

12
lakes

High-Mountain Lakes of Imereti

Glacial gems of the Lechkhumi ridge: elevations, trails, routes and the trekking season

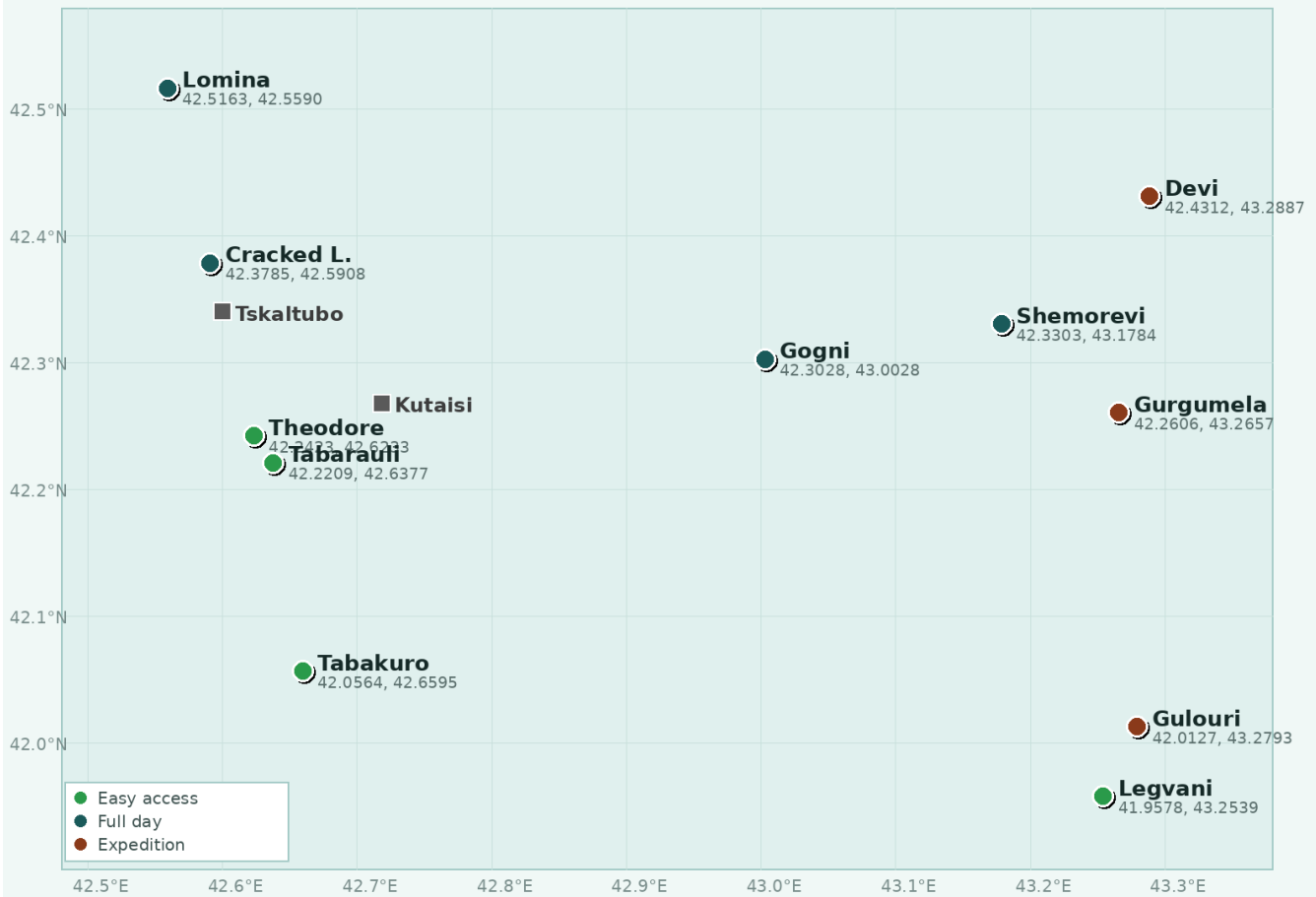
Elevation	1,600–2,700 m above sea level
Season	July – September
Difficulty	Easy to expedition
Base	Kutaisi, Tskaltubo

About this guide

In northern Imereti, along the Lechkhumi and Samegrelo ridges, twelve high-altitude glacial lakes are scattered between 1,600 and 2,700 metres. Most are virtually unknown outside Georgia. This is one of the least-visited trekking areas in the country: no crowds, no infrastructure, just crystal-clear water, rhododendron along the trails and genuine mountain silence. This guide brings all twelve lakes together into one route reference.

