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CICC - VIAJES Y TURISMO

EDITION 1 - MARCH 2025

WONDERS OF AFRICA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE YAMOUSSOUKRO THE CITY YOU CAN'T MISS

Travel notebook by Mauro Gabriel

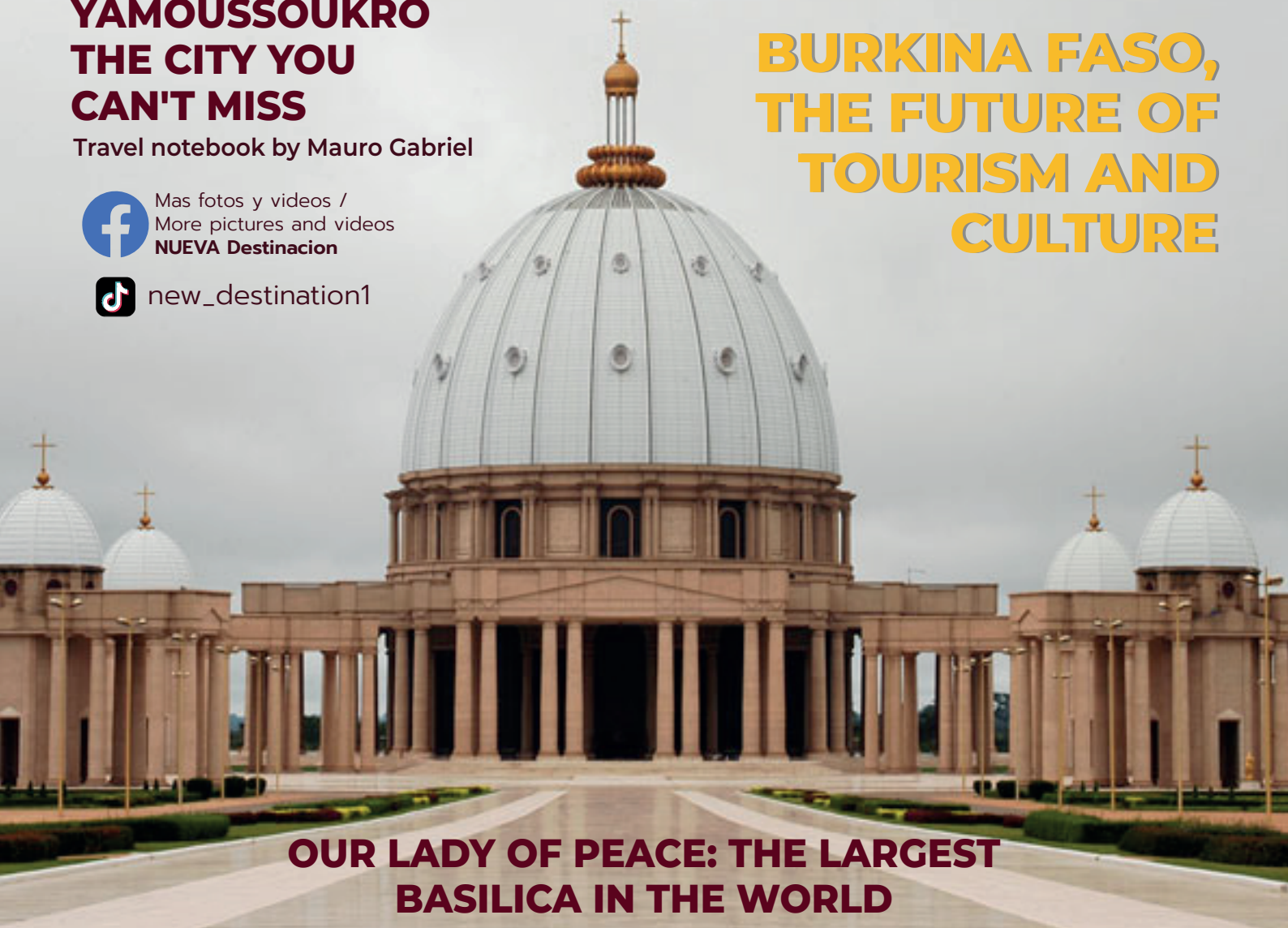


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BURKINA FASO, THE FUTURE OF TOURISM AND CULTURE



**OUR LADY OF PEACE: THE LARGEST
BASILICA IN THE WORLD**



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THE AFRICAN TOURISM INVESTMENT FORUM

Forum Presentation

The Forum brings together a range of key decision-makers, including local and international business leaders, ministers, financial institutions and private investors. By providing a unique platform to present market-ready tourism projects, TIFA enables African destinations to secure investments, thereby ensuring their long-term economic success. The inaugural event took place in Kanoneiland, Upington in 2023, followed by a second edition in Cape Town during WTM Africa in April 2024.

