

Tourist arrested for visiting forbidden Indian island

7th April 2025



Indian police have arrested an American tourist for allegedly travelling to a remote island to visit one of the world's most isolated tribes. The island, North Sentinel, is part of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago in the Bay of Bengal, around 1,200

km east of the Indian subcontinent. It is approximately 60 square kilometres in size. North Sentinel is a protected area and home to the Sentinelese people, an indigenous tribe who have fiercely defended their isolation from the outside world. The tourist made the prohibited journey to the island. He did not make contact with the islanders, but he did leave them a can of Diet Coke and a coconut. He could face up to five years in prison.

The Indian government has barred outsiders from visiting North Sentinel Island. This is to protect the unique Sentinelese way of life. It is also to shield the inhabitants from modern illnesses. A spokeswoman for a non-profit group that protects isolated tribes said: "It's very well known that uncontacted peoples have no immunity to common outside diseases like flu or measles, which could completely wipe them out." Survival International said the Sentinelese are "the most isolated indigenous people in the world." In the past few decades, the islanders have killed several people who have attempted to visit the island. The recently arrested tourist described himself as a "thrill seeker".

Sources: cnn.com / yahoo.com / dw.com

Writing

We need to do all we can to protect isolated tribes. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

police / arrested / remote island / tribes / archipelago / subcontinent / isolation / can / outsiders / unique / inhabitants / diseases / flu / the past few decades / thrill seekers

True / False

- 1) Indian police arrested a tourist on a remote island. T / F
- 2) North Sentinel Island is 1,200 km west of India. T / F
- 3) North Sentinel Island is about 60 km² in size. T / F
- 4) The tourist left a can of coconut-flavoured cola on the island. T / F
- 5) The flu and measles could kill all of the people on North Sentinel Island. T / F
- 6) The North Sentinelese are the world's most isolated indigenous people. T / F
- 7) Several people who visited the island were killed. T / F
- 8) The tourist said he wasn't interested in excitement. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. arrested | a. resistance to |
| 2. isolated | b. native |
| 3. archipelago | c. forbidden |
| 4. indigenous | d. population |
| 5. prohibited | e. island chain |
| 6. unique | f. excitement |
| 7. inhabitants | g. apprehended |
| 8. immunity | h. preceding |
| 9. past | i. remote |
| 10. thrill | j. special |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What would you like to know about the Sentinelese people?
- c) What are the advantages of living in an isolated place?
- d) Where is the most remote place you've been to?
- e) Would you rather live on a remote island or in a big city?
- f) What do you think will happen to the island in the future?
- g) How much of a thrill seeker are you?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the tourist?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. a remote | a. 60 square kilometres in size |
| 2. It is approximately | b. them out |
| 3. an indigenous tribe who have | c. up to five years in prison |
| 4. He did not make | d. outsiders |
| 5. He could face | e. from modern illnesses |
| 6. The Indian government has barred | f. island |
| 7. shield the inhabitants | g. seeker |
| 8. immunity to | h. contact with the islanders |
| 9. completely wipe | i. common outside diseases |
| 10. described himself as a thrill | j. fiercely defended their isolation |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of remote islands?
- Would you like to live on a small island?
- What do you think of isolated tribes?
- What should we do to protect isolated peoples?
- What do you think of the arrest of the tourist?
- What can we learn from people with no contact with the modern world?
- Why should the islanders be left alone?
- What do you think of the tourist leaving a can of Coke?

Spelling

- gllyaelde travelling to a remote island
- the Andaman and Nicobar arochilagep
- 1,200 km east of the Indian cubntnneotsi
- yralamipotxep 60 square kilometres in size
- an eudiosnig tribe
- the bopdheitir journey to the island
- protect the gniueu Sentinelese way of life
- shield the tntihbsanai from modern illnesses
- no ntimiyum to common outside diseases
- flu or mslesea
- the Sentinelese are the most lioasdet
- described himself as a llhtir seeker

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. i	3. e	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. a	9. h	10. f

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What kind of land mass is North Sentinel Island part of?
2.	How big is North Sentinel Island?
3.	From whom have the tribe defended themselves against?
4.	What did the tourist leave on the island besides a soft drink?
5.	For how long could the tourist end up in prison?
6.	What unique thing does India want to protect?
7.	What does India want to shield the Sentinelese from?
8.	What could completely wipe the Sentinelese out?
9.	How many people have died visiting the island in the past few decades?
10.	What did the tourist describe himself as being?

Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the best islands at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • Hawaii | • The Galapagos |
| • Fiji | • Tasmania |
| • Greenland | • Jamaica |
| • Madagascar | • Iceland |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.