



# TREKKING IN MYSTERIOUS SVANETI

A LAND OF GEORGIAN DEFENSE TOWERS

## TRIP DESCRIPTION

Svaneti is one of the most beautiful high mountain regions in Georgia. Green valleys, rivers and streams, countless defense towers, cows lying calmly around the roads, and the surrounding ever-snowy Caucasian mountains.

During this trip, we will visit the highest located village in Europe, namely Ushguli (around 2400 m), we will face the highest mountain in Georgia (Mt. Shkhara, 5193 m) as well as the most dangerous mountain in the Caucasus (Mt. Ushba, 4700 m). During trekking the glacier and its foot, we will meet the inhabitants of the region, the famous Svans, and their local beliefs and traditions. Every moment of the trip will be filled with views which take your breath away. Most importantly, for the whole time you will be accompanied by our team: an English-speaking trip leader and certified high mountain guides (also trained in medical rescue in the mountains) who will be responsible

for your safety. It is also important that we are going to help you prepare every single detail of the trip. You will get access to our private Facebook group for participant, where we can share our thoughts, motivate each other, exchange ideas, advice etc. Before the trip, you will take part in an online training course, which will make you even better prepare for facing Svaneti. Additionally, of course, you can ask us any questions via e-mail or our Facebook page.





## THE PLAN OF THE TRIP

We pick you up from the airport in Tbilisi or Kutaisi (or from a point in the city center in Tbilisi or Kutaisi if you arrived earlier) in the early hours of the morning (from Kutaisi little later). If you do not have your trekking equipment with you, you can rent everything from us (e.g. poles trekking), and we will bring you the equipment to the meeting place. We are going to Mestia, the capital of Svaneti (approx. 9-10 hours from Tbilisi

and approx. 5-6 hours from from Kutaisi with stops for breakfast, toilet, lunch, etc.). In Mestia: accommodation in a guesthouse, time for rest. In the evening - welcome dinner at the guesthouse. Overnight stay in Mestia in a guesthouse.



# DAY 01



# DAY 02

Breakfast in the guesthouse. After the breakfast, trekking from Mestia (1500 m) to the Koruldi Lakes (2740 m), situated at the foot of the most dangerous Caucasian mountains, Mt. Ushba (4700 m), and then - to the viewpoint located at 2920 m. The trek's

duration is about 8-9 hours (22 km). In the evening - dinner with live music at the most popular local restaurant. Overnight stay in Mestia in a guesthouse.



## DAY 03



## DAY 04



## DAY 05



After breakfast at the guest house – transfer by 4x4 cars to Mazeri village, from where we will start trekking to the glacier at the foot of Ushba (4700 m). On the way - Shdugra waterfall, which is the largest waterfall in Georgia. The highest place that day on our route is 2492 m. Trekking time on this day: approx. 9-10 hours (22 km). After trekking - return to Mestia. In the evening, a dinner in

the guesthouse and movie in the local cinema. We will see critically acclaimed movie „Dede“, directed Mariam Khatchvan, who comes from Svaneti. The movie will let us learn about the local history, tradition and customs, including ones which are usually hidden from tourist from Europe. Overnight stay in the guesthouse in Mestia.

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Breakfast in the guesthouse. After the breakfast, we will go the highest located town in Georgia, that is Ushguli (around 2300 m), and trek to the foot of the highest mountain in Georgia, Mt. Shkhara (5193 m). On this day, the highest point of our route is 2430 m. The

trek's duration is about 7-8 hours (16 km). After the trekking, you will have some free time in Ushguli and then, we will go back to Mestia and have a dinner in the guesthouse. Overnight stay in the guesthouse in Mestia.

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Breakfast in the guesthouse. After the breakfast, trekking from Mestia (1500 m) to the village of Tsvirimi (1900 m) through the Zuruldi massif (2450 m). If the Hatsvali funicular is running, we will be they could shorten the route a bit, and if the cable car is closed, we will walk the entire trekking route. Trekking time (without using the funicular) that day: approx. 8 hours (17 km). In Tsvirimi we will have dinner at the house of local hosts and learn how to make kubdari, which

is the most popular dish of Svaneti, which is a local variation of the famous one khachapuri. Return by 4x4 cars to Mestia for overnight stay in our guesthouse.



## DAY 06

Breakfast at the guesthouse. After breakfast - trekking from Mestia (1500m) to the village of Mazeri(1600 m) over the Guli Pass (2950 m) or Baki Pass (2428 m). All trekking it is approx. 24 km (9 hours). Mazeri is one of the most beautiful villages in Svaneti. We passed through it already on our 3rd day of trip, but this time we will stay

here longer, because after trekking we will enjoy a dinner prepared by a local hostess from fresh products from her garden. We will learn also how to make the perfect tashmijabi - the famous Svaneti purée. Return by bus to Mestia for overnight stay in our guesthouse.



