

# Golf Cyprus



Fairway to Heaven

## Cyprus: A Golfers' Heaven



As the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, the Goddess of love, the island of Cyprus has many connotations with the divine nature of beauty and desire, not least when it comes to its stunning natural heritage. Harnessing the potential offered by this unique resource, the island's modern and exhilarating golfing greens, often envelope Cyprus' natural features, making this one of the most impressive emerging golfing destinations in the Mediterranean.

Named after the Goddess of love herself, Aphrodite Hills Golf Club has become famed as a world-class venue, offering the pinnacle of challenges, including a dramatic gorge running through the course. Eléa Golf Club has proven to be a new star for the island, originating from the tactically unique conception of Sir Nick Faldo.

Minthis Hills is well-known for its unique, undulating terrain, as well as narrow fairways, while Secret Valley summons precision and skill to navigate around the course.

In line with the Strategic Tourism Plan of Cyprus, golfing tourism is an ongoing development, which seeks to continuously improve the island's offering to the game's enthusiasts as well as promote the sport as a fulfilling and challenging pastime. Each course provides an academy and top-quality facilities for golfers wishing to train and improve their game, with club Pros at hand to teach new skills. Exclusive lessons for juniors as well as beginners are available.

Already a booming tourist destination with year-round sunshine, Cyprus is the new jewel in Europe for golfers seeking breaks in the warmth of the eastern Mediterranean. It boasts the longest golf playing season compared to all other popular destinations in Europe.



## Hitting a Long Drive into Golf Tourism



Cyprus comprises a choice of four international standard 18-hole golf courses, all located in the Pafos region, in the southwest of the island, where gently sloping hills, tranquility and panoramic views of the Mediterranean Sea are in abundance.

Although the development of golf tourism is fairly new in Cyprus, Aphrodite Hills, Eléa, Minthis Hills and Secret Valley Golf Clubs are bringing the sector closer to world-wide recognition. Strict golfing procedures are met, with all golf courses in Cyprus having been

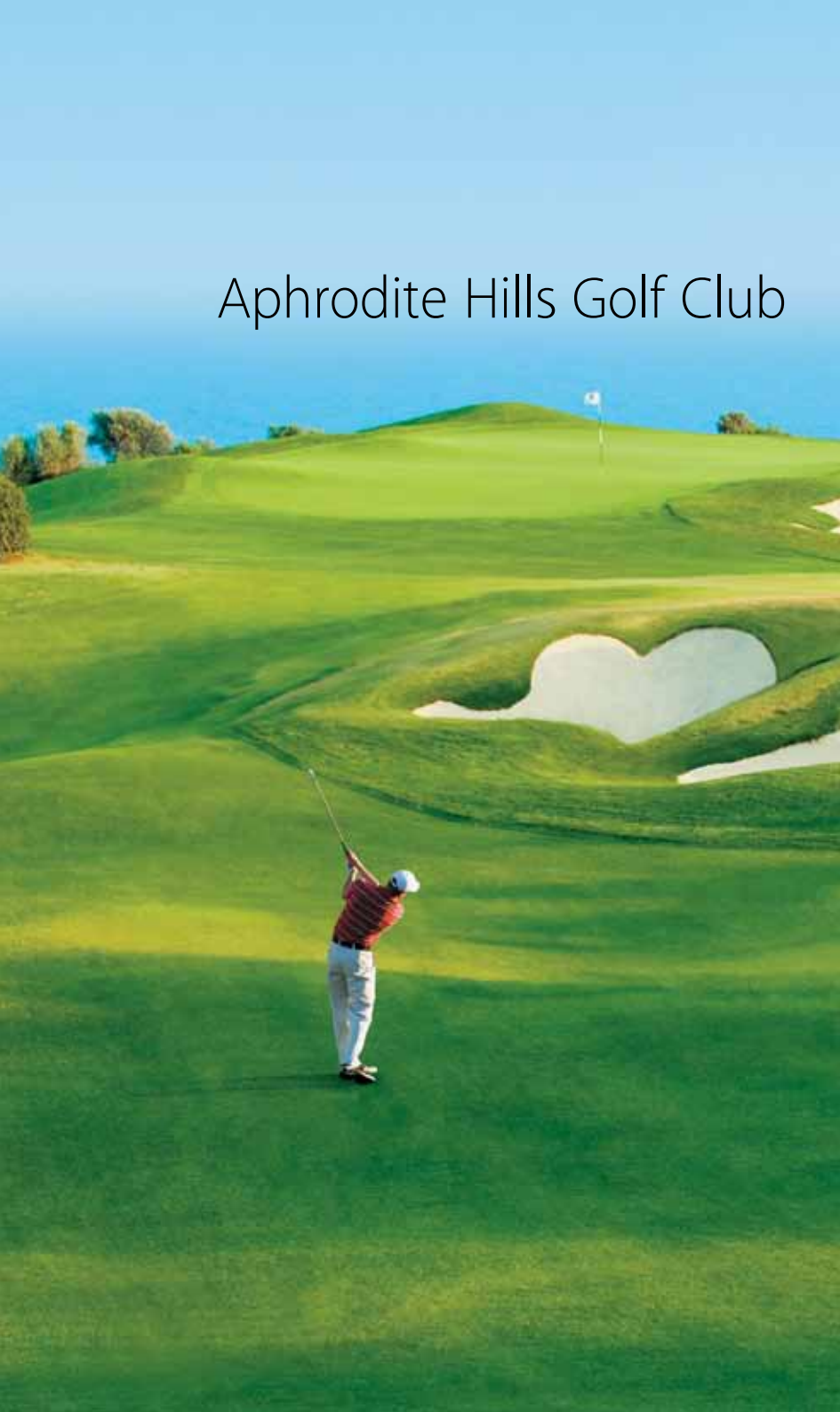
slope rated according to the USGA/ EGA slope rating system and all Cyprus Golf Federation member clubs adhering to and using the EGA handicap system.

