



The Negev

הנגב הנقب

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kaparuc'hka (p305)
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- ➔ Kornmehl Farm (p311)
- ➔ Pastory (p326)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Midbara (p320)
- ➔ Carmey Avdat Winery (p310)
- ➔ Desert Shade (p315)
- ➔ iBike (p315)
- ➔ Beresheet (p315)
- ➔ Orchid Reef Hotel (p326)

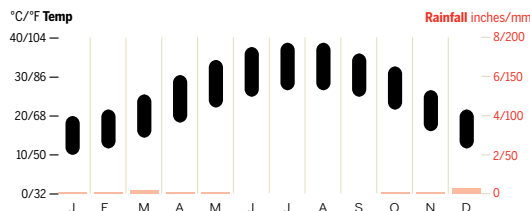
Why Go?

Visitors have been making their way across the arid landscape of the Negev desert for millennia, following in the footsteps of incense traders who transported precious cargo of frankincense and myrrh from south Arabia to the Mediterranean in ancient times. Today it's possible to visit the ruins of dramatically sited Nabataean cities that were built along this trade route, before heading south to the sybaritic summer playground of Eilat on the Red Sea coast.

Archaeological sites aren't the only diversions on offer in this part of the country. So many vineyards and artisanal food producers have established themselves here in recent years that the region near the extraordinary geological phenomenon of the Makhtesh Ramon is now marketed as a wine route and is a popular weekend getaway for city slickers. As well, there are activities aplenty, including hiking, cycling, camel riding and 4WD desert drives. Put simply, this majestic southern desert region is one of the country's greatest attractions – don't miss it.

When to Go

Eilat



Mar–May, late Sep–Nov The best time for desert treks; sunny in the daytime but cold at night.

Aug The Red Sea Jazz Festival adds a cool note to a sweltering Eilat summer.

Dec–Feb Occasional rainstorms lead to waterfalls flowing in En Avdat National Park.

The Negev Highlights

- 1 Starting at the ancient Nabataean settlement of **Avdat** (p308) and then follow the Unesco-listed Incense Route.
- 2 Hiking a trail past natural springs, pools and waterfalls in **En Avdat National Park** (p310).
- 3 Sampling the viticultural lifestyle and local wines when overnighting on the **Ramat Hanegev Wine Route** (p310).
- 4 Witnessing millions of years of evolution beneath your feet from the lookout at **Makhtesh Ramon** (p312).
- 5 Investigating the communal, sustainable and creative ways of life being forged by kibbutz residents in the **Arava** (p318).
- 6 Diving and snorkelling under the Red Sea waves at **Eilat** (p320).

