



Georgia

# WALKING TRACKS IN ATENI VALLEY



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Ateni valley has a significant potential for development of green economy in Georgia with focus on ecotourism. The objective of this assignment is to analyse the suitability of Ateni Valley as a walking and trekking destination for nature loving and activity seeking tourists.

The specific task of this guidebook is, beside

provision of a general description of Ateni Valley as a trekking and hiking destination, to suggest best walking trails for various degrees of difficulties and lengths. The most interesting treks were GPS-marked (find an attached map) described and pictures were taken of the crucial point of the walks. These descriptions of walks are provided below.







Ateni valley has with 600 m to 2200 m a significant altitudinal variation. This results in a significant diversity of ecosystems along the less than 50 km of the valley. One can encounter various ecosystems from arid and semi-arid ecosystems in the lower part of the valley up to sub-alpine ecosystems on higher elevations.

As a consequence of the diversity of ecosystems the valley has a wide range of flora and fauna, including a variety of endemic species. It is reported that about 20 mammals, 5 amphibians, 15 reptile and almost 100 bird species can be found in the valley. Additionally, a large variety of butterflies and dragonflies can be observed. Similarly, the flora of the valley is incredibly divers, considering the small size of the valley.

Beside the rich diversity, Ateni valley has a variety of endangered and red-listed plants and animals, as well as endemic varieties for Georgia and Greater Caucasus. Climatic and landscape diversity, with the outstanding variety of animals and plants makes Ateni valley a prime destination for ecotourists.

Geographically, Ateni valley is not only easily accessible but is also located in proximity of Tbilisi and along the major tourism route leading to Uplistsikhe. Thus, it provides attractions for ecotourists which are easily accessible and close to Tbilisi.

As an ecotourism destination Ateni valley is a good destination for a variety of ecotourism activities. In this guidebook the focus is on trekking and walking routes, but several other





activities also have a significant potential, which are worth to be exploited in future. These activities are:

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### **Picnicking**

The proximity of the valley to urban centres makes it a well known picnic destination. In warm summer days Ateni valley is a nice hideout from heat on lower Elevations, which is close and easily accessible from Gori and Tbilisi. On any summer day the valley is filled with groups (mainly Georgians) who spend a day barbequing and picnicking near the Tana River.

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### **Rock climbing**

Ateni valley has several rocks which can be utilized for climbing. Velebi (20 m) and Karibche (20 m) walls are easily accessible by road and are already utilized by climbers.

There is a large variety of other walls in the valley which can be opened to rock climbers.

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### **Ice climbing**

"Yinuli" (Ice) waterfall in the Tkhilnara gorge close to Biisi is a well known destination for ice climbers. In summer the waterfall is hardly recognizable, in winter it turns into a 60 m high ice wall. This wall is utilized by ice climbers annually for an all-Georgia ice climbing competition.

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### **Bird watching**

Ateni valley is a very promising destination for bird watchers. Caucasus region is home to several endemic birds. Caucasian black grouse is the most famous species, and one of the species which is highly attractive to bird watchers. Caucasian black grouse is also found in Ateni valley. Other places where this bird can be encountered in Caucasus can only be reached by taking up an adventurous and long journey, not having any guarantee of seeing the bird. At present, Ateni valley seems to provide a relatively high probability of meeting some of the endemic birds, such as Caucasian black grouse, along the normal trekking or walking routes, without taking up a burdensome journey.

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### **Botanical Tours**

Similarly to birds, there are various endemic plants which can be found in Ateni Valley.

Ateni valley is home of about 27 Georgian endemic plant species and about 76 Caucasus endemic plants. This certainly has a potential for botanical tours, a product which is becoming increasingly popular among ecotourists.

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### **Mountain biking**

While marking the routes for walking and trekking, suitability of these treks for mountain bikers was briefly assessed. The



recommendations provided further below in this report are based on a visual examination.

In general, one can say that most trekking routes are for the major part also accessible for bikers, there are already many existent paths available and where paths are not going through forests, meadows and plain areas provide good terrain for bikers. Impassable forest patches in most cases can also be bypassed one can easily see a way around the forest patches. If one takes up the challenge to carry the bike for a short distances, where the roads are impassable, the whole valley provides an excellent terrain for mountain biking.

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### **Horseback riding**

For horseback riding the situation is similar as

for mountain bikers, only that on a horseback even larger areas are accessible than on a bike. As compared to walking, riding is certainly easier, at least for experienced riders, thus providing a much more relaxed nature experience option. Ateni valley is an outstanding area for day trips on horses;

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### **Walking / Trekking**

Description of the routes for walking and trekking is the main purpose of this report. Below several routes of different duration and level of difficulty are briefly described. A detailed description for each trek can be found in the Annex.



