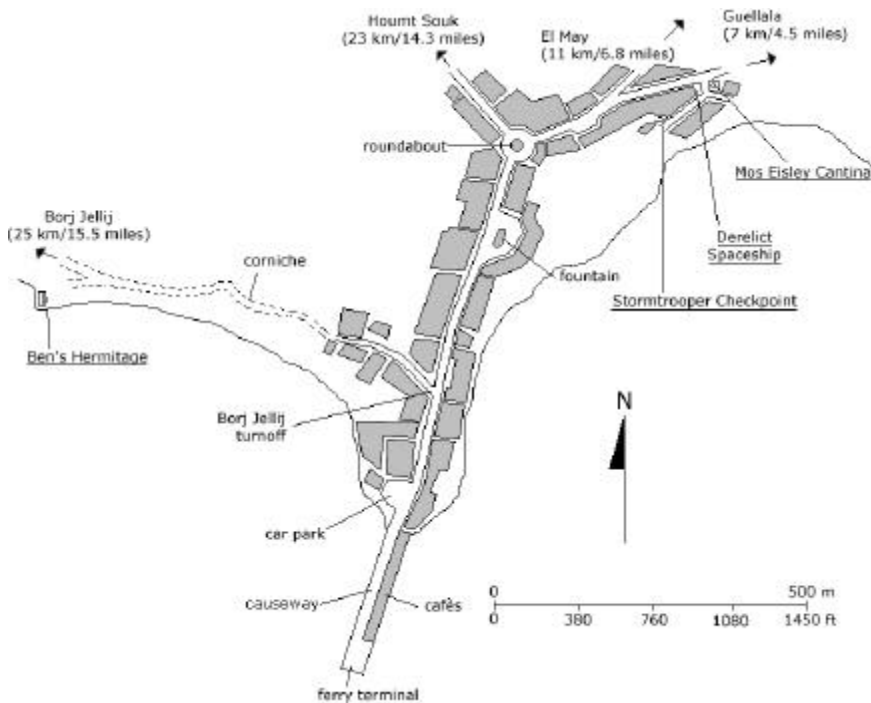


ANH Locations

Ben's Hermitage was filmed at a small, isolated house on the edge of the small town of Ajim. It was seen briefly after Luke and the droids were rescued from Tusken Raiders in the Jundland Wastes. A reminder for Special Edition viewers: this building was not seen in the 1997 re-release of *A New Hope* replaced by a matte of a completely different building set atop the valley at Sidi Bouhlel.



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This house can be easily reached from Ajim. Drive 300 m (985 ft) from the ferry landing and take a left on to the road marked to *Borj* Jellij. This is the *corniche* road; it is surfaced for 1/4 km (0.2 miles) until the edge of Ajim and then hard-packed sand onwards. The building used for Ben's house is immediately visible standing alone on a spit 3/4 km (0.5 miles) from the last house of Ajim. The *corniche* road passes within 50 m (~165 ft) of the building. There is an area clear of scrub bushes right in front for parking. For some reason it is a popular stop - you'll see plenty of tire tracks near it, and it also serves as a shady resting spot for cyclists along the western coast - so it is never empty. No one will mind you taking pictures, but respect their privacy nevertheless.

The drive from the north (Sidi Jemour) is long (17 km/10 miles) and can be made difficult by washed-out roads and bogs created by storms and high tides. If you are driving down from the north then just follow the *corniche* south, past the wood of palm trees that marks the halfway point and on towards Ajim. If you do find that parts of the track are made impassable by water just look for the freshest set of tyre tracks. The road is the main bus route from Mellita to Ajim so it is used fairly regularly. The local drivers know how to get past the difficult spots so just follow their tracks. If you are unsure about the route ahead then don't risk it. Turn around and head back for the safest section of *corniche* and then return to the MC116 (Ajim to Houmt Souk road). It is easier to reach Ben's hermitage from Ajim.

Approaching Ben's house from the south places you in the same place that the camera crews filmed this location in 1976. If you frame the building, cutting out the sea to the west (left of the spit) you can easily visualise where Luke parked his landspeeder. Once inside the building you will realise that it has bears no relation to its interior set. The building is composed of two rooms, both roughly equal sized at ~3 m (10 ft) by ~2 m (6 ft). There is a small alcove set into the west wall. Presumably this was used as a fireplace and not a place of worship as it does to face east to Mecca. The floor and walls are bare concrete and there are only two windows.

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