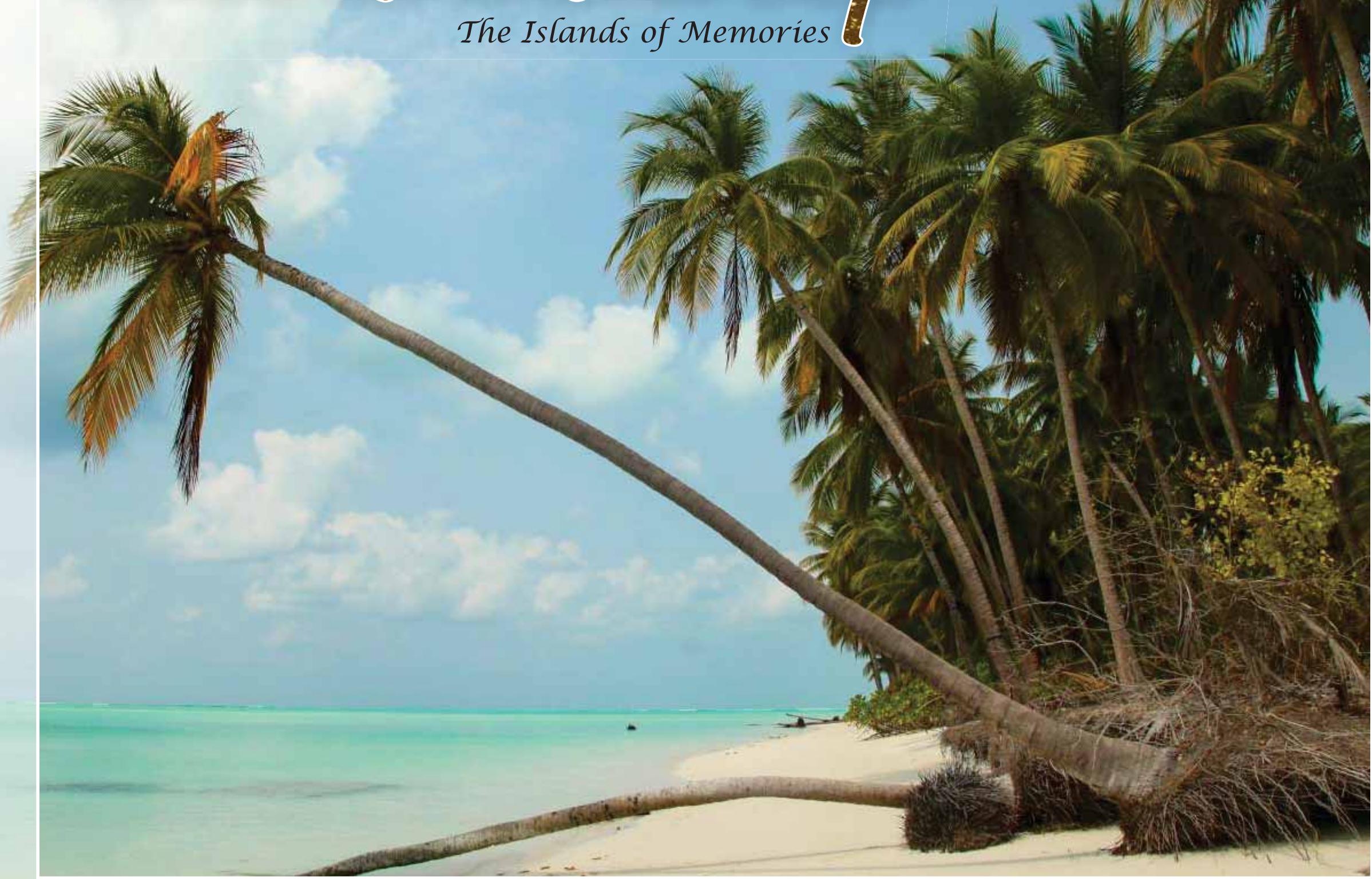


Coral Paradise

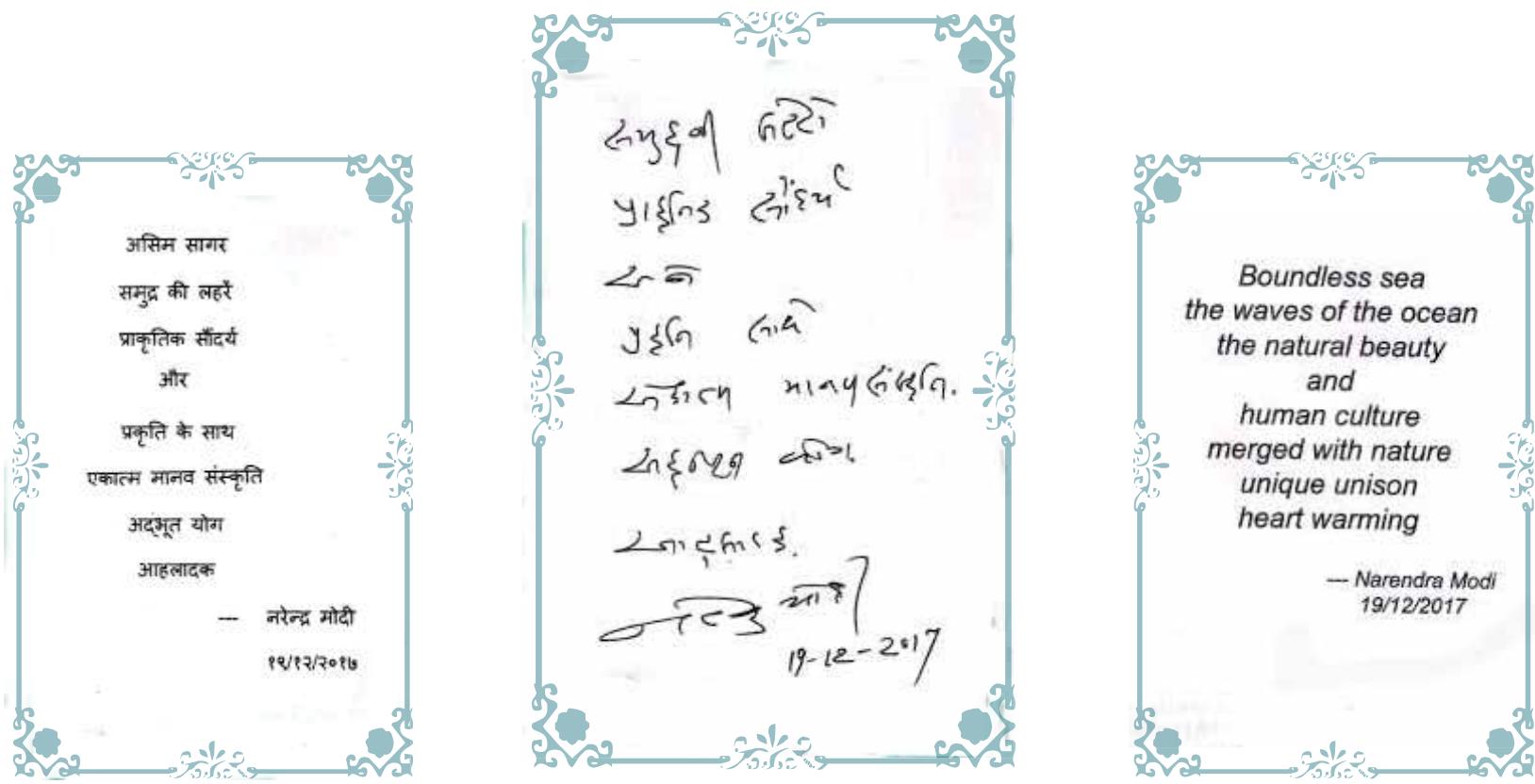
Lakshadweep

The Islands of Memories





Honourable Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi
receiving the first copy



फारुक खान
Farooq Khan



प्रशासक

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The gorgeous Lakshadweep Islands, located far out in the Arabian Sea, where the waters plunge miles deep to the ocean floor, are a chain of bewitchingly beautiful coral atolls and lagoons blessed with glistening transparent waters and reefs that are deep and shrouded in awe inspiringly spectacular mystery.

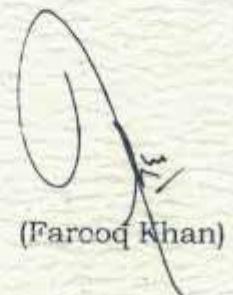
It has been the primary focus of my administration to usher this beautiful island group into a renewed era of growth and vitality that knows no bounds. Strengthening and promoting sound tourism initiatives with a holistic human face for the well being of all will touch the lives of all islanders positively and make a stellar contribution in realising the utmost potential of the place and its people.

Our Coffee table book has very pertinently brought the pristine and untouched natural beauty of these islands and its populace to the fore, which I genuinely hope will touch the hearts and minds of the readers.

With unwavering support of the people, the necessary political tenacity and a team of bright and dynamic officials- we are all set on the path of a touristic regeneration.

I congratulate the Department of Tourism for coming out with this extremely well researched and informative coffee table book. A breathtakingly adventurous tale of scuba diving, adventure water sports, extreme fishing and an unmatched variety of corals and exotic sea life set in one of the most beautiful locales of India awaits you!

Jai Hind



(Farooq Khan)

Publisher



Lakshadweep Administration

Department of Tourism Development

Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, India-682 555

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Disclaimer : This book is symbolic representation of Lakshadweep. Lakshadweep Administration does not claim any authenticity of facts published in this Coffee Table Book. Data given in this book need not be used for any academic research or reference.

An Introductory Overview

Lakshadweep formerly known as the Laccadive, Minicoy, and Aminidivi Islands is a group of islands in the Laccadive Sea, 200 to 440 km (120 to 270 mi) off the south western coast of India. The archipelago is a Union Territory and is governed by the Union Government of India. They were also known as Laccadive Islands, although geographically this is only the name of the central subgroup of the group. *Lakshadweep* comes from *Lakshadwepa*, which means "one hundred thousand islands" in Sanskrit. True to its name, these islands are very picturesque and provide a true vacation for those who love beaches, water sports and sea food. The islands form the smallest Union Territory of India: their total surface area is just 32 sq. km. (12 sq. mi.). The lagoon area covers about 4,200 sq. km. (1,600 sq. mi.), the territorial waters area 20,000 sq. km. (7,700 sq. mi.) and the exclusive economic zone area 400,000 sq. km(150,000 sq. mi.). The region forms a single Indian district with 10 subdivisions. It comprises a total of twelve coral atolls, five banks, three coral reefs, and several islets. The islands from the northernmost part of the Lakshadweep-Maldives-Chagos group of islands, which are the tops of a vast undersea mountain range, the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge. As the islands do not have any aboriginal groups, different views have been postulated by the scholars about the history of habitation on these islands. Archaeological evidence supports the existence of human settlement in the region around 1500 BC.





Step into solitude



Agatti: Gate way to Lakshadweep



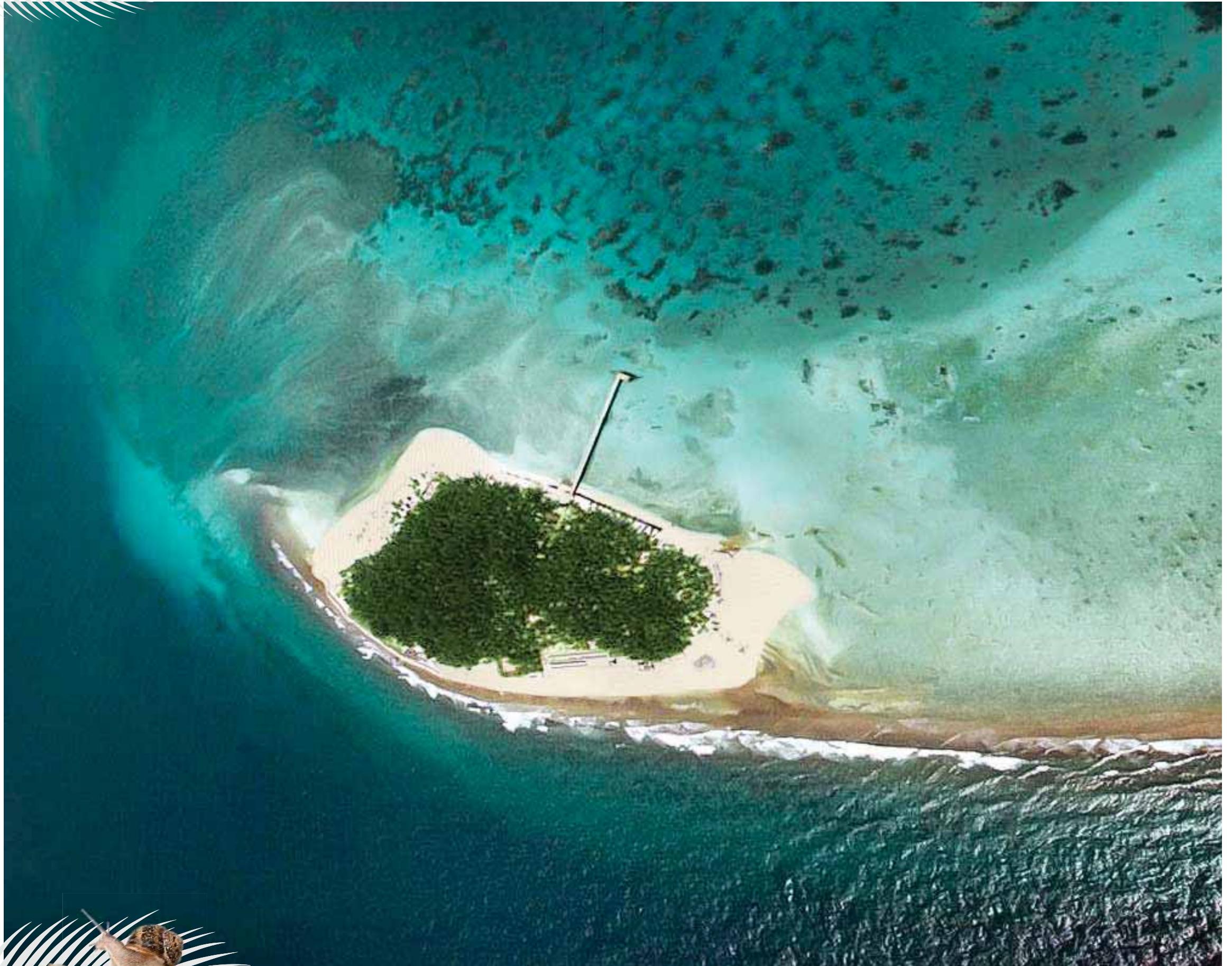
Amini : the first settlers to Lakshadweep arrived here



Andrott : the largest island of Lakshadweep



Bangaram : Bewitching, beautiful and breathtaking; Honeymoon Paradise



Bitra : Our tiniest island but gifted with largest lagoon



Chetlat : Boat building yard of the yonder



Kadmat : *the water sports paradise*





Kalpeni : An upcoming spot on the tourist map of Lakshadweep



Kiltan : known for its folk dances





Kavaratti : the capital





Minicoy : Bird's eye view of southern most culturally and historically rich island which has spawned many a seaman



