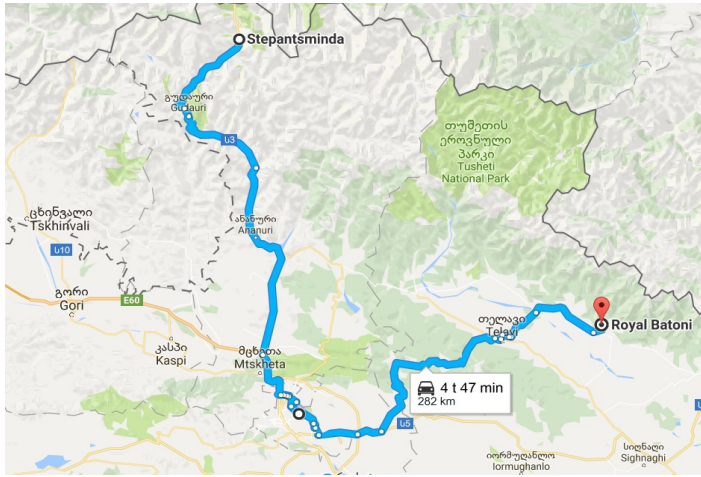


# GEORGIA 1. SEPTEMBER – 8. SEPTEMBER 2016



The 4th day, Sunday, October the 4<sup>th</sup>, we should up in the Caucasus mountains to Stepansminda. The fastest way was to go back via Tbilisi.



Before we left, I took a picture of the hotel.



Then a picture from a distance.



Here we also see the artificial lake, [Ilias lake](#).



We made a short stop at the [Gremi church](#).



We also see a guard tower in the background.



In the valley there are many cows and sheep. There were shepherds with all the herds.



Fastest way back to Tbilisi went over a low mountain range.



It is common with large bales of hay in this area.



Even a lookout tower, as there are many in Georgia.



Large apartment buildings on the outskirts of Tbilisi.



A horse statue.



This is a kind of Georgia's Stonehenge.



It is called [The History of Georgia](#).



Here we come to an artificial lake, the [Zhinvali-reservoir](#). To achieve this, they had to let an entire village go under water.



The lake.



We made a stop at [Ananuri Hotel & Restaurant](#).



We were eating lunch here.



It was not made ready for us, so we had to wait a bit.



Here we are seated.



We bought Georgian wine to the food.



Further along the road we drive past Ananuri Fort.



The road we are driving on is called [The Military Highway](#). It's the only way over to Russia in this area. Trucks must have an appointment to cross the border, so they are queued and waiting to make sure that they come at the right time.



The river that flows in the valley is called [Aragvi](#).



Some pictures through bus windows.





There is much sandstone in the area, and we saw many landslide areas up along the valley.



We stopped at a viewing platform that we see here.



Good overview of some of the valley.



I on the platform.



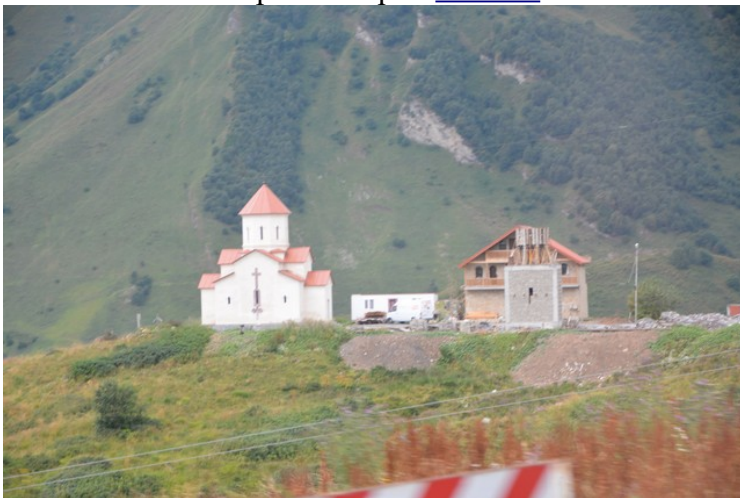
Here we see the way where we had run up.



We made a stop at a shop in [Gudauri](#). A church.



Resort hotels used during the ski season.



One more church.



Advertising poster outside the shop.



