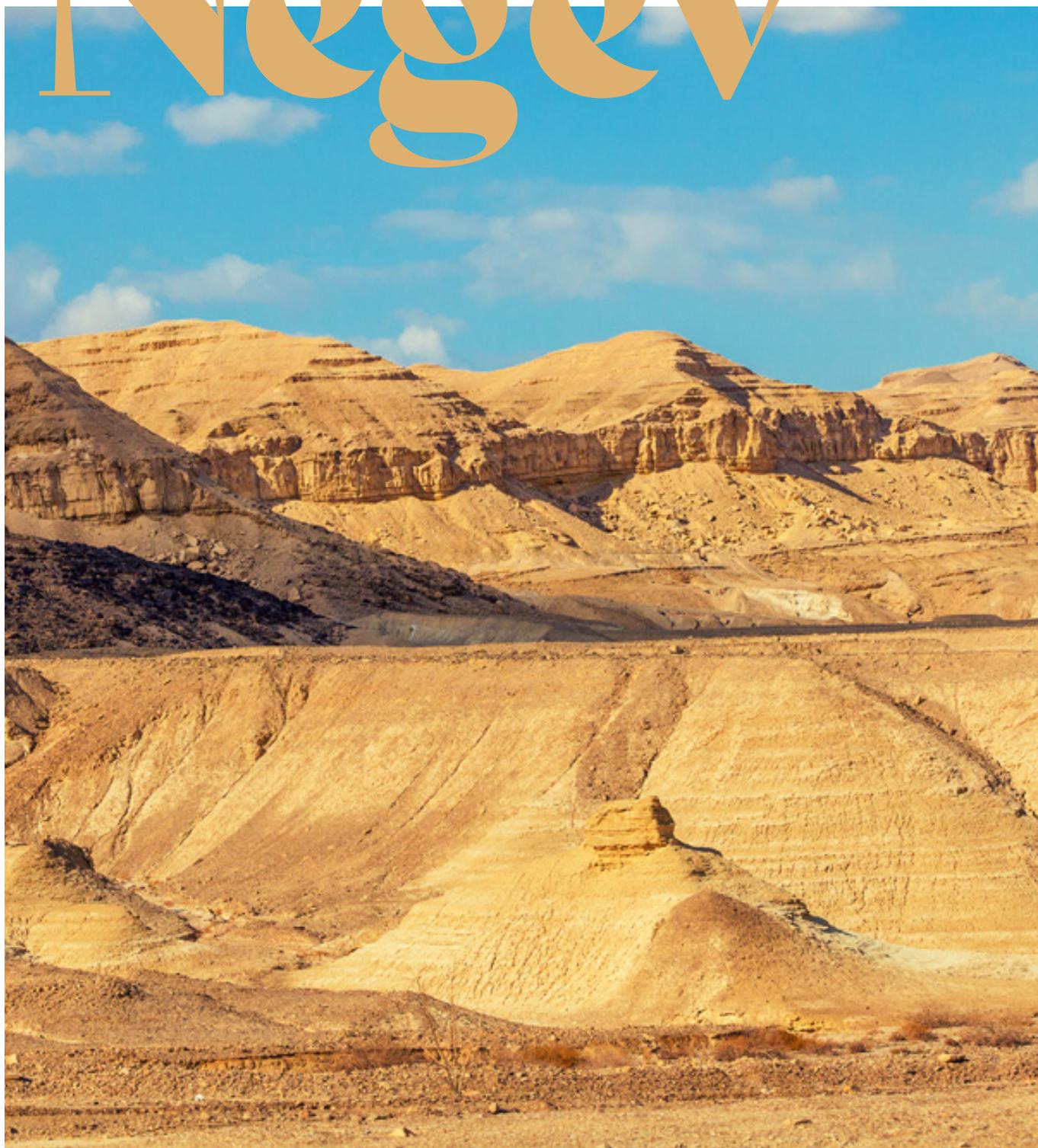


# Neggev



# Negev

Explore the magical treasures  
of the Israeli desert

Ohad Romano





Just a short plane ride from Europe, Israel's breath-taking Negev Desert is home to majestic wild landscapes, one-of-a-kind geological phenomena, recognized historical and heritage sites, the safest desert hikes in the world, and incredible eco-innovation. With 360 days of sunshine a year, the Negev offers an attractive alternative vacation to winter and ski holidays with special desert activities, such as cycling, off-road driving, and extreme sports, as well as wellness and spa treatments, culinary attractions, agro-tourism and desert wineries, all within a compact area just a few hours' drive from one end to the other, and easily accessible from anywhere in Israel.

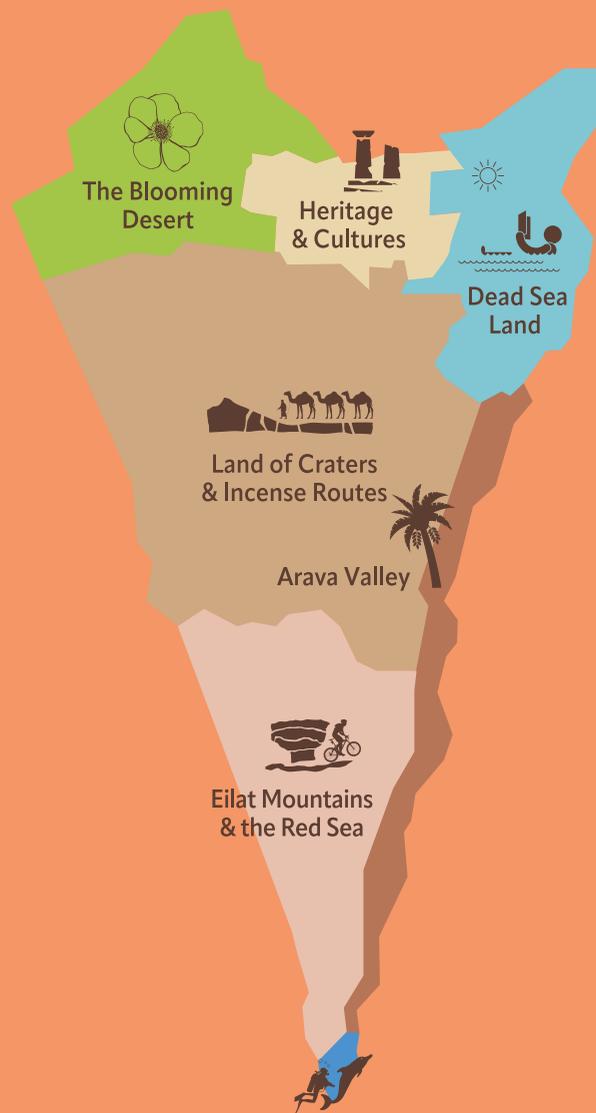
The Negev stretches north to south from the Dead Sea Land, where a saltwater lake at the lowest point on earth forms a natural spa with unique healing properties, and all the way down to Eilat, Israel's largest resort city, where the desert meets the Red Sea.

