

10
territories

Kakheti National Parks and Reserves

Ten protected areas from Tusheti to Vashlovani: status, access and what to see

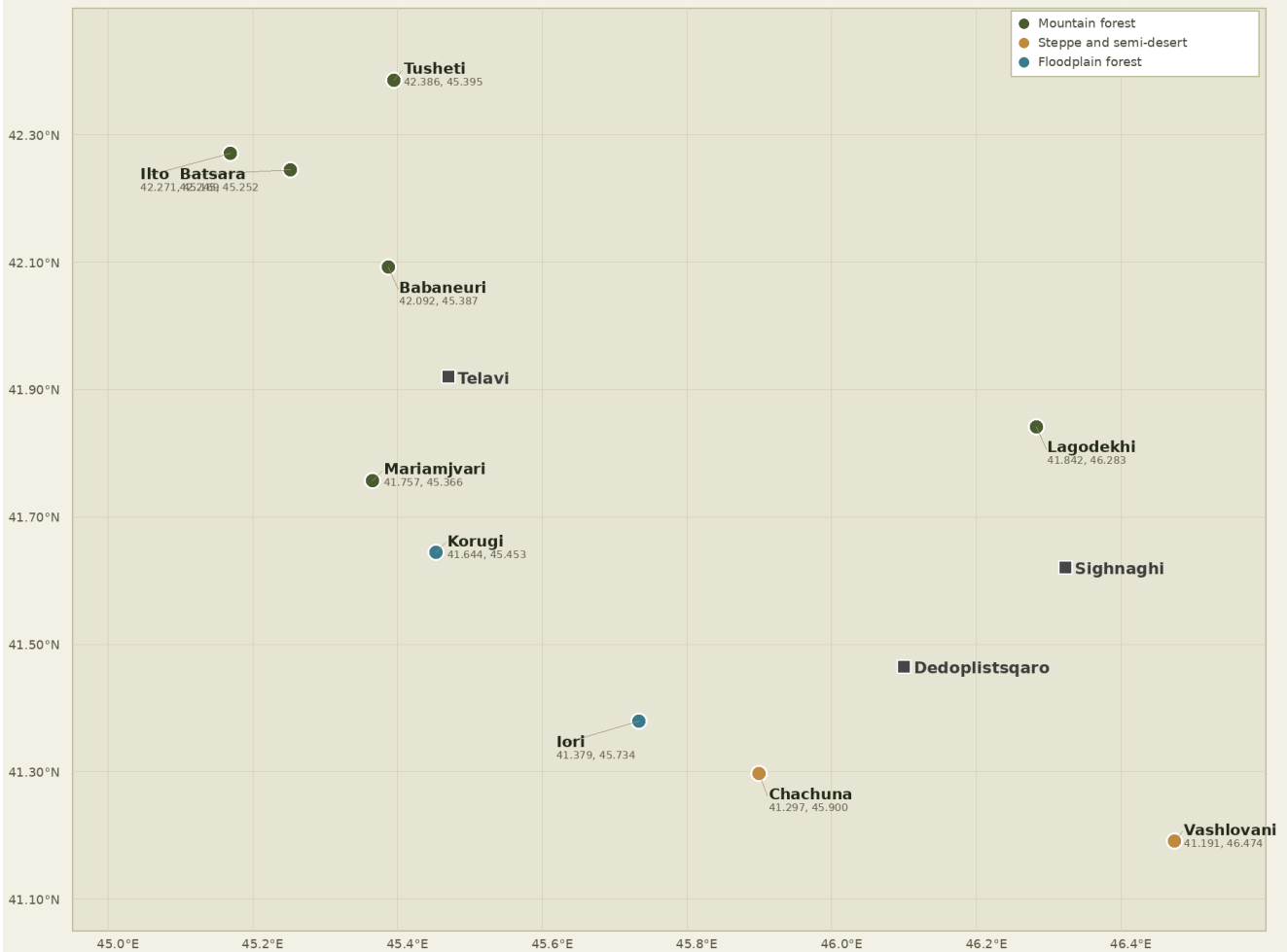
Territories	10 protected areas
True national parks	2 (Tusheti, Vashlovani)
Reserves and managed areas	8
Signal	Often unavailable on site

About This Guide

Kakheti leads every region of Georgia in the number of protected natural areas: ten sites within one stretch of country, from the alpine meadows of Tusheti to the semi-desert of Vashlovani. Not all of them are officially "national parks", though: some are strict nature reserves, others are managed reserves. The distinction affects how you can visit. This guide sorts out the statuses honestly and brings together all ten territories with verified coordinates.

