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An Approach towards the Management of Zazzau Historical Gates in Zaria City, Kaduna State, Nigeria.

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Abstract

Ancient city gates are cultural heritage that needs to be preserved from agents of destruction (natural or man-made) because once lost it cannot be recovered back any longer. These ancient city gates in Zaria City are historical monuments that hold a unique appeal for visitors which, serves as tangible reminders of the past. This research focuses on surveying the Zaria city gates to provide an understanding of their locations, characteristics, and cultural significance. These gates often showcased impressive features that symbolized the city's power and majesty. The study employed a combination of surveying techniques, observation, oral traditions, and secondary research methods to investigate the Zaria City Gates. Valuable insights were obtained through this comprehensive research approach, leading to recommendations that contribute to the ongoing preservation efforts on these ancient gates in the study area. By probing into the Zaria city gates, this research enhances our understanding of their historical and cultural importance, highlighting their role as valuable resources for education, tourism, and the preservation of cultural heritage needs in this 21st century.

1.0 Introduction

Zaria city gates hold immense historical and cultural significance for both the people of Zaria and the broader Hausa cities in Northern Nigeria. Previous studies have focused on the surrounding city wall and other areas of studies in the study area. This gap needs to be filled; therefore, this research is specifically dedicated to the study of the gates themselves. This lack of attention poses a potential threat to the continued survival and appreciation of these magnificent structures (Zaria City Gate). There remains a pressing need for a better understanding of Zaria city gates as a national or even global phenomenon. Therefore, the primary objective of this study is to bridge these existing gaps in knowledge by conducting a thorough examination of the present condition, characteristics, and significance of the Zaria city gates in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study aims to shed more light on the unique features, historical context, and cultural importance of these gates, ultimately making relevant recommendations for future actions.

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The Study Area

Zaria City is located between latitudes 10^0 57' 36" N and 11^0 15' 32" N, longitudes 7^o 39'00" E and 7^0 53' 02" E. It is about 85km north of Kaduna. (Fig. 1) and (Fig. 2). Zaria is one of the seven Hausa States, and it is situated in the southern part of Hausa land in Northern Nigeria. It is the administrative headquarter of Zazzau Kingdom. The present-day Zaria Urban Area is formed by four distinct Urban sectors – Zaria City, Tudun Wada, Sabon-Gari and Samaru. (Fig. 1.3).

