

# G.A.S.

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## Information Pack and Initial Programme

*Lagos Art Tour 2023*

Guest Artists Space Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023

With Yinka Shonibare CBE, the trustees and staff of  
Guest Artists Space Foundation and the Yinka Shonibare Foundation

*\* Please note that this programme is under development and an updated version will be sent  
to all guests before arrival.*



“We want to offer long-term support for individual artists, equipping them to thrive not just survive. International exchange has a very strong value, especially in a world where there’s a great deal of conflict, and I believe that going to see other cultures, and being creative with other cultures, is really a very positive way forward. It can be a true vehicle for social change”.

**Yinka Shonibare CBE RA**



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## Lagos Art Tour 2023, Guest Artists Space Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria

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We are pleased to enclose the initial details of the program for the Lagos Art Tour hosted by Guest Artists Space Foundation (G.A.S.). This year's tour will run from Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> of October to Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The trip will be in the company of the artist Yinka Shonibare CBE, and the trustees and staff of Guest Artists Space Foundation and the Yinka Shonibare Foundation. With the support of ART X Lagos.

The trip is led by Belinda Holden (CEO, Y.S.F. and acting CEO, G.A.S. Foundation), Siti Osman (Philanthropy and Patrons Manager, Y.S.F.), Magda Kaggwa (Communications and Project Manager, Y.S.F.), Adekunle Adeboye (Residency Manager, G.A.S. Foundation) and Tomi Olukosi (Communications and Development Manager, G.A.S. Foundation).

We have recommended and shortlisted two hotels with negotiated rates to make arrangements as convenient as possible. The nature of security and logistics of travel in Nigeria means that we are providing airport concierge, visa on arrival services, security and local transportation to/from the airport and all programmed activities.

Participants who opt in to join only part of the Lagos Art Tour 2023 are invited to make their own arrangements to and from these designated hotels, where they can join the G.A.S. minibuses that will transport them to programmed activities.

Participants who are only joining part of the activities on each day are invited to make their own arrangements to and from each visit, however if you are not a frequent traveller to Nigeria, please contact the Y.S.F. Team to discuss arrangements and options.

A detailed itinerary and information pack will be sent out to all participants a minimum of two weeks prior to arrival and will list all participants, staff contacts and mobile numbers. Any further information packs will be provided on arrival.

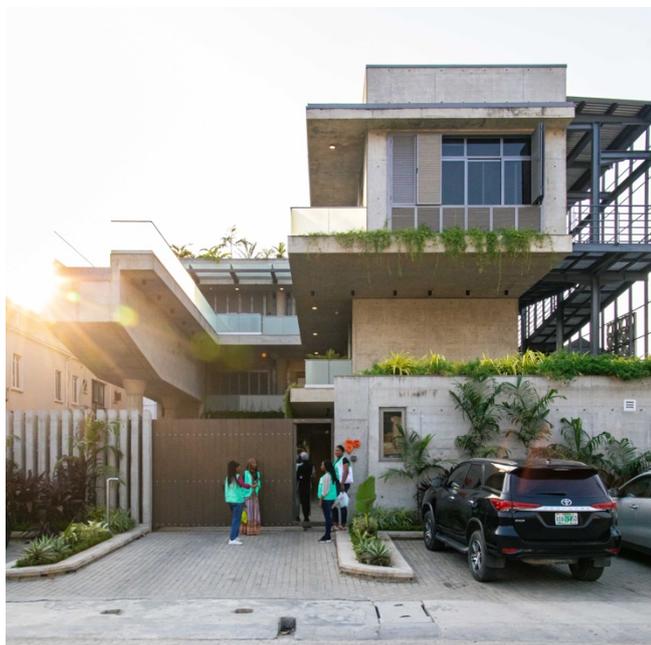
Please kindly note that there are a few lunches and dinners on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November that are not included in the package cost of this trip but both hotels have good restaurants, and we will include a list of recommended restaurants with the detailed itinerary.



## The G.A.S. Farm House

Attendees joining the Lagos Art Tour 2023 will have the opportunity to visit both G.A.S. Foundation residency sites during the trip. We are planning to take our guests to the G.A.S. Farm House on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. This residency building, designed by Nigerian architect Papa Omotayo, sits on the 54-acre Ecology Green Farm located on the outskirts of the village of Ikise in Ogun State, Nigeria. The remote location, whilst abundant in natural beauty has precluded the local community from accessing the kinds of opportunities that are available to those living in rapidly urbanised areas of Nigeria, Shonibare had to build a 3km road just to allow access to the land.

The challenges facing the local community were fundamental components of defining the long-term objectives of this ambitious project and include providing infrastructure for rural economic development, addressing food insecurity, and tackling economic deprivation.



Images courtesy of G.A.S. Foundation. Photography by Andrew Esiebo and Olajide Ayeni.

