

TUSHETI – KHEVSURETI – KASBEGI HIKING TOUR

Omalo

Dartlo

Girevi

Kvakhidi

Ardoti

Shatili

Kistani

Gudani

Roshka

Juta

Stepantsminda

MAP OF GEORGIA



DAY 1

We will pick you up in Tbilisi and drive to Kvemo Alvani, one of the tush winter villages, through Gombori pass.

Gombori pass is 1620 meter.

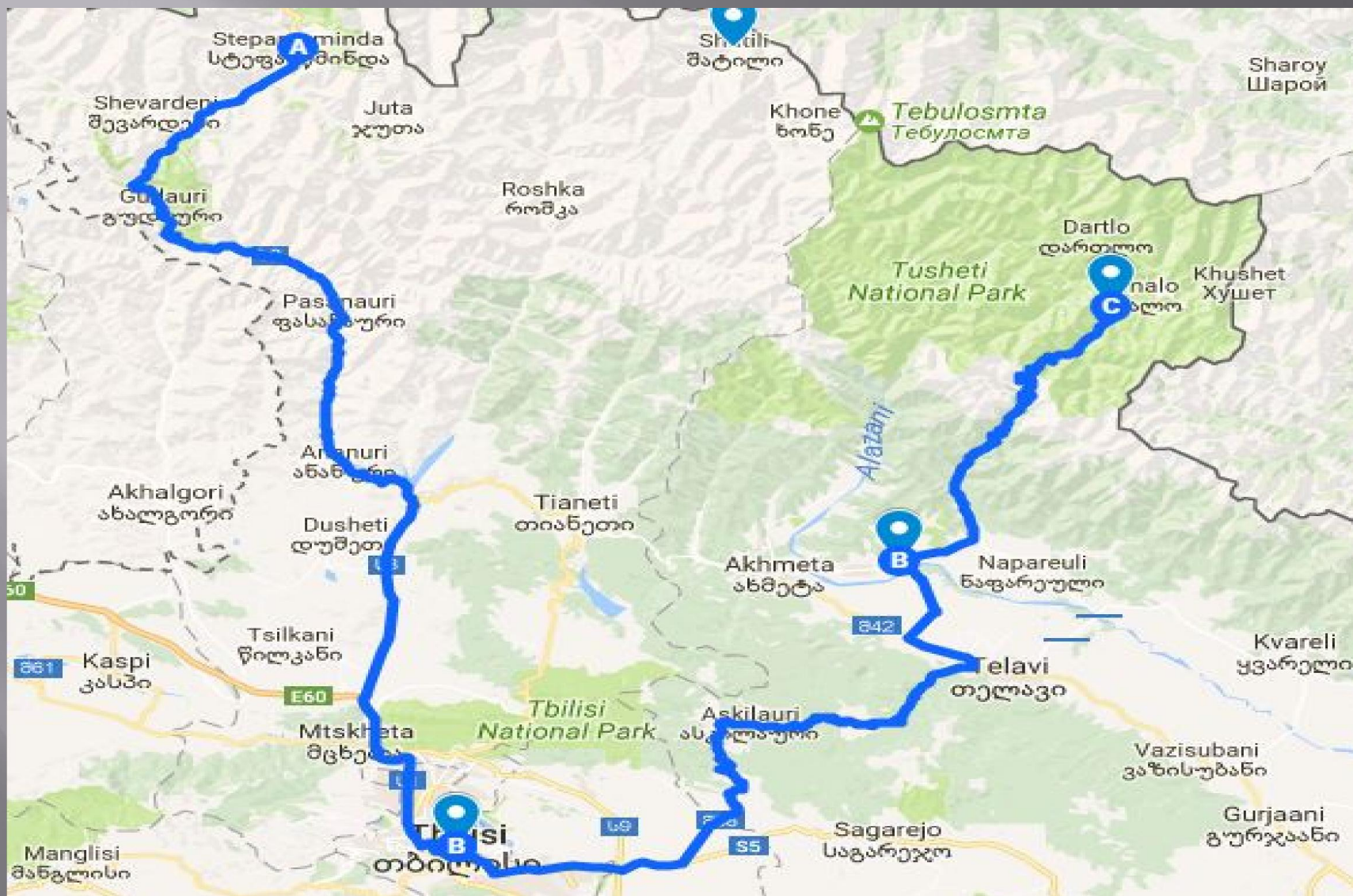
In Kvemo Alvani we will pick up the rest of the gear we will need for the hiking tour to Khevsureti. Small meal before we will be on our way to Omalo in Tusheti.

