Javakheti is one of the oldest regions of Georgia, distinguished by its originality and uniqueness. Unusual and diverse is its landscape with its alternating grandiose mountain slopes covered all over with boulders, deep winding canyons and wide flat Akhalkalaki plateau. Vast is the chronological range of numerous heritage sites of Javakheti, on the territory of which preserved are megalithic monuments (menhirs, “cyclopean” castles and fortresses), Medieval settlement-sites and churches and Early Christian stelae. Abundant here are lapidary inscriptions, of utmost significance are samples of mural painting – suffices it to mention that it is here, in Vardzia, that one of the four portraits of Her Majesty King Tamar can be seen.

Notwithstanding hard geographic and climatic, as well as historic conditions, Javakheti had attracted attention of the scholars beginning from the 19th c.; however, no overwhelming picture of the history of the region is yet drawn, its comprehensive cultural-historical, or architectural-historical characteristic is still to be given. None the less, it is quite evident that Medieval structures extant here are peculiar by their compositions, use of the building material, etc., making it possible to speak about the “Javakhetian” school of Georgian architecture. At the same time, some of these monuments are epoch-making creations with their own, special place in the history of Georgian architecture.

Greater part of Javakheti is a mountainous plateau surrounded by the ridges picks of which reach up to 2,300-3,000 m. above the sea level. Four geographic areas are distinguished in Javakheti – northern (Chobareti - Tabatskuri), central (Akhalkalaki Valley), southern (Kartsakhi - Paravani and Niala). Akhalkalaki plateau is sloping along the East-West axis and difference in height above the sea level ranges between 1,200-1,800 m. Among the hills towering is 200 m. high Amiranis-gora (Mount Amiran) named after the hero of the ancient mythology. Depth of the river gorges reaches several dozen metres. Most important of these rivers is Paravnis-tsalki, which issuing from the lake Paravani, absorbs tributaries and falls into the river Mtkvari (Kura) near
Khertvisi. Javakheti is a lake-country of Georgia, although changes of the climate had caused bogging up of some of them (e.g. Kartsakhi). Also large is the number of freshwater springs – e.g. by the banks of the lakes Paravani and Sagamo, near the villages Dlivi, Gardzani, Bozhano.

At present Javakheti is an almost woodless country, but in the past it used to have pine forests and birch woods (pine forest is preserved on the northwestern part of the Mount Chobareti and northeastern portion of Samsari Ridge). This, inscription of Samsari monastery (early 10th c.) mentions existence of thick forests, while Turkish lists of the “Gurjistan Vilayet” (16th c.) refer to “woody-Javakheti” in the northern part of Paravani Gorge.

On the height of 1,500-2,000 m. above the sea level average temperature of the coldest month equals – 7º-11º, while that of the hottest +14º-18º, annual quantity of sediments equals 650-700 mm. Winter is colder here, as compared to the regions on the same height on the slopes of the Caucasian Ridge, the snow lies 4-5 months and it is quite cool up to mid June. While in the gorge of the river Mtkvari and its tributaries, it is far warmer and windless. Here vineyards and orchards grow on the artificial terraces. It is on the outlying parts of the plateau, above the gorges, that the riches and most culturally advanced villages of Javakheti are located; conditions here are equally favourable for the field-crop cultivation, cattle-breeding and gardening.

Both in the 19th c. and earlier, all the conditions for vast settlements were available on Akhalkalaki Plateau. However, it was densely inhabited, villagers had no personal plots keeping cattle and poultry next to the dwelling.

As early as the 19th c. cattle-breeding was well developed here, almost everyone had buffalos, cows and sheep. Beginning from late September up to May the cattle was fed from the manger, while the rest of the year was spent on pastures, which occupied one third of the territory of the region. From the oldest times (as testified by the grave-mounds next to which Christian cemeteries are located) cattle was brought here from Kartli and Kakheti. Even when Javakheti found itself within the boundaries of Turkey, cattle owners, especially sheep-breeders, continued to spend the whole summer here; up to present shepherd from Kakheti keep to this tradition.

Field-crop cultivation was also developed in Javakheti – wheat, barley, rye, oats, millet, flax were cultivated here. From the times immemorial, Javakheti used to be a granary of Georgia; it is not casual that in the neighbouring Ajara wheat is called “javakhuri” (Javakhetian).

Rivers and lakes in Javakheti were always abound in fish, which is evidenced by the Vita of St. Nino, describing the events of the 4th c., 16th c. Turkish lists and the 18th c. Georgian historian – royal prince Vakhushti. Very important was production of linseed-oil (even today ancient stone presses can be seen in the villages and settlement-sites), which flourished up to 19th c. in a number of villages. Less developed were horticulture and market-gardening. Especially widely cultivated was mulberry, from the fruit, leaves and rind of which drinks, sweets and remedies were made. Mulberry-tree was cut neither for firewood, nor for construction purposes, on the contrary, it was planted after the birth of a child. Javakhetian honey was famous for its high quality.

