

Exploring Tourism Services in Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Through Anthropological Lens

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Services sector is playing very important role in globalizing Indian economy. Better services on one side help in generation of better sources of livelihood for masses, on the other create lucrative opportunities for tourism sector. In this backdrop, this paper attempts to explore the possibilities of tourism and ecotourism at Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Andaman & Nicobar Islands consisting of 293 Islands are situated in Bay of Bengal. These are just like ‘Heaven’ for tourists both foreign and Indians as well as indigenous populations. Out of 39 Islands which are inhabited, are the abodes of six Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) earlier known as Primitive tribal groups viz the Jarwas, Onges, Great Andamanese, Nicobarese, Senteneles, Shompens. Among them tribe like Jarwas is still living in Stone Age culture along with their hunting and gathering strategies. The present research paper is the outcome of empirical research and extensive anthropological field work under taken by the author residing on Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The paper aims to discuss the various forms of tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands viz Health tourism, Eco-tourism and Educational tourism. Along with this, the theme also aims to discuss and explore opportunities of marketing of tourism services in these nature - wealthy islands, what are the drawbacks of tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, PPP concept (Public-Private-Partnership) of infrastructural development, PAT (Provision of Aboriginal Tribes Act) as well as tries to present an ‘Approach’ by which tourism can be encouraged in Andaman & Nicobar Islands on the same patterns as being developed on neighboring islands of Bali, Java, Sumatra etc. along with tribal development i.e. development of tourism as well as tribal in a symbiotic manner .

Introduction

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands were shrouded in mystery for centuries because of their inaccessibility. These are the paragon of beauty and present a landscape full with scenic and picturesque extravaganza. These islands shimmer like emeralds in the Bay of Bengal. The dense forest which cover these islands and the innumerable exotic flowers and birds create a highly poetic and romantic atmosphere. The Andaman & Nicobar are a group of picturesque Islands, big and small, inhabited and uninhabited, a total of 572 islands, islets and rocks lying in the South Eastern Part of the Bay of Bengal. They lie along an arc in long and narrow broken chain, approximately North-South over a distance nearly 800 kms. . It is logical to presume a former land connection form CapeNegris at South part of Burma to Achin Head (CapePedro) in Andalus (Sumatra). The flora and fauna of these islands, however, indicate that this land connection if it existed, should have been prior to the development of their present life form. The territory's capital is the Andamanese town of Port Blair. The territory's population as per the most recent (2011) Census of India was 379,944.

Table 1: Location

• Location	Bay of Bengal
• Longitude	92 ⁰ to 94 ⁰ East
• Latitude	6 ⁰ to 14 ⁰ North

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Table 2: Altitude (Highest Point)

Andaman Islands	
• SaddlePeak (NorthAndamanIsland)	732 Metres
Nicobar Islands	
• Mount Thullier (GreatNicobarIsland)	642 Metres

Table 3: Area

• Total Area	8249 Sq. km.
• Andaman District	6408 Sq. Km.
• Nicobar District	1841 Sq. Km.
• Urban Area	16.64 Sq. Km.
• Rural Area	8232.36 Sq. Km.

Table 4: Length and Breadth

Length and Breadth of Andaman Islands	
• Total Length	467kms
• Maximum Width	52 Kms
• Average Width	24kms
Length and Breadth of Nicobar Islands	
• Total Length	259 Kms
• Maxiimum Width	58 Kms
Biggest Island in Andaman Group	
• MiddleAndamanIsland	1536 Sq.Km
Biggest Island in Nicobar Group	
• GreatNicobarIsland	1045 Sq.Km.
Smallest Island in Andaman Group	
• RossIsland	0.8 Sq Km.
Smallest Island in Nicobar Group	
• PilomillowIsland	1.3 Sq.Km

Table 5: Distance

Distance by Sea (In Kms.)	
• Between Port Blair & Chennai	1190
• Between Port Blair & Calcutta	1255
• Between Port Blair & Vishakapatnam	1200
Distance by Air Kms.	
• Between Calcutta & Port Blair	1303
• Between Chennai & Port Blair	1330

Table 6: Administrative Unit

Administrative Unit	No.
• District	2
• Sub-Division	4
• Tehsil	7
• Town	1
• C.D.Block	5
• LokSabha Seat	1
• Municipal Council	1
• Municipal Ward	18
• Panchayat	67
• Police Station	15
• PanchayatSamiti	07
• ZillaParishad	01
Island/ Village	Nos.
• RevenueVillage	204
• CensusVillage	547
• Inhabited Village	504
• Uninhabited Village	43
• Inhabited Island	36

Table 7: Climate

• Normal Rainfall at Port Blair	3180 mm
• Actual Rainfall at Port Blair during 1999	2975.0 mm
• Rainy days at Port Blair during 1999	209
• Mean Minimum Temperature at Port Blair during 1999	22.8 ^o Celcius
• Mean Maximum Temperature at Port Blair during 1999	29.8 ^o Celcius
• Mean Relative Humidity at Port Blair During 1999	81%

Table 8: Population

	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
TOTAL POPULATION	115133	188741	280661	356265	380581
Male	70027	107261	154369	192985	202,871
Female	45106	81480	126292	163280	177,710
RURAL POPULATION	88915	139107	205706	239954	237,093
Male	53195	78401	111986	124,557	126,287
Female	35720	60706	93720	115397	110,806
URBAN POPULATION	26218	49634	74955	116198	143,488
Male	16832	28860	42383	63781	76,584
Female	9386	20774	32572	52417	66,904

History

First Inhabitants

The Andaman and Nicobar islands have been inhabited for several thousand years, at the very least. The earliest archaeological evidence yet documented goes back some 2,200 years; however, the indications from genetic, cultural and isolation studies the Middle Paleolithic.

In the Andaman Islands, the various Andamanese people maintained their separated existence through the vast majority of this time, diversifying into distinct linguistic, cultural and territorial groups. By the 1850s when they first came into sustained contact by outside groups, the indigenous people of the Andamans were:

- the *Great Andamanese*, who collectively represented at least 10 distinct sub-groups and languages;
- the *Jarawa*;
- the *Jangil* (or *Rutland Jarawa*);
- the *Onge*; and
- the *Sentinelese* (most isolated of all the groups).

In total, these people numbered somewhere around 7,000 at the time of these first encounters. As the numbers of settlers from the mainland increased (at first mostly prisoners and involuntary indentured labourers, later purposely recruited farmers), these indigenous people lost territory and numbers in the face of punitive expeditions by British troops, land encroachment and the effects of various epidemic diseases. The Jangil and most of the Great

Andamanese groups soon became extinct; presently there remain only approximately 400–450 indigenous Andamanese, the Jarawa and Sentinelese in particular maintaining a steadfast independence and refusing most attempts at contact.