Off road through the Stori gorge, big forests, serpentines, waterfalls with stops for photos on the way. Abano pass is 2926 meter, its the highest drivable mountain pass in Caucasus.

The drive is from Tbilisi to Omalo about 6 hours. In Omalo, which is situated in a wide open valley, we will visit the fortress Keselo with its restaured towers.

Accomodation will be in guesthouse in Omalo, dinner there. Driving distance all together is 200 km, altitude is maximum 2100 meter.

BY CAR



HIDDEN ONE



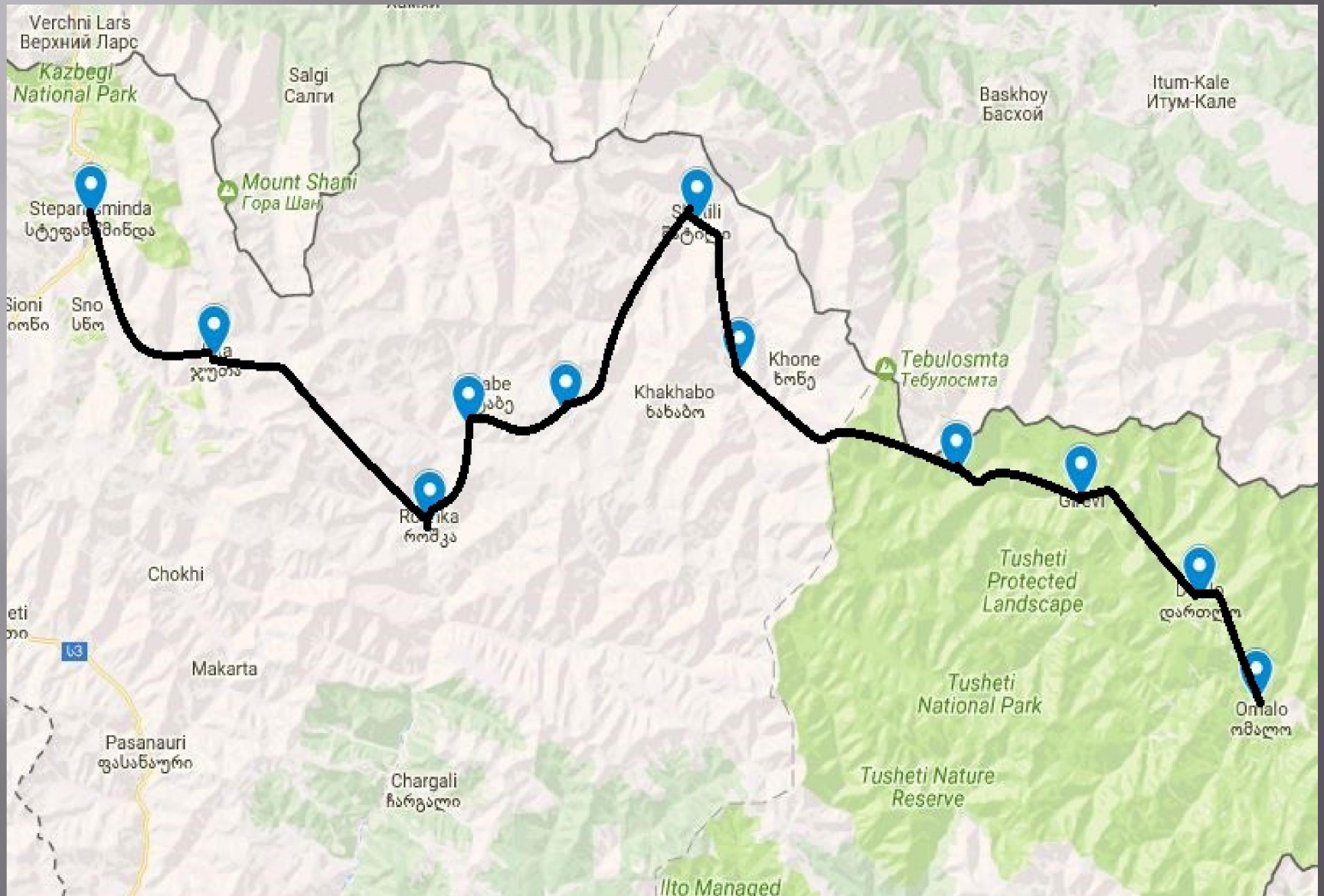


ABANOSTAVI

DAY 2

After breakfast we will load the luggage on packhorses and hike from Omalo to the most beautiful village in Tusheti - Dartlo, which is located in Pirikita valley. The distance is about 14 km, we will have lunch packets with us, and stop for lunch on the pass between Gometsari and Pirikita valley, which its meadows full of alpine flowers. Arriving in Dartlo after three to four hours, which is almost complete restaurated, we will settle in the guesthouse, and there is free time for you to go to the nearby villages Dano or Kvavlo. Dinner is in our guesthouse, altitude is nearly same like in Omalo.

HIKING ROUTE





FORTRESS KESELO

DAY 3

Like every day on that tour, we will load the horses and be one our way to the last village on the tushetian side, Girevi, where we need to register for continuing our way direction Khevsureti with the border police. We again will have some lunch pakets with us, though we can stop in a nice spot on our way. Accomodation is again in guesthouse though we have the most possible comfort for you before we have to camp. Dinner in guesthouse. Last chance for hot shower before reaching Shatili, our destination in Khevsureti, on the way only cold mountain rivers. Distance is about 13 km, estimated hiking time is around four hours, altitude again around 2060 meter.



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VILLAGE DARTLO

DAY 4