## DAY 07

Breakfast in the guesthouse. After the breakfast, trekking from Mestia (1500 m) to the Chalaadi glacier (1835 m). The trek's duration is about 3 hours (6 km). After trekking, you can enjoy free time in Mestia. It's a chance to purchase of souvenirs, wine and Svan salt (mandatory purchase in Svaneti), which you will take home with you. We recommend also visit

the local ethnography museum in Mestia and museum dedicated to a local alpinist, Mikhail Khergiani. There, you can learn more about the history of alpinism and the region, see the interior of a traditional Svan house, as well as climb the Svan defense tower. In the evening - farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Mestia in a guesthouse.



## DAY 08

Breakfast at the guesthouse and then transfer to Tbilisi or Kutaisi. After arrival to Tbilisi/Kutaisi officially ends the program of our trip. Depending on the group's plans, we can organize transportation to the airport or to the hotels, where you

can stay as long as you want. If you want to prolong your stay in Georgia, we can help you with planning your journey. We are at your disposal until when you get on the plane back home.





OUR AWARDS CONFIRMING THAT  
**WE ARE THE BEST AGENCY OF  
ACTIVE TOURISM IN GEORGIA AND  
THE BEST ORGANIZER OF EXPEDITIONS  
TO THE CAUCASIAN PEAKS**



# OUR CUSTOMERS ALSO KNOW THAT **WE ARE THE BEST!**

Check the opinions of our guests and how they rate our expeditions!



**Marius Raskevicius**

2 reviews

★★★★★ a month ago

Mountain Freaks are true professionals and do an amazing job. Fantastic team with a lot of passion for the business and for the clients.

Me and my wife did a private expedition to Kazbek without any previous experience. Preparation was easy and communication was smooth. They have many blog posts and detailed explanations about the expeditions on their website and social media as well. Our guide Ramazi was excellent and easy to communicate with. Very much recommended for anyone with a thirst for adventure!



**Sarah Atwood**

7 reviews

★★★★★ 2 months ago

**Positive:** Professionalism, Quality, Responsiveness, Value

We joined an expedition to mount Kazbek recently and had the experience of a lifetime. In the months leading up to the trip Aga fielded dozens of questions and during our stay she continued to oversee every aspect. Our expedition leader Ewa was clear and extremely knowledgeable in the mountains. Our guide Lexo was literally a life-saver. All the staff were helpful and patient. Highly recommended. N.B. if you need to rent gear do so early as there is limited availability.



**Steven Boon**

1 review · 1 photo

★★★★★ 2 months ago

Best adventure agency in Stepancminda! Trustworthy and professional guides, great and clear communication upfront to prepare for the Kazbeg summit trip. Definitely recommended! Thank you Nika, Ewa and Aga :)



**Roderick de Raad**

1 review · 3 photos

★★★★★ 2 months ago

Great company that made this exhausting challenge to the top alot of fun! Fantastic team with a lot of passion for the business and for the clients.



**Onno Rombout**

1 review · 1 photo

★★★★★ 2 months ago

Professional agency, good guides and small groups on one rope. Reached Mt Kazbek summit. Would recommend.





PRICE FOR THE TRIP PER PERSON:

**1090,00 EURO**

## METHOD OF PAYMENT:

**01<sup>ST</sup>** ►  
INSTALLMENT

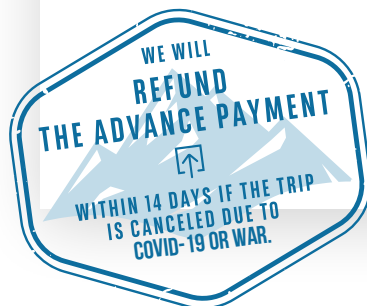
**190 EURO**  
paid to our bank  
account upon  
signing up.

