

CHAPTER 17

TOURISM

The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with its exotic greenery and flora has immense scope for promotion of tourism in these Islands. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has the vision to develop A & N Island as an up market Island destination for eco-tourists through environmentally sustainable development of infrastructure without disturbing the natural eco-system with the objective of generating reverse, creating more employment opportunities and synergies socio-economic development of the Islands. The Andaman tropical evergreen rain forests, beautiful silver sandy beaches, serpentine mangrove –lined creeks, marine life abounding in rare species of plants, animals corals etc. provide an immemorial experience to the tourists. The environment lover finds absolute peace and tranquility in the lap of Mother Nature. There is tremendous scope for enjoying nature in the beach resorts, water sports and adventure water sports, adventure tourism like trekking, island camping, nature trail, scuba diving etc. with this vision the Administration has framed a policy guideline of GOI to form the basis for promoting tourism in A & N Islands. The Administration is focusing on the following objectives:-

- i. Promote Eco-tourism with a view to protect the fragile Eco-system.
- ii. Create self-sustainable jobs for the local youth of these islands.
- iii. Generate substantial revenue for A & N Islands
- iv. Project a friendly tourist image to the world at large and make this Union territory one of the best tourist destinations.
- v. To be the number one Indian destination by per capital market share of visitor's expenditure.
- vi. Encourage domestic tourism with a view to provide to the people of the country the unique feature of unity in diversity, secularism - a perfect example of National integration.
- vii. Offer opportunities to the youth not only for employment but also for taking up activities of nation building character.
- viii. Bring socio-economic benefits to the people of these islands.
- ix. Preserving and enriching our cultural heritage in all its manifestations and causing accretion and strength rather than degrading social and cultural values.
- x. Develop places of interest as tourist destinations. The uniqueness of features such as mud volcano, the potential of beaches such as at Havelock & Neil Islands for aqua sports, the peace and tranquility of the back waters would be developed in their own light.
- xi. Provide quality services to all domestic and international tourists.

- xii. Diversify and expand the marketing of the islands' tourism potential while preserving its fragile eco-system.
- xiii. Encourage people's participation in tourism related activities so that it is community-based, thereby generating synergies between guests and locals. Some such roles for the local community could be to run paying guest accommodation, house-boats etc.
- xiv. Focus on promotion of international tourism by including these islands in the South East Asian packages offered by tour operators from the West and Japan, Australia etc.
- xv. To develop world class infrastructure i.e. hotels, Resorts, connectivity by road, air, ship etc to cater to the demand of foreign tourists.
- xvi. Encourage the private sector, including international corporate, to invest in Tourism related projects, through FDI, either fully owned or in collaboration with Indian partners, either private or governmental, as per the prevailing enactments.
- xvii. To encourage traditional artisans and the handicraft sector.
- xviii. Ensure that the tourist gets physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenating, culturally enriched and spiritually elevated during their stay in these islands.
- xix. To expand foreign tourist arrivals and facilitate domestic tourism in a manner that is sustainable by ensuring that possible adverse effects such as cultural pollution and degradation of environment are minimized.

Tourist Accommodation

- There are altogether 7 Guest Houses/Tourist Complexes in the Govt. sectors spread all over the Islands.
- In addition to the above, in the private sector, there are about 202 hotels/guest houses in the Islands.
- Almost all the accommodation available is restricted to areas in and around Port Blair itself and a limited accommodation only is available at places other than Port Blair and these are budget-type hotels.

Tourist Traffic

The tourist traffic to this Island has grown from a mere 9500 in 1980 to 86066 in 2000 and 307814 in 2014. Tourist arrival in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands may be seen in the following statement.

Statement 17.1

Tourist Arrival

Year	Domestic Tourists	Foreign Tourists	Total Tourist
2000	81432	4634	86066
2001	85866	5249	91115
2002	90629	4707	95336
2003	93899	4281	98180
2004	105004	4578	109582
2005	30225	2164	32389
2006	118580	9045	127625
2007	136015	10975	146990
2008	124439	12512	136951
2009	142042	13684	155726
2010	180781	14615	195396
2011	202221	15814	218035
2012	238699	17538	256237
2013	243703	14742	258445
2014	292233	15581	307814

The number of domestic tourist was 90629 in the year 2002 which gone up 292233 during 2014 around 4 to 5 thousand foreign tourists visited these Islands during 2002-2004 which has gone up to 15581 during 2014. The tourists (both domestic & Foreign) who have visited this Islands are principally leisure seekers. Due to the earth quake and tsunami waves that hit the Island on 26th December 2004 only 32389 tourists visited during 2005, but during 2006 and 2007 onwards the tourists were again attracted to visit these island to experience the joy of virgin beaches, exclusivity snorkeling, Scuba Diving, Lime stone caves, Coral etc. other attraction is light and sound programme at Cellular Jail. 95 % of tourist to Andaman and Nicobar Islands are domestic and largely from the leave travel concession (LTC) segment i.e family tourist.

Their average length of stay on the Island is between 5 to 6 days. Due to shorter duration of their tour the domestic tourists are often concentrated in the Port Blair and some important places in South Andaman District eg. Wandoor, Jollybouy, Ross Islands, Chidiya Tappu, Havelock, Baratang and Neil Island area and do not spread out to other Island like the International tourist. Foreign tourists are largely from the back-packer category and both these groups contribute very little to the island revenue.