In the historical sources Javakheti (Zabokha) is first mentioned in the inscription of the Urartu king Argishti I, 785 BC. According to Georgian historical tradition, legendary Javakhos owned lands from Paravani up to the sources of Mtkvari. In the reign of Parnavaz (4th-3rd cc. BC), this region was governed by eristavi (governor), who had a residence in Tsunda; Tsunda eristavi Nazar is mentioned in the reign of the king Vakhtang Gorgasali (5th c. AD). It is noteworthy that the name Javakh (Zevakh) is found in the onomasticon of Kartli pitiakhshes (2nd C. AD).

In the past Javakheti was divided into two – Upper (beginning from Paravani up to Mtkvari canyon) and lower (Mtkvari canyon, Niali and Buzmareti plateaus) Javakheti. Settlements were grouped near the lakes and just around them (Sagamo, Khanchali, Kartsakhi, Tabuskuri, Paravani, etc.) territorial units were formed.

In the 8th c. Javakheti fell under the Arab domination and beginning from the 9th c. it was in the ownership of Tao-Klarjeti Bagrationis, who would appoint a local eristavi; at that period residence of the latter was in Tmogvi and beginning from the 11th c. – in Akhalkalaki. Later on, this region formed part of the royal princes’ dominion.

Beginning from the 15th c. Javakheti was ruled by the Jakelis, princes of Samtske and in late 16th c., together with their other lands, it fell in the possession of Turkey. As stipulated by the Adrianopol Treaty of 1829, Javakheti was given to Russia, which had captured greater part of Georgia by that time.
Javakheti is the region, crossing which Enlightener of Georgia – St. Nino – came to the country; somewhat later, in the 4th c. already, envoys of Constantine the Great seem most likely to have put foundation of Tsunda church. In the 6th c. Episcopal Sees were in Tsunda and Kumurdo (the latter had retained its significance up to the 16th c.), later on royal monasteries in Vardzia and Vanis-Kvabebi flourished here, numerous churches and abodes were built; all these are discussed in the guidebook.

Three highways lead from Tbilisi to Javakheti:
1. Crossing Trialeti: Manglisi – Tsalka – Paravani;
2. Khashuri – Borjomi – Akhalsikhe – Aspindza – Akhalkalaki (or Vardzia);

In Javakheti one can see:
1. Menhir on the Chikiani hill (the so called “Tikma dash”);
2. 12th c. stone cross bearing the image of the Virgin and an inscription of some David;
In the village Paravani – two churches:

3. 10th c. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with carvings and reliefs;

4. 13th-14th cc. aisles vaulted church built of hewn stone and unembellished;

In the same village:

5. Ruins of the “three aisled” caravanserai built in the 13th-14th cc. on the place of an older structure;

In the village Poka – three monuments:

6. Large aisles vaulted church built of hewn stone, adorned with carvings, inscriptions of which mention the donor – Catholicos Ioane-Okropiri (3rd-4th decades of the 11th c.);
7. Aisless vaulted church with the carved fragments of 11th-13th cc., rebuilt in the 19th c.;
8. Remnants of a “cyclopean” fortress;

Near the village Vladimirovka:

9. Settlement-site Makharoni: menhir, old cemetery and remnants of the 11th c. church with the 14th c. altar in its interior;
10. Village Aspara – northern wall and fragments of the 11th c. aisleless vaulted church built of hewn stone;

11. Shaori – “cyclopean” fortress (2nd mill. BC);
Several old structures in the village Gandzani

12.-14. Old stone bridge; Menhir with the image of a fish (the so called “veshapi”) and remnants of the Pre-Christian fortress;

15.-16. Two contemporary (the so called “Upper” and “Lower”) churches built of hewn stone and modestly decorated, erected by the family Nikolas-dze between 1334-1346 (“Upper” church is provided by the southern annex);

In the environs of the village Gandzani:

17. Small aisles vaulted church of St. John the Baptist built of hewn stone (13th-14th cc.);
Several old structures in the village Sagamo:

18. Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone with the southern annex (10th c.), in the past it used to have western annex as well; adorned with refined carving and reliefs (protomes of animals, “Story of the Prophet Jonah”);
19. Small 10th c. aisles vaulted church built of hewn stone with the decorated entrance;

20. 13th-14th cc. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with carvings;
In the environs of the village Sagamo:

21. Pre-Christian settlement-site Dumani (also functioning in the Middle Ages) with the “cyclopean” fortress;

22. Ruins of the aisless vaulted church of Dumani, built of hewn stone, with ancient tomb stones around it;

23. Village Satkhe – Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone, erected in the 1st half of the 11th c. by eristav-t-eristav (governor) Parsman, adorned with the ornamentation (part of them is of the 15th c.) and the image of the Virgin; in 1877 a large Armenian church was built to it;

