



S E R V I N G C H A R L E S T O N , S C

YOU HAVE LEFT THE UNITED STATES

no passport needed.

If you have ever wanted to visit Africa but don't like to fly then stop in and visit the Oyotunji African Village in Sheldon. A sign out front explains that upon entering the village, you have left the United States... no passport needed. I am not sure if they consider this village an embassy but they believe this is a sovereign nation located along Highway 17 on the way to Beaufort. My guide, Osun Ede Olusegun, explained the village was founded in 1970 by King (Oba) Ofuntola Oseijeman Adelabu Adefunmi I and is home to many families. The compound is a maze of huts, dirt roads and concrete buildings situated on over 20 acres of land in the middle of the forest. She led me through the different structures used for school or worship and past concrete altars of different gods. Kids ran around and women prepared for a celebration that would take place that night. I did see one man burning trash in the back but the rest of the village was pretty empty and quiet.

I did ask how they were able to establish an African village in the deep south in the early 70s....

Osun Ede Olusegun explained they had to sacrifice many animals to surround themselves with

good energy. That was my cue to exit... though I

would like to visit again someday during A festival.



*oyotunji's founder
King Oba Oseijeman
founded the Oyotunji
Village after leaving the
urban voodoo temples of
Harlem.*

