

**Guidelines for  
Scuba Diving Centres  
in  
Andaman Nicobar Islands**

***DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM  
Andaman Nicobar Administration  
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## INDEX

| <b>Sl. No. / Annexure</b> | <b>Particulars</b>  | <b>Page No.</b> |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
|                           | Introduction  | 1               |
| 1.                        | Objective   | 2               |
| 2                         | Procedure for Registration of Scuba Diving Centre                       | 3-4             |
| 3                         | Requirements for firms operators, desiring to open Scuba Diving Centres | 5               |
| 3.1                       | General   | 5               |
| 3.2                       | Dive Centre Requirements  | 6               |
| 3.3                       | Dive Centre Equipments  | 7               |
| 3.4                       | Recognised Diver Training agencies : Minimum Certification requirement  | 7-8             |
| 3.5                       | Supervision of diving activities  | 8-9             |
| 3.6                       | Maximum Depth limitations   | 9               |
| 3.7                       | Decompression Dive Limitations  | 10              |
| 3.8                       | Equipments for divers and instructors                                   | 10-11           |
| 3.9                       | Dive Boat   | 11-12           |
| 3.10                      | Safety Considerations   | 12-13           |
| 3.11                      | Orientation dive  | 13              |
| 3.12                      | Requirements in respect to Income tax, Customs and Service tax etc.     | 13-14           |
| 3.13                      | Recognized qualification for Dive Centre staff                          | 14              |
| 3.14                      | Environment Protection  | 15              |
| 3.15                      | Refusal / Cancellation of Registration                                  | 15              |
| 4                         | Diving Guidelines   | 16              |
| 4.1                       | Planning the Dive   | 16              |
| 4.2                       | Weather Checks  | 16              |
| 4.3                       | Low risk conditions   | 16              |
| 4.4                       | Prohibited dives  | 16              |

| <b>Sl. No. / Annexure</b> | <b>Particulars</b>   | <b>Page No.</b> |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 4.5                       | Diver Qualification  | 16-17           |
| 4.6                       | Dive Tables and Computers  | 17              |
| 4.7                       | Diving from Boats  | 17              |
| 4.8                       | Damage due to Anchoring  | 17              |
| 4.9                       | Diving for commercial fishing and Marine Research  | 18              |
| 4.10                      | Diving Wrecks and Underwater Artefacts   | 18              |
| <b>Annexure-I</b>         | Model Emergency Action Plan (EAP)  | 19              |
| <b>Annexure-II</b>        | Details of the Concerned Departments and officers (for emergency and for any other related information)            | 20-21           |
| <b>Annexure-III</b>       | Application form for seeking Registration for Scuba Diving Centre  | 22-25           |
| <b>Annexure-IV</b>        | Andaman & Nicobar Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 2008 (Relevant extract of the Rules)                                | 26-28           |
| <b>Annexure-V</b>         | The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972   | 29              |
| <b>Annexure-VI(A)</b>     | Application Form for Grant of Permit under Section 28/35(8) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act , 1972.Form No. 4(A) | 30              |
| <b>Annexure-VI(B)</b>     | Sanctuary /National Park Entrance Permit Form 4(B)   | 31              |
| <b>Annexure-VII</b>       | Areas Open for Scuba Diving in Andaman Islands   | 32              |
| <b>Annexure-VIII</b>      | Restricted Area Guidelines for Foreigners  | 33-36           |
| <b>Annexure-IX</b>        | Do's and Don't   | 37              |
| <b>Annexure-X</b>         | Areas declared as IV limit in A&N Islands  | 38              |
| <b>Annexure-XI</b>        | Dive Flag  | 39              |
|                           | Checklist/ documents to be enclosed with the application form  | 40              |

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to one of the world's best kept secrets - the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Long shrouded in mystery and legend - the islands have now started to emerge on the independent traveler's list of must see places in the world. These Islands in the Bay of Bengal are a rare gift of nature. The group of Islands / islets, spread over an area of 8249 Sq. Kms., with tropical rainforest and beautiful unexplored beaches are graded excellent by many researchers. Besides creeks, rich flora and fauna, marine life and under water corals, provide a dream destination for the tourists, especially Scuba divers.

The crystal clear waters and the abundant marine life has attracted divers from all over the world and has made "Andamans" as one of the best emerging dive destinations in the world. Diving in Andamans is a unique lifetime experience. The coastal water surrounding these islands is the abode of one of the richest coral reef ecosystems in the world. The undamaged/unexplored coral-reefs and underwater marine life have encouraged National as well as International divers to include Andamans in their itinerary.

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has identified various Dive Sites in these Islands. To promote and regulate the activities of Scuba Diving Centres in these Islands, an effort has been made to formulate consolidated guidelines for regulation of SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) Diving activities by the Directorate of Tourism, A & N Administration. The procedure for Registration of Scuba Diving Centres has been explained in this booklet which also contains information issued by different departments of Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Ministries of Govt. of India. These guidelines are based on guidelines of National Institute of Water Sports, Goa and Maldives Recreational Diving Regulation, 2003 and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

## 1. **OBJECTIVE**

- ◆ To promote A&N Islands as a diving destination in the National & International market.
- ◆ To establish an open, transparent and safe framework for development of Scuba Diving activities in A&N Islands.
- ◆ To establish a simple system for registration of scuba diving centres/operators in these Islands and provide them consolidated information on guidelines issued by various Departments of Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Ministries of Govt. of India.
- ◆ To ensure that diving is done only in permissible areas in order to protect the marine eco systems and prevent damage to corals.
- ◆ To encourage self regulation through an Association of Dive Centres.
- ◆ To facilitate development of standards for Scuba Diving in India by establishing a Recreational Scuba Training Council under the aegis of Bureau of Indian Standards.

## **2. Procedure for Registration of Scuba Diving Centre**

To facilitate Scuba Diving Centres, Andaman Nicobar Administration will grant Registration to Scuba Diving Centres to undertake diving activities in these islands in accordance with the following procedure:

- i. The firm/operator, desiring to operate a Scuba diving centre in the islands shall submit three sets of filled up application forms in the prescribed format (Annexure-III), along with the prescribed application fee of Rs.5,000/- in the form of demand draft/pay order in favor of Sr. Accounts officer (IPT), to the Director (Tourism), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair, Pin code-744101, (Andaman Island) India, Tele-fax No. 03192-230933, before the commencement of the Dive Centre.
- ii. The firm/ operator shall give details of their office , and currently employed certified dive instructor, in the prescribed application form. Changes in staff members are allowable without intimation to the registering authority as long as at least one pre-named certified dive instructor remains on the rolls. The firm/operator shall also submit the rates to be charged for diving activities, and any substantial increase in prices, above 20% overall, should be informed to the authorities in writing and alongwith submission of a new rate card. Discounts on printed rates are at the discretion of the dive centre.
- iii. Foreign Divers/operators shall obtain Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the Foreigner's Registration Office, Port Blair or from Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and shall enclose a copy of the application for the permit made to FRRO/MHA, or copy of permit so granted (if available) together with copy of the employment visa/ business visa along with the application form. The details of the areas open for foreigners are at Annexure-VIII.
- iv. The Sea worthiness certificate and/or other survey report/certificates in respect of Dive boat, issued by MMD /Deputy Commissioner/ Director Fisheries, (as the case may be) shall be enclosed with the application form.