The Cyprus Tourism Organisation participates in Golf Travel Markets and Fairs and organises familiarisation visits for golf journalists, Pros and tour operators. The Organisation supports Golf PR Events abroad, and international Golf tournaments on the island, such as the Cyprus Amateur Open Championships, which attract more than 100 golfers from 16 countries each year.

Cyprus successfully hosted the PGA EuroPro Tour Final Championship 2010, the Aegean Airlines Pro-Am 2012 and the EGA Men's Club Trophy 2012 signifying the island's established popularity.

Whether practising at an amateur level or challenging your handicap by participating in one of island's Golf Open Tournaments, you will be experiencing enjoyment and challenge at any of the courses on the island, while new developments in the pipeline promise yet more world-class courses, offering new landscapes, scenery and testing shots.

# Aphrodite Hills Golf Club



Situated on verdant meandering hills, overlooking the place where Aphrodite is said to have emerged from the waves, Aphrodite Hills Golf Club offers a tranquil setting, as well as a unique challenge, with its spacious fairways cutting through lakes and enveloping olive and carob trees.

The distinctive landscape is unrelenting, providing tests for golfers of all abilities, with a real skill required to conquer the holes that run alongside or traverse the dramatic central ravine. This striking deep canyon separates two plateaux and makes the course truly unique, with the descent down to the seventh tee presenting an adventure in itself. The back tee on the third looks forever over the gorge and presents a thrilling shot, while the eighth and 15th provide exquisite views. Voted in the Top-20 Most Popular Courses in Europe 2011, it is no wonder that the course has become famed as one of the best in the Mediterranean.

Cabell Robinson, course designer, elaborated on the range of challenges presented. *“Personally I think reaching for the back pin position on the 12th needs the most courage, while the 16th is my pick for the toughest par 4, and the 18th is a reachable and wonderful par 5.”*

The golf is part of an integrated resort, which features an InterContinental Hotel, offering five-star luxury, bars and restaurants, a Greco-Roman award winning Spa, a Tennis Academy with multi-surface courts, a Horse Riding Club, as well as nature and bike trails.

