

Ivory Coast trip - March 2019 - Part 2

Wednesday, 13 March, while Denver was experiencing a major storm, we had heat and humidity under a tropical sun. Morning conditions were still pleasant while we visited local attractions. Cloud cover helped.

On the southeastern edge of Yamoussoukro the Roman Catholic Church has built the world's largest Basilica, modeled after the Vatican and some other European landmarks. It is called the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace and was built in only three years. A large white dove is designed into the northeastern approach. All of the architecture is filled with numbers (4, 12, etc.), glass illustrations, and symbols related to the Biblical faith. The main building is in the shape of a cross.



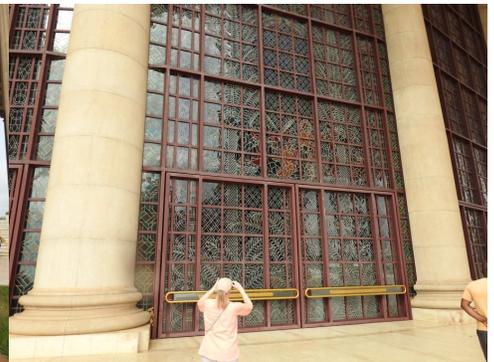
satellite view



approaching from the east



Its size is becoming apparent.



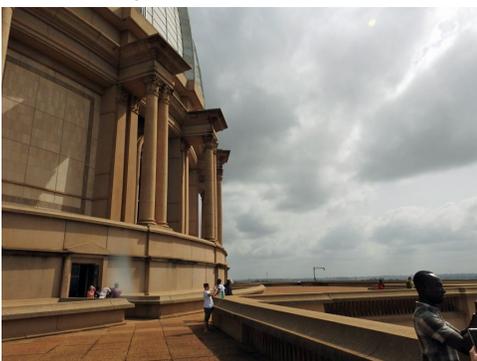
The stained glass windows illustrate Bible stories; beautiful from inside.



Photos beyond here are not allowed. Dome ceiling, centered on a dove



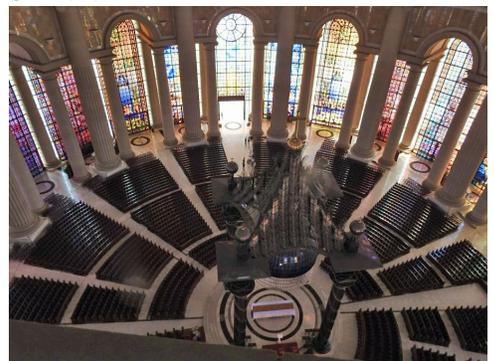
group photo at entrance



outside on balcony

Around the interior are many supporting columns. The largest have spiral staircases hidden within by which we climbed up about 12 stories to the balcony level.

People on the ground floor in the interior photos from the balcony are just dots.



inside from balcony



Additional windows line the balcony. White dove in northeastern entrance The dome from the balcony

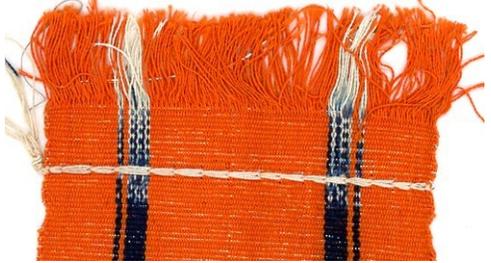
The small black squares at the base of the dome in the previous photo are the large doors for people, thereby giving a scale to this giant structure.



Then we traveled north about 17 miles (27 km) to the edge of a small village (larger than shown in this satellite view) for a demonstration of a local style of weaving. Simple 2-harness looms were built among the trees. The long warp strings were stretched out across the ground and tensioned with a sliding bucket with rocks. (My mother taught loom weaving for decades.) A sample was given to each of our team. For mine the non-orange warp threads alternated between black and white along their length. The weft was both orange and shiny metallic.



