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8-day trekking itinerary in Svaneti, Georgia

Day 1: Inbound flight to the town of Kutaisi, Georgia (please check options below). Located in Western Georgia, the town is a hub for the low cost carrier Wizzair and also the most suitable point to start a trip to the Svaneti area of the Great Caucasus.

Transfer (4,5-5h) to Mestia - the capital of the mountain area of Svaneti in Caucasus Mountains and main base for walking and trekking in the Upper Svaneti area. Accommodation in a hotel in the town.

Day 2: Short transfer to the Becho Valley, the village of Mazeri, walk up to the Ushba Waterfalls. Option for a longer walk to the Ushba Glacier. Accommodation in a mountain hotel in Mazeri.

Total for the day, depending on the option: 4,5 to 9h, +500 to +1300 m, 10 to 19 km.

Day 3: Mazeri – Guli Pass – Mestia. A strenuous day, but a rewarding one – we climb up the panoramic Guli Pass (2960 m), which brings us very close to the rocky walls of the peak of Ushba – a symbolic mountain of the Southern Caucasus. With its 4700 m of height, steep faces and unpredictable climate the peak is considered one of the most difficult ones to climb in Caucasus.

Descent to the Koruldi area, drive down to Mestia (45 min). Accommodation in a hotel in Mestia.

Total for the day: 10 h, +1400/-600 m, 14 km. Option for a transfer in the morning in order to save some power.

Day 4: A relaxing day after the yesterday challenge: short drive up to the Zuruldi chair lift, ride up to 2400 m. Walk along the low, but very panoramic ridge of Zuruldi with a final descent to the remote village of Tsvirmi and approach the area of Tetnuldi. 30 min transfer to our accommodation in Tetnuldi. Accommodation in a hotel.

Total for the day: 4h, +200/-500 m, 7km

Day 5: Tetnuldi – Adishi village – Chunderi Pass – Khalde village. Today we'll follow the most beautiful part of the popular Mestia-Ushgui Trek. The day offers us a great variety of landscapes – panoramas towards the highest mountain range of Georgia, along with a visit to the remote village of Adishi. We'll cross the Adishi River on the back of a horse and climb the pass of Chunderi – the closest point to the main ridge with views towards Adishi Glacier, the Bezengi Wall, the highest peak of Georgia – Schara (5193 m).

Accommodation in a local guest house in Khalde village. WC/shower on a shared basis, dormitory rooms.

Total for the day: 9 h, +700/900 m, 15 km

Day 6: Khalde-Ushguli. 1h transfer to the village of Ushguli, probably the most famous in the area because of its location high up in the mountains, at 2300 m.a.s.l. Walk up to the Schara Glacier and back. Accommodation in Ushguli - a local guest house, WC/shower on a shared basis, dormitory rooms. Option for a more strenuous walk up to the Mapchrani Range.

Total for the day: 5 h, +400/-400 m, 8 km

Day 7: Mestia – a 3h transfer back to Mestia. 2H visit the museums of the town, walk around the main sights. The Historical Museum of Mestia has a rich exhibition that would tell us a lot about the history and everyday life of the local Svan people. The museum of the local alpinist Michail Chergiani will let us to see the mountain and the history of alpinism in the area through the eyes of the great climber. Transfer to Kutaisi – 4,5-5h. Accommodation in a hotel in the town.

Day 8: Visit to Kutaisi. Time permitting, visit to the Gelati Monastery near Kutaisi. Departure flight.

Optional extensions:

+ 3 days:

- Visit to the capital Tbilisi and the famous Gareja Monasteries at the border with Azerbaijan.
- Visit to the Black Sea coast – Batumi area.

+ 5 days: Tbilisi and the area of Mount Kazbek – the Gergeti Church of Tsminda Sameba, one of the symbols of Georgia.