



NACD NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATION OF THE NIGERIAN ARTS AND
CULTURE DIRECTORY PROJECT

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www.nacd.gov.ng

A wide-angle photograph of a river flowing through a dense, lush green forest. The water is a deep blue-green color, reflecting the surrounding foliage. The forest is composed of various types of trees and plants, creating a thick canopy. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

NIGERIA'S HIDDEN AND FAMOUS TOURIST DESTINATIONS



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Great thing
Was a
Small beginning

It only had
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FROM THE EDITORIAL

In line with our avowed commitment to bring to your doorstep the amazing arts, culture and tourism potentials of Nigeria, NACD Newsletter in this edition, avails readers worldwide a glimpse of some of the enchanting and exotic hidden tourist sites of Nigeria.

As you savour this cultural delicacy, we also use the opportunity to inform our subscribers that in line with our objectives of taking the sector to greater heights, NACD will continue to furnish you with other amazing stories of arts, culture and tourism never told before.

At NACD Project, as we strive to be the most authoritative databank for the sector, we will continue to keep you abreast of Nigeria's rich arts, culture and tourism potentials as well as happenings in the sector...

Stay with us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

EDITORIAL TEAM

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Ademola Adebayo- **Ass. Script Writer**
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Jude Eziuka- **Graphics**

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*The world is too much with us;
late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay
waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is
ours;*

*We have given our hearts away, a
sordid boon!*

*This Sea that bares her bosom to
the moon,*

*The winds that will be howling at
all hours,*

*And are up-gathered now like
sleeping flowers,*

*For this, for everything, we are
out of tune;*

*It moves us not.--Great God! I'd
rather be*

*A Pagan suckled in a creed
outworn;*

*So might I, standing on this
pleasant lea,*

*Have glimpses that would make
me less forlorn;*

*Have sight of Proteus rising from
the sea;*

*Or hear old Triton blow his
wreathed horn.*

-William Wordsworth Sonnet

NIGERIA'S AND TOURIST

Saying that Nigeria is a beautiful country is the kind of cliché that makes little or no impression on Nigerians who have heard it too often to take notice. To say that Nigeria is blessed and richly endowed would have the same effect, which is little or none at all. A certain creeping inertia threatens to overtake the unaware, while the 'busyness' monster keeps people pursuing and being pursued by activities guaranteed to keep them perpetually oblivious to the simpler things that make life worth living. A dancing

masquerade, a famous painting, a unique rock formation, Africa's exotic tropical climate and vegetation, to mention the more obvious, are often overlooked. Africa may be described as one continent with the largest cultural diversity, with Nigeria as it's most populous nation, where festival buffs are never at a loss for excitement at any time of the year. The words of William Wordsworth's sonnet above come to mind. Also a contributing factor to this general apathy is a misconception leading majority of people to view tourism in terms of overseas trips and heavy

spending. Nothing could be further from the truth since local tourism is both cheaper and equally beneficial to a nation's economy. Behind this misconception however, lies the thinking that no tourist attraction found locally is capable of generating the level of interest that warrants spending of money. In other words, a beautiful waterfall in Ghana for instance would have more value to a Nigerian than an even more beautiful one in Niger State. A sad situation! Sad for the fact that were Nigerians to become aware of some heritage natural,

HIDDEN FAMOUS DESTINATIONS

historical and man-made tourist attractions lying dormant across the length and breadth of this most endowed of lands, they would definitely show better appreciation than what is currently the case. How to dislodge this deep-seated apathy then? By making the right information available to Nigeria's teeming and largely ignorant population through every possible means that would eradicate the information divide. The NACD Project is very passionate about this issue. In this 22nd edition of its monthly newsletter, many of

Nigeria's known, little-known and unknown tourist attractions are given much-needed exposure for the enlightenment of readers.

These are the outcome of rigorous research excursions embarked upon by the Project's Research Department for the sole purpose of enhancing the rapid growth of Nigeria's local tourism industry. They have been largely culled from the Project's website; www.nacd.gov.ng and from its archives, and therefore can be

vouched for as authentic and worthwhile. They however do not represent the entire picture, research being by nature a continuous exercise. The often talked-about intermarriage between Arts, Culture and Tourism also becomes clearer as the issue unfolds. Enjoy!

WATER BODIES

GURARA WATERFALL

This wonderful fall which is best described as Nigeria's Premier waterfall is located at kilometre 76, Minna-Suleja road. The distance from Suleja to the junction is about 45km while from the junction to the falls measures about 2km.



IKOGOSI WARM AND COLD SPRING

Ikogosi warm spring is located in Ekiti West Local Government Area of Ekiti State, fifty-five kilometres from Akure, the State capital. The warm spring rolls down a hilly landscape. From another hill rises a cold spring which joins the warm spring at a confluence. Together they form a continuous stream. The immediate surroundings of the spring reveal tall evergreen trees, forming a shady canopy under which visitors can relax, while also checking erosion. The spring is said to have therapeutic effects on some diseases like rheumatism and guinea worm, even as the undulating topography of the area enhances its aesthetic beauty.



MATSIRGA WATERFALLS

Matsirga Waterfalls is situated in Kafanchan, about 227 kilometers south of Kaduna. The falls extend as far as 30 meters into a gorge whose bank is decorated with beautiful rocks.

OBUTU LAKE OMOGHO

An offshoot of Odo River in Anambra State, covering a large 10 hectares of land. People come here all year round for fishing and excursions. During the rainy season, it covers a larger area. The water of this lake is regarded as an antidote by locals. When fetched at midnight and without being observed, the water has power to cure a person of ailments and poisoning. The lake provides water for irrigation of extensive rice and vegetable farms during the dry season.





