



DISCOVER SOCOTRA

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2023-2024 Season

Classical 8-day Explore Itinerary

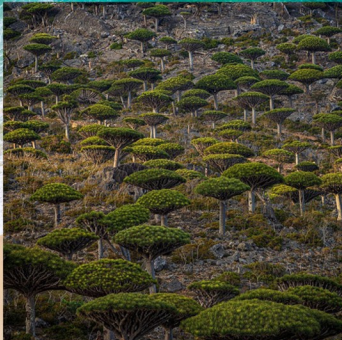
Introduction

The Classical 8-day Explore itinerary acts as an immersive exploration into some of Socotra's most remarkable locations, fascinating biodiversity and vibrant communities.

We visit peaceful coastlines with warm azure waters, jagged mountain peaks brimming with endemic lifeforms, and are hosted by communities that have been the true stewards of this land for millennia.

The itinerary acts as a well-rounded fit for those looking to relax, for the adventurous among us, and for those who care to dig deeper into Socotra's abounding natural and cultural heritage.

Through a responsible and engaging approach, we come face to face with Socotra's most iconic plants and animals, and share authentic cultural experiences with the people keeping Socotra's unique cultural heritage alive.

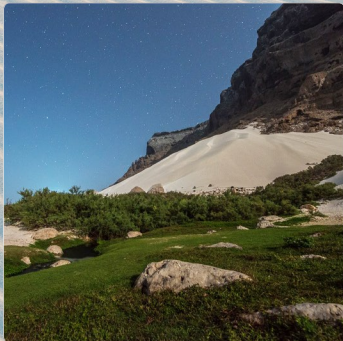
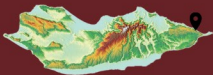


Day 1 :: Arher

Location description: Arher is one of Socotra's most noteworthy coastal gems. The location is characterized by a fresh-water stream born in a cave in the cliffside, that flows between two towering white sand dunes, through natural lawns of beach grass that give onto a soft sand beach of crystal clear sea water.

Highlights:

- Climbing the towering dunes and running down
- Sunset swim on soft white sand and in warm waters
- Observing marine bioluminescence by night, if lucky
- Getting to know the crew with ocean-fresh fish cooked on an open seaside fire

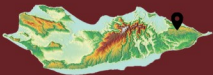


Day 2 :: Hike 1 :: Homhil

Location description: Homhil acts as a quintessential example of the beauty found in Socotra's eastern highlands. It is home to a community that lives intrinsically with the surrounding nature and surreal natural marvels like a frankincense tree forest and natural infinity pool overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Highlights:

- Optional short hike up wadi Shifa'. If not, ascent by car
- Sunset swim at the natural infinity pool
- Sunrise visit to the frankincense tree grove
- Sensory exploration of Socotri Sights, sounds and smells



Hike details:

Length: ~1.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy-medium

Altitude range:

~30 - 400 m.a.s.l.

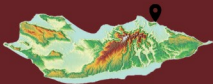


Day 3 :: DiHamri :: Kaleesan

Location description: Above water, DiHamri delights the eye with a striking red and white rounded pebble and coral beach, and two deep-red rock outcrops in the background. But it is below the water that DiHamri really shines. Here we find Socotra's largest coral reef, home to a plethora of marine life and a largely intact coral community.

Highlights:

- Snorkelling to observe the immense variety of marine life including various species of sea turtle, rays, eels, huge schools of fish and occasionally even curious dolphins
- Daytrip to the freshwater emerald pools of Wadi Kaleesan



Day 4 :: Hayf

Location description: Located on Socotra's southern coastal plain, Hayf is a small coastal community nestled in vast date-palm groves and a seemingly endless expanse of white sand dunes, with the rich waters of the Indian Ocean a few meters away.

Highlights:

- Sunset from amongst the seemingly limitless white sand tinged, pink by the setting sun, coupled with a sunset swim on a 100+km soft white sand beach, for those who feel inclined
- Learning Socotri dance and poetry around the seaside fire with the team and friends from Hayf

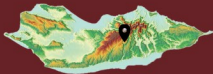


Day 5 :: Hike 2:: Firmhin

Location description: Firmhin is located in Socotra's central highlands and is home to the largest forest of Dragonblood tree (*Dracoena cinnabari*) on earth. The area is characterized by dramatic mountain scenery and high endemic biodiversity. It is also considered a hub of indigenous Socotri culture.

