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Explore the world, live unique experiences, grow your photography, discover new cultures.



SOCOTRA

Duration: **9 days / 8 nights**

Up-to-date dates, prices and included services: moai.ch/socotra

Join us for a unique and unforgettable photo tour to Socotra, the enchanting island of the Indian Ocean. This remote corner of the world, famous for its extraordinary biodiversity and surreal landscapes, is a paradise for photographers and nature lovers, as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

During our photo tour, you will have the opportunity to capture the wonders of Socotra, from the striking dragon's blood trees and bottle trees to the pristine beaches and mysterious caves. Guided by local experts, you will explore the island's most iconic and lesser-known spots, immersing yourself in its magical and timeless atmosphere.

Get ready to photograph breathtaking scenes and unique moments, living an adventure that will inspire your creativity and enrich your photographic portfolio. Discover Socotra, where nature reveals its most fascinating secrets and beauty comes to life in every shot.

This journey is designed to offer authentic experiences and exceptional photographic opportunities, making it perfect for those who wish to explore and document one of the most surprising islands on the planet.

To fully enjoy this island, you will need to sleep in tents, so a good sense of adaptability is required... but it's worth it!

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The route



1. **Abu Dhabi**
   1 night · Day 1
2. **Arher**
   1 night · Day 2
3. **Ras Irissel**
   1 night · Day 3
4. **Dihamri**
   4 nights · Days 4–7
5. **Detwah Lagoon**
   1 night · Day 8
6. **Abu Dhabi**
   1 night · Day 9

Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrival in Abu Dhabi

You will reach Abu Dhabi independently (if needed, we can help you find the best flight) from the main Swiss and Italian airports. No visa is required to enter the United Arab Emirates.

We recommend arriving a day early to visit the city's main attractions, such as the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

We'll meet in the evening to get to know each other and share a meal. For those arriving with late-night flights, the meeting will take place the following morning at breakfast.

Overnight: Overnight in Abu Dhabi with a double room

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Day 2 – Welcome to Socotra… and to Ahrer Beach

Early breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport to catch your flight to Socotra.

Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed with a traditional Soqotri meal.

Your adventure begins with a visit to the stunning **Arher Beach**. It features towering cliffs, soft white sand, and freshwater streams flowing into the sea.

Before sunset, you can swim or climb the sand dunes for breathtaking views of the island.

Afterwards, enjoy a delicious dinner and spend the night camping under the stars.

Day 3 – Homhil Infinity Pool, Hoq Cave and Erissel

Today, we'll explore the **Infinity Pool**.

The Homhil Infinity Pool is located in one of Socotra's most attractive protected areas. Here, you'll find a rich expanse of Socotri trees, including the iconic **Dragon Trees**, set against a breathtaking natural backdrop. It's an extraordinary journey through rare species and serene natural pools. You can choose to return on foot or by car for lunch.

After lunch, we'll dive into the mysterious depths of the **Hoq Cave**, famous for its stalagmites, stalactites, and fascinating rock formations. This untouched natural wonder offers an immersive experience without artificial lights or worn paths.

In the afternoon, we'll head to **Ras Erissel**, the island's easternmost point. Here, you'll have the chance to relax, spot crabs, and enjoy a stunning sunset.

As night falls, we'll gather for a delicious dinner and an evening together.

Day 4 – Kilisan and Dihamri

This morning, we'll travel to **Kilissan Wadi**, Socotra's largest natural water basin. This enchanting spot is framed by endemic trees and striking white limestone cliffs. Keep an eye out for the endemic chameleons that call this place home!

You'll have the whole morning to immerse yourself in the beauty of the wadi. Take your time to swim in the crystal-clear waters or jump from various heights for a splash of excitement.

In the afternoon, our adventure continues to the **Dihamri Marine Reserve**. Located on Socotra's northern coast, this protected area is a snorkeller's paradise and offers some of the island's most exquisite underwater views. A diving instructor will be available to guide those who wish to go scuba diving (equipment is available for rent).

Here, whether snorkelling or diving, you'll encounter a variety of marine life, including sea turtles, octopuses, leopard moray eels, colourful parrotfish, and many more.

