

13
churches

Small Churches of Imereti

Rural churches and monasteries off the tourist trail:
locations, coordinates and how to get there

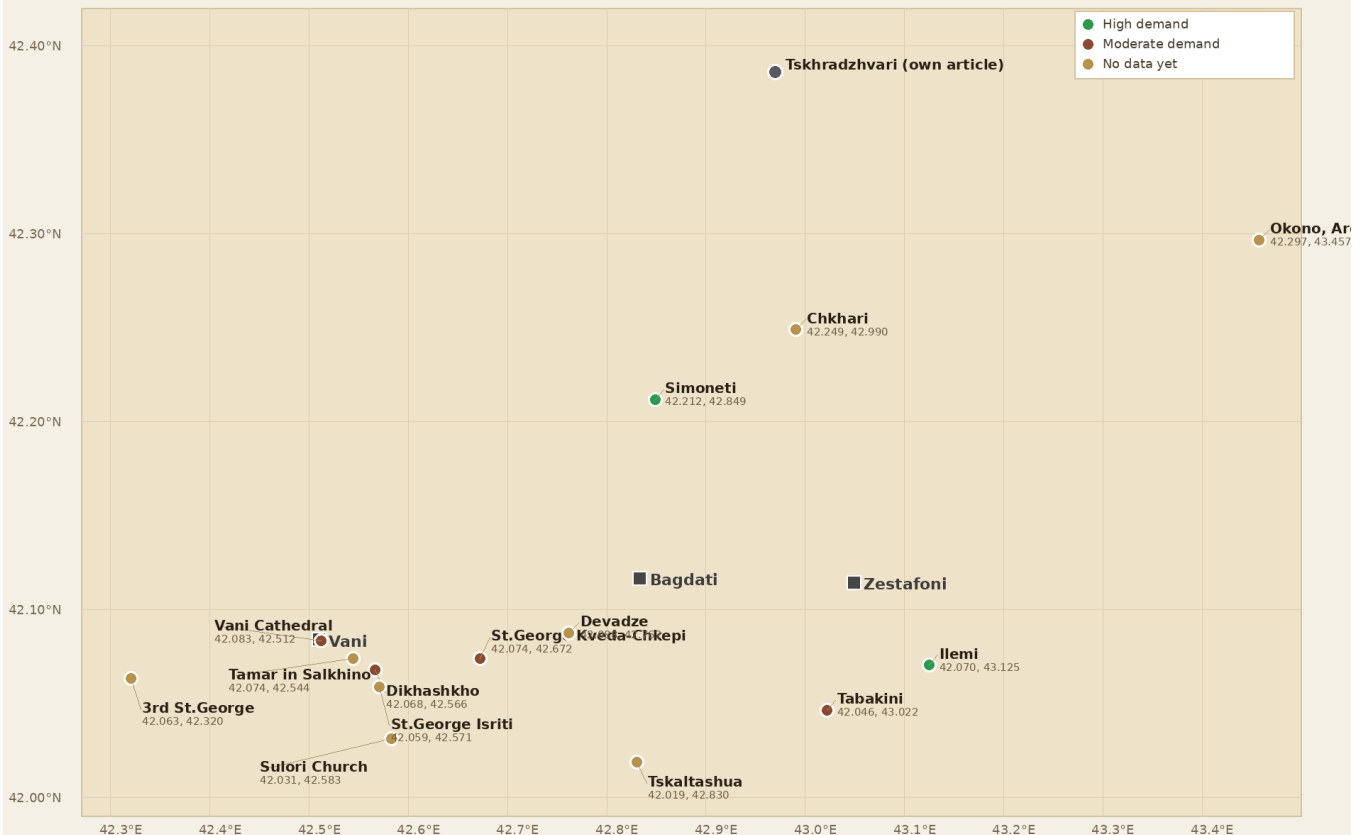
Sites	13 churches and monasteries
Geography	Around Vani, Bagdati, Zestafoni
Access	No signposts, coordinates only
Signal	Often unavailable on site

About this guide

Beyond Imereti's flagship sites, Gelati, Bagrati, Motsameta, Katskhi and Mgvimevi, the region holds dozens of rural churches well off any tourist route. Most have no roadside signs and are known mainly to locals. This guide brings together thirteen such sites with verified coordinates: where to find them, how to get there, and what is currently known about each.

