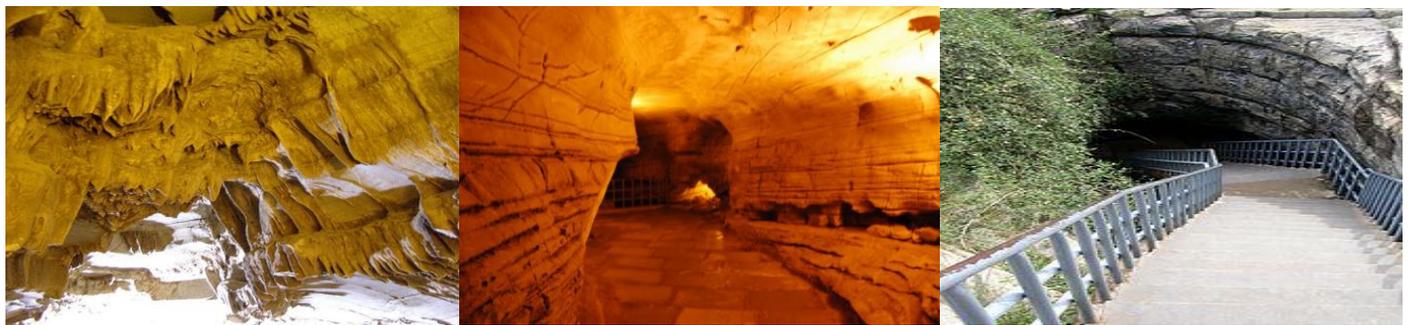




BelumCaves

Situated 110 km from Kurnool, it is the longest cave system in the plains of India. These underground caves are located under a flat agricultural field and have three well like cavities with the central one being the main entrance. The exquisite stalactite and stalagmite formations and the imaginative colour illumination are the main attractions of the Belum Caves, which were adjudged as an "Unique Eco-Tourism Project"-by-the-Government-of-India.
 Phone:08510-236633 Adult: Rs.40/- Child: Rs.25/-



Main Sections of Belum Caves : 1. Simhadwaram — Simhadwaram means lions gate. It is a natural arch of stalactites formed in the shape of a lion's head;



Meditation Hall inside Belum Caves Banyan Tree formation inside Belum Caves Passage in cave

2. Kotilingalu Chamber - This section contains stalactite formations which are akin to shiva lingams. This section has thousands of such stalactite giving it a surrealistic look. It has one huge pillar formed due to stalactite and stalagmite joining together.
3. Patalaganga - It is a small perennial stream which disappears into the depths of the earth. This stream flows from the southeast to northwest. It disappears and is believed to be heading towards a well at the Belum village, located 2 km away from the caves.
4. Saptasvarala Guha or Musical Chamber - Saptasvarala Guha means chamber of seven notes. The stalactite formations in this chamber reproduce musical sounds when these are struck with a wooden stick or knuckles. This section was opened to the public in 2006.
5. Dhyan Mandir or Meditation Hall - This section is near to the entrance. An interesting formation at Meditation hall looks like a bed with pillow to recline. The local legend has it that in ancient times many sages used to live here. This section was used by Buddhist Monks. Many



relics of Buddhist period were found here which are now housed in museum at [Ananthapur](#).

6. [Thousand Hoods](#) - This section has amazing stalactite formations shaped like hood of [Cobra](#). The stalactite formations on the ceiling looks as if thousands of cobras have opened their hoods.
7. [Banyan Tree Hall](#) - This section has a huge pillar with stalactites hanging from the ceiling. This gives a look of Banyan Tree with its aerial roots when seen from below. The locals call it "Voodalamari" since it looks like a Banyan Tree with its aerial roots hanging from the branches.
8. [Mandapam](#) - This is a huge area inside the cave with magnificent stalactite structures on the sides giving it a look of a hall with pillars.

Belum Caves is the second largest cave in Indian subcontinent and the longest caves in plains of Indian Subcontinent, known for its stalactite and stalagmite formations. Belum Caves have long passages, spacious chambers, fresh water galleries and siphons. The caves reach its deepest point (120 feet from entrance level) at the point known as *Pataalaganga*. Belum Caves derives its name from "Bilum" Sanskrit word for caves.^[1] In Telugu language, it is called *Belum Guhalu*. Belum Caves has a length of 3229 metres, making it the second largest natural caves in Indian Subcontinent.

Originally discovered in 1884 by a British surveyor Robert Bruce Foote, later in 1982-84, a team of German speleologists headed by H Daniel Gebauer conducted a detailed exploration of the caves. Thereafter in 1988, the state government declared them protected, and Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) developed the caves as a tourist attraction in February 2002. Today, 3.5 km of the cave has been successfully explored, though only 1.5 km is open to tourists.

Accommodation near Belum Caves

APTDC Punnani Hotel at Belum Caves. APTDC runs Punnami Hotel in vicinity of Belum Caves. The only accommodation type offered is a 32 beds dormitory. The charges for dormitory accommodation is Rs.40.00 per person. This hotel is planned to be upgraded in future. APTDC also runs a restaurant and a small shop at the entrance to Belum Caves.

Nearest towns are Tadipatri (30 km) and Banganpalli (20 km) where one can find hotels to stay. There are no other place nearby where one can find a restaurant or any sort of eating joint. It is advisable to carry bottled drinking water when visiting the caves since it get very hot and humid at certain sections. Kurnool (106 km) and [Ananthapur](#) (85 km) are other places to stay and these places have good hotels. Both these places are well connected by road and rail. This cave can also be reached from Nandiyal railway station falling in Guntur-Bangalore section of South Central railway, which is about 60 km away.

Distance from Major Cities & Towns: 320 km from [Bangalore](#):320 km from [Hyderabad](#):420 km from [Chennai](#):106 km from [Kurnool](#):85 km from [Ananthapur](#):165 km from [Puttaparthi](#):68 km from [Proddatur](#):30 km from [Tadpatri](#):60 km from [Nandyal](#)