OGBIA TOWN JETTY

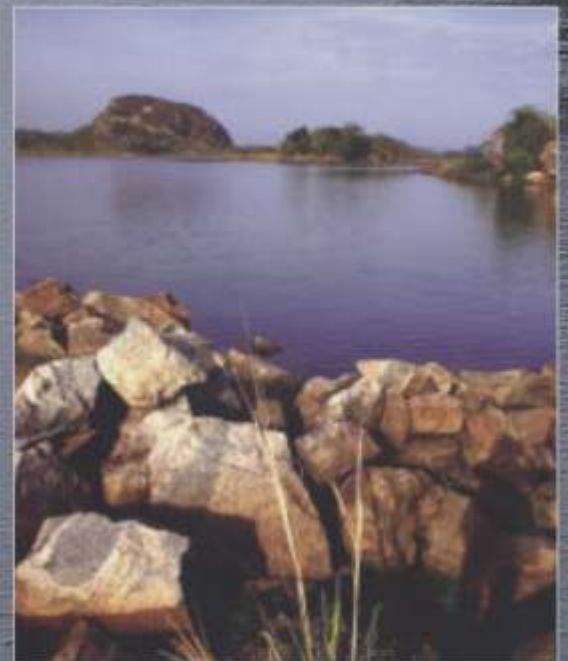
A typical riverside port, the Ogbia jetty is the last point on land from Yenagoa the Bayelsa State capital when traveling to the islands. From here, the journey continues on water to Nembe, Okpoama, Brass, Akassa and others. Several kinds of water-crafts are available to ferry passengers from this jetty, resulting in a thriving water transportation business in the area.

ASSOP WATERFALL

It is located 61 kilometres from Jos, along Akwanga road in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State. It is a crowd-pulling weekend picnic resort surrounded by beautiful rocks and trees. The landscape around the waterfall is frequently used as a setting for television soaps, films and various television commercial, calendars, postcards, billboards, etc. Tourists can engage in swimming, rock climbing and picnicking in a peaceful, natural and adventurous environment.

‘DOWN SLOW’

This port in Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State was the last point for discharge of slaves into the waiting slave ships that eventually sailed them into slavery. It can be seen from the bank of the Imo River, lying close to the shore. The slave masters originally called the spot “Down Below” where slaves were lowered into huge ocean liners. The name was later corrupted by locals into “Down Slow”.



GUBI DAM

The dam is a major source of potable water supply to Bauchi metropolis and its surroundings. It supplies a total of 10 million gallons per day to the state. This site is serene and provides an enchanting view of the surrounding rocks. Apart from being a source of potable water, it also serves as a source of water for irrigation.

ROCKS AND HILLS

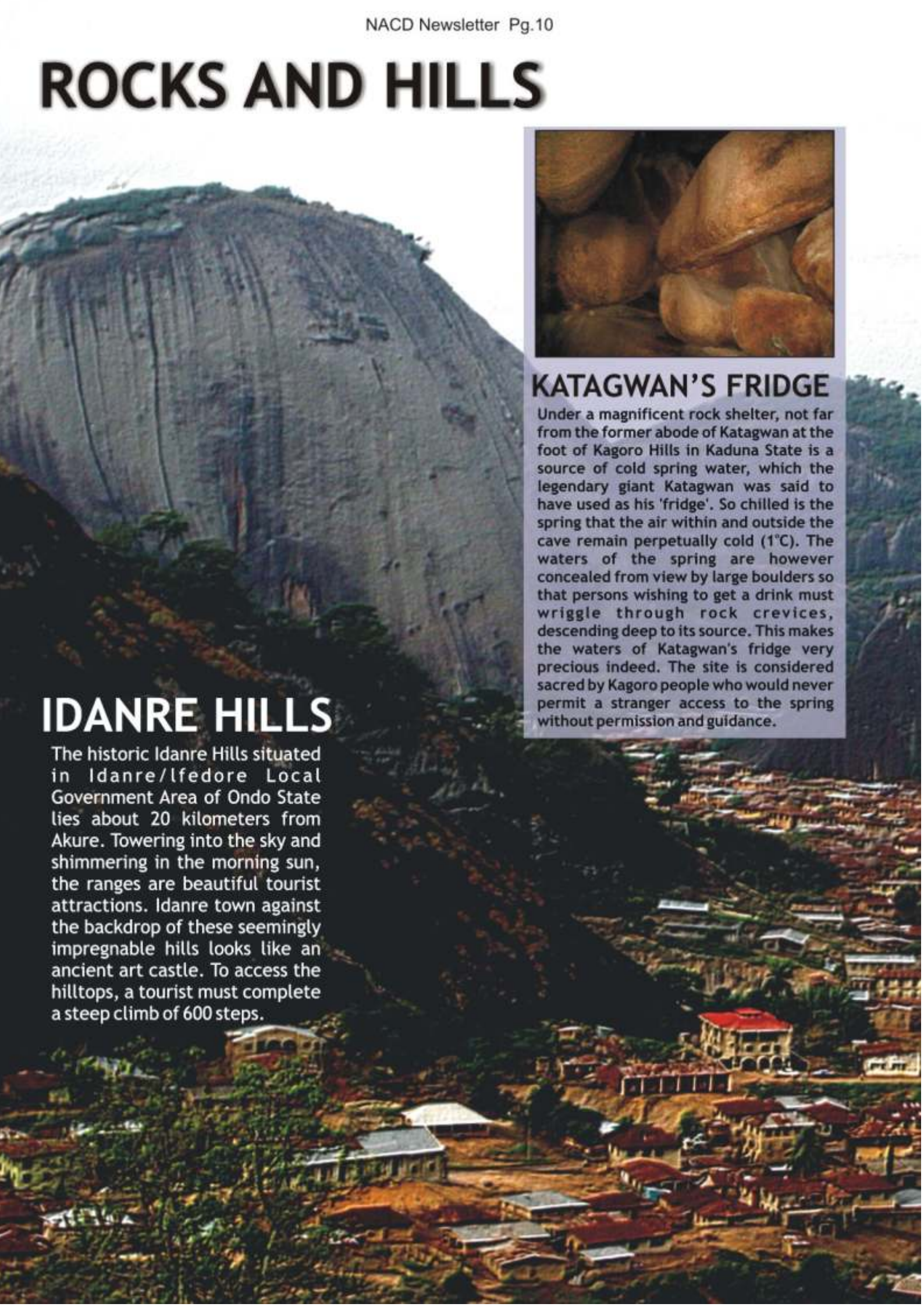


KATAGWAN'S FRIDGE

Under a magnificent rock shelter, not far from the former abode of Katagwan at the foot of Kagoro Hills in Kaduna State is a source of cold spring water, which the legendary giant Katagwan was said to have used as his 'fridge'. So chilled is the spring that the air within and outside the cave remain perpetually cold (1°C). The waters of the spring are however concealed from view by large boulders so that persons wishing to get a drink must wriggle through rock crevices, descending deep to its source. This makes the waters of Katagwan's fridge very precious indeed. The site is considered sacred by Kagoro people who would never permit a stranger access to the spring without permission and guidance.

