



2024
**IVORY
COAST**
& SAOTOME

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



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MEET THE TEAM



Lawrence McLean

**CEO/FOUNDER OF AAT
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



Andrea McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around , there is always laughter.



William McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people."

– Steve Jobs

THE ITINERARY

SUNDAY, APRIL 21



ARRIVE IN ABIDJAN



ABIDJAN HOTEL

3:00 PM CHECK IN



8:00 PM

BLACK & GOLD HOST DINNER

8:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

MONDAY, APRIL 22



ABIDJAN HOTEL

7:00 AM CHECK OUT



FLY TO KORHOGO

11:20 AM DEPART FOR KORHOGO

3:00 PM ARRIVE IN KORHOGO AND TRANSFER TO HOTEL



DEPART FOR FAKHALA & PANTHER DANCE

2:00 PM DEPART FOR FAKHALA

4:00 PM DEPART FOR PANTHER DANCE

7:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

TUESDAY, APRIL 23



KORHOGO TOUR

8:00 AM DEPART FOR KORHOGO TOUR

- ☐ Niofin House
- ☐ Weaving Village
- ☐ Wood Carving Village
- ☐ Shea Butter Factory

1:30 PM FIRE DANCE

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

HOME COOKED DINNER

(For those who booked)

7:00 PM DEPART FOR DINNER

10:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

SACRED FOREST

7:00 AM DEPART FOR SACRED FOREST CEREMONY

10:00 AM RETURN TO HOTEL



KORHOGO HOTEL

11:00 AM CHECK OUT/ TRANSFER TO AIRPORT



BACK TO ABIDJAN

2:05 PM DEPART FOR ABIDJAN

3:25 PM ARRIVE IN ABIDJAN AND TRANSFER TO HOTEL

THURSDAY, APRIL 25



ABIDJAN HOTEL

9:00 AM CHECK OUT



MUSEUM AND MARKET TOUR

9:00 AM DEPART FOR CIVILIZATION MUSEUM/ CRAFT MARKET

12:00 PM BREAK FOR LUNCH (INCLUDED)



DEPART FOR ASSINIE

1:30 PM DEPART FOR ASSINIE (2 HOUR DRIVE)



ASSINIE HOTEL

3:30 PM CHECK IN

FRIDAY, APRIL 26



FREE TIME

THE ITINERARY

SATURDAY, APRIL 27



FREE TIME

SUNDAY, APRIL 28



ASSINIE HOTEL

1:00 PM CHECK OUT



FLY BACK TO HOME

THE EXTENTION

SUNDAY, APRIL 28



FREE TIME

MONDAY, APRIL 29



FREE TIME

TUESDAY, APRIL 30



ASSINIE HOTEL

6:00 AM CHECK OUT/ TRANSFER TO AIRPORT



FLY TO SAO TOME ISLAND

9:00 AM DEPART FOR SAO TOME

5:35 PM ARRIVE IN SAO TOME AND TRANSFER TO HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1



SAO TOME CITY TOUR

9:00 AM DEPART FOR CITY TOUR

12:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL



FREE TIME

THURSDAY, MAY 2



SOUTH SAO TOME CITY TOUR

8:00 AM DEPART FOR CITY TOUR

2:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL



FREE TIME

FRIDAY, MAY 3



FREE TIME

SATURDAY, MAY 4



SOA TOME HOTEL

12:00 PM CHECK OUT



FLY BACK TO HOME



Fakhala & Panther Dance

Fakhala for paintings and art works Panther dance in a stained fabrics overall with a mask on the face made of cloth. The Senufo N'Goron dance is a colorful initiation dance where usually young, Senufo girls wear a fan of feathers, grass skirts, shells, and a hat that is made out of sheep skin. The Senufo girls dance to the panther dance, a dance that tells the story of the beauty of women. Balafon and calabash music, and older female singers accompany the dancers. The Poro/Self Defense in the public dances, which is also a part of The Panther dance represents a different colobele, and challenges the others by performing steps and acrobatic movements, demonstrating training and skill. The Boloy is a symbolic representation of the Poro, showing the military training of its members. The movements are inspired by those of the panther, the sacred animal of the Senufo. Initiation into the Poro is obligatory, and lasts for seven years. During this time, the wisest transmit the knowledge of the society to the young men, through words and symbols.



Korhogo

Korhogo lies at the heart of Ivory Coast's dry brush and grass savannah. The southern approach to the city is blessed with baobab-and acacia-lined valleys and thick, road-creeping plant life. In Korhogo city itself though, the trees are scater and the scrub below them barely spreads over the hard red and orange earth, like a carpet wearing thin. In the summer this terrain can get exceedingly dusty, making you feel like you took a wrong turn somewhere and ended up much further north in Africa. Coming here from Abidjan or Grand-Bassam, the slower, calmer pace of life is conspicuous. You'll see few cars (though a lot of motorbikes) and receive little to no hassle from vendors, inquisitive kids and dubious, self-appointed 'guides'. In both civil wars, Korhogo was the site of several flashpoints which damaged the infrastructure and scared off the tourists who had been important to the city's pre-war economy. Regeneration has been slow, but it has seen Korhogo's main attractions re-open and flourish anew. All over the city and in the local Senoufo villages, you'll find the old-world craftspeople who have helped build Korhogo's reputation as one of Ivory Coast's cultural hubs: weavers, painters, metalworkers and wood carvers, all of whom use intriguingly pre-modern tools and techniques.



