



Caves of Imereti

Eight underground worlds from Prometheus to Dzudzuana: karst halls, dinosaur footprints and prehistoric settlements

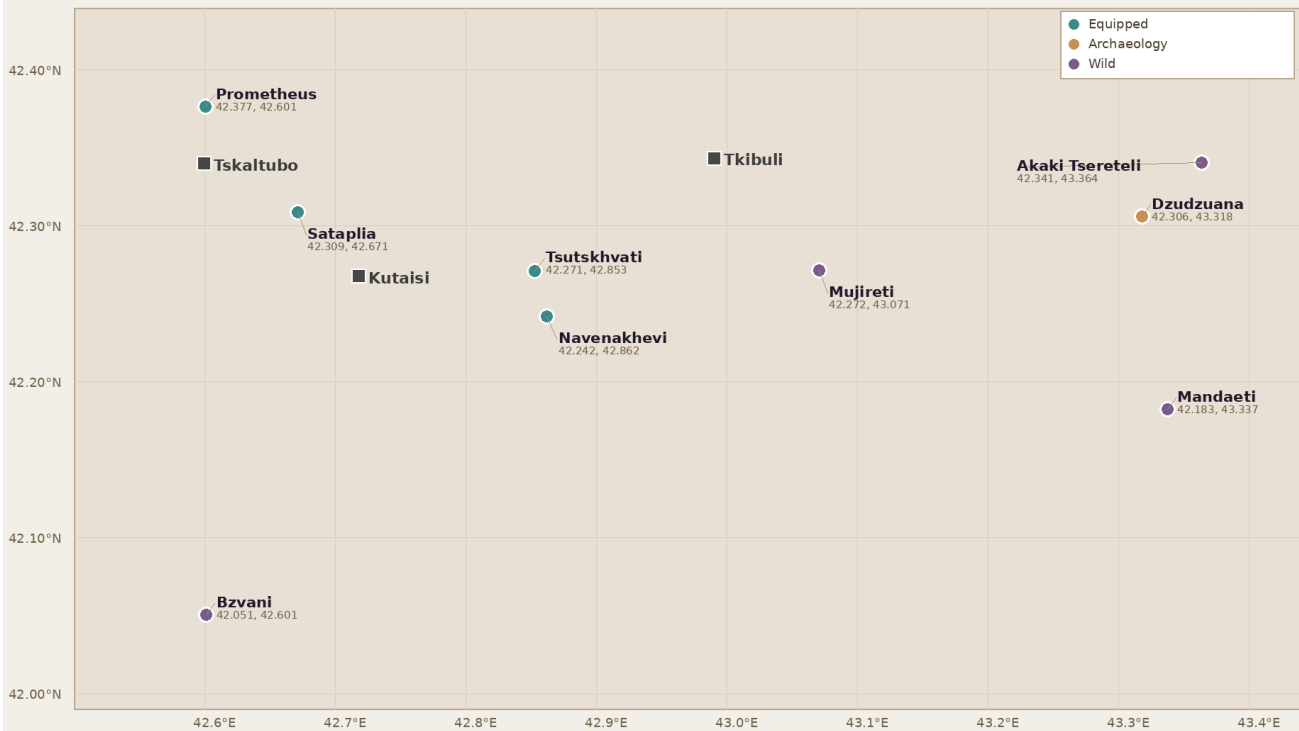
Sites	8 caves and complexes
Base	Kutaisi and Tskaltubo
Equipped	Prometheus, Sataplia, Navenakhevi
Signal	None inside the caves

About this guide

Imereti is Georgia's main cave region. More than a dozen karst caves are hidden in the limestone ridges around Kutaisi, Tskaltubo and Tkibuli. This guide gathers eight of them: from the vast, developed Prometheus Cave with its underground river and the dinosaur footprints at Sataplia, to Dzudzuana, where archaeologists found the world's oldest dyed flax fibres, about 30,000 years old. All facts here are checked against official and scientific sources.