The indigenous people of the Nicobars (unrelated to the Andamanese) have a similarly isolated and lengthy association with the islands. There are two main groups:

- the *Nicobarese, or Nicobari*, living throughout many of the islands; and
- the *Shompen*, restricted to the hinterland of Great Nicobar.

British Period

A clear history of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands can be had only from a British Survey of these islands conducted in 1777. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands remained the abode of the Negritos and the Mongoloids respectively, who occupied the Islands for centuries. These islands remained secluded from the mainland till the end of the 18th Century when people from the outside world first arrived. The history of these islands could be divided into four broad periods the period of seclusion and piratical disturbances the British regime - a period of foreign intrusion and settlement the Japanese regime and the Post-Independence period. In the Second Century, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were located in the maps prepared by the great Greek astronomer, mathematician and geographer, Claudius Ptolemaeus, which possibly is the earliest reference to these islands. The early history of Nicobar is not well known although these islands were familiar to traders in ancient times, the islands being situated close to the trade route to the Far East. Though little is known about Portuguese activities in these islands, it is evident that the Portuguese missionaries started preaching Christianity among the islanders. The Nicobarese language also reflects a few Portuguese words.

The Japanese Regime

World War II brought another series of changes in the life of the Andamans. During the War, the Japanese occupied Andamans on March 21, 1942 and kept the region under their effective control till October 8, 1945. Initially the Japanese behaved cordially towards the locals, but became harsh and suspicious after instances came to their notice of some locals maintaining contacts with the British. As a result a large number of innocent people were killed. One such place where the massacre occurred is Humfreygunj. But one good result of the Japanese occupation was making the Andamans self-sufficient, at least in food production. The naval blockade created an acute food crisis and the Japanese compelled the local people to bring more land under cultivation. They also constructed roads. Netaji Subash Chandra Bose arrived in Port Blair on December 29, 1943 and was given a ceremonial welcome. He hoisted the National Flag at Port Blair on 30th Dec. 1943 for the first time during the British regime in India. On October 8, 1945, the Japanese surrendered to the South East Asia Command at Port Blair. The Government quickly restored normalcy in the area and started rehabilitation work.

The Post Independence Regime

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands together with the rest of India, became Independent on August 15th, 1947. The Bengalis are the major population group which came to the Andamans after Independence. They came as 'settlers' under the Government rehabilitation scheme, which started as early as 1949 and continued till the 1970s. All these groups migrated to the Andamans from different districts of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The Bengalis are primarily distributed in the different villages of North, Middle and South Andamans. The rehabilitated settlers of Great Nicobar are the Ex-servicemen. Ex-servicemen were rehabilitated according to the rules of the District Soldier, Sailor, Airmen Board, formerly known as the Ex-servicemen Association and the Indian Ex-servicemen League. The first batch of Ex-servicemen came to the island in 1969. Others, from different parts of the mainland followed in 1970, 1974, 1977, 1979 and 1980. These settlers include among others, Punjabis, Marathis, Malyalis and Tamilians. New rules and legislation were enacted and a Chief Commissioner directly nominated by the President of India headed the islands. On November 12,

1982, the post of Chief Commissioner was elevated to the rank of Lt. Governor. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands now send one elected representative to the Lok Sabha

How to Reach

1) By Air : Port Blair is connected with Chennai and Calcutta by air. Presently flights are operated by Alliance Air/Indian Airlines and Jet Airways.

- Alliance Air: City Office: Middle Point, Port Blair, Tel: 233108 Airport: 232983
- Jet Airways flights are operating every day on Chennai - Port Blair - Chennai sector. Jet Airways: City Office: Junglighat, Port Blair, Tel: 236922/236933 Fax: 236944, Airport: 235911,235944, Web Site: www.jetairways.com

Table 9: Air Fare

	Journey originating from Port Blair	Journey originating from Kolkata/Chennai
Alliance Air/Indian Airlines		
Port Blair - Chennai	Rs. 10460/-	Rs. 11540/-
Port Blair - Kolkata	Rs. 11315/-	Rs. 12510/-
Jet Airways		
Port Blair - Chennai	Rs. 11540/-	Rs. 11540/-

Foreign tourist charter flights are also permitted to land at Port Blair subject to the fulfillment of guidelines of the Director General of Civil Aviation.

2) By Sea

Regular passenger ship services are available to Port Blair from Chennai, Calcutta and Vishakhapatnam and back. There are three to four sailings every month from Calcutta 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 two to four days. Further information on schedules and tariffs can be obtained from:

1. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. Apeejay House, 4th Floor, Dinsa Wacha Road, Mumbai – 400 020 Tel: 2822101/2823316 Fax: (022) 2022438
2. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., Shipping House, No. 13, Strand Road, Calcutta – 700 001 Tel: 2482354, 2488013 Fax: (033) 2482035, 2480377
3. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., JawaharBuilding, RajajiSalai, Chennai – 600 001 Tel: (044) 5231401, Fax: (044) 5231218
4. The Deputy Director of Shipping Services, A&N Administration, 6, RajajiSalai, Chennai – 600 001 Tel: (044) 5220841/5226873
5. The Directorate of Shipping Services, A&N Administration, PhoenixBay Jetty, Port Blair (For MV Nancowry and MV Swarajdweep) Tel: (03192) 232528/232742 Fax: (03192) 230480
6. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair – 744 101 Tel: (03192) 233347, 233590 Fax: (03192) 233778
7. M/s A.V. Bhanojirao and Garuda Pattabhramayya & Co., Post Box No. 17, Vishakapatnam (Agent – Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.) Tel: (0891) 565597/562661, Fax: 566507/549224

Table 10: Ship Fare

Name of Vessel	Class of Accommodation	Fare for Islanders	Fare per berth (Tourist/Non Islanders)(in Rs.)
M.V.Nicobar	Deluxe Cabin	3,280.00	5,880.00
M.V.Nancowry	A-Class Cabin	2,970.00	4,860.00
M.V.Swarajdweep	B-Class Cabin	2,230.00	3,870.00
	Bunk	590.00	1,510.00

M.V.Harshvardhana	Deluxe Cabin	3,280.00	5,880.00
	1st Class Cabin	2,970.00	4,860.00
	4 & 6 Berth Cabin	2,230.00	3,870.00
	2nd Class Cabin	1,960.00	2,990.00
	Bunk	590.00	1,510.00
M.V.Akbar	Deluxe Cabin	3,280.00	5,880.00
	1st Class Cabin	2,860.00	4,150.00
	AC Dormitory	1,490.00	2,530.00
	Ordinary Bunk	550.00	1,310.00

Tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Andaman & Nicobar 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. Topographically the islands are hilly in places fringed with coconut palm, covered with tropical jungle and interspersed with flat stretches of crescent shaped beaches. Adventure tourism like trekking, Island camping, snorkeling, SCUBA diving etc. and other water sports are the real attractions. A marvelous mix of nature's most precious delights, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are a once in a lifetime holiday experience. Various places of tourism are as follows -

Islands

- 1) **Jolly Buoy** :An island in MahatmaGandhiMarineNational Park, it offers a breath taking underwater view of coral and marine life. It is an ideal place for snorkeling, sea bathing and basking on the sun kissed beach.
- 2) **Cinque Island** : The lure of underwater coral gardens and unspoiled beaches specially a sand bar joining two islands are irresistible. Super place for SCUBA diving, swimming, fishing and Camping.
- 3) **RedSkin Island** : Another island in MahatmaGandhiMarineNational Park has a nice beach and offers spectacular view of corals and marine life.
- 4) **Havelock Island** : About 38 Kms. from Port Blair, this island provides idyllic resort in the lap of virgin beach and unpolluted environment. Camping facility is available near Radhanagar beach. A guesthouse of Tourism Department "Dolphin Resort" is available for the tourists.
- 5) **Barren Island** : At a distance of about 135 Kms. from Port Blair is the land of volcano, BarrenIsland, the only active volcano in India. The Island, about 3 Kms. has a big crater of the volcano, rising abruptly from the sea, about 1/2 Km. from the shore and is about 150 fathoms deep. Can be visited on board vessels.
- 6) **Ross Island** : Once the seat of British power and capital of these Islands, it stands now as a ruin of the bygone days with the old structure almost in debris. A small museum named 'Smritika' holds photographs and the other antiques of the Britishers relevant to these islands.
- 7) **Viper Island** : The Britishers used to harbour convicts here. The first jail was constructed here which was abandoned after the construction of Cellular Jail. It has a gallows atop a hillock, where condemned prisoners were hanged. Sher Ali, who killed Lord Mayo, the Viceroy of India in 1872, was also hanged here.
- 8) **Chatham Island** : It has a Saw Mill lying on the tiny island connected by a bridge over a stretch of sea-water. This Saw Mill is one of the biggest and oldest in Asia. The main mainland -Islandharbour is also here. The other harbour is Haddo, which is nearby.

Beaches

Sandy beaches of these islands are famous for turtle nesting. Important species of turtles include: Leather Back Turtle, Green Sea Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle and Olive Ridley Turtle. Water Monitor Lizard, Salt Water Crocodiles, Reticulate Python etc. are also seen here.

- 1) **Corbyn's Cove Tourism Complex** : One of the most picturesque sea-beaches, it is ideal for sea bathing and sun-basking. The Waves Restaurant, The Peerless Resort nearby and the Hornbill Nest Guest House at a stone's throw, provide a kaleidoscopic view of the blue water front.
- 2) **Radhnagar Beach** : Radhanagar and Vijaynagar Beach in Havelock are real exposures of unpolluted nature for an environment lover. Vijaynagar beach is just in front of Dolphin Yatri Niwas and Radhanagar beach is 7km away from Dolphin Yatri Niwas.
- 2) **Harminder Bay Beach** : These beautiful beaches are situated at Hut Bay island at a distance of 100kms from Port Blair and are connected by Inter Islands shipping services.
- 3) **Karmatang Beach** : Karmatang beach, at turtle nesting ground is being developed as tourist complex. Situated at Mayabunder, northern part of Middle Andaman, 240 kms by road and 136 kms by boat from Port Blair.
- 5) **Ramnagar Beach** : A sandy beach situated at Diglipur Island. It is connected by two daily boat services from Mayabunder and from Port Blair twice a week.

Monuments

1) **Cellular Jail** : Cellular Jail, located at Port Blair, stood mute witness to the tortures meted out to the freedom fighters, who were incarcerated in this Jail. The Jail, completed in the year 1906 acquired the name, 'cellular' because it is entirely made up of individual cells for the solitary confinement of the prisoners. It originally was a seven pronged, puce-coloured building with central tower acting as its fulcrum and a massive structure comprising honeycomb like corridors. The building was subsequently damaged and presently three out of the seven prongs are intact. The Jail, now a place of pilgrimage for all freedom loving people, has been declared a National Memorial.

The penal settlement established in Andamans by the British after the First War of Independence in 1857 was the beginning of the agonising story of freedom fighters in the massive and awful jails at Viper Island followed by the Cellular Jail. The patriots who raised their voice against the British Raj were sent to this Jail, where many perished. Netaji Subash Chandra Bose hoisted the tri-colour flag to proclaim Independence on 30th December 1943 at a place near this Jail.

This three-storeyed prison, constructed by Britishers in 1906, is a pilgrimage destination for freedom fighters. This colossal edifice has mutely witnessed the most treacherous of inhumane atrocities borne by the convicts, who were mostly freedom fighters. Now it is dedicated to the nation as a National Memorial.

The saga of the heroic freedom struggle is brought alive in a moving *Son-et-Lumiere*, Light and Sound Show daily inside the jail compound at 6.00 PM (Hindi) and 7.15 PM (English). Also there is a Museum, an Art gallery, and a Photo gallery, which are open on all days except Monday from 9.00 AM to 12 Noon and 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM.

- Entry fee: -Rs. 5/-, Camera – photo - Rs. 10/-, video - Rs. 50/-
- Light & Sound Show – Entry fee: adult Rs. 20/-, child Rs. 10/- (Above 5 & below 12yrs)

2) **Ross Island** : Ross Island, the erstwhile capital of Port Blair during the British regime, is a tiny island standing as guard to Port Blair harbour. The island presently houses the ruins of old buildings like Ballroom, Chief Commissioner's House, Govt. House, Church, Hospital, Bakery, Press, Swimming Pool and Troop Barracks, all in dilapidated condition, reminiscent of the old British regime.

Ever since Dr. James Pattison Walker arrived in Port Blair aboard the East India Company's steam frigate 'Senuramis' on 10th March 1858, this island remained under British occupation till 1942. From 1942 to 1945, the island was under the occupation of Japanese. However, the allies reoccupied the island in 1945 and later abandoned it.

During British occupation, this island was the seat of power of the Britishers. It was developed into self-equipped township with all facilities required for a civilized colony. Dr. Walker, Chairman of the Andaman Committee, established the infamous and the dreaded Penal Settlement with 200 convicts. The Britishers even persuaded the aborigines to come and live in some huts at Ross Island and even established an Andaman Home for them in 1863. Later on the services of these Andamanese were used to catch the escaping convicts from Ross Island.

The island with historical background and preservable ruins is spread along an area of 0.6 sq. kms. With the ruins and also with the historical background, the Island has gained a lot of popularity among the tourists.