Pass through thriving towns and metropolis, revealing an extraordinary blend of ancient and modern and explore diverse ways of living in the desert.

While visiting the different magical Negev lands, choose any of the wide variety of accommodation alternatives, from luxurious glamping tents under starry sky to cosy backpacker hostels, eco-lodges or luxury five stars resorts and hotels.

**Whatever you are looking for, a romantic getaway, a family vacation, an adrenaline-fueled adventure or a tranquil escape, the Negev Desert is sure to delight and amaze you. Negev Desert is a truly unpaired destination, so read on and learn about Israel's desert gem.**

## Tourism Map of The Negev



Click on map to discover more about the area



# Dead Sea Land

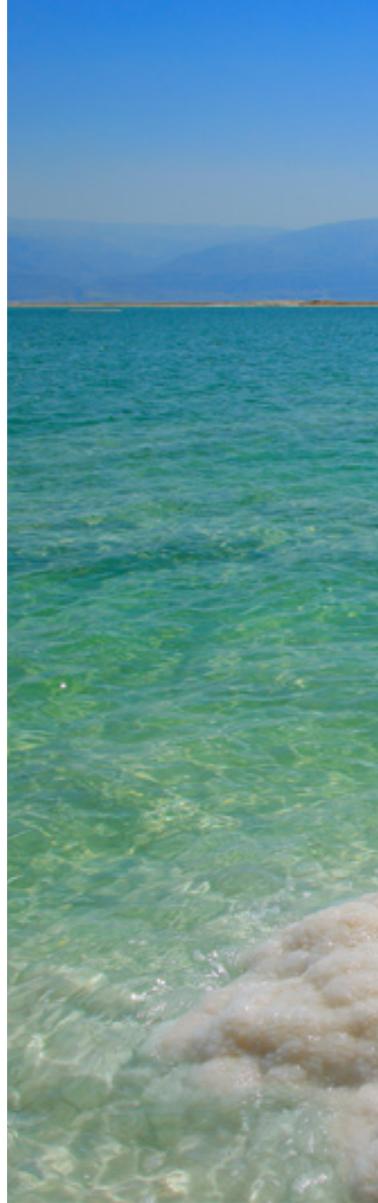
**Unwind at the lowest place on earth**

Welcome to the stunning beauty of the Dead Sea Land, one of the most unique places on earth, an oasis of wellness, with breathtaking views, mineral treasures, historical sites, and almost 365-days-a-year of sunshine that make it the perfect winter break.

Discover a truly magical, marvelous and miraculous place, with freshwater springs and waterfalls in the heart of the desert. Be amazed by the wildlife and spectacular monasteries and enjoy astonishing activities.

Recharge at the Dead Sea, the lowest place on the planet, which has served as a natural spa for millennia thanks to its unique healing properties. Float weightlessly in the Dead Sea waters; take a Dead Sea mud bath rich in salts and minerals that will leave your skin silky smooth; relax in warm sulfur hot springs that have been used since antiquity to treat skin ailments and unwind aching muscles and joints.

Soak up the energy and go out and explore the Judean Desert and the mountains that rise over the Dead Sea with their rugged landscapes and incredible vistas. For the adventurous the area offers lots of opportunities to get



off the beaten track with jeep and ATV tours, canyoning, rappelling, mountain bike trails, desert hikes and more.

Reconnect to yourself amid the silence and tranquility of the desert with yoga and wellness workshops.

Venture out and visit the palaces of Herod the Great, Masada and Herodium, built 2,000 years ago; Qumran,

where the Dead Sea scrolls, one of the important archaeological finds ever made, were discovered; and monasteries literally carved into the cliffs by Byzantine monks seeking solitude amid the majestic mountains.

Dead Sea Land: Discover a natural wonderland.

## Dead Sea Kayak Tour

Row on a kayak along the shores of the Dead Sea for an unparalleled experience. Tours are held at sunrise and sunset amid the stunning azure colors of the lake's still water and the magical hues of red and orange in the sky. As you row across the lake, take in the views of the Moab Mountains and the cliffs of the Judean desert that rise over the Dead Sea. Explore natural salt formations unique to the Dead Sea such as salt-stalactites and salt caves, and the man-made sinkholes that have appeared around the lake as a result

of evaporation caused by the mining of minerals and have filled with fresh water where you can take a splash in these mini-lakes.

## Masada Sunrise Tour

A dramatic, rugged, natural citadel, towering over the Dead Sea, Masada was built more than 2,000 years ago as an opulent winter palace by Herod the Great, King of Judea and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take an early morning tour to the top of the fortress, either by cable car, or a 45-minute hike along the Snake Path that winds its way up the

mountain, to watch the breathtaking view of the sun rising over the Dead Sea and look out over the wild Judean Desert before exploring the ancient ruins of this once royal retreat where Jewish zealots held off the might of the Roman Empire.

## Ein Gedi Nature Reserve

The Ein Gedi nature reserve, a desert oasis of streams and waterfalls is one of Israel's most popular attractions. Running through the nature reserve is David's Stream, named after the Biblical King David, who hid there from his rival Saul before becoming King of Israel. This wonder in the desert is fed by four streams and has running water all year round no matter how high the temperatures climb. Hike upstream on a short family-friendly route, and splash around the pools, or take one of the longer circular paths for more serious hikers. Amid the striking beauty of the oasis, Ein Gedi is home to desert wildlife including a large herd of Nubian Ibex, hyrax, foxes, and birds of prey.



