

In order to do justice to the current situation around Corona, a possible risk of infection and travel restrictions, we at **powderproject.ch** have decided to build our own chalet in the powder paradise Bakhmaro in the Georgian Caucasus, which we discovered and developed in recent years. The new **Chalet Ched** will have six twin rooms with private bathrooms. Exactly one group will be accommodated in the house. The staff for the house, the driver and the guide are also accommodated in the chalet. The airport transfer takes place in our own minibus. In this way we can reduce any external contact during the catski week to a minimum.

Sauna, central heating and an open fireplace in the living room make the stay in the new lodge comfortable and cosy. But we wanted more:

The chalet is created in a modern construction with hemp stones. Hemp stones are heat insulating and absorb sound. The hemp lime regulates the humidity and thus ensures a pleasant room climate and a high level of living comfort. That is pleasant for our guests. The hemp plant grows around 50 times faster than wood. A corresponding amount of CO2 is then stored in the hemp stones. The material is also 100% recyclable. That's good for the environment.

Hemp composite is a very interesting material also used for ski construction: **powderproject.ch** has various models of grown skis on site (<http://grownskis.com/>).

One of the goals of the elaborate construction procedure is to enable the transfer of know-how about environmentally friendly construction methods to the Caucasus region. As always with us, this involves the involvement of local structures and companies. As a traditional crop, hemp could (again) be grown in Georgia and thus become a sustainable building material from local production.

The advice on systemic design and regenerative building comes from the **MonViso Institute** (<http://monviso-institute.org/>), the material (hemp stones, lime plaster and mortar) from the South Tyrolean construction company **Schönthaler** (<https://www.schoenthaler.com/>) and the new building will be carried out by the local construction company **Axiom Capital** (<https://www.facebook.com/llcaxiom>).

The opening of the **Chalet Ched** is in December 2020.

Our backcountry group in the remote mountain hut in Adjara is isolated anyway. You can also say social distance by definition. Equipped with a new solar system, we were also able to improve our environmental balance in our outpost.

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powderproject.ch runs 2 catski locations (Bakhmaro & Adjara) in Georgia with 4 parallel groups. The Lesser Caucasus is known for its high amounts of snowfall and unique treeruns in coniferous and open beech forests. **powderproject.ch** operates a fleet of Pistenbully 300W Polar with heated cabins. Equipped with several replacement cats and its own workshop, own mountain lodges and internationally trained guides, **powderproject.ch** is probably the most professional catski operation in Eastern Europe. Most of the freeriders (snowboarders and skiers) come from Europe, but we also regularly welcome freeriders from Canada and the USA, China and Australia and New Zealand.

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