



## ANDAMAN & NICHOBAR ISLAND A PERFECT DESTINATION FOR ECO TOURISM

**Mr Jasty P Joy**

*Asst. Professor. John Group of Institution, Bangalore, Karnataka.*

**Mr Manoj B Gedam**

*Asst. Professor – Hotel Management Department, John Group of Institutions, Bangalore, Karnataka.*

### **Abstract**

*In this research paper about Andaman and Nicobar Islands, one of the Union Territory of India, is a group of islands in the Bay of Bengal. Geographically, the territory is located 150 km north in Indonesia and separated from Thailand and Burma by the Andaman Sea is one of the beautiful destination for Eco Tourism. It comprises of 572 islands, and rocks congregated into two major groups, the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands, separated by the 10° N parallel, with the Andaman to the north of this latitude, and the Nicobar to the south. The Andaman Sea lies to the east and the Bay of Bengal to the west. Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been recognized as an eco-friendly tourist's destination. The clean environment, roads, greenery as well as unpolluted fresh air attract all nature lovers. The tropical rain forests and waters of Bay of Bengal are the home of a vast collection of plant, animal and marine life, thus making this Island a perfect destination for Eco Tourism. In relation to this the Andaman Nichobar Islands have got beautiful evergreen rain forest, beautiful silver sandy beaches, mangrove-lines creeks, marine life abounding in rare species of plants, animals, corals, etc. which provide a memorable experience to the tourists. There is tremendous scope for leisure and entertainment in the beach resorts such as water sports and adventure water sports, adventure tourism like trekking, Island camping, Nature trail, Scuba Diving, etc. In my Research Paper I have also have also mentioned about the key destinations in Andaman Nichobar Island like Beaches, Museums, Monuments, Adventure Tourism etc. In my Research Paper I have also carried out SWOT Analysis. Thus I opine that Andaman & Nichobar is a perfect destination for Eco Tourism.*

**Key Words:** *Eco Tourism, SWOT Analysis, Tourist Destinations, Accommodation and Connectivity.*

### **Introduction**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been recognized as an perfect destination for Eco Tourism. These islands have all the necessary ingredients for eco-tourism industry i.e. turquoise blue sea, talc-like beaches and sheer richness of tropical flora and fauna. These Islands are a veritable Garden of Eden and a naturalist's heaven. The clean environment, roads, greenery as well as unpolluted fresh air attract all nature lovers. The tropical rain forests and waters of Bay of Bengal are the home of a vast collection of plant, animal and marine life.

The Andaman tropical evergreen rain forests, beautiful silver sandy beaches, serpentine mangrove-lines creeks, marine life abounding in rare species of plants, animals, corals, etc., provide a memorable experience to the tourists. There is tremendous scope for leisure and entertainment in the beach resorts such as water sports and adventure water sports, adventure tourism like trekking, Island camping, Nature trail, Scuba Diving, etc. The Andaman and Nicobar in India are a group of picturesque islands, big and small, inhabited and uninhabited, lying in the Bay of Bengal. They lie along an arc in long and narrow broken chain; approximately North-South over a distance nearly 800 km. Mother Nature has been very generous to these islands in endowing them with rich biodiversity which is displayed in various forms of flora and fauna on land and in water surrounding the islands

The lush green mangroves forest cover with the area of 1190 sq.km offers an eye catching view on tours around the islands by local boats. The tourists can have a glimpse of one of the primitive tribes (Jarwas) of these islands in the forests of South Andaman adjoining Andaman Trunk Road and around Baratang Island. Other categories of such Negrito race tribe like Great Andamanese (at Strait Island), Onges (at Little Andaman) and Sentinalese (at North Sentinal Island) are protected from outsiders by the local administration and special permission is needed to visit them. Sentinalese are the most violent type of tribes who do not like outsiders and attack such people with bow and arrows upon seeing them. They are totally cut off from main stream society and depend on

hunting/fishing in and around North Sentinel Island for their survival. In fact, they need to be protected from outsiders by administration. Efforts of bringing Jarwas to main stream have not been very fruitful as their status has been reduced to beggars before tourists and local settlers of the islands

### **Economy of Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

The economy of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is primarily dependent on agriculture and fishing. Major industries contributing to the economy of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are handicrafts industry, minerals and energy resources. Even tourism is a big industry for the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The islands are full of natural sceneries and the exotic collection of flora and fauna, which attract tourists worldwide. The innumerable tourist spots of Andaman and Nicobar islands support the tourism industry of the place.

