

Ivory Coast

Country name in English (PCGN recommended name)	Ivory Coast ¹
State title in English	Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Country name in official language	Côte d'Ivoire
State title in official language	République de Côte d'Ivoire
Name of citizen	Citizen of the Ivory Coast (sometimes Ivorian)
Official languages	French (<i>fra</i>) ²
Script	Roman
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	(CI/CIV)
Capital	Yamoussoukro ³
Population/Area	29.39 million ⁴ / 322,460 km ²

Introduction

Situated along the southern coast of west Africa, Ivory Coast shares borders with Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana and has a coastline on the Gulf of Guinea. During the 15th and 16th centuries, French and Portuguese merchant-explorers divided the west coast of Africa into four distinct “coasts” reflecting the prominent trade routes in the region. Consequently, this particular stretch of the west coast became known as “Ivory Coast”. A French protectorate since 1842, the country became part of French West Africa from 1904 until it achieved independence from France in 1960.

Geographical names policy

Geographical names in Ivory Coast are predominantly written in a French style, although they may originate from one of the many local languages spoken within the country. These names, written in Roman script, should be taken from official sources where possible, and all diacritical marks should be retained⁵. In the absence of official Ivory Coast mapping, maps produced by the French *Institute national de l'information géographique et forestière* (IGN) are a reliable source of geographical names.

¹ Ivory Coast is the usual country name in the English language and can be used for internal HMG and UK domestic purposes. Côte d'Ivoire should be used for all correspondence and relations with the country itself. Côte d'Ivoire should also be used in correspondence with international organizations, such as the United Nations.

² ISO 639-3 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

³ Abidjan remains the economic centre, and some sources indicate that a dual capital status is official.

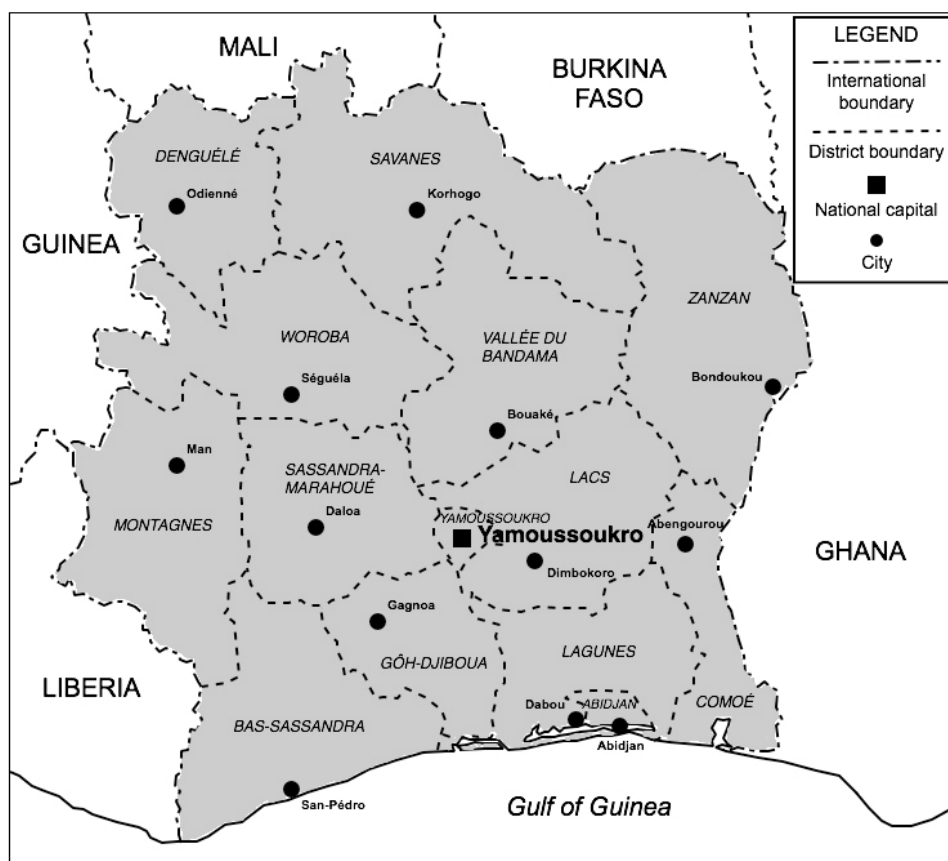
⁴ <https://cotedivoire.opendataforafrica.org> 2021 data.

