

WHV – Capturing the caves of Mustang

Cave architecture of Muktinath Valley of Mustang, Nepal

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (1996)

PROJECT DATES

11 August - 23 August 2024

THE SITE - Mustang Caves or Sky Caves of Nepal are a collection of some 10,000 man-made caves dug into the sides of valleys in the Mustang District of Nepal. Several groups of archaeologists and researchers have explored these stacked caves and found partially mummified human bodies and skeletons that are at least 2,000–3,000 years old. Explorations of these caves by conservators and archaeologists have also led to the discovery of valuable Buddhist paintings, sculptures, manuscripts and numerous artifacts belonging to the 12th to 14th century. The caves lie on the steep valley walls near the Kali Gandaki River in Upper Mustang. (Source: Wikipedia)

OBJECTIVES - The project, implemented for the first time by the Bagmati UNESCO Club, aims at creating local and global awareness about the historical significance of the Cave architecture of Muktinath Valley of Mustang and fostering a sense of pride and responsibility among local communities, also promoting a broader understanding of their significance beyond the local context.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will contribute to engage local youth actively in a filmmaking and awareness campaign, gaining skills in video production, storytelling, and cultural preservation to empower them as advocates for their heritage. They will help promoting responsible tourism education, developing and disseminating educational content aimed at prospective visitors, encouraging responsible tourism practices that contribute to the sustainable preservation of the caves.

PARTNERS - Tourism Pana; Nepal National Federation of Clubs and Associations for UNESCO; Bhanu Municipality; Swotah Travels Pvt Ltd.

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