

**Capital:** Ado Ekiti

**Present Governor:** Dr Kayode Fayemi

**Year of Creation**

Ekiti State was created on 1st October, 1996 out of the former Ondo State

**Land Mass and Location**

Ekiti State is located in southwest region of Nigeria. It has a land area of 6,353km. It is bounded on the south by Ondo State, on the north by Kwara State, on the east by Kogi State and on the west by Osun State.

**Original Inhabitants and Settlers**

The Ekitis, whose ancestors migrated from Ile-Ife as a people, form one of the largest ethnic groups in Yoruba land. The Ekitis are culturally homogenous and they speak dialect of the Yoruba language known as Ekiti. Dialect however varies from locations. E.g. Otun (the Moba land) speaks a dialect close to Igbominas in Kwara and Osun States, the Oke-Ako, Irele and Omu-Oke people speak a dialect similar to Ijumus in Kogi State, Ekiti west and Efon Alaaye, LGA speaks a similar dialect to that of Ijesas of Osun State.

**Major Cities and Towns**

Major towns in the state are: Ado-Ekiti, Ikere, Efon, Ikole, Aramoko-Ekiti, Ode, Ijero, Ise, Ilawe, Omuo, Igede, Otun, Ido, Iye, Iyin, Aisegba, Emure, Ayedun, Okemesi, Ogotun, Od o-Oro, Afao, Erinmope and Oye-Ekiti.

**Minerals and Agricultural Resources**

Mineral deposits are cassiterite, columbite, tantalite, ceramic clays, kaolinitic clays, feldspar, bauxite clay, quartzite, granite, banded gneisses, muscovite, tatum, syenite, tin and marble.

Agricultural produce are cocoa, palm produce, timber, rubber, kola nut, citrus fruits, plantain, maize, rice, cowpea, yam, cassava, mango, cocoyam, cashew, and sugar cane.

**Local Government Areas**

There are sixteen local government areas which are: Ado-Ekiti, Aiyedire, Efon, Ekiti-East, Ekiti Southwest, Ekiti-West, Emure, Ido-Osi, Ijero, Ikere, Ikole, Ilejemeje, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ise-Orun, Moba and Oye.

**State Liaison Offices and Link**

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### **Ekiti State Tourism Board**

C/o Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives,  
Fajuyi Park,  
Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State  
Tel: (+234-34) 240602

**Ikogosi Warm Spring, Ikogosi (Natural/Physical):** Ikogosi Warm spring is about 55km from Akure, the Ondo State capital. Ikogosi is located in Ekiti West LGA. The warm spring roll down over a hilly landscape at seventy degrees. From another hill rises a cold spring which joins the warm spring at a confluence at the end maintaining a temperature of thirty seven degrees. Together they form a continuous stream. The whole landscape with its green vegetation is fascinating. The immediate surrounding of the spring (resort centre) is about 31.38 hectares and is protected from erosion by tall evergreen trees, forming a canopy under which visitors can relax.

The spring is said to have some therapeutic effects on some diseases like rheumatism and guinea worm. The undulating topography enhances the aesthetic beauty of the people of Ikogosi. It is the source of the bottling of Gossy Table Water by UAC foods because the water is highly rich with minerals essential for the body. The people of Ikogosi worship the goddess of the water and have strong belief in the myth around it. In an effort to make suitable arrangements for the comfort of guests, well furnished chalets have been constructed to meet the needs of the tourists. In addition, there are facilities for conference, seminar and catering services. A mini Zoological Garden is also found in the vicinity. The provision of sporting and gaming facilities such as enlarged non-chemical swimming pool and a table-tennis section is also created at the spring.

**Arinta Waterfall, Ipole Iloro Ekiti (Physical/Natural):** The arinta waterfall at Ipole-Iloro also known as “**Ipole Iloro waterfall**” is located at about 6km northwest of Ikogosi in Ekiti-West LGA. It could be reached only through a secondary road from Ikogosi. The road leading to the fall passes through Ikogosi tourist centre. One would be marveled at the work of nature on at visit to the waterfall. Tourists will fill the chilly effect of this fall about 10m away. The fall cascades down the rocky hills from about 50m height and flows down to form a pool of glittering water. It has three pronounced escarpment. A research carried out by an Afro American indicated that the waterfall could generate electricity (hydro-electric power). This waterfall area is naturally endowed with thick and evergreen forest. The environment is good for swimming, hill climbing, picnic, relaxation and meetings.

