



## Shuamta Monastery

Shuamta monastery complex is one of the cultural heritage monuments of Kakheti, which preserves many episodes of the struggle to save the Christian religion. It is not only a symbol of survival, but also a symbol of the development of art, education and culture, in which life has flourished. One of the most important shrines of Shuamta Monastery is Khkakhuli Triptych - large *repoussé* triptych icon of the Theotokos (Virgin Mary) created in medieval Georgia. It incorporates over 100 specimens of Georgian and Byzantine *cloisonné enamel* dated from the 8th to the 12th century. The icon is now on display at Art Museum of Georgia in Tbilisi. According to legend, it was unable to move Icon from its place during transportation from Guria to Kakheti near the old Shuamta until Queen Tinatin decision to build a large monastic complex at that place. Old Shuamta located in the forest near to Telavi, embraces: the 5th century basilica, one of the notable examples of Christian architecture in Georgia; Domed church of the 7th century, and a small domed church of the 7th century. Near it, the daughter of Tinatin Guriel, the wife of Kakheti king Levan II (1520-1570), founded the new Shuamta. The complex includes a bell tower and other buildings. Currently New Shuamta Monastery Complex is under nun's care whose activities are icon painting, needlework, translation work, maintenance of the monastery farm and etc.

Common borders. Common solutions.