

NIGERIAN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NIGERIA FESTIVALS AND TOURISM EVENTS — COMBINED ZONAL LIST (36 states, 297 events)

NORTH EAST ZONE

NIGERIA FESTIVALS AND TOURISM EVENTS IN THE 6 STATES OF THE NORTH EAST ZONE

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
1.	ADAMAWA	1.	YAWAL Cultural Festival	Sukur, Madagali L.G.A	To celebrate cultural values of the Sukur Kingdom.	February
		2.	Kwete Cultural & Wrestling Festival	Lamurde, Lamurde L.G.A	To celebrate cultural values of the Bwatiye people.	February
		3.	Farai Wrestling Festival	Farai, Demsa L.G.A	To celebrate cultural values of the Bwatiye people.	May
2.	BAUCHI	1.	Lemb ZAAR Cultural Festival	Tafawa Balewa, Tafawa Balewa L.G.A	To celebrate culture, peace and unity of the Sayawa people.	November
		2.	Durbar Festival	Bauchi, Bauchi L.G.A	To celebrate Sallah Festival	Eid-ul Fitr & Eid-ul Kabir
3.	BORNO	1.	Menwara	Shani, Shani L.G.A	To usher in the New Year and offer appreciation and thanks to God for sustenance	September - December
		2.	Durbar	Shehu's Palace, Maiduguri	To Celebrate Sallah Festival	Eid-ul Fitr & Eid-ul Kabir
		3.	Dikwa Development Association Festival	Dikwa, Dikwa L.G.A	To foster unity among the people of the Emirate.	December
4.	GOMBE	1.	Sharo Festival	Dukku, Dukku L.G.A	To prepare young men for adulthood and entertainment.	May
		2.	Chugothe	Cham, Balanga L.G.A	In memory of war veterans and hunters that dangerous animals.	April 11
		3.	Palam Tangle	Billiri, Billiri L.G.A	Post-harvest festival and to celebrate unity and peace.	December
5.	TARABA	1.	Nwonyo Fishing Festival	Ibi, Ibi L.G.A	Entertainment fish catching competition	April
		2.	Yandang Festival/Phuki	Lau, Lau L.G.A	To celebrate new crop harvest, unity & peace	February
		3.	Kuchicheb Festival	Takum, Takum L.G.A	To celebrate good harvest	March
		4.	Wurkun	Karim Lamido, Karim Lamido L.G.A	To celebrate culture, peace and unity	December
6.	YOBE	1.	Bade Fishing Festival	Bade, Bade L.G.A	Celebrate Cultural values, peace & unity	February
		2.	Barakau Festival	Potiskum	To celebrate Cultural Value and bring about social interaction among people	November
		3.	Machina Cultural Festival	Machina, Machina L.G.A	To strengthen cultural heritage and display of cultural values	April

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

NIGERIA FESTIVALS AND TOURISM EVENTS IN THE 6 STATES OF THE NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
1.	Benue	1.	IGEDE AGBA Festival	Oju and Obi Local Government Area	Igede Agba festival celebrated among the Igede people of Benue State. It is celebrated in month of September every year. It's a new yam festival at which the people of Igede thank their communal deity for bumper harvest before they officially begin to eat the new yam. The period also serves as celebration of their National day.	4th of September
		2.	KYEGH SHA ISHWA (Chicken with Sesame) Festival	Makurdi	A Benue cultural festival built around a choice Tiv delicacy of chicken and thick sesame (Benni seed) sauce, best savoured with pounded yam. Conceived by the Very Rev. Fr. Solomon Mfa Ukeyima as a rallying point for Tiv sons and daughters to reawaken communal spirit.	26th and 27th of December
		3.	NYINYA (Umilin) Festival	All Tiv Land	Nyinya is the Tiv name for horse. Owning a horse historically signified wealth ("Dzege") among the Tiv. The festival is a boastful celebration of a horse owner's affluence to his age group and elders, marked by songs, dancing, feasting and displays of horse-riding skill, and is held whenever a horse is bought.	Any time every year
		4.	IVOM (Amar or Genga) Festival	Igba LGA	A prestigious (Shagba) marriage-dance festival and Benue age-mates' competition where each member of an age group strives to out-dance his mates.	Between January and April
		5.	UJOR Festival	Agila, Utonkun and Igumal in Ado Local Government Area	Celebrated in commemoration of past Idoma victories at war and is partly a new yam festival, with Chiefs, clan heads and warriors as prominent celebrants. Traditional dances performed include Agba, Atakakpo, Adeigbo Oode and Odabaru; the traditional ruler and council hold an all-night review session, and warriors demonstrate traditional warfare with spears and shields.	September
		6.	ODUMU Festival	All Idoma Land	Odumu is the Idoma name for a lion. This masquerade dance festival centres on the superiority, dignity and majesty attributed to the lion, reflecting qualities the Idoma people cherish in men: aggression, physical prowess and majesty.	Between August and September
		7.	AKATA Fishing Festival	Akata in Kasina Ala Local Government Area	A fishing festival popular among Tiv, Etulo and Jukun fishermen in Katsina-Ala, showcasing fishing techniques, with prizes for the biggest catches.	Between March and May
		8.	UKPLEKA Festival	Etulous Katsina Ala Local Government Area	An annual gathering of sons and daughters of Etulo before their chief, the Etsu-Etulo, who confers titles on the most prominent ones for contributions to the Etulo community's development.	August
		9.	KWAGH-HIR Festival	All Tiv Land	A puppet festival peculiar to the Tiv people, most popular in the dry season (October to April and in December). It is a dramatized folklore using masquerades, puppets and marionettes to hand down information, beliefs and customs and to address social conflicts,	October to April and in December

