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DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TOURISM REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



A GUIDE TO THE CITY







Protaras is a popular tourist resort under the administrative jurisdiction of Paralimni Municipality. It is located on the eastern coast of the island and stretches for about 10km along the famous sandy beaches of the area. The scenic landscape around Protaras is dotted with quaint villages, where traditions are still upheld and where some of the tastiest, fresh produce is grown, because of the mineral-rich soil of the region. Visitors can still spot the characteristic windmills of the area that farmers used to operate to help irrigate their fields

# Arriving at Protaras from Larnaka Airport

By bus:

During the summer season (May-September), there is a direct shuttle bus from Larnaka Airport. Find the schedule on <u>www.kapnosairportshuttle.com.</u>

Alternatively, throughout the year the passengers can take bus No 425 from the airport to Larnaka center and from there change into Intercity buses to Paralimni and then change into Bus No 102 to Protaras. Find the schedules on <a href="https://intercity-buses.com">https://intercity-buses.com</a> and <a href="https://www.publictransport.com.cv">https://intercity-buses.com</a> and <a href="https://www.publictransport.com.cv">https://www.publictransport.com.cv</a>.

# Paralimni-Protaras Most interesting historical facts

According to Strabo, the Greek geographer and philosopher, the city of Lefkolla was located where Protaras stands today. This ancient city is linked to a naval battle that took place in 306 BC between the forces of Antigonus and Ptolemy who fought each other for the control of Cyprus. Many ships sunk in the area of Konnos bay.

There are two versions of how Protaras got its name. According to the first version, the inhabitants of the area were the first to see the sunrise gr. Prota (first) gr. Oro (to see). According to another version, this area was the first to become visible to ships approaching from the sea.

The area was agricultural and it was only during the 80s with the tourism influx that it rapidly developed into a popular tourist resort.

## Useful Information

### **Transportation**

aximeters and the charge commences from the minute the passengers board the taxi

There is frequent connection from Protaras to Paralimni and Agia Napa with Bus No. 101 and No. 102 respectively, as well as a frequent connection to Larnaka with Bus No. 711. The The temperature during the day in summer ranges between 22 cicket costs €1.50 for each route. Visit https://osea.com.cy/

more info visit www.intercity-buses.com.

#### Climate and Weather:

Private taxis offer service on a 24hour basis. Taxis must have hot, dry summer, which begins in mid-May and lasts until mid-September and with a rainy, but very moderate winter from November until mid-March. Spring and autumn are very brief periods, characterised by very good weather. The duration of ranges from 9.8 hours in December to 14.5 hours in June

> and 36 degrees Celsius, while in winter it ranges between 1 and 18 degrees Celsius depending on the altitude of the area.

Intercity buses connect Protaras with Lefkosia and Pafos. For The sea temperature is approximately 15.5 degrees Celsius in winter and 24 degrees Celsius in August and September and therefore, swimming is enjoyable throughout the year.

#### **Useful Telephone Numbers:**

Ammochostos General Hospital:	23200000	First Aid	112
Hospitals:	1400	OSEA buses:	23819051/23819090
Police station:	112/199	Intercity buses:	23742670/96469523
Fire station:	112	Tourist Information office:	23832865



Choose your experience and follow the numbers on the map to make the most out of your stay at Protaras!











# **Explore the City**

#### 1. Coastal Promenade

The Coastal Promenade stretches for more than 4 kilometers and connects the area of the fishing shelter of Agios Nikolaos with the Fig Tree Bay beach. The promenade is suitable also for wheelchairs. It is ideal for walking or iogging along the crystal waters of the Mediterranean. Throughout the coastal promenade, there are rest areas with kiosks and benches facing the sea so that people can sit and enjoy the amazing view. From the coastal promenade, there is access to beachfront restaurants, cafes and playgrounds. Various cultural and entertainment events take place from time to time at different parts of the promenade.



#### 2. Konnos bay

The 200-metre-long beach of Konnos is small and idvllic, with fine golden sands and is one of the most picturesque beaches on the island. It is located at the foot of a steep hill and the view from above is truly breathtaking. A downhill path that winds through pine trees and greenery leads to the beach. Its calm and clear waters are sheltered from heavy winds. Facilities on the beach include toilets, changing rooms, sun beds (for a fee), umbrellas (for a fee), a beach bar with music, and water sports facilities. There are high-end hotels overlooking the beach, restaurants and convenience stores nearby



#### 3. Cyclops Cave

The Cyclops Cave is located about 700 meters east of Konnos Bay. There is a 2.4 km long nature trail from Konnos Bay up to the Cyclops cave. It is a majestic cave, with a surface of phic mythological beings of giant dimensions, and kiosks nearby. with only one eye that was located in the middle of their forehead. They were from Thrace and were famous builders.



