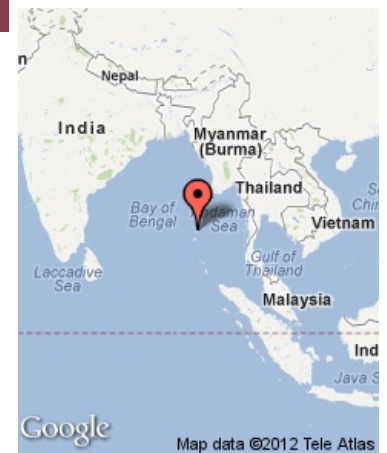


# Relax and explore the Andaman Islands



## Highlights

The Andaman Islands, an archipelago in the bay of Bengal, are mostly covered in dense forest, giving way at the borders to some of the most perfect tropical beaches anywhere. Virtually cut off from the rest of the world until the eighteenth century, and subsequently used as a penal colony by the British until Indian Independence, this is a place where Nature and history come together to create a holiday destination at once fascinating and romantic.

The Andaman Islands are a tropical kaleidoscope of Natural beauty, sheltering many endemic plant, animal and bird species amid their thickly forested slopes. The waters teem with fish and coral, and at least four species of turtles still visit the islands to lay their eggs. Sufficiently remote, until the advent of modern transportation, to largely escape contact with the outside world, the Andamans have remained something of a hidden gem, managing to escape many of the environmental ravages of late-twentieth-century tourism to emerge now as a prime location for eco-tourism at its very best.

In Port Blair, you'll visit the Cellular Jail, begun in 1896 by the British to house those who fought for Indian independence, and still being used as such until as late as 1943. You'll also learn about the struggle for independence in a vivid performance enacted at the jail. You'll visit Mount Harriet and South Button, both of which are National Parks, and Tamarind Camp on Henry Lawrence Island, covered in forest where wild pigs and deer abound.

To truthfully describe a tropical island as "unspoiled" is becoming increasingly difficult, but Havelock Island is one of the few still worthy of that epithet. For seven days you'll stay at Barefoot at Havelock, an eco-camp in the jungle just behind the bizarrely named "Beach no. 7". Despite the prosaic name, this two-kilometre stretch of pristine white sand has been repeatedly voted one of the best beaches in the world.

## Is it for me?

If you're looking for a relaxing holiday in a beautiful, tropical setting that offers opportunities to explore both a fascinating cultural history and stunning natural surroundings, the Andaman Islands definitely fit the bill. The itinerary for this tour ensures that you get to experience some of the best features of the islands without having to feel like you're rushing about; the emphasis is on taking time to explore and enjoy, with a good balance between organized, guided activity and languid leisure time.

## Accommodation

TSG Emerald View, your home for three nights in Port Blair, is a new hotel with modern, ensuite facilities in every room, fully-stocked air-conditioned bar and rooftop restaurant serving a large variety of traditional Indian and far-Eastern dishes. Barefoot at Havelock, where you will stay for the remaining seven nights, is an eco-resort that spans eight acres of land in beautiful tropical jungle just behind beach no. 7. Built on stilts from renewable, natural materials to minimize the impact on the local environment, it consists of individual cottages with ensuite facilities, and a bar and restaurant, and also runs diving and snorkelling excursions as well as other organized activities in the area. The food, like the architecture, is in keeping with the location: simple, traditional dishes, perfectly prepared.

Prices from

**550** GBP (11 days) per person

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## Itinerary

Please note that this itinerary is subject to weather conditions.

### Day 1: Kolkata/Chennai-Port Blair

You'll arrive in Port Blair by morning flight, and be transferred from airport to your hotel, where you can relax before heading for lunch to the hotel restaurant. In the afternoon you'll take a three-hour city tour of Port Blair, encompassing the century-old Cellular Jail main market area and other sites. In the evening, you'll attend the enthralling Sound and Light Show at Cellular Jail, where the heroic saga of the Indian freedom struggle is brought alive.

### Day 2: PortBlair

After breakfast, you'll proceed for Mount Harriet, second highest peak in the Andamans, which offers a magnificent bird's eye view of Port Blair's adjoining islands. From here you can trek for about 5 Kms through a nature trail of exotic flora and fauna. After lunch you'll proceed to Ross Island, a few kilometers away from Port Blair city, and ideal for nature walks amidst sylvan surroundings.

### Day 3: PortBlair-Havelock

You'll wake early to transfer on the morning ferry to Havelock, where a car will be waiting to transfer you to Barefoot at Havelock, on Beach No.7, voted by TIME magazine as the most beautiful beach in Asia, where you can relax.

### Day 4: Havelock

Day at Leisure.

### Day 5: Havelock-South Button-Tamarind Camp-Havelock

At 0700hrs you'll set off by boat on a snorkelling excursion to the uninhabited islands in Ritchie's Archipelago: South Button and Tamarind Camp – the former boasting the best coral diversity in the Andaman Islands and the latter a picturesque beach and forest setting where we will prepare fresh lunch while you relax on the beach. You'll return to Havelock by evening.

### Day 6/7/8/9: Havelock

All Days at Leisure

### Day 10: Havelock-Portblair

The morning is yours at Leisure, then after an early lunch you'll be taken to the jetty for the ferry back to Port Blair, where you'll be transferred to your hotel.

### Day 11: PortBlair-Kolkata/Chennai

You'll depart Port Blair Hotel and be transferred back to the airport for the flight home.

## Details

### Getting there

You need to get to Port Blair. There are no direct flights from the UK, but flights depart from Chennai and Kolkata in Mainland India.

### Price includes

Three nights at selected Port Blair Hotel/TSG Emerald in a STD AC Room, seven nights at Barefoot at Havelock, all sightseeing in a N/Ac Car inclusive of entry tickets and ferry tickets, daily breakfast, ferry tickets to Havelock, all transfers by an N/AC vehicle, all applicable taxes.

### Price details

Price quoted above is based on two sharing

### When is best

From late May through to July / August is the rainy season, so during this time all activities (and the ferry) are subject to weather conditions.

### Available

Jan—Dec

### Typical Duration

11 days

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed