



« Physiographic regions of Israel

Israel is divided into four physiographic regions (in red on the map page 3) : the Mediterranean coastal plain, the Central Hills, the Jordan Rift Valley and the Negev Desert.

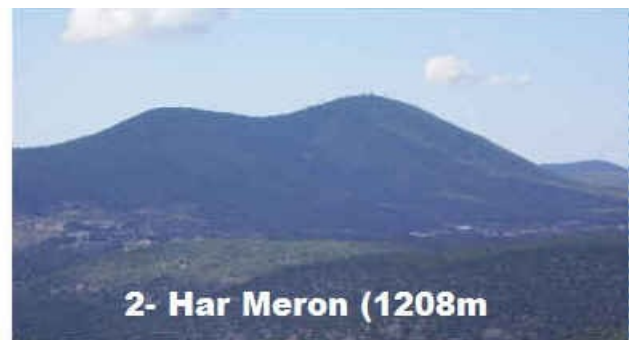
1- The Israeli **Coastal Plain** stretches from the Lebanese border in the north to Gaza in the south, interrupted only by Cape Carmel at Haifa Bay. It is about 40km wide at Gaza and narrows toward the north to about 5 km at the Lebanese border. The plain is traversed by several short streams. From north to south these are: Kishon, Hadera, Alexander, Poleg, and Yarkon. Today the Kishon, Alexander and Yarkon again flow year round, and also have parks along their banks.

2- Inland (east) of the coastal plain lies the **central highland region**. In the north of this region lie the mountains and hills of Upper Galilee and Lower Galilee, which are generally 500m to 700m in height, although they reach a maximum height of 1,208m at Mount Meron. South of the Galilee, in the West Bank, are the Samaritan Hills with numerous small, fertile valleys rarely reaching the height of 800m. South of Jerusalem, also mainly within the West Bank, are the Judean Hills, including Mount Hebron.

3- East of the central highlands lies the **Jordan Rift Valley**, which is a small part of the 6,500 km-long Syrian-East African Rift. In Israel the Rift Valley is dominated by the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea (at 420 meters below sea level, is the lowest surface point on the earth). South of the Dead Sea, the Rift Valley continues in the Arabah, which has no permanent water flow, for 170 km to the Gulf of Eilat.

4- The **Negev Desert** comprises approximately 12,000 km², more than half of Israel's total land area. Geographically it is an extension of the Sinai Desert, forming a rough triangle with its base in the north near Beer Sheba, the Dead Sea, and the southern Judean Mountains, and it has its apex in the southern tip of the country at Eilat. Topographically, it parallels the other regions of the country, with lowlands in the west, hills in the central portion, and the Arava valley as its eastern border. »

Source : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Israel

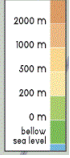


ISRAEL
GAZA, WEST BANK & GOLAN
 0 km 15 30 4.5 km
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- National Capital* (680,000 in 2002)
- over 300,000
- over 200,000
- over 100,000
- other main city
- other city
- Chief town of district



* The Israel Parliament (KNESSET) decided JERUSALEM to be the capital. As negotiations regarding the status of this city haven't come to something yet, most of the embassies are based at TEL-AVIV-JAFFA.