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					performed by drummers, singers, dancers and acrobats.	
		10.	BIEM AND TOHO YILAN Festival	All Tiv Land	'Biem' is inter-clan while 'Toho Yilan' is intra-clan hunting of wild game among the Tiv. The bush is left fallow for five to ten years before the hunt; elders organize the expedition, hunters use bows and arrows, cutlasses, spears and Dane guns, and the festival is accompanied by dances.	December to April
		11.	INDYER Festival	All Tiv Land	Indyer is a Tiv drum; the festival is a noble celebration by an individual reputable enough to possess the Indyer, an instrument of dignity whose fashioning is shrouded in mystery. It takes place at any time of year across Tiv land, accompanied by songs, music and dances.	Any time of the year
		12.	ACHEMUDUJE Festival	Okpokwu Local Government Area	A New Year festival in Okpokwu LGA at which age grades are formally inaugurated and the Ekwunokwu masquerades appear.	Every new year
		13.	REKANGE Festival	Ado Local Government Area	A communal cleansing ceremony of the Utonkon people held annually in July or August, during which evil spirits are chased away and disused ancestral masquerades are buried at night, accompanied by dances including Odarigbo, Ikpirigidi, Odabane, Unaloko, Enkpa and Ukpobu.	July or August
		14.	RICHU Festival	Ado Local Government Area	A pre-Ijaha festival at Utonkon in which each household makes private sacrifices at its own shrine to its ancestral spirit, particularly at the harvesting of new yam.	September
		15.	JOHA EGBADOGWU Festival	Utonkon in Ado Local Government Area	A communal ritual sacrifice at a special shrine marking the harvesting of new yam and initiating age-grade activities, lasting three days.	September
		16.	ECHI Festival	Agatu and Apa Local Government Area	Nocturnal dances by elders expressing gratitude to the god of war for past and present victories, occasionally used to regulate social ills in the community; accompanying dances include Echi dance, Akpan Chila and Agwi.	Any time of the year
		17.	EJEGEMBI Festival	Ado Local Government Area	Held in Igumale to appease the spirits for natural immunity against snakebites, usually celebrated before the Ujor festival, accompanied by Oto, Agama and Aringa dances.	July and August
		18.	AKETAKPA - OROJA Festival	Ado Local Government Area	A festival for cleansing the land of diseases and epidemics, accompanied by the Aketakpa mask dance.	July and August
		19.	EKWU-OBUECHE Festival	Apa, Ogbadibo, Otukpo and Okpokwu Local Government Area	A funeral ritual festival in which the spirit of a deceased parent is appeased through a special masquerade representing the reincarnated deceased. The ancestral masquerade (Alekwu) appears before the living relations for three days; masquerades include Alekwu-Afia, Eje-Okwu Ogrinya, Aja and Ekwunokwu.	Any time every year
		20.	IKWU OOYA OR OWYI ONYONYI Festival	All Idoma Land	Also known as 'Owyi Onyonyi', this is the second burial, held when necessary and highly regarded by Idoma people; masquerades taking part include Alekwu, Achukwu, Ajap Ichahoho and Odmu.	Any time every year
		21.	IKASE AKOMBO AND TYAV Festival	All Tiv Land	A funeral festivity associated with the death of a patriarch, with songs, music and dances depending on the caliber of the deceased.	October and April

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					Masquerades including Ipa (which sacrifices a cow), Akune, Abum Kombo, Imbor, Igbe and Ivughul Akombo appear.	
		22.	GBERICHUR Festival	Tarka Local Government Area	'Gberichur' translates as bowing down in Tiv language. Celebrated by the Tse-Dzer community of Tarka LGA to promote peaceful homes and co-existence, particularly among the young, through traditional dances, merrymaking and exchange of gifts.	December
		23.	EJE-ALEKWU Festival	Otukpo, Ado and Okpokwu Local Government Area	Celebrated between the end of March and beginning of April, when the chief priest performs sacrifices for good yield and communities engage in communal hunting, offering the largest catch to the god of the land for fertility and progress. Spirits appearing include Eje, Aje-eje oope and Alekwu.	March and April
		24.	MZOUGH-U-TIV (Tiv National Day) Festival	Gboko Local Government Area	A week-long cultural celebration in Gboko, the traditional seat of Tiv land, when Tiv sons and daughters at home and in the diaspora gather for reunion and discussion of Tiv development, featuring a rich display of traditional fabrics.	Every December
		25.	IMO (1 MINI) Festival	All Tiv Land	Built around Imo Igberen (singing), reflecting philosophical themes, praise-singing of social heavyweights and solicitation of financial help. A solemn occasion when a singer is called to perform at the host's compound before dignitaries, culminating in the composer launching a new album amid celebration.	Any time of the year
2.	Kogi	1.	OGIDI Day Cultural Festival	Ijumu Local Government Area	Beginning of New Year	June
		2.	OVIA OSESE Festival	Ogorimagongo Local Government Area	Rite of passage and initiation of young maidens into womanhood through vibrant procession and cultural education	April
		3.	LOKOJA BOAT REGATTA	Lokoja Local Government Area	Canoe racing featuring competitive and rich cultural display from diverse ethnic groups living along the river	October
		4.	ITALO Festival	Anyigba Local Government Area	An important annual gathering for all Igala's sons and daughters, both home and in diaspora, to celebrate unity	November
		5.	EBIRA Carnival	Kogi Central (Adavi, Okehi, Okene) Local Government Area	A festive holiday event held from December 25 featuring lively masquerade contemporary carnivals, parade, local foods and community picnics	December
		6.	OGANI Festival	Ankpa & Idah Local Government Area	A traditional annual festival featuring vibrant war dances and cultural display, famously celebrated across towns in Idah and Ankpa	November
		7.	EGBE Festival	Dekina Local Government Area	Traditional rite and re-burial ceremony dedicated to past Onus (rulers) of Egume, situated in Dekina LGA	December
		8.	EKU-ECHE Festival	Okene Local Government Area	A major annual celebration in Ebira land marking the end of the lunar year with traditional masquerades and music	December
		9.	ECHE-ANE Festival	Adavi/Okehi/Okene Local Government Area	Celebrates the community's women, where youths looking for spouses can attend to choose	May/June
		10.	ECHE-ORI Festival	Ajaokuta Local Government Area	Yam festival marking the beginning of a new season for farmers	July
3.	Nasarawa	1.	NZEH MADA Festival	Akwanga Local	A vibrant celebration of the Mada people's cultural heritage in	March/April

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				Government Area	Akwanga LGA, showcasing traditional dances, beauty pageants, food displays and symposiums, and serving as a platform for the community to share their customs.	
		2.	EGGON Carnival	Nasarawa Eggon Local Government Area	A three-day event celebrated yearly in December to commemorate the past glories of Eggon ancestors at war and promote their cultural heritage; men and women both participate in the victory dance.	26th-28th December
		3.	ASHIRIKA Festival	Keana Local Government Area	A three-day cultural festival celebrated yearly in December by the Alago people of Keana LGA, commemorating ancestors' use of a mystery chain (Ashirika) to cross the Olamoboro and Benue rivers following the break-up of the Kwararafa Kingdom in the 12th century; it promotes unity, peaceful co-existence, thanksgiving, and includes traditional wrestling contests.	November/December
		4.	ODU Festival	Doma Local Government Area	One of several festivals celebrated by Alago-speaking people (Doma, Obi, Assakio and others), marking the transition from dry to rainy season ahead of farming, and a celebration of victory from war.	17th-18th March
		5.	Captain Maloney Tomb/Hills	Outskirt of Keffi, Keffi Local Government Area	A camping and picnic site near Keffi offering a view of the town from the hilltop, and the site of the tomb of Captain Maloney, a colonialist who was a victim of resistance against colonial rule by the Keffi Emirate.	Not stated
		6.	SISINBAKI Cultural Festival	Wamba Local Government Area	A popular annual cultural carnival in Sisinbaki community, Wamba LGA, bringing together traditional rulers and troupes from the North Central region.	26th December
		7.	OGANI Cultural Festival	Toto Local Government Area	Celebrated annually by the Egbura people of Umaisha in Toto LGA, this historic event is rooted in local socio-political evolution and features cultural displays.	Any time of the year
		8.	OYARORE SALT Festival	Keana Local Government Area	A major annual heritage event in the ancient town of Keana showcasing indigenous salt-making traditions and boosting the local creative economy.	February
4.	Kwara	1.	OKUTA GAANI Festival	Okuta, Baruten Local Government Area	Celebrates the cultural heritage of the Batonu (Bariba) people, promotes unity, preserves tradition, and attracts tourists from Nigeria and neighbouring countries.	Annually in September (usually late September)
		2.	ESIE Festival	Esie, Irepodun Local Government Area	Celebrates the famous Esie Stone Images and the cultural history of the Esie community while promoting tourism.	Annually, February to April
		3.	PATEGI BOAT REGATTA	Pategi, Pategi Local Government Area	Showcases the riverine culture of the Nupe people through traditional boat racing, fishing, and entertainment, boosting tourism.	Annually in April
		4.	AWON MASS Festival	Awon District, Asa Local Government Area	A cultural festival that promotes community unity, traditional customs, and indigenous heritage.	Annually in October/November
		5.	CHEWURU CULTURAL AND WATER Festival	Lafiagi, Edu Local Government Area	Celebrates the Nupe people's cultural heritage with water-related activities, traditional dances, and communal celebrations.	25-27 December every year

