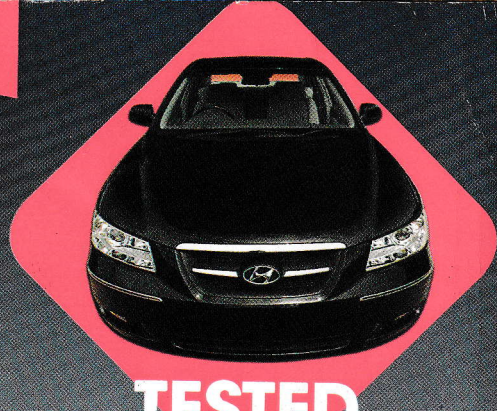


THE WORLD'S BEST CAR MAGAZINE

# car



Issue 002 September 2005 Rs 75

India

**TESTED**  
**HYUNDAI SONATA**

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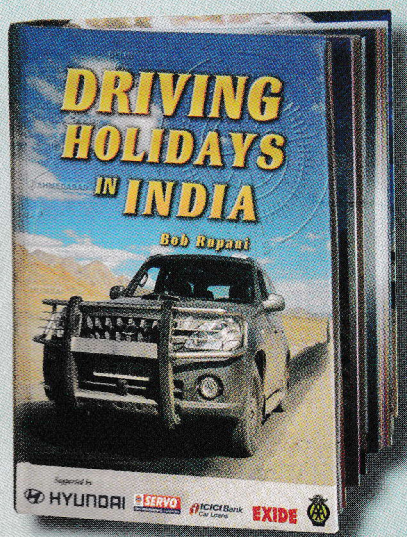


# Call of the Open Road

"If there is one place on the face of this Earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when Man began the dream of existence, it is India."

- Romain Rolland (French Philosopher 1886-1944)

Review Shashi Haji



To explore India is to discover unending secrets to the mystery of life, to enjoy India is to celebrate the very fact of living.

If you're trying to get off the beaten path then *Driving Holidays in India* by Bob Rupani is a terrific place to start. India is not only a motorist's mecca--it's also one of those places that attract the world's dreamers, romantics, and aspirers. The book is a super idea for those thinking of making the leap of a lifetime. It plugs you into the country's history and culture--and gets you armed and ready to feel less like a tourist and more like an Indian.

Thank you Bob for giving me back my age-old dreams of wanderlust where I could go to those beautiful places with no timetable. Having done a few of these trips in my youth, I'll have to finish the remainder now, before it is too late. But living in Pune, and with the prices of petrol I wish you could have listed a detailed accommodation list in the Rs.1000 to Rs.1500 range, as most people, in fact the majority would find it easier to do so.

**Driving Holidays in India**  
By Bob Rupani  
Published by Rupani Media  
Price Rs 495/-

Nevertheless, it is great news that finally we have a book on travel written from the perspective of the Indian motorist. The best way to see India is through the windscreen of an automobile. *Driving Holidays in India* combines down-to-earth auto-touring with information for people who want to know more about the country. From practical advice on how to prepare and plan for extended travel to journeys from the past, it is engaging and well written. Filled to its edges with a wealth of destinations to choose from, the author has put together a number of routes in the book, which is born of his 'affair with the open road'. With this book, Bob hopes to make your road holiday more 'interesting, educative and easy'.

The book is a drive from Kashmir to Kanyakumari with Bob in the driver's seat.

The drive takes you through the country, discovering unending secrets to the mystery of life. An infinite land of contrasts that blend, of harmony in disparity, rewarding you with her ageless landscapes, monumental history, magnificent architecture, cultural kaleidoscope and irrefutable aura of romance and mysticism.

Bob has burned rubber on miles of Indian roads. He has visited hundreds of destinations, however remote, and stayed in different hotels and resorts. This book encapsulates that passion and drive. The author recounts 25 of his best drives covering India's better known and not so well known places. He brings a personal touch to these drives. Bob has been lucky. For every drive, he had a different car from the Hyundai Motor portfolio.

*Driving Holidays in India* has extensive first hand travel experience with exceptionally useful tips on

accommodation, interesting places en route, the best time to visit and also trips to the destinations. Information on each destination featured and knowing a tad about their history only adds to your experience. All routes and destinations feature extraordinary photographs that make the book a visual treat.

Each route is highlighted in a high quality map and each leg of the journey has a precise schematic map.

Absolutely outspoken, where driving conditions suck or the accommodation is not up to the mark, the author does not hesitate to say so.

Towards the end of the book, *Journeys from the past* includes touring stories written over half a century ago by pioneering motorists who drove across the country when road routes were relatively uncharted. Bob gives us an opportunity to step into their shoes and experience events of an era long gone by.

*From Delhi to Calcutta* describes an eventful journey in 1950, across the Grand Trunk Road in a Double Decker bus! *Madras to Cape Comorin* is about a 1000-mile journey in South India undertaken in a small rear-engined Renault.

*Driving Holidays in India* is an indispensable resource addressing a wide range of needs of the Indian tourist. If you plan to travel the country by road, this book is a must. Enlightening and at times surprising, you won't be able to put it down.

I can truly say with this book motoring in India has truly come of age. **car**

