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***Guidelines for Registration of  
Scuba Diving Centre  
in  
Andaman Nicobar Islands***

***DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM  
Andaman Nicobar Administration***

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# **INTRODUCTION**

**W**elcome 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 graded excellent by many researchers. Besides creeks, rich flora and fauna, marine life and under water corals are the dream destinations of the tourists.

The crystal clear water and the abundant marine life has not only attracted divers from all over the world but has made “Andamans” as one of the best dive destination in the list of the dive sites already in existence. Diving in Andamans is unique lifetime experience. The coastal water surrounding these islands is the abode of one of the richest coral reef ecosystem in the world. The undamaged/unexplored coral-reefs and underwater marine life have encouraged the National as well as International divers to include Andamans in their itinerary.

The Andaman Nicobar Administration has identified various Dive Sites in these Islands. To promote and to regulate the activities of the Scuba Diving Centers in these Islands an effort has been made to provide a consolidated guidelines/ instructions for Registration of the SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) Diving Centers by the Directorate of Tourism. The procedure for getting Registration for Scuba Diving Centre has been explained in this booklet which also contains guidelines/ instructions issued by different departments of Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Ministries.

## **OBJECTIVE**

- To promote A&N Islands as a diving destination in the National & International market.
- To introduce a procedure for registration of the Scuba Diving Centre/Operator
- To introduce hassle free system of registration of scuba diving centre/operator in these Islands and provide them consolidated information on instructions/ guidelines issued by various Departments of Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Ministries.
- To ensure that the diving is done only in permissible areas in order to protect the fragile eco systems and security point of view. The Scuba Diving Centre/Operator adheres to the guidelines issued by the concerned authorities.
- To ensure the safety norms as defined, are followed by the Dive Centers/Operators.
- To inform the Operators/ diving centers of the dive sites, and permitted areas for diving.

2.

**Procedure for Registration for Scuba Diving Centre**

To facilitate Scuba Diving Centers, Andaman Nicobar Administration will grant Registration to Scuba Diving Center to operate diving in these islands in accordance with following procedure:

- i. The firms/operators, desiring to open and operate a Scuba diving centre in the islands shall submit three sets of filled up application form in the prescribed format annexed at Annexure-IV, herewith along with the prescribed fee of Rs.10,000/- in the form of demand draft/pay order in favor of Sr. Accounts officer (IPT), to the Director (Tourism), Andaman Nicobar Administration, Port Blair, Pin code-744101, (Andaman Island) India, Telefax No. 03192-230933, before the commencement of the Dive Centre .
- ii. The firm/operators shall give details of their permanent office, certified dive instructor, in the prescribed application form annexed herewith. The firm/operator shall also submit the rates charged for diving activities.
- iii. Foreign Divers shall obtain Restrict Area Permit (RAP) from the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, and shall enclose a copy of the permit so granted, with the application form. The details of the areas open for the foreigners have been given at Annexure-VIII.
- iv. The Sea worthiness certificate and/or other survey report/certificates in respect of Dive boat, issued by MMD /Deputy Commissioner (as the case may be ) shall also be enclosed with the application form.
- v. The Certificate of Registration of Scuba Diving Centre will be issued by Director (Tourism) after obtaining approval from the competent authority within 30 days.
- vi. The Director Tourism, unless registration is refused, shall enter the name and the 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 .
- vii. The Registration granted to Scuba Diving Centers will be valid till such period they have been granted Restricted Area Permit in case of foreigners, where as the Registration granted to Scuba Diving centers in case of the Indians, will be valid for one year.
- viii. On expiry of the period of Registration the Scuba diving center/operator may apply for renewal with the prescribed registration fee, by giving a simple application in plain paper enclosing therewith copy of the certificate of Registration awarded by the Directorate of Tourism.

### 3. Areas Open for Scuba Diving in Andaman Islands

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

- a. Neil Island
- b. Henry Lawrence Island **\*(Marine National Park /Wild Life Sanctuary)**
- c. John Lawrence Island **\*(Marine National Park /Wild Life Sanctuary)**
- d. Inglis Island
- e. Outram Island **\*(Marine National Park/Wild Life Sanctuary)**
- 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, Phonic 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 and on shallow sites or around barren rocks in open sea upto but not including Passage Island. **\*(Marine National Park/Wild Life Sanctuary)**
- j. North Wandoor to the north and outside the Marine National Park and shallow open sea areas such as Allen Patches, north of Tarmugli Island. **\*(Marine National Park/Wild Life Sanctuary)**
- k. Havelock Island excluding Havelock Jetty and Radhanagar Beach and on shallow sites and barren rocks in open sea such as Pilot Reef and Minerva Ledge.

