

Trends of Tourism Development in Andaman & Nicobar: An Analytical Studies

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Abstract

Tourism in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, located in the Bay of Bengal, has witnessed significant transformations over the past few decades. This analytical study explores the dynamic trends shaping the tourism sector. By analysing statistical data, the research evaluates the contribution of tourism industry to the islands' Gross Domestic Product, employment opportunities, and revenue generation. The research also discusses the role of technology and digital platforms in shaping tourism experiences in Andaman & Nicobar. For this study, quantitative and qualitative methodology were combined with primary as well as secondary data. The study also evaluates the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism in Andaman and Nicobar, exploring innovative approaches adopted to revive the industry post-crisis. By comprehensively examining the economic, environmental, socio-cultural, and technological dimensions, the research offers recommendations for sustainable tourism practices. These insights are essential for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and local communities to make informed decisions, ensuring the continued growth of tourism while preserving the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the islands.

Keyword: Tourism, Development, Pandemic, Island, Trend etc.

1. Introduction

At present, many countries promote tourism to strengthen the economy, India is also one of them. Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India is world famous for tourism. The economy of these study areas revolves around tourism and associated industry. Tourism comes under a large service industry, which plays a vital role in the economy in terms of revenue and foreign exchange. Tourism is a combined service, both public and private, that includes air and sea transport, hotels, restaurants and shops belonging to many local people. The important contribution of tourism in the economy Andaman and Nicobar and the livelihood of the local people around the tourist places, which is continuously progressing from ancient times to modern times.

2. Controlling Factors of Tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands were inhabited by indigenous tribes for thousands of years. It is significant to note that Andaman and Nicobar Islands have their unique attractions and tourism strategies. The historical background of tourism in these destinations has shaped their current tourism industries, with a focus on luxury, sustainability, natural beauty, and cultural heritage. Controlling Factors of Tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are as below:

1. Environmental Regulations: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are known for their pristine natural beauty and unique biodiversity. The government has implemented strict environmental regulations to

protect the fragile ecosystem of the islands. These regulations ensure sustainable tourism practices and limit the number of tourists in certain sensitive areas.

2. **Permits and Restricted Areas:** Certain areas in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands require permits for tourists to visit. These permits help regulate the number of visitors and protect the cultural and ecological significance of the region.
3. **Marine and Adventure Tourism:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands offer a range of activities for marine and adventure tourism, including scuba diving, snorkelling, island hopping, and trekking.
4. **Connectivity and Transportation:** The government focuses on improving air and sea connectivity to the islands, including the operation of regular flights and ferry services.
5. **Indigenous Culture and Tribes:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to various indigenous tribes with unique cultures and traditions. The government takes measures to protect their rights, preserve their cultural heritage, and regulate tourism activities that involve interaction with these tribes.
6. **Safety and Security:** Similar to Mauritius, safety and security are crucial factors in attracting tourists to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The government ensures the safety of tourists by maintaining law and order, providing emergency services, and implementing measures to protect visitors during their stay.

3. Trends of Tourism Development in Andaman & Nicobar

a popular tourist destination known for their pristine beaches, lush greenery, and rich marine life. The tourism industry in Andaman Nicobar has witnessed significant growth and development over the years. Over the past few years, the number of tourists visiting the Islands has been increasing due to the possibilities for leisure and adventure activities such as scuba diving, boating, creek cruises, sea walks, L&S Shows, heritage and patriotic attractions, etc. The Islands are also home to endemic birds, flora and animals, marine national parks, mangrove creeks, gorgeous beaches, several protected sanctuaries, and popular destinations for ecotourism. Because the islands were under British rule and served as a vital site for them during the British era in India, there are remnants of that historical architecture that are now popular tourist destinations. Among these structures are the well-known Cellular Jail National Memorial, as well as memorials for Param Vir Chakra, Netaji flag hoisting, Ross Island, Viper Island, and Chatham Island. The UT offers a wide variety of adventure and water activities that are practically unheard of in the rest of India due to its unique geology and location. The vast biodiversity of the area and the local tribes are important draws for tourists. Details about both domestic and foreign visitor arrivals are listed below:

Table 1: Arrival of Tourist in Andaman and Nicobar Island

Year	Foreign	Domestic	Total	% Change to Previous Year
2010 - 2011	14615	180781	195396	-
2011 - 2012	15814	202221	218035	11.59
2012 - 2013	14981	230733	245714	12.69
2013 - 2014	24507	315910	340417	38.54
2014 - 2015	15581	292233	307814	(-) 9.58
2015 - 2016	12553	313265	325818	5.85
2016 - 2017	16012	421846	437858	34.39

2017 - 2018	15766	498473	514239	17.44
2018 - 2019	16439	498784	515223	0.19
2019 - 2020	13221	507528	520749	1.07
2020 - 2021	00968	80326	81294	(-)84.39
2021 - 2022	01504	82429	83933	3.24

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, India, 2022.

