

## **Port Blair, India, Check-in for sailor**

Status 1st Feb. 2026

### **General introduction**

Based on our Check-in experience, we wanted to summarize the procedures to create an easier and more comfortable check-in experience for both us sailors and the officials. It is not necessary to use an agent. All Officials speak English and are polite and friendly; please be the same. You will need to be patient, expect to spend at least a day for both inward and outward clearance.

Before reaching India, please be aware that Starlink is not working within the 12nm Zone. You can pause your contract for this time.

It is only possible to buy a SIM Card with internet and telephone after the clearance process is completed. Please get an eSIM to be able to communicate before entering India. (for example, using the Saily app and with the code TRIYER5374, you can get a US\$5 discount, which should get you a small data package until you have your local sim)

The Sim's internet quality is low. Video and Voice calls are not always stable or possible. If you want to get the local sim card after clearance, you need to bring your stamped passport and a copy of your e visa to the Airtel store found at the following location:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5G3pi67DDuLJHZqm7>

Upon arrival, you need to have the following printed copies ready:

- 8x Crew list and copy of passports
- 6x registration
- 1x proof of insurance
- 3x itinerary in the Andamans
- 3x list of last 10 ports
- 1x Last port clearance
- 3x NIL list and ships inventory

Additionally, you will need these documents for checkout:

- Travel log book with a map showing your track
- 3x Letter requesting the no objection certificate NOC
- 2x Copy of Port NOC (you get this from the port management board during the checkout process, and then need to copy it at the copy shop across the street)

You will find many of these attached. If you don't have your own printer, it is recommended that you print these at a copy shop before you start your trip to the Andamans

### **Pre-arrival notification and preparation**

You are supposed to send a pre-arrival document (PANS attached) via email to all Involved Agencies:

1) Coast Guard and the marine rescue center :

[mrcc-ptb@indiancoastguard.nic.in](mailto:mrcc-ptb@indiancoastguard.nic.in)

2) the Harbour Master:

[hm.pmb@nic.in](mailto:hm.pmb@nic.in)

3) Security Port Management Board :

[mgrsecpmb@gmail.com](mailto:mgrsecpmb@gmail.com)

4) the Immigration office :

[sea.portblair@and.nic.in](mailto:sea.portblair@and.nic.in)

5) Customs

[mch.portblair@gmail.com](mailto:mch.portblair@gmail.com) and [mch.port-blair@gov.in](mailto:mch.port-blair@gov.in)

Satellite Phones are not allowed in India. If you have functional satellite phones, customs will find a way with you on how to handle them during your stay in India.

If you travel with animals and plants, please declare them at the Customs inspection. It is ok as long as they stay exclusively on board.

### **on arrival**

Please contact Port Control on VHF 16 or VHF 10. They are nice but strict and will ask you a lot of questions. You need to know your phonetic alphabet. We reached out to them 3nm before. They will guide you in the harbour and will also try to inform the officials to come to your boat. Entrance to the harbour is prohibited at night.

Upon anchoring, you need to inform Port Control over your exact location and time of anchoring (local, not UTC).

If you arrive in the afternoon, clearance generally only starts the next morning.

You will need to pick up the immigration and customs officials at the jetty. The coast guard comes with a 15m MV. Please put out fenders to allow boarding.

In general, the order is immigration, customs, and then the coast guard/ navy.

Once all three agencies visited you, you need to go to shore and get your passport stamped at the immigration office.

The jetty is a bridge with concrete stairs, and there is a guy named Omar there who takes your boat to a mooring if you want to visit the shore. There are no real alternatives to his service, and he charges about 300 rupees per day. If you bring him some dinner when you come back from town, he gets very happy.

Once ashore, you have to get some money from the ATM. You will need it to buy a port access pass to enter the harbour area where the Immigration Office is located. You need to buy the passes in a small Office next to gate 4 and then enter through gate 3.

Once the Passports are stamped, you can move around freely

Every time you enter or leave a named port, you will have to ask for permission from port control.

### **On departure**

You first need to visit the Port management board. Ideally, arrive in the early morning. You will need to bring a list of all the ports you visited, including dates, a screenshot of a chart showing all of your tracks in the Andaman Islands, a letter requesting the NOC to be granted, a crew list, a copy of the crew's passports, the boat's registration, and proof of insurance. They will take these documents, calculate a fee that you have to pay, and hand you the NOC. The entire process can take a few hours, so prepare for a long wait.

