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# Country Information Library: Ivory Coast

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**! NOTE:** Please use the information below with discretion as it may be out of date.



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**KEY INFORMATION:** The Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) is a small country, but is fairly well off in terms of natural resources. There are many mining interests as well as a strong agricultural sector in cocoa production. A large number of NGO's are present and most recently the African Development Bank has re-established its headquarters there. In all this provides a much more stable applicant base who can easily establish their bona fides in terms of stable income and travel experience.

A visa is required to visit or transit Canada.

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- The first machine-readable passports were introduced in 2009.

## Identity card

- The National Identity Card (*Carte d'identité nationale*) is issued to every citizen 16 years or older.
- Cards can be verified at the [National Identification Office](#) website and are valid for 10 years.

## ▼ Civil documents

- A family book (Livret de Famille) serves as the official record of marriage, birth, death and divorce).

### Birth certificates

- Births must be registered within three months of a birth.
- Births cannot be registered by persons without proper identification documents.
- Births may be registered by telephone through Short Message Service (SMS) or a mobile app to submit information to official birth registration centres.

### Marriage certificates

- The minimum legal age for marriage is 20 for men and 18 for women.
- A religious ceremony may take place but only after the civil ceremony.
- The prevalence of child marriage is relatively high; over one in three girls are married before turning 18. In 2005, about 35% of women aged 20-24 were married/in union before age 18. However, the practice is slowly declining since 1998.
- See general concerns for [Civil documents](#).

### Divorce certificates

- A divorce order is issued following a court judgment.
- See general concerns for [Civil documents](#).

### Death certificates

- See general concerns for [Civil documents](#).

## ▼ Notarized documents

- Private and notarized documents are relatively reliable.

## ▼ Police certificate