

DIVING

# SOCOTRA

One Week Tour Itinerary | Service Guide

Valid from Oct - Nov 2024 to Mar - May 2025



hello**socotra**.



## DAY 1 – ADVENTURE BEGINS

- Meet and assist at Socotra airport. Your tour guide will be holding the “HelloSocotra” sign at the arrival terminal right behind the passport control counter. At the terminal, it can get very warm and chaotic around the baggage carousel with all incoming passengers, so your patience is appreciated.
- Once you have cleared immigration and collected your luggage, we will head east to Dihamri. This area is a haven for divers, featuring over 70 types of coral and 160 fish species. With five dive sites, some reaching depths of 60 meters, there's something for everyone, including swimming, snorkelling, and hiking.

### WHERE TO SLEEP

- Overnight: Camping at Dihamri campsite

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Swimming, fishing, and snorkelling
- Climb the two hills or hike around the protected area
- You can go for long walks along the beach

### AREA GUIDE

- Rocky beach, mind your steps and do not step over the reefs when snorkelling
- Mobile coverage is available in some parts of the area
- Toilets and showers are available in the campsite



## DAY 2 – DIHAMRI MARINE

- We must get up early, around 6:00 a.m., and head to the diving centre to meet with Nassem, the instructor. You must double-check all the equipment before use, gear up, and head for your first-morning diving experience at the Dihamri location.
- After the first session, you will return to the campsite for breakfast. The second diving session will start in the afternoon; we will take you on a boat, and the instructor will show you where the diving will occur.

### WHERE TO SLEEP

- Overnight: Camping at Dihamri campsite

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Diving in two different locations (2 dives)
- Swimming, fishing, and snorkelling
- See colourful coral reefs, a variety of fish species

### AREA GUIDE

- Do not jump off the boat only at the direction of the instructor
- Double check your equipment before diving
- Make sure a first aid kit is available on the boat (please speak with your tour leader)
- Carry enough drinking water with you
- No mobile coverage is available at the diving locations





## DAY 3 – ROSH MARINE

- After a light breakfast, pack your bags and put on your swimming wear. We will head to Rose Marine Protected Area to do our morning diving session. The area is known for a reef that extends about 1.5 kilometres off the coast.
- Rosh offers a unique underwater topography, with dives typically between 10 and 20 meters. The second diving session will start in the afternoon. We will take you on a boat, and the instructor will show you where the diving will take place.

### WHERE TO SLEEP

- Overnight: Camping at Rosh camping ground

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Diving in two different locations (2 dives)
- Swimming, fishing, and snorkelling
- See colourful coral reefs, a variety of fish species

### AREA GUIDE

- We provide fresh water, but no toilets or showers are available here
- Do not jump off the boat only at the direction of the instructor
- Double check your equipment before diving
- Make sure a first aid kit is available on the boat (please speak with your tour leader)
- Carry enough drinking water with you
- No mobile coverage is available at this location



## DAY 4 – RAS ERSIL

- Once breakfast is served, we will take you to the eastern tip of the island for your morning session, Ras Ersil, which is famous for its numerous shipwrecks, some dating back 50 years. Divers can explore these underwater relics, which have become artificial reefs teeming with life.
- The second diving session will start in the afternoon, and the instructor will show you where the diving will occur.

### WHERE TO SLEEP

- Overnight: Camping at Arher camping ground

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Diving in two different locations (2 dives)
- Climb the giant sand-dunes (sandboards available must book in advance)
- Swimming, fishing, and snorkelling
- See colourful coral reefs, a variety of fish species

### AREA GUIDE

- Toilets and showers are available at this location
- Do not jump off the boat only at the direction of the instructor
- Double check your equipment before diving
- Make sure a first aid kit is available on the boat (please speak with your tour leader)
- Carry enough drinking water with you
- No mobile coverage is available at this locations



## DAY 5 – THE WADI

- After an early breakfast, we will head beneath the mountains of Momi, where the famous Wadi of Kelisan is a perfect spot to enjoy swimming in the natural pools. It will take around 20 minutes of walking, with a breathtaking overview of the entire wadi.
- After a quick picnic, we will head to the protected area of Homhill, which is home to an endless number of Socotri endemic plants such as Dragon's Blood tree, Frankincense, Desert rose trees, etc. It's about a one-hour drive from Kelisan and a 30-minute walk along a selection of trails. One of these trails takes us to a viewpoint with a natural swimming pool and a view of villages below on the plain and of the Arabian Sea.