- v. The Certificate of Registration of Scuba Diving Centre will be issued by Director (Tourism) normally within 30 days. The Director Tourism, shall enter the name and particulars of the scuba diving centre/operator in the register maintained for the purpose and shall issue a certificate to the Scuba Diving Centre/operator, unless the registration is refused. Reasons for rejection shall be indicated as applicable.
- vi. The Registration granted to Scuba Diving Centres owned by the foreigners, will be valid for the period they have been granted Restricted Area Permit, while the Registration granted to Scuba Diving centres in case of the Indian nationals and Indian Registered companies that are substantially owned by Indian Nationals, will be valid for three years. Registration fee of Rs. 5000/- shall be payable annually.
- vii. The Scuba diving centre/operator may apply for renewal with the prescribed registration fee, by giving a simple application on plain paper, enclosing a copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the Directorate of Tourism, and enclosing details furnished with the original application, duly updated. The application for renewal must be made 60 days prior to expiry of the registration. Branches of those dive shops who have already established their base in the Island will be allowed to be set up under intimation to the Directorate of Tourism.

### **3. Requirements for firms operators, desiring to open Scuba Diving Centres**

#### **3.1 General**

- i. All Scuba Diving centres desiring to undertake their Scuba Diving activities must be registered with the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman Nicobar Administration before commencement of their activities. The Dive Centres operating prior to issue of these guidelines shall get registered within three months of issue of these guidelines subject to filing of application as prescribed in this guidelines.
- ii. All the scuba diving centres and its branches must have these guidelines properly displayed for the information and compliance by the all concerned.
- iii. All Dive Centres / operators registered with the Director, Tourism should give proper receipts to all the dive tourist/guests. They should maintain proper records of the tourist /guests approaching them and receipt for the fees charged from them.
- iv. Scuba diving is permitted only in the specified areas as mentioned at Annexure -VII. The dive centre/operators are advised to take tourists only to the specified dive sites.
- v. The Dive Centres must remain aware of local weather conditions and inform divers of any special conditions at each dive site prior to dive.
- vi. Dive centres should put buoys preferably red in colour in the diving area. Dive Centres must be aware of any changes to the dive plan of the dive boat and divers.
- vii. Dive Centre owners will be required to ensure that the Dive Centre has a third party insurance policy for a minimum amount of Rs.10 Lakhs per person, and also that its Dive Instructors have a specific dive insurance policy for scuba diving industry professionals through an accredited Insurance Agency.
- viii. The Dive centre/operator will be required to bear any cost to be incurred in case of any rescue or medication during emergency if such rescue work is necessitated as a result of negligence on the part of the Dive Centre/ operator.
- viii. The Dive centre may be inspected by any authorized officer(s) from the Directorate of Tourism or any other official authorized by Law.



### **3.2 Dive Centre Requirements**

- i. All Dive Centres must be equipped with pure Oxygen and an Emergency Action Plan in case of diving related accidents. The Emergency Action Plan must include mechanisms for :-
  - a. Searching methods in case of missing divers.
  - b. Providing first aid care.
  - c. Transport to the next appropriate medical facility.
  - d. Reporting to appropriate authorities (Police, Coast Guard, Health Department and Directorate of Tourism).
- ii. Dive Centre staff must be familiar with the Emergency Action Plan, and should be able to act appropriately.
- iii. Dive Centre must have a base leader, and safety staff member, who is responsible for the Dive centre and is available all the time.
- iv. Dive Centre must have adequate equipment spare parts etc.
- v. Dive centre must have medical first aid, and specified wireless communication (walkie-talkie) / or any other effective communication system to facilitate communication between base station (Dive Centre) and identified sites for diving.
- vi. The Dive Centre must have on its staff at least one “ Dive Instructor”, who is certified by any of the following agencies :-
  - a) Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
  - b) Confederation Mondiale Des Activities Subaquatiques (CMAS)
  - c) National Association of Under Water Instructors (NAUI)
  - d) British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)
  - e) Scuba Schools International (SSI)
- vii. Dive Centers must have a list of all dive services and courses conducted by them with the rate list, prominently displayed at all dive centre premises.

### **3.3 Dive Centre Equipment**

- i. Dive centre must provide well -maintained dive equipment, with pure oxygen and must have an emergency action plan.
- ii. Dive Centre should have a minimum of Six diving sets which includes tank, regulator with pressure gauge, depth meter and dive watch or deco-computer, mask, snorkel, fins, buoyancy compensating jacket, quick release weight belt and alternate air source.
- iii. Buoyancy Compensator Devices (BCD) must be approved for recreational diving by the manufacturer and must have a low pressure inflator. The BCD must be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- iv. Regulators must be approved for recreational diving by the manufacturer and must be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- v. Dive Centre must provide Alternate Air Source, depth & air gauge or air timing devices as standard rental equipment.
- vi. Dive centre must possess a certificate of pressure testing from an authorized testing centre every three years, or as per rules of the Govt. of India, regarding high pressure cylinders. This inspection must be entered in a maintenance log book along with the cylinder number. Tanks are not allowed to be used twelve years after the date of manufacturing.
- vii. The Dive Centre must use only specified compressor oil. Air purifying filter must be changed as per guidelines of the compressor manufacturer and filter changes enter in the compressor log book along with the number of cylinders filled during this period. The centre must also obtain a certificate from an authorized agency like the National Institute of Water Sports stating the quality of output of Air Compressors, every Six months.

### **3.4 Recognised Diver Training agencies : Minimum Certification requirement**

- i. The minimum certification level for divers wishing to participate in diving is an entry level certification from a recognized agency.

- ii. Other diver training agency's entry level certificates must have as performance requirements for open water training dives encompassing the knowledge and skills as outlined in the entry level performance requirement.
- iii. A diver is required to submit proof of his/her training by means of a diving certificate and to submit proof of his/her diving experience by means of a log book.
- iv. A diver who cannot submit an entry level or higher certification must be considered a trainee and may only participate in training dives according to the standards of the training programs as sponsored by the recognized diver training agencies, until certified as an entry level diver.
- v. A diver who cannot submit proof of his/her dive experience by means of a log book must demonstrate to the dive instructor that he/she has mastered the skill as specified in para 3.11.

### **3.5 Supervision of diving activities**

- i. All diving activities must be supervised by Dive Centre staff either directly or indirectly. If a Dive Centre staff is found to be negligent in supervision, the dive centre staff and dive centre, will be subject to appropriate action as deemed fit by the government authorities.
- ii. In order to function as dive centre staff a person must meet all the prerequisites as mentioned at para 3.13, recognized qualification for dive centre staff.
- iii. Prior to a dive, a dive briefing has to be given to the divers by the dive centre staff.
- iv. For all diving activities a dive roster must be kept stating the divers dive time, maximum depth and remaining tank pressure after dive.
- v. For independent land based diving activities a dive centre staff member is required to note the time the divers enter and exit the water.
- vi. Dive rosters are to be kept by the dive centre staff for reference for the authorized officers of the Directorate of Tourism, or any other person authorized by the Law, for a period not less than one year.

