

Date	Time (hrs)	ODO	Kms	Commentary	Approx Expenses	Day run avg (kms)
18-Oct-09	1030	2000	0	Started journey from home @ Vasna Road, Vadodara. Target - to reach Barmer by evening.		
18-Oct-09	1040	2004	4	Tankful of Petrol - 30.6 lit	1450	
18-Oct-09	1105	2021	17	Passed Vadodara - Ahmedabad Expressway toll gate.	69	
18-Oct-09	1148	2105	84	Passed Ahmedabad Ringroad toll gate		
18-Oct-09	1215	2131	26	Took left from Ringroad towards Sanand / Viramgam - Single lane wide road. The idea was to pass via the state roads and hope for some interesting sights. Good traffic sense by mostly families proceeding towards temple towns / native places. Good signages along the way.		
18-Oct-09	1251	2172	41	Took right towards Viramgam / Mandal / Dasada		
18-Oct-09	1320	2200	28	Took left from Mandal to proceed towards Dasada / Sankheshwar. Hoped to see the wild ass in Dasada - but tough luck, not a single one was seen along the roads.		
18-Oct-09	1350	2241	41	Reached Sankheshwar - Jain temples and thought of taking a lunch break but only free Dharamsala food available. So thought of trying some place ahead.		
18-Oct-09	1444	2287	46	Reached Radhanpur and crossed the NH14 and then took immediate left (under the NH14 bridge). Halted for a deserving lunch break.	300	
18-Oct-09	1600	2287	0	Started from Radhanpur and did not take immediate left towards Tharad . The heavy lunch had taken its toll. Drove on for about 7 kms on NH14 & took U turn to head back again to Radhanpur		
18-Oct-09	1630	2349	62	Took left towards Bhabar		
18-Oct-09	1700	2383	34	Reached Tharad. Is about 60 kms from the Ind/Pak border across the Rann of Kutch		
18-Oct-09	1726	2419	36	Reached Gujarat / Rajasthan Border. Driving on NH15		
18-Oct-09	1728	2421	2	HP Petrol pump - filled tank full 30.8 lit	1500	
18-Oct-09	1755	2431	10	Passed Sanchor on NH15. Small road side town. Did not stop for tea as we had to reach Barmer.		
18-Oct-09	1920	2566	135	Reached Barmer. Had booked ourselves at Circuit house over the phone and hoped to get a well deserved rest		
18-Oct-09	1945	2570	4	Took a while finding the Circuit house in the city - actually it is on the NH15. Should not have entered the town and kept on NH15. But that's how you learn !! The worse was to follow - the attendant informed that it is fully occupied and is given on first serve basis. We were asked to find another place / hotel in the city and check at 10 pm as it was mandatory for them to retain one VIP room. Teh manager did agreethat it wastheir mistake. Did not loose hope and tried the Dak bunglow (HORRIBLE). Then went to the city centre opp Barmer rly stn and had simple dinner @ 8.30 pm and tried a few hotels to check rooms. Did not like them and called the circuit house manager that we will wait till 10 pm and occupy the VIP room. Whiled away some time enjoying local deserts and checked in @ the Circuit house (VIP room). Not a bad deal at all for a suite @Rs 600/- per night.	250	570
19-Oct-09	900	2570	0	Woke up at 7 am and strolled around the Circuit house. Then went for a brisk 30 min walk to prepare for a long day ahead while the family was getting ready. Breakfast @ the circuit house was filling (Cornflakes, toast and poha). Billing with breakfast / bed tea & tips completed. The target for the day was to reach Jaisalmer. The NH 15 is a 2 hrs run - about 160 kms but our plans was to drive as much in the desert. Wanted to proceed towards Munabao (border post - last Indian station before it enters in Khokrapar (Pakistan). Checked about the road condition at circuit house (did not know much) and then at the Rly station to some BSF personnel who gave a thumbs up. When asked if we will be permitted to see the border, we were told to contact the company commander at Gadra and try our luck. Well, with no hopes we proceeded for the circuitous the long route (Gadra - Munabao - Sundra - Mialjar - Khuri - Jaisalmer)	1000	
19-Oct-09	1000	2585	15	Filled petol in Barmer - tank full ((13 lit) in anticipation of a long drive. Left Barmer town towards Gadra road and fingers crossed.Munnabao is about 120 kms away;	650	

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19-Oct-09	1036	2613	28	Passed Dersar. The road to Mumnabao runs to the right & parallel to the railway line. Sheperds are seen herding their livestock (sheep / goats). Single lane road prepared by the BRO and well maintained. Can easily drive at 80 kmph and but be prepared for the wily goats who decide to romp across your car any time. Also narrow roads mean waiting across the road to allow the opp vehicle to pass. BRO has prepared a tar layer after every few kms to allow such passing. Better drive carefully as general vehicles are not 4WD and I did not want to get get stuck in the loose sand.		
