



Rajgir

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| District | : Nalanda |
| Commissionery | : Patna |
| Headquater | : Bihar sharif |
| Sub-Division | : Bihar sharif, Hilsa, Rajgir |
| Population | : 19,97,995 (20 Lacs) |
| Area | : 2,361.70 Sq. Km. |
| Sea Level | : 113 Meter |
| Temperature | : Summer – 42° C - 20° C Winter – 20° C - 4° C |
| Best Season | : November - March |
| Road Route | : 105 Km from Patna 49 Km from Bakhtiyarpur |
| Rail Route | : Main Railway Station - Bakhtiyarpur |
| Air Route | : Main Airport - Gaya |
| Roadway | : 105 Km from Patna, (Bakhtiyarpur - 49 Km, Bihar Sharif - 20 Km, Nalanda - 12 Km, Pawa - 39 Km, Gaya - 66 Km, Vaishali - 145 Km). Connected to Gaya & Nalanda via straight road route, regular service of tourist buses of State Transport from Patna & Gaya |
| Railway | : Nearest Railway Station - Bakhtiarpur (On Delhi Howrah Route) Main Railway Station - Patna |
| Airway | : Nearest Airport - Gaya (34 Km) Main Airport - Patna (107 Km) |



Tourist Spots *Religious Importance*

- Vishwa Shanti Stupa
- Gridh Koot Parvat
- Amar Van (Jeevak Amravan Vihar)
- Pipila Caves
- Bimbisara Marg

Archeological *Importance*

- Fort of Ajatshatru & Bimbisara's Prison
- Treasure of Bimbisara
- Saptarni Caves
- Ashoka Pillar
- Manniyar Math

Natural Beauty

- Venu Van
- Ghora Katora





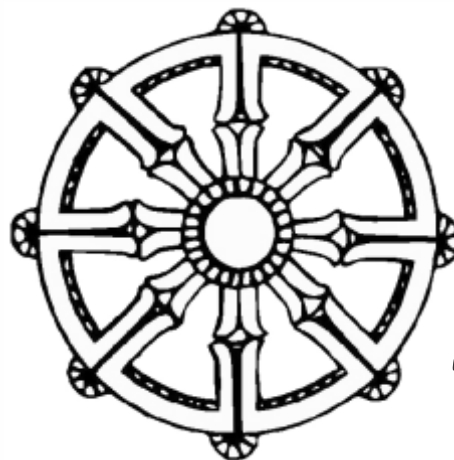
RAJGIR

Rajgir or as it was called “Rajgriha” in the ancient time of Buddha, about 2500 years back. It means the Home for the Kings. Ancient city Rajgir was the first capital of Kingdom of Magadh in the 6th Century BC. Rajgriha (Rajgir) was built by Great Architect Mahagovind. It was indeed a well-chosen place for the capital as the five surrounding hills acted as natural barrier for the enemies. The natural beauty of this city with the five hills (Panch Pahari) is in itself an enjoyable place other than the historical significance of this place. Rahul found out the names of the five hills are Rajgir-Vaibhar Behar of Mahabharata Period), Vipulachal (Chetak of Mahabharata Period), Ratnagiri (Rishigiri Mountain of Mahabharata Period), Udaigir & Sonargiri. These are about 1000 feet high and spreads across 48Km approx.

When Buddha visited here, Bimbisara the king of Magadha (present Bihar and the surroundings) had his capital at Rajgriha. Buddha as Siddhartha came from northern region toward Rajgir in search of a spiritual guide who could quench his thirst of knowing the Truth of life. He came here after His search of the truth was fulfilled to stay and preach his ideas.

Along with historical and mythological importance, this city is among those cities which are important pilgrimage place for Buddhists, Jains and Hindus. Lord Buddha (6th Century BC) meditated here on the Gridh Koot Parvat. This place was quite dear to him. After the enlightenment, Lord Buddha spent the 2nd and the 3rd periods of four month each at this place. After his Parinirvana, the first meeting of Buddhist Commune was also held here and his speeches were put to writing.

Rajgir has been known by different names during different times; 'Vasumati' in the 'Ramayana period', 'Rajgrih' in the Buddhist literature, 'Kushagrapur' in Jain text, and also was called the Girivraj', being surrounded by the mighty hills.