IDANRE HILLS

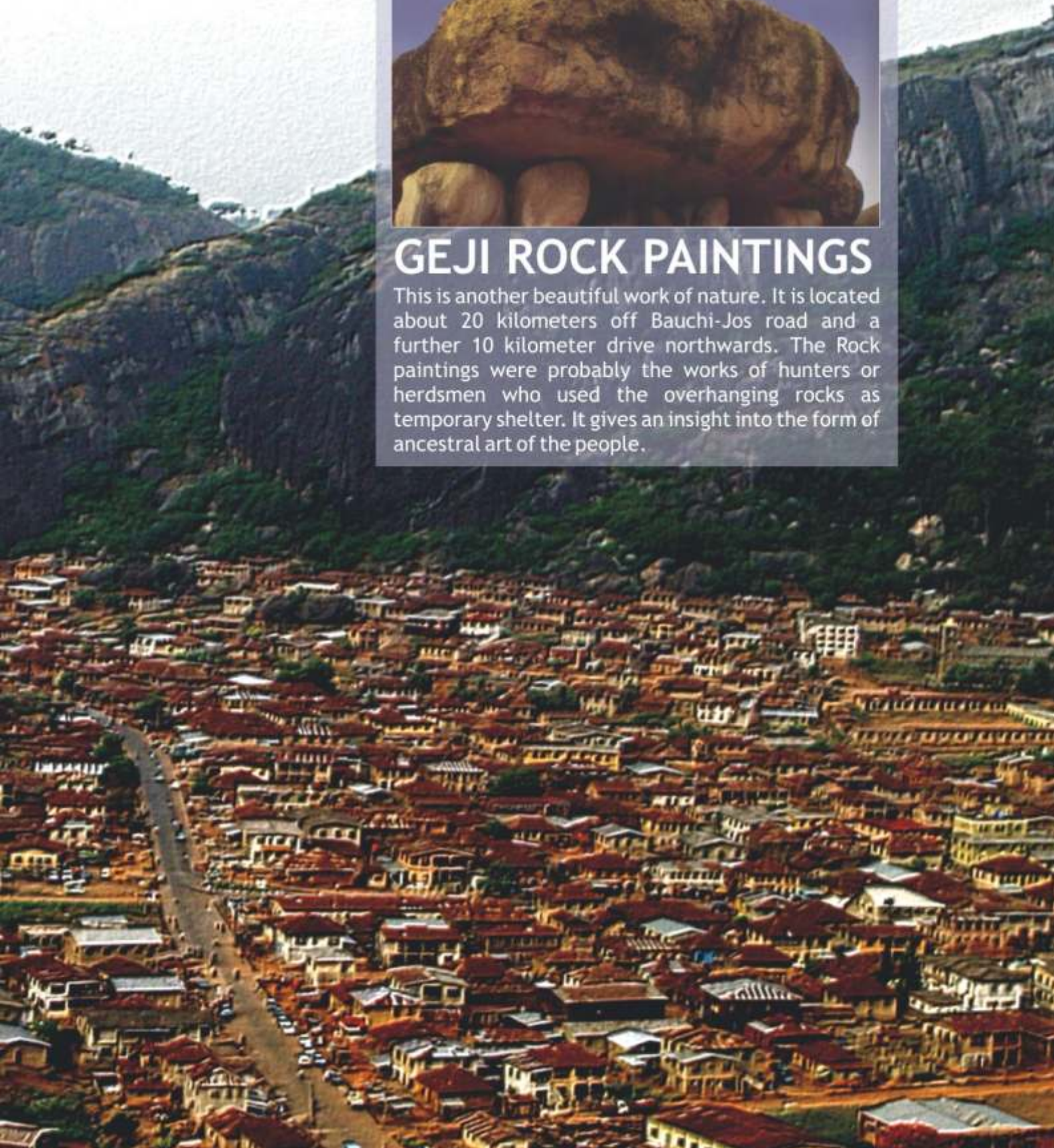
The historic Idanre Hills situated in Idanre/Ifedore Local Government Area of Ondo State lies about 20 kilometers from Akure. Towering into the sky and shimmering in the morning sun, the ranges are beautiful tourist attractions. Idanre town against the backdrop of these seemingly impregnable hills looks like an ancient art castle. To access the hilltops, a tourist must complete a steep climb of 600 steps.





GEJI ROCK PAINTINGS

This is another beautiful work of nature. It is located about 20 kilometers off Bauchi-Jos road and a further 10 kilometer drive northwards. The Rock paintings were probably the works of hunters or herdsmen who used the overhanging rocks as temporary shelter. It gives an insight into the form of ancestral art of the people.





