

LAGOS STATE FACTFINDER

A Publication of Ikeja Book Club

(An Initiative of the Society of Young Nigerian Writers)



It contains all you need to know about Lagos State



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HISTORY

Before the creation of the States in 1967, the identity of Lagos was restricted to the Lagos Island of Eko (Bini word for war camp). The first settlers in Eko were the Aworis, who were mostly hunters and fishermen. They had migrated from Ile-Ife by stages to the coast at Ebute-Metta.

The Aworis were later reinforced by a band of Benin warriors and joined by other Yoruba elements who settled on the mainland for a while till the danger of an attack by the warring tribes plaguing Yorubaland drove them to seek the security of the nearest island, Iddo, from where they spread to Eko.

By 1851 after the abolition of the slave trade, there was a great attraction to Lagos by the repatriates. First were the Saro, mainly freed Yoruba captives and their descendants who, having been set ashore in Sierra Leone, responded to the pull of their homeland, and returned in successive waves to Lagos. Having had the privilege of Western education and christianity, they made remarkable contributions to education and the rapid modernisation of Lagos. They were granted land to settle in the Olowogbowo and Breadfruit areas of the island.

The Brazilian returnees, the Aguda, also started arriving in Lagos in the mid-19th century and brought with them the skills they had acquired in Brazil. Most of them were master-builders, carpenters and masons, and gave the

distinct characteristics of Brazilian architecture to their residential buildings at Bamgbose and Campos Square areas which form a large proportion of architectural richness of the city.

The other two groups of Lagos State citizens are the Ogu people of Badagry and its environs, and the Ijebu in Ikorodu and Epe Local Governments.

Badagry town houses the first storey building in Nigeria, built in 1845 and still standing on its original site.

Badagry's original name was Gbagle a contraction of the word Ogbaglee, meaning in Ogu (not Egun as commonly mis-pronounced and mis-spelt) "a farmland near the swamp". The Ogu people are historically reputed to have migrated from the ancient Ketu.

Kingdom (part of Oduduwa's Kingdom) and they left Ile-Ife around the mid-13th century, for Accra in Gold Coast. The Ga/Ewe (Aja-Ogu) speaking group of today's Ghana are indeed the kith and kin of the Ogu of Badagry. The history of Badagry has a fascinating tradition of Kingship (Wheno-Aholu) and local administration. The ancient town of Badagry is divided into eight quarters namely: Jegba, Ahoriko Awhanjigoh, Boekoh, Wharakoh, Pesuka and Ganho and its adjoining villages on both the mainland and island, have for centuries recognised the When Aholu Akran of Badagry, of which there have been seventeen from the earliest times to the present Akran, Menu Toyi I crowned in 1977.

The Ijebu people of the Epe and Ikorodu Local Government areas share a collective heritage with their kith and kin in the present day Ogun State, but have also developed strong trade and cultural links with the entire riverine coastline of Nigeria, with its interlaced pattern of waters and creeks which empty into the lagoon and the Atlantic ocean. By the turn of this century, through administrative sleight of hand by the British, all the major towns and settlements of the two areas had been annexed as part of the "colony" and the amalgamation in 1914 finally merged Ikorodu with the protectorate.

Lagos State, Nigeria was created on May 27, 1967 by virtue of State (Creation and Transitional Provisions) Decree No. 14 of 1967, which restructured Nigeria's Federation into 12 States.

Prior to this, Lagos Municipality had been administered by the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Lagos Affairs as the regional authority, while the Lagos City Council (LCC) governed the City of Lagos. Equally, the metropolitan areas (Colony Province) of Ikeja, Agege, Mushin, Ikorodu, Epe and Badagry were administered by the Western Region.

