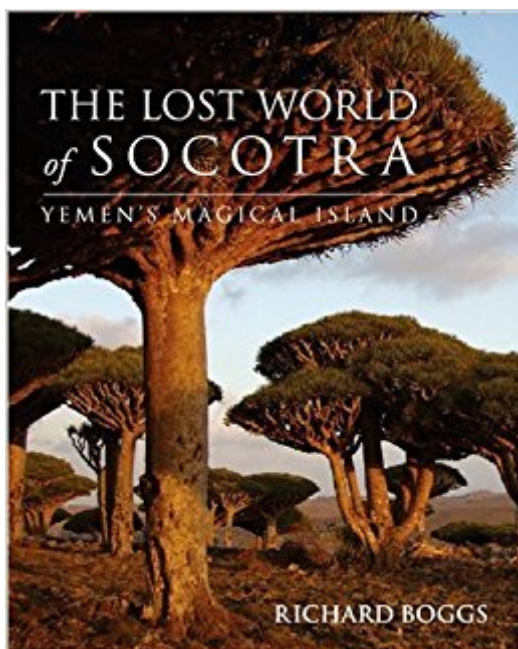


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The Lost World Of Socotra: Yemen's Island Of Bliss



Synopsis

The islands of Socotra lie some 190 nautical miles off the southern coast of Yemen, in the Gulf of Aden. Their relative isolation merely hints at their extraordinary foreignness. Like a lesser Galapagos, these islands boast flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth. Moreover, the Socotran people have their own language (which lacks a script) and distinctive culture, cuisine and architecture: neither Arabian nor African, yet strongly and distinctively Socotran. Richard Boggs spent many months in this remote and other-worldly archipelago, mixing with the Socotran peoples and capturing in world class photographs the uniqueness of the land and its life. The Lost World of Socotra brings this remarkable location to a new audience and is, truly, a journey through lands like no other.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Boggs is a writer and photographer, who has traveled extensively in Arabia and Africa. He currently works for the British Council: his most recent posting was to teach English in Khartoum. In his spare time he lives in his native Ireland.

Socotra is the truly one of the more unique and "alien" places on earth. Almost halfway between Yemen and Somalia, it's home of a people who are neither Arab or African. The Island itself is a UNESCO Heritage Site and has a non-written language. To call the biodiversity in Socotra "wild" is an understatement. The island itself is home to many unique birds, trees and plants - the most famous tree is the Dragon's Blood tree. The book itself is pretty good, with a good background on

the history of Socotra, which has changed hands a few times, was a Christian enclave who reported to an archbishop in Baghdad instead of Rome, and was mentioned in The Travels of Marco Polo. There's more than enough pictures to keep this as a coffee table book. However, the book is more about the people and the history of Socotra than the wildlife. Still, when most places in the world seem a relatively short plane-ride away, Socotra is one of the few relatively untouched places in the world - truly at the ends of the earth. Overall, it's a 4.5 out of 5. It could have used more maps, but it's a good gateway to learning and perhaps dreaming of traveling to one of the more unusual and unspoiled places in the world.

Measuring just 6.5" x 8", this sturdy little book travels well. The page stock is quality and the pics are fine. The book favors people shots over landscape, but there are plenty of both. None of the interior shots match the cover, but that is to be expected. I guess the pics are representative of the place. Somehow the overall effect was unexpectedly bleak (vs inspiring) for me. Perhaps my expectations were off.

its a good book, introduce a lot of important informations about the Island, but please do not get confuse if you think its a travel manual :)

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