Dharma Wheel
One of Buddha's symbol



RAJGIR ROPEWAY a ride to remember

Hanging high in air A breath-taking ride on a single seated ropeway, from Gridh Koot Parvat to Ratnagiri Parvat covering a distance of 7 kms in 15 minutes landed me to the stupa at the hilltop. This aerial ropeway ride in Rajgir, Bihar is the most interesting ride for Tourist.



Rajgir Ropeway

buddha is calling

The 4 natural caves situated on the top of this hill were four main disciple of Lord Buddha. Many tablets made of baked clay have been discovered from these caves, which depict the Early Buddhists & Forthcoming Buddha-Maitrey seated in rows & each picture has Buddhist preaching encrypted below them. Many Buddhist remains have also been found from this place

VISHWA SHANTI STUPA

On Ratnagiri hills, the 'Vishwa Shanti Stupa' is a symbol of peace, built by the 'Indo Japanese Sarvodaya Maitri Sangh' and inaugurated by Mr. V. V. Giri in 1969. The hill is adjacent to the Gridh Koot Parvat. The Buddha stayed here for some time and taught his views.



Vishwa Shanti Stupa

GRIDH KOOT HILLS

Location: Situated at Rajgir, beside Ropeway Ratnagiri Mountain

Lord Buddha used to preach his disciples on Gridh Koot Parvat during the rainy season. He gave his second sermon here and introduced His philosophies to the then Magadha King Bimbisara.



AMRAVAN (JEEVAK AMRAVAN VIHAR)

Under the patronage of Magadh State and became the Royal Physician of Magadh King Bimbisara. The King gifted Jeevak this Mango Orchard (Amravan), where he started living and this place became known as Jeevak Amravan. The legend says Buddha was brought here when He was wounded by his jealous cousin Devdatt and was treated by Jeevak here.

Jeevak gifted his Amravan to Buddha and the Commune and the Vihar was built then. Foundations and walls of some huge circular rooms, rectangular rooms are seen among the ruins here. The structure of this building is different from the structure of other Buddhist Vihars. As it is one of the earlier constructions so it is obvious that at that time of the construction, the standardization of Buddhist Vihars was not in practice.



rajgir



VENUVAN VIHAR

Venuvan Vihar, (at the east of Saraswati River) was Bimbisara's first gift to Buddha. It is said that once the King, after taking bath at the river got late and the gates of the city were closed. So he spent the night in the company of Buddha



PIPALA/PIPPALA CAVE (Jarasandh Ki Baithak)

The Peepal Cave or Jarasandh Ki Baithak as is known locally is a stone structure on the eastern slope of Vaibhar Hills (a little further up of the Shatdhara Warm Water Spring).

It is found in Buddhist scriptures, Pippal, (the other name of Mahakashyap, main disciple of Lord Buddha and the first Chairman of the Buddhist Union) lived here. Once when Mahakashyap, extremely hurt, physically and emotionally and was lying here, Buddha himself came here to meet him.



This place is also associated with the Magadh emperor Jarasandh of the Mahabharata period. 'Jarasandh Ki Baithak' means the gathering place of Jarasandh. The tale goes as that here the tyrant king used to invite other kings in wrestling and imprisoned them after defeating. Some believe that king Jarasandh used to conduct political planning with his ministers at this place. Built with rectangular stones over the warm water springs, this could also have been used as a watch tower.

These cave structures are one among the oldest remains of other Indian architecture.

It is in the shape of rectangular platform which is 25.9 Meter in length, 24.7 Meter in breath from the base & 24.8 Meter & 24 Meter from the top respectively. It is about 6 to 8 Meter high.

Popularly known as Garasanth Ki- Baithak this massive stone structure with cells on all sides has been identified with this Pippala stone house frequented by the Buddha (c.563-483 B.C.)

