

# TRAILS MAP - EAST MAKHTESH RAMON

The Friendliest desert in the world  
Welcome to the Negev Highlands

Our Biblical desert is rich in spectacular landscapes of Genesis, featuring an abundance of impressive geological formations and pristine vistas both serene and majestic.

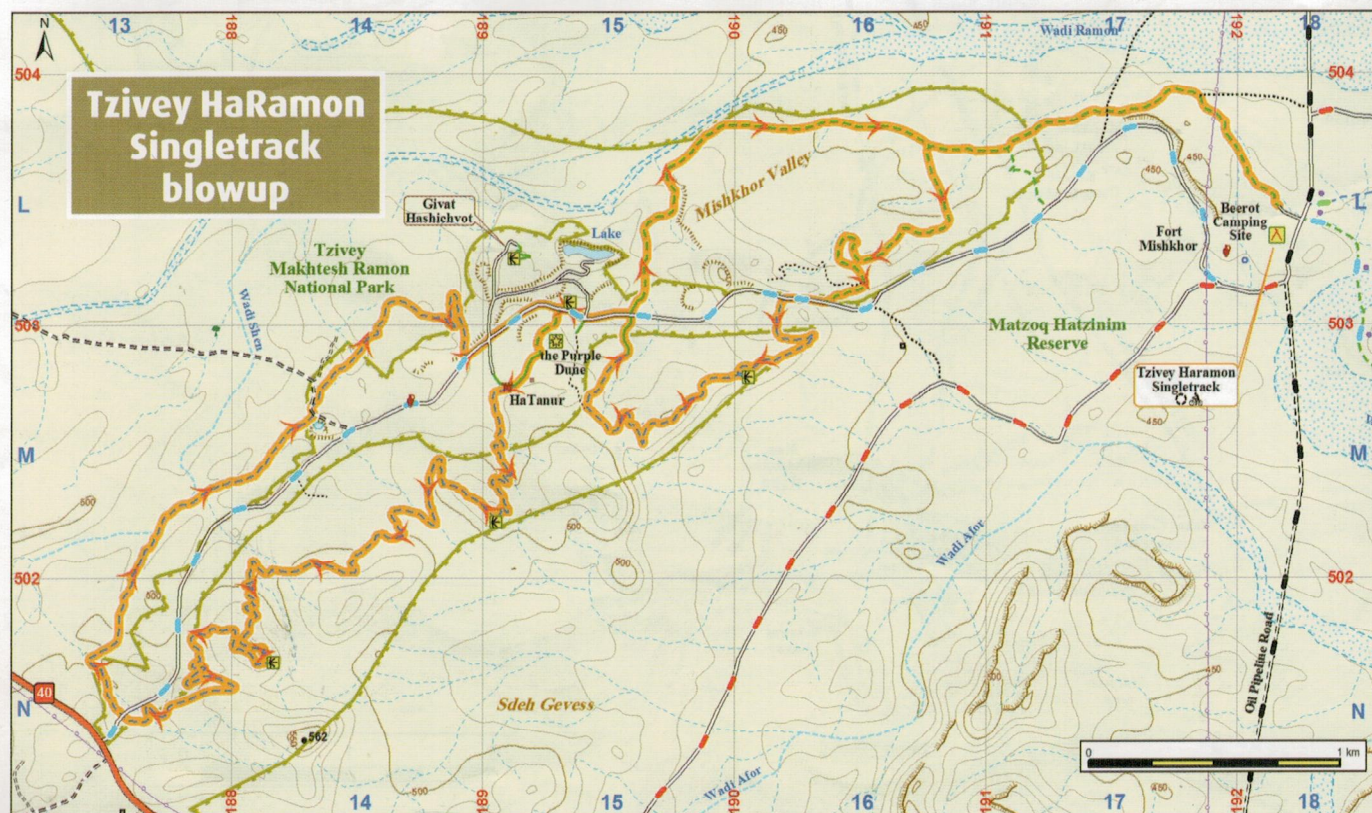
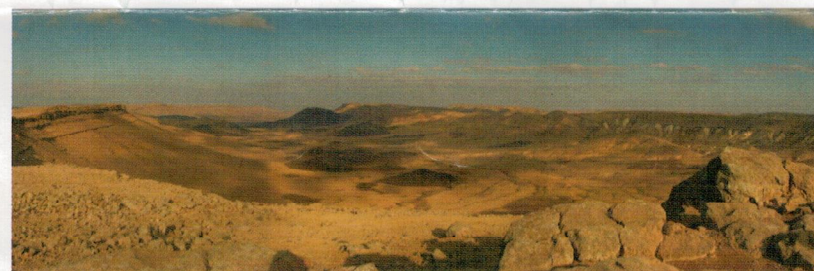
The vast desert harbors remains of bygone civilizations, ancient archaeological sites and remnants of centuries of agriculture, a backdrop to rare encounters with Bedouin tribes - people of the desert, upholding the ancient tradition of nomadic life in the deserts of the Middle East.

