

CYPRUS

TRAVEL PLANNER



CYPRUS TOURIST OFFICE – MIDDLE EAST



KOPIASTE!

Welcome to Cyprus

Dear Traveler:

There is a myriad of islands in the Mediterranean, but only one does Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love, call home, and that's Cyprus. In 2010, Cyprus celebrated its 50th anniversary as an independent Republic, and there's never been a better time to plan your visit.

Whatever your pace or special interest, Cyprus is uniquely poised to welcome you. Our beaches are not only beautiful, they are certified as among the cleanest in Europe. And, just a short drive from the crystal clear waters of our coast are the pine-clad Troodos Mountains, where wild moufflons roam and cedars grow, and gem-like churches and monasteries are replete with unmatched Byzantine frescoes and icons.

Cyprus is a haven for archaeology lovers. From Neolithic settlements more than 10,000 years old, to spectacular Greco-Roman ruins, such as the ancient seaside amphitheater of Kourion, to fortresses such as Kolossi, the list of treasures is boundless.

By no means will you want to miss Pafos, a wellspring of antiquities in the west, including the mysterious Tombs of the Kings...and Roman mosaics that are so colorful, extensive and well-preserved, they are recognised by UNESCO.

Although Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, it is surprisingly compact and easy to explore. In between rugged mountain peaks and the shimmering coast you'll traverse untrammelled landscapes and rolling hills with vineyards.

Linger in idyllic villages such as Omodos and Lefkara where the rhythm slows down and there's always time for another coffee. All across Cyprus, you'll have the opportunity to experience a distinctive cuisine composed of meze, small plates of everything from flame-grilled, delicately spiced meats to fresh vegetables and amazing cheeses, such as the famous halloumi (the savory sheep's cheese that grills).

With its rich past as anchor, Cyprus is also a thriving modern nation with a service economy second to none in the whole region, and the Cypriot people, worldly and warm, are only too happy to share it with you. Which means among other things, an attractive range of accommodation, luxurious hotels with both local flavor and the highest international standards, quality tourist villas, agrotourism options and more.

~ Cyprus Tourism Organization

"...you are welcome in Cyprus"

~ William Shakespeare, "Othello"





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CYPRUS

THE ISLAND OF APHRODITE AWAITS...

She was not the most powerful of the gods, but if art and archaeology are any guide, Aphrodite was undeniably the most beautiful of them all – so it is no wonder that once she drifted onto the shores of Cyprus in ancient times, she never left. Her mythical spirit still pervades the Mediterranean’s third largest island, from the classical, unspoiled landscapes of olive trees and citrus groves to the welcoming smiles of the Cypriot people. Exotic but approachable, they are proud of an island that has been witness to the arc of history, from Alexander the Great to the European Union (of which the Republic of Cyprus is a member), and are always happy to share this vast cultural richness with travelers.

Cyprus, at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, has always been linked culturally to ancient Greece but in fact has been known as a human settlement for some 11,000 years – before any known or named empire. But those would come: from Phoenicians to Romans to Venetians to Ottomans and others, few powers in history have failed to be seduced by Aphrodite’s uncomplicated but earnest charms. If the island’s copper mines made it a place to covet throughout much of antiquity – indeed, Cyprus gives its name to copper – its very location has for centuries served as a fulcrum for empires on the move.

And that location today is irresistible for travelers on the go, too. It’s easy to fly to from just about anywhere, for one. And in no other place can so many visible traces of the past be seen and savored in such a compact, dynamic space. The turbulence of yesterday is today’s unparalleled tapestry of archaeological sites, fascinating and impeccably curated museums and more. All this in a resolutely modern republic with one of the highest standards of living in Europe. It will take you only a few hours to see why, so many centuries after the goddess of love and beauty arrived, she and her fellow Cypriots are still smiling.

Explore a Rich, Multilayered Past

On an island with 11,000 years of history, simply walking around can be a memorable and historically enriching experience. In the capital of Lefkosia (Nicosia), you can touch the stones of the formidable walls the Venetians built which still encircle the city. In Pafos, there is St. Paul’s Pillar, and pre-dating that, the incomparable mosaics of the Houses of Aion and Dionysus; so many other fascinating vestiges of the past reside here, in fact, the whole town has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Also not to be missed is the Greco-Roman theater of Kourion, the nearby Temple of Apollo Hylates (Apollo of the Woods), Petra tou Romiou (Aphrodite’s Rock) and much more.

Petra tou Romiou – Rock of Aphrodite, Pafos





Lemesos promenade



Natural Splendors

The incredibly stunning Akamas Peninsula has been a nature lover's paradise ever since the days when Aphrodite made it her home, and, following her interludes with Adonis, bathed in the mineral spring that still bears her name. Visitors can see her legendary baths and then take a ramble through the protected Avakas Gorge, where, as in ancient times, goats comprise the only traffic.

