



Socotra Trek

The Island Time Forgot

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Itinerary

Socotra • The Island Time Forgot

8 Days • 7 Nights

Hadibo – Mountains of Haghier – Dimalah – Dihazhaz – Darhoo –
Dirhor Canyon – Qalansiyah – Hadibo – Ar-Ar Beach - Hadibo

HIGHLIGHTS

- Trek through the beautiful Haggier Mountains
- See dragons blood trees
- See dolphins and marine life at Qalansiyah

SCENIC ISLAND EXPLORATION



TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Scenic Island Adventure
Tour Start	Hadibo
Tour End	Hadibo
Accommodation	Hotel & Camping
Included Meals	7 Breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Challenging in parts

Some places seem to hover on the edge of the imagination. The remote, exotic island of Socotra, located south of the coasts of Yemen and Oman in the Indian Ocean, is just this. Known by ancient Indian, Arabian and Greek seafarers as an entrepôt for myrrh, frankincense and dragon's blood, Socotra has been biologically isolated for several million years. Being virtually isolated from the rest of the world for such a long period, Socotra remains one of the most fascinating places on earth, and has Arabia's greatest plant and animal diversity. This extraordinary journey will introduce you to the natural wonders of an island sometimes dubbed 'the other Galapagos'.



Pioneer Expeditions

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Overview

Our journey begins in Hadibo, the Socotran capital. Here begins a memorable eleven days of discovery, as we explore the rich wildlife, scenery and local customs of this amazing island. The centerpiece of this journey is a trek through the interior of the island, dominated by the wildly beautiful and verdant Haghier Mountains. Here, set in a landscape of unimaginable beauty, are a collection of unique flora and fauna straight out of Alice-in-Wonderland – otherworldly Dragon's Blood trees, bizarre bottle trees and the bulbous Socotran Desert Rose. Natural cascades tumble down from the rain-fed peaks, and the bottle trees grow in such profusion that entire hillsides turn pink following winter rains.

Most of the people here are Bedouin nomads and, when not camping in the wilderness, we camp in the confines of small nomadic settlements.

We start off with a 3 day trek in the Haghier mountains. Here we will get a chance to visit traditional villages as well as the wadi of Dihazhaz, which is a small paradise where we will be able to see the unique flora, fauna & bird species of Socotra. We then visit the west of the island in the area around Qalasiyah followed by a trip Ar –Ar beach and the sand dunes which are on the eastern side of the island.

Why Pioneer Expeditions?

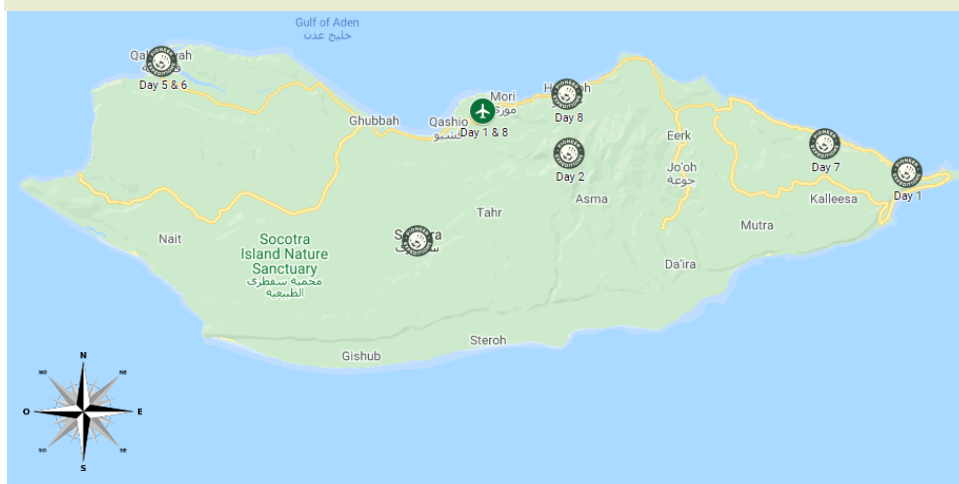
Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel. Alternatively, our small group tours have a maximum of 8 people, making it a much more personal experience.



