

<b>Code</b>	<b>CR004 (Post-Congress)</b>
<b>Title:</b> <i>Sculptures In Deccan Basalts: Impact Crater To Rock-Cut Caves</i>	
<i>Geological Reference:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lunar Crater:</b> <i>a hypervelocity meteorite impact crater developed in the basaltic lava flows of the Deccan Volcanic Province (DVP). Seven lava flows belonging to Chikli and Buldhana formations are exposed along the inner slopes of the crater. It is believed that the impact was caused by a hypervelocity bolide or a meteor. The most important evidences include the relatively unaltered morphology of the crater on one hand and the identification of the subsurface breccias beneath the sediments in the crater, presence of shocked minerals, glasses and ejected melt breccias on the other.</i></li> <li>• <b>Ajanta and Ellora caves:</b> <i>The rock-cut caves of central Deccan province are the world famous sites of rock-cut caves of ancient times. The Ajanta caves (30 in number) are excavated in a 76 m high semicircular escarpment carved out of this compound pahoehoe lava flow by the Waghur River that descends in a waterfall beyond the last cave. It is the pahoehoe flow that hosts the caves ornamented with delicate sculptures and frescos. The Ellora caves are located at the foot of N-S trending hill that rises to about 160 m above extensive plains of the Shivna River to the west. Two basaltic compound pahoehoe flows are exposed on the hill slopes. The caves have been excavated from top downward in the lower flow consisting of 18 units. Both the lava flows display many features typical of the inflated pahoehoe lava lobes.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>International appeal of the proposal:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lunar Crater</b> <i>is the best preserved terrestrial impact crater in basalt, it provides unique opportunities for comparison with craters in lunar maria and Mars and samples of shocked basalt.</i></li> <li>• <b>Ajanta and Ellora caves</b> <i>are protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India and listed under UNESCO World Heritage sites. Besides the visit to the cave sites, internal features of the pahoehoe lava flows in Ellora and the geomorphology of the Ajanta area, the field excursion is also expected to generate lively discussions on the suitability of pahoehoe flows in creating rock-cut caves and contributions of geological studies in preservation of ancient monuments. Caves of Ellora belonging to different faiths, built in proximity, demonstrate the religious harmony prevalent during this period of Indian history.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>No. of days</b>	<i>Six</i>
<b>Maximum nos. of participants that can be accommodated:</b> <i>Min.25 Max.30</i>	



*Figure 1: Ajanta Caves - panoramic view*



*Figure 2: Rock-cut sculptures at Ajanta Cave*



*Figure 3: Kailasa temple at Ellora Caves*



*Figure 4: Lonar lake*