Strategic intent

"The Tourism Investment Forum for Africa (TIFA) highlights Africa's tourism investment potential by positioning emerging destinations as key investment hubs and connecting projects with investors.

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EDITORIAL

Discovering the Soul of Africa: Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso

Welcome to New Destination!

In this first issue, we embark on an extraordinary journey to the heart of Africa, a continent that has long been synonymous with mystery, adventure and rich cultural diversity. Today, we invite you to discover two African gems that are ready to surprise us: Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. Africa, a new horizon. For decades, Africa has been seen through a prism filled with mysticism and enthusiasm for its culture, music and colours of life. The continent is experiencing an economic and cultural renaissance, and its tourist destinations are flourishing like never before. Ivory Coast, with its lush tropical forests, white sandy beaches and vibrant cultural scene, is a destination that has it all. From the bustling markets of Abidjan, the economic capital, to the tranquil beaches of Grand-Bassam, there is something for everyone. And if you are a nature lover, you cannot miss Tai National Park, a true paradise for bird watchers and wildlife lovers.

Africa is a continent that invites you to step out of your comfort zone and explore new cultures and landscapes. It is a place where you can connect with nature, meet wonderful people and live unforgettable experiences. We invite you to join us on this journey and discover all that Africa has to offer.

Burkina Faso, for its part, is a country of fascinating contrasts. Its arid landscapes contrast with the exuberance of its national parks, such as the Arly National Park. The local culture, marked by hospitality and ancestral traditions, will envelop us in an authentic experience.

Why Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso?

We chose these two countries as the starting point for our magazine for several reasons. Firstly, both offer a unique and diverse tourist experience. Secondly, they share a rich history and culture, which makes them complementary destinations. And thirdly, we believe that these countries have a lot to offer Latin American travelers, who are looking for authentic and out-of-the-ordinary experiences. They are also countries that are open to the world in agriculture, science, technology, arts and business, a gem to be discovered.

What will you find in New Destination?

In the pages of this magazine, you will find a wide range of articles that will help you plan your next trip to Africa, get to know this continent and plan your next investments. From practical guides and travel tips to inspiring stories and in-depth reporting, our mission is to bring you all the information you need to discover these destinations safely and responsibly.

A call to adventure

¡Bienvenido a bordo! New Destination. Descubre el viejo mundo.

Alvaro Bocanegra Guzmán (Col), Director



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IN THE IVORY COAST, AN ARGENTINE PLANTS DREAMS AND NOTES

Fernando Ledo, an engineer from Morón, Buenos Aires Province, who has lived for 10 years in Ferke, in the north of the Ivory Coast, on the border with Burkina Faso.

An engineer by profession and a passionate musician, he arrived looking for new horizons in the field of agriculture. Today, more than 10 years later, he works in corn cultivation, devoting his days to selecting grains of the highest quality and carrying out meticulous growth tests in the region's unique soil. A job that, while it may sound arduous and technical, he is deeply passionate about, as it allows him to work with the land in a way he never imagined when he was growing up in Argentina.



"My days are like those of any ordinary person. I get up, have breakfast and then go to work with the boys. At midday, we share a meal, a custom that connects me with the daily life of this place, and I go to the supermarket to do the shopping, something that is already part of my routine. Here, life goes by with the calm of the countryside, but it also has that suburban touch, a mix of tranquility and dynamism that characterizes the area. It is a balance between the serenity of the countryside and the energy of the surroundings."



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In his moments of rest, he transforms himself, embracing his other great love: music. Back in the capital, Abidjan, music is not only a means of escape, but a way to connect with the people around him.

