International Intensive Course on Rocks and Cultures in the Desert

A journey through 6,000 years of desert cultures in the Negev Desert. Practical and spiritual uses of desert geodiversity.

www.adssc.org
Academic Seminar on the Uses of Geological Diversity by Desert Cultures in the Israeli Desert

Five-day traverse of the Negev Desert from the Gulf of Eilat and the Arava Valley, to the Negev Highlands

For the first time, the Dead Sea and Arava Science Center (DSASC) is offering a five-day academic seminar, guided by our expert researchers, for international B.Sc. and M.Sc students in the fields of archeology, anthropology, geography and geology. The seminar includes educational field trips, evening lectures, advanced interactive learning, seminar report and a unique social experience.

The curriculum objectives of the seminar:
- Understanding the importance of geological diversity for desert cultures.
- Exploring a variety of interactions between desert cultures and rock formations - from practical to spiritual uses.

Main subjects and sites to be studied:
- **Mount Amram**: Geological diversity and copper mines, the Chalcolithic period (6000 BP);
- **Yotvata Oasis**: Water tunneling in the extreme desert (Fugara);
- **Ramat Avdat**: Springs in the desert, Paleolithic cultures and petroglyphs from the ancient period until today;
- **Shivta**: Runoff harvesting for agriculture in the Byzantine period;
- **Negev Highlands**: Mountain cults during the Bronze Age;
- **Bedouin rock shelters and utilization of geodiversity**.

Package includes: 5 days/4 nights half board accommodation at 3 star hotels, full guided tour, all lectures and seminars, transportation, site entrance fees.
Not included: lunch, private expenses, travel insurance, flights, local tips.
Estimated cost: €650 per student.

Staff members: Dr. Noa Avriel-Avni, Desert ecology and environmental education; Dr. Uzi Avner, Archeology; Dr. Yoav Avni, Geology.