

TRIP PLANNER

HOW TO GO TO HAVELOCK ISLAND

By sea: Visit 'www.tourism.andaman.nic.in/traveltips.htm' for details of ship routes from Chennai, Kolkata or Visakhapatnam to Port Blair. The journey takes 50-60 hours.

By air: Fly from Chennai or Kolkata to Port Blair. A round trip on Jet Airways or Indian Airlines costs around Rs11,000. Havelock island is 2-3 hours away from Port Blair by ferry. **Fare:** Rs150. Several resorts on Havelock island offer meet-and-greet services.

Bay of Bengal

ANDAMAN ISLANDS



Where to stay



What to carry



What to do



We stayed at **Island Vinne's** (www.islandvinnie.com) aka Dive India. It's primarily a diving school where you stay in cabanas, which are basic but well-maintained. **The Barefoot resort** (www.barefootindia.com), located off Beach No. 7, and **Emerald Gecko** (www.emerald-gecko.com) are other options. The accommodation on the island is primarily of the hut, tent or cottage variety, and prices depend on the degree of luxury and the season. The Taj group is expected to put up a hotel soon at Havelock.



Supplies are limited on Havelock Island so carry all personal requirements, including water-proof/resistant sunscreen, mosquito repellent, prescription medicines and first-aid, as well as alcohol of your choice. Carry light, long-sleeved shirts and trousers for the evenings to ward off mosquitoes



Go scuba diving. Dive India (www.diveindia.com) offers several Professional Association of Diving Instructors (Padi) or Scuba Schools International (SSI) courses. Introductory dive courses cost Rs3,000. The Open Water Diver course for beginners takes approximately four days and costs between Rs15,000 and 17,000. Many resorts offer snorkelling. You can also rent equipment locally. Snorkel off South Button island and Beach No. 7 and go kayaking through the mangroves. The diving and snorkelling usually wind up by late afternoon, so in the evenings you could rent bikes and explore the island. Watch out for jeeps driving at breakneck speeds, though. You could also trek through the forest, but mind the early sunset.