24. Fortress Satkhe comprising Pre-Christian and 11th c. structures;

25. Village Orjolari – 10th c. donor relief (damaged at present) and ancient tomb stones are embodied within the 19th Armenian church;
In the environs of the village Orjolari:

26. Remnants of the 13th-14th cc. church with the altar and carved fragments;

27. Village Arakali – fragments of the 6th-7th – 15th cc. Georgian stelae are embodied within the 19th c. Armenian church;

28. Settlement-site Orlovka – remnants of the exploded 10th c. church, ancient cemetery, remnants of a fortress;

29.-30. Between the former villages Gorelovka and Troitskoe – two settlement-ites with fortresses in them;

31.-32. Village Spasovka – two settlement-sites with fortresses in them;

In the village Didi-Khanchali:

33. Old Georgian stele above which in 1995 an Armenian chapel was erected, in the enclosure of which old Georgian tomb stones are embodied;

34. Settlement-site with the remnants of a church, with base of the 14th-15th cc. cross; remnants of the “cyclopean” fortifications;
35.-37. To the West of the lake Khanchali – three settlement-sites, to the Northeast – a settlement-site with the remnants of a church and a “cyclopean” fortress (the so called “Kalacha”);
38. Village Dlivi – remnants of a large settlement – most likely, the famous 10th-11th cc. royal residence (although a menhir is also located here);

In the Village Dadeshi:

39. Remnants of the Pre-Christian fortress “Kartula”, which used to function in the Middle Ages as well; next to it – remnants of a church;
40. Village Patara Gondrio (here, similar to the case in the village Didi Gondrio, 19th c. Armenian churches are located) – a settlement-site, the so called “Shaitumani” with the Pre-Christian fortification wall and Medieval structures inside;

41. Late 10th c. aislless vaulted church built of unhewn stone (with the hewn stone constructional elements);
42. 19th c. Armenian church with the 10th-11th cc. decorated architrave embodied in its masonry;

43. Pre-Christian fortress to the South;
44. Pre-Christian fortress “Dash-kala”; 
45. Village Sulda – 19th c. Armenian church west wall of which is a fragment of the ancient Georgian church, while two, 12th-13th cc. crosses with inscriptions are embodied in its east wall;

Near the village Sulda:

46. Ruins of the 10th c. aisless vaulted church built of unhewn stone with the contemporary stone cross next to it;
47. Village Didi-Kartsakhi – two, 10th c. Georgian reliefs – “Daniel in the Lions’ Den” and “Angellic Orders” are embodied within the masonry of the Armenian church of 1894;

To the North of the village:
48. Moraine transformed into a “cyclopean” fortress on the Mount “Kor-Ogli”;
49. On the bank of the lake Kartsakhi – carved Armenian “khachkars” (“High Crosses”) with inscriptions;
50. In the village Khaveti – remnants of a church;

Near the village Khaveti:
51. Two, Early Medieval, stelae adorned with reliefs;

In the village Kaurma (old Tontio):
52. Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone, adorned with the carving and reliefs, erected in 1023-1027, inscriptions of which mention king George I and Catholicoses Melchisedec and Ioane-Okropiri;
53. “Cyclopean” fortress;

54. Medieval bridge considerably repaired by the Turks in the 18th c.;
55. Village Eshtia – ancient tomb stones;

In the environs of the village Toria:

56. On the mountain, a chapel built of dry masonry with the base and fragments of a cross inside; nearby – a terrace with the remnants of dwellings;
57. By the bottom of the mountain – remnants of the 14th-15th cc. church with the old cemetery around it;

In the village Didi-Khorenia (apart from the Armenian church of 1995) preserved are:
58. Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone in the 10th c., renovated in the 15th c. (its decoration, excluding that of the east window and west door, date to this period) and repaired in early 20th c.; in the 1st half of the 11th c. Catholicos Melchisedec built an annex of hewn stone and adorned with carvings and reliefs to the church;
59. Small, 13th-14th cc. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with carvings;

60. Village Patara Khorenia – remnants of the 14th-15th cc. aisless vaulted church with the altar and fragments of stelae inside;

Near the village:

61. Pre-Christian “cyclopean” fortress, which was functioning in the Middle Ages as well;
62. Settlement-site Karneti – aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with carvings (1033-1048) with the inscription of Catholicos Ioane-Okropiri; 14th c. annex of hewn stone is adorned with the carvings bears an inscription of some Vardan;
63. Settlement-site Almalu (Middle Ages);
64. Village Jigrasheni – 19th c. Armenian church in the walls of which fragments of old Georgian church are discernible; ancient caves;