### 3.1 Cross-over Routes

The cross-over routes of several days' duration to e. g. Kaspi, Bakuriani or other destinations were not considered here for description. Such routes are highly unsuitable to be carried out without professional guides. For safety reasons of tourists as well as for protection of the natural habitats of the animals in those areas, tourism in such pristine areas should only be done in a controlled manner. Ateni valley has a healthy population of dangerous animals, such as e.g. brown bears which requires guided tours only in order to ensure safety of visitors.

### 3.2 Short Walks

Several short walks are presented as possible options to spend few hours in the nature. All of them are very easy not longer than 2 hours of slow walk and they are either through

a picturesque point of nature or towards a cultural highlight of the valley.

#### **Vere fortress – Cultural walk**

Vere fortress is just about 2.5 km from Chechelantubani. The fortress is on a ridge, which makes the walk to a round trip; one can approach the fortress from one valley and return from the other. The landscapes of the two side valleys are very different, one has a more arid type of nature of short or no vegetation on bare rocks, whereas on the other side one has to walk through thick forest.

Considering the climb of 230 m casual walkers will need to have an extended rest on top; which can be done either in the lower Danachvisi church, which is close to the fortress or in the fortress itself.

#### **Ice climbing at Yinulis waterfall - Nature walk in winter**

The Yinuli (Ice) waterfall is a well known destination in winter. The small waterfall freezes in winter into a magnificent ice wall. This ice wall of about 60 m height is regularly utilized for ice climbing competitions.

The walk to the Yinuli waterfall is very simple, and with 1.4 km in one direction very short. Snow covered nature of the Tapakandra canyon is a superb experience.

#### **Biisi Waterfall – Nature walk in summer**

In summer Yinulis waterfall is hardly recognizable, but just an hour of further walking in the same canyon will lead to the Biisi waterfall. In hot summer days one will have to share the magnificent view and the experience of “showering” under the 15 m high waterfall with many other visitors. Although the waterfall is the final destination for most visitors, the walk through the canyon is equally exiting. The rock formations, wild flowers, birds, wonderful butterflies surround the scenic river bed.





### **3.3 Walking and Trekking Routes**

#### **Danachvisi**

Danachvisi is a well known pilgrim's destination. There is a St George Church on top of the mountain, every Georgian orthodox Christian dream about going there at least once. Danachvisi was one of the key peaks, which was used in the past for communicating with smoke signs once intruders were spotted.

Besides the historic or religious importance, Danachvisi is simply a magnificent view point. On a clear day one can see as far as Tbilisi and the panoramic view of Caucasian mountains is breath taking. The trekking route is manageable in one day, although it is a challenging climb. It is easier to split it into two days of about 4-5 hours walk daily and camping on one of the higher Elevation meadows.





### **Vere monastery**

Vere monastery is considered holy by most Georgians. The ruins of the monastery were excavated in recent past; over centuries they were covered by mud from neighbouring mountains. There is a passable road bypassing Vere fortress and leading through a thick forest to the monastery.

### **Razmiti**

Razmiti route is the longest route (24.3 km) with the highest Elevation difference (1,100m). The route is very versatile, leading through various types of forests, meadows, visiting ruins in remote places, and staying overnight or for a short break in abandoned villages. On higher Elevations the 360° view is unforgettable.

The total route is suitable for a two days trek, even for experienced walkers. However, one can return after climbing the mountain Tsitelkhati, thus having a one day trek.

### **Satskhenisi**

The trek is relatively long, with 20 km on higher elevation; additionally the Elevation difference of 850 m is also not for beginners. The walking paths are not really challenging as most of them are on roads or through open spaces.

The route leads to two offering places, which have a considerable religious importance for Georgian tourists. In case overnight stays are planned these places should be considered, as they provide basic facilities, such as e.g. drinking water.

The trek can be split into a two day, thus it would be appropriate even for less experienced walkers.



### **Gvirginia**

The suggested route leads in the beginning through alpine forests, very soon coming to an elevation with close to no vegetation. The open space leaves certain flexibility towards





which route to choose, as long as the visible peaks are approached. The view from higher Elevations is incredible in all directions; especially the view into Ateni valley from its source is unforgettable.

The trek is more for experienced walkers as the Elevation difference is close to 1000 m, and the pure walk- ing time is more than 8 hours in higher Elevations.

### **Akhaldjvari**

Akhaldjvari valley is suggested further above as a destination for recreation seeking tourists. Akhaldjvari is translated as “new cross”; it refers to a small church on top of the Akhaldjvari peak. The trekking route is a round trip starting in the wide-open Akhaldjvari valley leading through beautiful forests to the top of the mountain, from where one can have a 360° view. The decline is again through forests and high Elevation meadows, constantly providing “sights for sore eyes”. For not very experienced walkers this route

is excellent; it takes less than 5 hours for the 7.5 km of length through forests and meadows with wonderful views.

