

THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF

GEORGIA

A PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR BY AYTEK CETIN



Discover Untamed Beauty...

JULY 2025



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PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Welcome to the Heart of Svaneti!

Since 2017, I have made countless journeys into Georgia's Caucasus Mountains, becoming intimately familiar with this breathtaking region. Georgia is a country where tradition blends with untouched nature, and Svaneti offers scenes that range from the mystical to the majestic.

On this tour, we'll journey through valleys adorned with wildflowers stretching towards the towering peaks of the Caucasus.

I'll guide you to unique, lesser-known locations-some rarely photographed, and even a hidden spot that no one has discovered. My goal is not only to lead you to stunning places but also to create an unforgettable experience that deepens your connection to this remarkable region!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Capture Majestic Peaks

Capture the majesty of Ushba's twin peaks and the stunning range of Tetnuldi-Gistola, followed by the range of Dzhangi Tau-Lakutsa-Shkhara- some of which rise above 5,000 meters, each offering a chance to photograph the grandeur of the Caucasus!

Lakes Beneath Mount Ushba

Discover the small lakes at the foot of Mount Ushba, offering unique views with the peaks of the Caucasus in the background. These serene waters create perfect opportunities for capturing tranquil reflections and majestic landscapes.

Shdugra Waterfall

Capture the lovely Shdugra Waterfall, located at the foot of the Ushba Glacier, with vibrant wildflowers in the foreground to create captivating compositions.

Personalized Photography Guidance

Enjoy hands-on guidance and one-on-one support when you need it while shooting in the field. I'll be by your side to help you fine-tune your techniques and compose shots that capture the essence of each location. Unlock your creative potential with expert guidance tailored to you.

Photo Editing Sessions

Join engaging photo editing sessions designed to inspire and enhance your work. I'll share my expertise to help you bring your vision to life, with tips and tricks.

Cuisine and Wine

After a day filled with exploration, unwind with the amazing flavors of Georgia. Savor the local cuisine and enjoy the warm hospitality, accompanied by some of the region's finest wines and beers!

I invite you to this region to capture every moment and make it timeless!

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DAY 1

On the first morning of our tour, we will meet at Tbilisi International Airport in Georgia's capital at 9:00 AM. From there, we'll embark on a 7.5-hour journey to Mestia, a charming town in the Svaneti region, where we'll capture unforgettable moments.

Upon arrival, we'll check into our hotel and quickly set out to our first location to witness the sunset. This easily accessible viewpoint, with no hiking required, offers inspiring views of multiple mountain ranges. This spot is very suitable for telephoto shots and also has perfect foreground flowers for compositions that we will use with wide-angle-zoom lenses!



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DAY 1



Mt. Bashiltau and its view in different weather conditions...



The Mt. Bashiltau and the Bashili Glacier appear behind the wildflowers...

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DAY 2

On the second day of our tour, we will capture the breathtaking Ushba Mountain in the Caucasus from a scenic valley at sunrise. After an hour's drive, we'll embark on a 1.5 km hike ascending 290 meters, taking approximately 50 minutes. This valley provides an ideal canvas for wide-angle and telephoto shots, as well as drone photography, beautifully showcasing the surrounding landscape. Be on the lookout for the enchanting white roses, 'Rosa Spinosissima,' amid various wildflowers.

As evening approaches, we'll head to a viewpoint where the Caucasus Mountains rise majestically to the east.

The V-shaped formations, harmonized with the river below, create a dramatic scene that invites creativity.

Here, we'll employ focus stacking techniques with lenses like 24 mm and 30 mm to craft stunning visuals.

This spot also offers excellent opportunities for telephoto and drone photography. We'll explore the area on a brief 5-10 minute walk, requiring minimal hiking. With a touch of luck, we may even encounter wild horses roaming freely, adding to the magic of this inspiring landscape!



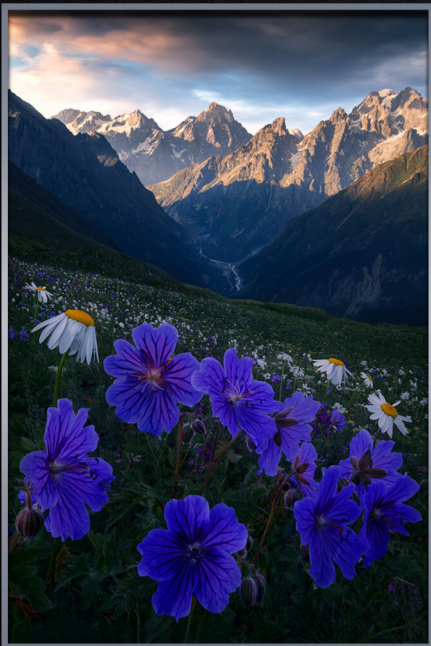
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DAY 2



Aerial and wide angle views from our area in the morning (first two images)...