\* *The entry to Marine National Park/Wild Life Sanctuary or such areas are subject to the permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Environment and Forest, Andaman Nicobar Administration.*

#### 4. Guidelines for the firms/divers, desiring to open Scuba Diving Centers

##### General

- i. All Dive center/operators must have permanent office and should display the Registration Certificate and rates for Scuba diving. A copy of the rate should be submitted to the Director Tourism.
- ii. All Dive Centers / operators registered with the Director Tourism should give proper receipts/bills to all the dive tourist/guests. They should maintain proper records of the tourist /guests approaching them and taking their services for diving and the receipt of the fees charged from them.
- iii. The Scuba diving is permitted only in the specified areas as mentioned at section 3 above .The dive centre/operators are advised to take tourist only in the specified dive sites only.
- iv. The Dive Centers shall keep aware of local weather conditions and inform divers of any special conditions at each dive sites prior to dive.
- v. Dive Centers must be aware of any changes to the dive plan of the dive boat and divers.
- vi. The dive centre/operator shall ensure that all those who undergo diving activities, have undertaken **insurance cover**. They will also bear any cost to be incurred in case of any rescue or medication during emergency.
- vii. Those operators who bring their walkie-talkie sets should obtain necessary permission from the Department of Telecommunication, or else they may hire walkie talkie sets from Port Management Board, Port Blair.
- viii. The Dive centre may be inspected by any authorized officer(s) from the Directorate of Tourism, A&N Administration, or Navy/Police/Coast Guard/Customs/Income tax, at any time. The Dive Centre operator should not object them at any time for inspecting the dive centre, equipments, records, and dive operations.

## **Environment Protection**

- a. Proper care should be taken to protect the marine environment, its associated living organisms and their habitats. Divers should be briefed by the dive instructors on responsible behavior, avoid damage to the corals and physical contact with marine life/animals. Scuba diver shall not cause any damage to marine flora and fauna.
- b. Apart from the areas mentioned at section 3 above, the Scuba diving is also allowed at identified areas in Jolly buoy island, Redskin Island, and south Cinque island, in National Parks, and Sanctuaries, subject to payment of prescribed fee which is Rs 500/- per person per day in respect of Indian Citizen, and Rs 1000/- per person per day in respect of Foreigners. The details of the fee prescribed for the entry has been mentioned at Annexure –V.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. No Scuba Diving Training should be carried out in the protected areas.
- f. Entry in the protected areas such as National parks and Sanctuaries is guided under A&N Wildlife Protection Rules 2008 under Rule 19(A). A copy of the relevant portion of the rule is annexed at Annexure – V. For entering in Sanctuary or National park prior permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, A&N Islands Van Sadan, Haddo is required, whose address and contact numbers is annexed at Annexure-III.
- g. Necessary entry permit should be obtained from concerned DFO on usual payment. There should not be any collection of or damage of marine Flora and Fauna, and no littering of garbage. There should not be any cooking or kindling of any fire. The permission is granted on payment of prescribed fee, which is mentioned at Annexure- V. Use of plastic bags and littering of bottles are banned.
- h. 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. Relevant extract of the Wild Life Protection Act 1972 is available at annexure -VI.

## **Dive Centre Requirements**

1. All Scuba Diving centers desiring to operate their Scuba Diving activities must be registered with the Directorate of Tourism Andaman Nicobar Administration before commencement of their activities. The Dive Centers opened prior to issue of this regulation and not registered and operating in the Islands shall get them Registered within three months of issuance of these guidelines.
2. All Dive Centre must be equipped with pure Oxygen and an Emergency Action Plan ready in case of diving related accidents. The Emergency Action Plan must include mechanism for :-
  - a. Searching methods in case of missing divers.
  - b. Providing first aid care.
  - c. Transport method to the next appropriate medical facility.
  - d. Reporting to appropriate authorities ( Police, Coast Guard, Health Department, and Directorate of Tourism)
3. Dive Centre staff must be familiar with the Emergency Action Plan, and shall be able to act appropriately.
4. Dive Centre must have a base leader, and safety staff member, who is responsible for the Dive centre and is available all the time.
5. Dive Centre must have adequate equipment spare parts, equipment etc.
6. Dive centre must have life guards. Medical first aid, and specified wireless communication (walkie-talkie) /or any other communication system to facilitate communication between base station (Dive Centre) and identified sites for diving.
7. Dive Centre must have list of all dive services and their rates shall be available in writing and also properly displayed. The copy of the rates shall be submitted to the Director Tourism, Andaman Nicobar Administration along with the application form.
8. 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 cylinder. This inspection is to be entered in a maintenance book along with cylinder number. Tanks are not allowed to be used twelve years after date of manufacturing.

