

Socotra Eco-tours: Five-Day Tour

Socotra Island – Unforgettable holidays with Socotra Eco-tours



Day 1: Sana'a- Socotra- Diksam Plateau- Derhur Canyon- Fermhin Forest- Dagub Cave, Hayf and Zahag Sand-dunes- Amaq Beach

You will take a Yemenia or Felix flight from Sana'a. We will pick you up at the airport and drive Diksam Plateau and gorge 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 worlds' 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, where we can observe the many houses built into ledges where the plateau meets the gorge. The forest in Diksam 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 Diksam 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 ourselves by swimming in the wadi's deep pool, escaping the midday heat.

In the afternoon, we will travel to the south of the island, with visits to villages along the way. Our first destination is Amak beach where we can swim in the clear water of the Indian Ocean. We will go to Dagub cave, which overlooks a scattering of traditional villages below. The cave itself is of interest as there are many stalactites, stalagmites and pools of water that has seeped through the rock over time. We will then witness the colossal sand dunes of Hayf and Zahag which have been pushed up against the mountainside by the seasonal winds of Socotra. If you are feeling especially fit, you can climb the dunes for a view that is truly worth the effort. Late afternoon, we will drive back to Hadibo.

Dinner and overnight will be camping at Amaq Beach.



Day 2: QALANSIA –DETWAH LAGOON- GOLDEN BEACH OF SHUAB

We drive to the west of the island to a little fisherman's town of Qalansiya. Qalansia 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 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 can have a look at a mangrove area. We will have a lunch on the long and clean Shu'ab beach. In the afternoon, feel free to swim and enjoy this pristine place. In late afternoon, we will take a boat ride back to Qalansyia. Line fishing is possible from the boat if you want to catch your today's dinner.

When we come back from Shuab, 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 camping at Detwah Campsite



Day 3: DIHAMRI MARINE PA- ARHER FRESHWATER CREEK AND BEACH

We will drive to nearby 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.



We will spend the rest of the day in 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 4: HOQ CAVE- HOMHIL 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 walls and also what appears to be a picture of an old trading ship have been preserved over the ages by a calcite glaze.



In the afternoon our 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.

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 in Homhil



Day 5: DEPARTURE FROM SOCOTRA-SANAA

After an early breakfast, we will drive you to the Socotra airport. You will take the Yemenia or Felix flight from Socotra to Sana'a.

Services included in the tour Package:

- Sana'a-Socotra-Sana'a Air-tickets
- Visa fees
- Welcoming and a transfer from and to Socotra airport
- 4WD vehicles (Transportations)
- Accommodations; Hotel *any day you want*, eco-lodges, campsites and wild camping
- Food (3 meals a day); we do cater also vegetarians
- Sufficient amount of bottled water throughout the trip
- English speaking local experienced guide
- Local trekking guide at specific places
- Protected Area entrance fees and all other fees
- Boat Ride to Shu'ab

Services not included:

- Personal insurance
- Guide's and driver's tips

With thanks and regards,

Best regards

Abduljameel

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