Near the village Jigrasheni:
65. Settlement-site Jigrasheni – ruins of the aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone in the 10th c. (in the conch – aniconic painting – image of the Cross; in the interior – altar and base of the cross, next to it – a stele), remnants of the fortification wall, dwellings and road;

In the village Gulalisi:
66. In an over-renovated church preserved is an inscription of 1060, mentioning the kings Bagrat IV and George II;
67. Remnants of a fortress – underground chapel (next to it – stones with crosses and fragments of stelae) and underground shelter – the so called “darani”;
68.-69. Village Vachiani – two Armenian churches: in the masonry of one of them (1838) old Georgian tomb stones are included; the other is erected on the ruins of the Georgian church and stelae, as well as stones with crosses and inscriptions are discernible in its masonry; old Georgian cemetery is located nearby;
In the village Murjakheti:

70. 10th c. aisless vaulted church with interesting carved details in the interior and exterior walls disfigured by the repair;
71. Stone pillar linked with the pagan beliefs, the so called “Dzi-kva” (milk stone);
72. “Darani” and a settlement-site on the opposite bank of the river;

In the village Khospio:

73. Small aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone (14th-15th cc.);
74. 10th c. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with reliefs (“Deesis”, “Daniel in the Lions’ Den”) and window terminations;

75. Town Akhalkalaki – most significant settlement of Upper Javakheti, which had emerged in the New Stone Age; here discovered are remnants of the 9th-10th cc. domed church with the 5th-9th cc. fragments and remnants of the 12th-13th cc. church; ruins of a caravanserai, a bath-house, etc. are also found; 11th-19th cc. layers are discernible in the fortification wall of the town;
Near Akhalkalaki:
76. Settlement “Amiranis-gora”, which functioned from the Stone Age up to the Early Iron Age;

In the village Abuli:
77. Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone in the 11th c., moderately decorated with the images of crosses, with the contemporary inscriptions mentioning the name of the builder – Guzan and the 13th c. annex; near it – Armenian church of 1884;
78. Settlement-site of Pre-Christian period and Early Middle Ages;
79. On the slopes of the Mount Mtsire (Minor) Abuli – a “cyclopean” fortress “Kor-ogi” with the citadel on the top (2nd-1st mill. BC);
In the village Buzaveti:

80. Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone with the south annex (10th c.) and adorned with the reliefs; numerous stelae are preserved in its courtyard and enclosure;
81.–82. In the north and south ends of the villages – stelae;
83. To the Northeast – a “cyclopean” fortress;
84. To the East – a settlement-site surrounded by a “cyclopean” enclosure;
85. Village Machatia – on the cemetery, fragments of stelae (Early Middle Ages) and a stone of 1001-1008 with the inscription of the king Bagrat III;
86. Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone with the south annex, adorned with the relief of a cross and the sun-dial;
87. Village Kartikami – “khachkar” with the Armenian inscription and a relief (Georgian cemetery and church were destroyed in the 2nd half of the 20th c.);
88. Village Khulgumo – next to the Armenian church of 1912, remnants of the Georgian church surrounded by the old cemetery, where a base of the stele is preserved;

Near the village Khulgumo:
89. Old cemetery with the remnants of a church and fragments of a stele;
90. Caves and remnants of structures;
91. Aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone in late 13th c.
92. Village Bavra – 10th c. aissless vaulted church with the 14th c. annex, both built of hewn stone; inside and outside the church is adorned with carvings, signs and a relief (“Daniel in the Lions’ Den”); the inscription mentions a donor – Sopron Konkoli; near the church – old cemetery (with the 14th-16th cc. epitaph on one of the tomb stones) and fragments of stele;

93. Village Orja – apart from the modern Armenian church, old Georgian cemetery with the base of a stele; one old tomb stone is also preserved on the second cemetery;

Near the village Orja:

93. Ruins of the 16th c. aissless vaulted church built of unhewn stone;
94. Settlement-site Vardistsikhe – ailsless vaulted church built of hewn stone in the 13th-14th cc. with a moderate decoration and an inscription;

In the environs of the village Khando:

95. Settlement-site – cave, cemetery with the remnants of a church (inside – model of church and a base of the stele), a mill and a road;
96. Village Khando – ailsless vaulted church built of hewn stone with annexes (10th c.), adorned with relief window terminations; it is erected around more ancient High Cross; around it – old stelae and their fragments;

97. Settlement-site Griali – among the remnants of dwellings, 13th c. church built of hewn stone with moulded imposts in the interior and embellished eastern exterior window;
99. Village Varevani – 19th c. Armenian church and Georgian church of 1893, erected by some Dardagani, next to it – remnants of the church and a stone with the inscription of 1020;

100. Settlement-site Ablari – ruins of the 13th c. ailsless vaulted church built of hewn stone with the relief of a ram inside the apse; around the church – bases of the stelae;

