

FESTIVAL INFO

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EYO FESTIVAL

The word "Eyo" also refers to the costumed dancers, known as the *masquerades* that come out during the festival. The origins of this observance are found in the inner workings of the secret societies of Lagos. Back in the day, the Eyo festival was held to escort the soul of a departed [Lagos](#) King or Chief and to usher in a new king. It is widely believed that the play is one of the manifestations of the customary [African](#) revelry that serves as the forerunner of the modern [carnival](#) in [Brazil](#). On Eyo Day, the main highway in the heart of the city (from the end of Carter Bridge to Tinubu Square) is closed to traffic, allowing for procession from Idumota to the [Iga Idunganran](#) palace. The white-clad Eyo masquerades represent the spirits of the dead, and are referred to in [Yoruba](#) as "agogoro Eyo" (literally: "tall Eyo").



An Eyo Iga Olowe Salaye masquerade jumping.

The first procession in Lagos was on the 20th of February, 1854, to commemorate the life of the [Oba Akintoye](#)

Here, the participants all pay homage to the reigning [Oba](#) of Lagos. The festival takes place whenever occasion and tradition demand, though it is usually held as part of the final burial rites of a highly regarded chief in the king's court

Among the [Yorubas](#), the indigenous religions have largely

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lost the greater majority of their traditional followers to Christianity and Islam. Be that as it may, the old festivals are still almost universally observed as tourist attractions which generate a lot of revenue for government and small businesses around the [Lagos Island](#) venue of the Eyo festival. It is during these occasions that their traditional monarchs and nobles exercise the most of their residual power

HISTORY

Story Subtitle or summary

Historically, Iperu is the source, cradle and originator of Eyo in Nigeria and the world. There are 5 different

branches/types of Iga Eyo in Iperu *Akesan*

Names of the families and Iga of Eyo each represents are:

1. Iga Pakerike which is symbolized by red cap of éyo
2. Iga Agbonmagbe, also symbolized by blue cap of éyo.

3. Iga éyo Odoru
4. Iga éyo
Mogusen/Amororoo
5. Iga éyo Fibigbuwa

The **major source** of éyo in Iperu is the Iga éyo Pakeriké and other 4 are the Iperu Royal houses.

History made us to understand that Eyó was brought to Lagos to entertain an in-law which has now become something more celebrated in Lagos today.

