
















abraham path

# Craters Atlas







topographical maps &  
route descriptions

a work in progress - v1.0






## Amenities

-  **Accommodations:** Hotel, hostel, guesthouse, homestay, or free “trail angel” room  
*Implies:* Water, Bathrooms with showers, Shade, shelter
-  **Bedouin tent accommodations:** Guesthouse with sleeping arrangements in Bedouin-style tents, not buildings  
*Implies:* Water, Bathrooms, Shade, shelter
-  **Campsite:** An area officially designated for camping, a commercial campsite, or a well-established, often-used wild campsite. In some natural areas, camping is only permitted in designated sites in order to protect the environment  
*Implies:* No services unless otherwise noted  
Free unless otherwise noted
-  **Recommended campsite:** An area suitable for wild camping, but not typically used for it  
*Implies:* No services unless otherwise noted
-  **Drinking water:** A reliable source of potable water  
When appearing next to a spring, well, stream or other natural water source, the water still should be purified before drinking. The symbol will only appear next to natural water sources that have water year-round
-  **Restaurant:** Any establishment selling prepared meals  
*Implies:* Water, Bathrooms, Shade, shelter (possibly only for customers)
-  **Grocery store:** A store selling substantial foods and essentials (rather than simply snacks)  
*Implies:* Water, Bathrooms, Shade, shelter (possibly only for customers)
-  **Bus stop:** A station or stop where public transit can be taken. May be a central bus station or a roadside stop
-  **Bathrooms:** Western-style toilets and sinks unless otherwise noted. Does not imply showers; does imply shelter
-  **Picnic area:** An area with picnic tables and other park amenities. May be a good camp spot, if noted  
*Implies:* Shade
-  **Gas station:** A gas (petrol) station and its accompanying facilities  
*Implies:* Water, Bathrooms, Shade, shelter, and a snack shop
-  **Shade:** A reliably shady spot to rest in. Only appears in stages where shade is otherwise nonexistent; sometimes refers to the point at which a stage begins to have regular shade after having lacked it (see stage notes for details)
-  **All Amenities:** A large town or city generally has everything a hiker needs for resupply, and many shopping, accommodation, and restaurant options; this is used to save space rather than showing all icons  
*Implies:* Accommodations, Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Public Transportation, Bathrooms, Shade, Water, shelter

## Natural Features

-  **Spring:** A natural water source emerging from the ground, or a pool. May have water only in season. Often only visible as an area of heavy plant growth. Does not imply drinking water unless otherwise noted
-  **Well or cistern:** A man-made water source dug in the ground. May not have water; also appears to serve as a landmark. Does not imply drinking water unless otherwise noted
-  **Lookout:** A natural or man-made viewpoint with a view in the specified direction
-  **360-degree lookout:** A lookout point in all directions; usually the summit of a hill, or a watchtower
-  **Cave:** A cave of any size; may be anything from a small nook in a cliff wall to a large cavern system  
*Implies:* Shade and shelter (caves marked on maps are always large enough for people to fit into)
-  **Waterfall:** A wet or dry waterfall; dry ones run only seasonally or after rain. Does not imply drinking water

## Trail Features and Warnings

-  **Scrambling:** A section of trail where rock scrambling (using hands) is required. Note that these are all non-technical; no sections on the Abraham Path require the use of ropes or other climbing equipment
-  **Ladders:** A section of trail where the climbing of ladders, staples or ropes is necessary. Again, it is never necessary to bring any special equipment on the Abraham Path; all ladders, ropes, and handholds are already installed
-  **Exposed trail:** A section of trail that is narrow and exposed to a long drop on one or both sides; path may be slippery or unstable as well. Use extreme caution when crossing.  
**While none of these sections are inherently dangerous, people with extreme fear of heights may find these sections impossible to pass and may wish to plan not to hike these stages**
-  **General warning:** When this symbol is present, a note beside it or in the walking notes will explain why caution or extra attention is required on that trail section
-  **Flash flood risk area:** An area, normally in a narrow or deep wadi or canyon, where dangerous flash floods (large walls of water moving extremely quickly) can occur.  
**It does not have to be raining for a flash flood to occur; rain upstream of a desert canyon can cause flash flooding in the canyon. Always check local weather forecasts before hiking in flash flood risk areas**

## Cultural Features



**Ruins or archaeological site:** Ruins of any age or size. Free admission (or non-maintained site) unless otherwise noted



**Synagogue/Church/Mosque or religious site:** This may be either a significant site for one or more religions (tomb of a famous figure; traditional site of a story or event; etc.) or simply one serving as a landmark



**Point of interest:** Generic symbol for relevant locations not covered by another symbol; see notes beside the point for more information

## Trail Indicators

- Abraham Path route:** Shows the route followed by the Abraham Path on a given stage
- Other Abraham Path route:** Shows Abraham Path routes other than the one that is the focus of a stage map; includes previous and next stages, detours, spurs, etc.
- City Walk routes:** Shows City Walk routes, special spurs/alternates of the Abraham Path



**Begin/End Stage:** Mark the beginning and ending of a stage on stage maps

1.4 **Waypoints and Distance Indicators:** Waypoints mark turn-by-turn directions and navigational landmarks along a trail stage. There may be a distance markers, indicating cumulative distance from the beginning of the stage. Even if no distance is attached, each waypoint has a corresponding entry in the stage's data book which does list its distance as well as a description of the location and directions

## Other Geography



**Roads:** Beige are larger highways, up to expressways; white are smaller roads as well as city streets. Labelled with road number if applicable

Roads marked this way are virtually always asphalt, but in some places with very few paved roads, a wide, smooth, easily driveable dirt road may also be marked as a white road (e.g. Harran region)



**Dirt road or 4x4 track:** A wide, unpaved surface generally large enough to accommodate a jeep or 4x4 vehicle. Should be assumed not to be accessible by normal car unless otherwise noted. The distinction between these and paths (below) is a gradual one, and some trails are on the borderline between both, or change from one to the other over a distance



**Footpath:** A narrow, unpaved walking surface generally too small or too rough to be driven by a 4x4 vehicle. May be wide enough for two people to walk abreast, or a narrow, faint goat path. May be very clear and easy to follow, or faint and more intermittent.



**Wadi or ditch:** A "wadi" is an intermittent streambed which flows with water only in the wet season or after rain. Many of them form very large canyons, and "wadi" can refer either to the broader canyon or to the streambed in the bottom of it



**Stream/River:** Waterways that flow year-round, rather than seasonally. A stream is usually small enough to cross easily by foot, while a river is larger. Canals appear the same as streams or rivers



**Contour Lines:** Show the topography of a landscape; a line is drawn every 10m of elevation, and a thicker line every 100m with a label showing its height. Lines closer together mean a steeper slope; further apart mean a gradual one



**Summit:** A peak or local high point



**Built-up area:** A town, residential, commercial or industrial area



**Forest:** A densely wooded area

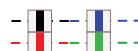


**Military Zone:** Base, firing zone, or other military facility



**Border:** Country boundaries

## Israeli Trail System



The Israeli trail marking system consists of various-colored trail marks (black, blue, red, and green; also purple and orange for certain longer-distance routes) marked with striped symbols shown at left. They appear on our maps when relevant instead of the "4x4 track" or "path" marking.



The Israel Trail, a long-distance hiking route, is marked with orange-blue-white blazes and an orange translucent line, as it often overlaps with other marked trails. The Israel Bike Trail is marked by a purple translucent line. The Abraham Path in the Negev overlaps with the Israel Trail and the Israel Bike Trail for significant distances.



# Abraham Path

## Craters Region (Israel)

The Abraham Path is a long-distance cultural walking route following the footsteps and memory of Abraham across the Middle East. The Abraham Path celebrates the Abrahamic values of hospitality and kindness to strangers, provides economic benefits to local communities along the route. For more practical planning information, including downloadable companion GPS tracks and waypoints, visit [www.abrahampath.org](http://www.abrahampath.org).

This map series is part of an effort by local partners and the Abraham Path Initiative to produce the first all-path online guidebook, covering over 400 km of walking trail and Abrahamic memory and heritage across the Middle East. We invite you to take part in this project by walking the path, visiting communities along the way, and by providing comments and suggestions for improvement. These routes are still in development, and map feedback is especially helpful for name corrections (towns, wadis, landmarks), areas which are difficult to navigate, and updates on current path conditions ([feedback@abrahampath.org](mailto:feedback@abrahampath.org)).

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Databook & Diagrams © Abraham Path Initiative

### Disclaimer

This map may not be up to date with recent changes on the ground. By making this map available, the Abraham Path Initiative does not assume any liability for use of the information provided or for its accuracy. All hiking and other outdoor activities have potential hazards involving risk of injury or death. The wilderness in and of itself can be a dangerous place and there are areas in the Middle East that can suddenly become subject to security instability.

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Find out more at [www.abrahampath.org](http://www.abrahampath.org)





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# Abraham Path

*A Long-Distance Hiking Trail  
through the Middle East*



MT. NEMRUT

UR

URFA

HARRAN

ALEPPO

HOMS

DAMASCUS

GILBOA

JENIN

AJLOUN

NABLUS

JERICHO

NEBO

BETHLEHEM

MUJIB

HEBRON

KARAK

BEERSHEVA

ARAD

CRATERS

DANA

ARAVA

PETRA

WADI RUM

SINAI

MECCA

Find more maps and  
and download GPS from  
the online guidebook:  
[www.abrahampath.org](http://www.abrahampath.org)

## LEGEND

- Developed Trail
- Future Route
- Regions



# Abraham Path

## Craters Region (Israel)

### Water, Supplies, Transportation, and Accommodation:

Water and food are logistical challenges in parts of the Negev Desert. The route from haArava Junction to Merhav Am (4-5 days' walk) has no food supply points and only one on-trail water point (a tank which is maintained for hikers at the Small Makhtesh Lookout). There are no grocery stores or water supplies from Mitzpe Ramon to Sapir (3 days), and no water from Beerot to Sapir (2 days).

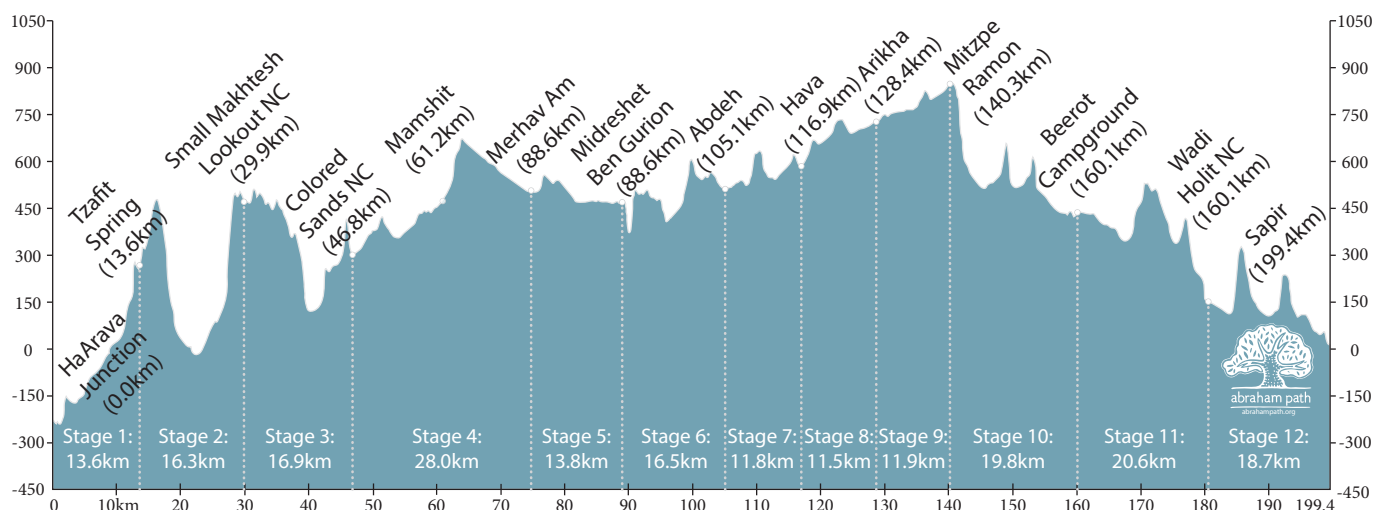
Water or food can be cached (or brought in by car) at night camps along the trail where no supplies are otherwise available, including Tamar Fort, Small Makhtesh Lookout, Colored Sands, and Wadi Holit. **Note that Wadi Holit Night Camp is accessible only by 4x4 vehicles, not by normal cars!**

Almost the entire desert (except for military zones and near towns) is classified as nature reserve; this means you must stay on marked hiking trails and camp only in designated night camps. These camps (shown on the maps and usually indicated by signage) offer no services unless otherwise noted, and consist simply of a relatively flat area where tents can be pitched. Gathering wood for campfires is also prohibited, in order to protect the ecosystem. If you want a fire, you must bring in wood from outside, but it's better to cook using a camp stove.

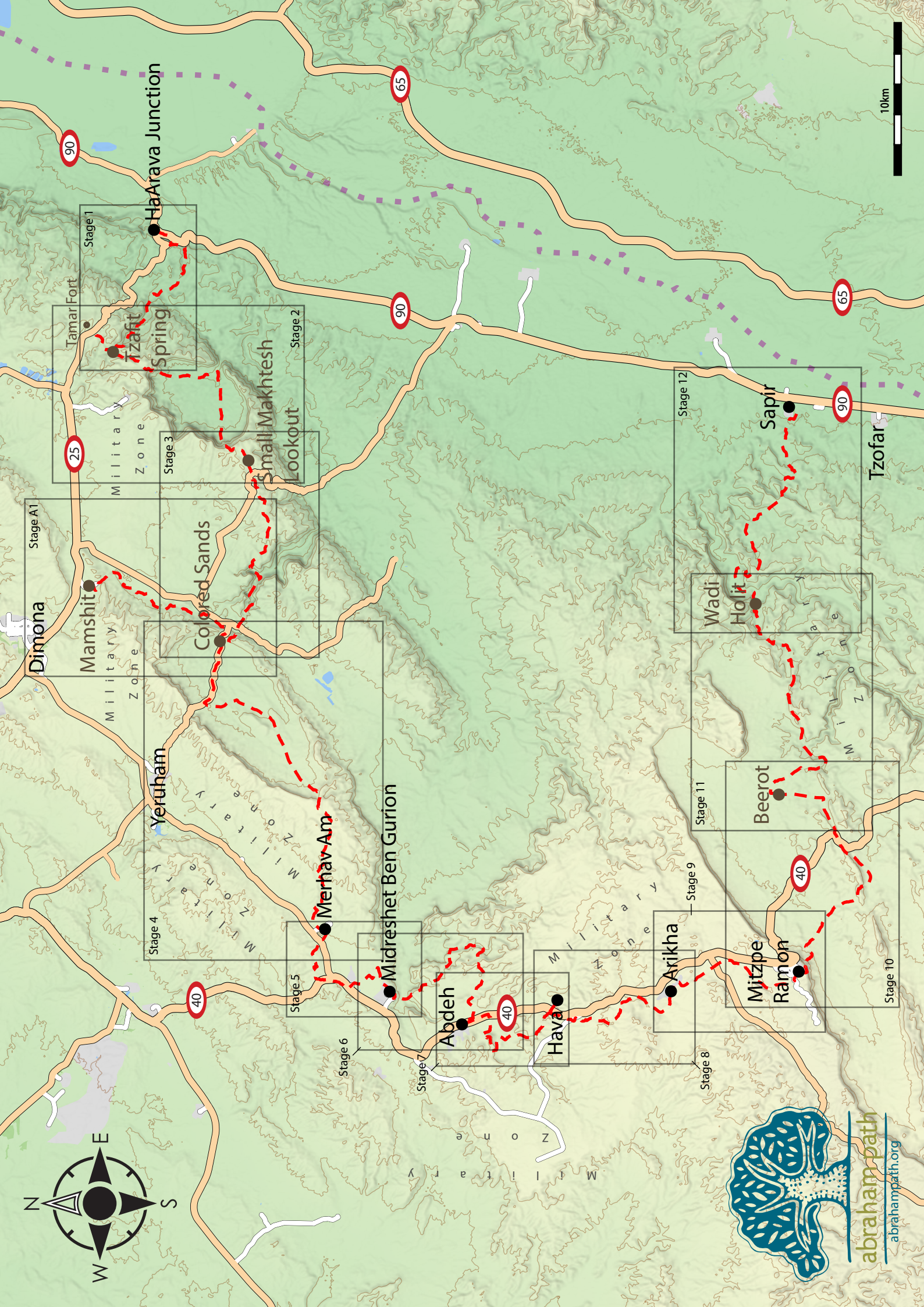
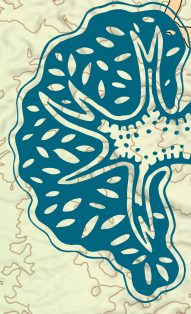
Much of the region is remote enough that while bus service exists, you need to plan carefully as buses are infrequent. Hwy. 90 (which the trail crosses or comes to at haArava Junction and Sapir) has relatively regular bus service between Eilat and points north including Beersheva and Jerusalem. Hwy. 40 has buses between Eilat and Beersheva as well; stops are at Mitzpe Ramon, Midreshet Ben Gurion, Sde Boker, and a few other points. While there are some marked stops at Bedouin villages where stages end, buses stop infrequently, if at all.

