Ellora Caves

presented by

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Abstract

- Situated in Maharashtra there are over 30 rock cut caves at Ellora. They belong to the Brahmanical, Buddhist and Jain faiths.
- The earliest caves at Ellora were excavated in the later half of the sixth century by the Kalachuri dynasty who were followers of the pasupata cult (eg. Caves 19, 21, 29).
- This study attempts the first systematic documentation of the entire site and presents an overview of the architecture and sculptures of the rock-cut cave temples at Ellora.
- The rock-cut caves at Ellora play a significant role in understanding the evolution and development of Indian temple architecture.
- The study has been divided into three phases:

  Phase I: Documentation of the Buddhist and Brahmanical caves

  Phase II: Documentation of the Jain caves

  Phase III: Present the entire project in a book format along with cds with high resolution images of the entire site. Low resolution images will also be made available for educational purposes. This phase runs simultaneously along with Phases I and II.

Current status of the Project:

- Phase I: Digital documentation of the Brahmanical and Buddhist caves at Ellora. This phase was made possible by a grant provided by University of Michigan, 2003

- Phase II: Site visit and documentation of all Jain caves in January of 2006.

- Phase III: On going research and literature search on the topic.

Result:

A complete documentation of the site along with historical, chronological and stylistic development of architecture and sculpture at Ellora. A brief overview of other rock cut cave temples in India.

A completed book with digital archive of the site by middle of 2007.