In the small house where he lives, 150 meters from the company he works for, Fernando spends his nights playing the bass, either alone or with other local musicians. "The bass allows me to express myself in a way that words cannot," he says with a smile, while we drink some mate. For him, music is a way to integrate the two cultures that coexist in his life: the Argentine one, which he never lets go of, and the African one, which has welcomed him with open arms. "African music has something very special, a deep connection with the land, with the roots. The bass becomes a bridge between the two worlds." Life in the Ivory Coast is a unique combination of work, learning and music. In his daily life, the Argentine farmer feels deeply grateful for the opportunity to have made the Ivory Coast his home, despite the cultural and language differences he encountered along the way. "I learned a lot about myself, about the patience that farming requires and about how vital it is for me to stay connected to music. I have found my place, my rhythm in this corner of the world."



Thus, in West Africa, an Argentinean has made a place for himself in the agricultural field and continues to cultivate his passion for music, among the grains of corn and the notes that spring from his bass, always with the hope that the roots and melodies continue to grow together.



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SPORTS



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Maracanã: the sport that was born in Africa and seeks to conquer the world

In the 1970s, a group of students at the Cocody campus in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, gave life to a sport that today arouses international interest: Maracanã. This sport, which shares its roots with football, was born out of necessity and creativity, and now seeks to make its way into new regions, including Latin America. Humble origins with a taste of innovation Maracanã emerged as a response to the exclusion that some students faced in traditional football teams. Unable to join competitions on grass, young people began to play on an empty handball court. Without a goalkeeper, due to the hardness of the terrain, they invented new rules and adapted the game to their conditions.

The name, far from being a coincidence, is a tribute to the iconic stadium in Rio de Janeiro, the emblem of Brazilian football. At that time, African students, inspired by the Brazil of Pelé, Didi and Vavá, brought the spirit of that stadium to the small pitch in Abidjan.

Maracanã is played with teams of 6 players on the field, accompanied by 6 substitutes, making a total of 12 players per team. The match lasts three periods of 10 minutes each.



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Among the most notable rules is the “Coupéré”, a special penalty play that is executed from the opponent’s 6-meter zone. This type of penalty is only sanctioned in cases of serious fouls that compromise the physical integrity of a player, and is associated with a blue card. Maracanã is characterized by being inclusive and having categories for different ages: Junior: 18 to 34 years old; Senior: 35 to 44 years old; Super Senior: 45 years old and older and Prestige (in preparation): over 65 years old. In Ivory Coast, a 69-year-old player competes actively, demonstrating that this sport is accessible to all generations.

Although its birthplace is West Africa, where it enjoys great popularity, Maracanã has unique potential to grow in Latin America, where the technical skill of the players could be perfectly integrated into the dynamic style of the game.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the sport is organised at a national level with 28 regional leagues, each with up to 30 clubs. In addition, tournaments such as the mixed INSASA category, which combines senior, junior and super-senior players, have given new impetus to the practice. A promising future

For Albert Giraud, Executive Director of the International Federation of Maracanã Associations (FIMA), the challenge now is to position this sport on the global stage. With its innovative rules, unique history and ability to unite different generations, Maracanã promises to be much more than a game: it seeks to become a sporting and cultural legacy.

Time will tell whether this sport, born on an improvised court, will find its place alongside the world's great disciplines.



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SAFARI PLAN

WE HAVE SEEN ELEPHANTS IN THE NAZINGA RESERVE

Nazinga Elephant Reserve is a well-known conservation area located in Burkina Faso, West Africa, famous for its elephant population and as a popular destination for ecotourism and wildlife viewing. It is located in southern Burkina Faso, close to the border with Ghana. It covers a large area that provides a diverse habitat for a variety of animal species.



Although it is best known for its elephants, it is home to a wide range of wildlife, including antelopes, monkeys, wild boars, buffalos and numerous bird species. The diversity of fauna makes it an ideal place for nature lovers and animal spotting.

It plays a crucial role in the conservation of elephants and other endangered species, providing a safe haven where animals can live and breed without the threats of poaching and habitat loss. Visitors to the reserve can take part in guided safaris to observe elephants and other animals in their natural environment. There are also opportunities for trekking and wildlife photography.