19-Oct-09	1100	2647	34	Passed Ramsar. Roads are like camel humps... as it crosses the ridges		
19-Oct-09	1215	2705	58	Reached Munabao. Had passed Gadra 20 kms back and checked with the BSF enrout. They asked me to check about visiting the border at Munnabao only.		
19-Oct-09	1230	2705	0	At Munabao - our vehicle # & contact details were registered by BSF and we were allowed to see only the Rly station as we did not have the permission from BSF HQ !! The border was just 2.5 kms away from the Rly stn. To our bad luck, the company commander had left 30 mins ago and he could have considered. But it was a tough chance as a cache of arms was found a few days ago at Gadra and BSF were extra vigilant. I was told that there are shoot at sight orders if un-accompanied personel are seen near the border. So we were happy to at least visit the Rly station. It was very clean and well maintained & had two parts. One for the local train (Barmer - Munabao) and onother that had the fenced immigration area for the weekly Thar express ( Jodhpur-Karachi : runs on Sat). BSF personnel informed that visiting Munabao on Sat is not a good idea as they are occupied with the Thar Exp security & combing operations. The border is invisible as the terrain is desert mounds. Clicked a few pics for memoreis of being almost at the border...		
19-Oct-09	1245	2705	0	One BSF van had entered with a jawan accompanying three families. They did visit the border obviously. While we were getting ready to depart a Tavera entered with a family. Took my chance & asked if they had permission to visit the border. The person informed that he is from the Air Force and stationed at Barmer and after s brief conversation he agred to let us accompany him. I informed that we will have to inform the BSF post and he kindly agreed to represent. I drove him in my car and the BSF personnel entered it in his log book and relayed the information on the wireless to the border post. Thanks to the IAF officer, we could now visit the border. HURRAY!!		
19-Oct-09	1300	2707	2	Due to good rains a month ago, the desert expanse looked green. Generally it is a sandy in-hospitable terrain. We drove along side the 5 meter high fenced railway tracks. A few twists & turns later we were finally at the border. There was a BSF room with 2-3 trees around - we parked our respective vehicles under the tree and had to walk 50 meters to the fence gate that allows the weekly train to pass. The BSF observation post was just across the railway line. They were glad to receive us and we climbed their two story high post. The border fence is 100 ft away (no-mans land) from the actual pillar. The entire fencing (Guj to J&K) is built completely by India and is also fully lit-up (again by India). A patrol track runs beside the fence. Whew !! No such fence exist at the Pakistan side. We could see the Pakistan rly station & the Pak Rangers post - 200 metres away & clearly thru the binocs. Compared to Munabao, the Pakistan side rly station was a ramshackle tin shed!! Important - I noticed that their post carried their flag while the Indian flag was absent on our side. In general we in India I think are miserly when it comes to public display of the Tri-colour.		
19-Oct-09	1345	2709	2	After thanking BSF guards (two of them) and wishing them Happy Diwali and also to the IAF officer - who had made our day, we returned for the BSF check post at Munabao. Our return was registered. We now had to drive almost along side the border (5 - 20 kms away) for the next 50 kms via Sundra & Miajla through the desert national park to Jaisalmer.		