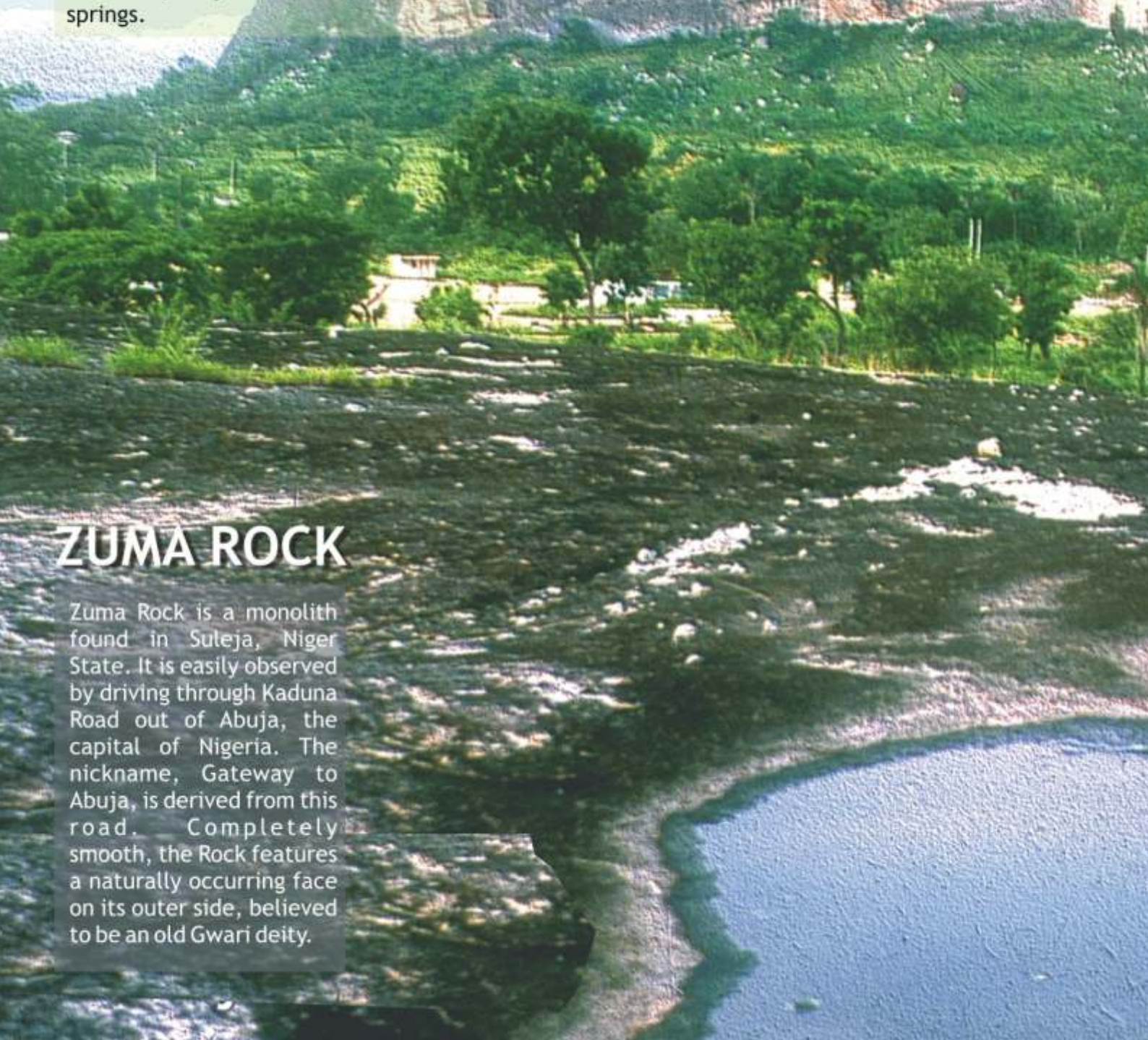
PLATEAU STATE

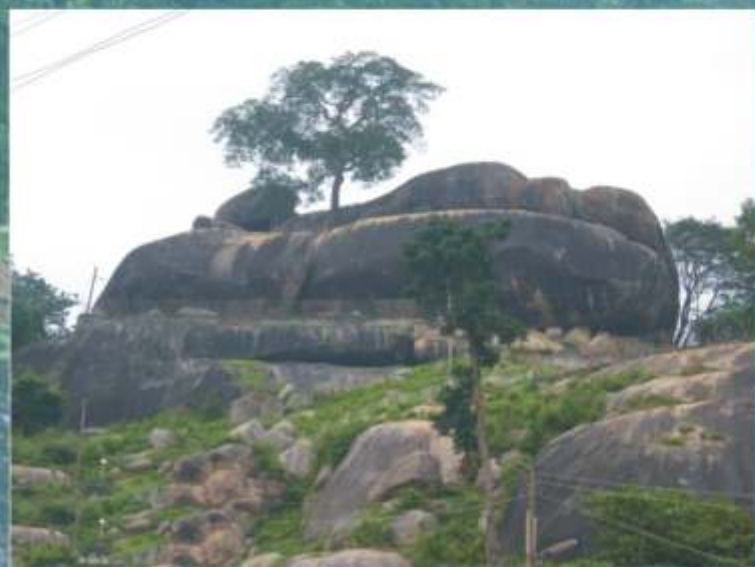
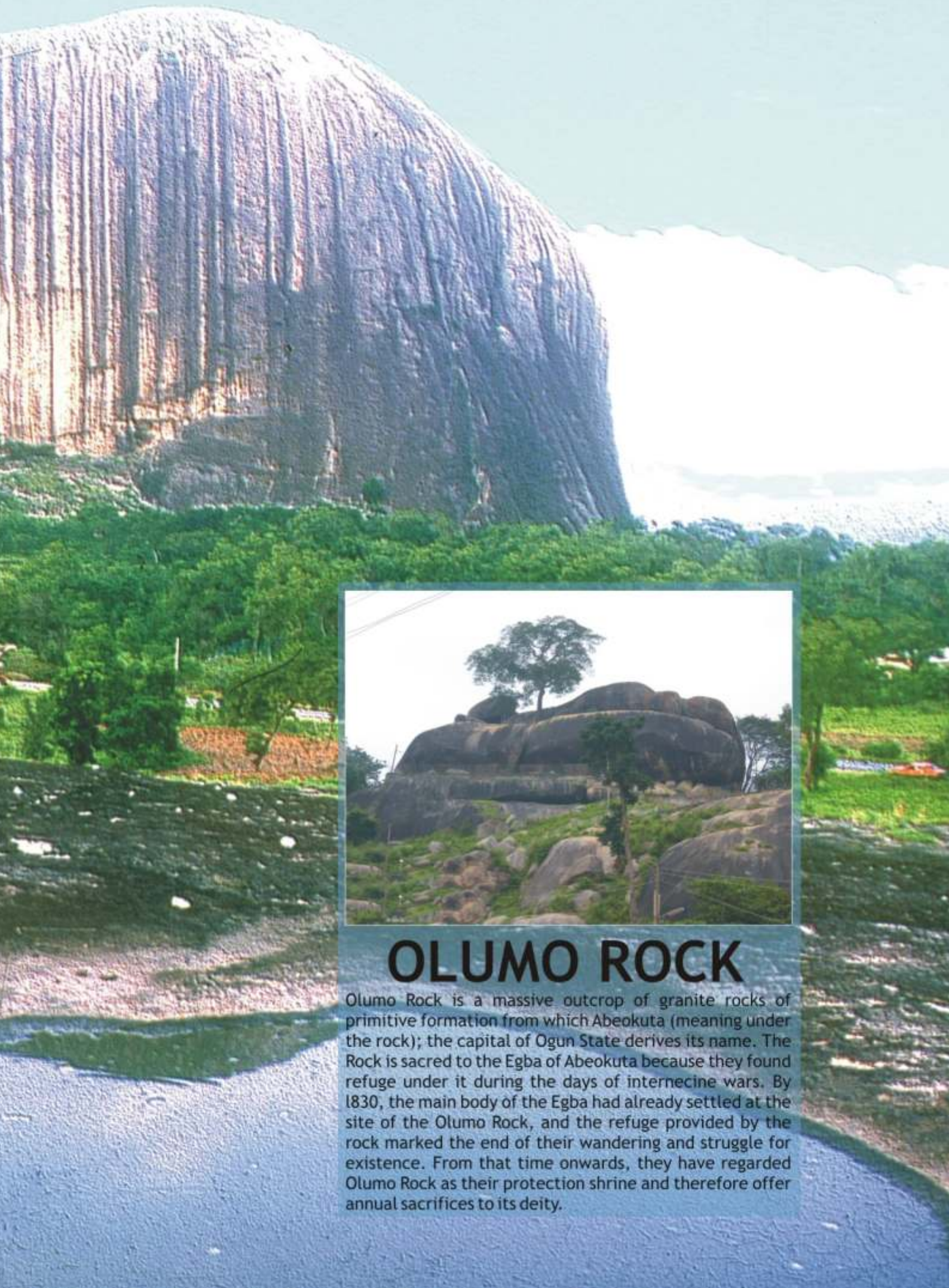
Plateau State, true to its name is a picturesque highland which has become quite internationally famous. A typical landscape of the State comprises of rocks, savannah grasslands, hills, meadows, canyons, ravines, valleys and springs.