Itamar Grinberg



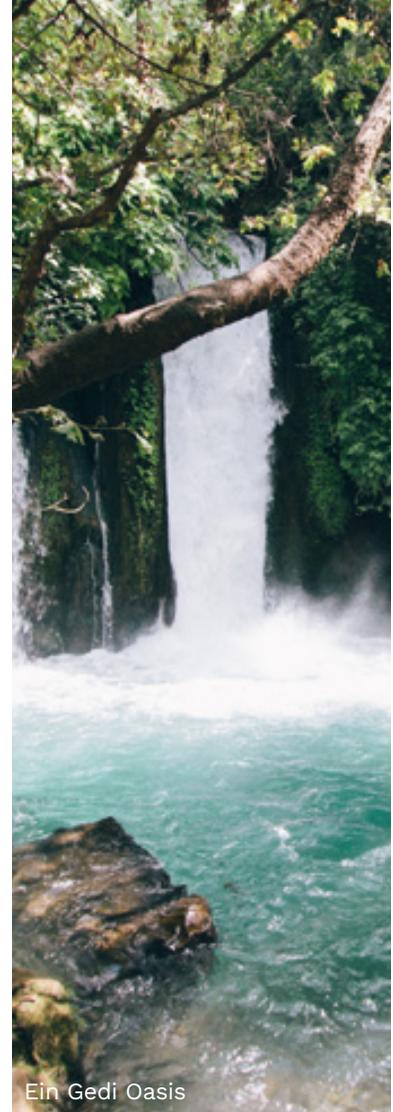
Massada

## Arad-Masada Mountain Bike Trail

The breathtaking 40-kilometer trail from Arad to Masada opened in 2021 and has been described by four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froom as a “once in a lifetime experience.” The five-six-hour ride is challenging and not for beginners. It commences at an elevation of 600 meters in Arad and as it descends to the Dead Sea, drops to just 70 meters above sea level at Masada. The trail is part of the Israel Bike Trail, which when completed will cover 1,200 kilometers of mountain bike trails from Mount Hermon in the north to Eilat in the south. Both the Masada and Arad regions also offer shorter trails to enjoy the beauty of the desert.



Bike Riders at Sodom Canyon



Ein Gedi Oasis

## Moav Observation Point

One of Israel's most beautiful outlooks, the Moav Observation Point, is located just outside the town of Arad, located inland from the southern tip of the Dead

Sea on the border between the Judean Desert and the Northern Negev Desert. Soaring to 600 meters above sea level, the observation point offers dramatic 360-degree views over the Moab Mountains and Edom Mountains in Jordan, the southern Judean Desert, the Northern Negev Plateau, Mount Hebron, and of course the Dead Sea itself. Come

early in the morning to watch the sun rise over the Dead Sea or at sunset to enjoy the cool evening air and watch nature's spectacular show as the skies turn red over the Moab Mountains.



Ramon Crater

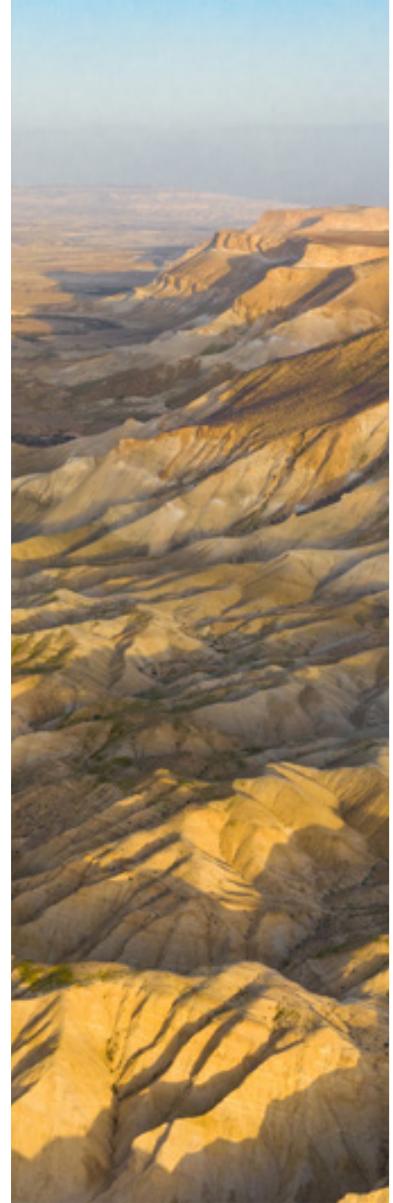
# Land of Craters and Incense Routes

**A journey through time in the heart  
of the Negev desert**

At the heart of the Negev desert lies one of the most unique geological formations on earth, where over 2,000 years ago, the traders of antiquity brought spices and incense from Arabia to the Mediterranean. The region is known as the Land of Craters and Incense Routes.

The spectacular craters were formed millions of years ago when the waters of the ocean that covered the area receded. The largest of the five craters that make up the region, and the world's largest erosion crater, is the Ramon Crater, known to locals as Makhtesh Ramon. It resembles a huge lake, surrounded by stunning desert mountains and rock formations of fantastic colors and forms.

In antiquity, the area was an important stop for Nabatean traders who on caravans of camels would astonishingly cross back and forth over 2,000 kilometers of hostile desert relying on their mastery of the terrain and hidden water holes to bring frankincense and myrrh, as well as spices, gems and textiles from Arabia to Europe.



The nomadic Nabateans built four wealthy cities along the section of the route that crosses the Negev – Haluza, Mamshit, Avdat and Shivta, whose impressive ruins have been excavated and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site and are today national parks open to visitors.

## Jeep Safari and Hiking Tours in Ramon Crater

For an action-packed day out, climb up to Camel Hill (Har Gamal) and take in the sublime views of the Crater and its moon-like landscapes. Visit the “Saw Mill,” a remarkable site where geothermal activity baked the sandstone into thousands upon thousands of quartz pillars; stop off at the Ammonite Wall, a spectacular wall of fossilized sea creatures that lived tens of millions of years ago and provides proof to scientists that the desert was once a sea; take the 4X4 trail to Mount Gvanim, one of the best spots to observe the natural wonders of the Ramon Crater; drive through the scenic Nekorot Canyon and cool off in secret springs.

## The Desert Town of Mitzpe Ramon

Overlooking the Ramon Crater from its northern cliffs is the town of Mitzpe Ramon, a base from which to explore the area with accommodation ranging from backpacker hostels to specialist cycling hotels, and luxury eco-hotels. Venture

out to see all this fascinating region has to offer: rare wildlife, including the Nubian Ibex, the endangered Arabian Leopard; and the Caracal, a spectacular pointed-eared desert lynx, and countless activities from cycling and hiking trails to jeep and ATV tours to mountain climbing and rappelling.

## Stargaze and Be Amazed

Take a guided nighttime star tour of the Ramon Nature Reserve, which thanks to the arid desert atmosphere and minimal cloud cover provides year-round perfect conditions for stargazing and is recognized as a light pollution free Dark Sky Park. With telescopes and laser pointers, explore the night sky’s constellations and zodiac signs; listen to its myths and legends, as you sit by a campfire to keep warm in the cool nighttime desert air. And if you are in the area in August, join the thousands of tourists who turn up to watch the incredible Perseid meteor shower as the town switches off all its lights and literally lays back to watch the show.