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19-Oct-09	1400	2710	1	Took left to proceed towards Sundra. About 10 kms away saw sand dunes and parked car for 30 mins to enjoy the first sand dunes of the trip. When we climbed one we could clearly see a small hamlet about a km or 2 away towards the west that had a BSF observation post. After we clicked a few pics, fun and frolic later - hit the single road. It is narrow in parts, sand cover them sometimes but driving was never a problem. Came across lots of cattle and their sheperds with colourful turbans Std dress : Lungi - Kameez (White / light blue). At times Camels were seen in the back-ground.		
19-Oct-09	1520	2771	61	Reached Sundra. An expanse of desert was seen beyond a cluster of thatched round huts. Bush grass on the desert was a new sight. More than 50 camels were 'parked' along side the huts. No road around. Just a BSF camp. Did we reach a dead end? Heard a voice call out. It was a BSF guard with a register asking for vehicle & contact details. He did his duty and I asked for directions to Miajla. He showed me a black line covered with sand winding up towards right. Asked him if it was motorable and he said only couple of kms was bad and then it is good all the way thru. To give me confidence, he told that the water tankers have just arrived from Miajla. These will travel through to the border 4 - 14 kms away and alongside the fence providing water to the BSF jawans posted at their repective observation posts. But the BSF vehicles were 4WD. So took a chance with prayers on our lips and used the cars momentum to force our way across the sand covered roads. Learnt the trick was to let the car plant one side on the firm road and another on the sandy hump.		
19-Oct-09	1555	2798	27	Reached Miajla. We had left Barmer district & now entered Jaisalmer district. This first 15 mins of the drive leaving Sundra were the most anxious. Sand brushed the underbelly at times. In one rising bend, the sand across the road was more than anticipated. Actually the road was cut between the sand dune (or did the dune shift to the road?) The car stalled on the top and refused to move. I did not want to rev up unnecessarily to avoid digging the car in. Noticed that the car was responding as I revved & if we all pushed forward in unision while sitting inside. Did that rocking motion and we crossed the sand dune. The other option would have been to push the car but thankfully that was not required. The road was downhill from there on. Were greeted at times by peahens crossing the road and and some times the deer (was it the Chinkara?). Actually we were now passing thru the desert national park. The terrain was more rocky than sandy with sparse shrubs all around. Road was excellent with an odd BSF vehicle pasing us by.		
19-Oct-09	1700	2856	58	Reached Khuri and the end of the desert national park. Saw camps and tents put up by private safari owners. Halted for a well deserved break - tea / cold drinks / snacks.	80	
19-Oct-09	1720	2856	0	Left Khuri to reach Jaisalmer		
19-Oct-09	1810	2901	45	Reached Jaisalmer and the RTDC hotel - Moomal. Had booked a family room there - it was a pleasant independent structure. Roomy and with a veranda. Kids liked it. The two days of the drive was well worth it and perhaps the high point of the trip. The adventure part was over & from now on it was to be a tourist circuit & long distance driving in plains. Later in evening walked to the market and then returned for dinner at the Moomal (Veg buffet).	300	331
20-Oct-09	1000	2901	0	Late Breakfast in Moomal (part of the package). Very filling vegetarian buffet (only it gets cold very soon as they do not use the burners). Filled ouselves up for the day.		
20-Oct-09	1120	2901	0	Checked out and left for the Fossil park on the Barmer road	1700	
20-Oct-09	1150	2920	19	Reached Fossil park. These are remains of the lush forests engulfed by a volcano about 180 million years ago. The road from the main entrance to the site is loose rocks - about a km. Interesting to see the wooden texture frozen in time.		
20-Oct-09	1225	2922	2	Left the Fossil park to visit the Museum	30	
20-Oct-09	1300	2942	20	Nothing great at the Museum. Were out in 30 mins. Kids liked the IAF plane displayed outside.		