101. Village Kotelia – 16th c. ailsless vaulted church built of hewn stone, moderately decorated, with the building inscription of Kishvad Avalishvili and royal princess Tamar;

Near the village Kotelia:

102. Settlement-site Murji – fortification wall, “darani”, etc.

103. Village Baraleti – apart from the Armenian church of 1889 – ancient two-aisled church built of hewn stone and moderately decorated with the early 13th c. inscription, mentioning king George IV-Lasha; nearby – early 19th c. tomb stone with interesting epitaph;

Near the village Baraleti:

104. Settlement-site of the 2nd mill. BC. – “Didi” (Great) and “Patara” (Minor) “Natsargora” (hill of the ashes);

105. Settlement-site Khidijvari – ruins of the 10th c. ailsless vaulted church built of hewn stone (inside – ornamented base of a cross) with the adjoining ancient cemetery;
In the village Merenia:

106. A plaque placed by the spring with the image of the “Miracle of St. George” (14th-15th cc.) with the cross erected on it;

107. 19th c. Armenian church in the masonry of which old stele is embodied; nearby – megalithic “veshapi” (at present surrounded by a wooden fence);

Near the settlement-site Sirgva:

108. Old stele (the so called “Amaglebis Sveti” = “Ascension Pillar”) and an Early Bronze Age settlement;

109. Settlement-site Sirgva – aisleless vaulted church built of unhewn and hewn (constructional elements, rich decoration of the southern facade) stone, turn of 8th c. to the 9th c.
110. Monastery-site Megreki – stone enclosure and remnants of the 10th c. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and provided with annexes; window terminations are also preserved;

111. Village Patara Samsari – fragments of the ancient Georgian church are included into the masonry of the Armenian church of 1891; next to it – old Georgian cemetery;

**In the environs of the village Patara Samsari:**

112. Ruins of a fortress and of a caravanserai, as well as a road cut in the rock;

113. Early 10th c. rock-cut monastery, comprising several churches (the main church – “domed” church with two pillars) and preserved interesting inscriptions;
In the environs of the village Didi Samsari:

114. Church of St. George in “Verana Samsari” (“Desolate Samsari”) – 13th-14th cc. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone, moderately decorated with the adjoining cemetery;

115. Village Ikhtila (old Grtila – in the 11th c. it used to shelter a royal residence) – aisless vaulted church with a transept, moderately decorated, built of hewn stone in 1308, with the inscription of daughter of Tmogveli (ruler of Tmogvi) Rusudan; some elements (cornice formed of “cylinders”) are either of earlier date, or repeat old models; in the courtyard – ancient tomb stones, one of them bearing the 15th c. epitaph;
116. Village Alastani – aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone on the turn of the 10th c. to the 11th c., with the decorated east window, inscriptions and crosses in the corners;

![Image of Alastani church](image)

In the village Gokia preserved are remnants of two churches:

117. 8th-9th cc. three-apsed church with ancient fragments (cornice, lintel with crosses, unique image of a sword with a shield) on the old cemetery;

![Images of Gokia church remnants](images)

118. 13th c. aisless vaulted church also located on an old cemetery;

119. Two fortified settlement-sites – Pre-Christian and Medieval;

120. Settlement-site Gokis-tskali – remnants of the 10th-11th cc. church;

![Image of Gokis-tskali settlement](image)

121. Settlement-site Tetrobi – remnants of the aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone in the 14th-15th cc.
121. Settlement-site Cheruli – asexual vaulted church built of hewn stone in the 13th-14th cc., moderately decorated with carvings;

122. Village Azavreti – asexual vaulted church built of variously hewn stone, with annexes (turn of the 9th c. to the 10th c.), adorned inside and outside with the carvings and relief (“Daniel in the Lions’ Den”) inscription is also preserved;

123. Village Burnasheti – 10th c. asexual vaulted church built of variously hewn stone (with annexes), adorned with the carvings and relief (“Daniel in the Lions’ Den”), with the building inscription;

Near the village Burnasheti:

125. Settlement-site of the Pre-Christian-Early Medieval period;
126. Settlement-site Kalubani – ruins of dwellings and of a church built with “cyclopean” masonry;
127. Settlement-site Oldani – ruins of the fortification wall, dwellings, subsidiary structures, and of the 10th c. aisleless vaulted church built of hewn stone (nearby is a stone with the image of the cross);

128. Village Kochio (old Kachio) – aisleless vaulted church built of hewn stone in the early 11th c. with the fragments of the 9th-10th cc. structure, adorned with the carvings inside and outside; building inscription is preserved; inside – fragments of the altar-barrier and stelae with reliefs; around the church – an old cemetery;

Near the village Bozhano:

