

Air Afrique Turns 36

Introduces Plans To Attract Tourists To Cote d'Ivoire

By TASHA LYNETTE CLOPTON

As one of the youngest fleets in the airline industry, Air Afrique celebrated its 36th anniversary in May. The airline serves 30 destinations in Africa, the Middle East and North America, with Freetown in Sierra Leone and Banjul in The Gambia being its newest additions.

Air Afrique has grown from a small regional airline with just eight employees in 1961, to an international airline with modern equipment and a staff of 4500.

This summer, its North American service, which began in New York in 1971, has increased to six flights per week.

This change provides more than 9,000 additional seats to and from West Africa.

The airline also operates an all-cargo flight on this route once a week.

This year, one of Air Afrique's destinations, Accra, Ghana, will be the site of the Pan African Festival in October. The airline will be one of the sponsors of the Baule Art Exhibition to be held in February at the Art Institute of Chicago. The airline also announced that because of the desire of more African

Americans to visit the Motherland, special fares will once again be available in February and March of 1998, celebrating Black History Month. Air Afrique extends its support to tour operators wishing to plan special events at its numerous destinations for millennium celebrations in the year 2000.

In correlation with Air

Air Afrique's 36th anniversary, a breakfast seminar was held May 1 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. Theophile Komalco, Air Afrique's director for North America, thanked participants for the support given to the airline over the years.

Komalco revealed plans to vigorously promote Cote d'Ivoire (the Ivory Coast) as a major tourist site, the attractions include the beautiful Our Lady of Peace Basilica, inviting beaches, cultural activities, pilgrimage sites, sporting facilities, and excellent hotels. Cote d'Ivoire may be marketed alone or in combination with other tourist sites as a package deal.

For reservations or more information on the Ivory Coast or any other of its tourist sites and deals, call Air Afrique at (800) 456-9192.



Photos (clockwise from top left): Theophile Komalco, Air Afrique's director for North America; Air Afrique airlines; Cote D'Ivoire, region of Man Zala, young girls; painted faces; Senoufo Dancer from Korhogo Region.



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