Dusk, Dawns on the isles



Emerald waves





Experience the uncommon



Unique destination





Relaxed, Friendly and Informal



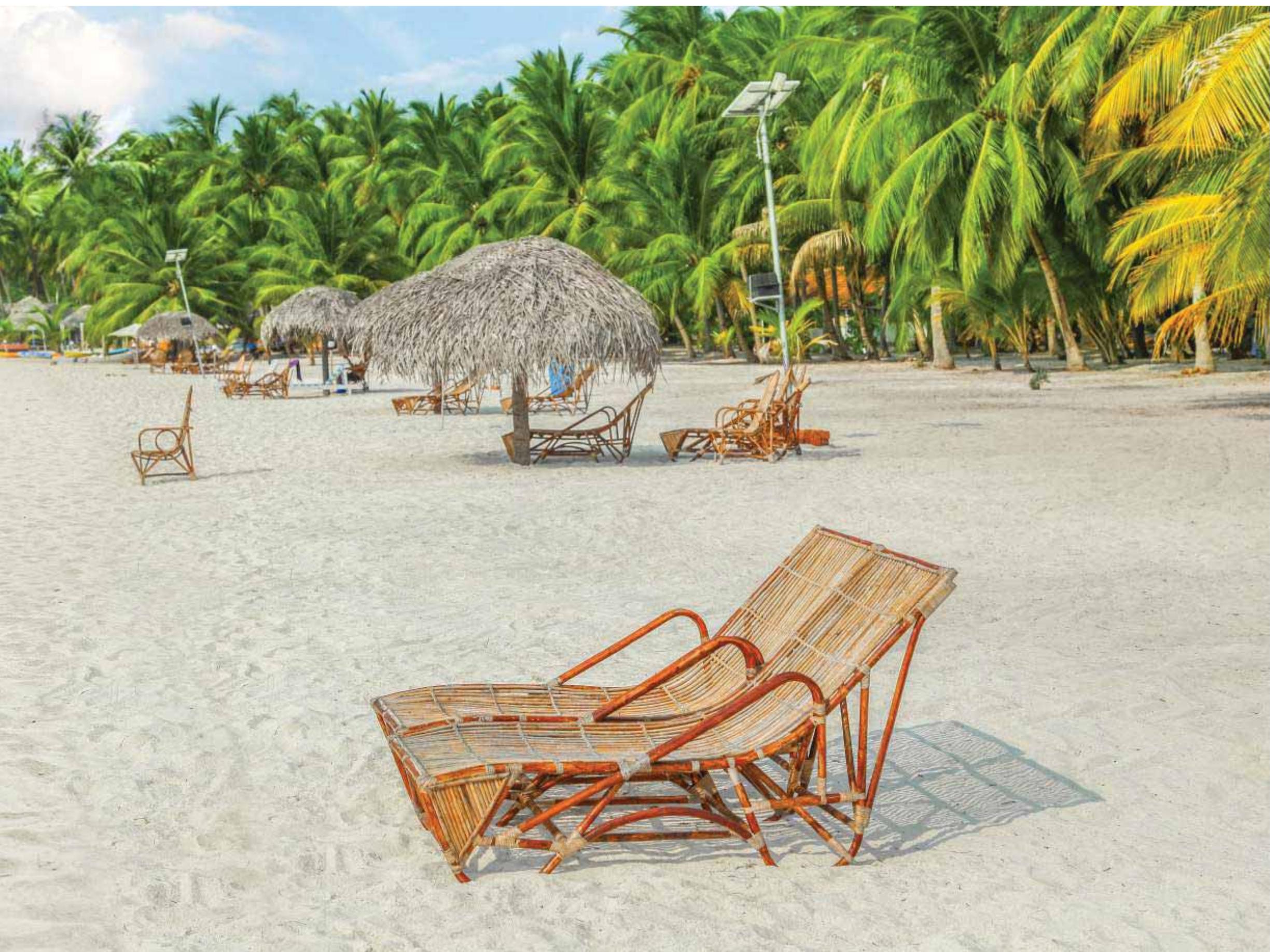
Live a life in a different light





Beyond words





There's no place like it



You've arrived





Tourists



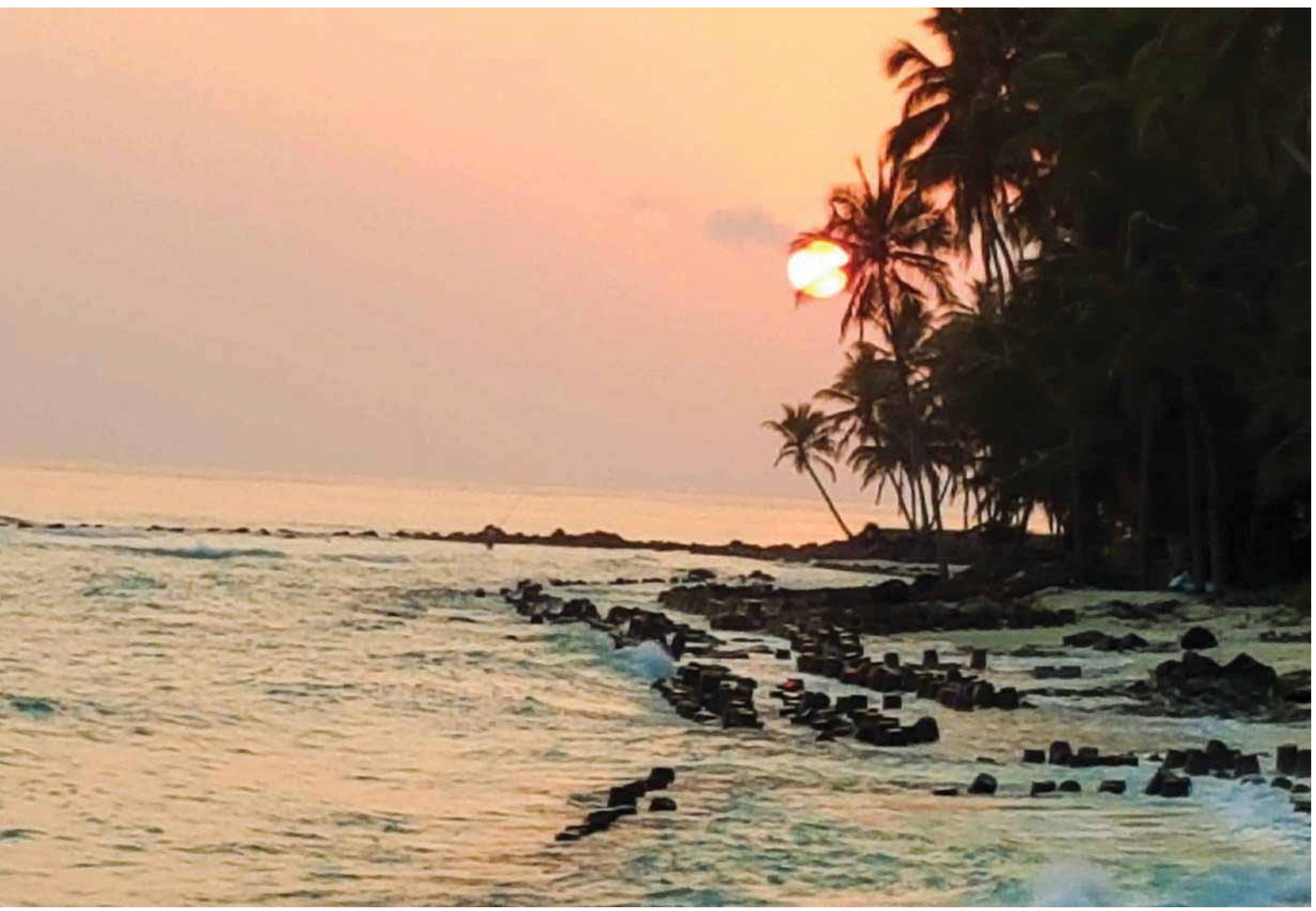


Flocking International Tourists



What's in the name?

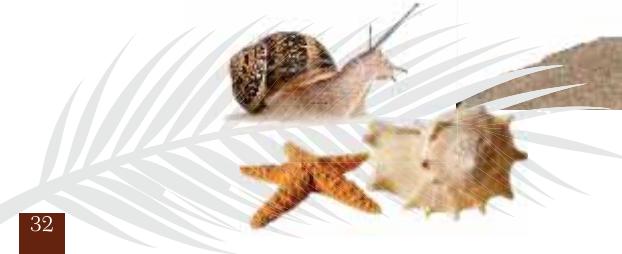
Lakshadweep is a sort of navigator's compass, the word meaning destination. The name "laksha" is only symbolic since the total number of Islands doesn't even add up to a 1000. The word "laksha" means 1, 00,000 in Malayalam and Sanskrit. But it has other



meanings too! For example, "Lakshya" means "Purpose" and Lakshadweep lies in the Arabian-African-Asian trade route.

Formation of Lakshadweep islands and its History

The early history of Lakshadweep is not recorded. Local traditions attribute the first settlement on the islands to the period of Cheraman Perumal, the last Chera King of Kerala. It is believed that the first settlers were Hindus and Buddhists. Even now, unmistakable Hindu social stratifications exist despite the influence of Islam. Buddha idols are found in islands like Kavaratti and Andrott. Legends say that small settlements started in the islands of Amini, Kavaratti, Andrott and Kalpeni first and later people from these islands moved to Agatti, Kiltan, Chetlat and Kadmat. The advent of Islam goes back to the seventh century AD around the year 41 Hijra. It is widely believed that one St. Ubaidullah while praying at Mecca fell asleep. He dreamt that Prophet Mohammed wanted him to go to Jeddah and take a ship from there to go to distant places. Leaving Jeddah and after sailing for months the ship wrecked near these small islands. Floating on a plank he was swept ashore at Amini. Ubaidullah began propagating Islam in the face of strong protests. From Amini, he went to Andrott where too he met with strong opposition. Finally he succeeded in converting the local people to Islam. Soon he went to the other islands with the message of Islam and succeeded in propagating it. He died in Andrott and his place of burial is a sacred place now.





Even after the influence of Islam, the sovereignty remained in the hands of the Hindu Raja of Chirakkal for some years. From Chirakkal Raja, the control moved into the hands of the Muslim House of Arakkal around the 16th century. The Arakkal rule was oppressive and unbearable. Eventually in 1787, some islanders from Amini took courage and met Tippu Sultan at Mangalore, and requested him to take over the administration of Amini. Soon five islands came under the Sultan and the rest continued to be governed by the Arakkal family. After the battle of Srirangapattanam in 1799, the islands were annexed to the British East India Company from Mangalore. In 1854, all the remaining islands were handed over to the East India Company by the Raja of Chirakkal. So came the British rule.



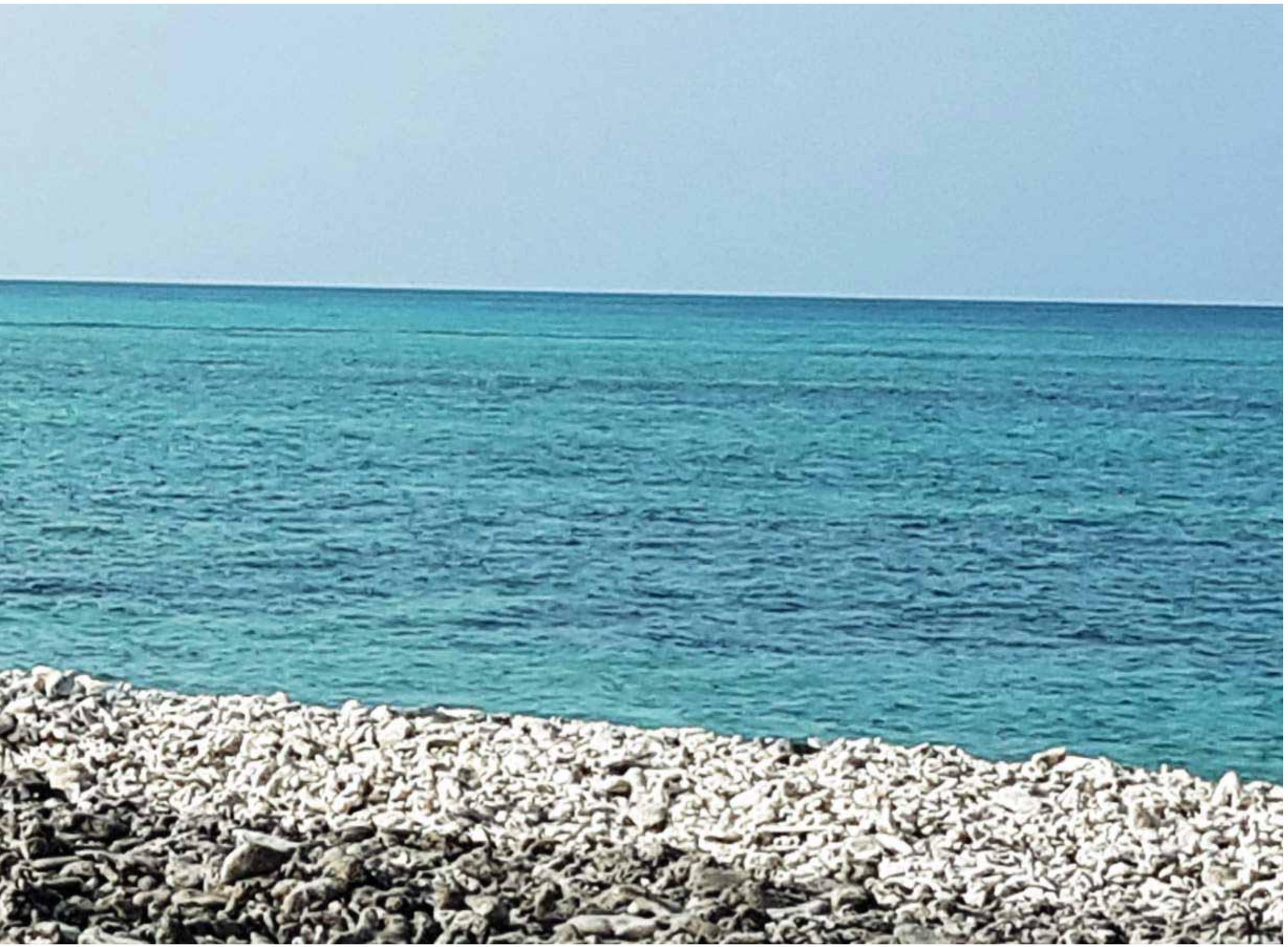
A Monument to Sacrifices



Enjoy the freedom



There are many theories as to how the huge archipelago, the Lakshadweep group of Islands emerged. The most widely accepted one is attributed to Sir Charles Darwin, the renowned English evolutionist (1842). He opined that the base of the islands below



the reef is a volcanic formation over which corals settled and formed into fringing reefs. These turned into barrier reefs and later to atolls due to the geological submergence of the volcanic base.

