

## NIGERIA



**Country Dialing Code (Tel/Fax): ++ 234**

**Federal Ministry of Tourism and Culture:** Old Secretariat, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria Tel: (9) 234 2770, Fax: (9) 234 1351

**Capital:** Lagos **Time:** GMT + 1

**Background:** Following nearly 16 years of military rule, a new constitution was adopted in 1999 and a peaceful transition to civilian government completed. The new president faces the daunting task of rebuilding a petroleum-based economy, whose revenues have been squandered through corruption and mismanagement, and institutionalizing democracy. In addition, the OBASANJO administration must defuse longstanding ethnic and religious tensions, if it is to build a sound foundation for economic growth and political stability.

**Location:** Western Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon

**Map References:** Africa

**Area:** total: 923,768 sq km land: 910,768 sq km water: 13,000 sq km

**Climate:** varies; equatorial in south, tropical in center, arid in north

**Terrain:** southern lowlands merge into central hills and plateaus; mountains in southeast, plains in north

**Natural Resources:** petroleum, tin, columbite, iron ore, coal, limestone, lead, zinc, natural gas, hydropower, arable land

**Population:** 123,337,822

**Nationality:** noun: Nigerian(s) adjective: Nigerian

**Ethnic Groups:** Nigeria, which is Africa's most populous country, is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups; the following are the most populous and politically influential: Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%

**Languages:** English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani

**Economy:** The oil-rich Nigerian economy, long hobbled by political instability, corruption, and poor macroeconomic management, is undergoing substantial economic reform under the new civilian administration. Nigeria's former military rulers failed to diversify the economy away from overdependence on the capital-intensive oil sector, which provides 20% of GDP, 95% of foreign exchange earnings, and about 65% of budgetary revenues. The largely subsistence agricultural sector has not kept up with rapid population growth, and Nigeria, once a large net exporter of food, now must import food. In 2000, Nigeria is likely to receive a debt-restructuring deal with the Paris club and a \$1 billion loan from the IMF, both contingent on economic reforms. Increased foreign investment combined with high world oil prices should push growth to over 5% in 2000-01.

**Industries:** crude oil, coal, tin, columbite, palm oil, peanuts, cotton, rubber, wood, hides and skins, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food products, footwear, chemicals, fertilizer, printing, ceramics, steel

**Currency:** 1 naira (N) = 100 kobo

**Railways:** total: 3,557 km narrow gauge: 3,505 km 1.067-m gauge, standard gauge: 52 km 1.435-m gauge

**Highways:** total: 194,394 km paved: 60,068 km (including 1,194 km of expressways) unpaved: 134,326 km (1998 est.)

**Waterways:** 8,575 km consisting of the Niger and Benue rivers and smaller rivers and creeks

**Ports and Harbors:** Calabar, Lagos, Onne, Port Harcourt, Sapele, Warri

**Visa:** required by all except the nationals of: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo for stays of up to 90 days.

**Duty Free:** 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 200g of tobacco; 1 litre of spirits and 1 litre of wine; a small amount of perfume; gifts to the value of N300 (excluding jewellery, photographic equipment, electronics and luxury goods)

**Health:** A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required by travelers over one year of age arriving from infected areas. Travellers arriving from non-epidemic zones should note that vaccination is strongly recommended for travel outside the urban areas, even if an outbreak of the disease has not been reported and they would normally not require a vaccination certificate to enter the country. Malaria risk exists all year throughout the country. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

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**ENTERTAINMENTS**

**LAGOS**

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 Location:NigeriaAddress:Federal Secratariat, Phase Two, Abuja, Nigeria, fax +234 (0)9 523 0962

