8 Day Trip To Tobavarchkhili Lakes

Adventure & Trekking Tours

Overview

Tobavarchkhili Lakes

8 Days/7 Nights
Pick-up from: Tbilisi/Kutaisi*
Season: July-September
Difficulty: Moderate

Follow the shepherd’s path to one of the least explored, most secluded parts of Egrisi mountain range, in the Greater Caucasus Mountains is known for its heavenly alpine lakes and Zen-like silent atmosphere. Taste authentic Megrelian cuisine, immerse into the local lifestyle and enjoy epic sunsets above cloud level.

**Please indicate your preferred pick-up and drop-off locations in the comment at check-out.*

Tour details

- Code: GH-107
- Starts from: Tbilisi
- Max. Group Size: 8 Adults
- Duration: 8 Days

Prices

/

Sights to Visit

Itinerary

Day 1: Tbilisi-Kutaisi-Okatse*-Mukhuri

Driving distance from Tbilisi: 5 h 40 min (345 km)
Driving distance from Kutaisi: 2 h 20 min (115 km)
Hiking: 8 Km, ↑ 300 m / ↓300 m, 2.5 h.
In the morning, we will drive towards historical province of western Georgia – **Samegrelo**.

On the way, we will make a detour to **Okatse Canyon,** near the village Gordi and take a short (8 km) but very scenic hike. The first part of the walk takes you through historical **Dadiani forest** and the ruins of the 18th century palace. Soon after, the path descends down to the canyon and continues on a hanging walkway that runs along the cliff until reaching the observation deck with panoramic view.
After the walk, we will get back to the visitor's center and drive another hour and half to **Mukhuri**.
Mukhuri is a small, sleepy village located at the foothills of Egrisi mountains and planned Samegrelo National Park, in the valley of **Khobistkali river.** Due to its surrounding lush greenery and fresh mountain air, **Mukhuri** is considered to be one of the centers of Georgian beekeeping.
After dinner at the guesthouse, there will be a group meeting with presentation and final QA concerning your upcoming trekking trip.
Overnight in Mukhuri.

Day 2: Mukhuri-Natipuru-1st Campsite

(image)

Driving distance: 32 km, 3-4 h (part off-road).

Hiking: 4 Km, ↑360 m / ↓80 m, 1.5 h.

Highest Point: 2,310 m

Lowest Point: 1,960 m

We’ll start this day with a long and picturesque off-road ride towards the trail head near Natipuru mountain (2203 m asl.). First part of the road follows beautiful Khobistkali river gorge, with series of small waterfalls. We will break our drive with a stop near Shurubumu cave surrounded by 1000-year-old Buxus trees and make another stop near Lugela spring water. Finally, we will reach Natipuru hut, form where we start trekking to the first campsite, where we stay for overnight.

Overnight in tents.

Day 3: 1st Campsite-Small Lake (Okhoje)-Big Lake(Chitagvala)

(image)

Hiking: 7 km, ↑890 m / ↓410 m, 5 h.

Highest Point: 2,870 m

Lowest Point: 2,160 m

Start at 8:00 AM. After a light breakfast, we are going to start hiking up towards **Okhoje pass (2721 m asl)** following a narrow zig-zag path. Keep in mind that the other side of the pass is permanently covered in **Sno**w and ice, so going down is a bit tricky even in summer time. After break and snacks at **Okhoje lake,** we will head to our campsite at Chitagvala lake (aka Tobavarchkhili, “Silver Lake”) through **Eastern Toba pass (2,870 m asl)**. Due to rocky terrain, it takes another 3 hours to reach the big lake, but we will soon be rewarded with some of the best views of Egrisi mountains and surrounding area.

Overnight in tents.

