

West African countries – Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire is a large country in West Africa. It has about 26 million people. It is a very old country. People lived here thousands of years ago.

The people of Cote d'Ivoire are called Ivorians. The official language is French but many people speak other languages like Baoule, Dioula, Dan and Anyin. There are 78 languages in Cote d'Ivoire. Most people speak Dioula as well as French.

It is a coastal country, located next to the sea, and its neighbours are Mali and Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Ghana.

It has a tropical climate. It is very wet from June to October and there is a lot of rain. It is better for tourists to visit in the dry months of the year, from November to May.

The country produces a lot of coffee and cocoa, and it sells palm oil for cooking and making other food. The main industry is agriculture, and small farmers sell their food in the city markets.

The most popular sport is football but basketball is also popular. Famous footballers like Dider Drogba come from this country.

The country became independent in 1960 and the first President was Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

There is a modern international airport in Abidjan. So you can fly direct from Paris, Brussels, Dubai and other places in West Africa.

There is also a train service. You can take the train from Abidjan to the old city of Ouagadougou. It takes a long time – about 30 hours. But it is a very interesting trip.

There is a lot for tourists to see. There are many good beaches. You can take a safari. There are many national parks, like Tai National Park that you can visit.

Tourists can buy interesting things. You can buy wooden masks, and black pots. You can buy traditional cloth.

There are some special foods in Cote d'Ivoire. The local food includes fish and chicken, and cassava and

plantain. You eat the meat with 'attieke' which is made from cassava.

You can find local food at the special restaurant called 'maquis'. You can try 'allico' which is fried plantain with onion and chili. And you can drink the local wine called 'bangui'.

Abidjan is on the Atlantic coast and it is the country's biggest city. Its modern buildings include La Pyramide and St. Paul's Cathedral, a very big church. North of the city centre there is Banco National Park. This is a rainforest where you can walk.

In the evening in Abidjan you can take a ride on a boat across the lagoon. It is a good trip for tourists. You can watch a famous dance called the Mapouka.

Grand Bassam is a good place to visit. It is on the coast, next to the sea. Many people from Abidjan come here at the weekend to relax. It has beautiful beaches in Ancien Bassam. It has many old French houses and beautiful old buildings like the Cathedrale, the Old Post Office, the Town Hall (Mairie), and the National Museum of Costume.

New words for this article -

1	coastal	next to the coast, next to the sea
2	agriculture	working with land, growing food
3	wooden	made of wood

Comprehension questions

- How many people live in Cote d'Ivoire?
- What language do most people speak as well as French?
- When is there a lot of rain?
- Where can you go by train?
- Where do people in Abidjan go for the weekend?

1	About 26 million people
2	Most people speak Dioula as well as French
3	It is very wet from June to October and there is a lot of rain
4	You can take the train from Abidjan to the old city of Ouagadougou
5	Many people from Abidjan go to Grand Bassam at the weekend to relax

Comprehension questions -

Answers