



Comfort and wilderness - one week itinerary

Socotra is a paradise island perfectly positioned between the Arabic sea and the Indian ocean. It features sandy beaches, rocks and cliffs, dunes, desert and forests with unique endemic plants and trees on the mountains. Its pristine waters host an unimaginable variety of marine life including turtles, dolphins and it is one of world's premier fishing destinations.

Take daily trips from the best comfortable hotel of Socotra to explore the most hidden sites of the island: combine relax and adventure in the same holiday.

Highlights:

- ◆ Homhil and Diksam plateau - home of the famous *dragoon blood trees*. Homhil has a landscape as from a prehistoric movie, while Diksam is framed with the breath taking mountain range of Hagier.
- ◆ Detwah lagoon - one of the most charming places on Socotra with its turquoise water, strong waves and beautiful sand dunes.
- ◆ Shu'ab Beach - on the way you'll have the chance to enjoy close encounters with dolphins and cormorants

Day 1: Abu Dhabi - Socotra - Ayhaft canyon

Fly from Abu Dhabi to Socotra. Upon your arrival in Socotra, you will be transferred to the hotel in Hadibo to acclimatise and have some lunch. We then head to Ayhaft canyon National Park where you can swim in fresh water pools and see a variety of endemic plants birds.

Overnight at SUMMERLAND hotel in Hadibo (LD).

Day 2: Hadibo - Dixam plateau - Shebahon viewpoint - wadi Dirhur/Firhmhim forest

Drive to Dixam plateau, the land of *dragon's blood trees*, an iconic symbol of the island. The gorge here drops 700 metres to the valley floor, and we walk along the edge to see the trees. The Shebahon viewpoint also provides a stunning view of the Daerhu canyon and beautiful rock formations. You will trek to the Firhmin forest, which is the last woodland comprised of *dragon's blood trees*. Nowhere else in the world can one find *dragon's blood trees* in such density. We then continue to Dirhur valley, with its lush canyon floor and deep wadi.

Overnight at SUMMERLAND hotel in Hadibo (BLD).



Day 3: Hadibo - Dihamri marine P/A - Homhil National Park

Drive to Dihamri, one of the richest coral reefs of the archipelago and an important marine reserve. Swim and snorkel in Dihamri bay, where you may be lucky enough to spot parrotfish, moray eel, rays and turtles. In the afternoon, drive to Homhil, home to beautiful deep ravines, frankincense trees and dragon's blood trees – the resin of which is collected and used by locals.

Overnight at SUMMERLAND hotel in Hadibo (BLD).

Day 4: Hadibo - Hog cave - Ras Ersel - Arher beach

Drive to Terbak village and hike up to Hog cave, with its crystal decorations, subterranean water supplies, underground animals and archaeological findings. In the afternoon, travel to Ras Ersel and Arher, a meeting point of fresh water from the mountains and salt water from the sea. Arher is home to another magnificent sand dune, which offers a truly spectacular view from the top.

Overnight at SUMMERLAND hotel in Hadibo (BLD).

Day 5: Hadibo - Daburk waterfull pools - wadi Kalisan - Momi plateau

Today we drive to the eastern plateau of Momi. At Daburk we will photograph an impressive waterfall and you will be able to swim in the pool. Next we drive to the Kalisan down to a wadi where we will meet a hermit who lives in a nearby cave. He will demonstrate how he calls his goats and he will show us how he milks them. Finally, we will drive to end of the Momi plateau for sunset views over the sea.

Located in the remote southeast corner of Socotra and surrounded by rolling hills and mountains, many of which also have *dragons blood trees*, Kalisan is an incredible water wadi made up of numerous fresh water swimming pools, waterfalls and rock formations. Momi plateau is a stunning site, home to Frankincense trees, cucumber trees, and bottle trees.

Overnight at SUMMERLAND hotel in Hadibo (BLD).

Day 6: Hadibo - wadi Defarhu - Zahek sand dunes – Omak - Digub cave

Drive through Defarhu valley, passing traditional villages, natural water pools, and a variety of birds and desert rose trees. Venture to the colossal sand dunes of Hayf and Zahek: these impressive dunes are pushed up against the mountainside and offer a stunning view at the top. We then make our way to Omak, where you can swim, sunbathe and relax in the clear Indian ocean waters. After lunch, we head to Digub cave which overlooks many traditional villages. Here, stalactites, stalagmites and pools of water have seeped into the rock over time.

Overnight at SUMMERLAND hotel in Hadibo (BLD).



Day 7: Hadibo – Qalansiya - Detwah lagoon - Shuaab bay

Today we head to Qalansiya, a small, traditional fishing town. Travel by boat to the remote beach at Shuaab; if we are lucky, Spinner dolphins may accompany us. Explore the mangrove area before heading back to Qalansiya to visit the Detwah lagoon. This marine protected area is truly magical, with beautiful white sands and turquoise waters.

Overnight at SUMMERLAND hotel in Hadibo (BLD).

Day 8: Socotra - Abu Dhabi

After an early breakfast, we leave the island behind and fly back to Abu Dhabi to connect with your onwards flight (B).