The day will conclude with dinner, followed by a peaceful night under the stars at Dihamri Beach camp.

Day 5 – Zahek

Today, we'll cross Socotra Island to head towards the vast **southern plains of Noged**. Our special stop is the stunning **Zahek Sand Dunes**. This place features a white beach and the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean.

Once we arrive at the campsite, lunch will be ready. It's a great time to find some shade and perhaps take a

quick nap. As the day progresses, you'll notice how the light transforms everything, making every moment at Zahek special. The white sands seem to whisper for you to climb high and take in the view. From up there, the sunset looks incredible, offering an unparalleled sight and stunning photo opportunities.

The day will end with dinner and a night camping under the stars.

Day 6 – Diksam

We'll start our day early to explore the **Dagub Cave**. This natural wonder, shaped by time and waterfalls, boasts stunning rock formations. After admiring the cave, we'll ascend to the unique **Diksam Plateau**, home to the enchanting Dragon Trees.

As we traverse the national park, we'll be greeted by the iconic **Dragon Blood Trees** lining the path. Our next stop is the **Wadi Dirhur Canyon** and its lush palms and robust **bottle trees**.

From there, we'll climb to the Firmihin Forest, the cradle of the Dragon Trees. Here, enjoy lunch under these ancient guardians, followed by an afternoon to wander the forest. Join us for a sunset photography walk led by a local guide to capture the unmatched beauty of this ethereal landscape.

The day will conclude with dinner and a peaceful night camping in the forest, wrapped in its magic.

Day 7 – Qalansyia and Detwah Lagoon

This morning, right after breakfast at **Diksam**, we leave the highlands and head west towards a charming village called Qalansiya, the second-largest settlement on the island and a gateway to some of the most breathtaking views the island has to offer. You'll have time to explore the area and enjoy the scenery.

Next, we head to the **Detwah Lagoon**. This special place is a protected area where the Arabian Sea meets the Indian Ocean. It's the perfect spot to spend the day swimming, exploring, or simply relaxing on the beach.

After lunch, we'll visit a cave and meet a local man, the 'caveman', who knows the lagoon inside out. He's a bit like a cave dweller who knows every nook of this place and will introduce us to the friendly creatures that live around here.

Day 8 – Shoab

This morning, adventure at sea! Hop on board for a suggestive boat trip to **Shoab Beach**, a journey lasting about an hour and a half. Keep your eyes peeled for dolphins along the way, which add excitement to our trip.

Once we arrive, we'll have plenty of time to enjoy the sun and take a refreshing swim at Shoab Beach, accessible only by boat.

After returning to camp for lunch, it's time to relax and enjoy a well-deserved rest – after all, we're on holiday!

As evening approaches, we'll prepare to capture breathtaking sunset photos at not one, but two incredible spots. First, we'll climb a small mountain for a panoramic view over the **Detwah Lagoon**, with its hypnotic blue waters and pristine white sands. Then, we'll hop in the car and head to a scenic viewpoint offering a view of the surrounding landscapes, where we can admire the sea and the majestic mountains.

As night falls, we'll gather for a delicious dinner and settle in for a night's rest at camp by the Detwah Lagoon.

Day 9 – Airport

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. We'll wrap up our journey on a pleasant note with a

delicious

breakfast. Afterwards, we'll head to Socotra Airport to return to Abu Dhabi, arriving in the early afternoon. You can choose to fly back in the evening or stay longer in Abu Dhabi after the photo tour. We can also assist you with flight advice or suggestions on what to do in Abu Dhabi or even a trip to Dubai.

Good to know

Visa requirements for the United Arab Emirates

For most nationalities (including EU countries, Switzerland, the UK, USA, and Canada) a visa is not required in advance: a free visa on arrival is issued at the airport (usually valid for 30 days).

Travelers from other countries should check the specific entry requirements with the UAE embassy or consulate in their country before departure.

Visa requirements for Socotra

The visa for Socotra is already included in the travel package. Participants do not need to take any action, as all formalities will be arranged on their behalf.

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NOTES

Thank you!

To thank you for your interest and for printing or sharing this itinerary, here is a voucher worth **US$ 130** on your next trip. Use the discount code **PDF**.

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