#### **Tourist Destination in Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>Interest Activities</b>	<b>Destination</b>
1	<b>ISLANDS</b>	Jolly Buoy, Cinque Island, Red Skin Island, Barren Island, Havelock Island, Ross Island, Viper Island and Chatham Island.
2	<b>BEACHES</b>	Corbyn's Cove, Radhanagar, Harminder Bay beach, Karmatang, Ramnagar .
3	<b>MONUMENTS</b>	Cellular Jail, Ross Island, Viper Island.
4	<b>MUSEUMS</b>	Anthropological Museum, Forest Museum, Fisheries Museum, Samudrika, Zoological survey of India Museum.
5	<b>PARK &amp; WILDLIFE RESERVE</b>	Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Gandhi Park, Sippighat Farm, Mini Zoo, Chidiya Tapu, Collinpur, Madhuban .
6	<b>ADVENTURE TOURISM</b>	Scuba Diving, Snorkeling at Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Havelock Island and Carbyn's Cove Tourism Complex; aqua sports like water skiing, sail boats, windsurfing, row boats, paddle boats etc at Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex. Other attractions include Island camping and trekking through nature trail from Mt. Harriet to Madhuban.

There are also several day trips to islands around Port Blair such as

- Ross Island (once the seat of British power and capital of these islands),
- Viper Island
- Wandoor (which is the entry point to the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park covering an area of 281.5 km made up of open sea, creeks and 15 islands, with coral reefs, a plethora of coral fish and other marine life abounding in this area) and North Bay.

### **Baratang Island**

Baratang is a popular place for a day trip among domestic tourists. It is around 65 km from Port Blair by road. The chief attractions are the limestone caves and the mud volcanoes. The Forest Department has a mangrove canopy walk that connects to a trail through moist deciduous forests that leads to the limestone caves. Nearby Nilambur jetty is Parrot Island (Totatekri), which is also a popular site where tourists can watch thousands of parakeets nesting.



### **Chatham Island**

Located very close to Port Blair town, Chatham has Asia's oldest saw mill, still in use, on a tiny island connected by a bridge over a stretch of sea. There are buses from Port Blair to Chatham. Guided tours are conducted in the saw mill. Another significant feature of Chatham Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is that it has the second biggest dock among all the islands of Andaman and Nicobar.

### **Diglipur**

Situated in North Andaman Island, it is located at a distance of 265 km from Port Blair. It is famous for its oranges, rice and marine life. Saddle Peak, 732 meters, the highest point in the islands is nearby. Kalpong, the only river of Andaman flows from here. One who comes by road from Port Blair has to take a boat from Mayabunder to Kalighat and from there journey by road to Diglipur (25 kms.), and from there to Kalipur (18 kms.) for viewing, Kalipur and Lamiya bay beaches. Directorate of Tourism provides comfortable accommodation at Turtle Resort, Kalipur.

### **Havelock Island**

Havelock Island is located around 39 km northeast of Port Blair, has been popular with tourists since the mid-nineties. There are daily boats to Havelock from Port Blair. It has the famous Radhanagar Beach that was voted by Time magazine as one of Asia's most beautiful beaches in the year 2004. Havelock is, by far, the most popular island among foreign tourists and reasonably visited by domestic tourists. It has three daily ships operating from Port Blair and a few connecting it to other islands such as Neil and Long Islands.

### **Jollybuoy Island**

Jollybuoy Island is located inside the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, and is known for its coral cover. Tourists are ferried to Jollybuoy from Wandoor by boat and taken snorkeling to view the corals.

### **Long Island**

Long Island is located to the east of Middle Andaman Island and 85 km from Port Blair. The remote Lalaji Bay is gaining popularity among foreign tourists.

### **Mayabunder**

Mayabunder is 159 km from Port Blair, situated in the northern part of middle Andaman. It has some of the beautiful beaches; the best-known of these are, the Karmatang beach, which is a turtle nesting ground and Avis Island, with beautiful beaches. Apart from these, Mangrove-lined creeks at Mayabunder are also one of the beautiful destination for Eco Tourism.

### **Rangat**

Situated around 93 km from Port Blair, Rangat Island is a transit point for people visiting Mayabunder / Diglipur Islands via Port Blair / Havelock Islands. Cuthbert Bay beach is a turtle nesting ground (15kms from main Rangat town), whereas Amkunj and Panchavati are well-known beaches.

### **Red Skin**

This is another island in the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Port Blair, with good coral and marine life. No overnight stay is permitted. Tourists are ferried to Red Skin by boat from Wandoor and taken snorkeling to view the corals.