Lagos State lies to the south-western part of the Federation. It shares boundaries with Ogun State both in the North and East and is bounded on the west by the Republic of Benin. In the South it stretches for 180 kilometres along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. The smallest State in the Federation, it occupies an area of

3,577 sq km. 22% or 787sq. km of which consists of lagoons and creeks

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Agege, Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Alimosho, Amuwo-Odofin, Apapa, Badagry, Epe, Eti-Osa, Ibeju/Lekki, Ifako-Ijaye, Ikeja, Ikorodu, Kosofe, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Mushin, Ojo, Oshodi-Isolo, Shomolu, Surulere, etc

ADMINISTRATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

In terms of administration, Lagos is not a single municipality and has therefore no overall city administration. The urban area of Greater Lagos in fact comprises 16 of the 20 separate municipalities which together comprise Lagos State, which entity provides overall government for the metropolitan region. The Municipality of Lagos, which covered Lagos Island, Ikoyi and Victoria Island as well as some mainland territory, was managed by the Lagos City Council (LCC), but it was disbanded in 1976 and divided into several Local Government Areas (most notably Lagos Island LGA, Lagos Mainland LGA and Eti-Osa LGA). The mainland beyond the Municipality of Lagos, on the other hand, comprised several separate towns and settlements such as Mushin, Ikeja and Agege. In the wake of the 1970s Nigerian oil boom, Lagos experienced a population explosion, untamed economic growth, and unmitigated rural migration. This caused the outlying towns and settlements to develop rapidly, thus forming the *Greater Lagos metropolis* seen today. The history of

Lagos is still evidenced in the layout of the LGAs which display the unique identities of the cultures that created them.

CLIMATE

In Köppen-Geiger climate classification system, Lagos has a tropical wet and dry climate (Aw) that borders on a tropical monsoon climate (Am). Lagos experiences two rainy seasons, with the heaviest rains falling from April to July and a weaker rainy season in October and November. There is a brief relatively dry spell in August and September and a longer dry season from December to March. Monthly rainfall between May and July averages over 400 mm (16 in), while in August and September it is down to 200 mm (7.9 in) and in December as low as 25 mm (0.98 in). The main dry season is accompanied by harmattan winds from the Sahara Desert, which between December and early February can be quite strong. The highest maximum temperature ever recorded in Lagos was 37.3 °C (99.1 °F) and the minimum 13.9 °C (57.0 °F).

CENSUS DATA FOR LAGOS

Although the 2006 National Population Census of Nigeria credited the metropolitan area with a population figure of 7,937,932, the figure is at variance with some projections by the UN and other population agencies and groups worldwide. The population figure of Lagos State given by the Lagos State Government is 17,553,924. It was based on conducted enumeration for social planning

by the Lagos State Government and it believes that since the inhabitants of the metropolitan area of Lagos constitute 88% of the Lagos State population, the population of metropolitan Lagos is about 15.5 million. A rejoinder to Lagos State Government view. Concluded that "Lagos State concealed the fact that the population projection, for Lagos Urban Agglomeration by the UN agencies had been revised downwards substantially as early as 2003. It failed to interpret the two most important and fairly representative and reliable secondary data sets already in public domain, the National Identity Card Scheme and the 2003 Voters Registration figures from INEC. The recently released figures for 2007 Voters Registration by INEC were an act subsequent to the release of the provisional census results and comprehensively corroborate, vindicate and validate the population figures in no uncertain terms. According to the official results of the 2006 census, there are 8,048,430 inhabitants in Metropolitan Lagos. This figure is lower than what had been anticipated and has created a controversy in Nigeria. Lagos Island, the central Local Government Area and historic centre of Metropolitan Lagos, had a population of 212,700 as of the 2006 Census.

Authorities of Lagos State have attacked the results of the 2006 census, accusing the Nigerian National Population Commission of having undercounted the population of the state. This accusation is denied by the National Population Commission.

Lagos is, by most estimates, one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. Lagos is currently experiencing a population increase of about 275,000 persons per annum. In 1999 the United Nations predicted that the city's metropolitan area, which had only about 290,000 inhabitants in 1950, would exceed 20 million by 2010 and thus become one of the ten most populated cities in the world.

There is a huge spectrum of wealth distribution among the people that reside in Lagos. It ranges from the very wealthy to the very poor. Lagos has attracted many young people and families seeking a better life from all other parts of Nigeria and beyond.

ECONOMY

Lagos is Nigeria's economic focal point, generating a significant portion of the country's GDP. Most commercial and financial business is carried out in the central business district situated on the island. This is also where most of the country's commercial banks and financial institutions and major corporations are headquartered. Lagos has one of the highest standards of living as compared to other cities in Nigeria as well as in Africa.

