

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN SOKOTO STATE



**SOKOTO STATE GOVERNMENT
NIGERIA**

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN SOKOTO STATE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION: SOKOTO STATE, A TOURIST DESTINATION

Sokoto State is a product of a number of political re-alignments since 1804 when the Sokoto Caliphate was founded by the renowned Islamic scholar, Shehu Danfodiyo. The area witnessed a number of pre-Jihad Kingdoms such as Kabbi, Gobir and Zamfara. With the defeat of the Caliphate in 1903 by the British colonizers, what is today Sokoto State started as Sokoto province up to 1967, then as North Western State up to 1976 later defunct Sokoto state from 1976 to 1996 and finally, now as Sokoto State from 1996 to date. All through those political surgeries, the town of Sokoto has remained as the seat of the Caliphate and Capital of Sokoto Province, North-western State, old Sokoto State later new Sokoto State. This political entity has been home of great warriors and rulers like the Kanta of Kabbi; Bawa Jangwarzo of Gobir the renowned scholar, Shehu Danfodiyo; the first Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, and the first Executive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari.

Sokoto State is located to the extreme northwest of Nigeria, between latitudes 11°30'N and 13°58'N and longitudes 4°8'E and 6°54'E. It shares borders with the Republic of Niger to the north, Kebbi State to the west and southwest; and Zamfara State to the east. The state covers a land area of approximately 32,000 square kilometres and, according to the 2006 National Population Census, has an estimated population of 4.1 million people as at 2010 in 23 local government areas.

Two major rivers, the Sokoto and Rima, and their tributaries, pass through the State. They are characterized by a large low land area called *fadama* in the Hausa language. The *fadama* allows for an all-year round cultivation of crops using the traditional *shaduf* irrigation system and mechanized water pumps. The *fadama* also provides a rich pasture and water for animals to graze on.

Sokoto State falls within the Tropical Continental climatic belt with two distinct seasons: a long dry season from October to April and a short rainy season from May to September. Mean annual rainfall is about 600mm with a peak in August when almost a third of the annual rainfall is received. Temperatures are generally high throughout the year and reach up to 45°C in May, but dropping to about 20°C in December, during the *harmattan* period. The *harmattan* is characterized by the north easterly dusty winds

from across the Sahara Desert, reducing visibility sometimes to less than 100 metres. Humidity is low all through the year at about 20% except in the period July to September when it reaches 60%.

The ethnic composition of the State is predominantly Hausa and Fulani with some significant Zabarmawa and Tuaregs as well as cosmopolitan history and residency of the state in the capital state i.e. Zazzagawa, Nufawa, Yolawa among others. With colonization and the emergence of Nigeria as a political entity since 1914, many other ethnic groups have migrated and taken permanent residence in the State. Although the Yorubas and Igbos top the list of southern migrants, a large number of each of Nigeria's over 250 ethnic groups are found pursuing their legitimate businesses as employees of federal, state and simply as ordinary individuals.

The large number of non-Hausa- Fulani ethnic groups within Sokoto State is an attestation to the peaceful environment which various administrations in the State have provided. It is on record that while most other states in Nigeria have witnessed one form of socio-political crises since 1999, Sokoto State has remained peaceful. This Administration has put in place all the necessary structures and personnel to maintain the peace and to attract tourists to a number of historical sites, works of art and craft, festivals and physical features. These tourist attractions are supported by a number of good facilities and infrastructure and a range of appetizing local Sokoto cuisines. You will no doubt, as in the words of His Excellency, the Governor, Alhaji (Dr) Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, find Sokoto State a good tourist destination.

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2.0 BASIC FACTS ON SOKOTO STATE

- **Sokoto State:** Created in 1996
- **Capital:** Sokoto
- **Location:** Northwest Nigeria, between Latitudes 11-30' and 13-50'N and Longitudes 4 and 6-54'E
- **Area:** Approximately 32,000 kilometres
- **Population:** 4.1 million
- **Population Density:** 128 persons per km²
- **Number of Local Governments:** 23
- **Number of Federal Constituencies:** 11
- **Official Language:** English
- **Dominant Local Language:** Hausa
- **Other Nigerian Languages:** Fulfulde, Yoruba and Igbo
- **Dominant Religion:** Islam
- **Dominant Occupations:** Farming (80%), Animal Husbandry (15%) and Others (5%)
- **Dominant Relief Features:** Rivers Rima and Sokoto and a vast *Fadama* area
- **Climate:** Tropical Continental with two seasons; a rainy season from May to September and a dry season from October to April. Temperatures are generally high around April and May (40°C) and low from December to January (25°C); Humidity is generally low except during the rainy season
- **State Motto:** Seat of the Caliphate
- **Government:** A democratically elected government with a popularist Chief Executive
- **For details, please contact:**
 - a) The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Sokoto State.
 - b) Director, Waziri Junaidu History Bureau, Sokoto State.

3.0 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

I. Access to Sokoto

Sokoto State is accessible by road and air. There are four major roads linking the State to other states in Nigeria and the Republic of Niger. These are the Sokoto-Kano; Sokoto-Kaduna-Abuja; Sokoto-Kaura Namoda-Katsina; Sokoto-Kontagora-Lagos; Sokoto-Illela-Konni (Niger Republic) and the Sokoto-Birnin Kebbi-Kamba-Niger and Benin Republics. These are all-season roads with a number of security check-points. In addition to these inter-state and international roads, all the 23 local government areas are linked to Sokoto, the State Capital by all-season motorable roads also with adequate security check-points.

The Sultan Abubakar III Airport in Sokoto is an International Airport, where regularly scheduled and chartered flights from both within and outside Nigeria can land and take off with ease.

ii. Art and Craft Works

At the major hotels, markets, craft villages and local craft shops, one can find a wide range of local dresses such as *aska tara* (gown made from cotton with a hand-sewn embroidery), *rigan tomajo* (light cotton material embroidered from the top to the bottom), *rigan kwakkwata* (a hand-woven cotton material called *saki*, dyed in different colours depending on an individual's choice). There are also a wide range of locally dyed-cloth, caps and leather materials. All these can be purchased as souvenirs.

iv. Banking Services

To cater for the needs of both local and international tourists, Sokoto State has no less than 15 banks offering both local and international services. Currencies can be exchanged in these banks and at a number of approved *bureau de change*. The banks provide 24-hours service for customers to withdraw cash. Each of the banks has a number of security measures that meets the minimum standard required.

v. Medical Facilities

The State is conscious of tourists' medical needs. In Sokoto, the state capital, there are a number of Hospitals equipped with most of the state of art equipments and facilities. There are also quite a number of consultants in these hospitals and almost a dozen of private clinics in the state. At the

local level, each of the 23 local government areas has a functional general hospital or a primary health care facility to handle emergencies and if the need be, to refer cases to the Specialist or Teaching Hospital. A tourist is at liberty to go to any of the private clinics in the State Capital.

vi. Communication

All major Nigerian GSM service providers operate within the state with at least two in each local government area. Internet services are available in all the three 5-Star hotels and from a number of cyber café within the State Capital. There are four internationally reputable courier services and a wide range of local and international newspapers and magazines.