People and Culture





Happiness on earth





Travel with a clear conscience



The glorious colours of the Lakshadweep sunsets can be matched only by the colourful dresses of the women of the islands. They wear a Kachi around the waist tucked in a thread wound with solid gold or a silver waist belt. A silk Kachi is usually red with a black border. Others are black or white with a dark border. While a tight fitting embroidered jacket covers the body above the waist,



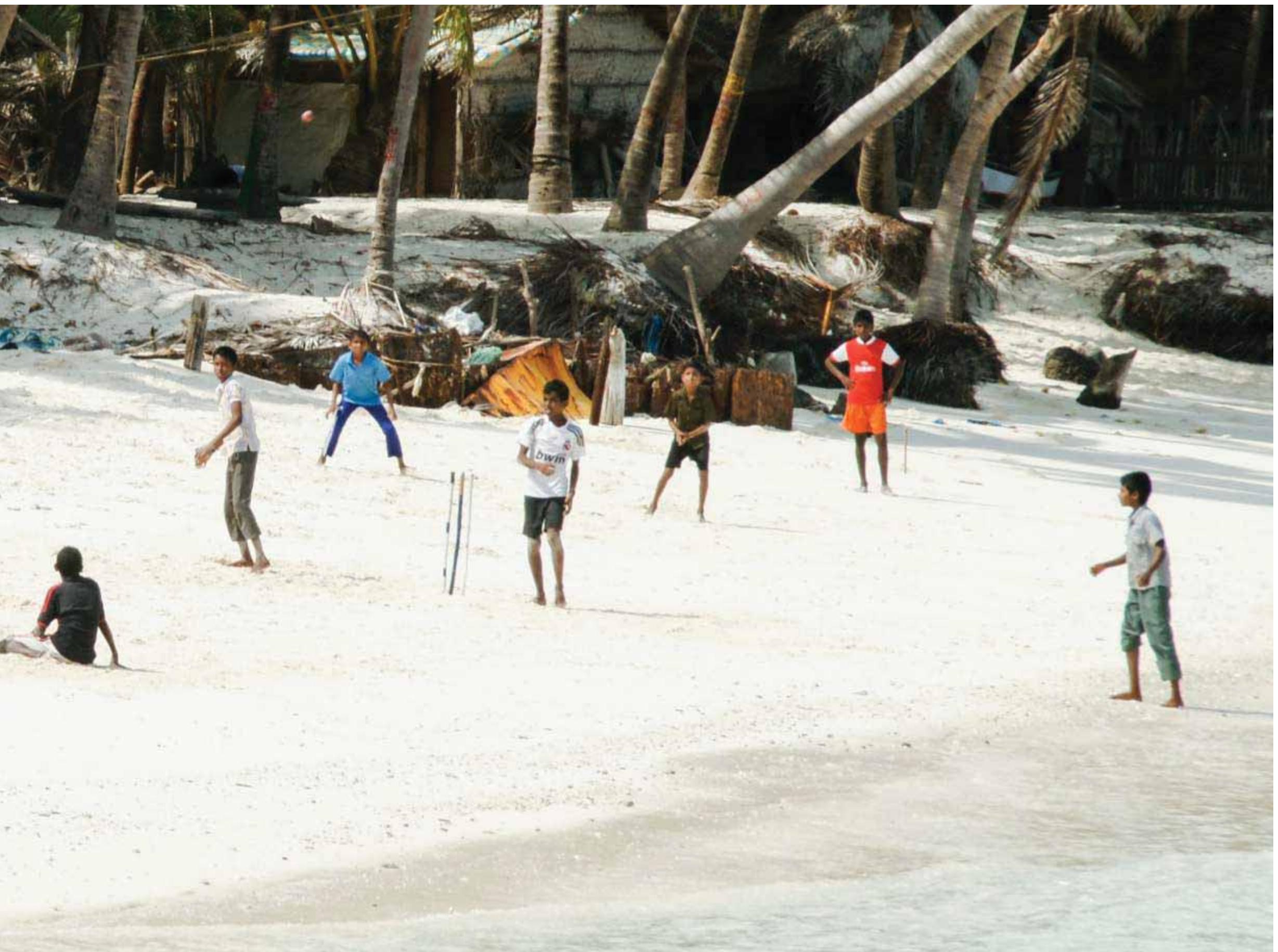
a colourful scarf with silver and gold threads is slung loosely over the head. The scarf is called "Thattam". The men are simply dressed in a 'lungi' except in the Minicoy Island where the young prefer jeans. They wear traditional dresses, churidar/pyjama only on ceremonial occasions. The food habits of the people do not offer much variety. Exotic dishes from Andrott and Minicoy stand out in the cuisine of the island. A baniyan factory is located at Kalpeni.



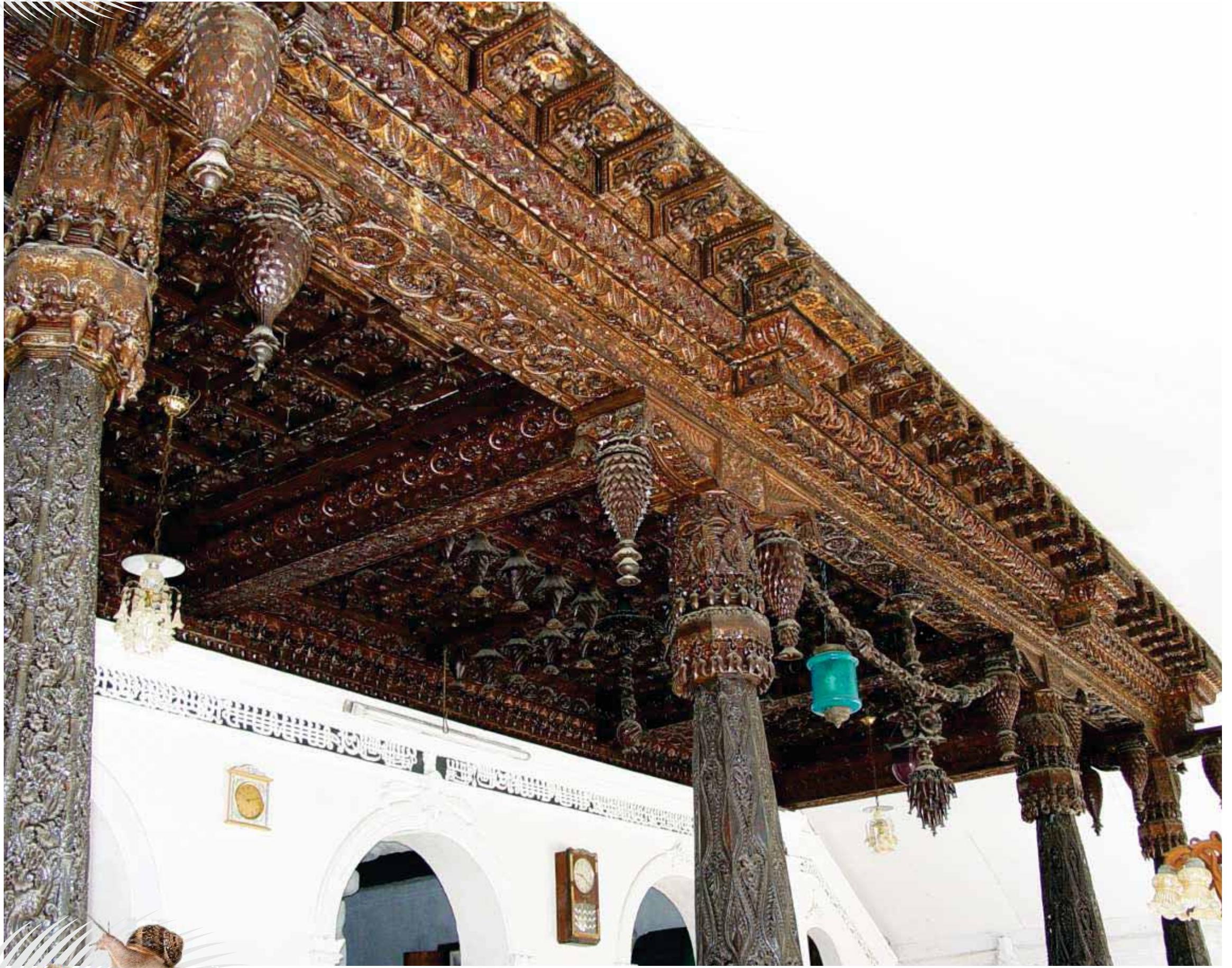


Creative holidays, create your kind of holiday





Eden Gardens on the Beach



A mosque with marvelous wooden carvings



Live your myth here





Miles from mainland India, close to the heart



Traditional boat of Lakshadweep : Odum





Traditional Village Home : Minicoy



The budding artisans



Dreams for all seasons



Every day is different



Relish the cuisines





Come! Enjoy the taste of Lakshadweep

Language

A dialect of Malayalam is spoken in the inhabited islands. In Minicoy, Mahl is used. There is very little difference in the customs of the people despite a few cultural variations. Marriages are arranged mostly, except in Minicoy, where courting is prevalent. In arranged marriages, the bride's family takes the initiative in marriage discussions. In Minicoy, the wedding ceremony is simple. The wedding expenses are borne by the bridegroom's family.





Status of Women





The first lady of Lakshdweep

At the age of 84 now, Ms C.N. Beebi is the epitome of women emancipation and empowerment in Lakshadweep Islands. She was born in 1933 and is residing in Cheriyannallal House in Kalpeni. She had completed her education from 1st grade to 5th grade from a Government Primary school in Kalpeni. From 1943 till 1949 she was in Thiroor Muslim Girls School and had completed her SSLC education from there. She was residing in Calicut from 1954 to 1956 where she successfully completed her Teacher's Training from a Government Training School for Mapilla Women. In June 1956, she joined as a teacher and retired from her service on May 31st, 1993. On September 5th, 1989 she received the National Award for Teachers from the Ministry Human Resources Development.



Women of the Union Territory enjoy a higher social status and economic freedom than their counterparts in other parts of the country. The matrilineal route of inheritance through the female keeps the women folk independent. Divorce is accepted and



remarriage is encouraged. The predominance of women in every walk of life is a noteworthy feature of the islands, especially in Minicoy.





The best way to see



Folk Art

Kolkali and Parichakali are the two popular art forms in the territory. In Minicoy, Lava is the popular dance form. Some of the movements in these dances are similar to the north-eastern folk dance forms. For marriages, Oppana, a song sung by a lead



female player accompanied by a group of women singers, is a common feature. Picnics are a common leisure activity in Minicoy. The most widely celebrated festivals are Idulfifter, Bakrid, Milad-ul Nabi and Muharram.



A Glimpses of Local Folk Dance



Paradise Resort, Kavaratti



Parichakali Dance



Dolipattu Dance



Lava Dance



Bandiya Dance

Facts & Figures

Area	32 sq. km.
Population (2011)	64, 429
Status	Union Territory of India
Location	8-12 North Latitude, 71-74 East Longitude It is 220 to 440 km. off the Malabar Coast of Kerala, India
Total islands	36
Language Spoken	Malayalam and Mahl
Minimum Temperature	32° C
Maximum Temperature	28° C
Humidity	70 to 75 %
Required Clothing	Cotton
Climate	Tropical
Food	Spiced, Rich Coconut, Vegetarian, Non-Vegetarian, Fried and Barbecued Fish
Inhabited Island	Kavaratti, Kalpeni, Agatti, Minicoy, Andrott, Amini, Kadmat, Kiltan, Chetlat, Bitra
Tourist Islands	Minicoy, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Agatti, Kadmat, Bangaram
Connectivity	by Ship - from Kochi Beypore and Mangalore by Air - from Kochi - Bangalore



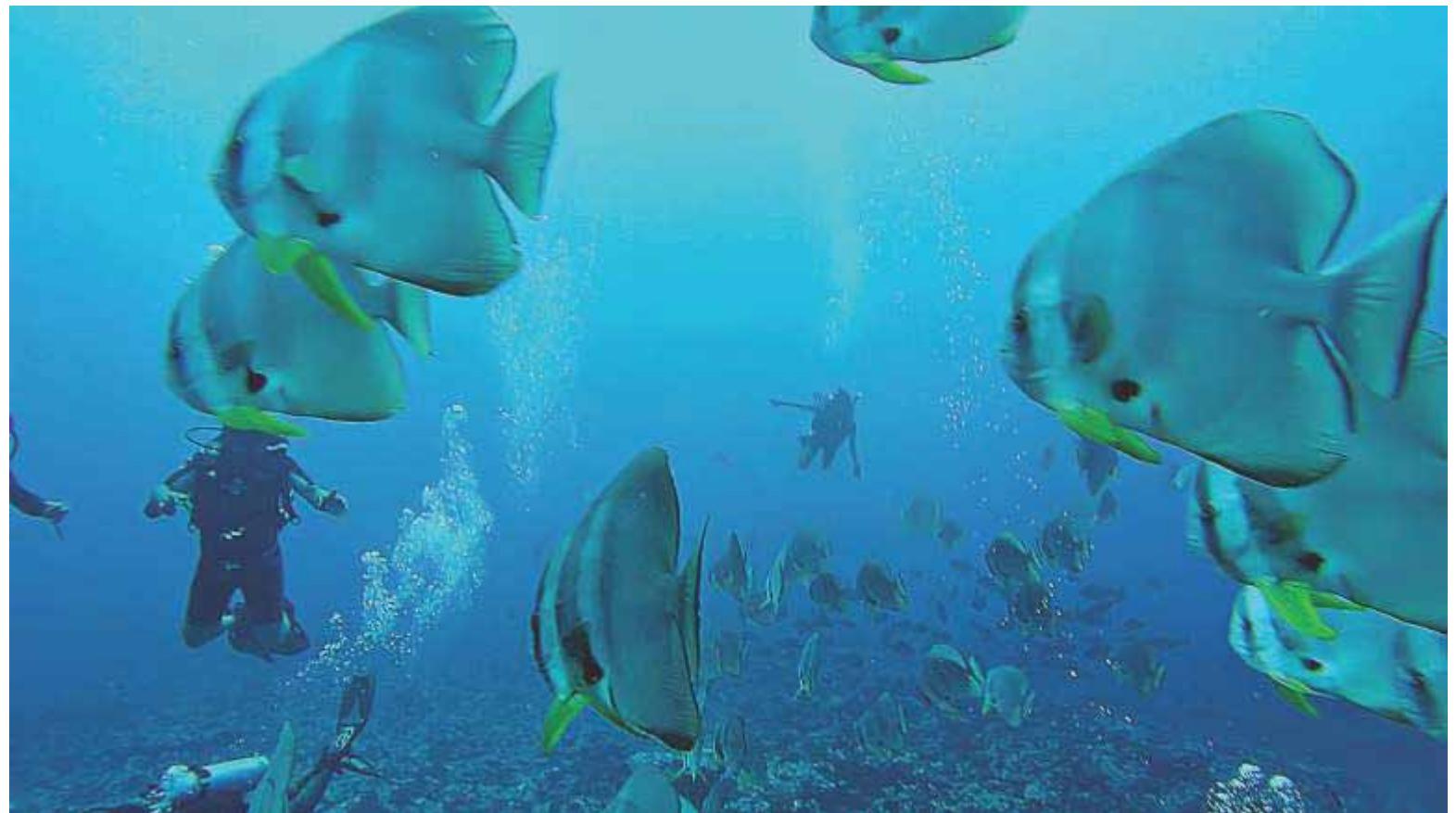






Cherium - A Virgin Island Shortly Opening for Tourists





One of the world's most spectacular tropical island systems, Lakshadweep is tucked away at 220 – 240 kms off the Malabar Coast. The islands comprise of 4, 200 sq. km. of lagoon rich in marine wealth and 36 islands in an area of 32 sq. km. Each island here is fringed by snow white coral sands. The crystal clear water and the rich marine flora and fauna enhance the mystique of these islands. Against the vast blue sea, the islands look like emeralds. The huge wall-like reef bordering the outer side of the shallow lagoons blocks the incoming swells of the sea. The islands are linked to the mainland by ship, helicopter, passenger planes and mechanized sailing wooden vessels. Agatti and Bangaram can be reached by air and the others by ship from Kochi.



