

NEIL ISLAND—NEARER TO YOUR HEART

*Scuba Diving..... Snorkeling..... Swimming..... Sun
bathing.....*

TrekkingCyclingFishing..... Wow!

NEIL ISLAND

Neil - the tiny, beautiful island located south of Andaman Islands on the East Coast of India, with unexplored coral reef and brilliant bio-diversity, white sandy beaches, forest & vegetation is one of the best tourist spots in Andaman. 37 kms from Port Blair, Neil is one of the closer island destinations to Port Blair. Neil and Havelock islands are part of Ritchie's Archipelago. Connected by speedboat from Port Blair daily, it provides ideal holiday destination for eco-friendly tourists in natural settings. The sea encircling the island is shallow and full of colorful corals.

Neil Island is also known as the vegetable bowl of Andaman as it is here the local vegetables are cultivated and supplied to other islands. The settlers named the beaches after the mythical characters of the epic *Ramayana* like *Bharatpur*, *Laxmanpur*, *Sitapur* *Ramnagar* etc. The beaches are popular for their hammocks under shady trees.

Neil, with its very relaxed vibe and long, deserted beaches is a place to chill out after the "bustle" of [Havelock](#). Its widest part is about 5 km in length. You can walk the whole island in about an hour or two

Unlike most of the islands in the Andaman Group, Neil has a flat terrain. The island is also comparatively small with an area of 19 sq.kms. It has a population of 2868 people. (2001 Census). One can feel the serenity of village life here. There is no broadband or internet connectivity in the island. No ATMs or scheduled banks. Mobile services reaches Neil Island but only BSNL has its mobile tower. Power generation is by Diesel Generating sets. There is one Primary Health Centre and also a sub-centre functioning in this island with the service of three doctors. Public transport is by means of autos, motorbikes, cycles, omni vans. There is no bus

service. Law and order is manned by Police outpost. Helipad is available.

CONNECTIVITY:

Directorate of Shipping Services operates regular boat services from Port Blair.

Phoenix Bay Harbor to Neil Island. It takes an hour and forty five minutes by speed boats to Neil island.

FERRY SCHEDULE:

Sl. No.	From	To	Departure Time	Journey Hours	Remarks
1	Port Blair	Neil Island	6:30 AM	02 Hrs.	Daily
2	Neil Island	Port Blair	8:45 AM	02 Hrs.	Daily
3	Port Blair	Neil Island	11:30 AM	02 Hrs.	Daily
4	Neil Island	Port Blair	4:30 PM	02 Hrs.	Daily
5	Port Blair	Neil Island	6:15 AM	02 Hrs.	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
6	Neil Island	Port Blair	11:30 AM	02 Hrs.	Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday
7	Port Blair	Rangat	6:15 AM	06 Hrs.	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday via Neil Island, Havelock, Strait Island & Long Island

The schedule for ferry services are released four days in advance and published in Government newspaper-The Daily Telegrams, broadcasts in local All India Radio and also available in the official website: www.and.nic.in. Ticket Charges for speed boat one way to Neil is Rs. 235/- (sleeping accommodation) and Rs. 190/- (for sitting accommodation) one way.

Boat tickets from Port Blair to Neil and return journey could be purchased four days in advance from the STARS (Ship Ticket Advance Reservation System) ticket counter run by the Directorate of Shipping Services at places like Chennai (6, Rajaji Salai Chennai-1) Port Blair (Phoenix bay harbour), Diglipur,

Mayabunder, Rangat, Havelock, Hut Bay, Car Nicobar, Nancowry and Campbell Bay. Timing 9 AM to 4 PM, lunch break 1 PM to 2PM. One needs to submit requisition form for booking of tickets and produce ID proof at the time of boarding of vessel. For sailing schedule, application forms, guidelines for ticketing, availability of tickets and fares visit: www.and.nic.in

By Helicopter /Seaplane

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in association with the Pawan Hans Helicopter Limited operate weekly Helicopter services from Port Blair to Neil subject to availability of passengers. It flies a 10-seater Dauphin 365 N Helicopter on Mondays to Neil Island. Ticket charge is Rs.850/-(one way).

Helicopter Schedule to Havelock

Days of Service	FROM	TO	DEP	ARR.	FLG.TIME
Mondays	PORT BLAIR	NEIL ISLAND	0800	0820	0020
	NEIL ISLAND	HAVELOCK	0825	0840	0015
	HAVELOCK	PORT BLAIR	0845	0905	0020

For schedule and booking of seats in Helicopter contact:

Officer in Charge (Operations), Civil Aviation

A&N Administration, Port Blair

Tel 03192:233601.

