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DESTINATION DETAILS

PORT BLAIR:

Port Blair is capital and largest city of the Andaman and Nicobar island group, with a population of around 100,000. Given the beauty of the rest of the Andamans, Port Blair is an upcoming city no different from any other smaller Indian city, although the seaside has been tarted up a bit. It comprises of people from all over India and one can imagine it as mini India with no conflicts on region and religion. Aside from Cellular Jail, there are quite few places which include Ross Island, Barren Island (known for the only active volcano) and few others known for its historical importance. A week's trip will cover the must see places at the island's. You can however do day trip to other close by places like Wandoor, Ross Island etc.

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.

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 Dalthaman 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.

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.

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 Munda pahar 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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

HAVELOCK ISLAND:

Havelock Island is the recommended island and hub of all tourist activity. It is perfect for those who wish to kick off their shoes, have a relaxing vacation or be adventurous and try various activities that include but are not limited to camping, scuba diving and snorkeling. From Port Blair, Havelock is just a ferry ride away with 3 daily departures that are easy and convenient.

Located 57 kms northeast of Port Blair, Havelock has the most spectacular white sand beaches, rain forest canopies, turquoise waters and fantastic coral reefs. The water is abundant in marine life both large and small and this Island is ideal for snorkeling & scuba diving.

The two main beaches here are the Vijaynagar Beach (Beach No. 5) and the Radhanagar Beach (Beach No. 7) – the latter has been rated as the Best Beach in Asia. At Havelock Island, you can afford to be lazy and be a complete beach bum or fill your day with an explosion of adventure activities to get that adrenaline pumping

Places to See:

Few places combine the raw power of nature and adventure activities. Havelock Island, surrounded by coral reefs, powerfully blends raw adventure with exotica. The **Havelock Jetty** is the first step into this island. The ferries scaling up and down, vendors selling fresh coconut juice, local markets, wandering goats, hawkers and tourists interacting with locals present a small yet action packed bazaar.

The **Radha Nagar beach** (beach number seven), voted as the best beach in Asia, is a surreal experience of tranquillity and a rich aquatic life. Elephant beach or *Hathi Tapu* has an abundant marine life with dense mangrove forests & sludge, making it a snorkelling and scuba diving haven.

Vijay Nagar beach, festooned with Mahua trees is a favourite for long walks. Mahua tree trunks spread along the ground for several feet before growing upwards, giving a unique touch to the beach while making a remarkable photo-point. While unscathed by commercial activities, the villages Govind Nagar and Radha Nagar have local markets where they sell craftworks made of bamboo and coconut shell. Exquisite coral jewellery can be a nice buy for yourself or friends back home!

Home to indigenous tribes like Jarawas, a vacation in Havelock is a return to nature's lap with jungle treks, swimming and sun basking. Look forward to days filled with elephant rides, floating in natural lagoons at Radha Nagar, eating delicacies like Mud Crabs, and occasional drum beats that swirl through the air.

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Administrative capital:

Port Blair

Airports:

Veer Savarkar Airport, Port Blair

Distances:

1255kms from Kolkata

1190kms from Chennai

1200kms from Vishakhapatnam

Currency:

Indian Rupees

Altitude:

Varies from sea level to 732 meters

Highest peak:

Saddle peak - 732 meters

Climate:

Tropical climate throughout the year with average minimum temperature at 23°C and maximum at 32°C.

Humidity:

Relatively high - 70% to 90%, with a gentle breeze blowing all the time. The weather is generally pleasant with average annual rainfall of 3000 mm in Port Blair.

Population:

450000 approx

Forest cover:

92% protected forest; 86% reserve forest

Clothing:

Cottons throughout the year

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Internet Access:

Good in Port Blair, but very poor dial up connections on extremely slow speeds in most other important islands like Havelock and Neil.

Satellite internet is available in Havelock although expensive. Data cards (of a few companies) work in Port Blair, however do not work at all on other Islands. Most of the islands do not have internet access at all.

Mobile & Telephone Access:

Mobile providers include BSNL, Vodafone and Airtel with Reliance functioning currently only in Port Blair with excellent connectivity. As you travel away from the city of Port Blair to outer city limits or other islands, connectivity may become weak.

ISD code:

+91-3192

STD Code:

03192