The Port of Lagos is Nigeria's leading port and one of the largest and busiest in Africa. It is administered by the Nigerian Ports Authority and it is split into three main sections: Lagos port, in the main channel next to Lagos Island, Apapa Port (site of the container terminal) and

Tin Can Port, both located in Badagry Creek, which flows into Lagos Harbour from the west. The port features a railhead.

The port has seen growing amounts of crude oil exported, with export figures rising between 1997 and 2000. Oil and petroleum products provide 14% of GDP and 90% of foreign exchange earnings in Nigeria as a whole.

MUSIC AND FILM INDUSTRY

Lagos is famous throughout Africa for its music scene. Lagos has given birth to a variety of styles such as Nigerian hip hop, highlife, juju, fuji, and Afrobeat.

Lagos is the centre of the Nigerian movie industry, often referred to as 'Nollywood'. Idumota market on Lagos Island is the primary distribution centre. Many films are shot in the Festac area of Lagos.



National Arts Theatre

The cinemas are gradually losing their supporters to the movie industry. Yoruba language films happen to be the

most watched in the cinemas, followed by Indian films. Films are not premiered for a long period of time in the western sense, especially with Yoruba language films. Films in English are controlled mainly by the Igbos are the most popular and move directly from the studios to the market.

Iganmu is home to the primary centre for the performing arts and artistes in Nigeria: the National Arts Theatre .

Paul McCartney also recorded his third post-Beatles album, Band On The Run in an EMI studio in Lagos in August to September 1973.

SPORT

Football is Lagos' most popular sport. Prominent Lagos football clubs include Bridge Boys F.C. (owned by the Lagos State), and First Bank: both play in Nigeria National League, the second tier of Nigerian football.

The Nigeria national football team, also known as the **Super Eagles**, used to play almost all of their home games in Lagos at the National Stadium in Surulere; however, games are now mostly played at the larger and newer Abuja National Stadium in Abuja, which is the default home of the Super Eagles.

Education

Lagos State has taken giant strides in fulfilling the educational aspirations of its citizenry. The state has 906 primary schools with 859,456 pupils. The state also has 360 secondary schools with 633,247 students, 5 Technical Colleges with 3,223 students, two Colleges of Education including that for Primary Education, a Polytechnic and a University - the Lagos State University (LASU) located at Ojo. It also houses the federally owned University of Lagos. The thrust of the government educational policy is the provision of qualitative education and the pursuit of academic excellence.

The Lagos State Government operates state schools. The education system is the 6-3-3-4 system, which is practised throughout the country (as well as by many other members of the Economic Community of West African States). The levels are Primary, Junior Secondary School (JSS), Senior Secondary School (SSS), and university. All children are offered basic education, with special focus now on the first nine years.

Lagos is home to various postsecondary schools, universities and other vocational institutions that are either operated by the government or private entities.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

- Institute for Industrial Technology (IIT) : founded in 2000, IIT is a technical vocational school for male youth from families with limited

resources. Its educational model is based on the Dual Training System.

POLYTECHNICS

- Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH) : founded in 1934, the college is Nigeria's first higher educational institution and third in Africa. The college is a center of culture and heritage. Currently it has student enrollment of over 16,000.
- Lagos State Polytechnic is a polytechnic comprising more than six schools including private polytechnics and was founded 25 years ago. Its main campus resides at Ikorodu, along Shagamu road.
- Lagos City Polytechnic, located at 6/8, Bashiru Oweh Street, Off Simbiat Abiola Road (formerly Medical Road),Ikeja - This is the first private Polytechnic in Nigeria. It was established in 1990 by Engr. Babatunde Odufuwa. Engr. Odufuwa hails from Oke-Aye in Ijebu North East Local Government Area (I.N.E.L.G) of Ogun State.
- Grace Polytechnic
- Wolex Polytechnic
- Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology is a monotechnic that offers courses in fisheries technology, general science, marine engineering and nautical science.
- Federal College of Education (tech) Akoka

