

The Realistic Wanderlust

Head in the Clouds! with "Rizwan & Nazneen"

Ever wondered if there was a place far away, that makes you feel like you are in a dream? The typical pencil drawings, which everyone drew whenever we were told to - a small house, mountains, a river, cattle, birds, sunshine, flowers, etc. Ever wondered if it really existed? It does, and it is in Georgia. The name - Svaneti.

Surrounded by the Caucasian mountains, this place is bordered by Russia. Svaneti has only one airport - Mestia - which has only one flight per day, which leaves from Tbilisi in the morning, with only 17 seats available, operated by the name Vanilla Sky. Bookings cannot be made more than 30 days prior to the date of travel. So if you are planning to go there in the summer, which is between May and October, make sure you book the seats on time, as they fill up in minutes!

A minivan picked us up from an allocated location, where we met the fellow passengers, to the Natakhtari Airport in Tbilisi. The view from the flight was breathtaking. Snowcapped mountains, green tall pine trees, running streams; we could really feel what was waiting for us on the other side. In less than an hour, we reached the mesmerizing Mestia airport. The airport has a unique architectural design, which stands out against the surroundings. Our guide, Shako Margiani, was all ready to pick us up there. We discussed the trekking routes and plans on our way to the homestay. The first day, we were taken to see the

culture and lifestyle of Svaneti. Their way of building towers to escape the snow, the way they preserve food for winters, their houses, water supplies, farm, gardens, cemeteries, etc. Each family had their own 'Tower', which symbolized their hold and position in society. Throughout the place, you see spring water flowing which is set up in a way that people are free to use. Cute children accompanied us while we were walking around.

Our homestay was owned by an elderly lady, who resembled our grandmother and always spotted a smiling face. Though she could only communicate in 'Svan', which is a totally new language to us, she understood our needs and likes, like we were family. To our surprise, she was watching a 'Georgian dubbed' Bollywood movie, while we were having dinner, and could even name some of her favorite movie stars! We were amazed at the level of reach the Bollywood industry had! It was the least expected!

We had the best days of our lives in Svaneti. Extremely clean air, less noise pollution, water from the natural springs, food directly from the farm, hardly any walls separating the neighborhood, and main doors for the houses had no locks! This is the peace that we all seek for during our everyday struggle in life, and this is available in abundance in Svaneti.

For the best advice on backpacking adventures, follow @boardingpassports on Instagram.



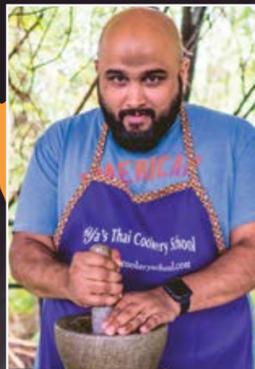
EMMY 2019 Roundup



The Television Academy finally gave a nod to the groundbreaking performances portrayed by newcomers. Amazon's Fleabag went home with 4 Emmys, and Billy Porter's Pose and Jodie Comer's Killing Eve were given due diligence. Game of Thrones bagged a predictable number of awards for its final season.

Netflix didn't go empty-handed either. Ozark won for Directing for a Drama Series (Jason Bateman) and Supporting Actress in a Drama Series (Julia Garner), while Jharrel Jerome was named the best Lead Actor in a Limited Series for his performance in When They See Us and "Bandersnatch", the interactive episode of Black Mirror won for Television Movie. This was also a big night for HBO, which retook the lead in Emmy nominations in the process, setting a new record for the most nominations in the process. This includes best Drama Series award for Game of Thrones, which also won Peter Dinklage his fourth Emmy for Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. Chernobyl, meanwhile, won three awards, including Limited Series.

Other notable wins include RuPaul's Drag Race, in the Outstanding Reality-Competition Series category, Last Week Tonight With John Oliver in the Outstanding Variety Talk Series category and Writing for a variety Series Category, Saturday Night Live in the Outstanding Variety Sketches Series category.



Shayne Haridas

Weekender, in collaboration with local food bloggers, will bring you reliable reviews of eateries around Bahrain. Shayne Haridas is a food blogger/photographer based in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia with a passion for food. He reviews local eateries from all over Saudi Arabia and on occasion, travels abroad to experience local cuisines. Not to shy away from an experience, it is said there is nothing he won't eat.

EAT WITH WEEKENDER

Don't let the name fool you!

The Cheesecake Factory is well known for its food and what it is named after (Cheesecake). It can get really crowded over the weekends so it would be best if you made it an hour before lunchtime. The "Chicken Madeira & Steak Diane" from their Factory Combinations menu is mouthwatering and worth every penny. You can share this with a friend, but if you want to go all out then this is the meal to go for. The steak bits are tender and juicy and the chicken was delicate and wholesome. The creamy mashed potatoes can really fill you up and you can use it to soak up the delicious juices from the meat. The "Shrimp & Chicken Gumbo" with Shrimp & Chicken cooked with vegetables in a Cajun Style

broth with cream was delectable and the rice really compliments this curry. The "Chicken & Biscuits" was just about ok. The biscuits weren't good enough to go with the stocky broth that accompanied the sautéed chicken and veggies. I don't have to tell you how good the cheesecakes are and even if I did, I would recommend the "Godiva" cheesecake. The staff and service are exceptional and they do really go out of their way to make your experience better.

Follow @foodwithshayne on Instagram, or visit the Food with Shayne page for mouth-watering reviews.

