



Tribes, masks and the Abissa festival

IVORY COAST



11 days

23 October - 02 November 2025

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- **Senoufo** ancestral traditions and craft villages around **Korhogo**
- The savannahs of the **Malinké** and **Peulh** farmers in **Boundiali** and **Odienné**
- The thatched and mud villages, the **Yacouba** and **Wé** masks, the **Dan** liana bridges
- The impressive **Yamoussoukro** basilica and the evolutions of the Goly mask of the **Baulé**
- **Abidjan** the cosmopolitan, with its skyline over the Ebré Lagoon
- The colonial decadence of **Grand Bassam** and its palm-fringed beach
- The **Abissa festival***, celebrations of the N'zima Kotoko



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Thursday 23 October

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: Friday 24 October

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

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for the Air Cote d'Ivoire flight to Korhogo (HGO). On arrival meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff and accommodation at Hotel La Rose Blanche or similar. Assistance for the exchange of euros and for the possible purchase of a local phone card. We then visit the Koko woodcarvers' quarter, the women's cooperative that makes shea butter, and the craft market with the famous canvases that also inspired Pablo Picasso. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 3: Saturday 25 October

Korhogo/Pays Senoufo/Korogho

After breakfast, the whole day is dedicated to visiting PAYS SENOUFO in the surroundings of KORHOGO: the animist sanctuary of the Shienlow stone, where the faithful regularly perform animal sacrifices, the granite artisanal mines, the blacksmiths' village of KONI, where the art of the forgerons, masters of fire, is perpetuated. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the village of KAPELE, where hand-painted terracotta beads are made by craftsmen to produce jewellery, and WARANIENE', famous for its weavers. Here we will witness the BOLOYE DANCE, also known as the 'panther dance', which is part of the initiation rituals of the Poro of the Senoufo ethnic group. Overnight stay at the hotel.



Korhogo Mosque



Senoufo canvas



'Pearls' of Kapele



Dance " of the panther " Boloeye



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Day 4: Sunday 26 October

Korhogo/Boundiali/Odienne

After breakfast, visit NIOFOINS, a typical village with its tapered Senoufo granaries, to admire its conical, pointed fetish houses, up to 5 metres high. Departure for BOUNDIALI, where in a village we will witness the NGORO dance, part of the young girls' initiations. Lunch in a restaurant. This is followed by a visit to a PEULH VILLAGE, an ethnic group of nomadic herdsman of Nilotic origin present throughout the Sahél, characterised by their wide-brimmed hats and the tattooing on the lips of married women. Continuation to ODIENNE, accommodation at the Hotel des Frontieres or similar, overnight stay in a double room with services.



Niofoins' House of Fetishes



Ngoro Dance

Day 5: Monday 27 October

Odienne/Touba/Man

Breakfast and transfer to a MANDING VILLAGE, where we will attend a mask release and traditional warrior dances. Afterwards, departure in a southerly direction to TOUBA, the heart of PAYS YACOUBA, lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, in a traditional village, we will witness the YACOUBA MASKS coming out of the sacred forest, including the one on stilts Gue Gblen, characteristic for its acrobatic qualities. Continuation to Man, accommodation at Hotel Les Cascades or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Peulh Woman

Day 6: Tuesday 28 October

Man/Danane/Man

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 depart for FACOBLY, where in a small VILLAGE WE' will be able to watch an acrobatic performance by the 'jongleurs de l'Ouest', and an exit of the GUERE' MASKS from the sacred forest. Return to Man and overnight at the hotel.



Yacouba Mask



Bridge of lianas



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Day 7: Wednesday 29 October

Man/Daloa/Yamoussoukro

After breakfast transfer to Daloa, lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, we continue to the capital, stopping en route at a cocoa plantation, where we learn the secrets of the country's main export product. Arrival in Yamoussoukro where we can watch the feeding of the sacred caimans in front of the presidential palace (weather permitting). Accommodation at the Hotel President or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Goly masks

Day 8: Thursday 30 October

Yamoussoukro/Abidjan

After breakfast we depart for a VILLAGE BAOULE' where we can admire the work of the kita weavers and participate in the GOLY MASK DANCE. Return to YAMO USSOUKRO (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. Continuation to Abidjan, accommodation at the Grand Hotel or similar and overnight in a double room with services.



Yamoussoukro Cathedral

Day 9: Friday 31 October

Abidjan/Grand Bassam (Abissa)

After breakfast, visit ABIDJAN, the chaotic and cosmopolitan economic centre of the country, characterised by being 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 continuation along the coast to GRAND BASSAM, afternoon dedicated to the participation in the ABISSA* FESTIVAL of the people N'zima Kotoko, celebrations in honour of King Tanoé Amon, with songs, dances and parades in the traditional dress of this ethnic group of Akan origin. Accommodation at the Hotel Etoile du Sud or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Abidjan



Abissa Festival



Komian body decorations



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Day 10: Saturday 01 November

Grand Bassam (Abissa)/Abidjan

After breakfast, visit GRAND BASSAM, the former colonial capital at the time of the French occupation, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. 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 that we will visit, and the old post office and customs house. Participate in the apotheosis of the ABISSA* FESTIVAL, the king's exit from the royal palace on a canopy from which he distributes gifts and blessings to the population. Lunch in a maquis on the lagoon. Time at leisure for shopping in craft boutiques (masks, ceramics, paintings, ...). Transfer to Abidjan, some rooms in day use at the Hotel Onomo or similar. Transfer to the airport, end of services.



Colonial buildings in the quartier de France



Grand Bassam Beach

Day 11: Sunday 02 November

Abidjan (ABJ)/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



Photo by I. Fornasiero



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

2,490 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,390
for booking before 23/07/2025**

**in promotion at € 2,290
for booking before 23/04/2025**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **330 €**
- Day use in single occupancy: **on request**
- Pre-extension in Kong: **on request**
- Extra day in Grand Bassam: **on request**
- Visa service: **130 €/passport**

The fee includes:

- French/English speaking guide (up to 5 pax);
- English speaking tour leader (from 6 pax);
- French-speaking local guides where necessary;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- 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;
- Day use in Abidjan (1 per 4 participants).

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;
- 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

24/10/25, flight HF44: Abidjan (ABJ) 11h15 - Korhogo 12h35 (HGO)

** In the unlikely event that the festival can be cancelled, we reserve the right to propose, as an alternative, participation in a ceremony by the Komian priestesses, custodians of the tradition of the great Akan ethnic group.*