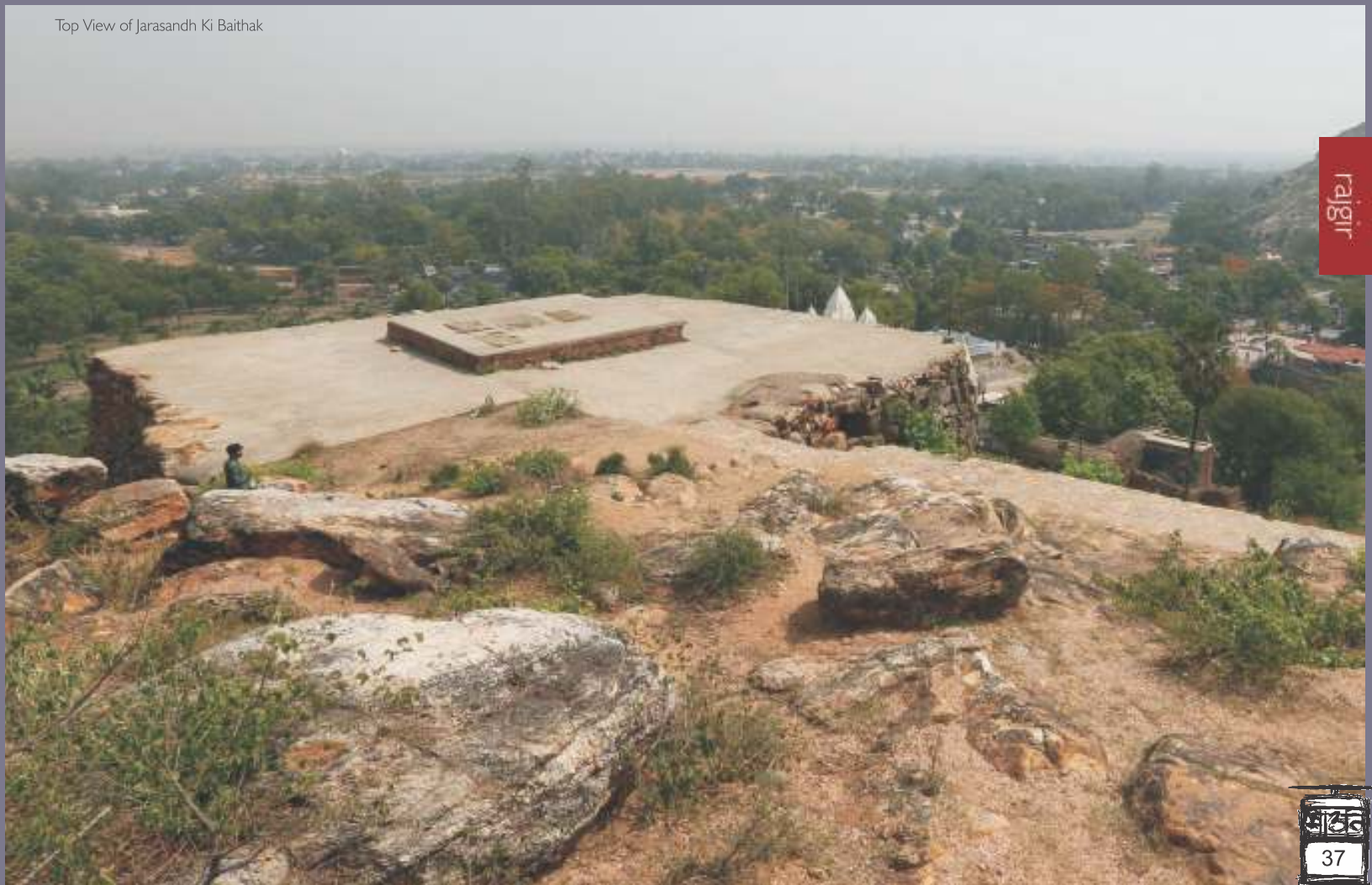
CHARIOT WHEEL MARK AND SHELL CHARACTERS



Chariot Wheel Marks

Location : Near by Jeevak Amar Van

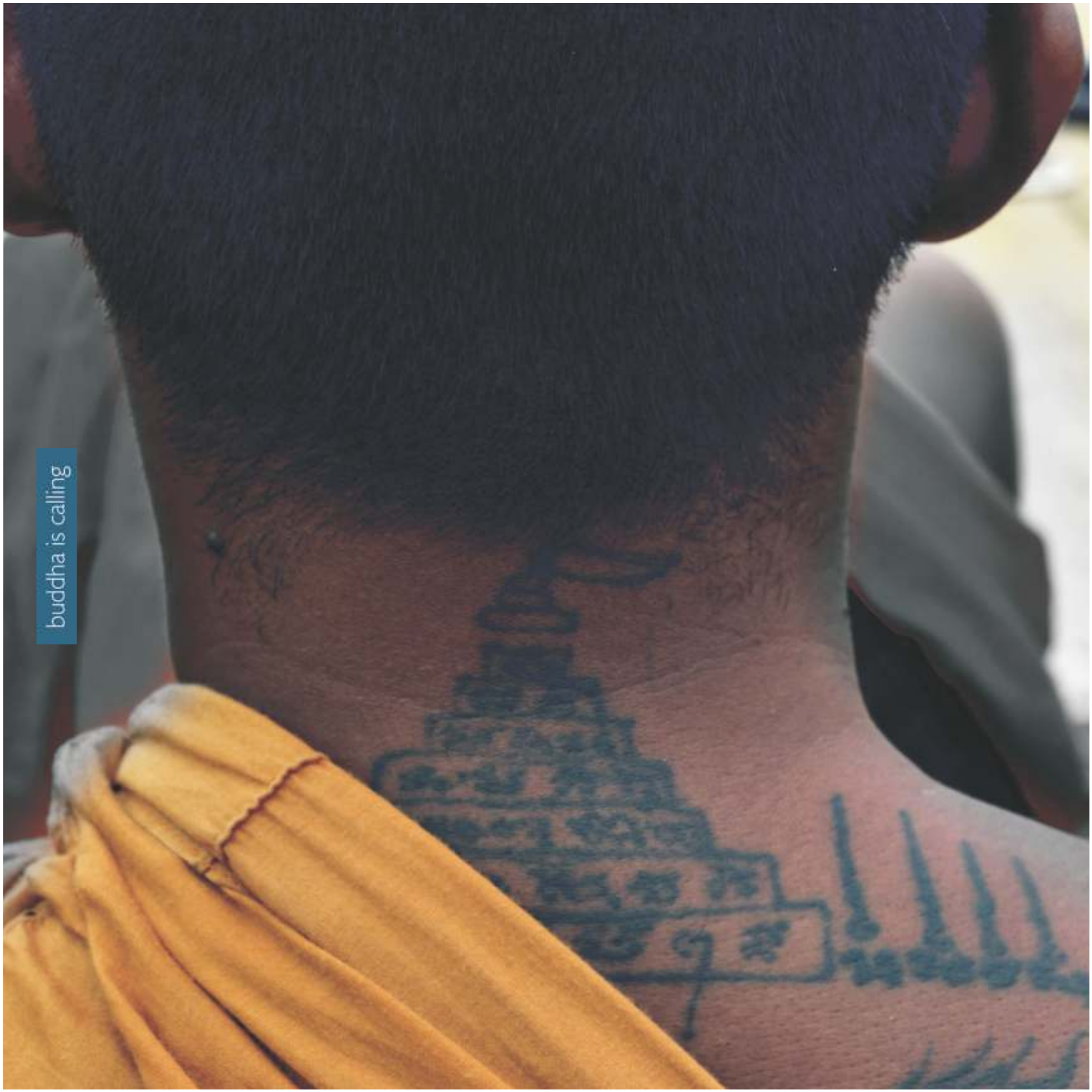
Importance : This Archaeological Area Indicates some parts of Chariot wheel mark and shell inscriptions. These shell inscriptions which have been found in many places in Rajgir and Northern India have not yet been deciphered. Probably these shell inscriptions belong to 4th or 5th century A.D. According to legend the chariot wheel marks belong to the Mahabharata period.



Top View of Jarasandh Ki Baithak

rajgir





buddha is calling

CYCLOPEAN WALL OF OLD RAJAGRIHA

Location : Rajgir is surrounded by This Fort Wall

Importance : These massive dry built wall of large unhewn stones form the outer artifications of Old Rajagriha and extend nearly 30 miles along the crest of the hills. They are among the oldest remains at Rajgir.



rajgir

FORT OF AJATSHATRU & BIMBISARA'S PRISON

Location: Situated at Rajgir, Fort of Ajatshatru, spread over 1858 Sq.meters & Bimbisara's Prison, inside it. Approx. 1 Km South-east of Bimbisara's Golden Treasury.

Importance: According to historical sources King Ajatshatru (6th Century BC), after becoming the king, kept his father Bimbisara in a small prison (Bimbisara's Prison) inside his fort (Fort of Ajatshatru). Built in the 6th Century BC, there were stone towers on all four corners of this 60 Meter long & 2 Meter broad square wall.

King Bimbisara chose this place in the last years of his life so that he can see Lord Buddha going to Gridh Koot Parvat every morning. Lord Buddha resided there in this period.

Many archaeological remains have been found here in excavation, which include small rooms of stone. Besides this, in 1930, a huge iron chain was found during the maintenance of this fort, which had a ring on one end. It is believed that this might have been used as hand cuff.



