

# THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS



Not so long ago, finding the Andaman and Nicobar Islands would have been a challenge for many. However, today it seems times are changing for this strikingly beautiful archipelago.

The repercussions of the tsunami of 2004 wave are still visible in Asia, and while many places suffered immensely, some have emerged as if from nowhere thanks to local initiatives to promote the region. One such area in the Bay of Bengal are the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Nature lovers will have heard the name as the islands form a unique natural environment and are home to a striking diversity of plant and animal species.** Tourists have not yet discovered it which makes the Andamans the place to see.

The islands are not far from South Asia and in fact, there are nearly 600 of them. Only 38 are inhabited these days and the majority is strictly protected by the Indian government to make sure the endemic fauna and flora are kept unharmed and local tribes live undisturbed.

Havelock Island belongs to the few which welcome tourists and is easily accessible from Port Blair, the capital located on South Andaman Island. There are many cozy bungalows built along the beach and local owners are very proud of how eco-conscious their efforts to lure tourists are. Each cabin features a septic tank for natural dispersal of sewage, locals plant endemic trees, and the resort only employs people living on the island.

**Scuba diving and snorkeling are a must in these waters, considering the unrivalled marine-life diversity.** The islands are immensely pure and peaceful and frankly, now is the perfect time to discover their wild beauty. While locals refuse to have the island become a tourist hub, an increase in popularity is inevitable as the archipelago is simply breathtaking.

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