129. Large settlement – numerous ruins among which remnants of a church are preserved with numerous carved fragments (most of them seem to be of the early 12th c., several plaques of the 18th-19th cc. are brought here from afar) – this is a residence of the 12th c. Georgian kings;
130. On the hill – fortified Pre-Christian settlement, by the bottom of the hill – three settlement-sites;

131. Settlement-site Leknari – apse of the 10th c. ailsless vaulted church built of the hewn stone;

132. Village Agana – 6th–7th cc. fragments: a stele and damaged inscription are inserted into the masonry of the Armenian church (1905); around the church – an old cemetery surrounded by an eclosure; In the environs of Agana – two Pre-Christian fortresses built with the dry masonry;

On the bank of the lake Tabatskuri:

133. Aisless vaulted church built of the hewn stone in the 10th c., richly adorned with the reliefs (“Daniel in the Lions’ Den”, a scene (?) in the Paradise, vine sprout, etc.) – the so called “Tsiteli Sakdari” (Red Church);
In the village Tabatskuri:

134. Remnants of the fortification and of the church of St. Nino;
135. Village Toki – aisless vaulted church (with the annex) of St. George, built of the hewn stone; around it 9th-10th cc. stelea and an old cemetery;

Near the village Toki:

136. Monastery-site – 8th-9th cc. aisless vaulted chapel (without the western wall), built of the unhewn and hewn stone (constructional elements) with the old altar and the 13th c. aisless vaulted church with the annexes, built of hewn stone;
Near the village Saro:

137. Church of St. Archangels: two-aisled church (with an annex and north pastophory) built of unhewn and hewn (constructional elements) stone and adorned with carvings (9th-10th cc.);

138. Ancient fortress (partially “cyclopean”, comprising “darani” and caves) with the inscription of the first half of the 12th c., mentioning the king Demetre I;

139. Village Khizabavra – apart from the 19th c. Roman Catholic church here preserved is early 11th c. ailess vaulted church built of hewn stone with the inscription and surrounded with the old cemetery and an enclosure;

In the environs of the village Khizabavra:

140. 9th-10th cc. two-aisled church (the so called “Oboleti” – Abode of orphans) built of variously hewn stone with the decorated east window;

141. Settlement-site Murjikani – 14th c. ailess vaulted church, decorated with carvings; in the interior – interesting fragments; around – old cemetery;
In the village Prtena:

142. Aisless vaulted church of St. George, built of hewn stone (10th c.), restored in the 15th c. and later; its altar is placed outside;

143.-144. In various ends of the village – old Georgian stele and “khachkars”;
145. Village Chunchkha – in the wall of the church built in 1835, embodied is a relief: “Daniel in the Lions’ Den”; inside the church – ancient tomb stones; in the courtyard – a stele and an ornamented stone;
In the environs of the village Chunchkha:

146. A settlement-site and caves nearby;
147.-148. On both sides of the river – Pre-Christian settlement-sites, the so called “Gocha” and “Ukantapa”;
149. Settlement-site Naisa – 10th c. ailsless vaulted church built of hewn stone with moulded details in the interior and a donor relief, inscription of which mentions the donor – Iovane and the builder – Potskhvera;

150.-152. Medieval settlement-sites – Okhera, Tskheknela (on the remnants of a church – carved fragments), Aljua;
153. Settlement-site Kvarsha – alongside old road, ruins of dwellings, cave shelters, ailsless vaulted church (with the north pasphory and south annex), built of hewn stone, moderately decorated, with the preserved intercessory inscriptions and fragments of the contemporary murals (Warrior Saints on horseback);
154. Settlement-site Kilda – ruins of old dwellings and subsidiary structures (still functional in early 20th c.) and of a “cyclopean” fortress; on the old cemetery – 10th c. two-aisled church built of roughly hewn stone with moulded details and old altar in the north aisle;

155. Settlement-site Dakhvanda – aisless vaulted church (with the annex of later date) built of hewn stone, adorned with carvings and stone fragments (bearing crosses and human figures) of varied periods inserted in the masonry;
In the village Kumurdo:

156. Ruins of the cathedral of 964 (five apses on the East and a rectangular west cross-arm, tri-partite sanctuary, south porch); built of hewn stone by the architect Sakotsari commissioned by the bishop Ioane, it is richly decorated with the carvings and reliefs (images of the contemporary rulers – queen Gdurandukht and king Leon (or his son-in-law, Gurgen) in the squinches in the interior of the church; images of Angels – in the squinches of the porch, heads of Adam and Eve, Heaven and Earth – in the niches of the exterior wall); inside – fragments of the 11th c. and 13th c. murals and of a stucco Assumption; in the 3rd decade of the 11th c. bishop Zosime and queen Marian commissioned erection of the southwest porch adorned with carvings and reliefs, west door was decorated in the 16th c.; the church has preserved a number of the 10th-16th cc. inscriptions; next to the church – three, 9th-10th cc. stelae, one of them is from the village Areshti;