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		6.	OFFA IAKADI Festival	Offa	Celebrates the history, unity, and cultural heritage of the Offa Kingdom through mock wrestling, traditional dances, hunting displays, and new yam celebrations; a major cultural tourism attraction.	Annually in December
		7.	ILORIN DURBAR Festival	Ilorin Local Government Area	A colourful Emirate festival held during Eid-el-Kabir, featuring horse riding, royal processions, cultural displays, and Islamic traditions; promotes tourism and preserves the Emirate's heritage.	During Eid-el-Kabir (Ileya) each year (Islamic calendar)
		8.	BARAKE Cultural Festival	Share, Ifelodun Local Government Area	Showcases the traditions and customs of the people of Share.	Annually (varies)
5.	Niger	1.	Borgu International Gani Durbar Festival	Borgu Kingdom, New Bussa Local Government Area	To celebrate the Borgu Kingdom's cultural heritage.	November
		2.	Gurara Waterfall Festival	Gurara Local Government Area	Display of various cultural activities to celebrate the new year.	January
		3.	Hurguwa Festival	Rijau Local Government Area	To mark the end of the harvest period.	January
		4.	Gani Festival	Lavun Local Government Area	Religious event.	Eid Maulud
		5.	Yam Festival	Muwa, Mokwa Local Government Area	To welcome new yam.	August
		6.	Ankpe Festival	Guni, Munya Local Government Area	Annual celebration of hunters, hunting and mystical powers.	December/January
		7.	Ebiko Fishing Festival	Nuwokota, Gbako Local Government Area	Fishing festival.	December/January
		8.	Hawan Barki/Durba Festival	Bida, Bida Local Government Area	Sallah and other cultural celebrations.	Eid el-Fitr
		9.	Akpazuma Festival	Adunu, Paikoro Local Government Area	Harvest celebration and New Year.	January
		10.	Ndakogboya Festival	Emidawu, Edati Local Government Area	Masquerade cleansing and cultural celebration.	November
		11.	Gani Festival	Sakpe, Edati Local Government Area	Traditional cultural festival.	Not certain - usually determined by the community
		12.	Madawa Festival	Maikunkele, Bosso Local Government Area	Traditional end-of-year celebrations.	July/August
		13.	Bori Festival	Bosso, Bosso Local Government Area	Ritual event by Aragus.	When the need arises
		14.	Gupya Festival	Gusoro, Shiroro Local Government Area	To mark the beginning of a new planting season.	April/May
		15.	Gbunu Festival	Shatta, Bosso Local	Traditional ritual for community protection.	July

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				Government Area		
		16.	Gbobo Festival	Dutsen Kura, Minna Local Government Area	Traditional end-of-year celebrations.	January
		17.	Dembe/Okofestival	Paiko, Paikoro Local Government Area	Annual traditional wrestling.	January
		18.	Ifili Festival	Kafinkoro, Paikoro Local Government Area	Appeasing and cleansing of the land.	May
		19.	Odirre Festival	Kafinkoro, Paikoro Local Government Area	Celebrating harvest.	December
		20.	Oduechi Festival	Kafinkoro, Paikoro Local Government Area	Disciplining evil-doers and offenders.	Traditionally determined
		21.	Potochi Festival	Izom, Gurara Local Government Area	Disciplining evil-doers and offenders.	July
		22.	Bombi Festival	Izom, Gurara Local Government Area	To mark the end of the harvest season.	Traditionally determined
		23.	Gadgada Festival	Izom, Gurara Local Government Area	Initiation ceremony.	As agreed by the community
		24.	Bassange/Reggae Festival	Bassa, Rafi Local Government Area	Religious and recreational.	December
		25.	Bwagi Festival	Tawo, Shiroro Local Government Area	To appease the gods.	November/December
6.	Plateau	1.	Afizere Cultural Festival	Jos North/East	Cultural festival and celebration of the people/new year	January
		2.	Irigwe New Year Celebration	Miango/Kwal	New year cultural celebration	January
		3.	Taroh Cultural Day	Langtang North/South	Not stated	March/April
		4.	Resettlement Day	Langtang South	Celebration of culture and heritage	March/April
		5.	Pan Cultural Festival (Waptoer)	Doemak Town (Ba'ap)	Celebration of the culture and heritage of the Pan people	March
		6.	Goemai Day	Shendam Town/Quan Pan	Celebration of culture and their heritage	March/April
		7.	Puius Kang Mushere	Ingwaka (Bokkos LGA)	Cultural celebration/new year	April/May
		8.	Zarach Festival	Kwall & Miango	Cultural celebration/new year	January
		9.	Nzem Berom	Jos North, South, Barkin Ladi, Riyom	Cultural and heritage celebration	April
		10.	Puska'at	Mangu Town	Celebration of culture, heritage and the invention of light; hunting-festival grand finale	April
		11.	Pusdung	Pankshin Town	Cultural celebration	April
		12.	Thaar Cultural Festival	Wase Town	Celebration of culture	November
		13.	Ron/Kulere Festival	Bokkos Town	Celebration of culture	December/January
		14.	Bogghom Cultural	Kanam Town	Celebration of culture	December/January

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			Festival			y
		15.	Wang Festival	Mupun, Lankang	Celebration of culture	April
		16.	Nahwel Cultural Festival	Butura, Bokkos	Cultural celebration	February
		17.	Bit Tal	Tal Balong, Pankshin South	Celebration of the culture and heritage of the people	April

