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*(Photos taken by the author)*

# TO THE HIGHEST PEAK OF AZERBAIJAN







**O**n the morning of 5 July, we left Baku, heading for the mountainous village of Khinalig in Guba District in the north of Azerbaijan. The goal was to climb Bazar-duzu - the highest peak of the country, located in the eastern part of the Main Caucasus Range at an absolute height of 4,466 meters above sea level, near the state border with the Russian Federation.

After spending one day in Khinalig, we set off early in the morning. Initially, the GAZ-66 vehicle covered 30 km of the mountain road and reached the boundaries of the Shahdag National Park. After another three hours we were at the destination. After short border formalities, it was time to set up a base camp. Having loaded tents, sleeping bags and other relatively bulky items on the two horses hired by our guide Mursal Gasimov in advance, we began to move to the place of the future camp located at an altitude of 3,300 meters.

After we went around one mountain, the trail narrowed so much that the horses could hardly move about. In addition, rivers from a mountain glacier flowing across our path, as well as icing on the trail seriously impeded movement. Therefore, Mursal and the owners of the horses began to clear the path with the help of ice axes, and after 15 minutes we were able to continue our journey. So, we moved for several hours, admiring























the unusual landscape consisting of mountains, water and ice until we reached the camp site. By this time, the drizzle that had started out completely stopped, and we began to set up a camp. Then we brought water from a nearby spring, boiled kettles and had a dinner and tea. The time of rest began: some of the expedition members got into the tents, others began to take pictures and talk about this and that. By 8 pm, everyone went to bed in order to get up at 2 am.

Having got up at the signal of our guide, we had a little breakfast and prepared hiking backpacks, and set off at the beginning of four o'clock in the morning. There was a fog, and we, without haste, followed the guide in a chain in the light of torches on the paths stretching along the mountain slopes. From the base camp to the Bazar-duzu summit, which are separated by a high-altitude section of slightly more than 1,160 meters, we had to overcome a distance of about 4.5 kilometers.

Most of the way lay on steep slopes dotted with rubble. The sun was rising, but the fog was still not dissipating. In some places, the bewitching landscapes of the area below peeped through the gaps in the fog. At an altitude of about 3,900 m, one of our comrades had high pressure, and it was decided to continue the journey without him. Soon after this, a section running







# Discovering Azerbaijan











along a deep cliff began, and another one of us decided to turn back. In general, I should note that in our expedition there were those who climbed a mountain peak for the first time.

It was the beginning of 10 o'clock. There was little to go to the summit. The fog was still there, giving an almost mystical taste to the incredibly beautiful panorama around. I took pictures every now and then, drawing some kind of life-giving internal nourishment from it. In addition, the proximity of the cherished goal of our journey seemed to double our strength, although I don't have a habit of eating before climbing, and this time I ate only an apple and an apricot.

We climbed to the top more easily than I expected. Everything went perfectly. To celebrate, we began to congratulate each other and took photos. However, soon the weather turned bad - it began to snow with hail and wind. Nature seemed to remind us that it was time to go back. We communicated by radio with the two comrades who went back ahead of time and were already in the camp — it turned out that it was raining in the camp. The descent seemed harder than climbing. We all wondered how, shortly before, we were able to climb such dangerous areas, continually experiencing serious fear.



When we reached the camp, the rain had already stopped. After tea, dismantling the tent and packing our belongings, we set off on our way back. At the end, I should note that this expedition took place in a very positive, upbeat atmosphere and, no doubt, it will be remembered for a long time. 🌟















# THERE IS NO AZERBAIJAN WITHOUT KARABAKH



## AZERBAIJANI DISTRICTS

occupied by Armenia  
and dates of their occupation

Asgaran – 1991	Khojaly – 26.02.1992	Agdam – 23.07.1993	Gubadli – 31.08.1993
Hadrut – 1991	Shusha – 08.05.1992	Kalbajar – 02.04.1993	Zangilan – 29.10.1993
Khojavand – 1991	Lachin – 18.05.1992	Fuzuli – 23.08.1993	
Khankandi – 1991	Agdara – 07.07.1993	Jabrayil – 23.08.1993	