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## Tourism Potential in Andaman and Nicobar Islands: A Case Study of Ross Island

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### ABSTRACT

*India is one of the mostly preferred destinations for international tourists. Tourism is a very promising industry in India. India is a country with a large number of tourist spots and attractive features. India is a country known for its culture, heritage, history and natural resources. All the states and union territories have a good number of locations catering to the domestic and international tourists. The Union Territory of Andaman Islands has been Blessed with a lot of Resources by the Nature. These resources are yet to be economically exploited fully. Tourism is the only scope of these Islands since the other sectors do not record much growth and development due to various reasons. But the Tourism has recorded a mark able growth though it requires efficient management with the Planning, Organizing, staffing, Controlling, Communicating, Budgeting and Coordinating and with the suitable Tourism Policy. Tourism has excellent scope in these islands if it is properly managed. The Tourism will attract more tourists in to these islands and also be able to contribute more to the economic development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. For the present research purpose Ross Island is the case study use as tourism potential in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.*

**Key:** Planning, Organizing, staffing, Controlling, Communicating, Budgeting and Coordinating.

### INTRODUCTION

Economic development of any country depends greatly on the growth and development of its trade, commerce and industry. Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located in the Bay of Bengal. These islands were once coined as the Black water indicating the dreaded transportation, punishment of the British Government of India. A & N Island is rich in resources for tourism, which are found in abundance. The natural beauty of the A & N Islands is very attractive. Both the domestic and foreign tourists consider it as the Green Paradise in the Marigold sun recognised. Tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is still in infant stage. The resources responsible for the growth of tourism are yet to be exploited fully. However presently the tourism is growing in a zigzag manner, both positive as well as negative, and increasing and decreasing. Tourism Industry is one of the best types of Business of our country. So a study has been undertaken to find out tourism potential in Ross Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

### STUDY AREA

The Andaman Archipelago is an oceanic continuation of the Burmese Arakan Yoma range in the North and of the Indonesian Archipelago in the South. It has 325 islands which cover an area of 6408 km<sup>2</sup>, with the Andaman Sea to the east between the islands and the coast of Burma. North Andaman Island is 285 km south of Burma, although a few smaller Burmese islands are closer, including the three Coco Islands. The Ten Degree Channel separates the Andamans from the Nicobar Islands to the south. The highest point is located in North Andaman Island There are at least 11 mud volcanoes on the islands. The climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is described as Tropical Climate. The Islands are situated in the Hot or Torrid Zone. There are only two season, Rainy Season and Summer Season. Islands are visited by South - West and North - East monsoons during the period from May to December. Average annual rainfall in these

Islands is 300 cm. The period from January to April is Summer Season. The mean relative humidity is 79%. The temperature is between 30.2°C and 23.8°C. (Fig. 1.)

### OBJECTIVES

Against the above background, the present work attempts to study the tourism potential in Ross Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The broad objectives of the proposed study are:

- 1 To collect the information about tourism facilities available in the study region.
- 2 To find out potential of tourism in the study area.
- 3 To study tourist profile in Ross Island.
- 4 To identify attractions of tourist in study area.

### Research Methodology:

In this research work procedure of sampling selection, methodology of data collection and analysis of data has been discussed.

1. **Primary data:** To study the tourists general background , their views regarding various facilities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands , primary data for the study has been collected with the help of interviews , personal observation and questionnaires.
- 2 **Secondary data:** To study the growth and potential of tourism , historical background secondary data has been used . To make study more authentic various sources has been consulted. Mainly the data has been collected through sources:

1. Books and journals
2. Research reports
3. Newspaper

#### STUDY AREA: ROSS ISLAND



Fig. 1

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

**Flora:** The natural vegetation of the Ross Island is tropical forest, with mangroves on the coast. The rainforests are similar in composition to those of the west coast of Burma. Most of the forests are evergreen, but there are areas of deciduous forest on North Andaman, Middle Andaman, Baratang and parts of South Andaman Island. The South Andaman forests have a profuse growth of epiphytic vegetation, mostly ferns and orchids. The Andaman forests are largely unspoiled, despite logging and the demands of the fast-growing population driven by immigration from the Indian mainland. Andaman forests contain 200 or more timber producing species of trees, out of which about 30 varieties are considered to be commercial. Major commercial timber species are Gurjan (*Dipterocarpus* spp.) and Padauk (*Pterocarpus dalbergioides*).

**Fauna:** The Ross Islands are home to a number of animals, many of them endemic. It includes mammals and birds. The islands also have a number of endemic reptiles, toads and frogs, such as the South Andaman krait (*Bungarus andamanensis*) and Andaman water monitor (*Varanus salvator andamanensis*).

