

In brief

Yemen Times Staff

SOCOTRA

Socotra candidate for world's seven wonders

The Swiss New Seven Wonders Foundation announced that Socotra Island is on the list of 77 international sites being considered for the new seven wonders of the world.

Among the 77 sites, the island is ranked 74th.

Other sites include Al-Ahsa' oasis in Saudi Arabia, the Dead Sea in Jordan, the Jeita Cave in Lebanon and the Nile River in Egypt and Sudan.

In the second stage, 21 sites will be chosen from the list, from which seven will be selected in January 2009.

Surveys have revealed that more than a third of close to 800 or so plant species on Socotra are found nowhere else in the world. Botanists rank the flora of Socotra among the ten most endangered island flora in the world.

Fourteen mammal and 175 bird species that currently live on the island have been recorded as endemic species. Having been virtually isolated from the rest of the world for a long period, Socotra remains one of the most fascinating places on earth.

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