

FRIENDLY

SOCOTRA

One-Week Tour Itinerary | Service Guide

Limited from Oct 2024 to May 2025



hellosocotra.



DAY 1 – THE GIANT SAND DUNES

- Meet and assist at Socotra airport. Ali's tour guide will be holding a “Welcome with Ali” 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 Arher area where the giant sand dunes, great beach, and freshwater wells. Snacks, dinner, and breakfast will be provided.

WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Arher or ras Arsel camping ground

WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Fishing and snorkeling.
- Climb or sandboard the giant sand dunes
- Swim at the Arabian sea and shower at the freshwater wells.
- You can go for long walks along the beach
- You can explore some caves in the area (*speak with your tour guide*)

AREA GUIDE

- Sandy area, easy to walk around, suitable for everyone.
- No mobile coverage is available in the area
- Mind your steps when walking around the sand from sharp fishbones.
- Toilets and showers are available in this location
- Before heading to Arher, we suggest you wear light clothing, sandals or flip-flops



DAY 2 – THE HOQ CAVE

- We will need to get up early, around 5:00 am; breakfast will be served, and then we will head to Ras Arsel (the ending point of east Socotra). It's about a 15-minute drive from the camping ground; there, you'll be able to see the meeting point of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. After a quick visit to Ras Arsel, we will drive for 30 minutes to get to Rosh village, where we will start the hiking journey to Hoq cave (please see the area guide section).
- Hoq cave is the biggest cave in the Middle East. It's about 2 km deep. Depending on your fitness level, it can take 2.5 hours to reach the main gate of the cave, which is on top of the mountain, and about 30 minutes to reach the end of the cave. The entire journey will take 6 to 7 hours. Those who cannot go to the cave can chill on the beach.

WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Arher or ras Arsel camping ground

WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Watch the speleothems
- Close look at bottle (desert rose) and gum trees
- You can drink from the dripping water inside the cave
- Great location for birdwatching

AREA GUIDE

- We do not recommend going to Hoq cave for those with knee, back or heart problems.
- Head torch, if you are into photography, we recommend bringing a bigger torch
- Must wear hiking shoes, heat protective clothing (during hot months) and a hat
- A minimum of 1 liter of water to carry before you head to the cave
- No mobile coverage is available in the area



DAY 3 – THE NATURAL POOL

- After breakfast, pack your bags and put on your swimming wear and hiking shoes because we will head to the protected area of Homhill, which is home to an endless number of the Socotri endemic plants such as Dragon’s blood tree, Frankincense, Desert rose trees, etc. It’s about 1-hour drive from Arher and 30 minutes of walk along a selection of trails, one of which takes us to a viewpoint where there is a natural swimming pool and a view of villages below on the plain and of the Arabian Sea.
- After Homhil, we will head to another exciting area called Dihammri protected area. Here, you can snorkel and dive in the marine protected area, home to dozens of species of colourful marine life and one of the richest coral reefs on the archipelago.

WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Dihammri protected area campsite

WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Swimming at the natural pool of Homhil
- Explore wide range of Socotra native trees
- Snorkeling or diving in Dihammri (possible to do one dive on this itinerary)

AREA GUIDE

- The difficulty is medium walking around Homhil area
- You can hire the diving equipment from the center in Dihammri
- Don't touch or step on the reef, if you need to rest, float on your back
- Toilets, showers and mobile coverage is available in the area



DAY 4 – THE INDIAN OCEAN

- 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 our visit to Wadi Kelisan, we will have a quick picnic before continuing our way south, off-roading through the valleys to reach the dunes of Zahek. These dunes were created by the seasonal winds, pushing the waves from the ocean straight to the mountains. Then, we will head to our campsite, Aomak, on the Indian Ocean.

WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Aomak campsite

WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Swimming in the Wadi of Kelisan
- Explore wide range of Socotra native trees
- Camel riding (on-request) or Sandboarding
- You can go for long walks along the beach

AREA GUIDE

- Walking to wadi Kelisan not recommended for those with knee, back or heart problems
- Keep your swimming wear if you want to swim at the India ocean after Kelisan
- Mind your steps when walking on the rocks around wadi Kelisan
- Toilets, showers and mobile coverage is available in Aomak campsite



DAY 5 – THE DRAGON BLOOD FOREST

- After a quick swim in the crystal-clear water of the Indian Ocean, we will head to Digub cave, which overlooks a scattering of traditional villages below, the cave itself is of interest as many stalactites, stalagmites, and pools of water have seeped through the rock over time.
- Once we are done with Digub cave, we will make our way to Dicksam plateau (approx. 700 m above sea level) and Shebahon's viewpoint. This area is home to an endless number of 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

WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Firmhen camping ground

WHAT TO SEE & DO

- Swimming in the Wadi of Dirhur
- Explore 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 to shower 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



DAY 6 – THE BEST BEACH IN THE WORLD

- Today, we will explore the western part of the island, but we will make a quick stop at Dicksam Nursery so you can see the baby dragon's blood trees and learn more about their growing process. Then, we will continue our way to see Qalansiyah town and the best beach.
- We will tour the town and port of Qalansiyah and then make our way to an overview point, from which you can see the entire beach and the Detwah lagoon. This marine protected area is renowned for its magical landscape, and you can swim, sunbathe, and relax in the shallow sea.

WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Detwah lagoon campsite

WHAT TO SEE & DO

- 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

- Stingray 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 a huge, has no shade where to swim, make sure you take water with you
- Toilets, showers and mobile coverage is available in Detwah lagoon campsite



DAY 7 – A LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN

- On this day, you should be ready to go by 6:00 a.m. Our drivers will take you to the port of Qalansiyah to catch the boat, where an exciting day begins. We will head to the western side of Socotra to explore one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, Shuaab Beach, and the isolated town of Qabahen. You can swim in the magical crystal clear water and lie in the white-snow sand.
- 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.

DAY 8 – WE WILL MISS YOU

- After breakfast, around 8 am, we will drop you at Socotra airport to catch your flight back to Abu Dhabi.

WHERE TO SLEEP

- Camping at Detwah lagoon campsite

WHAT TO SEE & DO

- You can go for long walks along the beach
- Swimming and snorkeling
- Birdwatching

AREA GUIDE

- Bring a dry bag to protect your electronic devices
- Toilets are available in the village, but no mobile coverage
- For your safety, we will need to cancel Shuaab tour if the sea currents are strong

TOUR RATE – WHAT INCLUDED

- Transportation in air-conditioned 4x4 vehicles.
- All entrance fees to protected areas and campsites
- 8 breakfasts, 7 dinners and 7 lunches.
- Drinking water, soft drinks and fruits
- A boat rental to see the west side of Socotra.
- All government fees.
- Airport pickup/drop off

WHAT NOT INCLUDED

- Camping gear, tent, pillow, mattress and blanket (must bring your own)
- Hire all camping gear for an extra \$120 per person

Group Tour

\$750 pp

AUH- SCT Flight

\$1100 pp

Entry visa

\$170 pp