

THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF
GEORGIA

A PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR BY AYTEK CETIN



Where Mountains Speak in Silence.

JULY 18-24, 2027



AYTEK CETIN

THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF **GEORGIA**

A quiet journey into the heart of the Caucasus

Join an intimate, personalized photography journey through Georgia's majestic Caucasus Mountains. Together, we'll explore breathtaking valleys, awe-inspiring glaciers, and towering peaks that rise above 5,000 meters.

This is more than just a photo tour.

Immerse yourself in the rich culture and natural beauty of Svaneti, capturing the soul of the region through light, texture, and timeless landscapes.

Every moment is crafted to help you create meaningful and unforgettable images, making this journey not just about photography but about a deep connection with the landscape.

JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Welcome to Svaneti — a land where the mighty Caucasus peaks, the play of light, and serene silence converge to create an extraordinary, unforgettable experience. This is a place that invites you to slow down, observe more closely, and discover the less explored aspects of the Caucasus. Each moment here is a reward for those who appreciate the art of photography.

Since 2017, I have explored Svaneti's valleys and peaks extensively, gaining an intimate understanding of its unique character. This journey is crafted to unveil the lesser-known beauty of the region, offering you moments of awe and inspiration.



THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF
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**Enter a world of iconic Caucasus peaks, gentle alpine valleys,
and moments that truly connect you to the land.**

Explore each highlight of our journey at your own pace—from the serene mountain paths to the breathtaking viewpoints—and let every scene inspire your creativity. This is where the authentic beauty of Svaneti unfolds, inviting you to capture genuine moments in a truly unforgettable setting.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Iconic Caucasus Peaks

Stand before the majestic Ushba, Tetnuldi–Gistola, and Dzhangi Tau–Lakutsa–Shkhara range, where the grandeur of the peaks is unmatched and the light reveals their true essence.

Lakes Beneath Mount Ushba

Experience the tranquil beauty of alpine lakes, where the water's reflective surface captures the ever-changing light and creates layered, captivating compositions.

Shdugra Waterfall & Ushba Glacier

From the foot of the glacier, photograph the cascading waterfall and the powerful presence of Mount Ushba, captured from both ground and aerial perspectives.

A Hidden Valley

Discover a hidden valley, rarely seen by others, where a single illuminated peak becomes the focal point, offering an intimate, untouched experience.

Guided Field Photography & Creative Exchange

I'll be with you throughout, guiding you to capture the essence of the landscape and helping you refine your images during relaxed editing sessions.

Local Cuisine

Unwind with authentic Georgian meals, enjoying the region's flavors and the sense of community after a day of exploration.

THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF
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ITINERARY

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL & FIRST LIGHT

On the first morning of our journey, we'll meet at Tbilisi International Airport and begin our adventure toward Mestia. It's a day of transition, leaving everyday routines behind and gradually settling into the tranquil pace of Svaneti. After checking into our hotel, we'll embark on our first sunset session. This easily accessible viewpoint, surrounded by the lush valley, offers a panoramic view that sets the tone for the days ahead. As the sun begins to lower, the landscape gradually gains depth and character, allowing us to appreciate the subtle beauty of the surroundings. In this moment, we'll encounter seasonal wildflowers, adding color and texture to our compositions.



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ITINERARY

DAY 1 – FIRST LIGHT (CONTINUED)



Mount Bashiltau, revealed through shifting light and atmosphere.



Mount Bashiltau and the Bashili Glacier rising beyond alpine wildflowers.



A hidden alpine realm where the glacier remains untouched and rarely seen by other eyes, captured from a vantage point few have ever reached.

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ITINERARY

DAY 2 – SUNRISE AND SUNSET IN THE CAUCASUS

At dawn, we venture into a scenic valley to capture the majestic Ushba Mountain in its morning glory. The valley provides a perfect canvas for wide-angle and drone photography, beautifully showcasing the surrounding landscape. Keep an eye out for the enchanting white roses, *Rosa spinosissima*, among the wildflowers.

