

roadtrip amby valley-mulshi-lavasa

<http://thedragonrides.blogspot.com>

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Back with the SaddleTramps on this ride. 16 hours, 400kms covering, highways, twisties, off road, rain, night, back wheel skids, eating wild fruit and barrel of laughs.

The meet point was Vashi Bridge which I know like a honing pigeon. Attending were Deepak (cant remember the name of his pillion, Sanket the Doc and Salil, 3D Glen, Vaibhav the terminator, Rohan and his pillion Raj. As usual didnt take-off on time.

Breakfast was at Panvel,

Here, we were accosted by a band of eunuchs.



Glen asked 'Did you have them in UK? 'No didnt come across any'. (pardon the pun).

'Well I dont think they are real eunuchs anyway' He added

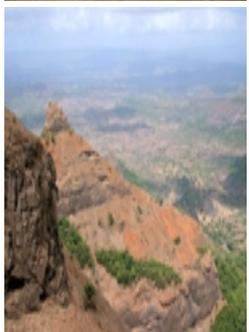
I said 'Just squeeze between their legs and if they jump 3 feet high they are not real'. He laughed.

Plan was stop in Lonavla for a Bike Nomad G2G but as we were so late getting away from Mumbai twas hard. So Deepak body swerved the group to Amby Valley City Its city built on a range of mountains/hills, a



resort for the rich who dont take kindly to day trippers.

Particularly hairy (or not) bikers. Parking at Tiger Point met up with Mumbai/Pune riders. Welcoming me heartily as one of the gang. I was even able to place faces to some of the emails I had read from site feeds.



We made towards Mulshi Dam. A down pour left a lovely smell of soil



as the ground got drenched.

At the next stop in blistering heat I took protection from my leathers whilst the boys dived to this particular bush picking what look and tasted like sweet grapes. Wild berries I was told.



We moved on to Mulshi Lake to some super scenery.

Cos of the low water levels there were islands in the lake.

Deepak remarked 'Kantibhai if you stay on that island tonight you will sleep with a crocodile'. 'Why would I want that when I sleep with one everynight!'



Going downhill I took a righthand bend a bit too fast. Its not the right thing to brake hard on a bend and gravel. A old local and pillion on a motorbike were coming the other way occupying the centre of the road like they do in India. I had to avoid them.

He beckoned me over, started ranting (like they do) in broken english, 'You how old?'

'28!'. 'I also' – *liar*.

'You ride fast, I ride slow' – *Go get a life!*

'Safety important to me only' *Thats why you do dont even wear a helmet, dumb arse!*



Having had enough of his *bak bak* I

decided to move on before I thumped him!

At Mulshi Dam to took a few pictures before heading towards Lonavala. We rode in between fields of banana plants and sugar can, The aroma was something else.



Lunch was at River Place (*no river!* Slogan: *'for the cream class'*).



The Doc was looking and feeling off



colour so he and Salil made their way back home.

decided not to go in as

On to Lavasa where I done it last week. I waited across a shack where we later had chai - they were back before I had a fag.



Down to the dam for another picture shoot.

The thing I have noticed about these bikers, they take a lot of photos of their bikes. More than their wives (*bike at the dhabbha, bike at beach, bike at a scenic vista, me and bike at movies etc*).



I decided to stop again and capture my last photo of the day, Pune bathing in sun light whilst the dark rain clouds were drifting towards it.



I caught up with the gang at the Pune junction.



They were being molested (not literally) by a drunk. Getting no joy from the gang he tried his



luck with me.

'Got 2 rupees?'

I said, 'Yes, have you'. 'Yes' he said

He replied 'Give me' to which I said 'Doesnt work like that, you give me 2 rupees'.

'No, no, I am nutcase' said the drunk.

Taking a step forward and sticking my finger to his nose I replied 'I am a bigger nutter than you!'

Before he backed off I saw the fear in his eyes! Didnt realise I could so bad.

Taking a right turn on to Pune - Mumbai road was a nightmare. Having negotiated it, I dropped the bike whilst parking up. Oops.

Parted company with Deepak. Glen and Rahul brought the ships home safely at 00.03am and a another episode came to an end. I was exhausted.



BTW, just to prevent law suits, pictures of me arent my copyright and are

being used by kind permission. I hope. CU