Socotra Trek

The Island Time Forgot

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

Itinerary	Socotra • The Island Time Forgot
8 Days • 7 Nights	**Hadibo – Ar-Ar Beach -Mountains of Haghier – Dimalah – Dihazhaz – Darhoo – Dirhor Canyon – Qalansiyah – Dihamri - Hoq Cave - Rosh marine protected area - Hadibo**

HIGHLIGHTS

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

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'.

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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 – other worldly 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?

Itinerary

Socotra • The Island Time Forgot

DAY 1: ARRIVE TO SOCOTRA AIRPORT - AR-AR BEACH AND SAND DUNES - ARSEL END OF THE ISLAND, THEN BACK TO HADIBO

Arrive in Socotra, which we will soon be able to see why it is considered the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean.

We will drive along the coastal road to Arher where we 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.

Overnight hotel in Hadibo

DAY 2: TREK WITH CAMELS TO HAGJHER MOUNTAIN - DIMALAH (B,L,D)

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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 DIHAZHAZ - 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.

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*. We are then ,et by our 4 x 4's and head for Qalansiyah.*
Overnight camp at Qalansiyah

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: DIHAMRI - HOQ CAVE - ROSH MARINE PROTECTED AREA (B,L,D)

After breakfast we explore Hoc Cave, a spectacular 2.5 Km of stalactites and stalagmites, one of the biggest caves in Arabia, and enjoy the beautiful scenery and unique experience of ancient history & gorgeous rock formations small water pools and ancient writing. The trek takes around 3 hours followed by lunch at the bottom of the mountain, and then the driver will take us to Arher where we can see the highest sand dunes on Socotra. It is a magnificent view with freshwater streams flowing from the mountains to the sea. We will have a chance to climb the dunes which are around 200 meters high and bath in the hot water springs

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

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

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- All sightseeing activities as specified
- English Speaking local guide throughout
- Porters

drivers who you can tip at the end).

- Visa
- Snorkel and flippers
- Travel & Medical Insurance

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