



## ENCHANTING CÔTE D'IVOIRE

13 Days Tour – Comfortable

Abidjan – Grand Bassam – Abengourou – Yamoussoukro –

Man – Bouaké – Korhogo – Boundiali – Kong – Abidjan

### **Day 1: Abidjan**

Arrive in Abidjan, the capital city of Côte d'Ivoire and transfer to your hotel. *D*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Abidjan:** The largest city and the economical capital of the Ivory Coast, Abidjan holds the position as the most important commercial and banking centre in the country. Known as the “Paris of Africa”, it is one of the largest populated cities in Western Africa with a major French speaking population.

### **Day 2: Abidjan – Grand Bassam – Abidjan**

Today, visit the St Paul Cathedral, the Musée des Civilisation, the Craft Centre of Abidjan before paying a visit to the “Fanicos du Banco” the laundrymen going by their daily job of washing clothes. In the afternoon, drive 45mn to Grand Bassam for a city tour. On arrival, visit the National Museum of Costume, the district called Quartier France and its vestiges. Drive back to Abidjan for the night. *BLD*

### **Destination Information:**

**St Paul Cathedral:** Is a Roman Catholic Cathedral in Abidjan, designed by architect Aldo Spirito and is one of the largest cathedrals in the world.

**Musée des Civilisations:** The museum has a good collection of displays about the cultural diversity of the country. It holds exhibits including Neolithic implements, masks from all over Cote d'Ivoire, fetish figurines, and kings' objects.

**The Fanicos:** Are men who earn their living by washing people clothes in the Banco Rivers. Seeing them at work is a very dazzling display.

**Grand Bassam:** Also known as Bassam, it is a resort town not far from Abidjan and was built as a colonial city being the 1<sup>st</sup> capital of the country. The world heritage site covers the historic colonial part of town, where all the vestiges can be visited such as Quartier France.

**National Museum of Costume:** It is an old colonial mansion filled with costumes of various types representing different tribes and roles; feticheuse, king etc. The museum also has a collection of photographs from the days of the French colony.

### **Day 3: Abidjan – Abengourou**

This morning, drive 3 hours to Abengourou. Make a stop in the village of Aniausse, known as the village for féticheurs before driving to the hotel. In the afternoon, visit the residence of the King of the Agni tribe. *BLD*

### **Destination Information:**

**Abengourou:** Is a city in the eastern part of Ivory Coast. Abengourou is traditionally ruled by the Anyi paramount chief who is also the current king of the King of Indenie. The residence of the king was built in 1992 and is a sight to behold. The residence is decorated with the best of Indenie relics and tapestries.

**Aniausse Village:** Home of a feticheuse who runs a centre, mostly for women, where trance-inducing dances are part of the ritual (the Komians) and the trance allows divination through the arrival of the spirit.

### **Day 4: Abengourou - Yamoussoukro**

This morning, drive 4h to Yamoussoukro; make a stop in village of Toumodi to witness a rhythmic performance of the talking drums. Spend the afternoon touring the spectacular Basilica Our Lady of Peace, before visiting the city, which will include a trip to the Lake of the Sacred Caimans. *BLD*

### **Destination Information:**

**Yamoussoukro:** A sleeping town also known as Yakro, Yamoussoukro is the political capital of the country and also the birthplace of the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the country, Mr Felix Houphouët-Boigny, whose former palace has a lake filled with Sacred Caimans.

**Basilica Our Lady of Peace:** The largest church in the world, the basilica was designed by a Lebanese architect, Pierre Fakhoury and inspired by St Peter Basilica of Rome. The cornerstone was laid on 10 August 1985, and it was consecrated on 10 September 1990 by Pope John Paul II, who had just formally accepted the basilica as a gift from Félix Houphouët-Boigny on behalf of the Catholic Church.

### **Day 5: Yamoussoukro – Bouaflé – Man**

This morning, journey towards Man, located in the western part of the country. Make a stop in Bouaflé to discover the Gouro people and the Zaouli dance. Continue to Man and on the way visit some coffee and **cocoa** plantations. On arrival, check in the hotel and enjoy a free evening. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Bouaflé:** Bouaflé is a city in central Ivory Coast, mainly populated by the Gouro Tribe. The Gouro are particularly known for their masks, that are very colourful. They have important rituals in which the masks such as the Zaouli intervene.

### **Day 6: Man**

This morning, embark on a city tour, visiting one of the waterfalls in Cote d'Ivoire, the Cascades of Man. In the afternoon, discover the local masks and traditional dances like the Stilt dance. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Man:** Located in the West of Côte d'Ivoire, the city of Man is nicknamed the city of 18 mountains. The city and its region have long been the standard bearers of Ivorian tourism: Simply because they represent a summary of the wealth of this tourism. African arts, village traditions, the natural beauty of landscapes are all reasons to visit the region.

