

- i. apsidal vault-roof chaitya halls (found at Ajanta, Pitalkhora, Bhaja);
 - ii. apsidal vault-roof pillarless hall (found at Thana-Nadsur in Maharashtra); and
 - iii. flat-roofed quadrangular hall with a circular chamber at the back (found at Kondivite in Maharashtra).
- The three main cave tradition in western India are; **Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta.**

AJANTA

- In Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- It was declared as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983**
- Has 29 caves. 4 are chaityas
- It is the **only surviving example of paintings of 1st Century BC and 5th century CE** (5th century paintings – outward projections)
- The reference of Ajanta caves can be found in the travel accounts of Chinese Travellers **Fa Hien and Hieun Tsang**
- Vakataka Kings patronaged Ajanta Caves
- It is situated on **river Waghora**
- Cave 16, 17, 19 – Guptas**
- Early caves = Hinayana
- Later phase = Mahayana
- Theme: Jataka, Buddha, Avadhanas**

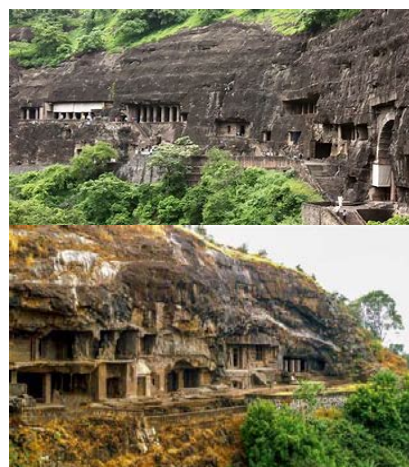


Fig: Ajanta caves

CAVE	PATRON
Cave no. 16	Varahadeva
Cave no. 17-20	Upendragupta
Cave no. 26	Buddhabhadra
Cave no. 4	Mathuradasa

- The **chaitya Cave Nos. 19 and 26** are elaborately carved. Their facade is **decorated with Buddha and Bodhisattva images.**
- Cave No. 26** is very big and the entire interior hall is carved with a variety of Buddha images, the biggest one being the **Mahaparinibbana image.**