Wildflowers blooming in the lakes region and wild horses in the same region...

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DAY 3

On the third day of our tour, we start early with a 45-minute drive to reach our sunrise location. After a brief 5-10-minute exploration walk, we'll be ready to capture the morning light with creative wide-angle compositions and drone photography with the beautiful mountain in the background.

In the evening, we return to the same area for a sunset session, where we'll embark on a 4.1 km hike that takes around 1.5 hours, ascending approximately 360 meters. This path leads us to the beautiful Shdugra Waterfall, nestled just below the Ushba Glacier.

Here, we'll capture the dramatic wide-angle shots of the waterfall with vibrant wildflowers in the foreground. With the help of a drone, we'll photograph the Ushba Glacier, the majestic western face of the mountain above the waterfall, and the striking Mazeri peak on the right.



Exquisite Stachys Macrantha flowers are in the foreground and the Shdugra waterfall is in the background...

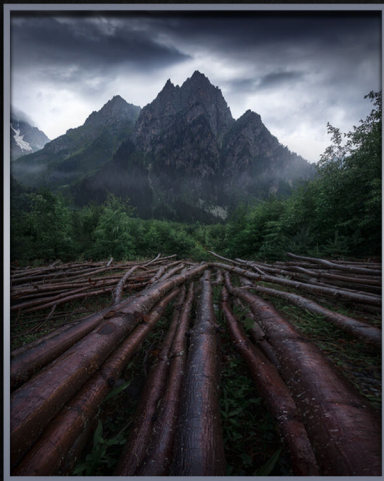
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DAY 3



An amazing view from the Ushba glacier...



Shdugra waterfall with wild flowers in the foreground...



A tree frame from the morning spot...



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DAY 4

On our fourth day, we'll head to a scenic viewpoint where we can enjoy short walks and capture stunning images without the need for hiking. From here, we'll have an ideal opportunity to photograph Mount Ushba from a new angle, along with the Tetnuld-Gistola peaks. If we're lucky, we may even spot the wild horses that roam this area!

Towards the end of the day, we'll visit a hidden spot for sunset photography. This special location, which requires no walking, offers a beautiful view of a high valley with a single peak illuminated within it. With special access permission, it's also a fantastic place for drone shots, allowing us to capture this moment from a unique perspective.



A sunset photo from the hidden valley...

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DAY 4



Majestic mountain views waiting for us!



A dreamy morning with wild horses and the Caucasian giants Tenuldi-Gistola in the background...

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DAY 5

On our fifth day, we will journey to the upper part of the lakes, where we once captured the sunset in the lower region. As the sun rises majestically behind the Caucasus Mountains, hopefully, we will witness breathtaking lightrays illuminating the lakes.

This vantage point offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains, creating countless framing opportunities. In this beautiful region, we might even encounter wild horses grazing peacefully!

Shortly after sunrise, we'll embark on a 20-30 minute walk to our drone take-off point, revealing the magnificent Ushba Mountain and its glacier. Although the path is a bit steep, the reward of the view will be truly worth the effort!

Towards the evening, after around 45-minute drive, we will come to an area where we will take sunset photos and capture Ushba Mountain from among many layers with a telephoto lens and drone!
We will enjoy the view in this area, which does not require hiking!



The sun is rising behind the majestic Caucasus Mountains in the Koruldi Lakes area...

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DAY 5



Impressive views of Ushba mountain and glacier from our drone spot!



Human elements are also very effective for scale images



A telephoto shot of the Tetnuldi-Katyn-Tau peaks



Beautiful wild horses roaming freely at sunrise...

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DAY 6

On the sixth morning of our trip, I will take you to a new valley where you can see more of the magnificent Caucasian giants!

After about an hour of driving, we will enjoy a leisurely one-hour walk to capture photos of the 5,000-meter peaks of the Caucasus. This walk will be easy, and we will ascend approximately 190 meters.

The valley is perfect for wide-angle shots and offers diverse flowers.

It's also an excellent spot for drone and telephoto photography!

In the evening, we will set out to catch the sunset. After a short drive, we will reach an area ideal for photography.

Here, I will guide you to two different viewpoints. These locations are effective for telephoto lenses, allowing us to get close-up shots of Mount Ushba, with the surrounding Caucasian mountains featured prominently in the frame.



The sun rising right next to the Caucasus Mountain Range illuminates the valley with magnificent beams of light...

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DAY 6



The aerial view of the Khaldechala Glacier allows you to take many wonderful shots (left), also a good example of wide-angle options (right).

