

Mt. Ardon

Har Ardon

A challenging climb to the top of the cliff in the middle of the heart of the Ramon crater

Closest Town **Mitzpe Ramon**

Difficulty **Difficult**

Length **12 km**

Duration **5 hours**

Recommended season **Nov - April**

Recommended time **Early morning**

Getting There:

By Car- Drive from Mitzpe Ramon south. After 11km you'll come to the left turn, with a sign for Beerot Campground and Ein Saharonim. Turn left and drive on the dirt road until you come 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. (The drives takes about 40 minutes)

Hike Description:

Starting Point: Ramat Saharonim CG

Finish Point: Ramat Saharonim CG

Head out along the Black markers and down the Jeep trail into wadi ardon. You'll come to a single acacia tree. From here 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. Though this is not a rock climbing adventure the trail is extremely steep and footing is loose throughout most of the climb.

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 in connects to a black marked trail on the left (south). Turn onto the black trail. soon 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 incense route