9. The Dive Centre should have on its staff at least one “ Dive Instructor”, who is certified by any of the following internationally recognized agency :-
  - i. Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
  - ii. Confederation Mondiale Des Activities Subaquatiques (CMAS)
  - iii. National Association of Under Water Instructors (NAUI)
  - iv. British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)
  - v. Scuba Schools International (SSI)
  
10. 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 book along with the number of cylinders filled during this period. This centre must have a certificate from authorized centre for quality of output of air compressor every six months.

### **Dive Centre Equipments**

1. Dive centre must provide well -maintained dive equipments, with pure oxygen and must have a emergency action plan..
2. 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.
3. Dive centre must abide by the guidelines of safe operations, and environment protection, issued by Andaman Nicobar Administration, or National Institute of Water Sports,(NIWS) on behalf of Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India, from time to time. The guidelines issued by NIWS, and Department of Environment and Forest are annexed at Annexure –I and V respectively.
4. Buoyancy Compensators 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
5. Regulators must be approved for recreational diving by the manufacturer and must be maintained according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
6. Dive Centre must provide Alternate Air Source, depth & timing devices as standard rental equipment.

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

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

- i. Mask, snorkel, fins
- ii. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge, and Alternative Air Source, or surplus air supply.
- iii. Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD) vest with minimum 6 liters volume, with oral and low pressure Inflator.
- iv. 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. Underwater torch and night signaling device that includes every diver in possession of a market light
- viii. Reflective surface marker buoy (SMB), and
- ix. A small vessel to follow and assist divers

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

- x. Knife and emergency signaling device.

### **Dive Boat**

- i. The dive boat drivers must hold a “Power Boat Handling “(PBH) certification from National Institute of Water Sports (or its equivalent). The dive boat must carry a person who holds a valid Life Saving Techniques (LST) certificates from NIWS (validity two years) or holds a valid Medic First Aid Certification.
- ii. The Dive Boat must carry the following:-
  - a. Dive Flag (specification annexed at Annexure-I)
  - b. Oars
  - c. Flares
  - d. First Aid Kit
  - e. Walkie-Talkie
  - 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 and should take all precautions to avoid any damage to coral reefs by faulty anchorage.
- iv. Boats surveyed by MMD/ Engineer and Ship surveyor or registered by Deputy Commissioner (Andamans) under M.S./I.V. Act (as the case may be ), shall only be allowed for scuba diving. The Vessel has to be Registered as follows:-
  - (a) For 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**.

Presently following areas have been 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) Ealphinstone 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 colebroke and then along this southern shores of colebroke 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.

For operation in protected areas these boats should have the permission of Chief Wild Life Warden.

- v) Dive Boats are the responsibility of the Dive Centre and the crew. The Dive Boats must have at least a crew of three, and must be dedicated to the safety of the divers and support the divers in any way they can.
- vi) The Dive boats operated by the dive centre must be able to communicate to the dive centre at all times during the dive through a functioning walkie-talkie, or any other source of communication
- vii) The dive Boats should have sufficient fuel to make prearranged dive trips and any changes there to.
- viii) In case weather condition deteriorates while divers are under water, the crew must be proficient in recalling methods.
- ix) 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.
- x) An Operational Search Light must be onboard, in all night dives involving dive boats.

### **Safety Considerations**

- i. Dive Center 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. 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 on 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 and environment protection mentioned in this guidelines and also as issued by the A&N Administration, or National Institute of Water Sports, on behalf of Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India, from time to time.
- ix. Diving will not be permitted within 50 mtrs. from the shore of the islands coming under Marine National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. No landing will be permitted on North Cinque Island and other island coming under the Marine National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. The fees for entering the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park operating a boat and diving are prescribed under rules 28(3)\* and 28(7) of Wildlife (Protection) Andaman and Nicobar Rules, 1973. The entry fee prescribed for each person is Rs.10/-per day, fee for operating a boat ranges from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.20,000/- per annum depending on the capacity of the boat and for scuba diving the fee is Rs.500/- per person per day for Indian citizens and Rs.1,000/- per person per day in respect of foreigners.

