



Andaman Islands

Includes ➔

Port Blair	412
Havelock Island	417
Neil Island	421
Middle & North Andaman	422
Little Andaman	425

Best Beaches

- ➔ Radhanagar (p417)
- ➔ Merk Bay (p424)
- ➔ Ross & Smith Islands (p424)
- ➔ Butler Bay (p426)
- ➔ Lalaji Bay (p424)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Barefoot at Havelock (p419)
- ➔ Silversand (p420)
- ➔ Pristine Beach Resort (p425)
- ➔ Hotel Sinclairs Bayview (p414)
- ➔ Blue View (p426)

Why Go?

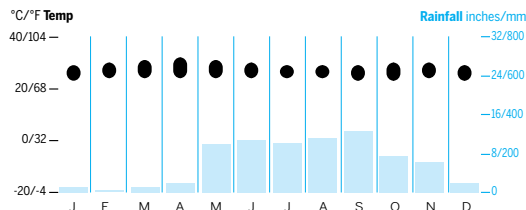
With breathtakingly beautiful coastline, lush forested interior, fantastic diving possibilities and a far-flung location, the Andaman Islands are a perfect place to ramble around or simply chill out on sun-toasted beaches.

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

Comprising 572 islands, only a dozen or so are open to tourists, Havelock by far being the most popular for its splendid beaches and diving. The Nicobar Islands are strictly off limits to tourists, as are the various patches of tribal areas.

When to Go

Port Blair



Dec–Mar Warm, 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 Havelock Island (p417) Snorkelling, diving and socialising on this picturesque island.

2 Neil Island (p421) Easing into a blissfully mellow pace of life.

3 Ross Island (p414) Learning about Port Blair's colonial past.

4 Kalipur (p424) Experiencing the wilds of northern Andaman while island-hopping to pristine beaches and coral reefs.

5 Little Andaman (p425) Finding Butler Bay and a little piece of paradise.