## Lagos

Our visitors will be invited to an intimate studio visit with our current G.A.S. Lagos residents; the Vienna-based writer, artist, and researcher Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński, Zimbabwean artist Gareth Nyandoro, and US-based Barnes Foundation curator TK Smith. A tour of the award winning G.A.S. Lagos building designed by Elsie Owusu in collaboration with Nihinlola Shonibare will be followed by lunch with Yinka Shonibare CBE.

As part of the Lagos Art Tour programming, we'll also be hosting a panel discussion with cultural stakeholders on the topic of rebuilding heritage through accessible knowledge on Thursday 3rd November. These exciting experiences will be complimented by a number of studio visits with prominent and emerging Lagos based artists and arts organisations, a lunch and tour of a significant and unique private collection and a number of private previews of gallery exhibitions that will give our guests a flavour of the city's thriving art scene.

# Our Buildings

# Itinerary at a glance

*This itinerary is only for our 17 immediate  
Guests and no others.*



## Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October

All day: Guest arrival to Lagos at various times

Evening: Welcome drinks at the hotel

## Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Morning: 7am pick up from each Hotel to drive to Yinka Shonibare CBE's Ecology Green Farm and the G.A.S. Farm House residency building in Ikise. (Travel time approx. 2.5 - 3.5 hrs)

Lunch accompanied by performances will be served at the farm.

Afternoon: Depart to Lagos Hotels at 1.30pm (refreshments for travel will be provided)

Evening: Exclusive private reception

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Morning: Artist studio visits

Lunch at restaurant TBC

Afternoon: Curator tours of galleries and non-profit arts spaces

Evening: Exclusive private reception

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Morning: A guided tour of the John Randle Center for Yoruba History and Culture

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (cont)

Lunch: Private lunch with Yinka Shonibare CBE RA accompanied by a G.A.S. Lagos building tour and opportunity to meet residents and alumni.

Afternoon: Visit to Lagos Photo Festival and a cocktail reception at Tiwani Contemporary

Evening: Dinner reception hosted by ART X Lagos

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Morning: Panel talks and discussion programme on the development of African arts infrastructure hosted at G.A.S. Lagos

Lunch at G.A.S. Lagos

Late Afternoon and Evening: ART X Lagos private view followed by an evening reception

## Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Morning: Small group trips to cultural hotspots (Jazz Hole, Lekki Art Market, artist studios)

Afternoon: ART X Talks programme

Evening: Closing party at G.A.S. Lagos

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

All day: Departures. Options for lunch at a members club, Tiwani Contemporary Artist talk, or visit to the Lekki Conservation Centre for late departures.

# Flights

Please notify us using this **LAGOS ART TOUR FORM** as soon as you have booked your flights. This is so that we are able to co-ordinate Airport concierge to meet you off the plane, escort you through the airport, secure your visa on arrival, assist you through customs, and collect your luggage. They will then hand you over to our driver and security in the diplomatic carpark.

Flights to Nigeria at this time are increasing in cost daily so we would encourage you to book as soon as possible. More reasonable flights are available if you add a stop or by booking with a service like Skyscanner or equivalent.

Direct flights from London Heathrow airport can be booked with either:

- Virgin Atlantic
- British Airways

Main airlines flying from elsewhere in Europe include:

- Lufthansa KLM
- Air France
- Qatar Airways
- Royal Air Maroc

Meanwhile, from the US guests can fly with the following:

- Delta
- United Airlines

## Visa

We are currently arranging a 'visa on arrival' service for all guests. This is the most convenient way to enter the country as there can be delays and issues with obtaining a visa through your residing country's Nigerian Embassy or Consulate.

Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least six months from the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

We have included the visa fees in the trip costs. As a guide, these are subject to daily exchange rate changes but estimated between \$350 - \$450 for American passports and £370 - £470 for UK passports.

To secure your visa upload the following documents when completing your **LAGOS ART TOUR FORM** or email them to [adekunle@guestartistspace.com](mailto:adekunle@guestartistspace.com) who will advise of any additional documents required for entry to Nigeria.

- Scan of the data page of your passport
- Digital passport photograph
- Flight itinerary/ proof of flight booking

## Hotels

We have reviewed and selected the following two hotels for our guests that give a wide range of accommodation options. Both are reliable, clean, secure and have good restaurants. These hotels will be the pickup points for all programmed visits in several vehicles with security.

### The Wheatbaker Hotel

[www.thewheatbakerlagos.com](http://www.thewheatbakerlagos.com)

This well-established luxury boutique hotel is located in the exclusive Ikoyi district on Lagos Island and includes a café, restaurant, two bars, pool, gym, and spa. All reservations include breakfast, free high speed WIFI, and access to the gym and pool.

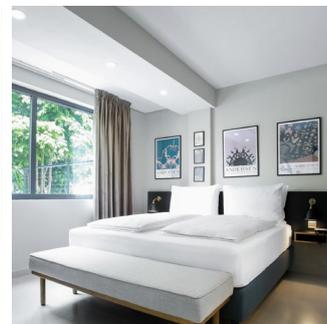
Room types available range from a Luxury King Room (32m<sup>2</sup>) to the Executive Suites (43m<sup>2</sup>). Note that the exchange rate is at N423/\$1 for dollars and N486/£1 for pounds in the hotel.

