

“You can only lose what you cling to”
-Buddha



Gaya

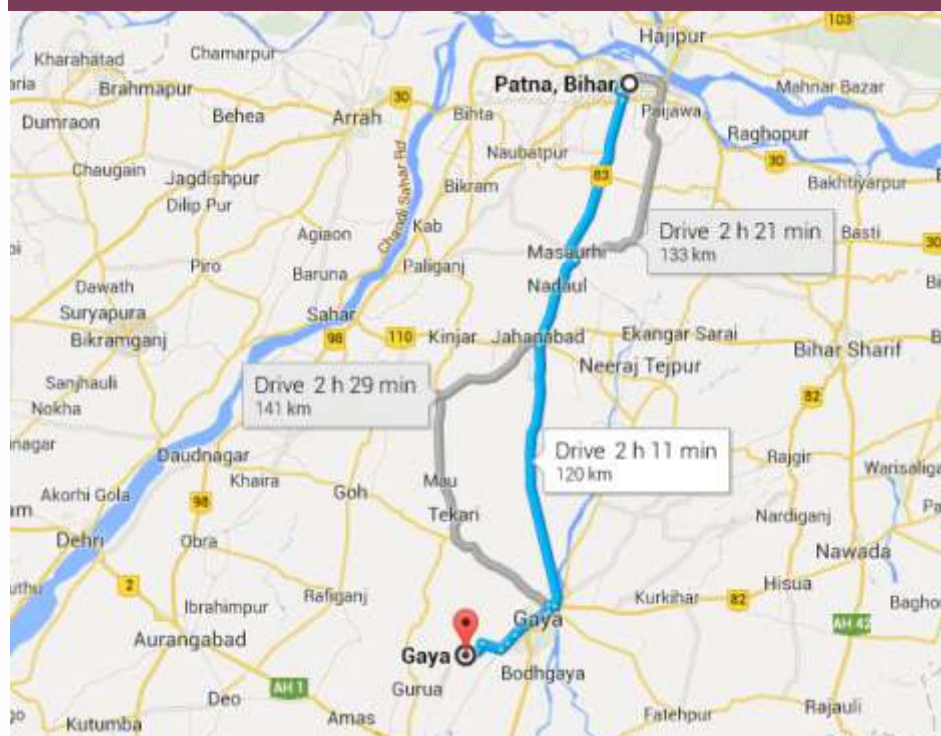




District	: Gaya
Commissionery	: Magadh
Headquater	: Gaya
Sub-Division	: Gaya Sadar, Sherghati, Tekari
Population	: 26,64,803 (27 Lacs)
Area	: 4,941 Sq. Km.
Sea Level	: 113 Meter
Temperature	: Summer – 46°C - 18°C Winter – 20°C - 4°C
Rainfall	: 18.6 cm
Best Season	: November - February
Road Route	: 112 Km from Patna
Rail Connectivity	: Nearest Railway Station - Gaya (458 Km from Kolkata; 220 Km from Varanasi 589 Km from Puri)
Main Railway Station	: Gaya
Air Connectivity	: Nearest Airports at Gaya and Patna

Archaeological Sites

- Brahmayoni Hills
- Dungeshwari Hills
- Kauvadol Hills
- Gaya Museum



DUNGESHWARI HILLS

Situated on the other side of river Phalgu near Sujata Garh (Bakraur) on the Gaya - Jamuawa - Surhari More route. Before the final revelation at the Bodhi tree the Buddha visited this site; thus named 'Pragbodhi Hill' (pre-bodhi).

On the top of the hill is a Buddhist and a Hindu temple and seven ruins of an Ashokan Stupa, dating back to 300 BC.

Siddhartha meditated long in this cave starving; until he became so lean that he could feel his back bone by touching his stomach.

When Sujata saw his emaciated body, with heartfelt compassion she offered him payasam (Sweet rice porridge). Touched by her kindness, the Buddha accepted her offering & realized the futility of all the pious sacrifices and self - mortifications. He realized starvation can never lead to enlightenment and thus headed in want of further truth.

The statue of the Buddha is placed in the cave, mirroring his starvation phase.

