



Snorkeling in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Snorkeling in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** is a **must-try experience** for nature lovers and adventure seekers. With **clear turquoise waters, vibrant coral reefs, and diverse marine life**, the islands provide some of the **best snorkeling spots in India**. Unlike scuba diving, snorkeling does not require **special training or equipment**, making it an **easy and budget-friendly way** to explore the underwater world.

Why Snorkeling in Andaman?

- ✓ **Crystal-Clear Waters** – Visibility up to **30-40 meters** in some locations
- ✓ **Rich Marine Life** – **Colorful corals, tropical fish, sea turtles, manta rays, and more**
- ✓ **No Special Training Required** – Perfect for **beginners and non-swimmers**
- ✓ **Budget-Friendly** – More affordable than **scuba diving**
- ✓ **Multiple Locations** – Snorkeling available at **various islands and beaches**

Best Snorkelling Spots in Andaman

1. Elephant Beach (Havelock Island) – Most Popular Snorkeling Spot

- ☐ ☐ **Best For:** Beginners & Experienced Snorkelers
- ☐ **What You'll See:** Coral gardens, clownfish, butterflyfish, sea cucumbers
- ☐ **Cost:** ₹1,000 – ₹2,500 (including boat transfer & snorkeling gear)
- ☐ **Why Go Here?:** Easy access, rich marine biodiversity, and guided snorkeling available

2. North Bay Island – The Coral Kingdom

- ☐ ☐ **Best For:** Budget Travelers & First-Timers
- ☐ **What You'll See:** Hard & soft corals, sea anemones, angel fish, parrotfish
- ☐ **Cost:** ₹500 – ₹1,500
- ☐ **Why Go Here?:** Close to Port Blair, budget-friendly snorkeling, and good for beginners

3. Jolly Buoy Island – Best for Clear Waters & Coral Reefs

- ☐ ☐ **Best For:** Nature Lovers & Families
- ☐ **What You'll See:** Pristine coral reefs, starfish, sea urchins, clownfish
- ☐ **Cost:** ₹1,500 – ₹3,000 (includes permits, boat ride, snorkeling gear)
- ☐ **Why Go Here?:** Part of Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, known for undisturbed corals

4. Red Skin Island – Seasonal Snorkeling Paradise

- ☐ ☐ **Best For:** Adventure Seekers
- ☐ **What You'll See:** Staghorn corals, crabs, small reef sharks





- ☐ **Cost:** ₹1,500 – ₹2,500
- ☐ **Why Go Here?:** Alternative to Jolly Buoy (open when Jolly Buoy is closed)

5. Neil Island (Shaheed Dweep) – Peaceful Snorkeling Spot

- ☐ **Best For:** Couples & Solo Travelers
- ☐ **What You'll See:** Stingrays, sea snakes, vibrant coral species
- ☐ **Cost:** ₹1,000 – ₹2,500
- ☐ **Why Go Here?:** Less crowded, perfect for a peaceful snorkeling experience

6. Chidiya Tapu – Hidden Gem for Snorkeling

- ☐ **Best For:** Adventurers & Macro Photography Lovers
- ☐ **What You'll See:** Rare marine species, soft corals, octopuses
- ☐ **Cost:** ₹1,500 – ₹3,000
- ☐ **Why Go Here?:** Amazing for macro photography & night snorkeling

Types of Snorkelling Experiences in Andaman

1. Guided Snorkelling – Safe & Easy for Beginners

- ☒ **Best For:** First-time snorkelers
- ☒ **Includes a trained instructor**
- ☒ **Equipment provided** (mask, snorkel, fins, life jacket)
- ☒ **Available at:** Elephant Beach, North Bay, Jolly Buoy

2. Shore Snorkeling – DIY Snorkeling from the Beach

- ☒ **Best For:** Budget travelers & experienced snorkelers
- ☒ **Snorkel directly from the shore**
- ☒ **Bring or rent your own gear**
- ☒ **Available at:** Neil Island, Elephant Beach, Chidiya Tapu

3. Boat Snorkeling – Explore Deeper Waters

- ☒ **Best For:** Those who want to snorkel away from the beach
- ☒ **Boat takes you to deep-water snorkeling sites**
- ☒ **Available at:** Jolly Buoy Island, Red Skin Island, Havelock

4. Night Snorkeling – A Unique Experience

- ☒ **Best For:** Adventure lovers & underwater photographers
- ☒ **See glowing plankton & nocturnal marine life**
- ☒ **Available at:** Chidiya Tapu, Havelock Island





Best Time for Snorkeling in Andaman

- ✓ **October to May: Best season for snorkeling**, with clear waters & calm seas
- ✓ **Avoid June to September: Monsoon season**, strong currents & reduced visibility

Snorkeling Cost in Andaman

- **Basic Snorkeling (Shore Snorkeling):** ₹500 – ₹1,500
- **Guided Snorkeling (With Instructor):** ₹1,000 – ₹2,500
- **Boat Snorkeling (Deep-Water Sites):** ₹2,000 – ₹4,000
- **Snorkeling with Underwater Photography:** ₹1,000 – ₹2,500
- **Tip: Book snorkeling trips in advance** to secure better prices & availability.

Safety Tips for Snorkeling

- ✓ **Wear a life jacket** (especially if you're not a strong swimmer)
- ✓ **Use a well-fitted mask and snorkel** for a comfortable experience
- ✓ **Do not touch corals or marine animals** – they are fragile & can be dangerous
- ✓ **Stay close to the guide or shoreline**
- ✓ **Apply reef-safe sunscreen** to protect marine life
- ✓ **Breathe slowly & stay relaxed** to conserve energy

Snorkeling vs. Scuba Diving – Which One Should You Choose?

Feature	Snorkeling	Scuba Diving
Skill Level	Beginner-friendly, no training needed	Requires training & certification (for deep dives)
Depth	1-5 meters	6-40 meters
Breathing Equipment	Simple snorkel mask	Oxygen tank & regulator
Cost	₹500 – ₹3,000	₹3,500 – ₹35,000
Duration	30-45 minutes	30-60 minutes underwater
Best For	Casual explorers, families, non-swimmers	Adventure seekers, deep-sea explorers

- **Choose Snorkeling if:** You want a **quick, budget-friendly** way to explore the ocean.
- **Choose Scuba Diving if:** You want to **dive deeper & experience marine life up close**.





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Conclusion

Snorkeling in Andaman is a **thrilling yet easy way** to discover the **magical underwater world** of the islands. Whether you're a **beginner or an experienced water lover**, snorkeling offers an **affordable, fun, and mesmerizing experience**.

So grab your snorkel, dive in, and explore the **hidden wonders of Andaman's waters!**

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