SOUTH WEST ZONE

NIGERIA FESTIVALS AND TOURISM EVENTS IN THE STATES OF THE SOUTH WEST ZONE COVERED IN THIS COMPILATION

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
1.	Lagos	1.	Eyo Festival	Lagos Island	It is the rite of cleansing and a purging of evil, while invoking continued prosperity on the city, its leaders, and people.	Occasional
		2.	Ebi Festival	Epe	One of the most prominent ancestral, cultural and spiritual festivals celebrated by the Ijebu people of Epe. Its fundamental purpose is the spiritual and physical cleansing of the community.	February/March
		3.	Lagos Fanti Festival	Lagos Island	A carnival-like festival celebrating the Afro-Brazilian heritage of Lagos. It preserves the Aguda community and strengthens cultural ties between Nigeria and Brazil, symbolising resilience, freedom, and the shared history of the African diaspora.	March/April
		4.	Gidi Cultural Festival	Eko Atlantic V/Island	Often described by international music media as the “Coachella of Africa”; a massive, youth-driven celebration of modern African creativity.	March/April
		5.	Lagos Boat Regatta	Waterways of the Lagos lagoon, around Ikoyi/Lekki coastline	A unique celebration of Lagos' cultural heritage and diversity, reinforcing the state's status as a premier cultural destination in Africa, including a boat parade by the five IBILE.	March/April
		6.	Lagos Int'l Jazz Festival (LIJF)	Victoria Island	A celebration of music and culture blended into one festival.	April/May
		7.	GTCO Food and Drink Festival	Muri Okunola Park, Victoria Island	Promotes food entrepreneurship, culinary innovation, and small businesses.	May
		8.	Badagry Festival	Badagry	Reflects the significance of Badagry during the slave-trade era; a convergence of culture and display of African heritage.	August
		9.	Jollof & Palmie	Muri Okunola Park, Victoria Island	A gathering of top biking clubs and stunt riders from across Nigeria and West Africa showcasing premium superbikes, cruisers, and custom-modified motorcycles.	August
		10.	Lagos Food Festival	No permanent location	Organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture to mark World Food Day, focusing on local agricultural value chains and Nigerian culinary heritage.	October
		11.	Felabration	Ikeja	Celebrated in memory of and in celebration of the life of Afrobeat icon Fela Anikulapo Kuti.	October
		12.	E1 Lagos GP (Electric Boat Racing Championship)	Victoria Island	Places Lagos alongside global watersport hubs like Monaco, Venice, and Jeddah; a convergence of clean tech, premium sports entertainment, and marine sustainability.	October
		13.	Lagos Book and Art Festival (LABAF)	Freedom Park, Lagos Island	One of Africa's largest culture picnics, featuring book readings, art exhibitions, theatrical performances and workshops promoting literacy and creative expression.	November
		14.	Experience Lagos	TBS, Lagos Island	An annual, free, all-night gospel music concert, widely recognised	December

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					as one of Africa's largest live gospel music gatherings.	
		15.	Lagos Diaspora Experience	Victoria Island/Lekki/Ikeja	A corporate and cultural initiative curated by the Lagos State Office of Diaspora Affairs, engaging the influx of returnees to Lagos for “Detty December.”	Mid-December
		16.	Efe & Gelede Festival	Igbobi Sabe, Yaba	A display of colourful wooden masks combining art, tradition and ritual dance to amuse, educate and inspire, celebrating motherhood and interceding with prayers.	December
2.	Ogun	1.	Lisabi Festival	Abeokuta	Showcases rich traditions and communicates the values and heritage of the festival/event.	March 16, 23, 29
		2.	Drum Festival	June 12 Cultural Centre, Kuto, Abeokuta	A cultural reawakening connecting participants to their roots and a platform to glorify what connects Africans together.	April 20/22
		3.	Iganmole Festival	Sango Ota	Extends and fosters social cohesion, honouring ancestors and the supreme being.	Not stated
		4.	Oronna Festival	Ilaro, Yewa land	To preserve, uphold and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Ilaro kingdom.	November 7-15 (9 days)
		5.	Agemo Festival	Ijebu Ode	Brings together tradition, heritage, music, and dance, with colourful Agemo masquerades in a grand display of pride and unity.	July 2/4
		6.	Igunnuko Festival	Ado-Odo	Stands as a spiritual and cultural symbol of ancestral reverence, protection, and identity among the people.	July 12
		7.	Ojude Oba	Ijebu Ode	To pay homage and show respect to the royal majesty, the Awujale of Ijebu land.	Celebrated after Ileya
		8.	Gelede	Yewa/Ibara communities, in the Ago Egun and Ibara areas	Pays tribute to the primordial mother Iya Nla and to the role of women in social organisation and the development of Yoruba society.	May 29/June 4
		9.	Akesan Festival	Iperu/Ilisan	Serves as a symbol of unity and tourism, a rallying point for all Ijebu sons and daughters to celebrate life.	November 26-30
		10.	Eyo Festival	Iperu-Remo, Ikenne Local Government	A festival unique to the Yoruba people of southwest Nigeria with a strong historical footing in Iperu-Remo, a town in Ikenne LGA.	Not stated
3.	Oyo	1.	Osemeji Festival	Ibadan	Celebrates the history, culture, and traditional heritage of Ibadan through rites, music, dance, and communal activities.	February
		2.	Alade Annual Ifa Festival	Alade Town, Ibadan	Celebrates Ifa worship, promotes Yoruba spirituality, and preserves indigenous religious traditions.	February
		3.	Oke'Badan Festival	Ibadan	Commemorates the founding of Ibadan and honours Oke-Badan Hill, the city's ancestral heritage site.	March
		4.	Beere Festival	Beere, Ibadan	Celebrates the historical significance of Beere, one of Ibadan's oldest settlements, through cultural displays and community development activities.	March
		5.	Ogun Festival	Ibadan, Oyo Town, Iseyin, Saki and other communities	Celebrates Ogun, the Yoruba deity of iron, technology, warfare, and craftsmanship, promoting indigenous culture and tourism.	March/April
		6.	Igbeti Tourism Carnival	Igbeti	Showcases the tourism potential of Igbeti Hills through hiking, mountain climbing, cultural displays, and entertainment.	April
		7.	International Day for	Ibadan	Promotes awareness, preservation, and appreciation of cultural	April