## Ein Avdat - A Magical Oasis

Ein Avdat is a group of three springs that create a series of magical waterfalls and pools amidst a canyon carved between towering cliffs of desert limestone. There are a several trails through the park, the most popular being a short 1.6-kilometer circuit to the eight-meter-deep Ein Avdat pool and a 15-meter-high waterfall where you can cool off all year round. Another of the park’s attractions is the Monks’ Caves where Byzantine monks would seek seclusion. Not far away lies Avdat National Park with its

impressive ruins including a fortress, a bathhouse, and two Byzantine churches. The two sites can be combined for a day trip.

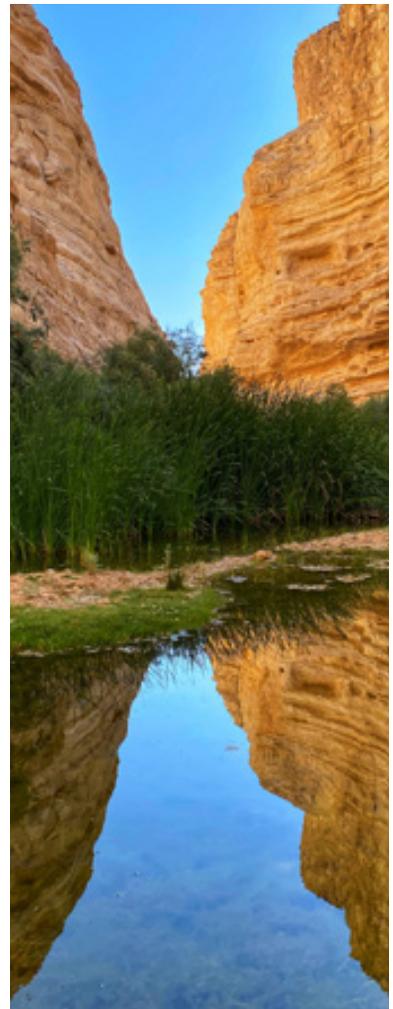
## Sand Dune Surfing

For adrenaline lovers, the Negev has no shortage of extreme and adventure sports, but one stands out as a truly unique experience – sandboarding. Surf down the sand dunes created by desert winds carrying sands from the Sahara in North Africa and towering as high as 35 meters, depending on the season. All you need is a board to surf down on – these are available for rent – and a sense of adventure. Ride the dunes standing on your board like a pro snowboarder or wave surfer, or just lie on your belly or your back and slide down. Surf, solo, in tandem, or with the whole family.

## Desert Wine Tasting

With scorching temperatures, and a bone-dry climate with average rainfall in the region of 100 millimeters a year, the Negev may not be the first place you think of as a wine-growing region. But thanks to advanced irrigation techniques, the area is astonishingly home to over a dozen wineries – and growing – producing a variety of wines from Pinot Noir, Chardonnay-Sauvignon-Sémillon, to

Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Syrah/Shiraz. And not only that, Negev wines have gained critical acclaim and a growing reputation. Several of the wineries offer on-site tastings in their unique surroundings.



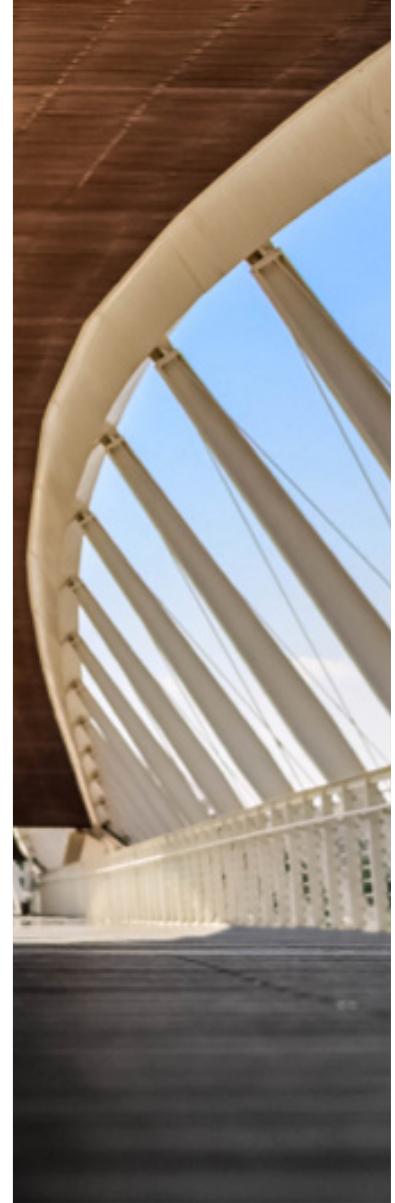


# Heritage & Culture

**A surprising city break at the northern gate to the Negev Desert**

Be'er Sheva, the capital of the Negev, is one of the fastest-growing cities in Israel, a melting pot with blends of ancient and modern, traditional and technological, nomadic cultures and a pulsating metropolis with a thriving culinary and nightlife scene. The city is home to many inspiring, historical and heritage sites. The semi-nomadic Bedouin communities around the city offer an exceptional hospitality experience rich in tastes, smells, colors and stories.

Easily accessible from both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva is the perfect location for a desert city break.



## **Culinary Tasting Tour at the Be'er Sheva Market**

There isn't a more enjoyable way to experience the diversity of Be'er Sheva than to take a culinary tour of the market, a colorful and lively reflection of the many

gastronomical influences in the city with its immigrant population hailing from as far and wide as Ethiopia, India, Russia, and North Africa, the Bedouin Arabs of the area, and the Turkish tastes of times past. Experience the smells, tastes, and sounds, as you eat your way through the huge variety of stalls.

## Bedouin Hospitality and Traditional Arts

Visit the Bedouin towns of Rahat and Lakia to experience the nomadic culture of the Negev Bedouins, who account for around a quarter of the desert region's population. Try out a workshop on traditional Bedouin arts and crafts, such as weaving, embroidery, and henna tattoos. Take part in a coffee ceremony, learn about the

local cosmetics and herbs, and enjoy exceptional hospitality with a traditional feast and a night in the desert in a Bedouin tent. Take a step back in time and be inspired and recharge your batteries amid these ancient communities.