The majority of the Craters Region (haArava Junction to Merhav Am and Mitzpe Ramon to Sapir) requires camping. There are a variety of accommodation options between Merhav Am and Mitzpe Ramon, however, making the middle section of the Craters Region accessible to travelers who want to hike without carrying camping gear. Merhav Am, Midreshet Ben Gurion, and Mitzpe Ramon all have guesthouses, hostels, and/or hotels. In the Bedouin villages of Abdeh, Hava, and Arikha, Bedouin tents offer meals and accommodation (including mattresses and blankets) to hikers.

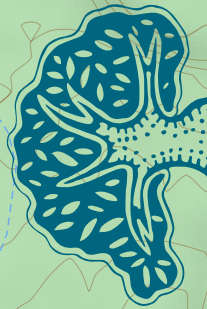
For more information on transportation and accommodations in the Craters Region: [www.abrahampath.org/path/craters](http://www.abrahampath.org/path/craters)











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- General Warning
  - Flash Flood Risk
  - Exposed Trail
  - Scrambling
  - Ladders
  - Drinking Water\*
- \*Water from natural sources should be purified

1km



# 1: HaArava Junction to Tzafit Spring (Craters Region)

Distance: 13.6km

Time: 3-5 hours

Physical Challenge: difficult

Trail Difficulty: difficult

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at HaArava Junction. Walk down Hwy. 90 heading south, toward the gas station	0.5
0.5	Turn R to the gas station, then continue heading S on a dirt road parallel to the highway	0.3
0.8	Continue S, passing a sign on the road with a green blaze saying "Wadi Tamar"	0.2
1.0	Curve R with the dirt road, around a fenced area with signs warning of landmines	0.5
1.5	Continue into the narrow canyon entrance, past an electrical station on L. Continue rock-scrambling up to the ladders	0.2
1.7	Turn L away from the green trail onto a blue trail; short scramble up a rock face. Then head S along the cliff ledge with the blue trail	1.0
2.7	Curve R with the blue-blazed footpath as a red trail joins from L. Head W, walking above Nahal Tzafit on L	0.9
3.6	Curve down L toward the wadi bed, and turn R on a black trail, as the blue trail ends. Cross the wadi, then as the bed widens, follow black blazes upstream	1.4
5.0	Continue up a dry waterfall, using the rope to climb; or follow the transparent blazes to L for an alternative way up using metal handholds in a rock	0.5
5.5	Continue past a large, wide acacia tree on L and two smaller ones on R; good spot for shade	0.9
6.4	Reach a red-blazed wide dirt road and turn R along it; almost immediately, turn L onto a blue-blazed footpath	2.3
8.7	Continue uphill as the wadi narrows, leaving the blue trail for a black trail that joins from R (note: a short distance up the black trail is jeep access - the last until you reach the road)	2.2
10.9	Pass an area full of reeds and other aquatic vegetation on L. Then turn up L after a large acacia (shade) and walk above the wadi on a narrow footpath	0.3
11.2	Pass the top of a dry waterfall on R, and continue upstream briefly. Then head up a slope on the R side of the wadi to head for cliffs above it; from the top of the climb stay straight back down into the wadi bed	1.0
12.2	Turn L and begin a steep climb up a path to above the wadi	0.6
12.8	Begin going downhill from a small saddle - heading toward the top of the dry waterfall with a palm tree at its bottom. A path section a bit ahead is narrow and exposed	0.1
12.9	Begin a steep, switchbacking downhill toward the top of the waterfall	0.1

13.0	Narrow pass (must duck and grab rocks) above a slot canyon on R	0.6
13.6	Reach a junction with a blue-marked trail and the Israel National Trail, which go together. To reach Metzad Tamar Night Camp, turn R, heading NE ( <b>additional 2.6 km</b> ). To reach Tzafit Spring, continue straight on the black trail heading N. To continue toward the Small Makhtesh, turn L on the blue/INT, heading S. END STAGE	END

## Transportation:

- HaArava Junction is served by several daily buses running between major destinations like Jerusalem, Beersheva, Tel Aviv, and Eilat. Tamar Fort night camp is along route 25, but buses will not stop there for pick-up or drop-off. 6.4km along the trail is an access road usable by normal cars.

## Accommodation:

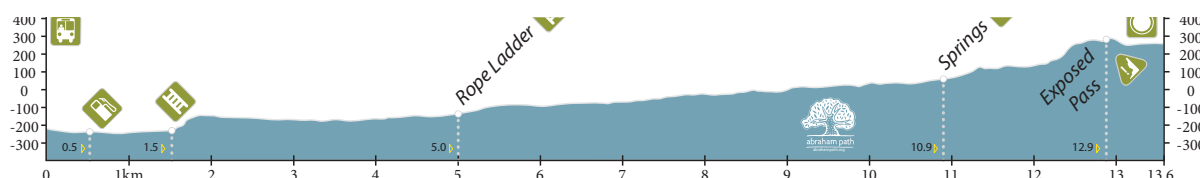
- Camping is possible near haArava Junction, but don't go too far into the desert, as you may venture into designated nature reserves.
- You can camp near Tamar Fort, 2.6km from the end of the stage

## Food and Water:

- Fill up at haArava Junction's gas station. Cache water at Tamar Fort. Tzafit Spring may have water, but it is not good quality for drinking, and taking water disturbs fragile desert ecosystems.
- If you are on a long-distance hike, this is a good point to resupply. From haArava Junction, you can take a bus or taxi (or hitchhike) to Dimona, a half-hour drive to the west, which has supermarkets.

## Stage Notes:

- Tzafit Spring and the surrounding areas are within a nature reserve, and camping is prohibited. Make the 2.6km uphill hike to Tamar Fort to find a legal camping spot.
- Just below Wadi Tamar are several fenced-in minefields. There is no danger to hikers on trails, but do not cross the fences!
- This stage involves climbing several ladders (in Wadi Tamar) and either a ladder or a rope (in Wadi Tzafit). There is also a narrow path above a drop further up Wadi Tzafit; be very careful while crossing, and if you have severe fear of heights, consider skipping this stage.







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[abrahampath.org](http://abrahampath.org)

Mt. Tzafit  
461m

25

25



Tamar  
Fort

2.6km

Tzafit  
Springs

0.0

1.2

Narrow  
Pass

Wadi Tzafit

3.1

Colored Rocks  
and Fossils

Hatzeria Ascent

5.0

6.1

7.6

9.6

Satan's Mouth

Small Makhtesh  
Night Camp

Wadi Hatzeria

13.3

Eli Ascent

14.6

15.5

Small Makhtesh  
Overlook

Small Makhtesh  
Overlook Night Camp

16.3

Small Makhtesh

Wadi Tzin

Wadi Tzin

- |  |                  |  |                 |
|--|------------------|--|-----------------|
|  | General Warning  |  | Scrambling      |
|  | Flash Flood Risk |  | Ladders         |
|  | Exposed Trail    |  | Drinking Water* |
- \*Water from natural sources should be purified

1km





## 2: Tzafit Spring to Small Makhtesh Lookout Night Camp (Craters Region)

Distance: 16.3km

Time: 4-7 hours

Physical Challenge: difficult

Trail Difficulty: difficult

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at the junction of the black trail with the blue trail/INT in Nahal Tzafit. Follow blue/INT blazes heading S, up a steep hillside, often with no clear path. Soon begin following a streambed. Heading S on the Israel National Trail, follow orange-blue-white blazes with the orange strip uppermost.	0.9
0.9	Cross the streambed again, and start a short, steep climb up a hillside, following blazes to find the way. After the climb, head L (S) on a clear, level footpath	0.3
1.2	Pass a dry waterfall on L - sheer ledge	0.1
1.3	Pass a tributary on R, then one on L, then head SSW up a ridge between two streambeds (look for a cairn at the turn blaze) and continue in the same direction up the ridge	1.8
3.1	Continue straight on the blue/INT past a green trail heading L. Then reach a lookout over the Small Makhtesh and head L to make your way down toward the crater on a 4x4 track	1.9
5.0	A short time after the descent levels out, pass a view of colorful rocks on R. This area is full of fossils on the ground!	1.1
6.1	Keep S as a wide dirt road joins from R (this road was visible from the top of the crater)	0.2
6.3	Continue S across a deep streambed that cuts off the 4x4 track R down into it to cross it, and head for the path that continues on the other side of the gorge	0.7
7.0	Cross a 3-meter-deep wadi and continue on a footpath on the other side	0.6
7.6	At the bottom of a purple-colored wadi, continue up out of it with the blue/INT blazes as a black trail heads R, downstream (this forms a loop which rejoins the main route shortly)	0.5
8.1	Continue down into the wide wadi bed as the black trail rejoins from R; a signpost indicates it as a "Loop Trail" while another sign with a blue mark points to "Hatzeria Ascent." Continue past a fenced water station building ahead on R and past an acacia tree (shade). Soon, on L, pass a wall of carved graffiti.	0.5
8.6	Reach a junction with a red trail. Shade trees here. Turn R, following the signpost to "Eli Ascent," to head W and continue the route. OPTIONAL DETOUR: Go L to visit "Satan's Mouth" at the exit of the wadi - interesting rock formations, paved road access, and a night camp	0.5
9.6	Continue W, straight past a wadi going R; lots of acacia trees there (shade). Some colored rock is exposed, and carved graffiti	0.5
10.1	Stay R as the wadi splits, then climb up a path up the L side of the wadi you followed	0.2

10.3	Pass a dry waterfall on R, then stay straight W across that streambed	1.5
11.8	Curve R downhill to cross a canyon, heading toward the path heading steeply up the cliffs ahead (Eli Ascent). Continue following a footpath	1.5
13.3	Begin the steep climb up the Eli Ascent out of the Makhtesh	1.2
14.5	Finish the climb and reach the plateau above the Makhtesh; keep heading W with the footpath	0.1
14.6	Curve L with the footpath, widening to a 4x4, past a path heading R up a small stream. View of crater on L	0.3
14.9	Curve R and stay on the 4x4 track as it winds SW. A military installation is uphill to R	0.6
15.5	Curve R with the 4x4 track at a sign for "Ma'ale Eli" and Observation Point	0.8
16.3	On L is the Small Makhtesh Lookout Night Camp; by the sign is a black-blazed trail heading L. END STAGE	END

### Transportation:

- No public transit on this stage. Cars can reach the stage end, and Tamar Fort 2.6km from the beginning of the stage.

### Accommodation:

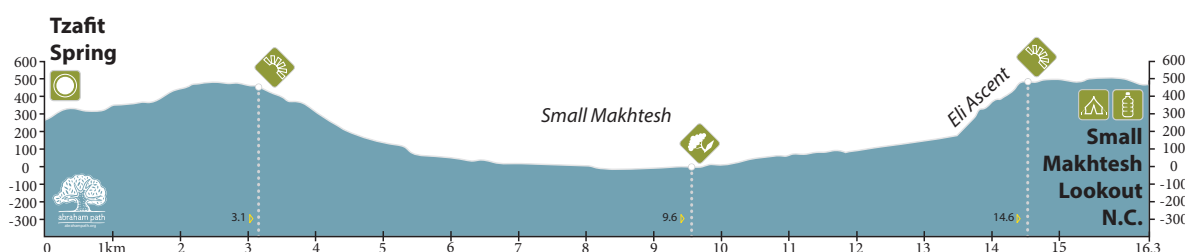
- Camping permitted only at Tamar Fort, Small Makhtesh Night Camp (east of the trail) and Small Makhtesh Lookout Night Camp at the stage end.

### Food and Water:

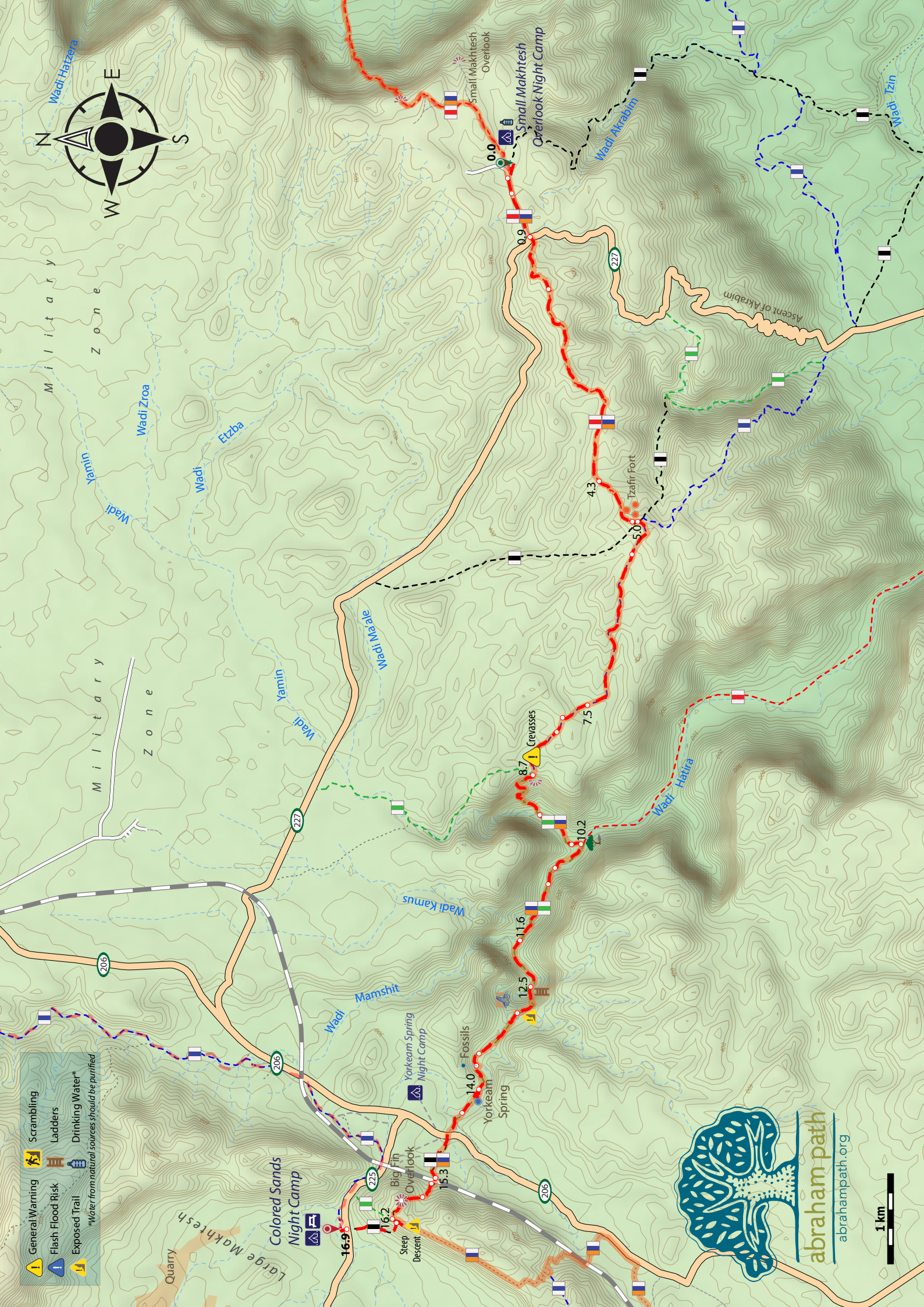
- Cache water at Tamar Fort.
- A tank of drinking water for hikers is maintained at Small Makhtesh Lookout Night Camp, at the stage end.
- Do not drink water from Tzafit Spring, both for health reasons and out of respect for the fragile environment.

