

Digora Tsey Mt.Kazbek, 5033m. Trek & climb 15days in Digora and Karmadon valleys

Program: 2013



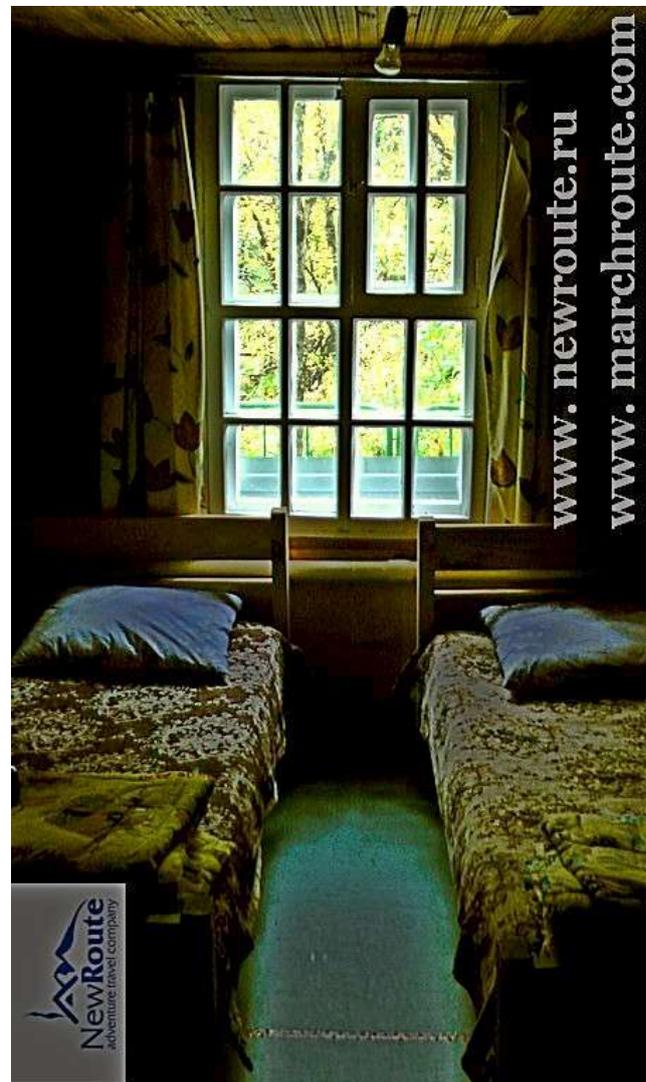
Panoramic view of the Taimazi massif and Laboda peak, 4310m

Day 1: Arrival to Vladikavkaz (optionally hotel Vladikavkaz). Transfer to our first mountain region of the Caucasus - "Digoriya" (125km, 4 hours) in the west of S.Ossetia. Accommodation in the Taganrog State University mountain camp Taymazi (1900m.). The camp, surrounded by a picturesque forest, is located between two mountain ranges (Sugansky and Main Caucasian chain). The two-storey hotel has double rooms with shared toilet, shower and rest-room. Meals are served in the spacious dining room. In the evening we have a short tour of the area and discuss plans for the next day.

Auto: 125km, 4 hours.



Hostel in Taimazi mountain camp



Inside view, double rooms



Laboda peak, 4310m and Panoramny peak, 3200m, view from the ridge.

Day 2: Trekking in the direction of Panorama peak, offering the magnificent view of the surrounding mountain ranges. The first part of our trip goes through a picturesque maple forest. If the weather allows, at a height of 2200m we will be rewarded with a fantastic view of Sugansky Range ("Suganskie Alps"), and mt.Sugan-tau peak (4486m.) on one side and equally impressive view of the Taimazi massif and Laboda peak (4310m.) on the other side. Those who will still have energy and will, can climb the Panoramny peak, (3200m). The upper part of the ascent has a rocky structure and can cause some difficulty for inexperienced climbers. Descent to the Taimazi camp goes through the picturesque Tanadon valley.

Distance 6.5 km; Elevation 850m.

Day 3: After breakfast, we leave the camp in a four wheels drive UAZ and move from Taimazi valley's to Karaugom valley – the largest zone of glaciation in the Caucasus (20km.). After the Dzinaga village (1500m), the road gets rougher but it's not a problem for our UAZ! The road ends at the altitude of about 2000m and we start our trek through the Gular pass (2950m) to the Skatikom valley. The trail runs along the right side of the gorge, and offers amazing views of mt.Sanguti-hoch (4450m) and mt.Uilpata(4647m). In the Skatikom valley we will find a comfortable camp and a hot dinner waiting for us.

Auto 20km; Distance 10km; Elevation 1200m.