**Olosunta and Orole Hill, Ikere Ekiti (Physical/Natural):** The two hills are located at northern and southern parts of the town respectively. They are both steep-sided hills. These are good resort centres for tourists to visit and see what “God” has done. There are deities in charge of these two hills. Both are worshipped accordingly in line with the belief of the people of this town. The Olosunta and Orole deities reside in the hills respectively. Both deities are created with some features such as provision of children to barren women and protection of Ikere from warfare. They are believed to be responsible for the welfare of the town. Ikere-Ekiti is usually described as the only unconquered town in Ekiti during the popular inter-tribal wars.

**Orole Hills, Ikere Ekiti (Physical):** Orole hill is reputed to be the highest hill within the Ondo/Ekiti State axis. It stands on the ground like an egg, which stands erect and buries its other end in the soil. The myth has it that the hill was formerly a woman who was worshipped and is still worshipped as a goddess of prosperity in the town. The site is good for sight seeing, picnicking and mountaineering.

**Olosunta Hills, Ikere Ekiti (Physical):** The Olosunta hills are sacred hills. Movement of tourists are restricted to some areas. Olosunta hill is worshipped for seven days every year in a festive way in August by the people. The **Ugele hill** which is situated besides the Olosunta hill has a cave that could take one thousand people; a big space used in the past for wrestling. The Ugele is also worshipped every year in June during the New Yam festival.

**Agbonna Hills, Okemesi-Ekiti (Physical):** The Agbonna hill is one of the hills that surround Okemesi-Ekiti, the home of the famous 'Fabunmi' **the Generalissimo of the famed Kiriji and Ekiti Parapo Wars in Yoruba land.** The hill spreads conspicuously on one side of the town, creating beautiful scenery for visitors and tourists to the town. The hill contains a cave and is believed to have provided shelters for the people of the town during the past Yoruba wars. The people worship the hill during the annual festival of '**Ebami Gbomo Oke**' because they still believe it can cure infertility. The hill, in the past, was a habitat for gorillas and chimpanzees. Visitors climb the hill to relax, for religious retreat and to view the surrounding towns and villages as well as behold the beautiful panoramic view of the town below and the surrounding towns.

**Kosegbe Stone (Physical):** Kosegbe in English translation '**Can not Be Carried**' stone is a strange small oblong stone located along the road leading to the Arinta waterfall in Ipole-Iloro Ekiti. The stone, located in the ruins of an old palace of a king, can not be carried above the head by anybody however strong the person may be.

**Efon Hills, Efon-Alaye (Physical):** This is the highest point in Ekiti State; the hills are the watersheds of the major rivers in the state including Rivers Oni, Owena and Olua. From the top of the hills flows down the majestic "**Erinni waterfalls**" which is yet to be developed as a tourist centre. These hills are the best areas of scenic beauty in the state and their usual steep slopes are covered by shallow soil profiles while the Abeta hills on which NTA Repeater station is located, provide tourists a spectacle view of towns within the vicinity.

**Ancient Ewi's Palace, Ado Ekiti (Monument/Cultural):** This is one of historical edifice of the state. The palace is an epitome of traditional architectural edifice.

**Fajuyi Memorial Park, Ado Ekiti (Monument/Recreation):** It is a triangular park where the late Colonel Adekunle Fajuyi an indigene of Ado Ekiti was buried. This park is at Ado Ekiti, the heart of Ekiti land. Colonel Adekunle Fajuyi was the Governor of the old western state during the military regime. He was swept off by the coup of 1966 that killed General Aguiyi Ironsi, former Head of State but accorded a heroic burial for his sacrifice and patriotism. The park is equipped with a fountain, watersport, games, children playground, tower, mini museum, restaurant and bar for visitors and tourists. It is also suitable for meetings, religious retreats, seminars, workshops etc.

**Ero Dam and Lake (Man-Made):** The dam and lake is located at Ikun Ekiti and covers some kilometers. In fact, it was initially designed to cover only 5km but eventually covered 11km. The dam supplies some local government's drinkable water. The indigenes of the town, neighbours and Hausa fish on this Ero Lake. Local canoes, boats and modern speed boats are made use by these fishermen.

**Ose Water Dam and Egbe Dam, Egbe-Ekiti (Man-Made):** This dam is constructed on Ose River at Egbe Ekiti. It is about 135km. Both fishing and irrigation systems of farming are practiced by the villagers using the dam. The dam supplies regular pipe-borne water. People go to Egbe Ekiti from all over the state to purchase fresh smoked fish for their consumptions. Both dams and lakes are good resort centres for tourists coming to Ekiti State to visit.