- vii. Certified divers may dive with another certified diver without the immediate supervision of a dive master when environmental conditions are similar to the conditions in which the diver has been trained, or proof of experience of diving in more demanding conditions can be demonstrated by entries in their log books.
- viii. Certified divers, who do not have the skill or experience necessary to safely and comfortably dive in given environmental conditions, must dive under the immediate supervision of dive centre staff.

### **3.6 Maximum Depth limitations**

- i. Maximum depth for all recreational diving is 30 meters. This applies to the divers training in Deep Diving Techniques, who participate in recreational diving activities in Andaman Nicobar Islands, tourists, dive centre staff, instructors, on or off duty and all instructors and students involved in Advanced and Deep Diving Training.

This maximum depth limitation also applies without exception to diving activities on live –aboard and safari boats.

- ii. Any person repeatedly and deliberately violating this guidelines may be excluded from further diving. Furthermore, any dive centre staff repeatedly and deliberately violating this regulation will be subjected to disciplinary measure as deemed fit by the Director Tourism or any other official authorized by the Law.
- iii. Entry level divers may dive to a depth of 20 meters or within the limits as set forth by standards of their certification agency, but not exceeding 20 meters.
- iv. Not until entry level divers have received training in Deep Diving Techniques, may they go deeper than 20 meters.
- v. Instructions in deep diving techniques must be provided in compliance with the standards of the program the instructor is qualified to teach according to the Diver Training Agencies as mentioned at para 3.4.
- vi. The fact that the entry level diver is diving under the supervision of an instructor shall not be the grounds to dive deeper than 20 meters unless the diver is trained or is receiving training in Deep Diving Techniques as per standards.

### **3.7 Decompression Dive Limitations**

- i. Only no stage decompression diving is allowed in the Andaman Nicobar Islands. This applies to everybody who participates in diving activities within the Islands, tourists, and dive centre staff, instructors on and off duty also instructors and students involved in Advanced and Deep Diving Training. This no stage decompression limitation also applies to live aboard or safari boats. No exception whatsoever is allowed.
- ii. Any person repeatedly and deliberately violating this guidelines may be excluded from further diving. Furthermore, any dive centre staff repeatedly and deliberately violating this regulation will be subjected to disciplinary measure as deemed fit by the Director Tourism or any other official authorized by the Law.

### **3.8 Equipments for divers and instructors**

During all recreational diving activities, diver must be equipped with:-

- i. Mask, snorkel, fins
- ii. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge, and Alternative Air Source, or surplus air supply.
- iii. Adequate Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD) according to customers' weight, with oral and low pressure Inflator.
- iv. Air Gauge or Air Time and Depth Measuring device.
- v. The use of dive computers is highly recommended for all divers.
- vi. Emergency signaling device comprising inflatable surface balloon and whistle.

During all night diving activities divers must be equipped with:-

- vii. A backup light. Underwater torch and night signaling device, with every diver in possession of a marker light. Coloured blinking lights (preferably red in colour), shall be placed, in the diving area for attention of other boats.
- viii. Reflective Surface Marker Buoy (SMB), and

- ix. A small vessel to follow and assist divers.

In addition, all dive instructors supervising diving activities must be equipped with;

- x. Emergency cutting shears/ cutting tools and emergency signaling device.

### **3.9 Dive Boat**

- i. The dive boat drivers must hold a appropriate boat handling certification as per the IV Act, MS Act, or Marine Fishing Regulation as the case may be. The dive boat must carry a person who holds a valid Life Saving Techniques (LST) certificate from NIWS (validity two years) or hold a valid Medic First Aid Certification. Power Boat Handling Certificate issued by recognized agencies such as National Institute of Water Sports, Goa would be acceptable.
- ii. The Dive Boat must carry the following:-
  - a. Dive Flag (as illustrated in Annexure-XI).
  - b. Oars, wherever such boat is capable of independent propulsion by oars.
  - c. Flares
  - d. First Aid Kit
  - e. Walkie-Talkie or alternate communication device.
  - f. Medical Oxygen set.
  - g. Life jackets, and buoys.
- iii. The Boat should anchor at designated points only, marked by floating buoys in Marine National Park wherever they are installed. Where such buoys are not yet installed, the boat crew should take all precautions to avoid any damage to coral reefs by faulty anchorage.
- iv. Boats, surveyed by MMD/ Engineer and Ship surveyor and registered under M.S./I.V. Act (as the case may be ) or registered by Fisheries Department, for Game Fishing shall only be allowed for scuba diving. The Vessel has to be Registered as follows:-

- (a) Vessels which ply in inland waters have to be registered under IV Act with Deputy Commissioner being the registering authority.
- (b) For all sea going vessels beyond IV waters the vessels have to be registered with MMD under various clauses as per MS Act and/or as per Guidelines issued by Director General, Shipping, Govt of India, or with Fisheries Department for Game Fishing.
- v) For operation in Protected Areas, these boats should have the permission of Chief Wild Life Warden.
- vi) Dive Boats are the responsibility of the Dive Centre and the crew. The Dive Boats must have at least a crew of three including Dive Instructor and must be dedicated to the safety of the divers and support the divers at all times.
- vii) The dive Boats should have sufficient fuel to make prearranged dive trips and any changes there to.
- ix) In case weather condition deteriorates while divers are under water, the crew must be proficient in recalling methods.
- x) The Dive Centre staff is responsible for the provision of a spare tank, spare diving equipment, first aid, oxygen kit, dive flag and a boat ladder that allows for a comfortable exit from the water.
- xi) An Operational Search Light must be onboard, in all night dives involving dive boats.
- xii) The dive boat must have inscribed the, name of the boat, diving centre and registration number.

### **3.10 Safety Considerations**

- i. Dive Centre must have Emergency Action Plan, specifying action to be initiated by the members of the dive team and the support staff in the event of emergencies.
- ii. The Dive Centre staff must brief the divers prior to every dive. The brief must include information about safety regulations, depth limits, dive site characteristics, currents, entry and exit techniques, environmental considerations and potential hazards.

- iii. The use of Buoyancy Control Device (BCD), is mandatory for all diving activities.
- iv. Except for short and shallow dives, after all dives a safety stop must be made for at least 3 minutes at 5 meters. Divers must commence their safety stop with a tank pressure not less than 50 bars. A safety stop at 5 meters for 5 minutes is recommended for all dives deeper than 9 meters.
- v. Solitary Diving is not allowed under any circumstances.
- vi. For practical reasons the term diving is used to describe recreational diving only. Commercial or navy divers and other occupational divers must adhere to these guidelines when participating in recreational diving activities.
- vii. Familiarization sessions with the oxygen equipment must be provided at the dive centre for all dive staff and this training session must be held annually.
- viii. The dive centre/operator must abide by the guidelines for safe operations mentioned in these guidelines.
- ix. Only registered Scuba dive operators will be permitted to dive/take tourists for diving in the areas permitted on the fulfillment of the guidelines/terms and conditions as specified herein.
- x. Model Emergency Action Plan is at Annexure-I.

