

## West African Cities

Cote d'Ivoire is a large country in West Africa. It has two important cities, Abidjan and Yamoussoukro.

### Abidjan

Abidjan is the biggest city in Cote d'Ivoire. It is the commercial and banking capital of the country. It was the political capital until 1983. But many government offices and foreign embassy offices are still in Abidjan.

More than 4 million people live in Abidjan – it's a very big city.

The city started a long time ago, in 1903, and it became the capital city in 1933.

A lot of the government is in Abidjan. Abidjan has a high standard of living – many people have good jobs with the government and international companies.

There are a lot of businesses too. Big industries include making cars, chemicals, wood and clothes. A lot of coffee comes from here, and tuna as well.

There are many interesting places for tourists to visit. There is a big cathedral, Saint-Paul's cathedral, and a large mosque.

There are a lot of museums. The National Museum and the Cocody Museum of Art, and the Cote d'Ivoire Museum of Civilisations.

The city is a centre for newspapers, radio and television stations, and the music industry.

### Yamoussoukro

Yamoussoukro is the political capital of the country. It is named Yamoussoukro because the queen Yamouso lived here.

The president moved the capital here in 1983. There is a very big House of Deputies, for the government.

Yamoussoukro is smaller than Abidjan, and it has only 200,000 people.

But it is an important city, with an international airport. The airport was the only airport in Africa where Concorde could land.

It is 240 km from Abidjan. The city is in the hills, and Abidjan is next to the sea.

There is a very big church in Yamoussoukro – the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace. The Pope came to the city to open the church in 1990. It is the biggest church in the world.

### New words for this article

1	commercial	things to do with business
2	capital	the central city of a country
3	embassy	the office of a foreign government in your country
4	cathedral	a very big church
5	deputy	person working in the parliament

### Comprehension questions

- 1 How many people live in Abidjan?
- 2 When did the political capital go to Yamoussoukro?
- 3 Where is the National Museum?
- 4 Why is Yamoussoukro airport famous?
- 5 Why is the Basilica in Yamoussoukro famous?

### Comprehension questions

- 1 About 4 million people live in Abidjan
- 2 In 1983
- 3 In Abidjan
- 4 Because Concorde landed there
- 5 Because it is the biggest church in the world

### Answers