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			Monuments and Sites		monuments and historical sites.	
		8.	Obalogun Festival	Lalupon, Lagelu LGA	Celebrates the ancestral heritage of the people of Lalupon through traditional rites, music, dance, and cultural performances.	April
		9.	International Tourism Summit	Ibadan	Brings together tourism stakeholders to promote tourism development, investment, innovation, and partnerships.	May
		10.	World Egungun Festival	Ibadan	Celebrates the rich Yoruba masquerade tradition, preserving cultural heritage and attracting local and international tourists.	May
		11.	World Culture Day	Ibadan	Celebrates cultural diversity through exhibitions, performances, and cultural exchanges.	May
		12.	Odun Oko Festival	Saki	Celebrates the farming season, thanksgiving for harvest, and promotes the agricultural heritage of the Saki people.	May
		13.	Ibadan Day Celebration	Ibadan	Celebrates the history, achievements, and unity of the people of Ibadan while promoting cultural tourism and investment.	May
		14.	Amala Festival	Ibadan	Showcases Oyo State's culinary heritage, especially Amala cuisine, while promoting food tourism and local businesses.	May
		15.	Ibadan Tourism Expo	Ibadan	Brings together tourism stakeholders, exhibitors, investors, tour operators, and cultural organisations to promote tourism opportunities in Oyo State.	May
		16.	Aje Festival	Oyo Town	Celebrates Aje, the Yoruba deity of wealth, commerce, and prosperity while promoting indigenous beliefs and cultural tourism.	June
		17.	Omituntun Cultural Festival	Ibadan	Showcases Oyo State's rich arts, music, dance, cuisine, fashion, and tourism potential.	July
		18.	World Sango Festival	Oyo Town	Celebrates the legacy of Sango, the Alaafin of Oyo, preserving Yoruba history and attracting international cultural tourists.	August
		19.	Isese Day Celebration	Ibadan	Celebrates Yoruba indigenous religion and traditional cultural heritage through processions, music, dance, and rituals.	August
		20.	Oranyan Festival	Oyo Town	Celebrates Oranyan, founder of the Old Oyo Empire, preserving Yoruba history and royal heritage.	September
		21.	Ifamole Festival	Oyo Town	Celebrates Ifa worship and promotes Yoruba spirituality, customs, and traditional values.	September
		22.	World Tourism Day	Ibadan	Marks the global celebration of tourism by promoting Oyo State's attractions, investment opportunities, and sustainable tourism.	September
		23.	Oyo Heritage Festival	Oyo Town	Celebrates the rich history of the Old Oyo Empire through cultural performances, exhibitions, and royal heritage activities.	September/October
		24.	World Twins Festival	Igbo-Ora	Celebrates Igbo-Ora as the "Twin Capital of the World," promoting cultural, heritage, and medical tourism.	October
		25.	Iyemoja Festival	Popoyemoja, Ibadan	Celebrates the Yoruba river deity Iyemoja while promoting spiritual and cultural tourism.	October
		26.	NAFEST State Activities	Ibadan	Features dance, drama, music, crafts, visual arts, and cultural exhibitions in preparation for the National Festival of Arts and Culture.	October
		27.	Oduduwa Festival	Igbo-Ora / Ilero	Celebrates Oduduwa, progenitor of the Yoruba race, promoting Yoruba identity and cultural tourism.	October

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
		28.	Ijala Ere Ode Cultural Renaissance	ILAJI Resort, Akanran, Ibadan	Promotes Yoruba hunters' chants (Ijala), indigenous performing arts, and cultural tourism.	November
		29.	Aso-Oke Exhibition & Fashion Week	Iseyin	Promotes Aso-Oke weaving, fashion innovation, and cultural heritage while boosting creative tourism.	November
		30.	Ado-Awaye Mountain & Suspended Lake Hiking Festival	Ado-Awaye	Promotes eco-tourism, hiking, adventure tourism, and conservation around the Iyake Suspended Lake.	November
		31.	Aso-Ofi Festival	Iseyin	Celebrates the Aso-Ofi (Aso-Oke) weaving tradition and promotes indigenous textile craftsmanship.	December
		32.	Vibing December (Faaji December)	Ibadan and other major locations across Oyo State	An annual festive tourism programme of concerts, carnivals, food fairs, cultural displays, sports and family entertainment boosting domestic tourism and the local economy.	December
		33.	Abenugboro Festival	Igboho	Celebrates the deity believed to have protected the people of Igboho, preserving their history and cultural heritage.	December
		34.	Asabari Festival	Saki	Celebrates the cultural heritage of Saki and the Asabari Hill tradition through traditional rites and community festivities.	December
4.	Ekiti	1.	Ogun Festival	Ire Ekiti	Honours the deity of iron and war, revering the protector of labourers, uniting the community and boosting local trade.	August
		2.	Egungun Festival	All parts of the state	Reinforces community identity.	April-October
		3.	Idi Iroko Festival	Ado Ekiti	Marks the traditional new year, a time of community unity.	July-August
		4.	Ero Festival	Orin Ekiti	Locally celebrated as Erolupo; a cultural and communal event.	March-April
		5.	Itomu Festival	Omuoke Ekiti	Preserves heritage, fostering unity among the community.	October-November
		6.	Osun Festival	Igede Ekiti	An offering of prayers.	August
		7.	Olosunta Festival	Ikere Ekiti	Honours the community's protector deity at the sacred Olosunta Hill.	August
		8.	Ajagbo Festival	Ilupeju Ekiti	Helps caution people on how to behave so as to avoid molestation, embarrassment and shame that their actions might cause.	July
		9.	Oyinle Festival	Igbara Odo Ekiti	A traditional oral, historical and ritual celebration.	July
		10.	Okudi Festival	Iyin Ekiti	A traditional cultural and thanksgiving event.	March
		11.	Odun Adura Oba	Ilupeju Ekiti	One of the most spiritual events, marking the annual visitation of ancestors in the form of masquerade.	July
		12.	Obalufon Festival	Ara, Ijero Ekiti	A grand cultural celebration in honour of Obalufon Alaye More; it unites the community.	February
		13.	Ita Ajero Festival	Ijero Ekiti	Celebrates the Ijero Kingdom's heritage; a time of community unity.	August
		14.	Aeregbe Festival	Emure Ekiti	A session of special prayer that unites the community.	July
		15.	Olua Festival	Eyio, Aare, Ido, Igbara Odo and Usi	Promotes unity, provides spiritual protection and honours ancestral ties.	July
		16.	Osanyi Festival	Aare and Ilupeju	Secures spiritual and physical wellbeing for the community.	June
		17.	Oloba Festival	Ado Ekiti	Rooted in cultural continuity and community cohesion.	August
		18.	Iwemo Festival	Ado Ekiti	A traditional purification and sanctification ceremony for the community.	July
		19.	Opa Festival	Iyin Ekiti	Preserves ancestral history and unites the people.	March

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
		20.	Odun Ijesu Festival	All parts of the state	Signifies gratitude to the higher deity for a bountiful harvest and community unity.	August
		21.	Sango Festival	Ilupeju Ekiti	Marks the start of the traditional Yoruba new year through historical rites.	May
		22.	Okorobo Festival	Ifaki Ekiti	Unites the community and preserves Yoruba heritage.	September
		23.	Imuroko/Ogun Owa	Ise Ekiti	A significant annual cultural event celebrated in Ise Ekiti.	November
		24.	Odun Isemole Festival	Ikole Ekiti	Honours local history, reinforcing and preserving ancestral tradition.	June
		25.	Odun Adura Oba Festival	Ilupeju Ekiti	One of the most spiritual events, marking the annual visitation of ancestors in the form of masquerade.	July
5.	Ondo	1.	Orosun	Idanre	To preserve Yoruba heritage and boost local tourism.	May 15-19
		2.	Okota	Arigidi-Akoko	Preserves Yoruba heritage, boosts local tourism, and unites the community of Arigidi-Akoko in Ondo State.	May 20-23
		3.	Igogo	Owo	Honours the legendary Queen Oronsen and marks the new-year yam harvest.	September 21-26
		4.	Ebomi	Ipese Akoko	Preserves the customs, traditions, songs, dances, and beliefs of the community.	June-July
		5.	Odun Ina	Iju	Preserves the customs, traditions, and historical identity of the people of Iju.	August 24
		6.	Ile Ifunta	Akure	Preserves customs, traditions, language, and cultural practices, and gives elders an opportunity to pass indigenous knowledge to younger generations.	September 24-30
		7.	Arogbo	Ese-Odo	Preserves customs, language, traditional dances, music, and history of the Arogbo-Ijaw people, transmitting cultural values across generations.	September 26-28
		8.	Mare	Idanre	Preserves customs, traditions, language, music, dances, and history of the Ilaje people, ensuring indigenous knowledge is passed to younger generations.	December 27-30
		9.	Ipinsa	Opa Ipinsa	Preserves customs, traditions, language, and history of the Ipinsa people, ensuring cultural values pass across generations.	July 19-20
		10.	Ilara Mokin	Mokin Day	Preserves customs, traditions, language, and history of the Mokin people, encouraging younger generations to uphold their cultural identity.	November
		11.	Ilaje Boat Regatta	(riverine communities)	Preserves the rich traditions, customs, and maritime history of the riverine communities, passing on canoe-building skills and cultural values.	April 3-4
		12.	Ote	Owa Osu	Preserves customs, traditions, language, and history of the Owo Kingdom, passing indigenous knowledge and cultural values across generations.	July 24
6.	Osun	1.	OBATALA FESTIVAL	Ile-Ife, Ife Central LG	Obatala is believed to be god of creation in Yoruba myth	January
		2.	ORO FESTIVAL	Ipetumodu, Ife North LG	It is celebrated in remembrance of the founder and also to pray for peace and progress	February
		3.	LADUNWO FESTIVAL	Imesi-Ile, Obokun LG	It is celebrated to mark the beginning of masquerades festival	March

