

AJANTA CAVES

Ajanta, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India

God

Built by Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain monks as mountain retreats, India's magnificent rock-cut sanctuaries, monasteries and temples offer an unrivaled cultural experience, transporting them back to the formative stage of art and architecture for India's indigenous religions. Ajanta is the only surviving example of a painting of the 1st century B.C. and the 5th century.

Interesting Facts

Cave 1 is divided into 14 cells and sculpted with the royal life of the erstwhile monarchs and narrates tales of Jataka and depicts Sibi, Samkhabala, Mahajanaka, Champeyyajataka. A seated Buddha in Dharmachakrapravartana pose is another feature of the cave.

Cave 2 is dedicated to the prowess of women. It is divided into 2 parts and dates back to the 4th and 5th century AD. Besides the carving of a seated Buddha in Dharmachakrapravartana pose, there are figures of Yaksha, Sankhanidhi, Padmanidhi, Hariti and Pancika guarding the statue. This cave is also famous for its ceiling paintings.

Cave 9 seems to date back to the 2nd century BC and is associated with Hinayana Buddhism. This cave showcases wooden beams, rafters and octagonal pillars. The paintings inside the chaitya are from the 1st century BC while the alter is from the 5th and 6th century BC.

Cave 10 was the first discovered cave by John Smith. It is special with Brahmi inscriptions and Buddha figures in different poses. This cave is also quite similar to the Sanchi Stupa. The cave surprises style tourists as the whisper at one pillar can be heard at any other pillar of the hall.

The abandoned and unfinished caves of the group, like the Cave 3, 5 and 8 showcases the various stages of development and challenges faced by this group.

Cave 26 is a must visit to view the large reclining statue of Lord Buddha. This pose is known as the Mahaparinirvana Buddha which is depicting the death of the Lord.

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

Ajanta Bus Stand

11.7 KM

1800-221250

Shendurni Railway Station

34 KM

139

Jalgaon Airport

65.9 KM

0257-2274114

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