The Makhtesh Ramon (Ramon Crater) area, is the most majestic of it all, and yet, it is well marked with desert trails, that are suitable for all hikers and Single-tracks for bikers, that offer the spectacular views from the cliffs of the Makhtesh into the heart of it.

We invite you to enjoy the hiking and Biking trails of our friendly desert.

Have a marvelous vacation!

Har Hanegev Tourism - 08-8681635 • www.negevtour.co.il



## HIKING TRAILS

**Starting Point:** Ramat Saharonim CG. (L20)  
**Finish Point:** Ramat Saharonim CG. (L20)

**Getting there:** Drive from Mitzpe Ramon south. After 11 km turn left at the sign for Beerot Campground and Ein Saharonim. Drive on the dirt road to the Bedouin Campground. Make the first right turn possible after the campground and continue along the dirt road. At the fork turn left and follow the signs to "Ardon". Park at the large gravel parking lot

### 1 Wadi Ardon and Harut hill (Wadi Ardon Ve-Givat Harut)

**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Length:** 4 km **Duration:** 2.5 hours  
**Recommended season:** Jan-Feb, March-Apr, May-Jun, Jul-Aug, Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec  
**Recommended time:** Morning  
**Hike Description:** Start out along the **black** markers of the 4x4 road leading east from the parking lot. Follow it down into the wadi until you reach the red sand, and an impressive Acacia tree. Continue along the road and the **black** markers for a little less than 1 km. The abundance of life here is almost staggering - Retama broom bushes (white blossom, if you're lucky), and Tamarix brush, tracks of Onagers and Gazells, and borrows of porcupines can be easily spotted. Keep your eyes open to the left and follow the colorful layers of rock. Find a **red** trail branching off to the left. At this point continue along the wadi and the **black** markers for another 150 meters until you come to the impressive dyke - a Magmatic intrusion injected into the horizontal layers. Turn back to the **red** trail and follow it north, out of the wadi and up to Harut hill. When you come to the base of the hill you can either climb the top or simply follow the **blue** markers to the left (west) back to the wadi and to the acacia tree. After enjoying the shade, head on the **black** dirt road to the right (west) and up back to your car.  
**Attractions:** Colorful sand and rocks, Magmatic intrusions (dyke), Acacia trees, desert vegetation, Vistas.

### 2 Mt. Ardon (Har Ardon)

**Difficulty:** Difficult  
**Length:** 12 km **Duration:** 5 hours  
**Recommended season:** Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, March-Apr  
**Recommended time:** Early in the Morning  
**Hike Description:** Head out along the **black** markers into wadi Ardon. At the Acacia tree follow the **blue** markers, north, out of Wadi Ardon, to the bottom of Harut hill, and through the red valley. Mt. Ardon is the dominating cliff ahead of you to the North. Notice the rock and sand below your feet gradually change from black to red to yellow to white. At the bottom of the mountain take a deep breath and climb up the trail. Caution - loose footing. Once you get to the top, follow the trail markers along the rim, westward, to the peak and the amazing viewpoint. Come down from the mountain on the other side and connect to the parking lot. If you're in a hurry, turn left onto the **green** trail which will bring you back to the red valley. Normally - follow the dirt road until it connects to a **black** marked trail on the left (south). Turn onto the **black** trail. You'll come to two roman milestones. The **black** trail will connect you back to the fork in the road from the morning. Follow the dirt road (**blue** markers) to the east back to your car.  
**Attractions:** Lone acacia tree, colorful sand, challenging climb, breathtaking view, Roman milestones, ancient insence route

### 3 Nekarot Horseshoe and Wadi Ardon (Farsat Nekarot Ve-Nahal Ardon)

**Difficulty:** Easy-Medium  
**Length:** 9.5 km **Duration:** 4 hours  
**Recommended season:** Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, March-Apr, May-Jun  
**Recommended time:** Morning  
**Hike Description:** From the parking lot Head South along the **green** markers for 1.5 km to the Han Saharonim parking lot. Follow the footpath to the ruin of the old Caravan stop. This 1st century building was one of the stops along the Nabatean frankincense route from Petra to Gaza. Though not a fort, this is a fortified building, featuring storage rooms, a large kitchen with an oven and private rooms for distinguished guests. Go to the top of the hill and continue down, south, into