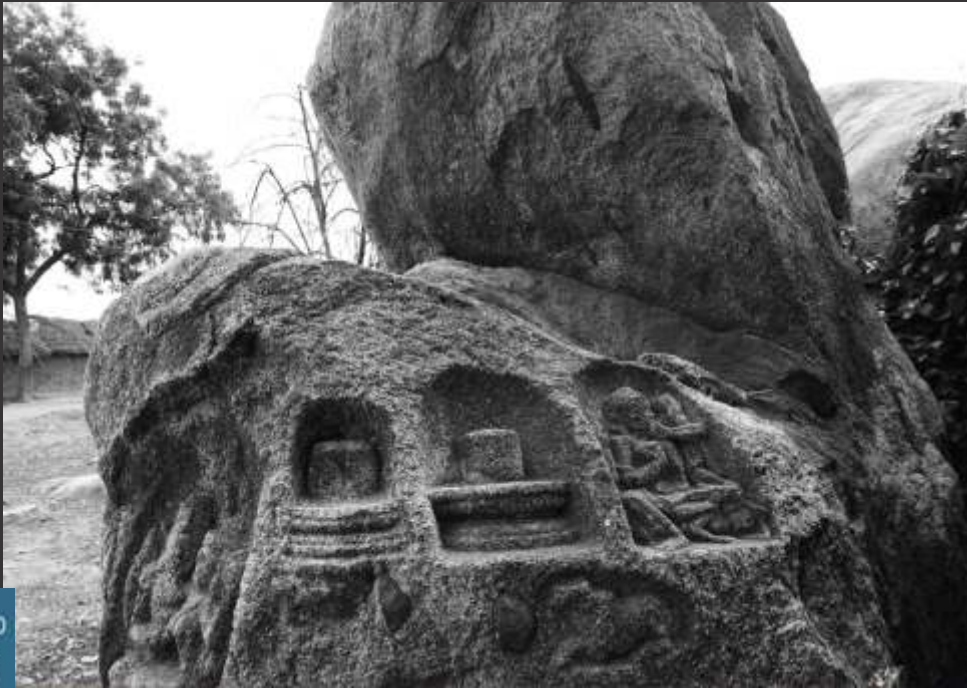


Dungeshwari Hills

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KAUVADOL HILLS - ROCK-CUT-SCULPTURES



buddha is calling

Remains of an ancient Buddhist mound have been found here. At the base of the mountain, It is fascinating to see the huge boulders with numerous reliefs of Hindu deities including Shiva and Durga as consorts 'Hara-Gauri', (Hara is Shiva's other name and Gauri of Durga's). Some are the representation of Durga's manifestation as 'Mahishashurmardini', the terminator of the Mahishasur (the buffalo demon).

This place also finds a special mention in the narrations of Hiuen-Tsang.

Location: 32 km far from Gaya District Headquarter, 20 km from Bela, 6 km from south-west Barabar caves (Jehanabad). Kuvadol Hills is situated about a mile south-west of Barabar Hills, situated north-east of Belaganj block.

On the north and eastern side of the hill, amidst nature, free from any structural boundary, scattered randomly are the stone carved relics of Ganesha the elephant headed God, Nandi the Bull carrier of Shiva, Shivalinga the phallic image of Shiva and some reliefs of the Buddha in different posture as Vajrasattva and Prajnaparamita.

The site is preserved by the ASI (Archaeological Survey of India).

GAYA MUSEUM

Situated: Gandhi Maidan

Significance: Declared as Gaya Museum-cum-Magadh Cultural Centre, it avails & displays all the relevant information about cultural heritage of the region under one roof.

Established in 1952 by a local lawyer Baldev Prasad. Later, the museum was taken over by the Bihar Government and opened for public viewing on February 14, 1970.

About 2000 varied antiquities of Mauryan, Gupta, Pala and Mughal dynasties have been collected and exhibited in this museum. Stone sculptures of Hindu deities Vishnu, dancing Ganesha, Tara, Surya in stone and a replica of Mahabodhi Temple in bronze are amongst the collection. The coins, old manuscript, rare sculptures of Pala period, terracotta figurines and other art objects are outstanding. Aa-ne-Akabari is among the finest collection.



gaya



“It is better to travel well than to arrive”

-Buddha

Ashoka (304 – 232 BC)

One of the most exemplary emperor of the world, he reign the Mauryan dynasty, stretching over most of the present mapped India and beyond.

After conquering Kalinga out of a gruesome & tedious battle of seven years, he underwent a sea-change and felt transformation of his soul.

On realization of importance of peace and tranquillity, he surrendered himself to the Buddha and became an ardent Buddhist follower. Later he spread Buddhism across Asia in countries like Sri Lanka, China, Syria, Egypt and Macedonia.

He built Stupas, Pillars with edicts, organized Monasteries (Sangha) and gave them a unified shape. The followers of Buddhism and the historians value them till date. The aesthetics of the Stupas and Pillars built with extraordinary skill testifies the glory of India during his reign.

Bodhi Tree

buddha is calling