### Stage Notes:

- The distance of this stage does not include the 2.6km walk from Tamar Fort.
- Find a field covered in eons-old deep sea fossils shortly after descending into the Small Makhtesh. The southeast corner of the makhtesh, where Wadi Hatzeria exits, is an impressive rock formation called "Satan's Mouth," which is well worth a detour.







- General Warning
  - Flash Flood Risk
  - Exposed Trail
  - Drinking Water\*
  - Scrambling
  - Ladders
- \*Water from natural sources should be purified

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1 km





### 3: Small Makhtesh Lookout Night Camp to Colored Sands Night Camp (Craters Region)

Distance: 16.9km

Time: 4-7 hours

Physical Challenge: difficult

Trail Difficulty: difficult

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at the Small Makhtesh Lookout Night Camp, and head W on the large dirt road, past signs for "Wadi Aqrabim," "Ma'ale Eli," and "Small Makhtesh"	0.3
0.3	Pass a small flattened area showing signs of use as a night camp on R	0.6
0.9	Cross Hwy. 227, passing signs for "Zafir Stronghold," Eilat, and "Makhteshim-En Yahav Nature Reserve." Continue straight up the hill ahead, on a footpath with red/INT blazes	0.8
1.7	Head steeply downhill, still heading W, following the footpath. The path remains clear and easy to follow (along with blazes) as it continues W, winding along ridgetops	2.6
4.3	Head across a small saddle with small wadis running away from either side, and climb a low ridge to a pointed peak ahead. Continue on a clear path L of the peak	0.6
4.9	Reach Metzad Zafir - ruins of an ancient watchtower. Curve L away with the red blazes, heading downhill to S	0.1
5.0	Reach a 4-way junction of marked trails. Take the blue trail heading R with the INT as the red ends; a black trail heads back and R, while the other end of the blue trail goes L. Continue on a clear footpath curving R along the wadi to R	2.5
7.5	Curve slight R to cross a shallow streambed, then stay on the footpath heading up a protruding hill across from it	0.4
7.9	Reach a saddle and curve L with the footpath, toward a deeper canyon ahead	0.1
8.0	Curve R away from the wider footpath onto a narrow, rocky path winding along the L edge of the steep canyon and then heading down toward the bed	0.7
8.7	Reach a junction where a green trail comes from R; continue straight with it and the INT as the blue trail ends. Cross several narrow but deep crevasses (danger of falling!) to the lip of a huge canyon. Curve R to find the path heading down into it, then head SSW, downstream	1.5
10.2	As the wadi bed joins with another, flowing from the NW, also reach a junction of trail blazes (a red trail joins from L, downstream) and a large shade tree on L. Turn R and head upstream (NW) staying with the green/INT blazes. From this point on, plenty of trees/shade	1.4
11.6	Shortly before the canyon bed curves L, cross a small tributary and climb a short, steep ledge on the R side of the wadi; continue walking above it. There are several more short scrambles ahead to stay on this ridge above the streambed	0.7
12.3	At a pair of small acacia trees, cut L across the wadi to aim for a footpath heading steeply up the wall, toward a ladder where the canyon walls become sheer	0.2
12.5	Climb the ladder, then continue a steep climb up the cliff walls using handholds and cables provided, then head R along a narrow path above the canyon	0.2
12.7	The narrow path reaches a wider area at the top of the dropoff into the canyon on R. Continue upstream, following the footpath on the ridge above the next level of the canyon on R	0.6
13.3	Stay straight past a smaller wadi heading L; in the area are several footpaths heading up out of the canyon besides the one you follow the blazes on	0.3
13.6	Just after wadi curves sharply L, turn R and climb a path up out of its R side. Lots of fossils in the stone at the bottom of this slope. Continue to a narrow footpath curving above on the wadi on L, soon coming in sight of the road	0.4
14.0	Pass a set of transparent blazes heading L to Yorkeam Spring, which has water year round	0.3

14.3	Stay straight with the green/INT blazes past a blue trail going L	0.3
14.7	Cross the road, continuing with black and INT blazes as the green trail ends. Pass a sign for "Great Makhtesh Slopes Nature Reserve" and "Big Fin". To R is the Large Crater's entrance	0.6
15.3	Turn R to a tunnel under the railroad bed; the other end is clearly visible	0.1
15.4	After the tunnel head L up a very steep climb on the dark rocks. Stay upstream through the gap or low point; inconsistent blazes	0.2
15.6	Turn R and begin to climb straight up the side of the steep slope of the highest "fin"	0.3
15.9	From the summit of the "Big Fin," follow black blazes down to L	0.3
16.2	Reach a trail junction. Stay with the black trail as it curves downhill to R, the INT heads uphill to L, and a green trail heads down R (alternate route to camp/road). Pass through a narrow gap (short climb using handhold) then follow an indistinct path down and curving to R (to head N) with the black trail	0.7
16.9	Cross Hwy. 226 to Colored Sands Night Camp - shade/shelters, picnic tables, trash cans. END STAGE	END

#### Transportation:

- No public transit on this stage. Cars can reach both stage ends

#### Accommodation:

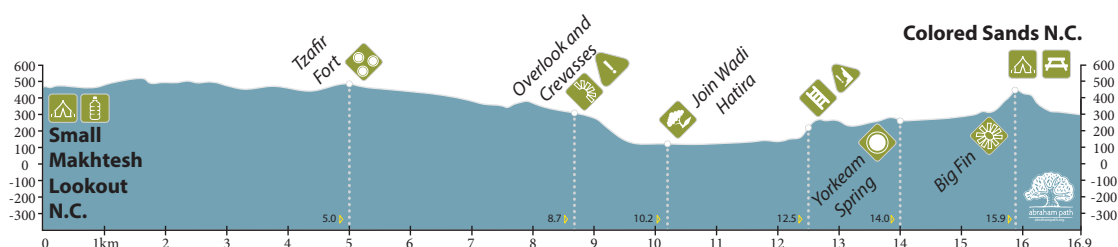
- Camping only at night camps at beginning and end of stage.

#### Food and Water:

- There is a water tank, kept full for hikers, on the edge of a military base just north of Small Makhtesh Lookout night camp.
- Cache water at Colored Sands night camp; hide it well, as many visitors and large school groups come to this spot. There is also water (from a tap) at the entrance to a phosphate plant ~ 3.5km south of where the the trail intersects Hwy 206.
- Yorkeam spring may have water, but do not take water from it; it is a protected and sensitive natural area and the water is needed by wildlife.

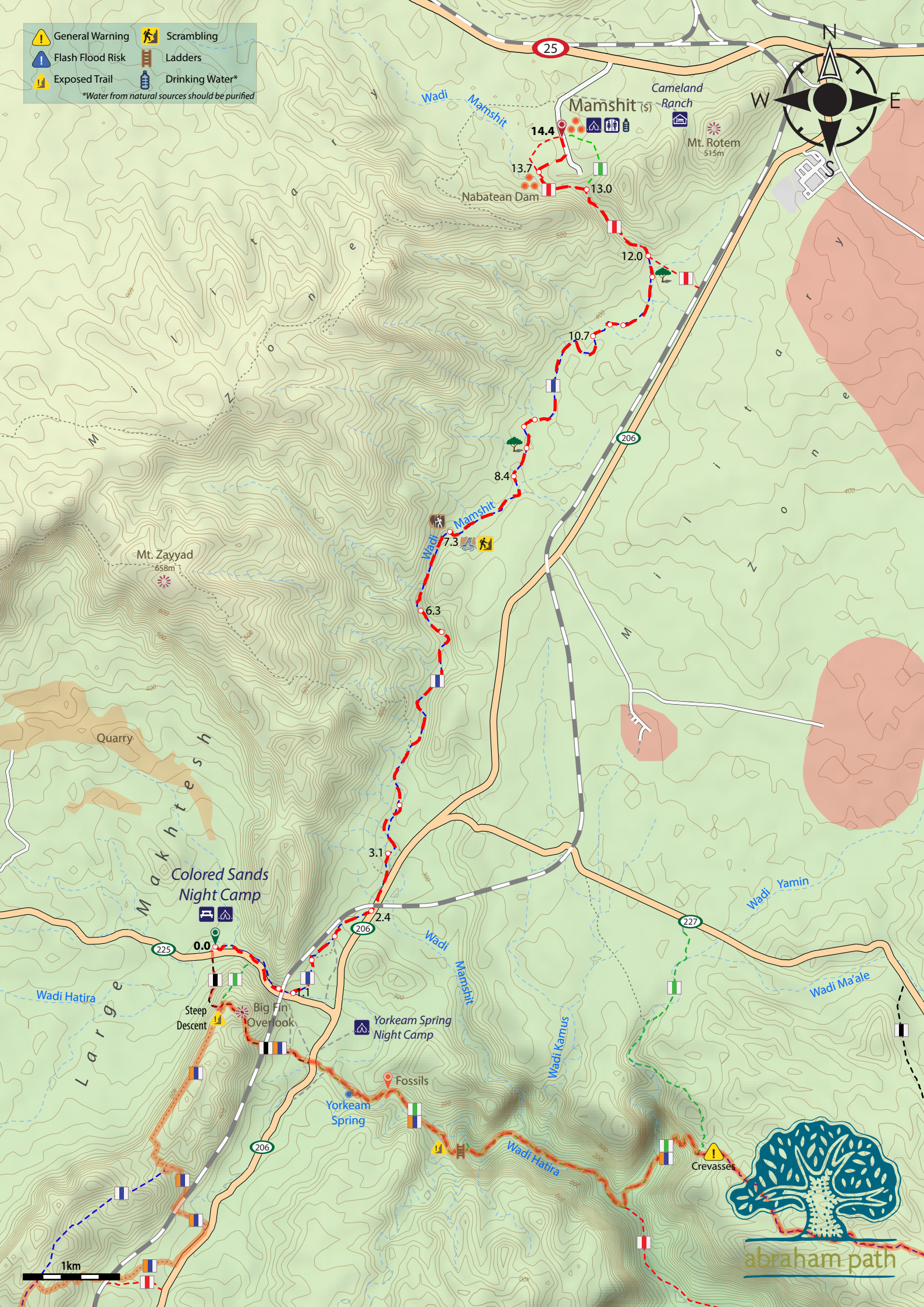
#### Stage Notes:

- Yorkeam Spring night camp provides an option to shorten this stage and lengthen the following one (which is short), if continuing to Mamshit.
- Just above the overlook of Wadi Yamin, be careful of the deep crevasses in the rock. They are well-marked with boulders also showing trail blazes, and are easy to jump over, but watch your feet while in the area.
- The way up past Wadi Hatira's dry waterfall involves a ladder climb, followed by some rock scrambling, and finally by a passage along a narrow pathway, with a cable to hold onto (something like a via ferrata). For those with severe fear of heights, this stage may not be appropriate.



	General Warning		Scrambling
	Flash Flood Risk		Ladders
	Exposed Trail		Drinking Water*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified







# A1: Colored Sands Night Camp to Mamshit (Craters Region)

Distance: 14.4km

Time: 3-5 hours

Physical Challenge: moderate

Trail Difficulty: moderate

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at Colored Sands Night Camp just inside the eastern outlet of the Large Makhtesh. Follow a blue trail marked on the sign by the road, heading E to the crater mouth, curving R through an opening in a low barbed-wire fence and soon dropping into a wadi bed	1.0
1.0	Continue straight on the wadi bed under the high railroad bridge	0.1
1.1	Turn L up out of the wadi bed - blazes may be washed out or hidden here. The turn coincides with a sign (facing away from you) on the road above at R. After climbing out of the wadi bed, curve R on a 4x4 track toward the power lines, and head NNE parallel to the railroad tracks at L	1.3
2.4	Parallel with the road (Hwy 206), walk under the railroad bridge. Then follow blue blazes N toward the wadi bed of Wadi Mamshit, winding away from the road	0.7
3.1	As you near the power lines, drop into the wadi bed of Wadi Mamshit and follow it roughly N, upstream, for most of the rest of the stage	0.7
6.3	Continue through a notch or "gate" of dark, rough rock; the canyon tightens. Climb out of it to the L and walk above, then back into wadi bed as it curves R again; steep walls on L. From here, the wadi bed is mostly straight for about 900m	3.2
7.3	As the wadi curves R, another wadi heads off L; go R toward a low dry waterfall and scramble up. A small cave (shade/rain shelter) on L.	1.1
8.4	The canyon narrows into a section between low white walls; keep L above it, soon rejoining the main wider streambed	0.3
8.7	Pass a tall acacia tree on L - shade, and the first of several in a short distance	2.0
10.7	Pass high rubble heaps on the wadi bank on L and thick bushes on R. The wadi then curves R, with the road coming into sight. Terraces appear on L just after the bend	0.2
10.9	After the wadi bends R, climb up L out of the wadi and go parallel to another terrace wall on L. Lots more terraces beyond it	0.9
11.8	Rejoin the wadi bed heading N as it enters a gap in the higher hills ahead, passing a row of great shade trees on R, across wadi	0.2
12.0	Continue straight onto a red trail that joins from R, as the blue trail ends. Pass another terrace on the bank above on L	1.0

13.0	Keep straight on the red trail as a green trail heads up R into the cliffs. OPTION: If heading to Camel-land camel ranch, take the green trail, then head NE along the foot of the hills once you reach the plain	0.7
13.7	Just after the Nabatean dam, pass a metal sign in Hebrew - it says this is a back entrance to the park and you may pay when you leave. Turn R uphill to enter park	0.1
13.8	Inside the park, go R uphill on a 4x4; soon you'll reach the archaeological site	0.6
14.4	END STAGE at the front gate of Mamshit National Park	END

## Transportation:

- No public transit on this stage. Nearest bus station at Rotem Junction, a few km east of Mamshit on Hwy. 25, or in Dimona

## Accommodation:

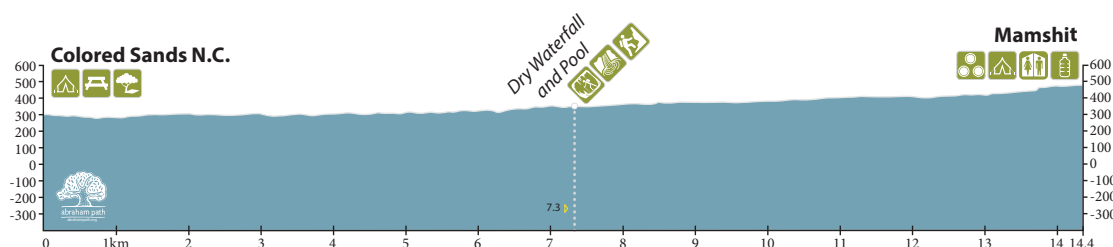
- Camping and hut accommodations available at Mamshit. Call ahead to confirm availability

## Food and Water:

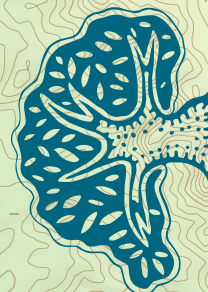
- Cache water at Colored Sands night camp; hide it well, as many visitors and large school groups come to this spot.
- Water available at Mamshit or at Camel-land Ranch.