As evening approaches, we'll head to a viewpoint where the Caucasus Mountains rise majestically to the east. The harmonious V-shaped formations and the river below create a dramatic and inspiring scene, perfect for creative photography. We'll explore the area with a brief walk, and with a bit of luck, we might even encounter wild horses roaming freely, adding to the magic of the landscape.



Rosa spinosissima lining the path toward Mount Ushba, beneath the morning light.



Orange alpine wildflowers in the foreground, guiding the view toward Mount Ushba.

THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF

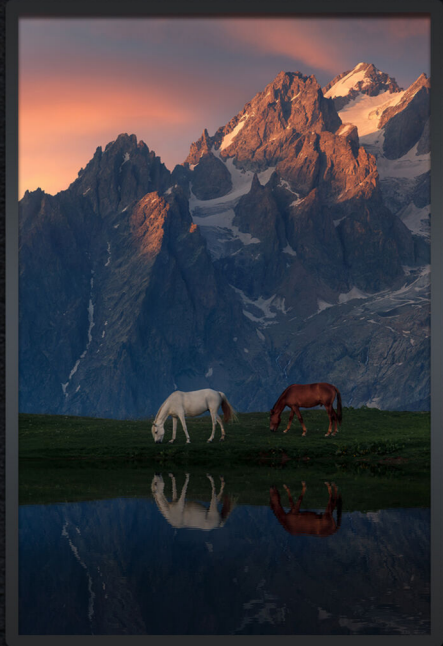
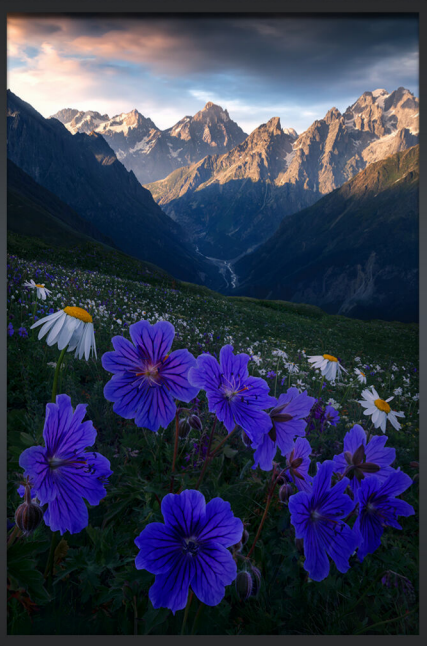
GEORGIA

ITINERARY

DAY 2 – SUNRISE AND SUNSET (CONTINUED)



Wide perspectives and aerial viewpoints shaped by the first light of the day.



Wildflowers, quiet lakes, and fleeting moments shared with the landscape.

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ITINERARY

DAY 3 – DAWN TO DUSK IN SVANETI

In the early morning, as the first light touches the peaks, we focus on the stunning Mazeri region and its surrounding summits. The morning unfolds with breathtaking views, capturing the grandeur and serenity of these peaks.

As the day transitions into evening, we embark on a scenic hike toward the captivating Shdugra Waterfall. Here, we'll photograph the waterfall framed by a rich tapestry of wildflowers in the foreground, adding vibrant colors to the scene.

As we capture the evening light, we'll also turn our drones toward the Ushba Glacier and its northwestern face, along with the majestic peaks that surround it. This combination of elements creates a truly unforgettable experience.



Stachys macrantha blooming beneath the misty presence of Shdugra Waterfall.

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ITINERARY

DAY 3 – DAWN TO DUSK IN SVANETI (CONTINUED)



In the quiet of the valley, the peaks of Svaneti rise above traces of human presence, merging crafted lines with untamed nature.



Nature's own window: a natural frame formed by the arch of tree limbs, offering a unique portal to the serene summits beyond.

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DAY 3 – DAWN TO DUSK IN SVANETI (CONTINUED)



Ushba Peak rising above its glacier, where changing light and shadow bring the landscape to life.