**The Cascades of Man:** From a river with variable flow, the Cascades of Man flow over a height of about 20 meters and are a beautiful place of rest under the tall trees. Highly popular, they are frequented by those who come for a bit of freshness by diving into the clear waters that flow in the forest.

### **Day 7: Man – Bouaké**

In the morning, head down to Bouaké, in the centre of the country. Make a stop in Bomizambo, a Baoulé village known for its sacred mask: the Goli and also for its weavers called the tisserands. Witness a Goli Mask performance and see the tisserands at work. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Bouaké:** City of Ivory Coast and capital of the region of the Bandama Valley, Bouaké was originally a military post founded in 1898 in Baoulé country.

**Bomizambo:** It is a small village in the heart of Ivory Coast, where the ancestral art of weaving is handed down from father to son. This is the stronghold of the last weavers of Côte d'Ivoire. This is where the traditional Baoulé loincloths are made, with great patience and respect for tradition

### **Day 8: Bouaké - Korhogo**

Today, drive 3 hours and 50mn and half minute to Korhogo meet the mysterious Senoufos. After dropping your luggage at the hotel take a short trip to the tisserands village of Waraniéné; enjoy the Bolo dance or panther dance during a ceremony that is organised during the release of the initiates of the sacred wood. *BLD*

#### **Destination Information:**

**Korhogo:** It is fourth-largest city of the country and the largest of the Northern of the Ivory Coast. Korhogo is the gateway to the Senoufo country, an ethnic group famous for its Poro rite (a cycle of initiation that every young person must follow for seven years) and his sacred dances, during which the famous panther men perform.

**Day 9: Korhogo & its surroundings**

This morning, journey to the village Niofouin and visit the sacred hut of the village while learning about the mysteries surrounding the hut. See the villagers in their day to day occupations. Travel back to Korhogo and visit the Wood Carvers in the neighbourhood called Quartier Koko. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Niofouin:** It is a typical Sénoufo village whose huts are made of banco. It is a village that reflects the tranquillity and the only sound you will hear is the pounding of the millet. It is part of the UNESCO heritage thanks to this majestic sacred hut that stands in the centre of the village. Magnificent centennial room of which only the initiates have the right of entry. Only the roof is "refurbished" regularly, according to an ancestral technique.

**Day 10: Korhogo – Boundiali**

Drive today approximatively 1 hour and 30mn to Boundiali. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and check in before going on a visit to the local artisans. In the afternoon, visit the city and discover its history before enjoying a performance of local dances and cultures. The evening is at leisure. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Boundiali:** Is a town in northern Ivory Coast and is populated mainly by Malinkés and Sénoufos. The town is known for the Ngoron dance, traditional dance only performed by virgin girls; the locals are mostly potters, weavers and sculptors.

**Day 11: Boundiali - Kong**

Make your way to Kong for a visit to the beautiful baked mud mosque of Kong. In the afternoon, walk around the city of Kong and learn more about its history. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Mud Mosque of Kong:** The mosque in Kong is the most fascinating mosque of the country. Built of mud, it displays a number of conical columns with wooden beams protruding out of them. The architecture is called 'Sudanic'. The mosque in Kong is from the early 1900s but designed after an original mosque built on the spot in 1740.

**Day 12: Kong – Dabakala – Bouaké**

Bid farewell to Kong and journey approximatively 4 hours to Bouaké. Stop on route for lunch. On arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

**Day 13: Bouaké – Abidjan**

Early this morning, drive more than 4 hours back to Abidjan. Arrive in afternoon in Abidjan, the rest of the day is at leisure. In the evening, watch a dance show at the Village Kiyi-M'Bock. *BLD*

**Destination Information:**

**Village Kiyi-M'Bock:** Founded in 1985 by the Cameroonian artist Werewere Liking, the Village Ki-Yi M'Bock (signifying "ultimate knowledge" in Liking's native Bassa language) is one of the most important cultural villages in the bustling capital of Côte d'Ivoire. Today the Ki-Yi is a co-operative "village", a training centre within the heart of Abidjan and home to some fifty-odd resident artists of diverse traditions, ages, and origins: dancers, actors, puppeteers, sculptors, painters, costume designers, sound and light technicians, and musicians, among others.

**Day 14: Depart Abidjan**

Enjoy the morning at leisure relaxing or visit one of the many art markets of the metropole. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight home. *BL*