



EAST MAKHTESH RAMON TRAILS MAP

TRAILS MAP  
SDE BOKER

**LEGEND**

Antiquity site/ruin (red star)	Spring (blue dot)	Water reservoir/Lake (blue area)	Unpaved roads for all vehicle types (dashed line)
Cave (black triangle)	Pumping facility (blue circle)	Seasonal lake/area occasionally flooded (blue wavy line)	Unpaved roads for high class vehicles only (dashed line)
Memorial site (black square)	Antenna (black dot)	Forest area (green area)	Unpaved roads for 4x4 vehicles only (dashed line)
Prison site (black square)	Traffic light (black circle)	Scattered trees (green dots)	Unpaved road in poor condition (dashed line)
Historical site/building (black square)	Information (black circle)	Cultivated land (green area)	Unpaved road with steep slope (dashed line)
Petrol station (black square)	Building (black square)	Olive grove (green area)	Difficult navigability, steep slope (dashed line)
Synagogue (black square)	Religious building (black square)	Area under development/quarry (green area)	Site (see sites list)
Sheikh's grave (black square)	Cemetery (black square)	Built-up area (green area)	Point of interest (black square)
Observation point (black square)	Tree/forest (black square)	Industrial area (green area)	Recommended site (black square)
Nature site (black square)	Winter stream (black line)	Area under development/quarry (green area)	Highly recommended site (black square)
Nature site (seasonal wildflowers) (black square)	River/Water canal (black line)	Firing zone (green area)	Local business (black square)
Water tower/barn (black square)	Main road (black line)	Contour lines every 10 meters (black line)	Trails and Route Markings (black line)
Parking (black square)	Secondary road (black line)	Suspected mine field (black line)	Trail markings that show a colored stripe between 2 white stripes (black line)
Camping area/ Site (black square)	Local road (black line)	Narrow trail (black line)	Israel National Trail (INT) Markings (black line)
Lodging (black square)	Paved road/Street (black line)	Paved track (black line)	Shows orange, blue, white triple stripe (black line)
Hotel (black square)	Military road (black line)	Stairs (black line)	Trail marked both as INT and regular trail marking (black line)
Restaurant (black square)	Vehicle barrier (black line)	Wide, comfortable trail (black line)	Negotiable trail marking that shows a colored stripe between 2 white stripes (black line)
Bike shop (black square)	Power line (black line)	Narrow/moderate trail (black line)	Shows orange, blue, white triple stripe (black line)
Winery (black square)	Cliffs (black line)	Narrow steep trail (black line)	Shows orange, blue, white triple stripe (black line)
Zoo (black square)	Dirt Battery (black line)	Difficult trail (black line)	Shows orange, blue, white triple stripe (black line)
Ladder/Extreme passage (black square)	Steep slope (black line)	Goat path (black line)	Shows orange, blue, white triple stripe (black line)
Water tank (black square)	Terrace (black line)		
Cistern/Well (black square)			

**Trails and Route Markings**

- Trail markings that show a colored stripe between 2 white stripes
- Israel National Trail (INT) Markings
- Shows orange, blue, white triple stripe
- Trail marked both as INT and regular trail marking
- Negotiable trail marking that shows a colored stripe between 2 white stripes (an adjacent purple circle on regular trail marking)
- Shows orange, blue, white triple stripe

**Narrow Trails**

- Paved track
- Stairs
- Wide, comfortable trail
- Narrow/moderate trail
- Narrow steep trail
- Difficult trail (many obstacles, dense vegetation)
- Goat path

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Derech Eretz  
Fogel



# TRAILS MAP - SDE BOKER

## Welcome to the friendly Negev desert

Ramat HaNegev Regional Council and the town of Mitzpe Ramon at its center cover fully one quarter of Israel's area.

The Negev Highlands displays untouched desert wilderness vistas and the unique land of the Craters ("Makhtesh")

The region offers a selection of tourist services and attractions, including:

Accommodation - from tents to luxury hotels, a range of possibilities for any budget. Food - restaurants, cafes, as well as farms producing wine, olive oil, cheeses.

Outings - a wide variety of itineraries and trails for hiking and cycling.

Activities for all ages and interests – rappelling, horse riding and camel riding, 4X4 trail driving, and more.

- Discover nature in all its glory - rare and remarkable flora and fauna, the world-famous craters ("Makhtesh"), oases and vast nature-reserves.

- The Negev Highlands is known for its pleasant, dry and cool climate. You can come and visit year-round – in summer too! The desert climate and the absence of light pollution make star-gazing possible even without telescopes.

- The Human heritage includes innumerable sites, dating from the dawn of civilization to the present. Among them are Mt. Karkom and other Rock Art concentrations; The Spice Route and its ancient cities; Bedouin tents preserving the old tribal traditions; and National heritage sites of the 20th century such as Mizpe Revivim and Ben-Gurion's Desert Home and Tomb in Sde Boker.