IVORY COAST

COME AND DISCOVER THE COUNTRY OF COCOA



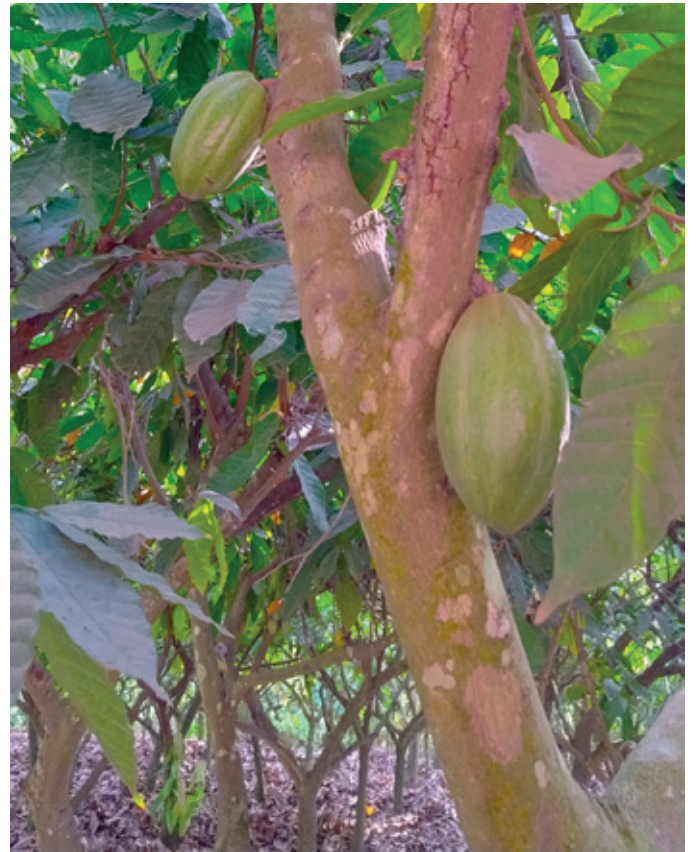
AN EXPERIENCE YOU CAN'T MISS: COCOA TOURISM

The basis of world chocolate is here! Ivory Coast is the main producer of cocoa in the world. That is why we could not miss visiting a cocoa farm, without a doubt, an experience not to be missed. We went to Tiassalé, a small town located halfway between Abidjan and Yamoussoukro where Cedrick, a young agricultural engineer who coordinates a 200 hectare cocoa farm and more than 3,000 cocoa trees, was waiting for us and explained to us the entire cocoa process from planting to harvest. After the seed is planted, the plant will begin to grow to a little over two meters in height, and in 3 years will give the first cocoa fruits, which start out light green and when ripe reach a yellow color, a sign that the fruit is ready to be harvested.

After harvesting, the fruit is worked manually, opening it with a blow against a knife fixed to a table and emptying the contents into baskets to then move on to the fermentation process that consists of 5 days in a main wooden container and one more day in another container, this serves to eliminate bitter flavors and develop the aromas and flavors of the chocolate.



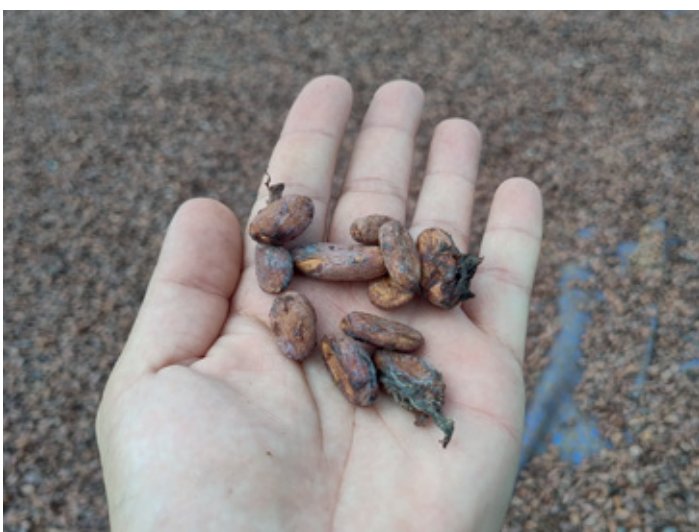
After this process, the cocoa beans will go to the drying area directly in the sun for 6 to 10 days, which will reduce the humidity and prevent mold. The dried seeds are cleaned to remove impurities such as stones, dust and organic residues. They are then roasted at temperatures between 120 and 160 °C for 10-50 minutes, which intensifies the aromas, darkens the color and makes it easier to separate from the shell. The shell is separated from the cocoa nibs (the edible inner part). The nibs are ground to obtain a paste called cocoa liquor or cocoa mass. During pressing, the cocoa mass will give us: Cocoa butter, which is the natural fat of the cocoa and the cocoa cake that is pulverized to obtain cocoa powder. The cocoa liquor is combined with other ingredients (sugar, milk, cocoa butter, etc.). The mixture is stirred for hours to achieve a smooth texture and develop the flavor. The chocolate is heated and cooled to specific temperatures to stabilise the fat crystals in the cocoa butter. This gives it shine and prevents it from melting easily. Finally the tempered chocolate is poured into moulds and cooled to solidify and be enjoyed. There is much more to discover about cocoa, but we will leave that as a surprise for your visit.