157. Sample of the vernacular dwelling (the so called “darbazi”), into which a fragment of the church (1st half of the 11th c.) adorned with carvings and reliefs is embodied;

In the village Zreski:

158. Early 13th c. stone with the inscription mentioning king George IV-Lasha is embodied within the Armenian chapel built in 1996;
159. On the place of a destroyed church – a base of the stele;

**In the settlement-site Dankali:**

160. 10th c. two-aisled church built of hewn stone;

161. Remnants of the Pre-Christian settlement-site;
162. Village Gogasheni – a fragment of the stele with a relief is found by the 19th c. church of the Virgin;
163. On the cemetery – ruins of church of Stt. Archangels: 13th-14th cc. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone;

164. Village Apnia – 14th c. church of St. Demetrius (aisless vaulted church with modest decoration, built of hewn stone) into which north wall of the 8th-9th c. structure is embodied;
165. Settlement-site Garta (old Karta) – 10th c. aisless vaulted church built of unhewn and hewn (constructional elements and modest decoration) stone;

**Near the village Garta:**

166. Caves and ruins of fortifications;
167. Village Kartsebi – several hewn stones are left on the place of the exploded church;
168. Village Azmana – fragment of the old church (1st half of the 8th c.): a chapel with the *cross-vault*, deprived of the west wall (west part was built later), built of unhewn and hewn (roofing construction) stone;

169. Khertvisi – a fortress (founded no later than the 10th c. and functioning up the 19th c.) comprising a citadel, a church, fragments of fortifications, etc. of varied periods and building layers;

170.-171. On both sides of Mtkvari located are settlement-sites and caves Gelsunda and Navardzievi;

**In the settlement-site Pia:**

172. Church of St. Theodore – aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with carvings; inscription of 995 of the contemporary altar mentions the donors – Chkari and his brothers; in the apse conch – contemporary murals;
173. Church of St. George – aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with carvings and inscriptions of the masons;

174. Caves (shelters, subsidiary structures, etc.) among them – three, 10\textsuperscript{th} c. dwellings;

Near Pia:

175. Rock-cut monastery-site Jolda (old Cholta) – two aisless vaulted churches and other structures;

In the villages Tsunda and Nakalakevi:

176. Tsunda church of St. John the Baptist, built in the 12\textsuperscript{th}-13\textsuperscript{th} cc. by Ichkit Gurgenis-dze – aisless vaulted church (with south portico and a number of chambers built to the South), built of hewn stone, adorned with the carvings and preserved building inscription;

177. Multi-layered caravanserai (the so called “Kulbakebi”);

178. Fortified city Tmogvi – among numerous ruins distinguished is a citadel with the domed church of St. Marina built in 1303 by some Saminan; fortification walls were renovated more than once (e.g. in 1350 by Murvan Kutkhas-dze);

Near Tmogvi:

179. Roch-cut church of St. Ephrem with the altar and chancel-barrier cut in the rock (between 10\textsuperscript{th} and 13\textsuperscript{th} cc.);
180. Settlement-site Zeda Tmogvi – three-aisled basilica built of hewn stone (fragment of the 8th c. aisless vaulted church is embodied), adorned with the carvings and reliefs (human figures, birds, etc.); numerous inscriptions mention the donors – queen Mariam, king Bagrat IV, eristavt-eristavi Parsman;

181. Village Tmogvi (old Margastani) – a rock-cut monastery with the church and inner courtyard;
182. Rock-cut complex “Bertakana” (“Field of the monks”) with the inscription of Zosime Kumurdoeli (bishop of Kumurdo, 1st half of the 11th c.) in one of the caves;
183. Near “Bertakana” – a group of grave-mounds dating to the 17th-16th cc. BC);
184. Vakhanis-kvabebi (the same Vanis-kvabebi) – a rock-cut monastery, founded in the 8th c. and comprising numerous structures, among them several churches (destroyed “domed” church of St. George (11th c.) and built 15th c. domed church with the preserved numerous graffiti of the 15th-16th cc.); monastic enclosure was made by the bishop of Chkondidi and prime vizier Antony in 1204;
185. Settlement-site Gamogma Chakhkari – semi-cave church of St. Marine (2nd half of the 9th c.) with the adjoining cells, spring, etc.;

186. Settlement-site Gagma Chakhkari – a rock-cut church and dwellings of the 11th-12th cc.;
188. Rock-cut monastery Vardzia – founded in the 2nd half of the 12th c. by the king George III and his daughter King Tamar; comprises several hundred cells and halls, several churches (the main church of the Virgin – aileless vaulted church with southern gallery – adorned with the contemporary murals; the so called “Ananauri” – a small church painted in the 2nd half of the 15th c. and early 13th c. murals in the annex), 13th c. built bell-tower, subsidiary structures, etc.; preserved is functioning water supply system of the 12th c.;