## Museums and Culture

As a city of heritage and culture, Be'er Sheva is home to many museums and historical sites: Abraham's Well, where the Patriarch

Abraham, the father of the three monotheistic religions, dug the well that gave the city its name: Be'er Sheva, in Hebrew means the 'Well of the Oath'; the Anzac Memorial Centre pays tribute to the troops of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (the ANZACs), who liberated the city of Be'er Sheva from the Ottoman Turks in World War I, with the last great cavalry charge in history, paving the way for British troops to capture Jerusalem and the subsequent British Mandate over the Land of

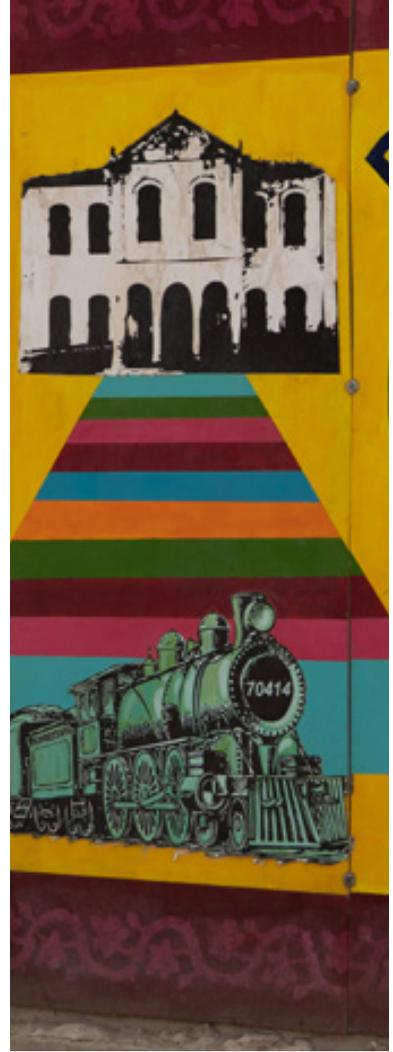




Israel. Check out the Negev Museum of Art, the Carasso Science Park, the House of Ethiopian Jewish Arts, the Museum of Islamic and Near Eastern Culture, the Old Turkish Railway Line and the Lunada Museum and Kids' Park, a unique, experiential museum for the whole family, with over 50 exhibits and interactive installations exploring the world we live in and developing skills for daily life through play.

## Be'er Sheva River Park

The Be'er Sheva River Park, a massive land-reclamation project, is one of Israel's largest metropolitan parks, spanning the length of the Be'er Sheva River across some 5,300 dunams (1,325 acres) of cycling and walking paths, green public spaces, playgrounds and several tourist attractions such as the Turkish Bridge, the Bell Park, the Pipes Bridge, and the Imber Promenade, all the way to Tel Be'er Sheva, a UNESCO world heritage site with iron age remains of the biblical city of Be'er Sheva. There is also an artificial lake that is Israel's second largest, where you can rent boats, and a Sportequ with outdoor sporting activities and a Ninja Warrior park.



## Old City Nightlife

Home to one of Israel's biggest universities and tens of thousands of students, Be'er Sheva has a vibrant nightlife, much of which centers around the Old City with its trendy bars, cafes, restaurants, and live music shows. The Old City was built by the Ottoman Turks and mixes architectural styles from east and west, with its unique buildings housing art galleries and boutique hotels.



# The Blooming Desert

**Breathtaking landscapes and endless adventures on the desert's edge**

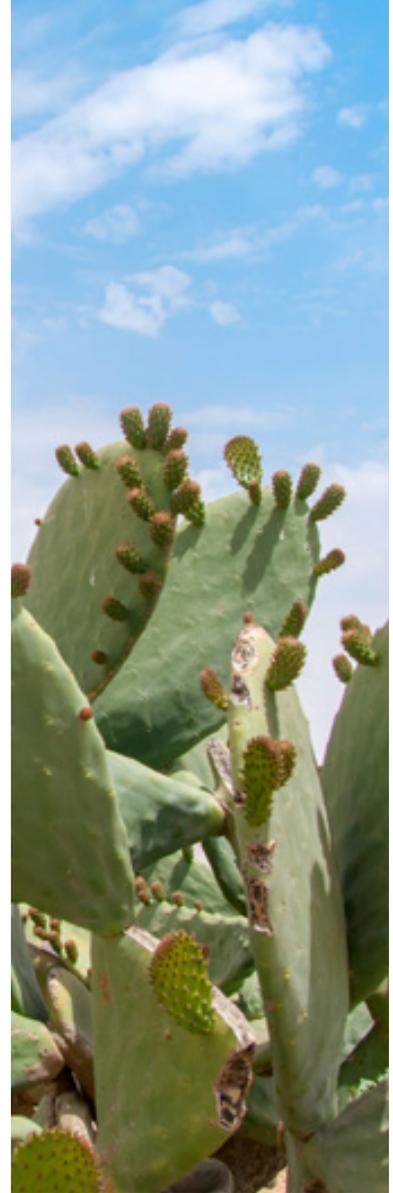
Coming alive in spring with green fields and carpets of flowers, the Western Negev is literally blooming thanks to pioneering agricultural methods, irrigation, and water recycling.

The region is a hub for agrotourism where you can explore desert wineries and dairy farms that produce world-class cheese.

Combine top produce with Israel's mix of immigrants and cultures and what you get is top cuisine with chef restaurants and home cooks serving up a culinary smorgasbord of influences.

With its wide-open spaces, the region hosts several annual festivals, such as the InDnegev Music Festival and the International Hot Air Balloon Festival. In the spring the loess lands fill with captivating, magical fields of green bordering expanses of desert dunes. Springtime also brings the wondrous sight of carpets of red anemone flowers that serve as the backdrop for the Darom Adom Festival.

The Negev plains are also a marvellous place for adventure tourism, with superb cycling trails and with great natural parks and reserves.



## **Darom Adom - Festival of the Flowering Red Anemones**

Darom Adom Festival takes place every year throughout the month of February when the northern Negev Desert is in full bloom, covered by a dazzling carpet of bright

