





# THE WAY TO ENLIGHTENMENT



**Buddhist Circuit in Maharashtra**




Maharashtra is home to one of India's most treasured legacies, the teachings of Gautama Buddha. Centuries ago, his followers and admirers celebrated Buddha's spiritual journey by creating paintings and sculptures in caves across this land. Some of the caves were carved out of rocks on hill sides. Their brilliant architecture and artistic techniques continue to dazzle the world. The monuments were also sanctuaries for Buddhist monks with prayer halls and living spaces. But above all, they keep Buddha's philosophy alive in the modern world, bringing solace to his followers and promising enriching experiences to history enthusiasts.

# AJANTA CAVES

**Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar District**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the caves at Ajanta have been excavated out of a vertical cliff on the hills, near the banks of the Waghora River. The complex has 30 caves, some of which are unfinished. The paintings and sculptures here are a masterpiece of Buddhist religious art and stand testimony to the skill, talent and dedication of generations of craftsmen.



## Getting there

By Air : Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar/Aurangabad Airport (108 kms)

By Rail : Jalgaon (60 kms), Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar/Aurangabad Railway Station (104 kms)

By Road : Aurangabad (103 kms)

## Attractions in and around

Ellora Caves, Ghrishneshwar Jyotirlinga Temple, Bhadra Maruti Temple, Mughal Silk Bazaar, Daulatabad Fort, Panchakki.





# ELLORA CAVES

## Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar District

This ensemble of 34 caves nestled in the Charanandri Hills has architectural and artistic elements from Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism. This makes it an invaluable symbol of peaceful co-existence and religious tolerance. This epic in rock art, carved out of the hill side in three distinct phases between the 6th and 12th century, is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### Getting there

By Air : Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar/Aurangabad  
Airport (36 kms)

By Rail : Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar/Aurangabad  
Railway Station (29 kms)

By Road : Aurangabad (31 kms)

### Attractions in and around

Ajanta Caves, Ghrishneshwar Jyotirlinga Temple,  
Bibi ka Maqbara, Gandhi Research Foundation,  
Daulatabad Fort, Panchakki.



# KANHERI CAVES

## Mumbai Suburban District

Dating back to the 1st century BCE, this collection of 100 caverns was a prominent Buddhist monastic enclave of its time. Architecturally rich, the caves have prayer halls, stupas and viharas. Located inside the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, the Kanheri Caves are a serene retreat to the past amidst the hustle and bustle of this mega city.

## Getting there

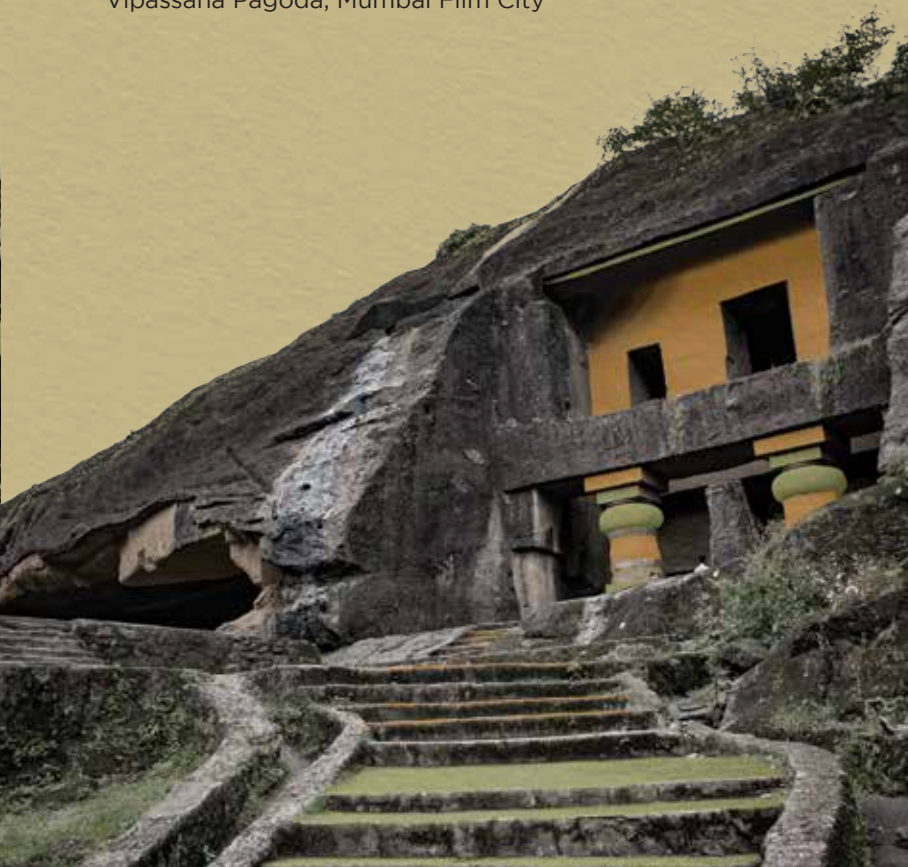
By Air : Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai (25 kms)

