# 4 Day Rural Tour to Caucasus, Samegrelo-Svaneti Cultural & Sightseeing Tours

#### **Overview**

#### 4 Day Samegrelo- Zemo Svaneti Rural Tour

Starts: every second **Friday** 

Join the group from Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi & Zugdidi

Type: Small Group Tour Available: May-September

Distance: 981 km Duration: 4 Days

Guaranteed small group rural tour to **Samegrelo**- Zemo **Svaneti** starts from Tbilisi. Explore the unique, untapped mixture of local cultural heritage, visit **Nokalakevi** archaeological site, natural wonders of **Martvili Canyon**, small remote towns of **Mestia**, **Senaki**, Martvili and **Zugdidi**, make optional jeep tour to Ushguli or make an easy trekking to Chalaadi Glacier. Escape from the city life to the rural areas of the Greater Caucasus mountains, enjoy landscapes and nature, meet local people, and taste local food. All of these will happen in four days!

Arrivals from **Batumi, Zugdidi** and **Kutaisi** are very welcome!

Join us in central area of **Senaki at** 13:00-14:00.

Optional \* jeep tour to Ushguli is available to book in **Mestia**.

The group is Guaranteed to Run after two people book the tour.

### Tour details

• Code: GH-21

Starts from: Tbilisi

Max. Group Size: 15 Adults

Duration: 4 Days

Price Table	Start Date	End Date	Seats Left	Price From	Availability	Reserve
	2024- 05-03	2024- 05-06	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 05-17	2024- 05-20	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 05-31	2024- 06-03	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 06-14	2024- 06-17	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 06-28	2024- 07-01	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 07-12	2024- 07-15	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 07-26	2024- 07-29	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 08-09	2024- 08-12	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 08-23	2024- 08-26	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 09-06	2024- 09-09	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2024- 09-20	2024- 09-23	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2025- 05-02	2025- 05-05	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300
	2025- 05-16	2025- 05-19	15	€ 860	Scheduled	Reserve for € 300

# Sights to Visit

- Martvili Canyon
- <u>Ushguli Community</u>
- Nokalakevi
- Mestia Museum
- Dadiani Palace
- Abasha
- Mestia
- Zugdidi Botanical Garden
- Svaneti
- Samegrelo
- Peak Shkhara
- Summit Ushba
- Enguri Dam
- Zugdidi
- <u>Senaki</u>
- Chkhorotsku
- Winery Obene

### **Itinerary**

# Day 1: TBILISI -SENAKI- NOKALAKEVI - CHKHOROTSKU

Daily driving distance: 366 km (5 h 33 min)

08:00 We pick you up from your hotel in **Tbilisi** andtransfer you to **Senaki** Caffe Apetito (4 hours 3 minutes(286 km)). We make several stops along the way to stretchthe legs.

13:00-14:00 Meeting with other participants who can join us from **Kutaisi**, **Zugdidi** and **Batumi** in a cafe near the Senaki State Drama Theater.

After a short rest, we head to **Nokalakevi Archaeological Museum-Reserve**, which is about 17 minutes drive from **Senaki** (16.5 km). The tour lasts about an hour. We visitthe ancient acropolis of **Kudzhi**, restored halls of the Archaeological Museum, fragments of thermal baths, medieval churches, a citadel and a tunnel to the **Tekhuri River.** 

The next place to visit today is **Martvili Canyon.** Enjoy the scenery of the **Samegrelo** Waterfalls and take a 20-minute boat ride down the clear, azure **Abasha River.** The tour lasts about an hour.

In the evening arrival in the small town of **Chkhorotsku**, where tourists usually do not visit. Unique experience!

A small, family-run winery Obene is a good place to visit for dinner and taste Ojaleshi- very rare wine of local origins. This is the best place to experience the real flavor of Samegrelo region.

Overnight in Chkhorotsku.

# Day 2: CHKHOROTSKU - ENGURI DAM - MESTIA SURROUNDINGS

Total drive: 4 hr 13 min (180 km)

08:30 After breakfast at **Chkhorotsku** guesthouse, check out and drive to **Mestia**, Zemo **Svaneti** region. Move up the mountain serpentine of the Great Caucasus.

The first must-stop site on the way is **Enguri Dam**, which located on impressive, picturesque gorge and represents the biggest construction of Soviet times (52 min from Chkhorotsku – 50 km). Doing 20-30 minutes photo stop here and continue to Upper **Svaneti**. Optional\* boat trip is available on Enguri reserve.

103 km left from here to **Mestia**, but non-stop time generally takes about 2 h, 20 min. Make as many stops as you like and feel the spirit of the roaring waterfalls, the Inguri River, mountains and unspoiled wildlife.

Arrival to **Mestia**, an administrative center of **Svaneti** region, surrounded by the three major summits: **Ushba** North (4690 m), **Ushba** South (4710 m) and the bride **Tetnuldi** (4858 m). Villages around **Mestia** – Latali, Lenjeri and **Mulakhi**, keep traditional lifestyle. There are 78 medieval churches and defensive towers decorated with medieval frescoes in **Mestia** and its surrounding villages.

This is the reason, why we head to the tower-museum of Margiani (12th c.) immediately after our arrival.