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
		4.	OGUN IPOLE FESTIVAL	Ipole-Ijesa, Atakunmosa LG	It is celebrated to signify the renewal of protection over the people	May
		5.	ODUN-ADE FESTIVAL	Ifon-orolu, Orolu LG	It is celebrated in the town during which sacrifices are offered to the ancient crown (Ade Seseefun)	June
		6.	IFA AGBAYE FESTIVAL	Ile-Ife, Ife Central LG	This is celebrated by Ifa devotees from all over the world during which the new year prophecy will be received.	June
		7.	OTIN FESTIVAL	Inisa, Odo-Otin LG	To appease the river goddess for fertility, peace and unity	June
		8.	EGUNGUN FESTIVAL	Iwo, Iwo LG	To unite all people irrespective of religious inclinations	July
		9.	OSUN OSOGBO FESTIVAL	Osogbo, Osogbo LG	For cleansing of the town and cultural re-union of the people with their great ancestors and founder of Osogbo.	August
		10.	ISINRO FESTIVAL	Ila-Orangun, Ila Orangun LG	In remembrance of their foundation Ajagunla who migrated from Ile-Ife.	August
		11.	KIRIJI FESTIVAL	Imesi-Ile, Obokun LG	To mark the signing of the peace treaty among Yoruba that stopped the age-long inter-tribal war.	September
		12.	OLOJO FESTIVAL	Ile-Ife, Ife Central LG	It is celebrated to defy the energetic hero, Ogun the god of iron one of the children of Oduduwa.	October
		13.	IWUDE IJESA FESTIVAL	Ilesa, Ilesa East LG	It is celebrated by sons and daughters of Ijesa land where kabiyesi visits his chiefs and appease to his ancestors for peace, progress and unity.	December
		14.	ISESE FESTIVAL	Osogbo, Osogbo LG	It is celebrated by traditional Association of Nigeria gathered in Osogbo to appease to gods.	August
		15.	IRELE FESTIVAL	Ikirun, Ifelodun LG	It is celebrated in remembrance of the founder of Ikirun	June
		16.	OOSA NLA FESTIVAL	Iwo, Iwo LG	It is celebrated in remembrance of the founder	July
		17.	OGIYEN FESTIVAL	Ejigbo, Ejigbo LG	It is celebrated to commemorate the eating of new yam.	August

SOUTH EAST ZONE

NIGERIA FESTIVALS AND TOURISM EVENTS IN THE STATES OF THE SOUTH EAST ZONE COVERED IN THIS COMPILATION

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
1.	Enugu	1.	International Trade Fair	Enugu State		March/April
2.	Anambra	1.	Olili Ede Mbu Ghu	Aguata LGA, Etiti Village, Igbo Ukwu		June
		2.	National Yam Festival	Aguata LGA, Etiti Village, Igbo Ukwu		Last Saturday of August
		3.	Afia Olu Nnewi	Nnewi		August
		4.	Offala Festival	Onitsha		October
3.	Enugu	1.	Mmanwu Festival	Enugu State		November
		2.	Domestic Tourism Fair	Enugu State		Not stated
4.	Not stated	1.	Ikeji Festival	Arondizuogu		March/April
		2.	Iwa Akwa Festival	Obowa Ahiazu Mbaise		December/January
5.	Ebonyi	1.	Dancing Festival July	Abakaliki		July
6.	Abia	1.	Oriri Ji	Umuahia		September

NORTH WEST ZONE

NIGERIA FESTIVALS AND TOURISM EVENTS IN THE 7 STATES OF THE NORTH WEST ZONE

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
1.	Kano	1.	Kano Durbar Festival	Kano Emir's Palace,Kofar Kudu,Kano ancient City, Kano Municipal LGA. Kano state	The Kano Durbar is among Africa's largest equestrian festivals. Thousands of horsemen dressed in embroidered robes perform spectacular displays before the Emir. The festival symbolizes: Loyalty to the Emir Preservation of Hausa royal heritage Celebration of peace Military traditions of the old Kano Emirate Hospitality and tourism promotion	Dates follow the Islamic (Hijri) calendar. It change annually
		2.	Hawan Daushe	Kano Emir's Palace	Commemorates the Emir's visit to the historic Government House and symbolizes cooperation between traditional and governmental institutions.	Third day after Eid-el-Fitr.
		3.	Hawan Nasarawa	Nasarawa Palace	Marks the beginning of Durbar festivities as the Emir receives greetings from citizens and visitors.	Second day of Eid.
		4.	Hawan Sallah	Kano Central	Not stated	First day of Eid.
		5.	Takai Cultural Festival	Takai Local Government Area of Kano State.	The festival showcases the customs and traditions of the local communities through music, dance, traditional wrestling, and exhibitions of indigenous crafts. It Promotes community unity. Preserves indigenous traditions and encourages tourism and local economic development.	Usually organized by the takai emirate. No fixed annual calendar date for takai cultural festival
		6.	Maukibi Festival	Some parts of kano state	It celebrates successful harvests. Promotes gratitude and communal living. Preserves indigenous agricultural traditions.	Annually on the second saturday of Rabi'ul thani the fourth month of Islamic calendar
		7.	Sharo Festival (Fulani Cultural Festival)	Not stated	The festival serves as a traditional rite of passage for young Fulani men before marriage.	Twice a year during dry season typically around Nov-Dec
2.	Kaduna	1.	Zazzau (Zaria) Durbar Festival	Zaria City. Emir's Palace, Sabon Gari-Zaria Local Government.	The Zazzau Durbar celebrates the military heritage of the ancient Zazzau Kingdom.	Held during: Eid-el-Fitr and Eid-el-Kabir
		2.	Afan National Festival	Kagoro Chieftdom Kaura Local Government Area	Celebrated by the Kagoro people after harvest. Activities include: Cultural dances Wrestling Traditional marriage displays Local cuisine exhibitions Masquerades Craft exhibitions It promotes peace and unity among Southern Kaduna communities.	Usually celebrated every January.
		3.	Tuk-Ham Festival	Jaba Local Govt	Preserves the customs and language of the Ham people as well as	Celebrated