Highlights:

- Optional hike through the enchanting Dragonblood forest
- Visit to Terebek; a small highland hamlet that acts as a hub of indigenous Socotri culture
- Sunset and sunrise from within the dragonblood forest
- Nocturnal photography with Dragonbloods as subjects



Hike details:

Length: ~2 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Altitude range:
~550 - 700 m.a.s.l.

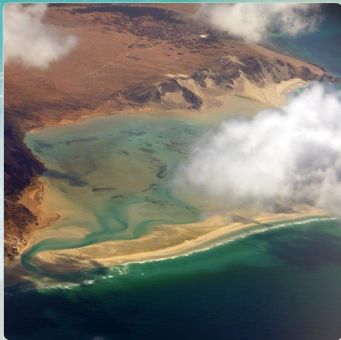
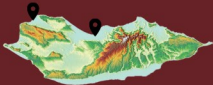


Day 6 :: Eriosh :: Ditwah

Location description: Eriosh is an open-air archaeological site composed of a large collection of ancient petroglyphs that shed light on Socotra's rich history. Further west, Ditwah is one of Socotra's most awe-inspiring natural sights. Its azure coastal lagoon is full of sea life and is hugged by a flawless white sand-bars that stretches close to 4.5 km and shift with the tide.

Highlights:

- Optional dolphin/whale shark searching boat ride (extra cost for who cares to join)
- Meeting Abdullah; a long-time nhabitant of a coastal cave
- Seaside fire with fresh sea-food dinner

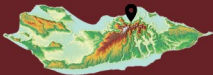


Day 7 :: Denegehen

Location description: As water washes off of the jagged granitic peaks of the Haggier mountains, it eventually makes its way to the northern coast by means of wadis like Denegehen. Nestled under the jagged peaks, this wadi is home to clear freshwater pools dotting its length, and a wide variety of plant and animal life.

Highlights:

- Pool hopping along the beautiful wadi
- Scenic views for some incredible photography
- Last fire-lit dinner with the crew, for now at least...

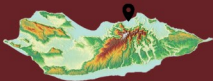


Day 8 :: Hadibo :: Airport

Location description: Hadibo is Socotra's capital and biggest human settlement. Amidst its hustle and bustle, Hadibo is full of fascinating history and cultural notes, making it a charming stop on our way out of Socotra. Hadibo is a great place to pick up any Socotri souvenirs you may want, such as local honey, plant products, handicrafts, or local apparel.

Highlights:

- Explore Hadibo market
- Visit to the Ta'nouf's traditional herbal pharmacy, if inclined
- Pick up any souvenirs or mementos
- Bid farewell and "until next time" to the crew



Trip Details

What's included:

- > **Socotra island tourist visa**
- > Guidance and consultation for acquiring international connecting flights
- > **Step by step help buying tickets for any flights arriving and departing from Socotra**
- > **Acquisition of visas as well as airport and customs assistance in Socotra**
- > **Toyota Land Cruiser 2000-2016 series** with functional A/C, sound-system, safety features and mechanic-checked engine, with mechanic/driver(s) and gasoline for entire trip
- > **All food and drink** (diversified local product-oriented menu, reverse osmosis filtered drinking water, fruit juices, soft drinks, and local delicacies like honey, coffee, and native fruit. All kitchen equipment, with highly experienced chef and kitchen staff. **(Custom menus available for all dietary restrictions)**)
- > **All necessary camping equipment** (high-quality tents, high-quality tables and chairs, portable toilet-tent, sun gazebos, studied lighting, upcycled camping showers and much more. (Most materials are custom built by local artisans to best suit the needs on Socotra)
- > **Entrance and camping fees for all Socotra protected areas**
- > **Experienced local and/or international team** with trained guide fluent in English-Arabic -Socotri with extensive knowledge on Socotri nature and culture and multi-year experience guiding on Socotra

What's not included:

- > Any flights (\$930/person for round trip from Abu Dhabi - Socotra, \$1075 for round trip from Cairo - Socotra)
- > Sleeping bag (light, small sleeping bag recommended)

Packing list will be sent upon confirmation of participation

Pricing subject to market-price fluctuations and is thus mentioned in communication with Discover Socotra representative





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