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OUR LADY OF PEACE: THE LARGEST BASILICA IN THE WORLD



Sin dudas el edificio más imponente y el que mais se destaca es la Basílica de Nuestra Senora de Paz, un templo catolico inaugurado en 1990 por el Papa San Juan Pablo II quien visitó el país en 3 ocasiones, la primera vez durante una gira por áfrica, la segunda durante la colocación de la piedra fundacional y la tercera para la inauguración del templo. Inspirada en la Basílica de San Pedro del Vaticano, su construcción demoró 4 años, fue encargada y financiada por el primer presidente del país Félix Houphouet Boigny al arquitecto libanes Pierre Fakhoury y está dedicada a la Virgen Maria en agradecimiento a la paz que reina en Costa de Marfil. Se destaca una impresionante colección de vitrales que suman más de 7,000 metros cuadrados, lo que la convierte en una de las iglesias con más vitrales en el mundo. Estos vitrales representan una variedad de escenas bíblicas y temas religiosos, así como elementos que reflejan la cultura local.

Some of the most notable scenes include: The Life of Jesus – depicting key episodes in the life of Jesus, from his birth to his resurrection, including miracles and parables. The Virgin Mary – in her role as the mother of Jesus and as a central figure in the Catholic faith. Saints and Apostles are depicted. Given the name of the basilica, some of the stained glass windows are designed to convey messages of peace and unity, both on a spiritual and social level. They also incorporate African motifs and symbols, creating a connection between the Catholic faith and local culture.

These stained glass windows are not only works of art, but also serve to educate and inspire visitors, creating an atmosphere of reflection and spirituality. Photography is not allowed inside the temple, so it will be your mission to get to know them.



YAMOUSSOUKRO AND THE ARTISANS OF HOPE



A community of artisans plays a crucial role in preserving cultural traditions and boosting the local economy through the creation of handmade textile products. This group strengthens the local community by providing training and economic opportunities, especially for women and youth. In the photo we see a young man working on a fully mechanical loom powered by his feet and weaving with his hands. This particular design is 10 centimeters wide by about 10 meters long and is woven entirely by hand.

You will be able to see countless designs in all colors, from the most cheerful to the most conservative used for all kinds of occasions.



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THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF UNESCO



During my stay in Ivory Coast, attieke was declared an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO. A food derived from cassava or manioc that accompanies practically all the dishes served here and of course, we went to see how it is prepared.

For this we went into a community called Anono, a historic neighborhood within Cocody, in Abidjan, where we met the women who prepare it in large quantities and they explained the process to us.

The first step is to peel the yuca, then it goes directly to the press where all the liquid is extracted and then the rest is used. After a while it must be removed, it is sifted in a sieve and it forms a kind of yuca flour but in lumps. From there it goes to the sun-drying section and then it is cooked in a bain-marie. At the end of cooking it is divided into plastic bags of approximately 200 grams to be served directly on the plate.



COCOA TOURISM

BUSHMAN CAFE, LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHOCOLATE



During my stay in Ivory Coast I was very impressed by a special place, which I invite you to discover: the Bushman Café. An unusual place with a surprising and very beautiful, alternative decoration. You have at least 2 reasons to come and live for yourself an unforgettable experience in this beautiful country, kingdom of cocoa. The first reason is that the place offers you a training center to make your own chocolate. Bushman Café offers you a course to make your own chocolate from cocoa paste. It is a very enriching experience that you should not deprive yourself of for anything in the world.

You can do it as a family or group of 8 people, you will stay on site for one or two weeks according to your choice. It is an internship for students of hotel and tourism schools, professional chefs, or chocolate lovers etc. The site is very pleasant, for an unforgettable stay. We invite tour operators and travel agencies to visit there and offer it to their clients who we are sure will have an unforgettable time. Chocolate is an art, nothing is more fascinating than discovering it in all its facets, in the country where it is produced in large quantities, a kind of pilgrimage to the kingdom of cocoa. Bushman Café awaits you with open arms.