ZUMA ROCK

Zuma Rock is a monolith found in Suleja, Niger State. It is easily observed by driving through Kaduna Road out of Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. The nickname, Gateway to Abuja, is derived from this road. Completely smooth, the Rock features a naturally occurring face on its outer side, believed to be an old Gwari deity.





OLUMO ROCK

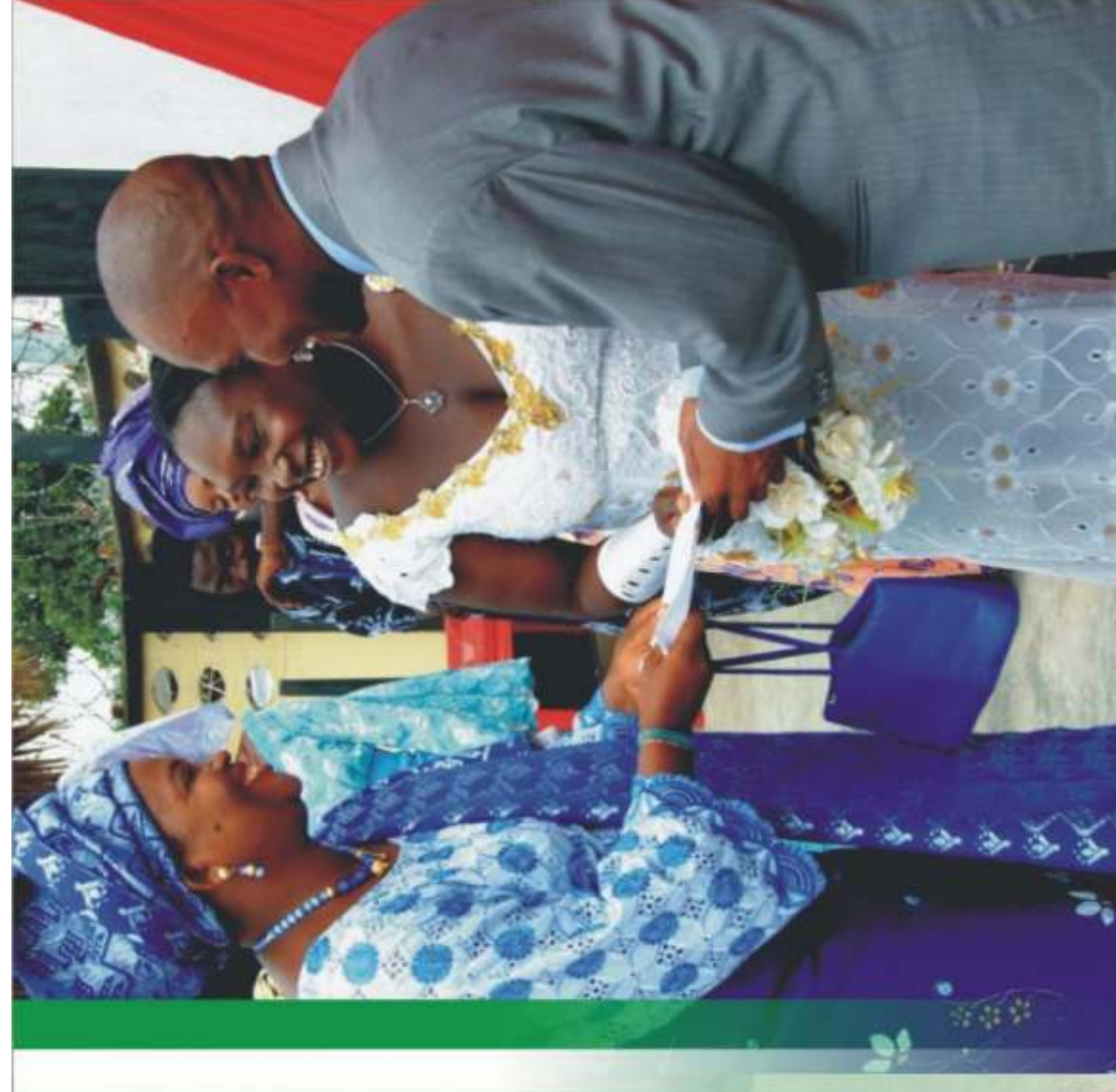
Olumo Rock is a massive outcrop of granite rocks of primitive formation from which Abeokuta (meaning under the rock); the capital of Ogun State derives its name. The Rock is sacred to the Egba of Abeokuta because they found refuge under it during the days of internecine wars. By 1830, the main body of the Egba had already settled at the site of the Olumo Rock, and the refuge provided by the rock marked the end of their wandering and struggle for existence. From that time onwards, they have regarded Olumo Rock as their protection shrine and therefore offer annual sacrifices to its deity.



Don't **ABUSE** the Naira

- Don't destroy what belongs to you
- Don't deface the Naira

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...Handle the **Naira** with care.