### **Ten Essentials For Hiking**

1. Map and Compass/GPS
2. Appropriate Footwear
3. Water
4. Extra Food
5. Extra clothing, Rain Gear
6. Safety items: fire, flashlight, whistle
7. First-aid kit
8. Pocket Knife or multi-purpose tool
9. Sun screen and sun glasses
10. Daypack/Backpack and trash bag





# HIKING ROUTES

# Trail No1

## Vere Fortress – Cultural Walk

### SHORT WALKS

**Starting point:** 6.8 km from Gori, in Chechelantubani

**Total length:** 5 km, about 2 hours of walking

**Elevation difference:** 230 m (700 m- 930m) from start to the highest point

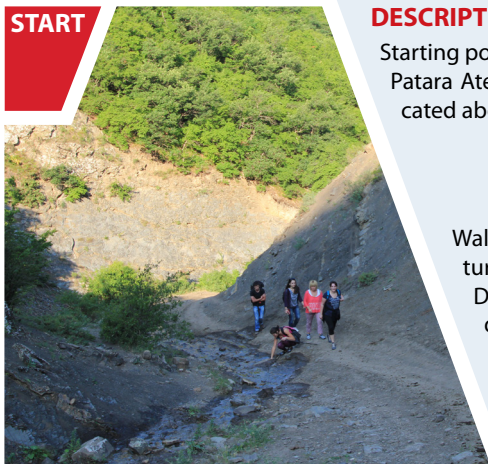
**Rating:** Easy

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Easy

**Mountain bikers:** not suitable

**Horseback riders:** not suitable

#### START



#### DESCRIPTION

Starting point of the hike: Bridge over Tana River between Patara Ateni and Didi Ateni, the bridge to the left is located about 20 meters after the Ateni wine factory.

Walk along the road heading towards hills, the road turns into river bed and separates from it again. Dependent on the season and the time of the day the first 30 to 40 minutes of the walk is in the shade. After about 30-35 Minutes the Vere Fortress can be seen on the left side of the road.

#### TIME

¾ -1h ▶



▶ After ¾ to 1 hour one reaches a pilgrim's place, of the lower Danachvisi Church. Beside the small church there is a hut with simple seating arrangement for about 50 people and separate kitchen or an offering place. There is also a spring with drinking water.

The decline from the resting place should be done on the other side of the Vere fortress, heading towards the Vere valley.

There is not much to see within the ruins of the fortress, but the enormous outer walls will certainly inspire your fantasy. It is an excellent 360° view point.





**TIME**

1h ▶



▶ On the decline towards Cheche- lantubani the path leads through a thick forest, repeatedly having a great view into the valley and towards the fortress.

From Vere fortress through the Vere valley to Chechelantubani.





## Trail No2

### Ice Climbing at Yinulis - Nature Walk in Winter

#### SHORT WALKS

**Starting point:** 24 km from Gori, between Biisi and Boshuri

**Total length:** 2.8 km, 2 hours of walk for the round trip

**Elevation difference:** 67 m difference from start to the highest point (1050- 1117 m)

**Rating:** Easy

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Easy

**Mountain bikers:** not suitable in winter

**Horseback riders:** excellent path for horseback tours

#### START



#### DESCRIPTION

The starting point of the walk is 24 km from Gori centre, between Biisi and Boshuri, on the left side of the road. The car can pass only the first 500 m, 4-wheel cars can pass the river but the road finishes soon. It is better to leave the car before crossing the river and continue on foot into the Tapakandra canyon.

The walk follows a path which is always along the river. The canyon has breath-taking nature.

#### TIME 1h ▶



▶ Yinulis Waterfall is easy to be over- seen in summer, as it looks more like a wet wall than a waterfall. In Winter it makes a magnificent frozen water- fall, which is utilized for the annual all-Georgia ice climbing competitions.

#### TIME 1h ▶



▶ Return to the Ateni valley road.

**Starting point:** 24 km from Gori, between Biisi and Boshuri

**Total length:** 4.2 km, 3 ½ to 4 hours of walk, 1 hour of rest at the waterfall

**Elevation difference:** 270 m difference from start to the highest point (1050- 1320 m)

**Rating:** Easy

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Easy, one has to cross the river many times

**Mountain bikers:** river crossings are not possible on the bike, but can be easily done on foot. The remaining road is very suitable for mountain bikes, if one does not mind continuous river crossings Horseback riders: Excellent path for horseback tours.

#### START



#### DESCRIPTION

The starting point of the walk is 24 km from Gori centre, between Biisi and Boshuri, on the left side of the road. The car can pass only the first 500 m, one has to continue on foot into the Tapakandra canyon, crossing the bridge which can be seen from the road.



The walk follows a path which is always along the river. Before reaching the waterfall one has to cross the river at least 20 times. Larger stones are sometimes helpful, but mostly one will have to through the water.

