



## Socotra

Family Adventure on the Island time forgot

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



## Itinerary

## Socotra • The Island time forgot

**11 Days • 10 Nights**

Hadibo – Qalansyia – Shuab – Dixsam – Dirhor Canyon – Omaq – Degub – Hayf, Zahak & Halmi Village – Dihamri – Ar-Ar Beach – Hoq cave – Delisha Coast

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Unique Middle East Adventure Holiday
- The magnificent and endemic wildlife
- Trekking in the Haggiar Mountains
- A rare insight into this isolated world.

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tour Style       | Family Adventure                      |
| Tour Start       | Hadibo                                |
| Tour End         | Hadibo                                |
| Accommodation    | Hotel, Camping                        |
| Included Meals   | 10 Breakfasts, 10 Lunches, 10 Dinners |
| Difficulty Level | Medium                                |

Socotra, an Indian ocean island of incense, cinnabar and ancient Arabian seafaring legends, is an extraordinary oddity, with large numbers of bizarre trees and rare animals, where local nomadic tribes still live traditionally, all set against some of the most magnificent mountain scenery to be found anywhere on earth. This is a fully supported remote beach holiday with trekking, snorkelling and cultural adventures.

# Itinerary



## DAY 1: ARRIVE HADIBO (B,L,D)

Arrive in Socotra, considered the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean. Drive along the coastal road to the hotel in Hadibo for lunch, afternoon excursion to explore the unique flora, birds & beachscapes.

*Overnight hotel*

## DAY 2: QALANSYIA (B,L,D)

After breakfast we will drive to Qalansyia village (Detwah protected area) which is famous for its sandy lagoon and spectacular landscape, sting rays can be seen in the lagoon. This lagoon is in the west of Socotra and the best site to witness fabulous the sunset, one of the most charming places on Socotra.

*Overnight in Qalansyia campsite*



## DAY 3: QALANSYIA & SHUAB (B,L,D)

Early in the morning we will take a boat ride to Shuab. This morning we will take a boat ride with a local fishermen provided it is not too windy. With luck we will see the numerous spinner dolphins a long the way and observe many sea birds e.g. cormorants, seagulls and we will be able to watch the big cliff front where most of the birds will be nesting. Line fishing may also be possible from the boat. We can enjoy swimming in the pristine bright blue sea and along the



sandy beach and visit the mangrove trees. Then in the afternoon we take the boat back Qalansyia for our lunch in Qalansyia at the Detwah protected area.

*Overnight in Qalansyia campsite*

#### **DAY 4: DIXSAM & DIRHOR CANYON (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we will make our way by 4x4 vehicles to Dixsam plateau and Shebhan view point. This area is renowned for the native Dragon's blood trees and local trees, frankincense and valuable herbs. The people here are Bedouin nomads and we will experience a warm and curious welcoming and traditional lifestyle. Lunch will be among dragons' blood trees. There is the opportunity to swim in the fresh water wadi pool in Dirhor canyon, but we will need to trek down to the canyon for one hour and then one hour back again.



*Overnight camping in Diksam*

#### **DAY 5: OMAQ (B,L,D)**

Today after breakfast we drive to the southern part of the island to visit Omak eco-campsite. The campsite is located on a long white sandy beach, you can swim in the clear water of the Indian ocean. We can walk along the coast and discover what is around the beach and massive sand dunes as well as palm trees behind the beach.

*Overnight in Omaq protected area campsite*

#### **DAY 6: OMAQ, DEGUB, HAYF, ZAHAK & HALMI VILLAGE (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we will visit the second most famous cave in Socotra Island which is called Degub, it is located in the southern part of the island which overlooks a scattering of villages below. The cave itself is of interest as there are many stalactites, stalagmites and pools of water that have seeped through the rocks over time. Also the cave is of great importance to the local shepherds since they use it for keeping their goats during rainy season. Then we will visit the white sand dunes of Hayf, Zahak and Halmi village. Lunch & Dinner will be in Omaq protected area.

*Overnight in Omaq protected area*

#### **DAY 7: DIHAMRI (B,L,D)**

This morning after breakfast we drive to Dihamri marine protected area and eco-campsite via Hadibo and spend a couple of hours shopping for food supplies. As Dihamri we can hire snorkeling and diving equipment and there are palm leaf shelters ready to host us for the evening and we will have our own tents. Bathrooms are available; Dihamri is home to one of the richest coral reefs of the archipelago. Many marine animals can be seen during swimming, snorkeling and diving, including parrotfish, moray, eel, Rays, and many different species of fish.