On the way to the pass, we drive past [Russia Georgia Friendship Monument](#), which was erected in 1983.



The bus did not stop, so we did not look into it.



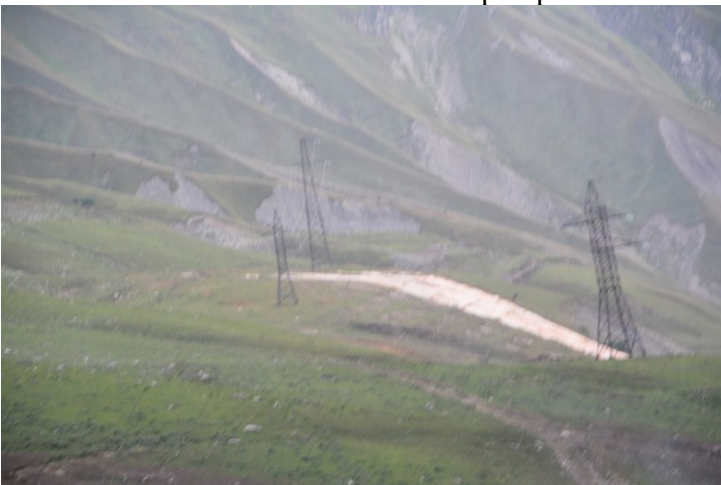
Here we look back at the monument.



This cross stands in a cemetery for German prisoners of war who worked on the road in the passport in 1950.



Sheep grazing. The shepherd is watching.



This is the Jvari Pass. It is 2379m above sea level.



On the other side we arrive at [mineral waters](#).



The minerals in the water is deposited on the slope.





The water flows further here.



This is a concrete tunnel made along the way, so that it will be possible to drive when snowdrifts are still lying here.



Many tourists who stop here, and there are many who see the opportunity to sell goods to those who stops.



Then we drive on. This river is called [Terek](#).



The village on the other side of the valley is called Kanobi.



These are the mountains around [Stepantsminda](#).



We stayed at [Rooms Hotel](#) in Stepandsminda or Katzbegi as that place was called before. Two nights here.



Here we have a beer on the hotel terrace.



Some of the views from the terrace.





From the terrace we could see up to [Gergeti Trinity Church](#) situated on a hilltop. We got glimpse of [Mount Kazbek](#) in the background. It is 5047m high.



The light changed frequently during the day.



Many in the group went up there, but we did not.



Special lamp inside the hotel.



On the way back to Tblisi, the 6th day, we stopped at [Ananuri Castle](#).



Outside the gates there have been set up vendor booths.



Fur hats.



Walnuts are strung on string, dipped in grape juice and dried. We saw a lot of this in Georgia.



Overlooking Zhinvali Lake.



Several varieties of fur hats.



Drinking horn for wine.



Here are we going in through the wall gates.



The walls from the inside.



Lookout Tower.



Sea views.



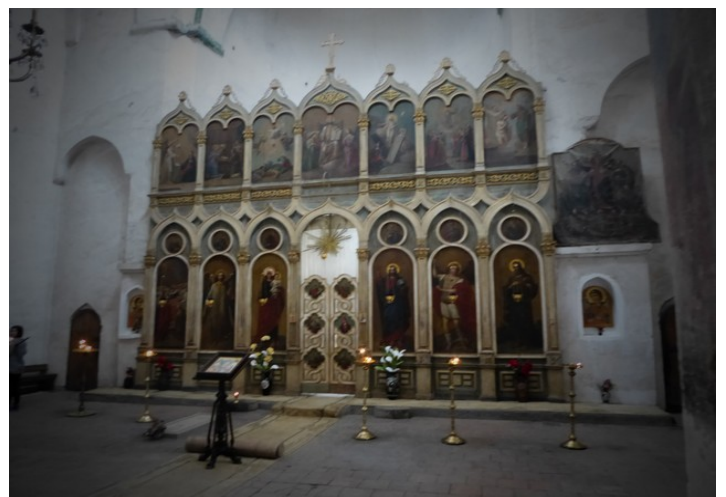
There are two churches here. This is the oldest.



This is the latest.



On the outside of the church.



Inside the latest church.



A kitten outside the church.



Finally views beyond the buildings up the valley.