- Don't squeeze, stain, tear or write on the Naira.



DOMES AND CAVES



OMASHI-IYI CAVE

This cave is the shrine of Omashi-Iyi, the oracle of Akpu in Anambra State. It is believed to offer protection to its people and adherents. Within the cave itself are hundreds of sacred bats that have inhabited it since earliest times. As is always the case, this cave contains compartments, crevices and a very long tunnel about 1km long. On the approach to the cave is a stream; semi-circular in form, bordering it and forming a pool at its entrance. This stream is hooded by trees and bamboos, a natural setting for a cave or a hiding place. The cave is in the care of the chief priest of Omashi-Iyi who offers yearly sacrifices at its entrance to appease the gods of the land, solicit for their blessings and predict the future on behalf of the people.

MARSHAL CAVE

The Marshal cave was discovered by a British Conservationist known as Marshal. It has a length of 200 meters, is 10 meters deep, and between 30 and 80 meters wide. It contains caves of various sizes which are believed to have served as settlements many centuries ago, sheltering communities from wild animals and invaders. The Marshal cave was discovered by a British Conservationist known as Marshal. It has a length of 200 meters, is 10 meters deep, and between 30 and 80 meters wide. It contains caves of various sizes which are believed to have served as settlements many centuries ago, sheltering communities from wild animals and invaders.

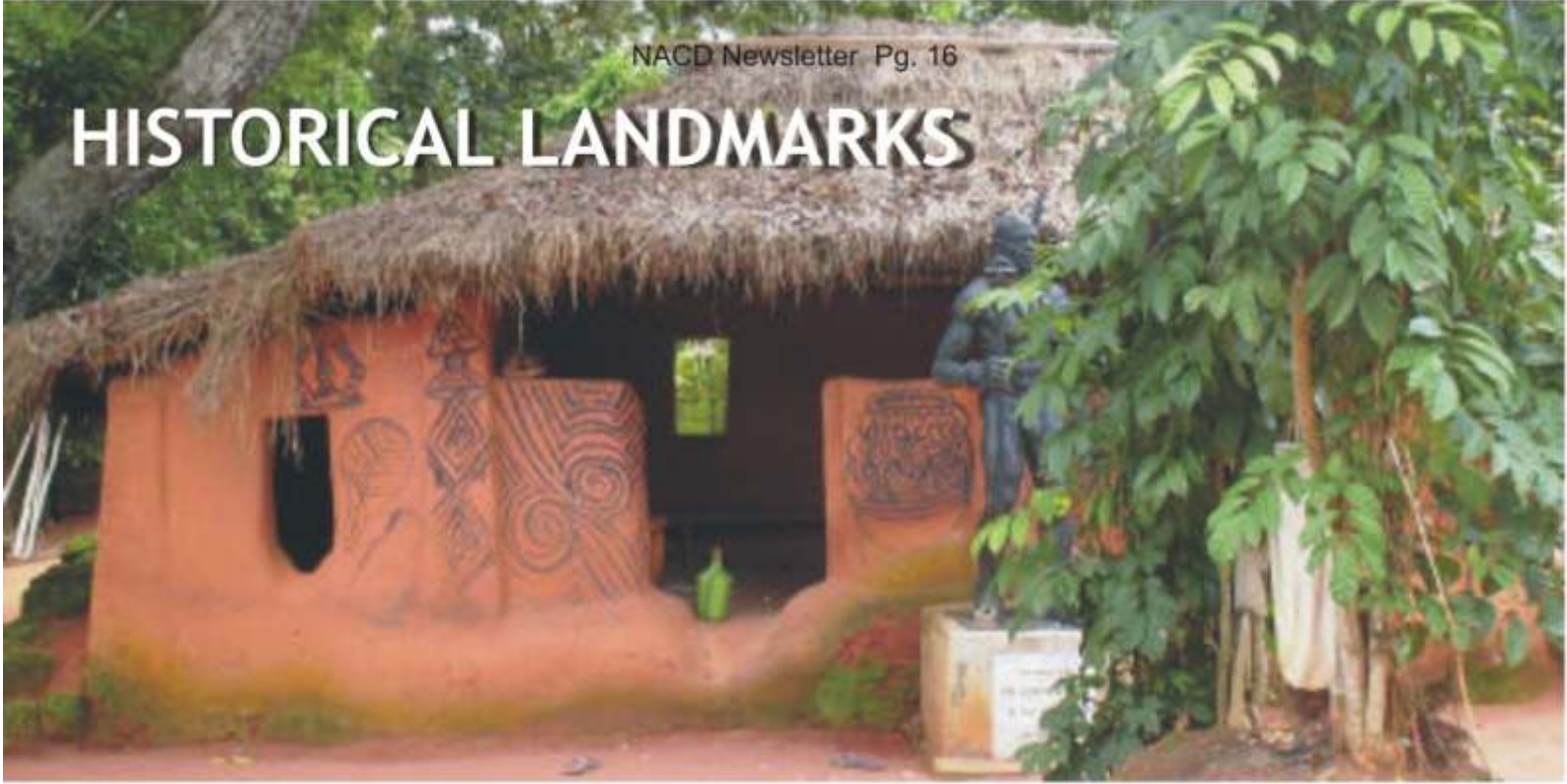


DUKKEY WELLS

This is the discovery by a British forest officer known as Dukkey. The well-like holes numbering 132 are interconnected from inside only ten to fifteen feet apart. They are located 11 kilometres from the gate of Mainamaji, the gateway to Wikki camp in Bauchi State. It is believed that the site served as a stop point during the slave trade.



HISTORICAL LANDMARKS



IGBO ANCESTRAL HOME UMUDEGE VILLAGE IGBO-UKWU

This is the ancient household of Igbo, the ancestral father of the Igbo race. In front of the shrine which represents his old living room (*Obi*), Igbo is depicted by a bronze casting of a man in the traditional loin cloth, holding a staff. A replication

of what his *Obi* looked like has been erected on the same site where he lived so many centuries ago. It has become a shrine and a hallowed ground. Visitors are received within the '*Obi*' which is furnished with carved wooden chairs portraying eagles, lions and other animals and are presented with the traditional white clay, kolanuts and palm wine. The floor of the *Obi* is covered with broken kolanuts offered to ancestors.