Because of that we registered already on the last evening with the border police, after breakfast and loading horses, we can direct start to our first campside spot in Kvakhidi gorge, before Atsunta pass. On the way we will pass the abandoned village Chontio, nearby you can always see some sheep farms and big flocks of sheep on their pastures. The altitude is going slowly up, we have to cross some mountain rivers. With the lunch packets we will take some rest around noon. To make it easier for the next day crossing the Atsunta pass into Khevsureti, we will not stop like most of the groups in the Kvakhidi campside, we will go further and camp between two small rivers. This will save us the next day around two to three hours hiking and a lot of kilometer, distance is about 20 km, the time we need to hike this day is about seven hours. First campside, and we will cook dinner. We will need help with it and setting up the tents. Campside is about in 2500 m altitude.

ON THE ROAD





VILLAGE PARSMA

DAY 5

Same tasks like every day we will early start, this is the only really difficult day, because now the altitude is really going up, Atsunta pass is 3431 meter, to go from our campside over the pass it will take us three to four hours minimum, because of the terrain. Hopefully there will be no clouds or wind, that we are able to see both sides of the area, the wide open valleys of Tusheti and and the much more steep Khevsureti. After resting on the pass we will start to go down on the khevsuretian side. Depending on your constitution we will go to the campside near the border patrol, above Khonichala and Ardoti, estimated hiking time is six hours, but if its possible it would be great if we go down to the village Ardoti, and camp there near the river, it will take us two hours more going down to reach Ardoti, hiking distance is 18 km from our last campside, but this place is much better than the one near the border police, where the grass is high, and its all the time very windy. The place near Ardoti, altitude is 1750 meter, is what I would recommend and it will save us the next day a lot of strength.



