

Cultural Tourism, The Gateway to Socioeconomic Development in Nigeria: Case Study on Osun State Nigeria

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Abstract : Cultural tourism is an industry committed to making a low impact on the environment, locale culture, festival, etc. while helping to generate income and employment opportunities for the locale. Tourists who promote cultural tourism are sensitive to the cultural belief and norms that are gradually going into extinction and the rich cultural resources that abound in Nigeria. The paper focus on culture been a unique way of life of particular people that differentiates them from their neighbors. It examined the socioeconomic roles of cultural tourism to the development of Nigeria using Osun state as case study. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage method, result shows that 35 respondents representing 87.5% agreed that cultural tourism has a significant role to play in the socioeconomic development of Nigeria. The study concluded that cultural tourism is an important aspect of the nation's economic sector that should be given adequate consideration for economic sustainability. The researcher recommended that various investment opportunities abound in the nation's cultural resources if well developed and maintained.

Keywords : culture, development, industry, tourism

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