

PROMETHEUS CAVE



საპროტექტორიუმოს აგენტობა
AGENCY OF PROTECTED AREAS OF GEORGIA

PROMETHEUS CAVE

Prometheus Cave, located in Tskaltubo, was discovered on June 15, 1984 by the employees of the Tbilisi Geographical Institute during a speleological expedition. Due to the political situation at the time, Soviet military commanders were interested in discovering areas that could be used for evacuation in case of nuclear war. While searching for suitable locations, the 5-person expedition team came across this amazing cave.

The cave is situated at an altitude of 147 meters above sea level. Its entrance forms a 200 - 250 sq. m. topped area with a depth of 40 meters. The cave entrance is 2.5 - 3 meters high and 4 meters wide. There are 17 halls found in Prometheus Cave, 6 of which are open to visitors. Although 3,700 meters have been explored, only 1,420 meters are suitable for visitors, with the tour ending at a 380-meter long river flowing through the cave. The cave has karst origins with dozens of guttered stalactites, stalagmites, petrified waterfalls, and hanging stone curtains; Prometheus Cave and the surrounding areas are an unforgettable part of any journey to the Imereti region.

// Prometheus Cave offers visitors the once in a lifetime experience of traversing the cave's lake on an exciting boat tour. //

CAVE BIODIVERSITY

The combination of the cave's limestone massif with its subtropical climate and moist soil creates fantastic conditions for the rapid growth of vegetation. Earlier, the surface of the cave was covered in a broad-leaved Kolkhic forest. Over time, the forest disappeared due to changing climatic circumstances and was replaced with shrub vegetation. Woody plants are also found throughout the area.

The constant temperature in Prometheus Cave from winter to spring is +14°C. Due to its characteristic microclimate, the cave is inhabited by organisms well adapted to the dark: bats, freshwater mollusks, blind cancers, spiders, and worms.



HOW TO GET TO PROMETHEUS CAVE

Prometheus Cave and the Visitors Center are located in the Village of Kumistavi in the Tskaltubo district.

- The distance from Tbilisi to the cave - 240 km. (4 hrs. by car), from Kutaisi - 40 km (40 min. by car).

Travel by public transport

- Public taxis leave every day from Didube Station (Karaleti St. #4) to Kutaisi (10 GEL, 30 min.).
- Public taxis leave every day from Kutaisi Central Bus Station (Chavchavadze Ave. #67), from Tskaltubo cross and from Tsiteli (Red) bridge area to Tskaltubo, several times per day (1 GEL, 30 min.).
- Public taxis #42 leave every day except Monday from Tskaltubo Central Agricultural Market to Prometheus Cave route (1 GEL, 20 min.).



TOURIST ROUTES

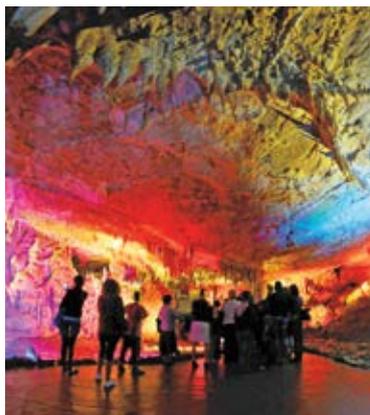
By foot: length - 1,420 m.; duration - 1 hr.
By boat: length - 380 m.; duration - 15 min.

Unlike Sataplia, there is only one path in Prometheus Cave, although it is several times larger than Sataplia's. The route begins with a walking trail from Prometheus Cave Visitors Center to the karst cave. Guided tours for visitors consist of 6 halls. These are: Argonauts Hall, Kolkheti Hall, Medea Hall, Love Hall, Prometheus Hall, and Georgia/Iberia Hall.

Upon reaching the end of the pedestrian trail, visitors have access to the boating tour on an interior body of water, which is fed by the nearby Kumi River. This kind of boating service is quite rare in such caves. The boating section is optional and requires purchasing an additional ticket. Exiting the cave can be done both on foot and by boat.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND:

- Visitors must be accompanied by a guide from the Protected Areas Administration;
- Constant temperature from winter to spring is +14°C, so dress appropriately. Comfortable, warm clothes are recommended.
- Visitors who may experience feelings of claustrophobia are advised to avoid taking the tour.



VISITORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO:

- Touch or damage cave formations;
- Make inscriptions on the walls;
- Bring animals;
- Enter when under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- Bring food or alcoholic beverages;
- Smoke;
- Litter;
- Use any lighting device;
- Separate from the group or visit the cave, without the accompaniment of an approved guide.