Niofin House

Niofin is a medium-sized town that has grown a lot in the last years. Mainly agricultural and animist, many of the ancient traditions are preserved and many of the inhabitants practice polygamy. In Niofin women and men live in separate houses. In a family where the man has several wives, each wife has her own hut and the man lives alone in his hut. It's the woman who moves to the man's house when they want to see each other, and never the other way around. We go to Niboladala neighborhood, the origin of Niofin, where most of the constructions are traditional style, that is to say, mud huts with thatched roof. Among the elongated and peaked mud barns, so typical in this region of Africa and the huts of the neighbors of Niboladaba, there are two buildings known as the "fetish houses" with their imposing thick straw roofs rising higher than the others.



Fire Dance

One of the most spectacular dances we will see on our tour is the Dance of Fire or N'Goron. Performed by the Senoufo people, it is a traditional dance of passage for young Senoufo virgins and it is overseen by a master of ceremonies who, in between dance moves on top of a flaming fire where he picks up live embers and chews on them, cracks a huge whip to keep the audience in check! It begins with the music of drums and balafons which ring out across the village of the performance. A group of young initiated men wearing white tasselled trousers appear and dance in circles blessing the musicians and visiting dignitaries. Soon after the virgins appear. Naked from the waist up, beautiful Senoufo girls dance their way into the ceremony with poms made from paper and raffia grasses. The rhythm and variety of acts in a performance of N'Goron are both fascinating and infectious leaving the viewer with the feeling of never wanting it to end!



Sacred Forest Ceremony

A common joke in West Africa and Côte d'Ivoire goes: "50 % of the population are Christians, 50 % are Muslims and 100 % are animists." It's not completely wrong, as animist influence is high even in the most Christian or Muslim of towns. Most common is, probably, the use of sacred forests, and almost every town and village have one. A sacred forest is, simply, a forest where the town's ancestors' spirits live. Therefore, it's forbidden to go inside these woods, fell their trees or collect its fruits. Given this off-limit nature of sacred forests, their tourist value might not be the greatest. However, due to the lack of human disturbance monkeys and other animals often live in the forests. These animals are also considered sacred



Abidjan

Abidjan, chief port, de facto capital, and largest city of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). It lies along the Ébrié Lagoon, which is separated from the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic by the Vridi Plage sandbar. A village in 1898, it became a town in 1903. Abidjan was a rail terminus from 1904 but had to depend on the meagre facilities of Port-Bouët on the sandbar's ocean shore. It succeeded Bingerville as capital of the French colony in 1934 and retained that position after independence in 1960.



Civilization Museum

The Ivory Coast Museum of Civilization was originally a craft center created by the colonial administration. It is with the aim of highlighting the artisanal productions and of preserving the best samples that Hubert Deschamps then Governor will create in 1942 this center which he makes animate by the artist Pierre Mauze. Wood sculptors, shoemakers, potters, weavers and bronze founders were then installed



Craft Market

The Ivory Coast is a dynamic and culturally diverse nation in West Africa that is well known for its handicrafts and traditional art. Ivory Coast's artisan markets are a veritable gold mine of one-of-a-kind and genuine goods, and they give tourists a special chance to interact with local craftspeople and discover more about the country's culture.



Assinie

Assinie is a long, thin sub-region of the Comoé administrative district, bounded by the village of Assouindé to the west and, in the east, La Passe, the name given to the point just beyond the township of Assinie- Mafia where the Lagoon Aby opens into the Gulf of Guinea on the right and the waters of the Ehotilé Islands National Park to the left.



Sao Tome

A São Tomé and Príncipe vacation is authentic and off-the-beaten path, a true exploration of jungle trekking and island lifestyle immersion. Floating in the Gulf of Guinea, off the coast of West Africa, is where you will find these hidden African islands. They beckon with the promise of paradise. The islands are thick with emerald-coloured rainforests, surrounded by golden sand beaches and crystal-clear waters that exude a forgotten world feel. Here you will find a laid-back natural rhythm of life and a palpable Portuguese influence. São Tomé is the larger of the two islands. Príncipe is the travelling escapists dream destination, only a short 35-minute flight from its sister island. It's dubbed 'Africa's Galapagos', because it has an incredible amount of plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth. In fact, Príncipe is a protected UNESCO-recognised biosphere reserve, virtually undiscovered and undisturbed.