- *\*Extract of the Rules to be obtained and annexed*

- x. 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. This will be applicable for visiting Yachts also

**Requirements in respect to Income tax, Customs, etc.**

- a) Income Tax clearance certificate together with PAN details should be submitted to the Administration for registration/renewal of registration.
- b) All imported equipments should be under the cover of customs duty paid-receipt.

- c) In case of any T.B.R.E(Tourist Baggage Re-export Rule), the Scuba Divers will have necessary endorsement on their passport of the list of equipments.
- d) The foreign Scuba divers cannot sell their equipment in India which are under T.B.R.E.
- e) 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.
- f) All customs check will be conducted at the time of entry and exits.

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

1. 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
2. All training and certification of divers is to be done exclusively by instructors who may be assisted by Assistant Instructors and or Dive Master as per standard.
3. In order to function as a Base Leader or Assistant Base Leader, an individual must be a Dive Instructor.
4. The Dive Centre staff must be familiar with and also properly trained in extending First Aid treatment.

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

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

**Safety Norms for Scuba Diving as issued by  
National Institute of Water Sports, (Ministry of Tourism)**

**Operator Qualification :**

**Dive Instructor:** The dive center should employ at least one Dive Instructor, certified by internationally recognized agencies viz. E.G. PADI, CMAS, NAUI, BSAC and SSI.

**Dive Boat Driver:** The boat driver must hold PBH and LST certifications from NIWS (or its equivalent). The dive boat also must carry a person who holds a valid life saving techniques (LST) certificate from NIWS or with valid “Medic First Aid” certification.

**Equipment and Accessories:**

**Dive Equipments:** The dive center should have a minimum of 06 diving sets that include 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.

**Equipments/ Gadgets:** The dive boat must carry the items such as required number of dive flags, oars, flares, first aid kit, walkie-talkie & medical oxygen set.

**Pressure Testing:** The Dive Center must possess a certificate of pressure testing from an authorized testing Agency, which is valid for 3 years. It should be renewed on 3-year intervals or as per rules of the Government of India regarding operating high pressure cylinders. The details of inspection are to be entered in a maintenance book along with cylinder number. Tanks are not allowed to be used after 12 years of the date of manufacturing.

**Air compressor:** It is strictly advised to the use of specified compressor oil only. Air purifying filters in the compressor are to be changed as per guidelines of compressor manufacturer and the same be entered in compressor log book along with number of cylinders filled accordingly. The Center must also obtain a certificate from an authorized Agency stating the quality of output of air compressors every 6 months.

**Operating Instructions:** Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be drawn up specifying actions to be initiated by the members of the dive team and the support staff in event of emergencies of different nature. The dive center must have a permanent office address with telephone. A rate card is to be prepared and effectively valid for one season. At least one Safety staff must be available at the base station throughout when sea-dives are conducted. The dive center must diligently abide the guidelines for safe operation and protection of marine environment that will be issued by NIWS on behalf of Ministry of Tourism, from time to time.

**Model Emergency Action Plan (EAP)**

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 on Tel. No. .... specifying requirement of ambulance/ stretcher/ oxygen/ nurse etc.
    - If telephone contact with PHC is not established, inform police outpost staff on Tel. No. .... 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..... for further action.
  - Accompany the patient till he/ she is handed over to qualified recompression staff.

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

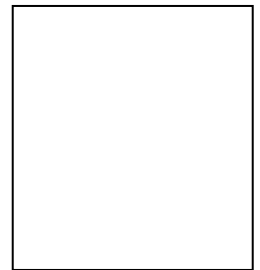
<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of the Department</b>	<b>Name &amp; Designation of the concerned officers</b>	<b>Telephone / Fax No. (03192)/ E-mail</b>
1.	Police Department	1. Superintendent of Police (HQ)	Telephone No: 232244(O) Mobile : 9434287533 Fax No. : 232244
		2. SP(D) South Andaman	Telephone No: 233077(O) Mobile : 9434289897 Fax No. : 233077
		3. SP (North & Middle Andaman)	Telephone No: 273344(O) Mobile : 9434287533 Fax No. : 273344
2.	Environment & Forest	The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Van Sadan, Haddo, Port Blair – 744102	Ph.No. 03192-233270(O) Fax No. 03192-233549 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(CW), Directorate of Shipping Services, Port Blair.	234299
		The Assistant Director(SS), A&N Administration, No.17, Rajaji Salai, Opp. Customs House, Chennai – 600 001	044 – 25226873 044 - 25220841 (Fax)
4.	Deputy Commissioner, Office North & Middle Andaman A&N Administration Mayabunder	Assistant Commissioner, HQ & Mayabunder	273208 273620(Fax)
5	Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman) A&N Administration, P/Blair	Assistant Commissioner(HQ)	237825(O) 245444(Fax)
6	Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar)	Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar), Car Nicobar	265220 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 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

