

Restricted Area Permit (RAP)

The foreign nationals are not required to obtain a Restricted Area Permit (RAP) for visiting the 29 islands in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands that have been excluded from the RAP regime. Additionally, 11 islands have been exempted from the RAP requirement for day visits only, and this exemption is valid up to 31/12/2027. However, this relaxation is not applicable to nationals belonging to the Prior Reference Category (PRC) countries, namely Afghanistan, China (including Hong Kong and Macau), and Pakistan.

The following provisions continue to remain in force, which need to be published in the website:

1. "Citizens of Afghanistan, China (including Hong Kong & Macau), and Pakistan, as well as foreign nationals having their origin in these countries, shall continue to require a valid Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Such RAP shall be granted only after obtaining prior approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs. In cases where such nationals or persons of such origin arrive in the A&N Islands without a valid RAP granted prior to arrival, entry shall be refused as per law.

• As per immigration & Foreigners order, 2025 - '**Origin**' means, a person-

i. who, or either of whose parents or any of his grandparents, was born in and was permanently resident in the countries mentioned therein; or

ii. Who had been a citizen at any point of time of the countries mentioned therein.

2. For visiting Mayabunder and Diglipur, citizens of Myanmar shall continue to require a RAP, which shall be issued only with prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. Separate approvals from the competent authority shall continue to be required for visiting Reserved Forests, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Tribal Reserves.

4. The relaxation in the RAP regime does not authorize access to areas housing Defence, Paramilitary, or other sensitive establishments in these islands. Specific permission from the competent authority shall continue to be required for such areas.

5. Any foreign national intending to visit islands other than those presently designated and opened for tourism must obtain a valid RAP in advance from the competent authority.

6. Any foreign national visiting the A&N Islands for purposes other than tourism must possess a valid RAP.

Applications for RAP may be submitted online at <https://indianfro.gov.in> along with the requisite information and documents."

In view of the above, it is requested that the requirement of obtaining a valid Restricted Area Permit (RAP), particularly for nationals of Prior Reference Category (PRC) countries and persons of PRC origin.