Walk to the mineral sparkling spring and Seti square. \*

Optional visit: Svaneti Museum of History and

Ethnography. The museum's collection includes
ethnographic and archaeological findings, old manuscripts,
Orthodox icons painted in the local Svaneti style.

In **Mestia** stay at the local family guesthouse and enjoy homemade dinner.

Dinner and overnight in Mestia.

## Day 3: MESTIA - CHALAADI TREKKING or **USHGULI JEEP TOUR**

Trek grade: Easy to Moderate, distance 6 km, duration 5-6h, elevation - 1920 m, trail trek, sleigh track

Chalaadi trail begins after crossing a small hanging bridge on the river of **Mestia**chala. After reaching the ruins of an old hut, the trail continues through various types of landscapes – the birch forest and rocky valley covered with stones of different shapes. Mount Chatini is clearly visible from this valley, while on its south face the Chalaadi glacier takes shape.

Continue towards the Chatini mountain and finally at 1920m above sea level, reach Chalaadi glacier.

In a few words, the trail is guite an easy walk with many views of the high mountains and **Sno**wy peaks of the Greater Caucasus range.

From Chalaadi walk back to **Mestia**.

Dinner and overnight in **Mestia**.

Optional\* Jeep tour: **Mestia** - Ushguli - **Mestia** 

Driving distance: 93.7 km

If you would like to book Ushguli trip instead of trekking, guide will help to arrange a local 4x4WD vehicle.

The road to the village of Ushguli is located only 45 kmfrom **Mestia**, most of it is paved with concrete, but narrowand steep. The last 16 km is a gravel road, and frequent avalanches make it impossible even in the summer season. The area is made up of medieval settlements with an authentic local community. Ushguli is one of the highest permanently inhabited places in Europe. For the historical, cultural and geographical reasons listed above, Ushguli was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Walk around the village, visit the **Lamaria** Church and hike to the foot of the **Shkhara** Glacier (5068 m), the highest peak in Georgia.T

### Day 4: MESTIA - ZUGDIDI - TBILISI

Total drive: 7 hr 37 min (467 km)

After breakfast in <u>Mestia</u> guesthouse, check out and drive to <u>Zugdidi</u> – administrative center of <u>Samegrelo</u>-Zemo <u>Svaneti</u> Region, <u>Zugdidi</u> Municipality. Visit Dadiani Palace Historical Museum and Botanical garden. The excursion will take about one hour.

Optional visit of **Zugdidi** farmer's market, buy local spices, homemade sauce Tkemali and Satsebeli, homemade cheese Sulguni, and Honey.

Drive back to Tbilisi. Evening arrival in Tbilisi. Drop off to your overnight place is included.

Optional Gala dinner in Tbilisi restaurant should be arranged in advance.

This is the End of our 4-day tour. We are looking forward to greet you again on optional tours from Tbilisi next morning.

See you soon!

### Inclusions

#### Included

#### Staff:

Professional English-speaking guide/driver service

#### **Transport:**

- One group transfer to/from Tbilisi airport at the beginning and at the end of the tour
- Comfortable A/C vehicle

# Accommodation: 3 x overnights in family guesthouses:

- 1 x overnight in Chkhorotsku guesthouse.
- 2 x overnights in Mestia Bapsha guesthouse or similar

#### Meals:

- 3 x Breakfasts
- 3 x Dinners

#### **Entertainment and other:**

- 1 x wine tasting in Obene winery (or similar)
- 1 x bottle mineral water per person per day
- All Excursions and Entrance fees
- All Local Taxes

#### **Excluded**

- Personal expenses
- Lunches and Beverages
- Overnight stays on the last day of the itinerary.
- Optional\* tour: Mestia Ushguli- Mestia.
- Private airport transfers

### More Info Additional Info

The deposit for this trip is: 300\$

If you book the tour early (6 months before your landing) you will be granted by 10% discount.

Flights should be booked individually.

Flights should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and "Guaranteed" is displayed on the trip.

#### **Optional services:**

- Single Supplement: 67 \$
- Day trip to Ushguli: Mestia Ushguli- Mestia. Price per 4x4WD vehicle (max. capacity 5 people) - 130\$
- Svaneti History & Ethnography Museum: 5\$
- Gala dinner in Tbilisi with live folk show and Georgian wine: per person 30\$
- Private pick-up transfer from Tbilisi airport: 32\$
- Private drop-off transfer to Tbilisi airport: 27\$
- Discounted double-way private transfer to/from Tbilisi airport to/from Tbilisi hotel: 49\$

# Private transfers are available to book if you join the tour from Batumi and Kutaisi:

- Individual transfer Batumi-Senaki by car (max. capacity 3 people) 108 km (1 h 45 min) - 90\$
- Private transfer Zugdidi-Batumi by car (max. capacity 3 people) 128 km (2 hr 10 min) - 90\$
- Kutaisi-Senaki by car (max. capacity 3 people) 63 km (1 hr 13 min) - 77\$
- Zugdidi-Kutaisi by car (max. capacity 3 people) 107 km (2 hr) – 83\$

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

#### **CHILD POLICY:**

- 0-6 years Free
- 7-12 years 430 \$
- 13 years and over Adult price

# Gallery

