



Country Profile: Ivory Coast

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) is a developing country on the western coast of Africa. The official capital is Yamoussoukro, but Abidjan is the largest city, the main commercial center, and where the Ivorian government and the U.S. Embassy are located. Cote d'Ivoire is a republic whose constitution provides for separate branches of government under a strong president.

The country has experienced continued, periodic episodes of political unrest and violence, sometimes directed against foreigners, since 2002 when a failed coup attempt evolved into an armed rebellion that split the country in two. Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo and New Forces leader Guillaume Soro signed the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA) in March 2007 and a new government was formed with Soro as Prime Minister. Implementation of the accord has been slow and although the political situation has improved, it still has not returned to normal. UN and French peacekeepers remain in the country.

Tourist facilities in and near Abidjan, the commercial capital, are good; accommodations in many other locations are limited in quality and availability. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Cote d'Ivoire for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Ivory Coast or Cote d'Ivoire
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Yamoussoukro
Boundary Countries:	Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Clinique Goci, Clinique Medicale le Grand Centre, Groupe Medicale due Plateau, La Providence, Polyclinique Avicennes, Polyclinique des Il Plateaux, Polyclinique International Saint-Anne Marie, Polyclinique Internationale de L'Indenie, Polyclinique Internationale Hotel Dieu Abidjan, Polyclinique La Madone
Main Cities:	Yamoussoukro, Abidjan, San Pedro, Bondoukou
Country Size:	322,460 sq km
Population:	17,654,843

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	French (official), 60 native dialects with Dioula the most widely spoken
Currency:	Communaute Financiere Africaine Franc (XOF); note- responsible authority is the Central Bank of the West African States
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 35%-40%, indigenous 25%-40%, Christian 20%-30%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 7 August (1960)
Economic Status:	Cote d'Ivoire has been unstable since the coup in 1999, and territorially divided since 2002. Political instability has contributed to economic stagnation and high unemployment, exacerbating social tensions and creating the potential for labor unrest and civil disorder

Security:	Cote d'Ivoire Defense and Security Forces (FDSC): Army, Navy, Air Force
US Presence:	The US Embassy is located in the Riviera Golf neighborhood of the Cocody section of Abidjan, east of the downtown area. The Embassy's postal address is 01 B.P. 1712 Abidjan 01, and the main telephone is 22-49-40-00. The Consular Section fax is 22-49-42-02, and more information is on the Consular pages of the Embassy's web site at http://Abidjan.usembassy.gov/ .
Major Airports:	Airports: 35, Airports w/paved runways: 7 Abidjan International Airport (ABJ/DIAP) Abidjan Airport, Ivory Coast, 07 BP 30, Abidjan, 07, CÔTE D'IVOIRE Tel: +225 (0)21.75.79.00/2 Fax: +225 (0)21.75.79.03 Website: www.aeria.ci

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