Socotra

Arabian Sea Endemics

Sample Itinerary, typically 9 days



Socotra Sunbird by Daniel Danckwerts

Referred to as the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean, the island of Socotra is a biodiversity jewel with almost 700 endemics species of flora and fauna. Our weeklong tour is designed to enjoy a wide variety of habitats to find all the principal island endemic and potential future endemic birds. Along the way, we are sure to find several interesting reptiles and plants, as well as enjoy the idyllic and rarely visited landscapes.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Flight from Abu Dhabi to Socotra**
Day 2	**Diksam Plateau**
Day 3	**Wadi Ayhaft, Khor Sirhan & Qhooqa Plain**
Day 4	**Deham, Detwah Lagoon & Wadi Shoq**
Day 5	**Khor Sirhan, Diksam plateau & surrounds**
Day 6	**Pelagic off Hadiboh or Qalansiyah**
Day 7	**Wadi Ayhaft, Khor Sirhan & Qhooqa plain**
Day 8	**Socotra to Abu Dhabi & final departure**



Birding sites in detail



Persian Shearwater by Daniel Danckwerts

Diksam Plateau. This mountainous region is home to small forests of the distinct Dragon's Blood Tree. We'll spend the entire day traversing these high regions for many of the island's endemics such as Socotra Bunting, Socotra White-eye, Socotra Starling, Socotra Sparrow, and Socotra Buzzard. We also have a good chance of finding the endemic sub-species of Grey Shrike.

Wadi Ayhaft. This beautiful sandstone and granite wadi is home to several key endemics such as Socotra Golden-winged Grosbeak, Socotra Sunbird, Socotra Warbler and Socotra Buzzard.

Khor Sirhan. Time spent here should elicit Socotra Cormorant and any vagrants.

Qhooqa Plain. We'll bird the plain for Nubian Nightjar and Cream-colored Courser.

Deham. Deham is an excellent site for Socotra Cisticola, Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Sooty Gull, and waders.

Detwah Lagoon. The Detwah Lagoon is a wetland of international importance, a protected lagoon that hosts many waders and waterfowl, alongside Somali and Socotra Starlings, Socotra Sparrow, and Sooty Gull.

Wadi Shoq. We'll search this wadi for Socotra Scops Owl.



Egyptian Vulture by Daniel Danckwerts



Blood Dragon Tree on the Diksam Plateau by Daniel Danckwerts

Pelagic. An exciting day indeed, as we head offshore for a pelagic trip. Our primary target is Jouanin's Petrel, but we can also expect to see Brown Noddy, Brown and Masked Boobies and Persian Shearwater.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease	■ ■ ■	Moderate to comfortable
Birding Ease	■ ■ ■	Mostly east. Nocturnal birding on some days.
Accommodation	■ ■ ■	Comfortable.
Walking / Trails	■ ■ ■	Moderate to easy.
Vehicles / Roads	■ ■ ■	Roads are variable in quality.
Photography	■ ■ ■	Good to excellent.
Annoyances	■ ■ ■	Can be very hot & bright.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

This tour is made available through our Tailor-made tours department. To explore this offering further for pricing, precise day to day itinerary, inclusions & exclusions, or to tailor the tour to your personal requirements, please contact our Tailor-made team on tailormade@rockjumper.com

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- Socotra has a very hot and bright climate; sun protection is essential.
- This tour requires a decent level of fitness as most days are spent birding on foot.
- International flights to and from Socotra are not available to tourists or foreign companies and can only be booked by local agents.
- Our agents will also arrange your Socotra Visa when booking our flights. You will be required to provide us with a good copy of your passport photo page to arrange your visa which will be emailed to you. Print the visa before travelling and hand to Abu Dhabi check-in counter to board the flight. Your original visa will be given to you when you arrive in Socotra.
- Please note the expected flight times below, which are correct at the time of writing.



Socotra Buzzard by Daniel Danckwerts

Arrival and Departure Details

This tour includes the return flights to/from Abu Dhabi. The tour will begin at Abu Dhabi International Airport (IATA: AUH) on the morning of day 1 of the tour with an early morning flight (05:30am). Please ensure you arrive in Abu Dhabi the previous day, or with enough time to board this flight. The tour will conclude at the same airport on day 8 after a return flight, which typically lands around 10:30am.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Abu Dhabi International Airport (IATA: AUH) is the airport for all arrivals and departures for this tour.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.