The temperature increases from South to North; April and May being the hottest with temperatures averaging at 32°C. The relative humidity is 70 - 75%. Generally, the climate is humid, warm and pleasant. The climate is equable and no well marked distinct seasons are experienced. From June to October, the south-west monsoon is active. The average rainfall is 10 - 40 mm. Annual rainfall decreases from south to north. On an average, 80 - 90 days a year are rainy. Winds are light to moderate from October to March.



The Lakshadweep Archipelago has 12 atolls, 3 reefs and 6 submerged banks. The name Lakshadweep or its anglicized form Laccadives is of recent origin. The early geography and Arab travellers have alluded to the islands as 'Divis' or 'Dibatat' covering both Maldives and Lakshadweep. By several accounts, the cultural and geographical affinities of Lakshadweep are closely linked to Sri Lanka, Kerala, Maldives and Tamil Nadu.



The whole group of islands is one vast coconut garden with 100 trees crowded per acre. There are no boundaries between individual plots and almost no ground vegetation. The houses are spread out throughout the islands.

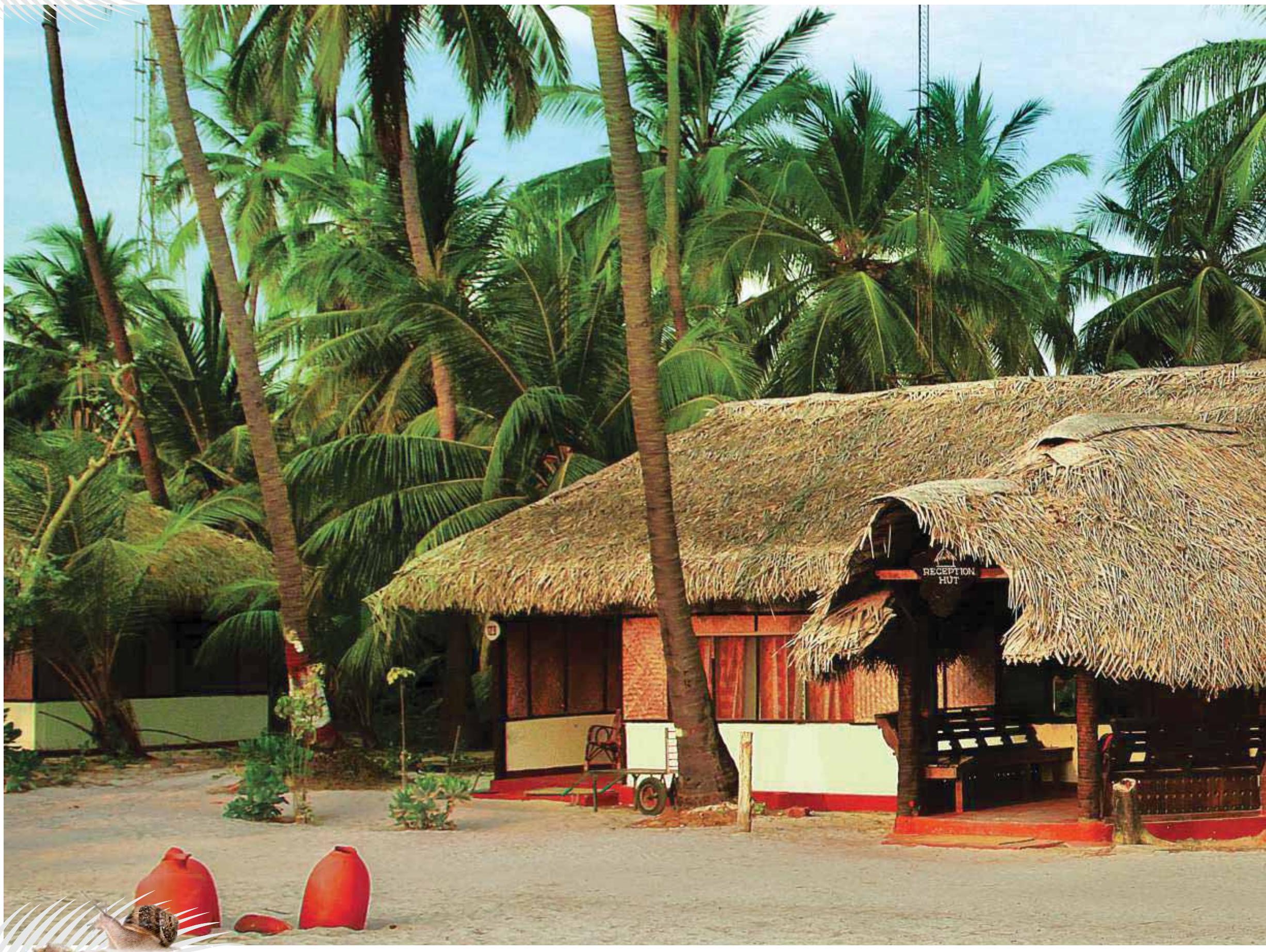


One aim, excellence





A destination for the new millennium





Beautiful one day, perfect the next

Flora and Fauna



What meet the eye at the first glance is the lush green tall Coconut trees. Coconut is the only commercial crop. Deep green shrubs like Kanni, Cholam, Chavok, Punna and Cheerani border the Coconut palms. Ipomea is a conspicuous ground runner. These prevent soil erosion to a great extent. The state tree is the Breadfruit tree. Cows, goats and ducks abound in farms and homesteads. There are no dogs or snakes in the islands. Crows are rare. Common seabirds are Taratashi (*sterna fuscate*) and Karifetu (*anus solidus*), the





former being the state bird. Most of them nest on Pitti, the island with a bird sanctuary. Apart from common forms of life, exotic kaleidoscopic underwater life is abundant and marvellous. Gracefully swimming from place to place are the butter fly fishes resembling butterflies in the underwater garden. Surgeonfishes of myriad hues, damsel fishes, porcupine fishes, puffer fishes, moray eels and octopus co-exist beautifully. Slow moving sea cucumbers, shelled mollusks, hermit crabs, lobsters and shrimps co-habit amongst the reefs. The mas-choorai (tuna) is the chicken of the sea for the islanders. Playful dolphins, turtles, rays and flying fishes are occasionally seen by keen observers.



What meets the Eye



Experience an unmatched underwater world



Escape completely



Sea mermaids at play



Bird island





International Tourists at Pitty Island



Shaking Hands with Water World

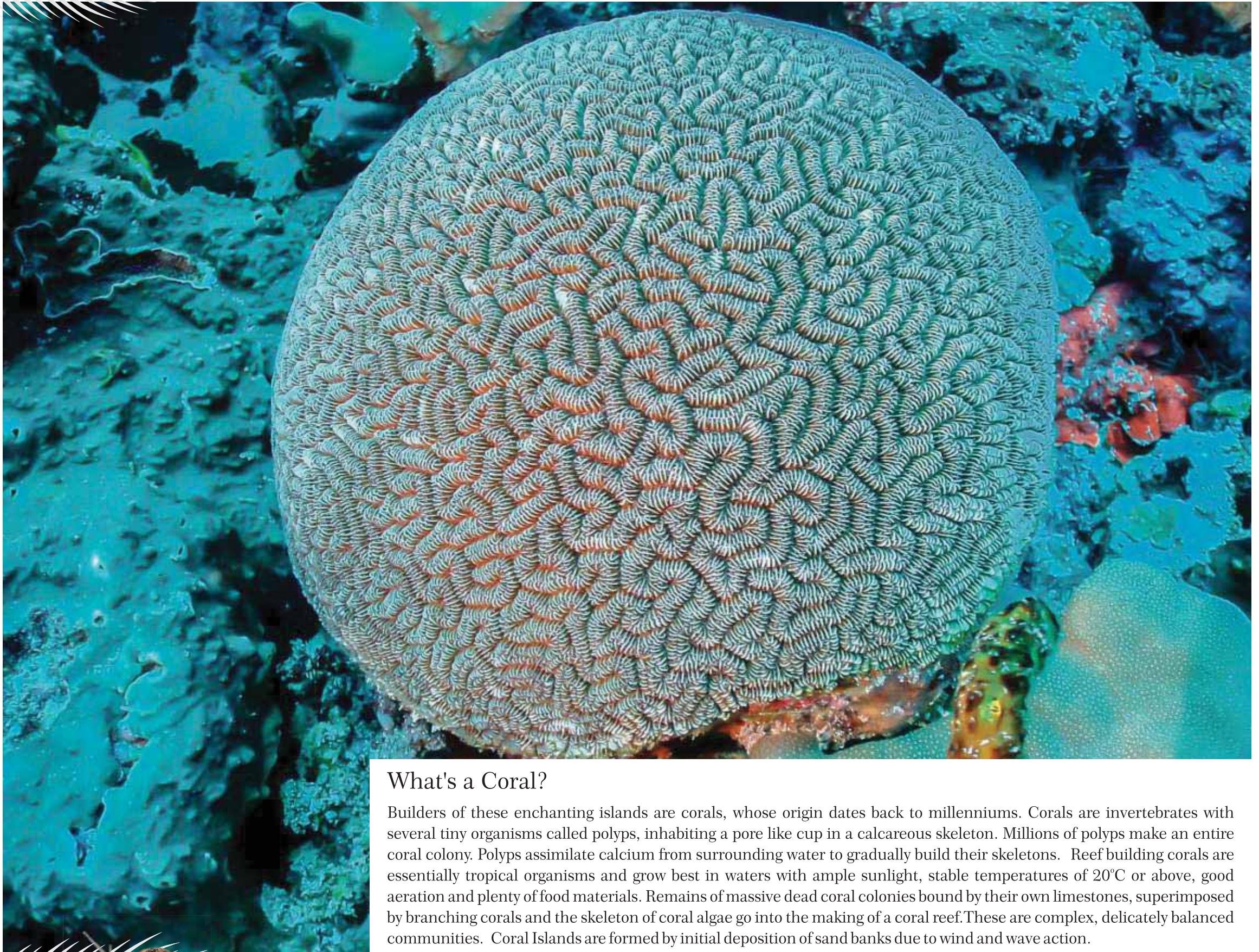


Starfish Habitat





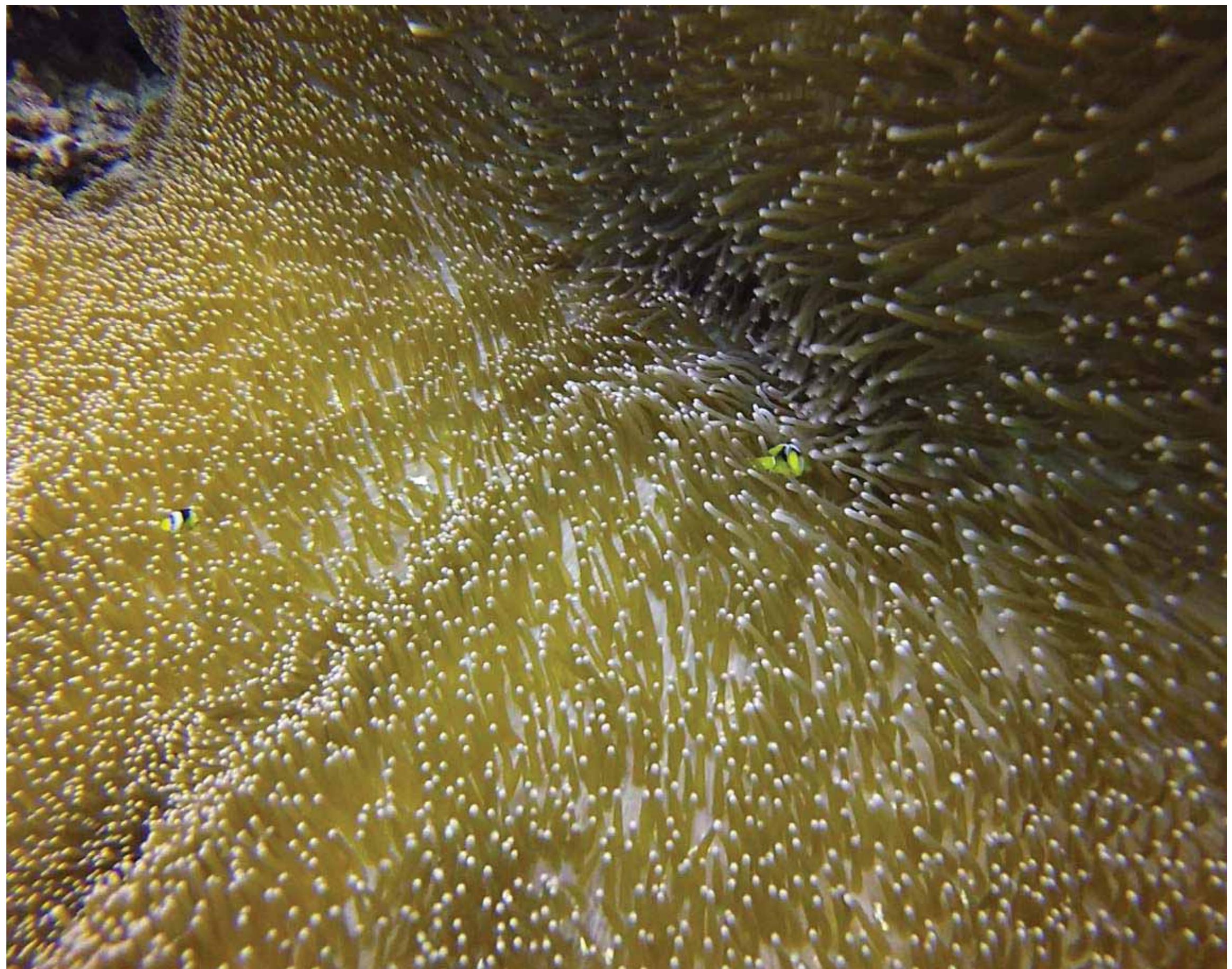
There's only one



What's a Coral?