We shall receive you in the best tradition of desert hospitality.

**Have a marvelous vacation!**

**Har Hanegev Tourism - [www.negevtour.co.il](http://www.negevtour.co.il)**

## Astronomy tours

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## HIKING TRAILS

### 1 Mt. Tzaror and Tzaror Canyon (Har Tzaror and Nahal Tzaror)

**Attractions:** Scavenger feeding station, vulture sightings, majestic view, Acacia trees, desert vegetation, narrow canyon, seasonal waterhole.

An easy yet rewarding hike along the Zin valley.

**Difficulty:** Easy - Medium

**Length:** 7.5 km **Duration:** 4 hours

**Recommended season:** Sep. - Apr.

**Recommended time:** Morning

**Getting There:**

**By car:** Drive to Midreshet Ben Guryon and continue north along HW 40 for 1 km to a brown sign on your right for Ein Akev. Turn right (black markers). Drive for 1.2 km southeast. Turn left. Drive for 900 meters to a right turn. Drive for 1 km more and arrive at an abandoned paved landing strip. Turn right and drive to the end of the strip.

\*during rainy seasons, because of muddy conditions, it is recommended to park in Midreshet Ben Guryon and walk from there as described below.

**By Bus:** Take a bus to Midreshet Ben Guryon and get off at the traffic circle. Enter through the yellow gate and walk to a playground and a small shopping center. Turn left and right (shopping center on the right) and continue to the end of the street, passing one traffic circle. Turn left at the intersection and walk to the end of the street, arriving at a small gate in the fence. Exit and follow the red marked trail east for 1.4 km, arriving at an abandoned paved airstrip and black and blue trail markers.

**Starting Point:** Top of Maale Zin (Zin ascent).

**Finish Point:** Top of Maale Zin (Zin ascent).

**Hike Description:** Find the **Blue** markers leading north along a jeep road and follow them for 3 km. Climb to the viewpoint along the northern cliff of the Zin valley. Keep an eye open to your right as you walk. In the center of the fenced area to your right is a Scavenger feeding station. Arrive at the viewpoint where the jeep road changes color from **blue** to **red**, and the **blue** markers turn south on a narrow natural bridge leading across to mt. Tzaror. Follow **green** markers up to the table top mountain and enjoy an amazing view of the Zin valley. Head back to the **blue** trail and follow down (east) into a wadi. Follow the trail until you reach an impressive dry waterfall. Continue down canyon for 1 km more and arrive at an impressive Acacia tree. Take a minute to rest in the shade - you have a climb ahead of you. A few steps more will take you to a wide, straight, jeep road. This road follows "KATZA" the Eilat Ashkelon pipeline. Turn right (northwest) and head

up the road following the **black** markers for 1.5 km. When you arrive back at the starting point look to your left (south) and see the Zin stronghold. This guard tower protected the pass leading from the valley during the roman and byzantine periods. "Via Nova Triana" was the name of this road in Latin back then, and it was later known in Arabic as Darb el Sultan (the road of the king).

### 2 Ein Avdat and Avdat (Ein Avdat Le Avdat)

**Attractions:** Waterfall, oasis, desert plants, ibex, vultures.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Length:** 9 km **Duration:** 5 hours

**Recommended season:** All year

**Recommended time:** All Day

**Getting there:**

**By Bus:** From Mitzpe Ramon Catch a bus to Beer Sheva or Dimona (64,160,55), or from Beer Sheva to Mitzpe Ramon. Get off at the Intersection outside of Midreshet Ben Guryon.

**By Car:** This variation of the hike is not recommended for cars. For the car driven version check out [negevtrails.com](http://negevtrails.com)

**Starting Point:** Bus stop at the intersection outside of Midreshet Ben Guryon.

**End Point:** Avdat Gas station.

**Hike Description:** Go to the southeast side of the intersection and find the first **green** markers at the memorial stone (small bench for tying your laces). The **green** markers will lead you into the Karakash canyon - named after the yellow flowered bush that can be found along its banks. You'll descend several flint ledges and after 1.5 km, arrive at a leveled wadi and **blue** markers. Turn left (east) and follow the **blue** markers along the dry creek-bed for another 0.5 km until you arrive at a paved road. Turn right and walk south along it for 1.5 km to the bottom booth and parking lot for the canyon. You will have to pay the entrance fee. Head south along the **blue** markers. The trail will take you past a lone Tarabinth tree - a relic from a wetter- colder climate that once existed in the whole region. As you continue into the canyon you will start noticing streams of water. Arrive at the stairs on your right, pass it and head to the Ein Avdat pool under the waterfall. After you enjoy a few moments of tranquility go back to the stairs and climb up to the upper level of the canyon. You'll notice the horizontal layers of sedimentary rock - Chalk, mainly, and an occasional dark line of flint. Walk along the trail to the grove of Poplars spread on the steep slope. Follow the stairs and steep windy trail up the southern wall of the canyon. At mid-height a trail will lead to the right to a hermit's cave dated to the 4th or 5th century. Continue up the trail and 2 ladders, and arrive at the top entrance

to the park. Continue along the **blue** markers to the south following the dry creek bed of the Zin wadi. This is the "upper Zin". In the winter flash floods run here and leave open pools and water holes that last for 2-3 weeks at a time. After 3 km you will arrive at the city of Avdat, a gas station and a coffee shop. You can enter the ruins for a visit of this 2000 year old desert city, or simply catch the bus.