**Transportation:** The islands of Andaman and Nicobar are well connected to the other parts of the country as well as the countries by air and waterways. The islands have even got bus and other modes of road transport for traveling internally. Being islands, the place is not connected to the other parts of the country by railways. The Airport in regular operation are located at Veer Savarkar Airport of Port Blair connects the islands to the other parts of the country by airways. Air Deccan, Air Sahara, Indian Airlines, Jet Airways are some of the airlines companies operating in the island. In Andaman and nicobar island water ways serves both external and internal transportation. In Port Blair, the intermediate port serves as the main port of these islands. There are more than 80 ships are sailed by Directorate of Shipping Services. Ships are also sailed by the Shipping Corporation of India from the major port cities of Chennai, Kolkata and Vishakapatnam. These ships generally sail two or three times per month. For travelling within the island road transportations are available. Taxis, cycle-rickshaws and other private transportation companies are also available apart from the buses run by the state transport. They even use motorcycles and bicycles for an easy and fast travel.

**Hotels:** Hotels in Andaman and Nicobar Island offer a wide range of choice of accommodation. A variety of hotels are located in any tourist destination within the territory. Be it five star deluxe category hotels or medium sized boutique hotels with a distinct character, or an economy class hotel with basic amenities, a comprehensive list of hotels in Andaman and Nicobar Island cater to every budget and taste. Famous star hotels in this territory are, Barefoot at Havelock, Munjoh Ocean Resort Island, Vinnie's Tropical Beach Cab, Barefoot Scuba Resort, Cross Bill Beach Resort etc.

### Historical Monuments/ Architecturally Significant Building / Mansions

Most important monuments of the islands include Cellular Jail, Viper Island, Ross Island etc

**The Cellular Jail:** The Cellular Jail, also known as Kālā Pāni is situated in the Andaman and Nicobar Island. The prison was used by the British for political prisoners to the remote archipelago. Many people fight against British were imprisoned during the struggle for India's independence. Today, the complex serves as a national memorial monument.

**The Viper Island:** Cellular Jail was constructed in Viper Island that was used by the British to inflict the worst form of torture and hardship on those who strove to free the country from the British rule.

**The Ross Island: In olden days Ross Island** was the administrative headquarters for Britishers and it was thickly populated and adorned a beautiful life. Britishers had a fine settlement here and apart from that many else came here to spend some luxurious stay. It is due to that Ross Island was titled "Paris of the East"

**Recreation:** The one thing that takes Andaman and Nicobar is well known for the list of tourist destinations in India is the adventure possibilities present here. The seas surrounding these islands are absolutely perfect to indulge in sports like Scuba Diving and snorkeling. The lagoons are full of diverse species of fishes and

live coral that makes adventure in these waters a real treat. And there could not be a better place than the hills of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for a trekking experience that is heart pumping and tranquil at the same moment.

**Zoo / Parks / Jungles / Garden :** The Campbell Bay National Park, Galathea National Park, Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Middle Button Island National Park, Mount Harriet National Park, North Button Island National Park, Rani Jhansi Marine National Park, Saddle Peak National Park, South Button Island National Park are the national parks of this territory.

**Food Habits:** Andaman & Nicobar Islands is a melting pot of Indian Culture. This is even reflected in the food & Cuisine of the local people of this Island. The finest of India's cuisines is as rich and diverse as its civilization. It is an art form that has been passed on through generations purely by word of mouth, from teacher to pupil or from mother to daughter. Andaman cuisine is heavily influenced by all the cultures that came into contact with the region. Like many other aspects of Andaman culture, the influence of the Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Sikh religions in the traditional food is very strong. You can observe this deep impact on the truly tasty and spicy cuisine of the Andamans. The Andaman and Nicobar Island food is basically Non-vegetarian; it is completely a coastal region fish is eaten with rice. Vegetables and most of the food items are imported from other states and nearest countries.

#### CONCLUSION:

Andaman and Nicobar Island has plenty of such tourist locations. Each location speaks in volume almost its uniqueness. The pride of India lies in every tourist spot. The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been Blessed with a lot of Resources by the Nature. These resources are yet to be economically exploited fully. Tourism is the only scope of these Islands since the other sectors do not record much growth and development due to various reasons. But the Tourism has recorded a mark able growth though it requires efficient management with the Planning, Organizing, staffing, Controlling, Communicating, Budgeting and Coordinating and with the suitable Tourism Policy. Tourism has excellent scope in these islands if it is properly managed. Once the impediments in the path of the development of Tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is removed and if a Strategy, Tourism Planning, and the Tourism Policy are formulated in the light of the suggestions given above, and the same is implemented very carefully, it is strongly believed that the Tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be improved, the revenue from the Tourism will increase, the office and administrative expenses will be reduced and the surplus can be seen. The Tourism will attract more tourists in to these islands and also be able to contribute more to the economic development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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