### **3.11 Orientation dive**

- i. If a diver is certified as an entry level diver or above , but cannot show proof of at least 30 dives, and /or has not been diving in the last 3 months , the diver is required to make an orientation dive.
- ii. An orientation dive is not a Test, but is a dive in shallow water under quiet controlled circumstances, where the diver is given the opportunity to regain confidence in his/her skills, including but not limited to : mask clearing, regulator recovery, neutral buoyancy, ascents, descents, and alternate air source breathing.

### **3.12 Requirements in respect to Income tax, Customs and Service tax etc.**

- i. Income Tax clearance certificate together with PAN details should be submitted to the Administration for registration/renewal of registration.



- ii. All imported equipment should be under the cover of customs duty paid-receipt.
- iii. In case of any T.B.R.E(Tourist Baggage Re-export Rule) item, the Scuba Divers must have necessary endorsement on their passport of the list of equipment.
- iv. Foreign Scuba divers cannot sell their equipment in India which are under T.B.R.E.
- v. In case of any defaults in respect of T.B.R.E(re-exports) they are liable to pay duty at applicable rates with fine at the time of departure to their destinations.
- vi. All customs checks will be conducted at the time of entry and exit.
- vii. Dive centres must comply with Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Service Tax laws and proof of compliance/registration under EPF and Service Tax should be submitted to the Director (Tourism) for initial registration/renewal of registration.

### **3.13 Recognized qualification for Dive Centre staff**

- i. At least one dive centre staff should be dive instructor certified by any of the following internationally recognized agency
  - A) PADI
  - B) CMAS
  - C) NAUI
  - D) BSAC
  - E) SSI
- ii. All training and certification of divers is to be done exclusively by instructors who may be assisted by Assistant Instructors and or Dive Master and he should strictly adhere to all the standards that apply to the Dive training programme.
- iii. In order to function as a Base Leader or Assistant Base Leader, an individual must have undergone an emergency first responder course
- iv. The Dive Centre staffs who are engaged in leading dives must be familiar with and also properly trained in extending First Aid treatment.

### **3.14 Environment Protection**

- i. Proper care should be taken to protect the marine environment, its associated living organisms and their habitat. Divers should be briefed by the dive instructors on responsible behavior, and avoid damage to the corals and physical contact with marine life/animals. Scuba divers shall not cause any damage to marine flora and fauna.
- ii. Collection of corals, marine flora, fauna and other sea wealth is strictly prohibited and any violation of this will attract penal action under Section 29 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.
- iii. There should not be any disposal of sewage or garbage in the reef areas. Divers should also not use chemicals, explosives, or any other substance, which may cause injury to marine life/wild life or destroy its habitat.
- iv. The provisions, rules and regulations covering National parks and Sanctuaries under Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and as prevailing in the islands should be adhered to. Provisions regarding grant of entry permit and activities prohibited under Wildlife (Protection) Act is at Annexure-V.
- v. Anchoring of dive boats will not be permitted within 50 mts from the shore of the islands coming under Marine National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary except with prior permission from the concerned DFO. No landing will be permitted on North Cinque Island and other islands coming under the Marine National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. The fees for entry in Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park shall be paid as per existing fee structure( placed on Annexure-IV).

### **3.15 Refusal / Cancellation of Registration**

- i. If any deficiency is found in the application and documents submitted together with the application, a Deficiency Memo will be issued, for fulfilling the required conditions.
- ii. The registration will be cancelled if the Scuba Dive Centre/operator ceases to operate, or violates any of the guidelines stated above.

#### **4. Diving Guidelines**

##### **4.1 Planning the Dive**

It is essential to “PLAN YOUR DIVE AND DIVE YOUR PLAN”. Dive Centre must be aware of any changes to the dive plan of the dive boats and divers.

##### **4.2 Weather Checks**

It is recommended that the dive centres keep aware of local weather conditions and inform divers of any special conditions at each dive site prior to the dive.

##### **4.3 Low risk conditions**

- a. Maximum depth of dive sites does not exceed 20 meters.
- b. Swell and /or wave height does not exceed 0.5 meters.
- c. Current is nil to slight (diver can swim against it with minimum exertion)
- d. Underwater visibility is greater than 4 meters.
- e. Dive starts and ends in full day light.

##### **4.4 Prohibited dives**

1. Decompression Dives.
2. Dives deeper than 30 meters
3. Dives less than 24 hours before flying ( a pressurized aircraft)
4. Dives in restricted / no dive areas Refer Annexure-VIII.

##### **4.5 Diver Qualification**

- a. A diver must present following documents to the dive centre.:-
  - i. Dive certification Card from a recognized agency that allows the person to dive without supervision.
  - ii. Logbook validating open water diving experience of at least 900 minutes , excluding training dives.

- iii. Medical Certificate dated within 12 months of diving or self declaration stating that the person is fit to scuba dive.
- iv. Completed Diver registration Form at the dive Centre.
- v. An orientation dive may be required for persons who have not dived with in the last 3 months. The dive centre may impose restrictions on a divers' activities on the basis of his/her logged experience.

#### **4.6 Dive Tables and Computers**

- i. Use of dive tables and dive computers are highly recommended for all divers.
- ii. Dive Tables must be available at the dive base for divers to work out their Dives manually.

#### **4.7 Diving from Boats**

For all dives away from the dive centre, it is recommended that a person with the following qualifications and experience remains on surface during diving operations :-

- i. A boat driving /captains license from the concerned authority, with significant experience.
- ii. Dive Centre staff with adequate knowledge of the dive location or other person approved by base leader.
- iii. First Aid certificate.
- iv. Oxygen resuscitation and therapy certificate of PADI/ recognized, oxygen provider course.

#### **4.8 Damage due to Anchoring**

Dive boats are not allowed to anchor on dive sites. Boat anchors destroy fish habitats especially corals and even sea grass beds. If anchoring is required for any reason, prevent reef damage by anchoring in sandy areas or using mooring buoys.

#### **4.9 Diving for commercial fishing and Marine Research**

Diving for marine resources and marine research are not covered under these guidelines. Permission should be obtained from the concerned Government authorities before engaging in such activities.

#### **4.10 Diving Wrecks and Underwater Artefacts**

- 1) It is important for diving that whenever wreck is discovered it should be only observed but should not be touched so that no damage is done to the underwater wreckage. This rule also applies to any separate object discovered underwater.
- 2) Whenever any underwater object is discovered, the correct procedure is to mark the spot and report to the Director(Tourism) or Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life), Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

**Model Emergency Action Plan (EAP) prepared by NIWS**

The dive operator must have a “safety crew” to be present at their office manning the wireless communication set throughout the time the dive boat is at sea. Actions to be initiated by personnel in case of dive emergency at or around the island are given below.

- 1) **Dive instructor** : The dive instructor in-charge of the dive operations is to assess the emergency and contact his dive centre giving the following information :
  - Nature of emergency: Mechanical failure of boat or engine, injury to personnel etc.
  - Approximate location of boat
  - Type of assistance required : Ambulance, oxygen, doctor, rescue boat etc.
  