ADDITIONAL SIGHTS IN THE REGION

Prometheus Cave is surrounded by interesting cultural and archeological monuments. Along the way to the protected areas from Tbilisi, there are many famous monuments of Christian culture, such as: IX century Ubisa church; XII century Gelati Monastery complex and frescoes; X century Motsameta church; and XI century Bagrati Temple. Both Bagrati Temple and Gelati Monastery are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

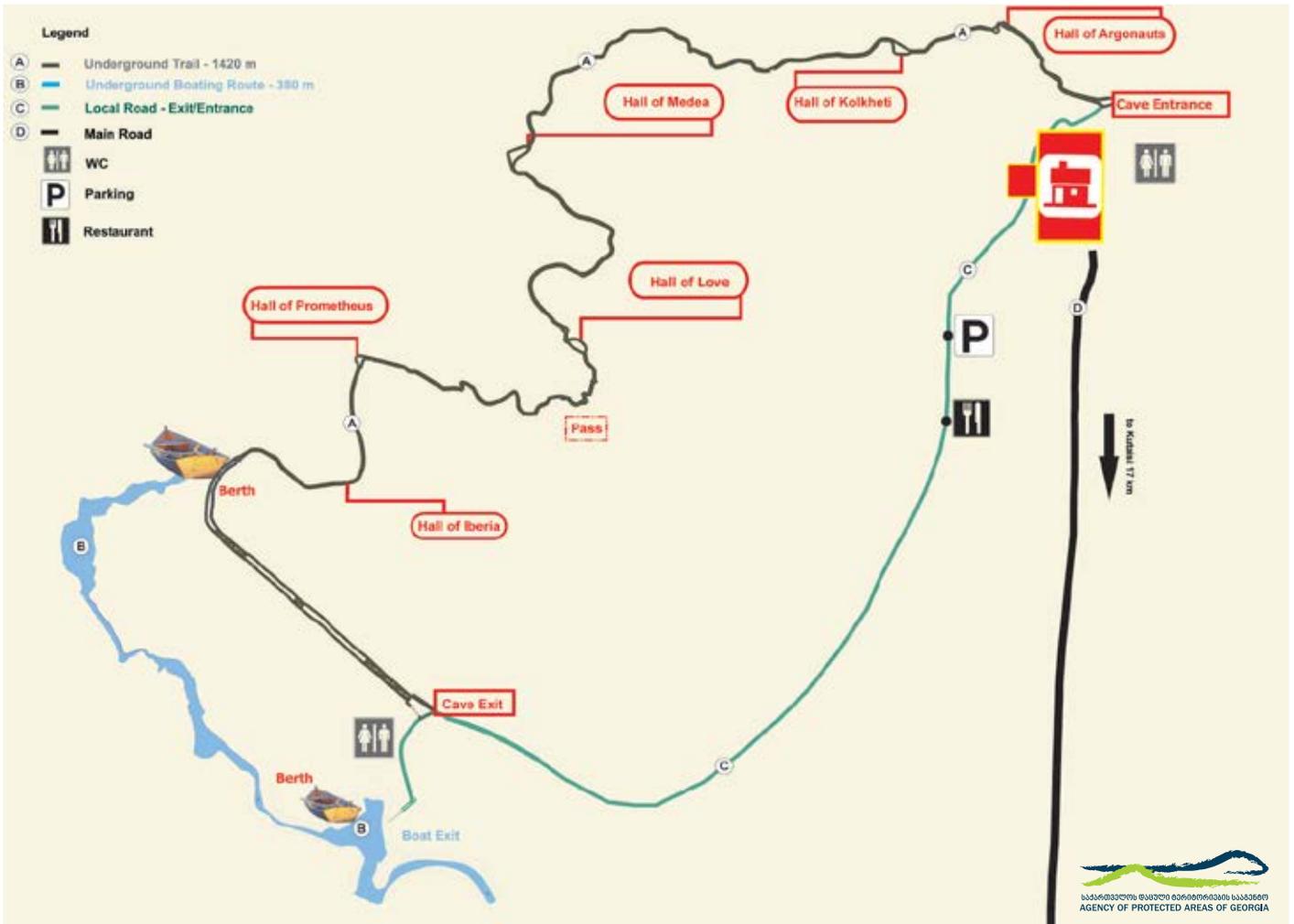


NOTABLE EVENTS:

- 1983** Soviet commanders start searching for caves in the Caucasus region that could be used as fallout shelters and evacuation areas. Prometheus Cave is discovered by a 5-man expedition.
- 1984** A speleological expedition group, led by Jumber Jishkariani, along with Amiran Jamrshvili, Kote Nizharadze, Tamaz Kobulashvili, and Vakhtang Kapanadze manage to reach the end of the cave. The cave is given the name Tskaltubo. Preparation and planning begins to open Tskaltubo Cave as a tourist attraction.
- 1986** The first paths for tourists are prepared.
- 1989** The first trail is completed. It measures 1050 meters in length and ends in Prometheus Hall.
- 1992-2007** Due to the difficult political and economic situation in the country, all work in the cave is suspended indefinitely. In order to prevent damage, vandalism, or injury to civilians, the cave is sealed off by the government. Cartu Group takes over the management of the cave. The restoration and the implementation of new infrastructure is begun.
- 2009** Imereti Caves Protected Areas become a member of the International Show Caves Association.
- 2010** The President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, officially changes the name of Tskaltubo Cave to Prometheus Cave.
- 2011** The construction of the boating section begins.
- 2012** The boating section is completed and opened to visitors.
- 2013** Prometheus receives a record-breaking amount of visitors - 54,532 (1 October est.)



PROMETHEUS CAVE



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