



Lagos and Yorubaland

NIGERIA

Photo by A. Alberghina



10 days

11 - 20 April 2025

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- Eccentric **Lagos**, with a dugout visit to the **Makoko** slum on stilts
- The dances of the **Eyo spirits**, of **Egunguns** and **Gelede** masks
- The memories of the slave trade at **Badagry**
- The impressive Olumo rock, shrines and fetishes of the Orisha (voodoo) religion at **Abeokuta**
- The Oba palace in **Ife**, and the mysterious Opa Oranmiyan stele
- The Yoruba sacred forest at **Oshogbo**, a UNESCO heritage site
- The decadent Afro-Brazilian architecture of **Ijebu Ode**



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1 - Friday 11 April

Flight to Lagos (LOS)

Flight to Lagos. On arrival meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to Hotel Ibis Airport or similar. Overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 2 - Saturday 12 April

Lagos

After breakfast, assistance with the exchange of euros and the possible purchase of a local phone card. The morning is dedicated to a visit to LAGOS, the quintessence of the complex mosaic of different cultures, peoples, worlds and economic realities, with the resulting contradictions that characterise Nigeria today. With its 20 million inhabitants, it is considered the economic centre of African millionaire entrepreneurship, which is contrasted by a vast universe of slums, among the poorest and most precarious in the world. After crossing the interminable Third Mainland Bridge, we arrive at MAKOKO, a working-class neighbourhood that is home to an immense, entirely illegal floating slum, made up of a myriad of shacks built on stilts, lying on the lagoon and inhabited by about 120,000 people. A fascinating mélange of ancient voodoo traditions, fishing communities living on subsistence, and an ancestral culture that resists eviction and the advance of progress, partly for lack of means, partly by choice, just a stone's throw from Nigeria's wealthy elites. Visit on board local wooden boats. Continuation by minibus to VICTORIA ISLAND, lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the national museum with its interesting collection of traditional objects, masks and figurines. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3 - Sunday 13 April

Lagos/Badagry

Breakfast and visit to Jeakel House, a colonial building from the British period which houses the railway museum. Afterwards, with a bit of luck, we will be able to witness the release of the EYO MASKS, ancestor spirits worshipped by the Yorouba people on the Gulf of Guinea and in Lagos. Lunch in a restaurant. In the early afternoon, transfer to the "Liverpool" pier for a motorised boat trip (approx. 1h30) on the lagoon which, following the coast in the direction of the border with Benin, will take us to the town of Badagry. Accommodation at the Whispering Palm Resort or similar and overnight in double rooms with services.



Lagos



In the Makoko slum



House on stilts in Makoko



At the Lagos Museum



Jeakel House



Day 4 - Monday 14 April

Badagry/Abeokuta

After breakfast we head to a small village to watch the release of the ZANGBETO SPIRIT, the 'guardian of the night', amidst the chants of the followers and acrobatic evolutions. This is followed by a visit to BADAGRY, the main port on the Atlantic for the slave trade, which still preserves the symbolic sites of the memory of the slave trade. Obligatory stops in an introspective and touching visit of this historical place, are the old slave market, the museums that collect the testimonies and objects linked to the sad trade, which caused the deportation of millions of individuals to the Americas, under the protective gaze of the Orisha Yemoja (local king corrupted by the slavers). Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon transfer to Abeokuta, on arrival accommodation at the Park Inn Radisson Hotel or similar and overnight in double rooms with services.



Zangbeto Ceremony



Monument in Badagry



Day 5 - Tuesday 15 April

Abeokuta

After breakfast, a day dedicated to a visit to ABEOKUTA, founded in the 19th century by the Yoruba peoples of the Egba subgroup, who were persecuted by the incursions of the Kingdom of Dahomey and those of neighbouring Ibadan, today one of the largest metropolises in Yorubaland. Surrounded by fertile lands and suggestive rocks from which it derives the very etymology of its name, Abeokuta gathered around the impressive natural and defensive fortress of Olumo Rock, a beautiful granite rock that dominates the city, still invested with sacredness, making it a destination for pilgrimages and ritual sacrifices. The magic in the once inhabited ravines of this place is also accentuated by the magnificent view of the city, the ancient clay walls, and the green cotton and oil palm plantations that surround the town. Afterwards, we head to the fetish market, where all the ingredients for making amulets and magic potions can be found, such as live and dried chameleons, chimpanzee limbs, plants with medicinal and mystical uses, ...; and we visit an Orisha temple where it is possible to meet the female followers. Lunch in a restaurant followed by a walk through the Afro-Brazilian quarter of the city, where we will be fascinated by the decadent beauty of the many historical buildings and the friendliness of the inhabitants. We will visit the mosque (exterior), the Alaka royal palace protected by a series of fetishes and statuettes, and the Itoke market, renowned for its textiles and tailors. Return to the hotel and overnight stay.



