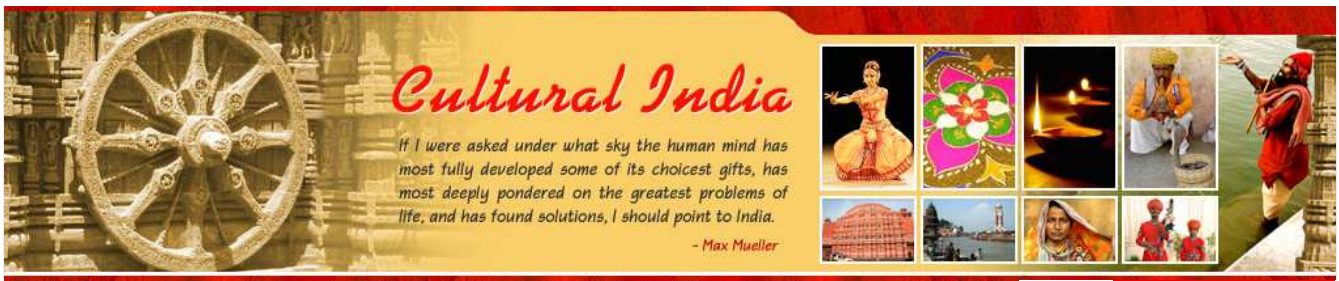

Temples in India

- Ajanta Cave Temple
- Akshardham Temple Delhi
- Akshardham Gandhinagar
- Badami Cave Temple
- Baijnath Temple
- Banashankari Temple
- Bankey Bihari Temple
- Bharat Mata Temple
- Birla Temple Delhi
- Birla Temple Jaipur
- Brahma Temple Pushkar
- Bull Temple
- Chamunda Devi Temple
- Chandi Devi Temple
- Chhatarpur Temple
- Chintaman Ganesh Temple
- Chintpurni Temple
- Digambar Jain Temple
- Dilwara Temple
- Dwaraka Tirumala Temple
- Dwarkadhish Temple
- Dwarkadhish Temple Mathura
- Eklingji Temple
- Elephanta Cave Temple
- Ellora Caves
- Gangaikondacholapuram
- Golden Temple Amritsar
- Guruvayur Temple
- Hampi Temple
- Hoysaleswara Temple
- Iskcon Temple Delhi
- Iskcon Temple Bangalore
- Iskcon Temple Vrindavan
- Jagannath Temple
- Jwala Devi Temple
- Kalighat Kali Temple
- Kalka Devi Temple
- Kamakhya Temple
- Kamakshi Amman Temple
- Karni Mata Temple
- Vishwanath Temple
- Khajuraho Temples
- Kheer Bhavani Temple
- Konark Temple
- Lingaraj Temple
- Lotus Temple
- Mahabodhi Temple
- Mahakaleshwar Temple
- Mahalaxmi Temple
- Mansa Devi Temple
- Meenakshi Temple
- Mukteswara Temple
- Mumba Devi Temple
- Naina Devi Temple
- Nasiyan Temple
- Neelkanth Temple
- Osian Temple

Ellora Caves near Aurangabad is renowned for its cave temples. Know more about Ellora Cave Temple, India.

Cultural India : Temples in India : Ellora Caves

Ellora Caves

Location:	In Aurangabad district, Maharashtra
Built in:	During 350 - 700 AD
Significance:	Listed as World Heritage Site
Attraction:	Cave temples cut out of rocks
How to reach:	One can easily reach Ajanta Cave Temple by taking regular Buses or by hiring Taxis from anywhere in Maharashtra

Ellora Caves are renowned throughout the globe for their excellent artwork and prehistoric temple. Portraying the rich tradition of India, Ellora Cave Temples have been declared as the World Heritage Site. Located in Aurangabad district, Ellora Caves can be reached by taking regular tourist buses or by hiring taxis from anywhere in Maharashtra. The nearest airport is sited at Aurangabad that is hardly 18 kms from Ellora caves.

Reminiscent of the cave temples of Ajanta, these are too excavated out of the solid rock. In total, there are 34 cave temples that are divided into three groups, Buddhist, Hindu and Jain respectively. These three groups can be further termed as three periods, which sustained from 200 - 600 AD (Buddhism) to 500 - 900 AD (Hindu) and finally 800 - 1000 AD (Jain). Every year, Ellora festival of classical dance and music is organized at these caves by MTDC.