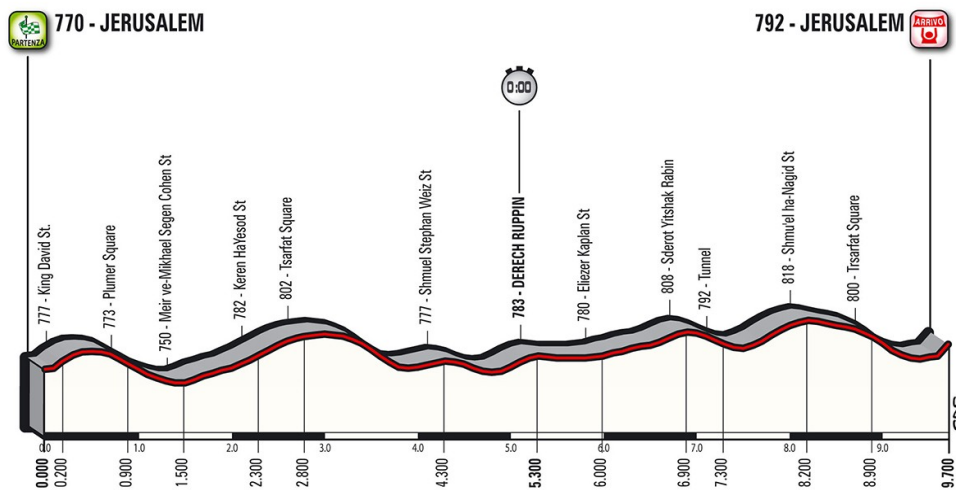
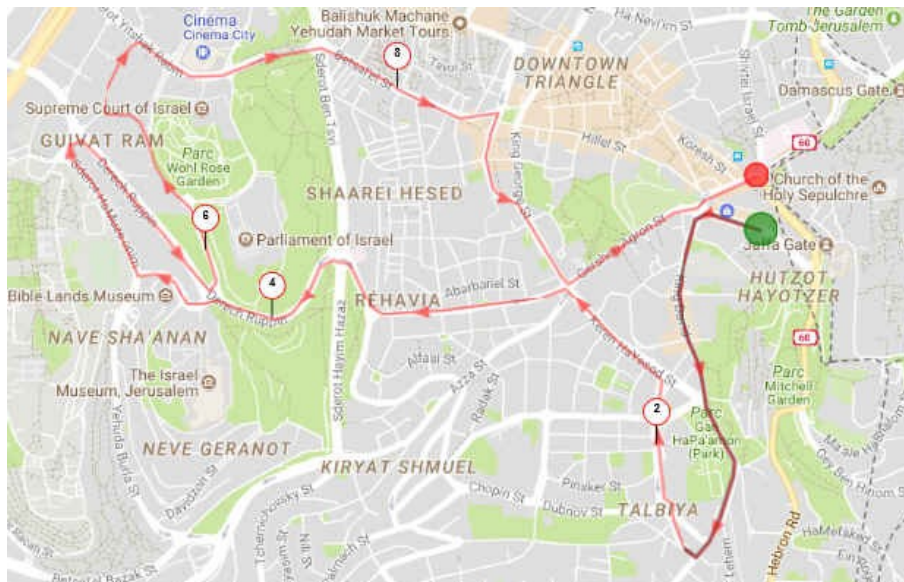


Giro 2018

The Giro will start in Israel with 1 urban ITT and 2 stages :



The ITT (10km) will take place in Jerusalem, in the Judean Hills.



A very technical urban route, horizontally (a lot of bends) and vertically (no important climb, but some small ones, and a 180m cumulative elevation gain) :

1- **Keren HaYesod** : 52m in 1,3km (from km1,5)



2- **Betsalel** : 33m in 0,7km (from km7,7)



In any case the first Maglia rosa won't be a surprise.

The **2nd stage** (167km) will go along the Coastal Plain from Haifa to Tel-Aviv. It'll start with a detour through Acre, forget the Mount Carmel above Haifa and go along the Mediterranean Sea. A stage for sprinters with just one KOM, Zikhron Yaaqov, too far from the finish line to be decisive.



From the crossroads (routes 70 and 652) the climb is 3,2km long for a 145m elevation gain (162-17m).

There are 4 different parts :

1- A 600m smooth start : 3 4 6 2 5 5

2- 500m harder : 9 10 10 9 8

3- 1 km to allow stronger riders to be decisive : 6 4 4 4 4 / 5 6 5 4 3

4- A long slighty uphill part : 1,1km at 2,5%

It'll be worth it, for Zikhron will give the first Blue Jersey.





