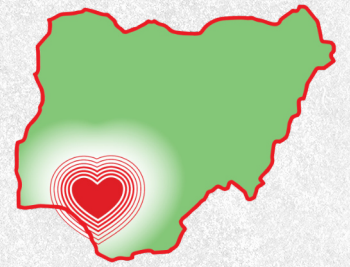


# With love, from Edo



1ST EDITION



## Koyo!!/Obokhian!!/AbeE!!

This is HELLO in Benin, Esan and Afemai, respectively.

### NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

We launch this publication at an auspicious time in Nigeria. A period of economic and political transition for the good of the nation and the welfare of the people. As the pioneer CEO of the new and budding tourism agency of Edo State, I can assure you that we do not take your readership for granted. Indeed, we cherish it and will continue to nurture your patronage in more ways than one.

events that will keep you glued to your newsletter. It will certainly make you contemplate your first or return visit to enjoy the sights and sounds of our ancestral homes.

You will have a first taste of the original pounded yam (Ema), with the genuine Ogbono soup.

Dear Readers,

It is with a deep sense of responsibility that I humbly introduce to you the **maiden edition** of "WITH LOVE, FROM EDO", a monthly Tourism Digest targeted at updating prospective visitors and curious residents on a state that is proudly known as the 'heartbeat of the nation' and the nucleus of culture in West Africa.

I wish to appeal to our numerous readers to follow closely our transformation from a state whose reputation was more for emigration of people, to becoming a receptacle of visitors, tourists and fans of culture, history, folklores and eco diversity.

Every four weeks, we will share with you unique features, articles and

### IN THIS ISSUE

- The real deal- Ogbono + Pounded yam (Ema)
- The Okuku Hairdo- Tales of majestic beads & hair-raising glamour of the Benin people
- The Folklore- Joromi

After which you will have an opportunity to see sculptures, monuments and artwork. We know that you will agree with us that according to Phil McGraw, "Don't be ashamed of anything you have gone through. Be proud of everything you have overcome." Our reputation as hospitable hosts, our forest reserves and our rich history which cannot be replicated, makes us proud to style this newsletter as from us to you, so also FROM EDO, WITH LOVE.

Greetings in our dialects - Koyo, Obokhian, Abee.... See you again in four weeks time.

Enjoy your Digest!

with love,

*Obeki*

## DID YOU KNOW??



The Benin Moat is one of the largest man-made earthworks in the world. It was constructed as a defensive barrier around the ancient city of Benin and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## THE REAL DEAL - OGBONO + POUNDED YAM (EMA)



After a smooth flight to the Benin airport, John Scott the Marketing Director of a multinational FMCG company was picked up by his driver, Osaruyi.

John, a typical Brit who visits Nigeria once every six months asked Osaruyi "Where can I get a good authentic native meal". The driver responded to the effect "Sir you can get good food at the Protea"

John quickly retorted that I am talking about where I can get pounded yam and native soup with a good pint of cold palm wine. Eh eh oga, I know one place where you can get the real deal sir, good food chops. It is along Ugbor road. The pounded yam na genuine, and the ogbono is cooked with goat meat and fresh fish. The place is called Mint & Charcoal

Apart from the soup and ema, you will enjoy original music by Victor Uwaifo, 'Joromi' and 'Guitar Boy'. Oga I didn't know that you like native food like this. You know that since this naira no dey three months ago, everything has been scarce and expensive. But we dey manage!

After some mild traffic, they arrived at the restaurant, John was ecstatic at the setting. He murmured to Osaruyi that he was tired of chicken and chips. He wanted something different.

As John settled down to do justice to the meal, he gave a smile of satisfaction and took selfies of his food, sharing them with his family and friends. He promised that he would bring his wife along next time to share in the unforgettable experience of the popular Edo cuisine.

At last, he was convinced that the reputation of Edo cooking goes far beyond the Nigerian shores.

After the sumptuous meal, John was ready for some relaxation. On the way back to the Protea by Marriott Hotel, conveniently situated 10 minutes away from the Benin airport, he asked, "Before I forget, young man, when next is the Edo State International Film Festival going to hold?" You know that Nollywood movies are a big deal in the international markets. I heard that the 2022 festival was mind-blowing and an event worth remembering. My colleagues in London went on and on about the screening of numerous curated movies and how they showcased the best of local talent and the vibrant culture of the Edo people. There is so much to see and do in Edo state.

**Definitely, I shall return!!**



## THE OKUKU HAIRDO - TALES OF MAJESTIC BEADS AND HAIR-RAISING GLAMOUR OF THE BENIN PEOPLE

In the enchanting land of Edo, the women have a symbolic and popular hairstyle known as the Okuku. Primarily worn by the Oba's wives in the palace, this beaded wonder traces its roots back to the time of the "Sky Kings" in the Great Kingdom of Benin.

