

Ein Avdat

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A short hike along in a true oasis

Closest Town **Midreshet Ben Guryon**

Difficulty **Easy**

Length **3 km**

Duration **1.5 hours**

Recommended season **All year**

Recommended time **Morning**

Getting There:

By Bus:

From Mitzpe Ramon Catch a bus to Beer Sheva or Dimona (64,60,55), or from Beer Sheva to Mitzpe Ramon. Get off at the traffic circle at Midreshet Ben Guryon.

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 the park.

Hike Description:

Starting Point: Ein Avdat parking lot

Finish Point: Ein Avdat parking lot

From the parking lot Head south along the blue markers. The trail will take you past a lone Tarabinth tree- a relic to a wetter- colder climate that once existed in the whole region. As the climate changed the only trees that were able to survive were the ones that lived in shaded canyons like this with the abundance of water that the Ein Avdat oasis offers.

As you continue into the canyon you will start noticing streams of water. Arrive at the stair case 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. These rocks settled here in an ocean that covered the region 40 million years ago.

From the top of the stairs continue on the narrow trail and look at the pool from above. Cross to the left side of the canyon and walk along the trail to the grove of Poplars spread on the steep slope. This is as far as you can go if you are planning on getting

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back to your car. Keep your eyes open for the ibex- native residents of this canyon, and the vultures nesting on the cliffs.

Head back to the entrance. Before going back to your car you can enjoy a few more minutes of oasis-peace at Ein Mor- a small spring on the west side of the main parking lot (opposite from the toilet building)

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