## Stage Notes:

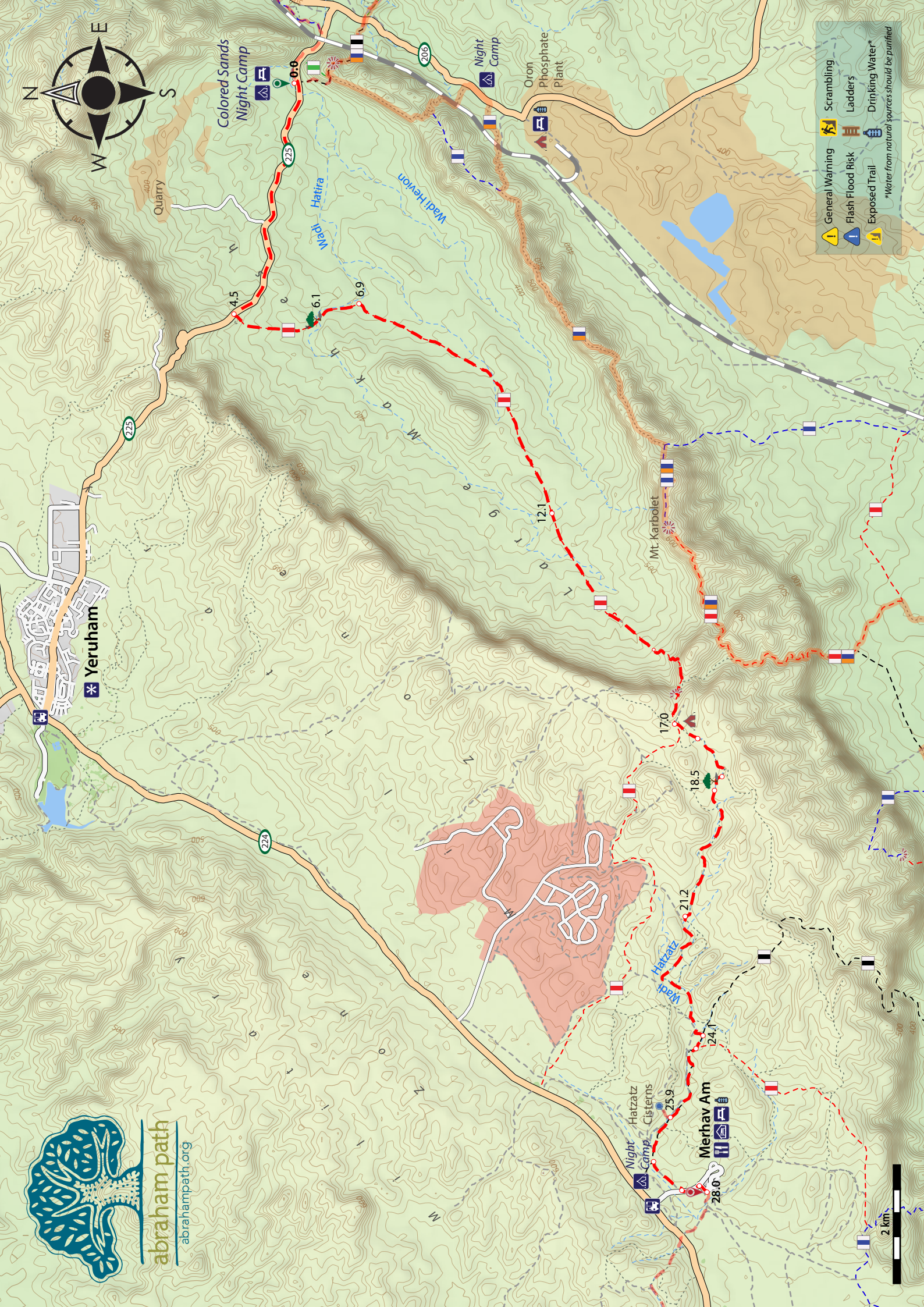
- Although the stage is short, there is no shade except where noted.
- A green trail around Mamshit provides an alternate route to the front of the site, or toward Camel-land ranch.







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	General Warning		Scrambling
	Flash Flood Risk		Ladders
	Exposed Trail		Drinking Water*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified







## 4: Colored Sands to Merhav Am (Craters Region)

Distance: 28.0km

Time: 6-9 hours

Physical Challenge: difficult

Trail Difficulty: moderate

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at Colored Sands Night Camp. At main road, turn R, following the road further into the crater.	4.5
4.5	At sign for "Avraham Ascent" and "Quartz Arenite," turn L onto a red-marked 4x4. Follow the 4x4 past a sign for the entrance to "Great Makhtesh Slopes Nature Reserve."	1.6
6.1	Pass shade tree, and then pass another ~ 250m ahead.	0.8
6.9	At Y, turn R, continuing to follow the red-blazed 4x4.	5.2
12.1	Cross a wadi. Small bushes offer minor shade.	3.0
15.1	Begin the ascent out of the Large Makhtesh, continuing to follow red blazes.	2.9
17.0	From the red-marked 4x4 at top of the Avraham Ascent from Large Makhtesh, head SW, away from the 4x4, across a flat area, to join a wadi bed that runs down to SW	0.4
17.4	Just before reaching wadi, cross a perpendicular, wide jeep track. Continue SW along wadi bed on rough 4x4 track; you will follow this wadi for much of the way to Merhav-Am. The path along the wadi varies from singletrack to 4x4, and numerous other tracks intersect, but unless noted, stay downstream heading roughly W	0.9
18.3	Continue to follow wadi bed as 4x4 goes L.	0.2
18.5	Pass shade trees.	0.1
18.6	Pass remains of an old stone-walled enclosure beside wadi. The path in this area is mostly a narrow singletrack.	3.6
21.2	At an area with several 4x4 tracks branching off to R and one to L, continue down the zigzagging wadi bed	2.9
24.1	At a small wadi junction, turn R, staying downstream, joining black-marked hiking trail	0.3
24.4	Reach signposted junction of marked trails; black trail you are on continues straight, and red trail joins from the L (S). Continue downstream with the black trail, following signs for "Beerot Hazaz, Yeruham, Sde Boker Road." Trail become 4x4 track running parallel to bed of Wadi Hatzatz	1.5
25.9	A transparent-blazed side trail and signpost indicate the the Hatzatz cisterns are a short distance uphill to R; the "Hatzatz Water Holes Single Track" mountain bike trail also heads that way. Continue straight NW on the black-marked 4x4 parallel to the wadi bed. OPTION: Go R to visit the cisterns, then return to this point to continue	0.8

26.7	Around an area of several merging 4x4 tracks, leave the black-marked trail (which will continue NW to the Hwy) and follow the cycling-route signposts along a 4x4 SW, still following the widening bed of Wadi Hatzatz	0.7
27.4	At asphalt road, turn L toward Merhav Am, moving away from the Hwy.	0.4
27.8	At traffic circle, turn R toward basketball court and bus stop.	0.2
28.0	END STAGE at bus stop.	END

### Transportation:

- Road access at Colored Sands Night Camp.
- Bus stop in Merhav Am and at entrance to Merhav Am.

### Accommodation:

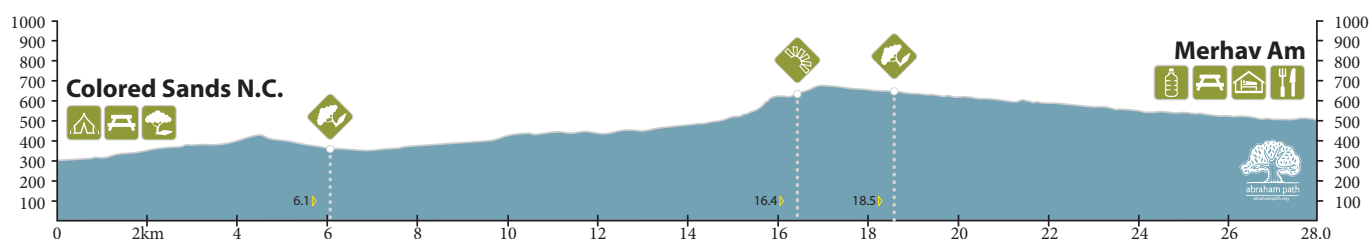
- Colored Sands Night Camp
- Khan Merhav Am

### Food and Water:

- Water is available in Merhav Am, and Khan Merhav Am serves meals.

### Stage Notes:

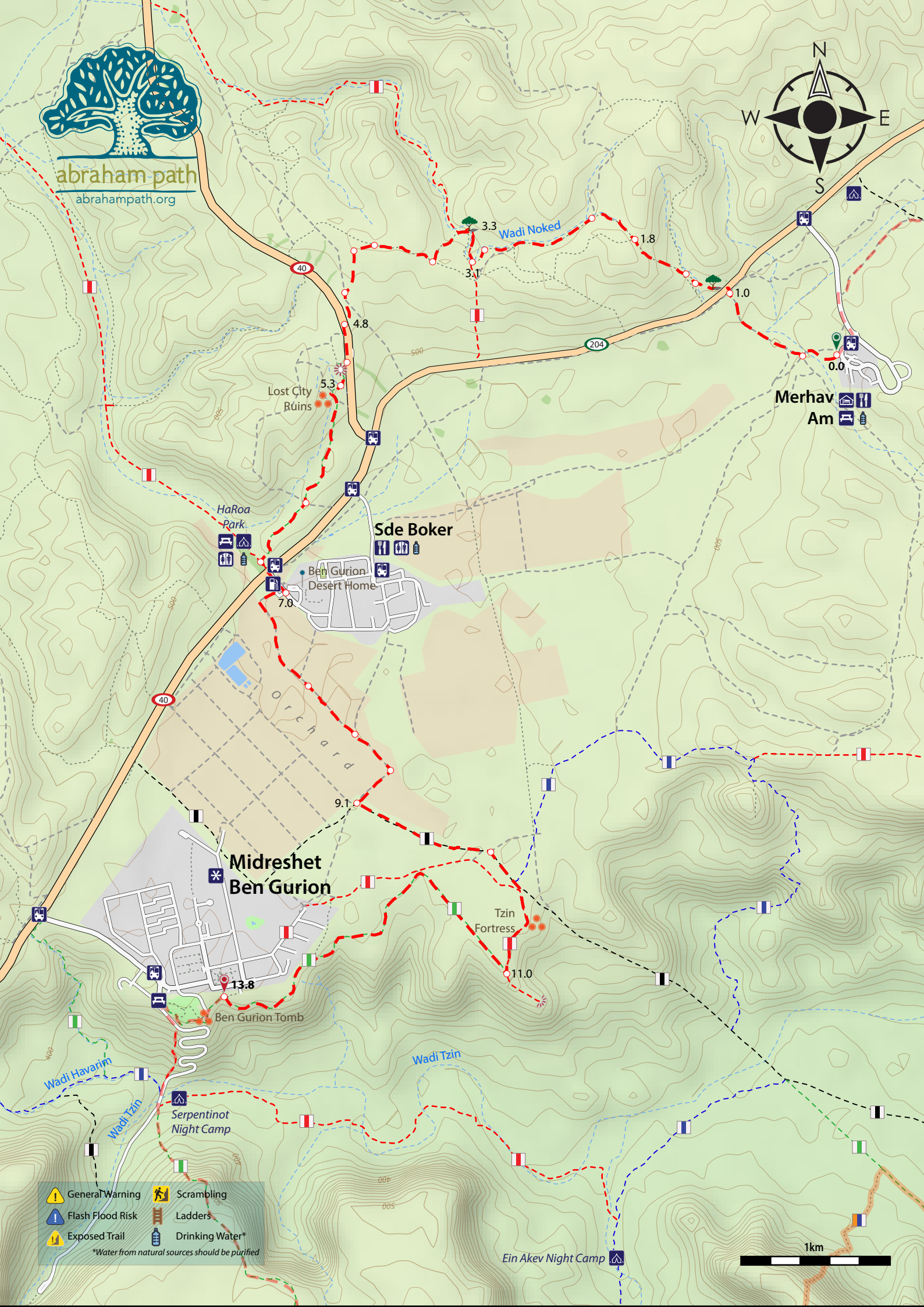
- The first 4km of this stage are along an asphalt road. If you have access to a car, consider starting this stage at the turn-off the red-blazed 4x4 track toward "Avraham Ascent."
- After reaching the top of the Avraham Ascent, do not go off trail to the north. That area becomes a military zone.
- This stage is long with only intermittent shade, so carry plenty of water.
- Once you reach the top of Avraham Ascent, you are no longer in a nature reserve. If you want to split the stage in two you can wild camp above the Large Makhtesh and continue to Merhav Am the following day.





