



Bitra Island

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The **government** has initiated the **acquisition of Bitra Island** in [Lakshadweep](#) for **defence purposes**.

Bitra Island:

- **About:** It is the smallest inhabited island in the **Union Territory of Lakshadweep**.
- **Geography and Location:** Situated at **11°36'N, 72°11'E**, Bitra lies about **483 km (261 nautical miles)** from **Kochi**, the gateway to Lakshadweep.
 - It is part of the **Aminidivi subgroup** and spans **0.57 km in length** and **0.28 km** at its widest.
- **Climate :** The **climate of Bitra** closely resembles that of **Kerala**.
 - **Hot period: March to May**, temperatures range from **25°C to 35°C**.
 - **Annual Rainfall: 1600 mm**.
- **Lagoon and Marine Ecosystem:** It is surrounded by a vast **lagoon area of 45.61 sq km**, supporting rich **marine biodiversity**.
- **Population and Lifestyle:** As per the [2011 census](#), it has a **population of 271**, mostly dependent on **fishing** and **coconut cultivation**.
- **Strategic Significance:** Bitra is **strategically located** near major **shipping lanes** and is set to host a **defense establishment**, complementing **naval bases** at **Kavaratti** ([INS Dweeprakshak](#)) and **Minicoy** ([INS Jatayu](#)).



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