

Tour Name: The Holy Shiva Temples & Caves in Maharashtra

Tour Duration: 10 Nights/ 11 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/36ksva9e>

Tour Overview

Embark on a transformative journey through Maharashtra's spiritual and cultural heritage with our "The Holy Shiva Temples & Caves in Maharashtra" tour. Begin in Mumbai, exploring the ancient Elephanta Caves dedicated to Lord Shiva and soaking in the city's vibrant atmosphere. Journey to Nashik for the revered Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga Temple and a scenic vineyard tour. Discover the ancient wonders of Ellora and Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad, showcasing intricate Buddhist art and architectural grandeur. Immerse yourself in the historical richness of Nanded and Ahmednagar before concluding at Bhimashankar's tranquil Jyotirlinga Temple and wildlife sanctuary. This tour promises a profound exploration of Maharashtra's sacred sites and cultural treasures.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai

- Upon arrival at Mumbai airport, our representative will greet you and assist with your transfer to the hotel. Check-in and spend the rest of the day at leisure, relaxing or exploring the vibrant city. Overnight stay in Mumbai.

Day 2: Mumbai

- After a delicious breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of exploration in Mumbai.
- Elephanta Caves: Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site known for its rock-cut temples dedicated to Lord Shiva on Elephanta Island.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST): Visit the iconic railway station, a UNESCO-listed Victorian Gothic masterpiece.
- Mani Bhawan: Formerly Gandhi's residence, now a museum showcasing his life and teachings.
- Dhobi Ghat: Witness Mumbai's massive outdoor laundry, bustling with washermen (dhobis). Return to the hotel for an overnight stay in Mumbai.

Day 3: Mumbai - Nashik (170kms)

- After breakfast, depart for Nashik, known for its historical and mythological significance.
- Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga Temple: Visit this sacred shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, renowned for its architecture and spiritual importance.
- Brahmagiri Fort: Enjoy panoramic views of the surroundings from this ancient fort.
- Gangadwar: Visit the spot where the Godavari River emerges from the Brahmagiri hills.
- Nashik Vineyard Tour: Experience the scenic vineyards and indulge in wine tasting amidst picturesque settings. Check-in at the hotel in Nashik for an overnight stay.

Day 4: Nashik - Aurangabad (170kms)

- After breakfast, proceed to Aurangabad, stopping at various sites along the way.
- Panchavati Temple Complex: Explore sites associated with the Ramayana, including Tapovan where Lord Ram, Sita, and Laxman stayed during their exile.
- Ram Kund: Visit the sacred tank where Lord Ram and Sita are said to have bathed.
- Kalaram Temple: Admire the striking black stone idol of Lord Rama.
- Sita Gufaa: Discover the cave where Sita is believed to have stayed during exile.
- En route, visit Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, a revered pilgrimage site. Overnight stay at the hotel in Aurangabad.

Day 5: Aurangabad - Ajanta (210kms round)

- After breakfast, embark on a full-day excursion to Ajanta Caves, famous for their Buddhist rock-cut cave temples and ancient paintings depicting the life of Buddha.
- Marvel at the intricate carvings and vibrant murals that have survived for centuries.
- Return to Aurangabad for an overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 6: Aurangabad

- After breakfast, explore the historical and architectural wonders of Aurangabad.
- Ellora Caves: Visit this UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its rock-cut temples spanning Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain faiths. Explore the Kailasa Temple, carved from a single rock, and marvel at the intricate sculptures.

- Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga Temple: Visit the sacred shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its spiritual significance and beautiful architecture.
- Daulatabad Fort: Explore this ancient hill fortress with its steeply inclined ramps and fortified gates offering panoramic views.
- Bibi ka Maqbara: Visit the mausoleum resembling the Taj Mahal, and Aurangabad Caves showcasing Buddhist artworks. Overnight stay at the hotel in Aurangabad.

Day 7: Aurangabad - Nanded (265kms)

- After breakfast, depart for Nanded, a significant Sikh pilgrimage site.
- Hazur Sahib Gurudwara: Visit the holy shrine where Guru Gobind Singh spent his last days. Experience the spiritual ambiance and learn about Sikh history and culture. Overnight stay at the hotel in Nanded.

Day 8: Nanded - Ahmednagar (325kms)

- After breakfast, proceed to Ahmednagar.
- Ahmednagar Fort: Explore the historic fort known for its robust architecture and historical significance during the Nizam era. Overnight stay at the hotel in Ahmednagar.

Day 9: Ahmednagar - Bhimashankar (170kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before driving to Bhimashankar.
- Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga Temple: Visit this sacred temple nestled in the Sahyadri Mountains, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary: Explore the sanctuary known for its diverse flora and fauna, including the Indian Giant Squirrel. Enjoy trekking amidst the serene natural surroundings. Overnight stay at the hotel in Bhimashankar.

Day 10: Bhimashankar - Mumbai (200kms)

- After breakfast, start your return journey to Mumbai.
- En route, visit Karla Caves and Bhaja Caves, ancient Buddhist rock-cut caves near Lonavala dating back to 160 BC. Admire the intricate carvings and serene landscapes.
- Explore Lohagad Fort, offering historical insights and panoramic views.
- Visit Bhushi Dam, known for its tranquil atmosphere and scenic waterfalls.

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- Continue driving to Mumbai and check-in at the hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 11: Mumbai - Departure

- After breakfast at the hotel, depending on your flight schedule, you will be transferred to Mumbai airport for your onward journey. Depart with cherished memories of Maharashtra's holy temples, ancient caves, vineyards, and rich cultural heritage.

Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)**Valid for Travel: Until 20 September 2027**

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	3,465	1,865	1,619	1,520	1,358	1,413	1,313	1,238
4★ Deluxe	3,850	2,043	1,797	1,698	1,536	1,591	1,491	1,416
5★ Luxury	4,564	2,626	2,172	2,073	1,911	1,966	1,866	1,791

Single Room Supplement**3★ Standard: USD 448 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 655 | 5★ Luxury: USD 994****Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)****3★ Standard: USD 34 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 79 | 5★ Luxury: USD 114****Price Includes:**

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 10 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Daily breakfast at hotels.
- Private AC car/van for airport transfers, sightseeing, and excursions as per the program.
- English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city), as per program.
- Monument entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Government taxes.

Price Does Not Include:

- Any flight tickets.
- Camera charges at monuments if any.
- Meals other than mentioned in the inclusions.
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Gratuities and optional activities.
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions.

Hotels used or similar for 10 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 3 nights: Hotel Godwin, Colaba/ Hotel Suba Palace
- Nashik x 1 night: Enrise by Sayaji Nashik/ Lily Sarovar Portico
- Aurangabad x 3 nights: The Fern Residency/ Amarpreet Hotel
- Nanded x 1 night: Gurudwara Sarai/ NRI Complex
- Ahmednagar x 1 night: Iris Premiere Hotel/ Hotel Raj Palace
- Bhimashankar x 1 night: Neelam Hills Resort/ Blue Mormon Jungle Holiday Resort

4 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 3 nights: Fariyas Hotel/ The Gordon House
- Nashik x 1 night: Regenta Resort Soma Village/ Hotel Express Inn
- Aurangabad x 3 nights: Lemon Tree Hotel
- Nanded x 1 night: Gurudwara Sarai/ NRI Complex
- Ahmednagar x 1 night: Iris Premiere Hotel/ Hotel Raj Palace
- Bhimashankar x 1 night: Neelam Hills Resort/ Blue Mormon Jungle Holiday Resort

5 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 3 nights: Trident Hotel/ President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQtions
- Nashik x 1 night: The Gateway Hotel Ambad/ Beyond By Sula

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- Aurangabad x 3 nights: WelcomHotel Rama International/ Vivanta Aurangabad
- Nanded x 1 night: Gurudwara Sarai/ NRI Complex
- Ahmednagar x 1 night: Iris Premiere Hotel/ Hotel Raj Palace
- Bhimashankar x 1 night: Neelam Hills Resort/ Blue Mormon Jungle Holiday Resort

Payment Policy:

- Deposit of 25% of the package cost at the time of booking.
- Deposit of 50% of the package cost, 30 days prior to arrival date
- Deposit of 100% of the package cost, 10 days prior to arrival date

Cancellation policy:

- Note: Written cancellation will be accepted on all working days, except Sundays. Any cancellation sent on Sundays will be considered on the next working day (Monday).
- X-mas and New Year Period (20 Dec to 05 Jan): The payment is non-refundable during this period.
- After Trip Commencement: If you cancel the trip after it has commenced, the refund will be limited to the amount we are able to recover from hoteliers/contractors. We are not responsible for refunds on unused hotel accommodations, chartered transportation, or missed meals.
- 61 days or more before the tour: No cancellation charges.
- Between 60 to 30 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 20% of the full tour booking value.
- Between 30 to 15 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 50% of the full tour booking value.
- Within 5 days before the tour or no show: Cancellation charges equal to 90% of the full tour booking value.

Our Liabilities & Limitations:

- Price Changes: After the finalization of the tour/service cost, if there are any hikes in entrance fees, taxes, fuel costs, or guide charges by the Government of India, these will be charged as extra.
- Role as Agent: Agora Voyages acts only as an agent for hotels, airlines, transporters, railways, and contractors providing services. All receipts, contracts, and tickets issued by us are subject to terms and conditions of the service providers.

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- **Itinerary Changes:** All itineraries are sample itineraries intended to provide a general idea. We reserve the right to change the schedule based on factors such as weather, road conditions, or the physical ability of participants to ensure safety, comfort, and well-being.
- **Rate Modifications:** Our rates are based on negotiated rates with hotels and airlines. If the rates are modified by these service providers, we reserve the right to adjust the quoted rates accordingly. Hotel bookings are based on usual check-in and check-out times, unless otherwise indicated.
- **Liability Disclaimer:** We are not responsible for delays, alterations, or expenses incurred due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accidents, weather, sickness, political closures, or any unforeseen incidents.
- **Damage, Loss, or Injury:** We are not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to persons, property, or otherwise, caused by acts of God, fire, accidents, machinery breakdowns, political disturbances, theft, epidemics, or other factors beyond our control.
- **Insurance:** We do not offer insurance for accidents, sickness, theft, or other unforeseen circumstances. We recommend travelers arrange for insurance in their home country. All personal property and baggage are at the client's risk at all times.
- **Unforeseen Circumstances:** We are not responsible for costs arising from landslides, roadblocks, bad weather, or similar unforeseen circumstances.

Tipping

- Tipping is not included in our price. It is optional but often expected in the travel industry. There is no limit on the amount you can tip, though the average guideline is around \$10-15 per day for guides, drivers, and other crew members.

Trip Comments

- After your trip, we would love to hear your experience. Any photos, suggestions, or feedback will be greatly appreciated. While we strive to make every trip perfect, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. Your comments, whether positive or constructive, are invaluable to us.