



DISCOVER SOCOTRA

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2023-2024 Season

Peaks and Coasts; 3-day Trek

Introduction

This itinerary acts to serve as a hand-picked combination of trekking and 4x4 travel through Socotra's most breathtaking scenery, most significant concentrations of endemic biodiversity, and some of the island's most remote communities.

The itinerary sets off with 3 days of trekking through the rugged heart of Socotra, reaching Skand; Socotra's highest peak. Following the trek-focused first half, we meet up with the vehicle entourage and set off to explore some of Socotra's most evocative coastal and inland locations, spending more time immersing into Socotra's astounding natural and cultural heritage.

In this distinctive itinerary, through an engaging and experiential approach, we come face-to-face with some of Socotra's most iconic biodiversity, and share authentic cultural experiences with people keeping Socotra's unique culture alive.

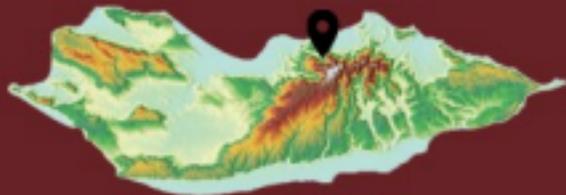


Day 1 :: Wadi Ayhaft

Location description: Wadi Ayhaft is commonly referred to as Socotra's natural botanical garden. The vast valley houses the island's highest concentration of endemic floral biodiversity in a dramatic landscape of steep mountains and clear creeks. The valley is home to small villages and hamlets that sustain themselves of the valley's fertility.

Highlights:

- Wadi pool-hopping
- Visit to abandoned cave-village
- Exploration of endemic flora and fauna of surrounding area
- Visit to village for taste of rural life and valley gardening

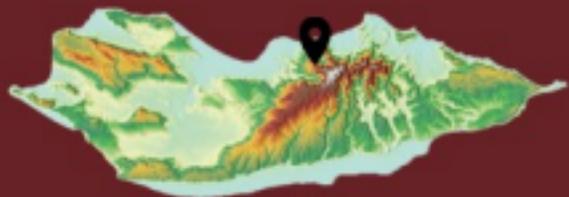


Day 2 :: Trek day 1 :: Tenereh

Location description: Tenereh is a small pastoral hamlet nestled in the western alpine meadows of the Hajhir Mountains. To one side, the view gives on to the sprawling northern coastal plain, to the other, the jagged granitic peaks of Skand. Tenereh is an essential stopover for dry-season transhumance. By interacting with the shepherds that know it best, we get an intimate insight into traditional pastoral life in Socotra's highlands.

Highlights:

- Day's trek through the abundance of Wadi Ayhaft
- Stop in caveside hamlet for insight into remote rural life
- Ethereal sunsets from the dry-stone shepherd huts of Tenereh



Trek details:

Length: ~7 hours

Difficulty: Medium (steep)

Altitude range:

~206 - 1130 masl.

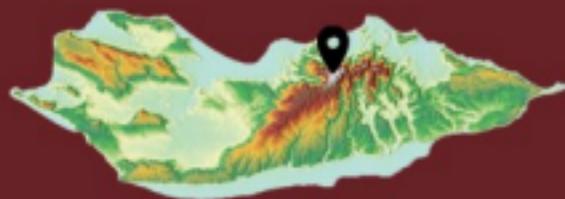


Day 3 :: Trek day 2 :: Skand

Location description: Skand is Socotra's highest peak and the true roof of the archipelago. Standing at ~1600 m.a.s.l, the jagged granite peaks of Skand are almost always immersed in the thick fogs that sustain the area's rich endemic biodiversity. In fact, close to all plant species found in the montane cloud forests of Skand exist only there, and nowhere else on earth.

Highlights:

- Trekking through the thick cloud forests of Skand
- Taking in the jawdropping views from the roof of Socotra
- Hammock between two Dragonblood trees with breathtaking view of the Socotri highlands



Trek details:

Length: ~4 hours

Difficulty: Medium

Altitude range:

~1130 - ~1600 m.a.s.l.