The canyon has breath-taking nature. Enjoy the wonderful stone formations, trees, flowers, butterflies hearing the river, it is certainly an experience. Although, the trek does not provide a walking challenge at all.



**TIME**

1h ▶

**DESCRIPTION**

- ▶ Yinulis Waterfall is easy to be over- seen in summer, as it looks more like a wet wall than a waterfall. In Winter it makes a magnificent frozen water- fall, which is utilized for the annual all-Georgia ice climbing competitions.

The canyon is getting narrower and higher between the two waterfalls, providing exciting nature experience.

**TIME**

1h ▶



- ▶ Biisi waterfall can be reached after about two hours of easy walk. Refreshing under the waterfall should not be missed.

**TIME**

1½h ▶



- ▶ Return to the Gori road.





# TREKKING ROUTES

# Trail No 4

**Danakhvisi Trail, St  
George Church**

**WALKING AND  
TREKKING ROUTES**

**Starting point:** 6.8 km from Gori, in Chechelantubani

**(1-2 days)**

**Total length:** 11.7 km, 8 hours of walking, 2-3 hours of resting

**Elevation difference:** 913 m - from start of the trek to the highest point

**Rating:** moderate to difficult

**Hiker/Trekkers:** excellent, but a demanding walking trail

**Mountain bikers:** the first kilometre is through a difficult terrain (river bed and conic road), the last 400 metres cannot be taken on a bike. Between the lower pilgrimage point and the last view point before the climb to the church the area is good for mountain biking.

**Horseback riders:** only the last steep climb is unsuitable for horseback riding. The path is through thick forest and is too steep, the horse can be led to the top or it can remain at the last view point.

## START



## DESCRIPTION

Starting point of the hike: Bridge over Tana River between Patara: Ateni and Didi Ateni, the bridge to the left is located about 20 meters after the Ateni wine factory.

Up to 2 cars can be parked straight after the bridge on the left side.



Walk along the road heading towards hills, the road turns into river bed and separates from it again. Dependent on the season and the time of the day the first 30 to 40 minutes of the walk is in the shade. After about 30-35 Minutes the Vere Fortress can be seen on the left side of the road.

## TIME

¾-1h ▶



- ▶ After 45 minutes one reaches a pilgrim's place, of the lower Danakhvisi Church. Beside the small church there is a hut with a separate kitchen or an offering place. The hut has simple seating arrangement for about 50 people.





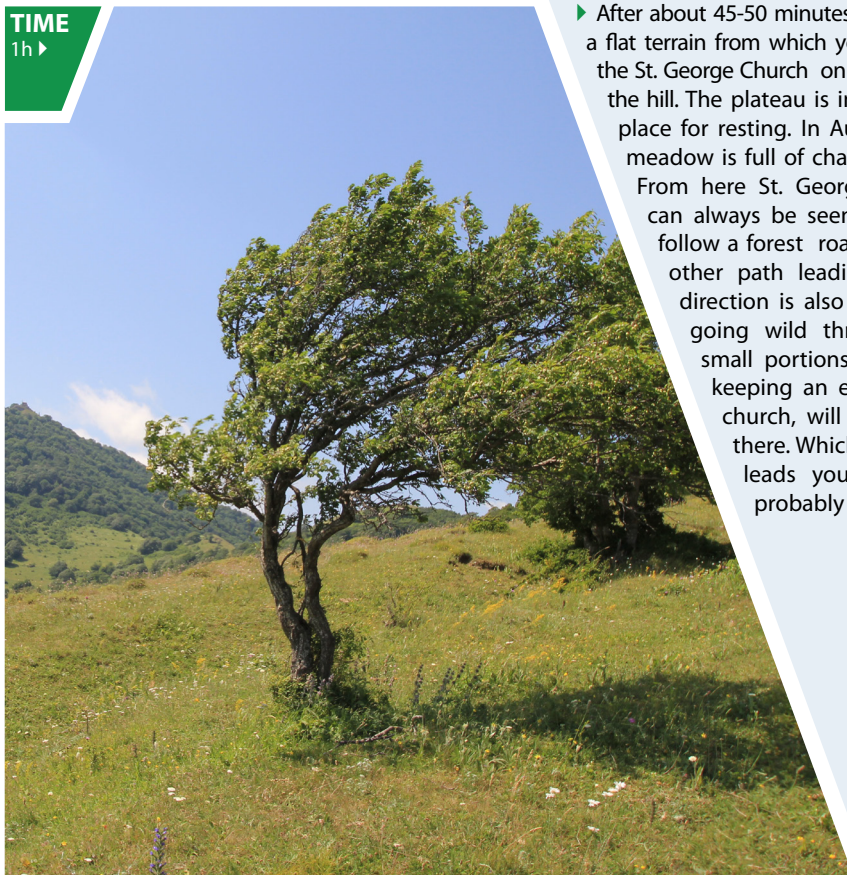
The hut is visited by pilgrims once a week, the day of the week varies over the years, it depends on the day of the week on which St George Celebration of 06.05 falls in that year. It is commemorated every week at the same day of the week; animal offerings are carried out on this day.