Ross island is open for the tourists to visit during day time as the boat services are available from the Phoenix Bay jetty at 8.30 AM, 10.30 AM, and 12.30 PM. Navy has established a museum on the Island Known as 'Smritika' depicting the history of the Island.

- Entry Fee:Rs 20/-

3) Viper Island : The tiny, serene, beautiful island of Viper witnessed the untold sufferings the freedom fighters had to undergo. Dangerous convicts found guilty of violating the rules of the Penal Settlement, were put in fetters and were forced to work with their fetters on in this island. Freedom fighters like Nanigopal and NandlalPulindas, who had resorted to hunger strike at the Cellular Jail, were imprisoned at ViperIsland. The jail at Viper, where prisoners deported from the mainland were confined, was built by the British under the supervision of Major Fort. Work on the prison was started in 1867. Owing to the working conditions, the jail earned the notorious name Viper Chain Gang Jail.

The island derives its name from the vessel 'Viper' in which Lt. Archibald Blair came to the islands in 1768 with the purpose of establishing a Penal Settlement. The vessel, it is believed, met with an accident and its wreckage was abandoned near the island.

Gallows built on top of a hillock, visible to all prisoners in the island, signified death. Sher Ali, the Pathan, guilty of murdering Lord Mayo, was condemned to death and hanged at ViperIsland.

The Harbour cruise, available daily from Phoenix Bay Jetty (at 3 PM), provides a panoramic view of different points around the harbour and includes a trip to ViperIsland.

some criminal tribes from Central and United Provinces, refugees from erstwhile East Pakis

Museums

1) National Museum : This three-storeyed prison, constructed by Britishers in 1906, is a pilgrimage destination for freedom fighters. This colossal edifice has mutely witnessed the most treacherous of inhumane atrocities borne by the convicts, who were mostly freedom fighters. Now dedicated to the nation as a National Memorial.

2) Anthropological Museum : This museum at PhoenixBay (Bus stand – Delanipur road) depicts the life of the Paleolithic Islanders. It also houses the models of the aborigines and their tools. Closed on Mondays and holidays.

3) Fisheries Museum : Situated near Andaman Water Sports Complex, it exhibits species of marine life peculiar to the islands and found in the Indo-Pacific and the Bay of Bengal. Closed on Mondays and holidays.

- Entry Fee: adult – Rs. 2/-, child (upto 12 years) Re. 1/-
- Video without focus light – Rs. 25/-

4) Samudrika (NavalMarineMuseum) : Situated opposite to Andaman Teal House, Delanipur this museum is meant to create awareness on various aspects of oceanic environment. A good collection of shells, corals and a few species of colourful fishes found in these islands are on display.

- Time: 8.30 AM – 12.00 Noon, 2.00 PM – 5.00 PM, Monday & holiday closed
- Entry fee - Rs. 10/-

5) Zoological Survey of India Museum : Situated near to Andaman Teal House, this museum and research library exhibit a good variety of sponges, corals, butterflies, centipedes etc., Open on all working days.

6) Forest Museum : Situated at Haddo (near to the Zoo), this museum offers an insight into forest activities through scale models and displays decorative pieces made of famous woods like Padauk, Marble, Peauma, Gurjan, Satin Wood, etc., Open on all working days.

Picnic Spot

1) Corbyn's Cove Tourism Complex : One of the most picturesque sea-beaches, it is ideal for sea bathing and sun-basking. The Waves Restaurant, The Peerless Resort nearby and the Hornbill Nest Guest House at a stone's throw, provide a kaleidoscopic view of the blue water front.

2) Chidiya Tapu (25 kms. from Port Blair) : Chidiya Tapu is the southern most tip of South Andaman. The lush green mangroves, forest cover with numerous chirping birds and the Sylvan Sands and Mundapahar beaches make it an ideal picnic site. The forest guesthouse situated on top of a hillock provides a fabulous view of isolated islands, submerged corals and the breath-taking sunset. Conducted tours are available from Andaman Teal House, Port Blair.

3) Mount Harriet (55 km, by road/15 km by ferry and road from Port Blair) : The summer headquarters of the Chief Commissioner during British Raj, this place is an ideal for a nice and fascinating over view of the outer islands and the sea. It is the highest peak in the South Andamans (365 metres high). One can trek upto Madhuban through a nature trail and can find rare endemic birds, animals and butterflies. Conducted tours to Mt. Harriet are available from Andaman Teal House.

Tour Packages

Package Tours

	No. of Days
Places in and around Port Blair - Ross Island - Viper Island and Jolly Buoy Island/Cinque Island	3 days
Places in and around Port Blair - Jolly Buoy/ Cinque Island and Neill Island/ Havelock	5 days
Port Blair - Jolly Buoy/ Cinque Island - Neil/ Havelock island – Rangat Cutbert Bay – Port Blair	6 days
Port Blair – Rangat, Cutbert Bay – Mayabunder - Karma tang – Port Blair	5 days
Port Blair – Diglipur Ross and Smith, Lamiya Bay, Kalipur, Water Sports Centre, Saddle Peak – Port Blair	5 days
Port Blair – Rangat – Mayabunder- Diglipur – Port Blair	8 days

Places of Interest in Andaman

1) Neill Island (36 kms. from Port Blair) : This beautiful island with lush green forest and sandy beaches is the vegetable bowl of Andamans. Connected by boat from Port Blair four days a week, it provides an ideal holiday for eco-friendly tourists. Hawabill Nest guesthouse of the Directorate of Tourism is situated here (Tel: 82630). One can feel the sincerity and serenity of village life here. Beautiful beaches at Laxmanpur, Bharatpur, Sitapur and the bridge formation on the sea-shore (Howra bridge) are the attractions.

2) Long Island (82 kms. from Port Blair) : Connected by boat four times a week from Phoenix Bay Jetty, this island offers an excellent sandy beach at Lalaji Bay, unpolluted environment and evergreen forests. The sea around the island is frequented by dolphin convoys. Lalaji bay, 6 kms. away from the boat jetty, is accessible by 15 minutes journey in dinghies or trekking through the forest. Directorate of Tourism offers island camping during season.

3) Rangat (170 kms. by road and 90 kms. by sea) : One can enjoy the quiet village life and solitude of virgin nature here. You can also breathe unpolluted air, a rare commodity for the city dweller. Cutbert Bay beach (20 kms. away from Rangat bazar/jetty) is a turtle nesting ground. One can view the nesting of turtles during December – February season. Hawksbill Nest, guest house of the Directorate of Tourism, is near to the Cutbert bay beach and Turtle sanctuary. Panchavati waterfall and Amkunj beach are on the way to Cutbert bay. One can go to Mayabunder and Diglipur from here.

