

# Introducing One day Tourist Circuit in Mumbai : Cave Tourism

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## ABSTRACT

*As tourism is one of the fastest growing industries today, thus within the tourism industry events are getting more and more important Events can offer various economic and social benefits for destinations, and therefore destination managers can and should employ events effectively in a tourism role. Even around hugely popular tourist places, there lie a number of attractive, but less known places, when a tourist from another country visits a highly popular tourists spot in India, his/her sightseeing is limited to a maximum of two days. The core objective of the paper is to introduce a framework of cave tourism in Mumbai as a tourism circuit. More over this research paper also aims to promote the cultural and heritage value of the country, Socio-economic development of areas, preserving national heritage and environment, to develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner, Enhancing the tourist attractiveness by developing the circuit. And at the end, It can also increase India's share in world tourism.*

**Keywords**— Tourism, Mumbai tourism, Cave circuit, One day tourist circuit, Cave tourism

## 1. Introduction

World tourism is considered as a significant factor in the economy of many nations. Tourism has contributed to increase awareness about conservation of the environment and the cultural heritage. Tourism is the fastest growing industry in modern world. People have always travelled to distant parts of the world to see monuments, arts and culture, taste new cuisine etc. The term tourist was firstly used as official term in 1937 by the League of Nations.[8]

## 2. Tourist Circuit

### 2.1. Definition of Tourist Circuit

Tourist Circuit is defined as a route having at least three major tourist destinations, which are distinct and apart. Circuits should have well defined entry and exit points. A tourist who enters should get motivated to visit most of the places identified in the circuit.

These circuits may have one dominant theme and may have other sub-themes. Such as;

Ecotourism, Wildlife, Buddhist, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Coastal, Northeast, Rural, Himalayan, Tribal and Heritage and so on. [3]

### 2.2. Creating Tourist Circuits and Routes for Tourism purposes

Tourists often follow a route that links different attractions and tourism services using different modes of transport, as in this case, ferry and bus. The route of travel may be linear, taking them from a beginning destination to an end, or a circular route linking several destinations and end up at same destination of starting.

### 3. Destination of Caves Circuit

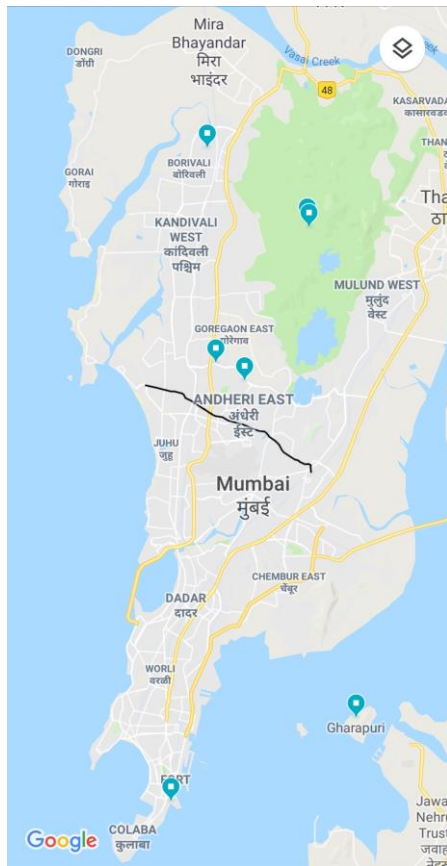


Fig.1 Destinations of Circuit

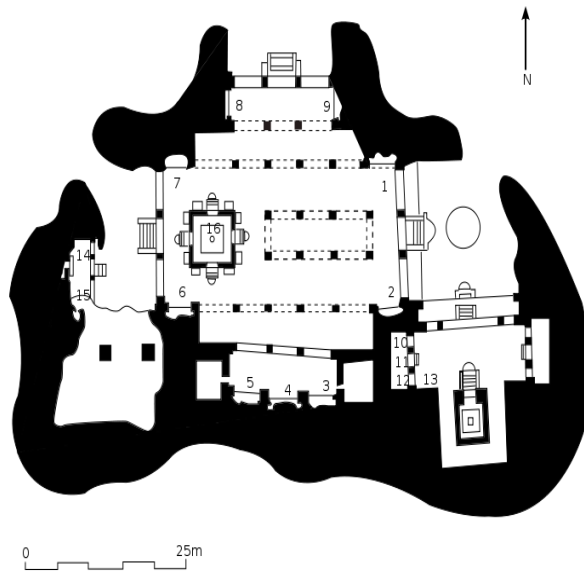
#### 3.1. Attraction of Destinations

<u>Detail of Circuit</u>	
<b>Name</b>	: Caves' Tourist Circuit
<b>Location Area</b>	: Mumbai
<b>Destination covered</b>	: 5
<b>Duration:</b>	: One day Circuit
<b>Time to cover</b>	: 12-13hr. Approx
<b>List of Destination</b>	: Elephanta Caves Mahakali Caves Jogeshwari Caves Kanheri Caves Mandapeshwar Caves
Besides fig.1 indicates destinations of circuit included pick up and drop station (Gateway of India)	