Location Map

Caves of Imereti: map



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

Eight Caves

1	Prometheus (Kumistavi) Georgia's largest cave, discovered by speleologists in 1983 and opened to tourists in 2011. About 1,800 m developed, six halls, an underground river with a boat. About 20 km from Kutaisi. GPS: 42.3767, 42.6008	Equipped
2	Sataplia A reserve since 1935: a karst cave, dinosaur footprints about 120 million years old, and a glass observation deck. About 10 km from Kutaisi. GPS: 42.3090, 42.6712	Equipped
3	Navenakhevi A developed cave about 250 m long, four halls with formations. Navenakhevi village, Terjola municipality, east of Kutaisi. GPS: 42.2422, 42.8624	Equipped
4	Tsutskhvati A vertical complex of 13 tiers above a river, locally called Maghara. A Neanderthal tooth ~50,000 years old, bones of 40+ species. Tkibuli district. GPS: 42.2714, 42.8528	Partly
5	Dzudzuana A Palaeolithic site near Mghvimevi village (Chiatura). In 2009 flax fibres about 30,000 years old were found here, dyed and spun, the oldest in the world. GPS: 42.3062, 43.3178	Archaeology
6	Mandaeti A wild cave in the Tkibuli district, with no developed routes. GPS: 42.1827, 43.3373	Wild
7	Mujireti A little-known wild cave in the central part of the region. GPS: 42.2716, 43.0707	Wild
8	Bzvani A wild cave in south-western Imereti, near Vani. GPS: 42.0508, 42.6014	Wild
9	Akaki Tsereteli Cave A little-known site in the north of the region, named after the classic Georgian writer. GPS: 42.3408, 43.3636	Wild

□ Prometheus and Sataplia sit close together and combine easily into one day. Both are closed on Mondays. Inside developed caves it stays around 14 °C year-round, bring warm clothing.

How to Tour the Caves

The classic day: Prometheus and Sataplia

Both caves lie north-west of Kutaisi, 10-20 km from the city and close to each other. The vast Prometheus with its underground river, plus the dinosaur footprints and glass deck at Sataplia.

Eastern loop: Tsutskhvat and Navenakhevi

Both caves lie east of Kutaisi, towards Tkibuli, a few kilometres apart. Dzudzuana is further east, for those interested in archaeology.

Before You Visit

- ✓ Developed caves: warm clothing, it stays around 14 °C year-round inside
- ✓ Non-slip shoes, paths are wet and slippery in places from formations
- ✓ Hours and days off: developed caves run on schedules, Monday is closed
- ✓ Touch nothing: oil from hands halts the growth of stalactites
- ✓ Wild caves: only with a guide, headlamp and helmet, never alone
- ✓ After rain, water levels can rise in caves near rivers

Frequently Asked Questions

How many caves are in Imereti?

The regional catalogue lists eight: Prometheus, Sataplia, Navenakhevi, Tsutskhvat, Dzudzuana, Mandaeti, Mujireti, Bzvani and the Akaki Tsereteli Cave.

Which cave is the largest?

Prometheus (Kumistavi) near Kutaisi, Georgia's largest cave, with a boat route along an underground river. Opened to tourists in 2011.

Where can you see dinosaur footprints?

At Sataplia Reserve about 10 km from Kutaisi, tracks about 120 million years old, left by both herbivorous and carnivorous dinosaurs.

What is Dzudzuana known for?

In 2009 flax fibres about 30,000 years old were found here, dyed and spun, the world's oldest evidence of spinning and dyeing thread.

Can you enter the wild caves alone?

Mandaeti, Mujireti, Bzvani and the Akaki Tsereteli Cave are undeveloped. Go only with experience, gear and a local guide.

Full catalogue of Imereti caves with photos:

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

Mysterious Caves of Georgia: a countrywide overview of karst caves on madloba.info