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TRAVEL TO AURANGABAD

A Heritage Journey Through Ancient India

Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad Caves, Ajanta, Ellora, Daulatabad Fort
Curated Kerala Itinerary | Luxury • Culture • Experiences



DAY 01

ITINERARY DETAILS

AURANGABAD

- **Arrive at Aurangabad** Airport. Transfer to the hotel and check in.

Aurangabad was named after the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who made it his capital. He was known as a complex and controversial ruler — it was he who imprisoned his father, Shah Jahan, the builder of the Taj Mahal.

Afternoon Sightseeing

- **Bibi-ka-Maqbara** — Built by Aurangzeb in memory of his wife Rabia Durrani, this tomb was intended to surpass the Taj Mahal in grandeur. Often called the 'Taj of the Deccan.'
- **Panchakki (Water Mill)** — A remarkable feat of Mughal engineering: water was harnessed to power large grinding stones used as a flour mill. The garden also contains the tomb of a Muslim saint.
- **Aurangabad Caves (Caves 7, 10 & 13)** — Rock-cut caves carved from the 2nd century BC to the 2nd century AD. Cave 7 features a striking figure of Bodhisattva Padmapani, depicted praying for deliverance from eight fears — each illustrated in stone.

Overnight in Aurangabad

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DAY 02

AJANTA CAVES

- **Morning - Breakfast at hotel.**
- **Depart for Ajanta — approximately 2 hours by road.**

Ajanta Caves Hewn out of horseshoe-shaped rock by Buddhist monks, Ajanta comprises 30 caves — 26 monasteries and 4 temples — containing some of the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian wall paintings and sculpture. The paintings depict the life and teachings of the Buddha, as well as his previous lives (Jataka tales). Natural light entering the caves at different angles throughout the day creates a dramatic, ever-changing atmosphere that has awed visitors for centuries.

- UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.
 - Carry water and comfortable walking shoes — the site involves considerable walking.
 - Battery-powered buses run from the entry gate to the cave complex.
- **Evening - Return drive to Aurangabad.**

Overnight in Aurangabad





DAY 03

ELLORA · GRISHNESHWAR · DAULATABAD

- **Morning — Ellora Caves**

Ellora is widely considered the pinnacle of ancient Indian rock-cut architecture. Thirty-four shrines — Buddhist, Hindu and Jain — span over 2 km of cliff face, representing five centuries of artistic endeavour (5th–11th century AD). They coexist in remarkable harmony, embodying India's tradition of religious pluralism.

- **Kailash Temple (Cave 16)**

The centrepiece and one of the world's greatest architectural feats. This monolithic temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, was carved top-down from a single basalt cliff. It is estimated that over 200,000 tons of rock were removed. The Ramayana, Mahabharata and stories of Shiva are depicted throughout.

- **UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.**



- **Afternoon**

- **Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga Temple**

One of the 12 sacred Jyotirlingas of India, located adjacent to Ellora. An important pilgrimage site for devotees of Lord Shiva. Modest dress required; non-Hindus may have restricted access to inner sanctum

- **Daulatabad Fort**

A formidable 14th-century hill fortress, once called Devagiri. Features multi-layered defenses including a moat, drawbridge, dark tunnel passages, and a steep climb to the summit. Allow 60–90 minutes.

