

Great Nicobar Island

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Great Nicobar Island Latest News

The government recently released a detailed clarification on the Great Nicobar Project, calling it a strategic initiative to strengthen India's presence in the Andaman Sea.

About Great Nicobar Island

- It is the **largest and southernmost island** of the **Nicobar group** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It is **separated from the Andaman Islands** by the **Ten Degree Channel**.
- Geographically, the island is **closer to Sumatra, Indonesia, than to mainland India**, emphasizing its remote and strategic location.
- Its **coastline** features over 100 kilometers of **untouched beaches**, renowned for their **stunning coral reefs** and **crystal-clear waters**.
- It is also home to **Indira Point, India's southernmost point**, located less than 150 km from Indonesia.
- **Mount Thullier**, which is about 2,105 ft high, is the **highest peak**.
- **Galathea, Alexandra, and Dagmar** are the major rivers.

- It remains **sparsely populated**, with **dense tropical rainforests** covering more than **85% of its area**.
- The **major tribes** in Great Nicobar Island are the **Shompens and the Nicobarese**.
- It is home to the **Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve**, a **UNESCO-designated site**.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - It houses 650 species of **angiosperms, ferns, gymnosperms**, bryophytes, and lichens, among others.
 - The tract is rich in plant diversity and fosters a number of **rare and endemic** species, including **Cyathea albosetacea (tree fern)** and **Phalaenopsis speciosa (orchid)**.
 - To date, 11 species of mammals, 32 species of birds, 7 species of reptiles, and 4 species of amphibians have been found to be endemic.
 - Of these, the well-known **Crab-eating Macaque, Nicobar Tree Shrew, Dugong, Nicobar Megapode, Serpent Eagle**, saltwater crocodile, marine turtles and Reticulated Python are endemic and/or endangered.

Source: TOI

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