- 2) **Safety crew of Dive Centre** : After receiving the distress message, the safety crew should initiate following actions :
  - Repeat the information received from the dive instructor to confirm that he has understood the emergency situation.
    - a) For boat / engine failure :

Organize to send the rescue boat with appropriate towing equipment.
    - Inform the dive boat of the action taken by him.
    - Maintain contact.
    - b) For medical help :
      - Confirm that the dive instructor wants to shift patient to hospital.
      - Contact staff on duty at Primary Health Centre, at Havelock, on Tel No .282382, at Neil Island Tel No. 282627, and for Wandoor, Tel. No 287227 specifying requirement of ambulance/ stretcher/ oxygen/ nurse etc.
      - If telephone contact with PHC is not established, inform police outpost staff at Havelock, on Tel No .282405, at Neil Island Tel. No. 282602, and for Wandoor Tel. No. 287590 to help in contacting the medical staff.
      - Send messenger to PHC as added precaution.
      - Continue to man the wireless set and report progress to dive boat.
  
- 3) **Medical officer at PHC** :
  - Ensure that the ambulance is dispatched to jetty immediately.
  - Assess the medical emergency by examining the patient and initiate follow-up.
  - If air evacuation to Port Blair is considered necessary, contact the Director of Health Services on Tel. No 233331 or DHS control room, on Tel No .232102,233473 for further action.
  - Accompany the patient till he/ she is handed over to qualified recompression staff.

**Annexure - II****Details of the Concerned Departments and officers for emergency or any related information**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Name of the Department</b>  | <b>Name &amp; Designation of the concerned officers</b>   | <b>Telephone / Fax No. (03192)/ E-mail</b>   |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| 1.            | Police Department  | i) Superintendent of Police (HQ), Port Blair.   | Telephone No: 232244(O)<br>Mobile : 9434287533<br>Fax No. : 232244   |
|               |  | ii) SP(D) South Andaman, Port Blair.  | Telephone No: 233077(O)<br>Mobile : 9434289897<br>Fax No. : 233077   |
|               |  | iii) SP (North & Middle Andaman), Mayabunder.   | Telephone No: 273344(O)<br>Mobile : 9434287533<br>Fax No. : 273344   |
|               |  | iv) Control Room, Port Blair.   | Telephone No:100   |
| 2.            | Environment & Forest   | The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Van Sadan, Haddo, Port Blair – 744 102                              | Ph.No. 03192-233270(O)<br>Fax No. 03192-233549<br>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:pccfwl@and.nic.in">pccfwl@and.nic.in</a> |
| 3.            | Directorate of Shipping Services, A&N Administration, P/Blair                    | The Assistant Director(Commercial Wing), Directorate of Shipping Services, Port Blair.                                    | 234299   |
|               |  | The Assistant Director(Shipping Services), A&N Administration, No.17, Rajaji Salai, Opp. Customs House, Chennai – 600 001 | 044 – 25226873<br>044 - 25220841 (Fax)   |
| 4.            | Deputy Commissioner, Office North & Middle Andaman A&N Administration Mayabunder | Assistant Commissioner, HQ & Mayabunder   | 273208<br>273620(Fax)  |
| 5.            | Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman) A&N Administration, P/Blair                  | i)Assistant Commissioner (HQ)   | 237825(O)<br>245444(Fax)   |
|               |  | ii)Control Room   | 238881<br>1077   |

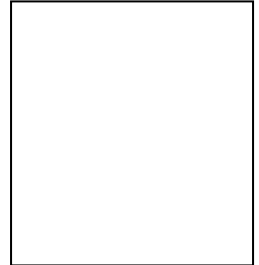
|     |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 6.  | Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar)                                   | Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar), Car Nicobar                  | 265220<br>E-Mail : <a href="mailto:ndc@and.nic.in">ndc@and.nic.in</a> |
|     | <b><u>Sub Division</u></b>                                      |   |   |
|     | Car Nicobar   | Asst.Commissioner(HQ), Car Nicobar                          | 265566<br>E-Mail : <a href="mailto:ndc@and.nic.in">ndc@and.nic.in</a> |
|     | Nancowrie   | Asst.Commissioner, Nancowrie, Kamorta                       | 263222  |
|     | Campbell Bay  | Asst.Commissioner, Campbell Bay                             | 264264  |
| 7.  | Mercantile Marine Department (DG Shipping, Bombay), Port Blair. | Dy. Chief Surveyor-cum-Sr. Dy. Director General (Technical) | 232530  |
| 8.  | Directorate of Health Services, Port Blair.                     | (i) Director (Health Services)                              | 233331  |
|     |   | (ii) Dy. Director (Health)                                  | 232797  |
|     |   | iii) G.B. Pant Hospital (Control room)                      | 233473  |
| 9.  | INS Dhanvantri, Port Blair.                                     | Control room  | 225062<br>226092  |
| 10. | Port Management Board, Port Blair.                              | Harbor Master   | 237804  |
| 11. | Andaman Nicobar Command, Port Blair.                            | Commanding Officer (INS Jarawa)                             | 232646  |
| 12. | Coast Guard, Port Blair.  | Adhikari (RO)   | 232424  |
| 13. | Primary Health Centre, Havelock.                                | Medical Officer (in-charge)                                 | 282382  |
| 14. | Police Station Havelock.  | Deputy Superintendent of Police                             | 282405  |
| 15. | Forest Office, Havelock.  | Divisional Forest Officer                                   | 282366  |



**Andaman & Nicobar Administration  
Directorate of Tourism  
Port Blair**

**APPLICATION FORM FOR SEEKING REGISTRATION  
FOR SCUBA DIVE CENTRE**

1. Name & address of the Dive Centre :



2. Name of the Owner(s) with permanent address and Telephone No./Mobile Number/Fax Number, e.mail id. and **PAN Number** (in case of Indian) :

Following details about Nationality and **Passport No** (in case of foreigners).

a. Nationality of the owner(s) of the Scuba diving Centre

b. Particulars of Passport (Number and Validity)

c. Details of Visa (Type, Number & Validity)

d. Profession (Specific role in the operating of Scuba diving centre)

e. Period of visit

3. Name and address and contact details of the Local Agent or Local representative in Andamans :

4. Address of the office in mainland – India and abroad with Telephone / Fax Mo. / e.mail :

5 Website if any :

6 Details about dive operation undertaken by the firm / person in Andamans in the past with duration of operation etc. :

7. Details of Scuba Diving staff (attach photocopies of qualification)

| <b>Designation</b> | <b>Name</b> | <b>Nationality</b> | <b>Passport No.</b> | <b>Qualification</b> | <b>Ref. No</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Dive Instructor    |             |                    |                     |                      |                |
| Dive Master        |             |                    |                     |                      |                |
| Others             |             |                    |                     |                      |                |
|                    |             |                    |                     |                      |                |

8. Details of support staff (attach photocopies of qualification)

| <b>Designation</b> | <b>Name</b> | <b>Nationality</b> | <b>Passport No.</b> | <b>Qualification</b> | <b>Ref. No</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                    |             |                    |                     |                      |                |
|                    |             |                    |                     |                      |                |