Builders of these enchanting islands are corals, whose origin dates back to millenniums. Corals are invertebrates with several tiny organisms called polyps, inhabiting a pore like cup in a calcareous skeleton. Millions of polyps make an entire coral colony. Polyps assimilate calcium from surrounding water to gradually build their skeletons. Reef building corals are essentially tropical organisms and grow best in waters with ample sunlight, stable temperatures of 20°C or above, good aeration and plenty of food materials. Remains of massive dead coral colonies bound by their own limestones, superimposed by branching corals and the skeleton of coral algae go into the making of a coral reef. These are complex, delicately balanced communities. Coral Islands are formed by initial deposition of sand banks due to wind and wave action.

The mighty reef that withstands the combined might of tidal waves and storms is the lovely softbodied microscopic polyp. It has no differentiated head, respiratory, circulatory and excretory systems. The reef building corals survive only in shallow warm tropical waters and are distinguished by the symbiotic algae: Zoo-xanthalle and Ostreobium. Both these need sunlight for survival and the reef building occurs close to the surface and not deep down.



Spawning of Coral

Economy



The majority of the people depend on coconut and fish for occupation. The traditional industry revolves around tuna, coir, vinegar, jaggery and copra making. Although the boat building industry has suffered, the skills are still prevalent. The people of Kavaratti have



considerable skills as stone masons and carpenters. Coir based industry is one of the oldest areas of activity. Minicoy is an important center for tuna fishing and a tuna canning factory is located here. Rice is the staple food of the people. Generally the people are non-vegetarians. Coconut is widely used.





Gift from The Sea



Dry Tuna

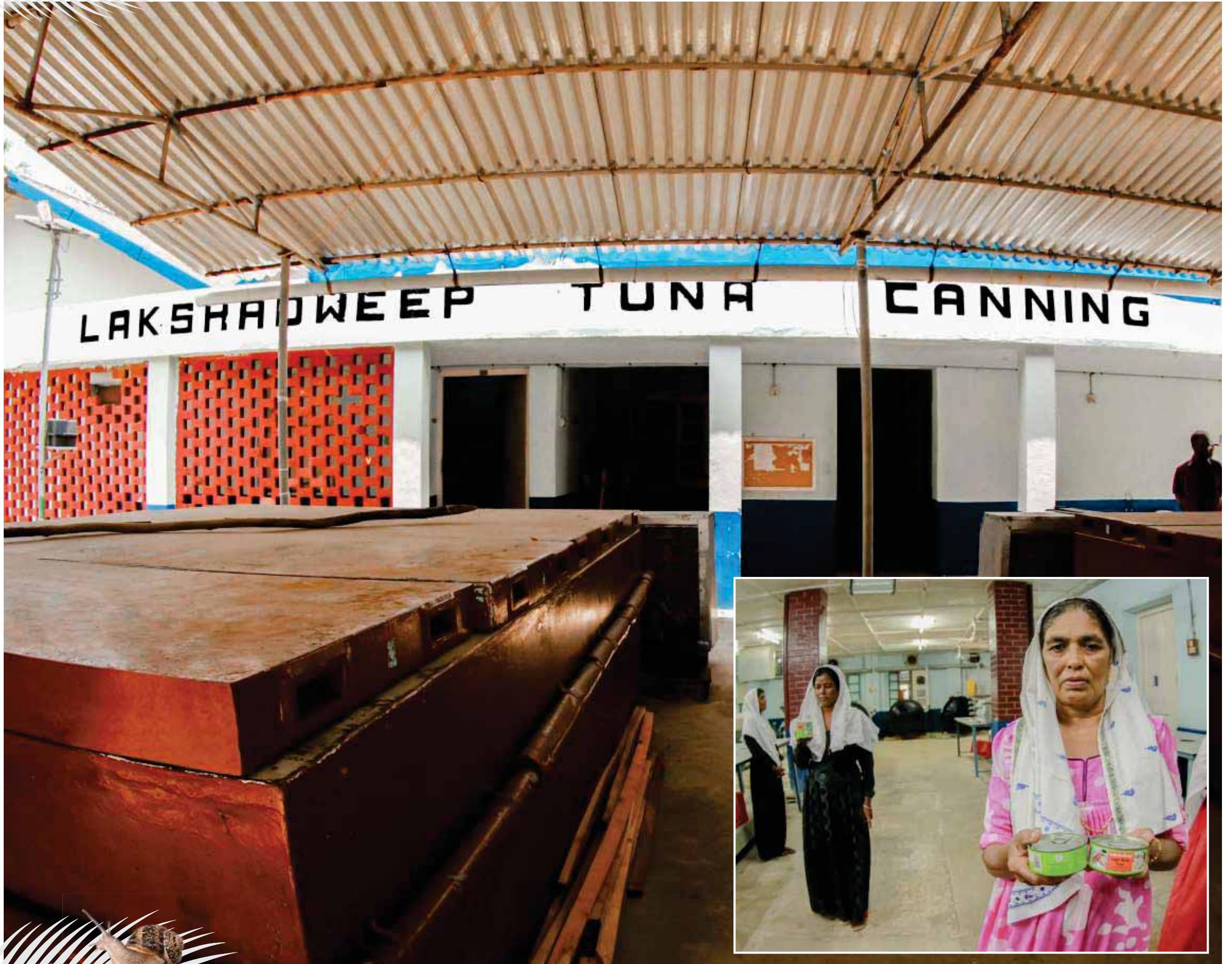


The value of experience





A Day's Catch



A tradition of excellence



Golden Coconuts





Coconut Plantation

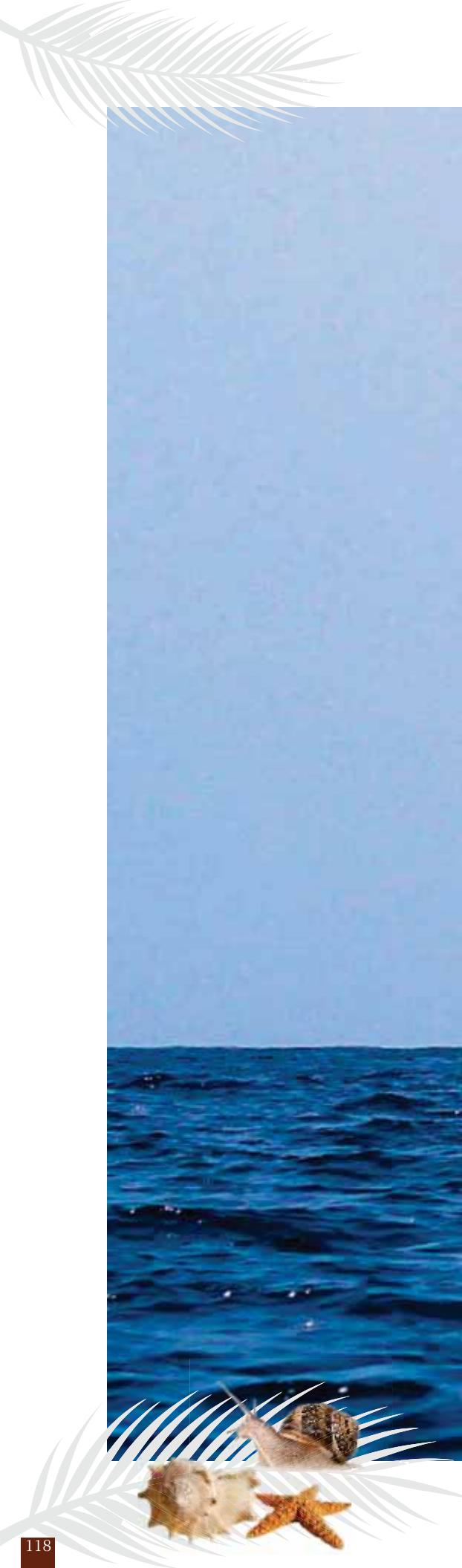


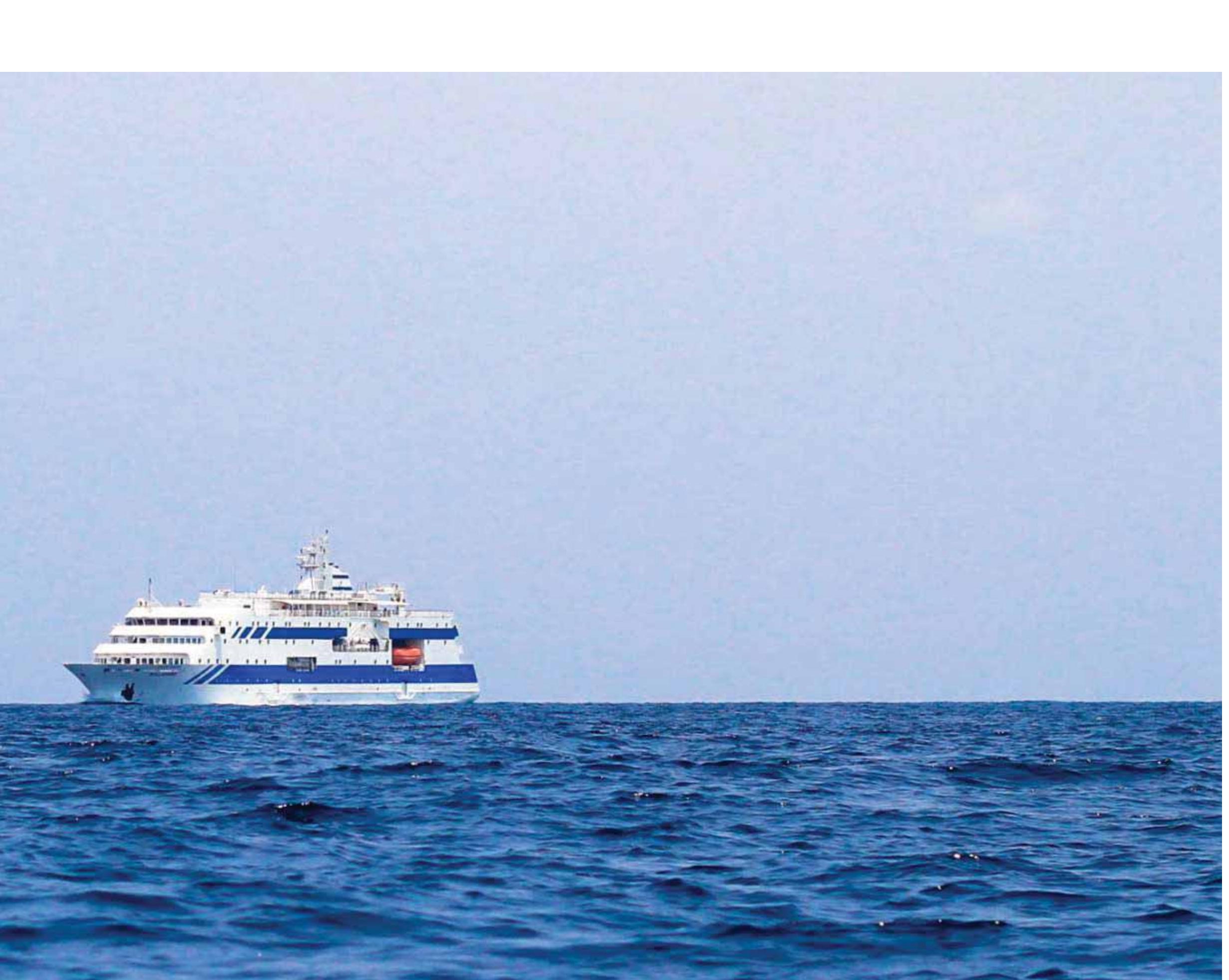
Transport by Sea

At present, M.V. Kavaratti, M.V. Minicoy, M.V. Amindivi, M.V. Lakshadweep Sea & Arabian Sea are operating in the mainland-island sector. Two inter-island ferry vessels provide connectivity between the islands except Minicoy Island with Kavaratti as base port. An ambulance helicopter service between the Islands is there, which maintains airline connects between Agatti Island and Kochi daily except on Sundays, and has been inducted into service.



Journey at its luxurious best





Journeys as great as the destinations



Transport by Air

At present, air services are provided to Lakshadweep by the nationalized carrier, Indian Airlines, which connects Agatti to Kochi.



Agatti Airport

and Bangalore. The aircraft deployed is usually the Dornier type (50 seater).









Pathways of Progress





Telecommunication Tower

Administration

Government and politics of Lakshadweep is dependent on the various bodies functioning in accordance to the government of the Union Territory. Lakshadweep is the smallest Union Territory of India. It is an archipelago consisting of thirty six islands. But people have settled in only ten of them. Lakshadweep elects only one member to the Lok Sabha. Lakshadweep (UT) is the only one Parliamentary constituency in Lakshadweep and is governed by an Administrator appointed by the President of India. The Administrator has power as the Inspector General of Lakshadweep Police, receiving the command and control of the Lakshadweep Police. Ten sub-divisions are there in the territory. In the Minicoy and Agatti islands the sub division is under a deputy collector while in the rest of the 8 islands, all development activities are coordinated by the sub divisional officers. The Collector, who is also the District Magistrate, and the Development Commissioner supervises all matters which come under the district administration. The District Magistrate is supported by 1 additional District Magistrate and 10 executive Magistrates for enforcing law and order. The district headquarter of this Union Territory is Kavaratti. The executive of Lakshadweep comprises of the head of Lakshadweep.