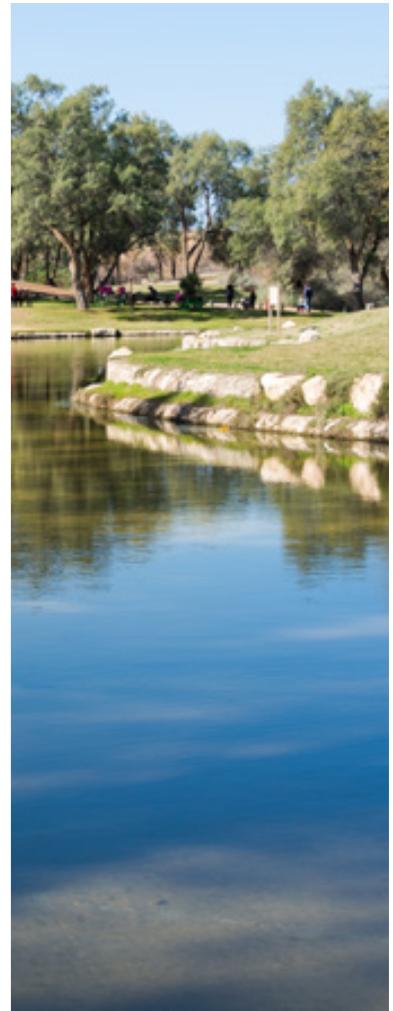
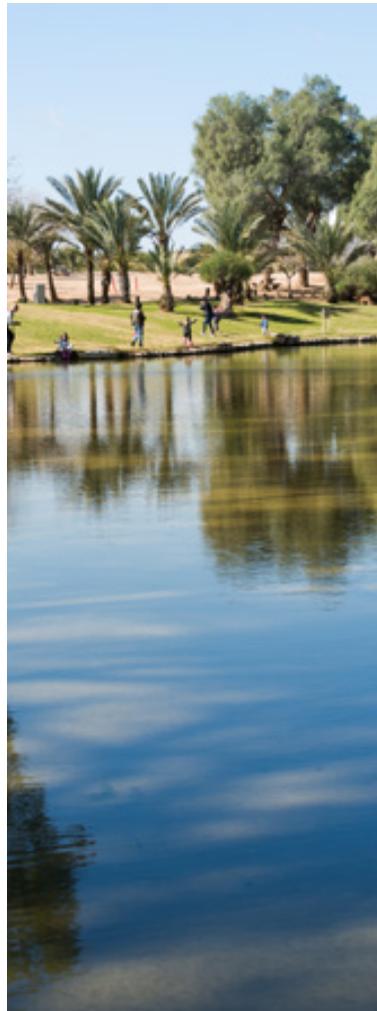
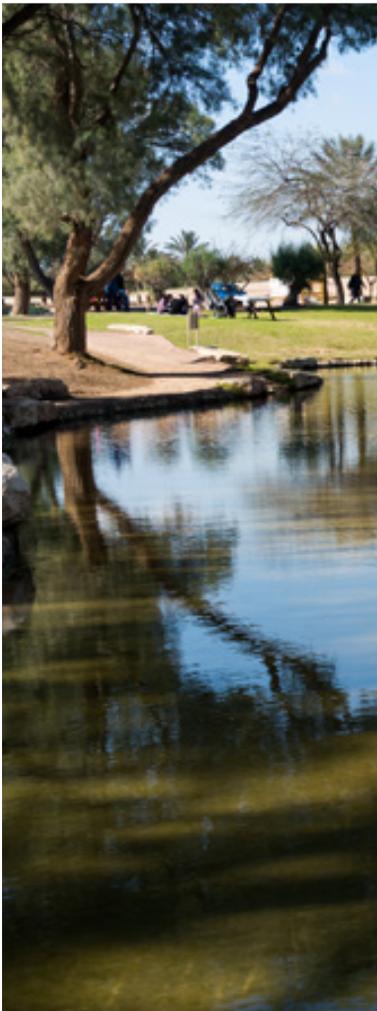
red anemone flowers, stretching as far as the eye can see, a sight that will take your breath away. Once the flowers bloom Israelis come out in the thousands to enjoy the mild spring weather, hike through the fields and picnic amid the ravishing red spectacle. The anemone flowers are known

in Hebrew as Kalaniyot and one of the highlights of the Darom Adom Festival is the annual Kalniyot Walk, a series of family-friendly routes through the stunning scenery. Every year the festival also features free events, including workshops, guided tours, and music shows by leading Israeli artists.

## Picnic at the Eshkol National Park

On the banks of the Besor dry riverbed amid the sceneries of the Western Negev Desert is Eshkol National Park (also known as HaBsor), an oasis of grasslands and thousands of shade-providing trees spread out over 875 acres. The park is a great place for picnics and has camping facilities for overnight stays. A lookout

at the Park's highest point offers fantastic views over the expanses of the Western Negev. The park has great cycling and hiking trails and every August plays host to the annual International Hot Air Balloon Festival.

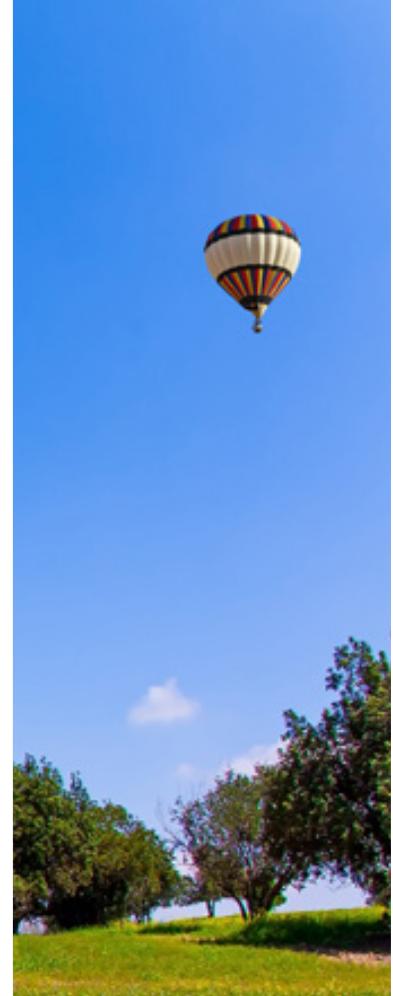
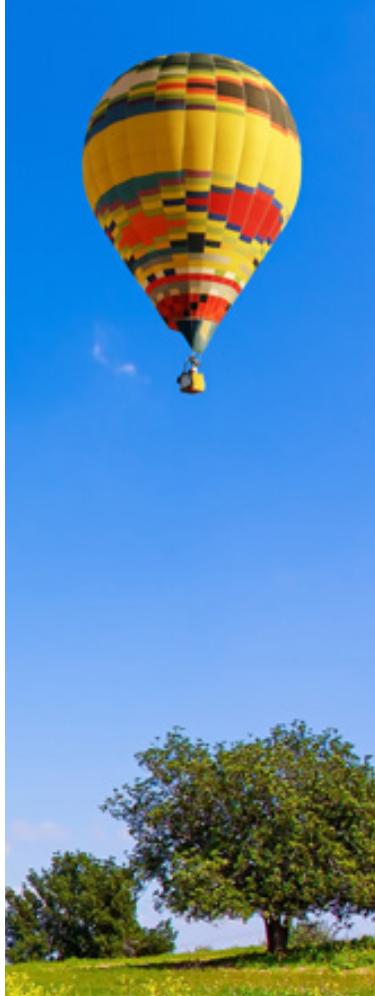


## **InDnegev - Indie Music Festival**

InDnegev is a three-day indie music festival held every fall at Mitzpe Gvulot in the Western Negev. It is Israel's largest Indie music event, attracting tens of thousands of people. Several artists who have appeared at the festival have gone on to achieve international renown and success, among them Assaf Avidan, A-Wa, and Noga Erez.