9. Details of dive equipments and accessories

| Description      | Make | Quantity | Registration. No./Manufacturing details | Date of expiry |
|------------------|------|----------|---|----------------|
| 1. Dive Boat*    |      |          |   |                |
| 2. Dive Sets     |      |          |   |                |
| 3. BCDs          |      |          |   |                |
| 4. Compressor    |      |          |   |                |
| 5. First Aid Kit |      |          |   |                |
| 6. Oxygen Kit    |      |          |   |                |
| 7. Life Jackets  |      |          |   |                |
| 8. Buoys         |      |          |   |                |

\* enclose the copy of the Registration Certificate and Survey Report issued by MMD/DC / Director (Fisheries) (as the case may be)

10 Emergency Action Plan (EAP) :  
(Attach copy)

11. Date, Amount and No of the Demand :  
Draft enclosed in favor of Sr.Accounts Officer, (IP&T), Payable at Port Blair.

12 Details of Insurance :

13 Rates for the Scuba diving activities :  
(enclosed rate/tariff card) and details of the services offered with tariff.

14 Details/type and make of the :  
Communication equipments, with details/reference No. etc. of the permission obtained.

- 15 Details of Permit/clearance from :  
Ministry of Home Affairs (for foreign  
nationals) attach photocopies.
- 16 Location of Dive base :
- 17 Dive sites/area proposed for diving :  
activities
- 18 Details of the registration of the boat :  
to be used for taking dive tourists
- 19 Any other relevant information :  
(attach separate sheet if necessary)

Signature of Owner/operator of the dive centre  
Name and address, &  
contact Tel. number

Date.....

**Andaman & Nicobar Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 2008 (Relevant extract of the Rules)**

Every person desiring to enter into a Sanctuary or National Park for Scuba Diving should obtain permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

1. Grant of permit to enter in Sanctuary/National Park
  - (i) Any person who intends to enter in a Sanctuary/National Park for tourism including Scuba Diving shall submit application in Form No.4 (A) to Chief Wildlife Warden/Authorized Officer. The application may be submitted to the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Divisional Forest Officer/Assistant Conservator of Forests/ Range Officer, in the areas of their respective jurisdiction.
  - (ii) On receipt of an application, Chief Wildlife Warden/ Authorized Officer may after such enquiry as he may deem fit grant or reject the application.
  - (iii) A permit in Form 4 (B) shall be issued by an officer authorized by the Wildlife Warden on payment of prescribed fee specified as under:
  
2. (i) Entry Fee in Marine National Parks and other Island Sanctuaries/National Park
  - (a) Adults (Indians) : Rs.50/- Per Person Per Day
  - (b) Children (Age Group 5-12years) : Rs.25/- Per Person Per Day
  - (c) Foreigners : Rs.500/- Per Person Per Day
  - (d) Foreign Yacht/Ship/Boat : Rs.1000/- Per vessel Per Day
  - (e) Indian Boat/Ship : Rs. 500/- Per vessel Per Day
  
- (ii) For other Sanctuary & National Park
  - (a) Adults (Indians) : Rs.25/- Per Person Per Day
  - (b) Children (Age Group 5 – 12 Years) : Rs.10/- Per Person Per Day
  - (c) Foreigners : Rs.250/- Per Person Per Day
  
- (iii) For Scuba Diving
  - (a) Indians : Rs 500/- per person per day
  - (b) Foreigners : Rs 1000/- per person per day

(iv) In case of Students

(a) Indians : Rs.5/- (Rupees Five Only Per Head Per Day)

(b) Foreigners : Rs.10/-(Rupees Ten Only Per Head Per Day)

(v) A child below five years shall be exempted from payment of the fee.

(vi) In respect of a vehicle which is :

(a) A Light Motor Vehicle such as a Car or Jeep or a Motor Cycle including Motor Scooter and Cycle with attachment for propelling the same by mechanical power – Rs.20/-(Rupees Twenty Only) Per Day.

(b) A Heavy Motor Vehicle such as a Bus or Truck – Rs.50/-(Rupees Fifty Only) Per Day.

(c) A Cycle and other vehicle manually operated – Rs.5/-(Rupees Five Only) Per vehicle.

(d) A boat permitted for plying for tourism purpose shall pay the following rate :

- A boat carrying less than 10 persons – Rs.10,000/-(Rupees Ten Thousand Only) Per Annum.
- A boat carrying between 11-50 persons – Rs.50,000/-(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) Per Annum.
- A boat carrying between 51 and above – Rs.1,00,000/-(Rupees One Lakh Only) Per Annum.

(e) The fees in respect of above is inclusive of the entrance fee of one driver/rider of the vehicle and crew (not exceeding 5 persons) in case of boats.

(f) A permit referred above shall be valid for the period specified there in.

### **3. General Conditions Governing the issue of permits :**

(i) The permit shall not entitle any person to free accommodation in any Government building situated within the limits of the Sanctuary or National Park.

(ii) Any officer or servant of the Forest Department on duty or an officer appointed under sub-section(i) of Section 4 of the Wild Life (P) Act, 1972 may require any

person to stop within the limits of the Sanctuary or National Park, as the case may be or at the entrance gate, for the purpose of checking and may demand for inspection, the permit granted under this chapter. Every person so required to stop, shall stop when called upon to do so and shall produce the permit for inspection.

- (iii) No person shall be allowed to enter a Sanctuary or a National Park with any weapon or ammunition, except with the previous permission in writing, of the Chief Wildlife Warden or any other officer authorized in this behalf.
- (iv) No person shall be allowed to hunt/trap any wild animal/bird in the Sanctuary or National Park remove there from any wild bird, whether alive or dead or any trophy or meat derived from such animal/bird without a valid special purpose permit.
- (v) No person shall be allowed to set fire to the sanctuary, or kindle any fire or leave any fire burning in the sanctuary.
- (vi) No person shall be allowed to use in the sanctuary chemicals, explosives or any other substance which may cause injury to, or endanger, any wildlife in the sanctuary.

#### **4. Cancellation of Permit:**

Where a holder of permit commits a breach of any of the provision of the Act or the rules there under or of any of the conditions specified in a permit, the Chief Wildlife Warden or the Officer-In-Charge of a Sanctuary or National Park may, after recording his reasons in writing, cancel the permit.

**Provisions regarding grant of entry permit and activities prohibited under Wildlife (Protection) Act**

Any person entering into sanctuaries /National Parks for Tourism purpose (Scuba Diving) with valid permit issued by Chief Wildlife Warden /Authorised officer shall strictly follow the general conditions governing the issues mentioned in Annexure IV.

Further, no person shall destroy, exploit or remove any wildlife including forest produce, destroy or damage or divert the habitats of any wild animal by any act what so ever or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outside the sanctuary.

**Penalty for violation Wildlife (Protection) Act:**

Any violation of Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to twenty five thousand rupees or with both.

In case of offence in respect of Wildlife (includes Marine life) listed in Schedule I or part II of Schedule II, the penalty is imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years and also with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees.

