

# Ivory Coast-Guinea Conakry - Guinea Bissau

EXPLORE THE DIVERSE LANDSCAPES, VIBRANT  
CULTURES, AND FASCINATING HISTORY

21-DAY TRIP

BY WEST AFRICA TRACKS



## Including:

All overnight accommodations as described, breakfast, dinners at the tented camps, all transportation (and fuel), visits mentioned in the programme, tourist taxes and fees & an English speaking guide.

More information: [www.westafricatracks.com](http://www.westafricatracks.com)

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## DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN ABIDJAN

Today you will arrive in Abidjan, where the guide will be waiting for you. Depending on the arrival time, we will do an urban tour of what was the last capital of the Ivory Coast before being transferred to Yamoussoukro in the 1980s. It is a city of contrasts with an area of skyscrapers (for years it was called the New York of Africa) and other more popular neighborhoods where we will capture the pulse of the largest and most dynamic city in the country.

Overnight: Ibis Hotel



## DAY 2: ABIDJAN TO ANIASSUE

After breakfast we go en route to 'Agni country', sub-group of the Akan, also known as Ashanti. We will arrive at the border town of Niablé where we will visit the local king and some of the traditional sanctuaries such as the animist prayer centers. After the visit we will go to the town of Niasoue, spiritual center of the Agni tribe. It is a special place for regional animism. Religious ceremonies are led by priestesses known as 'komian'. We will be immersed in the local African religion and the powerful aesthetics of these women connected to the world of spirits that live in the forests that surround the cult temples and the school where new priestesses are trained each year. Animism is in decline throughout the Ivory Coast due to the advance of Christianity and Islam. We will visit some of the cult sanctuaries and witness a ceremony led by komians.

Overnight: local camp tent

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**DAY 3:  
ANNIASSUE TO  
YAMUSKURO**

After a delicious breakfast at the campsite, we will visit the sacred forest one last time. We continue our route to the political capital of Ivory Coast. We will visit the imposing Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, one of the largest Christian temples in the world. It was built in the image of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. This iconic religious building symbolizes many things about human beings with their desire for power and eternity and the post-colonial autocratic regimes in Africa. We will also visit the great mosque and the central market to return to the African flavor in this city still under construction.

Overnight: AHO Hotel



**DAY 4:  
BAULÉ VILLAGE**

Today, after breakfast, we will enter the Baulé world, its towns and living art. We will travel to a traditional town to learn about aspects of this culture and be able to witness a traditional masquerade. Arrival and greeting the council of elders, walk through the town and traditional lunch. In the afternoon, we will be blessed by the traditionalist priest and honored with a masked dance. Tourism is still rare in this central region of the Ivory Coast and our presence will attract the attention of many villagers. After the ethnographic experience, we will return to the city to spend the night.

Overnight: AHO hotel



**DAY 5:  
YAMUSKURO TO  
FERKESSEDOUGOU**

After our morning breakfast we will start the long route to the northern parts of the country. We will leave behind the tropical forest and the animist and Christian societies to enter the Islamized Ivory Coast. We will visit the town of Kong where a beautiful 300-year-old Sudanese-style mud mosque stands out. Visit of the population and introduction to this most arid, poor region with another look... After lunch, we will continue to Ferkessedoudou, now in the heart of 'Senufo country', where we will rest and spend the night.

Overnight: Hotel Le Chateau



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**DAY 6:  
FERKESSEDOUGOU  
- KORHOGO**

Breakfast at the hotel and then we visit a Senufo village near Ferkessedougou to try to see a young masked 'tchologo'. These abstract masks are only worn during initiations. We will ask you to show us, if possible, one of these curious works of sacred art. After stopping in the town we will continue towards the political and economic center of the Senufos, the dominant ethnic group in northern Ivory Coast. From the base of our hotel we will explore traditional Senufo villages where some sacred granaries and traditional houses are still preserved. We will dedicate the visits to the artisans: weavers, painters, jewelers, blacksmiths, etc. and also to the culture of sacred dance. If we have time left, we can go to Tieme, a town of Fulani shepherds.