4) Mayabunder (242 kms. by road/136 kms. by sea) : Situated in the northern part of Middle Andaman, Mayabunder offers excellent scenic beauty and beautiful beaches. Inhabited by the settlers from Burma, East Pakistan and ex-convicts, Mayabunder has a distinct culture. Beach at Avis Island (30 minutes boat journey from Mayabunder), Karmatang beach (13 kms.) and mangrove lined creeks are the attractions. Karmatang beach is also a turtle nesting ground. One can view nesting of turtles during December-February season. Swiftlet Nest guest house of the Directorate of Tourism (Tel: 73495) is very near to the Karmatang beach. One can go to Kalighat (for Diglipur) by boat from here.

5) Diglipur (290 kms by road/180 kms. by sea) : Situated in North Andaman Island, Diglipur provides a rare experience for eco-friendly tourists. It is famous for its oranges, rice and marine life. Saddle Peak, 732 metres, the highest point in the islands is nearby. Kalpong, the only river of Andaman flows from here. The first hydroelectric project of the islands is coming upon this river. 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. The Water Sports Centre is near by. Those who want to go for trekking to Saddle Peak can collect trekking equipments on hire from Turtle Resort and start trekking from Kalipur. Ram Nagar

beach (15 kms. away from Kalighat) is famous for Turtle nesting during December – February season. One who comes by boat from Port Blair will reach Aerial bay jetty, which is very near to places like Diglipur and Kalipur.

6) Ross and Smith : The twin islands joined by a bewitching sand bar, is 30 minutes away from Aerial bay jetty or Kalipur water sports centre. Directorate of Tourism offers island camping at Smith island during the tourist season. One can feel the innocent beauty of village life everywhere in Diglipur. One who prefers to be away from the hustle and humdrum of urban life must come here to enjoy unhurried holidays. Saddle peak is popular for trekking/nature trail through the evergreen rain forest. Kalighat is connected by daily two boat services from Mayabunder. Port Blair – Diglipur (Aerial bay jetty) boat services are available twice a week.

7) Little Andaman Island (120 kms. by sea) : This island has a beautiful beach at Butler Bay, a waterfall and plantation of oil palms. Apart from this there are several sandy beaches all along the coastline of the island. The break water at Hut Bay offers an excellent view to the tourists. Little Andaman is the vegetable bowl for the Nicobar group of islands. The Ongetribals live in this island, so do Nicobarese apart from settlers from erstwhile East Pakistan and other places. However entry to tribal areas is restricted. Journey 8 hrs. by sea from Port Blair towards south.

Places of Interest in Nicobar

Comprising of 28 Islands, with an area of 1,841 sq.Kms. the Nicobar Islands are separated from Andamans by the Ten Degree Channel. The Nicobars abound in coconut-palm, casuarina and pandanus. Great and Little Nicobar have the Giant Robber Crab, Monkeys with long tail, Nicobarese Pigeons in plenty. Megapode, a rare bird is found in Great Nicobar. The southernmost tip of India is not Kanyakumari as has till recently been considered, it is **INDIRA POINT** in Great Nicobar Island. Nicobar group is out of bounds for foreigners at present. Indians may be given permission in exceptional cases on application.

1) Car Nicobar: (Area 126.9 sq. km., Distance 270 kms. by sea) : A rustling fan, Car Nicobar is the headquarters of Nicobar District. It is a flat fertile island covered with cluster of coconut palms and enchanting beaches with a roaring sea all around. The Nicobari huts, built on stilts having entrance through floor with a wooden ladder, are unique to this island. 16 hrs. journey by sea from Port Blair.

2) Katchal (425 kms. by sea) : Katchal is a tiny island in the Nicobar group. It was this island, which heralded the new millennium with the first sunrise on 1st January 2000. This island has beautiful beaches at East bay, Jhula and West bay.

3) Great Nicobar (540 kms. by sea) : The southern end of the Nicobars, this island has Indira Point (formerly Pygmalion Point) the southern most tip of India. The beach near Galathia is the nesting ground for Gaint Leather Back Turtles. This island also has biosphere reserve area. 50-60 hrs. journey by sea from Port Blair.

Places of Interest in and around Port Blair

1) Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park : The Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park at Wandoor is at a distance of 29 Kms. from Port Blair covering an area of 281.5 Sq.Kms. This Marine Park made-up of open sea, creeks and 15 small and large islands, is one of the best found anywhere in the world. Viewing of rare corals and underwater marine life through glass bottom boats, SCUBA diving and Snorkelling are a lifetime experience for anyone.

2) Gandhi Park : This beautiful park at Port Blair has facilities like amusement rides, safe water sports, nature trail around the lake, garden, restaurant and historic remains like Japanese Temple as well as a bunker. The erstwhile Diltaman tank, which was the only source of drinking water to Port Blair, and the area around it has been developed into Gandhi Park in an unbelievably short time of 13 days.

3) Sippighat Farm (14 kms.) : Sprawling over an area of 80 acres is a Government farm. Research & Development programmes for cultivation of spices like cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, coconut and pepper are conducted here. Research and Demonstration farm of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) is nearby.

4) Chidiya Tapu (25 kms. from Port Blair) : Chidiya Tapu is the southern most tip of South Andaman. The lush green mangroves, forest cover with numerous chirping birds and the Sylvan

Sands and Mundapahar beaches make it an ideal picnic site. The forest guesthouse situated on top of a hillock provides a fabulous view of isolated islands, submerged corals and the breath-taking sunset. Conducted tours are available from Andaman Teal House, Port Blair.

5) Collinpur (36 kms. from Port Blair) : Situated near to Tirur, this place has a beautiful sandy beach with shallow water. Suitable for swimming, sun basking and viewing sunset.

6) Madhuban (75 kms. by road/20 kms. by ferry and road from Port Blair) : This place is a trekking area, north east of South Andaman. Exotic endemic birds, animals, butterflies, and elephant lumbering are the most interesting part of the trek.

7) Mount Harriet (55 km, by road/15 km by ferry and road from Port Blair) : The summer headquarters of the Chief Commissioner during British Raj, this place is an ideal for a nice and fascinating over view of the outer islands and the sea. It is the highest peak in the South Andamans (365 metres high). One can trek upto Madhuban through a nature trail and can find rare endemic birds, animals and butterflies. Conducted tours to Mt. Harriet are available from Andaman Teal House. Entry Fee: Rs. 10/-

8) Mini Zoo : Mini Zoo Situated at Haddo (Delanipur - Chatham road), it houses some of the rare species of endemic birds and animals found in these islands.