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DAY 3 – DAWN TO DUSK IN SVANETI (CONTINUED)



*Shdugra Waterfall emerging beneath dramatic skies,
framed by alpine wildflowers.*

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DAY 4 – A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON USHBA

On the fourth day, we'll explore a scenic vantage point that allows for leisurely strolls and breathtaking captures without strenuous hikes. From here, we'll have a unique opportunity to photograph Mount Ushba from a fresh angle, alongside the impressive Tetnuldi-Gistola peaks. With a bit of luck, we may also spot the wild horses that freely roam this picturesque area.

As the day draws to a close, we'll discover a secluded spot for sunset. This secluded spot, with no need for walking, offers a stunning view of a high valley, where a single peak stands illuminated in the evening light. With special access, this location is perfect for drone photography, allowing us to capture the scene from a truly distinctive perspective.



Morning light revealing the Caucasus peaks, as mist drifts through the valleys and the landscape slowly comes to life.



Wild horses grazing beneath the Tetnuldi-Gistola range, as the first light reveals the scale and calm of the Caucasian giants.

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DAY 4 – A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON USHBA (CONTINUED)



Reached with special access, this quiet valley comes alive in the evening light, offering striking possibilities for drone imagery and carefully composed perspectives from every angle.



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DAY 5 – LAKES, LIGHT & LAYERS

On the fifth day, we'll return to the upper lakes, where the early morning light creates soft, ethereal reflections. As we move to higher viewpoints, the landscape's geometry becomes more apparent, allowing us to create dynamic and compelling compositions. In the evening, we'll capture Mount Ushba and its glacier from a different location, emphasizing the layered beauty of the scene.



*As the sun rises, the Koruldi Lakes reflect the first light,
framed by the silent strength of the Caucasus.*

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ITINERARY

DAY 5 – LAKES, LIGHT & LAYERS (CONTINUED)



Early morning aerial view of Mount Ushba, as clouds drift slowly across its sharp silhouette.

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DAY 5 – LAKES, LIGHT & LAYERS (CONTINUED)



*Standing within the Caucasus, where scale is felt,
not measured, and presence becomes part of the landscape.*



Light and clouds sculpting the ice-covered forms of the Tetnuldi-Katyn-Tau peaks.

THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF
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ITINERARY

DAY 5 – LAKES, LIGHT & LAYERS (CONTINUED)



As the first light spreads across the high valleys, the landscape slowly comes to life. With a bit of luck, we may witness wild horses moving through the alpine meadows, framed by soft morning light, layered ridgelines, and distant peaks.



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DAY 6 – EMBRACING THE CAUCASIAN GIANTS

On the sixth morning, we'll venture into a captivating valley, where the majestic Caucasian peaks rise to awe-inspiring heights. After a scenic drive, we'll enjoy a leisurely walk that allows us to soak in the breathtaking landscape. This valley, adorned with vibrant alpine flowers, is a perfect canvas for wide-angle and drone photography, inviting you to capture the essence of the Caucasus.

As evening approaches, we'll chase the sunset from two carefully chosen viewpoints. Here, the grandeur of Mount Ushba and the surrounding peaks come alive, offering a canvas of remarkable detail and breathtaking perspectives.



Light, terrain, and scale coming together in the early hours of the Caucasus.

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ITINERARY

DAY 6 – EMBRACING THE CAUCASIAN GIANTS (CONTINUED)



Different perspectives reveal the same valley in new ways, inviting both wide and intimate compositions.