Overnight: Mont Korhogo Hotel



**DAY 7:  
KORHOGO TO  
ODIENNE**

After breakfast we will say farewell to the 'Senufo country' and continue our route to Odienne, a border city close to Guinea. We entered the 'malinke country', more mountainous and Islamized. We will arrive after stopping in towns (like Boundiali where a sacred fetish house is located) and some market that we find along the way. After arriving in Odiennénos we will transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon we will visit the great mosque and a group of 'dozo' hunters, a 'secret' male society responsible for the security of the city and surrounding areas since pre-colonial times.

Overnight: Hotel de Odienne



**DAY 8:  
ODIENNE TO MAN**

Breakfast will be served before another day of long crossing through the hills of the Ivory Coast, the natural border with neighboring Guinea. Stops en route to admire the vernacular architecture that survives in this remote region of the country and the beautiful mountain landscapes. Arrive and transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon we can take a bath in the waterfall near our hotel.

Overnight: Beau Fejour Hotel

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**DAY 9:  
MAN**

Breakfast and route to the animist village of Diourouzon, where the mythical 'snake dance' is practiced, based on acrobatics. The face paintings of the participants are a delight for photographers and anyone interested in African art. We will first greet the town authorities, explore the place, with beautiful traditional houses and witness the famous dance. In the afternoon we will return to Man to spend the night.

Overnight: Beau Fejour Hotel



**DAY 10:  
MAN TO NZEREKORE**

It's time to say goodbye to Ivory Coast as we will depart towards Nzerekore today, after breakfast. We will cross the border between Ivory Coast and Guinea, this might take some time as we will carry out the Guinea visa process at the border. When all is set, we continue our road to Nzerekore. We will install ourselves in our camp, then we will visit the market and downtown Nzerekore. We will return to the Camp for a good night sleep under the Guinea stars.

Overnight: campsite



**DAY 11:  
NZEREKORE TO  
BANYAN**

Breakfast and continuation to Banyan. The Bañian, a significant ethnic group in Guinea, contributes to the cultural diversity and economic activities of the region, particularly in commerce and trade. Known for their entrepreneurial spirit, the Bañian people play a crucial role in the local economy through their involvement in various business ventures and markets. First we will install ourselves in the Banian Camp. Then we will visit the market. After the visit, we will return to the camp for another night under the stars.

Overnight: campsite



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**DAY 12:  
BANYAN TO  
CONAKRY**

Breakfast and then we depart to Conakry where we will go straight to the hotel to settle down. Then we will meet to explore the city. Conakry, the capital city of Guinea, is a vibrant and bustling metropolis situated along the Atlantic coastline. With its diverse population and bustling markets, Conakry offers a rich mix of cultures and traditions. The city serves as the economic, political, and cultural hub of Guinea, showcasing a blend of modern infrastructure and historical landmarks.

Overnight: Grand Hotel in Konakiry or similar



**DAY 13:  
LOS ISLANDS**

Breakfast and departure to islands from this small archipelago: Tamara Kassa and Roume, the one who inspired Stevenson for the movie "Treasure Island". The name Los comes from Portuguese and means idols." And the Basa tribe organized pilgrimages to the island every year to make offerings to Nimba, the goddess of fertility. The cruise by boat is already worth it because of the magnificent views of the bay, but the stay on the islands is the best: good beaches, good vibes, good food. After spending the day on the islands, we will return to our hotel in downtown Conakry.

Overnight: Grand Hotel in Konakiry or similar



**DAY 14:  
CONACKRY TO LABE**

After breakfast it is time to leave Conakry behind us and we will continue our trip to Dalaba. The area is known for its picturesque landscapes and cooler climate, making it a popular destination for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. The charming town of Dalaba holds historical significance, serving as a center for colonial administration and witnessing cultural exchanges between various ethnic groups in the region. We will visit the former palace of Sekou Touré and the house of Mariam Makeba. Then we continue to Labe, there we settle in our hotel before we pay a visit to the fouta market.