SUKUR WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Sukur ancient site is an architectural masterpiece found in Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The people were believed to have maintained an architectural and metal technology which has lasted since 17th century. They still retain their ancient cultural values. The superiority of these ancient works got international acceptance when in 1999, UNESCO enlisted it as the 25th world heritage site, first of its kind in Nigeria. These icons of history presented by Sukur are better seen than imagined. They include the Spiritual priest of Sukur, Sukur Nuclear family compound, Iron melting furnace, Sukur Royal House, Northern gate of Hidi's Palace and Picture of Hidi being conducted round during a festival.



THE SLAVE MASTER'S LODGE AND SLAVE WAREHOUSES OF OKOPEDI, ITU

Apart from the dungeons, there are warehouses for goods that were later turned into slave warehouses where slaves were kept in preparation for shipment. Itu River was a renowned slave trade route and its old jetty still stands. There are a number of old prison-like warehouses where slaves were kept to await shipment via the river. The main lodge was the residence of white slave merchants who lived in the area. This is a one-story house, very complex and beautifully constructed.



NOK VILLAGE

The culture of Nok village in Kaduna State which dates back to over 2,500 years is no doubt one of the greatest and most famous cultures in the world. Although it was Benard Fagg; an English archeologist who originally began the collection of Nok Terracotta heads discovered by tin miners in 1943, when carbon-dated, these clay antiquities were discovered to have been created around 500 BC. New findings however indicate that some of the works predate that era.



MUNGO PARK'S HOUSE-BRASS

The divisional Headquarters of the Colonial administration of the Brass division in present-day Bayelsa State. The District Officer had his offices in this building and administered the vast riverine area along with his aides. It is named after the explorer Mungo Park who discovered the source of the River Nigeria. The old building has been preserved and refurbished as a monument of historical tourism. The wood and brick building remains strong, weathering decades of storms.



NIGERIA'S FIRST STOREY BUILDING

The first one storey building in Nigeria is located in Marina Badagry, built in 1845 by Rev. Henry Townsend.



GIDAN MADAKI (HOUSE OF MADAKI)

This rare architectural masterpiece is located in Kadin Madaki village, Ganjuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi State. It is one of the remaining architectural legacies of late Muhammed Durugu, a local genius popularly referred to as Babban Gwani. This same man who designed many of the palaces of Emirs in Northern Nigeria was said to have been killed by the Emir of Zazzau after building his palace for fear that he might build a better one elsewhere.

HOSPITALITY AND RECREATION



TRAPPCO RANCH AND RESORT

Located about 24km from Kaduna town and adjacent the local airport, is a ranch/resort tourist centre that boasts of every conceivable facility needed in a standard hospitality centre. It is broadly divided into three major sections; hospitality, agriculture and tourism/sports sections. These are further sub-divided into food and beverages, horse riding, poultry, pilot farming, quad bike riding, polo, golf, volley ball, football, and basket ball areas. Tourists participate at Trappco games from all over the country. Its facilities include a swimming pool, bar and restaurant, picnic gardens, an artificial lake for boat rides, horse paddock, children's playground, a shopping centre, accommodation, 'Culture Window' (a craft centre established up by the Kaduna State Ministry of Culture and Tourism), as well as a conference hall for seminars.

OBUDU CATTLE RANCH

Obudu Cattle Ranch, a multi-dimensional tourist resort is located in Cross River State towards the Nigeria-Cameroon border. The Ranch is over 1,524m in length, boasts of a temperate climate ensuring green vegetation for grazing of cattle round the year. The Ranch is a tourist's delight as a result of its diverse attractions. These include a natural swimming pool, horse paddock, beautiful waterfall, gorilla camp, bird watching camp, sporting facilities and accommodation.





EKWULUMILI BOTANICAL/ HERBAL

The site for Federal Government's proposed Botanical Garden in Eastern Nigeria is near a small stream in Ekwulumili, Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State. A secluded grove of bamboo and shrubs, it is a natural setting for a garden; its purpose being to serve the alternative medicine needs of the people. Rare herbs and endangered species of plants are nurtured in this garden. The site is about 1 kilometer in diameter, encircled by a fresh-water stream which keeps its plants green all year round. It is also a major tourist destination in Anambra state.



NATIONAL THEATER

A high brow architectural work of genius, the National Theatre located in Iganmu, Surulere area of Lagos State is popularly acclaimed the cultural headquarters of Nigeria.



IBOM HOTEL AND GOLF RESORT

Ibom Hotel and Golf Resort is located at the bank of the Nwaniba River. Built and managed by Le Meridien, it is a tourist haven. Located very close to the newly constructed International Airport, the resort can also be approached by road, a four-lane avenue bordered by lawns, pines, flowers and beautiful street lights. The structure is a five-star hotel with all the trappings that the description connotes. Built on an expansive plot of land, the marble-walled edifice contains lobbies, conference rooms, continental and intercontinental bars and restaurants, naturally set dining alcoves, studio rooms, presidential and ambassadorial suites, detached chalets and apartments and a 1000KVA generating power plant to guarantee uninterrupted power supply to the resort. The beauty and splendour of the resort is complimented by an 18-hole golf course reputed to be the largest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Also attached to this golf course is a Marina Club House with two lawn tennis courts, a polo field, squash house and games fields. The Nwaniba River at the edge of the golf course, formerly a slave route contains a jetty constructed for the shipment of slaves during the slave trade era. There is also the former headquarters of John Holt Company, the merchant British company that traded in Palm oil and Kernel in the pre-colonial period as is evident from their warehouses, main Lodge and Official quarters at the site. Nwaniba River presents a bee-hive of fishing activities as fishermen in their boats relive those bygone days.



RELIGIOUS TOURISM

SULTAN BELLO'S MOSQUE

Late Sir Ahmadu Bello in 1962, built the Sultan Bello Mosque and named it after his grand father. It was made internationally popular by the introduction of annual Ramadan Tafsir, which is still broadcast by electronic media in the State. In 1979, Jama'atul Nasir Islam appointed a management committee for reconstruction of the mosque headed by Alhaji Bala Kuki. The reconstruction was completed and its commissioning by Alhaji Dr. Abdulwahab Iyanda Folawiyo (Baba Addini of Nigeria) took place on 4th February 1994.