## Clubhouse

At the end of a satisfying day, golfers can celebrate their success in the sophisticated Clubhouse and large terraces, overlooking the 18th green, set in natural and stunning surroundings. Here, one can savour Cypriot specialties, international cuisine, or just take pleasure in the breathtaking view.



### Golf Academy

The Aphrodite Hills Golf Academy features first class practice facilities, including a large double-ended driving range with targets and distance markers. Other resources include pitching and chipping greens with bunkers, a generously sized putting green and a challenging three-hole course, consisting of two par 4s and a par 3. A wide range of programmes are offered under the expert tutelage of experienced PGA qualified golf professionals, with access to the latest training technology, including the state-of-the-art gasp system for swing analysis.

### Course Features

- > 18 hole championship standard golf course
- > Par 71
- > Course length: 6.299m





# Eléa Golf Club

**M**editerranean countryside with serene views of the sea envelopes Eléa Golf Club, making its setting one of the most exquisite. The world class signature golf course is sure to captivate and challenge golfers of all levels.

Close to the vibrant town of Pafos, the idyllic location presents a course that incorporates numerous natural features so that it is sympathetic to its surroundings, while still embodying the traditions of the game.

The course, conceived by Sir Nick Faldo, a golfing legend and arguably one of the greatest technicians in the golfing world, demands skill, strategy and precision, whilst allowing golfers to savour the presence of nature and world-class service.

With Eléa attracting international acclaim including being voted in the Top-Ten New International Golf Courses 2010, it is set to be one of the leading golf destinations in the Mediterranean and renowned for setting new standards in golfing inspiration and vision.

Sir Nick Faldo: *“What I’ve always respected more than anything else is a design that requires a certain amount of strategic interaction, a course that will pose challenges and ask questions of a player. Of course, we also want our golf to be played in a natural environment that fits perfectly with its surroundings – perhaps even enhance them. These are the principles that have driven our design at the Eléa Golf Club.”*

## Clubhouse

Once completing a challenging round of golf, players can relax in the lavish surroundings of the clubhouse, and experience the five-star service of the Eléa Estate. The Clubhouse boasts an outstanding restaurant, five terraces, a wine tasting lounge, event facilities and an exclusive private terrace for golf parties.



### Course Features

- > 18 hole championship standard golf course
- > Par 71
- > Course length: 6.900 yards

### Golf Academy

The Eléa Golf Academy is specifically tailored to all forms of teaching, constructive practice sessions and focused learning. It features a full-length driving range complete with target greens and bunkers, a short game practice area and a stunning putting green, overlooking the whole course.







# Minthis Hills

**A**t an altitude of 550m above sea level, tucked away in a valley surrounded by vineyards and orchards and encircling a 12th century monastery, the golf course at Minthis Hills has been carefully integrated into the landscape. It is a course for all seasons, enjoying cool breezes even during the summer, and having opened in 1994, it is the first course in Cyprus.

Originally designed by golf course architect Donald Steel, with extensive enhancements carried out by MacKenzie & Ebert, the course is easily walkable if so desired, whilst panoramic views of the striking Troodos range, the region of Pafos and the sparkling Mediterranean Sea can be enjoyed.

Fit for all abilities, Minthis Hills features elevated tees as well as more enthralling challenges from narrow, tree-lined fairways, where careful thought, skill and precision are required. The short par four 12th hole is an example of the course's unique trials, where the green can be reached with a well struck drive, although a threatening steep valley cascades along the left side, shaping each move. Conversely, the 14th & 17th holes are challenging uphill par fours requiring accuracy and distance to reach the green in two, and the new 13th hole provides an excellent crescendo to a set of good par threes, with water surrounding the green. To top it off it is a looped course, with each nine returning you to the clubhouse, perfect for halfway refreshments.

## Clubhouse

Minthis Hills Clubhouse blends traditional Mediterranean architecture with a distinctive contemporary style. It provides a cocktail bar, lounge and sun terrace and conference facilities, a business centre and changing facilities. The Clubhouse restaurants offer attentive service and striking views.



### Course Features

- > 18 hole championship standard golf course
- > Par 71
- > Course length: 5.843m

### Golf Academy

An elevated driving range providing 16 bays. Top-class golf tuition is available by a qualified PGA professional, for those looking to push their progress.





