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# Himalayan Expedition-2



**26 to 30 Dec, 2009**

**300 km (dehradun, rishikesh, auli)**

The previous Himalayan expedition I had left out something. Snow. So this time my target was simple. Hit snow. 5 days and 300 km later it was exactly not 'snow-cycling' but a 360° spectacular view of snow capped peaks. Read on.

This time it was yet another strategy. Buy a new bicycle. Use it to heart's content. Sell it off. Trust me, I had spent much lesser than an average tourist, yet my bicycling mission was accomplished!



*Besides holy river Ganga at Lakshman Jhoola*



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*< More shots of river Ganga*

As I was gaining altitude one thing dawned on me. It's not actually altitude that's going to be make things difficult for me; it's the lack of oxygen due to lower pressures. I was breathless more often and ignoring it was leading to blackouts!

Early starts were not possible as sun rose in the mountains as late as 7:30 AM. And evenings were not much good either as sun set as early as 5 PM The only compensation was the fact that it was never too hot to pedal.



*Sunrise around 8 AM near rudraprayag*

Beyond first day it was a series of prayags - rudraprayag, devprayag and karnaprayag. Each prayag offered a unique spectacle - meeting of roaring rivers amidst rocky abysses.



*Had to be alert all the time - narrow roads with steep rocky walls on one side and deep gorge on the other*



*Not all snaps click on time*



*Clear skies and snow-capped peaks near joshimath*



Auli - what ever the name means, all I could tell after 5 days of rigorous bicycling, was **HOORAY!** It happens when you come searching for something, and you find it along with something even better! All I wanted was to touch snow. But the 360° of sheer Himalaya was spectacular beyond words.



*My favourite snap – just before Auli*



*When kids came tugging*



*Different view in each direction, along with a 'touch' of snow*



As 'snow cycling' was yet to be accomplished, I had no choice but to make a decision to come back soon.

## himalayan expedition - 2 - distance & time map