- Time: 8.00 AM - 5.00 PM Monday closed.
- Entry fee – adult –Rs. 2/-, child – Re.1/-

Other Places of Interest

1) Andaman Water Sports Complex : This unique complex offers all possible aqua-sport facilities like Water-skiing, Sail boats, Windsurfing, Speed Boats etc., and safe water sports like Paddle Boats, Row Boats etc. There is a sea water swimming pool and a change room. There is also a Memorial for the Battle of Aberdeen fought between Britishers and Andamanee aboriginals in 1859. Nearby is an Amusement Park with Rollercoaster, Pleasure rides etc. and a children Traffic Park is adjacent to it.

2) Snorkeling : One can enjoy the under-water marine life and view the rarest varieties of corals by snorkeling in the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Carbyn's Cove Tourism Complex, Havelock and other islands on all days from dawn to dusk depending on the weather.

4) Scuba Diving : Diving in Andaman waters offer a fascinating world of under-water marine life, varieties of colourful fishes, rarest of the coral reefs in the world, mysterious remains of sunken ships etc. All these can be explored through SCUBA diving.

5) Trekking : One can go trekking through the nature trail from Mt. Harriet to Madhuban and enjoy the rare forest life, flora and fauna. There are other trekking routes also, Trekking equipment and the tents are available on hire from Andaman Teal House.

Diving in Andaman

There is no adventure than diving. Whether you are novice, or whether you were been diving for so many years, there is always something new, fascinating or challenging about venturing into the underwater world. Your mind may be mesmerized by clouds of colourful fish, your curiosity raised by the mysterious remains of sunken ships or your creativity awakened by the art of underwater photography. Your diving interests may range from a casual pastime pursued on vacation, to a constant passion, or even a career. Diving offers something new for everyone.

Diving in Andamans is a unique lifetime experience. The coastal water surrounding these islands is the abode of one of the richest coral reef ecosystem in the world. The specialty is that, here the coral reefs and underwater formations are undamaged by human activity. The best season for diving is from December to April.

Many of the islands are surrounded by fringing reefs, often several hundred meters wide and separated from the shore by a lagoon of similar width. There are also more steeply undulating hills of raven volcanic lava, which makes for some unusual diving. There are plenty of steeply sloping and shallow reefs suitable for snorkeling. Large pelagics are plentiful in these waters, as are a variety of sharks. Large schools of hammerhead often patrol the waters away from the reefs and Grey, Whitetip, Nurse and leopard sharks are found closer inshore. Silvertip and Ocean Whitetips also sometimes appear out of the deep blue beyond. Enormous manta Rays are also often seen.

Few dive sites near to South Andaman Island/Port Blair -

- 1) **Cinque Island** : One of the best dive destinations in the island, it has clear emerald water with a visibility of upto 80 feet. The deep dive offers a terrific variety of marine life, including black coral, sightings of sharks and is ideal for the experienced diver.
- 2) **North Point** : This site at Cinque Island is mostly highlighted by sponges and small corals and diversity of fish life. Southeast Reef at Cinque Island is a good site for novices. The southeast part of the reef consists of hard and soft corals and very dense on the rocks to about 16m(53 ft).
- 3) **Bala Reef** : On the western side of little Andaman, Bala Reef spreads over 4-5 sq.km and is said to be one of the best sites in the Andamans for coral-with vibrant colours.
- 4) **Fish Rock** : Near Passage Island offers an extremely colourful dive. The topography consists of rocky slopes, boulders and drop-offs, featuring large fan of corals and plenty of sponges, Below 25m, the rocks are covered in small bushy soft corals in numerous hues. Hard corals are not so evident. Grey and Whitetip Reef and Reef Sharks are almost always in the vicinity as are Nurse Sharks. Among the rest of the marine life are Eagle rays, Potato Cod, large coral groupers, fusiliers, suitlips, turtles, batfish, bumphead, Parrotfish, Squirrelfish, curious and friendly oriental sweetlips, surgeonfish, yellow Tangs, Triggerfish, tuna, Rainbow runners and many species of trevally.
- 5) **Snake Island off Corbyn's Cove beach** : This site offers awesome rock faces and spectacular dive landscape. Marine life includes Trigger fish, Grunts, Goatfish and Rays.
- 6) **Corruption Rock** : Corruption Rock sticks out between Chidiyatapu and Rutland Island. The dive site is on the western side of the rock and is made up of big underwater boulders. The corals are not brilliant but the craggy undersea landscape of boulders is stunning. A fantastic wonderland of gullies, channels, ridges and canyons. Look out for giant napoleons and eagle rays, huge snappers, schooling fusiliers, banner and unicorn fish, Dolphins, tuna and reef sharks have also been sighted here.
- 7) **Rutland Island**: The shallow waters near to the island have a good representation of most smaller fish and coral, and a good place for training open water divers. There is a ship wreck site also.
- 8) **Havelock Island**: This is located approximately 50kms from Port Blair by inter-island ferry. There is a range of largely unexplored dive sites rich in underwater marine life.

Dive sites near to the Havelock Island

- 1) **Mac Point** : Mostly hard corals and their inhabitants are found. Usually good visibility, dugongs have been spotted here.
- 2) **Aquarium** : Aquarium is a fringing reef with lots of 'fish traffic'. Usually good visibility, mostly hard corals.
- 3) **Barracuda City** : Barracuda City Tons of fish, sometimes turtles, mostly hard and some soft corals. Rather suitable for experienced divers.
- 4) **Turtle Bay** : Turtle Bay is an easy pleasant dive site not exceeding 14 meters. Rays are found in the sand and with luck turtles.
- 5) **Seduction Point** : A huge rock with different kind of aquatic life. Napoleons can be seen. The shallow part is full with staghorn corals and its inhabitants.
- 6) **Lighthouse** : Lighthouse is a huge dive site, suitable for any kind of dives. Huge variety of soft and hard corals. Perfect for night dives.
- 7) **The Wall** : The Wall is a huge dive submerged rock. The wall drops down to a maximum of 55 meters and is full with life. Huge forests of soft corals plus schools of fish circling you, makes it always a memorable dive.
- 8) **Pilot Reef** : Near to Havelock is a huge block of pristine hard corals. At the bottom (max 24 meters) 'canyons' are stretching out. Leopard and White Tip Sharks have been sighted.
- 9) **Minerva ledge** : at Havelock is even bigger block of hard corals. Tons of fish even bigger block of hard corals. Tons of fish, usually good visibility and the possibility of seeing sharks makes it one of the top dive sites.
- 10) **Campbell Shoal off North Button Island** : The bottom of this site is covered in mainly hard corals, with sporadic sandy patches and hosts a multitude of reef animals. The marine life includes Whitetip Reef Sharks, large cod and groupers, Coral Trout, Blue and Golden-banded fusiliers, Giant Trevally and a host of colourful reef-fish.

11) Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park : Wandoor Hundreds of colourfull varieties of coral reef fishes can be seen in the park. Some of these are clownfish, butterfly fish, surgeon fish, angel fish, parrot fish, bat fish and groupers. Whitetip shark, hammer headed shark, Manta ray and blue fin jack are also occasionally seen. More than 50 tyres of corals are found in the fringing type of coral reefs in the park. Some important coral varieties found here are Acropora, Pocillopora, Montipora, Leptoseris, Fungia, Portis, Tubipora and Gorgonians.

Primitive Tribal Groups in Andaman & Nicobar

There are five Primitive Tribal Groups who have been identified in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. They are

- i) **Great Andamanese** of Strait Island
- ii) **Onges** of Little Andaman
- iii) **Jarawas** of South and Middle Andaman
- iv) **Sentinelese** of Sentinel Islands, and
- v) **Shompens** of Great Nicobar

i) The Great Andamanese : They are once the largest in population among the various tribes inhabiting the Andaman Islands. Their estimated population in 1789 was 10,000. By 1901, their number had decreased to 625 and by 1969 their number had decreased to 19 only. According to the Census of 1971, only 24 of them survived, but by 1999. their number has increased to 41. The Administration is doing its best to protect and preserve these tribes. These tribals have been rehabilitated in a small island named Strait Island. The Great Andamanese are foragers. Today, they eat rice, dal chapati and other modern food articles. They can cook food with the ingredients of spices. At times, they still go in for hunting and gathering. Actually, their traditional food items are fish, dugong, turtle, turtle eggs, crabs, roots and tubers. They also eat pork, Andaman water monitor lizard, etc. As aquatic people, they relish octopus, molluscs taken out from shell marine animals like turban shell, scorpion shell, sundial, helmet, trochus and screw shell besides various types of crabs and fish. Some of them cultivate vegetables. Of late, they have established poultry farms. They are exposed to highly communicable diseases besides unhealthy drinking habits which of course are acquired after contact with the monobund urban dominant and advanced communities.

ii) Onge : Onges are one of the most primitive tribes in India. They belong to the Negrito racial stock and they have been relegated to the reserved pockets both at Dugong Creek and South Bay of Little Andaman Island. They are also diminishing in number. They live in a remote corner of the country in a small pocket. They are the semi-nomadic tribes and fully dependent on the food provided by nature. They have now experienced the impact of outsiders. At the same time efforts at befriending them have proved to be successful. They have been provided with pucca hut type houses, food, clothes, medicines, etc by the Administration. They eat turtle, fish, roots and jack fruits and etc. They have developed artistry and craft. The Onges can make canoes. A primary school has been functioning at the Dugong Creek settlement of Onges. This tribe has become laid back and dependent in their ways. Also their rate of reproduction has become very low.

iii) Jarwas : They are now friendly and voluntary seek medical assistance. They do not have good canoes but can make rafts which they build to cross the streams. The year 1974 was a land mark in the history of Jarawas. Dropping of gifts was done in February and March 1974. After establishing this friendly mission with the Jarawas, the contact party of the Administration quite often met the Jarawas and gave them gift items like banana, coconut and other fruits. With the passage of time, the behavioral pattern of Jarawas have changed. Till the beginning of 1998, they remained hostile, but now they are coming out of the jungle quite often and are becoming friendlier. For nearly a year there is no incidence of killing of villagers by the Jarawas. On the other hand, the Jarawas are coming out from their habitat to mix with the local people. After giving them gift items like bananas, coconuts, etc., they are being sent out to live in their own natural habitat, with view not to force them to have a taste of the civilized world. Isolated so long, the Jarawas otherwise appear to be healthy, with smooth skin, deep curly hair, long and sturdy hands and legs and sturdy bones. They are physically fit for hunting, fishing. Unlike, other tribes mention earlier, the Jarawas are not welfare dependent people. As nomadic tribes subsisting on hunting, fishing and gathering activities, their traditional food articles

consist of boar (wild boar), turtles and their eggs, crabs and other shore animals, etc. wild pig fruits and honey.

(iv) Sentinelese : The Sentinelese are the inhabitants of NorthSentinelIsland. The area is about 60 Sq. Kilometers. They are probably the world’s only Paleolithic people surviving today without contact with any other group or community. They are considered as an off-shoot to the OngeJarawa tribes which have acquired a different identity due to their habitation in an isolated and have lost contact with the main tribes. The Sentinelese are very hostile and never leave their Island. Very little is known about these hostile tribes.

(v) Shompens : The habitation of Shompens is the Great Nicobar which is the largest among the Nicobar group of Islands. Like the Nicobarese, they belong to the Mongoloid race. The Shompens have two divisions, the smaller division being known as MawaShompens. They inhabit areas very close to the coastal region along the river valleys. They are very shy. They are quite intimate with the Nicobarese and of the major group of Shompens, the hostile Shompens are living in Alexendra and Galathia river areas and also on the east coast of the area in the interior of the Island. In the past, frequent attacks are believed to have been made on the MawaShompens by the hostile Shompens. But now, such hostility has been stopped. It is probably because they have been largely reduced in number due to various diseases. The MawaShompens are the victims of diseases and physically very weak. With the establishment of the settlement at Campbell Bay in Great Nicobar, Shompens have been visiting the settlers and they are gradually shaking off their shyness and indifferent attitude towards the civilized people.

Table 11: Population of PVTGs

Category	Census Year						
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Andaman Islands							
Andamane	23	19	24	26	45	43	44
Ongese	150	129	112	97	95	96	101
Sentinelese	-	(50)	-	-	(100)	(39)	(15)
Jarawas	(50)	(500)	-	31	(280)	(240)	380
Nicobar Islands							
Nicobarese	11902	13903	17874	21984	26000	28653	27168
Shompens	(20)	71	92	223	250	398	229
Total	12145	14672	18102	22361	26770	29469	27937
Note : Figures in brackets are estimated.; Source: Census 2001, 2011.							

Ecotourism and Anthropology of Tourism

The word tourism was used by 1811 and tourist by 1840 (William & Theobald, 1998). In 1936, they defined foreign tourist as "someone travelling abroad for at least 24 h". Its successor, the United Nations, amended this definition in 1945, by including a maximum stay of six months (William & Theobald, 1998).

Ecotourism is a form of tourism involving visiting fragile, pristine, and relatively undisturbed natural areas, intended as a low-impact and often small scale alternative to standard commercial mass tourism. It means responsible travel to natural areas, conserving the environment, and improving the well-being of the local people. Its purpose may be to educate the traveler, to provide funds for ecological conservation, to directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities, or to foster respect for

different cultures and for human rights. Since the 1980s, ecotourism has been considered a critical endeavor by environmentalists, so that future generations may experience destinations relatively untouched by human intervention. Several university programs use this description as the working definition of ecotourism.