TABLE 1: List of Caves

Sr . No.	Destination	Opening Time	Closing Time	Entry Fees (In INR)	Exploring Time	Mode of travel in circuit	Location
1	Elephanta Caves	9:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	10 for Indian 250 for Foreigner	2-3 hr.	Ferry	Gharapuri
2	Mahakali Caves ( Kondivite Caves)	9:00 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	No Fees	30 min. to 1 hr.	Bus	Andheri East
3	Jogeshwari Gufa ( IbrajBhandari Caves)	6:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	No Fees	30 min.	Bus	Jogeshwari West
4	Kanheri Caves	7:30 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	15 for Indian 200 for Foreigner	1-2 hr.	Bus	Sanjay Gandhi National Park
5.	Mandapeshwar Cave	Open for 24 hr.		No Fees	1 hr.	Bus	Borivali West

### 3.2. Elephanta Caves



Map of Elephanta caves: Key to the sculptures at Elephanta:

Main Hall 1.Ravana lifting Kailash 2.Shiva-Parvati on Kailash (Gambling Scene)  
3.Ardhanarishvara (Androgyne) 4. Trimurti (Eternal Shiva, Sadashiva) 5.Gangadhara  
6.Wedding of Shiva 7.Shiva slaying Andhaka  
8.Nataraja (Dancing Shiva) 9.Yogishvara (Lord of Yogis) East Wing Shrine 10.Kartikeya  
11.Matrikas 12.Ganesha 13.Dvarapala West Wing Shrine 14.Yogishvara (Lord of Yogis)  
15.Shiva Dancing Main Hall Shrine 16.Linga

**Fig.2 Plan of Elephanta Caves**

The Elephanta Caves are located in Western India on Elephanta Island (Also known as the Island of Gharapuri which means “The City of Caves”), in Mumbai harbour, which features two hillocks separated by a narrow valley. The small island is dotted with numerous ancient archaeological remains that are the sole testimonies to its rich cultural past.. [7]

The 7-metre-high masterpiece “Sadashiva” dominates the entrance to Cave 1. The sculpture represents three aspects of Shiva: the Creator, the Preserver, and the Destroyer, identified, respectively, with Aghora or Bhairava (left half), Taptapurusha or Mahadeva (central full face), and Vamadeva or Uma (right half). Representations of Nataraja, Yogishvara, Andhakasuravadha, Ardhanarishvara, Kalyanasundaramurti, Gangadharamurti, and Ravanaanugrahamurti are also noteworthy for their forms, dimensions, themes, representations, content, alignment and execution.[4]



The layout of the caves, including the pillar components, the placement and division of the caves into different parts, and the provision of a sanctum or Garbhagriha of sarvatobhadra plan, are important developments in rock-cut architecture. The Elephanta Caves emerged from a long artistic tradition, but demonstrate refreshing innovation. The combination of aesthetic beauty and sculptural art, replete with respondent Rasas, reached an apogee at the

Elephanta Caves. Hindu spiritualistic beliefs and symbology are finely utilized in the overall planning of the caves.



**Figure 3 Mahakali Caves**

### 3.3. Mahakali Caves

Mahakali Caves also known as Kondivita Caves are a group of 19 rock cut monuments and which were constructed between 1st and 6th century B.C. this group of rock cut monuments.

The caves have a distinct division of two. One is situated that is a group of 4 more towards the North West and the other part which is a big group of 15 is located more towards the north east of the area. Mahakali caves are carved out of solid basalt rock. They are also known as viharas or cells for

monks. The monks used to stay in these cells. The cave no 9 the largest of the caves have images of Lord Buddha engraved on them but they are not clearly visible as they have become mutilated. [11]