ACCOMODATIONS



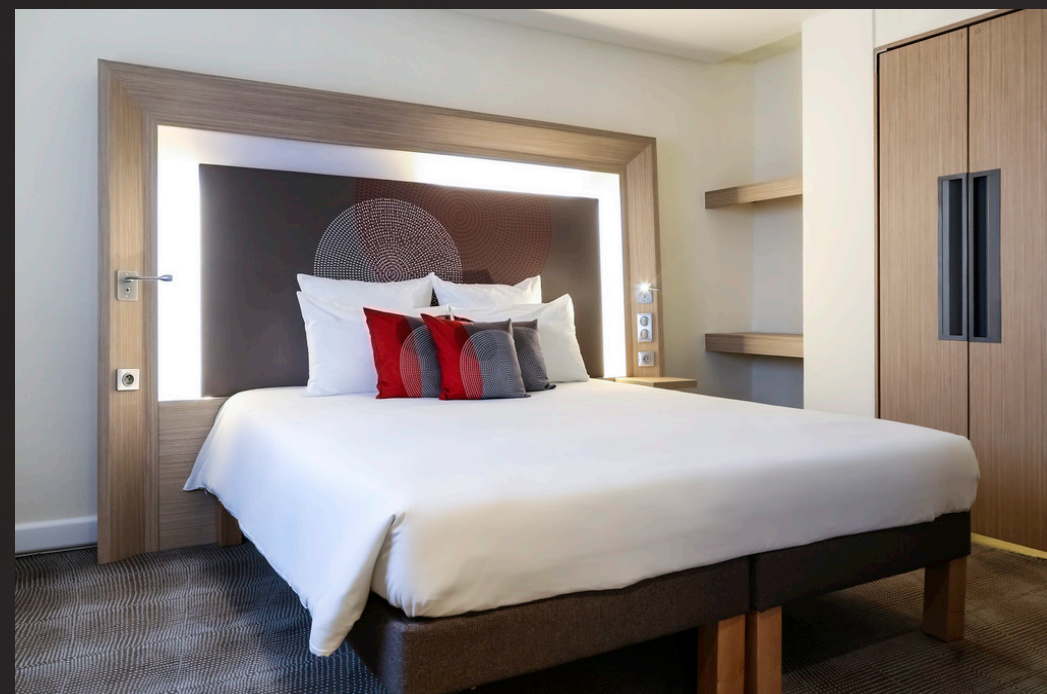
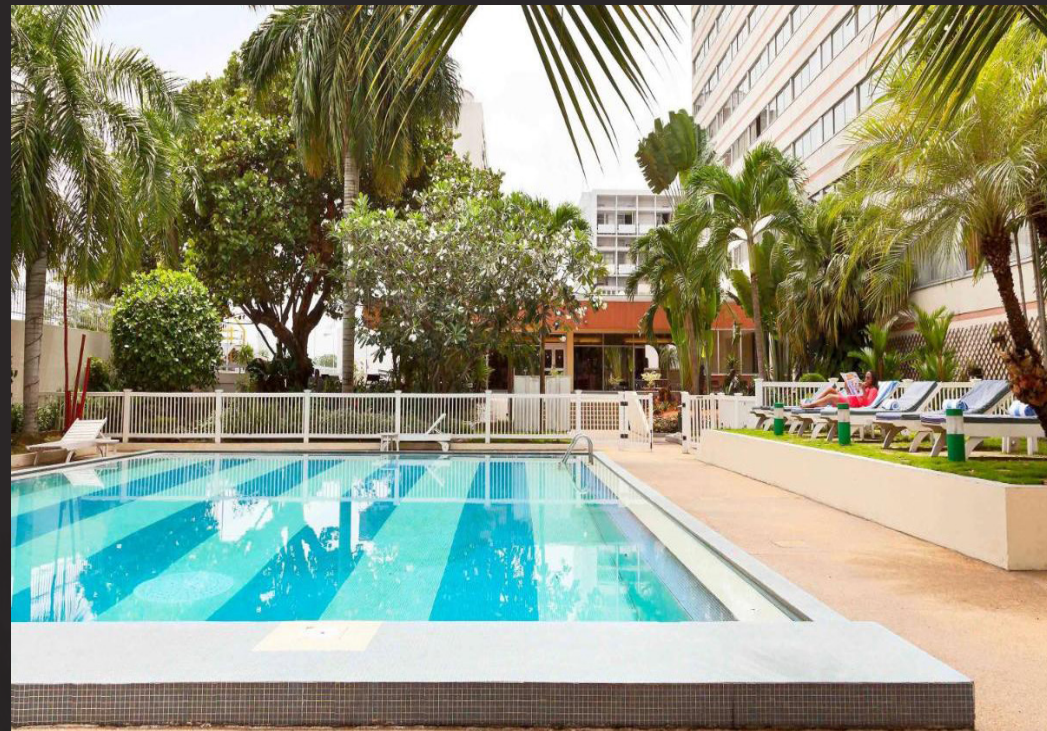
SAO TOME HOTEL



ACCOMMODATIONS



ABIDJAN HOTEL



ACCOMMODATIONS



ACCOMMODATIONS



ASSINIE HOTEL

