

WHV – Preserving the Legacy of Ancient Kano as a Historic Urban Landscape for Future Generations

Ancient Kano City Wall and Associated Sites, Nigeria

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2007)

07 - 17 August 2025

THE SITE - The ancient Kano city walls were built in order to provide security to the growing population. The foundation for the construction of the wall was laid by Sakri Gijimasu from 1095 - 1134 and was completed in the middle of 14th Century during the reign of Zamnagawa. In the 16th century, the walls were further extended to their present position. The gates are as old as the walls and were used to control movement of people in and out of the city. Though, most of them are largely in ruins. Dala Hill is an archaeological site of an ancient settlement dating back to the 10th century AD, while Kurmi Market is one of the oldest and largest local market in Africa.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to digitally document key attributes of the Ancient Kano City Walls, Dala Hill, Kurmi Market, and the Emir's Palace to support their preservation, conservation and restoration. This initiative seeks to raise awareness and document the rich history, traditions, and architectural significance of these sites for global recognition while showcasing their potential as sites of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in preparation for a nomination dossier for inclusion in the World Heritage list. .

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will engage in conservation workshops and hands-on restoration of sections of the Ancient Kano City Walls and Kurmi Market stalls, with training in traditional building techniques. Heritage Tours and Storytelling, Educational tours of Dala Hill, Kurmi Market, and Emir's Palace, Community Engagement and Clean-up and greening campaigns, cultural exhibitions, and traditional performances to celebrate and promote local heritage. Workshops for Youth Empowerment focusing on sustainable tourism, entrepreneurship, and heritage conservation. Training in media creation, including documentary production, photography, and digital storytelling, to showcase the sites, program activities, and support awareness campaigns.

PARTNERS - Kano State Government, Kano State Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Federal Ministry of Arts Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy, National Commission for Museums and Monuments, National Council for Arts and Culture, Nigerian Tourism Development Authority, Nigerian Redcross Society, Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation, National Institute for Cultural Orientation, Kannywood, Nigerian Film and Video Censors Board, Maryam Abacha University Kano, National Troupe of Nigeria, Herwa Heart of Arts Initiative, Bayero University Kano, Kano State Traditional and Emirate Council, Kano State Local Government Council, Artisans and traders from Kurmi Market, Youth and women's associations in Kano, Nigerian Television Authority, News Agency of Nigeria and Local Media Organisations.

African International Documentary Festival Foundation

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