Location Map

Lakes of Imereti: location map



Save this PDF: the coordinates and map work offline when there is no signal on the trail. Coordinates are latitude, longitude — paste them into an offline map (Organic Maps).

The Twelve Lakes

1	Gogni Turquoise water, rhododendron on the approach. The most recognised lake among Georgian speakers. Water colour shifts through the day. GPS: 42.3028, 43.0028	Easy-medium
2	Legvani The most internationally known of the group. Straightforward approach through beech forest and alpine meadows. Greenish-turquoise water. GPS: 41.9578, 43.2539	Easy
3	Lomina The trail passes a waterfall on the way to the lake. Most searched by Russian-speaking visitors. Camp by the water facing the ridge. GPS: 42.5163, 42.5590	Medium
4	Shemorevi Open alpine cirque, no tree cover. Snowfields linger into July. Ridge reflection in still weather. GPS: 42.3303, 43.1784	Medium
5	Oskhapo Trail through the rhododendron belt. A sea of pink blossom in June. Rarely visited. GPS: coordinate pending	Medium
6	Tabakuro Gentle terrain, easy approaches. A good choice for a first mountain hike in the region. GPS: 42.0564, 42.6595	Easy
7	Lake Theodore A small mountain lake, reachable in a single outing from the nearest village. GPS: 42.2423, 42.6233	Easy
8	Tabarauli Sits next to Theodore, easily combined into one trip. Quiet and uncrowded. GPS: 42.2209, 42.6377	Easy
9	Cracked Lake Named for its shoreline shape. A hard-to-reach point for experienced hikers. GPS: 42.3785, 42.5908	Medium

10	Devi On the very ridge crest. Long approach, mountain experience required. Quiet at the shore even in season. GPS: 42.4312, 43.2887	Hard
11	Gurgumela Minimal foot traffic. Long approach through forest and the alpine zone. Complete isolation. GPS: 42.2606, 43.2657	Hard
12	Gulouri The southernmost lake of the group. Long approach, a good spot for a first mountain camp. GPS: 42.0127, 43.2793	Hard

Three Route Options

First visit

Legvani or Tabakuro. A day hike with moderate elevation gain. Sleep in a village guesthouse. Ideal for a first time in the Imereti highlands.

Classic trek

Lomina or Gogni. A full day, 800–1,200 m of gain. Camp at the lake or return to the village by evening. The most photogenic routes of the group.

Expedition

Devi, Gurgumela or Gulouri. 2–3 days with mountain camps. Long approaches, navigation skills and two days of food required.

Trekker Checklist

- ✓ Ankle-support trekking boots
- ✓ Rain jacket and warm layer: afternoon storms are common
- ✓ Offline map (Organic Maps): no signal on the trails
- ✓ Water filter or purification tablets
- ✓ 4WD or a local driver to the village
- ✓ Guesthouse booked the night before
- ✓ Cash from Kutaisi: no ATMs near the lakes
- ✓ Season strictly July–September

Frequently Asked Questions

When do the trails open?

July through September. Snow lingers on some trails into June. August is best: dry trails, more stable weather.

Is a 4WD necessary?

Yes, for most approach roads to the villages. Hire one in Kutaisi or arrange a local driver through your guesthouse.

Can I camp at the lakes?

Yes, most have tent pitches. Bring an insulated tent, a stove and enough food. Filter the water.

Is there signal on the trails?

In villages, yes. On the trails and at the lakes, no. Download an offline map and share your plan.

Which lake is most beautiful?

Gogni for turquoise and rhododendron. Lomina for the waterfall. Legvani for accessibility. Each is beautiful in its own way.

Full lake catalogue with coordinates and photos:

madloba.info/en/region-imereti/natural-attractions/

Compare with the cleanest lakes of Georgia ranking: madloba.info/en/reviews/.../samyye-chistyie-ozora-gruzii/