Inauguration of Coast Guard's Administrative Headquarter



Promotion of culture



Coastal Police : Guardians of the Lagoon



People's Sensitization





Enchanting Beach Sport



Getting better year by year

Joining the Nation in Republic Day Celebrations

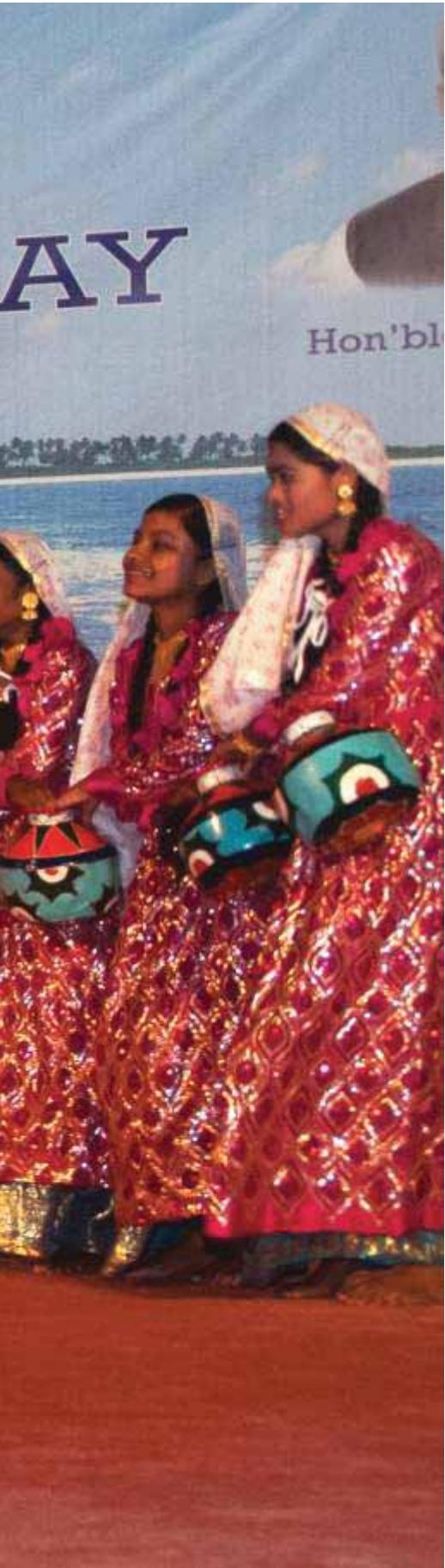










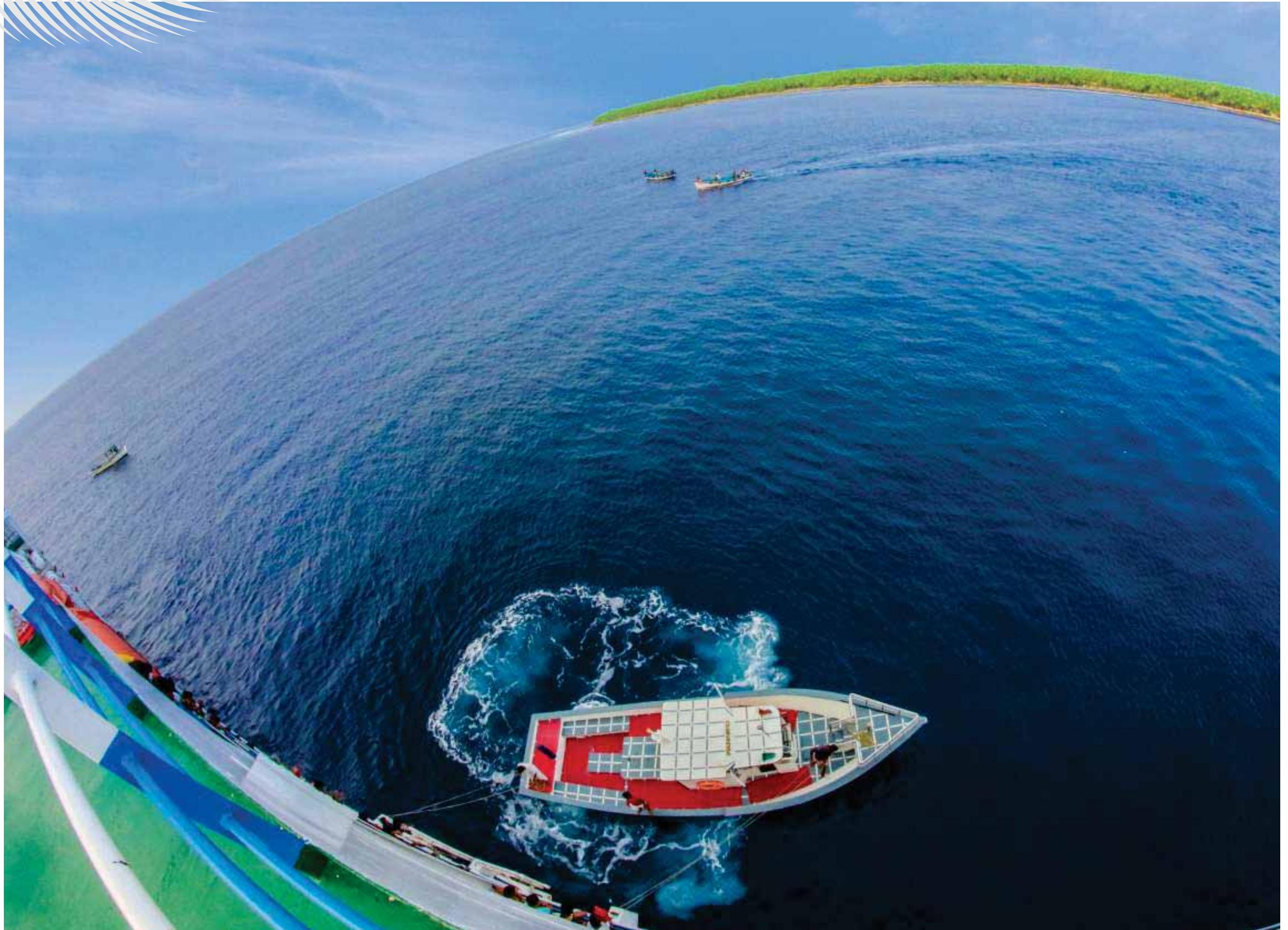




Lakshadweep is one of the world's most spectacular tropical island systems. Committed to the cause of Eco-tourism, Union Territory of Lakshadweep has consciously followed a middle path between tourism promotion and environmental conservation. The



Administration is carefully monitoring the environmental impact of coastal tourism and has taken steps to promote tourism in a way that is consistent with ecological concerns. Though all the islands are endowed with the beauty of coral reef, sandy beaches, unpolluted clear water and hospitable settings, most of these differ in terms of facilities and services.



offered. Some islands have been promoted for diving and water sports; still others have been developed so that people enjoy the charm of relaxation and natural enjoyment. The policies and guidelines prepared by the Union Territory of Lakshadweep to promote sustainable tourism under the theme "High Value, Low Volume Tourism" can be categorized into four groups.

- a. Impact on environment
- b. Impact on ecology



Inter-Island Ferry

c. Impact on local culture

The objectives and policies with regard to tourism promotion are looked after by the Tourism Department and a society named Society for Promotion of Nature Tourism and Sports (SPORTS), which is the tourism promotion agency of Lakshadweep Administration.



Coral Paradise

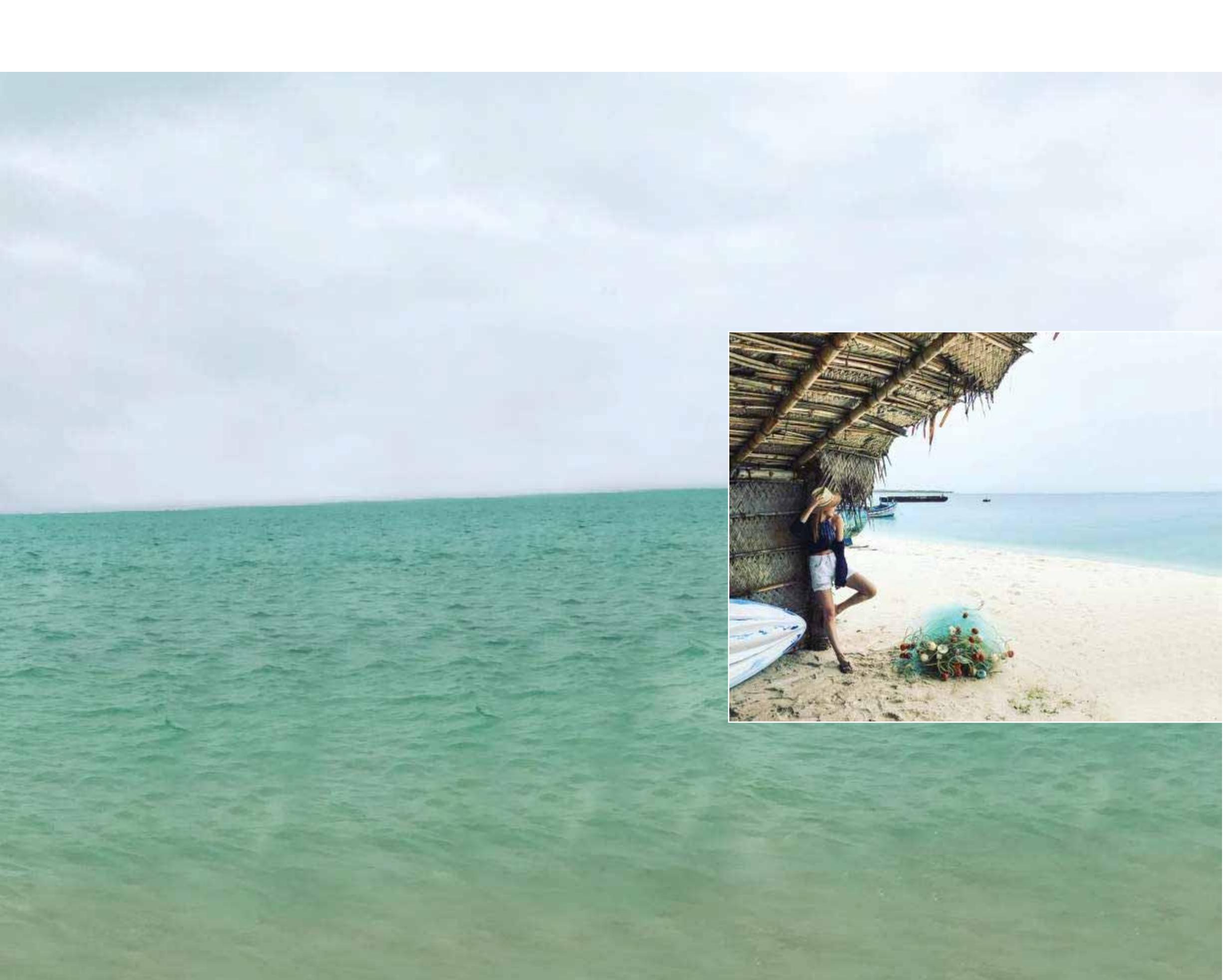






Enjoy ultimate solitude and serenity





One with Nature

Minicoy

Located 398 kms. from Cochin it is about 10.6 kms. Long. It is the second largest island, the first being Andrott. It is the southern most islands in Lakshadweep, crescent shaped and has one of the largest lagoons. Viringili is the small islet that can be seen on the south. Minicoy is set apart from the northern group of islands by its culture; the islanders are employed as seamen in ocean going vessels the world over. The island has a systematically arranged village system known as 'Avah' Each Avah is a cluster of houses which is headed by an elected elderly man called Bodukaka. Traditionally all powers to manage village affairs are vested in him. Each village has a village house beautifully decorated and maintained. Mahl is the spoken language in the island. Minicoy is an important centre for tuna fishing. The Light House of the island is one of the oldest and was constructed in 1885. One can visit the villages, tuna cannning factory, the light house and go for a long drive through dense coconut groves and winding village roads. The beautiful calm lagoon forms an ideal spot for water sports. The beaches have bathing huts and change rooms.





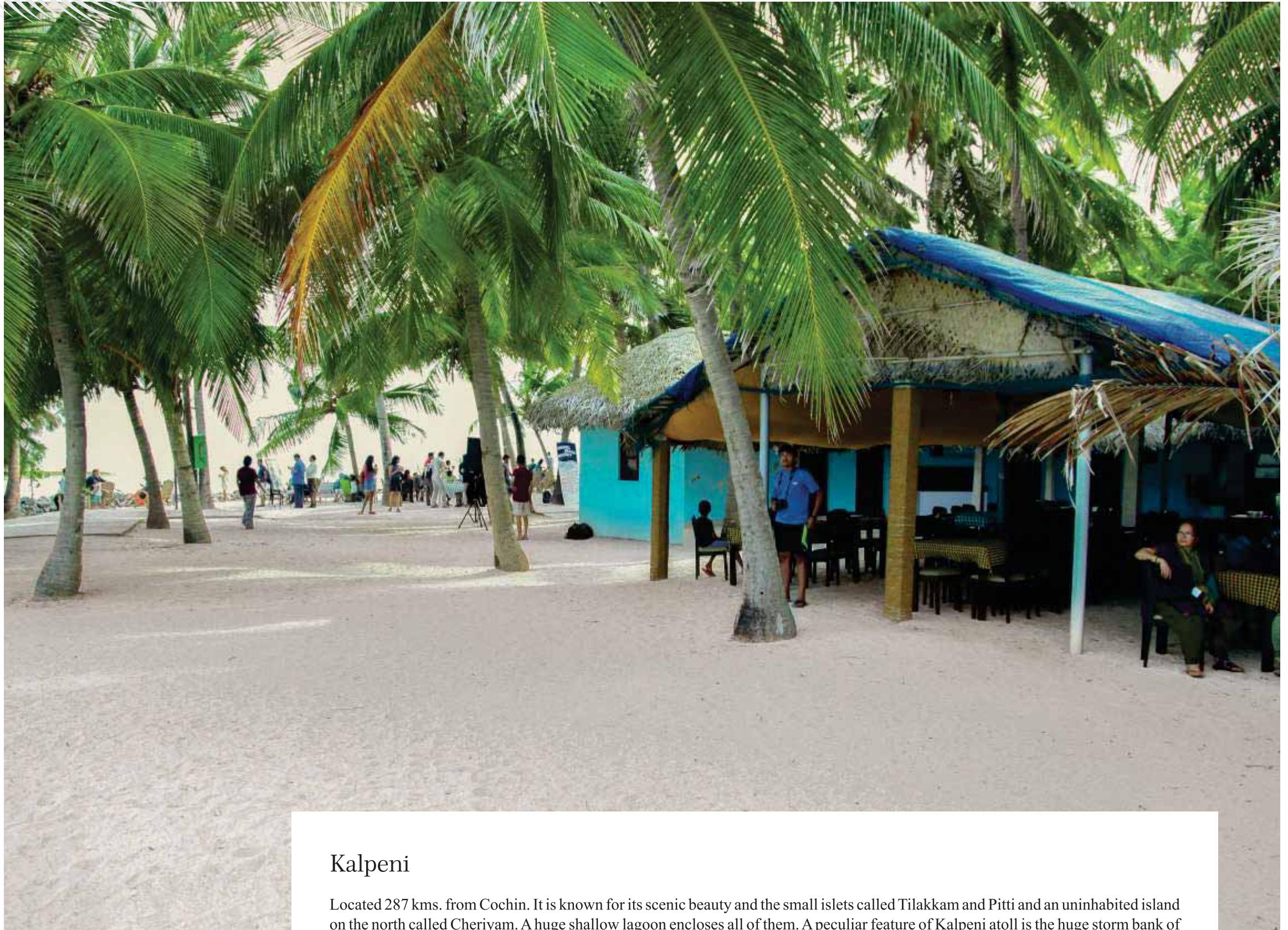
Experience variety



Traditional 'Jhadhoni in action' : National Minicoy Fest



Famous Annual Boat Race : National Minicoy Fest



Kalpeni

Located 287 kms. from Cochin. It is known for its scenic beauty and the small islets called Tilakkam and Pitti and an uninhabited island on the north called Cheriyam. A huge shallow lagoon encloses all of them. A peculiar feature of Kalpeni atoll is the huge storm bank of coral debris along the eastern and south-eastern shorelines. It is believed that huge boulders were thrown up during a storm in 1847. It is a progressive island. It was in this island that girls first went to school, when women's education was considered a taboo. Here, one can swim, reef-walk or water sport on kayaks, sail boat and pedal boat. Water sports crafts are given on hire; two bathing huts with change-rooms are available at Koomel Beach Resort. A visit to the Baniyan Factory and the Light House is also included in the day's program. Kalpeni is part of Samudram package of SPORTS.