Ellora Caves

Cave 2 | Buddhist cave | corridor

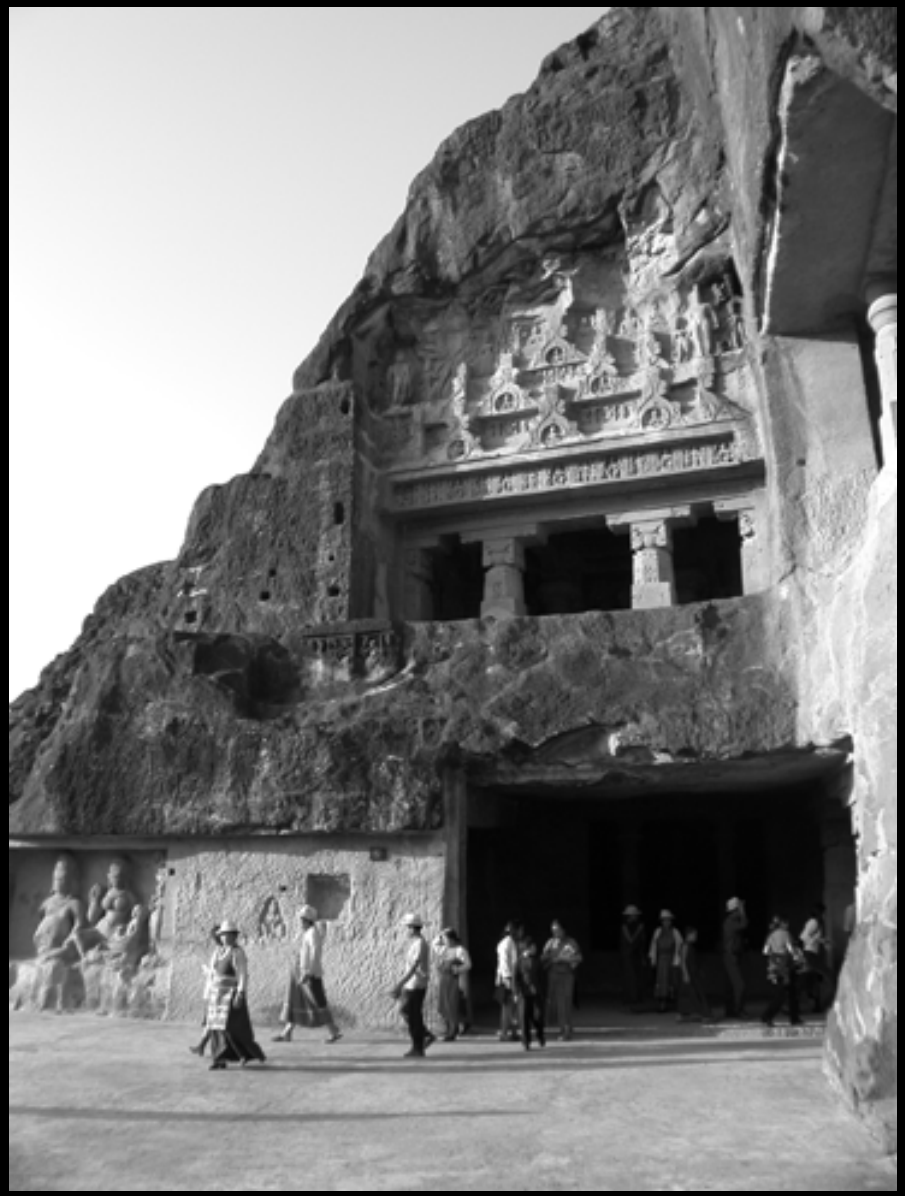
Ellora Caves

Cave 2	Buddhist cave	hall

Ellora Caves

Cave 6	Buddhist cave	Seated Buddha

Ellora Caves



Cave 8 & 9 | Buddhist caves | Facade

Ellora Caves

Cave 9	Buddhist cave	Façade detail

Ellora Caves

Cave 10	Buddhist cave	Façade

Ellora Caves

Cave 10	Buddhist cave	Main Hall

Ellora Caves

Cave 14	Brahmanical cave	Pillar detail

Ellora Caves

Cave 14	Brahmanical cave	Nataraj

Ellora Caves

Cave 14	Brahmanical cave	Siva Parvati Playing Chaupat

Ellora Caves

Cave 14	Brahmanical cave	Saptamatrika

Ellora Caves

Cave 14	Brahmanical cave	Ravananugranurti

Ellora Caves

Cave 15	Brahmanical cave	facade

Ellora Caves

Cave 15	Brahmanical cave	Facade

Ellora Caves

Cave 15	Brahmanical cave	Hall, Nandi

Ellora Caves

Cave 15 | Brahmanical cave | Pillar detail

Ellora Caves

Cave 15 | Brahmanical cave | Nandi mandapa

Cave 16 | Main shrine | Pitha

Ellora Caves

Cave 16 | Main shrine | wall detail

