

A NEW ANGLE

THE TIMES JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

November 2005 • Volume:5 • Issue:11

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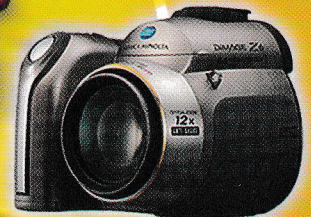
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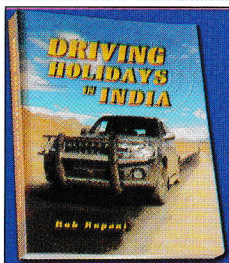
Readers' Entries for HOTSHOTS theme: FESTIVALS

Review of the Month
PANASONIC LUMIX
DMC-FZ30

Reviewed By: Sanjib Banerjee

Wish Fulfillment

BOOK : DRIVING HOLIDAYS IN INDIA
AUTHOR : BOB RUPANI
PUBLISHED BY : Rupani Media
PRICE : Rs. 495 (soft-bound)



All Images © Rupani Media

What stuck me most about this book is that even before one leafs through it, one is likely to get immensely inspired by what Narayan "Bob" Rupani has managed to pull off! With due blessings from the Hyundai God, Bob has shown rather elaborately that one can use ones vocation actively for 'fun on the job' by getting this book published and having a ball while it all came together through research, travel, co-ordination and assimilation.

TJP's interest in this book is probably because the places covered in this book are very scenic and lend themselves to immense photographic opportunities. Many prominent reserves, temples, landmarks and touristy sites have been covered along with lesser known, but equally fascinating stopovers and drive-throughs.

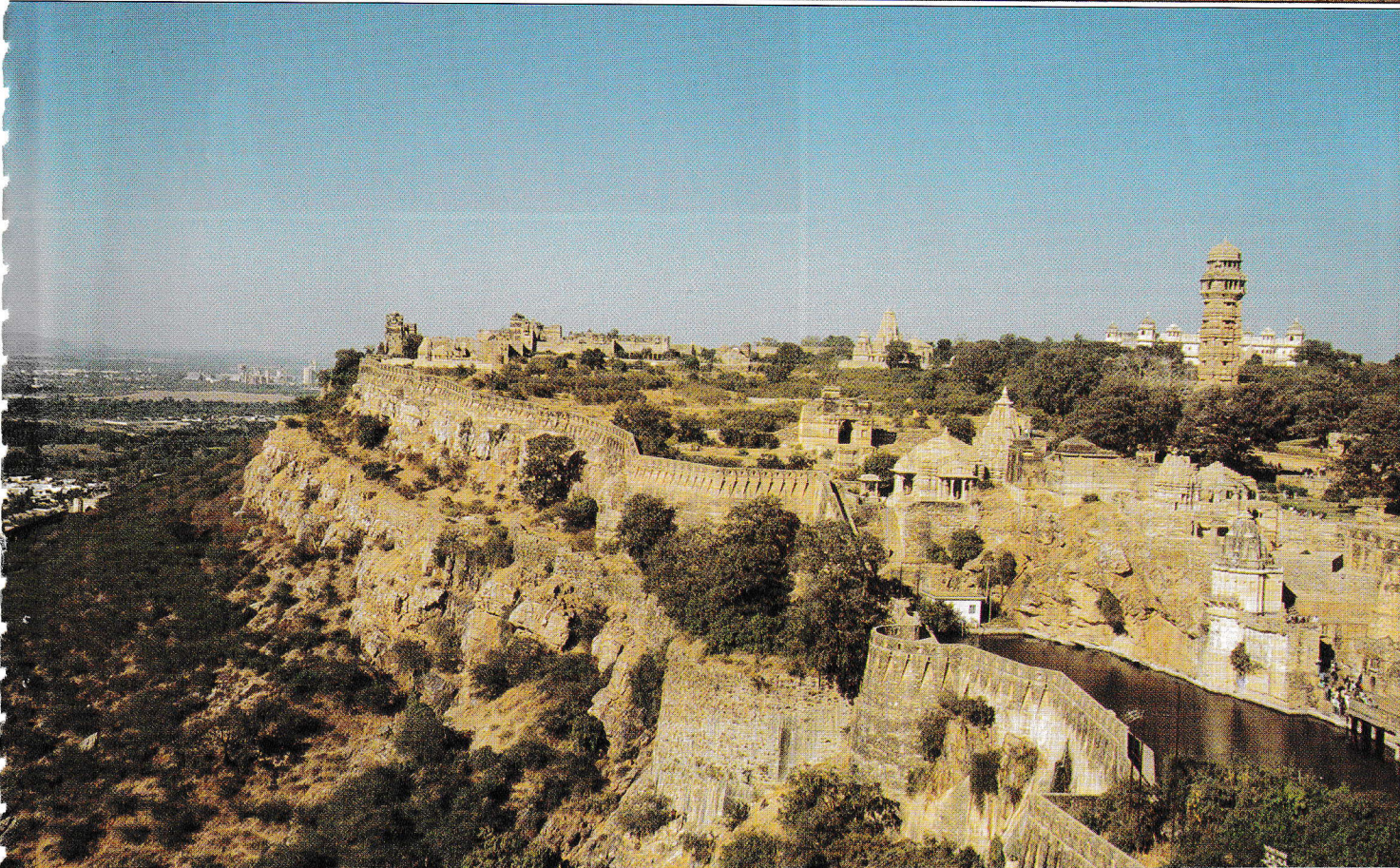
The idea of presenting twenty-five thought-out and test-driven routes works well for those tired of "travel agent" packages but not

quite equipped or ready for random traveling. Obviously one can try his or her own permutation-combination from the destinations covered. Of special importance are the data sheets provided with each itinerary that show a rough road map along with the distances between each point covered in the route. At the end of the day, each journey is going to be very subjective, but with such ready reference you can't go wrong.

