

ELLORA CAVES

Ellora, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India

God

The Ellora Caves are celebrated for its Hindu, Buddhist and Jain temples and monuments which were carved from the local cliff rock in the 6th to 9th century C.E. Ellora is the most important second-wave site of ancient rock-cut architecture in India. The monuments [34 caves] are excavated out of the vertical face of the Khuldabad escarpment to face westwards. They extend in a north-south line and are numbered in a continuous sequence. Buddhist monuments (Caves 1-12) occupy the southernmost part of the site, while Hindu monuments (Caves 13-29) are located in the middle, towards the north are a small number of Jain excavations (Caves 30-34). Despite this strictly linear arrangement, the dramatic focus of the site is undoubtedly the magnificent achievement of Cave 16, the famous Kailasa.

Interesting Facts

The Ellora caves locally known as 'Verul Leni', Ellora represents the epitome of Indian rock-cut architecture.

Ellora is also world famous for the largest single monolithic excavation in the world, the great Kailasa (Cave 16).

The 34 Caves are actually structures excavated out of the vertical face of the Charanandri hills.

Hindu, Buddhist and Jain rock-cut temples and viharas and mathas were constructed between the 5th century and 10th century.

Ellora is famous for Hindu, Buddhist and Jain cave temples built during (6th-9th centuries) the rule of the Kalachuri, Chalukya and Rashtrakuta dynasties.

The 5 Jain caves at Ellora belong to the 9th-10th centuries. They all belong to the Digambara sect.

12 Buddhist caves were built during the 5th-7th century. Most popular of the Buddhist caves is cave number 10, a Chaitya hall (chandreshala) or 'Vishvakarma Cave', popularly known as the 'Carpenter's Cave'.

Dashavatara cave (Cave 15) at Ellora depicts the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu.

Best Season To Visit

The best season to visit the temple is Winter season. The best months to visit are September to February.

Weather

Highest - April to June (45°C during day and 35°C during night)
Average - May (35°C during the day and 25°C during night)
Lowest - December to February (26°C during day and 21°C during night)
Monsoon season - August to October

Dress Code

Wear light-weight, warm clothes in multiple layers.

Don't wear heavy cotton clothing, neoprene and polyester clothing is ideal.

Wear a long-sleeve shirt and full-length pants.

Do's & Dont's

Bring a torch with you to the caves as many of them are quite dark and lighting is poor.

Never use alcohol or drugs before entering a cave.

Avoid touching cave formations, especially with your bare hands. Cave formations are delicate and may break easily.

transport connections

Name

Distance

Contact Number

Verul Bus Stand

2.3 KM
1800-221250

Aurangabad Railway Station

32.7 KM
139

Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj International Airport

39.9 KM
0240-2476147

Deity

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