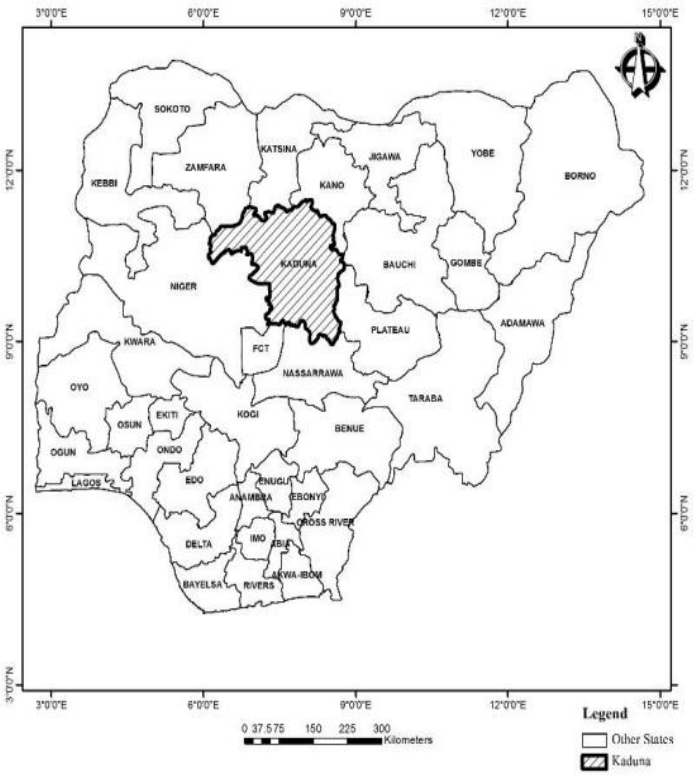


Figure 1: *Location of Kaduna State in Nigeria*
Source: *Google Image 2024*



Figure 2: *Location of Zaria in Kaduna State*
Source: *Google Image 2024*

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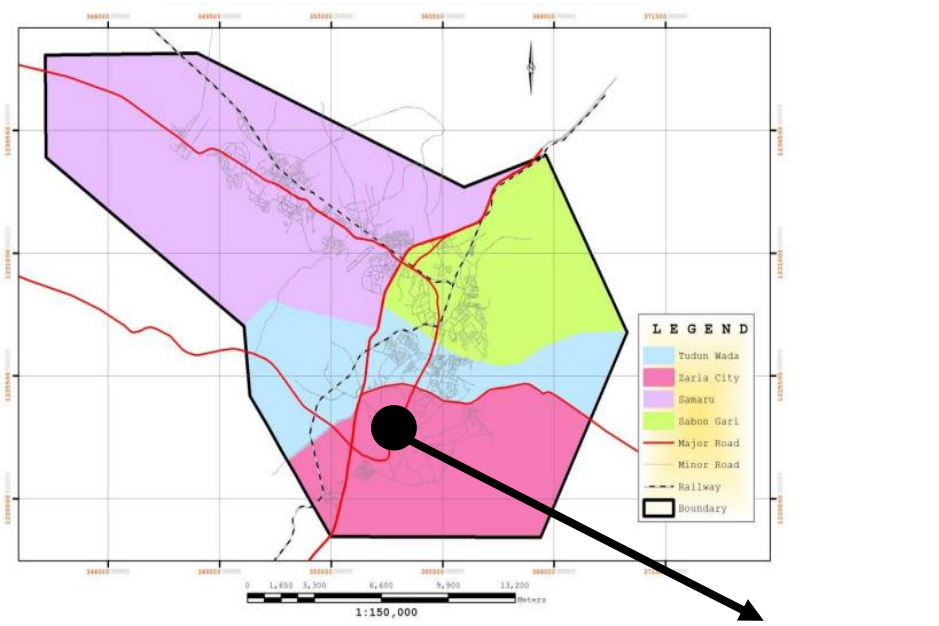


Figure 3: *Location of Zaria City the Study Area*
Source: *Google Image 2024*

Zaria is an important nodal point for both the railway and the road systems. It is connected to the northern and southern part of the country by roads and railway. This nodal position in the national transportation system has attracted commercial, administrative and educational institutions to it. This causes a substantial expansion of Zaria Martinons, (1970).

Climatic

The study area lies within the tropical continental climate with alternative wet and dry seasons, caused by the movement of air mass, which originates from the Sahara Desert and the tropical maritime air mass which originates from the Atlantic Ocean. The tropical maritime air mass which originates from the Atlantic Ocean is moist and influenced and controlled the rainy season, which varies in length. Thus, Zaria City experiences two distinct seasonal periods which changes between cool to hot, dry and humid to wet. The rain usually starts with less intensity in April and rises gradually to the

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peak in August and ends in October. Dahiru, (1992). The maximum rainfall months are July and August when it usually exceeds 1.300mm a year. The spatial and temporal distribution of the rain is about 1015mm in the area. With exception of the Harmattan period and rainy days, the area experiences high temperature all year round, which is a characteristic of the tropics. Average mean monthly temperature is between 24 and 38^{0}C. The period between November and February are usually cool, with monthly mean temperature in the range of 20 to 24^{0}C. Dahiru, (1992).

Soil and Vegetation

Zaria soils falls within the ferruginous tropical soils. The soils are deeply weathered with fine particles up to 50m deep (Mortimore, 1970). A typical soil profile of the study area shows that the lower part of the underlying soil consists of mineral materials from the weathered gneisses and still has some pieces of quartz and mica. The upper layer is a mixture of some materials together with blown (wind-blown) particles. The profile also indicates an accumulation of clay between a depth of 36cm and 119cm. According to Mortimore, (1970). below the horizon of clay accumulation, there exists another horizon which is of iron deposit. This is signified by the red or brown coloration; lower down is also found hard iron concentration. Though the soils of Zaria belong to the ferruginous group, those at the fadama (flood plains) belong to the hydromorphic type of soil.