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20-Oct-09	1330	2944	2	Parked under a tree near the outskirts of the city to walk to the famous yellow-stone havelis of Jaisalmer. The fort at the top of the hill appears to rise from the sand dune. Armed with only cameras & water bottles, we experienced the life in Jaisalmer as we walked through the quaint 3 mtr wide streets along side some majestically built and finely carved havelis. The Patwa haveli is the most famous and we decided to explore it inside out. There are a few privately managed ones also but we decided against that and chose to walk around the town.		
20-Oct-09	1545	2944	0	Refreshed ourselves with some light snacks & juice. Realised that I did not carry my mobile charger and bought one car mobile charger for Rs 80. Tested it & was working.	100	
20-Oct-09	1615	2944	0	Left Jaisalmer to leave for the Sam Dhani (Sand dunes near Sam village - about 45 kms away). We had our booking at the RTDC tent camp (includes breakfast & lunch).		
20-Oct-09	1650	2982	38	Reached Sam Dhani. Great road. Everyone was making a rush to the Sam sand dunes to watch the sunset. This is one big Jaisalmer event as every tourist was apparently rushing there. Saw some really rash driving /overtaking on this route. Start early to reach by 4.30 pm & avoid traffic.		
20-Oct-09	1730	2982	0	Parked at the RTDC reception area which is at a height and chose our tent. Minimalistic to the core, the tent has a small covered sitting area outside - and a bedroom and bathroom. There were about 10 tents in the RTDC camp. Similarly there were about 15 private camps nearby. The mad rush for camel ride had started. This is a money making event. Every ride to & fro costs about Rs 150 (with tips). Actually, one can walk down to the sand-dunes from RTDC in 10 mins. Advise to enjoy the rides better in the morning when there is no crowd around. The sunset was observed amongst a sea of people - did not feel natural. Clicked a few pics. Decided that we will be better placed to experience the desert in the morning. After the sun had set we observed large dung beetles digging out of the dunes. Their work day had just begun.		
20-Oct-09	1845	2982	0	Reached the RTDC camp. The preparation for the evening entertainment was underway. Song & dance routines are the norm in every camp. So was ours. The manager mentioned to me that they have the best singers but not the dancers. There was a circular performance area built around which chairs were placed. Tea & poha were served as the singers / performers began their act. Beer was also served (extra price) later. The singers were indeed good. Shot almost all their performance on video. The programme ended at 8.30 pm and dinner was announced. The night had started to become cooler. Buffet dinner was vegetarian that had soup, salad, 3 main veg dishes, dal, batti, rice and churma for desert. Burped and by 10.30 pm we were fast asleep.		81
21-Oct-09	700	2982	0	Sun rises quick and fast in the desert. The sky changes its hue in 15 mins. We brushed and made our way to the dunes at 8 am to enjoy all by ourselves. There were 2-3 families and early risers like us. It indeed is advisable to experience the desert in the morning. The sand was cold, the kids frolicked and I chose to shoot some pictures. By 9 am it was getting warm and we walked back to the camp. Saw the dung beetles working their way rolling the camel dung (2-3 inch round balls) into their burrows.		
21-Oct-09	1055	2987	5	After checking out and paying the incidentals extra, we drove towards the Sam village just to experience one last close look at the Thar desert before turning back to Jaisalmer on our way to Jodhpur.	3200	
21-Oct-09	1145	3030	43	Reached Jaisalmer on way to Jodhpur via Pokhran. Filled petrol (tankfull) - 32.8 lit	1575	
21-Oct-09	1330	3147	117	Reached Ramdeora (temple built for a saint) and visited the place. It is a 10 km detour after Pokhran - the road is towards the left as one drives to Jodhpur.		
21-Oct-09	1500	3167	20	Lunch break at outskirts of Pokhran. Sumptuous thali - in retrospect, not advisable if one has to be awake to drive !! But we had it anyway.	300	

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21-Oct-09	1540	3167	0	A few burps later we were on our way to Jodhpur - about 150 kms away. Was drowsy in an hour so sought a tea break at Balesar and a 30 mins nap on a khatiya. That was much required.	10	
21-Oct-09	1900	3322	155	Outskirts of Jodhpur the road bifurcates - left goes to the city - while the right is the bypass. With what seemed like ages, we asked for directions at least 6 times along the way to find the RTDC Ghoomar on High Court road. No signages and heavy evening traffic.		