Location Map

Small Churches of Imereti: map



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

Thirteen Churches

1	Ilemi The highest search demand among the region's small churches, about 9 km from Zestafoni. The church's exact history is not yet confirmed by multiple sources. GPS: 42.0704, 43.1249	High demand
2	Simoneti An active women's monastery, about 9 km from Bagdati. Also known under the alternate name Shivta. GPS: 42.2116, 42.8488	High demand
3	Vani Cathedral The cathedral sits in the town of Vani itself, the only site in this guide located within a town rather than a village. GPS: 42.0832, 42.5120	Moderate demand
4	Tabakini About 7 km from Zestafoni. Known by the query "Tabakini monastery" but ranks weakly. GPS: 42.0465, 43.0221	Moderate demand
5	Dikhashkho Church of Peter and Paul, about 6 km from Vani. Steady but modest Russian-language demand. GPS: 42.0681, 42.5661	Moderate demand
6	St. George, Kveda-Chkepi About 16 km from Vani. Visible mainly through English-language queries. GPS: 42.0741, 42.6722	Moderate demand
7	Tamar in Salkhino About 4 km from Vani. Not to be confused with the village of Salkhino in Samegrelo, home to the Dadiani palace. GPS: 42.0738, 42.5440	No data yet
8	Devadze About 8 km from Bagdati. GPS: 42.0876, 42.7619	No data yet
9	Tskaltashua About 13 km from Bagdati. GPS: 42.0189, 42.8301	No data yet

10	Chkhari Spaso-Voskresenskaya Church, about 7 km from Terjola. GPS: 42.2489, 42.9903	No data yet
11	Sulori Church Church of the Annunciation, about 9 km from Vani. GPS: 42.0314, 42.5826	No data yet
12	St. George, Isriti About 6 km from Vani. GPS: 42.0587, 42.5709	No data yet
13	Third St. George Church About 10 km from Samtredia. GPS: 42.0634, 42.3201	No data yet
14	Okono, Argveti Church of the Virgin, about 7 km from Sachkhere, in the historic Argveti area. GPS: 42.2966, 43.4572	No data yet

□ Tskhradzhvari (Nine Crosses mountain near Tkibuli) is not part of this list: it is a major standalone site with its own dedicated article on the site.

Two Routes

Vani cluster: five churches in half a day

Vani (Cathedral) → Tamar in Salkhino (4 km) → Dikhashkho (6 km) → St. George in Isriti (6 km) → Sulori Church (9 km). All points within 10 km of town.

Zestafoni and Sachkhere: Ilemi and surroundings

Zestafoni → Ilemi (9 km) → Tabakini (7 km the other way) → Okono in Argveti (about 40 km to Sachkhere). Can be combined with Tskhradzhvari.

Before You Go

- ✓ Almost no signposting, navigate by coordinates and an offline map
- ✓ Some villages have unpaved access roads, drive carefully after rain
- ✓ Ask locally, residents usually know the church's exact location
- ✓ Modest dress is required: headscarf and covered shoulders for women, long trousers for men
- ✓ The church may be closed, be prepared to see it only from outside
- ✓ These are active parishes, not museums, respect the quiet

Frequently Asked Questions

How many churches are in this guide?

Thirteen sites with verified coordinates. Mount Tskhradzhvari is mentioned separately with a link to its own article.

How do you get to the small churches?

Base towns: Vani, Bagdati, Zestafoni, Terjola, Samtredia, Sachkhere. Each town sits 4 to 16 km from its nearest churches.

Which church is best known?

Ilemi and Simoneti lead in search demand. Vani Cathedral sits in town and pairs well with other sights there.

Can you visit several churches in one day?

Yes, the Vani cluster includes five sites within a 10 km radius.

Why is there so little information on some churches?

Several sites have no significant search footprint yet. Coordinates and locations are given honestly, without invented dates or facts.

Full catalogue of Imereti churches with photos:

madloba.info/en/region-imereti/churches/

The region's flagship sites (Gelati, Bagrati, Motsameta, Katskhi, Mgvimevi): a separate article on madloba.info