








Some special reptiles of Socotra

In total, 31 species of reptiles have been recorded on Socotra Archipelago, including 29 that are found nowhere else in the world. Of those, 35% are Threatened, Near Threatened or Data Deficient, including the dragon's blood tree gecko. This leaflet shows some that are endemic and easy to spot, all non-poisonous. Enjoy your visit.

				
<p>Günther's racer <i>Dityophis vivax</i> A relict nocturnal species. Harmless though viper-like in appearance. Eats mice.</p>		<p>Socotran chameleon <i>Chamaeleo monachus</i> A relict nocturnal species. Near Threatened (CITES). Aggressive if disturbed.</p>		<p>Socotra skink <i>Trachylepis socotrana</i> Diurnal skink. Common and widespread, even on urban areas (rockwalls).</p>
				
<p>Socotra giant gecko <i>Haemodracon riebeckii</i> Nocturnal and found on vertical habitats (cliffs, trees). Leaf-shaped toes.</p>		<p>Arabian leaf-toed gecko <i>Hemidactylus homoeolepis</i> The most widespread and common nocturnal reptile; under rocks in the daytime.</p>		<p>Dragon's blood tree gecko <i>Hemidactylus dracaenacolus</i> Nocturnal. On <i>Dracaena</i>. Critically Endangered.</p>
				
<p>Mangrove semaphore gecko <i>Pristurus obsti</i> Diurnal and purely arboreal. Very mimetic.</p>		<p>Socotra rock gecko <i>Pristurus sokotranus</i> The commonest diurnal reptile. Rock-dwelling. Signals with the tail.</p>		<p>Blanford's rock gecko <i>Pristurus insignis</i> Large with long limbs. On boulders and cliffs. Also on wadis. Sleeps on branches.</p>