

Elephanta, Ellora & Ajanta Caves 5 days / 4 nights

Almost all early paintings in India survive in caves, and Maharashtra has the largest number of caves in India. Most of the caves were the viharas (hall) and chaityas (pillared religious caves) by Buddhist, Hindu and Jain priests. These caves showcase the fine arts and crafts from the historic period.

Day 01 – Hong Kong – Mumbai

Depart Hong Kong, arrive Mumbai. *Meet and greet* by our local representative. Hotel transfer, overnight Mumbai.

Day 02 – Mumbai – Aurangabad



Elephanta Caves

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, start your day with the tour of **Elephanta Caves**, carved in the 7th century, quiet and picturesque with light green foliage and monkeys around. Located on the Arabian Sea consisting of seven caves, see the caves massive hall supported by large pillars where the enormous *Mahesamurti* statue is housed.

Visit **Gateway of India**, located at the Apollo Bandar, the monument serves as a launching point for ferries to Elephanta Caves. Our guide will take you to purchase ferry tickets, enjoy the relaxing one hour journey.

Cannon Hill, a hilltop takes you to an old military post overlooking the harbour. Two cannons were placed to protect the harbour from pirates. After leaving the island, hotel transfer, depart Mumbai, arrive Aurangabad. Hotel transfer, overnight Aurangabad.

Day 03 – Aurangabad

After breakfast, visit the **Ajanta Caves**, consisting of thirty caves, most popular are the paintings of cave one, two, sixteen, seventeen and nineteen are considered to have the best painting. Cave one, six, ten, seventeen, nineteen and twenty nine have the best sculptures, while cave ten is the oldest.



Ajanta Caves

Airport transfer, depart Aurangabad, arrive Mumbai, hotel transfer, overnight Mumbai.

Day 04 – Aurangabad – Mumbai



Ellora Caves

Morning Breakfast, later proceed to **Ellora Caves** consisting of thirty four monasteries comprised of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain temples extending over more than two kms dug into the slope of a hill.

Later visit the **Daulatabad Fort** built in the late 12th century by the Hindu King, one of the best preserved forts. A series of secret, puzzled, endless passages lounge curved like a python amidst the fort.

Another important monument to visit is **Bibi Ka Maqbara**, built by Azam Shah, son of Aurangzeb, also known as Dakkhani Taj (Taj of the Deccan) because of the strong resemblance to the Taj Mahal; A beautiful mausoleum for the wife of Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb.

Airport transfer, depart Aurangabad, arrive Mumbai, hotel transfer, overnight Mumbai.

Day 05 – Mumbai

After breakfast at the hotel, start full day tour of Mumbai visiting **Chhatrapati Shivaji Vastu Sanghralaya, Flora Fountain, Victoria Terminus, St. Thomas Cathedral, Malabar Hill** and the **Hanging Gardens**.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Vastu Sanghralaya also known as *The Prince of Wales Museum*, founded by prominent citizens of Mumbai in the early 20th century to welcome the Prince of Wales. The museum collection comprises of sixty thousand artefacts categorized as art, archaeology and natural history.



Victoria Terminus

Flora Fountain, located at Hutatma Chowk, construction is a blend of water, architecture and sculpture. The structure is named after a Roman goddess Flora the Goddess of Abundance. **Victoria Terminus** is one of the busiest train stations in India. The building exhibits a fusion of Victorian Italianate Gothic Revival architecture and traditional Indian architecture.

St. Thomas Cathedral is the oldest surviving British building in Mumbai; the walls are decorated with the names of the British soldiers who stayed in India during war.



Hanging Garden

Malabar Hill a residential area, home to several business tycoons and Bollywood celebrities, famous for some of Mumbai's most prominent tourist destinations such as Bangana Tank, Walkeshwar Temple, **Hanging Gardens**, also lies in the vicinity of Marine drive and Chowpatty.

Later in the evening airport transfer, depart Mumbai, arrive Hong Kong.