UNIVERSITIES

- The University of Lagos (UNILAG) Akoka, is a large institution dating from 1962, with over 45,000 students. It comprises 13 faculties, run by over 4,000 staff.^[51]
- Lagos State University (LASU) is a multi-campus university established in the year 1984 and owned by the Lagos State government. The main campus is located at Ojo, along the Lagos-Badagry Expressway.
- Pan-African University is primarily a business school, offering two MBA programmes. Founded in 1996 and awarded University status in 2002, it consists of the Lagos Business School and of Enterprise Development Services. The University also places some emphasis on the study of art, running the Virtual Museum of Modern Nigerian Art.
- National Open University of Nigeria National Open University is the first open university in Nigeria, it is located on Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos
- Caleb University is a private university located at Imota, Lagos.
- Lagos State College of Health Technology (LASCOHET), Yaba- A mini institution that run health courses such as Health information Management, Pharmacist Technician, Medical Laboratory Technician, Community health extension worker and Environmental Health Technology, it is located in Yaba

- Lagos State University College of Medicine, (LASUCOM), Ikeja
- Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba-Mushin, Lagos.

TOURISM

Bar Beach, Lagos Physical/Man-made * Badagry Beach, Lagos Physical/Man-made * Kaiyeto Maiyegun Beach Physical/Man-made * Eleko Beach Physical/Man-made * Lekki Peninsula Physical/Man-made * Tarkwa Bay, Lagos Physical/Man-made * Water Parks, Toyin Street, Ikeja Man-made Resort * Apapa Amusement Park Resort/Man-made * Frankid Leisure Park, Festac Resort/Man-made * Whispering Palms Iworo-Physical/Man-made Badagry * Lekki Conservation Centre Man-made * National Museum, Onikan Museum/Monument * Slave Relics Badagry Monument * First Storey Building, Badagry Monument * MUSON Centre, Onikan Man-made * National Theatre, Iganmu Man-made * Oba's Palace Lagos Cultural* Igbo Igunun, cultural

MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS

Ikeja (capital), Agege, Apapa, Badagry, Epe, Ikorodu, Ikotun, Ikoyi, Ipaja, Ogudu, Ojota, Oshodi, Victoria Island and Yaba

LAND MASS, LOCATION AND POPULATION

Although Lagos is the smallest state in Nigeria geographically (with an area of 3,496 hectares, of which 75,755 hectares are wetlands), it has one of the highest populations (9,113,605 according to the 2006 census – over 5 percent of the national total). The UN estimates that at its present growth rate, Lagos will be third largest mega-city in the world by 2015 after Tokyo in Japan and Mumbai (Bombay) in India. It lies at latitude 6°27'11" north and longitude 3°23'45" east.

Metropolitan Lagos, which accounts for 37 percent of the land area of Lagos State, is home to over 85 percent of its population.

ORIGINAL INHABITANTS AND SETTLERS

The Portuguese explorer Rui de Sequeira, who visited the area that is now Lagos State in 1472, gave it the name 'Lago de Curamo' ('lagos' is the Portuguese words for 'lakes'). As a coastal state it was an important commercial centre and thrived on trade between the Europeans and hinterland natives. It was used as a war camp by the Benin Empire who referred to it as 'Eko' (the Yoruba name for the state still used till this day). Lagos has been home to a number of different ethnic groups over the centuries. It was originally inhabited by the Awori subgroup of the Yoruba people who were mostly hunters and fishermen. They had migrated from Ile-Ife by stages to the coast at Ebute-Metta. Under the leadership of their Olofin, the Awori moved to an island now called Iddo and then to the larger Lagos Island. In the fifteenth century, the Awori settlement was attacked

by the Benin Empire following a quarrel, and the island became a Benin war-camp called "Eko" under Oba Orhogba, the Oba of Benin at the time.

Yoruba people settled in the state in large numbers early in the course of its modern development, followed by migrants from all over Nigeria and other West African nations, as well as returnee ex-slaves (known as Creoles) from Freetown, Sierra Leone, Brazil and the West Indies. The Creoles contributed significantly to Lagos's modernisation and the influence of their Portuguese heritage can still be seen in the architecture on Lagos Island.