# Secret Valley

**N**estled in a scenic vale by Petra tou Romiou, the place where legend says Aphrodite the Goddess of love was born, Secret Valley Golf Course is quite often a preferred choice on the island for its stunning setting, friendly and relaxed atmosphere, as well as sheer playability.

With trees providing shade as well as obstacles, and striking natural rock formations draped across the estate, there are numerous challenges to be faced when playing the course.

Secret Valley is the second 18-hole golf course developed in Cyprus and has become a favourite among golfers in terms of playability and enjoyment.

The course has a rural and isolated feel, in the midst of natural Cypriot countryside, making it the perfect place to unwind.

Tradition, history and elevated views of the sea accompany an enjoyable golfing experience to make this an attractive destination for enthusiasts of the sport.

Secret Valley will become part of a two 18-hole golf project, designed by famous golfer Tony Jacklin, four times Ryder Cup Captain and winner of the British Open and US Open.

## **Clubhouse**

After a fulfilling game of golf, players can socialise at the clubhouse and enjoy refreshments as they take in the tranquility of the valley and admire its surroundings. The clubhouse provides a luxurious haven, with fine and international cuisine offered at the restaurant.



### Course Features

- > 18 hole championship standard golf course
- > Par 71
- > Course length: 5.700m

### Golf Academy

A twenty two covered bays driving range and large putting, chipping and pitching greens are just a few minutes walk from the clubhouse. Secret Valley's PGA Golf Professional offers lessons to golfers of all ages and abilities, tailored to suit each individual requirement.







## A Relaxing and Refreshing Island to Stimulate your Senses

The beautiful island of Cyprus, with beaches and rolling mountains in abundance, lies at the crossroads of three continents: Europe, Africa and Asia.

It is an island of contrasts – travelling across the island's changing landscapes, you will pass through cosmopolitan resorts, picturesque countryside, hilltop winemaking villages through the Wine Routes, to coastline towns, all within easy reach.

The capital city of Lefkosia is steeped in history while Larnaka, Lemesos and Pafos also have much to offer tourists, including a plethora of events and cultural exhibits as well as attractive beaches amid the bustling city lifestyle.

In addition to an expanding golfing scene, with prestigious courses that are transforming Cyprus's tourism and adding to its conference and incentives offering, the island possesses the ideal landscape and features for enthusiasts of hiking, cycling and watersports, among other sports.

Discover the wonders of the underwater world by snorkeling or diving in the warm crystal clear sea, admiring sealife or exploring the Zenovia shipwreck, one of the ten most popular worldwide, close to Larnaka.

Windsurfing and sailing can be enjoyed all-year-round, thanks to steady winds and calm, predictable seas. Coastal cruising and deep-water fishing are also popular.

For a more adrenaline-filled experience, rock climbing can be enjoyed throughout the island, including sport routes on the hard limestone crag by the Dhiarizos river and on an elevated sandstone crag in the Akamas peninsula, with amazing views of Lara beach.

Hiking is an ideal way to experience the culture and nature of the island. Cyprus has numerous sign-posted nature trails which are a feast for the senses, especially during springtime when you can experience the sights, sounds and smells of nature at first hand.

The Troodos Mountain hiking trails traverse scented pine-forests, past waterfalls and take in magnificent panoramic views across the island. Hiking can also be enjoyed in the Akamas Peninsula, an area of natural wilderness where pine-clad cliffs plunge down into turquoise waters. With its rugged coastline, alternating between rocky shores, promontories and sandy bays, it is an area of breathtaking beauty.

The European long distance path, E4, with a length of 537km, which starts in Gibraltar and ends in Cyprus, is popular among European ramblers. It begins at Pafos International Airport and takes hikers along coastal areas, the picturesque countryside and the mountains, and ends at Larnaka International Airport.

Cycling, like everything else on Aphrodite's island, is a love experience. A network of cycling routes throughout the island, including scenic coastal routes and the Troodos Cycling Network with its 14 sign-posted viewpoints, offer cyclists gratifying experiences that stimulate the senses and nourish the spirit.

