

Socotra Advisor Tours Company
adventures with expert local guides



"Socotra in Slow Motion: Embracing Serenity Among Alien Landscapes" one week itinerary

Day 1: Socotra- Ayhaft National Park

You will take a Yemenia/Air Arabia flight to Socotra. We will pick you up at the airport and transport to an eco-lodge near the capital, Hadibo. After you refresh yourself we will take you for a trip to Ayhaft National Park. In the canyon (wadi), you will enjoy large fresh pools where you can swim or soak. All around you there will be tamarind trees, cucumber trees and a wide variety of birds such as Socotra sparrow, Socotra sunbird and both Socotra and Somali starlings. Ayhaft is a natural nursery due to its large abundance of endemic trees, plants and birds.

Dinner and night in Hadibo.

Day 2: Dixam plateau - Derhur canyon - Fermhin forest - Amaq sandy beach - Dagub cave - Zahaq and Hayf sand dunes

We will drive to Dixam plateau and gorge (Derhur canyon) which is definitely the most spectacular limestone landscape feature on the island. The gorge drops 700 m (2295 ft) vertically to the valley floor. We will walk along the edge of the gorge to see attractive stands of Dragon's Blood Trees and the extensive limestone pavement. Sections of the plateau have partially slipped into the gorge, leaving 'lost world' accessible only to buzzards and vultures.

The plateau is home to nomadic Bedouin herdsman who move from one site to another with their herds. We will be welcomed by them with a cup of tea, to observe their houses built into ledges where the plateau meets the gorge. The Firmin forest in Dixam is the last Dragon's Blood woodland. Nowhere else in the world can one find Dragon's Blood Trees in such densities as growing here. Local people will show us how they used to collect - and still collect on a smaller scale -the precious red resin of the trees. After Dixam Plateau, the road plunges 400 m (1312 ft) into a profound chasm slicing through the granite, giving a completely different atmosphere from the airy heights of the plateau. The lush canyon floor has been planted with palm trees, in the shade of which lay Bruce's Green Pigeons and Laughing Doves. We can refresh





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ourselves by swimming in the wadi's deep pool, escaping the midday heat.

In the afternoon, we head to the south, to Ameq sandy beach, where we can swim in the clear water of the Indian Ocean. Lunch at Dagub cave, which overlooks a scattering of traditional villages below. The cave has many stalactites, stalagmites and pools of water. We visit the colossal sand dunes of Hayf and Zahek, pushed up against the mountainside by the seasonal winds of Socotra.

Dinner and overnight at Amaq beach.

Day 3: Dihamri marine Protected Area

We will drive to Dihamri marine Protected Area. It boasts with one of the richest coral reefs on the archipelago. You can relax on the beach in palm leaf huts and swim and snorkel in Dihamri Bay. Snorkeling gear can be hired there. Marine species you will see underwater include: Parrotfish, Moray eel, Rays, Sea urchins; if you are lucky you will meet turtles. Divers can also use the services of Dihamri Diving center and go for a dive in Dihamri or another of superb diving spots of Socotra.

Dinner and Overnight in Dihamri campsite.



Day 4: Arher freshwater creek and beach

We will drive to Arher where a fresh creek coming out from granite massive is meeting sea water on the beach. You can relax on green grass around the creek, swim in the sea or if you feel fit you can climb a huge sand dune to get a fantastic view over this charming spot. Arher is one of the best spots for Paragliding and thus you can paraglide if you have your own paragliding equipment.

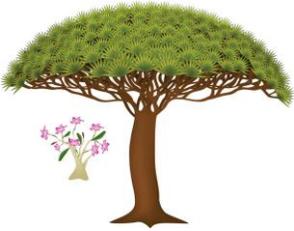
Dinner and overnight at Arher.



Day 5: Hoq cave – Homil terrestrial Protected Area

We will make an early start to drive to the base of Hoq cave in Terbak village. Before the sunshine gets too hot, we will walk up to the entrance of the cave. It is more than 3 km long with a water pool at the end and holds a wealth of Socotri history. Inside, you will see stalactites, stalagmites and crystalline formations. Ancient writings on the cave





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walls and also what appears to be a picture of an old trading ship have been preserved over the ages by a calcite glaze.

Our afternoon's destination is Homhil, a Protected Area with fabulous sceneries that give you a kind of prehistoric feeling. We will stop at Qaria lagoon en-route. It is the largest lagoon on the island and we will hopefully see flamingos, herons and greenshanks.

The trek to Homhil starts at the bottom of a spectacular ravine on the sea level. The trek is of medium difficulty and won't take more than 1,5 hours. You will have enough strength to enjoy the view back towards the sea where we have started ascending.

Once at Homhil, we can choose from a selection of walking trails. You will be astonished by the prehistoric atmosphere of the landscape rich with dragon blood trees and bottle trees. You will be addressed by local children who sell dragon blood raisin and frankincense. One of the trails leads to a viewpoint with a natural pool with almost freezing green and blue water.

Dinner and overnight will be camping at Homhil.



Day 6: Qalansia – Detwaha lagoon

We drive to the west of the island to a little fisherman's town of Qalansiya. It consists of traditional Socotri houses, narrow alleyways and a beach full of fishing boats ready to set off for today's catch or to take you to Shu'ab beach. We will continue to Detwah lagoon, a marine protected area renowned for its magic landscape. You will be charmed by a white sandy tongue surrounded by turquoise waters of the bay. You can swim there and enjoy the paradise. There is also an array of sea birds to be seen in the lagoon.

Dinner and overnight at Detwah.





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Day 7: Golden beach of Shu'ab

After breakfast in Detwah, we will go for a boat trip to Shu'ab. We will surely meet some spinner dolphins along the way with cormorants flying over our heads. Once at Shu'ab, we visit a mangrove area. We will have a lunch on the long and clean Shu'ab beach. In the afternoon, you can swim in this pristine place. In late afternoon, we take a boat ride back to Qalansyia. Line fishing is possible from the boat if you want to catch your dinner.



Dinner and night in Hadibo.

Day 8: Departure from Socotra

After an early breakfast, we will drive you to the Socotra airport.



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