It is an excellent spot for the first rest before the climb starts. From here the Vere castle is easily approachable. A path also leads to the Vere Monastery and to the St. George church on the peak. Excellent location for making a break.



Follow the road tracks after the pilgrim's place on the right side, the road leads uphill. There are various tracks, but they all lead to the same destination, it does not matter which track you choose.

**TIME**  
1h ▶



► After about 45-50 minutes you reach a flat terrain from which you can see the St. George Church on the top of the hill. The plateau is in excellent place for resting. In Autumn the meadow is full of champignons. From here St. George Church can always be seen, one can follow a forest road, but any other path leading in the direction is also fine. Even going wild through the small portions of forest, keeping an eye on the church, will bring you there. Whichever path leads you uphill is probably right.



## TIME

1h ▶



## DESCRIPTION

▶ After about three hours of walk you a wonderful view point, Ateni Valley, Gori, Vere Gorge, etc can be seen from here.

## TIME

1h ▶  
break



▶ After the steep climb a longer break will be required, but the magnificent view will make the time pass quickly.

## TIME

1h ▶



▶ After about 2,5 hours of a down hill walk the pilgrim's place will be reached

## TIME

2½h ▶



▶ Break of half an hour at lower pilgrim's place. Back to the starting point.

## Trail No 5 Vere Monastery

## WALKING AND TREKKING ROUTES

**Starting point:** 6.8 km from Gori, in Chechelantubani

(1 day)

**Total length:** 11 km (a 4 hour walk, 2 hours rest recommended)

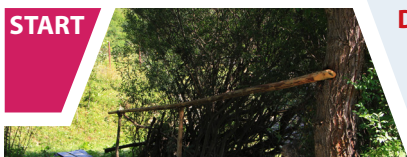
**Elevation difference:** 335 m (700 m- 1035m) from start to the highest point

**Rating:** Easy

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Suitable, one part is through a non-marked forest

**Mountain bikers:** A major part of the trek is through forest, therefore the trek is not suitable for mountain bikers, as the paths are in bad condition and not always clear. Alternative option exists. There is a road leading from Chechelantubani to Velebi, where the monastery is situated. The starting point of the trip is in the beginning of Chechelantubani, leading to Vere Valley on the left side of Verestsikhe, the described trek is on the right side of the fortress. Mountain bikers can use this road both ways, going and coming from the monastery. In a separate trip Verestsikhe (Vere fortress) can be reached, using the right valley to reach the fortress.

### START



### TIME

¾ -1h ▶



### DESCRIPTION

Starting point of the hike: Bridge over Tana River between Patara: Ateni and Didi Ateni, the bridge to the left is located about 20 meters after the Ateni wine factory.

- ▶ After ¾ to 1 hour one reaches a pilgrim's place, of the lower Danachvisi Church. Beside the small church there is a hut with simple seating arrangement for about 50 people and separate kitchen or an offering place. There is also a spring with drinking water.

It is an excellent spot for resting. From here the Vere fortress is easily approachable.



Coming from the direction of Verestsikhe, the pilgrim's place is on the right side, continuing the way over the meadow, away from the fortress, there is a path on the left side of the pasture leading down into the forest. If the entry point is not found, any entry will do, as the path anyway does not lead very far. One has to walk down into the Vere valley (left of the pasture) in the direction away from the fortress. Several GPS points are indicated, but following the terrain and common sense will also bring you to there.

**TIME**

1h ▶

**DESCRIPTION**

- ▶ Enjoy the walk through the wild, with occasionally appearing and disappearing trails.



If you follow the GPS points you will eventually come to a forest road which will lead you downhill to the Chechelantubani - Velebi road, where you have to turn right in the direction of Velebi. The walk through the forest might also lead you directly to the valley road, before reaching the forest road.



Shortly before reaching Velebi on the left side, close to the road, there is a St. Georg's worship point. There is a table and benches close to the river, a perfect place for a rest.

**TIME**

¼h ▶



- ▶ From the picnic place one needs to go shortly back along the road to Chechelantubani and turn left after just about 50 m towards monastery.

**TIME**

1-1½h ▶



- ▶ From Vere monastery one can follow the valley road to Chechelantubani.