There is also seasonal variation of tourist arrival at Andaman and Nicobar Island. Tourist Avoid rainy season for their travel. The Details are as below:

Table 2: Seasonal Variation of Tourist Arrival: 2021- 2022

Month and Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total
October, 2021	8828	173	9001
November, 2021	16529	179	16708
December, 2021	19430	438	19868
January, 2022	5651	176	5827
February, 2022	9200	144	9344
March, 2022	14029	201	14230
April, 2022	15408	371	15779
May, 2022	23863	184	24047
June, 2022	20680	278	20958
July, 2022	11785	365	12150
August, 2022	10124	369	10493
September, 2022	22917	445	23362
Total	178444	3323	181767

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, India

The whole world came to a standstill due to the Covid -19 pandemic. It had a bad impact on the tourism sector as well. It is clear from the data that before Covid there is a continuous increase in the number of tourists, but after Covid it declined significantly, although the situation improved. And it is expected that the number of tourists will increase in the future. The following data clarifies the pre-Covid and post-Covid situation.

Table 3: Compare of Tourist Arrival Pre or Post Pandemic

Year	Foreign	Domestic	Total	% Change to Previous Year
2019-20	13221	507528	520749	
2022-23	5963	241751	247714	-52.4%

Diagram 2: Compare of Tourist Arrival Pre or Post Pandemic

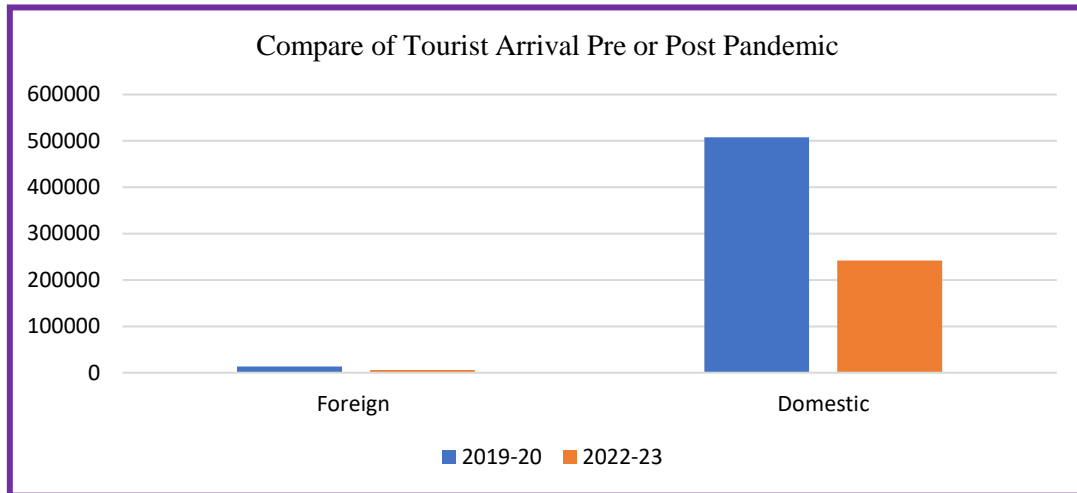
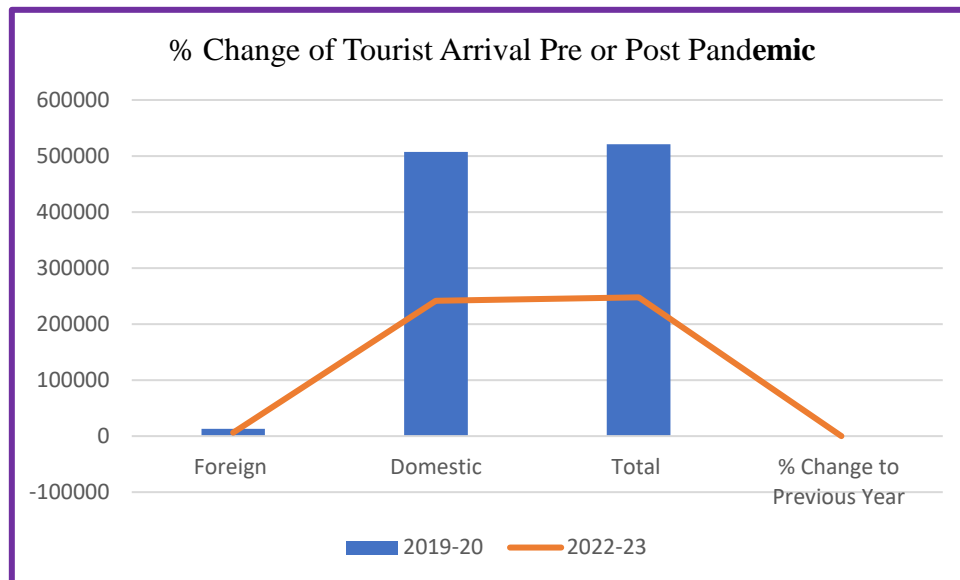


