



Lagos: The Trade in Enslaved African People

Number of enslaved people embarked at Lagos

<https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyages/7DSLm2VP>

There was a peak in the late 1780s, and just before the abolition of the British trade in enslaved African people in 1807. By the 1790s, Lagos was the most active slave-trading port in the Bight of Benin.

Trade was central to life in Lagos, especially as the location limited their productive capacities. People there were reliant on friendly relations with their neighbours and on trade.

Overall, around 250,000 enslaved people departed Lagos from 1765 to 1851. The largest number of people were sent to Brazil, then Cuba, St Domingue (Haiti) and Jamaica.

Before 1786: 11,022 enslaved people left from Lagos (average of 600 people per year)

1786 to 1790: embarkation from Lagos jumped to 14,077 (c. 3,000 people per year)

1801 to 1815: 81,436 embarked from Lagos (c. 6,000 per year)

1815 to 1820: average of 14,000 people per year.

1830s-1850: figures between 27,000 and 37,700 per year.