ETHNIC GROUPS

Lagos is a highly heterogeneous state, with ethnic groups from all over the country represented in it. The Yoruba are considered to be the state's main ethnic group and their language is spoken by many of its inhabitants. It is also home to significant international populations, including Lebanese, Indian and British communities.

RELIGION

Christianity and Islam are the main religions in Lagos State, although a certain amount of traditional religion is practised.

TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAYS



Toll gates and roads in Lagos Lekki-Epe Expressway

Lagos has one of the largest and most extensive road networks in West Africa. It also has suburban trains and some ferry services. Highways are usually congested in peak hours, due in part to the geography of the city, as well as to its explosive population growth. Lagos is also linked by many highways and bridges. A new rail system which is supposed to span the length of the Badagry expressway is currently under construction.



Third Mainland Bridge

The Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway are the major controlled-access highways in the north of the city and serve as inter-state highways to Oyo State and Ogun State respectively. To the west the congested Lagos-Badagry Expressway serves outlying

towns such as *Festival Town*, which was the location for the 1977 Festival of Black Arts and Culture 77.

Lagos's importance as a commercial centre and port and its strategic location have led to it being the end-point of three Trans-African Highway routes using Nigeria's national roads. The Trans–West African Coastal Highway leaves the city as the Badagry Expressway to Benin and beyond as far as Dakar and Nouakchott; the Trans-Sahara Highway to Algiers, which is close to completion, leaves the city as the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

Lagos State has a bus rapid transit (BRT) system. The first phase was completed in February 2008. It is expected to operate along eight routes using specially designated bus rapid transit lanes running through the city, with the aim of expanding to other routes in the future. The first phase of the Lagos BRT runs 12 miles (19 km) through Ikorodu Road and Funsho Williams Avenue up to CMS. After weeks of test runs, operations started on 17 March 2008, six months earlier than planned.

It has been estimated that the system will transport about 10,000 passengers in each direction per hour during peak travel times. At these times traffic congestion, called "Go Slow", by Lagosians, can be extreme. The LAMATA bus rapid transit corridor covers a distance of about 22 km (14 mi) in length. The system is run by two operators, NURTW Cooperative (Nigerian Union of Road Transport Workers) and Lagbus, a Lagos State

Government owned Asset Management Company which contributes about 180 high capacity buses for the implementation of the first phase Mile 12 to CMS BRT Lite system.

RAIL

A planned extensive urban rail system running through the Lagos metropolis.

FERRIES

Lagos State Ferry Services Corporation runs a few regular routes, for example between Lagos Island and the mainland, modern ferries and wharves. Private boats run irregular passenger services on the lagoon and on some creeks.

AIR



Murtala Muhammed International Airport

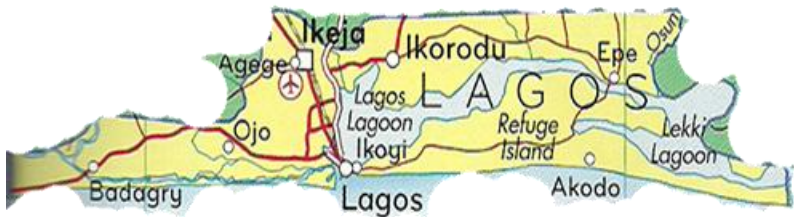
Lagos is served by Murtala Muhammed International Airport, one of the largest airports in Africa and a top international air passenger gateway to Nigeria. The

airport is located in the northern suburb of Ikeja and has Domestic and International Terminals. With 5.1 million passengers in 2008, the airport accounts for almost fifty percent of all air traffic in Nigeria. Outbound international travel from Murtala Mohammed Airport accounts for the majority of all air passengers traveling to and from Nigeria. The airport has recently undergone upgrades along with the addition of a new terminal.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

There are twenty local government areas (LGAs) in the state, as well as thirty-seven local council development areas (LCDAs). Each has a chairman as its administrative head.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS



Map of Lagos State

- Agege
- Ajeromi-Ifelodun
- Amuwo-Odofin
- Ikeja
- Ikorodu
- Kosofe
- Lagos Island
- Lagos