# 4. Nissia and Glifades beaches

Located south of Protaras these adjacent tiny beaches are ideal places to avoid the summer crowds. Take a picnic here on the sandstone platforms flung around at the beach.



#### 5. Loumbardi and Vyzakia beaches

The popular beaches of Loumbardi and Vyzakia have fine, golden sands and crystal-clear waters. Facilities on these beach= es include toilets, changing rooms, sun beds and umbrellas (for a fee) and water sports facilities. There is a variety of accommodation establishments restaurants and kiosks nearby. Additionally, during the summer season, on Vyzakia beach there are floating wheelchairs available and a "Seatrac" system that enables people with disabilities to have full access into

#### 6. Neolithic Settlement "Nissia"

The Neolithic Settlement "Nissia" belongs to the Neolithic Ceramic period and dates back to around 5200-4800BC. The settlement extends on the top of a hill very close to the sea and near the Loumbardi River. The location of the settlement provided its ancient inhabitants with drinking water and the proximity to the sea meant they could fish. Archaeological findings showed that deer hunting was the main source of meat for the inhabitants of the settlement. Excavations unearthed forty dwellings, a protective wall in the shape of a horseshoe with two gates, as well as a significant number of mobile finds, such as vessels, tools. The houses have a quadrilateral shape, with round corners and are built at a level between 7 and 10 meters above sea level.

### 7. Protaras Beach (Fig Tree Bay)

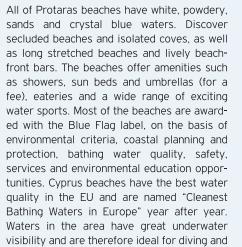
Protaras beach - better known as Fig Tree Bay - has fine, golden sands and crystal-clear waters. It takes its name from a single, solitary fig tree that has been growing here since the 17th century. Facilities on the beach include toilets, changing rooms, sun beds and umbrelentrances. Findings suggest that the cave was las (for a fee) and water sports facilities. The inhabited during the Pre-Neolithic era. Accord- beach is wheelchair accessible. Additionally. ing to mythology, a family of Cyclopes who during the summer season, there are floating were shipwrecked off the nearby coast inhabit- wheelchairs available. There is a variety of ed the cave. The Cyclopes were anthropomor- accommodation establishments, restaurants



### 8. An ancient Tomb

A Hellenistic (310-30BC) and Roman (30BC-30AD) period tomb was discovered at Fig Tree Bay during the construction of the Coastal Promenade. The tomb had not been looted and contained four sarcophaguses, skeletons, coins, and glassware and ceramic artefacts. People walking along the coastal Promenade can view the tomb, through a protective glass as they pass by the Fig Tree Bay beach.

# More beach hopping



#### 9. Vrysi Bay

snorkeling.

Vrysi beach is located in the heart of the Protaras resort and is about 1km long. The wooden pier where all mini cruises depart is located at the northern end of the beach. Vrysi beach has water sports facilities, sunbeds and umbrellas (for a fee), restaurants, showers and toilets. The beach is wheelchair accessible. Additionally, during the summer season, there are floating wheelchairs available and a "Seatrac" system that enables people with disabilities to have full access into the sea.



### 10. Pernera Beach

A beautiful beach with fine golden sand and calm, crystal clear waters. It has watersports facilities, restaurants, showers, toilets, sunbeds and umbrellas (for a fee). The beach is wheelchair accessible. Additionally, during the summer season, there are floating wheelchairs available



### 11. Louma Beach

It is a long beach stretch north of the Protaras resort with fine, golden sands and crystal clear waters. The facilities at the beach include sunbeds and umbrellas (for a fee), watersports, restaurants, showers and toilets. The beach is wheelchair accessible. Additionally, during the summer season, there are floating

wheelchairs available and a "Seatrac" system that enables people with disabilities to have full access into the sea.

A small bay with just a 50m long beach. A secluded, alluringly beautiful bay with sunbeds and umbrellas (for a fee).



#### 13. Agia Triada Beach

Agia Triada beach is one of the most spectacular and scenic beaches of the area with fine golden sands and a view of the chapel of Agia Triada. The beach is the first plastic-free beach in Cyprus that encourages and facilitates the avoidance of single-use plastic. The beach is wheelchair accessible. Additionally, during the summer season, there are floating wheelchairs available and a "Seatrac" system that enables people with disabilities to have full access into the sea.



#### 14. Skoutarospilioi (Skoutari) bay

Skoutarispilioi bay is located in the tourist area of Kapparis, about 2 km away from Paralimni village. Sand, rocks and crystal clear waters characterized this isolated bay. There are sunbeds and umbrellas (for a fee), watersports, restaurants, showers and toilets.

#### 15. Kapparis bay

Kapparis bay is located at the northern part of Kapparis tourist area, about 3 km away from Paralimni village. It is a small and relatively secluded beach with fine golden sands and calm, crystal clear waters. The facilities at the beach include sunbeds and umbrellas (for a fee) watersports, restaurants, showers and toilets.



