

TRAILS MAP - WEST MAKHTESH RAMON



FIRING ZONE

Trails map - East Makhtesh Ramon

LEGEND

Antiquity Site/Ruin (Horba/Iel)	Restaurant	Winter stream	Water reservoir/Lake	Unpaved roads for all vehicle types	Sites (See sites list)
Cave	Bike shop	River/Water canal	Seasonal lake/Area occasionally flooded	Unpaved roads for high chassis vehicles only	Point of interest
Memorial site	Winery	Main road	Forest area	Unpaved roads for 4x4 vehicles only	Recommended site
Picnic site	Zoo	Secondary road	Scattered trees	Unpaved road in poor condition/secondary unpaved road	Highly recommended site
Historical site/building	Ladder/Extreme passage	Local road	Cultivated land	Difficult navigability, steep slope	Local business
Petrol station	Water tank	Paved road/Street	Olives		
Synagogue	Cistern/Well (Bir)	Military road	Citrus grove/Orchard		
Sheikh's grave	Spring (Ein/Einot)	Vehicle barrier	Built-up area		
Observation point	Pumping facility	Power line	Industrial area		
Nature site/Attraction (payment)	Antenna	Cliffs	Area under development/quarry		
Nature site (seasonal wild flowers)	Traffic light	Dirt Battery	Firing Zone		
Water tower/barn	Information	Steep slope	Contour lines every 10 meters		
Parking	Building	Terrace	Suspected mine field		
Camping area/ Site (payment)	Agricultural/Industrial building/ Building ruins				
Lodging	Cemetery				
Hotel	Tree/ Trees				

Coordinates of this map grid are printed in blue
Coordinates of the NEW IS-RAEL GRID are printed in red.

