

Castles of Imereti

7 Medieval Fortresses of Ancient Colchis

7

крепостей

5

муниципалитетов

2000+

лет истории

madloba.info/blog/sights-of-georgia/castles-of-imereti

Seven castles of Imereti spread across five municipalities: from ancient Shorapani near Zestaphoni to the little-known Dimna in Baghdati. Most are genuine ruins with no infrastructure. This PDF contains coordinates, history, access level and Madloba catalogue links. Save to your phone for offline use.

Free entry everywhere. Almost no infrastructure. Sturdy footwear essential.

Castles by Area

01 Shorapani Fortress

Coordinates:	42.09753, 43.08374	Location:	Town of Shorapani, Zestaphoni Municipality
Access:	Taxi from Zestaphoni + uphill walk	Preservation:	Walls, towers

Key fact: Oldest in Imereti. Ancient Colchis — mentioned by classical authors.

Tip: Combine with Zestaphoni town.

Catalogue: madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/krepost-shorapani/

02 Modinakhe Fortress

Coordinates:	42.34871, 43.40429	Location:	1 km from Sachkhere, Sachkhere Mun., 700 m asl
Access:	Minibus to Sachkhere, then on foot	Preservation:	Large wall, several towers

Key fact: 1730s, Tsereteli clan. National monument 2018, rehabilitation since 2019.

Tip: Full guide available on Madloba.

Catalogue: madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/krepost-modinakhe/

03 Sveri Fortress

Coordinates:	42.23392, 43.31246	Location:	7 km south of Chiatura, village of Sveri
Access:	Taxi from Chiatura + uphill walk	Preservation:	Wall fragments, tower

Key fact: Medieval. Controlled roads in the Kvirila valley.

Tip: Combine with Chiatura and Mgvimevi.

Catalogue: madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/krepost-sveri/

04 Telephisi Fortress

Coordinates:	42.06731, 42.25452	Location:	Village of Tolebi, Samtredia Municipality
Access:	Train to Samtredia, then local taxi	Preservation:	Wall fragments

Key fact: The westernmost fortress of the seven. Edge of the Colchian lowland.

Catalogue: madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/krepost-telefisi/

05 Sazano Fortress

Coordinates:	42.18730, 43.08748	Location:	Village of Kveda Sazano, Zestaphoni Mun.
Access:	Car or taxi from Zestaphoni	Preservation:	Fortification fragments

Key fact: Above the Dzusa River gorge. Natural pairing with Shorapani.

Catalogue: madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/krepost-sazano/

06 Skanda Fortress

Coordinates:	42.26831, 43.04613	Location:	Terjola Municipality, central Imereti
Access:	Car. Public transport impractical	Preservation:	Wall fragments

Key fact: Between Zestaphoni and Kutaisi on the interior road network.

Catalogue: madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/krepost-skanda/

07 Dimna Fortress

Coordinates:	42.18142, 43.05819	Location:	E. edge of Zemo Dimi village, Baghdati Mun.
Access:	Car. No direct public transport	Preservation:	Modest

Key fact: Least visited of the seven. For those completing the full set.

Catalogue: madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/krepost-dimna/

Route Options

East: Sachkhere and Chiatura	Modinakhe near Sachkhere + Sveri near Chiatura. About 1 hour between them. Sveri pairs with Chiatura's Soviet cable cars and Mgvimevi cave monastery.
Centre: Around Zestaphoni	Shorapani + Sazano. Both in Zestaphoni Municipality. Easy to add a wine tasting at a local producer.
For Completists: West and South	Skanda near Terjola + Telephisi near Samtredia + Dimna in Baghdati. Car needed. A route for those specifically collecting all seven.

Colchis and the Golden Fleece

Imereti is the historical core of Colchis, the kingdom of the Golden Fleece myth. The Kvirila River valley was the main land route from the Black Sea coast into the Caucasus interior. Whoever controlled it collected the tolls and held the power. Shorapani sat at the entrance to this corridor in classical antiquity. The other fortresses were positioned along the roads behind it — rebuilt and extended through Persian, Ottoman and Georgian medieval periods, and as late as the 1810 uprising.

What to Bring

Grip-soled footwear	Climbs across grass and loose stone. Slippery after rain.
Water	No shops near any of the castles. Bring enough for the full day.
Offline map with coordinates	Signage is rare. Navigation apps lose the trail at smaller sites.
Book a taxi in advance	No regular transport to most castles. Arrange the night before.
Check the weather	Clay paths after rain become slow and slippery.
Be realistic	Two or three nearby castles is a solid day. Seven in one day is not an itinerary.

Useful Links on Madloba

Imereti castles catalogue	madloba.info/en/region-imereti/castles/
Hub: Castles of Imereti (article)	madloba.info/en/blog/sights-of-georgia/castles-of-imereti/
Rating: architectural attractions of Imereti	madloba.info/reviews/.../arkhitekturnyye-dostoprimechatelnosti-imeretii/
Racha and Imereti: the Golden Fleece	madloba.info/en/blog/georgian-cities/racha-i-imereti-po-sledam-zolotogo-runa/
Gelati Monastery	madloba.info/en/region-imereti/churches/gelatskii-monastyr/
Mgvimevi Monastery (Chiatura)	madloba.info/en/region-imereti/churches/monastyr-mgvimevi/
Zestaphoni guide	madloba.info/en/blog/georgian-cities/zestafoni-gorod-kotoryy-khranyat-vysshiye-sily/
Modinakhe dedicated guide	madloba.info/en/blog/georgian-cities/sachkhere/.../modinahe-krepost-nacionalnogo-znacheniya/