### 16. Agioi Saranta Chapel

The unique Agioi Saranta Cave Chapel is built inside a large natural cave. There is a dome built on top of the cave that guides visitors. Inside the cave, hanging from the roof are forty stalactites, which people link to the forty (gr. Saranta) Martyrs of Sebaste. The Martyrs were a group of Roman soldiers who were killed near the city of Sebaste, in Lesser Armenia (present-day the city of Sivas in Turkev).



#### 17. Prophet Elias Chapel

The Chapel of Prophet Elias (Elijah) was built in 1984 on a steep cliff in the Protaras area, upon the ruins of an older Byzantine chapel. The Prophet Elias Chapel can be accessed by a flight of stairs with 156 steps. From the Chapel you can enjoy a panoramic view of Protaras. Next to the chapel, there is a beautiful park where visitors can relax.



#### 18. Agios Nikolaos Chapel

Agios (Saint) Nikolaos is the patron Saint of Sailors and the Navy, the protector of people at sea. The blue and white painted chapel was built at the beginning of the 21st century and is situated near Louma beach, right next to the picturesque fishing shelter of Agios Nikolaos.



#### 19. Paralimni village square of **Agios Georgios**

Three churches are located at the village square. First there is the Agios Georgios New Church that was built between 1963 and 1966. The second is the Agios Georgios Old Church that was built in 1859, on the ruins of an earlier Byzantine church, which were incorporated into sections of the current church. Finally, the third Church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Agia Anna) and was built in the 13th century. The church of Virgin Mary houses a small Ecclesiastical Museum with artefacts of the Orthodox ecclesiastical tradition such as icons, holy Gospels, chalices, large

# Around Paralimni Protaras

The word Paralimni derives from two Greek

words, "Para" meaning "by" and Limni meaning

"lake" and translates as "By-the-lake". The 273

hectares natural Lake of Paralimni is one of the

as an important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA)

when heavy rainfall occurs and can host over

20. Paralimni Lake

# 24. Antelia Bee Park

It is located next to Achna Dam and covers an area of about 18.5 acres. The park has outdoor beekeeping exhibits, gazebos in the shape of honeycombs and a little museum that exhibits items related to the production and processing of honey, pollen and royal jelly.

23. Cyherbia Botanical Park and

The park is in Avgorou village and features nine

themed organic herb gardens, is a large hedge

maze, and a lavender meditation labyrinth in the

park. Also, there is a cluster of cypress trees in

the park that is planted in the shape of the island.

Labyrinth

21. Cape Gkreko National Forest

Information Center

Park and the Environmental

The National Park of Cape Gkreko is an area of

385 hectares of unique natural beauty, where

one can admire magnificent cliff formations.

Many of the different orchid species growing on

the island are found here as well as crocuses and

lilies. The Park's nature trail links the area with the Aphrodite Culture Route. According to Strabo, a

Greek geographer and philosopher, a (long-gone)

temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built atop of the table-shaped hill in the Cape Gkreko area. At

the heart of Cape Gkreko National Forest Park

stands the Cape Gkreko Environmental Informa-

tion and Education Centre. It functions as an

educational and information Centre with

dioramas of the area's flora and fauna, and

22. Kavos nature trail & view point

Cape Gkreko's highest peak is called Kavos. Here

the visitor can take time to sit on the benches and

enjoy the stunning unobstructed views; the

Peninsula (Pidalio), the Lighthouse, the National

Forest Park, the crystal blue waters of the sea

and the rugged coastline. On the south side one

can see the spectacular cliffs which are ideal for

those who love climbing. A 2.5 kilometers long

circular nature trail starts at Kavos peak

collections of shells, fossils and rocks.

#### 25. Achna Lake Donkey Farm important wetlands of Cyprus and is considered

by BirdLife International. It is a key breeding site The farm is located near Achna Dam and in for the Spur-winged Lapwing Vanellus spinosus, addition to donkeys, the farm has also other a handsome black-and-white wader called domestic animals such as bunnies, goats, pigs, Pellokaterina or "Crazy Katherine" in the local birds. The animals are kept in a nice area, which Dialect and the Black Francolin Francolinus you can explore on foot. francolinus. It is a seasonal lake that is formed

#### 180 different species. Paralimni Lake is home to **26. Hadjigiorkis Flourmill Museum** the endemic water snake Natrix natrix cypriaca. in

Greek "Nerophido". The Paralimni Lake is The museum contributes to the promotion of the included in the EU Natura 2000 network of Cypriot rural and cultural heritage. It offers an interactive experience. Visitors will become acquainted with the history of wheat production in Cyprus, the wheat grinding process using hand-mills and the kneading of the traditional sourdough Cypriot bread.





