

# Events and Celebrations

Festivals & Foods of the Ibo tribe

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# Major Festivals celebrated in Nigeria

- Osun festival
- Sango festival
- Sharo / Shadi Festival
- **Yam Festivals**
- Ogun Festival
- Egungun Festival
- Ojude Oba Festival
- Durbar Festival



## What/when is the yam festival?

- ▶ It is an annual festival held by the Igbo people towards the end of a rainy season or early August .
  - ▶ It is general about a day or a week depending in where you live
- ▶ It is a celebration to thank god for a successful harvest and to the beginning of a new cycle
- ▶ Other words for it are Iwa ji, Iri ji or Ike ji, which means new-yam eating

## Why is yam important?

- ▶ Yam is a staple crop of Igbo's so much so that it is associated with wealth and prosperity.

## What does it symbolize?

Wealth and prosperity

# What is the kola nut?

- ▶ It's a fruit that is grown on the western part of Nigeria
- ▶ The kola nut has a very deep meaning
- ▶ The kola tree is told to be the first tree in world which also makes it the first fruit in the world
- ▶ The Igbos say that the "Kola is life" and that the Kola symbolizes peace.

## How is it used

- ▶ Used to welcome visitors to a village
- ▶ Used during a big ceremony or festival



# Igbo Weddings



# Igbo Weddings

- Igbo wedding is usually a large family
- The father of bride and groom are very much involved in finalizing the marriage proposal
- The tradition involves the groom's family to pay a price for the bride and all this is negotiated as part of the process.
- The payment is done in Kola nuts, chickens, goats etc.
- During the wedding day, the bride would have to find her husband while being distracted by the guest.
- Once she has found him and he drinks the wine from the cup presented by the bride then they are considered officially married.

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