

roadtrip lavasa

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Lavasa Ride with Rahul and Avishkar was in late May 2010 just before the monsoons. We wanted to do Rajmachi the week before to put Dragon through her paces with some off-road mountain climbing. Alas couldnt get an overnight pass from the ministry of defence.

Looked out of my bathroom window at 5.45am, its going to be a hot day!



The meet point was 7.00am **sharp** at Vashi Naka. Arrived at 6.45 closely followed by Rahul. First thing he wants to do is take a mug shot!

Avishkar arrives a little late because he got frisked by the cops for bomb making equipment at Borivali. Well thats what his excuse was for being late!

After few formalities, we were off on the highway. Calamity hit at the first slip road. They came off and I went straight ahead! Knowing my way around these parts I came of the next slip road and backed on myself to meet up with Avishkar under the familiar Vashi flyover. Rahul went looking for me. A quick phone call and Rahul met up with us at the traffic lights further down Palm Beach Rd.



We stopped at Khopoli for fluids before I lost them again at a busy crossroads. I had got caught at traffic lights (yes you do have to obey them sometimes), they had waited for me but I had **zoomed** off.

I pulled over and Rahul asked for land marks, I replied that I was parked opposite a Nissan showroom and near Orchid something building which didnt seem to help much. He asked if I could see a brown building? What brown building! Later he told me that they passed 3 buildings called Orchid or something Orchid.!

To cut a **short** story shorter, I was asked to move on and wait for them at Chandni Chowk. Before I got there, Aviskar overtook me and we were back on song.

On the main drag to Pune after khopoli, the boys also gave me my first experience at a Napri Kiosk for a glass of this drink – a sort of a coconuty taste that is best drank out of dirty glasses. (This was probably the reason why up to now I was led to believe that these little stalls only dished out lottery tickets).

We managed to negotiate the Chowk and find the signpost to Lavasa. We stopped at the only convenient tree to be found 17kms from our destination for fluids and take pictures of the boys banking (tilting) around bends.

We moved on and stopped at the hilltop looking down on Lavasa.



Though the heat is sweltering, the roads, traffic, ride, company and views were superb.

As we looked into the valley, we could see all the construction that was taking place in this residential village. Clean, no litter and uncluttered, In a few years or so, I am sure visitors and sight seers will be barred. Not a had thing for the residents or weekend home owners who have paid a few bucks on these properties in this lovely hill station.

On reaching the heart of Lavasa, it was almost 3.00pm and decided we should eat something for the journey home.

Now one good thing in Lavasa is that you arent spoiled for choice of eating



establishments. We found two! So there wasnt any squabbling as to which one should get our custom. We chose the one that was most fly



infested. But their chicken masala was fairly tasty but to my eyes, the chicken Hyderabad (Avishkars choice) looked like green puke ala Palak Paneer. So it was only a tasting for me and I will say no more.

Funny I joked with the boys that this eatery wasnt a place were I would bring my wife and they both agreed. No sooner said and in walks a Madam Disco dressed to the nines ready for partying! Gulp. I bet Mr Disco got it in the neck all the way home!

We took more pics of our day out in Lavasa and a very dry lake/dam before a scheduled stop in Lonavla for fuel, fluids and presents to keep our loved ones happy.

Landing back at home around 10.15. Had a



role call that everyone was tucked up in bed after a 16 hour 425Kms ride still dreaming of the next one.

