

Restriction on entry & residence in A&N Islands.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands is archipelago of 572 Islands, islets and rocks. Of these only 31 Islands are inhabited. These are home to 6 aboriginal tribes and therefore areas/islands of their inhabitation are declared as reserved areas under Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956. Accordingly large tracts of land in Andaman Islands as well as whole of Nicobar group of Islands is declared as reserved areas under the regulations. Entry into these reserved areas of any person other than aboriginal tribes is prohibited in accordance with the regulations. Entry of non-tribals could be allowed only for a specific purpose as well as period against a pass to be issued to the applicant by the Deputy Commissioner.

The Islands have however, seen large influx of population since 1950's and the population growth rate has been far higher than the average growth rate for the country. Such uncontrolled growth of population is likely to affect the ecology of Islands. The administration has accordingly proposed to enforce regulation to put restrictions of entry and residence in the Islands. Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Restriction on entry & residence) Regulation 2004, is referred to Govt. of India for their approval & are under their active consideration. These provide that pre-1942 settlers and their descendants, settlers under schemes of the Govt., and persons residing in the Islands permanently on a long term basis with valid islander card are to be treated as residents of islands. Apart from these others could enter or reside in the Islands only under a permit to be issued by the Competent authority. The Govt/armed forces employees on posting to the Islands, or those sponsored by Govt. of India etc, would however, be exempt from need of permit. Persons entering or residing in the islands unauthorisely shall be liable to be penal action including imprisonment with fine as well as face deportation from the islands.

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(As Admin)

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