For those wishing to take tranquility and hiking trails to the next level, there are the Troodos Mountains, where the lofty peaks clad in tall pine trees and majestic cedars provide a striking contrast to the splendors of the coast — never more than an hour or so away by car.

A World-Famous Port and a Coast that Calls

Lemesos, also called Limassol, is Cyprus' biggest port and boasts some of the most exciting nightlife. Numerous four- and five-star resorts line the beachfront and everything from elegant yachts and cruise ships to fishing boats fill the harbor.

You can hit the beach in a big way in Ayia Napa, one of the Mediterranean's liveliest resorts, or savor the tranquility of nearby Nissi Beach. Cypriot beaches are famously clean (and fly the Blue Flag of certification), and many offer facilities for windsurfing, parasailing, scuba diving, and more.

For a change of pace, head inland from the coast and you'll discover villages of whitewashed stone untouched by the sweep of time: Lefkara,

famous for its lace; Lania, an artists' colony; and splendid Omodos, with its sleepy, sunny central square and plethora of small artisans' workshops.

A Destination for All Travelers

Today, Cyprus seamlessly blends ancient history with a modern infrastructure and a contemporary cosmopolitan lifestyle. From the moment you arrive at Larnaka's sparkling new international airport, you will feel the stress go out and the relaxation settle in. Which isn't all that surprising, considering that even Aphrodite couldn't bring herself to leave here.

Come and discover the quiet treasures of Cyprus, where antiquity is alive at every turn. Wander about in comfort and awe, and if you should ever have any questions, the locals will happily share their knowledge and show you the way. "Kopiastel!" is how they say "Come join us!" here, and it's sincere.

"[A] confluence of different destinies [have] touched and illumined the history of one small island in the eastern basin of the [Mediterranean], giving it significance and depth of focus."

~ Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"



That's the sun-kissed spirit of Cyprus.

CYPRUS

THROUGH THE AGES...

Cyprus is an island at the crossroads of many civilizations, from Neolithic settlements to Phoenician colonies to the ancient Greek and Roman periods and many more: Alexander the Great, Venetians, to name a few. To properly examine them all would take the a cumen of an archaeologist and many lifetimes. But sun-kissed and compact, Cyprus can be explored in a much shorter time than that, with plenty of opportunity for stops at the beaches, vineyards, monasteries, museums and tavernas along the way. One look at the blue swirl around Petra tou Romiou, or Aphrodite's rock, and you'll get a sense of why Cyprus attracted so many throughout the millennia.

Neolithic ruins in Cyprus give new meaning to the word "timeless" in places like Choirokoitia, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where stone ruins of ancient human settlements date back 10,000 years. Copper was found on the island between 3900 BC and 2500 BC, a discovery that would change the course of commercial and cultural history in the ancient world. The island's Mediterranean beauty was always a magnet for the goddess of love and beauty, Aphrodite, and her many acolytes. But it also attracted the attention of dominant regional empires throughout history. In the geographic orbit of ancient Greece, it's no surprise that Greek merchants and settlers (Mycenaens and Achaens) would establish



8500-3900 BC: Neolithic Age

The oldest settlements found on the island date from this period. Stone vessels and later, pottery was used.

3900-2500 BC: Chalcolithic Age

Chalcolithic settlements and evidence of a fertility cult have been found in Western Cyprus. Copper discovered.

2500-1600 BC: Early and Middle Bronze Age

Beginning in about 2400 BC, prospectors from Anatolia explored the island for copper. These newcomers settled in the foothills of Troodos Mountains which was a copper rich area. In the early Bronze Age the use of metal became more widespread in Cyprus. Cyprus began to export copper.

1600-1050 BC: Bronze Age

Cyprus was known as "Alasia" during this great trading period with its neighbours, partly because of its exploitation of copper. After 1400 BC, the first of many waves of Greek merchants and settlers (Mycenaens and Achaens) reached the island, spreading the Greek language, religion and customs. They gradually took control and established the first city-kingsdoms.

1050-750 BC: Geometric Period

The Hellenisation of Cyprus was complete, with ten city-kingsdoms. The cult of Aphrodite flourished in a period of great prosperity.



750-480 BC: Archaic and Classical Period

An era of prosperity and conquest. Cypriot kingdoms became tributary to Assyria, Egypt and Persia. But King Evagoras (411-374) unified the island, making it an important center of the Greek world.

333-325 BC:

Alexander the Great takes Cyprus as part of his empire.

310-30 BC: Hellenistic Period

Alexander's generals fought for succession, and Cyprus eventually came under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemies of