



Andaman Islands

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Neil Island	420
Middle & North Andaman	422
Little Andaman	425

Best Beaches

- ➔ Radhanagar (p417)
- ➔ Merk Bay (p423)
- ➔ Ross & Smith Islands (p425)
- ➔ Butler Bay (p426)
- ➔ Lalaji Bay (p423)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Emerald Gecko (p419)
- ➔ Aashiaanaa Rest Home (p414)
- ➔ Pristine Beach Resort (p425)
- ➔ Blue View (p426)
- ➔ Blue Planet (p424)

Why Go?

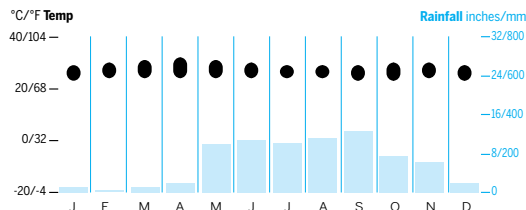
Long fabled among travellers for its legendary beaches, world-class diving and far-flung location in the middle of nowhere, the Andaman Islands are still the ideal place to get away from it all.

Lovely opaque emerald waters are surrounded by primeval jungle and mangrove forest, and snow-white beaches that melt under flame-and-purple sunsets. The population is a friendly masala of South and Southeast Asian settlers, as well as Negrito ethnic groups whose arrival here still has anthropologists baffled. Adding to the intrigue is its remote location, some 1370km from the mainland, meaning the islands are geographically more Southeast Asia – 150km from Indonesia and 190km from Myanmar.

While the archipelago comprises some 300 islands, only a dozen or so are open to tourists, Havelock by far being the most popular for its beaches and diving. The Nicobars are strictly off limits to tourists, as are the tribal areas.

When to Go

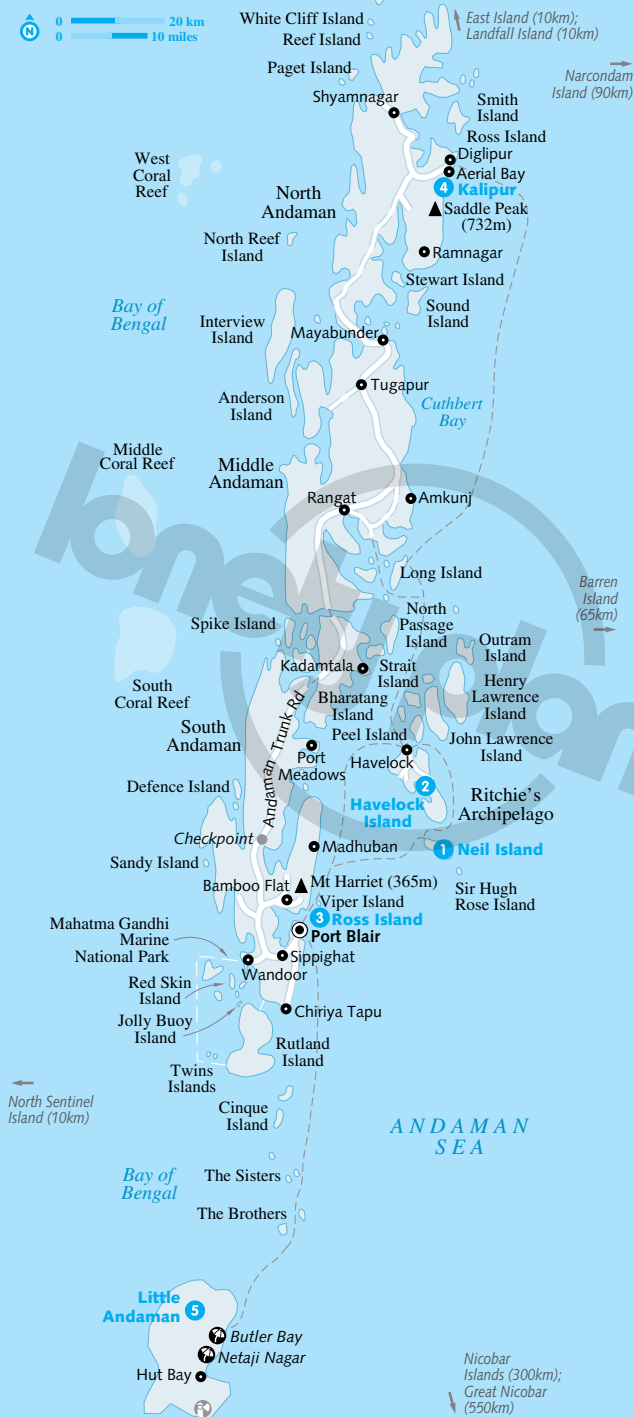
Port Blair



Dec–Mar Perfect sunny days, optimal diving conditions and turtle nesting.

Oct–Dec & Mar–mid-May Weather is a mixed bag, but fewer tourists and lower costs.

Feb–Aug Pumping waves on Little Andaman for experienced surfers.



Andaman Islands Highlights

- 1 Disconnecting from the mainland and easing into the blissfully mellow pace of life on **Neil Island** (p420)
- 2 Diving, snorkelling and socialising on **Havelock Island** (p417)
- 3 Glimpsing Port Blair's colonial history at **Ross Island** (p414)
- 4 Experiencing the true wilds of Northern Andaman in **Kalipur** (p424), while island-hopping to pristine beaches and coral reefs
- 5 Finding Butler Bay and paradise on **Little Andaman** (p425)