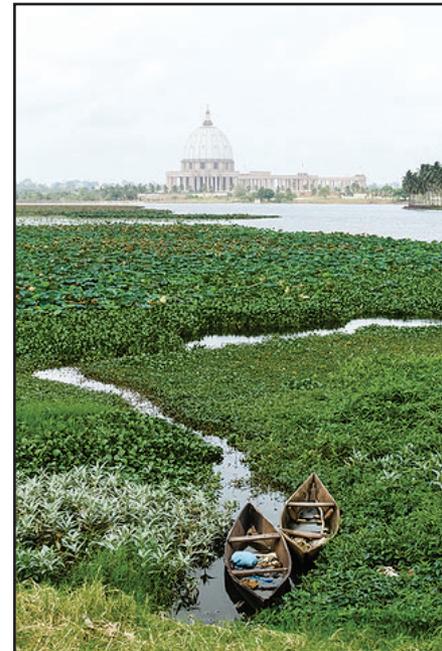




Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Known As The Ivory Coast



- Côte d'Ivoire is the official name, but the country is also known as the Ivory Coast. It is in western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea, is a little larger than New Mexico. The country consists of a coastal strip in the south, dense forests in the interior, and savannas in the north.
- The capital is Yamoussoukro.
- Côte d'Ivoire was originally divided into several states and kingdoms before becoming a colony of France in 1893. It gained independence on August 7, 1960.
- The population is over 25 million people!
- The currency is the West African CFA Franc.
- Weather in Côte d'Ivoire is very warm, and there are two rainy seasons and a dry season. The majority of rain falls between May and July.
- The most popular sport is football (soccer). The national team has played and qualified for several World Cups. Rugby and basketball are also popular.
- Most people in Côte d'Ivoire practice Islam, but Christianity and other religions are also practiced.
- The official language is French. There are many native languages spoken including Baoulé, Dioula, Dan, Anyin and Cebaara Senufo.
- The government is a republic, and the president has a lot of executive power.
- The largest city is the port city of Abidjan. It has the largest population of almost 5 million people!
- Deforestation is becoming a problem in Côte d'Ivoire. A lot of the forest is threatened by the construction of farms.
- The Ivory Coast is among the world's largest producers of cocoa, coffee beans and palm oil. Agriculture is a major industry there.

- Basilica of Our Lady of Peace (at right) in Ivory Coast's capital Yamoussoukro is the largest church building in the world.
- Popular foods in Côte d'Ivoire include aloko (a banana fried in palm oil) and Mafé which is meat in a peanut sauce. Chicken is commonly used, and various stews are a staple.
- Ivorian music mixes European and African styles, and is a major part of their culture. Storytellers are often accompanied by music and dancing is also popular.
- The country exports rice, wheat, plastic materials, resins, agricultural chemicals and oil and gas equipment. The major imports include cocoa and cocoa products, coffee, rubber and petroleum.

