

## **Cote d'Ivoire**

The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) with the area of 322,462 km is a country located in western Africa. Bounded by Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia, the country got its independence on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1960 from France. Its main towns are Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, Man, San Pedro, Bouake.

The District of Yamoussoukro, located at the center of the country, is the official political and administration capital city of Cote d'Ivoire. Yamoussoukro, the birth place of the first president of Cote d'Ivoire, Felix Houphouet Boigny, has the largest church in the world named The Basilica of Our Lady of Peace of Yamoussoukro. It also has the parliament's Hotel.

Abidjan, the economic capital of Cote d'Ivoire is the most populated West African French-speaking city. Considered the cultural crossroads of West Africa, Abidjan is characterized by a high level of industrialization and urbanization. The majority of Ivorian government institutions are still in Abidjan. Located on the littoral, Abidjan shelters the most important West African's port and the second in Africa after the one of Durban.

Cote d'Ivoire produces various products like cocoa, coffee, oil palms, cashew nuts, hevea, etc. Indeed, the country is the first cocoa and kola nuts producer and the 5<sup>th</sup> coffee producer in the world.

Cote d'Ivoire offers a diversity of touristic places. From the beautiful beaches of Assinie and Monogaga to natural parks, the country offers a unique journey that is found nowhere. Added to this, the hospitality and warmth with which Ivorians welcome foreigners make them all feel at home.