

The Cave Exploration Expeditions proposed by Youth Hostels Association of India (YHAI) as a part of ‘Centenary Celebration of Youth Hostelling International and 60th Anniversary of YHA of India’ is something new in India. **An attempt will be made to explore all the caves in India over a period of three years (2009-2011) and collect basic information about the popular and not-so-popular caves in India. The findings will be compiled together in the form of a book which will contain information about the caves, location, how to reach, photographs and stories etc.**

Caving also known as *spelunking*, as a recreational sport of exploring caves is not very popular in India. A cave is a natural underground void large enough for a human to enter. Some people suggest that the term cave should only apply to cavities that have some part that does not receive daylight; however, in popular usage, the term includes smaller spaces like sea caves, rock shelters, and grottos.

To start with, we have selected North Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura) and Madhya Pradesh where these expeditions will be held. The caves in NE States provide an indomitable adventure to the cavers. The dark and deep surface of the caves provide a kind of thrill to the expeditioners.

The cave exploration will be a great thrilling experience to find out new caves, to see the existing condition of the present caves and do further study on the various caves of India.

So come and explore the mystery behind the dark.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

This expedition will be performed by the cavers who are brave enough to handle any kind of misfortune that may fall on the way of their expedition. This exploration will give a boost to the cave tourism alluring many tourists and foreigners towards this expedition.

The Cave Exploration Expedition is an exciting and physically challenging activity that involves exploring non tourist caves. These caves rarely have visitation other than cavers and you will find yourself walking, crawling, climbing, squeezing and scrambling over rock piles to make your way

through the cave. You may have an opportunity to see some wonderful and spectacular cave formations and cave creatures. The caves can range from very dry and dusty to damp, and muddy.

If you have interest in history & adventure and you find thrill in exploring the unknown nature, we invite you to join one of these expeditions as volunteer.

A volunteer will have to give minimum 21 days of his/her time in one year at a stretch. Please note it will be a high-risk adventure and will involve strenuous activities. Preference will be given to those who have experience in cave exploration or in YHAI expeditions.

Rights of selection of volunteer for the project are reserved with YHAI.

You may send your letter of Interest over e-mail to: info@yhaindia.org

Project Corordinators:

Dr. Harish K. Saxena, National Chairman, YHAI has nominated the following as Project Corordinators:

1. For N.E. States: Mr. Joliana Royte, Chairman YHAI, Mizoram Branch
2. For Madhya Pradesh: Mr. Manoj Johri, Chairman, YHAI, Madhya Pradesh Branch