Location Map

Kakheti Protected Areas: 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).

Ten Territories

1	Tusheti The region's largest national park, 83,000 ha, elevations 900-4,800 m. Alpine meadows, watchtowers, 11 routes from 1 to 6 days. Established 2003. Accessible only in summer via Abano Pass. GPS: 42.3859, 45.3950	National Park
2	Lagodekhi Georgia's oldest protected area, established 1912. Waterfalls, glacial lakes, five marked routes. The managed reserve is open to tourists, the strict reserve is closed. GPS: 41.8421, 46.2825	Reserve + Managed Area
3	Batsara Relict Tertiary-period yew groves, trees 400-700 years old. Established 1935. Access by permission from the administration only. GPS: 42.2447, 45.2516	Reserve
4	Babaneuri Relict groves of Caucasian zelkova, 862 ha. Established 1950. Access is limited. GPS: 42.0921, 45.3869	Reserve
5	Ilto A buffer territory between rivers, part of the Batsara-Babaneuri complex. Botanical and eco-tours possible, a 4x4 is needed. GPS: 42.2711, 45.1688	Managed Reserve
6	Mariamjvari The world's only grove of Sosnowsky's pine. Established 1935, access limited, mostly for researchers. GPS: 41.7575, 45.3656	Reserve
7	Vashlovani Semi-desert, canyons, the Takhti-Tepa mud volcanoes. National park status since 2003, protected since 1935. A 4x4 is needed, a border zone with Azerbaijan. GPS: 41.1908, 46.4735	National Park
8	Chachuna Riparian forest along the Iori and the semi-desert hills of Kiziqi, 5,200 ha. Up to ten species of rare birds. GPS: 41.2969, 45.8996	Managed Reserve

9	Iori Floodplain forest near Signaghi, 1,336 ha. Established 1965. Wild boar, wolf, otter, pheasant, blunt-nosed viper. GPS: 41.3794 , 45.7339	Managed Reserve
10	Korugi Iori valley, Sagarejo district. A continuation of the Iori natural complex, similar flora and fauna. GPS: 41.6444 , 45.4531	Managed Reserve

⚠ Some reserves (Batsara, Babaneuri, Mariamjvari) are closed to casual visitors: access is by permission from the protected areas administration only. Check the access rules before you go.

How to Tour the Territories

Mountain loop: Tusheti and Lagodekhi

A summer route through northern Kakheti. Tusheti is accessible only in season (Abano Pass is open June to September), Lagodekhi year-round. Multi-day treks require proper trekking preparation.

Steppe south-east: Vashlovani and Chachuna

Both sites lie in Dedoplistsqaro municipality, on the border with Azerbaijan. A 4x4 is needed, and Vashlovani requires registration at the visitor centre. Best season: spring and autumn.

Before You Go

- ✓ Tusheti is accessible only in summer, Abano Pass is closed most of the year
- ✓ Batsara, Babaneuri and Mariamjvari require permission from the protected areas administration
- ✓ For Vashlovani and Chachuna, moving between trailheads requires a 4x4
- ✓ Vashlovani sits on the Azerbaijani border, registration at the Dedoplistsqaro visitor centre is required
- ✓ Summer in the steppe zone is exhaustingly hot, spring and autumn are the best seasons
- ✓ Most reserves have no mobile signal, download an offline map in advance

Frequently Asked Questions

How many national parks and reserves are there in Kakheti?

Ten protected territories. Only two, Tusheti and Vashlovani, officially hold national park status. The remaining eight are strict nature reserves and managed reserves.

What's the difference between a national park and a reserve?

A national park implies tourist infrastructure and relatively open access. A strict nature reserve exists for conservation and research, visiting usually requires permission.

Which territory is the oldest?

Lagodekhi Reserve, established in 1912, the oldest protected area in all of Georgia.

Do you need a 4x4?

For Vashlovani, Chachuna and Ilto, yes. Tusheti and Lagodekhi are more accessible by regular car.

Where do the oldest trees grow?

In Batsara Reserve, Tertiary-period yew groves up to 700 years old.

Full catalogue of Kakheti's natural attractions:

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

Gardabani National Park lies in the Kvemo Kartli region, not Kakheti, a separate article on madloba.info