The natural vegetation of the study area is the northern guinea savanna type. But the natural vegetation is absent within the vicinity of the gulley, resulting from the occurrence of the gulley itself due to poor vegetal cover, cleared for the purpose of cultivation and construction of structures. However, as soon as the rainy season begins grasses sprout and shrubs germinate very rapidly, no sooner had they become well established than the rain comes to an end again. The vegetation is thick and greenish but dry and brownish during the wet and dry season respectively Mortimore, (1970).

Drainage System

The drainage system focuses on three major rivers; the Galma, Kubanni and Saye river

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basins. The Galma river and its tributaries are mostly ephemeral or seasonal in character and their flows are highly irregular (i.e. drying up from January to June) following rainfall events in streams such as Kabanni and Saye. The Galma river area belongs to the northeastern part of Kaduna river basin which borders the Chad basin to the north. The Galma River is one of the main tributaries of Kaduna River. It has headwaters near the northwestern edge of the Jos Plateau and falls near the Magami village (Audu, 2008). The Drainage is commonly dendritic because there is no structural control on the drainage lines on the deeply weathered plains. The channel patterns of the drainage basin are of types, those with large number of un-branched first order tributaries with high stream frequencies and drainage densities such as Awai, Maramara and kubanni to East of Zaria Mortimore, (1970). The relief of Zaria region is a plain, extensive gentle rolling peneplain which extends from Sokoto to Lake Chad and northward from south of Kaduna to Tugueddi scarp near Agades (Niger Republic). This embraces most of the northern Nigeria and has been correlated with the mid tertiary African planation surfaces, recognized in other parts of the continent.

Historical

The name of the present Emir of Zaria is AMB. Alh. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli who stands as the father of all. Zaria is initially known as Zazzau and was the capital of the Hausa kingdom of Zazzau. Zazzau is thought to have been founded about 1536 and in the late 16th century it was renamed after Queen Zaria. Human settlement predates the rise of Zazzau, as the region, like some of its neighbors, had a history of sedentary Hausa settlement, with institutional market exchange and farming. Zaria was the most southern of the Hausa city-states. It was a trading destination for Saharan caravans as well as a prominent city in the Hausa slave trade. In the late 1450s, Islam arrived in Zaria by the way of its sister Habe cities, Kano and Katsina. Along with Islam, trade flourished between the cities as traders brought camel caravans filled with salt in exchange for slaves and grain. The city-state's power peaked under Queen Amina whose military campaigns established a tributary region including the kingdoms of Kano and Katsina. At the end of the 16th

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century, after Queen Amina's death, Zaria fell under the influence of the Jukun Kingdom and eventually became a tributary state itself. Between the fifteenth and sixteenth century the kingdom became a tributary state of the Songhai Empire. In 1805 it was captured by the Fulani during the Fulani Jihad. British forces led by Frederick Lugard took the city in 1901. Audu, (2008).

The old part of the city, known as Birnin Zazzau or Zaria-City, was originally surrounded by walls and fortress, which have been mostly removed. The Emir's palace is in the old city. In the old city and the adjacent Tudun Wada neighbourhood people typically reside in traditional adobe compounds. These two neighborhoods are predominantly occupied by the indigenous Hausa. There is great variety in the architecture of Zaria, with buildings made of mud clay in the Hausa style juxtaposed with modern, multi-storied university and government buildings. Silk-cotton tree is one of the largest trees in Zazzau emirate generally and the tree has played an important role in the spiritual and economic lives of the peoples who live in Zaria especially people of Anguwan Kahu who makes Kahu for the Emirs, district heads, ward heads and village heads. Anguwan Kahu was known to be a place of business where it uses cotton to make local mattresses, pillows, Horse shirts etc. Audu, (2008).

2.0 Methodology

This study employs three types of research methods, the methodology encompasses on-site surveys, analysis of oral traditions, and the utilization of secondary sources. Each approach provides unique insights into different aspects of the research topic, contributing to a holistic understanding of Zaria city gates.

Survey: On-site surveys form a foundational component of the methodology, allowing the researcher to have a firsthand examination and assessment of the physical condition and characteristics of the Zaria city gates. Through meticulous observation and documentation, the surveys aim to identify any damages, deterioration, or ongoing restoration efforts specific to the gates themselves. This method enables researchers to gather valuable data regarding the current state of the gates.

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Oral Tradition: Supplementing the on-site surveys, the study incorporates the analysis of oral traditions as a research method. By engaging with local narratives and gathering firsthand accounts from community members, the research gains insights into the cultural significance of the Zaria city gates. Oral traditions provide a rich source of information, offering perspectives on the gates' symbolism, historical context, and societal importance. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the gates' role within the cultural identity of the region.

Secondary Sources: the research methodology involves the extensive use of secondary sources. This includes conducting a literature review on similar studies, analyzing historical records, scholarly articles, and relevant publications. By drawing upon existing research, the study situates the Zaria city gates within a broader context. Secondary sources provide valuable insights into the gates' origins, development, and significance, offering a foundation of knowledge that enriches the research findings.

4.0 Data Presentation and Discussion

Zaria city home eight iconic ancient gates that serves as entrance through its defensive wall. (fig. 4) namely: Kofar Galadima, Kofar Doka, Kofar Gayan, Kofar Kibbo, Kofar Jatua, Kofar Kuyambana, and Kofar Bai, and Kofar Kano. These gates stand as royal guardians of the people of Zaria and also a symbol of a rich heritage that has evolved over centuries till date. Each gate carries its unique local name and is associated with specific element. We will examine the characteristics of each of these gates in Zaria city, which give us a deeper understanding of how they have continued to connect its residents to their roots.

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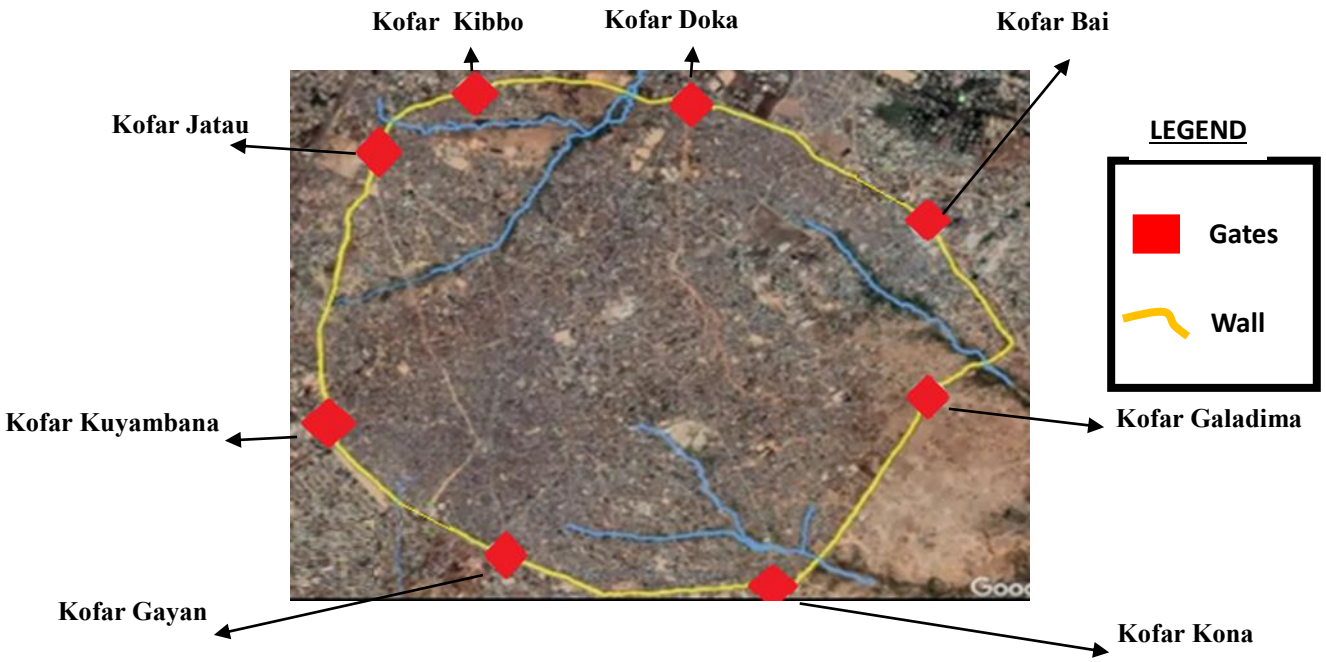