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	General Warning		Scrambling
	Flash Flood Risk		Ladders
	Exposed Trail		Drinking Water*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified







## 5: Merhav Am to Midreshet Ben Gurion (Craters Region)

Distance: 13.8km

Time: 3-4 hours

Physical Challenge: easy

Trail Difficulty: easy

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at the bus stop. Go onto a dirt road heading S. Pass a basketball court on your R.	0.3
0.3	At a red bike trail sign, turn R onto a smaller dirt road, again moving in the direction of Hwy 204.	0.7
1.0	Cross the Hwy and immediately angle left toward a grove of shade trees.	0.1
1.1	From the shade trees walk into the wadi ahead. Stay to the L side of the wadi.	0.2
1.3	When you reach a path, continue across, slowly climbing up the L side of the wadi as the path angles R into the wadi.	0.1
1.4	When you reach another small path, follow this path gently uphill toward the saddle ahead.	0.4
1.8	Reach the saddle and a red bike trail signpost. Continue along the path into the shallow wadi.	0.4
2.2	At intersection with a path that joins from R, marked by a red signpost, continue along path you've been following, moving downhill through wadi.	0.8
3.0	At intersection with a bike trail, continue L following the wadi gently downhill.	0.1
3.1	At intersection with a red-blazed 4x4, marked by a red bike trail signpost, turn R onto the 4x4, continuing to follow the wadi gently downhill.	0.3
3.4	Reach a large shade tree and potential camping spot. Shortly after the tree as the red-blazed 4x4 turns R, turn L onto a path going up toward the ridge.	0.4
3.7	At T with a 4x4 on the ridge, turn R onto the 4x4 following the ridgeline W. The 4x4 becomes a path ahead. Then, shortly ahead, as the path angles L, follow path L toward an electric pylon.	0.4
4.1	At intersection with a 4x4, angle L on the 4x4, heading toward the electric pylon.	0.2
4.3	At T intersection with a 4x4, turn L going downhill toward Sde Boker, now visible on the plateau below. Soon, as the 4x4 turns L, angle R off the 4x4 toward a dirt bank to your R.	0.3
4.6	Upon reaching the dirt bank, climb it and turn L onto a dirt road on the other side. Go downhill in the direction of Sde Boker. Shortly after, at Y, go R following the dirt road downhill toward Hwy 40.	0.4
4.8	Reach Hwy 40 and cross to the other side. Upon reaching the other side, turn L following the Hwy toward Sde Boker.	0.3
5.1	At intersection with a green-blazed footpath, turn R onto the footpath, going toward an overlook at the top of the hill.	0.1
5.2	At T with a 4x4, turn L continuing to follow green trail blazes downhill. Ahead continue to follow the green blazes as they continue onto a path that turns down into the wadi on your R.	0.1
5.3	Reach village ruins, called "Lost City" locally. Continue to follow the green trail blazes, eventually following a ridge on the L side of the wadi.	0.9

6.2	At 4-way intersection (two fenced off water pumps are on either side of intersection) continue straight along the ridge, following the green blazes.	0.6
6.8	Reach a park after descending from the ridge. Turn L and cross Hwy 40, passing a gas station on your R.	0.2
7.0	Immediately after passing the gas station, turn R onto an asphalt road. Soon the road turns R, returning toward the gas station. Before reaching the gas station, turn L onto a dirt road, moving away from the gas station into a grove of trees. Shortly, follow the dirt road as it turns L.	1.4
8.4	As a dirt road joins from the L, continue straight, keeping the orchard on your R.	0.3
8.7	At a 3-way intersection at the end of the grove, turn R, following the dirt road toward Midreshet Ben Gurion (the town visible ahead).	0.4
9.1	At 4-way intersection, turn L onto a black-blazed dirt road, following a sign for "Zin Ascent" and "Zin Valley."	0.9
10.0	At the intersection with a wide red-blazed asphalt road, continue slightly R, following the red-blazes along the asphalt road. After ~300m, angle R off the road toward a lookout ahead.	1.0
11.0	At junction with green-blazed path, turn R, sharply, following the green blazes. If you continue straight you will reach an overlook. Follow the green-blazed path all the way into Midreshet Ben Gurion, following the rim of the Tzin Valley.	2.8
13.8	END STAGE on green-blazed path, overlooking Tzin Valley, with the town center on your right.	END

### Transportation:

- Bus stops in Merhav Am and Midreshet Ben Gurion.
- There is road access at several points along the stage.

### Accommodation:

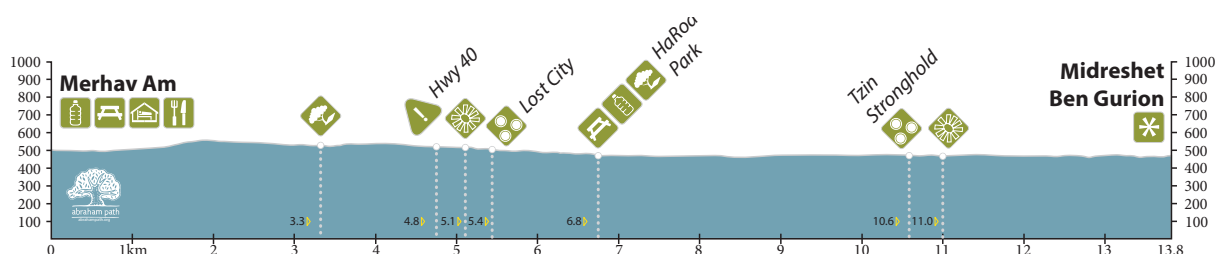
- Khan Merhav Am
- Camping is possible in HaRoa Park.
- Guesthouses/Field School in Midreshet Ben Gurion. Camping is possible in Midreshet Ben Gurion

### Food and Water:

- Water is available in Merhav Am, and Khan Merhav Am serves meals.
- HaRoa Park, opposite the entrance to Sde Boker, has potable water and bathrooms.
- A gas station at the entrance to Sde Boker sells food and water.
- There are restaurants and a grocery store in Midreshet Ben Gurion.

### Stage Notes:

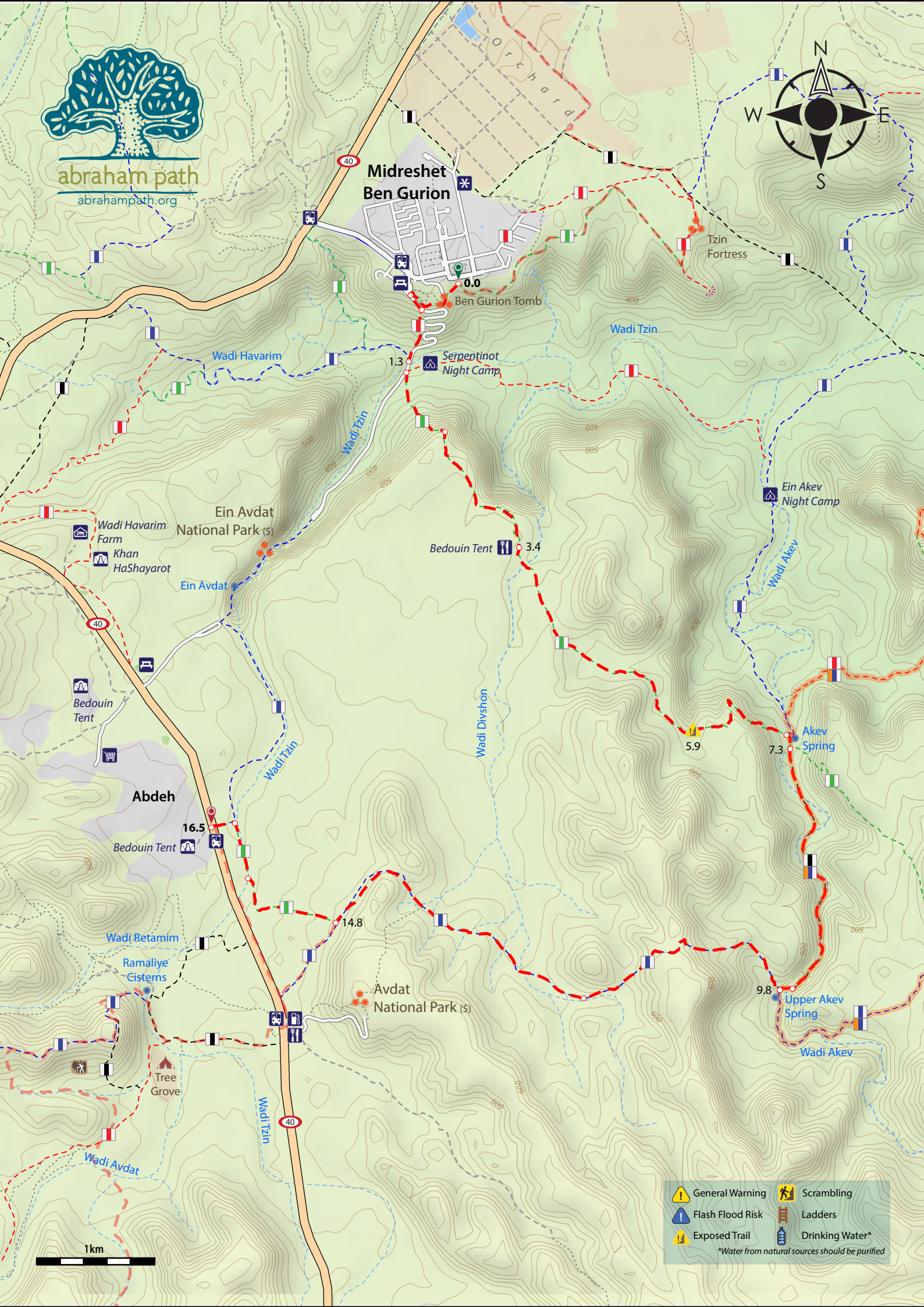
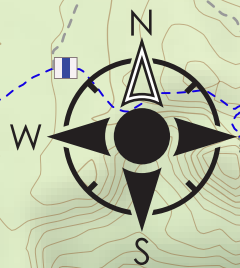
- This is a short stage with lots of water stops. Go light and enjoy the sites.





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General Warning	Scrambling
Flash Flood Risk	Ladders
Exposed Trail	Drinking Water*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified







## 6: Midreshet Ben Gurion to Abdeh (Craters Region)

Distance: 16.5km

Time: 4-5.5 hours

Physical Challenge: moderate

Trail Difficulty: moderate

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	At edge of cliff above Tzin Valley, on green-blazed path just S of the town center, follow the green-blazed path along the cliff edge W in the direction of Hwy 40.	0.6
0.6	At a parking area turn L onto an asphalt road going down into the valley below. A R turn will take you to a visitors' center for the Ben Gurion burial place. There are picnic tables and a small shop at the visitors' center.	0.2
0.8	At intersection with a red-blazed path, turn R onto the path, following a sign for "Wadi Havarim," "Ein Avdat" and "Tsin Valley." Descend into the Tzin Valley.	0.5
1.3	At intersection with an asphalt road in the valley bottom, turn R onto the asphalt road and immediately cross a Wadi Tzin.	0.1
1.4	Immediately after crossing the wadi, a dirt road meets the asphalt road from the L. Leave the asphalt road angling L, crossing the dirt road to a set of trail markers on a rock. Follow a green-blazed path marked toward ascent ahead.	0.7
2.1	Reach the top of the ascent and continue to follow the green blazes SE across the plateau.	1.3
3.4	Pass a Bedouin tent (which serves meals) and continue following the green blazes SE across the plateau.	2.5
5.9	Pass an exposed trail above a large dry waterfall.	1.2
7.1	Reach 3-way intersection above Ein Akev. A green-blazed path goes right following sign for "Ein Shaviv, Ein Zik, Upper Ein Akev, Avdat." Turn R onto the green-blazed path, and follow it up the wadi toward a second trail sign post shortly ahead. OPTION: Go straight ahead on the blue-blazed path and down the staples into the wadi below to reach Ein Akev (~100m)	0.2
7.3	At 3-way intersection marked by a signpost, continue straight on a black-blazed path following a sign for "Upper Ein Akev, Avdat."	2.3
9.6	At black blaze indicating a R turn, turn R and cross through reeds to the other side of the wadi.	0.2
9.8	At 3-way intersection marked by a trail signpost, turn R following a blue-blazed path and sign for "Avdat, Hwy 40." Another blue-blazed path continues up the wadi and is marked by a sign for "Ein Shaviv, Ein Zik."	2.2
12.0	Continue on the blue-blazed path as a 4x4 joins from the L. Continue following the blue blazes as the wadi widens.	2.8

14.8	At 3-way intersection, turn R onto a green-blazed path, heading in the direction of a bedouin village visible on the other side of Hwy 40. OPTION: Continue straight on the blue-blazed path in the direction of a gas station to reach the entrance to Avdat (~1.0 KM)	1.0
15.8	Cross Wadi Tzin. On the other side of the wadi, continue following the green blazes, now on a 4x4.	0.5
16.3	At Y-intersection turn L, continuing to follow the green-blazed 4x4 toward Hwy 40. A blue-blazed 4x4 goes R toward the upper entrance to Ein Avdat.	0.2
16.5	END STAGE at the entrance to Abdeh.	END

### Transportation:

- Bus stops at Midreshet Ben Gurion, Abdeh, and the entrance to Avdat.
- Road access at the the stage start and end points.

### Accommodation:

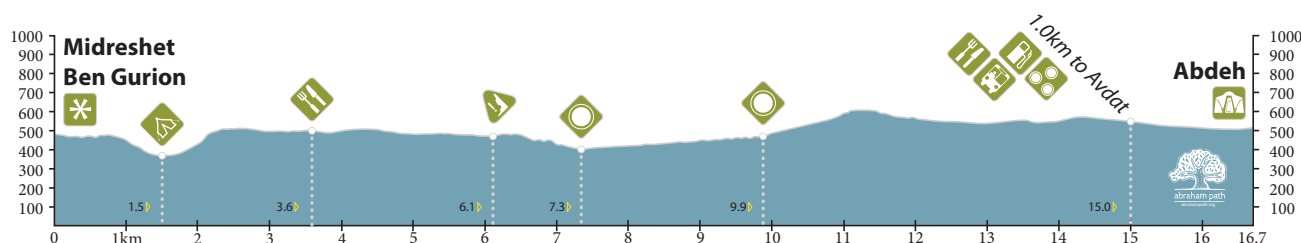
- Guesthouses/hostels in Midreshet Ben Gurion. Camping is possible in Midreshet Ben Gurion.
- Serpentinot Night Camp (no water/bathrooms)
- Ein Akev Night Camp (no water/bathrooms)
- Bedouin tents in Abdeh

### Food and Water:

- There are restaurants and a grocery store in Midreshet Ben Gurion.
- There is a Bedouin tent that serves meals on the plateau south of the Tzin Valley between Midreshet Ben Gurion and Ein Akev.
- Bedouin tents in Abdeh serve food and have potable water. There is also a small store in Abdeh (~ 2km off-trail)
- A gas station and coffee shop are located at the entrance to Avdat (~ 1km off-trail)."