Overnight: Hotel

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**DAY 15:  
LABE -  
KOUNDARA**

After breakfast we depart to Koundara where we will install ourselves in the hotel before we further explore the region. Koundara is a town nestled within the Fouta Djallon region, known for its stunning natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. As part of the Fouta Djallon highlands, Koundara benefits from its lush greenery, fertile lands, and numerous waterfalls, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts. The region's landscape is characterized by rolling hills, deep valleys, and cascading rivers, offering breathtaking views. Additionally, Fouta Djallon holds historical significance as the birthplace of several prominent West African civilizations and continues to be a center for traditional practices and rituals.

Overnight: Baidat Hotel



**DAY 16:  
KOUNDARA TO  
BISSAU**

Today we have a long day on the road ahead. We will leave right after breakfast to the border between Guinea Conakry and Guinea Bissau. We have to carry out the Guinea Bissau visa process at the border, which again takes some time. After continuing our drive through Guinea-Bissau, we will enjoy expansive savannahs and rolling hills, offering picturesque vistas and diverse ecosystems. This region is inhabited by communities deeply rooted in traditional practices, fostering a rich cultural heritage amidst the natural beauty of the landscape.

Overnight: Azalai Hotel or similar



**DAY 17:  
BISSAU TO BIJAGOS**

After breakfast we will travel to the port where we will embark a ship to cross the sea to Ormgo Island. Ormgo Island is classified as a comprehensive biosphere reserve and its habitat is a diverse and wild fauna. On the island we will follow in the footsteps of the rare saltwater hippos, also known as 'sea cows', that live in the salt lagoons between the mangroves. We will also enjoy a refreshing dive in the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean, before we continue to our hotel.

Overnight: OrangoParque Hotel



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**DAY 18:  
AMBUDUCO**

Depending on the tides schedule we will leave right after breakfast to accompany the Bijago women in the traditional shellfish activity. We will have lunch at the hotel before we set out in the afternoon in search of footprints and traces in nature of the local fauna. We will visit a traditional woodcraft workshop and then we will walk to see the older tabanka in the national park. We will go along a dry river bed and cross mangroves with their high roots exposed. A large palm grove announces the arrival at the sacred tabanka of Ambuduco, where the most important ceremonies on the islands are organized. Here we will appreciate the traditional architecture of the Bijago town and the way of life of its inhabitants.

Overnight: OrangoParque Hotel



**DAY 19:  
BIJAGOS TO RUBANE**

The legendary Bijagos archipelago has over 40 kilometers of coastline. It is made up of 88 islands, of which are 21 permanently inhabited. This is what we will explore after breakfast. The colors of the islands are of great beauty: the green of the forest that covers the islands, the endless white sand beaches, the dark red rocks marking the coastline and of course the deep blue sea. The members of the Bijagos ethnic group have been barely influenced by the outside world. Villagelife is marked by ceremonies that are usually celebrated in secret and are jealously guarded by the locals. We explore the island in search of the initiates who live for seven years in large house, located in the center of the town. Then we take a boat to the island of Rubane, another beautiful and picturesque fisherman's camp. It's time to relax in the emerald waters of the bay before we settle in our comfortable bungalows.

Overnight: Fishing Club Bungalow



**DAY 20:  
RUBANE TO BISSAU**

After breakfast we depart towards Bolama, which was the capital of Portuguese Guinea until 1936. Its buildings are built in beautiful colonial style, presenting the appearance of a city anchored in time. Silently, the indigenous population has taken over the old abandoned colonial buildings. The surreal atmosphere of this 'forgotten city' is even more intense at dusk: thousands of oil lamps barely illuminate those places, hidden amongst the tropical vegetation. After the visit we will drive back to Bissau.

Overnight: Azalai Hotel

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**DAY 21:  
BISSAU**



As most flights leave in the later afternoon, we will enjoy the morning at Pepel, a town famous for being the guardian of the secrets of magic and traditional medicines. After our visit it's time for some last purchases and return to the hotel where you have time to freshen up before we will bring you to the airport. Time to say our goodbyes and you will fly back home.