



# Welcome to Georgia



A travel to Svaneti is an experience for life. Hardly anything has changed there for the last few centuries.

Upper Svaneti (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is famous for its medieval watchtowers, snow-capped peaks, icy waterfalls, beautiful nature and ancient traditions. The village of Ushguli, the highest permanently inhabited settlement in Europe, is sure to be the highlight of your trip.

## Day 1: Departure for Tbilisi

### Day 2: Tbilisi

Meet at the airport and transfer to a hotel.

After late breakfast we have Tbilisi sightseeing tour – the Old and New Towns. The city offers a great variety of sights, most of them very ancient. All the places of interest in the Old Town are very close to each other, within a few minutes' walk. We start our visit to Old Tbilisi from Metekhi Church, then walk up to the brick-domed Sulphur Baths. From the Baths we head up the hill to visit Narikala Fortress – one of the oldest fortifications in the city. Afterwards we continue to the Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral and Anchiskhati Church. This marks the end of the Old Town. Visit Georgian National museum of history (if not Monday), before taking a stroll along Rustaveli Avenue – the main street in Tbilisi.

### Day 3: Tbilisi – Mtskheta – Uplistsikhe – Kutaisi

In the morning we drive to visit the ancient capital and religious centre of Georgia – Mtskheta and its historic Jvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral – both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Then we head to the town of Gori – the heart of Kartli region where we visit Uplistsikhe Cave Town (1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC). Continue our way to Imereti province to visit the pretty town of Kutaisi, the second largest in the country.

### Day 4: Kutaisi – Zugdidi – Becho (1600m)

In the morning we visit Bagrati Cathedral (11<sup>th</sup> century) and drive to the city Zugdidi and visit one of the famous Georgian dukes' – Dadiani palace (closed on Mondays). Afterwards it's time to get ready for the most exciting part of your trip - a journey to Svaneti, the region of the highest mountains and glaciers and the most abiding ancient traditions. En route visit Enguri hydro-electric power palm.

### Day 5: Becho – Ushba Glacier – Becho

In the morning take a short drive through the neighboring villages of Mazeri and Shikhra and then start our walk through the woods to the foot of Mt. Ushba (4700m). A spectacular walk past the waterfall will bring us to Ushba glacier.

↑↓750 m (6-7hrs) or ↑↓1000m (8-9 hrs)

### Day 6: Becho – Guli Pass – Mestia

This day will be the most exhausting during our journey. We walk 10 – 11 hours. From Becho we head to Mestia. We walk up to Guli pass (2800m) and then head down till Mt. Zagaro. In the evening arrive in Mestia.

↑1400m ↓1400m (10-11 hrs)

### Day 7: Mestia – Mt. Zuruldi – Mestia

Mestia is the centre of Upper Svaneti. In the morning we walk to Mt. Zuruldi (2500 m) to enjoy stunning views of Caucasus Mountains (Tetnaldi – 4617m, Shkhara – 5068m, Shkhelda – 3800m, Ushba – 4700m). Return to Mestia and visit Ethnographic Museum housing a unique collection of icons and crosses.

↑↓700m (3-4 hrs)

### Day 8: Mestia – Mt. Chalaadi – Mestia

In the morning we drive (30min) to Chalaadi gorge and then starts trekking to Chalaadi glacier. We walk through beautiful valleys and the forest before getting a glimpse of Chalaadi glacier. Then we walk up to the altitude of 2070m. We enjoy beautiful view of this glacier winding down from Ushba summit.

↑↓450m. (5 hrs)

### Days 9 – 11: Mestia – Adishi – Ifrari – Ushguli

In the morning we drive to the village of Mulakhi and then start our 3-day trekking. Each day we walk approximately 6 hours. Overnight in the villages of Adishi and Ifrari in private houses.

On day 10 we head to the highest permanently inhabited village in Europe – Ushguli (2200m). The village is most famous for its abundance of watchtowers and this is where you get the view of the highest mountain in Georgia – Mt. Shkhara (5068m).

1) Start from the village Zabeshi 1690m – Finish in the village Adishi 2050m ↑775 m (3-4hrs) ↓415 m (2hrs)

2) Adishi –Ifrari ↑650m (3-4hrs) ↓800m (2-3hrs)

3) Ifrari – Ushguli ↓200m ↑500m (3-4hrs)

### Day 12: Ushguli – Shkhara Glacier – Mestia

We start our morning walk to the foot of Mt. Shkhara. A beautiful walk will bring us to Shkhara Glacier where the Enguri River starts. After returning to Ushguli we drive back to Mestia.

↑↓300m (5-6 hrs)

### Day 13: Mestia – Tbilisi

Drive all the way to Tbilisi, approximately 9 hours. Arrive in the capital and time to relax or to wonder in the old streets of Tbilisi.

### Day 14: Departure

Transfer to the airport and departure.