## **Self-picking Activities from Farm to Table**

Several kibbutzim and moshavim in the area offer self-picking activities with a wide range of exotic fruits and vegetables available to harvest, depending on the season, from pineapples, strawberries, and berries to red-hot chili peppers and Israel's world-famous cherry tomatoes. Enjoy the experience of picking your own, ultra-fresh food straight from the ground and eating from field to plate - and doing some good for the environment at the same time.



## **Cactus Farm at Talmei Yosef**

The plant most associated with the desert is of course the cactus, which can survive with minimal amounts of water. The cactus farm at Moshav Talmei Yosef, an agricultural village, in the North-Western Negev has a 5-acre botanical garden with a huge collection of thousands of species of cacti of all shapes, sizes, and colors, from all over the world.



# Arava Valley

**A journey through a unique eco way  
of living in the desert**

The Arava Valley, stretching all the way from Eilat in the south to the Dead Sea in the north, is one of unparalleled biblical beauty, with its primordial desert views, overlooked by the majestic Edom Mountains in Jordan, and it is a haven for eco-tourism and sustainability.

The region offers a range of opportunities to explore the desert from camping and glamping sites to desert khans, eco-huts and luxury eco-hotels. Most of the communities in the region are kibbutzim, a unique communal way of life, committed to ecological living and sustainable development, with the entire Valley 100 percent powered by solar energy during the day. Several of the kibbutzim offer the opportunity to learn about their pioneering ecological way of life and enjoy a truly unique tourism experience: Kibbutz Neot Semadar is an organic, sustainable community with homes built out of mud and cooled with evaporation towers, and has a learning center that teaches about organic farming and produce, ecological building in the desert, recycling of wastewater and brackish



water, and renewable energy; Kibbutz Elifaz has a sun oven built from glass tubes that heat to 200°C where you can cook vegetables picked straight from the field; and Kibbutz Ketura has an off-grid eco-village where technologies for the developing world are pioneered.

## The Incredible Story of Desert Farming

Discover the unique story of agriculture in the Arava, where farmers have overcome the arid conditions and lack of water to miraculously make the desert bloom using cutting-edge irrigation and farming methods. Take a tour of the greenhouses and see the varieties of produce grown in the Arava and learn how the farmers in the region have developed ingenious techniques to cope with the challenges of the arid climate and minimal rainfall. Learn about indigenous desert flora and fauna, watch a 3D presentation at the at the Vidor visitors' center and try out the interactive stations where you can learn all about desert farming.

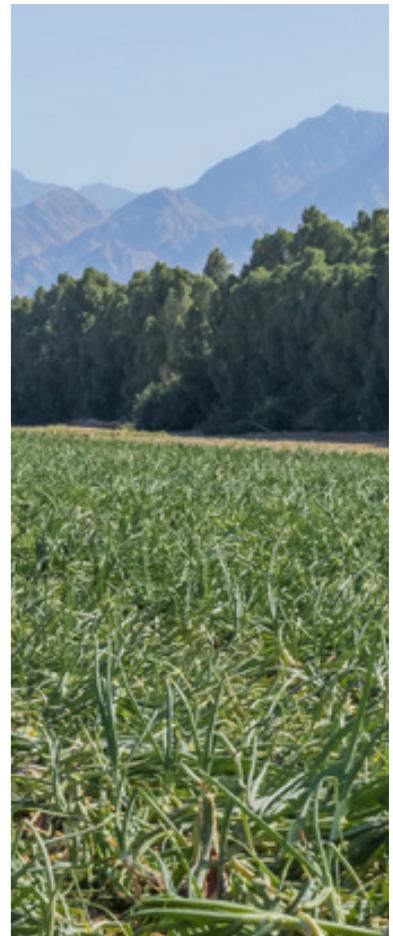
## Zuqim Artists' Colony

The Zuqim Artist's Colony host twenty-four artists in a variety of disciplines in the desert community of Zuqim. Each artist has their own studio and their works are displayed and on sale. The artists work with materials that correspond with the desert environment. Workshops and artists' talks are available at the studios. The colony is also home to body and soul therapists providing a wide range of treatments, including those based on locally

grown medical herbs and ointments. The community is also a great base for exploring the area with several residents running desert eco-lodges.

## Pick Your Own Lunch

Several farms across the region offer self-picking tours where you can harvest your own vegetables, such as the famous Arava greenhouse peppers, cherry tomatoes, and herbs. Some have guided tours where you can learn about organic



farming and how the Arava communities have developed agriculture amid the harsh desert conditions. Others offer the opportunity to cook the produce you have picked, while several restaurants along the route offer farm-to-table organic menus.

## Ride the Peace Route

Drive along the Peace Route down the border between Israel and Jordan which signed a peace agreement in 1994. The route runs twenty-four kilometers between Moshav Idan in the north to Moshav Ein Yahav in the south amid spectacular desert landscapes. There are several observation points along the way with magnificent views of the Edom and Negev mountain ranges, the Arava streambed, and the cultivated fields of Ein Yahav. The best time to come is around sunset when the air is cooler and the red colors of the granite rock of the Edom Mountains come out in their full glory.



## Eco-Tourism at Kibbutz Lotan

Some 40 kilometers north of Eilat lies Kibbutz Lotan, an eco-community committed to sustainable development that runs an eco-lodge built out of mud and offers all sorts of ecological activities for visitors. Take the kibbutz's famous eco-tour where you will learn about organic, food production, permaculture natural architecture and about the kibbutz's unique rubbish recycling program.

Check out the completely off-grid Solar Tea House and relax with a herbal tea after exploring the ecological playground, the organic gardens, and the wetlands constructed using run-off water from the tea. The kibbutz also runs the Center for Creative Ecology, an environmental education center for Tikkun Olam, Hebrew for "improving and repairing the world." The center has gained a reputation as a world-class training and research facility for sustainability.