Crossroads in the first part



500m harder



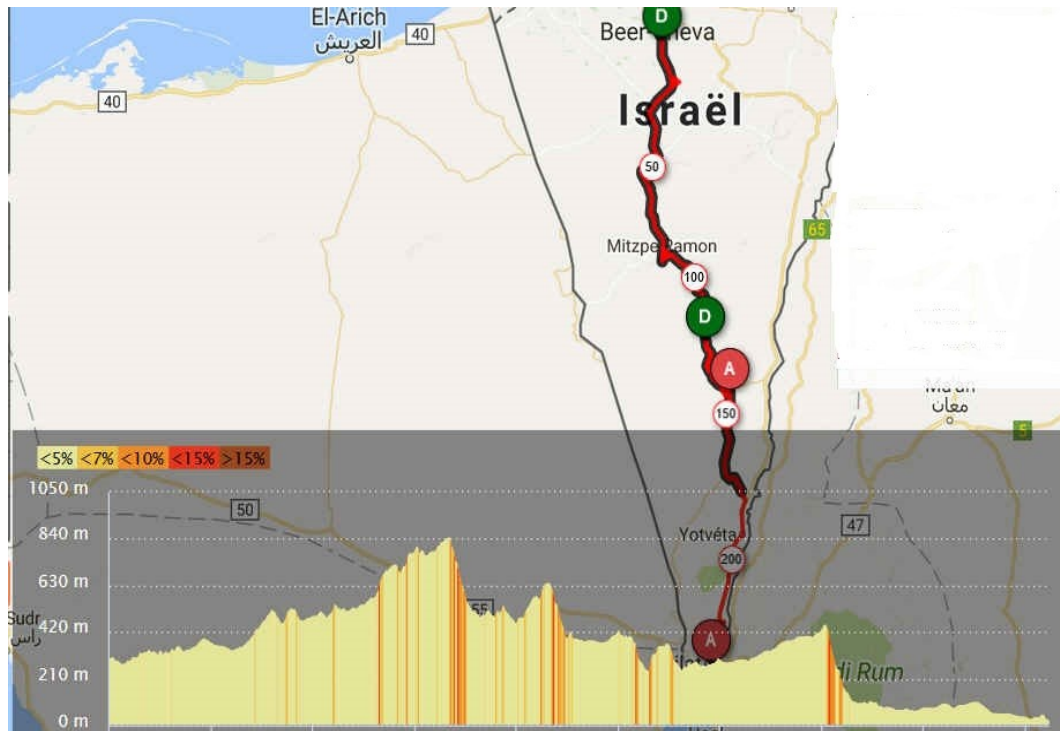
End of the 3rd part



Final slightly uphill section

The 3rd stage (Beer Sheva-Eilat, 229km) follows the Road 40, from the north to the south, through the Negev Desert. No major climb, but a very hilly stage, and hot.

In the first third, the road slowly goes up from 300 to 840m in Mitzpe Ramon. Then, a 100km roller coaster through the desert. Finally, 65km downwards to Eilat, by the Red Sea. On the left Egypt, on the right Jordan. Whatever the storyline, the stage will be very telegenic.



The most visual spot of the stage is **Mitze Ramon** :



The Giro will reach the crater from its northern side and discover the 4 asphalt hairpins and the vast desert expanse. It is one of the most beautiful natural sites in Israel and it is definitely worth being seen. The climb is 5,5km long for a 330m elevation gain. Unfortunately backward.

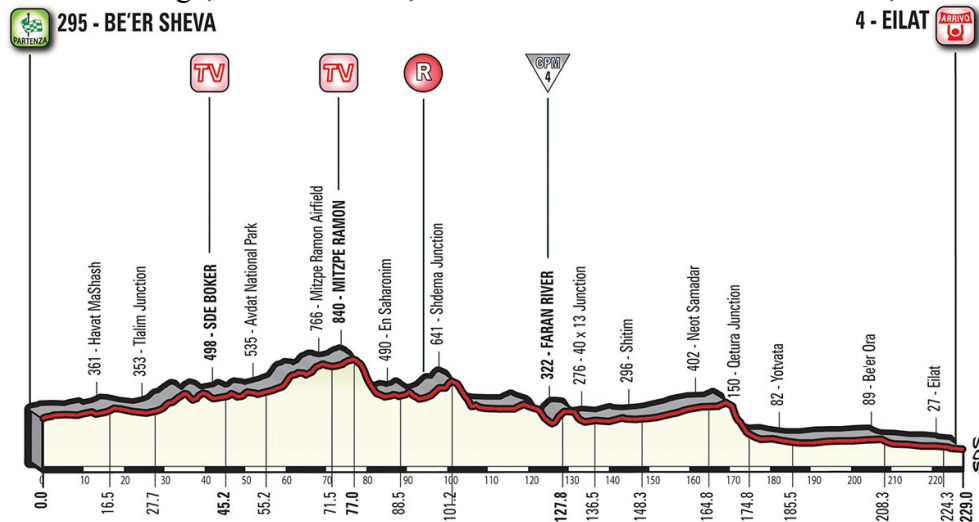


The foot and the top in one sight



First hairpin to the left

The only KOM of the stage, **Ma'ale Paran**, is located in the middle of the desert, at km128.



The climb looks like the Cauberg, as far as the profile is concerned : a first exponential part, 400 big meters at 10% and an easier final section. Distance : 1,4km. Elevation gain : 79m – 1 2 4 6 9 / 12 10 9 3 6 / 4 7 4 2.



Foot of Paran. I know what you're thinking about. Don't laugh, it already happened



to Ulissi, in the Tour of San José, in Argentina



Moonscape



Straight line at 10%, no landmark



Top from the south side