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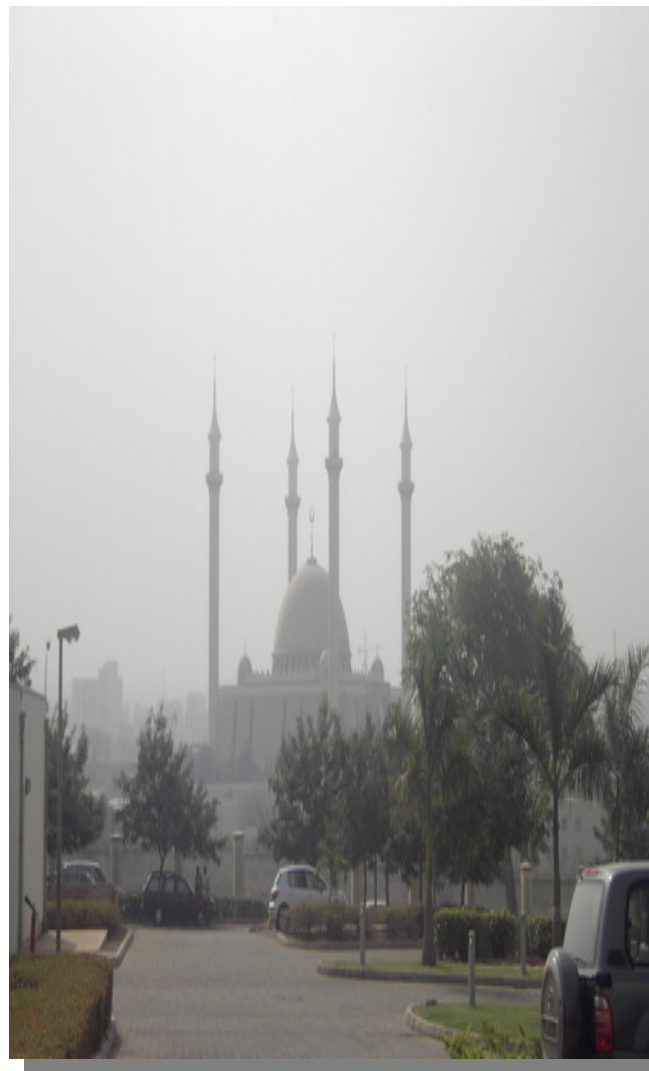
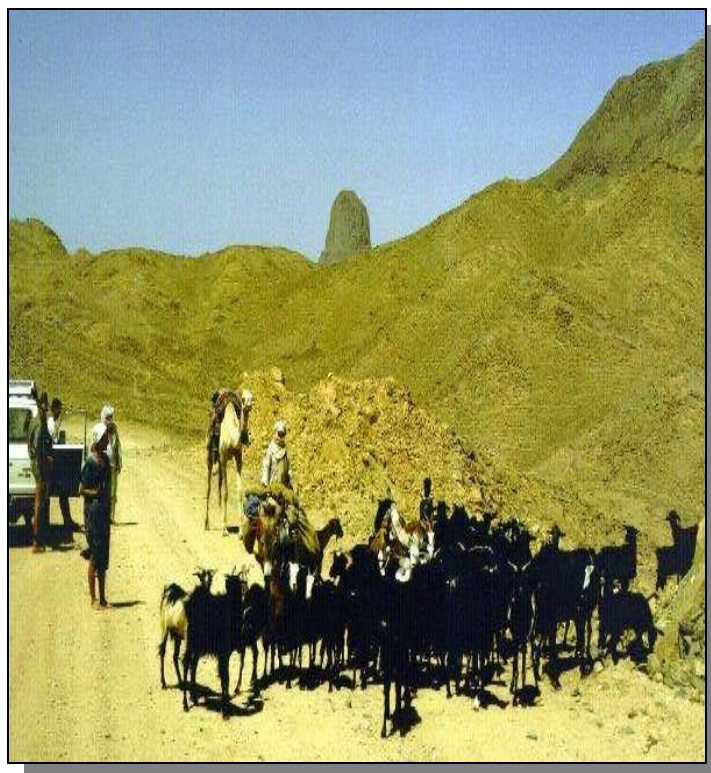
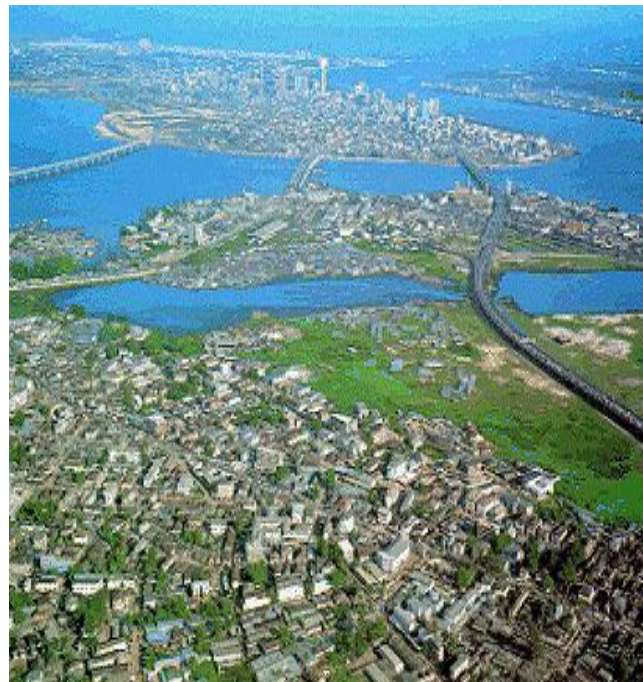
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