189. Monastery Zeda Vardzia – two-aisled church of the Virgin, built in the mid 11th c. by eristavt-eristavi Liparit; built of hewn stone, adorned with the carvings and preserved inscriptions; preserved are fragments of the 12th c. murals commissioned by Apridon;
190. Rock-cut complex “Topiani klide” (“Rock armed with guns”), comprising dwellings and shelters;

191. Complex “Sadakudebulo” (“Place of hermits”) – a church and part of the caves date to the 8th-9th cc., others – to the 11th-12th cc.;

192. Settlement-site Akhchia – caves and aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone, dating to the 1st half of the 10th c., with the embellished eastern window;

In the environs of the village Mirashkhani:

193. Rock-cut complex Mirashkhani with the historical inscription of the 2nd half of the 11th c.;

194. Rock-cut complex “Vertashi” or “Samertskhle” (“Swallow place”) with the domeless 10th c. triconch, old altar and traces of the wooden gallery;

195. Settlement-site Ołoda with the rock-cut complex – a church, a chapel and cells of the 10th-13th cc.;
Near Oloda:

196. Monastery-site Oloda (same Asosmani) comprising ruins of the aisless vaulted church and the main church built of hewn stone; this is a three-aisled basilica with the northern aisle cut in the rock, dated to the 2nd half of the 13th c., adorned with moulded details;

197. Ruins of the fortress (presumably after 1595) and remnants of the 10th c. bridge;

198. Village Agara – 9th-10th cc. stele is erected next to the aisless vaulted church of 1880;
199. Settlement-site Kvemo (Lower) Niala – a mosque built of the stones of a destroyed church; on the opposite side of the river erected is a stele taken from here;

200. Settlement-site Panaketi – ruins of the 13th c. aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone;

201. Karzameti – aisless vaulted church built of hewn stone and adorned with the carvings; inscription mentions the donor – bishop of Atskuri (Georgian – Matskvereli) Grigol; however, construction of the church was not completed;

202. Gaveti – 13th c. aisless vaulted church, adorned with the carvings;
In the settlement-site Zemo (Upper) Niala preserved are:

203. Remnants of the church of relatively early date;
204. 13th-14th cc. aisless vaulted church adorned with the carvings;

In the settlement-site Giorgitsminda – aisless vaulted church (with the southern portico) built of variously hewn stone and adorned with the moulded details; a platform on which a stele (fallen down at present) used to be erected is connected with the church;

In the settlement-site Dumeila (old Dumelia):
206. 9th c. aisless vaulted church built of unhewn and hewn (constructional details) stone; in the chancel aniconic murals imitating the masonry are preserved;

207. Underground settlement built with the dry masonry;
208. Settlement-site Vani – 10th c. aisless vaulted church (with an annex) built of hewn stone and adorned with the images of crosses; inscription is preserved;

209. Settlement-site Buzmareti – remnants of the 10th c. church;
210. Settlement-site Shuatke – aisless vaulted church (with the northern annex) built of hewn stone on the turn of the 10th c. to the 11th c. and adorned with the carvings;

211. Settlement-site Gunde – 9th c. aisless vaulted church (with a narthex) built of unhewn and hewn (constructional elements and moulded details);
212. Settlement-site Shalosheti (old Salosheti) – early 10th c. aisless vaulted church (with an annex) built of variously hewn stone and modestly decorated;

213. Settlement-site Alandzia – 8th c. aisless vaulted church built of variously hewn stone and adorned with carved details;
214. Village Dadeshi – Georgian church with the inscription of 1890;
214. Settlement-site Dzveli (Old) Dadashi – several “darani”, 15th c. aisless vaulted church with the ambulatory from the three sides, built of the hewn stone and surrounded by the enclosure;

In the village Kuntsa:

215. 9th-10th cc. church of the complicated plan, a transitional type between the three-aisled and three-churched basilica, modestly decorated;

217. In the outskirts of the village – a stele and a stone with the cross;
218. Village Toloshi – 19th c. church of St. Theodore, erected on the place of an old church;
219. Settlement-site Ukan-Toloshi – ruins of the two-aisled church of St. Marina built of the hewn and unhewn stone (13th-14th cc.);
220.-221. In the environs of Toloshi – a settlement-site and caves, ruins of the church and the fortress;
222.-223. Settlement-site Ormotsi (same – Khani) – a tower and 8th-9th cc. church built of the hewn and unhewn stone;

224. On the old cemetery – remnants of the church of St. Marina;

**In the village Nijgori:**

225. Aisless vaulted church of St. George (13th-14th cc.) built of the hewn and unhewn stone; near it – a stele and an old cemetery;

226. Tow-storeyed mosque with Arabic inscriptions;