

Speleological studies of Upper Imereti relief

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Research of karst relief of upper Imereti starts with Vakhushti Bagrationi. He described in his work "Description Kingdom of Georgia" several karst caves. Professor Zurab Tatashidze, the Doctor of Geography Sciences, laid the foundation for scientific research of karst relief of Upper Imereti. In his candidate dissertation "Geomorphology of the Kvirila Basin" he studied in detail the river Kvirila basin cave formations.

There are a lot of karst caves in Upper Imereti. There have been discovered more than 150 caves in the region. Some of them have been granted status of cultural heritage and some of them are a paleontological archaeological object (Devishkhvili, Sagvarjile, Dzudzuana, Undo rock, Bondi and Kotia rock cave). This leads to the development of adventure, cultural-cognitive and extreme tourism in the region quite intensively. Speleological tourism objects are popular in many countries around the world and hundreds of thousands of visitors are visited every year. First of all, it is important to develop the security service of speleoguide and the good organization of caves for the visitors, because they are archaeological monuments of world importance. As for the relatively difficult karst caves for extreme tourism lovers will be attractive.

Karst relief research continued using modern technologies in Upper Imereti area, in 2017. Several new karst gaps have been detected. Among them Datas cave is the most important, its length is more than 2 kilometers. The cave is located in the village of Sveri. There are another important caves, for example karst cave "Slovaketi" which is located in the village of Zodi and the new karst cave in Perevisa. The name of professor Zurab Tatashidze is called a rich hall with karst forms in Mandaeti.