Agatti

Located 459 kms. from Cochin. 6 kms. Long and 1000 mts width. In Agatti, coral growths and multi coloured coral fishes abound in its lagoons. The climate of the island is hot when compared to the islands in the rest of the group. Fishing is the most important industry of Agatti, which is perhaps the only island besides Minicoy getting surplus tuna fish. Next to fishing, coir and copra are the main industries. Agatti is the airport stopover from Cochin and Bengaluru.



Thinnakara

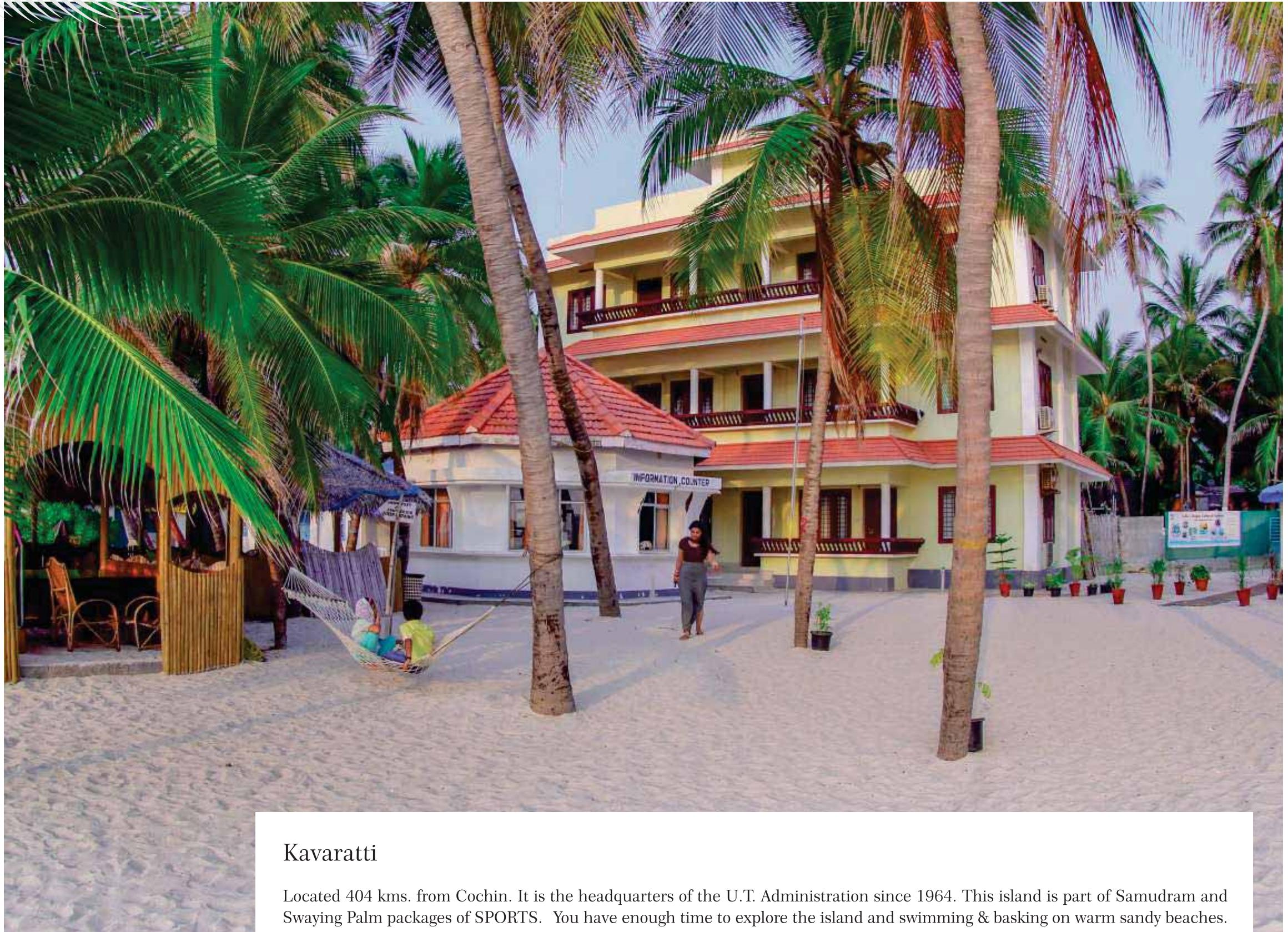
Thinnakara Island is situated just on the opposite side of Bangaram Island and shares the vast lagoon and coralline banks. The panorama encompasses magnificent lagoons, sylvan sea shores, sun drenched sand and the enchantment of swaying palms, spectacular marine flora and fauna.





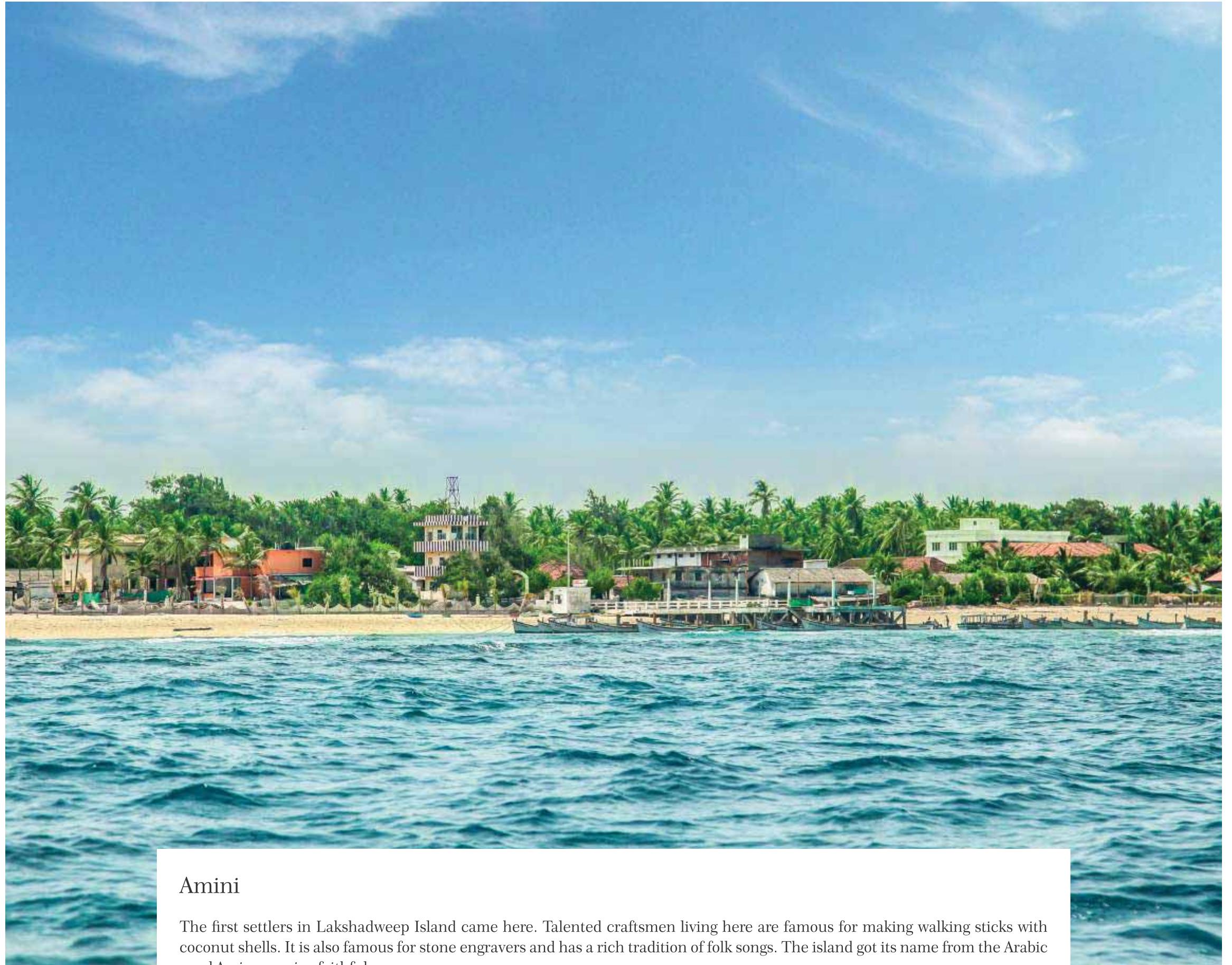
Bangaram

Located 459 kms. from Cochin. Climate: Warm round the year. Rainfall is limited and the temperature during the monsoons is 25 – 27 o C. A bewitchingly beautiful and breathtaking island in the Lakshadweep, Bangaram is un-inhabited. It is surrounded by a shallow lagoon enclosed by coral reef. It has been ranked among the best getaways of the world. Here the harmony of the sun, sand and surf casts a spell on the visitor. It offers utmost privacy unpolluted comfort with crystal clear water. Sparkling coral reef and blue lagoon perform magic on the soul-searching traveller. It's a place where a Hemingway would create a classic or a Van Gogh would paint a masterpiece. And who knows the muse may inspire one to create too. A matchless sense of well being takes over and one begins to discover the graceful fishes, porcupines, parrots, puffer fishes, hermit crabs and sea birds on the vast 120 acres of lush coconut groves in Bangaram. There are numerous adventures like scuba diving, beach games, swimming, snorkelling and deep sea fishing. The resort has 60 bedded beach cottages with a multi cuisine restaurant serving myriad delicacies. A well stocked bar is also available. Agatti is the gateway to Bangaram and is linked to Cochin and Bengaluru for onward flights to metros.



Kavaratti

Located 404 kms. from Cochin. It is the headquarters of the U.T. Administration since 1964. This island is part of Samudram and Swaying Palm packages of SPORTS. You have enough time to explore the island and swimming & basking on warm sandy beaches. Marine life exhibits can be seen at the new Marine Aquarium which has an excellent collection of specimens. Do not bother if you are not a good swimmer, we have made viewing the exotic underwater world easier for you through our glass bottomed boats. Kayaks and sailing yachts are available on hire. The Lakshadweep Dive Academy is another attraction for water sports enthusiasts. Tourists availing 'Taratashi' package to Kavaratti stay in the tourist huts at the tourist complex. One can visit Kavaratti in Samudram and Taratashi packages of SPORTS.



Amini

The first settlers in Lakshadweep Island came here. Talented craftsmen living here are famous for making walking sticks with coconut shells. It is also famous for stone engravers and has a rich tradition of folk songs. The island got its name from the Arabic word Amin meaning faithful.



Kadmat

Located 407 kms. from Cochin Land Area: 8 kms. long and 550 mts. wide at the broadest point. It has a very large lagoon on the western side with abundant coral growth. Long sandy beaches and excellent water sport facilities are the stellar attractions here. In addition to the beautiful shallow lagoon on the west that forms an ideal spot for water sports, there is a narrow lagoon on the east. Kadmat has been identified for staying tourists with its tourist huts aesthetically situated in the coconut palm groves in the beaches facing the lagoon. The place is ideal for a real holiday that takes one away from the maddening crowd, hustle and bustle of city life. Under Marine Wealth Awareness Programme, one can spend 3 - 4 days enjoying sea breeze and moonlit beach. Water sports crafts like kayaks, pedal boats, sailing yachts, skiing boats and glass bottomed boats are available on hire. The Scuba Diving Centre in the island has become an attraction for water-sport enthusiasts. The island resort is managed by SPORTS. The fragile nature of the islands comes from their dependence on the atolls and reefs. The survival of these islands is dependant fully on the health of the long stretch of corals.



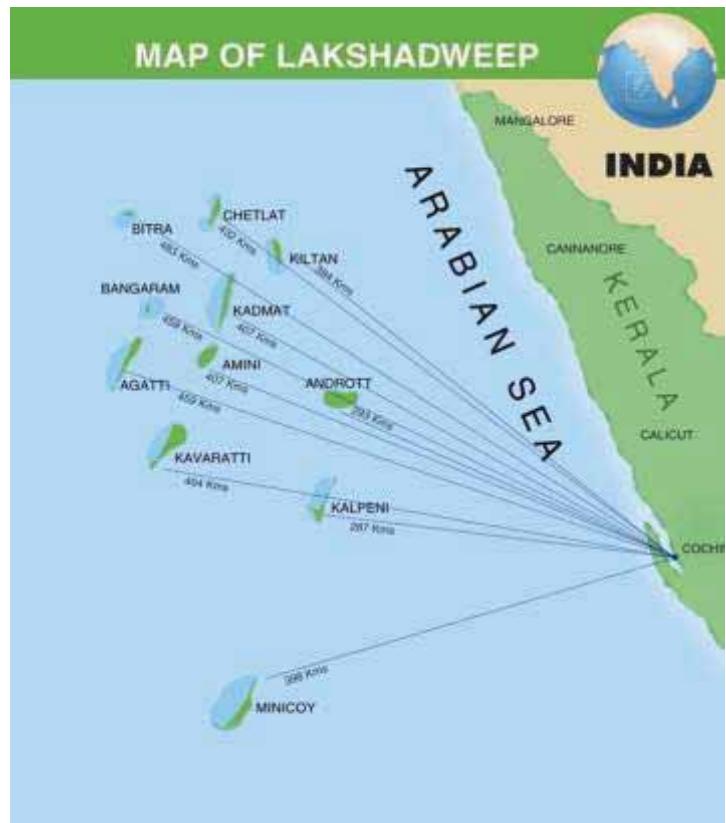
Current Accommodation Status

Bangaram - 60 Beds Traditional Huts

Kadmat - 68 Beds-Super Deluxe/Deluxe/Standard

Minicoy - 44 Beds-Super Deluxe/Deluxe/Standard

Kavaratti - 26 Beds Deluxe







A relaxing evening

Tourist Packages

Nature is so well preserved on these islands that it is a perfect place for all kinds of travelers. The quality of seafood on the islands is exceptionally good. Most experienced divers rate Lakshadweep as one of the most virgin places to go diving and swear by the quality of the experience. If you want a laid back vacation than Palm fringed and silver colored crescent shaped sea beaches and endless expanse makes this destination one of the most visited places of India. The green islands almost shine bright in the clear blue sea. The presence of the coral sand makes them more attractive. The state includes both inhabited (around 10 of them) as well as uninhabited islands. This group of islands has lately become one of the most popular tourist destinations of India. The scenic beauty of the emerald green islands attracts many tourists every year. There is a wide option for enjoying different water sports, like Scuba diving, Yachting, Pedal boating, Kayaking, Canoeing, Swimming, Snorkeling, etc. in the waters of the surrounding sea. One may also visit local houses, Marine museum, Light House and a few local industries. SPORTS (Society for promotion of Nature Tourism and Sports) have been recognized as a nodal agency for the promotion of tourism in Lakshadweep and it operates a number of tourist packages to the islands of Minicoy, Kalpeni and Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.