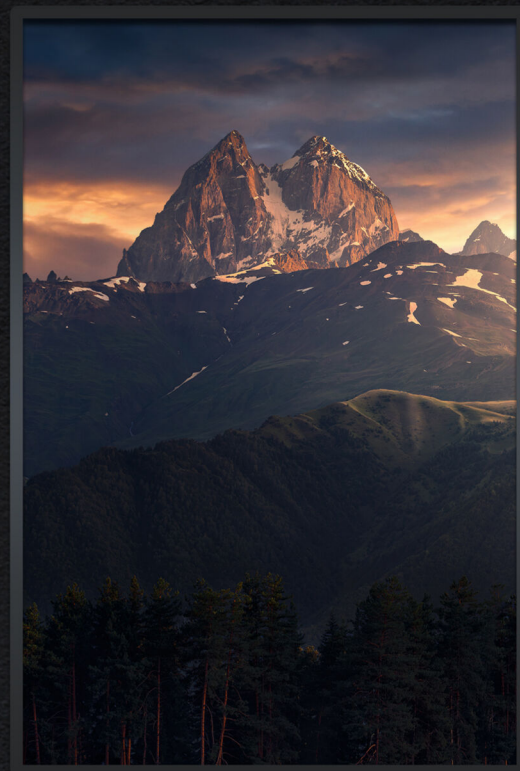


An ever-changing mountain scene, where light and clouds transform the character of the peaks with every passing minute.

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ITINERARY

DAY 6 – EMBRACING THE CAUCASIAN GIANTS (CONTINUED)



*Ushba revealing itself through forests and shifting viewpoints,
where each frame offers a new sense of scale and atmosphere.*



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ITINERARY

DAY 7 – RETURN & A QUIET CLOSE

On the final day, we begin our return to Tbilisi International Airport, taking a moment to reflect on the journey and the landscapes we've explored. As the tour concludes, we'll carry with us a collection of stunning photographs and a deeper appreciation for the region. It's a fitting and unforced conclusion, allowing both the photographs and the experience to settle naturally before heading home.



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A Thoughtfully Crafted Photographic Journey

Why photographers choose this experience

This journey is designed for photographers who want more than beautiful locations. It's for those who value intention, timing, and a clear photographic vision — supported by thoughtful, experienced guidance throughout the experience.

Georgia's Caucasus Mountains offer an extraordinary range of landscapes, giving us the freedom to work with light, atmosphere, and composition without haste. The pace of the journey is carefully balanced, allowing space to observe, adapt, and create images with purpose rather than pressure.

Having explored Georgia extensively over many years, I know when and where these landscapes reveal their strongest character. Each location is chosen not simply for its visual impact, but for how it supports meaningful photographic work under the right conditions.

Throughout the tour, I'll be with you in the field, offering practical guidance on composition, light, and visual balance, always adapting to your rhythm and interests. While the overall pace of the journey is calm and well considered, moments of discovery are often shared with genuine excitement — ensuring no meaningful photographic opportunity is missed.

To maintain this level of focus and personal attention, the experience is intentionally limited to a maximum of six participants, creating a more personal and flexible photographic journey.



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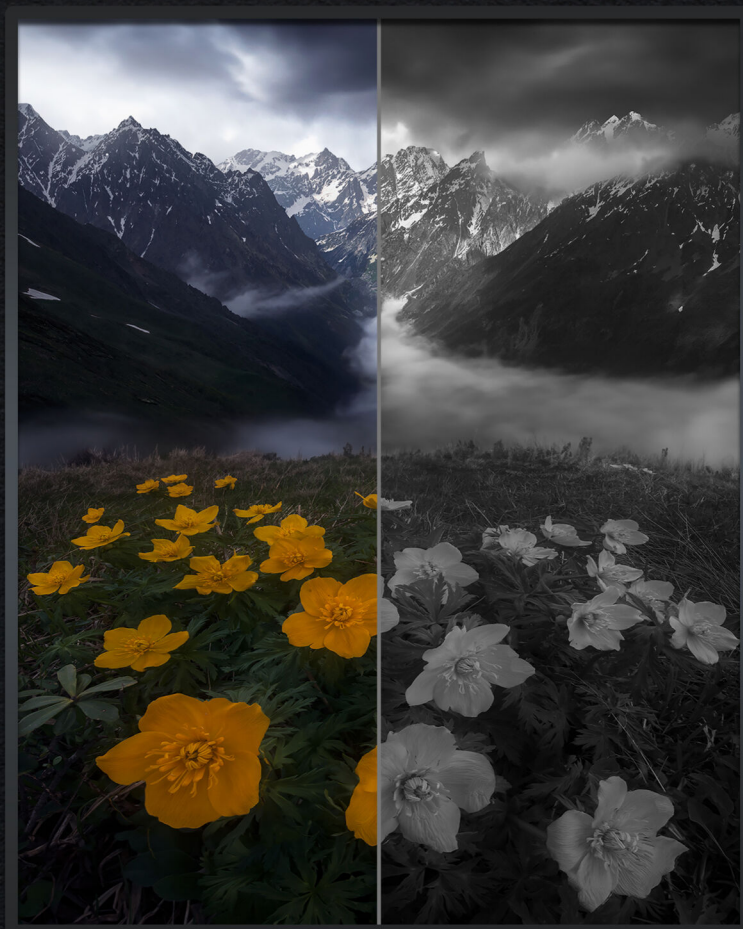
Post-Processing & Visual Refinement

