

Nakra Valley – Becho Valley (Mazeri)

Distance: 35 km

Approximate Time: 2 days

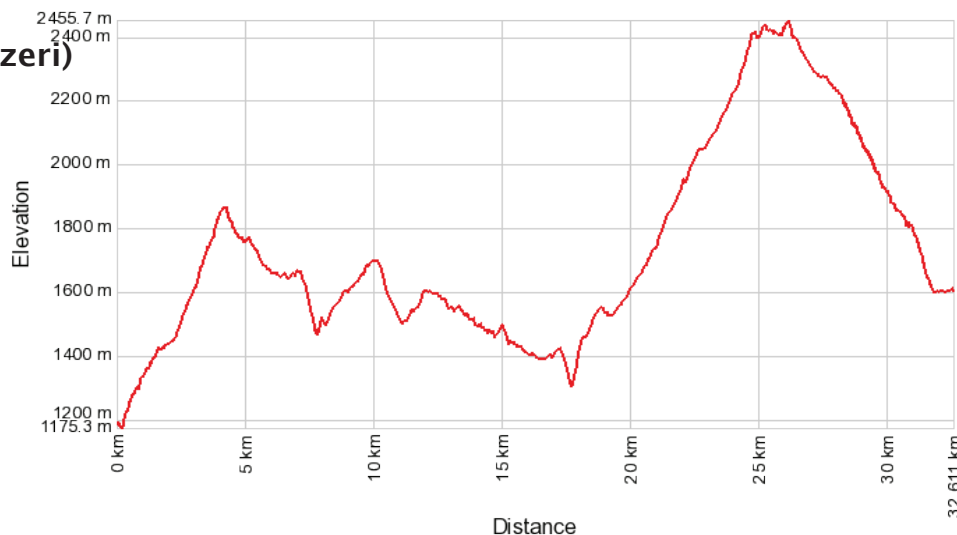
Accumulated Climb: 2411 m

Accumulated Descent: 2422 m

Difficulty Level: Medium

Max / Min Altitude: 2462 m / 1176 m

Blazes: White–Yellow–White until Bak Pass, then Red and White



Recommended Season: June– October (snow may linger on Bak pass into June)

Route description:

From the mineral spring or school in Nakra, follow the road downriver. The trail crosses over the next bridge and ascends gently upwards toward the hamlet of Latumba, where the trail meets a dirt road. Follow the road past a house and barn. Before the next house, there is a gate to the right. Go through that gate to the top of the meadow and turn right into the forest. The trail is easier to follow through the forest. An hour or two beyond is the forested pass at 1866 m. There is a trail to the right at the top of the pass to a small church that is worth visiting for the views over the Enguri valley. The climb goes in and out of meadows but stays predominantly forest, criss-crossing with an ancient road. Descending from the pass, the trail enters meadows with view opens over the Enguri valley. Look for posts in the meadows to find your way, and aim for the stone buildings ahead. After passing the abandoned buildings you will meet a jeep track. Turn right. Before you reach the cell towers make a sharp left. In the village of Tsaleri there is a sign with a map on it. Continue on the jeep track for another 50 m, then follow the yellow sign into the forest. The trail descends steeply to a small but powerful river. There is a bridge across the river. The trail then ascends steeply across several landslips to Kichkhuldashi. The Vibliani family in Kichkhuldashi has beds available for hikers. They are the last family in the village.

The route from Kichkhuldashi follows the jeep track uphill after the village then enters the forest before descending to the ruins of the abandoned hamlet of Paledi and across the Ladlina River (there is a bridge) and up to the village of Gheshderi. From Gheshderi the trail continues on the dirt road for about four kilometers. Stick to the main road which hugs the hillside and ignore any offshoots which go downhill to other small hamlets. After an hour or so you will reach the larger village of Pari, where there is a mineral water spring and many houses.

Continue along the main road through Pari until you reach a T-junction with a road going left and right. There is a sign here pointing to Katskhi Church up in the hills above Pari. Take the road that bears left uphill. You will pass a small collection of houses at the top of the hill. As you reach a large meadow, follow the trail that splits off to the right. There are blazes, but will be helpful to have a GPS so that you arrive at the stream in the place where there is a small bridge. The stream is possible to cross without a bridge when it is most dry in August and September, but it is inadvisable to cross at other times as the current can be strong.

Cross the bridge and follow the path into a large meadow. Make a sharp left and cross the grass to the gate, then turn right and follow alongside the outer fence until you reach a path which turns sharply left up into the forest. Climb steeply through the forest until you reach a wide cart path. Turn right and go up to the village of Pkhutleri. After reaching the dozen or so houses in the village, turn left onto the main village road. Follow this road about 600 meters downhill. After crossing a small stream, turn left up the road to the center.