⁵ Names found written entirely in upper case may not include diacritics.

Languages

French is the official language⁶ and *lingua franca* of Ivory Coast. Ethnologue⁷ lists 76 living languages for Ivory Coast including Baoulé (*bci*), Dioula (*dju*), Dan (*dñj*), Anyin (*any*) and Senari (*sef*). These local languages are part of the Niger-Congo language family.

Map of Ivory Coast



Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings⁸):

French contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
À	00C0	à	00E0
Â	00C2	â	00E2
Ç	00C7	ç	00E7
È	00C8	è	00E8

⁶ <https://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/Cote%20D'Ivoire%20Constitution.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.ethnologue.com/country/CI>.

⁸ See www.unicode.org

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
É	00C9	é	00E9
Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Ë	00CB	ë	00EB
Î	00CE	î	00EE
Ï	00CF	ï	00EF
Ô	00D4	ô	00F4
Œ	0152	œ	0153
Ù	00D9	ù	00F9
Û	00DB	û	00FB
Ü	00DC	ü	00FC
Ÿ ⁹	0178	ÿ	00FF

Administrative structure

In September 2011, a decentralization programme established 12 districts and 2 autonomous districts (centred around Abidjan and Yamoussoukro) as the 1st-order administrative divisions (ADM1) of Ivory Coast. In June 2021, the 12 districts also became autonomous districts (*fra: district autonome*). The 12 newly designated autonomous districts are subdivided into 31 regions (*fra: région*) at 2nd-order administrative level (ADM2), 95 departments (*fra: département*) at 3rd-order administrative level (ADM3) and 498 sub-prefectures (*fra: sous-préfecture*) at 4th-order administrative level (ADM4).

Autonomous district (ADM1)	ISO 3166-2 code	District centre (PPLA)	Region (ADM2)	Region centre (PPLA2)
Abidjan	CI-AB	Abidjan (05° 18' 35" N, 004° 00' 46" W)	<i>Subdivided into 3 sub-prefectures</i>	-
Bas-Sassandra	CI-BS	San-Pédro (04° 44' 55" N, 006° 38' 11" W)	Gbôklé	Sassandra 04° 57'N, 006° 05'W
			Nawa	Soubré 05° 47'N, 006° 36'W
			San-Pédro	San-Pedro 04° 45'N, 006° 38'W
Comoé	CI-CM	Abengourou (06° 43' 47" N, 003° 29' 47" W)	Indénié-Djuablin	Abengourou 06° 44'N, 003° 30'W
			Sud-Comoé	Aboisso 05° 28'N, 003° 12'W
Denguélé	CI-DN	Odienné (09° 30' 18" N, 007° 33' 52" W)	Folon	Minignan 10° 00'N, 007° 50'W
			Kabadougou	Odienné 09° 30'N, 007° 34'W
Gôh-Djiboua	CI-GD	Gagnoa (06° 07' 55" N, 005° 57' 02" W)	Gôh	Gagnoa 06° 08'N, 005° 57'W
			Lôh-Djiboua	Divo 05° 50'N, 005° 21'W