( Corals are listed in Schedule I )



**Form No.4(A)**  
**(See Rule No.17 (i))**  
**(Application Form for Grant of Permit under Section 28/35(8) of the Act)\***

To

.....  
.....  
.....

Sir,

I ....., Son of ....., Resident of  
....., District ....., State .....

..... apply for following purpose.

1. Investigation or Study of Wild Life and Purposes ancillary or Incidental thereto.
2. Photography.
3. Scientific Research.
4. Tourism.
5. Transaction of lawful business with person(s) residing in the sanctuary.

**Signature of Applicant :**

Date :

Place :

**Acknowledgement Slip**

Receipt of the application filled by Shri/Smti ..... presently residing at  
..... (Full Address and Telephone No.) ..... in the Office of  
the ..... is hereby acknowledged.

Signature of the Recipient

Name :

Date :

Place :



➤ Strike Out whichever is not applicable.

\* To be filled up by applicant and attached with the application form, at AnnexureIII .

**FORM No.4(B)**

[Rule 17(iii)]

**SANCTUARY/NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE PERMIT**

(Not transferable)

Permit No.....

Date.....

Subject to the provisions of the Wildlife(Protection)Act,1972 and the rules made there under, and subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned, permission is hereby granted..... and party consisting of:

(Full name and address)

| Serial No. | Name | Age  |
|------------|------|------|
| (1)        | ( 2) | ( 3) |

Etc. for the period of ..... days from..... to.....(both days inclusive) to enter and reside in the ..... sanctuary/national park in the ..... Forest Division, for the purpose of-

(i). \*Transaction of lawful business

(ii). \*Tourism

(2). Fee paid:

Amount Rs.

(i). For individuals ...

(ii). For vehicles ...

(iii). For camera ...

Total

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

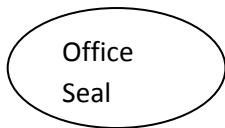
**Conditions**

(1.) This permit shall not entitle the holder, to hunt and trap any animals/birds without a valid special purpose permit.

(2). The permit holder shall abide by the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (P) Act, and the Rules made there under.

**Acknowledgement Slip**

Receipt of the application filed by Shri/ Smt /.....presently residing at ..... (Full Address and Telephone Number) ..... in the Office of the ..... is hereby acknowledged.



Signature of the recipient

Name:

Date:

Place:

➤ Strike out whichever is not applicable.

**Areas Open for Scuba Diving in Andaman Islands**

Following areas have been identified and kept open for Scuba Diving activities :-

- a. Neil Island
- b. Henry Lawrence Island \*(Marine National Park)
- c. John Lawrence Island \*(Marine National Park )
- d. Inglis Island (Sanctuary)
- e. Outram Island \*(Marine National Park)
- f. Campbell Shoal
- g. East Coast of South Andaman Island between North Point and Chidiyatapu with the exception of Ross Island, main channel to the harbour, Phoenix Bay, Chatham, Haddo/I.N. Jetty, FDN-I and Brichgunj.
- h. East and South coasts of Rutland Island outside the Marine National Park.
- i. Cinque Island Sanctuary\*(Marine National Park)
- j. North of North Wandoor and North of Tarmugli Island excluding the Marine National Park and Lohabarack Sanctuary and shallow open sea areas such as Allen Patches. \*(Marine National Park)
- k. Havelock Island and shallow sites and barren rocks in open sea such as Pilot Reef and Minerva Ledge excluding Havelock Jetty and Radhanagar Beach
- l. Long Island
- m. Avis Island
- n. North Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary)
- o. South Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary)
- p. Sister Island
- q. Jolly Buoy and Red Skin Island (Marine National Park)
- r. Narcondum Island and Barren Island (no landing ashore).

- (i) Scuba Diving is allowed in Marine National Park subject to payment of prescribed fee which is Rs.500/- per person per day in respect of Indian citizens and Rs.1000/-per person per day in respect of foreigners. Details of the fees prescribed for the entry are indicated at Annexure-IV.
- (ii) The entry to Marine National Park/Wild Life Sanctuary is subject to prior permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Environment and Forest, Andaman Nicobar Administration ( whose address and contact numbers are at Annexure-II ) on payment of prescribed fee (see Annexure IV).
- (iii) The list of areas open for Scuba diving will be updated from time to time and negative list will also be notified by the Administration periodically.

**Restricted Area Guidelines For Foreigners**

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands being the restricted area under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) order, 1963, no foreigners can enter or stay in the Islands without obtaining permit from the competent authority. At present foreigners can visit the following places for thirty days after obtaining Restricted Areas Permit from the competent authority.

- |   |   |                              |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| i) Municipal Area, Port Blair<br>ii) Havelock Island,<br>iii) Long Island,<br>iv) Neil Island,<br>v) Mayabunder,<br>vi) Diglipur,<br>vii) Rangat, | } | Day & Night visit<br>allowed |
| viii) Jolly Buoy,<br>ix) South Cinque,<br>x) Red Skin,<br>xi) Mount Harriet, and<br>xii) Madhuban   | } | Only Day visit<br>allowed    |

2. Following additional places for foreign tourists in Andaman & Nicobar Islands are also open :-

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | i) Entire Island of Middle Andaman, excluding tribal reserve.<br><br>ii) All Islands in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park except Boat, Hobday, Twin Islands, Tarmugli, Malay And Pluto (Night halt in these Islands subject to special permission of the UT Admn.<br><br>iii) Entire Island of South Andaman, excluding tribal reserve.<br><br>iv) Baratang Islands.<br>v) North Passage Island.<br>vi) Little Andamans Island excluding tribal reserve | } | Places Opened for day<br>and night visits |
| B | i) Ross Island<br>ii) Narcondum Island<br>iii) Interview Island<br>iv) Brother Island<br>v) Sister Island<br>vi) Barren Island-restricted to visit on board vessels only with no landing ashore   | } | Places opened for day<br>visit only       |

3. The foreign tourists will be allowed to visit the open areas in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands subject to the guidelines issued vide this Ministry's circular No.15011/14/91-F.I dated 30.06.92 which are reproduced:-

- i) The visiting parties would invariably be accompanied by a guide nominated by the Chief Wild Life warden of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and should follow the code of conduct in the Park area.
- ii) Visitors should pay an entry fee. In case of violation of National Marine Park Code, suitable fine may be imposed on the offender by the A&N Islands Administration.
- iii) No jetties or permanent structures are to be allowed to be built upon or off the Islands. No Bar-be-que or other cooking is to be allowed. Only thatched enclosures to serve as toilets made of local materials are to be permitted. No brick and mortar shelters for shade should be allowed to be made. Lean to shelters for shade may be allowed to be made.
- iv) Visit to the Marine Park areas/ to be restricted to small boats or glass bottom boats. No oil leakage is to be allowed in the area.
- v) Scuba diving and underwater photography is to be permitted in identified areas, but no removal of coral fish or any other item from Marine Park is to be permitted.
- vi) Restricted Area Permit issued in this regard by any agency would incorporate the words "subject to restrictions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden. Andaman & Nicobar Islands."
- vii) Foreigners visit to the Islands of Mount Harriet and Madhuban would be regulated by the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration in consultation with the Wild Life representatives in A&N Islands.
- viii) As regards the two Volcanic Islands, Barren Island and Narcondum Island, foreign tourists may be allowed to visit Barren Island on board vessels but no landing ashore. UT Administration would provide escort to the tourists visiting the Island. For Narcondum Islands it has been decided that it may be opened to foreign tourists for diving and unescorted day visits.
- ix) No Burmese national will be allowed to visit Mayabunder and Diglipur without prior permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## **DELEGATION OF POWER**

4. The authorities competent to issue Restricted Area Permit could continue to be the same as are at present, namely:-

i) All Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

ii) F.R.R.OS.