Day 4: Tobavarchkhili Lake-Surroundings

(image)

Today we’ll have opportunity to enjoy well deserved tranquility and beauty of the area, without having to move to another campsite. If weather permits, we’ll take short hike to nearby lakes **Kailashi** and **Didghalish** (Roundtrip 4.8 km, 360 m up/down) or if you want to make it more challenging, take a hike to third nearby lake **- Tsakatskarish Toba (6 km, 500 m up/down).**

Day 5: Tobavarchkhili Lake-Dzikhiri Shepherds' Hut

(image)

Hiking: 8 km, ↑30 m / ↓1280 m, 4 h

Highest Point: 2659 m

Lowest Point: 1406 m

After breakfast, we will head down in the direction of the **Magana river valley**. On the way we make a stop close to a 40 meters high Toba waterfall and continue to **Dhikiri Shepherds hut** where we set up our next campsite. With luck, we will meet some local shepherds, stop for a chat and watch them making traditional Megrelian dish called Elarji, made from coarse cornmeal, corn flour and **Sulguni cheese.**

Overnight in tents, nearby Shepherds hut.

Day 6: Dzikhiri Shepherds' Hut-Kirnakho

Hiking: 12 km, ↑860 m / ↓660 m, 5 h
Highest Point: 1611 m
Lowest Point: 987 m
From the Dzhikhiri campsite, our path crosses the right bank of the Magana River, and heads down towards the Jalari campsite. After climbing up on a mountain slope we'll start walking on an old dirt road along the river Tskhvashela valley, till reaching the campsite called Kirnakho**.**
Overnight in tents.

Day 7: Kirnakho-Squri-Mukhuri

Hiking: 12 km, ↑70m / ↓1220m 4 hours.
Highest Point: 1653 m
Lowest Point: 436 m
Driving distance: 10 km, 20 min.
The easiest and final day of our trekking that follows the old dirt road in direction of soviet time resort Squri, where we will be picked up and transferred back to **Mukhuri** for farewell dinner and Georgian barbeque.
Overnight in Mukhuri

Day 8: Mukhuri-Kutaisi-Tbilisi

Driving distance: 317 km, 5 hours

Transfer to the drop-off point in Kutaisi or Tbilisi.

Inclusions

Included

Transportation:

- Transfers with 4x4 car days 1,2 and 7,8.
- 1 Horse per 2 people for carrying luggage – days 2-7;
- Accompanying horseman

Staff:

- Professional trekking-guide service – all days.

Meals:

- Breakfast - on days 2-8
- Picnic Lunch – on days 2-7
- Dinner – on days 1-7

Accommodation:

- 2 x overnights in Mukhuri guesthouse.
- 5 x overnights in Tents (sleeping pads will be provided, but no sleepign bags).

Other:

- Entrance fee to Okatse Canyon.

Excluded

- Airplane tickets
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees
- Single room accommodation
- Alcoholic beverages
- Other personal expenses
- Trekking gear such as*: sleeping bags, trekking poles, backpacks, personal water storage.

*Additional trekking is available for rent upon special request.

More Info

Additional Info

Please note, this itinerary is quite demanding and requires good physical level.

The above prices (except for solo) are based on two people sharing twin/double room accommodation.

Most overnights, except for the first and last day - will be in tents and participants are expected to help with setting up the campsites and cooking.

To arrange airport transfers and additional hotel overnights, contact us at **info [at] georgianholidays.com**

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation is free of charge prior 7 days of the starting day.

- The booking deposit 120 USD is non-refundable.

If Tourist cancels the booked tour for some reasons not depending on Tour Operator, the following sums are kept back as a fine:

- 50% of the total cost of tourist product in case of tour cancellation 7 days or less prior to the tour;
- 100% of the total cost of the tourist product due to the Tourist's failure to appear.

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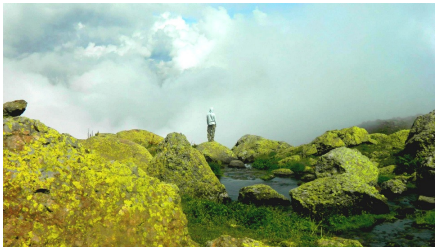
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