### Stage Notes:

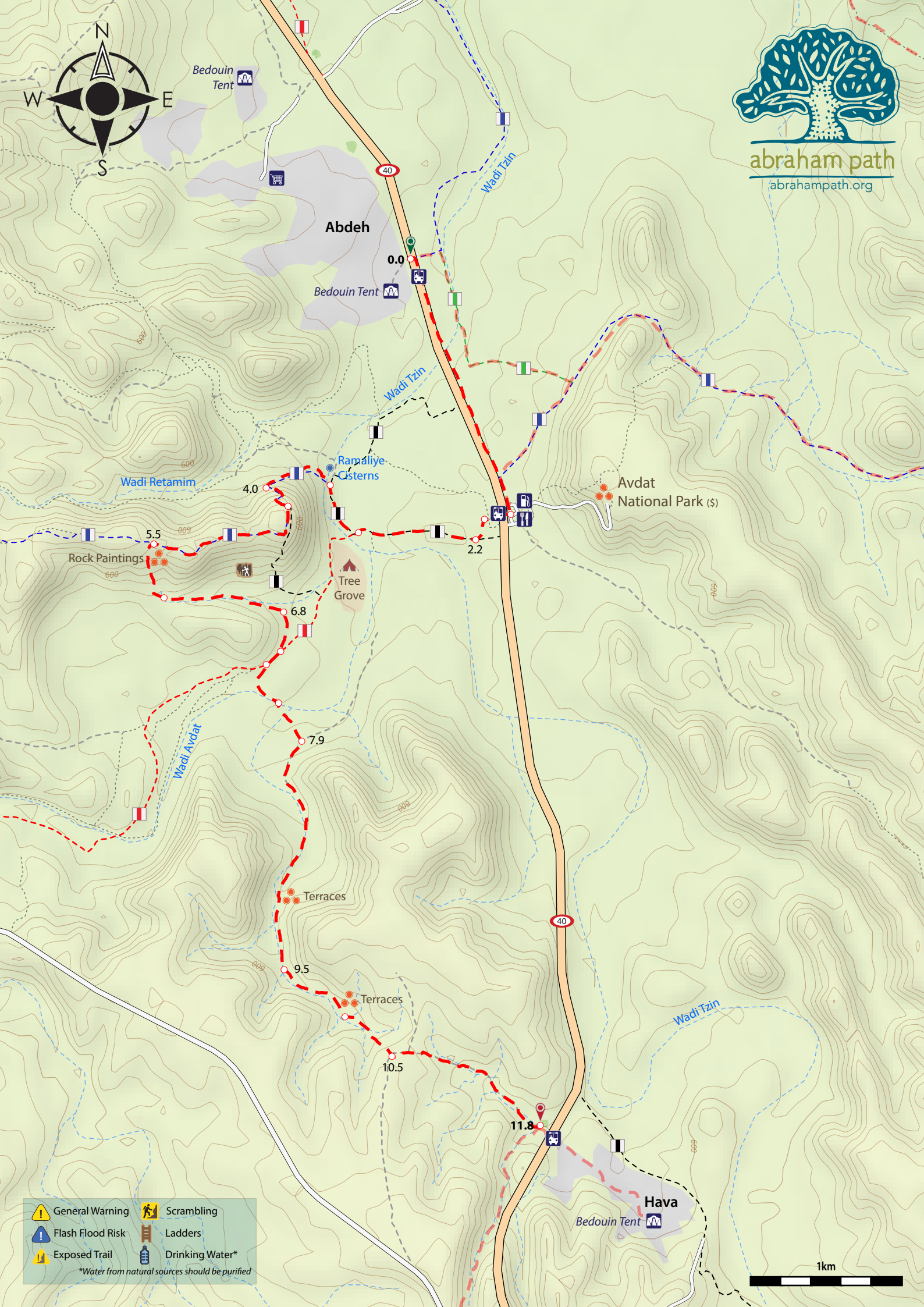
- Take a break for a swim at Akev Spring. Don't take water from the spring; it's protected in a nature reserve and is an important source of water for wildlife. To allow wildlife an undisturbed morning drink, hikers are not allowed in the area of the spring before 8:00am or after 4:00pm
- You are in a nature reserve between Midreshet Ben Gurion and Avdat. Camping is not allowed outside of designated night camps.





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[abrahampath.org](http://abrahampath.org)



Bedouin Tent

Abdeh

Bedouin Tent

Wadi Tzin

Ramaliye Cisterns

Wadi Retamim

Avdat National Park (S)

Rock Paintings

Tree Grove

Wadi Avdat

Terraces

Terraces

Wadi Tzin

Hava

Bedouin Tent

General Warning

Flash Flood Risk

Exposed Trail

Scrambling

Ladders

Drinking Water\*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified





## 7: Abdeh to Hava (Craters Region)

Distance: 11.8km

Time: 3-4 hours

Physical Challenge: moderate

Trail Difficulty: moderate

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE: At entrance to Abdeh. Cross to E side of Hwy 40 and turn right onto the first 4x4. Walk S, parallel to Hwy 40, toward the gas station.	1.9
1.9	At gas station, go to the bus stop on the side of Hwy 40 nearest to the gas station. Cross Hwy 40 and go toward the ruins of a wine press to the R of an electric pylon.	0.2
2.1	At the wine press, turn L and go toward the ridge-line.	0.1
2.2	At intersection with a black-blazed 4x4, turn R and follow the 4x4 toward the mountain.	0.8
3.0	Just before the wadi bed at a Y, stay R on the black-blazed trail. Immediately make another R, continuing to follow black blazes along the wadi bed.	0.4
3.4	At intersection with a blue-blazed path, take a L following the blue blazes across the wadi bed and up the gully on the opposite side. OPTION: Turn R and go ~100m N in the wadi to reach Ramaliye Water Hole.	0.6
4.0	Follow the blue-blazed path L as it ascends toward the top of the mountain.	0.3
4.3	At intersection of blue and black-blazed paths, turn R following the blue-blazed path to the top of the mountain and viewpoint.	1.2
5.5	Before reaching a low rocky rise, turn L off the blue-blazed trail. Moving perpendicular to the blazed path, going directly downhill toward the wadi bottom. You will pass several black boulders with ancient drawings.	0.4
5.9	Upon reaching the wadi bed, turn Left onto a dirt path. Follow the wadi downhill in the direction of the Hwy 40. Approximately 0.5km ahead on the left bank of the wadi is a large cave with ample shade.	0.9
6.8	When the path leads through a barbed wire fence, continue walking in the direction of a mountain peak ahead. As you continue along the path, another peak becomes visible. Go toward the right-most of the two peaks.	0.3
7.1	At intersection with a dirt road marked by intermittent red blazes, turn R following the dirt road away from Hwy 40.	0.1
7.2	After cresting a small hill, angle away from the red-blazed dirt road, moving toward the wadi bed. At Wadi bed, angle L following the wadi.	0.3
7.5	After ~150 m walking in the wadi, cross to the other side of the wadi, walking toward the ruins of a stone wall ahead. Upon reaching the ruins, continue toward the mountain with the stone wall to your R.	0.4

7.9	At intersection with a 4x4, turn R along the 4x4, keeping the mountain on your L. Around ~250m ahead, angle L with the 4x4 into a wadi. Follow the wadi upstream for the next 2.1 KM. You will pass the ruins of Nabatean farms throughout the wadi.	1.6
9.5	At a Y intersection of 2 wadis, continue up the L wadi along a 4x4 track.	0.6
10.1	As wadis join from R and from L, continue straight along the main wadi toward the electric lines.	0.4
10.5	At the top of the ascent reach an intersection with a 4x4, turn L onto the 4x4, moving away from the electric lines and moving slightly downhill. After about 100m, at Y, take the R 4x4 heading down toward the village ahead.	1.3
11.8	END STAGE at grove of shade trees. Cross to the E side of Hwy 40 to reach the Hava bedouin village.	END

### Transportation:

- Bus stops at Abdeh, Avdat, and Hava. Buses may not stop at Abdeh and Hava, but there is additional bus stop at Nafha Junction ~ 2.0km south of Hava on Hwy 40.
- Road access at Abdeh, Avdat, and Hava.

### Accommodation:

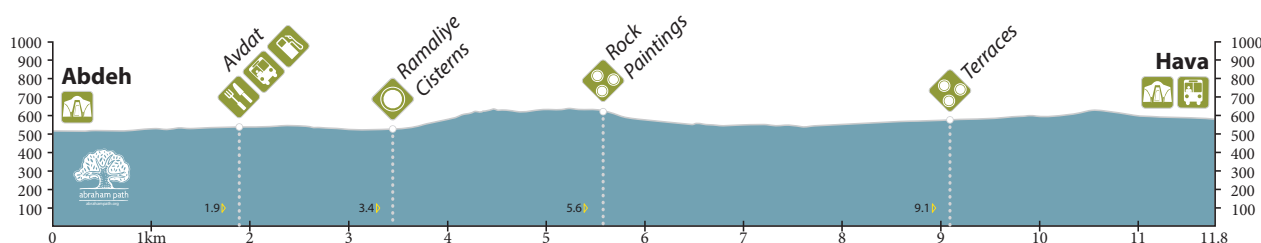
- Bedouin tents in Abdeh and Hava
- Camping is possible in a grove of trees on the W side of Hwy. 40, opposite Hava.

### Food and Water:

- Bedouin tents in Abdeh serve food and have potable water. This is also a small store in Abdeh (~ 2km off-trail).
- Bedouin tents in Hava serve food and have potable water.
- A gas station and coffee shop are located at the entrance to Avdat.

### Stage Notes:

- This is a short stage, so take some time to enjoy the remains of Avdat, or hike north from Abdeh on the blue trail on the east side of Hwy 40 to see Ein Avdat.
- There are few shade spots; carry plenty of water, plan your breaks to coincide with shaded areas.

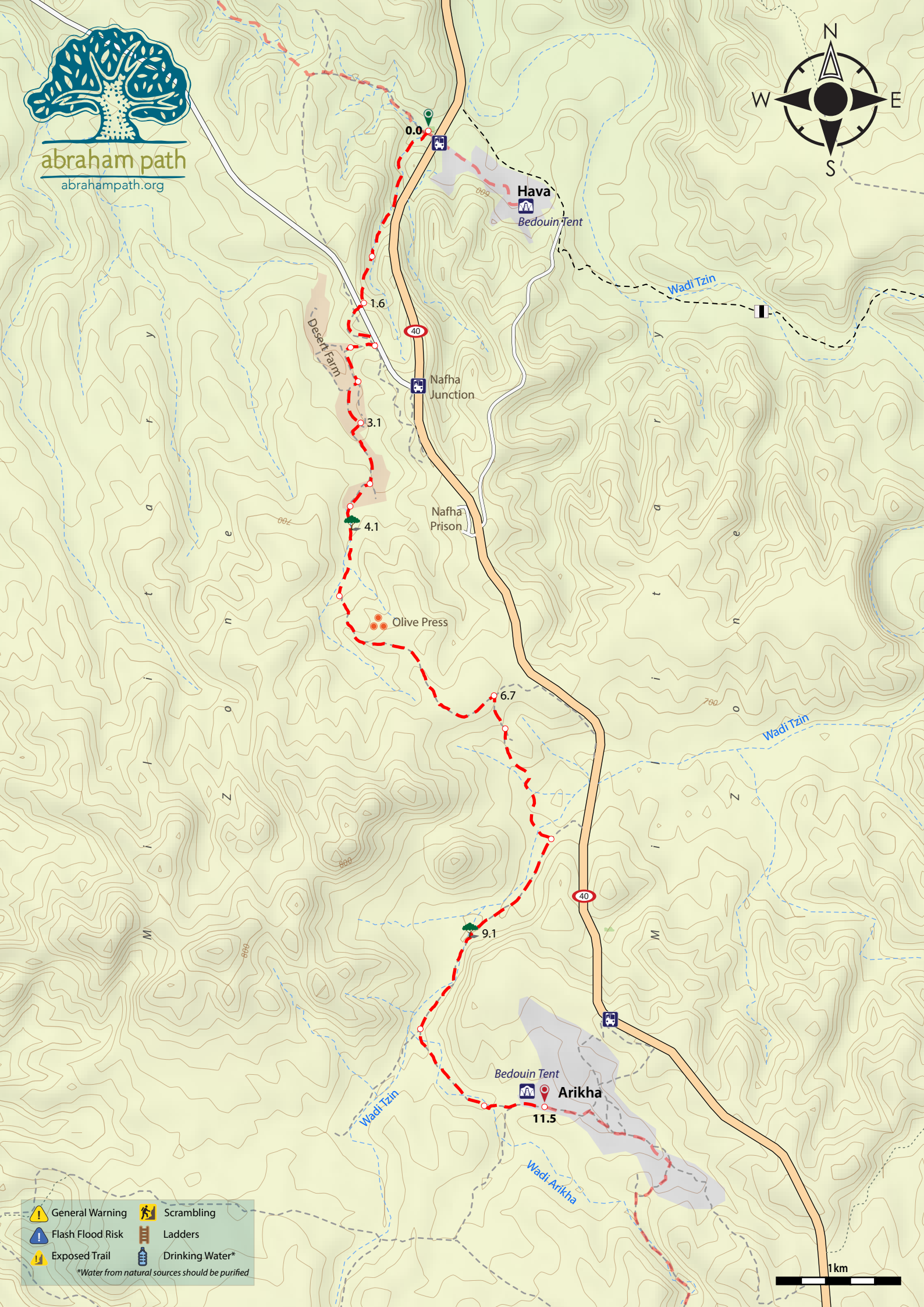






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	General Warning		Scrambling
	Flash Flood Risk		Ladders
	Exposed Trail		Drinking Water*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified



## 8: Hava to Arikha (Craters Region)

Distance: 11.5km

Time: 3-4 hours

Physical Challenge: easy

Trail Difficulty: moderate

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE: From the shade trees, go roughly SSW, following the wadi which runs parallel to the road.	1.2
1.2	As a footpath angles up to the R (from this spot you can see a line of black rock high up on the L side of the wadi), follow the footpath upward, moving up out of the wadi bed toward the wadi rim.	0.4
1.6	As the trail nears the to of the wadi at a boulder pile, turn R around the boulders and out of the wadi, reaching an asphalt road. Cross the road and descend to a 3-way intersection of 4x4 tracks. From the intersection continue straight on the 4x4 track, keeping the wadi to your right.	0.6
2.2	At intersection with another 4x4 branching down to the R, take that 4x4 down toward the farm in the wadi below.	0.2
2.4	At a Y at the bottom of the hill, follow the L branch through the gate keeping vineyards on your R. The farm is watered using sewage water. Do not drink any water in the farm.	0.3
2.7	At T intersection with olive trees on right and shelter up ahead, take the 4x4 going to the R between trees.	0.4
3.1	At the lake, turn R before curving L. Continue straight with trees on R and vineyards and the prison on L. The 4x4 becomes a paved road as it curves L.	0.6
3.7	At Y at olive grove, take the R branch into the olive grove away from the vineyards.	0.3
4.0	At gate, continue straight through gate. Angle L, following the pebbly wadi bed toward a lone shade tree.	0.1
4.1	Pass the shade tree, and continue up the wadi bed for ~600m.	0.7
4.8	At junction with a 4x4 track, turn L, following the 4x4 uphill onto the ridge on your L.	1.9
6.7	By the electric lines at an intersection with another 4x4, turn R onto that 4x4, walking parallel with the power lines.	0.3
7.0	At Y, take the R 4x4, heading downhill, slightly away from the power lines. At the bottom of the hill, cross under the power lines, heading toward a dirt road in the distance.	1.1
8.1	At T with a large dirt road, turn R, going away from Hwy 40. Follow the dirt road up a wide wadi.	1.0
9.1	Pass a shade tree. There are many other shade trees ahead in the wadi.	1.0
10.1	As the ridge to your L ends, turn L, leaving the dirt road, follow a gravel 4x4 up another wadi entering from your L.	0.8
10.9	At Y, take the L 4x4 toward a village ahead.	0.8
11.5	END STAGE at Arikha Bedouin village	END

### Transportation:

- Bus stops at the entrances of Hava and Arikha along Hwy 40. Buses may not stop at Abdeh and Hava, but there is another bus stop at Nafha Junction.
- Road access at Hava, Nafha Junction, and Arikha.

### Accommodation:

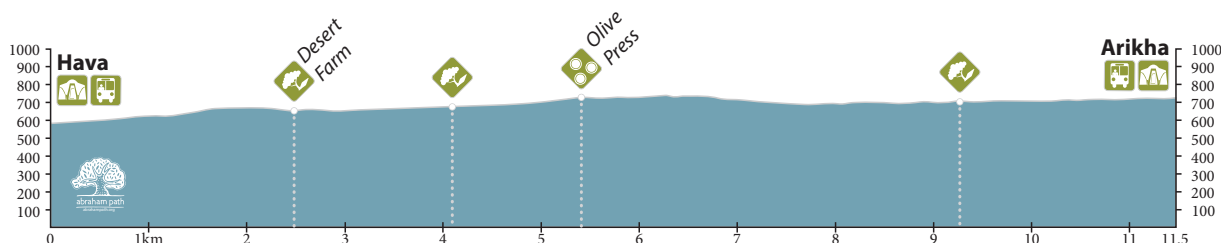
- Camping is possible in a grove of trees on the W side of Hwy 40, opposite Hava.
- Bedouin tents in Abdeh and Hava.

### Food and Water:

- Bedouin tents in Hava and Arikha serve food and have potable water.

### Stage Notes:

- Portions of this route pass through military firing zones. In the vicinity of the trail you are safe - because of proximity to Hwy 40 and Bedouin communities - but you should not wander far off-trail.







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Bedouin Tent



Arikha

0.0

Wadi Arikha

1.2

3.8

HaRuhot Junction

Ramon Vineyard

Quarry

Quarry

8.2

9.1

Mitzpe Ramon

Visitors' Center

Camel Overlook

11.9

M a k h r e s h R a m o n

	General Warning		Scrambling
	Flash Flood Risk		Ladders
	Exposed Trail		Drinking Water*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified





## 9: Arikha to Mitzpe Ramon (Craters Region)

Distance: 11.9km

Time: 3-4 hours

Physical Challenge: easy

Trail Difficulty: easy

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at Arikha Bedouin village. Continue up wadi along main dirt road.	0.4
0.4	At 3-way intersection by white house, turn R, away from the house, walking parallel to Hwy 40. To reach Hwy 40 and a bus stop, continue straight.	0.8
1.2	When you reach a house on your R with white tin siding, turn R onto a 4x4 that appears to be a driveway and head past several houses. Go toward 4x4 visible on the small saddle ahead.	0.5
1.7	When you reach a T, turn L onto a 4x4 heading downhill toward the wadi below. As you reach the wadi bed, continue to follow the 4x4 as it curves L and follows the wadi upstream.	1.6
3.3	After cresting a small hill at a point where the wadi widens, veer off the main dirt road and head slightly L toward the trees ahead.	0.5
3.8	Cross through the patch of trees, and turn R going back to the dirt road, following it SW toward the asphalt road ahead.	1.0
4.8	At junction with an asphalt road heading to the main asphalt road in your L, cross the road and continue straight, keeping the main asphalt road on your L. Go toward a vineyard ~750m ahead.	0.7
5.5	When you reach a point directly across the entrance to the "Ramon Vineyard," cross the road, and continue S on a dirt road, keeping the vineyard on your R.	0.3
5.8	As the dirt road turns L, continue straight along the fence line. At the fence corner, make a 45 degree R turn, walking toward the concrete building at the base of the hill ahead.	1.0
6.8	At the concrete building, angle L, going past the concrete house, going toward the ridge ahead.	0.3
7.1	When you reach the ridgeline, turn R, following the ridgeline, ascending away from the military base.	1.1
8.2	At junction with a 4x4 track on a saddle on the ridge, cross straight across the 4x4 track and follow a footpath on the side of the hill ahead, keeping the Bedouin village below you on your L.	0.3
8.5	At a spur above the Bedouin village, turn R, going along the hillside, descending slowly toward the 4-way intersection of dirt roads ahead.	0.6
9.1	At the 4-way intersection continue straight, heading S.	1.7
10.8	At paved road, shortly after guest house, turn L onto the paved road going toward houses visible on the ridge.	0.2
11.0	Pass a grove of trees on your R. Camping is possible here.	0.6

11.6	As you enter town, come to 3-way intersection with funnel-shaped tower on left, turn right along road away from tower.	0.3
11.9	END STAGE at traffic circle.	END

### Transportation:

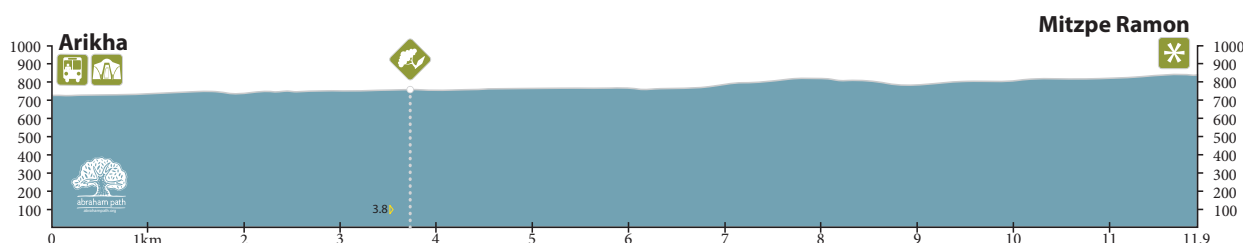
- Multiple bus stops in Mitzpe Ramon.
- Bus stop at the entrance to Arikha at Hwy 40, and another bus stop ~ 4.5km south of Arikha on Hwy 40 at Rohot Junction.
- Road access at Arikha, Rohot Junction, and Mitzpe Ramon.

### Accommodation:

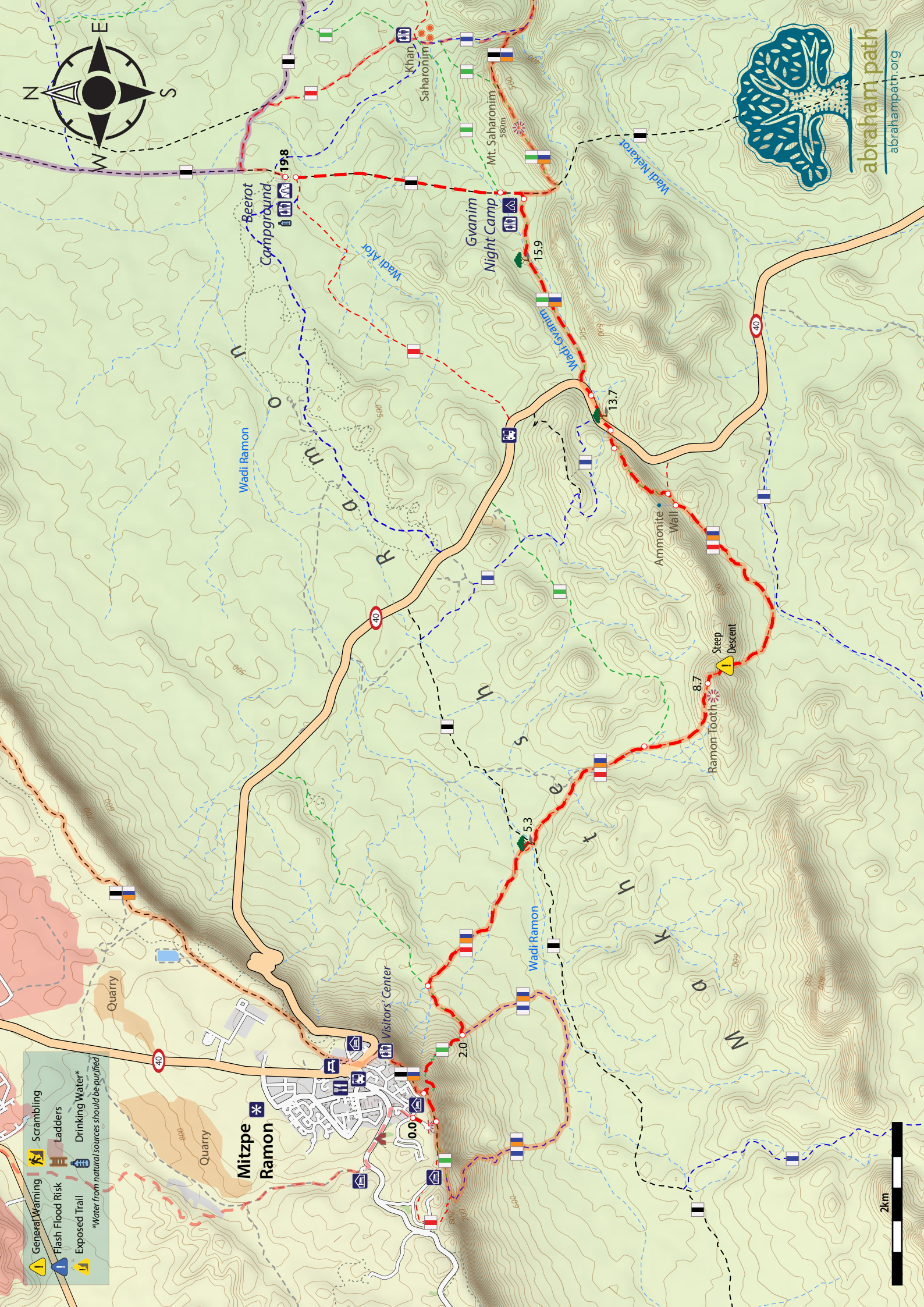
- Bedouin tents in Arikha.
- Hostels, hotels, and areas to camp in Mitzpe Ramon.

### Food and Water:

- Bedouin tents in Arikha serve food and have potable water.
- There are grocery stores and restaurants in Mitzpe Ramon.









General Warning

Flash Flood Risk

Exposed Trail



Scrambling

Ladders

Drinking Water\*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified



# 10: Mitzpe Ramon to Beerot Campground (Craters Region)

Distance: 19.8km

Time: 5-7 hours

Physical Challenge: difficult

Trail Difficulty: difficult

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at traffic circle, walk on the dirt road toward Camel Overlook.	0.3
0.3	When you reach the crater rim just past the Camel Overlook, turn L onto the path marked by black and INT blazes and continue walking along crater rim.	0.5
0.8	At intersection of black and green-blazed paths, turn R onto green-blazed path descending into crater. OPTION: Continue straight, following the black-blazed path to reach the Mitzpe Ramon Visitors' Center (~800m).	1.2
2.0	At intersection with blue and INT-blazed path, turn L, following green and INT blazes and sign that points to "Carpentry." Continue to follow INT blazes until Saharonim Night Camp.	0.8
2.8	At intersection with red-blazed path, turn R in the direction indicated by a sign for "Shen Ramon," and follow red and INT blazes along the wadi bed.	2.5
5.3	Reach large shade tree. To your R is a four way intersection where a black-blazed 4x4 crosses the red-blazed trail. On the S side of the shade tree the red-blazed trail becomes becomes 4x4. Continue to follow the red and INT blazes SE.	3.0
7.3	At intersection with a green-blazed 4x4 on your L, turn R onto a red-blazed path in the direction of the sign for "Shen Ramon." Go in the direction of an ascent ahead.	1.4
8.7	Reach the top of the climb. To your left is "Shen Ramon" (Ramon Tooth). Begin a steep descent on the other side. At the bottom of the descent, curve L keeping the cliff on your L.	4.4
12.1	At sign for "Ammonite Wall," turn R and continue to follow red and INT blazes.	0.1
12.2	At Y intersection at INT sign indicating two INT options, turn L and follow the green-blazed path, main INT route, and sign indicating "Nekarot Bend" and "East Haramon." Shortly ahead begin a steep ascent.	1.1
13.3	As a red-blazed path joins from the L, continue straight on the green-blazed path.	2.2
13.5	Reach intersection with Hwy 40, where two road signs on opposite sides of the road have INT blazes. Cross the Hwy and immediately turn L following INT blazes.	0.2
13.7	Pass a shade tree.	0.3
14.0	Join a dirt road near the point where the dirt road meets Hwy 40. Make a slight R onto the dirt road, moving away from Hwy 40, following green and INT blazes. Pass a sign indicating the start of "Zinim Cliff Nature Reserve - Makhtesh Ramon." Continue on the dirt road toward the rock fins ahead on your R.	1.9

15.9	Pass shade trees.	0.9
16.8	Reach Saharonim Night Camp. At the E edge of Saharonim Night Camp turn L onto a black-blazed dirt road. Saharonim Night Camp has outdoor toilets but no other amenities. Go in the direction indicated by a sign for "Ein Saharonim" and "Beerot Campground." Saharonim Night Camp has outdoor toilets but no other amenities.	0.3
17.1	At intersection with a green-blazed 4x4 on your R, continue straight on the black-blazed dirt road.	2.6
19.7	As a red-blazed dirt road joins from your L, continue straight on the black-blazed dirt road. Beerot campground is just ahead over the hill.	0.1
19.8	END STAGE at Beerot campground. Camping, bedouin style tents, snacks, potable water, showers, bathrooms, shade.	END

## Transportation:

- Multiple bus stops in Mitzpe Ramon.
- Road access at Mitzpe Ramon, Saharonim Night Camp, and Beerot Campground

## Accommodation:

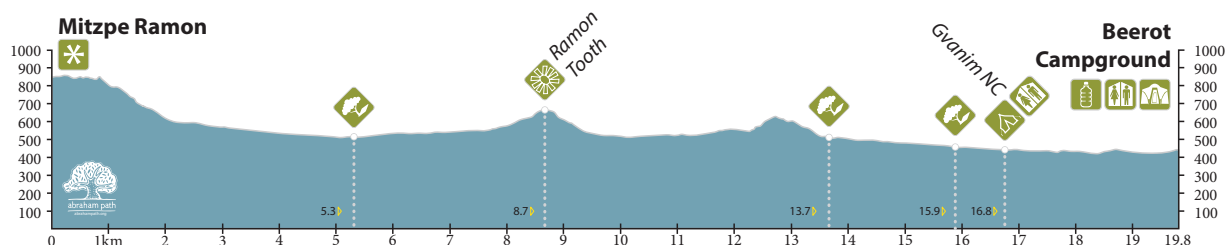
- Hostels and areas to camp in Mitzpe Ramon.
- Gvanim Night Camp.
- Beerot Campground.

## Food and Water:

- There are grocery stores and restaurants in Mitzpe Ramon.
- Beerot Campground has potable water and a snack shop.

## Stage Notes:

- If you're looking for a day trip in the region, this is a great one-day hike. Or, consider making it a two-day trip, by walking back to Mitzpe Ramon along other marked trails through Makhtesh Ramon.
- Beerot Campground fills up fast on Fridays. If you're hiking on Friday, try to get in early to find a good camp spot.
- You are in nature reserves for most of the day, so camping is allowed only in designated camp spots.
- If you're planning to hike on to Sapir, Mitzpe Ramon is the last place you can buy food, other than snacks in Beerot Campground, until Sapir.







