

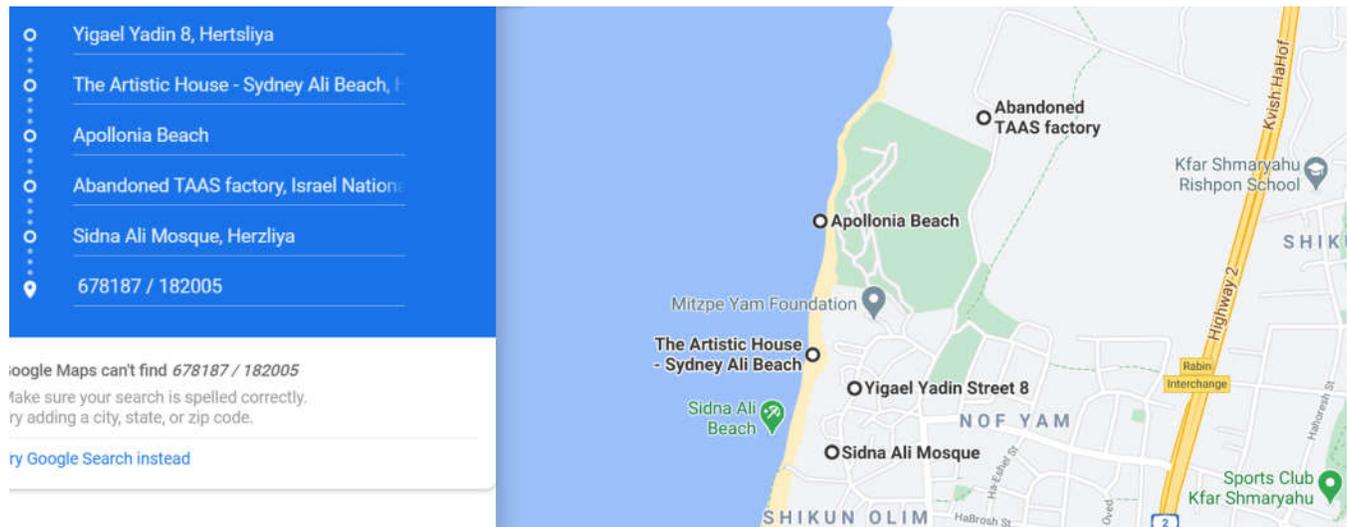


Sidni Ali Beach and Mosque – 3 hours trip (easy)

By Racheli Kreisberg 20 Feb 2021

Preparations in advance:

- Good hiking shoes, water



Park around Yigael Yadin street #8 (Sidni Ali Mosque parking area) and walk north on the limestone cliff. Descend towards the Sidni Ali beach, pass **the “Artistic House” of Nissim Kachalon** (Nissim’s Cave-House) on the Apollonia Beach. Nissim, who is also known as the “Herzliya Hermit”, built this place with his own two hands.





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Continue walking north, passing on the foot of the Tel Arsuf/Apollonia archaeological site which can be seen above. The beach is covered with boulders next to the Tel Arsuf cliff and requires careful movement between the stones. The stones are intended to protect the limestone cliff from the sea waves that cause its collapse. The walk is not difficult because the stones are nicely arranged and next to them is a narrow path. Look at the remainders of some of the Arsuf fortifications.

Walk till you reach a little creek that will enable you to ascend to the old and abandoned **Ta'as factory Nof Yam/Tel Arsuf**. Ta'as Nof Yam was a military factory, established in the 1950s, in which weapons and explosives were manufactured. In the year 1991, a huge explosion occurred that burnt the factory down and polluted the environment with toxins and hazardous materials and contaminated the groundwater. The place is closed to wanderers. Be careful.





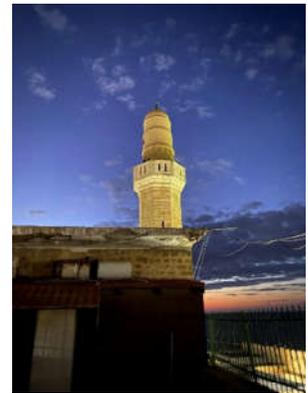
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Walk south towards the **Sidni Ali Mosque** and visit the mosque. According to Muslim tradition, one of the commanders of the Muslim army, Ali Ben-Aleim, the seventh grandson of the Khalif Omar Ibn El Khatib, who died in 1081, is buried here. The place served as a pilgrimage site, especially during the



Crusader period. According to Mujir al-Din, the building and well were constructed in the year 1481 during the times of the Mamelukes¹. It attracted

Arab and Bedouin residents of the area who also came from Samaria to judge between a man and his friend in a test that took place at the site by a miraculous black stone, that stone was positioned in the wall near the tomb and used to check whether a



person was telling the truth. The person had to stand, with his eyes covered a few steps in front of the tomb. and move towards the tomb with an outstretched arm. In case his hand touched the stone, it was a sign that he was talking the truth, and if not it shows that he was lying and he was forced to pray. Nowadays, there is no stone. A large part of the Mosque was built during the Ottoman period, a time during which there was a small harbor **the Apollonia anchorage**, from which watermelons were shipped from Palestine to Egypt.



¹ http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail.aspx?id=25476&mag_id=126