### 3.4. Jogeshwari Caves

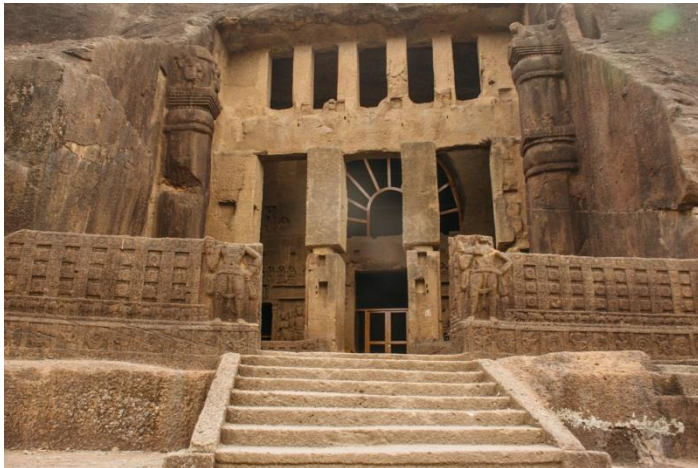


**Figure 4 Pillars of Jogeshwari Caves**

Jogeshwari caves are known to be the first and largest Hindu temple caves in India. These caves are the initial Hindu and Buddhist temples. The entrance to Jogeshwari caves is surrounded by rocks on both sides. It was formerly known as Amboli cave named after the Amboli village. The entrance of the cave leads to a big hall area. The cave has various engraved portraits and sculptures on the walls. These sculptures have been engraved very beautifully. Inside the cave numerous

pillars have been built. There are 6 pillars on each side forming a sort of central section. In the middle of the pillars is situated the temple in which shrine is present. The pillars act as a boundary for the temple. On the east of the area, a Hanuman temple is there and a porch is present. The porch has giant figures engraved on the side walls. On the wall above, figures of Lord Shiva in a seated position is present with the left side having figures of marriage proceedings of Lord Shiva. The porch has a length of about 30 feet. [10]

### 3.5. Kanheri Caves



**Figure 6** Entrance of Kanhari Caves

Location: Sanjay Gandhi National Park  
Attractions: Basalt formations, 109 special entrances, deciduous green forests, ancient architecture. A Cluster Of Rock Cut Monuments [7]

The name of these caves has originated from the Sanskrit word 'Krishnagiri', meaning black in colour. Kanheri Caves are located about 5 km from the entrance of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. [5]

These caves were formed between 1st century BC and 9th century AD, with the earliest rocks comprising 109 tiny rock cut cells. Most caves were named as Buddhist Viharas in ancient times and were meant for living, study and meditation. Kanheri caves are divided into three different caves, each of which has a stone plinth for a bed. There is a congregation hall, which has huge stone pillars containing a stupa (a Buddhist shrine). Cave number 3 has two statues of Lord Buddha at the entrance. Presently, the caves contain more than 100 inscriptions, carved in Pallavi, Brahmi, Devnagari and Sanskrit. Further up the hill, remains of ancient water systems, cisterns and canals are found that were once used to channel and collect rainwater into huge tanks. [6]

### 3.6. Mandapeshwar Caves



**Figure 7** Mandapeshwar Caves

The Mandapeshwar Cave is an 8th Century rock-cut shrine dedicated to Shiva located near Mount Poinisur in Borivali

This cave consists of a main garbhagriha, antarala, mandapa and open space called prangana in front of it. Provision of stair cases at the level of mandapa is provided, where on its both sides, lions are depicted. Few Shaivaite narrative panels including

Nataraj, image of Lakulisa in Vyakhyana mudra are sculpted here. Mandapeshwer cave has sculptures of

Nataraja, Sadashiva and a splendid sculpture of Ardhanarishvara. It also has Ganesha, Brahma and Vishnu statuettes. These Works depict the mythical tales of the Hindu gods and goddesses. Even today an elaborate sculpture representing the marriage of Shiva with Parvati may be viewed from the large square window at the south end of these caves. The cave is declared as an archaeological heritage site and therefore is protected under law. [9]

#### 4. Schedule of Circuit

**TABLE 2: Schedule of Circuit**

Timing	Action
8:00 – 8:30	Gather at Gateway of India
8:30 – 9:00	Way to Elephanta ( By Ferry)
9:00 – 11:00	Exploring Eleohanta Caves
11:00 – 11:30	Return to Gateway of India
11:30 – 12:30	Way To Mahakali Caves
12:30 – 1:30	Exploring Mahakali Caves
1:30 – 2:15	Lunch
2:15 – 2:30	Way to Jogeshwari Gufa
2:30 – 3:00	Exploring Jogeshwari Caves
3:00 – 4:00	Way to Kanheri Caves
4:00 – 5:30	Exploring Kanheri Caves
5:30 – 6:00	Way to Mandapeshwar Cave
6:00 – 7:00	Exploring Mandapeshwer Cave
7:00 – 8:30	Return to The Gateway of India

(Where, The Gateway of India is a pick up and drop station)

#### 5. Conclusion

Hence, in this paper Cave circuit is proposed in Mumbai to promote the cultural and heritage value of the caves, preserving national heritage and environment, socio-economic development of areas, and to develop the circuit having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner, Enhancing the tourist attractiveness by developing the circuit. After implanting circuit, It can increase India's share in world tourism.[1][2]

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