DO'S:

- **Find out about safe swimming or diving** area from Tourist Information Center, Local Tour Operators and Forest Department Staff. Do not swim in Protected Areas to avoid dangerous animals.
- **Look for the safety sign boards.** They help you to identify potential dangers.
- **Ask a lifeguard on duty for some advice** on swimming conditions like local currents, tides, visibility, and the presence of dangerous marine creatures etc. Swimming conditions can change quickly, so seek prior advice from a lifeguard before entering in water in an unpatrolled area.
- **Get a friend to swim with you** so that you can look out for each other's safety and get help, if needed. Children should always be supervised by an adult. Avoid swimming in the dark.
- **Raise your hand up for help** if you get into trouble in the water. Stay calm and wave your arm for help.

DON'TS:

- Do not dangle your arms or legs in the water during boat rides.
- Do not swim under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Shiny jewellery or bright colored clothes resemble fins of small fishes and may attract predatory fishes. Avoid such accessory or clothing while swimming.
- If you have an open wound, please avoid swimming. Many predatory fish are attracted to blood odour.
- Avoid diving or swimming amongst school of fish. This may attract predatory fishes.
- Avoid night swimming or diving.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre, Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Port Blair 744 101 Ph.: 03192-232694

The Incharge, Hawabill Nest Guest house, Directorate of Tourism, Neil Island

Office of the Dy Ranger, Environment and Forest Department, Neil Island

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Van Sadan, Haddo, Port Blair, 03192-233270

The Dy. Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Haddo, Port Blair. Ph.: 03192-232816



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NOS. AT NEIL

Police Station	03192-282602	Police Radio	03192-282676
Primary Health Centre	03192-282627		

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Printed by Directorate of Tourism, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair in October 2013 for free distribution

critique

Incredible India

Neil Island

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Neil Island

Scuba Diving
Snorkeling
Swimming
Sunbathing
Trekking
Cycling
Fishing
...Wow!

Neil is a tiny but beautiful island located 37 km. to the south of the Andaman Islands. With unexplored coral reefs, brilliant bio-diversity, white sandy beaches and tropical forest and vegetation, it is one of the hot tourist spots in the Andamans. The sea encircling the island is shallow and full of colorful coral formations. Neil and Havelock islands are part of Ritchie's Archipelago. Connected by speedboat from Port Blair daily and Seaplane service (to be operated soon), it provides an ideal holiday destination for eco-friendly tourists who appreciate its natural settings.

Neil Island is known as the 'vegetable bowl' of the Andamans. The island, with its very relaxed vibes and long, deserted beaches is a place to chill out. The widest part of the island is about 5 km in length. You can cover the entire island on foot in about two hours.

Unlike most of the islands in the Andaman Group, Neil has a flat terrain and is ideal for cycling. The island is also comparatively small, with an area of 19 square kilometers and a population of 4000. One can feel the serenity of village life here. There is no broadband or internet connectivity in the island, nor ATMs or scheduled banks. Mobile communication services reach Neil Island, but only BSNL has erected a mobile tower here. Power is generated using Diesel Gensets. There is a Primary Health Centre and a sub-centre functioning on this island with the services of three doctors. Public transport is by means of auto-rickshaws, motorbikes, cycles and cars. STS buses connect the Jetty and beaches. A police station and a helipad are also located on the island.

GETTING THERE FROM PORT BLAIR

SPEED BOATS

From Port Blair Phoenix Bay Jetty, regular speed boats operated by Government and Private Boat Operators are available. Time taken is 1 hour and 45 minutes. Check out for seaplane services from the Directorate of Civil Aviation/ANIIDCO. For schedule of boats and seaplane visit: **www.and.nic.in**

ACTIVITIES

Activity options in Neil include snorkeling, scuba diving, game fishing, trekking. cycling, sunbathing, swimming, bird watching and much more

BEACHES IN NEIL ISLAND

As you disembark from the boat at Neil Island Jetty and walk towards the village market of Neil Kendra, the beaches appear before you in the form of a long arc. On the left side of the jetty is Bharatpur Beach and on the right Laxmanpur Beach.

NEIL KENDRA

Neil Kendra, a gently curving bay of white sand, straddles the jetty, dotted with picturesque wooden fishing boats. Neil Kendra is the heart of the island.

BHARATPUR BEACH

Half a kilometer from the jetty, Bharatpur is one of the best beaches with a vast sandy stretch. It is ideal for swimming and coral viewing for which one can hire glass-bottom boats.

LAKSHMANPUR-I BEACH

The secluded beach of Lakshmanpur, with white shell sand and shallow water, lies 2 km north of the Neil jetty. It is perfect for snorkeling, sunbathing, swimming and viewing spectacular sunsets.

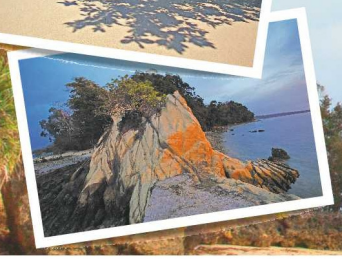
LAKSHMANPUR-II BEACH

This rocky beach, about 2 kilometers from the jetty with lots of coral formation, ornamental fish, sea urchins, sea anemones, sea cucumbers star fish etc. which are the best subject for people with scientific temperament.

SITAPUR BEACH

This beach is exposed to the open sea and thus prone to high tides. It is 5 kilometers to the south and at the tip of the island. This beach is best for watching sunrise.









NATURAL ROCK FORMATION

A natural rock formation in Lakshmanpur beach is locally known as the Howrah Bridge. Visit the place during low tide as the retreating sea leaves behind many a secret from its treasure trove.

SIR HUGH ROSE ISLAND

This tiny island is located at the southern tip of Neil Island and is locally known as 'Chhota' Neil ('Small' Neil). This island is a wild life sanctuary and a turtle-nesting ground. Permission is required from the Deputy Range Officer Forest Department at Neil Island to visit this island. Only day visits are permitted.

ACCOMMODATION

There are good private hotels in Neil Island which provide accommodation at reasonable rates. Foreign tourists tend to spend up to two weeks on this island. For details of hotels/resorts enlisted with Directorate of Tourism, please visit **www.andamans.gov.in.**

Safety Tips For Sea - Enthusiasts

Andaman & Nicobar Islands have many sandy beaches and coral reefs. But only some of these beaches are supervised for safe swimming, snorkeling and diving. Though Andaman water is generally safe for swimming and looks inviting, it also has some dangerous marine animals with which one may come in conflict. Though such incidences were never reported in Neil Island, visitors are advised to observe precautions for a safe and enriching swimming experience.