Figure 4: Location of each Gates in Zaria City, Kaduna State
Source: Google Earth 2024

Kofar Galadima (Galadima Gate)

Kofar Galadima, commonly referred to as Galadima Gate, stands as a remarkable symbol of Zaria's rich cultural heritage. In contrast to the other gates, this particular gate was constructed in the past using a combination of dry grasses, mud, and stones that were abundantly available in the local environment. Regrettably, the gate has suffered from both natural and human factors, which leading to its gradual deterioration over time. Despite its historical significance, minimal efforts have been undertaken in the past and present to conserve and preserve this gate. Presently, nothing remains to showcase its magnificence, except for the paved road leading into the city through the remain of the defensive wall. (see Plate 1).

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Plate 1: Kofar Galadima (Galadima Gate)
Source: Field survey 2024

Kofar Doka (Doka Gate)

Kofar Doka, also known as Doka Gate, is the fourth gate to be built in Zaria city. Serving as a main entrance and exit point for the city, this gate holds significant historical and cultural importance. It was crafted using traditional building materials such as dry grasses combined with mud and stones that were easily accessible in the surrounding environment in the past. Interestingly, the gate derives its name from a courageous warrior, adding further depth to its historical significance. however, efforts have been invested in the past and present to ensure the proper maintenance and preservation of this remarkable structure. As a result, the gate's current condition remains largely unchanged (Plate 2).

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Plate 2: Kofar Doka (Doka Gate)
Source: Field survey 2024

Kofar Gayan (Gayan Gate)

Kofar Gayan, also referred to as the Gayan Gate, holds the distinction of being the inaugural gate built in Zaria City. It derives its name from the nearby Gayan River, situated close to Turunku. This gate carries immense historical significance and occupies a prominent position in Zaria's rich heritage. Serving as a crucial architectural landmark, Kofar Gayan continues to play a vital role in defining the boundaries of Zaria and upholding its cultural traditions. Its enduring presence serves as a testament to the city's past(Plate3).

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Plate 3: Kofar Gayan (Gayan Gate)
Source: Field Survey 2024

Kofar Kibbo (Kibbo Gate)

Kofar Kibbo, known as Kibbo Gate, stands as a remarkable and unique landmark in Zaria. Its name is closely linked to the Kibbo clan, adding to its historical significance. This gate is a stunning embodiment of the city's architectural heritage, showcasing the skilled craftsmanship of its builders. Constructed in the past, Kofar Kibbo has been able to withstand the test of time and retain its grandeur due to continuous preservation efforts. The renovations of the gate have played a crucial role in safeguarding the gate from the effects of weather and human activities. As a result, Kofar Kibbo remains an enduring symbol of Zaria's cultural legacy. (Plate4).

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Plate 4: Kofar Kibbo (Kibbo Gate)
Source: Field survey 2024

Kofar Jatua (Jatau Gate)

Kofar Jatua, also referred to as Jatua Gate, serves as a significant entry point into the vibrant heart of Zaria. Named after the esteemed Jatua clan, this gate holds immense cultural value within the city. Its architectural design beautifully embodies the fusion of traditional elements and the skilled craftsmanship that has been transmitted across generations. While some efforts have been undertaken in the past to preserve this gate, there remains a need for further conservation endeavors to ensure its long-term protection. (Plate5).

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Plate 5: Kofar Jatua (Jatua Gate)
Source: Field survey 2024

Kofar Kuyambana (Kuyambana Gate)

Kofar Kuyambana, also recognized as the Kuyambana Gate, stands as the third gate to be constructed in Zaria City. This gate holds immense cultural and historical importance, serving as a prominent landmark within the city. It proudly bears the name of the esteemed Kuyambana clan, further cementing its significance in Zaria's enduring heritage. The gate's intricate design and imposing structure are a testament to the city's rich past and its unwavering connection to tradition. Beyond being physical entry points, these gates also embody the role of guardians, preserving a legacy that spans countless centuries. (Plate 6).

