Imereti is a region of diverse interest which, in addition to its ancient history and culture, is distinguished by impressive caves. Of particular note are Prometheus Cave and Sataplia. Both are considered visiting cards of Georgia and are highly popular among both Georgian and foreign visitors.

Sataplia is the only place in the world where, at the same location, footprints of both herbivorous and carnivorous dinosaurs dating back 120 million years have been preserved. While traveling through the Imereti Caves Protected Areas, you will discover true masterpieces of nature.

The total area of the Imereti Caves Protected Areas is 439.08 hectares and includes: 1 strict nature reserve, 1 managed reserve, and 16 natural monuments. Among them, Prometheus Cave, Navenakhevi Cave, Tetra Cave, and Sataplia are open to visitors. Since 2008, the Imereti Caves have been a member of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA). Prometheus Cave is also part of the Emerald Ecological Network.

The Administration of the Imereti Caves Protected Areas was established in 2007 on the basis of the Sataplia Nature Reserve. Its establishment was based on the discovery of Sataplia Cave in 1925 by the well-known local historian and educator Petre Chabukiani, who also discovered the dinosaur footprints.



Sataplia Cave: Tskaltubo municipality, village Banoja

Prometheus Cave: Tskaltubo municipality, village Kumistavi

Navenakhevi Cave: Terjola municipality, village Navenakhevi

Tetra Cave: Tskaltubo municipality, village Khomuli

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IMERETI CAVES



ECOTOURISM

Sataplia, beginning with dinosaur footprints from its prehistoric era and ending with karst caves, highlights the diversity of Georgia's history and nature. Its grandeur constantly amazes visitors and, in terms of significance, holds a leading position in the world. In Sataplia, footprints of both carnivorous and herbivorous dinosaurs from different epochs have been discovered, which differ from the world-famous species and are known under the name "Satapliasaurus".

Prometheus Cave is a natural monument of exceptional beauty recognized worldwide. Its age is approximately 60–70 million years. This karst cave, adorned with stalactites and stalagmites in amazing forms, will take you into a fairytale world. While moving through the cave, you will encounter "frozen waterfalls", "stone curtains", and other natural sculptures. After walking the trail, you have the opportunity to complete your journey with a boat tour.

Navenakhevi Cave is a two-story, 210-meter-long cave with four halls, rich in stalagmites, stalagnates, and stalactites of different and beautiful shapes. The cave ends with a stalagnate measuring 7 meters in thickness. The area surrounding Navenakhevi Cave is equipped with ecotourism infrastructure, where various events can be organized and time spent pleasantly.

Tetra Cave is the first ecotourism space in Georgia where wine aged in a cave distinguished by white-colored deposits can be tasted. It is also possible to conduct a speleotherapy session in the cave.

Sataplia Managed Reserve, Prometheus, Tetra, and Navenakhevi Caves are equipped with visitor and administrative buildings in accordance with international standards.

At the Imereti Caves Protected Areas, visitors can enjoy the following services at any time of the year:

- Walking tour
- Paleontological tour
- Eco-educational tour
- Speleo tour
- Tour for photography enthusiasts
- Boat tour

BIODIVERSITY

While traveling through the Imereti Caves Protected Areas, you will once again be convinced of nature's limitless possibilities. Here, you will abundantly encounter true masterpieces of nature—stalactites and stalagmites, whose most beautiful formations leave visitors with the impression of a fairytale environment.

The main charm of the Imereti Caves is that the natural monuments differ from one another. Accordingly, each of their formations is unique. Nature has created and sculpted these forms over many millions of years, resulting in a most beautiful underground world.

The unique dinosaur footprint found here also highlights Imereti's exceptional biodiversity, being a phenomenon of global significance. The footprint proves that, at different times, two groups of dinosaurs passed through this area.

Ninety-eight percent of the Sataplia area is covered by unique Colchic forest, mostly composed of beech and hornbeam, creating a special environment for nature lovers.

Sataplia's animal world is also diverse, where the unique species, the Caucasian grey mountain honey bee, resides. The beautiful Colchic forest landscape is complemented by various species of birds.





NEARBY TOURIST SITES

Okatse Canyon | A unique natural monument. Located in the village of Gordi, Khoni Municipality, in the Okatse River Gorge.

Okatse Waterfall | One of the highest waterfalls in Georgia. Located in the village of Kinchkha, Khoni Municipality.

Gelati Monastery Complex | A 12th-century monument. Located northeast, in the village of Gelati.

Motsameta Church | A 10th-century monument. Located near the village of Motsameta, in the Tskaltsitela River Gorge.

Bagrati Cathedral | An 11th-century monument. Located in Kutaisi, on Ukimerioni Hill.

Ubisi Monastery | A 9th-century monument. Located in Zemo Imereti, in the village of Ubisi.

Palace of the Kings of Imereti "Golden Pavilion" | Located in Kutaisi, on the left bank of the Rioni River.

Katskhi Column | A rare masterpiece of nature. Located in the village of Katskhi, Chiatura Municipality, in the Imereti region.

