



Samtavro (Ruler's) Monastery

According to legend, Apostol Saint Nino from Cappadocia (now in Turkey) had a vision, as if two rivers Mtkvari and Aragvi overflowed and washed away everything in Mtskheta. This was a kind vision, which only Saint Nino could see and which would cause the rivers to wash away the evil idolatry. Shepherds met the St. Nino when she approached the Paravani Lake. She asked where the holy city of Mtskheta was located. The shepherds proudly told her that Mtskheta was where gods worship and kings reign. Saint Nino came to Mtskheta. She was praying at the blackberry bush near to the residence and palace garden of the King of Iberia. Here she made a cross out of a vine (a grape tree), combed it with her hair, and secretly prayed in front of it for three years. She healed many people and performed many miracles. Thanks to these miracles it is believed that people who were introduced to the new faith gradually prepared to receive Christianity. The church of King Mirian III was built on this place in the 4th century. Currently, Samtavro Monastery named after St. Nino, built in the XI century, stands on this place. The vine cross is an important symbol of the Georgian Orthodox Church. It was kept in Svetitskhoveli temple. Currently, the St. Nino Vine Cross is preserved in the Sioni Cathedral in Tbilisi.

Common borders. Common solutions.