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Plate 6: Kofar Kuyambana (Kuyambana Gate)
Source: Field survey 2024



Plate 7: Kofar Bai (Bai Gate)
Source: Field survey 2024

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Kofar Bai (Bai Gate)

Kofar Bai, commonly referred to as Bai Gate, is renowned for its striking stature and intricate carvings that embellish its façade. Historically, this gate played a vital defensive role, fortifying the city against external dangers. Constructed in the past, traditional materials such as dry grasses, mud, and stones were employed, utilizing the resources readily found in the environment. However, according to an informant, the original gate has been destroyed, and a new gate is currently under construction. Modern construction techniques involving reinforced iron and contemporary building materials are being utilized for the reconstruction process at present. (Plate 7).

Kofar Kano (Kano Gate)

Kofar Kano, commonly referred to as Kano Gate, , this gate played a vital defensive role, fortifying the city against external dangers in the past. The traditional materials used then were dry grasses, mud, and stones are employed, utilizing the resources readily found in the environment. However, according to the informant, the original gate has been destroyed over time by both man-made and natural factors, Presently a new gate is currently under construction. Modern construction techniques involving reinforced iron and contemporary building materials are being utilized for the reconstruction. (Plate 8).

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Plate 8: Kofar Kano (Kano Gate)
Source: Field survey 2024

In conclusion, the survey of Zaria's gates provides valuable insights into their cultural significance, the origins of their names, and their geographical coordinates. These gates not only symbolize power and fortification in the past, but they also hold economic, social, political, and cultural importance. Preserving these gates for future generations is crucial, because once lost, they cannot be recovered. The gates of Zaria carry immense cultural value. They serve as tangible reminders of the city's history, representing its former grandeur and defensive capabilities. These gates were strategically positioned to control access and regulate movement, reflecting their social and political significance in the past.

The names of these gates often have historical and cultural roots. They may be derived from local legends, historical events, or prominent figures associated with the environment. Furthermore, documenting these gates is essential for their preservation and future research. Geographical information allows for

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precise identification and mapping, ensuring that these cultural treasures are accurately located and protected from potential loss or damage.

5.0 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Summary

The eight city gates in Zaria City, including: Kofar Galadima, Kofar Doka, Kofar Gayan, Kofar Kibbo, Kofar Jatua, Kofar Kuyambana, and Kofar Bai, and Kofar Kano. The result from the study shows that these gates are more than mere entry points; they are living testaments to the city's historical significance and cultural heritage. These gates feature remarkable mud walls adorned with intricate designs, reflecting the exceptional craftsmanship of their ancient builders. The survey reveals that they served as fortifications, marking boundaries, and preserving Zaria's social structure. Today, they continue to connect the modern city to its rich traditions and remind us of the enduring legacy of Zaria's past.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the eight city gates of Zaria City, stand as resilience of its people. These gates, from Kofar Doka to Kofar Kibbo, hold a special place in the hearts of Zaria's residents and are symbols of identity, tradition, and cultural heritage. As we celebrate the attractiveness of these gates, it is essential to recognize the importance of preserving them for future generations, ensuring that the stories, traditions, and values they embody continue to be cherished and shared. The Kofar (gate) are not just city gates; they are the guardians of Zaria's past and the keepers of its enduring spirit.

5.3 Recommendation

5.3.1 Community Engagement

It is recommended to establish a community advisory board or committee composed of local residents, community leaders, and cultural heritage experts. This advisory board can serve as a platform for community members to voice their opinions, concerns, and ideas regarding the gates' preservation and promotion. Regular meetings can be held to facilitate dialogue, exchange of knowledge, and collaboration between the community and relevant stakeholders. By actively involving the community in decision-making processes, their perspectives and values can be incorporated into the preservation strategies, ensuring that the gates' management aligns with the community's aspirations.

Community engagement can be enhanced through educational programs and cultural initiatives that foster a sense of ownership and pride among community members. This can include organizing

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workshops, heritage walks, and cultural festivals that promote the understanding and appreciation of the Zaria City Gates. Educational materials, such as brochures and interpretive panels, can be developed to provide accessible information about the gates' historical and cultural significance. By actively involving the community in these initiatives, they can develop a deeper connection with the gates, become ambassadors for their preservation, and actively participate in their promotion.

