

## Hiking the desert without caching water

For those who find the water caching trip too complicated or too expensive here is a plan of how to hike from Arad to Eilat and from Eilat to Arad without caching water. It requires using private water caches (not free of charge) or carrying water for two days few times. For private water caches you must contact at least 3 days in advance prior to your planned arrival to make sure that you have water there.

The price of using a private cache (February 2013): Haim Berger - NIS 120 (\$32)/cache. However if you use all of his caches you get 50% discount. Amir Gadnaor: NIS 60/cache. The total cost of crossing the desert while carrying water only for one day and using private caches or taxi service where available is approximately ~NIS 600 (~\$160). If you want to avoid the expense you will need to carry water for two days, 4 times. Day numbers are from [the INT guide](#).

### **From Arad to Eilat**

1. Day 30 in the guide - Arad to Beer Efe - Take water for one day. On week days (Sunday-Friday) refill water at the quarry which is 2 km south off the trail at km 21.0 of the day. On Saturdays and holidays: Call a taxi from Arad Tel. : 052-2889579 and they will bring water to Beer Efe. Cost of the taxi is NIS 80 + cost of water. If you want to save the cost of the taxi you can take water for two days from Arad. Refill in Mezaad Tamar.
2. Day 31 in the guide – Beer Efe to Mezaad Tamar – When you arrive to Mezaad Tamar you have to call a taxi from Dimona or Arad and they will bring water to Mezaad Tamar ([tel. numbers are here](#)).
3. Days 32+33 - Mezaad Tamar to Oron: Carry water for two days until you arrive to Oron, or use a private water cache at the night camp by the end of day 32. Contact Haim Berger - 054-5343797.
4. Days 34 + 35 - Oron to Midreshet Ben Gurion: Carry water for two days, or use a private water cache at Mador night camp. Contact Haim Berger - 054-5343797.
5. Days 36-38 - Midreshet Ben Gurion to Mizpe Ramon: Carry water for two days from Midreshet Ben Gurion to Mizpe Ramon (54 km), or use a private water cache at Hava night camp. Contact Haim Berger 054-5343797.
6. Day 39 – Mizpe Ramon to Be'erot Khan: Before leaving Mizpe Ramon make sure that at Gev Holit (end of day 40) there is water supply. [Check this link](#). From Mizpe Ramon take water for one day. Refill in Be'erot Khan which is 2.5 km north of the trail from the night camp at the end of the day.
7. Day 40 – Be'erot Khan to Gev Holit: If there is no water at Gev Holit night camp carry water for two days.
8. Day 41 – Gev Holit to (Sapir) or Zofar: You need water for one day. Refill in Sapir or in Zofar.
9. Day 42 – Zofar to Barak night camp. At the end of this day you can hike to Paran (extra 7 km from Barak night camp) to refill water or hitchhike from route 90 (not easy since it's a major route). If you don't go to Paran you need to carry water for two days until you arrive at Zihor night camp. Alternatively: Contact Amir Gadnaor 052-4438166 / 052-3351357 , he keeps a water cache in the area of Barak night camp.
10. Day 43 – Barak night camp to Zihor: At Zihor night camp there is a water cache which is maintained by Amir Gadnaor - 052-4438166 / 052-3351357 , and also by Haim Berger - 054-5343797. Next water is available in Shitim which 12 km south of Zihor.
11. Day 44: Zihor to Shizafon: Refill in Shitim 1 km east off the trail at km 12 of the day. At Shizafon junction there is a restaurant which is open until 7 p.m. they have water. Also 1.5 km east of the Shizafon Junction in Neot Smadar you can refill water.
12. Day 45: Shizafon to Shazarut – Take water for 1 day. Refill in Shazarut at the Camel riders camp. Contact: Amir 052-3351357 / 052-4438166 or Einat 052-8376332.
13. Day 46: Shazarut to Timna (/Elifaz) – Take water for 1 day. Carry water for 1.5 days in case you arrive at the gate of the Timna park after it is closed (16:00 between Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. 17:00 rest of the year). If you plan on hiking to Elifaz to refill water you need water for 1 day only.

