



## Socotra Exclusive Tours & Socotra.CZ

### The best of Socotra Tour

8 day/7 night

#### **DAY 1) arrival to Socotra and transfer by cars to our private Amak camp by the Indian Ocean, Hayf (Zahaq) sand dunes, Dagub cave**

Welcome and pick-up at the airport / transfer for about 1 hour to the less populated southern coast of Socotra to the beautiful turquoise Indian Ocean, a place of endless beaches with white sand, to the beach called **Amak**.

A relaxing afternoon awaits you, you can relax in the shade of palm trees / our shell shelters or fully enjoy swimming, sunbathing and exploring the surroundings. At sunset you will visit the beautiful sand dunes near the village of **Hayf**. A wonderful place that evokes a sense of peace, is incredibly photogenic.

Depending on the time, you will visit the small but impressive **Dagub cave** today or tomorrow morning on our way inland. At the entrance to the cave, the most valuable item of the dry southern coast flows down impressive stalactite formations – clean water. The cave is a refuge for many animals, especially bats and swifts. It is possible to drive directly to the cave.

Lunch/dinner and overnight stay at the Amak campsite.

#### **DAY 2) Dixam Plateau, Derhur Canyon/ Fermhin Forest**

After breakfast, you go inland by car to the **Dixam plateau**. A massive gorge cuts through the Dixam plateau with walls up to 700 meters high in places and creates a dominant view of the surroundings. From the plateau, we drive down to the **Derhur canyon** lined with date palms and you can swim in several clear lakes. The color contrast of the surroundings is reminiscent of scenes from Jurassic Park. After lunch, you will briefly set off to the isolated plateau of the **Fermhin forest**, which is surrounded by deep canyons. Nowhere else in the world will you find dragon's blood trees (*Dracaena Cinnabari*) in such a concentration as here.

The characteristic appearance, the number of these monocotyledons and the age of most of them will captivate you.

**Something special:** Among the oldest ecosystems on Earth are forests with dragon's blood trees, which originate from the Tertiary period. Dragon's blood trees are a symbol of the island, growing up to 10 meters high, with their wide crown and shape resembling an umbrella or a gigantic mushroom. The highly valuable dragon's blood, or red sap, is literally a treasure. It has strong medicinal properties and its use is also in demand in the cosmetics industry. You can buy this treasure in small quantities from local families and experience the beneficial effects - dragon's blood!

Dinner and overnight at Fermhin Camp

### **DAY 3) Qalansiyah, Detwah Lagoon**

After breakfast in **Fermhin**, you will drive to the western part of Socotra Island and the second largest city of **Qalansiyah**. This breathtaking view of the Detwah Lagoon is enhanced by the turquoise color of the sea and snow-white sand, which creates an incredible scenery. Detwah is full of life, you can observe stingrays, turtles, inflatable fish, octopuses and other amazing fauna of this unique location. The lagoon is one of the most beautiful places to swim, but you can't do it without movement, the distance from the beach to the camp is approximately 45 minutes walk, where you can observe both life around, as well as local children and fishermen along the way.

The sunset is also breathtaking and you can enjoy it at one of several places from which you can choose.

Lunch/dinner and overnight at Detwah Lagoon Camp

### **DAY 4 ) Shoab beach, Qalansiyah, Detwah Lagoon**

Early in the morning after breakfast you leave Qalansiyah for a boat trip to the famous **Shoab beach**. Along the way, in addition to meeting fishing boats, there is a huge chance of an unusual encounter with dolphins.

By boat you will pass gigantic rock massifs that line deserted small sandy beaches, cave formations that are inhabited by flocks of cormorants.

Shoab is a beautiful beach, many visitors insist that it is the most beautiful in Socotra. You will swim in turquoise water, relax under mangroves.

After returning by boat to Qalansiyah and Detwah Lagoon, lunch will be prepared and a free afternoon in this magical place.

For those who have the strength and want / an afternoon trek to a hidden place where photography is the best thing to do is possible.

Lunch/dinner and overnight at Detwah camp

### **DAY 5) Wadi Kalesan, Gadamano, Arher beach**

After breakfast, you will move by car to the eastern part of the island and also to the interior of the **Gadamano area**. An easy trek (descent) of about half an hour to **Wadi Kalesan**, one of the most beautiful wadis on the island, which is lined with white rock formations, where you will refresh yourself in the crystal fresh water and see endemic plant species, crabs and everything will be enhanced by the beautiful view of the majestic canyon.

After refreshing in the water, you will walk for about an hour through easy terrain back to the car and after lunch in another beautiful Wadi Gadamano, we will drive by car to the **Arher area** - the easternmost part of the island's promontory, up to 250 m high sand dunes that rest on a limestone rock massif. It is a place famous for its beautiful sunrises and sunsets. You can climb a sand dune and experience the unique scenery created by the prevailing westerly winds, the sand blown in from the sea with the contrast of the dark rocky cliff. The uniqueness of this place is enhanced by the stream surrounded by green grass. If you are lucky, you can observe or try to catch freshwater eels in the dark.