### 3 Ein Akev Loop (Ein Akev Maagali)

**Attractions:** Amazing spring, majestic view, old camel trail, Vulture sighting opportunities.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Length:** 13 km **Duration:** 6-7 hours

**Recommended season:** Sep. - Apr.

**Recommended time:** Early Morning

**Getting there:**

**By Bus:** From Mitzpe Ramon Catch a bus to Beer Sheva or Dimona (64,160,55), or from Beer Sheva to Mitzpe Ramon. Get off at the traffic circle at Midreshet Ben Guryon. Walk to the traffic circle and turn right to the entrance station. Ein Akev is a free hike. Walk down the road and at the bottom turn left onto a dirt road and the SERPENTINOT parking lot.

**By Car:** Drive to Midreshet Ben Guryon on HW 40. Turn into the entrance road and arrive at a circle. Turn right at the circle and arrive at the entrance booth to Ein Avdat Park. Ein Akev is a free hike. Drive down the road and turn left onto a dirt road and the SERPENTINOT Campground.

**Starting Point:** Serpentinot CG.

**Finish Point:** Serpentinot CG.

**Hike Description:** From the parking lot head back (west) to the road and find the **green** markers on your left (south). Climb steeply up the cliff. At the top stop and catch your breath at the amazing view of the Zin Valley. Hike along the **green** trail down and pass a Bedouin camp, then turn sharply left into a small gully. Carry on along the **green** trail for 2 more km until it takes you to the edge of a dry waterfall (narrow ledge). From Here another 50 meters and you will look onto the Akev Wadi and your trail down. Follow the trail down to the signpost and climb down the ledge (a small metal foothold) to the bottom of the canyon. Turn right and walk 50 more meter to the pool. After a cool dip and a nice rest, Head North along the **blue** markers, and reach the parking lot and the jeep road after 500 meters. From here you'll be walking along jeep roads all the way back, so feel free to hitchhike the rest of the way. The **blue** marked jeep road will take you down the Akev Canyon for a little over 2 km. Turn left (west) along the **red** markers and into the Zin wadi, and walk for another 4 km along the jeep road until you arrive back at your car.

### 4 Ein Akev Via Avdat Ruins (Avdat Le-Ein Akev Tachton)

**Attractions:** Ancient trail, desert vegetation, amazing spring, majestic views.

**Difficulty:** Medium-Difficult

**Length:** 16 km **Duration:** 6-7 hours

**Recommended season:** Jan. - Apr., Sep. - Dec.

**Recommended time:** Early Morning

**Getting there:** From Mitzpe Ramon Catch a bus to Avdat National Park (64,65,55). The trail starts from the North-West corner of the Gas station.

This hike is most suitable with public transportation. If you are travelling with a car check out the Ein Akev Loop (3) to get back to your car at the end.

**Starting Point:** Avdat NP bus stop.

**Finish Point:** Midreshet Ben Guryon.

**Hike Description:** Start out at the bus stop next to the Avdat Gas station. Follow the **blue** markers as they circle the park fence on the north side. If you wish to visit the city first, a **green** trail will take you from the top of the hill (next to the legion-camp) down to the **blue** trail. Follow the **blue** trail over two shallow valleys and down a short steep descent to the trail crossing at upper Akev Spring EIN AKEV ELYON. You'll notice a large area covered with vegetation, with water occasionally visible under the plants. Do not harm the vegetation in an attempt to clear an opening. Switch to the **Black** Markers and walk north, down canyon, about 3 km to the large waterfall and pool of lower Ein Akev. The water here is deep enough to swim year-round. Diving from the ledges is forbidden and dangerous. You can hike north along the blue markers and connect to the jeep trail - and hope to get a ride out, or climb along the **green** markers, on the west side of the canyon, to follow the Divshon Pass - MAALE DIVSHON. This will take you 6 km along the plateau and down a steep windy trail (caution advised) to the paved entrance road to Ein Avdat National Park. Climb along the road to Ben Guryon Campus (MIDRESHET BEN GURYON) and to the bus stop at the traffic circle (64,55,60).

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

## Ben-Gurion's Desert Home



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