(a) F.R.R.O. : Shri Ajay Chaudhry  
Tel. No. : (011) 26711348 (Telefax)  
E-Mail Address : [boihq@mha.nic.in](mailto:boihq@mha.nic.in)  
[frrodelhi@hotmail.com](mailto:frrodelhi@hotmail.com)  
[frrodli@nic.in](mailto:frrodli@nic.in)  
Office Address : East Block-VIII, Level-II,  
Sector-I, R.K.Puram,  
New Delhi – 110 066.

(b) F.R.R.O. : Shri B.K.Talukdar  
Tel. No. : (033) 22470549 (Office)  
(033) 22470549 (Fax)  
E-Mail Address : [frrokol@nic.in](mailto:frrokol@nic.in)  
Office Address : 237, Acharya Jagdish  
Chandra Bose Road,  
Kolkata – 700 020

(c) F.R.R.O. : Shri Avi Prakash  
Tel. No. : (044) 2345490 (Office)  
(044) 2345491 (Fax)  
E-Mail Address : [frrochn@nic.in](mailto:frrochn@nic.in)  
[chiochn@nic.in](mailto:chiochn@nic.in)  
Office Address : Shastri BHawan, 26,  
Haddows Road,  
Chennai – 600 006

(d) F.R.R.O. : Shri Rajvardhan  
Tel. No. : (022) 22620446 (Office)  
(022) 22620721 (Fax)  
E-Mail Address : [frromum@nic.in](mailto:frromum@nic.in)  
[dcpsb2.frro@indiatimes.com](mailto:dcpsb2.frro@indiatimes.com)  
Office Address : 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Special Branch Bldg.,  
Badruddin Tayabji Lane,  
Behind St. Xaviers College,  
Mumbai – 400 001

iii) Chief Immigration Officer, Madras.

iv) Immigration Officer, Port Blair.

### **Duration of Stay**

5. It has further been decided that the foreign tourists may be permitted to visit the above places in accordance with the conditions imposed. The total period of stay in Andaman & Nicobar Island shall be for a maximum period of 30 days extendable by 15 days.

**Do's and Don't**

**DO's**

1. To ensure that the required permit from immigration authorities has been obtained and Restricted Area Permit (RAP) stipulations/Guidelines as mentioned at Annexure- VIII are followed.
2. To ensure that all the details/ information required for registration of Scuba Diving Centre is submitted.
3. To ensure to carry valid travel documents like passport and appropriate visa.
4. To visit the permitted areas only
5. To ensure that necessary fees/charges as prescribed by different departments/ authorities, are deposited with them.
6. To ensure that the requisite permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs , Govt. of India, (in case of foreigners) and registration from the Director Tourism, Andaman Nicobar Administration, has been obtained for opening and operating the Scuba Diving Centre.
7. To Dive only in the areas permitted
8. To adhere to the guidelines issued by concerned authorities
9. To keep the beach and environment clean.
10. To dispose off the garbage at proper places/dustbins.
11. To protect the marine flora and fauna

**Don'ts**

1. Do not enter the island without required permit.
2. Do not enter restricted/tribal areas
3. Do not enter National Park/Forest Area without permission
4. Do not dive in the areas other than the permitted
5. Do not collect/dead coral or touch/break live coral
6. Do not litter garbage.
7. Do not cook or light fire in the forest area.

**Note**

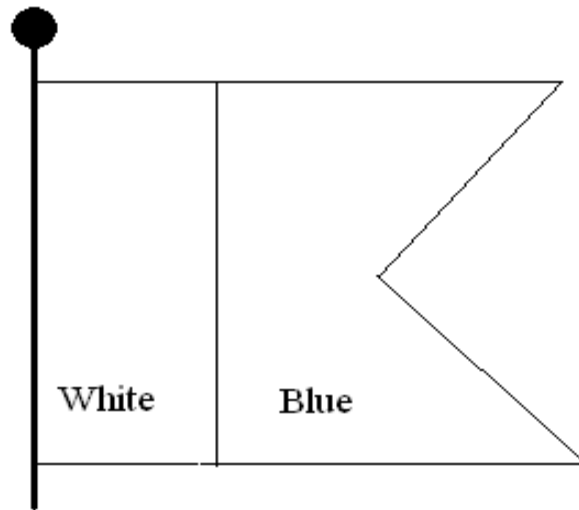
- Foreigners should adhere to Do's at Serial Number 1, 3, 6, besides others.
- Do not carry plastic bags.



**Areas declared as IV limit in A&N Islands**

- A) Port Blair :- All waters westward of all lines from the North point to the Northern tip of Ross Island and then along the eastern shores of Ross Island and then to the South point in Lat 11° 30' 50" N. Long 92° 00' E.
- B) Elphinstone Harbour: All waters enclosed on the North by a parallel of latitude of 12° 25' N between long 92° 56' 36" E by a line from Duft point to Colebrooke and then along this southern shores of Colebrooke and then to Capmart.
- C) Mayabunder : All waters enclosed on the east by a line from Cadel point to Dimpson point and on the south by a line from Aves Island to Nichellpoint on the south islands.
- D) Kamorta :
- (i) Expedition Harbour : All waters Eastward of a line from the Vace point to the satellite point.
- (ii) Nancowry Harbour : All waters enclosed on the East by a line from the Naval point and on the west by a line .  
From thereof point to a point in Lat 7° 8' 30" and Longitude 93° 29' 42" E.

**Dive Flag**



**Length of Flag: 750 mm**  
**Width of Flag: 600 mm**

### **Check list / Documents to be enclosed with the Application Form**

- Foreign Scuba Dive operators shall enclose copy of the Restricted Area Permit granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.
- Foreign Scuba Dive operators shall enclose copy of the passport indicating address, date of issue , expiry, visa details etc
- Indian Scuba dive centre /operator shall enclose a copy of the Income Tax Clearance Certificate and PAN Card.
- A demand draft/pay order of Rs.5,000/- in favor of Sr. Accounts Officer (IPT), payable at Port Blair.
- Copy of the Certificate issued to the Certified Dive Instructor, by the internationally recognized agencies as indicated in Section 3.13 of these Guidelines.
- Copy of the qualifications, in respect of Dive Master, and other Scuba Diving Staff.
- Copy of the qualification in respect of support staff.
- Copy of the Registration Certificate and Survey Report in respect of the Dive Boat.
- Copy of the Emergency Action Plan drawn.
- Copy of the customs duty paid receipt in case of imported equipments.
- In case of TBRE, copy of endorsement on passport.

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