



## Batonis Tsikhe (Lord's Castle)

After the Fall of Constantinople, Georgia fractured and turned into an isolated enclave, largely cut off from Christian Europe and surrounded by hostile Islamic Turco-Iranic neighbors. Georgia lost its main function of corridor between Asian and European trade routes. Moreover, it was threatened to share the fate of Byzantium - the end of the ancient civilization and culture. Batoni's Tsikhe symbolizes the most tragic period of History of Georgia that have counted 300 years of struggle for survival. The monument reflects the public pride for keeping identity despite the interruption of historical continuity of statehood. "Batonis Tsikhe", that is, "the lord's Castle", was built by the kings of Kakheti (region of East Georgia)- King Archil II (1667-1675) and King Erekle II in the second half of the XVIII century. This is the only surviving king's palace in Georgia. It embraces the fence, palace, remains of the Philosophical-Theological School founded by Erekle II, the King's Bath, the tunnel, and 2 churches. After the Russian annexation of Georgia in 1801, the castle transferred to the Russian Imperial treasury. Later it was used by the Russian military as barracks and was mostly in ruins by 1845, when Mikhail Vorontsov, Viceroy of the Caucasus, reconstructed the building. In 1927, the building was adapted to its current function as a home to Telavi Historical Museum. The complex underwent extensive renovation and was reopened for public in May 2018. Historical-ethnographic museum has been added.

Common borders. Common solutions.