TREASURE OF BIMBISARA (GOLDEN TREASURY) : SON BHANDAR CAVES

Location : These two caves located at the southern foot of Vaibhar hills are popularly known as son Bhandar

Importance : The caves were excavated during 3rd-4th century A.D. by the great saint Vairadeva for Jaina sages. As per an incription recorded in between the door and window of the western cave.

Internally the caves are rectangular on plan with straight walls up to a certain height and vault-shaped roof there upon. The countryard in-front and the beam holes seen on the exterior of the caves suggest that there was a roofed verandah attached to it.

The eastern cave depicts beautiful images of Jain Thirthankars like padmaparabh, Parsvanath, Mahavira and others carved in relief on the southern wall. The upper story was added with the help of brick structure and rock-cut stair case for approach during Gupta period.



Mahakashyapa Cave

SAPTAPARNI CAVES

Location: Saptaparni Caves are situated on the northern slope of the Vaibhar Hills (Below the Jain Temple of Adinath). It is a group of six caves, which were probably seven in their original form.

Importance: After the Nirvana of Lord Buddha, the first summit of the Buddhists was held here due to the migration of Bimbisara's Son Ajatshatru, which lasted for six months. Lord Buddha's teachings were first put to writing at this place.

Saptaparni Caves is long man-made structures of rocks. Stones have been fixed at some portions of this path. The place in front of the caves is 36.57 Meter long & 10.36 Meter broad in the east & 3.65 Meter broad in the west. The wall that shows the outer side of this place was made of Angarh stone & only 5 Meter & 2.4 Meter of which remains.



Saptaparni Caves

GIRIYAK STUPA



At the peak of one hill of the Sailagiri Range an important and quite unique cylindrical shaped remains of a stupa is situated. The base pedestal of the stupa measure about 10' high and the cylindrical brick stupa on it is about 28' in diameter and the height 21'. There is an ancient stone path about 20' wide that leads to the peak till the stupa. The remains of plasters indicate that the stupa was once decorated with stucco images.

The Ghora Katora Lake and the path leading to it is a splendid view to be enjoyed from the hilltop.

MANIYAR MATH

Location: Situated on the way to Sone Bhandar Caves, is basically a well on which a small Jain Temple is built. This monastery is situated 1 Km from the Warm Water Spring.

Importance: Maniyar Math is called the Nirman Koop of Queen Chalanna & Sheelbhadra in Jain history. Ajatshatru's mother Chalanna was the princess of Videh (Vaishali). Maniyar Math is also believed to be the place of Yagna of Buddhist era. It is construction of cylindrical bricks. It is an amazing example of art of Gupta period (320 - 550 AD). This place was built in the memory of Naga Salibadra. It is said that he got his treasure buried in this well.



In 1861 -62, General Cunningham got this place excavated. In the excavation, many statues were found at the depth of 19 feet. Historians believe that these statues were of the period from 1st Century to 6th Century AD.

Pali Scripture, Sanyukta Nikay has it describes as Manimaal-Chaitya, where Lord Buddha had a dialogue with Manibhadra Yaksha.

Hindu Scripture, Mahabharata has the description of Rajgriha as the Holy residence of Mani Naga. Probably this place the residing place of Mani Naga in the Mahabharata period & the word Maniyar has been developed from the ancient word Manimaal (Mani Naga). Due to statues of Lord Shiva & Nagas found at different times, it is believed that this place was an important place of Naga Worshipers in the Shaiv period.

GHORA KATORA, FEEL HEAVENLY

Ghora Katora is an idyllic natural lake surrounded by hills in Rajgir which had been developed as a tourist destination maintaining the ecological balance. The personal initiative of the present Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar with the deep understanding of the importance of ecology the place is nurtured with the sensitivities of Nature. The only vehicles allowed in the area are bicycles and horse carts (Tonga) to keep away any adverse effect of pollutions. The Tonga ride from the foothill of Gridhkoot Parvat (also Vishwa Shanti Stupa Hill) amidst the greenery of the surrounding hills is a thoroughly enjoyable time.

राजगीर



*“All that we are is the result of what we have thought.
The mind is everything. What we think we become.”*
-Buddha

buddha is calling



Fa Hien (337 - 422 CE)

He was the first pilgrim and scholar from China to reach India in search of Buddhism.

A foreigner having no knowledge in Indian language he confronted the adverse weather,

dangerous terrain through Taklamakan desert and other countries.

He stayed at Patna then Pataliputra to learn Sanskrit language and copying Buddhist text (Vinaya).

He also visited Sri Lanka.

His travel narrations are very important piece of historical document.