Positioned in the lap of the Chamadari Hills, the temples appear as a lop-sided ridge of rock budding vertically from the ground. Ellora Caves celebrate the three faiths of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. The exotic sculptures and intricate carvings of these temples depict the affluent culture of India. The enormous artistry of these caves is the result of the various experiments done in the period of 300 years.

Buddhist Caves
Amongst the 34 cave temples, no more than 12 temples (Cave 1 to 12) belong to the Buddhist period. These temples have incorporated themes of Hindu and Jain, which suggests the deliberate waning of Buddhism. These caves trace their origin in the Mahayana phase of Buddhism and comprise many really striking images of Buddha.

Built somewhere during 550 - 750 AD, the caves are decorated with carvings, paintings, sculptures and murals depicting the life of Lord Buddha. Cave No. 10 and 12 are regarded as the important ones. The former presents typical example of Chaitya architecture and got its name from Vishwakarma (the divine architect). Cave 12 is known for its magnificent three-storey structure.

Hindu Caves
Following Buddhist Caves, there are seventeen caves (Cave 13 to 29) that embrace Hindu temples. Constructed somewhere during 600 - 875 AD, the Hindu caves are entirely imprinted with carvings and sculptures of apsaras, tree nymphs, animal motifs, trees, plants, gods and goddesses.

One can see intricately carved pillars that are massive, but sited proportionately to accord with the size of caves. Several pillars are plain and lack carvings; however a larger number have carved bases, brackets and grooved shafts. Cave No.16 comprises the Kailash Temple that is known to have the largest monolith structure of the world.

Jain Caves
After Hindu Caves, there comes the number of Jain Caves. Built between 800 AD and 1000 AD, five caves (Cave 30 to 34) belong to the Jains. Again the caves are adorned with images of the Lords and various mythological pictures.

Architecture
Ellora Caves present a wonderful exemplar of cave temple architecture. The world heritage site of Ellora, has detailed fascia in the company of elaborate interiors. The main patrons of Ellora cave temples are assumed to be the Chalukya - Rashtrakuta rulers (7th - 10th century). In those times, many king and merchants contributed huge sum of money for the erection of these temples. The construction of these temples was believed to provide salvation (moksha) to the Kings.

Indian Culture

- Leaders
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- Pattadakal Temples
- Raghunath Temple
- Rameshwaram Temple
- Ranakpur Temple
- Ranganathaswamy Temple
- Sabarimala Temple
- Sai Baba Temple Shirdi
- Sankat Mochan Temple
- Shankaracharya Temple
- Shakumbhari Devi Temple
- Shore Temple
- Shrinathji Temple
- Siddhivinayak Temple
- Somnath Temple
- Sun Temple Modhera
- Teli Ka Mandir
- Tirupati Temple
- Vaishno Devi Temple

Ellora Cave temples took around five centuries to seek completion. Wholly carved by Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monks, the temples appear astonishing in the golden light of the Sun. Ellora Caves boast of the outstanding imagination and detail work of art in the shape of their ancient monasteries, temples and chapels. The exquisite carvings have glimpse of Buddhism, Hindu and Jain expressions. Exhibiting the ingenious excellence of the artists, the caves are adored with wooden beams, graceful angles, steps along with divine figures of gods and goddesses.

Wall Paintings

Ellora Cave has preserved beautiful wall paintings of the bygone era. Around 5 caves possess such paintings, but the best preserved lies in Kailasa Temple. According to the archeological revelations, the paintings were made in two phases. The paintings that belong to the first phase usually portray Lord Vishnu and Goddess Laxmi. In the later phase, the masterpiece is that of a procession of Shaiva, the holy men. The paintings also illustrate beautiful 'Apsaras' in a graceful flying pose.

India Tours

Buddhist Pilgrimage Tour | India Cultural Tour | Delhi Agra Jaipur Tour | Haridwar Rishikesh Varanasi | Golden Triangle India Package | India Buddhist Tour | India Heritage Tour | India Nepal Package | India by Rail | South India Goa Tour | Karnataka Tour Package | North India Rail Tour | Rajasthan Travel Package | Rajasthan Palaces Tour | Rajasthan Wildlife Tour | South India Temple Tour | Kerala Houseboat Packages | Tamil Nadu Temple Tour | West & South India by Rail | South & West India by Rail | India Yoga & Meditation Tour

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