

Chuberi–Nakra (Neskra valley–Nakra valley)

Distance: 27 km
Approximate Time: 10 hours
Accumulated Climb: 2296 m
Accumulated Descent: 1861 m
Difficulty Level: Difficult
Max / Min Altitude: 2707 m / 844 m

Blazes: White–red–white, with occasional yellow blazes



Recommended Season ... June – October (late season snow lingers above 2500 m until July)

Route Description

This route is a long steady climb and descent, and while it's not as steep as other passes in Svaneti, the distance covered makes it a very long hike. Only very ambitious and fit hikers should attempt it in one day. Spending a night near treeline on either side of the pass may be more enjoyable.

The route starts at the large sign with a map on it in the center of Kvemo Marghi on the east side of the river, across the bridge from a small soccer field. Follow the yellow signs to Utviri Pass and Nakra, taking the road north along the east side of the river. Turn to the right before you cross over the Gvashkhara River, which flows into the Nenskra. Ascend on the dirt road uphill, following red and white blazes.

Follow the road about one kilometer, ignoring several turns off to the left and the right. The Gvashkhara River will be on your left. Watch for a yellow sign on the left. The sign to Utviri Pass was damaged and pointing in the wrong direction in summer 2017, but follow the path which to the left leads to a small log bridge. Follow this path as it leads over several streams, over which are large fallen logs as makeshift bridges. After 600 meters, the wide path you are on bends right toward a stream, but there is a thin footpath on the left, going uphill. Turn left here.

Soon you will reach the outskirts of Zemo Marghi, and the trail follows a fence. At the top of the hill, turn right and continue along the fence away from the cell tower. Coming out of the forest, you will meet a meadow with expansive views over the valley. To the right is a house. Pass straight through the meadow to the end, and look for yellow markings on the rocks, the red and white blazes follow the road, but they end up in the same place. Continue on this path as it skirts around the hillside. Just north of the village the footpath meets up with a dirt track. Continue north along the ridge, steadily climbing upwards.

From this point you are mainly following the course of the Marghi River northward before bending east toward the Utviri Pass. The old jeep track continues for roughly six kilometers until you reach several summer huts at treeline. Follow the blazes through the shepherd huts, staying on the left side of the stream. Don't take the small bridge across the stream, even if there are blazes. Soon you will see another yellow sign, and the trail turns sharply to the left and goes uphill to another hut about 40 meters uphill. Bear right when you reach the hut. In the alpine meadows, the blazes can be difficult to see as many are painted on rocks, but there are a few posts guiding the way. From the hut you take the gentle ridge uphill. There is a fairly deep valley to the left. The trail climbs steadily upward on the south side of this valley. In an hour or so, you will have a clear view of the pass you are aiming for.

At the pass, there are three large stones, that appear to have been arranged in formation. From the pass you can usually see a small lake and below it and the end of the jeep track from Nakra. You are aiming for the jeep track, but follow the blazes, which take you to the left of the small lake and across a small stream before joining the jeep track. Then follow the jeep track down to Nakra.

As you come around the mountainside you will see more shepherd huts. You want to cut downhill through the huts to rejoin the jeep track. As you approach Nakra there are a variety of logging trails here which lead down to Nakra. Keep going downhill and follow the blazes past the cell towers to the north end of the village.

TCT Svaneti Map 1: Chuberi to Nakra