- Apapa
- Badagry
- Epe
- Eti-Osa
- Ibeju-Lekki
- Ifako-Ijaye
- Mainland
- Mushin
- Ojo
- Oshodi-Isolo
- Shomolu
- Surulere

LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREAS

- Agbado-Okeodo
- Agboyi Ketu
- Apapa Iganmu
- Ayobo Ipaja
- Badagry West
- Bariga
- Coker Aguda
- Egbe Idimu
- Ejigbo
- Eredo
- Eti-Osa East
- Iba
- Ifedolun
- Igbogbo Baiyeku
- Igando-Ikotun
- Ikoyi-Obalende
- Imota
- Iru-Victoria Island
- Isolo
- Itire-Ikate
- Lagos Island East
- Lekki
- Mosan-Okunola
- Odi-Olowo
- Ojodu
- Ojokoro
- Olorunda
- Onigbongbo
- Oriade
- Orile-Agege
- Oto-Awori

- Ijede
- Ikorodu North
- Ikorodu West
- Ikosi-Ejinrin
- Yaba

FORMER GOVERNORS OF LAGOS STATE

- Mobolaji Johnson (Governor – Military): May 1967 – July 1975
- Adekunle Lawal (Governor – Military): July 1975 – 1977
- Ndubuisi Kanu (Governor - Military): 1977 - July 1978
- Ebitu Ukiwe (Governor – Military): July 1978 – October 1979
- Lateef Jakande (Governor – Civilian (Unity Party of Nigeria)): October 1979 – December 1983
- Gbolahan Mudasiru (Governor – Military): January 1984 – August 1986
- Mike Akhigbe (Governor – Military): August 1986 – July 1988
- Raji Rasaki (Governor – Military): July 1988 – January 1992
- Michael Otedola (Governor – Civilian (National Republican Convention)): January 1992 – November 1993
- Olagunsoye Oyinlola (Governor – Military): December 1993 – August 1996

- Mohammed Buba Marwa (Governor – Military): August 1996 – May 1999
- Bola Tinubu (Governor – Civilian (Action Congress of Nigeria)): May 1999 – May 2007
- Babatunde Fashola (Governor – Civilian (Action Congress of Nigeria)): May 2007 – Present

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, MINERALS AND INDUSTRIES

Fishing in inland waterways as well as deep-sea fishing and shrimping along the coast are significant commercial activities in Lagos State. Agriculture is also important: the main crops grown in the state include corn, cassava, vegetables, rice, yams, cocoyam, cowpeas, soya beans, coconuts, oil palms and kolanuts. Mineral resources available in commercial quantities in the state include clay and industrial sands. The Lagos metropolis is the country's commercial and financial centre and several industrial estates can be found in the state. The Lagos port complex is located along its coastline and is one of the largest in the West African region.

EDUCATION

The tertiary institutions in the state include two federal universities (the University of Lagos and the National Open University of Nigeria); one state university (Lagos State University); three private universities (Pan-African University, Cetep City University and Caleb University); and a number of polytechnics, including the Lagos State Polytechnic and the Yaba College of Technology. The state is also home to the Federal College of Fisheries and

Marine Technology; a federal college of education; the Lagos State College of Primary Education, Epe; and the Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Ijanikin. Other institutions in Lagos State include the Lagos State School of Nursing, Midwifery and Public Health and College of Health Technology.

TOURISM AND RECREATION



Children playing at the beach *Beaches*

As a coastal state situated by the Atlantic Ocean, Lagos State has a number of beaches suitable for recreational use, including Bar, Lekki, Elegushi and Alpha beaches in the Eti-Osa LGA, Eleko Beach in the Ibeju-Lekki LGA, Badagry Beach in the Badagry LGA.

Whispering Palms

Whispering Palms is a conference resort centre occupying about eight acres of land located in the Badagry LGA. The resort is on the Lagos Lagoon.

Whispering Palms offers ecological, beach and aquatic tourism. Visitors can view exotic animals and birds at its mini-zoo.

Tinubu Square

Tinubu Square (formerly known as Independence Square), located in the Lagos Island LGA, is a popular site in the heart of Lagos. It features seats for relaxation and a statue of Madam Efunroye Tinubu, a renowned trader after whom the square is named. The square was originally built as an independence gift to the people of Lagos by the Lebanese community in 1960. It was reconstructed in 2007 by the state government.