The Junior Engineer (APWD)

Neil Island

www.and.nic.in

www.pawanhans.co.in

ACTIVITIES

Activity options in Neil include Snorkeling, Scuba diving, Game fishing, trekking. Cycling, Sun bathing, swimming, bird watching etc.

CYCLING

Cycling outdoors in Neil Island can be great fun! Cycling improves your strength, stamina and aerobic fitness with minimal risk. It is low-impact exercise, and is especially appropriate for people with joint problems, as it is a non-weight bearing sport. Cycle is the ideal vehicle to explore the tiny and flat Neil Island.

The weight of the cyclist is borne by the saddle. It is essential that you select a bike suited to your needs.

To set the saddle to the correct height, sit on the saddle and place the pedal on the lowest position. When you put your heel on the pedal, the knee should be slightly bent. It is only when the cycle and the body are in harmony with each other that optimum performance can be achieved.

Calories burned: 230 per 45 minutes

Areas toned: Thighs and hips

SWIMMING

Exercising in the water gives you a sense of freedom and a new dimension, and needs to be experienced. And there is no better place in Andaman than Neil Island to give you the right swimming environment. The beach at Sitapur-Neil is wide enough and deserted. Swimming relaxes and rejuvenates the body, mind and spirit. Swimming is probably the closest you can get to a perfect form of exercise. The buoyancy of water protects the joints of the body from exertion. The cushioning that the water provides makes a swimming special and safe sport. It tones your entire body while providing an excellent cardiovascular workout; it strengthens your heart muscle and also improves delivery of oxygen to muscles. It is an ideal exercise for all age groups- whether you are nine

months or 90 years old, you are never too young or too old to swim.

Compare swimming to running: Runner's legs and feet have to withstand a gravitational force that is two to three times their body weight each time their foot strikes the ground. Swimming, on the other hand, places almost no stress on the joints, while having the ability to provide as intense a workout as running.

Neil boasts of three excellent beaches, all of them within easy cycling distance. One can rent cycles from one or other of the stall holders.

Calories burned while swimming: 370 in 45 minutes.

Areas toned: Arms, shoulders, chest, back, abdominals, thighs and hips.

BEACHES IN NEIL ISLAND.

As you enter from the boat in Neil Island Jetty and walk towards Neil Kendra, the beaches appear before you in the form of a long arc. On the left side of the jetty are Bharatpur Beach and the right side the Laxmanpur Beach.

NEIL KENDRA-Neil Kendra, a gently curving bay of white sand, straddles the jetty, scattered with picturesque wooden fishing boats. Neil Kendra is also the heart of the island. The small market of the Neil island is in Neil Kendra.

BHARATPUR BEACH

Half a kilometer from the jetty, Bharatpur is one of the best beaches known for swimming & coral watching with vast sandy

stretch. This beach is ideally recommended for youngsters because of activity options. One can avail from here glass bottom boats for coral viewing. The private operators charge Rs.100/- from person for a 10 minutes ride in glass bottom boats .The Sea around the Jetty area is full of corals with schools of fishes swimming around. The vegetation along the beach is simply soothing.

LAKSHMANPUR-1 BEACH

A scheduled beach, Lakshmanpur, lies 2 km north of Neil jetty. The beach is a broad spur of white shell sand with shallow water offering good snorkeling. Sun basking & swimming are other options. One can view spectacular sun set from this beach.

SITAPUR BEACH

This beach is exposed to the open sea and thus prone to higher tides. It is 5 km south and at the tip of the island. This beach is best suited to watch Sunrise in the backdrop of natural vegetations & limestone formations. The journey from the Jetty to Sitapur beach itself is refreshing with green fields and variety of crops.

LAXMANPUR-11 BEACH

This rocky beach about two kilometers from the jetty with lots of coral formation , ornamental fishes, sea urchins, sea anemones, sea cucumbers ,star fishes etc are best suited for people with some kind of scientific temper. The rocky surface gets slippery and needs to be on guard. The main attraction here is the natural rock formation

NATURAL ROCK FORMATION

Natural Rock formations in Laxmanpur beach is locally known as Howrah Bridge. You need to visit the place during low tides as the retreating sea leaves behind many a secret from its trasure trove.

SIR HUGH ROSS ISLAND:

This tiny island located at the southern tip of Neil Island, is locally known as Chota Neil (Small Neil). This island is declared as wild life sanctuary. One has to obtain special permission from the forest officials(Dy Range Officer –Neil Island) to visit this island. Only day visits are permitted. This island is a turtle nesting ground.

ACCOMMODATION

Hawabill Nest Guest House of the Directorate of Tourism provides comfortable accommodation. There are few private hotels also in Neil Island which provides accommodation at reasonable rates. Foreign tourists spend 15 to 20 days in this island alone. There is also facility of camping on this beach.