5.3.2 Promotion of Tourism

It is recommended to develop a comprehensive tourism marketing strategy that highlights the unique cultural and historical significance of the Zaria City Gates. This strategy should include targeted digital marketing campaigns, engaging social media content, and visually appealing promotional materials such as brochures, videos, and photographs. The marketing efforts should focus on showcasing the gates as a captivating destination for cultural and heritage tourism, emphasizing the architectural beauty, historical narratives, and immersive experiences available to visitors. Collaborations with travel agencies, tour operators, and online travel platforms can further amplify the reach and visibility of the tourism promotion.

It is recommended to enhance the visitor experience by developing visitor facilities and interpretive infrastructure. This includes the establishment of visitor centers or interpretation centers near the gates, where visitors can learn about the historical and cultural significance of the site through interactive exhibits, multimedia presentations, and guided tours. Additionally, well-designed signage, maps, and pathways can enhance wayfinding and accessibility, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for tourists. Collaboration with local businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, and handicraft shops, can also contribute to the overall tourism experience, offering visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the local culture and support the local economy.

5.3.3 Documentation and Research

It is recommended to establish a dedicated research team or working group consisting of historians, archaeologists, architects, and cultural heritage experts. This interdisciplinary team can collaborate to conduct comprehensive research on the Zaria City Gates, including archival research, field surveys, and architectural analysis. By pooling their expertise and resources, the team can ensure a holistic and multidimensional understanding of the gates, uncovering valuable historical and cultural insights. Furthermore, the

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team can develop standardized documentation protocols and methodologies to ensure consistent and accurate recording of data, such as detailed measurements, photographs, and condition assessments.

It is recommended to establish partnerships with academic institutions, research organizations, and cultural heritage institutions. These collaborations can facilitate access to scholarly resources, funding opportunities, and expertise in conducting in-depth research on the Zaria City Gates. By engaging with academic and research communities, the study can benefit from rigorous academic methodologies, peer review processes, and scholarly publications. Collaborating with cultural heritage institutions can provide access to archival materials, specialized expertise, and platforms for disseminating research findings to a broader audience. These partnerships can enrich the documentation and research efforts, ensuring a robust and well-informed understanding of the gates' historical, architectural, and cultural significance.

5.3.4 Collaboration with Preservation Organizations

Partnering with preservation organizations can bring in specialized knowledge and technical expertise. These organizations often have a wealth of experience in the conservation of heritage sites and can offer professional advice on best practices, conservation methods, and restoration techniques specific to the Zaria City Gates. Their expertise can help ensure that preservation efforts are carried out in a scientifically sound and culturally sensitive manner, minimizing the risk of unintentional damage or inappropriate interventions.

Preservation organizations can provide access to funding opportunities and resources. They often have established networks and connections with grant-making bodies, donors, and philanthropic organizations that support heritage conservation projects. Collaborating with these organizations can help identify and secure financial resources necessary for the preservation and maintenance of the Zaria City Gates. Additionally, preservation organizations can assist in accessing training programs, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives, enabling local stakeholders and community members to develop the necessary skills to actively participate in the preservation process.

5.3.5 Preservation and Maintenance

It is recommended to establish a comprehensive conservation plan that outlines the specific preservation and maintenance measures for the Zaria City gates. This plan

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should be developed in consultation with heritage conservation experts, architects, and local stakeholders. It should include a thorough condition assessment of the gates, identifying areas of deterioration, structural weaknesses, and conservation priorities. The plan should outline the appropriate conservation methods, materials, and techniques to be employed, ensuring that any interventions are carried out in a sensitive and historically accurate manner. Regular monitoring and maintenance schedules should be established to address routine upkeep and prevent further deterioration. By implementing a well-defined conservation plan, the Zaria City Gates can be safeguarded for future generations.

It is recommended to allocate adequate resources and funding for the preservation and maintenance of the gates. This includes securing financial support from government agencies, private donors, and international funding bodies dedicated to heritage conservation. The funds should be utilized for essential activities such as structural repairs, cleaning, documentation, and staff training. Additionally, it is important to establish a dedicated team responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and monitoring of the gates. This team should consist of trained professionals with expertise in heritage conservation and maintenance techniques. Regular inspections, cleaning, and minor repairs should be carried out to address any immediate issues and prevent further deterioration. By ensuring sufficient resources and a dedicated team, the Zaria City Gates can be properly preserved and maintained, ensuring their longevity.

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