

## Bitra Island

December 3, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



### Bitra Island Latest News

The Chief of Staff of the Southern Naval Command recently said the Navy is setting up a detachment in Bitra Island, which “is more or less completed”.

### About Bitra Island

- It is located in the northern region of **Lakshadweep** in the **Arabian Sea**.
- It is the **smallest inhabited island in the territory**.
- It has a land area of 0.105 sq.km.
- It has a length of 0.57 km and a width of 0.28 km at the broadest point.
- Though the land area is small, its lagoon area is 45.61 sq.km.
- There is a small **shrine of Malik Mulla**, an **old Arab saint** who is said to have been **buried here**. The shrine is a **place of pilgrimage** for the people of other islands.
- As per the 2011 census, the **population** of Bitra Island is **271**.
- **Climate:**

- The climate of Bitra is **similar to** the climatic conditions of **Kerala**. March to May is the hottest period of the year.
- The temperature ranges from 25°C to 35°C, and humidity ranges from 70 to 76 percent for most of the year.
- It used to be covered by thick shrubs and **was the breeding ground for seabirds**. In the **early 19th century** the **birds left the place due to human interference**.
- It is **strategically important** to India, as it lies in a key position in the Arabian Sea.
- Bitra would become the **third island in the archipelago with a defence establishment - two Indian naval bases** in the archipelago are **INS Dweep prakshak in Kavaratti**, the **capital of the UT**, and **INS Jatayu in Minicoy**.

**Source: NIE**

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