4.0 TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

4.1 Historical Sites

Tourist attractions in Sokoto State are a blend of historical antecedents, culture and tradition and the physical environment. The attractions comprise of historical sites, festivals, arts and craft works, natural features and edifices. Almost 70% of these sites are within a 50 km radius, 25% fall within 100km and only 5% are over a 100km from Sokoto, the state capital. The 1804 Jihad of the Shehu Danfodiyo left behind a number of historic sites, most of which are within the present day Sokoto State. A number of these sites are visible in towns and villages and others are in remote locations but have been identified and fenced for visitors to appreciate their significance. These historic sites include:-

1. *Surame*

This is the ruins of the old Headquarters of Kabbi Kingdom built in the early 16th century by its famous ruler, Muhammadu Kanta. He was the ancestor of the present rulers of Argungu. The total circumference of the walls of Surame has been estimated by an archaeologist, John



SURAME: The Capital of Kabbi Kingdom

Sutton to be about 19 kilometres. Much human labour and resources were expended in executing the walls, considering its massive stone and earth works. Preparations have already been completed by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) to enlist the site in the UNESCO world heritage list.

ii. Alkalawa

This city served as the capital of Gobir rulers after they finally settled in Hausaland. The Gobirawa were believed to have originally come from Arabia in about 10th century through Borno. The city was built during the reign of Ibrahim Babari, father of the famous Bawa Jangwarzo about 70 years before it was sacked by the Fulani Jihadists led by Danfodiyo in 1808. This site is wide and surrounded with walls, and is presently located some few kilometers from Sabon Birnin Gobir, 150km to the north east of Sokoto town.



ALKALAWA: The ruins of Capital of Gobir Kingdom

iii. Degel

Shehu Danfodiyo's family moved to Degel from Maratta his birth place (now in Niger Republic) in around 1760 when he was very young. Degel was a Fulani settlement and a great centre for Islamic scholarship at that time. Malam Abdullahi Fodiyo, the Shehu's younger brother by 12 years was born at Degel.



DEGEL: The Home of Shehu Danfodiyo

It was also at Degel that the light of Shehu's Jihad was ignited. During the course of his preaching which the Hausa rulers of Gobir did not like at that time. He was threatened by its rulers and had to flee, what historians called *Hijrah* from Degel to Gudu. Many of his companions called the *Jama'ar Shehu* accompanied him. Degel is located in Chimmola District of Gwadabawa Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

iv. Gudu

The Shehu and members of his community migrated to Gudu on the frontiers of Kabbi and Gobir Kingdoms in Feb. 1804. Two of his major companions, Aliyu Danjedo (His war commander) and Mahmuda Gurdam,



GUDU: The place where Shehu migrated to in 1804

had already built a house for the Shehu's family at Gudu at the wake of Hijrah. It was under a *faru* tree in Gudu that allegiance was paid to Shehu as the *Amirul-Muminin*. Gudu now called Gongono is located in Tangaza Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

v. Tafkin Kwatto

After Shehu's hijrah in February 1804, many people from all over Hausa land and beyond came to join him and his *jama'a* community. Sarkin Gobir Yunfa and his army came to a place called Gurdam and camped so that they could easily attack the Shehu's community at Gudu. However, Yunfa and his allies were defeated and his golden sword was taken along with several other war booties. Custody of the sword was entrusted to the Shehu's war commander, Sarkin Yaki Aliyu Jedo, and is to date held by his descendent, the Sarkin Yakin Binji. Tafkin Kwatto is presently located a few kilometres to Balle, in Gudu Local Government area of Sokoto State.



TAFKIN KWATO: The First Battle Site between Danfodiyo & Gobir, June 1804

vi. Magabchi

This was the site where Shehu Danfodiyo and his community stayed after they left Gudu in 1805. It was here that Shehu sent his letters to all Hausa

rulers informing them about the jihad and invited them to join the movement. The site is now located a few kilometres eastward of Yabo town some 35 km from Sokoto.



MAGABCHI: Where Shehu Danfodiyo sent letters to Hausa rulers

vii. Yabo

This is the administrative headquarters of the Kabbi Fulani leader, Muhammadu Moyijo. He was one of the principal flag bearers of Shehu Danfodiyo, who joined Shehu at Gudu and witnessed the community's victory at Tafkin Kwatto and the sack of Kabbi. He built Yabo and made it his base.



YABO: The Base of Muhammadu Moyijo of Kabi Fulani

viii. Sifawa

Sifawa was the flagbearer's town and the first headquarters of the



SIFAWA: The Flagbearer's Town

Caliphate from where he gave out flags to scholars to spread the Jihad across the West African region. It was also here that he wrote a number of his scholarly works. At Sifawa Shehu relinquished political leadership of the Caliphate and Muhammadu Bello and Abdullahi Fodiyo took

over the superintendence of the East and Western subdivides of the caliphate respectively. The town has the tombs of many scholars as well as Shehu's *Mausa*, mosque and school. It is located in Bodinga Local Government Area, less than 20 km to the city of Sokoto.

ix. Sokoto town

In 1815, Shehu Danfodiyo left Sifawa his erstwhile headquarters, to Sokoto, a new town founded by Sultan Bello, his son in 1808. Shehu lived for two years in Sokoto and died in 1817. The city which started as a war camp was alternative headquarters of Sultan Bello and was strategically established as a "*ribat*" (bumper).

It was populated by various ethnic groups who came in response to the clarion call by the Jihadists and in quest for the knowledge and political guidance from the leaders of the Jihad particularly Sultan Bello whose political and administrative exposition was a masterpiece. The cosmopolitan composition of the city was what brother about the Sakkwambo *Mausa* dialect that is very rich in vocabulary.

x. Sultan's Palace (Kanwuri)

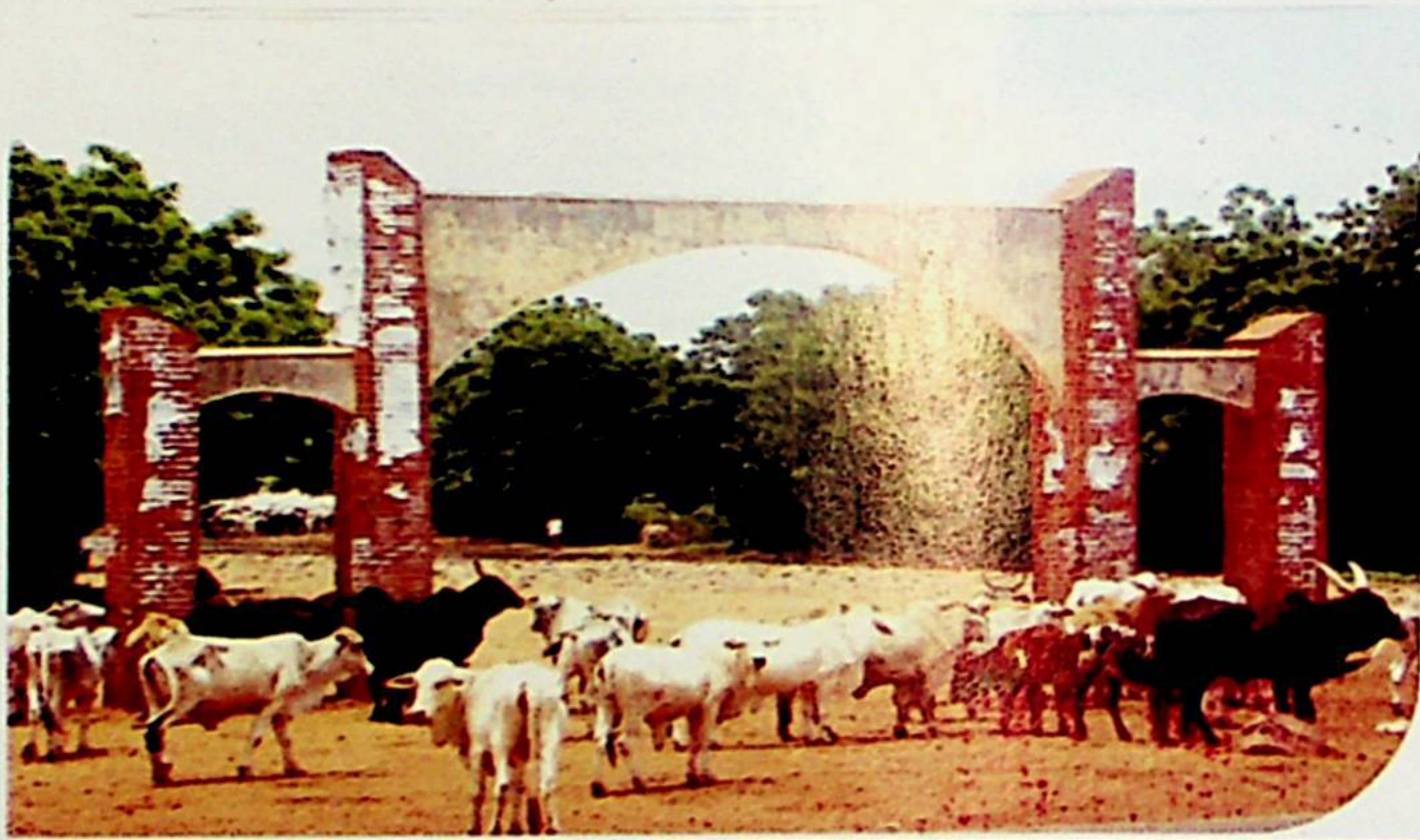
Only about a kilometre from the *Hubbare*, is the official residence of the Sultans of Sokoto. It was built in 1808 by Sultan Bello with mud and stones. The gate called Kofar Dutsi is the main entrance to the palace and was built with mixture of stones brick and cement during the colonial period. The rest of the palace was rebuilt in the 1940s with a council chamber and reception rooms while another rehabilitation works took place during the time Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki in the late 1980s.



