

Côte d'Ivoire

Information for applicants

Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire is a multi-ethnic state with some 26 million residents and over 60 ethnic groups. Covering an area of 322,463 km² and with a coastline stretching for a little more than 500 km, Côte d'Ivoire is one of the larger states on West Africa's Atlantic coast and nearly as big as Germany. The capital and seat of government is Yamoussoukro, with a population of approximately 300,000; Abidjan, however, is the economic centre and by far the country's largest city, with around 4.5 million inhabitants. The official language is French.

Climate and sights

Côte d'Ivoire's geographical latitude close to the equator (between 4°N and approximately 10°N) means that the entire country lies within the tropical climate zone. The climate is characterised by changing levels of humidity over the course of the year (alternating between rainy and dry seasons). The West African monsoon controls the amount of rainfall along the coast by way of humid air masses that bring rain to these areas almost all year long, whereas further north it is responsible for the rainy season in summer. The climate in coastal areas is therefore humid and tropical, and becomes drier towards the north.

Côte d'Ivoire's hospitality, diversity and geographical variety make it a popular destination in West Africa. The area around Abidjan in particular provides a number of opportunities for excursions, with something to suit everyone: whether it be culture, discoveries of an ethnological, artisanal or agrarian nature, national parks, beaches, lagoon walks or gastronomic delights, there is no shortage of options to choose from.

Medical care

Medical care in inland areas cannot be compared with Europe and is often beset with technical, equipment-related and/or hygiene problems. In Abidjan, medical care is fairly good compared to other countries in West Africa. For instance, there are a number of good private clinics with a wide range of specialists where emergency operations can also be carried out. As a basic principle, any non-essential operations should be carried out in Germany. Medical bills often need to be paid in advance (even in emergencies). Unless individuals are reliant on specific medication, it is not necessary to bring more medicine than you would normally keep at home in Germany. Pharmacies in Côte d'Ivoire have a good range of all of the major standard medicines, which have often been imported from France.

Anyone wishing to enter the country must be vaccinated against yellow fever.

Accommodation and quality of life

In Abidjan, flats and houses can be rented for between EUR 500 and EUR 3,000. There are many real estate agents that can help in finding somewhere to live. The most popular residential districts for field staff are Riviera, Cocody, Deux-Plateaux and Vallon.

A wide range of leisure activities are available thanks to sports clubs, the Goethe-Institut, concerts, cultural institutions and arts and crafts centres.

Shopping and services

All everyday goods are readily available in Abidjan. The range of shopping outlets includes everything from luxury stores and supermarkets to shopping centres

and basic markets. Local markets in the different districts and communes of Abidjan are favourably priced and varied.

Accompanying partners and children

Exit visas:

1. Must be applied for via the passport and visa office in Berlin
2. Visas can be obtained at the airport in Abidjan if applications have been made beforehand online at <http://snedai.com/e-visa/> (at least 48 hours before travelling)
3. Visa applications may be made via the consular section of the Ivorian Embassy in Berlin
<https://snedai.com/visaenambassade/>

Residence visas and cartes spéciales (special permits) must be applied for via the GIZ Office in Abidjan following arrival in the country.

Work permits for accompanying partners:

Consultant and appraiser contracts do not require a work permit and are straightforward to process.

Accompanying partners wishing to obtain a local employment contract must register with the Agence Emploi Jeunes in order to apply for a work permit.

Schools/kindergartens:

In Abidjan, there is a French secondary school, an American school, several primary schools, kindergartens and child day care centres.

There are lots of opportunities to pursue extracurricular activities, including creative workshops as well as riding schools, tennis courts, squash courts and swimming baths for those interested in sport.

Domestic staff (nannies, cooks, drivers) are easy to find.

Special features

The welcome brochure for staff travelling to Côte d'Ivoire on assignment is available from the GIZ Office in Abidjan. This contains general information as well as information regarding the security situation and medical care.

Useful links

[https://www.auswaertiges-
amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/cotedivoire-node](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/cotedivoire-node)

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/346.html>

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