

the Andaman islands has grown in recent years, but is mostly restricted to Port Blair town and nearby islands like Neil and Havelock Islands, and Little Andaman Island. There are some tourist sites in Middle and North Andaman, but the tourists are not allowed to visit the Tribal Reserve Area (the ATR, on which tourists do travel, is not part of the Jarawa Reserve – although it passes through the reserve). Travel on the ATR through the Jarawa Reserve is strictly monitored by a police-accompanied convoy system, and vehicles are not permitted to stop anywhere in the reserve. From 2002 onwards, after the closure of major plywood factories and saw mills, nature based tourism activities were promoted by the Andaman Administration to showcase the natural wealth of these islands. (These include the limestone caves and mud volcano in Baratang Island, which are now part of the buffer zone as notified in 2007. These sites have restricted entry during the day time, and there is no permanent tourist facility or establishment set up near these locations, as they are in the reserve forest area. Approximately 50-60 tourist vehicles ply on ATR on a daily basis, taking tourists from Port Blair to Baratang for visiting these sites. At present, this is the only commercial / tourist activity taking place in the buffer zone around the Jarawa area. The Petitioner submits that at the tourist sites (i.e limestone caves and mud volcano), there is no permanent tourist facility or establishment, and the vehicles taking tourists to these sites are strictly monitored by the police convoy. The Petitioner further submits that it has submitted a proposal to Government of India for opening up of an alternate sea route