General Warning

Flash Flood Risk

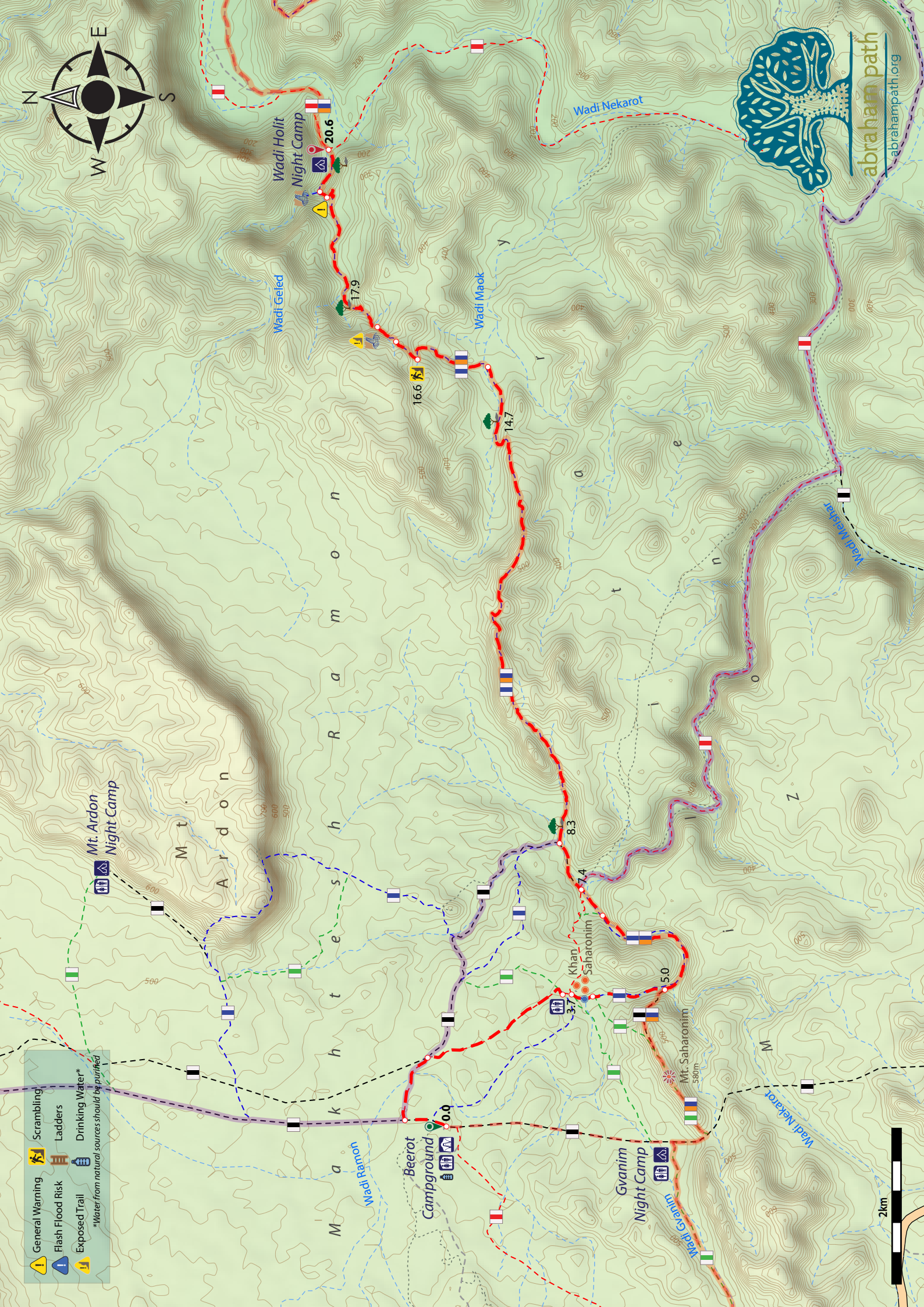
Exposed Trail

Scrambling

Ladders

Drinking Water\*

\*Water from natural sources should be purified







# 11: Beerot Campground to Wadi Holit Night Camp (Craters Region)

Distance: 20.6km

Time: 5-7 hours

Physical Challenge: difficult

Trail Difficulty: difficult

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE: Leave Beerot Campground on black-blazed dirt road heading N.	0.5
0.5	At intersection with red-blazed dirt road on your R. Turn R onto the dirt road, heading E, following red blazes.	1.5
1.5	At Y, stay R on the red-blazed dirt road. A black-blazed dirt road goes L.	2.1
3.6	Reach a parking lot with an outdoor toilet, and continue S toward Han Saharonim.	0.1
3.7	At 4-way intersection just before the Han Saharonim archeological site, follow the blue-blazed path S toward the wadi ahead. A green-blazed 4x4 goes R, and a red-blazed 4x4 goes L.	0.3
4.0	As a green-blazed path goes R and toward ridge, continue S down the wadi, following blue blazes.	1.0
5.0	As a black-blazed path joins from the spur on your R, continue down the wadi following blue and INT blazes. Continue to follow INT blazes for the rest of the day. Soon enter a slot canyon. Exercise caution to avoid flash floods.	2.0
7.0	At Y, go R, continuing to follow blue and INT blazes along the wadi bed. You are now on a 4x4. The green-blazed trail to your L returns to Ein Saharonim and Han Saharonim.	0.4
7.4	At 4-Way intersection continue straight on the 4x4 track marked by black and INT blazes. Follow the sign for "Wadi Ardon" and "Ramat Saharonim." A red-blazed 4x4 on goes R down Wadi Nekarot. A red 4x4 on your L returns to Ein Saharonim and Han Saharonim.	0.7
8.1	Reach a sign for "Karbolet Harirm" as the black-blazed 4x4 curves L. Turn R onto a path marked by blue and INT blazes, and go toward a shade tree ~ 0.2km ahead.	0.2
8.3	Reach a large shade tree. From the tree, continue following blue and INT blazes up a small wadi before making a steep ascent to a narrow ridge ~ 2.2km ahead. Upon reaching the top of the ascent, continue to follow blue and INT blazes along the ridge and across the subsequent plateau.	6.4
14.7	Pass shade trees in the wadi.	0.7
15.4	Soon after the shade trees, as the wadi opens ahead, follow the path across the wadi and begin mild ascent.	1.2
16.6	Climb over a rock scramble and turn immediately turn R on the other side, continuing to follow blue and INT blazes.	0.4

17.0	Begin a steep descent. From here you descend in a wadi all the way until reaching Wadi Holit Night Camp. Over the next ~ 3km you go down several steep, rocky descents.	0.4
17.4	Take care as you continue on a section of exposed trail by a dry waterfall.	0.5
17.9	Pass a large shade tree. You will find shade trees intermittently all the way to Wadi Holit Night Camp.	2.0
19.9	Near the base of the dry waterfall, turn R following BOTH blue and INT blazes as a blue-blazed path goes L to the base of the waterfall.	0.1
20.0	Reach the wadi bed. Turn R as the blue-blazed path you are following becomes a 4x4.	0.6
20.6	END STAGE: Wadi Holit Night Camp (Also known as Gev Holit Night Camp). Camping, shade - no other amenities.	END

## Transportation:

- Car access to Beerot Campground
- 4x4 access to Wadi Holit Night Camp.

## Accommodation:

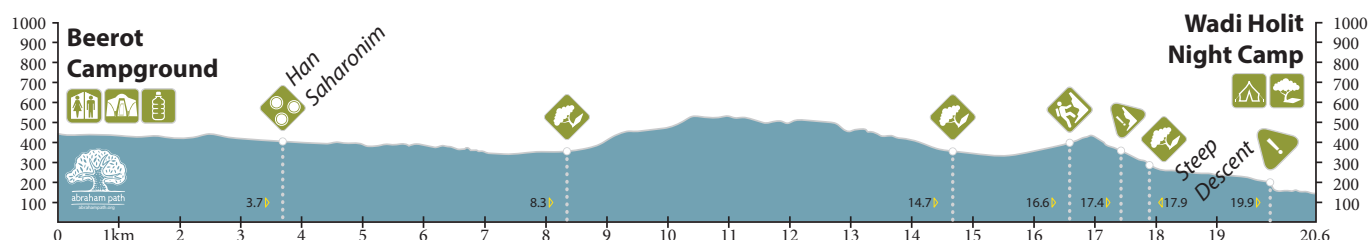
- Beerot Campground
- Wadi Holit Night Camp

## Food and Water:

- Beerot Campground has potable water and a snack shop.
- Cache water at Wadi Holit Night Camp.

## Stage Notes:

- For an extra challenge, hike to Mt. Saharonim by returning south along the black-blazed dirt road and following the Israel Trail east along a sharp ridge, just south of Gvanim Night Camp, before descending to Saharonim and Khan Saharonim and continuing on the path.
- The next ~ 40km are very remote with few services, sporadic cell reception, infrequent 4x4 access, little shade, no road access, and no food or water. Cache water at Wadi Holit Night Camp or carry water for two days (minimum 8 liters). Be sure to inform friends or family of your intended route and itinerary, and consider carrying a GPS transponder to signal your location.
- You are in nature reserves for the entire stage, so camping is allowed only in designated camping areas.
- Consider taking a three-day weekend hiking from Mitzpe Ramon to Sapir for some of the most dramatic and remote desert scenery in the Negev.



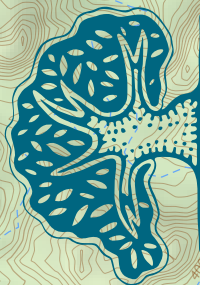
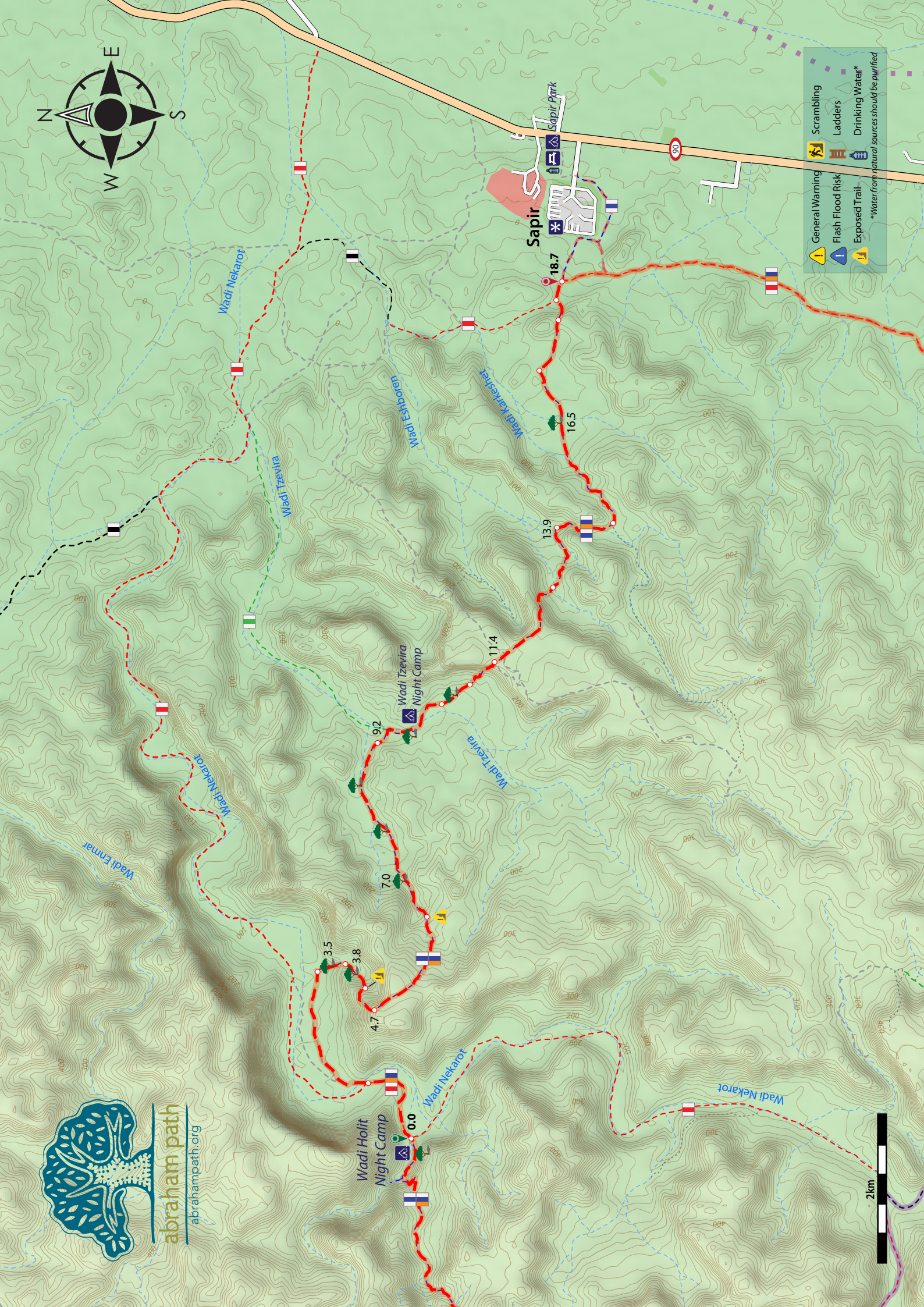




Scrambling  
Ladders  
Drinking Water\*

General Warning  
Flash Flood Risk  
Exposed Trail

\*Water from natural sources should be purified



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# 12: Wadi Holit Night Camp to Sapir (Craters Region)

Distance: 18.7km

Time: 5-7 hours

Physical Challenge: difficult

Trail Difficulty: difficult

km	Walking notes	+km
0.0	BEGIN STAGE at Wadi Holit Night Camp. Leave the night camp heading E. At T intersection with a red-blazed 4x4, turn L (NE) onto the 4x4, following red and INT blazes. You will continue to follow INT blazes until an intersection with a blue-blazed 4x4 just before Sapir.	1.3
1.3	As the 4x4 gently curves L, turn R off the 4x4 onto path following blue and INT blazes. Stay close to cliffs on your R.	2.0
3.3	Turn R into a side wadi, leaving the main wadi. Move toward an ascent just to the R of a dry water-fall. Continue to follow blue and INT blazes.	0.2
3.5	Pass several shade trees before the ascent.	0.2
3.7	Begin the ascent up a small spur, leaving the wadi.	0.1
3.8	Pass a shade tree.	0.4
4.2	Exercise caution along a section of exposed trail with a large drop-off to your R.	0.5
4.7	At the top of the ascent, continue following blue and INT blazes across the plateau, before descending down a wadi on the other side. To your R, clear blazes lead to a view point. Cell reception here.	1.7
6.4	Take care as you pass an exposed section of trail.	0.6
7.0	Pass a shade tree. Shade trees are plentiful for the next 4km	2.2
9.2	As you approach a T-intersection with another wadi, curve R following blue and INT blazes. When you reach the 4x4 in the wadi ahead, turn R, continuing to follow blue and INT blazes.	0.8
10.0	Pass Wadi Zevira Night Camp. Camping, shade - no other amenities.	0.4
10.4	Angle L off of the 4x4 track onto a path following blue and INT blazes. Continue toward ascent.	0.5
10.9	Begin ascent. Exercise care on some exposed portions of the ascent.	0.5
11.4	Reach top of ascent. Continue across plateau following blue and INT blazes, before beginning a steep descent 1.0km ahead.	1.5
12.9	At bottom of descent follow blue and INT blazes across a wadi.	1.0
13.9	When you reach a large wadi, turn R following blue and INT blazes up the wadi bed.	0.8
14.7	As the wadi widens, turn L following blue and INT blazes down another wadi.	1.8
16.5	Continue through an open expanse following blue and INT blazes as the path goes through acacia trees.	0.8
17.3	Pass between two dirt mounds and turn R following blue and INT blazes. Go toward a saddle ~ 700m ahead.	0.8

18.1	Reach the saddle and descend following blue and INT blazes toward Sapir.	0.3
18.4	At T intersection with a 4x4, turn R onto the 4x4 following red and INT blazes toward Sapir. You will see additional signposts for the Spice Trail and Sapir Trail.	0.3
18.7	END STAGE At Y, where blue-blazed 4x4 goes L and red and INT blazes go R following dirt road. Go L following blue blazes to go to Sapir.	END

## Transportation:

- There is 4x4 access to Wadi Holit Night Camp.
- There is a bus station at the entrance to Sapir.

## Accommodation:

- Wadi Holit Night Camp
- Wadi Zevira Night Camp
- Camping is possible at Sapir Park.

## Food and Water:

- Cache water at Wadi Holit Night Camp.

## Stage Notes:

- You are in nature reserves for most of the day before reaching the outskirts of Sapir; in nature reserves camping is allowed only in designated camping areas.