Karaugom valley



View to the Gular pass, 2950m



Towers of Dunta village

Day 4: An easy hike to the Songuti valley. At first part of trail a small ascent (altitude difference 250m) to the Skatikom pass (2350m), and after descend to the ancient Dunta village (1750m). Where we visit the house of a hospitable Ossetian family, drink some cups of tea and recognize many interesting things about local population life . After lunch, we will walk to nearest Komunta village. Komunta is almost deserted village. Currently there are only three families live here. Here we also may visit the home of local teacher - Ms.Buruhan. She knows lot of interest information about history of the area. As well she makes a great home-made cheese. Local hospitality with which we will encounter again and again is legendary literally. After short walking by good trail we come to the "city-fortress" - Galiat (40min. by foot). Galiat city have completely stone architecture. The ancient city is surrounded by steep walls of Rocky Mountains on one side and snow capped peaks of the Main chain by other side. It's really impressive view of harmony of old family towers with surrounding landscape. Overnight in the tent camp near the picturesque shore of mountains river. *Distance 7.4km; Elevation 500m.*



Old door



Local Ossetian man



Traditional Ossetian tombstone



Komunta village, 2000m, view from Saraftsag pass



View from Saraftsag pass, 2500m, by left hand



View from Saraftsag pass, 2500m, by right hand

Day 5: The landscape is changing all the time. During the Saraftsag pass (2500m) ascent we will see splendid view of rocky walls of the Barzond array (Rocky ridge). From the pass top - great panorama of whole Sadon river valley and the old mine town Verhniy Zgid. The bus will waiting for us in the village. Along the way we visit one of the many abandoned towns of the valley – Sadon town . This towns were abandoned and looted after “Perestroika time” (end of 80th). Along the Zgid River we descend to the Alagir valley, and move to Tsey mountain camp (about 20 km, 45 min). The camp was founded in Soviet times, but comfortable rooms with hot shower and a toilet inside would be pleasant! At dinner time we discussing about next day plans.

Auto 30k; Distance 12.2 km; Elevation 1142/-934m.



In the Verhniy Zgid town



Abandoned Sadon town



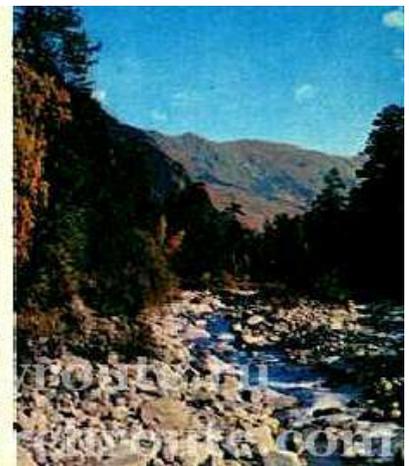
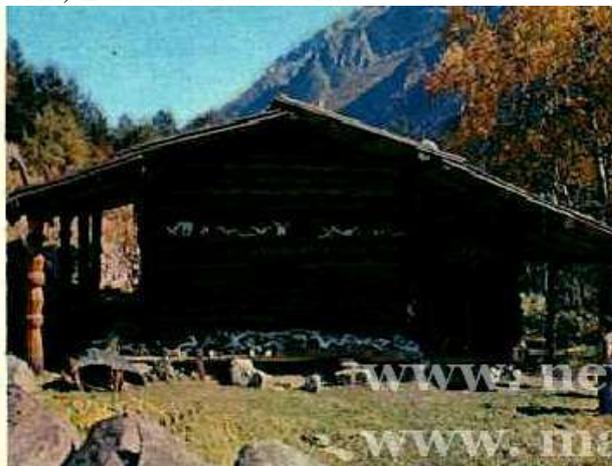
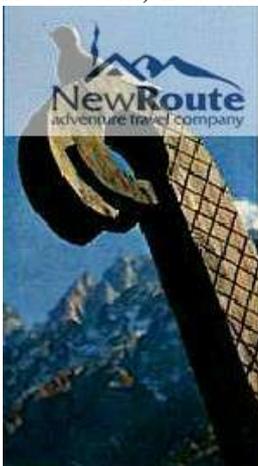
Mt. Uilpata, 4649m



Rocky mountains near the camp

Day 7: After breakfast, we have hiking to the Tseyski gorge (3-4km). The trail goes through the picturesque forest along the glacial river. By left side we may see huge rock walls of the mt. Monk. The highest point of the area is mt. Uilpata (4649m). On the back way we visit the ancient Ossetian sanctuary "Recom". The trail goes through pine forest by the narrow and meandering path. In forest meadow we will see the big wooden house surrounded by many places with tables and fire-places. To build the house used a special technique without a single nail. Until now, local people spend their holidays here, the special feast with sacrifice, according to ancient pagan traditions. Recom arranged holiday on the day of the Holy Trinity in June and lasted for a week - from Saturday to Saturday. Since the Recom is sanctuary for men, women and children could not participate in the celebration. But in a little farther in the woods is a small copy of the men log (near 2 m in height) - Women's Recom. All along the trail we can see breathtaking views of the Skazsky glacier and mt. Aday-hoch (4404m). Leaving the Tseyskiy gorge we drive to the tent camp located near the Zitsar village (1500m).