loom among trees



main working parts



adjusting warp near sliding tension



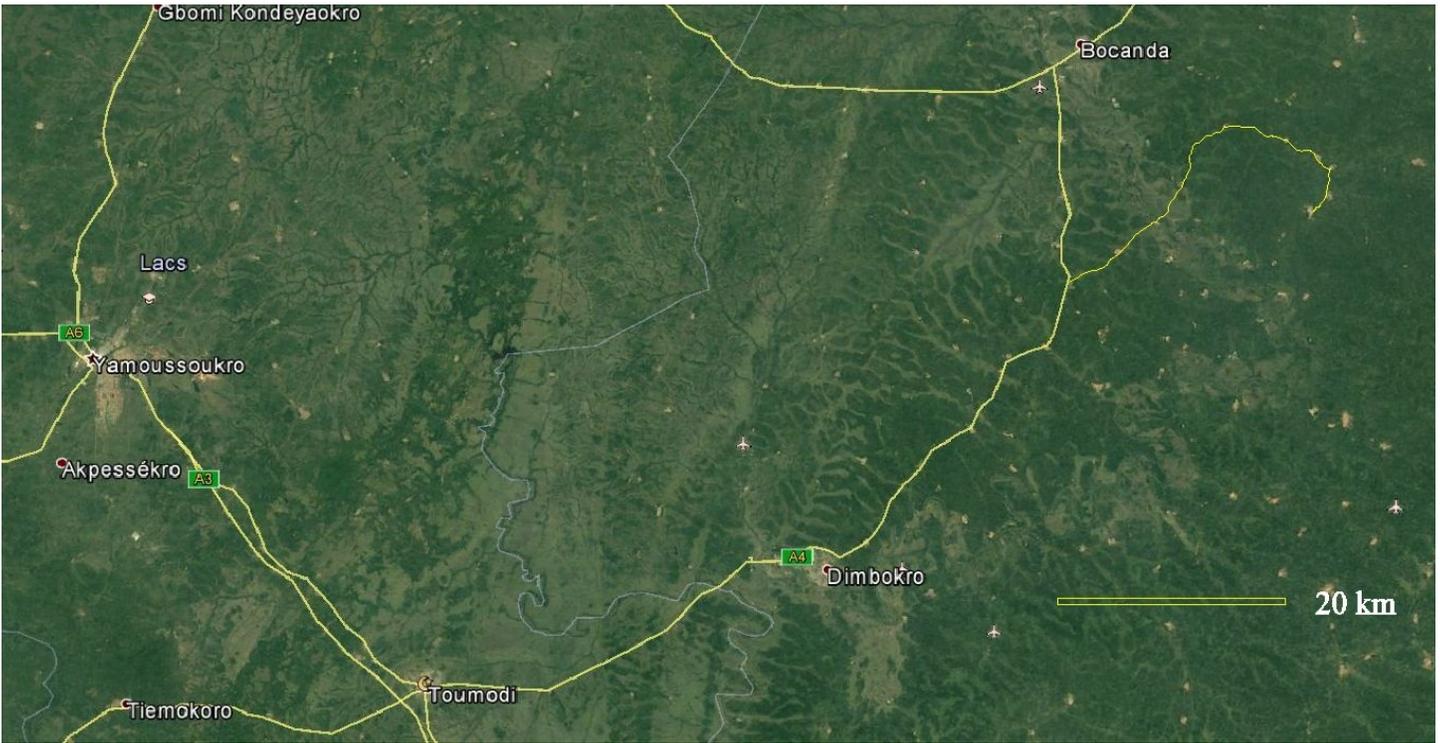
roadside retail store, broader samples



regional bus with baggage and live goats on top

Before leaving the city we got lunch “to go”. We went along the good divided highway part way towards Abidjan. At an exit we then started the long drive (4 hours) on roads dominated by potholes until we reached the remote village of Kouadioblekro. In the satellite view on the next page, the village is at the end of the hooked yellow road line at the right. I had

to draw that thin yellow line myself based on the satellite imagery of the roads. The thicker yellow road lines were supplied by Google Earth.



At the left is an enlargement of the village from an old 2013 satellite image that overexposes the town features. We arrived along the curved road from the upper right corner, entered the village and stopped at the location of the first red dot. (The straight line is the power line.) We were greatly surprised by the crowd and the music from the welcoming band. After refreshing drinks we walked with the band through and around the village for about 45 minutes. Everyone gathered under a large shade tree in the upper left part of the village (near faint red dot) for welcoming ceremonies. Our overnight house was in that region. Our clinic activities were at the cluster of red dots. Our meals were near the forest edge southeast of the red dot of our village entrance.

The large satellite view above shows a yellow speckle of many similar villages scattered throughout extensive forest cover. All are too small to be named in Goggle Earth.



welcoming band

children

women



welcome by village chief



Grace with flower gift; team, drinks



from video of band during village walk around



from video - Grace (red) dancing



from video - team at town meeting under large tree



from video - town meeting welcome from chief



We then inspected the facilities for the clinic to be held the following day. A separate report covers my observations about supplies boxes.

