



Man Mask Festival

IVORY COAST



11 days

02 - 12 July 2025

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The verdant **Man**, 'city of 18 mountains', and its mask festival
- **Yacouba villages** with thatched and mud huts and masks on stilts
- **Dan villages** and **liana bridges** created by forest spirits
- **Wé villages**, acrobatic dances and impressive **Gueré masks**
- The imposing **Yamoussoukro Basilica**, the largest Christian building of the World
- The evolutions of the **Goly masks of the Baulé**
- The **thaumaturgic komian dances** and the **realm of the Agni Indenié**
- **Abidjan** the cosmopolitan, with its skyline over the Ebré Lagoon
- The colonial decadence of **Grand Bassam** and its palm-fringed beach



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Day 1: Wednesday 02 July

Outward flight/Abidjan (ABJ)

Flight to Abidjan. On arrival, transfer to Hotel Onomo or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 2: Thursday 03 July

Abidjan (ABJ)/Domestic Flight/Korhogo (HGO)

Breakfast at the hotel. Assistance with the exchange of euros and the possible purchase of a local phone card. Free morning. Transfer to the airport for the 13h00 Air Cote d'Ivoire flight to Man (MJC). On arrival (scheduled for 14h15), meet the Kanaga Africa Tours staff and settle in at Hotel Les Cascades or similar. In the afternoon we'll visit MAN: the sacred monkey forest of Gbepleu, the Zadepleu waterfall, red aloa wood handicrafts, Dan mask boutiques... Overnight stay in a hotel in double rooms with services.

Day 3: Saturday 04 July

Man/Yacouba Villages/Man (Festival)

After breakfast, depart in a northerly direction towards TOUBA, the heart of PAYS YACOUBA. We visit the traditional villages, with their characteristic mud huts with thatched roofs, and witness the YACOUBA MASKS coming out of the sacred forest, including the one on stilts Gue Gblen, characteristic for its acrobatic qualities. Lunch in a restaurant and return to Man. In the afternoon we will attend events, concerts and mask performances during the FESTIVAL DES 18 MONTAGNES. Overnight stay in a hotel in double rooms with services.



Man



Zadepleu Waterfall



Ceremony in a Yacouba village



Yacouba Mask



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Day 4: Saturday 05 July

Man/Dan Villages/Man (Festival)

After breakfast, depart for DANANE towards the border with Liberia, a region inhabited by the DAN and characterised by its liana bridges over the Bandama River, said to have been created by forest spirits. Return to MAN and lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, we attend events, concerts and mask performances during the FESTIVAL. Overnight stay in a hotel in double rooms with services.



Bridge of lianas

Day 5: Sunday 06 July

Man/We Villages/Man (Festival)

After breakfast, we depart FACOBLY*, where in a small WE' VILLAGE we can watch an acrobatic performance by the 'jongleurs de l'Ouest', and an exit of the WE' MASKS from the sacred forest. Return to Man and lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, we will attend the events, concerts and mask performances during the final evening of the FESTIVAL. Overnight stay in a hotel in double rooms with services.



Jongleur de l'Ouest

**Should jongleurs/facobly masks be guests at the festival, this excursion will not be possible and visits will be made on Man.*

Day 6: Monday 07 July

Man/Yamoussoukro

After breakfast, departure for the capital of the country, stopping en route at a CACAO PLANTATION, where we will discover the secrets of the supply chain of the country's main export product. Lunch box. Afternoon arrival in YAMOOUSSOUKRO, where we can watch the feeding of the sacred caimans in front of the presidential palace. Accommodation at the Hotel des Parlementaires or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Gueré Mask

Day 6: Tuesday 08 July

Yamoussoukro/Baoulé villages/Yamoussoukro

After breakfast we depart for a BAOULÉ VILLAGE where we can admire the work of the kita weavers and participate in the GOLY MASK DANCE. Return to YAMOOUSSOUKRO (also known as "Yakro") for lunch in a restaurant. In the early afternoon we visit the basilica of Notre Dame de la Paix, the largest Christian religious building in the world, modelled on St Peter's in Rome and strongly desired by Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Overnight stay in a hotel in a double room with services.



Goly mask of the Baoulé



Yamoussoukro Basilica



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Day 8: Wednesday 09 July

Yamoussoukro/Abengourou

After breakfast, we depart for ANIASSUE', the site of a school for animist priestesses, known as komian. Here we will meet the feticheuses, guardians of ancestral divinities, and witness the thaumaturgic dances they perform by sprinkling their bodies with kaolin. Continuation to Abengourou, accommodation at Hotel Le Royaume or similar, lunch. In the afternoon, visit the royal palace and the museum of the Agni Indenié, people of Akan stock who emigrated from Ghana in the 17th century because of the expansionist aims of the Ashanti empire. We meet some dignitaries dressed in traditional attire, bringing them bottles of gin as gifts, and the king if available. Overnight stay in a hotel in double rooms with services.



Komian priestesses



Young komian

Day 9: Thursday 10 July

Abengourou/Abidjan/Grand Bassam

Breakfast and departure for ABIDJAN, the chaotic and cosmopolitan economic centre of the country, built on a series of islands on the Ebrié lagoon connected by bridges. City tour of the Plateau district including the Cathedral, designed by Italian architect Aldo Spirito, and the ethnographic museum with its enviable collection of masks. Lunch in a restaurant and continue along the coast to GRAND BASSAM, former colonial capital at the time of the French occupation, a UNESCO heritage site. Accommodation at the Hotel Etoile du Sud or similar and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



Dignitary Agni

Day 10: Friday 11 July

Grand Bassam/Abidjan

Breakfast and visit to GRAND BASSAM: we stroll through the sleepy streets of the quartier de France, dotted with decadent vestiges such as the palace of Governor Binger's palace, which houses the costume museum, the old post office and customs house. Time at leisure for shopping in craft boutiques (masks, ceramics, paintings, ...). Lunch in a maquis on the lagoon. Transfer to Abidjan, rooms in day use on request. Transfer to the airport. End of services.



Grand Bassam

Day 11: Saturday 12 July

Abidjan (ABJ)/Return Flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



Handicrafts in Grand Bassam



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**Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 3/max. 16 pax)**

2,390 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,290
for booking before 02/04/2025**

**in promotion at € 2,190
for booking before 02/01/2025**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **320 €**
- Extra day in Grand Bassam: **on request**
- Day use in Abidjan: **on request**
- Visa service: **130 €/passport**

The fee includes:

- French/English speaking guide (up to 4 pax);
- English speaking tour leader (from 5 pax);
- French-speaking local guides where necessary;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Participation in the Festival of Man;
- All transfers by minibus or 4x4 (maximum 4 clients/car) depending on group size, including driver, fuel and tolls;
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary;
- 9 nights in a double room as mentioned in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- The visa for the Ivory Coast;
- Cancellation/health/baggage insurance;
- Air flights (international and domestic);
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Meals not included in the itinerary;
- Any photo/video authorisations for the Festival;
- Possible day use in Abidjan;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'Supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in "the fee includes".

**DOMESTIC FLIGHT TO BE BOOKED: AIR COTE IVOIRE
03/07/25, Flight HF59: Abidjan ABJ 13h00 - 14h15 Man (MJC)**

** In the unlikely event that the Man festival may be cancelled, we reserve the right to propose additional visits and activities in the region as an alternative.*