

Safety Guidelines for Swimming / Snorkelling / Diving in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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Andaman and Nicobar Islands have many sandy beaches and coral reefs. Though Andaman water are generally safe for swimming, snorkelling and diving, they also have few potentially dangerous marine animals, which may come in conflict due to mistaken identity such as a prey or to defend their territory. Though such incidents are extremely rare, visitors are advised to observe following precautions for a safe and enriching swimming experience.

Remember these FLAGS



F **FIND** Safe swimming / diving locations from Tourism Department Information Centres / local Tour operators / Life guard and Forest staff.

L **LOOK** at the safety signs - they help you identify potential dangers.

A **ASK** the lifeguard on duty for some good advice - Swimming conditions (Local currents, tides, visibility, presence of dangerous marine creatures etc.) can change quickly. So talk to a lifesaver / man on guard before entering the water. In an unpatrolled area, seek prior advice.

G **GET** a friend to swim with you - You can look out for each other's safety and get help if needed. Children should always be supervised by an adult. Avoid swimming in dark.

S **STICK** your hand up for help - if you get into trouble in the water, stay calm, wave your arm to signal for help.

General Precautions



- Do not dangle your arms or legs in the water during boat rides.
- Do not swim under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Shiny jewellery or bright coloured clothes resemble the fins of small fish and may attract predatory fish. Avoid such accessories or clothing while swimming.
- If you have an open wound, please avoid swimming. Many predatory fish are attracted to the smell of blood.
- Avoid swimming among a shoal of fishes while diving, to avoid attack by predatory fish such as sharks.

Potentially harmful marine animals found in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The warm tropical waters of these Islands are rich in marine life. Most of them are harmless and beautiful but few of them can be dangerous due to their size or predatory nature or both. Some of these animals are described below;

Jelly Fishes - Their sting may cause pain and giddiness.



Don't touch or play with them. Get ashore if you see a large shoal of jelly fish. In case of a sting, apply vinegar/ Ice packs on it and do not rub.

Stone Fish - Present in shallow coral and rocks or camouflaged in mud and sand. They have venomous dorsal spines and the sting could be lethal. To avoid them never walk on coral reef area and



never lift rocks or corals. Wear sturdy sandals while walking in shallow coastal waters.

Sea Snakes - They are highly poisonous and are usually recognised by their paddle like tail. They can be aggressive if handled or stepped on. Stay well away from them.



Sharks - Normally present in the open sea and some parts of coral reef areas (reef shark). Avoid swimming or diving alone and don't enter the water with open wounds.



Salt Water Crocodile - They are normally present in creeks, Mangrove areas, sheltered waters and mouths of the creeks. Please avoid swimming or diving in these areas. If you notice a crocodile in the water, immediately go ashore and alert the authorities. Crocodiles move large distances in open sea and can be found in coral reefs also.



For more information contact

- Chief Wildlife Warden, ANI, Vansadan, Haddo
Ph. 03192 - 233270
- Dy. Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Haddo.
Ph. 03192 - 232816
- Director (Tourism), A&N Admn., Port Blair
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- Police Control Room : 100