MUSEUM, 3000 YEARS OF AFRICAN CIVILIZATION THAT WE INVITE YOU TO DISCOVER AT THE BUSHMAN CAFE MUSEUM

The second reason is that a museum will soon open on the same site. We will be able to discover 3,000 years of African civilization through masks, sculptures, objects several centuries old, highlighting the rich African cultures that you may not have had the opportunity to discover yet.



Once there, you will understand why it is said that Africa is the cradle of humanity. We highly recommend this very special place, which will allow you to have a completely different view of Africa. Bushman Café awaits you to experience incredible emotions. What are you waiting for to book your flight like me?



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EXPERIENCES

MY TRIP FROM BUENOS AIRES TO OUAGADOUGOU WITH ETHIOPIAN



My trip from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso was operated entirely by Ethiopian Airlines, the flag carrier of Ethiopia. Here I tell you about my experience.

Upon arriving at Ezeiza and checking in, the service was very good, explaining that it was my first experience traveling to Africa with a long waiting connection at the same airport without having a transition visa to visit the country or at least sleep comfortably in a hotel. Sixteen hours of waiting in Addis Ababa was my fear. All my worries vanished when they told me "here is your reservation for the hotel in Ethiopia."

They only do a passport check at the airport and then the operators guide you to the bus that takes you to the hotels. My hotel was the Skylight, just 5 minutes from the airport.

A very comfortable and complete hotel, check-in is quick, easy, and the staff is friendly. The room is spacious, has a TV, air conditioning and a very good variety of lights, all adjustable from the bed, which is large and where you rest very well.

Dinner and breakfast are served in the hotel restaurant, everything is self-service and very varied. For dinner there was a choice of meat, pasta, vegetables, cold cuts and so on, the drink included is water, for 3 USD I ordered a beer

The itinerary was: Ezeiza - Rio de Janeiro - Addis Ababa - Ouagadougou. After all the family greetings and airport controls we boarded a Boeing 777-200. The announcements were made in English, Portuguese and another language that I could not recognize but I imagine is Amharic, an official language of Ethiopia. Some announcements were made in Spanish but not all, anyway it was a great detail.

Bole airport is the hub of Ethiopian Airlines and has a hotel service for passengers in transition who have a wait between 8 and 24 hours in Addis Ababa. A very complete and guided service, a transition visa is not necessary.

I found the place a bit strong, but the second time it tasted better. The breakfast also offered a lot of options but I opted to drink only a coffee.

The bus that returns to the airport leaves the hotel every 15 minutes. The procedure for boarding on this occasion is the same as in all airports. The flights have been very well attended to, with breakfast and two meals. They also offer headphones, blankets for the cold and a small pillow. A real pleasure to travel with Ethiopian.



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A PROMISE IN TOURISM AND CULTURE



THE OUAGADOUGOU TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY FAIR

Burkina Faso is preparing to offer a great tourist and cultural offer. The capital city has been filled with aromas, colours and traditions from all its regions united in one place, the SITHO, International Tourism and Hospitality Show of Ouagadougou, an event to which we have been invited.



Numerous stands, representing each of the country's regions, were present, exhibiting their traditions and crafts. In addition, there were two guests of honor: the countries of Mali and Niger, who offered a sample of their dances, typical foods, clothing, art and customs. You can see the videos of the typical dances here: [NEW Destination \(facebook \)](#)



NEW DESTINATION

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CONTRIBUCION PARA UN MUNDO MEJOR
¡Ya África parece tan cerca de nosotros!



SITHO 2025 invites travel agencies and tour operators from Latin American countries to participate in the next celebration, which will be the 15th edition in the capital city of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou.



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TIEKELE AND TIEBELE, TWO PLACES ON THE WAY TO BEING UNESCO CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Over the next two days we headed to Tiékélé and Tiébélé, two ancestral villages that opened their doors to us and explained their traditions, customs and way of life. These communities decorate the facades of their houses with geometric patterns and symbols of local folklore, transforming the village into a living canvas of clay and history. The painting task is carried out by the women, who sing and dance during the work.



At first glance, the decorative patterns of the houses might seem simple, rustic or even repetitive. However, each design, the layout of the houses and the specific details of each home tell a deeper story: they reflect the social hierarchy of its inhabitants within the community.