Next, you need to visit the immigration office. If you have your documents prepared, it should be a pretty straightforward process. Remember that you need to get a new Port access pass. They will stamp your passports and give you a document for customs.

Last stop is customs, whom you have to visit at their office downtown. If you have your documents prepared, this should be another straightforward process and only take about half an hour. After you are back on your boat, you need to raise the dinghy and are no longer allowed to go ashore.

### **General advice**

A tuk-tuk costs approx 50 rupees per km.

In our case, customs did not arrive for check-in, so Port Control told us to visit their offices the next morning. Location is on NoForeignLand.

**Customs** Email [mch.portblair@gmail.com](mailto:mch.portblair@gmail.com) and [mch.port-blair@gov.in](mailto:mch.port-blair@gov.in)

In India, it is customary to use UPI (QR code) payments. You can use the app Mony to do most of these payments. If you want to use it i would recommend installing it ahead of time.

We also met a motor vessel, Lei Sola II, in Port Blair. The Skipper is very helpful and welcomed us in Port Blair. He wants to create an Andaman cruising community, so feel free to say hi.

## Annex: Sample Documents for Check In

### IMO Crew list

### **IMO CREW LIST (IMO FAL Form5)**

1.1 Name of ship:

1.2 MMSI:

1.3 Call sign:

2. Port of arrival/departure:

3. Date of arrival/departure:

4. Flag state:

5. Last port of call:

6. No	7. Name, given names	8. Rank or rating	9. Nationality	10. Birthday and birthplace	11. Passport no.
1	Mustermann, Max	Skipper			
2	Hollender, Fligender	Crew			

Additional: Private Yacht without paid crew.

Purpose of Visit: Tourism / Cruising on private Yacht

12. Date and signature by master:

\_\_\_\_\_

## **SV Inventory list**

**Have no satellite phones**

SV Name of Vessel

MMSI of Vessel

I hereby declare that THURAYA / IRIDIUM SATELLITE PHONES are not available on the above-mentioned vessel.

Date, Name, and Signature of Master of Vessel

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**NIL LIST**

SV Name of Vessel

MMSI of Vessel

1. NO CAGO
2. NO PLANTS
3. NO ANIMALS
4. NO NARCOTICS and NO DRUGS
5. NO STOWAWAY
6. NO BOND STORE
7. NO ARMS and NO AMMUNITIONS
8. NO THURAYA / IRIDIUM SATELLITE PHONES

Date, Name, and Signature of Master of Vessel

**Equipment Inventory List**

SV Name of Vessel

MMSI of Vessel

1. Fish finder Garmin Echo 500 deep sounder
2. Simrad AC10 Autopilot
3. Pypilot Autopilot
4. VHF SH Matrix 2150
5. VHF SH Handheld
6. Garmin GPS Mal 5212
7. Ais Transponder
8. Android Tablet as a chart plotter
9. Multiple Mobile phones as GPS and a chart plotter Backup
10. NMEA to WiFi bridge
11. NASA windmeasuring
12. Windlass
13. Led Position Lights
14. Sextant

Date, Name, and Signature of Master of Vessel

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## **Stores Inventory List**

SV Name of Vessel

MMSI of Vessel

#, Amount, Type, Name

1. 10kg, dry, pasta
2. 1kg, dry, rice
3. 10kg, dry, protein powder
4. 5kg, dry, oats
5. 5kg, dry, flour
6. 10kg, dry, nuts and fruits
7. 3kg, dry, milk powder
8. 2kg, dry, herbs, spices, and other
9. 10kg, canned, vegetables
10. 1kg, canned, tuna
11. 3kg, canned, other canned food
12. 100, fresh, eggs
13. 5kg, fresh, onions
14. 1kg, fresh, other foods
15. 20 x 330ml, alcohol, Beer
16. 1 bottle, alcohol, rum
17. 1 bottle, alcohol, wine

Date, Name, and Signature of Master of Vessel

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**Inventory of First Aid Equipment**

SV Name of Vessel

MMSI of Vessel

1. Full Offshore first aid kit
2. Antibiotics
3. Anti-inflammatory medication
4. Burn Treatments
5. Rehydration salts
6. Topical creams
7. Pain medication
8. Sea sickness medication