KOFAR SORO: Sultan Palace

xi. The City Gates

One distinguishing characteristic of Hausa cities during and even before the jihad are city gates built to limit enemies and wild animals into the city. There are eight city gateways to Sokoto. These are: Kofar Rini, Kofar Taramniya, Kofar Atiku, Kofar Aliyu Jedo, Kofar Kade, Kofar Dundaye, Kofar Kware and Kofar Marke. The wall surrounding the city was started in 1808 during the time of Sultan Bello, and was probably completed during the time of Sultan Aliyu Babba. Although the walls have since collapsed, the gates were rebuilt in 1991 during the time of Sultan Ibrahim Dasuki and could be seen on their original sites at major roads leading to the Sultan's Palace.



KOFAR KWARE



KOFAR KADE



KOFAR ATIKU



KOFAR RINI

xii. Hubbare

The house where Shehu lived in Sokoto is the *Hubbare*. It is today one of the most important historical monuments in Africa. At the *Hubbare*, one would be confronted by a round-shaped room which was the Shehu's school called *Jangirde Shehu* where he devoted the remaining days of his life



HUBBARE: Danfodiyo's Residence and final resting place

teaching, preaching, writing and spiritual devotion. Shehu along with several other Sultans and some members of his family as well as some of his lieutenants were buried here.



SHEHU'S MOSQUE, SAKKWATO

xiii. Shehu Mosque

The mosque was built in 1811 when Shehu left Sifawa and came to stay at Sokoto. It is very close to his official residence, the *Hubbare* and is about a kilometre to the palace. It accommodates a large number of worshippers on Fridays and was probably the

largest Friday mosque in the Caliphate at its inception. The mosque was rebuilt by Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sarkauna of Sokoto and Premier of Northern Region in 1962.

xii. Sultan Bello Mosque

Just outside the Sultan's palace is the Sultan Bello Mosque in Sokoto built in 1808. It was renovated with modern structures in 1962 during the time of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sarkauna of Sokoto and first Premier of Northern Nigeria. The mosque was officially opened after its renovation in 1962 by Sheikh Abdul-Aziz, the Chief Imam of Medina.



SULTAN BELLO MOSQUE, SAKKWATO

xv. Giginya Battlefield

It was here that in March 1903, the British Colonial Army under Major Morland defeated the army of the 12th Sultan, Attahiru I. The site is on the



GIGINYA BATTLEFIELD: British Army Camp Sokoto, March 1903

outskirts of Sokoto city and was originally surrounded with fan palm trees, hence the name *giginya*. With the British invasion the Sultan was forced to migrate and was eventually pursued eastward to a place called Bormi in present day Gombe State. At Bormi, Sultan Attahiru I and many of his followers

were killed by the British Army in June 1903. The Giginya battlefield presently called Giginya Memorial Stadium is where the Sultan's forces camped. About a kilometre to the south of the Sultan's camp, is the British Army Camp just before the attack and the burial ground of many British soldiers who died during the 1903 British invasion of Sokoto.

xvi. The Colonial Residents' House

A tourist would be interested to visit the official residence of British Colonial residents in Sokoto. It is located at the "British Quarters" in Sokoto along

Sultan Abubakar Road and was first occupied by Major Burdon in 1912 and last by Mr Carrow, in the 1950s. The building was also used in the late 60's by secretaries to the government of Sokoto. Some Sultans of Sokoto were turbaned in the



COLONIAL RESIDENTS' HOUSE, SOKOTO

building during the colonial period.



NAGARTA COLLEGE: First Colonial School

xvii. Nagarta College
Nagarta College first started as Sokoto Elementary school and later the Provincial Secondary School by a colonial administrator, Major Burdon in 1912. Many prominent political leaders, both within and outside Sokoto State passed through this school. The

Administrative building of the school is one of the few colonial structures now existing in Sokoto.

xviii. Waziri Junaidu History and Culture Museum Complex

The museum complex was established in 1973 with the purpose of collecting, preserving and displaying all relics, artefacts and archival materials relating to the history of Sokoto people and its government. It has six



HISTORY BUREAU: Museum Complex, Sokoto

departments and a museum of International standard housing more than 500,000 volumes of assorted materials and other historical treasures. It is considered by the teaming visitors as one of the most important data

banks and tourist attractions in the West African sub-region. It has a museum, library, archives, research room, translation and documentation centre.

xix. Wurno (Sultan Bello's Tomb)

This historic city was established during the reign of Sultan Muhammadu Bello as a military strategic camp against the incursion of Gobir forces in around 1809. The town later became an alternative



WURNO: Sultan Bello's Residence and final resting place

administrative headquarters of the Caliphate where five Sultans lived and died. Their graves, that of Sultan Bello, those of their wives and other relations are located here. Wurno is some 35 km to the north east of Sokoto town.

xx. Chimmola

During the Shehu's days at Degel, Chimmola was only a small settlement.



CHIMMOLA: Sultan Ahmadu Atiku's base near Degel

The fifth Sultan, Ahmadu Dan Atiku, transferred his administrative headquarters to Chimmola, as a military strategy (*ribat*) against Gobir incursions from the North. Sultan Ahmad Dan Atiku lived here and was buried in his compound.

xxi. Tambuwal

Tambuwal is situated some 120 km to south of Sokoto town. Malam Buhari Dan Shehu Danfodiyo came to settle at Tambuwal and made it his

administrative headquarters after he was assigned to supervise the territory to the southern part of Sokoto. Malam Buhari and his son Umaru were great scholars and warriors and were both buried at Tambuwal inside the house of Malam Buhari. Similarly, the tombs of other family members are also within



TAMBAWAL: Malam Buhari Danshehu's Tomb

the house. The descendents of Malam Buhari are the district heads of Tambuwal, Dogondaji, Sifawa, Gindi and Badau.

4.2 FESTIVALS/ENTERTAINMENTS

There are a number of festivals associated with particular periods in the year. These include the *Eid* (*Sallah*) festivals, hunting (*farauta*), bull riding (*hawan kafo*), exhibition of adolescent fulani bravery (*sharo*) and kicking (*doro*). All these, except for the *Eid* festivals, take place during the dry season after harvest.

I. Eid-El-Fitr or Karamar Sallah:

This is popularly called "*Sallar Azumi*" or "*Karamar Sallah*" (Small Sallah), designed to mark the end of Muslim fasting of the month of Ramadan. It involves display of new clothes by Muslims and going to the *Eid* praying ground to say a two-rakaat prayer. Other activities during the celebrations include music, mini durbar, visit to relations, parties and an address to the public by the Sultan.

ii. Eid-El-Kabir or Babbar Sallah

This celebration is called *Babbar Sallah* (Big Sallah). It comes up 70 days after the *Eid-El-Fitr* and involves the sacrificing of animals, mostly rams and cattle. It was first done by Prophet Ibrahim who wanted to slaughter his son, Ismael, but Allah sent him a ram to slaughter. The festival also involves going to the praying ground to say a two rakat prayer and visits to relations, durbar and other social activities.

iii. Sharo

This is an annual initiation festival organized by cattle Fulani youths after harvest, it involves dancing and whipping among bachelors to determine eligibility into matrimonial life. It is also a way of testing the endurance of a Fulani boy as he faces so many hardships and rigorous encounters in the course of rearing animals.



SHARO:Flogging

iv. *Doro* (Kicking)

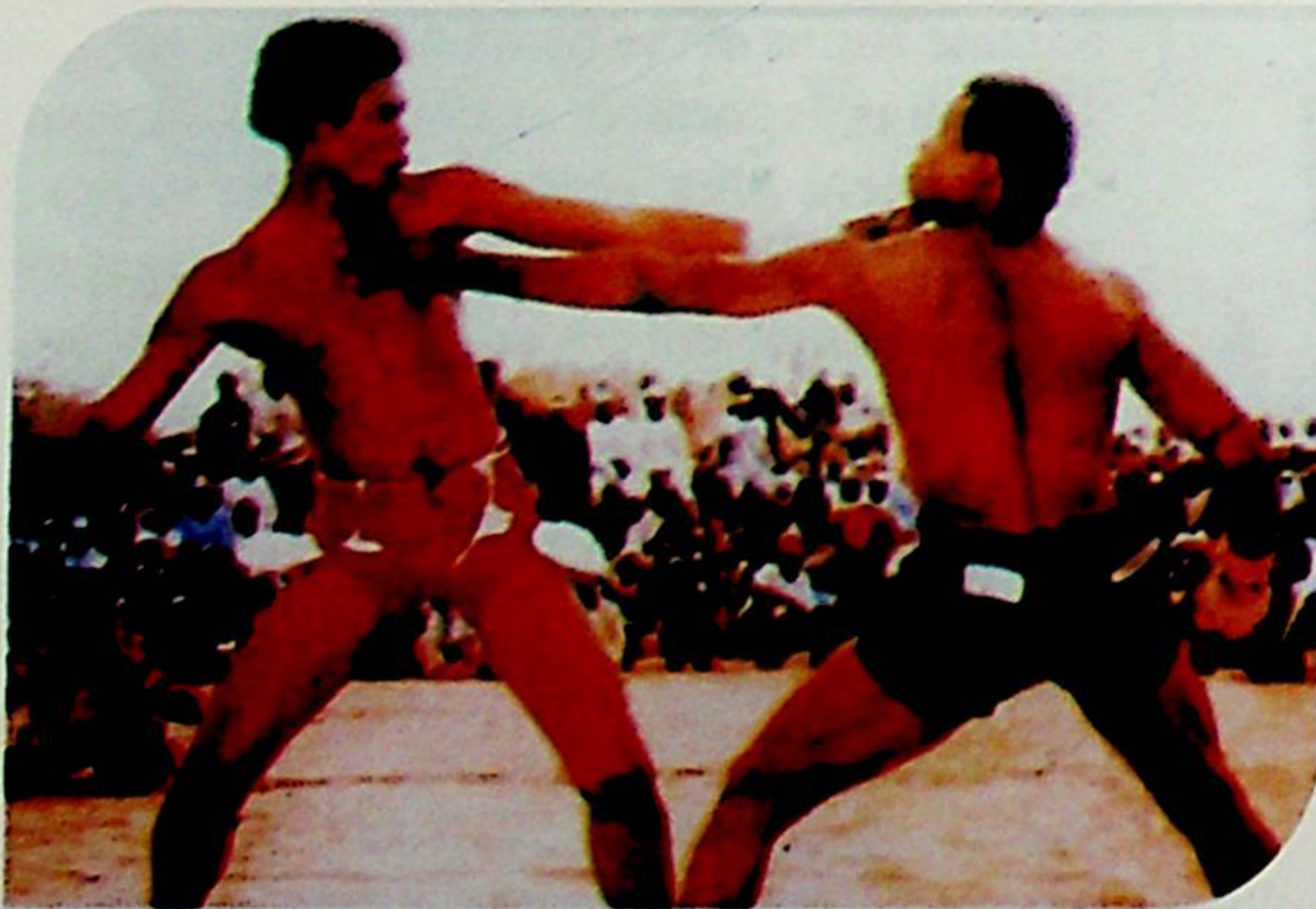
Another in the series of a test of endurance is *Doro* performed annually after harvest by the Sullubawa Fulani youths is *Doro* or Kicking. It is common in Shuni, Wamakko and Dingyadi districts where the Sullubawa Fulani stock predominates.



DORO: Kicking

v. *Dambe* (local boxing)

Dambe is a local boxing tournament between two contestants, usually of the same demographic cohorts, in a test of wits and strength/endurance. It



DAMBE: Local Boxing

is a game of *rundawas* (butchers). These days however, some non-butchers engage in the profession, while others do it for pleasure. It takes place after harvest at *gidan dambe* in the State Capital and all other districts. Sometimes international tournaments are organised with neighbouring countries.

vi. *Kokawa* (Wrestling)

This is a traditional wrestling in a fist power. A participant in Sokoto, it is performed after

commands respect for the winner within his age mates and the community in general. The game has also been improved to meet up with modern requirements for tourists and competitions are arranged with neighbouring countries.