Each woman in the palace flaunts a unique Okuku style, showcasing their individuality and creativity. Among them, the queen who gave birth to the crown prince (Iyoba), boasts a special style to distinguish her as the most important woman in the harem.

Beyond the palace, it is typical for Edo brides to wear the Okuku as part of their traditional wedding attire. The Okuku is not merely a hairstyle but a majestic symbol of royalty,

power, and fabulousness, passed down through generations, leaving women from other parts of the country in awe. It stands as a crown jewel of Nigerian follicular fashion, honouring the rich culture and heritage of the Edo people.

For convenience, a woman may opt to buy a ready-made "Okuku wig" to avoid the usual process of having to sit for hours as the ornaments are sewn on her hair. The bride may choose from a selection of beautiful wrappers made from a variety of fabrics including velvet, lace and george.

To complete this elegant look, Edo brides also adorn their necks with coral beads known as "Ivie-uru", hand beads known as "Ivie-obó", beaded earrings known as "Emi-



ehórvie" and more contemporarily, beaded handbags (Ekpa-ivie). Just as charming as the Okuku, is the beaded blouse, (Ewu-Ivie).

Coral bead accessories, particularly the Okuku, are a true passion for Edo women.

## THE FOLKLORE - JOROMI



Sir Victor Uwaifo who hails from Benin City, Edo State was an icon and a legend in the Nigerian music industry. One of his greatest highlife hits of all time 'JOROMI', released in the 60s is remembered across generations and is still popular today.

However, behind this great song and fame of Sir Victor Uwaifo is the folklore or myth of Joromi an extremely powerful Benin wrestler who bested all of his opponents on earth. No male born of a woman could wrestle him and win because he grew too strong

physically and spiritually. Nonetheless, he took on the seven-headed spirit of the underworld...and was defeated.

Wrestling has a long-standing tradition within the Edo culture, and it serves as a link to their historical and cultural heritage. It is considered an integral part of their identity, reflecting their ancestral traditions, customs, and values. It showcases the strength, skill and physical prowess of the participants. It is seen as a demonstration of athletic ability, agility and endurance.

Edo State was part of the former Bendel State known for a very strong reputation for sports including the home of the Ogbe stadium. The Edo people value physical fitness and view wrestling as a means to develop and display their strength and prowess. It emphasizes moral and ethical values. Participants are expected to exhibit discipline, respect, fair play, and sportsmanship. It promotes humility, honour, and integrity, teaching individuals to compete with grace and accept victory or defeat with dignity.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### QUIZ

- 1 What was Edo State originally known as ?
- 2 How many airports are there in Edo State?
- 3 When was Edo State created ?
- 4 Edo State has common borders with how many other states ?

## WORD PUZZLE

### AFRICAN COUNTRIES

A	I	T	M	I	Z	E	A	L	M	R	N	A	E
E	I	E	M	R	O	B	V	E	A	I	E	N	R
E	L	B	G	L	A	S	G	S	U	R	O	G	I
A	N	E	M	R	C	O	M	O	R	O	S	O	T
E	T	U	H	A	I	N	G	T	I	I	B	L	R
O	O	Q	T	I	G	A	L	H	T	I	N	A	E
D	G	I	B	N	B	E	I	O	A	O	I	R	A
J	O	B	U	A	G	E	H	B	N	O	G	A	G
I	Q	M	R	Z	A	N	N	T	I	H	E	U	O
B	I	A	U	N	B	O	N	I	A	M	R	A	E
O	R	Z	N	A	O	R	U	I	N	S	A	U	A
U	L	O	D	T	N	E	O	O	G	C	A	N	L
T	A	M	I	I	V	O	R	Y	C	O	A	S	T
I	E	D	R	E	V	E	P	A	C	D	G	U	T

BURUNDI  
CAPE VERDE  
IVORY COAST  
MAURITANIA  
TANZANIA  
DJIBOUTI

LESOTHO  
TOGO  
NAMIBIA  
ERITREA  
COMOROS  
ANGOLA

GABON  
THE GAMBIA  
BENIN  
MOZAMBIQUE  
NIGER

## EVENTS

### The Edo State Festival of Arts & Culture

Showcasing the region's diverse artistic expressions

### The Igwe Festival

A week-long celebration held in various communities in Edo State

### The New Yam Festival

A harvest celebration held in various communities in Edo State



## LINGO

Benin ▾
↔
English ▾

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Edo-me'me' ✕

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Edo is good for me

🔊
📄
🔄