14. Day 47: Timna park to Raham-Etek night camp – Refill water in Be'er Ora. It is 2 km east of the trail. Refill for 1-2 days. Call Zohar in Be'er Ora: 052-5664107 (small fee).
15. Day 48: Raham-Etek night camp to Yehoram night camp – If you carry water for two days no need to refill water here. If you carry water for one day only, please contact Victor in Eilat (taxi) 052-2797752 he will bring water to Yehoram night camp. Pay for the taxi and water.
16. Day 49: Welcome to Eilat.

### From Eilat to Arad

1. Day 1s: Eilat to Yehoram night camp - Tough only 13 km long it's a difficult day. It is the first day on the trail with a total climb of 1000 m. It's recommended to carry water for one day only. Arrange with Victor (he owns a taxi) while in Eilat, tel.: 052-2797752 and he will bring water to Yehoram night camp. Pay for the taxi and water. Only if you are in an extremely good physical shape, and a very fast hiker you can carry water for two days. Those very fit hikers can get in two days to Elifaz over a distance of 53 km. The average hiker will get to Elifaz in 3 days.
2. Day 2s: Yehoram night camp to Raham-Etek night camp - Carry water for one day only. Refill in Be'er Ora. Call Zohar in Be'er Ora: 052-5664107 (small fee).
3. Day 3s: Be'er Ora to Elifaz – Carry water for one day only. Refill in Timna park or in Elifaz.
4. Day 4s: Elifaz to Shaharut – Carry water for one day. Refill in Shaharut at the Camel riders camp. Contact: Amir 052-3351357 / 052-4438166 or Einat 052-8376332.
5. Day 5s: Shaharut to Shizafon - Carry water for one day. Refill at the restaurant at Shizafon junction (open until 7:00 p.m.) or in Neot Smadar which is 1.5 km from the junction.
6. Day 6s: Shizafon to Zihor – Carry water for one day. Refill: Shitim – it's 1 km east of the trail at km 15. : At Zihor night camp there is a water cache which is maintained by Amir 052-3351357 / 052-4438166 , and also by Haim Berger - 054-5343797.
7. Day 7s: Zihor to Barak night camp - At the end of this day you can hike to Paran (extra 7 km from Barak night camp) to refill water or hitchhike from route 90 (not easy). If you don't go to Paran you need to carry water for two days until you arrive to Zofar, or use a private water cache – contact Amir Gadnaor - 052-4438166 / 052-3351357.
8. Day 8s: Barak night camp to Zofar. Carry water for one day.
9. Day 9s: Zofar to Gev Holit night camp - Before leaving Zofar make sure that at Gev Holit there is water supply. [Check this link](#). Only if there is no water at Gev Holit night camp carry water for two days.
10. Day 10s: Gev Holit to Be'erot Khan: Refill in Be'erot Khan which is 2.5 km north of the trail from the night camp at the end of the day.
11. Day 11s: Be'erot Kahn to Mizpe Ramon: Carry water for one day.
12. Day 12s+13s: Mizpe Ramon to Midreshet Ben Gurion – Carry water for two days. The total distance is 54 km. Refill in Midreshet BenGurion, or use a private water cache at Hava night camp . Contact: Haim Berger - 054-5343797
13. Day 14s+15s: Midreshet Ben Gurion to Oron – Carry water for two days or use a private water cache in Mador night camp. Contact: Haim Berger - 054-5343797
14. Day 16s: Oron to Small Crater – Carry water for two days or use use a private water cache at the night camp by the end of the day. Contact: Haim Berger - 054-5343797
15. Day 17s: Small crater to Mezad Tamar – Carry water for in day. At Mezad Tamar call a taxi from Arad or Dimona. Tel. numbers [are here](#) .
16. Day 18s: Mezad Tamar to Beer Efe: take water for one day. There is a quarry 2.5 km west of route 258. You can refill water until 17:00 on Sun-Thursday. During weekends and holidays call a taxi from Arad.
17. Day 19s : Beer Efe to Arad. Carry water for one day.