Fascinating Marine World of

MAHATMA GANDHI

MARINE NATIONAL PARK, WANDOOR

(ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
Andaman & Nicobar Administration
How to get there
The park is accessible by road from Port Blair. State transport/private buses and taxi ply regularly from Port Blair to Wandoor.

Gateway to MGMNP: Wandoor

The Department of Information, Publicity and Tourism, A&N Administration provides transport facilities to reach the Park. Private travel agencies offer conducted tours to the Park from Port Blair.

Where to stay
A Forest Rest House with limited accommodation and a private lodge are situated at Wandoor. It is advisable to stay at Port Blair, where various categories of hotels and guest houses are available.

Excursions
Entry in the MGMNP is subject to payment of an entry fee, which can be paid at Forest Range Office, Wandoor. Boats of authorised tour operators are available at Wandoor Jetty. Due to limited boats available it is advisable to book boat tickets in advance from Port Blair. Photography and diving are allowed only in the islands open for tourists on payment of prescribed fee. Corals and other marine life can be seen by glass bottom boats or snorkeling. Resting sheds, changing rooms and toilet facilities are available at Jolly Buoy and Redskin Islands.

What to see?
During boat journey to Jolly Buoy or Redskin, one can have an enchanting view of mangrove and tropical rain forest. After reaching Jolly Buoy/Redskin, one will come across a mysterious world of coral reefs, colourful fishes and other marine life forms.

Important marine fauna
This Marine Park provides an opportunity to experience the fascinating world of coral reefs unparalleled by other Marine Parks of India. Here one can see large shoals of fish, over 300 species of coral reef fishes, jellyfish, starfish and varieties of sea anemone, sea cucumber and sea urchin. Dolphins, turtles and sharks are regular visitors to the Park. If exceptionally lucky, one can even view the critically endangered dugong (sea cow).

Coral
All islands in the park are surrounded by fringing reefs. The corals grow up to a depth of 40 meters, but the majority grows up to a depth of eight meters. So far 120 species have been recorded from this park, a diversity which outnumbers other coral reefs of the country. Some common coral genera are Acropora (staghorn coral), Porites (boulder coral), Montipora (knob coral), Fungia (mushroom coral), Lobophyllia (brain coral) and Favia (star coral).

Fishes
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**Corals**
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**Fishes**
More than 300 species of fishes occurs in this Park. Hundreds of colourful varieties of coral reef fishes can be seen while snorkeling. Some of the interesting fishes are clown fish, cleaning wrasse, butterfly fish, sharks, string rays, manta rays, grouper, batfish and blue-fin Jack.

**Other marine animals**
Other common marine animals are jellyfish, sea anemone, star fish, sea lily, sea pens, sea fans, feather star, giant clams, crabs and octopus. Salt water crocodiles and sea snakes are also seen.

**Coral and coral reef fishes**
The beaches of the islands, such as Boat, Tarmugli, Rutland and Twins are the important nesting grounds for four species of marine turtles: green sea, leatherback, hawksbill and olive ridley, who breed between October and May.

**Land fauna**
Tropical rainforests on the islands within the Park provide habitat for mammals such as Andaman wild pig, spotted deer, civet and bats. Some of the birds such as Andaman teal, whistling teal, whitebellied sea eagle, parakeets and reef herons are common here. Reptiles such as king cobra, krait, pit vipers etc. are also found here.

**Flora**
The important plant species are gurjan, padauk,
General

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park (MGMN) is situated at Wandoor, 29 km west of Port Blair in the South Andaman Island. This Park is one of the most important areas for viewing marine diversity. It was established in 1983 with a view to protect and conserve the biodiversity of coral reefs, mangroves and other ecosystems. Spread over 15 lushly vegetated islands in the Labyrinth group and covering an area of 281.5 km², this Marine National Park is an area of outstanding beauty. The biodiversity consists of tropical evergreen forests, luxuriant mangroves, coral reefs and a variety of marine fauna.

- Year of creation: 1983
- Area: 281.5 km²
- Land Area: 61.0 km²
- Territorial water: 220.5 km²
- Number of islands: 15
- Islands open for tourists: Jolly Buoy and Redskin
- Best season for visit: November to May

Important information for visitors

- Nature belongs to all, and every living being has a right to live peacefully.
- Entry to any Protected Area is subject to a valid permit from Chief Wildlife Warden or other authorised Officers.
- Lighting fire is strictly prohibited in Protected Areas as it not only destroys forests but also damages wildlife habitat.
- Waste materials particularly non-biodegradable ones such as plastics are harmful to environment and wildlife habitats. Please bring back your waste materials with you. Leave nothing but your footprints.
- Corals look more beautiful in its natural habitat than in your house.
- Untrained diving and snorkeling can cause immense damage to coral reefs, Please do not walk, stand or handle corals.
- Your concern for nature conservation is highly appreciated. Please inform local authorities/staff positioned in Protected Areas if you notice any undesirable activity.
- Shooting with camera is allowed, not with guns.
- Treat the Park with respect, as it is a sanctum sanctorum of our precious natural heritage.

For more information contact:

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