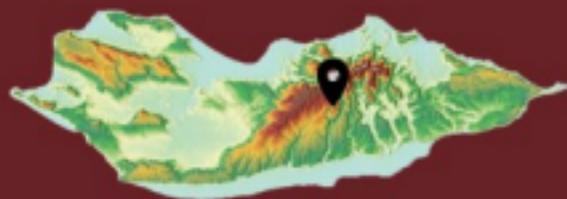


Day 4 :: Trek day 3 :: Firmhin

Location description: Firmhin is located in Socotra's central highlands and is home to the last remaining Dragonblood tree (*Dracaena cinnabari*) forest on earth. The area is characterized by dramatic mountain scenery and high endemic biodiversity. It is also considered a hub of indigenous Socotri culture.

Highlights:

- Sunset stroll through the enchanting Dragonblood tree forest
- Learning Socotri dance and poetry with the team around the campfire
- Visit to Terebek; a small highland hamlet that acts as one of the best preserved representations of indigenous Socotri culture.



Trek details:

Length: ~4.5 hours
Difficulty: Medium
Altitude range:
~1600 - ~760 m.a.s.l.

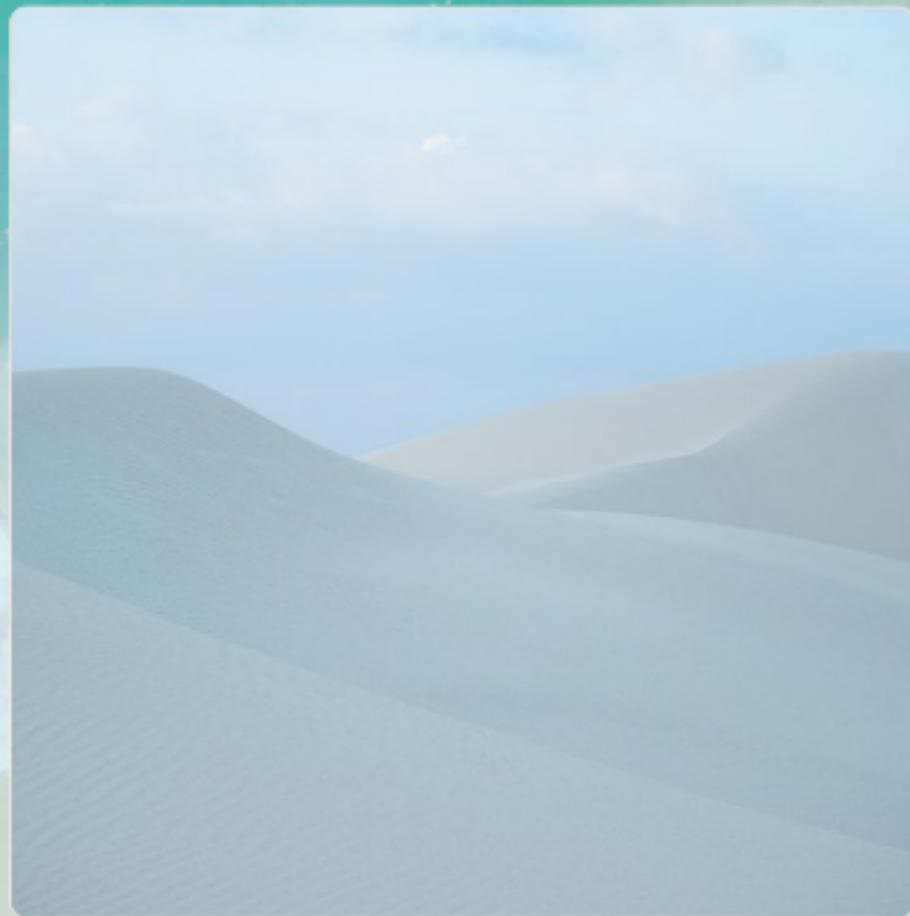
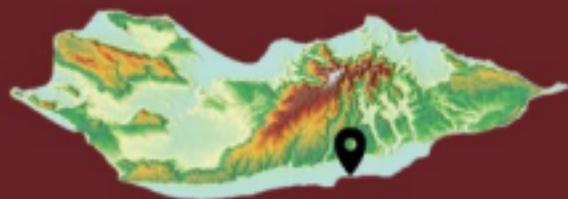