By Rail : Borivali (10 kms)

By Road : Borivali Bus Stand (10 kms)

## Attractions in and around

Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Aksa Beach, Aarey Milk Colony, Gorai Beach, Global Vipassana Pagoda, Mumbai Film City









# KARLA CAVES



## Pune District



The magnificent Chaitya Griha at Karla Caves is one of the largest prayer halls in India at 45.72 metres length, 25.91 metres width and 17.74 metres height. It has a profusion of intricate carvings and sculptures, while the other caves were mainly dwellings for monks. The 16 caves here are testimony to the architectural prowess of ancient craftsmen



## Getting there


By Air : Pune (68 kms), Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai (88 kms)

By Rail : Pune (68 kms)

By Road : Pune (65 kms), Mumbai (84 kms)

## Attractions in and around

Ekvira Devi Temple, Lohagad Fort, Pavana Lake, Bhaja Caves, Lion's Point, Lonavala Lake, Rajmachi Fort, Bhushi Dam, Khandala.



# BHAJA CAVES

## Pune District

Bhaja Caves are historically and spiritually significant as a symbol of Hinayana Buddhist tradition. There are 22 caves carved from basalt cliffs and two monastic complexes located at Bedsa and Karla. Built in the 2nd century AD, the Chaitya Grihas, viharas and podhis (water cisterns) here offer insights about ancient Buddhist practices and architecture.

## Getting there

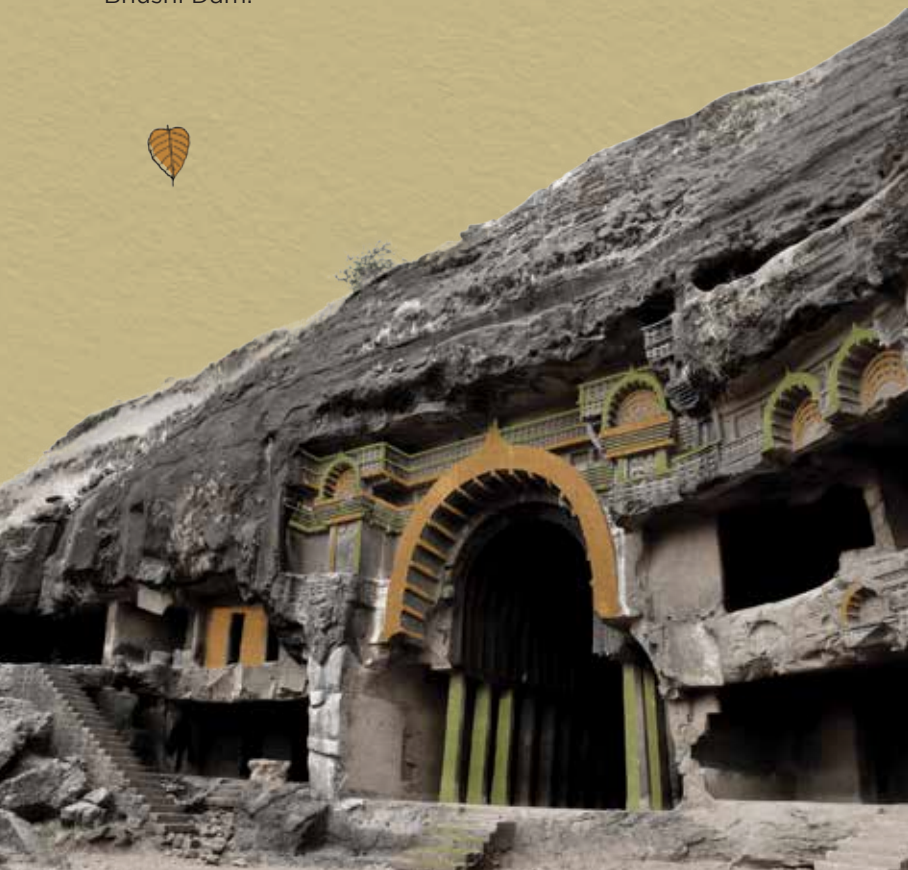
By Air : Pune (68 kms), Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai (88 kms)