Approximate rates per night are:

- Single Luxury King - \$207 / £165
- Double Luxury King - \$233 / £185
- Single Executive King - \$259 / £206
- Double Executive King - \$285 / £226
- Executive Suite - from \$518 / £412

Guests who would like to stay at The Wheatbaker Hotel please email [reservations3@thewheatbakerlagos.com](mailto:reservations3@thewheatbakerlagos.com) and cc our team member [tomi@guestartistspace.com](mailto:tomi@guestartistspace.com) using **G.A.S Lagos Art Tour** as the reference and **G.A.S Foundation** as the company reference with your name, contact details, dates and preferred room type.

We have negotiated a 20% discounted rate on rooms but booking online will not guarantee you the discounted rates.



### The Nordic Hotel

[www.nordichotelsnigeria.com/nordic-hotel-lagos/](http://www.nordichotelsnigeria.com/nordic-hotel-lagos/)

This boutique 60 bed hotel, which opened in 2020, has an elegant Scandinavian style design aesthetic. It is clean and spacious with a good restaurant, pool and gym. The location is on Victoria Island and very convenient for access to G.A.S. Lagos, ART X Lagos, restaurants, and most visits.

Room types available range from a very simple Economy Room (13m<sup>2</sup>) to Suites (43m<sup>2</sup>). All reservations include breakfast, free high speed WIFI, free laundry and access to the gym and pool.

USD is the only foreign currency The Nordic currently accepts, kindly note that the dollar rate is at N426/\$1.

These are the room rates are:

- Economy Room - \$99 / £79
- Standard Room - \$121 / £96
- Deluxe Room - \$190 / £151
- Executive Room - \$279 / £221
- Junior Suite - \$380 / £302
- Executive Suite - \$633 / £503

Guests who would like to stay at Nordic Hotel should email [aoo@nordichotellagos.com](mailto:aoo@nordichotellagos.com) and cc our team member [tomi@guestartistspace.com](mailto:tomi@guestartistspace.com) using **G.A.S Lagos Art Tour** with your name, contact details, dates and preferred room type.

We have negotiated a 15% discounted rate on rooms.

## Local Conditions

Lagos has a sub-tropical humid climate and during November the temperature typically varies from 75°F to 90°F (24°C to 32°C) and is rarely above 94°F (34.4°C). We recommend clothing that will keep you cool but there are also some air-conditioned spaces in the itinerary in particular at the more formal evening receptions.

Sunrise is approximately 6.30am and sunset 6.25pm. For the trip to the farm please consider bringing sun block, a sun hat, long trousers, and closed shoes.

## Vaccinations

Please check with your doctor or physician before you travel to ensure that you are up to date with recommended travel vaccines for Nigeria such as Tetanus/Polio/Diphtheria, Typhoid etc. **A Yellow Fever vaccination is required for entry into the country**, and you must travel with you Yellow Fever Vaccination Card.

Malaria tablets should form an essential part of your travel kit, please follow the instructions on starting any course in advance of your arrival and remember to bring any other regular medication.

## Currency

Please do not attempt to bring more than \$10,000 of any cash currency into the country however should you chose to do so, you will have to declare this at customs. The currency exchange rates for Naira are fluctuating and we can assist in directing you to reputable currency exchanges that will give a better rate than the banks. Please let us know in advance if this will be required.

### A note on international bank cards

Please take at least two international bank cards with you. MasterCard is the most commonly accepted network followed by Visa. American Express however, may be difficult to use in many places. Keep your bank informed about travel to Nigeria. You may also consider multi-currency travel cards like Revolut or Wise. The hotels accept most international bank cards as will most of the restaurants we will recommend but please check the exchange rate for the transaction and pay in the local currency as it always results in a better conversion rate.

Small local shops will not accept international cards and there is a limit on the amount of cash that can be dispensed from cashpoints with a debit card. If you do need access to cash whilst in Lagos, please let us know and we will arrange for you to go and use a reputable bank with our security officer.

**G. A.**  
**S.** GUEST. ARTISTS.  
SPACE.  
FOUNDATION

**Y. S.**  
**F.** YINKA  
SHONIBARE  
FOUNDATION

GUEST ●  
PROJECTS ●  
DIGITAL ●

[www.questartistsspace.com](http://www.questartistsspace.com)  
[info@questartistsspace.com](mailto:info@questartistsspace.com)  
[www.yinkashonibarefoundation.com](http://www.yinkashonibarefoundation.com)  
[info@yinkashonibarefoundation.com](mailto:info@yinkashonibarefoundation.com)

Yinka Shonibare Foundation is a UK registered charity (charity no: 1183321) that provides oversight and support to Guest Artists Space, a Nigerian registered nonprofit.