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## Dev Bhoomi - Haridwar

Our two day road trip to Haridwar from Delhi

Tour Route - Delhi - Haridwar - Delhi

Total No of days - 2

Dated - August 2011

Behind the wheel & Contributor

Vinod Kumar  
New Delhi



It had been over 2 years since we visited Haridwar. Our last visit was somewhere in March 2009. My favourite place to stay there is the UP Tourism Hotel Alaknanda, as it is on the banks of river Ganga and has its ghat too. Luckily got the room via online booking for one night. We planned to leave Delhi on Sunday morning and be back by Monday evening.

Started early by 5:30 am and being a Sunday the roads were empty. We quickly reached NH-24 in just 30 minutes. Just after crossing the Hindon river there is a NH-58 bypass which goes via Raj Nagar Extension. The road is 4-laned and in good condition. This road merges with NH-58 13 kms ahead. The road then till Meerut Bypass has patches of bad road and of course big potholes. Traffic in this section was slow with a fair amount of cars & trucks.



Once we hit Meerut Bypass, things changed, the roads were 4-laned and we could maintain a consistent speed of 100+. Meerut to Muzaffarnagar may be around 55 odd kms with a toll of Rs 45, took hardly 40 minutes to cross. Just after Muzaffarnagar again back to single-lane undivided road. By 08:45 we reached Roorkee.

Took our breakfast break at Radisson Dhaba. Hot Alu paratha and tea was refreshing.

After a break of 45 mins resumed the journey by 10:15 we are at Hotel Alaknanda.

Had to wait for 30 mins as the rooms were not ready - the check-in time was 12:00 hrs. It was cloudy with a slight drizzle now and then. The mighty Ganges was in its mighty form, muddy and of course icy. It was not a deterrent for our water enthusiast kids as they changed and plunged in the water, pulling us in too. Spent a good 2 hrs.

After the bath we had a walk along the ghats to reach Chotiwalla restaurant in the market. The roads were crowded which signalled that there is quite a downpour of tourists this weekend. The food as usual was enjoyable, and the menu as in any case was fixed - deluxe thali.



The ropeway to Mansa Devi was choked and it had to be stopped, said a friend of ours whom we co-incidentally met in the market waiting for some black tickets to be arranged by the guide. We didn't venture much into the market as again it was crowded and humid.

Back had a nap and decided not to make it to the Ganga Arti at Har Ki Pauri. Instead, we had a visit to the nearest ghat (Makarvahini Ganga Devi Mandir) and attended the arti.

After the arti we walked to Har Ki Pauri assuming the rush would have cooled down by now. Had our dinner at Mohanji Puriwale. Their Puri - chole, malpua - halwa are simply awesome. Had a cycle rickshaw back to the hotel room.

The next day morning it was raining, hence we thought it wise to leave as soon as possible. After breakfast at around 10:00 we



Dev Bhoomi

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