ATSUNTA PASS

DAY 6

If we start from Ardoti village, there will be no need to rush, after good breakfast we will continue direction Shatili, the very famous khevsuretian mountain fortress near the border to Chechnya. We will follow the Andaqi river, passing on our way the village Mutso with its fortress, which will be restaured soon. You can climb up to the fortress which will take up and down around 2 hours. From From Ardoti to Mutso its about 5 km, and from Mutso to Shatili 14 km, starting from Ardoti we will move on a road. Lunch break would be in Mutso, if you visit the fortress, or if you like we could stop after Mutso in the place of my friends, which are living all year round in this place. Continuing our way to Shatili, along the Andaqi river til Anatori, where it joins the Argun on its way into Chechnya and where the road and we turn left for a few more km.

As soon we are in Shatili, 1452 meter altitude, in our guesthouse, where you will find hot water, beer and other civilization treats which you maybe have missed the last days.

ON THE TOP OF WORLD



DAY 7

After breakfast we will be on our way to the pass around the higher Khevsureti, Datvisjvari, which we will not reach today, along the river Argun. The landscape is so different from Tusheti, the mountains are more rough and steep, not the wide open valleys you have experienced in Tusheti, the Khevsurs are more closed to themselves than the tush people.

We will camp near the village Kistani. Maybe you can visit some shepherds nearby, because we had no time before to do that. Near Kistani is one of the signal towers, which look exactly like in Chechnya and some in Tusheti, as far I know the only one in Khevsureti.

Altitude is 1970 meter above sea level.



MUTSO

ANATORI



DAY 8

We will cross the Datvisjvari pass with its 2674 meter into lower Khevsureti, and see far away on another ridge our destination for the next day, Roshka. We will stay in Gudani in guesthouse again.

Altitude is 1774 meter.

SHATILI



DAY 9

From Gudani we will go to Roshka village, near the Abudelaury lakes, where a lot of legends take place, which the locals will tell and I will translate them for you. Short info, the lakes are the place where Iakhsar killed a Devi, wild huge mountain creature, only to be found in Khevsureti and Pshavi.

For me its always fun to say my name, which is in georgian language the opposite meaning of the indian and indonesian meaning. And there havent been female devis running around. Accomodation in Roshka in a homestay.

Altitude is 2036 meter.



ON THE ROAD

DAY 10

On our way to the village Juta we will pass the Abudelaury lakes, I told you about, there are three of them, all have different colour.

Its a long day, but after arriving Juta, you will be proud that you did the tour, you will take many memories, impressions, photos back home with you.

Altitude is 2278 meter above sea level.



ROSHKA VILLAGE

DAY 11

We will hike to Stepantsminda near the border to Russia, in Stepantsminda we will drop off your luggage in our guesthouse and you can explore the town, which was birthplace of Alexander Kasbegi, one georgian writer. The rest of the evening will be free, dinner is in our guesthouse.



CHAUKHI MOUNTAIN

VILLAGE JUTA



DAY 12

For early riser there is the chance to see the sunrise above the Kasbek peak, from our guesthouse.

After breakfast you will go by car back to Tbilisi with a driver from Khevsureti, without me, because my partner and me need to go with the horses back to Tusheti.

This tour is not for unexperienced people, long one and only possible from mid of june til end of september

KASBEK PEAK



I hope you enjoyed reading the tour description, I tried long to find the perfect design, but please don't judge so hard on me, English is not my native language, friends helped me proofreading. Same goes for the design, I am not professional designer either, just did it in a way I thought I would enjoy to read.

I added mostly my own photos which are mostly unedited. Due to the fact I havent taken photos everywhere, I used photos of friends as well, not downloaded ones.