<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>
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) (ii) Dy. Director (Health)	233331 232797
9.	Port Management Board	Harbor Master	237804
10.	Andaman Nicobar Command	Commanding Officer (INS Jarawa)	232646
11.	Coast Guard	Adhikari (RO)	232424

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

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

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 Xerox copies 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 Xerox copies 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

<b>Description</b>	<b>Make</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Registration. No./Manufacturing details</b>	<b>Date of expiry</b>
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 (Andamans) 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 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 clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs (for foreign nationals) attach Xerox copies. :
- 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 a Sanctuary or National Park for this purpose should obtain permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**1. Rule 17. Grant of permit to enter in Sanctuary/National Park**

- (i) Any person who intends to enter or reside in a Sanctuary for all or any of the purposes mentioned in Section 28 and Section 35 (8) of the Act, shall submit an application in **Form No.4(A)** to the Chief Wild Life 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 for a permit under Rule 17(i), the Chief Wildlife Warden/authorized officer may, after such inquiry as he may deem fit, grant or reject the application.
- (iii) Every person desiring to enter any sanctuary or national park as may be determined by the Chief Wildlife Warden or the Authorized Officer in this behalf, for the purpose of tourism or transaction of any lawful business, shall obtain a permit which shall be issued at the office or at the gate of the Sanctuary or National Park.
- (iv) A permit referred to in sub-rule (iii) shall be in Form 4(B) and be issued by an officer authorized by the Wild Life Warden on payment of a fee specified in Rule 18.

**2. Rule 18. The fee in respect of the permit granted under Rule 17(ii) for tourism purpose under Section 28(1)(d) & (e) of the Act shall be as follows :**

- (i) Entry Fee in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and other Island Sanctuary for the purpose of Section 28(1)(d) of the Act. (*In case of visitors not being students*).
  - (a) Adults (Indians) : Rs.50/- Per Person Per Day
  - (b) Children (Age Group of 12 Yrs. & Below) : Rs.25/- Per Person Per Day
  - (c) Foreigners : Rs.500/- Per Person Per Day
  - (d) Foreign Yacht : Rs.1000/- Per Boat 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) 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)
- (iv) A child below five years shall be exempted from payment of the fee.
- (v) 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 :
    - (i) A boat carrying less than 10 persons – Rs.10,000/-(Rupees Ten Thousand Only) Per Annum.
    - (ii) A boat carrying between 11-50 persons – Rs.50,000/-(Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) Per Annum.
    - (iii) A boat carrying between 51 and above – Rs.1,00,000/-(Rupees One Lakh Only) Per Annum.
- (vi) The fees in respect of Rule 18(v)(b) & (d) is inclusive of the entrance fee of one driver/rider of the vehicle and crew (not exceeding 5 persons) in case of boats.
- (vii) A permit referred to in Rule 17(ii) shall be valid for the period specified there in.

**3. Rule 19. (A) Entry in a Sanctuary or a National Park for the purpose of Section 28(1) (a), (b) and (c) of the Act**

- (i) Every person desiring to enter a Sanctuary or National Park for the purpose of Investigation or study of the wild life and purposes ancillary or incidental thereto or for professional photography or scientific research shall obtain a permit from the Chief Wild Life Warden of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- (ii) The fee payable by a person or a party not exceeding five person for conducting scientific research in a Sanctuary or National Park shall be Rs.30/-.
- (iii) The fee for operating a camera shall be as follows, namely :
  - (a) For professional photographers using still camera Rs.200/- per day and for feature film shooting Rs.3000/- per day.
  - (b) For professionals using any type of cine camera for the purpose of making TV or Documentary films on Wild Life – Lump Sum of Rs.3000/- per camera.
  - (c) Tourist using still camera Rs.10/- per camera and per video camera – Rs.25/-
- (iv) The fee specified in sub-rule(iii) shall be paid in advance.
- (v) For feature film shooting, any TV or documentary film shooting, the applicant in addition to the above fee, shall make a deposit of Rs.2000/- when required by the Chief Wild Life Warden of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The deposit shall be refunded with due regard to the fulfillment of the terms and conditions laid down in this behalf.
- (vi) Professionals using cine camera for making TV documentary films as required in the sub-rule (iii) (a) & (b) above shall execute an agreement (Appendix – I) with the State Government.
- (vii) A fee of Rs.500/- per person per day in respect of Indian Citizen and Rs.2000/- per person per day in respect of foreigners shall be charged for scuba diving.