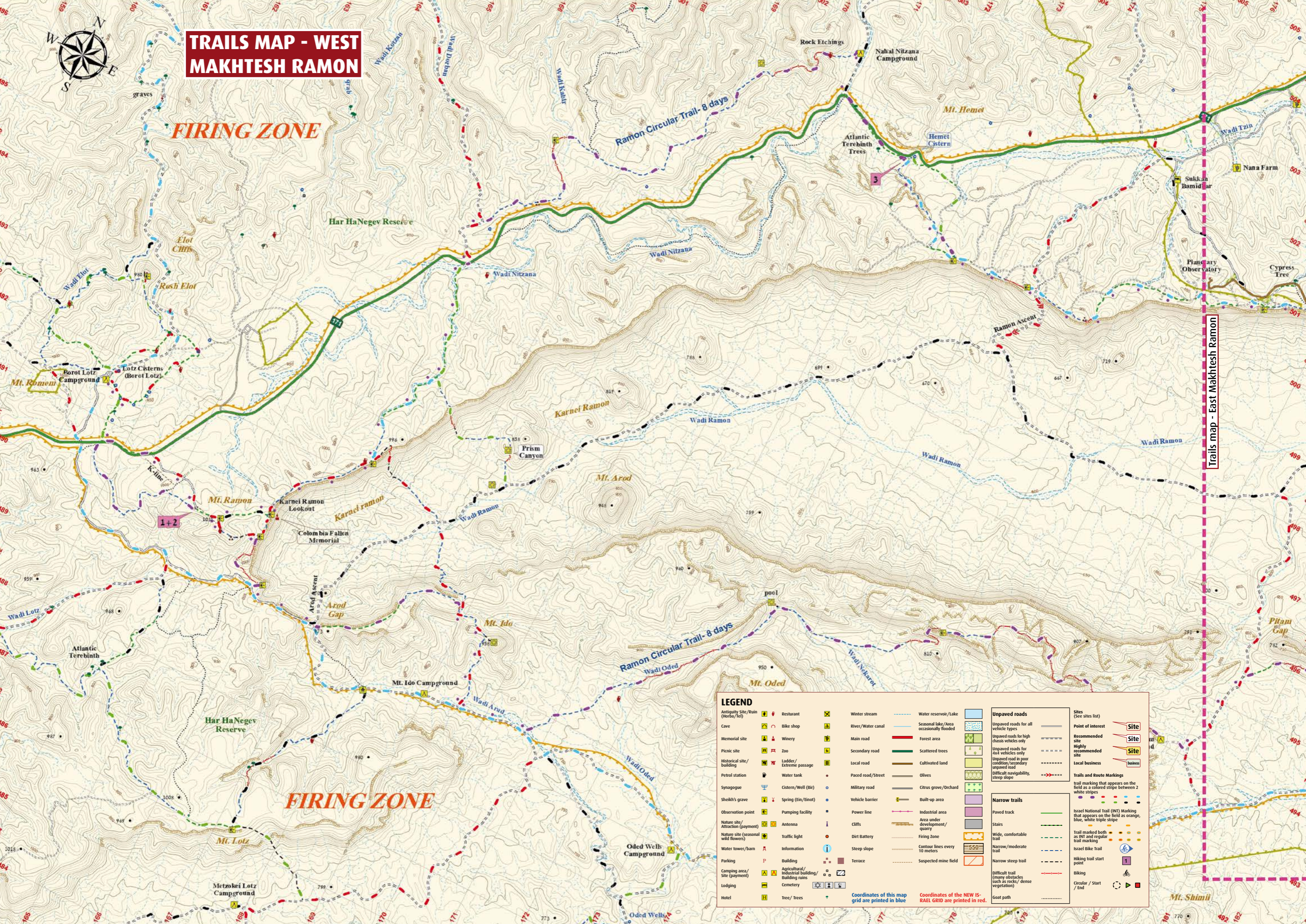
Narrow trails

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

Trails and Route Markings

- trail marking that appears on the field as a colored stripe between 2 white stripes
- Israel National Trail (INT) Marking that appears on the field as orange, blue, white triple stripe
- Trail marked both as INT and regular trail marking
- Israel Bike Trail
- Hiking trail start point
- Biking
- Circular / Start / End

FIRING ZONE



TRAILS MAP - WEST MAKHTESH RAMON

HIKING TRAILS

Welcome to the friendly Negev desert

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 - www.negevtour.co.il



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Regarding information on the map
Any use of the information on both sides of this map, is your sole responsibility. Local council of Mitzpe Ramon and/or regional council of ramat hanegav and/or association of development and advancement of tourism in Har Hanegev (hereinafter: "the Publisher") and makers of the map do not bear any responsibility to any user of the map and/or for any trip/visit on foot, by horse, or using any vehicle in the sites, tracks, trails, or routes specified, and/or as to the safety and/or security of these trips/visits. They will also, not bear any responsibility to changes in the field, accordance of signs to the map, or damage of any sort. The user must comply with instructions and regulations of any authorized authority and instructions of any other relevant laws and regulations including regulations of The National Park Service regarding Nature reserves and National Parks, and regulations of the I.D.F. regarding firing zones and mine fields.

It is required to take all the necessary equipment, get up-to-date information about the area, and obtain all the required permits and authorizations prior to any trip.

Regarding the use of trails
The use of the trails on the map is subject to regulations and restrictions stated in the law and to regulations and restrictions of the authorized authorities. Some of these restrictions include prohibition of walking or riding on trails that are not marked, and this map holds no recommendation or permission not to abide by these prohibitions. The color with which trails are rendered on this map does not exist in the field, except for "authorized" trail marks, and does not act as a permission to enter these trails.

Firing zones Warning!
For technical reasons there can be a deviation between marks of the firing zones on this map and the marks in the official maps of the I.D.F. It is therefore recommended not to get close to the boundaries of firing zones. The I.D.F. does not bear any responsibilities for damages caused by this deviation.

Note: at any rate, consulting the latest, official maps is essential. There is an obligation to personally coordinate any movement in these areas with the authorized military agencies.

1 Mount Ramon



Getting There: By Car - From Mitzpe Ramon drive 6 km north to Ruhot junction and turn left (west) on to road 171. Drive for 28 km, passing "Ramon ascent" and "Hemet Cistern", until you reach the sign "Mt. Ramon" on your left. Turn left onto the dirt road and drive for 1.2 km to the parking area. Note this dirt road is accessible to regular vehicles, but you will have to drive carefully as there are some areas of gravel and pot holes.

Starting point: mt. Ramon parking area

Finish point: mt. Ramon parking area

Hike Description: Head out on the red trail as it climbs to the peak of mt. Ramon.

Congratulations! you have reached the highest point in the Negev, and the third highest mountain in Israel - 1038 meters above sea level.

Continue on the red trail along several Tumuli-piles of rocks which are, in fact, ancient burial sites, and next to the K-line (look at the sign on the ground). This 4000 year old structure has baffled archaeologists as to its use and origin, stretching for 4 km completely straight from mt. Romem to mt. Ramon.

From here the trail will climb down into a ravine and up along tilted layers of limestone. You'll walk along the cliff with the magnificent view of the western tip of Makhtesh Ramon and arrive at the memorial site for the Astronauts of the Columbia space shuttle which crashed in 2003.

Connect to the black trail and follow it southwest back to the peak and down to your car.

Attractions: Majestic view, Ancient stone structures, Historical memorial site.

2 West Ramon Loop



Getting There: By Car - From Mitzpe Ramon drive 6 km north to Ruhot junction and turn left (west) on to road 171. Drive for 28 km, passing "Ramon ascent" and "Hemet Cistern" until you reach the sign "Mt. Ramon" on your left side. Turn left onto the

dirt road and drive for 1.2 km to the parking area. Note this dirt road is accessible to regular vehicles, but you will have to drive carefully as there are some areas of gravel.

Starting Point: Mt. Ramon parking area

Finish Point: Mt. Ramon Parking area

Hike Description: Head out on the red trail as it climbs to the peak of mt. Ramon.

Congratulations! you have reached the highest point in the Negev, and the third highest mountain in Israel - 1038 meters above sea level.

