

## Field Transect: ER004, Rajgir-Bodh Gaya- Barabar Geotourism: A unique geological and historical heritage of Bihar

### Geological Significance:

- The geo tourism transect encompassing the Gaya-Rajgir volcano-sedimentary belt and associated magmatic complex is a novel litho stratigraphic package situated on the northern fringe of Chotanagpur Gneissic Complex (CGC).
- At the northern face of Rajgir, along with all its antiquities, lies the recently explored volcano sedimentary sequence by GSI which is a hotspot for rare geological features and has been proposed to be preserved as a National Geological Monument. It exhibits some of the best exposed pillow basalt and associated assemblages with geological relevance. Pyroclastic rocks and Banded Iron Formations are added attractions.
- Apart from these, there are also many Hotsprings near Rajgir which have a geological origin and are a tourists delight. The Chariot mark within phyllite has a mythological essence to it with plausible geological explanation.
- Excellent exposures of pillow basalt are at Churi, Gulni and Jagannathpur. Preservation of hillock at Churi village- renders it a Geoarchaeological heritage.
- The magmatic suite of rocks comprising Barabar-Nagarjuni Magmatic Complex (BNMC) host the titaniferous magnetite ore bodies associated with gabbro-anorthosite suite of rocks.
- The Ghorakatora Lake situated in the picturesque core of antiformal closure of Rajgir fold is another geological spectacle. Surrounded by small hills, the lake looks picturesque and makes for an ideal spot for witnessing the textbook type structural features.



THE GHORA KATORA LAKE

**Duration: 3 Days**

**Date of Excursion: Pre Congress**

**Max. Participants: 20**

### GEOTOURIST SITES:



BANDED CARBONACEOUS CHERT



THE CHARIOT MARK



PILLOW BASALT



BRAHMA KUND HOT SPRING

### International Attraction:

- ✓ Around Rajgir, lies the ruins of Nalanda University, Vishwa Shanti stupa already included in the World Heritage Sites which will have immense international relevance. The Cyclopean Wall, The Mountain Man attraction at Gehlaur, Pounding marks, Mauryan sculptures and images in granites and basalt, the 80ft high statue of Lord Buddha and innumerable tales associated with the place are just some of the many attractions that provide immense international importance to the transect.
- ✓ The Barabar and Nagarjuna hills hosting manmade caves are the glorifying examples of medieval architecture and one of its kind in the country. The caves have been fashioned with the finest architecture prevailing during those times and carry antiquities, relics and inscriptions of the rich historical past engraved in the country rock, which will be an exciting geotourism aspect for the IGC Participants
- ✓ The rock engravings in Granite at Kauadol are some of the best preserved arts of those times. The deities, their lifestyle, culture, religion, worship and much more reflect the sculptors brilliance in depicting stories in stones.
- ✓ The transect highlighting “geotourism” in the state of Bihar is a perfect example of how geological ground expressions can be clubbed with internationally acclaimed archaeological sites. Well-spaced in a three-day excursion, the transect is expected to be a great attraction for the visiting delegates.
- ✓ Rarely one finds a geological find so suitably placed in the historical domain as this proposed site. Roughly falling between Gaya, Bodh Gaya and Rajgir, Nalanda, the excursion area is undoubtedly the hub of tourists from all parts of the country and globe for its historical and cultural importance. This adds an unparalleled flavor to the site, giving it the well-deserved aesthetic value and a distinction of an important geotourist center as a package.

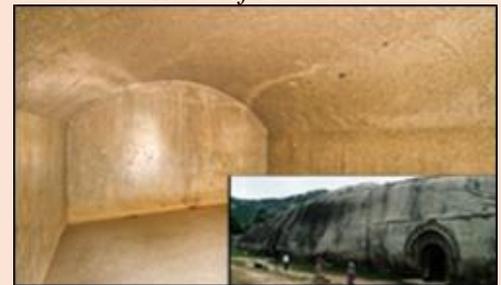
### GEOTOURIST SITES:



Gehlaur Passway



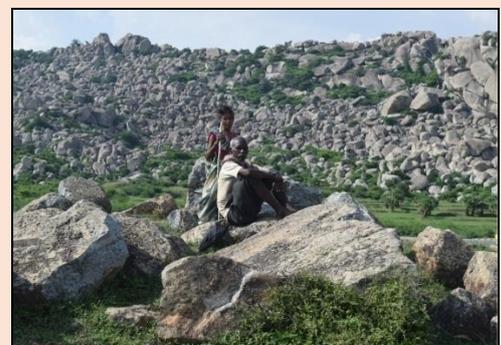
Ruins of Nalanda



Barabar Caves



Kauadol



Panoramic view of disposition of granite and anorthosite, barabar hill