Lekki Conservation Centre

The Lekki Conservation Centre is a project of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF). Established in 1990, the Centre celebrates and protects the natural biodiversity of the state, and offers scenic walks and picnic spots for visitors as well as glimpses at a variety of animal species.

MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS

National Museum, Onikan

The National Museum was established in 1956 as a means of collecting, preserving and celebrating Nigeria's cultural history after the loss of many important artefacts during the colonial era. Before the museum's opening,

the government purchased some artworks taken from Nigeria and sold abroad (including some sold at the famous auction house Sotheby's) to showcase at the new museum. In 2002, a shopping complex was constructed near the museum as a means of rejuvenating its environment.

The museum has various collections of pots, bronze and terracotta statues from Benin, Igbo Ukwu and the central regions of Nigeria and Ife, the major centres of classical Nigerian art. It famously has on display the car in which General Murtala Muhammed was assassinated.



Exterior of the National Museum



Art at the National Museum

Heritage Museum, Badagry

The Heritage Museum was established in 2002 by the Lagos State Government to preserve and conserve what was left of Badagry after the abolition treaty signed between the Badagry chiefs and the British Government in 1825, as well as educate the public about the history of slavery in Nigeria.

It has on display items such as slave chains and images of historically important locations such as the site where Christianity was first preached in Nigeria in 1842.

Shitta-Bey Mosque

The Shitta-Bey Mosque was built in 1892 and is on Martins Street in the Lagos Island LGA. It was built from concrete, granite and marble and features fine Brazilian-style architecture.

Cuban Lodge The Cuban Lodge was designed by British architect Christopher Thomas and completed in 1931. It was the property of the late Hilario Campos and features many classic Brazilian-style features. It is located at 40 Odunlami Street, Lagos Island.

Glover Memorial Hall

Named in honour of Sir John Glover (a colonial governor), this event centre played host to many indigenous theatre practitioners over the years. It was recently refurbished and is located in the Lagos Island LGA.

Ilojo Bar

Ilojo Bar (also known as Casa do Fernandez) is in the Lagos Island LGA. Built in the Brazilian style, It was declared a historic monument by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments in 1956. Estimated to be over a hundred years old, it is owned by the Olaiya family.

Old Iga Building

The Old Iga Building in the Lagos Island LGA was declared a historic monument in 1964 by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments. It is thought to have been built around the early 1700s and is the oldest parts of the traditional palace of the Oba of Lagos.

The Water House

The Water House at 12 Kakawa Street in the Lagos Island LGA was declared a monument in 1961 by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments. Built in the Brazilian style, it is among one of the the oldest buildings in Lagos.

Old Secretariat Building

The Old Secretariat Building is in the Lagos Island LGA. It was declared a monument in 1982 by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments.

FESTIVALS

Boat regattas are held annually in most of the riverine areas of Lagos State.

Lagos Black Heritage Festival

The Lagos Black Heritage Festival (LBHF) celebrates and preserves the cultural heritage of Lagos residents. Participants have the chance to relax and unwind in a comfortable environment, as well as participate in engine power boat races, swim, and watch the Boat Regatta. There is also music, dancing, and a street carnival. The

theme for the 2013 edition was ‘the African Colours of Brazil’.

Eyo Festival

The Eyo festival is held in the Lagos Island LGA. It is the most famous cultural festival in the state and is renowned for its colourful masquerades.



Eyo Festival

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Oldest multiple-storey building in Nigeria

The Oldest Multiple-storey Building in Nigeria

The first multiple-story building erected in Nigeria is located in the Badagry LGA. It was built in 1842 and was home to one of the country's first Christian Missions.

The National Theatre

The National Arts Theatre is the primary centre for the performing arts in Nigeria. It is a monument located in Iganmu. Built during the military regime of Olusegun Obasanjo, its construction was completed in 1976 in preparation for the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) in 1977.

Tafawa Balewa Square

Tafawa Balewa Square is where Nigeria independence was declared on October 1, 1960.