By Rail : Pune (68 kms)

By Road : Pune (65 kms), Mumbai (84 kms)

## Attractions in and around

Ekvira Devi Temple, Lohagad Fort, Pavana Lake, Lion's Point, Lonavala Lake, Rajmachi Fort, Bhushi Dam.







# PANDAV CAVES

## Nashik District

Initially Buddhist, the Pandav Caves evolved into a prominent Jain centre over time. The group of 24 caves date back to the 3rd century.

The abundance of sculptures, chambers and water cisterns are breathtaking and an eternal reminder of the region's rich history and culture.

## Getting there

By Air : Ojhar Nashik International Airport (24 kms)

By Rail : Nashik (10 kms)

By Road : Nashik (13 kms)

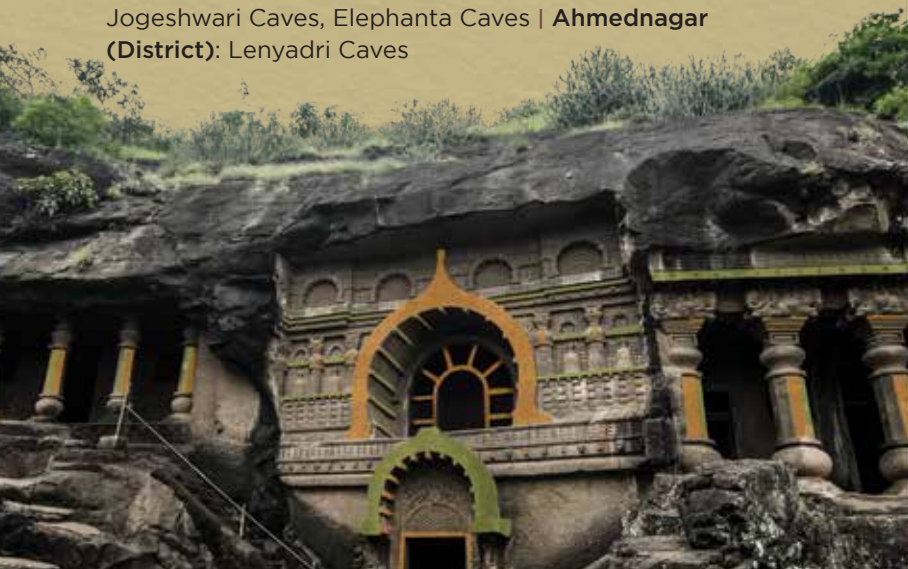
## Attractions in and around

Kalaram Temple, Saptashrungi Temple, Anjneri Hill, Sita Gupha, Someshwar Temple, Shree Navshya Ganpati Temple, Ramkund, Gangapur Dam.



## Other Buddhist Heritage Monuments in Maharashtra

**Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (District):** Pitalkhora Caves, Aurangabad Caves, Ghatotkach | **Ratnagiri (District):** Panhale Kaji | **Pune (District):** Ghoradeshwar, Bedse Caves, Jeevdhan, Shirwal, Shelarwadi | **Palghar (District):** Sopara | **Raigad (District):** Chaul Caves, Kuda Caves, Ambivali, Gandharpale Caves/Mahad Caves | **Kolhapur (District):** Pohole | **Satara (District):** Yerphal, Aagashiv | **Sangli (District):** Kundal | **Mumbai (District):** Mahakali Caves, Jogeshwari Caves, Elephanta Caves | **Ahmednagar (District):** Lenyadri Caves





### For More Information

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