During our midday breaks, we'll gather for focused editing sessions where I'll walk you through my complete post-processing workflow, using images captured during the tour. These sessions are designed to help you better understand how light, atmosphere, and tonal balance come together to shape a cohesive visual story.

We'll explore ways to strengthen light, build natural depth, refine contrast, and create clean, controlled color that supports the mood of the scene rather than overpowering it. The focus is not on presets or shortcuts, but on developing a clear and repeatable approach that you can adapt to your own style.

When time allows, we'll also review selected images or small portfolios together, discussing compositional choices and visual decision-making in a relaxed, constructive environment. These conversations often help clarify direction and bring consistency to your photographic language.

All editing sessions throughout the tour will be recorded and shared with participants. This allows you to revisit each step after returning home and continue refining your workflow at your own pace, long after the journey has ended.



What to Bring for the Tour

In Georgia's Caucasus Mountains, being comfortable in the field makes a real difference. Choosing the right clothing will help you stay focused on photography and enjoy the experience from early mornings through changing mountain conditions.

For daytime shooting, a few **breathable t-shirts** and a **light fleece** layer work well. Early mornings and evenings can be cool, so a warm jacket is essential. Mountain weather can change quickly, which is why a rain jacket is strongly recommended.

Footwear is important. **Waterproof hiking shoes** (Gore-Tex if you have them) will keep you comfortable in wet grass and uneven terrain. If possible, bringing a second pair of shoes is a good idea. For pants, comfortable **hiking trousers** made from quick-drying fabrics work best. In some valleys, morning grass can be wet, so **gaiters** can be very useful.

Sun protection is just as important as staying warm. **A hat, sunglasses, and SPF 50 sunscreen** are highly recommended. I also suggest bringing a **waterproof cover for your camera bag**, especially in case of light rain or mist. A **headtorch** is very helpful for early starts or low-light conditions, and **mosquito repellent** can be useful (also easy to find in Mestia).

Recommended Camera Gear & Lenses

Georgia's Caucasus Mountains offer a wide range of photographic opportunities, and a versatile lens setup will help you respond confidently to different scenes.

An **ultra wide-angle lens** is especially important for working close to foreground elements like alpine flowers while still capturing the scale of the mountains. Lenses such as 14–24mm or 15–35mm are ideal.

A **telephoto lens** is extremely useful for photographing distant peaks and layered mountain landscapes. A 70–200mm will be used often. If you own a longer lens (such as 100–400mm or 500mm), feel free to bring it — optional, but very effective in certain situations.

A **mid-range zoom** like 24–70mm or 24–105mm can be helpful when you want flexibility without changing lenses frequently.

If you normally work with a tripod, you're welcome to bring one. ND filters can be useful for long exposures and cloud movement, while a polarizing filter helps manage reflections and contrast.