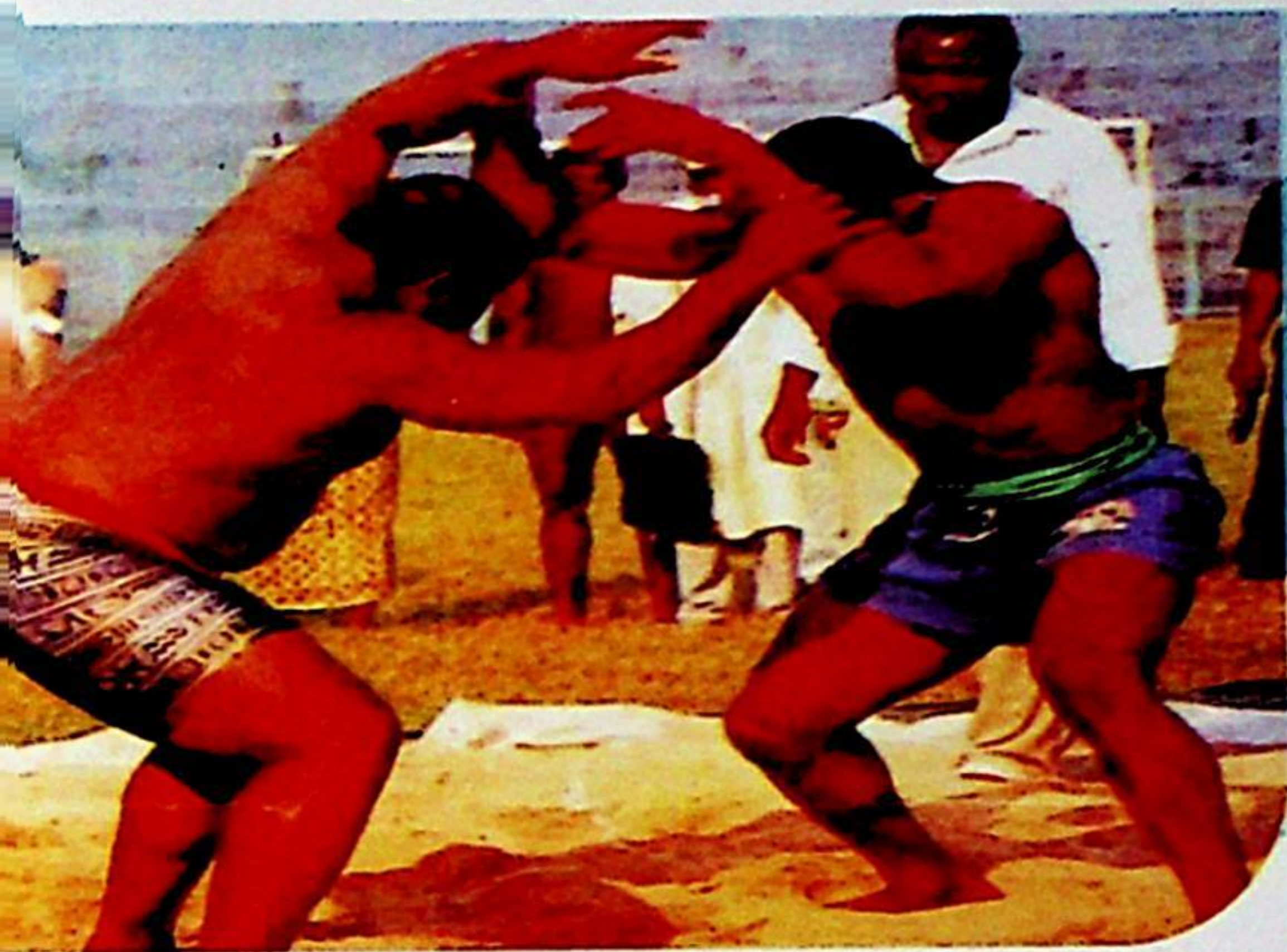
vii. *Gumaru Fishing Festival*

The history of Gumaru La Gindi district of Tambuwal Jihad period. It was believed Danfodiyo's disciples dug



ROMO: Gumaru

between two able-bodied young men, locked
t floors his opponents to become a winner. In
harvest in an open space. Such a game



KOKAWA: Wrestling

ival

ake Fishing Festival at Romon Sarki Village in
Local Government dates back to 18th century
ved that Gumaru, one of the Sheikh Usmanu
a well at the site which was blessed by Sheikh



Fishing Festival

Usmanu Danfodiyo
himself, which
eventually
expanded into the
present lake. It is
one of the largest
natural lake in the
State endowed with
various species of
fish. A number of
natural spring water
fountains abound
around the lake for
human consump-
tion without any
chemical treatment.

viii. *Yan Rawar Yaki (War Dancers)*

These are war dancers dressed in heavily costumed outfit from Yabo Local Government. The dance could also be traced back to the jihad period by warriors of Sarkin Kakin Yabo Moyijo the Shehu Usmanu's War Commander of the West of the Caliphate and a flag bearer.

The war dance (Rawar Yaki) were performed after every successful victory over the enemies. These days, the beautifully costumed dance is performed as a sign of loyalty and respect to elders and leaders. It is demonstrated by Yabo Local Government Cultural Troupe, made up of male dancers armed with swords and drummers music from *ganga*, *algaita (flute)*, *kakaki (trumpets)* and *fare*.



RAWAR YAKI: War Dance

ix. *Rawar Fulani (Fulani Dance)*

Fulani dances by the male folks include *sharo* and *namadi*. The most exciting is *sharo* by Fulani youths during naming ceremonies as they dance to *kalangu* music with sticks in one hand, and hopping in their traditional *sawaye* sewed dress and *binjima* trousers.

The female dances are *mai tsoka bai rasa wutar gashi* (meaning: he who has a flesh of meat will not lack fire to roast it), *tumbudi*, *jada nono*. The most fascinating of the female dances is the *tumbudi* which is performed as a



RAWAR FULANI: Fulani Dance

maiden dance in the house of the bridegroom.

They are dressed in woven sewage strained together with *siliya* strings and dance around carrying calabash containing fresh cow milk to a well-composed music backed by *kalangu* and *kurkutu* instruments.

x. Durbar Processions

This is one of the most attractive cultural activities found all over Hausa Land. It is a sequential and majestic procession of decorated and colourful



DURBAR PROCESSION

horses, camels, don-keys, etc. displayed by a calvary men to showcase their gallantry during the wars.

Durbar was introduced as a festival to Hausa Land by the British Colonial Mas-ters who, after colonizing

India, came to colonize Nigeria. They found Northern Nigeria very rich in camels and horses as well as cavalymen, which were convenient in organizing durbar.

Durbar was being organized to commemorate colonial events of kings and queens of England. Eventually, it came to ~~play~~ as a way of receiving important visitors to the State, especially Presidents and Prime Ministers. A mini durbar is also organized to celebrate important religious festivals, e.g. *Eid-el-Fitr, Eid-el-Kabr and Eid-el-Maulud*.

xi. Maigero Open Air Theatre

This is an open air theatre built by the Sokoto State Government in 1985 just near Government House Sokoto the theatre is provided with modern cultural facilities and is capable of accommodation 2,000 spectators at a time. It is under the auspices of the state History and Culture Bureau.

Cultural performing arts like music, drama and dances in the state are conducted at the theatre. The open air space gives adequate ventilation to suppress the heat environment especially at night. The gardens and parks facilities surrounding the theatre give a much more favourable atmosphere to the tourists.



MAIGERO OPEN AIR THEATRE

4.3 ART AND CRAFT WORKS

A number of art and craft works exists, these include metal, cotton, leather, clay and grass products which are on offer at modest prices for visitors to pick as souvenirs from hotel shops, markets and directly from those who produce them at craft villages.

