

GUDAURI/ KAZBEGI LANDSCAPE EXCURSION **TOUR # 8**

Destination:

PASANAURI

It is a small town in Georgia, situated in the Dusheti district, Mtskheta-Mtianeti region.

Pasanauri lies about 90 kilometres (56 mi) north of the nation's capital of Tbilisi and on the Georgian Military Road, Pasanauri is flanked by the Aragvi River,^[9] and surrounded by the Caucasus Mountains. Average winter temperature is 0 degrees Celsius, but often falls below 10 degrees Celsius. Due to its picturesque location and the proximity to nearby historical sites as well as for its mineral water, hiking routes, handcrafted items and food

Destination:

JINVALI DAM

The Zhinvali Dam is a hydroelectric dam on the Aragvi River in the Caucasus Mountains in Zhinvali, Georgia. The building of the hydroelectric dam formed the Zhinvali Reservoir. The dam has been built in 1986

Destination:

ANANURI FORTRESS COMPLEX

It's a fortress with a pair of churches and an 11th century defensive tower inside. The fortress complex is located on the shores of the Zhinvali Reservoir, which, by the way, is quite remarkable in its turquoise waters. The Fortress used to be the seat of the eristavis (dukes) of Aragvi. These dukes belonged to an influential feudal dynasty that ruled the territory since the 13th century until it was overthrown by a competitor.



Destination:

ARAGVI RIVER

The Aragvi is in Georgia on the southern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains. The river is 112 kilometres (70 mi) long, and its basin covers an area of 2,724 square kilometres. The other name for this is the fastest flowing river in Georgia



Destination:

GUDAURI

It's a ski resort located on the south-facing plateau of The Greater Caucasus Mountain Range in Georgia. The resort is situated in the Stepantsminda District, along the Georgian Military Highway near the Jvari Pass, at an elevation of 2,200 meters (7,200 ft.) above sea level with skiable area enjoying maximum exposure to the sun. Gudauri lies 120 km (75 mi) to the north of the capital Tbilisi



Destination:

RUSSIAN-GEORGIAN FRIENDSHIP MONUMENT

The Russia–Georgia Friendship Monument or Treaty of Georgievsk Monument is a monument built in 1983 to celebrate the bicentennial of the Treaty of Georgievsk and the ongoing friendship between Soviet Georgia and Soviet Russia. Located on the Georgian Military Highway between the ski resort town of Gudauri and the Jvari pass, the monument is a large round stone and concrete structure overlooking the Devil's Valley in the Caucasus mountains. Inside the monument is a large tile mural that spans the whole circumference of the structure and depicts scenes of Georgian and Russian history



Destination:

KAZBEGI

Kazbegi district lies in the Caucasus mountains north of Tbilisi, beneath the famous Mount Kazbek. Due to its combination of easy accessibility and natural beauty, it is the most visited mountain area in Georgia.

The center of the region is Stepantsminda village, still known under its other name Kazbegi. Both these names refer to the famous characters from the past. Saint Stepan was a Georgian monk who resided here and built a hermitage in a cave high above the village (Stepantsminda = Stepan's shrine). The other was local warlord Gabriel Chopikashvili, son of Kazi-Beg. After the region was annexed by Russia in the late 18th century, the local people revolted, but he decided to side with the Russians and helped to crush the uprising. As a reward, he got a position in the Russian army. He also adopted a surname Kazbegi and since those times, the village under his rule was often referred to as Kazbegi as well. It was officially renamed to Kazbegi in 1925 and got its older name Stepantsminda only in 2006.



Destination:

GERGETI CHURCH

Gergeti Trinity CHURCH is a popular name for Holy Trinity Church near the village of Gergeti in Georgia. It was built in the 14th century, and is the only cross-cupola church in Khevi province. The separate belltower dates from the same period as the church itself. Its isolated location on top of a steep mountain surrounded by the vastness of nature has made it a symbol for Georgia. The 18th century Georgian author Vakhushti Batonishvili wrote that in times of danger, precious relics from Mtskheta, including Saint Nino's Cross were brought here for safekeeping.

