

Wadi Ardon and Harut hill

Nahal Ardon VeGivat Harut

A short loop inside the Ramon crater featuring colorful layers of rock and unique magmatic intrusions

Closest Town **Mitzpe Ramon**

Difficulty **Easy**

Length **4-5 km**

Duration **2.5 hours**

Recommended season **All year**

Recommended time **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 / Ramat Saharonim". Park at the large gravel parking lot. (The drive takes about 40 minutes)

Hike Description:

Starting Point: Ramat Saharonim CG

Finish Point: Ramat Saharonim CG

Option No. 1

This option is **4km** long.

Start out along the Black markers of the 4X4 road leading east from the parking lot. Follow it down into the wadi until you reach the red sand, and an impressive Acacia tree. Continue along the road and the black markers for a little less than 1 km. The abundance of life here is almost staggering- Retama broom bushes (white blossom, if you're lucky), and Tamarix brush, tracks of Onagers and Gazells, and borrows of porcupines can be easily spotted. Keep your eyes open to the left and follow the colorful layers of rock. Find a Red trail branching off to the left.

At this point continue along the wadi and the black markers for another 150 meters until you come to the impressive dyke- a Magmatic intrusion injected into the horizontal layers. Turn back to the red trail and follow it north, out of the wadi and up to Harut hill. When you come to the base of the hill you can either

Negev Trails

climb the top or simply follow the blue markers to the left (west) back to the wadi and to the acacia tree. After enjoying the shade, head on the black dirt road to the right (west) and up back to your car.

Attractions: Colorful sand and rocks, Magmatic intrusions, Acacia trees, desert vegetation, Vistas.

Option No. 2

This option is **5km** long.

Start out on the blue trail at the Eastern edge of the parking lot. Follow it along a gradual climb on the wide ridge. After 2 km you will reach the black trail down in the dry river bed. Then turn left, North. Follow the black markers along the jeep road and enjoy the impressive exposure of layers on the right bank and the two Magmatic intrusions- Vertical blocks of Magmatic rock disrupting the horizontal layers.

Keep walking and look for the red trail branching to the right and follow it as it climbs out of the wadi and up to Harut hill. When you come to the bottom of the hill you can either climb the hill or simply follow the blue markers to the left (west) back to the wadi and to an acacia tree. After enjoying the shade, head on the black dirt road to the right (west) and up back to your car.

Attractions: Colorful sand and rocks, Magmatic intrusions, Acacia trees, desert vegetation, Vistas.