Hammamat Main hot springs: where mineral water cascades down a 130-metre cliff into the Dead Sea valley

South of the Dead Sea resort strip, the Zara Ma'in hot springs cascade from the cliffs in a series of waterfalls. The Six Senses lodge is built around them; the public access points are below.

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South of the main Dead Sea resort strip, the Hammamat Ma'in hot springs cascade from a 130-metre cliff in a series of mineral waterfalls. The water emerges at around 60°C from the limestone aquifer that drains the highlands above, drops down the rock face, and pools in natural basins before continuing toward the Dead Sea floor. The site is partly developed (the Six Senses Evason Ma'in occupies one bend of the canyon) and partly accessible via the public Day-Use complex on the lower terrace. Either way, the heat and the mineral chemistry are unmistakable.

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1Why visit Zara Ma'in

If the Dead Sea is the flat-water mineral experience, Zara Ma'in is the moving-water version. The temperature differential between the 60°C cascade water and the cool desert air is striking. The mineral profile of the springs (high in calcium, magnesium, sulphur compounds) overlaps with the Dead Sea muds — the spas built around the springs use the water for therapeutic baths.

2The geology

The springs are fed by rainfall on the Mount Nebo / Madaba highlands. Surface water percolates through the limestone, gets heated by deep geothermal gradients (the Jordan Valley sits at the boundary of the African and Arabian plates), and re-emerges at the cliff face. The temperature varies somewhat with rainfall and season; the hottest pools are at the top of the cascade closest to the spring source.

3Public Day-Use vs Six Senses

- **Hammamat Ma'in Public Day-Use complex.** Lower-terrace pools, food court, locker rooms. Day-use admission ~10 JD. Open year-round but most pleasant October–April.
- **Six Senses Evason Ma'in.** The premium destination — full resort + spa. Day-pass is significantly more expensive (~50–80 JD) but includes the upper-canyon access.
- **The natural cascades.** Visible from both the public area and the Six Senses path. Direct access varies by water flow and season.

> A 60°C mineral cascade from a 130-metre cliff. The Dead Sea spa industry tapped this aquifer first.

4Combining with the Dead Sea

Zara Ma'in pairs naturally with a Dead Sea overnight. The classic itinerary:

1. **Morning.** Float at the Dead Sea + spa session at one of the resorts (see the spa-resort comparison post).
2. **Afternoon.** Drive 30 minutes south to Zara Ma'in for the hot springs.
3. **Evening.** Either return to the Dead Sea resort for the night, or stay at the Six Senses if budget allows.

> **For solo travellers**
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> Public Day-Use is the budget option. Most travellers spend 2–3 hours at the springs.

5Practical tips

- **Best season.** October–April. Summer is bearable in the early morning but the heat-on-heat is intense.
- **Health caution.** Pregnant women, people with heart conditions, and those with skin conditions should consult a doctor before mineral hot springs.
- **Combine with.** The Dead Sea (30 minutes north) and Mount Nebo (45 minutes east) for a full Madaba-Dead Sea-springs day.
- **Photography.** The cascades photograph well at midday with bright cloud cover; harsh in direct sunshine.

References

1. Wikipedia — Dead Sea (regional context)

Verified by locals: TBD — this article will be reviewed by a Six Senses spa or Hammamat Ma'in management contact before final publication. Drafted from Wikipedia and traveller experience.