This is an old mud building originally designed and constructed by the Church Missionary Society in 1929. The mission itself was established in 1902 by Doctor Walter Miller, a Cambridge student who had traveled to Tripoli to learn the Hausa language. On returning to England, he organized other missionaries who returned with him to Zaria and established the first Anglican Communion. That first church was located within the old city walls of Zaria between 1902 and 1928 when population growth necessitated its relocation to Wusasa at the outskirts of the city. A renowned local architect of that era who was only known as the "mission builder" was contracted by the church to design what has today become a wonder of traditional architectural design, built of treated mud, cow dung and grass, so thick and heavy that they were obviously built to last.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

IKORO OKPUTOROPKU UMUEZE-ISUOFIA

Another mighty slit drum, belonging to Umueze village of Isuofia, Aguata Local Government Area. It was carved from an Iroko tree in 1914 and used as summons for war and major feasts, such as the new yam festival. When beaten, it is heard in faraway towns and the message it carries varies according to the beat. The shape of this 'Ikoro' depicts a male form, with head, hands and feet. It is still in use up till date.





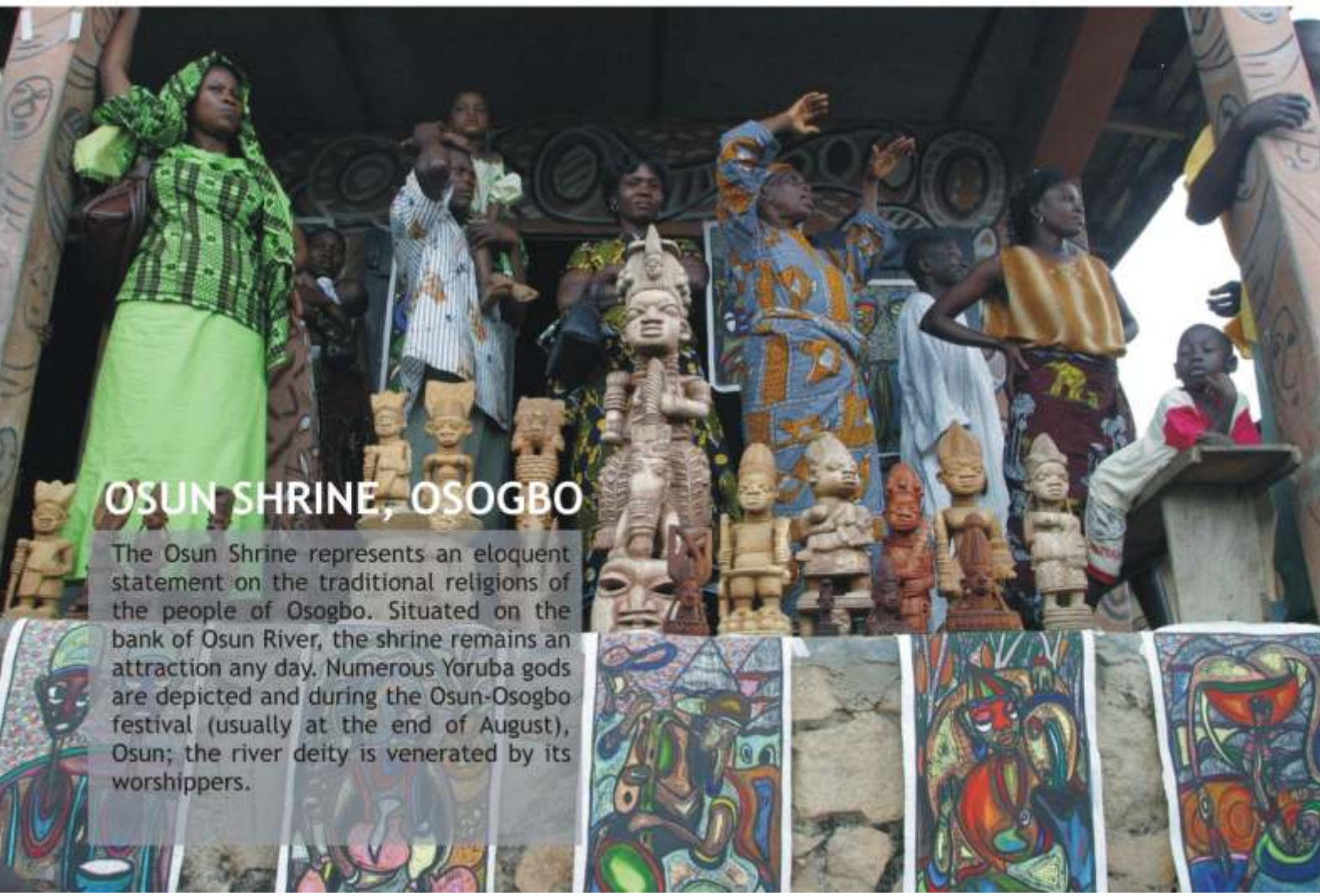
QUA IBOE CHURCH

The old Qua Iboe Church at Atan Offot, Uyo which still stands in aesthetic splendour is a relic representing the missionary zeal and self-supporting efforts of the people. The church was built through the efforts of local workers and contributions made by the people to ensure that evangelization along the Qua Iboe river basin and beyond was accomplished.



THE LONG JUJU SHRINE OF AROCHUKWU

Arochukwu is a famous tourist destination with the cave of the famous long juju oracle as a particular attraction. The cave is believed to hold the long metal pipe through which the gods speak to the people. A traditional religionist would find the oracle quite an attraction. It is, first and foremost, a religious centre with a well laid-down administrative structure headed by a Chief Priest.



OSUN SHRINE, OSOGBO

The Osun Shrine represents an eloquent statement on the traditional religions of the people of Osogbo. Situated on the bank of Osun River, the shrine remains an attraction any day. Numerous Yoruba gods are depicted and during the Osun-Osogbo festival (usually at the end of August), Osun; the river deity is venerated by its worshippers.



National Gallery of Art

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NIGERIAN ARTS AND CULTURE DIRECTORY PROJECT

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OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR:

1. State Governments to showcase their arts, culture tourism potentials to the world.
2. Product owners and corporate bodies to market and promote their goods and services.
3. Nigerian Artists to enlist and upload a maximum of four art works (free of charge) on the Project's website.
4. Relevant arts, culture and tourism associations, Film producers, writers, traditional institutions, craft centres, guilds, museums and monuments, Cultural site managers, NGOs, etc to publicise their associations and interests. **ENLIST NOW!**

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