**4. Rule 19. (B) General Conditions Governing the issue of permits :**

- (i) The permit referred to in Rule 19(A) shall be in Form 4(C).
- (ii) The permit shall not entitle any person to free accommodation in any Government building situated within the limits of the Sanctuary or National Park.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) No person shall be allowed to set fire to the sanctuary, or kindle any fire or leave any fire burning in the sanctuary.
- (vii) No person shall be allowed to use in the sanctuary chemicals, explosives of any other substance which may cause injury to, or endanger, any wildlife in the sanctuary.

**5. Rule 19. (C) Cancellation of Permit :**

Where a holder of permit referred to in Rule 17, 18 & 19 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.

The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

The relevant sections under which Andaman & Nicobar Island Wildlife (Protection) Rules had been framed regulating the film shooting in National Parks and Sanctuaries are section 28 to 32 for Sanctuaries and section 35 (8) of the Act for National Parks:

**1. Section (28) Grant of Permit-**

- (1) The Chief Wildlife Warden may, on application, grant to any person a permit to enter or reside in a Sanctuary for all or any of the following purposes, namely:
  - (a) Investigation or study of wild life and purposes ancillary or incidental thereto;
  - (b) Photography ;
  - (c) Scientific research;
  - (d) Tourism;
  - (e) Transaction of lawful business with any person residing in the Sanctuary.
- (2) A permit to enter or reside in a Sanctuary shall be issued subject to such conditions and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

**2. Section (29) Destruction, etc. in a Sanctuary prohibited without a permit –**No person shall destroy ,exploit or remove any wildlife including forest produce from a Sanctuary or destroy or damage or divert the habitat of any wild animal by any act whatsoever or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outside the Sanctuary, except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wildlife Warden ,and no such permit shall be granted unless the State Government being satisfied in consultation with the Board that such removal of wild life from the Sanctuary or the change in the flow of water into or outside the Sanctuary is necessary for the improvement and better management of wild life therein ,authorizes the issue of such permit.

Provided that where the forest produce removed from a Sanctuary, the same may be used for meeting the personal bonafide needs of the people living in and around the Sanctuary and shall not be used for any commercial purpose

**Section (30) Causing fire prohibited –** No person shall set fire to a Sanctuary, or kindle any fire, or leave any fire burning, in a Sanctuary, in such manner as to endanger such Sanctuary.

**Section (31) Prohibition of entry into Sanctuary with Weapon-** No person shall enter a Sanctuary with any weapon except with previous permission in writing of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorized officer

**Section (32) : Ban on use of Injurious substances-** No person shall use in a Sanctuary, chemicals, explosives or any other substances which may cause injury to, or endanger any wild life in such Sanctuary.

**Section 35(8)** The provisions of sections 27 and 28,secs.30 to 32(both inclusive),and Cls, (a), (b) and (c) of [Sec.33,33 A\*] and sec.34 shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to a National Park as they apply in relation to a Sanctuary.

**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 Annexure-I or II as the case may be .

## **Restricted Area Guidelines For Foreigners**

## **Annexure-VIII**

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>iii) Entire Island of South Andaman, excluding tribal reserve.<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., Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay.
  - 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.
6. These instructions may be scrupulously followed and brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance.
7. Vide order no. 1956 dt.07/06/2004 Superintendent of Police(District) has been authorized to extend the stay such that the total period of stay does not exceed 45 days.

**Do's and Don't**

**DO's**

- 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.
- To ensure that all the details/ information required for registration of Scuba Diving Centre is submitted.
- To ensure to carry valid travel documents like passport and appropriate visa.
- To visit the permitted areas in the Islands only
- To ensure that necessary fees/charges as prescribed by different departments/ authorities, are deposited with them.
- 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.
- To Dive only in the areas permitted
- To adhere to the guidelines issued by concerned authorities
- To keep the beach and environment clean.
- To dispose off the garbage at proper places/dustbins.
- To protect the marine flora and fauna

**Don'ts**

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

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

- The foreign Scuba Dive operators shall enclose copy of the Restricted Area Permit granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.
- The 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 PAN Card.
- A demand draft/pay order of Rs.10,000/- 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 mentioned under the heading required Qualification for Dive Centre staff.
- 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.

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