## Perfect Climate for Golf: 340 days of sunshine

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temperature	12	12	14	16	19	23	25	26	24	21	17	14
Avg. Max Temperature	17	17	18	21	24	28	29	30	28	26	22	19
Avg. Sunshine hours/day	6,3	7,3	7,9	9,0	11,1	12,7	12,6	11,8	10,5	9,2	7,5	6,0

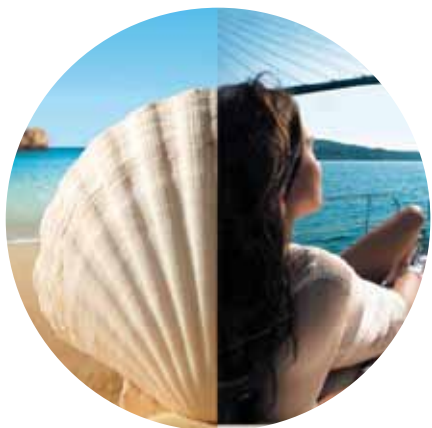
Cyprus enjoys year-round sunshine, making it a dream golfing destination during the Autumn, Winter and Spring seasons. Winters are mild with an average of 6-7 hours of sunshine a day.



The currency of Cyprus is Euro €



✈ The island has two modern international airports, located in Larnaka and Pafos, with easy access to all parts of Cyprus. Pafos International Airport is ideally located close to the island's prestigious golf courses, while Larnaka International Airport is only an hour drive away.



### Sun, Sea and Sand

With sunshine blessing Cyprus throughout the year, the island has long been a desired destination for relaxing breaks, lively beach holidays, family getaways and romantic retreats.

Summer days and the scent of jasmine and geraniums in the air make the island, with its serene locations, ideal for nature lovers.

The coastline boasts a beautiful array of white-sand beaches, golden sands, pebble beaches and rocky coves, satisfying every visitor's preference.

Recent years have seen over 50 beaches awarded the prestigious Blue Flag, the international accolade that signals eco-awareness, quality, safety and cleanliness.

Keen sailors can find many small ports, marinas and yacht harbours, with the biggest berthing spots including Larnaka Marina, St. Raphael Marina in Lemesos, and the Latchi Leisure Harbour.



### Gastronomic Delights

Mediterranean and local gastronomy can be enjoyed in traditional tavernas scattered throughout the island, whereas fine dining cuisine can be enjoyed in more sophisticated restaurants.

Reflecting Cyprus's noble wine heritage, six Wine Routes were developed in the areas of Laona - Akamas, Vouni Panayias - Ampelitis, Dhiarizos Valley, Krasochoria Lemesou, Koumandaria and Pitsilia. All wine routes are signposted in the Lemesos and Pafos districts, passing through captivating scenery and picturesque villages and offering the opportunity to visit regional wineries and taste local varieties. The perfect wine to accompany the tasteful Cypriot cuisine, can be found in this way.



### Hospitality and Luxury

With a long history of welcoming visitors, Cyprus's network of hotels covers every taste, from pretty stone buildings of vernacular architecture that reflect the island's culture, to well-known national and international chains, including lavish five-star resorts and deluxe villas.

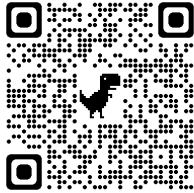
Together they provide a stepping stone to some of the most expansive beaches on the island, along with first-class hospitality, facilities and spa treatments for those wishing to enjoy the island in luxury.



## Upcoming Gems on the World's Golf Map



**T**he Government's Golf Development Policy promotes the development of up to a total of 14 golf courses in Cyprus, which are anticipated to be spread across the entire island. A number of investors have expressed interest in this significant expansion, with some projects in the planning stages charted to present signature golf courses. With integration of developments, as well as active promotion, Cyprus is well on its way to achieving its aspired global status. Across the thriving industry, warm hospitality prevails, and once this is spread throughout the island's new golf courses in the coming years, the island of Cyprus looks set to become the preferred golfing destination in the Mediterranean and one of the top world-wide.



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