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
					commemorates the agricultural lifestyle of the community. It strengthens unity among ham communities worldwide while promoting peaceful co-existence among different ethnic group	annually during the Easter period between march and April depending on the Christian calendar
3.	Katsina	1.	Katsina Durbar Festival	Emir's Palace Katsina City	The Katsina Durbar reflects the state's centuries-old reputation as a center of Islamic scholarship and Hausa civilization. The festival features: Horse riders Royal processions Traditional musicians Praise singers Horse decorations Cultural performances	During Eid-el-Fitr and Eid-el-Kabir
		2.	Daura Durbar Festival	Daura Emirate	Celebrates hausa history Pay homage to the emir Preserves ancient royal traditions Reinforces Islamic values Promotes unity among communities Attract tourist to historical sites such as kusugu well	Celebrated annually during eid depending on muslim calendar
		3.	Gani Sallah festival	Cebrated across the major emirates of katsina state	Combines Islamic celebration with hausa royal customs it is serves to celebfrate communal harmony and demonstrate respect for traditional rulers while preserving hausa cultural identity	Celebrated during eid-el-adha
		4.	Kokawa	Many communities in katsina including katsina city, daura, malumfashi, kankia and rural villages across the state	It celebrate bravery Build physical strength Encourage discipline Preserves indigenous sports	During major festivals After harvest During local community celebrations
4.	Jigawa	1.	Gani Durbar Festival	Dutse emirate Hadeja emirate Gumel emirate Kazaure emirate Ringim emirate	The Gani durbar festival demonstrate loyalty to the emir Preserves hausa-fulani royal tradition Celebrates Islamic festival Showcase traditional horsemanship, music and pageantry Attract tourists and researchers from within and outside Nigeria	Celebrated twice annually during eid-el fitr marking end of Ramadan and eid –el adha 10th Dhul-Hijjah
		2.	Maulud celebration	Hadejia emirate Gumel emirate	Commemorate the birth of prophet mohammad Reinforces Islamic values Strenthens traditional leadership through royal processions and public gatherings Preserves the unique traditions of Hadejia-Gumel tradition	Celebratd on the 12 day of rabi'ul awwal, the Islamic month marking the birth of of prophet Mohammad (SAW)
		3.	Fishing Festival	Hadejia Auyo Kaugama Kiri kasamma Guri	Celebrate fishing heritage of riverine communities Promote conservation of aquatic resources Stimulate local trade and tourism Preserve traditional fishing technique	No fix date
5.	Zamfara	1.	Hawan Sallah	Gusau Maru Bungudu	Demonstrating loyalty to the emir Celebrating Islamic religious	Twice a year by

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
				Tsafe Bukkuyum Gummi	festivals Promoting peace and unity among communities Preserving traditional horsemanship Promoting cultural tourism	the end of Ramadan and eid-el adha . Date vary annually according to the slamic calendar
		2.	Kalankuwa harvest festival	Gummi Maradun Bukkuyum Maru Tsafe Other cattle grazing settlements	Gives thanks for abundant harvest Celebrates importance of farming Preserve hausa language oral tradition Provides entertainments through music, dance and story telling	Annually after harvest between Nov and Dec although exact dates are determined by individual communities
		3.	Sharo	Not stated in source	Sharo is a traditional Fulani rite of passage in which young men demonstrate bravery by enduring ceremonial whipping without showing fear. It symbolizes courage, self control, readiness for adulthood, honour, eligibility for marriage and preservation of Fulani tradition	Oct-Dec and sometimes during marriage ceremonies or important community occasions
6.	Sokoto	1.	Durbar Festival (Hawan Sallah)	Sokoto city beginning at the eid prayer ground	Loyalty to the sultan Preservation of thre heritage of sokoto caliphate Celebration of traditional cavalry culture Attraction of domestic and international tourist	1st Shawwal 10th Dhul-Hijjah. The date change according to islmic calendar
		2.	Kalankuwa harvest	Sokoto North Sokoto South Bodinga Wamakko Kware Dange-Shuni Rural farming settlements	Celebrated to thank God foe successful farming Celebrate abundant harvest Promotes unity among farming community Encourage cooperation among young people	Annually at the end of vrainy season, usually between Oct and Nov
		3.	Halbi Hunting festival	Wurno Rabah Sabon-Birni Isa Goronyo Other forest –edge settlement	Celebrates bravery and hunting skills Preserves indigenous hunting traditions Promotes teamwork hunting among hunters Mark the beginning of hunting season in some communities	Annually During dry session between nov and jan.
		4.	Nwunyu Fishing Festival	Goronyo Wurno Kware Riverine settlements.	The festival celebrates the fishing traditions of local communities and: Promotes sustainable fishing practices. Encourages community cooperation. Preserves indigenous fishing techniques. Promotes tourism.	Celebrated annually in April.
		5.	Romo Fishing Festival	Celebrated in fishing communities along rivers and wetlands across Sokoto State.	Celebrates fishing as a major occupation. Preserves traditional fishing culture. Encourages peaceful interaction among fishing communities. Promotes tourism and local trade.	Held annually between April and May.

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
		6.	Aikin Gawa Festival	Observed in rural farming communities throughout Sokoto State.	"Aikin Gawa" literally means communal farm work. It is a traditional practice where young people collectively cultivate the farmland of the village head, district head, or Imam. The festival: Promotes community service. Encourages cooperation and volunteerism. Strengthens relationships among youths. Preserves communal farming traditions.	Held annually at the beginning of the farming season, usually between May and June.
		7.	Kokawa (Traditional Wrestling Festival)	Organized throughout Sokoto State, especially in: Sokoto City Bodinga Wurno Tambuwal	Traditional wrestling symbolizes: Strength. Courage. Discipline. Respect. Friendly competition between communities.	Usually held during the dry season (November–February) and during major community festivals.
		8.	Dambe (Traditional Boxing Festival)	Celebrated across Sokoto State in: Sokoto City Tambuwal Wurno Gwadabawa Rural communities.	Dambe is an ancient Hausa martial tradition that: Demonstrates bravery and endurance. Preserves indigenous combat techniques. Promotes discipline and sportsmanship. Entertains communities during festivals.	Generally organised during the dry season and alongside other cultural celebrations.
7.	Kebbi	1.	Argungu International Fishing and Cultural Festival (AIFCF)	The main fishing competition takes place in the Matan Fada River, while other activities are held throughout Argungu town.	The festival: Celebrates the fishing heritage of Kebbi State. Symbolizes peace and reconciliation. Preserves traditional fishing techniques. Promotes cultural exchange among Nigerian and international visitors. Encourages environmental conservation through regulated fishing. Boosts tourism and the local economy. Showcases Kebbi's cultural identity.	The festival is celebrated annually, usually between late February and early March, and lasts about four days.
		2.	Uholo Festival	The Uholo Festival is celebrated in Zuru Emirate, particularly across the Local Government Areas of: Zuru Fakai Danko/Wasagu Sakaba	The festival: Gives thanks to God for protection from war, disease, and calamities. Celebrates a successful harvest. Preserves the traditions of the Dakarkari people. Strengthens unity among clans. Promotes cultural tourism.	The festival is held annually after the harvest season, usually between December and January (some communities continue celebrations into early March).
		3.	Huttungo (Hutungo) Cultural Festival	Yauri Ngaski Shanga Surrounding Kambari communities.	Thanksgiving for abundant harvests. Cultural unity. Preservation of indigenous traditions. Peaceful coexistence. Community development.	Usually celebrated annually after the harvest season, generally