# Trail No 6

Razmiti – 1 day trek

## WALKING AND TREKKING ROUTES

**Starting point:** 26 km from Gori

**Total length:** 20.9 km, about 12 hours of walk, plus 2 hours of rest

**Elevation difference:** 1,100 m from start to highest point (822 m – 1920 m)

**Rating:** Difficult

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Long walk with high Elevation difference, but the path is almost entirely along the road

Mountain bikers Suitable for mountain bikers

**Horseback riders:** Excellent road for horseback riders

(1 day)

### START

¾h ▶

½h ▶



### DESCRIPTION

▶ Turn from village Dre, the path leads to the right bank of river Tana, in pine forest, where one has to cross a wooden bridge.

▶ At the crossroad, we turn to the right.

### TIME

1½h ▶



▶ Village Ikvnevi, several abandoned houses. It is a good resting place as there is a spring in the canyon, on the left side from the road. From here the roads leads to the left (left turn). In summer one can find in the abandoned gardens lots of fruits, such as plums, briars and others.

### TIME

½h ▶



▶ Village Qandisi, also an abandoned village. Now it is used by shepherds in summer. One can have a good break here or even stay overnight.

### TIME

¼h ▶



▶ From Qandisi the way leads to the south, reaching a small hidden church in the forest, which is still used as a worshiping place. The road leads down.

**TIME**

½h ▶

½h ▶

**DESCRIPTION**

- ▶ Reaching a small field, one has to turn to the right. Straight one can see the "village Dre and the mountain Tsitelkhati.

From here the path leads down to the right, towards the canyon, and continues along the old road.

**TIME**

½h ▶



- ▶ A cemetery and the church of village Dre, which are located on the hill, are reached. Several shepherds with their sheep can be found here in summer. From here the road turns to the right and goes towards the mountain Tsitelkhati.

**TIME**

1½h ▶



- ▶ Going along the Razmiti range one can have beautiful 360° views of Ateni and Tedzami valleys, Arjevani, Jamjama, Satskhenisi, Akhaldjvari, Danakhvisi, and Kibura. From here one can have a full impression of whole Ateni Valley and its surroundings.

**TIME**

1½h ▶



- ▶ Decline towards the village Dre. Reaching Dre turn right and after 500 m on the left side follow the Dre canyon.

**TIME**

1¾h ▶



- ▶ The canyon finally reaches the Ateni valley road in the village of Bobnevi.



# Trail No 7

Razmiti – 2-day trek

## WALKING AND TREKKING ROUTES

**Starting point:** 26 km from Gori

**Total length:** 24.3 km, 14 hours of walk, two days, plus 2 hours rest each day

**Elevation difference:** 1,100 m from start to highest point (822 m – 1920 m)

**Rating:** Moderate

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Suitable

**Mountain bikers:** Suitable

**Horseback riders:** Suitable

(2 days)

### START

¾h ▶

½h ▶



### DESCRIPTION

▶ Turn from village Dre, the path leads to the right bank of river Tana, in pine forest, where one has to cross a wooden bridge.

▶ At the crossroad, we turn to the right.

### TIME

1½h ▶



▶ Village Ikvnevi, several abandoned houses. It is a good resting place as there is a spring in the canyon, on the left side from the road. From here the road leads to the left (left turn). In summer one can find in the abandoned gardens lots of fruits, such as plums, briars and others.

### TIME

½h ▶



▶ Village Qandisi, also an abandoned village. Now it is used by shepherds in summer. One can have a good break here or even stay overnight.

### TIME

¼h ▶



▶ From Qandisi the way leads to the south, reaching a small hidden church in the forest, which is still used as a worshiping place. The road leads down.

## TIME

½h ▶

½h ▶



## DESCRIPTION

▶ Reaching a small field, one has to turn to the right. Straight one can see the village Dre and the mountain Tselikhati.

▶ From here the path leads down to the right, towards the canyon, and continues along the old road.

## TIME

½h ▶



▶ A cemetery and the church of village Dre, which are located on the hill, are reached. Several shepherds with their sheep can be found here in summer. From here the road turns to the right and goes towards the mountain Tselikhati.

## TIME

½h ▶



▶ Going around the mountain Tselikhati from the right side one reaches a small valley. There is a big wooden cross on the top of the mountain. In the valley one camp overnight. There is a small spring in Geliskhevi, on the south of the Razmiti range, from here one can reach Geliskhevi in the southwest direction.

## TIME

½h ▶



▶ Going along the Razmiti range one can have beautiful 360° views of Ateni and Tedzami valleys, Arjevani, Jamjama, Satskhenisi, Akhaldjvari, Danakhvisi, and Kibura. From here one can have a full impression of whole Ateni Valley and its surroundings.



**TIME**

1½h ▶

**DESCRIPTION**

▶ Mountain Sabugro is the highest point of Rizmiti range, from where one has an excellent view of Tkinala, Gaitsaantwkali, Tana and Tedzami gorges, Jamjama, Arjevani, Klikijvari, Jemugi and Akhaldjvari ranges. From here the path leads to the North-East, towards Jemugi range. There is shepherd's house on the left side and Qandisi range on the right side, which needs to be followed.

