



## Socotra.CZ

### Unforgettable Socotra

**11 days/10 nights**

**12 days /11 nights**

#### **DAY 1) Arrival in Socotra, Delisha beach, Hadibo town (overnight at hotel)**

- welcome and pick up at the airport
- lunch at a restaurant in Hadibo (or on the adjacent beach)
- check in at Hotel or Eco Lodge
- transport to **Delisha beach**, you can relax and take walks in the area
- you will enjoy sunbathing, swimming, climbing the sand dune and you can watch a beautiful sunset
- dinner at the Hadibo restaurant (when staying overnight at the hotel) or Eco Lodge/ or now also in the caravans directly on the beach (they have their own toilet, shower, air conditioning) - sleeps 2

#### **DAY 2 ) Dihamri/ Lagoon Qaria protected area**

In the morning, after breakfast, drive to **Dihamri 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, loggerhead turtles, stingrays, sea urchins and many other underwater animals will make you feel like you are swimming in an aquarium.

**Qaria lagoon** . It is the largest lagoon on the island, and we will probably see flamingos, herons and other rare species: greenshanks, gray water otters, etc.

Lunch, dinner and overnight at Dihamri camp.

#### **DAY 3) Hoq cave / sand dunes / Arher beach**

Today we answer very early. After breakfast, we drive to the vicinity of the **Hoq cave** .

With a local guide, you will arrive at your destination after about 2 hours 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 stalagmites, and after about a kilometer inside you will reach a fascinating lake.

After this more demanding trek from the cave, we will move to the nearby **Arher area** - the easternmost part of the island's promontory, up to 150 m high sand dunes resting on a limestone rock massif. It is a place that is famous for beautiful sunrises and sunsets.

If you have enough strength, you can climb the highest sand dune. The view from the top to the coast is breathtaking.

Experiencing the unique scenery created by the prevailing westerly winds, blown sand from the sea with the contrast of the dark rock cliff is one of the most powerful experiences of Socotra.

The uniqueness of the Arher area and campsite is enhanced by a stream surrounded by green grass.

If you are lucky, you can observe or try to catch a freshwater eel in the dark.

Lunch at the Rosh camp (after descending from the cave) and dinner and overnight at the Arher camp.

#### **DAY 4) Arher / Ras Ersel**

Early in the morning, before breakfast and sunrise (around 4:45 - 5 am), we will briefly drive cars to other unique sand dunes in the same area, which are not so difficult to climb, but the view and photos are unique.

We will go back to Arher camp for breakfast.

After breakfast, we will move to the northeastern point of **Ras Ersel Island** , which is surrounded by many wild and untouched beaches. This is where the Arabian Sea meets the Indian Ocean. On the spot you can see the remains of the skeleton of a giant shark.

If there is an opportunity (it is not Friday or a holiday ☺), we will briefly visit **the local village school on the way back** .

We will enjoy the afternoon on one of the most beautiful beaches of Arher.

Lunch and dinner and overnight at Arher camp.

#### **DAY 5) Homhil - Momi protected area**

After breakfast, our destination today is **Homhil** , a protected area with fabulous scenery, with a large concentration of dragon's blood trees (*Dracaena Cinnabari*), desert roses and frankincense trees, you will be amazed, the area portrays such bizarre scenery as if you were in prehistoric times.

Once we arrive in the familiar Momi area of Homhil, we can choose from a range of walking routes. There are a few native villages in the area, you can buy dragon's blood or incense from the local children.

Apart from the exceptional plants, the biggest attraction on the Homhil Plateau is also the infinity pool. It 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.

Dinner and overnight will be at Homhil camp. (of course there will be lunch on the way, or depending on the time on the spot)

#### **DAY 6) Wadi Kalesan / Wadi Gadamano / Matiaf area**

After breakfast, transfer to the interior of the island and an easy one-hour trek down to **the Kalesan Wadi** , one of the most beautiful wadis on the island, which is lined with white rock formations, where you will refresh yourself in crystal fresh water and see endemic plant species, crabs and all enhance the magnificent view of the majestic the canyon.

After refreshing in the water, we will walk for about an hour on light terrain back to the car, and after lunch in another wonderful Wadi **Gadamano** , we will move to the Indian Ocean in the touristic area of **Matiaf, which is completely new**.

Dinner and overnight at the Matiaf camp.

#### **DAY 7) Amak (Omaq) white sandy beach of the Indian Ocean, Hayf (Zahaq) sand dunes, Dagub Cave**

After breakfast, we will go to the sparsely populated southern coast of Socotra to the beautiful turquoise blue Indian Ocean and a place of endless white sand beaches, to the beach called **Amak**.

A relaxing afternoon awaits you, you can relax in the shade of palm trees or fully enjoy swimming, sunbathing and exploring the surroundings.

At sunset we will visit the beautiful sand dunes near the village of **Hayf** . A beautiful place and incredibly photogenic.

**Dagub** Cave today or tomorrow morning on our way inland .

At the entrance to the cave, the most valuable commodity of the dry south coast – pure water – flows down the impressive stalactite formations. A number of animals find refuge in the cave, especially bats and puffins. It is possible to drive almost to the cave.

Lunch/dinner and overnight at our new private camp Amak.