### WHERE TO SLEEP

- Overnight: At Summerland hotel or similar in Hadibo

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Swimming at the natural pool of Homhil & the Wadi of Kelisan
- Explore a wide range of Socotra native trees
- A bird watching location

### AREA GUIDE

- The difficulty is medium walking around the Homhil area
- Walking to Wadi Kelisan is not recommended for those with knee, back or heart problems
- Mind your steps when walking on the rocks around Wadi Kelisan
- Mobile cover is not available in this location





## DAY 6 – THE BEST BEACH IN THE WORLD

- On this day, after an early breakfast at the hotel, we will head to the western coast. We will take a boat from the port of Qalanciya and make our way to Shuaab, a diving location home to Socotra's largest shipwreck, dolphins, turtles, and many other species.
- On the way to Shuaab, you will see a group of Spinner dolphins, and if you are lucky, you might spot a sperm whale during the months of March and April. That's why waking up early is important. You will also see a one of its kind Socotra cormorant birds in their natural habitat and many underwater caves. May is still unexplored, making it a great place for thrill-seekers and divers.
- If the time allows, you will meet Mr Aliyah, aka the caveman, the smartest man in Socotra who created his own tourist attraction. Hundreds of tourists come to his cave to meet him and to enjoy listening to his stories on life in the cave, the land, and its people, and then drive back to Hadibo once we are done.

### WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Detwah lagoon campsite

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Diving in Shuaab (1 dive)
- Swimming in Qalansiyah beach Detwah lagoon
- You can go for long walks along the beach or hike the nearby hills
- Explore the town of Qalansiyah
- Sandboarding and snorkeling

### AREA GUIDE

- Stingrays can be found in the lagoon, mind your steps when walking there
- Avoid talking to locals if you are wearing a bikini
- The beach is huge and has no shade where to swim, so make sure you take water with you
- Toilets, showers, and mobile coverage are available in the Detwah lagoon campsite



## DAY 7 – THE DRAGON BLOOD FOREST

- After breakfast, we will quickly visit an overview point where you can see the entire beach and the Detwah Lagoon. This marine protected area is renowned for its magical landscape, and we continue our way to the Dicksam plateau (approx. 700 m above sea level) and Shebahon's viewpoint. This area is home to many Socotra endemic plants, such as Dragon's Blood Tree and other trees. The Shebahon viewpoint gives a marvellous vista overlooking Daerhu Canyon, where we will see breathtaking scenery and unusual yet beautiful rock formations.
- We will then make our way down to the Dirhur wadi in the canyon for lunch and an easy-going walk to swim in the freshwater pools, then we will continue our way up to Firmhen Point so you can explore the largest forest of the dragon blood trees.

## DAY 8 – WE WILL MISS YOU

- After breakfast, around 8 am, a quick tour of the market and the gift store for souvenir shopping in Hadibo. Then, we will drop you at Socotra airport to catch your flight back to Abu Dhabi.

### WHERE TO SLEEP

- Overnight: At Summerland hotel or similar in Hadibo

### WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Swimming in the Wadi of Dirhur
- Explore a wide range of dragon blood trees
- Long hikes, birdwatching and spiders observing
- Learn about Dragon's blood and Luban (gum) extraction
- Close understanding of the people of Socotra mountains lifestyle



## AREA GUIDE

- Do not climb the dragon's blood trees
- We recommend showering in Dirhur Wadi before heading up to Firmhen
- Wear your hiking shoes, long pants and jumper, it gets cold during the night
- Mind your steps when walking around the sharp rocks
- Toilets and mobile coverage is available in Firhmen camping ground

## TOUR RATE – WHAT INCLUDED

- 7 Dives with instructor and all equipment
- Transportation in air-conditioned 4x4 vehicles.
- Camping gear, tents, pillows, coversheets.
- Two nights at Summerland hotel
- 8 breakfasts, 7 dinners and 7 lunches.
- Drinking water, soft drinks, snacks, and chocolate.
- A boat rental for all the diving locations on the itinerary
- Entry fees for all protected areas and campsites.
- All government fees.
- Airport pickup/drop off

Private Tour

\$3300 pp

AUH- SCT Flight

\$1000 pp

Entry visa

\$160 pp