**TIME**

1½h ▶

¼h ▶



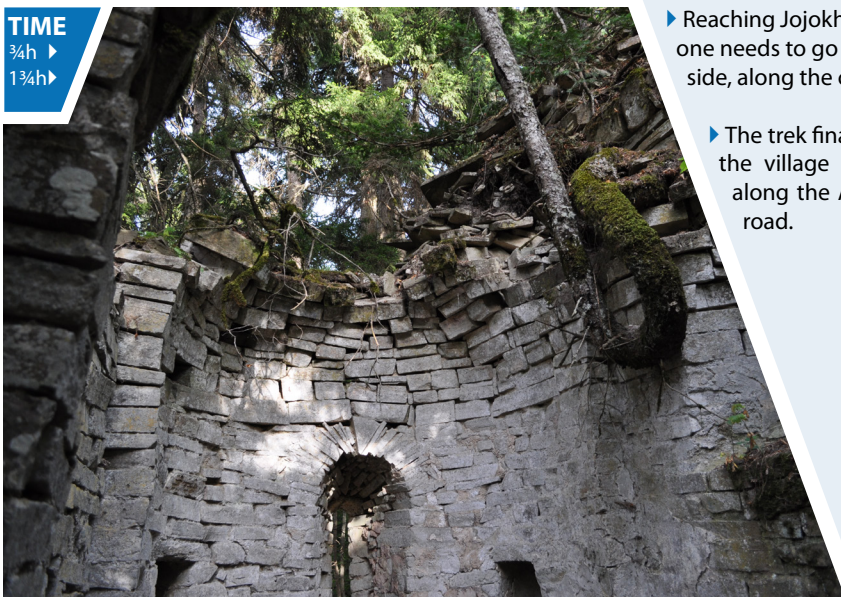
▶ After 1.5 hours one reaches Jemughi's St. George offering place.

▶ One needs to turn to the right and go down to the forest, along an old sledge road.

**TIME**

¾h ▶

1¾h ▶



▶ Reaching Jojokheta church, one needs to go to the right side, along the car road.

▶ The trek finally leads to the village of Bobnevi along the Ateni valley road.

## Trail No 8 *Satskhenisi*

## WALKING AND TREKKING ROUTES

**Starting point:** 20 km from Gori

**(1-2 days)**

**Total length:** 20 km, 9 ½ hours of walking, 2 hours rest

**Elevation difference:** 850 m from start to the high-est point (1180m- 2030m)

**Rating:** Difficult

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Suitable for trekking, although elevation and the length of the trek are challeng- ing. Splitting into a two-day trek should be considered.

**Mountain bikers:** Fully accessible path for mountain bikers

**Horseback riders:** Fully accessible path for horseback riders

### START

1½h ▶



### DESCRIPTION

▶ In Zemo Boshuri (Balaantubani), 20 km from Gori centre, there is a road to the right side to the Mariami canyon. At the end of the village, on the left side there are ruins of a church.

### TIME

¾h ▶

½h ▶



▶ On the left side of the road one can see the entry of an operational monastery. The road goes to the right into the canyon.

▶ The path leads to St. Mariam wor- ship place. There is a table with benches and a spring with drinking water. The road goes along the widely open valley, in 200 m there is a bent to Petvi canyon. The trek continues along the central path to the left.

### TIME

¾h ▶

½h ▶



▶ The road turns to the right.

▶ The road leads to the newly reno- vated St. George's wor- shipping place.



**TIME**

1½h ▶



- ▶ Reaching the top of the mountain Satskhenisi, gives a great panoramic view. From here one can see Danakhvisi, Razmitl, Arjevani, Jamjama, and Gvirgvina. On the top of the hill an iron geodesic tripod is placed.

**TIME**

½h ▶

¾h ▶

2h ▶



- ▶ From Satskhenisi mountain, the road goes to the south declining into the canyon. There is a trail and a spring in about 100 m.

- ▶ Small hill, from where road leads to the left and goes to Mariami canyon.

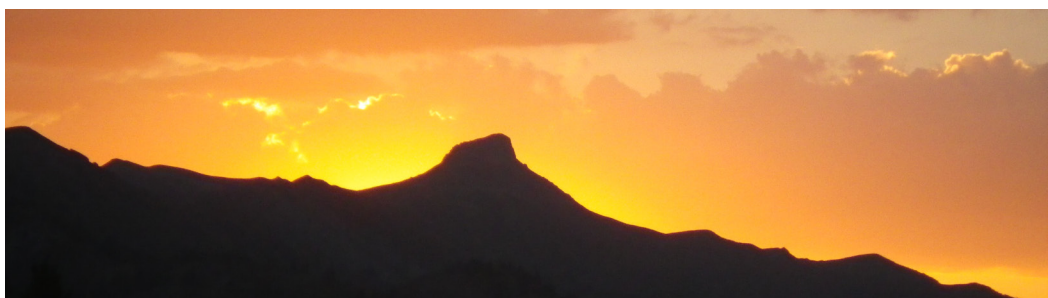
- ▶ Return to the starting point in Balaantubani.

