approved vaccine, at least 14 days before arrival. Possession of a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is recommended. Comply with airport medical monitoring measures. These include providing temperature readings and registering contact details.

CLIMATE

The temperatures in Ivory Coast in July are relatively comfortable. The climate in Abidjan during July can be summarized as hot, humid and wet.

July is in the summer in Abidjan and is typically the 3rd coldest month of the year. Daytime maximum temperatures average around a muggy 27°C (81°F), whilst at night 23°C (72°F) is normal. On average July is the 5th wettest month of the year in Abidjan with around 141mm of rain making it a wet time to visit. This rainfall is typically spread over 13 days, although this may vary considerably.