## **DAY 8 ) Dixam Plateau, Derhur Canyon/ Fermhin Forest**

After breakfast, we drive back inland to the **Dixam plateau** . The massive gorge cuts through the Dixam Plateau with walls up to 700 meters high in places, creating a dominant view of the surrounding area.

We drive from the plateau 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, we will make a short trip to the isolated plateau of the **Fermhin forest** , which is enclosed by deep canyons. Nowhere else in the world can you find dragon's blood trees ( *Dracaena Cinnabari* ) in such concentration as here. The characteristic appearance of this monocot plant and the age of most of them will captivate you

Something special :

Among the oldest ecosystems on Earth are forests of dragon's blood trees (*Dracaena Cinnabari*), which originated in the Tertiary.

Dragon's blood trees ( *Dracaena Cinnabari* ) are the symbol of the island, growing up to 10 meters high, with their broad 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 effects and its use is also in demand in the cosmetic industry.

You can buy this treasure in small quantities from local families and experience the beneficial effects - dragon's blood!

Dinner and overnight at the Fermhin campsite

## **DAY 9 ) Qalansiyah, Detwah Lagoon**

After breakfast in Fermhin, we will drive to the western part of the island of Socotra and at the same time the second largest city of **Qalansiyah** . This breathtaking view of the **Detwah Lagoon** is enhanced by the turquoise color of the sea and the snow-white sand that creates an incredible scenery. Detwah is full of life, you can see stingrays, turtles, puffer fish, octopuses and other amazing fauna of this unique location.

The sunset is also breathtaking and can be enjoyed at one of several locations to choose from.

Lunch/dinner and overnight at Detwah Camp

## **DAY 10 ) Qalansiyah, Shoab Beach (boat trip), Hadibo**

In the morning after breakfast we 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. And the luckiest ones might meet a giant shark.

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 it is the most beautiful in Socotra. You will swim in the turquoise water, relax under the mangroves and enjoy your last day on the magical island.

After the return of the boats to Qalansiyah and Detwah Lagoon, lunch will be prepared and the trip back to Hadibo - approx. 1.5 hours.

If you're in the mood in Hadibo, you can buy a few trinkets and visit the local market.

You will stay in the Hotel/Eco Lodge/caravans and after a light rest you will have your last dinner in the restaurant. In the case of a night in the caravans, our cooks and helpers will cook us the last great and unforgettable dinner. You have something to look forward to!

## **DAY 11) Departure from Socotra**

- check-out from the hotel/Eco Lodge/caravans
- breakfast in Hadibo restaurant/ or on the beach
- transport to Socotra airport, farewell

## **SOCOTRA.CZ provides**

- ✓ entry formalities – visa processing, securing a flight ticket Abu Dhabi – Socotra – Abu Dhabi
- ✓ 2x overnight stay (first and last day) in the Hadibo/Eco Lodge hotel, double room, WC, showers, air conditioning.
- ✓ On request, it is possible to arrange the best Hotel on Socotra - level 3\*, price individually.
- ✓ 4WD car / Toyota Landcruiser or similar 4x4 vehicle
- ✓ experienced driver and English speaking, proven, knowledgeable and experienced local guide
- ✓ full board including snacks and soft drinks, unlimited water consumption, all kitchen equipment
- ✓ all camping equipment, tents, mattresses, blankets, pillows
- ✓ all fees to reservations and protected areas of Socotra
- ✓ boat trip to the farthest Shoab beach

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

- ✓ personal insurance
- ✓ tips for guides and drivers
- ✓ international flights

## **What we will do in Socotra:**

- ✓ observe diverse, unique and endemic fauna and flora
  - ✓ walk, trek
  - ✓ relax on the beaches, sunbathe, snorkel
  - ✓ explore the caves
  - ✓ camping, swimming in wadis and watching the stars of the milky way
  - ✓ conquer the dunes
  - ✓ take a boat trip to the most remote and inaccessible places on the island of Socotra
  - ✓ take photos (even professionally) and you can fly a drone
  - ✓ watch or swim with dolphins, sharks or among stingrays
  - ✓ get to know local families and culture
- **Program/itinerary** : The 11/12-day program is compiled according to my many years of experience, so that everything described can be done at a leisurely pace, so that **Socotra will be unforgettable for you** . It is not necessary to burden yourself with an exact itinerary of when, where, what and which day. We will see everything and something more! We negotiate on the spot and mainly try to avoid large groups of 15-20 people from other companies. The plan is to spend 2 x nights in a "hotel" in Hadibo, but if you want to exchange Hadibo for a campsite or a nearby Eco Lodge/or new air-conditioned caravans with your own shower and toilet, that's no problem, everything is negotiable.
  - It is possible to arrange different variants of the tour based on your own requirements.

With these extended dates of 11/12 days, it is possible to complete a 3- or 5-day trek with camels to the highest mountain range Hagher/with the highest peak Skand 1525 masl:

- transition to Fermhin/Wadi Derhur/Dixam plateau area – 3 days
- crossing the island from north to south through the areas of Fermhin/ Wadi Derhur/ Dixam plateau/ Noget/ Aomak – 5 days

Usually this transition is not in the normal program, everything is by agreement

When staying for 12 days, we leave 1 day for improvisation, where you will like it the most, we can spend more time, etc.

There are many other hidden places in Socotra that we can visit 😊.