**TIME**

½h ▶



- ▶ The path leads to the top of the hill, where major area is occupied with meadows for hay collection. The trail continues to the right, towards the mountain of Satskhenisi, on the left side the mountain Gvirgvina can be seen.



## Trail No 9 *Gvirgvina*

### WALKING AND TREKKING ROUTES

**Starting point:** at the end of the Ateni valley road, about 40 km from Gori

**(1 day)**

**Total length:** 11.4 km, 8 ½ hours walk, 2 hours rest

**Elevation difference:** 940 m from start to the highest point, 1,440m – 2,380m

**Degree:** Moderate, high elevation difference

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Very suitable, although not an easy trek

**Mountain bikers:** Not suitable

**Horseback riders:** Very suitable

#### TIME

2h ▶

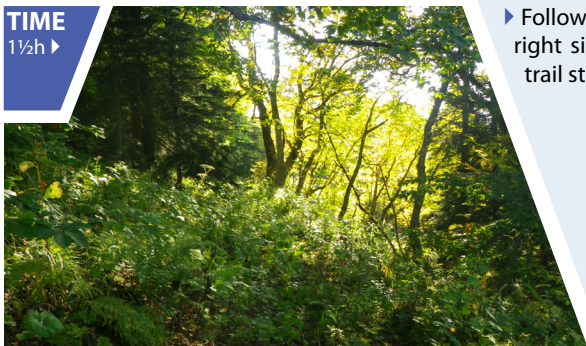


#### DESCRIPTION

- ▶ In the village Levitana, the last point which can be reached with normal vehicles, at the last junction the road goes to the right side to the mountain of Gvirgvina. To the left side the road leads to Jamjama mountain. The road to Gvirgvina is along the river, after 2 km there is a sharp bent to the right into the forest.

#### TIME

1½h ▶



- ▶ Following the forest road, keeping to the right side, the canyon is reached from where trail starts till the hill range is reached.

#### TIME

½h ▶

¾h ▶



- ▶ Follow the trail along the range.
- ▶ A clearly recognizable trail turns to the right, which goes to Dekiani.



**TIME**

½h ▶

1h ▶



▶ The trail leads to the central range and continues to the right.

▶ On top of the mountain Gvirgvina one has a 360° panoramic view, in clear weather giving a magnificent views in all directions.

**TIME**

½h ▶

1¾h ▶



▶ From the top of the mountain the decline is again along the range to Dekiani.

▶ Finally returning back to the start- ing point of the village Levitana.



## Trail No 10 Akhaldjvari

### WALKING AND TREKKING ROUTES

**Starting point:** About 20 km from Gori, Chiragi Valley

**Total length:** 7.5 km, 4 ½ hours, 1 hour rest

**Elevation difference:** 480 m, from start to peak (1050 – 1529)

**Rating:** Moderate

**Hiker/Trekkers:** Suitable

**Mountain bikers:** Not suitable

(1 days)

#### START

½h ▶



#### DESCRIPTION

- ▶ On Ateni valley road, shortly before reaching Bobnevi, one should turn into Chiragis valley.

There are various summer cottages located in sub-valley; even a operational sanatorium can be found. The beginning of the gorge is populated by plum trees, briar and barberry bushes.

#### TIME

½h ▶



- ▶ Worship place of Akhaldjvari is easily recognizable in the wide open valley. It looks like a picnic place, which can be utilized for picnic, beside worship-ing. There is a longer table with benches and a water source. The gorge continues to the left side.

#### TIME

¼h ▶

1h ▶



- ▶ Following the gorge to the left, a trail uphill on the left side.

- ▶ Shortly before reaching the top of the hill there is an open space where one can rest having a good view of Danakhvisi on the east side.



**TIME**

½h ▶



- ▶ Reaching wider open spaces on the top of the Akhaldjvari range one can have a rest observing hay stands and meadows, with magnificent view of the hills. Akhaldjvari hill is seen from here (see picture)

**TIME**

½h ▶



- ▶ The view point at the church of Akhaldjvari provides a beautiful panoramic view of the entire Ateni valley. Kachkachi Kalo, Danakhvisi, Razmiti and Satskhenisi ridge, etc can be seen from here.

From Akhaldjvari church one has to return the same path from where the climb started and turn left into the forest on the south side.

**TIME**

¾h ▶

½h ▶

½h ▶



- ▶ After the final decline one has to follow the path along the riverbe.
- ▶ The walk along the river bed leads to several beautiful small waterfalls.
- ▶ The path finally leads back to the Ateni valley road.



**Georgia**

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