Continue on the red trail along several Tumuli-piles of rocks which are, in fact, ancient burial sites, and next to the K-line (look at the sign on the ground). The Red markers and the purple markers will drop down into a ravine and arrive at the edge of Makhtesh Ramon. The Red markers turn left, and the purple markers arrive at a T intersection. Turn Right (south) and follow the purple markers for 1 km following the cliff line on your left side. Arrive at a blue marked dirt road, and a parking area with a viewpoint to the center of the Makhtesh.

Follow the dirt road and the blue markers for 1 km to the east.

In the winter, keep your eyes open for the endemic Rhubarb - Large leaves, lettuce size, laying on the ground and a pink flowering stock growing from them. Arrive at an intersection with black markers and continue with the blue for 100 meters. The purple markers will appear again splitting off to the left. Follow them along the ridge for 2.8 km. The trail will connect with red markers.

Note - the next section is a short detour (2 km total) to a viewpoint. If you are in a hurry you can skip it: Turn right at the intersection and follow the red markers for 1km south. You'll arrive at a saddle with a "transparent" trail leading to the top of mt. Ido. This is an impressive viewpoint and the rock kerns left by hikers over the year make it an ideal spot for creative photography. Head back north on the red trail to the intersection.

From the purple and red intersection follow the red markers northeast for 300 meters to a saddle and the view of the Makhtesh again.

The red marked trail will head down into the Makhtesh, passing layers of colourful sand in volcanic rock. Walk for 1.8 km to the bottom and the dirt road in the center of the Makhtesh, marked in black markers. Turn right (northeast) along the black dirt road follow it for 1.4 km to a meeting with green markers on the left.

Turn left on the green marked trail and follow it north towards the gorge between two black hills of volcanic rock.

Once you've passed between the hills, the trail will turn to the left (southwest) and head towards the base of the cliff, where you'll turn northwest and head up to the top. From the pass at the top continue along the green markers for another 500 meters to a meeting with a blue marked trail on the left. In the spring this barren valley becomes an amazing meadow of flowers.

Turn left (southwest) and follow the blue markers up along a small valley for 2.6 km until it returns to the cliff line and meets a red marked trail. Continue southwest (right) along the red marked trail, keeping the view of the Makhtesh on your left side.

Arrive at the small memorial site for the Astronauts of the Columbia shuttle that crashed in 2003. Find the black markers and follow them for 900 meters to the mt. Ramon and head west on the red trail back to the parking area and your car.

Attractions: Really awesome view, ancient rock structures, colorful rock and volcanic formations, ancient trails, flowers in the season, possible Onager sighting.

3 Hemet Cistern Loop



Getting There: By Car - From Mitzpe Ramon drive North 6 km along HW 40 to HARUHOT intersection. Turn West onto rd. 171. Drive for 13 km and reach a sharp curve to the right and then to the left and park at the parking lot marked with a brown sign - "Hemet Cistern"

Starting Point: Hemet Cistern parking lot.

Finish Point: Hemet Cistern parking lot.

Hike Description: You can start by walking over to the Cistern itself. It is located just Northeast from the parking lot, behind the white dirt mound. The cistern was dug into a soft layer of clay and its walls are held by roughly-cut stones from a hard limestone layer that can be found nearby. The cistern was dated to the Iron Age, and with little restoration work - it still fills up with rain water every year. The cistern is fed by two simple aqueduct-trenches which divert runoff from the slopes of the hill. The water flows through three settling pools which allow some of the mud and clay to settle, and then continues into the cistern itself.

Start your hike along the green markers which will take you on a short climb to the flatland just East of the cistern. As you continue on the plain you will slowly enter the mouth of a shallow desert ravine. Look carefully stones buried almost completely in the soil arranged in lines across the wadi. These are terraces that were built about 2000 years ago to collect soil and allow agriculture in this region.

The trail will slowly curve right and then left and eventually will descend into a small canyon. Once in the canyon the green trail will end at a blue trail. Turn left on the blue trail and head up canyon in a general Southeastern heading. As you gradually climb the scenery will open up until suddenly in front of you the crater will be exposed. Time to pull out the camera and admire the view. Don't forget to drink some water while you're here.

Time to head back: Return on the blue trail, down canyon, and when you reach the meeting point with the green trail - continue along the blue markers.

A few surprises will reveal themselves along this stretch: Ancient Pistacia trees, small hidden rock puddles and old Bedouin caches. These last ones were built under overhangs of rock in the Northeastern cliffs of the canyon. They were used for storing seeds and possessions that were not needed on long journeys. The blue markers will start climbing out of the canyon to the right and will turn back to the parking lot and the Hemet cistern. After a rainy winter there is nothing like dipping in the cistern at the end of this hike.

Attractions: Flowers in the season, Majestic view, swimming in the cistern, Pistacia trees, Bedouin hideouts

All Trail descriptions are courtesy of
NegevTrails.com
Visit us for more trail descriptions

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