1. Govt. Accommodation:

SL. No.	Name of the resort	No.of Rooms	Total No. of Beds	Tariff				Phone Nos., Emails, Websites
				A/c, D/B	N A/c, D/B	NA/c, S/B	Dormitory (4 bedded N/A/c)	
1	Hawabill Nest, Dept. of Tourism, Neil Island	07	18	Rs.800/-	-	-	Rs. 600/-	03192-282630
2	A.P.W.D Inspection Bungalow, Neil Island.	02	04	Rs.800/-	Rs.400/-	-	-	09434 266512

Booking of accommodation in Hawabill Nest to be made from the Reception Desk of Directorate of Tourism, Port Blair

2. Private Accommodation:

1	Hotel Pearl Park, Lakshmanpur, Neil Island	26	52	-	Rs.1600/- Rs.1200/- Rs.800/-	-	-	www.andamanpearlpark.com pearlpark_2002@yahoo.co.in 03192-282510 09434 260132
2	Tango Beach Resort, Lakshmanpur, Neil Island	20	40	Rs.1500/-	Rs.1500/- Rs.1200/- Rs.1000/- Rs.800/- Rs.600/- Rs.500/-	-	-	www.tangoresortandaman.com tangobeachresort@rediffmail.com 09474 212842 09434 270454
3	Hotel Kingfisher, Neil Kendra, Neil Island.	11	22	Rs.1000/-	Rs.600/-	-	-	www.andamanpearlpark.com pearlpark_2002@yahoo.co.in 03192-282510 09434 260132
4	Cocon Hut Resort, Laxmanpur, Neil Island	14	18	-	Rs.600/-	Rs.200/-	-	ashok2008@gmail.com 03192-282528 09476 045801
	AND, Resort Bharatpur, Neil Island	08	16	-	Rs.600/-	-	-	09474 238770

TOURS & TRAVELS:

SL. No.	Name of the Travels	Phone Nos.
1	Aniket Tours & Travels	09474 214535
2	Antara Tours & Travels	09434 264832
3	Debashish Tours & Travels	09474 222344 094742 15972 03192 282511
4	Lalita Tours & Travels	09474 229361
5	Neha Tours & Travels	09474 212840 09474 222404 03192 282620
6	Ritesh Tours & Travels	09474 287944
7	Ritika Tours & Travels	09474 244706
8	Sarkar Tours & Travels	09434 295134
9	Sarthak Tours & Travels	09474 239576
10	Smriti Tours & Travels	09474 290196
11	Shubhan Tours & Travels	09474 239576
12	Suhasini Tours & Travels	09474 223940

DIVE SHOPS:

Sl. No.	Name of Shop	No. of Dives	Rate	Phone No., Email, Website
1	India Scuba Explorers Laxmanpur, Neil Island	One Dive Two Dives Six Dives Eight Dives Ten Dives	Rs. 2000/- Rs.3000/- Rs.8500/- Rs.11000/- Rs.13500/-	www.indiascubaexplorers.com info@indiascubaexplorers.com 09474 238646

		Twelve Dives	Rs. 16000/-	
		Snorkeling Trip	Rs. 600/-	
Note : for night dives add Rs. 500/- per dive (inclusive of torch rentals)				
PADI DIVE COURSES:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discover Scuba Diving: Rs. 3000/- 2. Open Water Course: Rs. 17000/- 3. Advanced Course: Rs. 12500/- 4. Rescue Diver: Rs.16500/- 5. Dive Master: Rs. 30000/- 				
(All dive package & course prices inclusive of equipments)				

RESTAURANTS:

Sl. No.	Name of the Restaurant	Cuisine	Phone Nos.
1	Blue Sea Restaurant, Ram Nagar	Non-vegetarian, Chinese	09474 201387
2	Chand Restaurant, Neil Kendra	North Indian	09476 026744
3	Green Heaven Restaurant, Lakshmanpur.	Non-vegetarian, Chinese	09474 223940
4	Gyan Garden Restaurant, Lakshmanpur	Non-vegetarian, Chinese	09474 239576
5	Moon Shine Restaurant, Lakshmanpur	Non-vegetarian, Chinese	09474 215894

RENTALS:

SL. No.	Name of Rental	Particulars	Rate (per day)	Phone no.
1	Chand Rentals, Neil Kendra	Motor Cycle	Rs.300/-	09476 026744 09474 222395
		Bicycle	Rs.50/-	
2	Debashish Tours and Travels, Neil Island	Motor Cycle		
		Boat Hiring		
3	G C Das & Sons, Neil Kendra	Motor Cycle	Rs.300/-	09474 215976
		Bicycle	Rs.50/-	
4	Kajal Das Stores, Neil Kendra	Motor Cycle	Rs.300/-	09474 222421
		Bicycle	Rs.50/-	
5	Neha rentals, Lakshmanpur	Motor Cycle	Rs.300/-	09474 212840
		Bicycle	Rs.50/-	
6	Shanti Rentals, Neil Kendra	Motor Cycle	Rs.300/-	09474 222420
		Bicycle	Rs.50/-	
7	Shiva Kumar Stores, Neil Kendra	Motor Cycle	Rs.300/-	09474 226323 03192-282645
		Bicycle	Rs.50/-	

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NOS.

