



Côte d'Ivoire

📍 225 / POP 21.9 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Aboussouan (p141)
- ➔ Mille Maquis (p139)
- ➔ Des Gateaux et Du Pain (p141)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ La Licorne (p139)
- ➔ Beneath the forest canopy, Parc National de Tai (p147)
- ➔ Le Wafou (p139)

Why Go?

Blighted by recent conflict but bejewelled by beaches and rainforests, it would be a shame to sidestep Cote d'Ivoire because of its baggage.

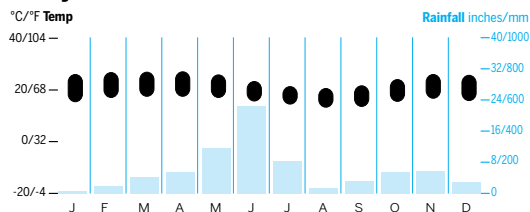
Cote d'Ivoire is a stunner, shingled with starfish-studded sands, and forest roads so orange they resemble strips of bronzing powder.

In the south, the Parc National de Taï hides secrets, species and nut-cracking chimps under the boughs of its trees, while the peaks and valleys of Man offer a highland climate, fresh air and local art.

The beach resorts of low-key Assinie and arty Grand Bassam were made for weekend retreats from Abidjan, the capital in all but name, where lagoons wind their way between skyscrapers and cathedral spires pierce the blue heavens.

When to Go

Abidjan



May–Jul Storms to rival those in Oct–Nov; be prepared for buckets of rain and lightning.

Jun–Oct Wet in the north but humid with bursts of rain in the south. Temperatures about 28°C.

Dec–Feb Prime beach season, with temperatures hitting 30°C and not a cloud in the sky.

ABIDJAN

POP 4.5 MILLION

Côte d'Ivoire's economic engine is strapped between lagoons and waterways, overlooking the crested waves of the Atlantic. At first glimpse, you wonder if these shiny scrapers can really be in West Africa.

Although Abidjan took a beating during the 2011 crisis, the engine rattled on, and

new bars, bistros and hotels are opening regularly; this is, after all, one of Africa's sleekest party cities.

Sights

Abidjan gets props for its breathtaking skyline. It all started with **La Pyramide** (Map p142; cnr Ave Franchet d'Espèrey & Blvd Botreau-Roussel), by the Italian architect Olivieri.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE
ABIDJAN



Côte d'Ivoire Highlights

1 Taking your taste buds to *poisson braisé* heaven then swaying to the sweet sounds of *coupé-decalé* in the shadow of the stunning skyline in **Abidjan** (p138).

2 Tapping into Côte d'Ivoire's artistic vibe, visiting galleries and the

quirky beachfront bistros of **Grand Bassam** (p143).

3 Lazing in a *pirogue*, watching surfers slide to shore and tucking into fresh seafood under the stars of **Assinie** (p146).

4 Hiking to the point where three West African countries converge and feasting upon the green fields below, home to mask and jewellery makers, in **Man** (p147).

5 Exploring the dense **Parc National de Taï** (p147), home to a colony of nut-cracking chimps.