**02<sup>ST</sup>** ►  
INSTALLMENT

**450 EURO**  
paid to pur bank  
account 3 months  
before the start  
of the trip.

**03<sup>ST</sup>** ►  
INSTALLMENT

**450 EURO**  
paid to our bank  
account a month  
before the start  
of the trip.





## THE PRICE INCLUDES



- ▶ **supervision of an English-speaking leader and Georgian guides during the trip,**
- ▶ comfortable off-road car transportation mentioned in the plan and everyday transfers to our starting points for trekking and back to the guesthouses/houses,
- ▶ help in organizing the trip; online consultation (email, Facebook) regarding physical preparation, buying proper equipment, organizing flights to Georgia and anything else connected with the trip,
- ▶ access to a private Facebook group, where we can share thoughts, information, advice, motivate each other etc.,
- ▶ online check-in 3 weeks before expedition (via ZOOM), which will help you even better prepare for departure,
- ▶ 7 x overnight stay in Mestia (guesthouse, rooms for 2/3 persons with bathrooms),
- ▶ all breakfasts and festive dinners mentioned in the plan,
- ▶ a dinner with live music in a popular restaurant in Mestia,
- ▶ a ticket to the cinema for movie "Dede",
- ▶ workshops on making kubdari and tashmijabi - the most famous Svaneti dishes,
- ▶ set of souvenirs.

# THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

**! WE NEVER HIDE THE "ADDITIONAL COSTS" THAT THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE EXPEDITION MUST PAY. THE PRICE OF OUR TRIP IS ALWAYS TRANSPARENT AND INCLUDES EVERYTHING EXCEPT:**



- ▶ rental of equipment that is needed during trekking (eg. poles) - according to the price list of our rental, check the prices: [HERE](#),
- ▶ air tickets (we help in their purchase),
- ▶ personal expenses: e.g. souvenirs, water, etc.,
- ▶ meals, water and snacks during transfers from Tbilisi to Mestia and back,
- ▶ additional services, transfers, etc. related to the fact that the participant the expedition wants to change the expedition plan or separate from the group and carry out some additional activity individually during the expedition,
- ▶ additional attractions while visiting Tbilisi or additional services after the official end of the trip.



## WHY WITH US?

### WHAT MAKES US STAND OUT?

- **We are the only mountain agency in Georgia to lead expeditions according to European standards, i.e. with the greatest emphasis on safety and comfort of participants.** We'll take care of it ensuring your safety and organization everything from A to Z during the trip, so that you can enjoy the mountains and experience adventure of a lifetime. We choose for our guests accommodation in the best hotels and guesthouses, for dinners and supras we take you to the hosts, who serve the most delicious food and only natural wine, all open expeditions are run by the owners of our agency, so that everything is buttoned up during them.
- Mountain Freaks Mountain Travel & Adventure Agency is a professional mountain and travel agency, as well as an officially operating company registered in the Register of Entrepreneurs in Georgia under the number 441485028. We have all of the required permissions to run a company, coupled with certificates for mountain guiding. We also provide invoices and bills for all services, and we insure expedition members. **We strongly support the local community, develop local emergency services and train young guides. All our employees work legally and receive a very good salary for their work.**

- **Our guides are the best guides in country.** They are mainly enthusiasts who also spend their free time in the mountains. We have a multiple climbing champion among our team in Georgia, conquerors of Himalayan peaks, as well as winners of international competitions for the best guides and lifeguards. For years, we have been cooperating exclusively with a permanent group of guides whose reliability we are sure. They all have certificates of completion high-altitude courses, first aid, and also international training. They speak English and Russian, and some additionally in Polish, German or Spanish! Most of them are professionals lifeguards working in ski resorts in winter. They all understand that the most important thing is your safety during the expedition, but they also make sure that the trip with us is a full time positive energy and unforgettable impressions.



- By choosing our agency, you have our guarantee professionalism, experience and responsibility, and that we will organize everything at the highest level because we want the expedition with us it was a journey of a lifetime for you. We don't want you to just walk the route. We want you to feel the real atmosphere of a mountain trip and fall in love with Georgia. **You will not be customers, you will be our guests. Because we are at home in the Georgian mountains. This is where we live, this is where our guides come from, this is where our office is located.**
- We really love what we do, so from the moment you sign up on the list of participants of our expeditions, we will surround you with care and support. We will answer your questions, we will dispel doubts, we will advise you and we will motivate you. There are no stupid questions for us and we don't get nervous when we hear the same question again. We know that it will be the first such trip for you, so we share our experience with you and give you advice at every stage. **We treat each participant of our expeditions individually, we devote time and attention to each of them, everyone is important to us.**



# DATES

## OF OPEN GROUPS IN 2023:

24.07.2023-31.07.2023



If you are not satisfied with any of our open dates, remember that we also organize individual trips on dates selected by you, the offer of which can be found [HERE](#).



## ENROLLMENT, ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

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WHATSAPP: +995 593583596

E-MAIL: [INFO@MOUNTAINFREAKS.GE](mailto:INFO@MOUNTAINFREAKS.GE) • FACEBOOK: [MOUNTAIN FREAKS - MOUNTAIN TRAVEL & ADVENTURE AGENCY](https://www.facebook.com/mountainfreaks-georgia)