



## Jvari Monastery

### The Place

Mtskheta's the most significant site, Jvari Monastery is a vivid example of Georgian culture in the early Christianity period. Built in AD 6<sup>th</sup> century the relic was the place for pilgrims from the world. Located at the precipice of a vertical cliff, Jvari Monastery is a remarkable sacred landmark visible from the ancient city Mtskheta. The building techniques and high standards of engineering, as well as the diverse decorative program, of the landscaped monastery exemplify exceptional centuries-old Georgian building practices alongside a wide range of Eastern and Western aesthetic traditions. The architect who built it not only found a composition that finished the mountain, but he also tied the entire landscape of this area. However, the graceful natural silhouette of the mountain was not enough, and the building moved from the top of the mountain to the west, for which it was necessary to build an artificial support.

### Sacred Mountain

In almost every religion, it is believed that a mountain peak is a place that brings us closer to God or heaven. Besides of Jvari Monastery hundreds of churches of the early mediaeval age can be reached on a peak of different mountains throughout of Georgia. Sacred mountains are subjects of many beliefs. Examples: Invaders could not reach sacred place; Its better to resolve disputes on sacred places; Creative ideas and good decisions could be born on sacred places and etc. The name of the temple has a historical basis. From the first years of the adoption of Christianity, King Mirian III erected a high wooden cross in this place, which was worshiped not only by Georgians, but also by other Christian nations of the Caucasus. The existence of this cross in the second half of the 6th century is confirmed by the "Life of Eustathius of Mtskheteli". In the second half of the 7th century (between 545 and 586), Guaram, the head of Kartli, built a small church next to the cross (it stands on an extraordinary substructure in which there is a tomb). From the outside, it is a simple rectangular building with a two-tone roof, inside it has a cruciform outline (with 1 apse and 3 rectangular arms). In the middle is a square with a domed roof (only without a neck). Today, this small chapel is called the Small Church of the Cross, or "Small Cross".

Common borders. Common solutions.