*Overnight at Dihamri protected area*



## DAY 8: AR-AR BEACH & HOQ CAVE (B,L,D)

This morning after breakfast we will drive to discover Hoq cave the biggest cave on the island and one of the largest in the Arabian peninsula. Hoq cave is situated in granite massive above Hala beach. We will walk up to the entrance to the cave which will take around an hour and will bring you into a magic world of stalagmites, stalactites, crystal curtains, calcite floors. The cave is around 2.5 km long with a small lake at the very end. There is a walking path marked with lines and reflecting tags to protect the cave's stunning creation and to lead visitors safely to the end and back. The temperature is constant throughout the year between 25 and 27 °C with humidity more than 95 percent. Then we will trek down to meet the drivers and have lunch on the beach. We will then take the 4 x 4's to Ar-Ar.

*Overnight in Ar-Ar beach*

## DAY 9: AR-AR BEACH (B,L,D)

After breakfast we drive to discover Ras Irsal which is at the eastern tip of the island We will see local fishing boats, have a chance to swim in the sandy beach of Ras Irsal then drive back to Ar-Ar beach which is a magic place where we can go swimming in the fresh water which flows from the hot water springs. After passing a couple of sand dunes, you will suddenly end up by a fresh water creek and green grass around it. However there will also be massive sand dunes waiting for you to climb them! Lunch at Ar-Ar beach.

*Overnight is in Ar-Ar beach*

## DAY 10: DELISHA COAST & HADIBO (B,L,D)

After breakfast on your way back to Hadibo you will Visit Socotra's only folk museum and then drive to Delisha coast and have your lunch in Delisha coast which consists of pristine white sand, relaxing swimming both in the sea and in the brackish water lagoon, all with beautiful mountainous background. In the afternoon we drive to visit a nursery that is leading Socotra's plans for the reforestation of the ever decreasing Dagon's blood trees.

*Overnight in the hotel in Hadibo*

## DAY 11: FLIGHT BACK HOME

After Breakfast we can visit the local honey shop and Socotra Woman's Association shop and the local fish market before driving to Socotra airport for our flight back home.



# Important Information

## INCLUDED

- Car 4WD and airport transfer
- Local English speaking guide
- Accommodation in Socotra tourist Hotel (based on double room for first and last day)
- Entrance and camping fees in protected areas
- Camping equipment tents and mats
- Food (full board) plus cooking equipment
- Plentiful supply of bottled water
- Local guide in the mountain
- Cave guide
- Boat ride to Shuab
- Some local guides at specific places

## NOT INCLUDED

- Air tickets (international & domestic)
- Yemeni visas- easily arranged by Pioneer Expeditions. Contact us for help it is easy if you know how the system works!
- Personal insurance
- Guide's and driver's tips.

# Additional Information

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ACTIVITY DURATION           | 2-5 Hours per day   |
| MAXIMUM ELEVATION           | The maximum elevation in Socotra is approximately 1700 meters.  |
| SEASON                      | November - March  |
| BEST TIME TO GO             | October - May   |
| GROUP SIZE                  | 2-8 pax   |
| INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS       | We can help you organise your flights if departing from the UK and the connection from Dubai to Socotra which can be a little challenging. Please contact us for information and a quote.   |
| PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION | It is your responsibility to ensure that your passport has a minimum of 6 months validity at the date of your return from travel and that your visa requirements are met. If you would like some advice on acquiring your visa we are pleased to help. Please note that new Yemen government regulations means that all travellers to the Yemen and Socotra must have invitation letters from recognized tour operators and we provide these letters as part of our service.  |
| INSURANCE                   | Travel and medical insurance is compulsory for this trip, and it is highly recommended to include emergency air evacuation as standard. Travelling without insurance can result in extremely high medical or repatriation charges in the event of an accident; check your policy inclusions and exclusions care fully. We can introduce you to our insurance agent who can provide for trips to non FCO approved destinations such as the Yemen if you require. We will require proof of insurance before you travel. It is also very useful to keep this information |



|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| IMMUNISATION        | <p>on our files in the unlikely case of an emergency during your trip, where we may be required to provide administrative assistance.</p> <p>Standard overseas travel immunisations are fine for Socotra and you do not need anti-malarial tablets as malaria has been pretty much eradicated.</p>        |
| EXPEDITION SCHEDULE | <p>Tailormade departures to suit your dates.</p>  |
| DIFFICULTY LEVEL    | <p>Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2-5 hours per day). This means that you will need to be of an average fitness level.</p> |