# The Eilat Mountains and the Red Sea

**A striking resort and nature paradise**

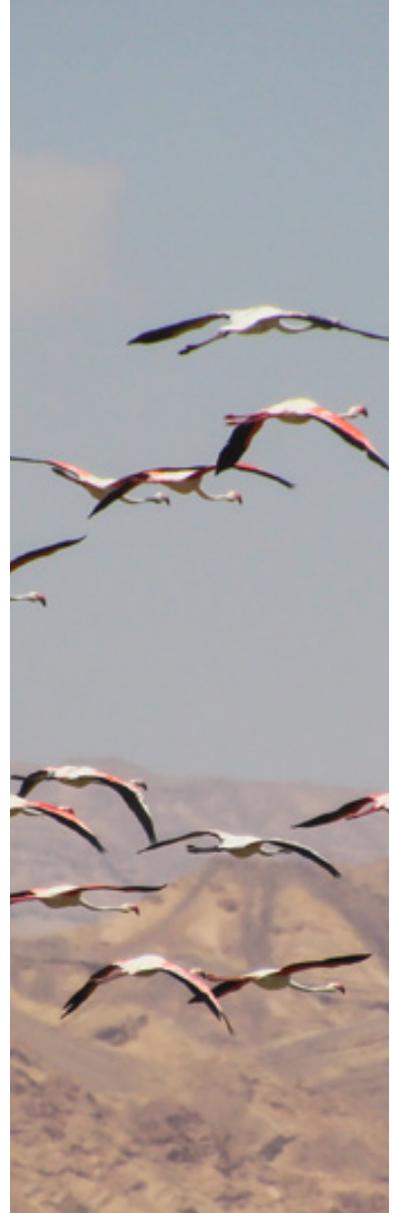


With 360-days-a-year of sunshine, Eilat, Israel's southernmost city on the shores of the Red Sea resort offers beautiful beaches, some of the world's best-preserved coral reefs, spectacular diving and snorkeling sites, and is a paradise for wind and kitesurfing, attracting surfers from around the world.

Located at the tip of the southern Arava desert, where the Eilat Mountains meet the Red Sea, the region is home to some of the world's best desert cycling trails, including several sections of the Israel Bike Trail, and some incredible hikes with dramatic desert vistas. The city offers a huge range of attractions for all ages and accommodation running from campsites to luxury hotels, as well as an endless choice of restaurants, bars, and music clubs. With its stunning views of the Edom Mountains, the desert in the background, and the cool waters of the Red Sea, Eilat is the perfect place to chill out and get away from it all.

## A Haven for Birds and Nature Lovers

Eilat and the southern Arava are a major stop-over point for birds migrating between Africa, Europe and Asia, and, as the only



land bridge between the continents, it is a flyway that attracts hundreds of millions of birds every year, and visitors from across the world who flock in their wake. Visit the sanctuary for a great experience for all the family and learn about the



incredible journey the birds undertake; see how birds are caught for monitoring and released back into the wild; observe their different habitats, and of course, take a close-up look at the birds themselves.

## **Swim with the Dolphins**

One of the most special things to do in Eilat is swimming with bottle-nosed dolphins in their natural environment. None of the pod of dolphins are captive and they swim in and out of an open sea pen of some 10,000 square meters of

their own free will. Watch the dolphins hunt, play, and mate – they will often come right up close. An experience not to be missed!

## **Snorkeling and Scuba Diving at the Coral Beach Nature Reserve**

The Coral Beach Nature Reserve is renowned as one of the most beautiful marine reserves in the world - a striking, multi-colored underwater garden of coral reefs teeming with hundreds of different species of fish, sea creatures, and

water plants. View this incredible site with a mask and a snorkel, or for the more adventurous try scuba diving. If you are already a licensed diver, you can rent equipment from one of the many dive clubs in the area, and if you've never been scuba diving before, take a guided tour with an instructor to explore this underwater paradise.

## | **The Red Canyon**

This stunning canyon carved out of red sandstone rock is located some 20 kilometers north of Eilat amid the Eilat Mountains Reserve, where you can hike through the narrow gorges of this unique rock formation or take a jeep to the high summits where you can enjoy stunning views looking out over the bay of Eilat, the Sinai Peninsula, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

## | **Timna Park**

Further north from the Red Canyon, around 30 kilometers outside of Eilat, lies Timna Park, one of the world's most beautiful and unique desert parks with spectacular geology and Mars-like rock formations that can be explored via hiking and cycling trails, and by car. The park also offers a range of activities, including rock climbing and bouldering and has an artificial lake for pedal boating, as well as a visitor center with a

multimedia display that tells the story of the world's oldest copper mines that once operated there. With its out-of-this-world scenery and ambience, Timna is a popular site for festivals and shows, so make sure to check out what's playing.



## | Flights and Airports

The Negev is a short flight away from Europe. It can be reached from the **Ramon International Airport** in Timna Valley, located about 18km from the city of Eilat, or from **Ben-Gurion Airport**, Israel's main international airport, located in the center of the country - just off the highway connecting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Taxi and regular public transportation services are right outside the main gates of the airports, for a convenient travel to the main destinations throughout the country.

## | Transportation

Israel is a small country, which makes getting around fast and convenient. Taxis are common in Israel for urban and interurban travel and can be flagged in the street or booked via phone or designated international apps. The main forms of public transportation are buses and the national rail service. Tourists can obtain Rav-Kav travel cards for public transport, at both Ben-Gurion and Ramon airports.

**Public transportation info center:**  
☎ **\*8787** | [bus.gov.il](http://bus.gov.il)

**Train Information Services:**  
[rail.co.il/en](http://rail.co.il/en)  
☎ **08-6831222** or ☎ **\*5770**

**Bus Information Services:**  
[egged.co.il](http://egged.co.il) | ☎ **\*2800**

## | Route 40 & Route 90

One of the best ways to travel through the south of Israel is, without a doubt, via Route 40, the main highway running through the center of the Negev linking the cities of Be'er Sheva, Mitzpe Ramon, and down to Eilat. Driving or using the regular bus service down (or up) Route 40 allows visitors to explore the Negev and enjoy its top sites and attractions, many of which are conveniently spread along this route.

If you are driving from Jerusalem, connect to Route 90 and enjoy the stunning views along the Dead Sea shore, before heading down the Arava Valley all the way to Eilat.

## | Weather

With almost year-round sunshine, Eilat, the Dead Sea and the Negev make perfect winter vacation destinations. Please be aware that temperatures can get very hot throughout the summer; Make sure to dress appropriately, wear a hat, and take plenty of drinking water with you when hiking, cycling, or engaging in any other outdoor activity.

October to April is the best season for outdoor activities. Night-time in the desert can get cold, so bring a warm set of clothes. Flash floods can

hit dry riverbeds in the rainy season; make sure to check the weather and consult with a guide before you go out.

## | Accommodation

From luxury hotels to desert Khans, eco-lodges, kibbutz guest houses, hostels, camping, and glamping, the Negev offers accommodation to suit every budget and taste.

## | Further Tourist Information

More information can be found on the Ministry of Tourism website:  
[goisrael.com](http://goisrael.com)

Additional assistance can also be obtained at Israel Government Tourist Offices abroad, and at Tourist Information Offices in Israel. Contact information is listed on the website.



**PURE DESERT MAGIC**

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