Day 5 :: Hayf

Location description: Located on Socotra's southern coastal plain, Hayf is a small coastal community immersed in coastal date-palm groves and a seemingly endless expanse of white sand dunes. From atop the sand dunes, the rich azure waters of the Indian Ocean stand only few meters away.

Highlights:

- Sunset from amongst seemingly limitless white sand, tinged pink by the setting sun, coupled with a sunset swim on a 100+km soft white sand beach, for those who feel inclined
- Seaside fresh fish feast around the campfire

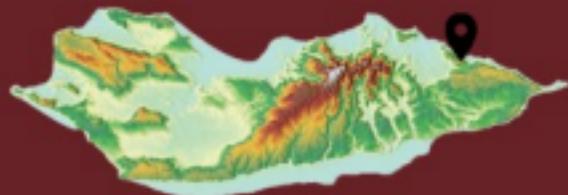


Day 6 :: Kaleesan :: Homhil

Location description: Wadi Kaleesan is characterized by large emerald pools winding along a dramatic wadi. Nearby, Homhil acts as a quintessential example of the beauty found in Socotra's eastern highlands. It is home to a community that lives intrinsically tied to surrounding nature and surreal natural marvels like a frankincense tree forest and natural infinity pool overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Highlights:

- Sunset swim in the natural infinity pool.
- Sunrise among the endemic Frankincense forest
- In-depth exploration fo Homhil's, sights, smells, sounds and tastes

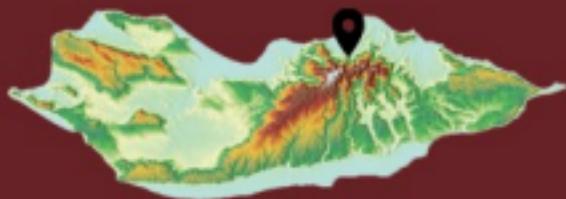


Day 7 :: Arher :: DiHamri

Location description: Arher is one of Socotra's most noteworthy coastal gems. The location is characterized by a freshwater stream that springs from a cave in the cliffside, then flowing between two towering white sand dunes, through natural lawns of beach grass and onto a soft sand beach with crystal clear seawater. Nearby Dihamri is Socotra's largest coral reef and an opportunity to immerse ourselves into Socotra's rich sealife.

Highlights:

- Climbing the towering dunes and running down
- Snorkelling among sea turtles, octopus and eels in Dihamri