Date, Name, and Signature of Master of Vessel

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**Itinerary**

SV Name of Vessel

MMSI of Vessel

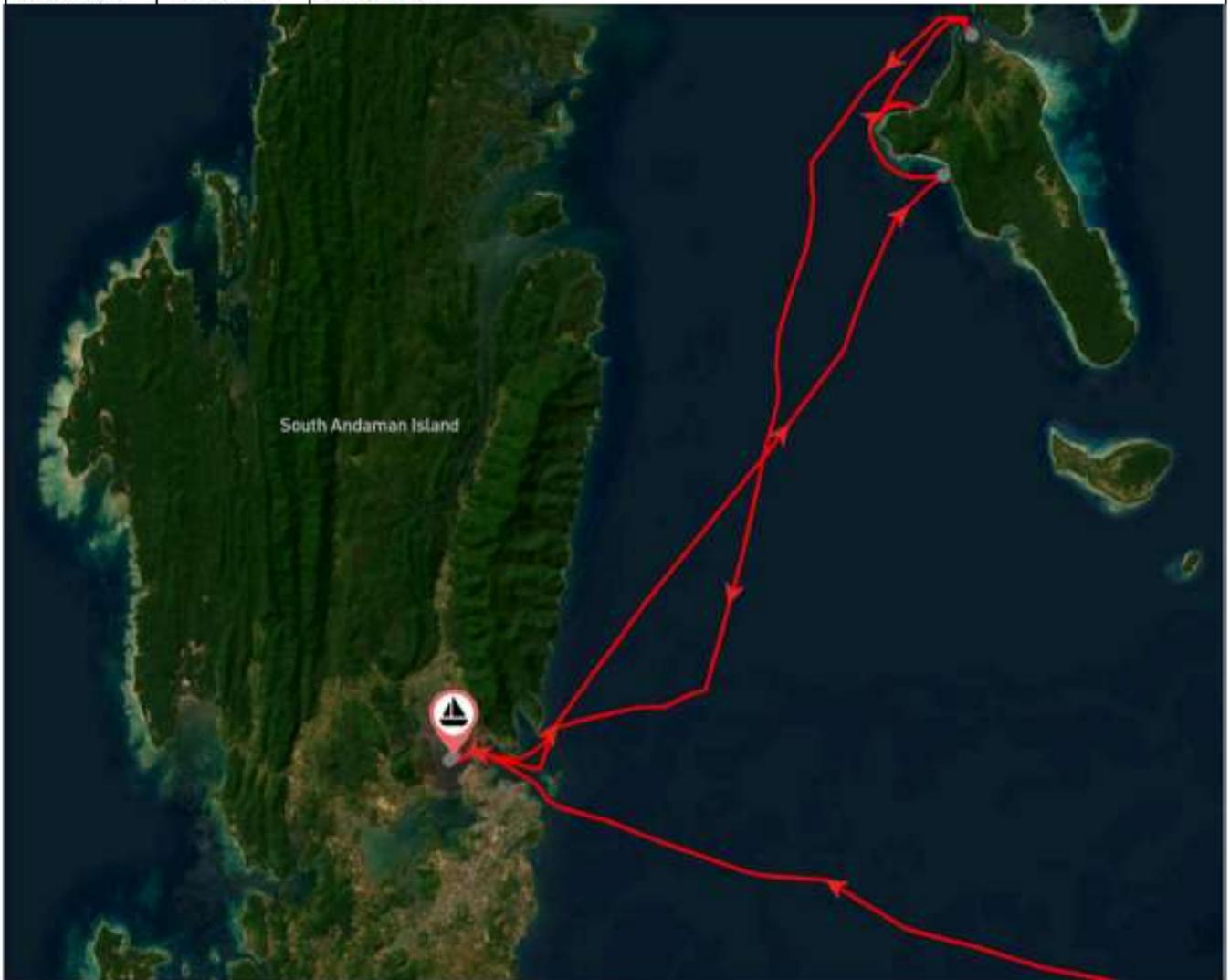
from	to	Name of Port
01.01.26	03.01.26	Port Blair

Date, Name, and Signature of Master of Vessel

\_\_\_\_\_

## Andaman Islands Travel logbook

From	to	Port
28.01.26	01.02.26	Port Blair
01.02.26	05.02.26	Havelock
05.02.26	06.02.26	Port Blair



I, \_\_\_\_\_, master of the sailing vessel Pegasus hereby declare, that the above Information is correct.