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DAY 1: ARRIVE TO SOCOTRA AIRPORT - TRANSFER TO HADIBO (B,L,D)

Arrive in Socotra, considered the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean. Drive along the coastal road to a hotel for lunch, afternoon excursion to, explore the unique flora, see some of the unique birds & wonder around the natural cascade, dinner.

Overnight at Socotra hotel

DAY 2: TREK WITH CAMEL TO HAGHER MOUNTAIN - DIMALAH (B,L,D)

Early in the morning we set off on foot to the mountain of Haghier with local cameleers, whose camels carry our camping equipment. The scenery is amazing as we trek along the mountain and arrive in Dimalah. At the top of the mountain we see a lot of different varieties of plants and birds, and from the high cliffs we see the northern part of Socotra.

Overnight camp in Dimalah

DAY 3: TREK WITH CAMEL TO DIHAZHAY - DARHOO VILLAGE (B,L,D)

We continue our extraordinary trek after breakfast as we set off down to the wadi of Dihazhaz. This is a small paradise where we will be able to enjoy the unique flora, fauna & bird species of Socotra. After lunch among the trees and streams we set off towards the village of Darho passing through some more traditional villages along the way.

Overnight camp near Darho



DAY 4: DARHO - DIRHOR CANYON (B,L,D)

This morning after breakfast (and washing using well water) we say goodbye to our cameleers and set off on a trek to Rokeb Farmhin forest of dragons blood trees where we'll have plenty of stops along the way to take photos and enjoy the forest surroundings. We will stay overnight in a traditional village within the forest. Our last point of call is the largest canyon on Socotra, known as Dirhor, where we will have a chance to swim in the fresh water pools and hike along the canyon.

Overnight camp at Qalansiyah



DAY 5: DRAGONS BLOOD TREE FOREST - DIKSAM (B,L,D)

Today we get the chance to explore deeper into the Dragons blood tree forest and see more of the flora of the area as well as visiting some of the local nomads who live here.

DAY 6: EXPLORE QALANSIYAH (B,L,D)

In the morning we can walk along the beach and after breakfast we may wish to take a ride on a boat to Shoub (an optional extra provided the weather is good) to visit the village of mangrove trees where you can swim with dolphins if they are not feeling too shy, and observe the seabirds of the island and to fish with the local fisherman. Or you don't like to ride a boat we can just chill out in the surrounding area.

The boat trip is highly recommended as the west coast is spectacular. After Qalansiyah we return to Hadibo

Overnight hotel in Hadibo



DAY 7: AR-AR BEACH AND SAND DUNES - ARSEL END OF THE ISLAND, THEN BACK TO HADIBO (B,L,D)

This morning after breakfast we will go to Arher where you can see the highest sand dunes on Socotra. We will go on as far to the eastern end of the island as time allows and see more of the coastline and local fishing communities. On our way back to Hadibo we will visit Socotra's only folk museum. We will also visit a nursery that is leading Socotra's plans for reforestation programme.

Overnight hotel in Hadibo

DAY 8: HADIBO - TRANSFER TO SOCOTRA ISLAND AIRPORT (B)

We will enjoy a fairly early breakfast and do some last minute shopping before going to the airport for the flight home.



What our clients have said

'I would rate this holiday in my top 5 - bearing in mind my number 1 is Antarctica'

-A. Roberts

'I am reborn! Simply the best holiday I have ever been on!'

-P. Daruwala

Important Information

INCLUDED

- Transfer to / from airport
- All accommodation on twin-share basis
- Camping in small dome tents 2 persons per tent
- All meals including bottled water
- All transportation in Socotra
- All sightseeing activities as specified
- English Speaking local guide throughout
- Porters

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic airfares and taxes
- Personal expenses (telephone calls etc)
- Tips and gratuities (budget for around total USD100 per person, keep local notes for tips and think little and often except for your guides and drivers who you can tip at the end).
- Visa
- Snorkel and flippers
- Travel & Medical Insurance