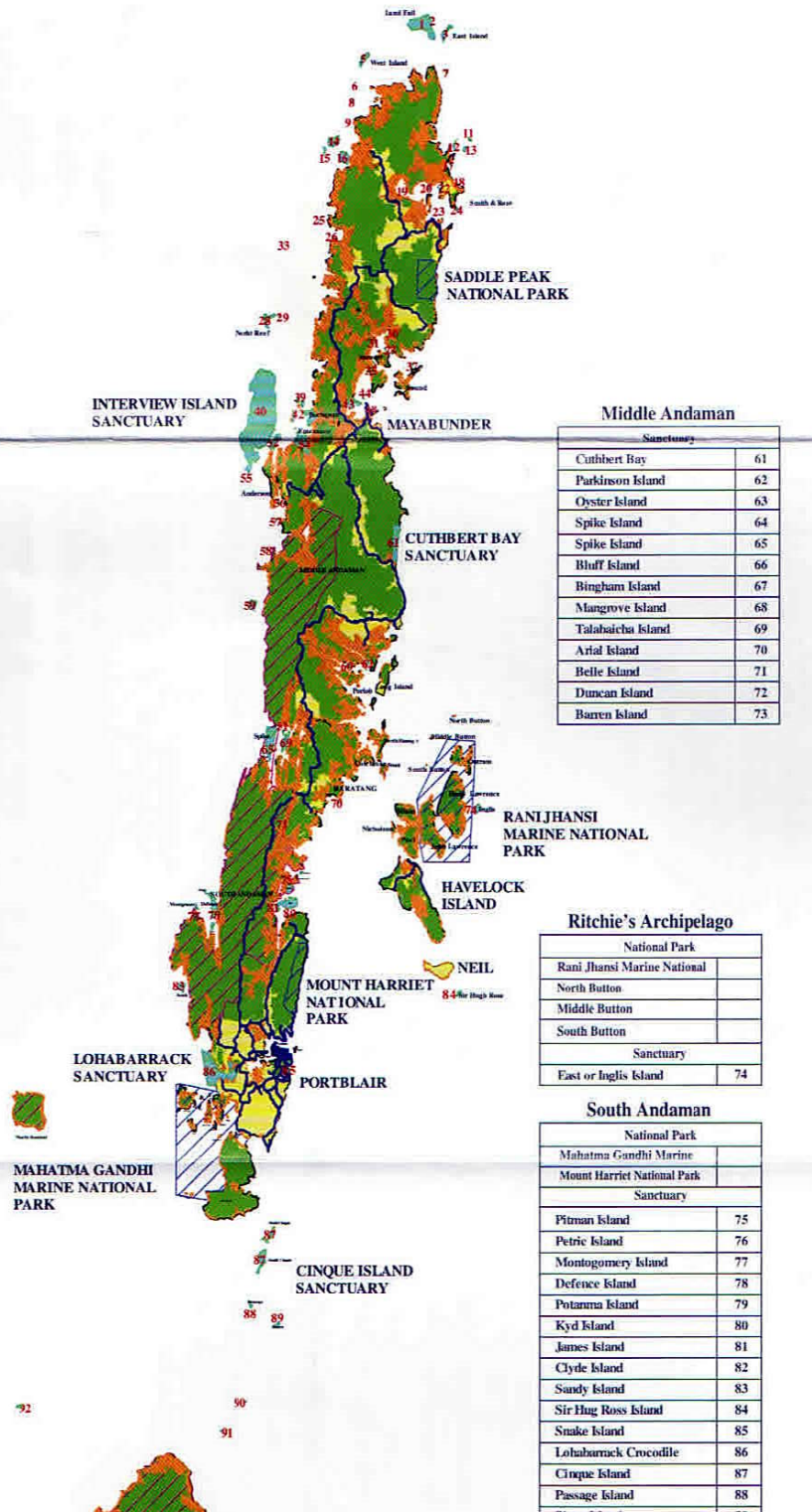
Issued in Public interest by the Department of Environment & Forests, Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tribal Reserves of Andaman Group of Islands

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North Andaman

National Park	
Saddle Peak National Park	
Sanctuary	
Lundfall Island	1
Channel Island	2
East Island	3
Narcondam Island	4
West Island	5
White Cliff Island	6
Peacock Island	7
Reef Island	8
Mayo Island	9
Tree Island	10
Table (Excellsior) Island	11
Trilly Island	12
Table (Delgarno) Island	13
Paget Island	14
Point Island	15
Shearrie Island	16
Temple Island	17
Turtle Island	18
Ox Island	19
North Island	20
Wharf Island	21
Jungle Island	22
Brush Island	23
Ross Island	24
Rowe Island	25
Kwangtung Island	26
Curlew (B.P.) Island	27
North Reef Island	28
Latouche Island	29
Bamboo Island	30
Bhister Island	31
Goose Island	32
Snark Island	33
Dot Island	34
Gander Island	35
Oyster Island	36
Oliver Island	37
Sea Serpent Island	38
Snake Island	39
Interview Island	40
Bondoville Island	41
Buchanan Island	42
Swamp Island	43
Curlew Island	44
Egg Island	45
Orchid Island	46
Dotrell Island	47
Gurjan Island	48
Entrance Island	49
Surat Island	50
Stoat Island	51
Benette Island	52
Roper Island	53
Ranger Island	54
South Reef	55
Maek Island	56
Hump Island	58
Tuft Island	57
Flat Island	59
Cone Island	60



NARCONDAM ISLAND
SANCTUARY

Middle Andaman

Sanctuary	
Cuthbert Bay	61
Parkinson Island	62
Oyster Island	63
Spike Island	64
Spike Island	65
Bluff Island	66
Bingham Island	67
Mangrove Island	68
Talahaicha Island	69
Arial Island	70
Belle Island	71
Duncan Island	72
Barren Island	73

BARREN ISLAND
SANCTUARY

Ritchie's Archipelago

National Park	
Rani Jhansi Marine National	
North Button	
Middle Button	
South Button	
Sanctuary	
East or Inglis Island	74

South Andaman

National Park	
Mahatma Gandhi Marine	
Mount Harriet National Park	
Sanctuary	
Pitman Island	75
Petric Island	76
Montgomery Island	77
Defence Island	78
Potanna Island	79
Kyd Island	80
James Island	81
Clyde Island	82
Sandy Island	83
Sir Hug Ross Island	84
Snake Island	85
Lohabarrack Crocodile	86
Cinque Island	87
Passage Island	88
Sister Island	89

Little Andaman

Sanctuary	
North Brother Island	90
South Brother Island	91
South Sentinel Island	92

Legend

- Road
- Tribal Reserve
- National Park
- Wild Life Sanctuary
- Mangrove (Potential salt water crocodile habitat)
- Revenue Villages