After 3km the path meets connects with the alternate route coming from Pari (see map). Continue straight as the path now meets a dirt track, going north to the end of the valley. There are many suitable camping spots in this upper part of Etseri, but no guesthouses

Before long you'll find yourself hopping over streams past and into patches of rhododendron and then up the rocky incline to the pass. The ascent to the pass is not very steep until the last stretch. At Bak Pass turn right. There are signs to Becho (Mazeri, Grand Hotel Ushba) pointing in both directions, which is accurate, but the trail to the right is much clearer. The trail crosses a thin ridge before skirting around the east side of Mt. Detsili. The route has some small up and down sections here, but stays at roughly the same elevation as the pass. Do not descend into the forest until you have passed the church and the small lake. A slow decent leads to Mezuris Angelosi Church, which sits solitary on top of a hill. You will see a shelter and small lake. After the lake, the trail enters the forest and descends on a well-maintained trail to Becho valley, where there are many guesthouses.

This guide was updated in October 2017. For the latest version go to www.transcaucasiantrail.org

For suggestions or feedback contact: info@transcaucasiantrail.org

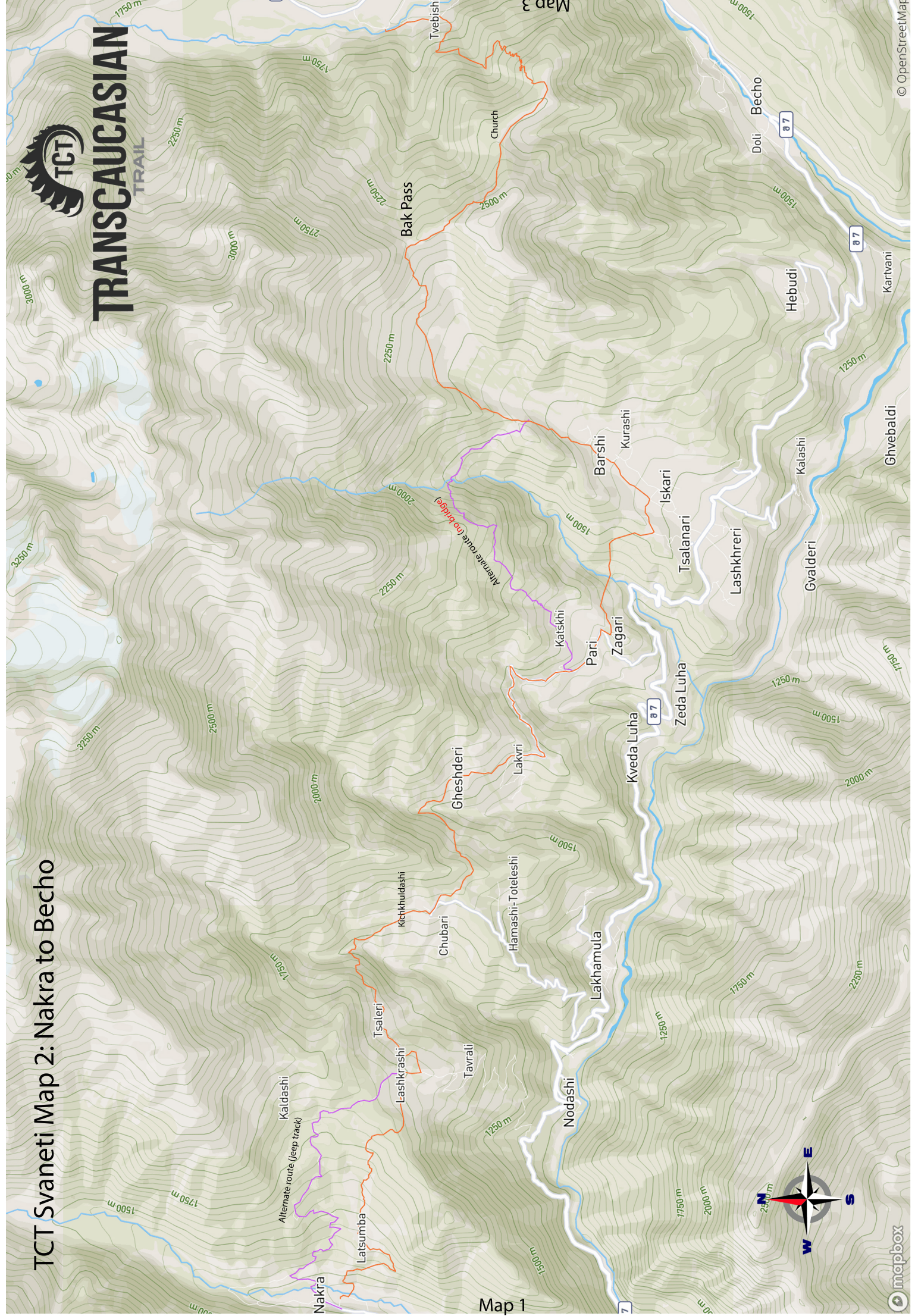
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TCT Svaneti Map 2: Nakra to Becho



TRANSCAUCASIAN TRAIL



Map 1

Map 3