## TRAILS

the patch of dense vegetation at Ein-Saharonim, the largest natural source of water in the entire crater. Here you'll find Tamarix and Reeds and Dutch rush - all water-loving plants. Follow the **blue** markers to the east (left). You'll find the actual spot of the water under a small Tamerix. In the winter and spring water here is visible in small pools, but in the summer, the water drops below the surface, and animals are forced to dig to get to it. Head East along the **blue** markers into the horseshoe canyon. You'll pass Ramon's gate - the narrow pass where the main drainage of the crater exits the cliffs. Stay in the canyon and continue for another 1.5 km to the "Narrows" - a corridor of White hard limestone, polished by flow of sandy water during occasional floods. As you exit and the canyon widens again, keep your eyes to the right for the cave which will appear after 300 meters. Stay on the **blue** markers, pass **green** markers on your left, and reach an intersection of trails. Pick up the **black** jeep trail northeast; passing a sign to the right for the Arava, The **INT** markers will leave your trail. Stay on the **black** markers as they enter Wadi Ardon and slowly curve Northwest. Pass **blue** markers on your left. After a little over 1 km, you'll see the impressive Dike of Wadi Ardon - a Magmatic intrusion injected into the horizontal layers. After another 200 meters you'll come to a sign and **red** Markers on your Right (North). Climb along the **red** markers, north, out of the wadi and up to Harut hill. From the base of the hill you can either climb the top or simply follow the **blue** markers to the left (west) back to the wadi and to an impressive Acacia tree. After enjoying the shade, head on the **black** dirt road to the right (west) and up back to your car.  
**Attractions:** Ancient caravan rest stop, Hidden spring, Narrow canyon, cool cave, Colorful sand and rocks, Magmatic intrusions (dyke), Acacia trees, desert vegetation, Vistas.

All hiking trails are from: [negevtrails.com](http://negevtrails.com)

## BIKING TRAILS

### Israel Bike Trail (IBT) - Ramon - Beerot

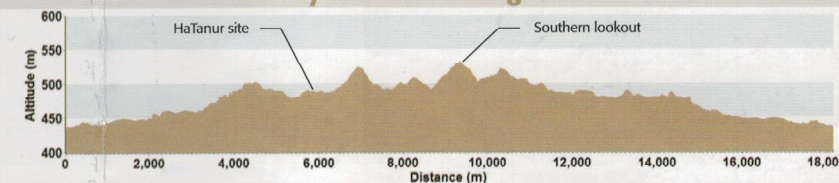
This expansive trail combines an enjoyable and flowing single in Wadi Hava with amazing scenery of the crater, in one of the Israel Bike Trail sections currently under development.  
**Colored on Map:** Blue  
**Distance:** 37 km **Difficulty:** Intermediate  
**Start:** Gas station parking lot at the entrance of Mitzpe Ramon (M7) **Finish:** Beerot Camping site (L18)  
**Trail Description:** From the parking lot ride out in a NE direction along the Israel National Trail. After about 150 meters, enter the Desert Sculpture Park turning right onto the IBT (a large sign notes the trail's entrance). The well-marked trail winds along the crater's edge. A short ride later you'll enter Wadi Hava for a typical single desert adventure. The trail returns to the crater's edge and continues East on alternating dirt roads and singletracks. Peaking at Noakh Ascent (Ma'ale) turn south and drop down to the heart of the crater along an exciting trail. There you will connect with the oil pipe line road (marked in **black**) and cycle south until the Beerot Camp site.

### Tzivey HaRamon Singletrack

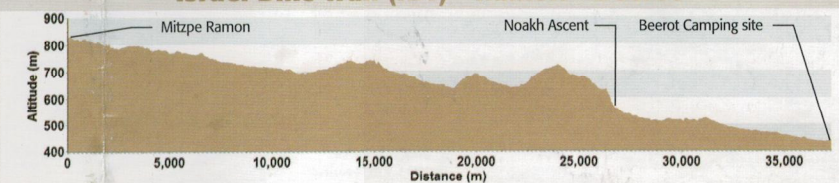
A lovely trail that passes the sites of the new Tzivey Makhtesh Ramon National Park.  
**Colored on Map:** Orange  
**Distance:** 18.5 km **Difficulty:** Intermediate  
**Start and Finish:** Beerot Camping site (L18)  
**Trail Description:** We head out of the northern section of the Beerot Camp site cycling westward on a wide and clear trail to the fork where we turn left towards the main trail that crosses the National Park (marked in blue). Here we turn right and then left towards the continued singletrack in the southern section of the National Park. In the Purple Dune area the trail returns northward to the main trail, turning left and after 250 m again left to the 'HaTanur' site and back to the winding trail to the park's SW hills. Again, we cross the main trail and begin to ride eastward along the park's northern strip. Just before "Givat Hashichvot", the route returns to the main trail turning left for approximately 800 m. Soon after the Purple Dune we'll turn left and enter the single leading eastward to the Beerot Camp site.  
**Comments:** Although the trail is well marked, it can at times be confusing. Stay alert.

## Elevation Graphs

### Tzivey HaRamon Singletrack



### Israel Bike Trail (IBT) - Ramon - Beerot



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**Warning!**  
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