

WestSide: Miketi peak (2950m)

This is the print out you can use in case you have sufficient experience. With these instructions, a map and local advice on the conditions you should be able to find your way and enjoy the tour.

Character

This is one of the most beautiful tours we did so far in the South Caucasus. Leading past the house of a family that is the only one in the entire village to stay throughout the winter, in deep snow, and later through ruins at the top of a ridge. It gives you a great variety of impressions and leads you away from everything. You walk along a ridge, at the bottom of a valley and at the end you are on wide white slopes.

Difference in altitude: Aprox. 1200 m
Aproximate time for ascent: 4,5 h

Starting point

Coming from Tbilisi head almost all the way to Gudauri. Once the serpentines start climbing up just before Gudauri stop at the first 180° turn. Here is the best point to start. In late spring you might even be able to continue down the track with you car, towards the bottom of the valley.

Ascent to the Mingeti peak (2900 m)



From the first serpentine follow the track going down to the valley. Continue until you see an old village on the other side of the valley; one family stays there in the winter.

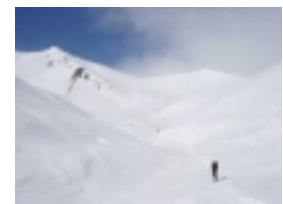


Cross the river via the two small bridges and head to the houses. Pass the village and start climbing up via the small path at the end of the houses. Continue the path until you reach a flatter part and the path leads into a forest.

Cross through the forest for a couple of hundred meters and at the end climb up a steep part to the top of the ridge.



Follow the ridge, pass the ruins and continue on the ridge going a bit up and down. Once you reach a small saddle in the ridge the best way is to go down in the valley (if conditions allow) and continue in the bottom of the valley until you reach the cirque.



On the left side of the cirque (aprox. North/ East) there is a big and wide slope. The slope is quite well structured because of several small rivers flowing down it. Aproximately in the middle there is a not-so-steep part that gives you a good possibility to hike up. The hike up to the saddle is aprox. 400 meter altitude. Once you are up there you can choose to continue to the peak on your left following the ridge or the peak on the right. If you choose to continue to the right it gets quite steep at the end just before the top.

Descent

On your way down, follow the way you took up. If conditions allow stay in the valley until you reach the ruins and then go up to the ridge and follow the rest of the ascent for skiing down.