**PRESS RELEASE**

To mark this year’s World Tourism Day (September 27), @TravelNextDoor has announced a commemorative excursion to the Epe town/division (Lagos).

The trip to Epe will include stops at: **Freedom Park, Nike Art Gallery, Lekki Conservation Centre, Lekki Craft market, Lagos National Museum, Lekki Leisure Lake** and a **private Jetty**. Interest participants can email travelnextdoor@yahoo.com or call (+234) 8070999670 for details.

@TravelNextDoor, a social media driven initiative which primary aim is to promote Nigeria’s tourism assets to Nigerians, has organised similar educational and recreational excursions since 2010 with impressive turn out of tourists. It’s most recent excursions were taken to Badagry, the serene and renowned slavery on the western fringe of Lagos.

“With our regular excursions, we have since realized that Nigerians, young and old, will gladly sign up for tours within Nigeria, if and when they know about it,” says Pelu Awofeso, @TravelNextDoor founder and coordinator. “Ours have been well received and it is the reason we are still at it. More than anything else, we see this as a wake-up call to the many tour operators out there to design tour packages to our local attractions, which are as fascinating as whatever is obtainable elsewhere on the continent.”

According to the UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organisation), the theme for this year’s celebration of the World tourism day is **“Tourism and Community Development”**, which places premium on the fact that tourism is well served when countries make efforts to develop community-based tourist attractions, and by so doing “empower people and provide them with skills to achieve change in their local communities”.

According to Awofeso, who is also a travel journalist, “It is a clear call to action for all countries serious about developing their tourism industries and particularly for Nigeria, which has so far not given community development the attention it deserves.”



**Pelu Awofeso**

**Project Initiator**