I. *Saka* (Cloth Weaving)

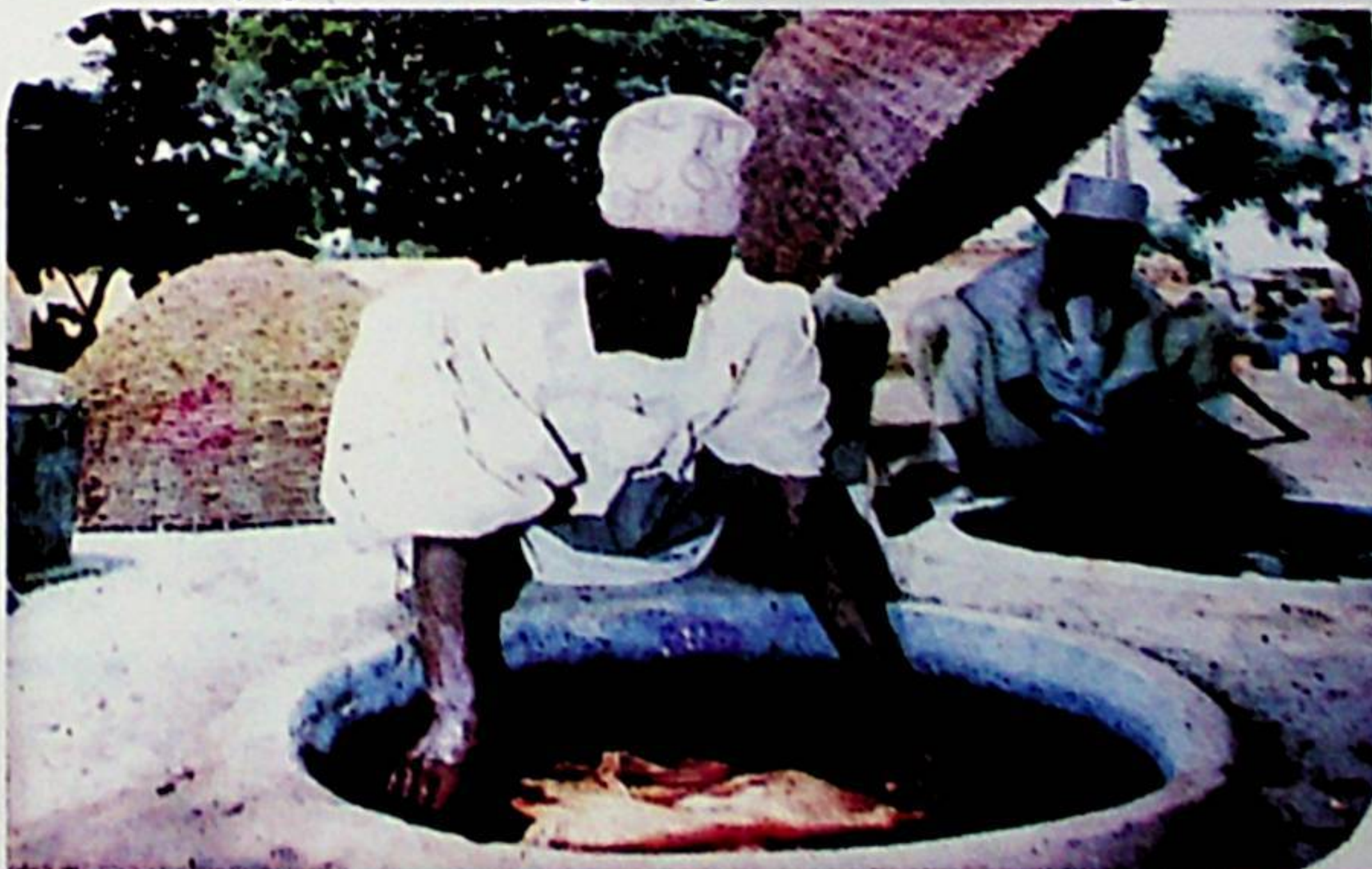
Cloth weaving in Sokoto has a history of over 500 years. Some of these cloth products could be found all over West Africa. They come in different sizes and designs for men and women; adult and children. Over the years, the products have been tremendously improved to meet the souvenir requirements of tourists from Nigeria and outside.



CLOTH WEAVING

ii. *Rini* (Cloth Dyeing)

Rini simply means dyeing of clothes to give different impressive colours. s



CLOTH DYEING

The cloth is dyed in earth-dug pits filled with plants of indigo with some chemicals added. The (clothes) are sunk into the pit to give attractive colours. In modern times, drums are used to heat the chemicals. This craft has been improved to meet up with modern tastes.

iii. *Madunka Fata* (Leather Goods)

Leather goods are found along one of the major roads leading to the Sultan's Palace in Sokoto. Tanned leather are used by the *Madunka* to produce puffs, wallets, carpets, sword and knives' sheaths, royal shoes, horse wears (decorations) and bags of various sizes and designs. Sokoto is heavily visited by tourists for its different varieties of leather goods.



LEATHER GOODS

iv. *Ginar Tukane* (Pottery Production)

This craft involves producing various items made from earth and clay used



POTTERY

especially in homes. Some of the items produced include cooking and flower pots, jugs, spinners, etc. Pottery items are sometimes decorated in ones colourful choice. To improve on the quality, they are baked in earth made ovens at very high temperatures.

v. **Hika/Heke (Calabash Carving and Decorations)**

Calabash decoration is mostly practiced by women. Harvested calabash are cut into different sizes and wares and decorated with artistic symbols. They create a very impressive scene when used for internal decorations of homes especially among the Fulani ethnic groups. Decorated calabash containers are used to carry milk to the market and as special gifts to the bride by the Fulani women.



CALABASH DESIGN

vi. **Ancient Manuscript**

One of the most important legacies left behind by the Jihad scholars of the Sokoto Caliphate was their intellectual works. So many hand written served manuscripts were written in various fields of human endeavor. About 1,500 of these Arabic manuscripts have been identified, translated and preserved at the Museum Gallery of the History and Culture Bureau Archives and are heavily consulted by scholars from all over the world.



ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT

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vii. Zayyana (Quranic Calligraphy)

In the Islamic Society, children are sent to Quranic schools at a tender age so as to learn the basics of religion. They used wooden slates called "allo" in the course of their study on which portions of the Qur'an are written in ink and washed off when the portion is memorized and the next one written.

At their completion of the study of the Qur'an, called Sauka the slate is decorated with calligraphy, which is



QURANIC CALIGRAPHY

a symbol of graduation and certificate. Graduands proudly show to their relations and well wishers their 'allon sauka'. These slate are usually on display in their parents room. They are very attractive art works.

viii. Tamburran Yaki War Drums

During wars drums were the most important means of communications among the warriors. Drums were also beaten to produce different sounds



WAR DRUMS

that could signify so many things to the listeners. Most Hausa/Fulani festivals are celebrated with drums. They come in different sizes and shapes with each producing a peculiar type of sound. The drums are found in many palaces of district heads in Sokoto.

4.4 NATURAL FEATURES

Sokoto State falls within an area of old geologic formation made up of mainly sedimentary deposits. This along with its proximity to the Sahara Desert offers tourists a wide range of physical features of interest. These include:-

I. Sedimentary Rock Formation in Goronyo

This is an impressive sedimentary geologic formation found in Goronyo Local Government Area of the State. The rock formation is believed to on is



GORONYO ROCK FORMATION

contain ancient fossils remains and provide some evidence of the origin of pre-historic life. Furthermore the formation is very rich in limestone deposit used in the manufacture of cement.

