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AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM OF RAMNAGAR BEACH, NORTH ANDAMAN

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Ramnagar beach in Diglipu, Andaman and Nicobar Island, is a stunning destination that's perfect for nature lovers and beach enthusiasts. Ramnagar beach is a tropical paradise that embodies the essence of serenity and natural beauty located approximately 35km from Diglipur and 97km from Mayabunder. Slowly being developed into an ecofriendly destination by the forest department the beach house open tree house to bask in the glory of Ramnagar surrounded by plant and coconut trees, the coast remains deserted most of the time and is best for those who seek some solitude. In comparison to other beaches, Ramnagar beach offers some of the most spectacular sunsets without any crowds. Crystalline water, accompanied by yellowish sand makes this landscape alluring. Benches, eco-huts, and log sofas have been set up on the coast where nearby trees provide plenty of shades, for visitors to relax and take in the views.

GEOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ramnagar beach situated in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands boasts remarkable geological diversity. The beach's unique landscapes are shaped by its location on the Indo-Australian tectonic plate boundary. The region's complex geological history has created a diverse array of rocks, including granite, gneiss, and schist, which form the foundation of the beach's rugged shoreline. The beach itself is composed of fine to coarse-grained sand, peppered with shells, pebbles, and coral fragments.

BEACH MORNING GLORY

Ipomoea pes-caprae

Ipomoea pes-caprae, also known as bayhops, bay haps, beach morning glory, railroad wine, or goat's foot, is a common pantropical creeping vine.

Creeping vine: *Ipomoea pes-caprae* is a type of vine that spreads along the ground, often forming dense mats.

Fleshy leaves: The plant has thick, fleshy leaves with a distinctive shape, resembling a goat's footprint.

Purple flowers: It produces funnel-shaped flowers in shades of pink, purple, or white.

HABITAT

Coastal areas: *Ipomoea pes-caprae* is commonly found in coastal regions, including beaches, dunes, and rocky shores.

Tropical and Subtropical regions: The plant thrives in warm, tropical and Subtropical climates.

USES

Medicinal purposes: In some cultures, *Ipomoea pes-caprae* is used to treat various ailments, including inflammation and skin conditions.

Ornamental plants: Its attractive flowers and unique leaves make it a popular choice for ornamental gardens.

QUEEN SAGO

Scientific name: *Cycas circinalis*

Common name: Queen sago palm, Fern palm

Mature size: 3-5 m

Sun exposure: Past shade to full sunlight

Cycas circinalis, also known as the queen sago is a species of cycad known in the wild only from southern India. *Cycas circinalis* is the only gymnosperm species found among native Sri Lanka flora. It is a larger and more common sago palm.

Ancient plant: Cycads like Queen sago have been around since the Mesozoic era, often referred to as "living fossils".

Palm-like appearance: Queen sago has a distinctive palm-like appearance with large, pinnate leaves.

Toxic seeds: The seeds of Queen sago are toxic if ingested without proper processing.

USES

Ornamental plant: Queen sago is often used as an ornamental plant in gardens and landscapes.

Food sources: In some cultures, the seeds are processed to make them edible, providing a source of nutrition.

PANDANAS TREE

Scientific name: *Pandanus tectarius*

Leaves: Long, narrow and green

Fruit: Colourful, grey and black

Height: 10-15m

Habitat: Ramnagar beach

Importance: Food source for local wildlife

Pandanasa trees are a notable feature on Ramnagar beach, adding to its natural beauty. These trees grow up to 10-15m tall, with long, narrow and green leaves. The trees growing glory leaves, fruit, which is an essential food source for local wildlife.

Screw-like leaves: Pandanus trees have long, narrow arranged leaves in a spiral pattern, resembling a screw.

Aerial roots: Some Pandanus species develop aerial roots, which help support the plant.

Fruit: Pandanus trees produce fruit that can be edible, like the Kewra or Keyra fruit.

USES

Pandanus has multiple uses, which is dependent in part on each type.

Craft: Some Pandanus other provide raw materials for clothing, basket weaving and shelter, handicraft.

Traditional Medicines: Different parts of the Pandanus tree are used in traditional medicine for various purposes.

Food: Pandanus fruit is used in various cuisines, particularly in Southeast Asian and Pacific Island cultures.

SEA TURTLES

Heart shaped carapace: Olive Ridleys have an Olive green, heart shaped shell, typically growing up to 2.5 feet in length and weighing around 100 pounds.

Distinctive scutes: They have four pairs of pore bearing inframarginal scutes on the bridge and up to nine lateral scutes per side.

Habitat and Migration

Tropical and warm waters: Olive Ridleys inhabit the Pacific , Indian and Atlantic Oceans, Migrating thousands of miles to reach their breeding grounds.

True nesting: During the winter season from December to March , Ramnagar beach is a nesting ground for turtles. You can witness the nesting and hatching of turtles visit during this time.

It is a protected area for Olive ridley turtles, and visitors can witness these magnificent creature nesting on the beach.

Conservation Status

Vulnerable: Listed as vulnerable under IUCN, their populations have declined by over 30% due to habitat loss, pollution and fishing related mortality.

