

Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire

(Ivory Coast)

Sunday, March 26, 2023

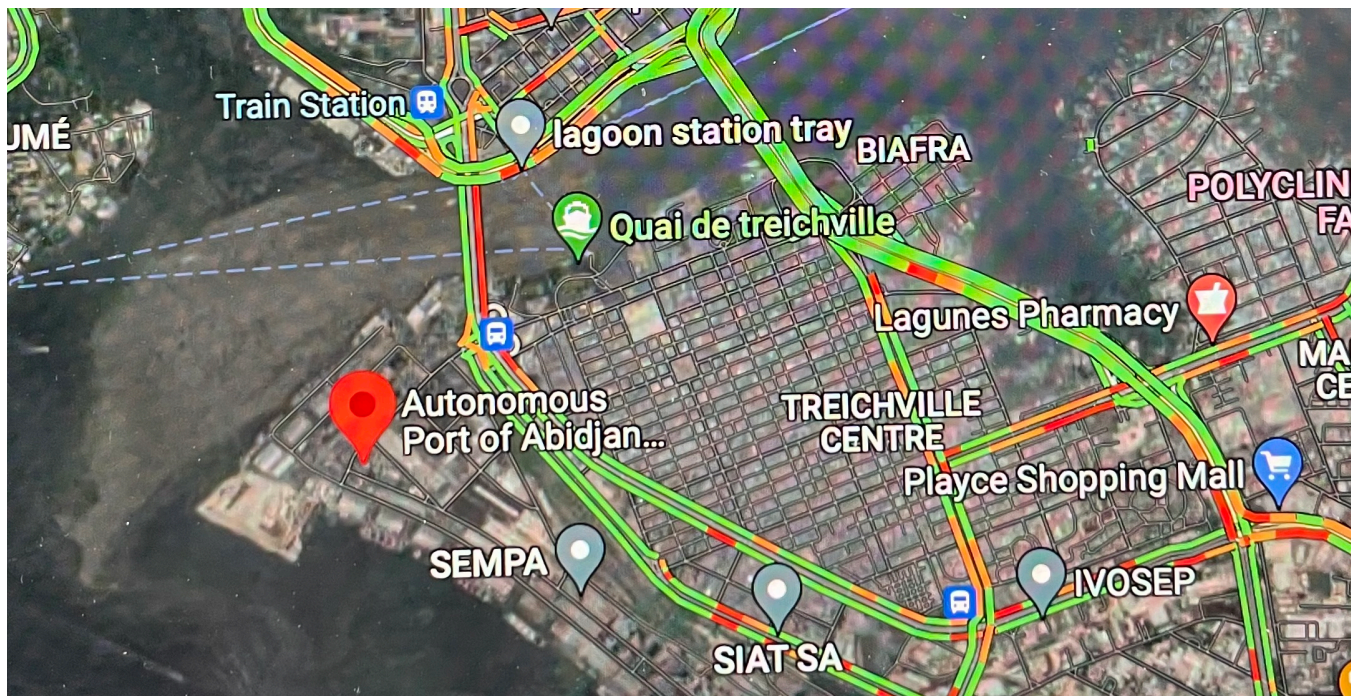
8- 5 pm

Language is French and about 60 native dialects

Currency is CFA which is backed by the French treasury and is pegged to the Euro, current exchange rate is 1 CFA = .0016 USD

Euros are accepted in most places (1 Euro = 1.04 USD)

1 Euro = 655.957 CFA (fixed)



Sites to See

St. Paul's Cathedral, designed by Aldo Spirito (Italian) one of largest cathedrals in World. It is unique and modern and cost \$12 million.

Musee des Civilisations de Cote d'Ivoire has 10,000 works. Good ethnographic and historic collections.

Treichville Open Air market and Marche de Treichville (2 story with clothes and handicrafts on 2nd story, food, etc on 1st) - 2 markets in Treichville which is a low income area. Best to go with someone who knows area. Also Centre Artisanal de la Ville d'Abidjan (CAVA) is in Treichville.

Grande Mosque Du Plateau is one of the largest Muslim religious sites in the country It is unfinished, but open. Only men may enter the mosque. It has a big blue dome. Over 42 percent of population is muslim.

Jardin botanique de Bingerville

Interesting Facts

The median age in Cote d'Ivoire is 18.5 years

Yamoussoukro is the Political capital. Abidjan is the Economic capital

March is the end of dry/ beginning of rainy season (120 mm)

Cote d'Ivoire is among the largest producers of coffee, cocoa beans and palm oil. Oil was discovered in 2012 and has helped the economy. Main imports are food, manufactured consumer goods, heavy machinery, fuel and transport equipment.

Abidjan is the city with the third biggest French speaking population anywhere in the world and is also the fourth most populous city in Africa with 4.7 million people. There are numerous Lebanese and Vietnamese restaurants in Abidjan.

Opt for bottled water

US Dept of State has a travel advisory out for Cote d'Ivories for violent crime such as car jacking and robbery. Travel outside Abidjan is not recommended after dark. There are ongoing political tensions, demonstrations and protests which could become violent especially near

borders. Do not display signs of wealth and be extra vigilant when visiting banks or atms. Do not physically resist any robbery attempt.

Tipping guidelines - 500 to 2000 cfa at restaurants, taxi drivers do not expect to be tipped.

The CIA.gov Factbook available on line has lots of information on history, etc. Demographic profile states 60 % of population is under 25 and contraception use is under 20 %. There are high rates of adolescent pregnancy and HIV/AIDS.

There is a lot of unemployment and income disparity. Wealthy housing areas are quite nice, eg in Cocody.

Good to Know

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted at major supermarkets and hotels, not smaller establishments, such as restaurants.

Taxis are plentiful and inexpensive, rates are agreed to prior to getting into taxi, and drivers rarely speak english, but you can have destination on phone, or say it in French. Average cost for 15-20 minute trip about 2000 cfa. Drivers may not have change.

Photographing military and Government installations is not allowed in Cote d'Ivoire.

Tours on Trip Advisor

Grand Bassam City tour & pottery workshop - pickup from some hotels. 4 hrs \$62.81 limited to 15 participants

Several walking tours

Visit Cocoa and Rubber Plantation - with lunch, zipline, mud bath, hotel pickup, 4 hrs \$271.34

Decouverte Bini Lagune - 7 km hike on edge of Lagoon, possible kayak tour, 4-5 hrs \$100.53

HAL Tours

1. A taste of Ivorian cuisine & Culture - drive to Plateau, see Cathedral, drive to Cocody, see dance performance, lunch, go to market in Treichville. 6 hrs \$209.95
2. Abidjan and the Botanical gardens of Bingerville - walk through market, have lunch, drive around Cocody, go to gardens, stop at boys orphanage in former Governor's house, return via Le Plateau passing St. Paul's Cathedral. 6 hrs \$279.95
3. Akwaba (welcome) Abidjan - Drive to Le Plateau, visit Le Musee des Civilisation, drive to Cocody, lunch, walk through market. 6 hrs \$199.95
4. Banco National Park - hike in park, drive through Cocody, lunch, go to market 6 hrs \$219.95
5. To Colonial Grand Bassam - a UNESCO world heritage site. Visit Maison des Artistes cooperative of crafts, lunch, guided tour of National Costume museum. 6 hrs \$209.95

6. Ivorian Cocoa Farm & Factory - drive to farm, drive to Cocody, lunch, back to ship 6 hrs \$279.95