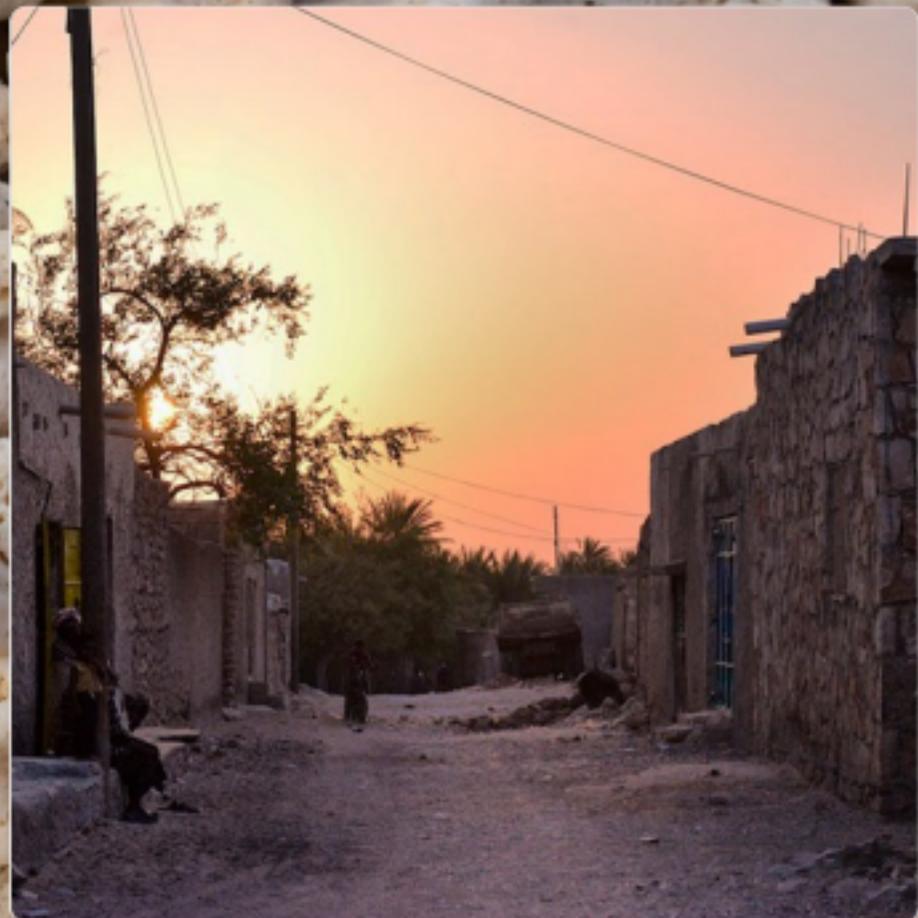
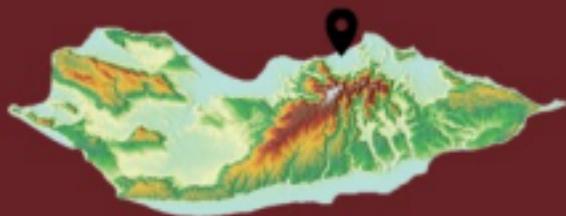


Day 8 :: Hadibo :: Airport

Location description: Hadibo is Socotra's "capital" and biggest human settlement. Famed for its hustle and bustle, Hadibo is full of fascinating history and unique cultural notes, making it a charming stop on our way out of Socotra. This is a great place to pick up any Socotri souvenirs such as local honey, plant products, traditional handicrafts, or local apparel.

Highlights:

- Explore Hadibo market
- Visit to the Ta'nouf's traditional herbal pharmacy, if inclined
- Pick up any souvenirs or mementos
- Bid farewell and "until next time" to the crew



Trip Details

What's included:

- > **Socotra island tourist visa**
- > Guidance and consultation for acquiring international connecting flights
- > **Step by step help buying tickets for any flights arriving and departing from Socotra**
- > **Acquisition of visas as well as airport and customs assistance in Socotra**
- > **Toyota Land Cruiser 2000-2016 series** with functional A/C, sound-system, safety features and mechanic-checked engine, with mechanic/driver(s) and gasoline for entire trip.
- > **All food and drink** (diversified local product-oriented menu, reverse osmosis filtered drinking water, fruit juices, soft drinks, and local delicacies like honey, coffee, and native fruit. All kitchen equipment, with highly experienced chef and kitchen staff. **(Custom menus available for all dietary restrictions)**)
- > **All necessary camping equipment** (high-quality tents, high-quality tables and chairs, portable toilet-tent, sun gazebos, studied lighting, upcycled camping showers and much more. (Most materials are custom built by local artisans to best suit the needs on Socotra.
- > **Entrance and camping fees for all Socotra protected areas**
- > **Experienced local and/or international team** with trained guide fluent in English-Arabic -Socotri with extensive knowledge on Socotri nature and culture and multi-year experience guiding on Socotra.

What's not included:

- > Any flights (\$930/person for round trip from Abu Dhabi - Socotra, \$1075 for round trip from Cairo - Socotra)
- > Sleeping bag (light, compact sleeping bag recommended)

Packing list will be sent upon confirmation of participation

Pricing subject to market-price fluctuations and is thus mentioned in communication with Discover Socotra representative





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