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
						between November and December. The exact dates are determined by the Emirate and participating communities.
		4.	Rigata Cultural Festival	Celebrated in Yauri Emirate and neighbouring riverine communities.	Rigata is a river-based cultural celebration that: Highlights the importance of the River Niger to Yauri communities. Celebrates fishing and river transportation. Preserves riverine traditions. Promotes unity and tourism.	Generally held during the dry season, often between November and January, depending on local arrangements.
		5.	Hawan Sallah (Durbar Festival)	Celebrated in the major emirates of Kebbi State, including: Birnin Kebbi Argungu Gwandu Yauri Zuru	Celebrates Islamic festivals. Demonstrates loyalty to traditional rulers. Preserves Hausa-Fulani cavalry traditions. Promotes unity and cultural identity. Encourages tourism.	The dates follow the Islamic lunar calendar (Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha).
		6.	Kokawa (Traditional Wrestling Festival)	Held throughout Kebbi State, especially in: Argungu Birnin Kebbi Yauri Zuru Gwandu	Promotes physical strength. Preserves indigenous sports. Encourages discipline. Strengthens inter-community friendship.	Usually organised during major cultural festivals and the dry season (November–February).
		7.	Dambe (Traditional Boxing Festival)	Celebrated across Kebbi State	Preserves Hausa martial traditions. Demonstrates courage and endurance. Promotes sportsmanship. Entertains festival	Usually held during the dry season and alongside major cultural events.

SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE

NIGERIA FESTIVALS AND TOURISM EVENTS IN THE STATES OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE COVERED IN THIS COMPILATION

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
1.	Rivers State	1.	Carniriv (Port Harcourt Carnival)	Port Harcourt	Rivers State largest tourism festival. It combines cultural displays with Caribbeans style carnival parade, dance and entertainment. The event promotes tourism, cultural unity and economic developments.	December, usually one week before Chnistmas.
		2.	Opobo Nwaotam Festival	Opobo kingdom, Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area	A traditional Ibani festival that celebrates peace, unity and cultural heritage of Opobo people.	25th December – 1st January
		3.	Bonny Masquerade Festival	Bonny Kingdom	Celebrates the history and tradition of Bonny people through colourful masquerade.	December – 1st January (varies annually)
		4.	Okrika Seaman's Festival and Boat Regatta	Okrika Kingdom	A maritime festival featuring decorated boats, canoe displays, celebrations of seafaring traditions of the Okrika people.	Usually December
		5.	Kalaban Boat Regatta/Fishing Festival	Kalabari Kingdom (Buguma Abonnema and surrounding Communities)	Celebrates the fishing and maritime culture of Kalabari people through canoe racing, wrestling, fishing competition and performances.	Varies annually
		6.	Ogoni Day Celebration	Ogoni Communities (Khana, Gokana, Tai and Eleme Local Government Areas)	Commemorates the unity and cultural identity of Ogoni people while promoting peace and environmental and cultural preservation.	4th January
2.	Delta State	1.	Ezeugbo Festival/Carnival	Asaba	To usher in the New Yam in the land, to appease the gods of thunder and to inform the gods that the farm produce has been harvested.	It is celebrated on the third Saturday of August every year.
		2.	Ogwashi-Uku Carnival	Ogwuashi-Uku	Arts and Culture of the people as local and modern tradition	25-26 December
		3.	Ukwatta festival	Abi	Thanking gods for the past farming activities and usher in another farming season tradition	February
		4.	Ishe Festival	Ewulu	Purification of the land	February 2000 (biennial)
		5.	Egwu-Ala Festival	Obomkpa	Purification of the land	February
		6.	Igwe Festival	Umunede	Pray to gods for previous years and the present year farming	Immediately after Easter and the 1st Eke day Market

S/N O.	STATE	S/N O.	FESTIVAL /TOURISM EVENT	PLACE OF EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL/EVENT	DATE OF EVENT
3.	Edo State	7.	Ogbanigbe Festival	Obio	For fruitful harvest	May
		1.	Igue Festival	Benin City	Gratitude to God and the gods for bountiful harvest of the new yam	December
		2.	Au-Ukhua Carnival	Agenebode, Etsako East Local Government Area	Celebrating cultural heritage	26th – 27th December
4.	Cross River State	1.	Ugep International New Yam Festival (LEBOKU)	Ugep	To showcase Yakurr people's bountiful harvest of new yams and also used to display the cultural heritage of Ugep.	Late February (26th–28th February).
		2.	Calabar Carnival	Calabar	It drives economic growth through tourism, showcases African heritage on a global scale and unites diverse communities. The December festivities take place three days in the month of May.	1st–31st December yearly.
		3.	Boat Regatta (Efik and Qua People)	Calabar South and Calabar Municipal Local Government Area.	To showcase the rich cultural heritage of the people, display cultural performance and boat display on water ways.	First Saturday of September every year.
		4.	Utomobong	Calabar	Utomobong Festival signifies royal homage, cultural unity and preservation of Efik heritage.	December yearly
		5.	Nyoro (Ekpe Masquerade Festival)	Calabar	It is believed that by honouring Ekpe, the people seek blessings, prosperity and preservation of Efik identity and Quas heritage.	Beginning of the year
		6.	Nkotmbok	Calabar	Nkotmbok festival is a vital masquerade display gathering for maintaining cultural identity ad unity within Efik, Etut and Quas communities.	Beginning of the year
		7.	Okpambe Cultural and Fishing Festival (OCAFFEST)	Yala – Obubra Community, Obubra Local Government Area.	The festival has evolved into a strategic grassroot tourism platform promoting indigenous culture, community participation and economic development.	March every year.
		8.	Obudu New Yam Festival	Obudu	To showcase the cultural heritage of New Yam and also used to display the cultural heritage of Obudu people.	First Saturday of September
5.	Bayelsa State	1.	Odi Ogon Ba Uge Festival	Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Areas	This is a vital cultural event that commemorates historical resilience and celebrates community victory, celebrates community resilience and preserves Ijaw heritage.	End of July to early August.
		2.	Ayakoro Annual Festival	Ogbia Local Government Area	Honours founding fathers, commemorates a historic relocation, and celebrates community heritage.	Late February (26th–28th February).
		3.	Lake Efi Fishing Festival	Sabagreia in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area	Celebrates Ijaw heritage, boosts local family incomes, and serves as a grand community homecoming as a well as local community coming.	Every four years. Takes place three days in the month of May.