The history of ecotourism started in the 1950s. Before that, the concept was not widely recognized or understood. In the history of ecotourism, it existed in a few different forms that primarily try to achieve the same thing that the current ecotourism does. Ecotourism was first introduced in Africa in the 1950's with the legalization of hunting (Miller,2007). This need for recreational hunting zones led to the creation of protected areas, national parks, and game reserves. In the 1980s, the concept of ecotourism became much more widely known and studied around the world. Over the years, ecotourism has become more and more popular because people have begun to realize the importance of preserving the environment. More and more people are aware and scared of what might happen when the earth's natural resources run out or run low. With knowledge, people are more curious about exploring natural environment and doing good deeds at the same time. Tourism is travel for recreational, leisure or business purposes. The World Tourism Organization (WTO) defines tourists as people who "travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for more than 24 h and not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited" (WTO, 1995). Tourism has become a popular global leisure activity. In 2007, there were over 903 million international tourist arrivals, with a growth of 6.6%. (Thulasimala&DevDass, 2010).

The anthropology of tourism is quite a young branch of our science. Until the 1960s, tourism had been neglected by anthropologists, apparently, considered as something not serious enough, self-evident, and not worthy of attention from the science part. However, they had to pay attention to it when other thing became self-evident – modern tourism – that is the most powerful in the history of mankind voluntary nonlinear migration across national and natural geographic borders, not connected with peoples' migration, war, violence, privation, and affecting global economy, politics, technologies and culture. Some anthropologists, Theron Nunez in particular, drew their professional attention to the anthropological phenomenon of tourism at the beginning of the 1960s, but one may speak about formation of the tourism anthropology as a subdiscipline only with the appearance of the first system researches and attempts to make theoretic generalizations, recorded in the publication of collected researches *Hosts and Guests*. In a work, 'The Anthropology of Tourism', Valene Smith in 1977 has attempted to discuss characteristics for tourism phenomena and these are analyzed from the standpoint typical for classic ethnology. Nelson Graburn proposes to view tourism from the perspective of cognitive practices as a 'sacred journey' speculating on the subject of binary oppositions: 'work + daily life = secular // tourism + daily life = sacral'. Dennison Nash proposes to consider tourism as a form and expression of postcolonial imperialism. Valene Smith, Margaret Swain, Philip Mckean examine the forms of tourism and related common problems of anthropology – gender, ethnos marginality, traditional economy, environmental support system – on the examples of specific tribes and ethnic groups – the Eskimos, Kuna Mola, Kuna Yala, aboriginal Balinese. In other words, there was an attempt to use old methodology to a new phenomenon.

Hence, the anthropology of tourism offers an insight into the socio-cultural dimensions of tourism, such as the behaviours of cultures and societies. International tourists in the second half of the twentieth century started to visit those locations in which many anthropologists

had carried out their fieldwork. The interaction between tourists and local people provided a new source of anthropological enquiry (Holden, 2005). Therefore, traditionally in tourism studies, anthropology tended to deal with the impacts of tourism on the lifestyles, traditions and cultures of local people, residents or 'hosts'.

Different studies reveal that in the past few decades, the tourism sector has emerged as a significant economic activity in island nations, particularly in tropical regions. However, most of the tropical islands face similar constraints, viz., threat to natural resources, chances of biopiracy, impact of climate change, population pressure and unsystematic tourist management. Ecotourism, as a concept, envisages promoting tourism with due regard to natural environment and ecological sanctity of the destination. Archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands is one of picturesque geographical creation in the Bay of Bengal, India, in tropical region and is an emerging tourist destination. It was observed that around 2.2 lakhs national and international tourists visit the A&N Islands annually. With tourism sector as an integral component, the service sector with share of 56% in gross state domestic product dominates the island economy. An analysis based on primary survey from various stakeholders associated with the sector revealed that factors such as economy in travel and boarding, availability of tourist facilities and comfort, safety, etc. were major factors that determined the choice of the tourists that visited the islands. The weights given by the tourists to the natural sites in A&N Islands revealed that the landscape topped list with 91.6% score by the visitors followed by beaches (91.3%), scenery (86.5%), reserved forests (84.6%), limestone caves (66.3%) and coral sights (65.8%). Coral sites were given weight of 65.8% of tourists, cultural and historical tourism products 85.4% for the natural history. Similarly, historical sites (83.7%), museums (78.6%) and heritage sites (72.8%) were also among top cites attraction. Recent initiatives by the Andaman administration gives due care to sustainably develop the tourism infrastructure of the islands to harness the potential of eco-friendly tourism in this picturesque tourist haven.(Chand et.al.2015). When viewed through Anthropological lens, it becomes clear that to enhance ecotourism opportunities it is foremost requirement to improve various facilities available on the island. This will ultimately lead to better livelihood opportunities for various stakeholders involved in tourism industry and native people.

Some key suggestions for improvement in Marketing of Tourism Services at Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Analyzing the situation holistically through anthropological lens regarding Andaman & Nicobar Islands, finally, following suggestions can be made for augmentation of tourism services on the islands-

1. Improvement is required in transport sector and improvement in means of transport is an urgent need of the day to attract tourists. Number of flights and their flight trips for air services should be increased. And also the frequency of the round and ferries of ship sailing should be increased. Today 3-4round sailings per month from Kolkata and the same from Chennai if found. This is insufficient as per the influx of the tourists. Private companies may be encouraged to enhance infrastructural facilities. However, this shall not be attempted at the cost of natives. Natives shall also be encouraged to participate as this will help them in improving their livelihood.
2. The ecotourism facilities required to be strengthened and in agreed terms with ecotourism, tourism services should be promoted like an industry.
3. Most of the islands are given the status of reserved areas and common man cannot enter the island without proper permission/ entry permit to that area. Major areas of the island are protected and any entry without the prior permission of Lieutenant Governor is seriously dealt with as per the law. Many areas are under PAT (Protection of Aboriginal Tribe) Act. Although, this act provides safeguard to the

PVTGs/ aboriginal tribes of the area, yet, it causes some drawbacks to the development of tourism in the area. There is a need to enact such laws which one side can primarily protect the tribal rights and on the other, it may help to improve ecotourism and tourism in the area.

4. Promotion of FDI and Portfolio Investment can also help to improve services. But that too not at the stake of indigenous populations and traditional/ indigenous knowledge.

5. Participatory and people centric approaches of the development should be employed.

6. Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach should be employed. Government shall lead in administration and private sector shall help in providing infrastructure and services along with finances.

7. Uninhabited/ untouched/inaccessible islands shall be made more approachable to the tourists to encourage better services in this sector.

8. Health tourism and education tourism can be encouraged on the island without hampering local flora-fauna and indigenous cauldron by drawing an approach which may prove to be more nature centric and ecofriendly.

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