As a package the book is

well researched, colourfully illustrated with a variety of images, many by Bob himself we are told, and compact in size in spite of being a treasure-house of data. Some may complain that the data is not extensive. I would say that additional data can be found online and from the numbers/URLs provided in the book itself; it would be physically impossible to list everything from twenty-five extensive journeys. Each journey could well lend to a couple of travel books in themselves!

SOME BOOKS SERVE AS MEANS TO GRATIFICATION THROUGH A TEXTUAL/VISUAL ESCAPE. "DRIVING..." IS SUCH MANNA FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE CONFINED TO OUR DESK-JOBS OR HOMES BUT NURTURE IMMENSE DESIRE FOR A MAGICAL GETAWAY SOMEWHERE REMOTE!



Now for a quick run though of the places covered:

EAST:

1. **The Sun Rises in the East:** Bhubaneshwar, Konark, Puri, Chilika, Gopalpur-on-Sea and Vishakapatnam.
2. **Symbols of Love and Passion:** Agra, Gwalior, Sivpuri, Orchha and Khajuraho

CENTRAL:

3. **Land of the Tiger:** Indore, Dhar/Mandu, Bhopal, Sanchi, Bhojpur, Bhibetka, Pachmarhi, Kanha, Bandhavgarh and Jabalpur.
4. **Capital Cruise:** Mumbai, Raj Pipla, Dungarpur, Udaipur, Devigarh, Deogarh, Jojawar, Pushkar, Kishingarh, Jaipur, Neemrana & Delhi

NORTH:

5. **Corbett's Country:** Delhi, Kuchesar, Corbett N. P., Pangot, Nainital, Sitla, Binsar, Kausani, Landsdowne, Mussorie, Rishikesh, Rajaji N. P. and Delhi
6. **High in Himachal:** Chandigarh, Nalagarh, Pragpur, Palampur, Dharamshala, Dalhousie, Kalatope, Khajjiar, Chamba and Amritsar
7. **Himalayas- Abode of the Gods:** Chandigarh, Kasauli, Chail, Shimla, Thanedar, Sangla, Tabo, Kaza and Manali.
8. **On the Roof of the World:** Manali, Keylong, Tso Kar, Tso Moriri, Pangong Tso & Leh
9. **Kargil Heights:** Srinagar, Kargil, Zaskar & Leh
10. **Tigers and the Taj:** Delhi, Agra, Bharatpur, Deeg, Peharsar, Karauli, Ranthambore, Madhogarh & Jaipur
11. **A Regal and Wild World:** Delhi, Manesar, Sariska, Alwar, Siliserh, Kesroli & Jaipur

NORTH-WEST:

12. **The Land of Sand:** Jaipur, Sekhawati, Bikaner, Gajner, Kheechan & Jaisalmer
13. **Royal Experience:** Jodhpur, Khejarla, Nimaj, Pushkar & Jaipur
14. **Medieval Marvels of Rajasthan:** Udaipur, Kumbhalgarh, Ghanerao, Ranakpur, Bhenswara, Rohet & Jodhpur
15. **Malwa to Mewar:** Indore, Ujjain, Kota, Bundi, Bijaipur, Chittaur, Khempur, Bambara & Udaipur
16. **Across the Aravallis:** Ahmedabad, Balaram, Poshina, Mount Abu, Siana, Bhenswara, Rohet & Jodhpur

WEST:

17. **Exploring Gujarat:** Ahmedabad, Little Rann, Wankaner, Gondal, Gir, Somnath, Diu, Palitana, Bhavnagar, Velavadar, Utelia/Lothal & Ahmedabad
18. **Manmade and Natural Wonders:** Mumbai, Nashik, Shirdi, Aurangabad & Pune

SOUTH:

19. **Down the Deccan:** Pune, Bijapur, Badami, Aihole, Pattadakal, Hampi & Bangalore
20. **Southern Adventure:** Bangalore, Mysore, B. R. Hills, Bandipur, Wayanad, Ooty & Coimbatore
21. **Temples and Tuskers:** Bangalore, Chikmagalur, Belur/Halebid, Coorg, Kabini & Mysore
22. **Song of the Sea:** Mumbai, Murud/Janjira, Hariharshwar, Harnai, Chiplun, Ganapatipule, Tarkarli & Goa
23. **Blue Water and Golden Sands:** Goa, Dandeli, Karwar, Gokarna, Murudeshwar, Maravanthe & Mangalore
24. **Kerala- Nature's Treasure:** Cochin, Munnar, Periyar, Kumarakom, Allepy, Paravoor, Varkala, Trivandrum, Kovalam, Kanyakumari & Madurai
25. **Splendours of the South:** Madurai, Karaikkudi, Thanjavur, Swamimalai, Chidambaram, Pondicherry, Mamallapuram & Chennai





In conclusion

The main appeal of this book is the variety, or "options" if you will, it offers. For the average reader, one of the twenty-five destinations, rather "journeys", should be extremely do-able.

And applause for the designers of this book, little nuggets take this reference book to a different level. For one, the colour gradation across the pages gives a kaleidoscopic feel to the entire book and it neatly segments the book into the relevant categories. Plus the information is organised and accessible in a sensible way.

TJP would recommend this to all readers-travellers or armchair dreamers!

TJP