Overnight in Aurangabad

DAY 04

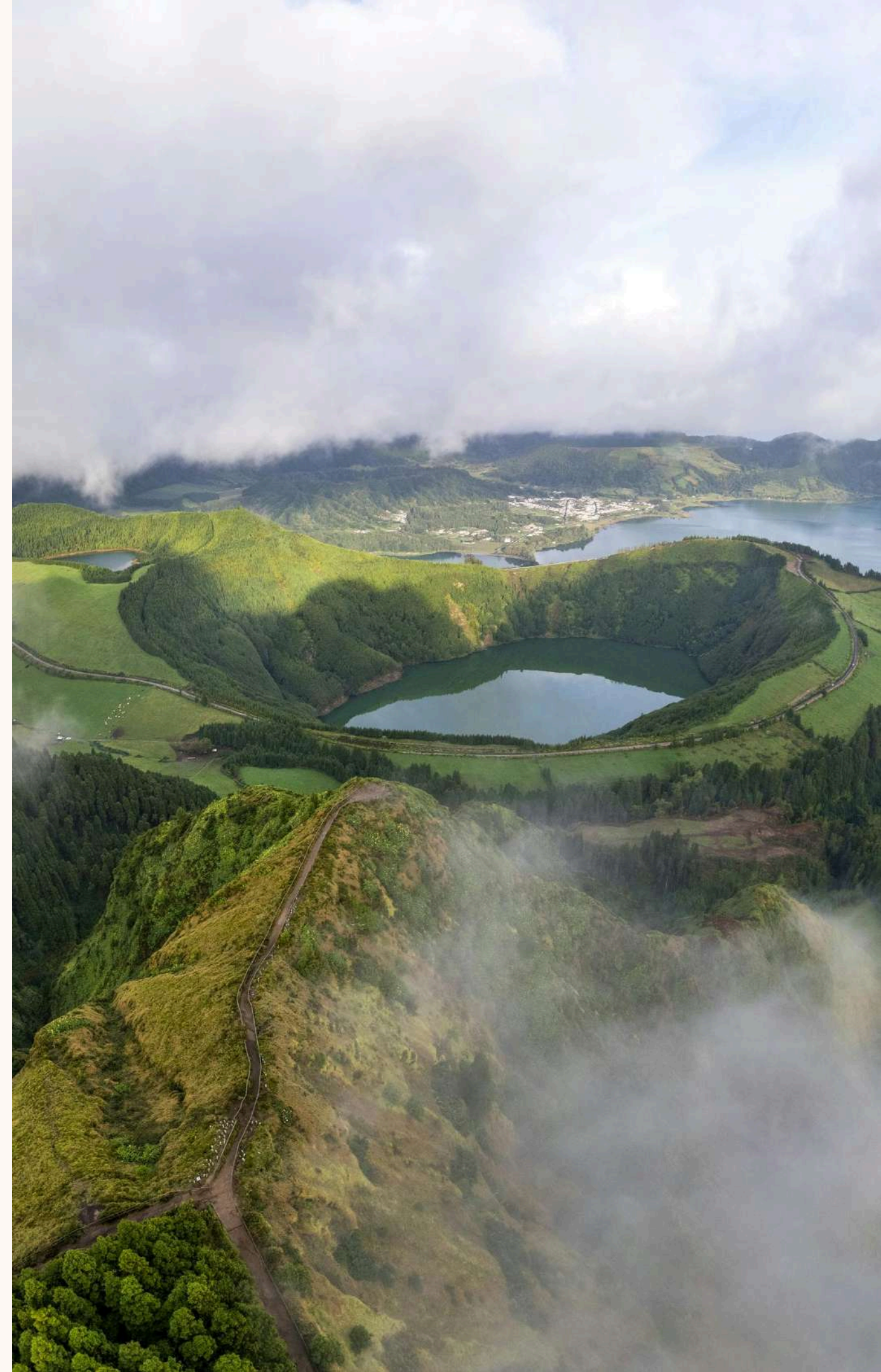
DEPARTURE

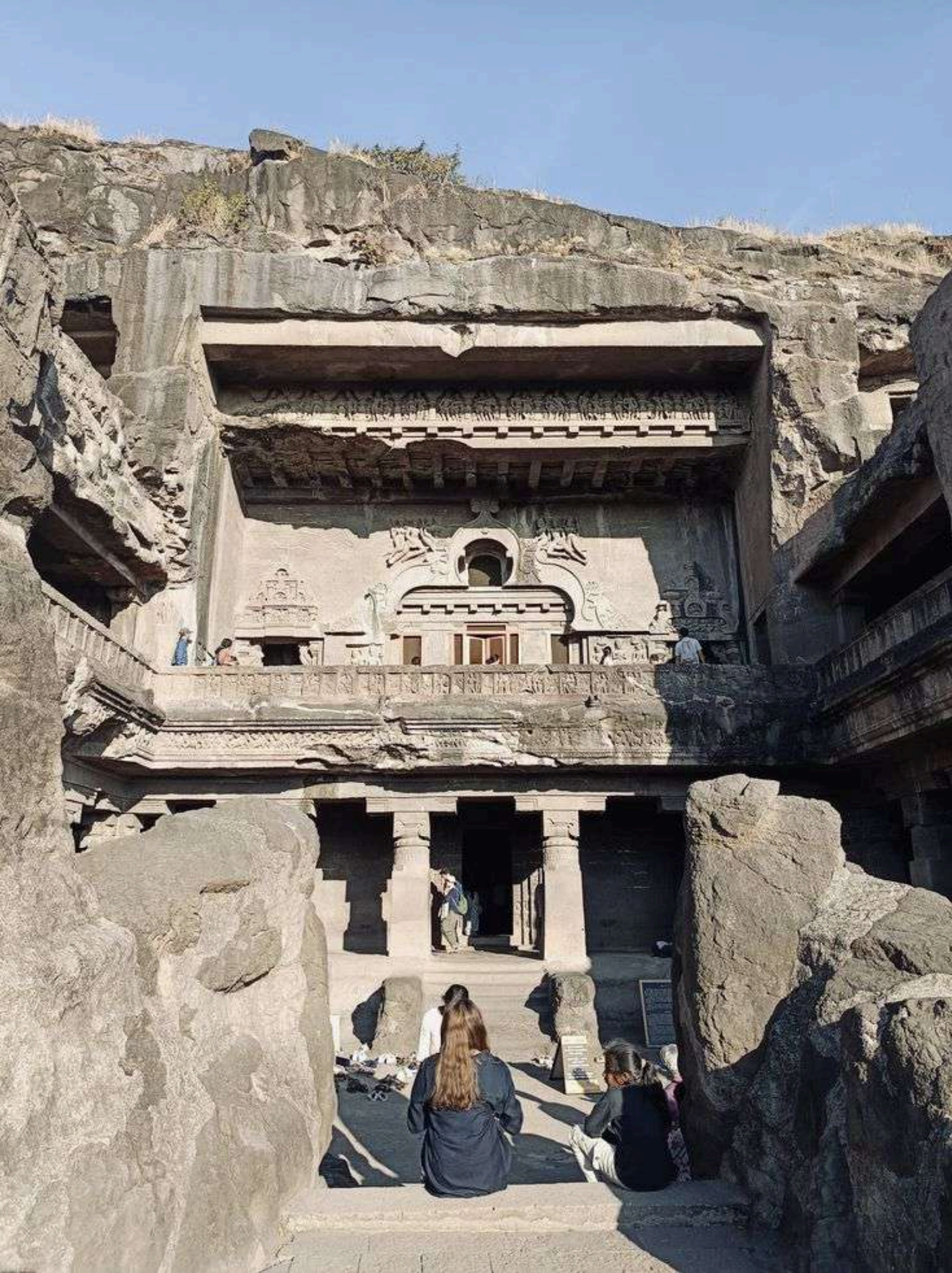
- **Breakfast at hotel.**
- **Transfer to Aurangabad Airport for onward journey.**

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: Lonar Crater Lake

A 50,000-year-old meteorite impact site approximately 3 hours from Aurangabad. The saline-alkaline lake within the crater is one of only four such basaltic impact craters in the world. Ideal for those with an interest in geology or offbeat natural wonders

Flight times, hotel names and local guide arrangements to be confirmed at time of booking. Entry fees to all UNESCO sites are payable locally. Please carry valid photo ID





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