The domestic tourist inflow peaks in October to March that coincide with the holiday months in educational institution where as the international tourists are more thinly spread throughout the year but a longer proportion prefers the survey and mild winter month. On an average an international tourists stays on this Islands for between 15 to 20 days.

Statement 17.2

Revenue earned by the Administration from Tourism Sector

S.No.	Year	Revenue Receipts (₹ In lakhs)	% of variation over previous year
1	2000-01	79.36	
2	2001-02	111.38	+40.35
3	2002-03	132.73	+19.17
4	2003-04	137.91	+3.90
5	2004-05	102.35	-25.78
6	2005-06	66.87	-34.66
7	2006-07	182.45	+172.84
8	2007-08	189.04	+3.61
9	2008-09	203.63	+7.72
10	2009-10	239.57	+17.64
11	2010-11	248.19	+3.64
12	2011-12	260.81	+5.08
13	2012-13	227.66	-12.7
14	2013-14	285.69	+25.48

Statement 17.3

A Places of Tourist interest

(1) Place of Historical Interest.		
Sl. No.	Name of Place.	Location.
1.	Cellular Jail (Atlanta Point)	Port Blair.
2.	Sahid Bedi (Humphry Gunj)	South Andaman
3.	Ross Island	Port Blair.
4.	Viper Island	South Andaman.
CREEK		
Sl. No.	Name of Place.	Location.
1.	Kalighat	North Andaman
2.	Parangara	North Andaman
3.	Uttara	Middle Andaman.
4.	Yeratta	Middle Andaman
5.	Baratang Island	Baratang Island.
BEACHES		
Sl. No.	Name of Place.	Location.
1.	Carbyns Cove	Port Blair

2.	Munda Pahar(Chidya Tappu).	South Andaman.
3.	Sylvan Sand(Chidya Tappu)	South Andaman
4.	Cinque Island.	South Andaman.
5.	North bay.	South Andaman.
6.	Wandoor.	South Andaman.
7.	Loha Barak	South Andaman.
8.	Jolly Buoy.	South Andaman.
9.	Red Skin.	South Andaman.
10.	Ross Island.	South Andaman.
11.	Rut Land.	South Andaman.
12.	Collinpur.	South Andaman
13.	Mark bay.	North Passage Island.
14.	Sita Pur.	Neil island
15.	Radha Nagar.	Havelock
16.	Vijoy Nagar.	Little Andaman.
17.	Butler Bay beach.	Little Andaman
18.	Balu Dera	Baratang.
19.	North Passage Island	Middle Andaman
20.	Amkunj (Rangat)	Middle Andaman.
21.	Curtbert bay(*Rangat)	Middle Andaman.
22.	Karmatang(Mayabunder)	Middle Andaman.
23.	Lalaji Bay (Long Island).	Middle Andaman
24.	Avis	Middle Andaman.
25.	Guiter Island.	Middle Andaman.
26.	Pokadera	Middle Andaman
27.	Rampur.	North Andaman
28.	Kali Pur (Diglipur)	North Andaman
29.	Ram Nagar.	North Andaman.
30.	Smith Island.	North Andaman
31.	Table Island	North Andaman.
32.	Sand bar Joining(Ross & Smith Island)	North Andaman.
TREKKING		
Sl. No.	Name of Place.	Location.
1.	Saddle Peak(732mtrs)	North Andaman
2.	Mount Harriet(365Mtrs)	South Andaman.
3.	Mt. Divalvo	Middle Andaman
4.	Mount Ford	Rutland Island.
5.	Madhuban	South Andaman.
6.	Shoal bay.	South Andaman.
7.	Wandoor	South Andaman.
8.	Wimberly Gunj	South Andaman.
9.	Munda Pahar(Chidyatappu)	South Andaman.
10.	Rutland Island	South Andaman.
5. MUSEUM/EMPORIUM		
1.	Anthropological Museum	Near Dte. of IP&T.
2.	Cottage Industries Emporium	Middle Point.

3.	Khadi Gramodyog Emporium	Middle Point.
4.	Fisheries Museum	Atland Point, Port Blair.
5.	Forest Museum	Haddo, Port Blair.
6.	Naval marine Museum(Sumidrika)	Delanipur.
7.	Sumrithika Museum	Ross Island.
8.	Art Gallery(Cellular Jail)	Atlanta Point, Port Blair.

6. GARDEN/PARK.		
1.	Marina Park(Atlanta Point)	Port Blair.
2	Zoological Garden	Port Blair.
3	Biological Park	Port Blair.
4	Joggers Park	Port Blair.
5	Gandhi Park.(RGT Road)	Port Blair.
6.	Recon Children's Park(Dairy Farm)	Port Blair.
7	Dr. Radha Krishnan Park (South Point)	Port Blair
7. OTHER ATTRACTIONS.		
1.	Sound & Light Show(Cellular Jail)	Port Blair.
2.	Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex., Port Blair	Port Blair.
3.	Children Traffic Park at Marina Park.	Port Blair.
4.	New Amusement park at marina Park.	Port Blair
5.	Amusement park at Gandhi Park.	Port Blair.
6.	Agriculture Firm(Sippighat)	South Andaman.
7.	Water Sport SAI Complex.	Shippi Ghat, S/Andaman.
8.	Chidya Tappu	South Andaman.
9.	Natural Bridge Formation at Neil Island.	South Andaman.
10.	Mud volcano at Baratang.	Baratang.
11.	Mud volcano at Diglipur	North Andaman.
12.	Lime Stone Cave at Baratang.	Baratang.
13.	Waterfalls.	Little Andaman.