Auto 37km; Distance 7km; Elevation 287/-371m.



Ossetian sanctuary "Recom"

Day 8: Today we climb to the Arhonsky pass (2400 m) by scenic trails, which lie in close proximity to the Rocky Mountains ridge.



Rocky Mountains ridge by one side and snow peaks by other, view from Arhonsky pass, 2400 m

Mountain walls and jagged peaks of the array Mt.Kariv-hoch (3423), so reminiscent of the Italian Dolomites, can not fail to impress. In good weather, from the saddle we may see our future goal - mt.Kazbek (5033m) and others highest peaks of the region. After a short descent from the pass (2100m), we get into a car and go to the Tmenikau village (40 km). On the way we visit the Fiagdon town (there are many surviving ancient family towers) and "City of the Dead" (big necropolis complex of 99 family tombs in the form with stone vaults). The Tmenikau village (1750 m) is ultimate goal of the trekking part and the beginning climbing part of our trip. After camp installing we will have the informative discussion about culture and local Ossetian traditions with friendly owners of local house. Delicious national Ossetian pies are the best way for recondition after long way.

Auto 37 k; Distance 7 km, Elevation 1000/-420m.



Necropolis of Dargavs city

Day 9: Three hours of trekking to Base Camp 2300m. Main equipments carry up by mules and we can still travel with light luggage. Close from the Base Camp there are 2 natural hot mineral water springs with bathes. Tent Camp.

Distance 8km, 3h.



Maily glacier from Karmadon valley



View from Base Camp 2300m

Day 10. Acclimatization ascension to the 3500m point by Mt.Geodezist slope, 4100m. There is a greatest view to crevasses of Maily glacier and all circuses of mountains with highest point Kazbek (5033m) from Mt.Geodezist. Descent to the Base Camp, 2300m. In evening time we may see lights of Tmenikau village and Vladikavkaz city. Rest and hot springs bathes.

Elevation: 1200m, 6h



View of Maily glacier and North face Mt.Kazbek

Day 11: After three hours of descent to Tmenikau village through the Karmadon valley. Main equipments carry by mules as always. Farewell with hospitable locals. Around afternoon arriving to our hotel in Vladikavkaz city.

Auto 70km, 3h; Distance 8km, 3h.



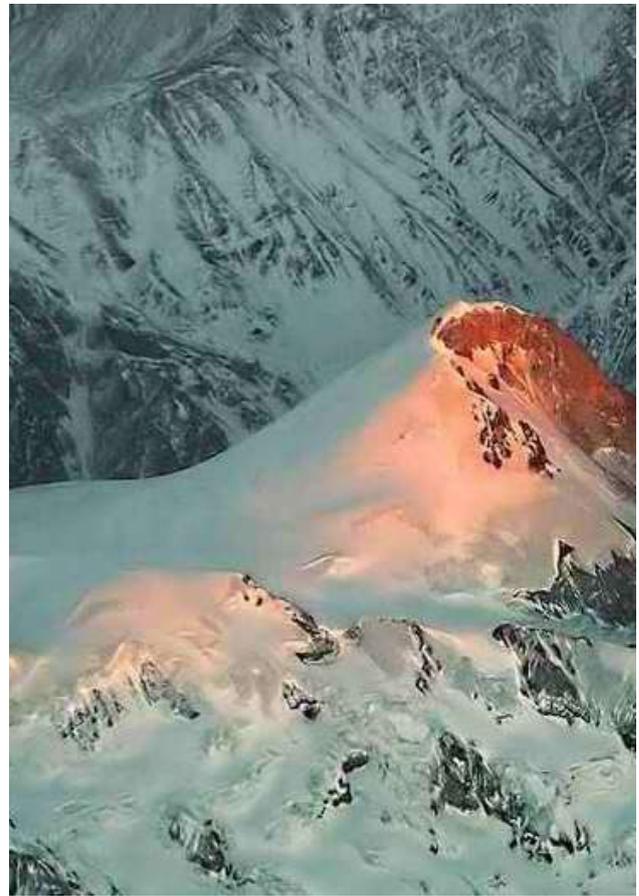
Maily glacier, view from Tmenikau village

Day 12. Transfer to Vladikavkaz airport, flight via Moscow city.

Auto: 26km, 15h.



Hot spring in Base Camp



Mt. Kazbek view from avia



Price is 1195 € per person for the trip

Single room supplement: Vladikavkaz hotel 25€

The price includes:

- All necessary transfer required for carrying out the trip.
- Accommodation according to the program.
- Full board throughout the trip, excluding citys BB.
- NewRoute mountain guide.

Necessary formality (visa support, passport registration, border permit).

National Park fee

Not included:

Flights to / from Vladikavkaz airport

Unexpected preliminary evacuation cost

Insurance

Personal expenses, alcohol

Visa costs

For visiting Russia you have to get the Russian visa. No visa can be obtained in an airport by arrival to Russia.

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