

מפות דרך הבשמים- ומרחקים ירידה לערבה דרך נק'ב אל עווינאת

ואדי ראם –חומימה- 42 ק"מ

חומימה- ביר ג'ומיל – 26 ק"מ

ביר ג'ומיל ע'רנדל – 33 ק"

מואה – חניון בארות – 40 ק"מ

חניון בארות – מדרשה – 48 ק"מ

סה"כ – 189 ק"מ

מידע על דרך הבשמים

The Petra-Gaza Spice Road

When the Nabateans settled in the Negev in the fourth century BCE, they took over the transport of spices and incense from Somalia, India, and the Arabian Peninsula to the Mediterranean shore. The spice trade was the basis of the Nabateans' legendary wealth, and in order to defend it from the encroachment of the Seleucids, Hasmoneans, or Romans, they were ready to go to war time and again.

The main Nabatean route crossing the Negev is the Petra-Avdat-Gaza road. The Nabateans apparently began using this route as early as the third or fourth century BCE. The paving of the road, its installations, and the milestones posted along the way show a distinct Roman influence. Since contacts between the Nabateans and the Romans intensified in the time of Pompey, the road was probably paved in or after the first century BCE. The milestones were probably erected during the reign of Augustus, when this practice became prevalent in the Roman Empire. They were apparently installed during the reign of the Nabatean king Obodas III (30-9 BCE), and his successor, Aretas IV (9 BCE-40 CE).

After Aretas's death, the Nabateans' fortunes in the Negev declined and, apart from a brief renaissance during the reign of the last Nabatean king, Rabel II (71-106 CE), traffic on the Petra-Gaza road dwindled. After the Nabatean kingdom was incorporated into the Roman Empire in 106 CE, the trade routes across the Negev shifted and the Petra-Gaza route was abandoned as one of the major international trade routes.

Traveling along the Petra-Gaza Spice Road

The easiest part of the Spice Road to see is the segment that crosses Makhtesh Ramon. From the Be'erot Campsite, drive toward Khan Shaar Ramon. After crossing the riverbed of Nahal Ramon, you will see a jeep track branching off to the left. Walk along this track for about 100 meters. As you walk, you will notice another track to your right, marked with two lines of stones. This is the Spice Road. Return to your car and continue to Khan Shaar Ramon, one of the way stations on the road.

For an authentic experience of travel along the Spice Road, we recommend a jeep tour or camel trek. Various companies in the Negev offer one- to three-day tours along the Spice Road.

The Jordanian side of the Spice Road is not yet easily accessible. Camel tours to Nakeb Seisel are available, and a tour of Sik el Barid ("Little Petra") is recommended.

מפת היומיים הראשונים



נ'קב אל עוינאת



מפת הדרך ממואה לעבדת