Even the oldest woman in the community also does the painting work. A clear example of this is the residence of the royal family, which is distinguished by its more elaborate decorations and a particularly small exit door, as this measure is believed to provide greater protection. Furthermore, in Tiébélé, a notable difference is made between dwelling houses and mausoleums, spaces in which the living and the dead coexist in a symbolic relationship.

These areas are home to the Kassena, one of Africa's oldest ethnic groups, whose heritage dates back to at least the 15th century.

These people are seeking UNESCO World Heritage status, and projects have already been submitted to the authorities.



DANCE OF THE KASSENA WARRIORS

The Kassena are known for their rich cultural traditions, with dance playing an important role in their social and spiritual life. The Kassena warrior dance is commonly performed during special ceremonies and celebrations. These dances are characterized by energetic and rhythmic movements, symbolizing strength, courage, and unity. They are usually accompanied by drums and other traditional instruments, creating a dynamic and vibrant atmosphere. Warrior dances, in particular, are a way for the Kassena to honor their ancestors, demonstrate their readiness for battle or defense, and celebrate their heritage. The choreography involves complex and agile movements that mimic the actions of warriors in combat, focusing on agility and precision. These dances not only reflect the community's martial mastery, but also highlight the connection to the spiritual world, as the dancers invoke the spirits of their ancestors. During our stay in Pô, they performed a demonstration for us. You can watch the video here; <https://terabox.com/s/1WCrQ1mF6vVGRIIVBLVO1Kw>



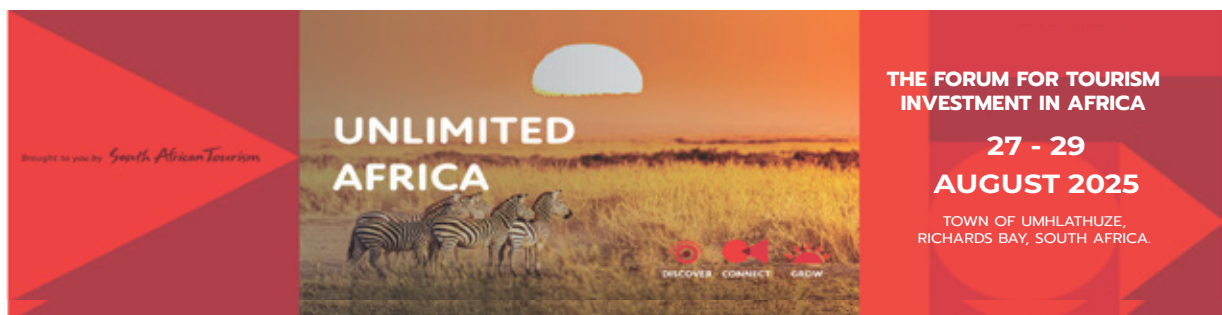
BAOBABS, MYTH AND TRADITION



In Burkina Faso, baobabs are an integral part of the local landscape and culture. These majestic trees are common in the country's savannas and rural areas. In addition to their impressive size and longevity, baobabs in Burkina Faso have significant practical and cultural value. Made famous in Latin America thanks to the tale of *The Little Prince*, baobabs are native to Africa, and simply by walking along the roads you can find specimens that are over 200 years old.

For locals, this tree is the mother who takes care of her children from the threats they may encounter, some say they have seen it move at night, performing a dance with the wind, this being an act of care and maternal love.

They are also considered symbols of wisdom and resistance, and in some communities, they are used as meeting places or to perform ceremonies.



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THE PIC OF NAHOURI

Pic Nahouri is a mountain located in southern Burkina Faso, near the town of Pô. It is one of the highest points in the country, with an elevation of approximately 480m. The mountain is a popular destination for hikers and offers panoramic views of the region. The hike to the top is not too difficult, making it accessible to most visitors who enjoy nature and hiking. On one side, the mountain has all the infrastructure necessary for rappelling, but because it is an area intended for military training, the equipment is reserved exclusively for the activities of the National Army. In addition, the area around Pic Nahouri is rich in culture and history, giving visitors the opportunity to explore more about local life and traditions in Burkina Faso. According to local residents, climbing the mountain can be a way of expressing a wish that will be fulfilled if expressed with true faith. Today, Burkina Faso puts emphasis on strengthening local tourism, encouraging its citizens to practice domestic tourism. At the same time, it is preparing to receive visitors from neighbouring countries and we are confident that it will soon become an international destination, becoming increasingly attractive.



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