Some of the tour packages offered by SPORTS (Society for promotion of Nature Tourism and Sports) include –

- '**Incredible islands'** a package covering Agatti, Kadmat and Kavaratti islands from Kochi twice a week, connecting Kochi - Agatti - Kadmat and Kochi - Agatti - Kavaratti by flight and speedboat. Kochi to Agatti by flight and by speedboat from Agatti-Kadmat or Kavaratti.
- '**Lakshadweep Samudram**' is a five-day cruise to visit the islands of Kavaratti, Kalpeni and Minicoy by ship- M.V Kavaratti.
- '**Coral Reef**' is a Five-day cruise to visit any of the three islands of Kavaratti, Kalpeni, Minicoy and Kadmat by ship- MV Arabian Sea. The island tour is organized during the day with lunch and refreshments ashore. Nights are spent aboard the ship.
- '**Swaying Palm**' is a six/seven days tour to Minicoy. Tourists are accommodated in exclusive A/C cottages and other individual cottages built on the beachfront.
- '**Marine Wealth Awareness Programme**' covers a 4 -7 days package to Kadmat to experience the richness and beauty of the marine life.
- '**Taratashi**' offers a package to visit Kavaratti - the administrative capital of Lakshadweep and a four/five days stay on the island.
- '**Week End Package**' is a one day excursion package to Kalpeni Island.





Enjoy peace and tranquillity



The Young Explorer



The budding divers



Best Time to Visit

September to April is the best season to visit the islands and most of the ship based tour packages are conducted at this time of the year.



year. The monsoon season ranges from mid-May to August end.

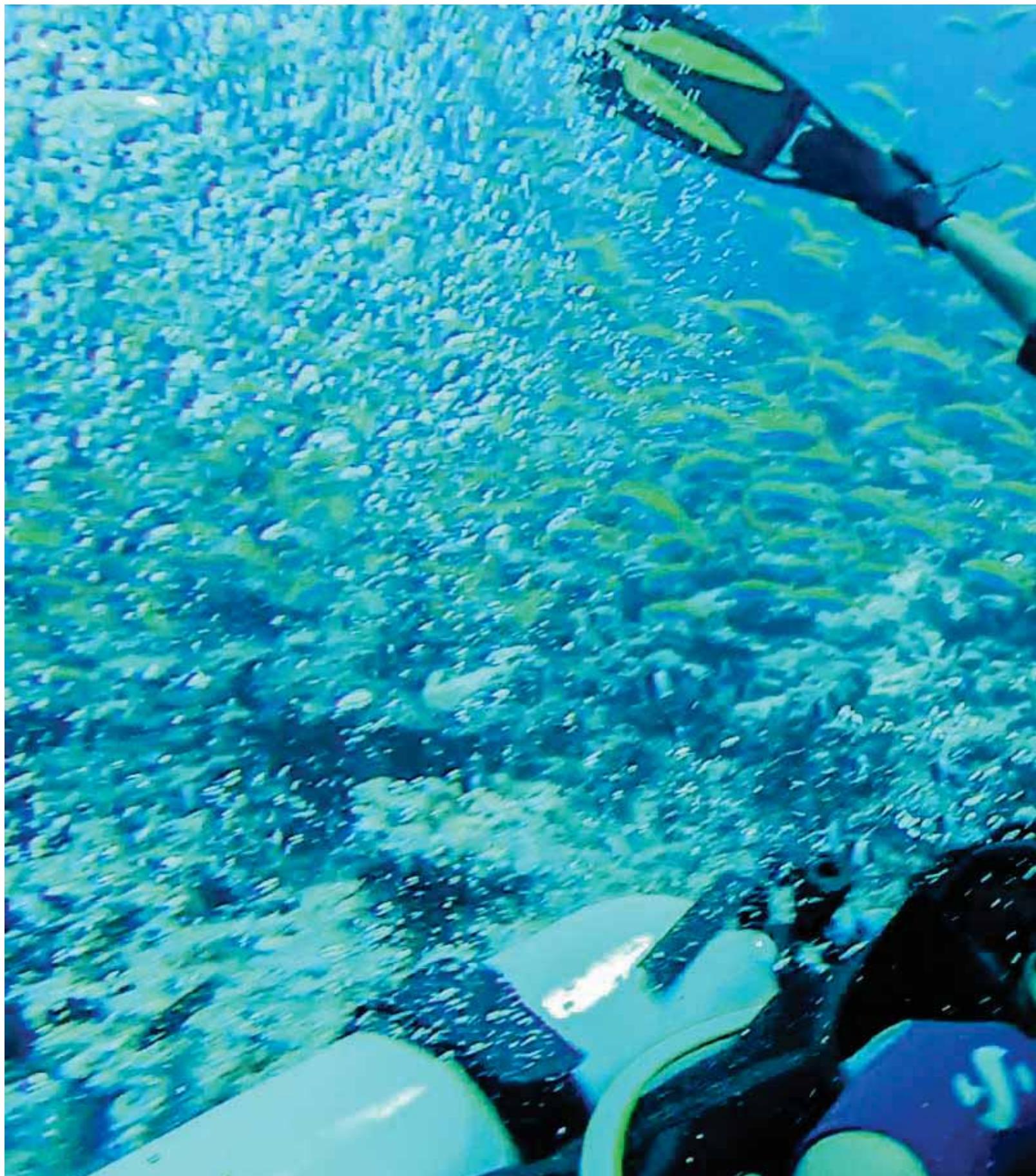
Scuba Diving

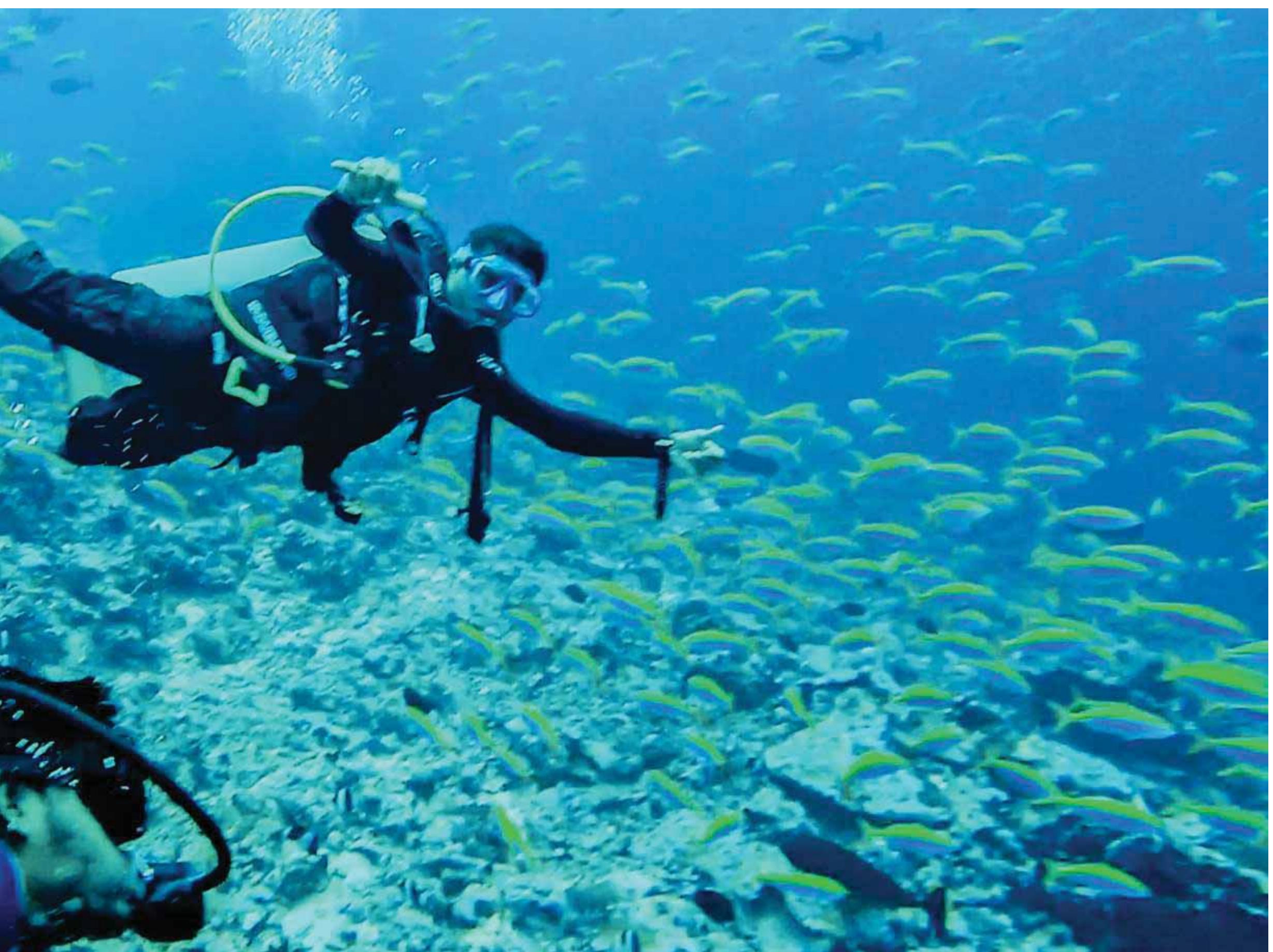
Lakshadweep Diving Academy: The growing popularity of scuba diving as a global adventure sport was just the impetus needed for the Lakshadweep Diving Academy (LDA) to initiate a professional academy in the islands. The LDA was established in 2012 and immediately affiliated itself to PADI (Professional Institute of Diving Instructors), the world's largest and most popular international diver training organization. LDA has PADI affiliated Dive Centres in Kadmat, Kavaratti, Kalpeni, Minicoy and Bangaram.

Following courses are offered in the Academy:

1. Open water Diving Course
2. Advanced Open Water Course
3. Rescue Courser (EFR)
4. Dive Master Course
5. Dive Instructor

The adventure sport of scuba diving is prevalently practiced in the islands of Lakshadweep. The beach resorts in the islands of Kadmat, Bangaram, Kavaratti and Minicoy have provisions required to participate in the sport. The crystal blue waters of the lagoons entices the tourists to participate in the adventurous water sport that reveals the live coral reefs and the different species of the multi-hued fishes that abound in the region in plenty. The underwater marine life is best enjoyed in the deep sea practice of scuba diving in Lakshadweep.





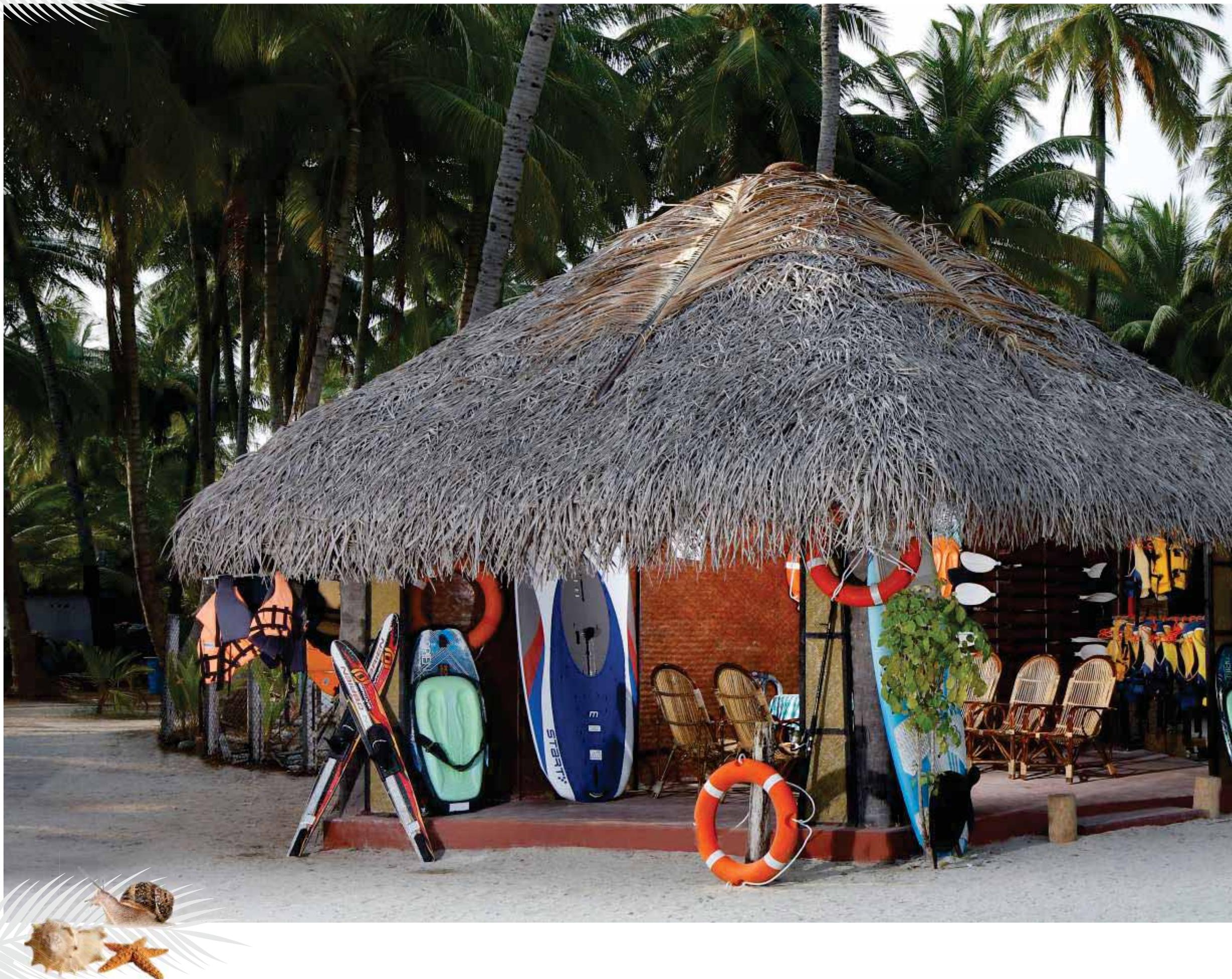


Other Adventure and Water Sports Activity

Lakshadweep with its vast lagoon around all the islands has emerged as a water sport destination in the country. Understanding the potential of water sports Department has been striving to make these islands a prime water sports destination not only within the country but throughout the world. As such, the Department has been concentrating on developing the water sports facilities.



While developing these facilities fragile ecology of these islands have been taken into consideration and only non intrusive water sports are encouraged. Another feature of water sports in Lakshadweep is the development of high yielding adventure water sports like scuba diving and para sailing, etc. One can do scuba diving, kayaking, Speed Boating, Lagoon Fishing, snorkelling, water skiing and much more. Coral gazing is a must if you visit the islands. The presence of blue sea water all around the islands provides the tourists with an excellent opportunity to engage in adventure sports and water sports activities in Lakshadweep





Surf, Sand and Sunny rays



Snorkeling





Exploring The Unexplored



Extreme Fishing : a great attraction for anglers from around the world



Napoleon Fish - Worth The Efforts



Kayaking



Wind surfing



Para Sailing



Sail Boats





Eat, drink and be happy



Roaming Baby Turtle





Ride with Dolphins



The heartland of island tourism



Golden sunset





Flying Visitor





Dream, Discover, Explore





Prefect place for renewing vows



An International Cruise Ship visiting Lakshadweep









Relaxing on Pristine White Sand Beach



Flirting the Sea



Beach Walk





Agatti Beach



Dream Beach



Shell Life on Sand





Island Calling

*With compliments
from*



Department of Tourism Development

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