### **Viper Island**

Viper Island at Andaman and Nicobar Islands bears a great historical significance. The first jail was constructed at this island where the offenders were sent to serve their punishment. After the Cellular Jail was made, the convicts were transferred there. It has gallows atop a hillock where condemned prisoners were hanged. Tourists are ferried by boat to Viper Island from Port Blair.

## **Tourist Infrastructure & Accommodation**

### **1. Connectivity**

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have the required infrastructure facilities but not at par with other states and Union Territories of India due to its geographical distribution of Islands. As the Islands are one of the largest tourist spots in India, there is a tremendous need for the development of infrastructure facilities in transport like airways, seaways and roadways in order to improve the connectivity as promote this destination among tourists.

#### **a. Airways**

Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is well connected with Chennai and Kolkata by air with the help of Vir Savarkar Airport, which is the only airport in the islands. The airport is under the control of the Indian Navy and only day time flying is allowed to this destination. APWD(Andaman Public Work Department) has constructed a number of bituminous concrete helipads in various islands such as Rangat Mayabunder, Diglipur, Havelock, Wandoor, Chidiyatapu, Hut Bay, Campbell Bay, Katchal, Kamorta, Chowra, Teressa, Port Blair, Car Nicobar, for the island helicopter service.

#### **b. Seaways**

Regular passenger ship services (to and fro) are available to Port Blair from Chennai, Kolkata and Vishakhapatnam. There are three to four sailings every month from Kolkata and Chennai to Port Blair and vice-versa. There is one sailing from Vishakhapatnam in a month. The voyage takes about 50 to 60 hours and the ship normally berths at Port Blair for about three to four days.

### **Accommodation**

There are many budget hotels in Portblair providing accommodation apart from this there are plenty of government guest houses and lodges. There is a four star hotel in Portblair providing excellent service and facilities to the tourist and a number of resorts.

## **Swot Analysis of Andaman & Nicobar Island**

### **Strength**

- a. Andaman is internationally well known Tourist destination with tropical evergreen rain forests, beautiful silver sandy beaches, serpentine mangrove-lines creeks etc.
- b. Tremendous scope for leisure and entertainment in the beach resorts.
- c. Has varied attractions Beaches, Islands, Monuments, waterfalls etc.
- d. Significant number of international tourists visits every year.

### **Weakness**

- a. Lack of proper connectivity to the islands, reliance only on ferry services (lack of frequency, regularity etc.) to few destinations
- b. Problem in access during monsoon months (when ferry services are disrupted)
- c. Number of attractions is less comparatively due to which normal stay of a tourist at a destination is restricted to 2 to 3 days.
- d. Lack of adequate marketing and promotion of the exotic and virgin beaches and islands.
- e. Lack of quality way side amenities and public conveniences on the way to the major tourism destinations.

### **Opportunity**

- a. Given the nature of the attractions in this circuit, the Circuit can be developed as an Integrated Tourism hub.
- b. Many destinations in the circuit has high potential for tourism but need to be tapped by developing and creating more attractions
- c. Tourism can be a major income source for the local people living around the tourism destination in addition to agriculture and allied activities.



### **Threat**

- a. Lack of intensive marketing and promotion of the tourism destinations in this circuit leading to low demand pull for visitors to the destinations.
- b. Poor connectivity and infrastructure facilities to the tourism destinations. This is considered as a major issue by the tourists visiting the destinations.
- c. It is very much essential to create more attractions within the destinations to attract more tourists and also prolong the stay of the tourist.

### **Conclusion**

Thus I would like to conclude that there is a tremendous scope for Eco Tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands since this Islands have got beautiful evergreen rain forest, beautiful silver sandy beaches, mangrove-lines creeks, marine life abounding in rare species of plants, animals, corals, etc. which provide a memorable experience to the tourists who love nature and wants to spend time away from city traffic and pollution. There is tremendous scope for leisure and entertainment in the beach resorts such as water sports and adventure water sports, adventure tourism like trekking, Island camping, Nature trail, Scuba Diving, etc thus providing a idle destination for Eco Tourism.

### **Reference**

1. Book – Author – Kiran Dhingra . Title – Andaman Nicobar Island in 20 century
2. Travel and Tourism Outlook Magazine
3. [www.tourismindia.com](http://www.tourismindia.com).
4. Book – Author- S A Rahaman. Title – The Beautiful India : The Andaman Nicobar Islands.
5. Book – Author – M S Srinivasan Title – The Geology of Andaman Nicobar island.
6. Pamphlets and Brochure collected at Travel & Tourism Fair by Fairfest Media Pvt Ltd conducted at Bangalore.