Dinner and overnight at Arher Camp.

## **DAY 6) Hoq Cave, Dhamri Protected Area**

Early morning after breakfast, a short drive to the vicinity of **Hoq Cave**. With a local guide, you will reach your destination after about 1 hour of climbing. The cave system is about 10 kilometers long (only the front part is accessible). Be prepared that there are no lights inside. You will be rewarded with a tour of thousands of stalagmites and stalagnates, and after about a kilometer inside you will reach a fascinating lake.

After this more demanding trek and lunch, you will move to the nearby **Dhamri Protected Area**, the richest coral reef, where you can snorkel and see the amazing underwater world just a few meters from the shore.

Moray eels, parrot fish in schools, caretta turtles, rays, sea urchins and many other underwater animals will make you feel like you are swimming in an aquarium.

Dinner and overnight at Dhamri or Arher camp.

## **DAY 7) Homhil protected area, Wadi Qarea, Delicia beach**

Early in the morning after breakfast, transfer to the place from which you can climb to the **Homhil plateau** - an amazing place on the northeastern tip of the island with a large concentration of dragon's blood trees, desert roses and incense trees. This trek takes only an hour, but with a steep climb.

In addition to the exceptional plants, the biggest attraction on the Homhil plateau is also the infinity pool. This is a natural lake located on the edge of a rocky outcrop and fed by several small streams. You can swim here, observe freshwater crabs and at the same time enjoy the fascinating view of the Arabian Sea.

After descending back to the cars, lunch and relaxation will be prepared in another amazing **Wadi Qarea** - the possibility of refreshing yourself in fresh water.

After rest, afternoon visit to the capital (who will be interested), buy some souvenirs and get to know the local rough life. Accommodation near Hadibo at Eco Lodge in tents / basic showers and toilets are available.

Dinner at Delicia beach at Eco Lodge, where our boys will prepare a farewell evening for us.

## **DAY 8 ) Departure from Socotra**

After breakfast at Delicia beach at Eco Lodge, transfer to Socotra airport, farewell

### **SOCOTRA Exclusive Tours & Socotra CZ provides**

- entry formalities – visa processing (fee is not included in the tour price – see below)
- arranging flights Abu Dhabi – Socotra – Abu Dhabi / AUH-SCT-AUH ( is not included in the tour price – see below)
- english-speaking guide, experienced drivers,
- 4WD car / Toyota Landcruiser or similar 4x4 vehicle
- in the case of a group, a catering car with other helpers and a chef
- full board including snacks and soft drinks, unlimited water consumption, all kitchen equipment

- all camping equipment, tents, mattresses, blankets, pillows (for TREK tour please bring your own sleeping mat and sleeping bag – light comfort)
- all camping fees, entrance fees to reservations and protected areas of Socotra
- boat trip to the most remote Shoab beach \* in favorable sea conditions
- 1 x night (last farewell evening) is planned in the Eco Lodge directly on Delicia beach near Hadibo. Eco lodge has basic shower and toilet facilities, you sleep in tents, but there is also a common room - clubhouse 😊

### **Not included in the price:**

- personal insurance
- tips for guides and drivers
- international flight from your home country to the UAE - Abu Dhabi or Dubai
- flight Abu Dhabi – Socotra – Abu Dhabi / AUH-SCT-AUH /930USD or 3350AED/person
- visa is paid on site in USD 150/person

### **What you will do on Socotra:**

- observe diverse, unique and endemic fauna and flora
- walk, trek
- relax on the beaches, sunbathe, snorkel
- explore caves, conquer dunes
- camp, swim in wadis and observe the stars of the Milky Way
- take a boat trip to the most remote and inaccessible places on the island of Socotra \* in case of favorable sea conditions
- take photos (even professionally) and you can fly a drone (there is a new fee of 100USD for registration and use)
- observe or swim with dolphins, sharks or among the rays
- get to know the local communities and culture
- and especially have fun in the evenings without a mobile connection

### **about the program/itinerary:**

- The 8-day program is compiled according to our many years of experience, so that you can reach the TOP of Socotra at a leisurely pace and also something extra
- the program is very varied, it includes a few easier walks - treks, every healthy person with good mobility can do it
- all places can be done by car in case of health conditions (except Hoq cave)
- it is not necessary to burden yourself with an exact itinerary of when, where, what and which day. You will see everything! We agree on the spot and especially we try to avoid large groups of other companies / please leave it to us 😊.
- 8 days / 7 nights camping
- the plan is 1 x night (last farewell evening) at the Eco Lodge right on Delicia beach near Hadibo. The eco lodge has basic shower and toilet facilities, you sleep in tents, but there is also a common room - a clubhouse 😊.

- Couples have a larger tent available (it is assumed that you sleep together in one / if it is different, let us know), other solo travelers each have their own solo tent.