Ellora Caves

Cave 16 | Brahmanical cave | Main Entrance

Ellora Caves

Cave 16 | Brahmanical cave | Gajantaka

Ellora Caves

Ellora Caves

Cave 17 | Brahmanical cave | Main Hall

Ellora Caves

Cave 17 | Brahmanical cave | Corridore

Ellora Caves

Cave 17 | Brahmanical cave | Pillar detail

Ellora Caves

Cave 21 | Brahmanical cave | Facade

Ellora Caves

Cave 21 | Brahmanical cave | Pillar detail

Ellora Caves

Cave 21 | Brahmannical cave | Verandah

Ellora Caves

Cave 21	Brahmanical cave	Saptamatrika

Ellora Caves

Cave 21 | Brahmanical cave | Dwarapala

Ellora Caves

Cave 21 | Brahmanical cave | Kalyanasundaramurti

Ellora Caves

Cave 29 | Brahmanical cave | Entrance

Ellora Caves

Cave 29	Brahmanical cave	Hall with view of main shrine

Ellora Caves

Cave 29 | Brahmanical cave | Garbhagriha

Ellora Caves

Cave 29 Brahmanical cave Ravananugrahamurti

Ellora Caves

Jain Cave

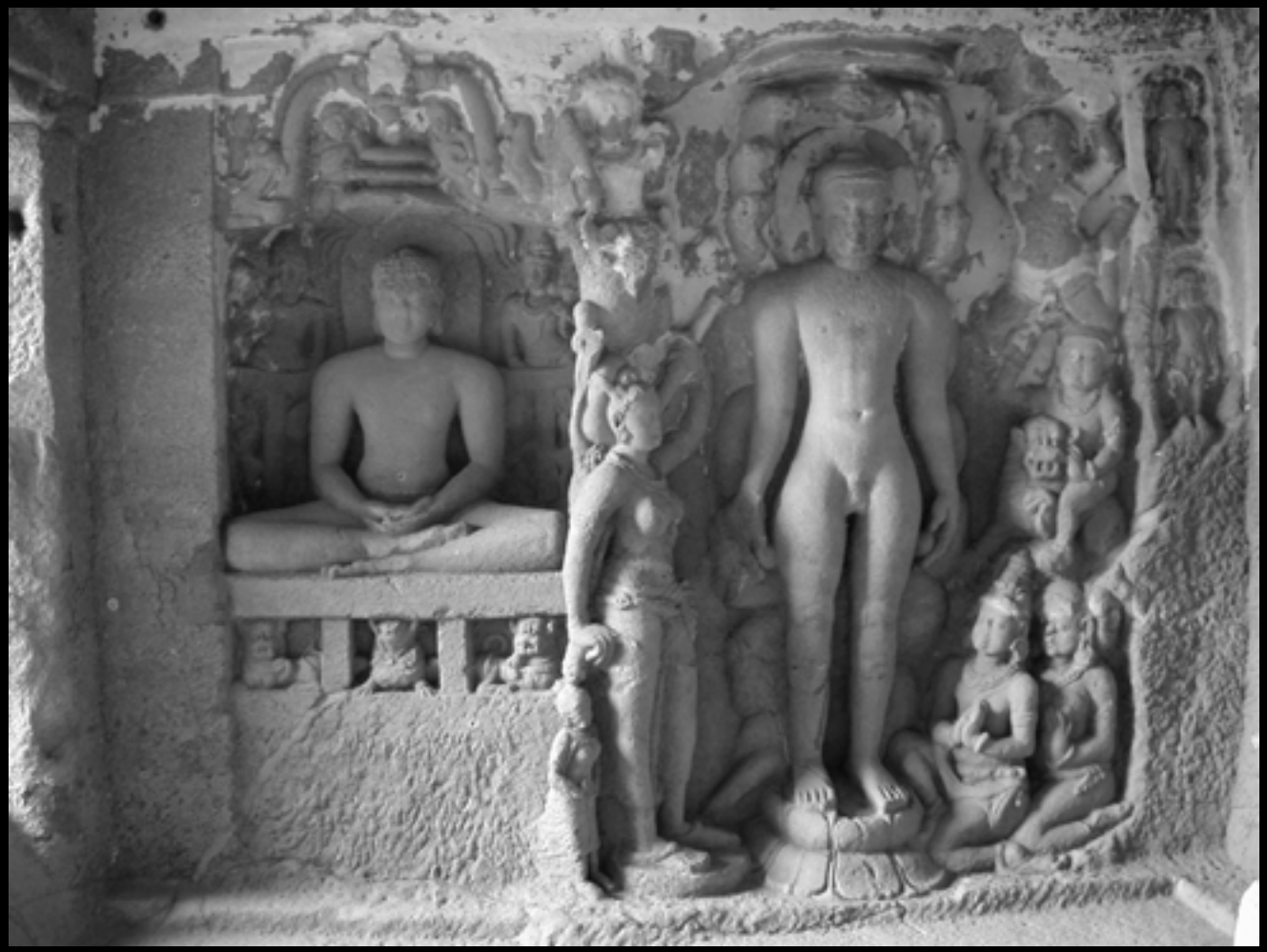
Ellora Caves

Jain Cave

Ellora Caves

Jain Cave

Ellora Caves



Jain Cave