ii. Bulbul Warm Spring in Wamakko

The word 'bulbul' in Hausa language means sprouting or springing out of

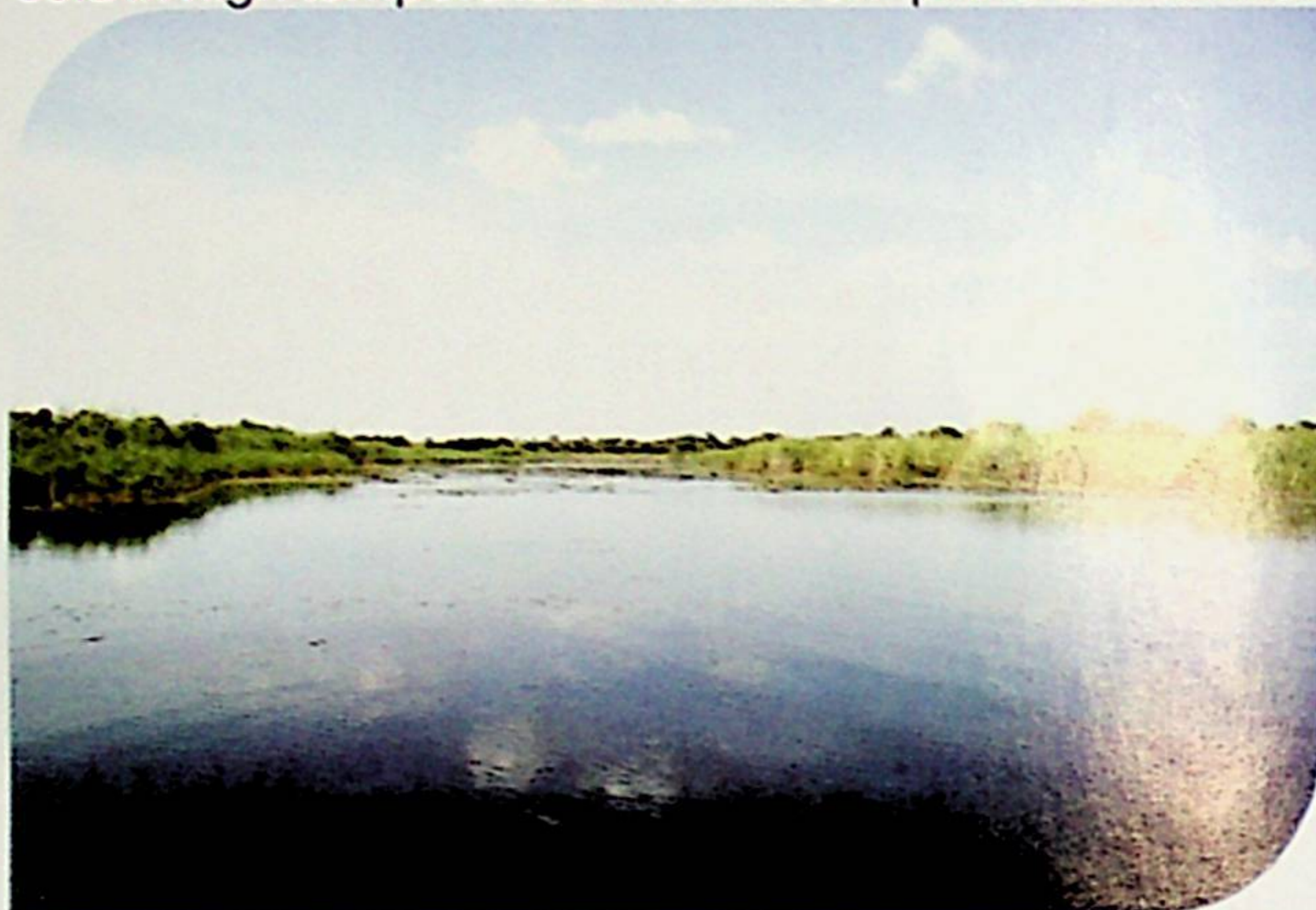
the ground. The one in Wamakko is located in a beautiful serene landscape in Wamakko Local Government Area, less than 15 km from Sokoto. The spring has a potential for bottle water industry as well as a recreational centre for tourists.



BULBUL SPRING WATER, Wamakko

iii. Kware Lake

It is a very large lake which provides natural recreational facilities at its surroundings. The water is warm during the cold harmattan season and cold in high temperature months of April to June. The lake stretches from ut



KWARE LAKE

Kware (some 18km from Sokoto) to Kainuwa near Gwadabawa. It is about the only natural lake with water throughout the year. The shores of the lake is characterized by a beautiful all year round green vegetation.

iv. Sand Dunes- Gidan Kaura, Gada

A tourist does not have to go too far to see one of the most impressive features of the Sahara Desert. By virtue of its location Sokoto state is in close proximity to this great desert at Gidan Kaura in Gada local and Niger

government area located at the border between the border between Nigeria and Niger Republic one can see a number of sand dunes.

They occupy about 7 sq kms and show clear signs of desert encroachment



SAND DUNES, Gidan Kaura

that has displaced a number of communities along our northern borders when they move. The federal and state governments have tamed these moving sand dunes by embarking on a massive fixation exercise through afforestation programme.

4.5 EDIFICES

1. *Goronyo Dam*

This dam is located in the historic town of Goronyo about 120 km from Sokoto. The dam is one of the largest in the West African sub-region and built in 1981 along the River Rima to boost the irrigation provide source of domestic water supply to Sokoto town and Birnin Kebbi in Kebbi State, as well as to feed the Lugu Dam in Wurno for dry season farming and fishing. The dam has a storage capacity of approximate 942 million cubic metres of lake. It also provides a good recreation site for tourist during the hot weather period from April to June.



GORONYO DAM

ii. Cement Company of Northern Nigeria (CCNN)

The Company was established in 1964 by the government of Sir Ahmadu Bello, Premier of Northern Region. It served both as cement manufacturing company and a tourist attraction centre.



CEMENT COMPANY OF NORTHERN NIGERIA, SOKOTO

iii. Sokoto Central Market

The market was, constructed in 1978 and was probably the largest of its type in West African sub-region at its inception. It was constructed as a response to the



SOKOTO CENTRAL MARKET

response to the numerous and associated with the old market such as fire outbreak and drainage congestion problems. The new market has the stalls or shops built with cement and the entire floor of the market is

cemented. One can find most works of craft and art in the market at affordable prices. There is an administrative office within the market with signs directing customers to its various sections. There are a fire service unit, a police post, a court and a number of places for convenience – toilets. The original location of the market was at 'Yargabas' in the heart during Sultan Bello's reign. It was later moved to 'Yardole' near the Shehu's Mosque.

The Sokoto Central Market is served by a number of other rural markets such as Achida, Tangaza, Tambuwal and Illela (for livestock), Bodinga and Gada (for Onions) and a night market at Dange and Dandin Mahe (also for livestock).

10.0 LOCAL COUSINES

The wide range of hotels offers continental, Nigerian as well as local Sokoto or Hausa cuisines. These are prepared under the best hygienic conditions. Tourists should therefore feel free to try especially the local cuisines as follows:-

I. Tuwon Masara

Made from maize flour and poured into boiling water, stirred until it forms a thick paste, ready to serve. It is an energy-giving main course meal, usually served with a mixture of stew or vegetable soup. *Tuwon Masara* is a staple meal among the local population taken mainly for dinner and sometimes for breakfast.

ii. Tuwon Dawa

Tuwon dawa is also main course meal prepared from guinea corn sorghum flour with potash and water. The flour is poured into boiling water and potash is added. These are well stirred until a paste is formed. It is then allowed to cool, ready to serve. *Tuwon Dawa* has a lot of calcium, starch and iron. It is usually eaten with a mixture of stew and vegetable soup and is a staple for the local population.

iii. Tuwon Shinkafa

Tuwon shinkafa (rice) is a meal rich in protein and carbohydrates. It is

prepared from rice boiled in water and well-stirred to form a paste ready to serve. It is usually eaten with a mixture of stew and vegetable soup. Increasing it has become a staple food among the local elite population.

iv. Waina/Masa

This is popular, especially for break fast. It is made from a mixture of rice, flour, salt and onions and fried with little groundnut oil in a clay-heated pot (*tanda*). It is a main course containing carbohydrate, calcium, iron and Vitamin E. Served for the breakfast and during ceremonies.

v. Fura Da Nono

A very popular drink made from millet, guinea corn, sorghum or a combination of their flours or rice. Cow yogurt (*nono*) is added to the paste. This starter dish contains the following nutritional values: carbohydrate, minerals such as calcium, iron, protein, fats and Vitamin D.