Master of

05.02.2026

To  
The Custom House  
Sri Vijaya Puram

Sub: No Objection Certificate for S/Y

To whom this may concern,

this is to inform you that the above-mentioned yacht S/Y \_\_\_\_\_ which arrived from \_\_\_\_\_ at,  
\_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ intends to sail to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ at p.m. hours. We  
request you to kindly grant the No Objection Certificate (NOC) to enable us to obtain port clearance  
from Custom

Thank you

Yours Sincerely

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Master of \_\_\_\_\_ 05.02.2026

Here is the list of islands you can visit by submitting an itinerary to Harbour Master + immigration. These can be visited without a restricted area permit.

**"24.5.1 Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

(1) Following 23 islands in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been excluded from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 till 31.12.2027:-

1. East Island
2. North Andaman
3. Smith Island
4. Curfew Island
5. Stewart Island
6. Land Fall Island
7. Aves Island
8. Middle Andaman
9. Long Island
10. Strait Island
11. North Passage
12. Baratang
13. South Andaman
14. Havelock
15. Neil Island
16. Flat Bay
17. Little Andaman
18. Chowra
19. Tillang Chong Island
20. Teresa
21. Katchal
22. Nancowry
23. Kamorta
24. Pulo Milo
25. Great Nicobar
26. Little Nicobar
27. Narcondam Island
28. Interview island
29. Viper island (for day visits only)

*D. S. Kumar*  
29/12/2022

These islands need special permission from the forest department if you plan to step on the islands.

- (2) Following 11 uninhabited islands in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have also been excluded from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 for day visits only till 31.12.2027 subject to the foreign nationals obtaining online permission from the authority concerned as indicated against each:-

S. No.	Name of the Island	Online Permission to be obtained from
1	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island	-
2	Rutland ( <b>April to October only</b> )	Being Reserve Forest from DCF (South Andaman) under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
3	Jolly Bouy	Being Wildlife Sanctuary/ National Park from Chief Wildlife Warden under A&N Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 1973.
4	Red Skin	
5	Hugh Ross Island	
6	John Lawrence	
7	Henry Lawrence	
8	Inglis Island	Being Wildlife Sanctuary /National Park from Chief Wildlife Warden under A&N Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 1973 and from Secretary (Tribal Welfare), A&N Administration being PAT Region under A&N (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes), Regulation, 1956.
9	Brother Island	
10	Sister Island	
11	North & South Cinque Islands	

North Sentinel Island has to be kept 5nm clear of at any time, as it is still inhabited by tribes hostile to foreign contact.

Additional notes:

**Port Control Port Blair** VHF 16 and 10,

email [sea.portpblair@and.nic.in](mailto:sea.portpblair@and.nic.in) (did not work for us but they told us it is the correct email address)

Vessels Name

ETA

Length

Width

Deep

Home Port and Land/Flag

Weight

Last Port

Number of Crew incl. Master

Number of Passengers

Name of Master

Nationalities of persons on board

If you already know, then also your Itinerary.

### **Immigration**

Vessels Name

ETA

Length

Width

Deep

Weight

Home Port and Land

Last Port

Number of Crew incl. Master

Number of Passengers

Name of Master

Nationalities of persons on board

eVisas, Crew List, Passport copies, Ship registration, no satellite phone declaration

If you already know, then also your estimated travel list. (Itinerary list)

### **Customs**

for Office and documents: Email [mch.portblair@gmail.com](mailto:mch.portblair@gmail.com) and [mch.port-blair@gov.in](mailto:mch.port-blair@gov.in)

Vessels Name

ETA

Length

Width

Deep

Home Port and Land

Number of Crew incl. Master

Number of Passengers  
Name of Master  
Nationalities of persons on board

Ship registration,  
Have no satellite phone declaration  
Last Port clearance (they will later keep the original)  
Crew List,  
Navigation Inventory List  
Stores Inventory List  
First Aid Equipment  
Nil List

**Coast Guard** VHF 16 (they come to you after you arrive; you do not need to send anything beforehand)  
Crew List,  
Ship registration  
Navigation Inventory List  
Stores Inventory List  
First Aid Equipment