

# **Bagrati cross building cathedral - symbol of religious and political unification of Georgia**

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**Abstract** Bagrati or the Kutaisi Assumption Cathedral was build at the turn of the X-XI centuries in times of the first king of united Georgia Bagrat III. The Cathedral stood for seven centuries in its original form. By the end of the XVIII century it was hardly damaged due to Russia-Turkey hostile operations. Part of walls was ruined and the dome was completely down. Destruction was going on. Despite Georgian tradition of rehabilitation of churches, due to bad times for the country, it could not be restored until the XX century. In 1950-ies the first step of restoration works on the Cathedral was started, aiming to stop the destruction process and reveal the main image of the building. The result was restoration of walls at full height; tryconchal apses with their conchs; under vault columns partly and full restoration of vestibules. In this form the Cathedral was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site List in 1994. In 2005 research and design works on the Cathedral were renewed; archeological, architectural and engineer research revealed a new important material that made a base for development of the project of full rehabilitation

**Keywords** Bagrati Cathedral