vi. Kunun Tsamiya

This is palp from a mixture of spices, tamarind juice and grounded grains, usually millet or sorghum. It is popular among the local population for break fast, particularly taken with bean cake (*kosai*).

vii. Kunun Zaki

Kunun Zaki is prepared from guinea corn or millet with spices of pepper, ginger, sweet potatoes, sugar and water. The grains are soaked in water and the ingredients are added and grinded. Boiling water is later added, stirred and allowed to cool. *Kunun zaki* is rich in carbohydrate, calcium, iron and phosphorous.

viii. Dambun Nama or Dambun Kaza

This is a thinly shredded meat dish prepared and served with an accompany main course. Pepper, salt, onions and oil are usually added and fried. It entails cooking, pounding and frying the meat after the bones have been removed. It contains proteins.

ix. Kilishi

This is thinly sliced dried and baked meat with a lot of spicy gradients. It is made mostly cow, goat and sheep meat mixed with salt, pepper, onions, spices and groundnut cakes. The meat is sliced into flat shapes and dried in the sun, after which it is dipped into the *labu* (mixture of all the ingredients mentioned above). It is then removed from the paste and dried on fire over wire gauze. *Kilishi* is a rich protein delicacy served as a starter on an accompanying dish, or simply a snack.

11.0 HOTEL SERVICES

Sokoto, the State Capital has no less than ten hotels of different standards. There are three 5-star hotels: Giginya, Shukura and Dankani Guest Palace; three 3-star hotels or lodges such as Sokoto Guest Inn, Sokoto Hotel and Sokoto Catering Hotel. Others are Ibro, University Guests Inn and Mabera Hotels among others. Rates vary from N15,000 to N25,000 for the 5-Star hotels, N7,000 to N10,000 for the 3-Star hotels, and N3,500 to N5,000 for the others. One can find a variety of dishes both Continental and Nigerian in these hotels and there are



GIGINYA HOTEL, SOKOTO

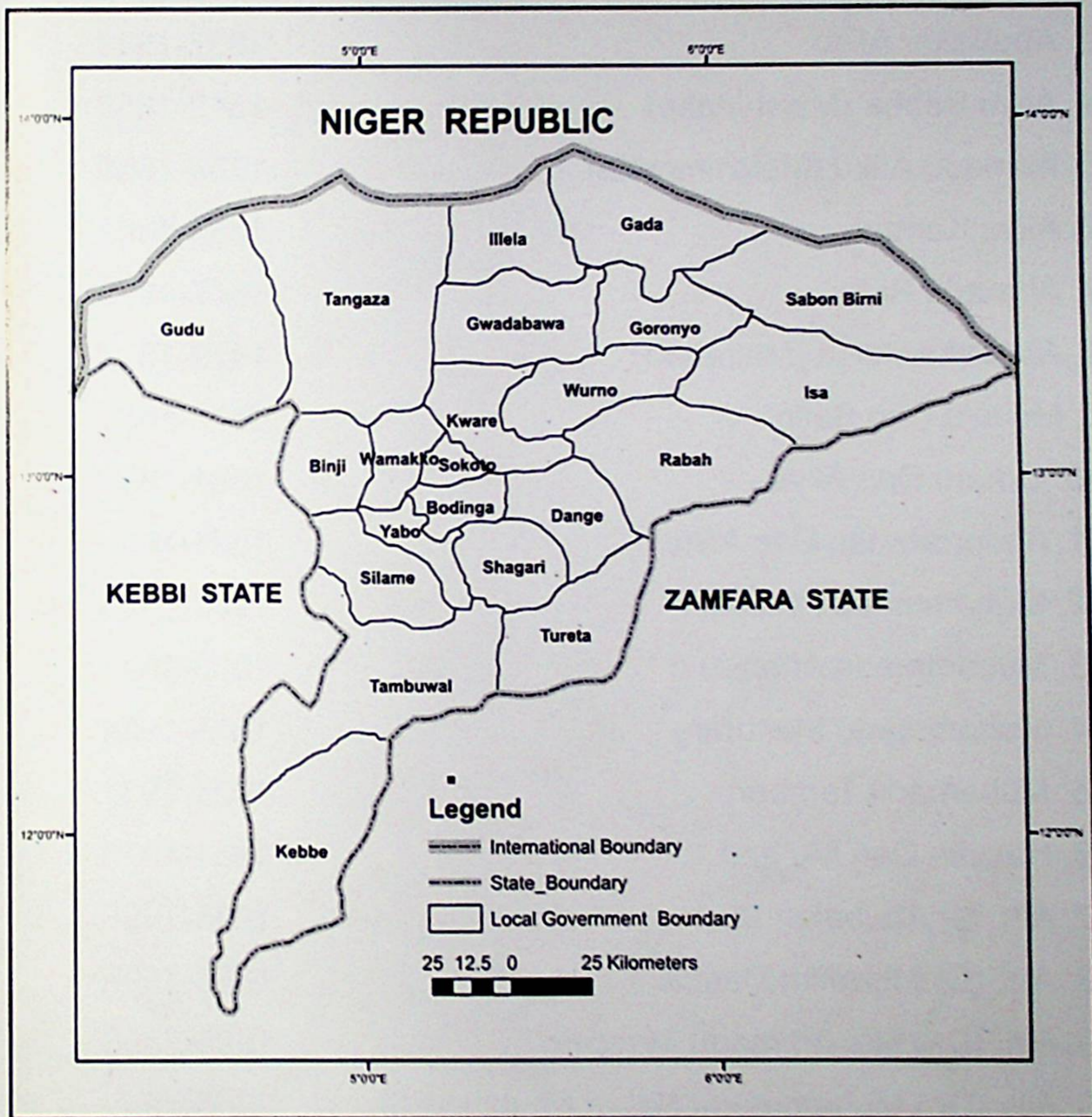


SHUKURA HOTEL, SOKOTO

also Sokoto Cousines such as *waina/masa*, *damboun nama*, *kilishi*, *tuwon dawa*, *tuwon shinkafa* and *tuwon masara*. The *tuwo* dishes are served with *miyan sure/yakuwa* (spinarch), *kuka* (baobab leaves) or *guro/kubewa* (okra). A number of local drinks such as *sobo* (from sorrels flowers), *kunun zaki* (from millet), *Kunun tsamiya* (from tamarind fruits and millet) and *fura* (millet balls mixed with milk) are also available.



SOKOTO HOTEL, SOKOTO



SULTANS OF SOKOTO AND THEIR PERIOD OF REIGN

1. Shehu Usmanu Danfodiyo	1804-1817
2. Muhammadu Bello	1817-1837
3. Abubakar Atiku	1837-1842
4. Aliyu Babba (Maishinaka)	1842-1859
5. Ahmadu Atiku (Maichimmola)	1859-1856
6. Aliyu Karami	1866-1867
7. Ahmadu Rufai	1867-1873
8. Abubakar Atiku (Mairabah)	1873-1877
9. Mu'azu Dan Bello	1877-1881
10. Umaru Dan Aliyu	1881-1891
11. Abdurrahman Dan Atiku	1891-1902
12. Muhammadu Attahiru I	1902-1903
13. Muhammadu Attahiru II	1903-1915
14. Muhammadu Maiturare	1915-1924
15. Muhamadu Tambari	1924-1931
16. Hassan Dan Mu'azu	1931-1938
17. Alh. Sir Abubakar III	1938-1988
18. Alh. (Dr.) Ibrahim Dasuki	1988-1996
19. Alh. (Dr.) Muhammadu Maccido	1996-2006
20. Alh. (Dr.) Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar III	2006-date