SL. No.	Name od Establishment	Phone No.
1	Police Station	03192-282602
2	Primary Health Centre	03192-282627
3	Police Radio	03192-282676
4	Pradhan (Village Head)	03192-282610
5	Telephone Exchange	03192-282600 &282601
6	Electricity Department	03192-282566
7	A.P.W.D	09434-266512

PERMITS

There are no special permits required for visiting Neil Island. The permits which foreign national gets from Indian Missions overseas or from the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi or from the Foreigner's Regional Registration Offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai & Chennai for 30 days(extendable for another 15 days by the Supt. of Police Andaman-Port Blair) covers Neil island too in case tourists intend to visit the same.

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, which may come in conflict due to mistaken identity such as prey or to defend their territory. Though such incidences were never reported in Neil Island, visitors are advised to observe following precautions for a safe and enriching swimming experience.

Do's:

- ✓ **Find safe swimming/ diving** area from Tourist Information Centers / Local Tour Operators and Forest Department Staff. Do not swim in unpatrolled areas/ Protected Areas.
- ✓ **Look for the safety signs** they help you to identify potential dangers.
- ✓ **Ask a lifeguard on duty for some good advice** on swimming conditions like local currents, tides, visibility, etc. The swimming conditions can change quickly. So seek prior advice from a lifesaver / man on guard 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 dark.
- ✓ **Raise your hand up for help** if you get into trouble in the water. Stay calm and wave your arm for help.
- ✓ **Swim** during day time only

Don'ts:

- Do not dangle arms or legs in the water during boat ride.
- Do not swim under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Shiny jewellery or bright colored clothes resembles 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 fishes are attracted to blood odour.
- Avoid diving /swimming amongst school of fishes. This may attract predatory fishes such as sharks.
- Avoid night swimming /diving.

Look out for harmful marine animals

Salt water crocodiles: Normally present in creeks, mangrove areas, sheltered waters and mouths of the creeks. Please avoid swimming/diving in these areas. If you spot crocodile, get ashore and alert authorities to avoid accidents. They also move large distances in open sea and can be found in coral reefs as well.

- b. Sea Snakes :** Sea snakes are highly poisonous and are usually recognized by their paddle like tail. They can be aggressive if handled or stepped on. Stay well away from them.
- c. Stone Fish :** Present in shallow coral and rocks or camouflaged in mud and sand. It has venomous dorsal spines and its sting could be lethal. To avoid sting never walk on coral reef area. Never lift rocks or corals. Wear sturdy sandal while walking in shallow coastal waters.
- d. Sharks :** Normally present in open sea and some parts of coral reef areas. Avoid swimming/diving alone and don't enter water with open wounds.
- e. Jelly Fishes :** Their sting may cause pain and giddiness. Don't touch or play with them. Get ashore if you see large school of Jelly Fish. In case of sting, apply vinegar/ice pack and do not rub.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1. Tourist Information Centre
Directorate of Tourism,
Andaman & Nicobar Administration
Port Blair, 744 101
03192: 232694 / 232747(F)
andaman_tourism@rediffmail.com
<http://tourism.andaman.nic.in>
2. The Incharge
Hawabill Nest Guest house
Directorate of Tourism
Neil Island
3. Office of the Dy Ranger
Environment and Forest Department
Neil Island
4. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman Nicobar islands
Van Sadan, Haddo, Port Blair.
03192: 233270
5. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (Wild Life)
Haddo, Port Blair.
03192: 232816

Maps

Photos

DISCLAIMER

While every effort have been made to furnish the information in this booklet as accurate and reliable as possible, tourists are further advised to cross check for its authenticity/suitability to their liking from their own sources or from the concerned departments before taking any commercial decision thereof. The listing of Tourism Service Providers contained in this brochure does not indicate any sort of classification made or approval given or priority accorded by any authority or on the basis of selection made by any criteria whatsoever. The Directorate of Tourism do not own-up or entertain any responsibility, damage, claims, objections with regard to the contents published or inadvertently left out in this booklet from tourists or from tourism trade practioners or from any individual whatsoever.

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