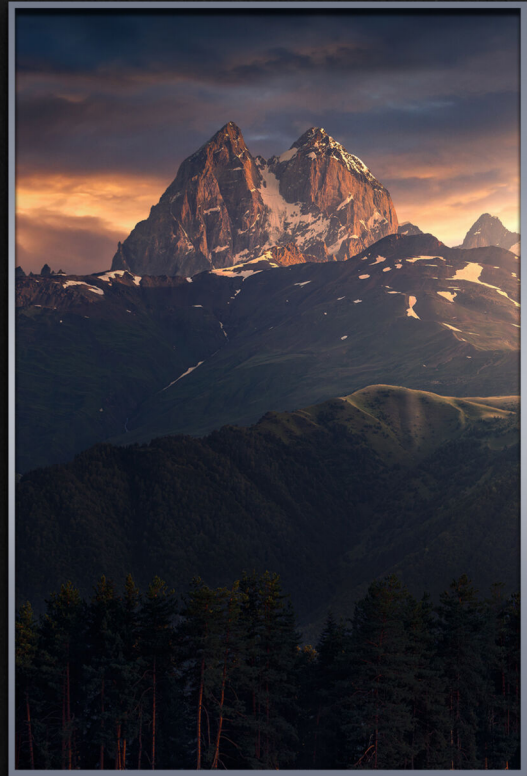


Dramatic morning conditions in the Caucasus Range Katyn-Tau (left) and Lakutsa (right)...

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DAY 6



Here are some beautiful tele-zoom shots from our shooting locations...



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DAY 7

On the last day of our tour, we'll have an early breakfast and set off promptly.
After an approximately 8-hour journey, we'll arrive at Tbilisi Airport,
wrapping up our trip with wonderful photos and cherished memories!



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Tour Price: € 4,250 (Twin Share)
Single Room Charge: + € 500
Deposit: € 1,500

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All in-tour transportation by 4x4 cars & fuel
 - Hotel accommodations
 - All meals are included (*Lunch and dinner are limited to € 25 per meal*)
 - Photo guide service by Aytek Cetin
 - Photo editing sessions during the trip
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NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Flights
 - Personal expenses
 - Travel insurance
 - Any extras not included in the list of inclusions
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Tour Guide



Aytek Cetin



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WHAT TO BRING?

CAMERA & ELECTRONICS

- Camera & chargers
- Ultra wide angle lens e.g ; 14-24, 16-35, 15-35 mm
- Mid-range zoom lens e.g ; 24-105, 24-70mm
- Telezoom lens e.g ; 70-200, 70-300, 100-400mm
- Extra batteries (*If you are using Sony, I recommend you a 3rd one*)
- Tripod
- Polarizer filter, nd filter (*if you like to shoot long exposures*)
- Drone & extra batteries and chargers (*I recommend bringing at least 3 batteries*)
- Memory Cards
- Head torch

CLOTHING

- Breathable t-shirts
- Waterproof jacket + a warm jacket
- Fleece mid layer
- Waterproof shoes (*I definitely recommend bringing another pair of shoes, goretex would be better*)
- Outdoor pants (*we will need waterproof pants for some locations*)
- Gaiters
- Hat
- Waterproof cover for camera bag
- Sun protection cream 50 spf
- Sunglasses
- Mosquito / insect repellent lotion or spray (*you can buy it from Mestia*)



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FAQ

- **What is the altitude of the place we'll be staying at?**

During our photography tour, we will be staying in the village of Mestia, which is at an altitude of 1,500 meters.

- **How high will we go? What is the highest point we'll reach?**

The highest point we'll reach will be approximately 2,700 meters, and we'll access this area by vehicle. However, I also plan to take you to a fantastic viewpoint. If we can continue by vehicle, we'll reach an altitude of 3,148 meters.

- **What will the weather and temperature be like?**

Since it's summer, I expect sunny and partly cloudy conditions. Some days may have passing rain showers. Based on my experience, temperatures can vary between 20°C and 8°C.

- **Is Georgia safe?**

I can confidently say yes. Both the capital, Tbilisi, and the Mestia region we'll be visiting are very accustomed to visitors from all around the world. Additionally, a large portion of the local population speaks English.

- **Will we be staying in the same place throughout the photography tour?**

Yes, we'll be based in Mestia for the entire tour. This allows us easy access to various shooting locations at different distances, making it more convenient and practical than relocating to new accommodations.

- **What kind of hotel will we be staying in? Is breakfast included?**

We'll be staying in a clean and well-maintained hotel, and breakfast will be included.

DISCLAIMER

- Weather is an uncontrollable factor, and in Svaneti, it can range from days of rain to clear, cloudless sunshine, or anything in between. We will embrace the conditions as they present themselves during the workshop. However, we have carefully selected a period that not only typically offers a blend of clouds, rain, and sun but also showcases the flowers in full bloom. With this timing, we remain optimistic about favorable conditions for capturing the beauty of the region on this tour.
- Depending on changing weather conditions, we may adjust the schedule by moving the planned photography locations to different days.