View of Abeokuta



Olumo rock

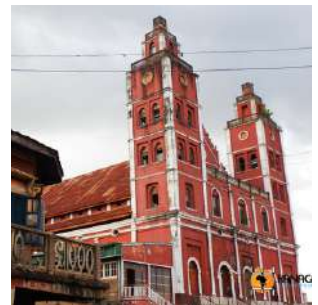


Voodoo shrine

Day 6 - Wednesday 16 April

Abeokuta/Ife

Breakfast at the hotel and, before leaving Abeokuta, we will witness a release of the EGUNUKO spirits, protective masks of the town up to 3 metres high. Afterwards, transfer to ILE-IFE, a town that stands on the ashes of the ancient Kingdom of Ifé, amidst coastal plains and tropical forests, mangrove tunnels and river estuaries, plateaus and granite rocky hills that dot the fertile valleys of the interior. Here the evolved agricultural civilisation of the Yoruba developed in the 10th century, governed politically by the leadership of the Oba chief-clans, still active today, as well as by a colourful and mystical universe of voodoo divinities, so characteristic that one speaks of a true Yoruba religion, whose echoes reached and settled even in the Americas, through the forced deportations of the slave trade. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon we visit the small and interesting museum, which houses some 'Ife heads' from around 1,000 years ago, the Oba royal palace, the mysterious Opa Oranmiyan stele, and the Oduduwa temple-altar. Accommodation at Hotel Kris Court or similar and overnight in double rooms with services.



Afro-Brazilian Mosque



Inside the Alaka Palace

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Day 7 - Thursday 17 April

Ife/Oshogbo

After breakfast, departure for OSHOGBO and a visit to its Sacred Groove, a UNESCO World Heritage site: a sacred forest where you can admire the representations of the Orisha pantheon, among which a special place is reserved for the protective and benevolent goddess Osun. Here, every year in August, a collective ceremony is consecrated to her, including evocative prayers, sacrifices and voodoo rituals. The Osun Festival is one of the most sacred events for the Yoruba people, within the forest, where enchanted nature and numerous shrines and places of worship imbue the atmosphere with mystical devotion. Lunch in a restaurant. Afterwards, we visit the house-museum of Susan Wengner, who dedicated her life to the preservation of traditional Yoruba art. We will be impressed by the unique architecture of the building and the pile of antiques on display and for sale inside. Here we will witness the release of the EGUNGUN, the spirits of the ancestors, figures respected and feared by the community. Accommodation at the Laim Hotel or similar and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



Terracotta in the Ife Museum



Sacred Groove



Orisha adept



Egungun Ceremony

Day 8 - Friday 18 April

Oshogbo/Inisa/Ibadan

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to INISA, where we will attend a TWINS CEREMONY, who play a special role in Yoruba society. Return to Oshogbo and visit the Nike art gallery, an art gallery where the works of Nigerian artists are exhibited and where we will be able to attend a workshop on the batik technique. Lunch in a restaurant. Afterwards we will watch the dance of the GELEDE MASKS. Transfer to Ibadan, a modern city that has flourished around the cocoa business. Accommodation at the Golden Tulip Hotel or similar and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



Gelede mask



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Day 9 - Saturday 19 April

Ibadan/Ijebu Ode/Lagos

After breakfast we leave for IJEBU ODE, a town that preserves Afro-Brazilian vestiges, an aristocratic palace, British colonial architecture and several extravagant buildings related to the golden age of the cocoa trade. Here, we can watch a horse parade through the streets of the town. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon continuation to Lagos, rooms in day use on request. Transfer to the airport in time for your return flight, end of services.



Architecture in Ijebu Ode



Horse Parade

Day 10 : Sunday 20 April

Lagos (LOS)/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



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**Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 8/max. 16 pax)**

3,790 €/pax

**in promotion at € 3,690
for booking before 11/01/2025**

**in promotion at € 3,590
for booking before 11/10/2024**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **490 €**
- Day use: **120 €/room**
- Extra airport transfer: **50 €/person/one way**
- Evisa service: **400 €/passport**
- Lekki 1-day extension: **on request**
- Benin City 1-day extension: **on request**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader;
- English-speaking local guides;
- Visits and excursions as per itinerary;
- The ceremonies with the spirits Zangbeto, Egunuko, Egungun and Gelede;
- Transfers by minibus, including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Half-board meals as mentioned in the itinerary;
- 8 overnight stays in hotels, in double rooms as mentioned in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- Nigeria visa;
- The cancellation, health, baggage insurance;
- Airline flights;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- All dinners;
- Airport/hotel transfers and vice versa at times other than the recommended times;
- The ceremony with the Eyo spirits;
- Photo tips;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in "Supplements";
- Anything not expressly mentioned in "the price includes".