**Erin Ayonigba Sacred Fish River, Erinjiyan-Ekiti (Physical/Cultural):** This is a river that contains a colony of sacred catfish that are forbidden to be cropped. The myth has it that a strange woman who migrated to the town metamorphosed into the river and that the fish are her children. Hence, it is a taboo to kill the fish and that if this is done, the fish will not cook however long the period of cooking. Also, the person who kills any of the fish will never be prosperous in life. Tourists visit the river to see this strange occurrence and the coming out of big and small fish in hundreds.

**Osun River Source (Physical):** The source of Osun River is located in Igbeti-Ekiti in Irepodun/Ifelodun LGA. The river meanders from Igbeti-Ekiti to Ijero and moving through Ikoro-Okemesi-Ekiti road before flowing to Osun State. Osun River is being worshipped by the people of Osogbo in Osun State with fun fair as a goddess that cures infertility and gives children.

**Ooni River, Efon Alaaye (Physical):** River Ooni flows out the Efon Alaaye hills. The river is believed to have power to cure guinea worm and other water borne diseases. Because of its therapeutic power, River Ooni is worshipped every year by the believers.

**Egbigbu Artificial Lake, Ayetoro-Ekiti (Man-made):** Egbigbu Artificial Lake is located at Ayetoro-Ekiti along the Iloro-Ayetoro-Ekiti road in Ido-Osi local government area of Ekiti State. The lake takes its source from three springs (Oloke Aere, Ayedu and Igborogboro). The Springs meet to form a mini lagoon and spread over one kilometre. A beautiful scenery with various species of aquatic life such as catfish, shellfish, reptiles. The lake is provided with a guest house, restaurant and bar. It is ideal for relaxation, boating and fishing.

**Esa Cave, Iyin-Ekiti (Physical):** Esa Cave is located in Iyin-Ekiti, a town in Irepodun/Ifelodun LGA. The cave is capable of containing about thirty four thousand (34,000) people at a time. It was believed to have shielded the people of the town during the internecine wars in Yoruba land.

**Lord Luggard's Boundary Between Northern And Southern Protectorate (Monument):** At Odo-Owa Ekiti in Ijero LGA is many pillars used by Lord Luggard to demarcate the boundary between the former Northern and Southern Protectorates of Nigeria. It is an historical monument that is already being documented by the State Tourism Board which could be designated as a national monument.

**Ajibade Garden, Ado-Ekiti (Man-made/Recreation):** It is located at the Government Reservation Area; off Ilawe road in Ado-Ekiti. It is one of the private initiatives in tourism development in Ekiti State. The garden provides relaxation avenue for children and adults. Many play equipment for children and adult are available in the garden. There is also a bar and restaurant which serves both local and international cuisines. There are huts for relaxation and landscaped field for open air picnics/relaxation. The garden is good for parties, picnics, carnivals and relaxation.

**Opa Aje, Emure Ekiti (Cultural):** The Opa Aje (Stall of Wealth) is located in Emure Ekiti. It is a piece of iron rod which was found piercing through a hard rock and pointing skyward. The standing iron rod is believed to attract forces of wealth and prosperity.

**Oroke Ewo War Centre, Ilupeju Ekiti (Monument):** Ewo Centre is located about 2km to Ilupeju-Ekiti along the Ibele Araromi road in Ilupeju-Ekiti, formally known as **Egosi Ekiti**. It is the preserved site of war between warriors from Ilorin led by their warlord, **Ali** and Egosi Kingdom led by **Oloseru, Elewere, Oloyagba, Olowotoranse** in the 18th century. During the war, Egosi people displayed magical powers, turning **warrior Ali to a stone (Odidi mode)**, while his seat and calabash charms were also turned to stones. The Ilorin warrior's big '**Bembe**' **drum** was also **turned to stone (Ojongbede)** while **Ali's camel was turned to Ose tree (baobab tree)**. All these stones are preserved at the **Oroke Ewo War Site** with the unique stone drum still sounding like a drum when beaten.

**FSP Children's Playground, Ado Ekiti (Man-made/Recreation):** The playground is situated along Ajilosun Street in Ado Ekiti. In the park are play equipment for children, restaurants and bars. Enough space is provided for parking of vehicles.