

# Mamshit loop

Mamshit Maagali

A short loop in a sandy canyon around Mamshit- the Nabatean city

Closest Town **Dimona**

Difficulty **Easy**

Length **2.5 km**

Duration **1.5 hours**

Recommended season **All year**

Recommended time **All year**

---

## Getting There:

From Beer Sheva drive 36 km on hw 25 towards Dimona. From Mitzpe Ramon drive North 36 km on hw 40 to Halukim intersection. Continue straight, for 17 km, on hw 204 to Yeruham. At the circle continue straight 13 km to Dimona. At the T turn right onto hw25. Pass through the town (Dimona) and continue east, for 5.7 km, on hw 25, and turn right towards Mamshit National park. Drive for 1.3km, passing the turn to the camel farm. Arrive at the gate of the national park and park.

## Hike Description:

**Starting Point:** Mamshit NP.

**Finish Point:** Mamshit NP.

From the parking lot head north to the outer gate of the park. Turn Right along the fence and follow the Green markers all the way to the corner and lone acacia tree. Turn right and follow the markers to the point a descent into a wadi begins. Follow the trail as into the small canyon down. Notice the ruins and broken building blocks of the ancient city in the rockslide to your right. As you continue you will pass the remains of a cable car that was used during the restoration of the city of Mamshit to raise original building stones from the slope to the restoration project.

Arrive at the main wadi and join the red markers. Turn left and follow the trail for 200 meter to the remains of a concrete structure. This is a well that was dug and built by the British during the 1930s as part of their efforts to better the living conditions of the Bedouin population in the area.

## Negev Trails

Over the years the well fell to disrepair and filled up with the sand that wadi Mamshit is known for. Turn back the way you came along the red markers, and passed the trail you came down with. After 200m, as the vegetation thickens, you will come to a dry waterfall. In the winter water fills a small pool at the bottom of the fall. The trail will climb on the right wall of the canyon right before the waterfall. As you advance in the canyon you will curve left again and face a dam built from local stone across the canyon. The trail climbs on the right rocky bank around the dam. This is a British renovation of an ancient dam that was built at the height of the city of Mamshit. This dam, and its twin, visible just a ways up the canyon, stop the runoff water that flows here during flash floods. The water seeps into the sandy bottom and makes agriculture possible in the harsh arid climate of the region.

Techniques like this were the key to the success of the Nabatean presence and the settlement of their descendants in this area during the Byzantine period. Turn right, north, into the small gorge- a tributary of the main wadi. Follow the trail to the ruins of the city of Mamshit. You may visit the city (admission fee) or head straight to the pickup point at the entrance to the National Park.

**Attractions:** Desert sands, Old well, acacia tree and other desert vegetation, Hyrax sighting.