⁹ Rarely encountered

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Autonomous district (ADM1)	ISO 3166-2 code	District centre (PPLA)	Region (ADM2)	Region centre (PPLA2)
Lacs	CI-LC	Dimbokro (06° 38' 48" N, 004° 42' 19" W)	Bélier	Yamoussoukro 06° 49' N, 005° 17' W
			Iffou	Daoukro 07° 04' N, 003° 58' W
			N'zi	Dimbokro 06° 39' N, 004° 42' W
			Moronou	Bongouanou 06° 39' N, 04° 12' W
Lagunes	CI-LG	Dabou (05° 19' 32" N, 004° 22' 37" W)	Agnéby-Tiassa	Agboville 05° 56' N, 004° 13' W
			Grands-Ponts	Dabou 05° 20' N, 004° 23' W
			La Mé	Adzopé 06° 06' N, 003° 52' W
Montagnes	CI-MG	Man (07° 24' 45" N, 007° 33' 14" W)	Cavally	Guiglo 06° 33' N, 007° 30' W
			Guémon	Duékoué 06° 45' N, 007° 21' W
			Tonkpi	Man 07° 25' N, 007° 33' W
Sassandra-Marahoué	CI-SM	Daloa (06° 52' 38" N, 006° 27' 01" W)	Haut-Sassandra	Daloa 06° 53' N, 006° 27' W
			Marahoué	Bouaflé 06° 59' N, 005° 45' W
Savanes	CI-SV	Korhogo (09° 27' 29" N, 005° 37' 47" W)	Bagoué	Boundiali 09° 31' N, 006° 29' W
			Poro	Korhogo 09° 27' N, 005° 38' W
			Tchologo	Ferkessedougou 09° 36' N, 005° 12' W
Vallée du Bandama	CI-VB	Bouaké (07° 41' 38" N, 005° 01' 49" W)	Gbêkè	Bouaké 07° 42' N, 005° 02' W
			Hambol	Katiola 08° 08' N, 005° 06' W
Woroba	CI-WR	Séguéla (07° 57' 40" N, 006° 40' 23" W)	Béré	Mankono 08° 04' N, 006° 11' W
			Bafing	Touba 08° 17' N, 007° 41' W
			Worodougou	Séguéla 07° 58' N, 006° 40' W
Yamoussoukro	CI-YM	Yamoussoukro ¹⁰ (06° 49' 14" N, 005° 16' 36" W)	Subdivided into 2 departments and 4 sub-prefectures	
Zanzan	CI-ZZ	Bondoukou (08° 02' 25" N, 002° 48' 00" W)	Bounkani	Bouna 09° 16' N, 003° 00' W
			Gontougo	Bondoukou 08° 02' N, 002° 48' W

¹⁰ Yamoussoukro is the capital city of Ivory Coast. Abidjan remains the economic centre, and some sources indicate that a dual capital status is official.

Other significant locations

PCGN Approved name	Other names	Feature Type	Location
Cavally	Cavalla (Liberia)	River	04°21'56"N 07°31'46"W
Bandama	Lahou, Lahu	River	05°08'32"N 04°58'25"W
Parc national de la Comoé	Comoé National Park	National Park	09°10'N 03° 46'W
Lac de Kossou		Lake	07°14'38"N 05° 39' 55"W
Lac de Buyo		Lake	06°14'33"N 07° 02'42"W
Lac d'Ayamé		Lake	05°40'00"N 03° 15'00"W
Mont Nimba	Mont Richard-Molard	Ivory Coast's highest mountain (1752m)	07°37'00"N 08°25'00"W
Gulf of Guinea		Gulf	00°00'N 00°00'E

Sources

- BBC country profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13287216>
- Institut National de la Statistique: <https://www.ins.ci/> (NB Different divisions of the country are used for statistical purposes)
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cote-divoire/>
- Côte d'Ivoire Government Portal: <https://www.gouv.ci/Main2.php>
- Ethnologue: <https://www.ethnologue.com/>
- FCDO Geographical Names Index: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geographical-names-and-information>
- French *Institute national de l'information géographique et forestière* (IGN): <https://www.ign.fr/>
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui>
- FCDO Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cote-d-ivoire>
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- Unicode www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names Geographic Names Server: [GNS Search & Download WebApp \(nga.mil\)](https://www.nga.mil/GNS/Search/Download)

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