

## Socotra Eco-tours: 8 Days tour

### *Socotra Island – Unforgettable holidays with Socotra Eco-tours*



#### **Day 1: Arrival on Socotra, Dihamari Marine Protected Area**

We will pick you up at the airport and transport you to the restaurant in Hadibo for lunch. After, 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.

Dinner and Overnight Dihamry .

#### **Day 2: Homhil P.A. / stopover at Qaria lagoon**

Today we make our way to Homhil protected area, taking in the fabulous sceneries of deep ravines and plains along the way. We will stop at Qaria lagoon en-route. Qaria is the largest lagoon on the island and we can hopefully see Flamingos, Herons and Greenshank, amongst others. Once at Homhil, we can walk a selection of trails, one of which takes us to a viewpoint where there is a natural pool and a view village below on the plain and of the sea. Homhil is home to many Dragons Blood trees, the resin of which is collected, used and traded by the people of Socotra. Frankincense trees are also prevalent here and deserve a close look.

Dinner and overnight at Homhil outside the campsite.

#### **Day 3: Hoq Cave/ Arher freshwater creek and beach**

After breakfast we will drive to Hoq Cave. As we make our way to Hoq Cave, we will have the chance to see some great scenery: beautiful beaches and low-lying shrub lands with endemic trees.

Due to the limestone plateau and mountains, there are many cave systems on Socotra. During our expedition, we will explore one of the biggest caves, Hoq, with its subterranean water supplies, underground dwelling animals, and archaeological findings. The 2.5-hour uphill trek to the cave entrance will be tough but it's definitely worth the effort once we reach this cave system that is at least 10 km (6.2 mi) long. Inside, during an easy walk of 2 km (1.2 mi), we will admire many huge stalagmites, stalactites, and a rim pool, taking photographs along the way.

We will drive to Arher where sand dunes standing 150 m (492 ft) high have been piled up against the sheer rock faces by the prevailing westerly winds. In Arher there is a fresh creek coming out from a granite massive meeting salty 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.

Dinner and Overnight camping at Arher

#### **Day4: Defarhu / Amek sandy beach, Dagub Cave, Hayf and Zahaq Sand dunes**

After breakfast we 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. For lunch 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 Zahek 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.

Dinner and overnight camp at Amek beach

#### **Day5: Diksam Plateau/ Derhur Canyon/Fermhin Forest**

After breakfast, we will drive to Diksam. Diksam Plateau and gorge 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 Diksom 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 filling our cameras with as many pictures of the Dragon's Blood Trees as we can, we will continue by road towards Derhur Canyon. 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 ourselves by swimming in the wadi's deep pool, escaping the midday heat.

Dinner and overnight in Diksam

#### **Day 6: Qalansyia/ Detwah Lagoon/ The Golden Beach of Shuab**

In the morning ,We will continue to neighboring Detwah lagoon which is 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. This surely is one of the best views on the island. You can jump in the shallow sea there and enjoy the paradise. Only be careful with sting rays that can be seen in the lagoon. There is also an array of sea birds to be seen in the lagoon.

We can take a boat to Shuaab area to see the dolphins playing and swim in near a very pure and clean long sandy beach, once arrive Shuaab area we can have a look on the mangrove area. Be sure to look out for Spinner Dolphins along the way. Cormorants also frequent the area. Once at Shu'ab we will have lunch and the afternoon is free to swim and enjoy this pristine beach setting, complete with mangroves. In late afternoon we take the boat ride back to Qalansyia. Line fishing may also be possible from the boat, if you want fish for dinner of course.

Dinner and overnight in Detwah campsite.

### **Day 7: Delisha beach**

In the afternoon, we will visit Hadibo city and Delisha beach with pristine white sands full of crabs. You will relax while swimming both in the sea and in a freshwater lagoon. If you are full of energy you can climb a huge sand dune overseeing the beach. There is also a possibility of watching a fabulous sunset from Delisha.

Dinner and Overnight Delisha or Adeeb camp.

### **Day 8: Departure from Socotra**

After an early breakfast, we will drive you to the Socotra airport. You can visit a souvenir shop there while waiting for a short flight to the mainland.

#### **Services Included:**

- visa fees
- Camping gear
- 4x4 vehicle
- English speaking, well trained and experienced local guide
- Food, cooking equipment, cook and a sufficient supply of water.
- Protected areas fees and all fees.
- A boat ride to Shu'ab
- Some local guides at specific places

#### **Services not Included:**

- Air tickets (international & domestic)
- Personal insurance
- Guide's and driver's tips