21-Oct-09	1930	3337	15	Reached Ghoomar. As we prepare for check-in the manager shocks us informing that our booking was cancelled by their Jaipur HO. We present the receipt and he then allows us a room. We freshen up and plan for light dinner in city area. Walk around & discover the Nai Sadak and help ourselves with some south Indian fare + lassi. Also realise that it is the prime shopping area.	250	355
22-Oct-09	900	3337	0	Buffet breakfast in package (Toast, Cutlets, Bananas, Egg Bhurji). Agenda was to visit the Mehrangarh fort & the Umaid Bhavan followed by shopping.		
22-Oct-09	1000	3346	9	Reached Mehrangarh fort base. Parking fee paid. Tickets for entrance & camera. Explored the fort till 12.30 pm. Very satisfied.	150	
22-Oct-09	1245	3356	10	Reached Umaid Bhavan. Paid parking & entrance fees and were ready after enjoying kulfi	120	
22-Oct-09	1400	3365	9	Reached town to have some lunch. Could not resist the churma along with the normal roti subzi fare.		
22-Oct-09	1500	3373	8	Hopping various shops before settling at Nai Sadak area for serious shopping from 1645 hrs onwards. Advise to park at the designated parking area at the traffic light (Rs10). Enjoyed some tea while the kids had their cold-drinks while the better half was bargain hunting. Returned by 19.45 hrs	55	
22-Oct-09	2030	3377	4	Quick dinner per the kids choice at Uncle Sam's pizza & back at hotel by 10 pm. Packed and ready for the return trip home.		40
23-Oct-09	830	3377	0	Breakfast & check-out	2800	
23-Oct-09	940	3377	0	Started from Jodhpur for Baroda via Pali / Ahmedabad. Tankfull near Circuit house - 30.5 lit	1500	
23-Oct-09	1103	3448	71	Pali road - turn right for by pass. Paid toll for the Pali bypass.	35	
23-Oct-09	1320	3570	122	Passed Sirohi. A small ghat section begins. Prepare for worst patches of the road (Pali to Sirohi) with some heavy traffic. Driving on good roads with minimal traffic for the past few days had eased me. This section woke me up and on time. Had some fruits & coconut water at Sumerpur before Sirohi. Keep left for Abu Road. Many had stopped by at Sirohi for lunch		
23-Oct-09	1420	3645	75	Passed Abu Road. Excellent road after the ghats after Sirohi and two lane begins about 30 kms after the ghat ends. A smooth drive anticipated all the way up to home. Toll paid	35	
23-Oct-09	1440	3655	10	Took a break at Atithi gardens for lunch. This is less than a km away from the Guj / Raj border. The double laning near Abu road is full of curves - one eases at speeds above 80 quite easily but be prepared for two wheelers driving in triples driving towards you in the fast lane. So be cautious on NH14 near the Abu Road highway. I had tea immediately after a good lunch. It kept me awake....	300	
23-Oct-09	1520	3655	0	Entered Guj on NH14. for Ahmedabad via Palanpur, Mehsana. Paid tolls (Rs 80). Took left for Adajan / Gandhinagar and then Airoort road. While in Gandhinagar - near Koba circle saw fuel enough to reach home but filled tankfull anyway. Never take chances on the highway. 35.7 lit. Left turn from Koba circle to hit the ring road.	1780	
23-Oct-09	1800	3850	195	On ring road - paid tolls at Ranasan & Bhat	18	
23-Oct-09	1834	3861	11	Entered Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway Toll gate.	69	
23-Oct-09	1922	3944	83	Exited Vadodara toll gate. Home was beckoning.		
23-Oct-09	1955	3965	21	REACHED home.		588
		Total kms	1965	Total Travel expense (for family of 4 - covers, stay, travel & food for 2 adults + 2 kids)	19626	