If you fly a **drone**, I highly recommend bringing it. A drone adds unique perspectives, and models with a zoom or telephoto lens are especially rewarding if you have one.

FAQ

Is this tour suitable for different photography skill levels?

Absolutely. This tour is designed to welcome photographers of all levels, from beginners to advanced. You'll receive guidance tailored to your experience.

How much hiking is involved?

The tour includes three main hikes spread across different days. Each hike is an out-and-back walk, with approximate one-way durations of 1 hour, 1 hour, and 1.5 hours. The return routes are generally easier and more relaxed than the ascents. On hiking days, we move at a comfortable, unhurried pace, taking short breaks whenever needed, allowing everyone to walk calmly and enjoy the surroundings. If you're comfortable with regular walking and light hiking, these routes should feel manageable. Overall, the hiking level can be described as moderate, without any technical or strenuous sections.

How high will we go? What is the highest point we'll reach during the tour?

The highest altitude we'll reach during the tour is approximately 2,700 meters, which we access comfortably by vehicle. On one day, if conditions allow, we may continue to a scenic viewpoint reaching around 3,148 meters, again without strenuous hiking. These elevations are well within a comfortable range and are approached gradually, allowing everyone to enjoy the experience without physical strain.

What will the weather be like during the tour?

As the tour takes place in summer, we generally expect a mix of sunny and partly cloudy conditions, which are ideal for landscape photography. However, mountain weather can be unpredictable, and passing rain showers may occasionally occur. These changing conditions often create dramatic light, mist, and atmosphere — offering unique photographic opportunities. Based on my experience in the region, daytime temperatures typically range between 8°C and 20°C (46°F to 68°F), depending on altitude, time of day, and weather patterns.

Is Georgia safe?

Yes. Georgia is a safe and welcoming country for travelers. Both Tbilisi and the Mestia region are well accustomed to international visitors, and local communities are friendly and respectful. Based on my experience leading tours here, traveling throughout the region has always felt comfortable and secure.

What type of hotels will we be staying in?

We'll be staying in comfortable, well-maintained 3–4 star hotels, carefully selected for their quality, atmosphere, and convenient locations within the region.

DISCLAIMER

Weather is an uncontrollable factor, and in the Svaneti region it can range from periods of rain to clear, cloudless sunshine, and everything in between. We embrace the conditions as they naturally present themselves during the tour.

That said, the selected timing of this journey is carefully chosen. This period typically offers a balanced mix of clouds, rain, and sunlight, while also showcasing the region at its most vibrant, with alpine meadows and wildflowers in full bloom. For these reasons, we remain optimistic about favorable conditions for photographing the landscapes of Svaneti.

Depending on changing weather conditions, the daily schedule may be adjusted, and planned photography locations may be visited on different days to ensure the best possible experience.

THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS OF
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Tour Price: € 4.250

(Twin Share, Single Room + € 650)

Deposit: € 1,500

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- All in-tour transportation by 4x4 cars & fuel
- Hotel Accommodations
- Breakfast & dinner
- Guided photography sessions throughout the journey
- Photo editing sessions during the trip
- Access to Ayték's editing video library (+15 tutorials- from previous workshops)

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Flights
- Personal expenses
- Lunch
- Any extras not listed under "Included in the Price"



Group Size

6 People



Fitness Level

Difficulty: Moderate

Tour Leader

Ayték Cetin



This journey through Georgia's Caucasus Mountains is more than a photography tour, it's an opportunity to slow down, connect with the landscape, and experience the power of these mountains in a meaningful way.

Over the years, I've learned that the most memorable images are created not only by dramatic scenery, but by timing, atmosphere, and the shared moments in the field. This tour is shaped around that philosophy — thoughtful, immersive, and deeply connected to the places we photograph.

If the idea of exploring the Caucasus, capturing its wild beauty, and returning home with lasting images and memories resonates with you, I would be delighted to welcome you on this journey.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss details personally, please feel free to get in touch.

I look forward to sharing this experience together.

Aytek Çetin

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