Diagram 3: % Change of Tourist Arrival Pre or Post Pandemic



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, India

4. Pattern of Tourism Development in Andaman & Nicobar

Tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, followed a diverse pattern due to the archipelago's unique attractions. Here are some key aspects of the tourism patterns in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

4.1. Beach Tourism:

- Havelock Island: Especially well-known is Radhanagar Beach, which is renowned for having immaculate white sand and glistening pure water.
- Neil Island: Known for its serene beaches like Laxmanpur and Sitapur Beach.
- Long Island: Offers secluded beaches and tranquillity away from the crowds.
- Radhanagar Beach: Located on Havelock Island, it was often regarded as one of the best beaches in Asia.
- Elephant Beach: Known for its coral reefs, ideal for snorkeling and other water sports.
- Ross and Smith Island Beach: Famous for its unique natural sandbar connecting two islands.

- Kalapathar Beach: Known for its stunning sunrise views.

4.2. Adventure Tourism:

- Scuba Diving and Snorkeling: The islands are renowned for their rich marine life and vibrant coral reefs. Several diving spots attract enthusiasts.
- Water Sports: Activities such as jet skiing, banana boat rides, and kayaking are popular among tourists.
- Trekking: Hiking through the lush forests of the islands, including trekking to viewpoints and waterfalls.

4.3. Historical and Cultural Tourism:

- Cellular Jail: A historically significant site where Indian freedom fighters were imprisoned during the British colonial period.
- Anthropological Museum: Showcasing the cultural heritage of the indigenous tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park: Providing insight into the marine biodiversity of the region.

4.4. Wildlife Tourism:

- Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park: Offers opportunities to witness a diverse range of marine life, including corals, fishes, and reptiles.
- Chidiya Tapu: Known for its rich birdlife, making it a paradise for bird watchers.

4.5. Eco-Tourism:

The islands are known for their rich biodiversity. There are efforts to promote eco-friendly tourism and preserve the natural habitat.

- Baratang Island: Known for its limestone caves and mangrove creeks, promoting eco-friendly tourism and environmental awareness.
- Jolly Buoy Island: A part of the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, it's known for its eco-friendly approach and coral reefs.

4.6. Honeymoon Tourism: The secluded and romantic ambiance of many islands makes the Andaman and Nicobar Islands a preferred destination for honeymooners.

4.7. Cruise Tourism: Cruise liners operate between the mainland of India and the Andaman Islands, providing tourists with a unique travel experience.

4.8. Island Hopping: Tourists often indulge in island hopping, exploring different islands within the archipelago, each offering its unique charm.

4.9. Local Cuisine and Handicrafts: Tourists often savor the local Andamanese cuisine and purchase traditional handicrafts and artifacts as souvenirs.

Understanding these patterns is crucial for the tourism industry to adapt its strategies, offer tailored experiences, and sustainably manage the influx of tourists throughout the year.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the tourism sector in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has experienced dynamic changes, with a shift towards sustainability, increased connectivity, a focus on adventure and cultural tourism, and a commitment to preserving the natural environment. The combination of these trends has not only enhanced the tourism experience but has also positioned the islands as a model for responsible tourism development. As the industry continues to evolve, stakeholders must remain vigilant in their efforts to strike a harmonious balance between tourism promotion and environmental conservation, ensuring the prosperity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for generations to come.

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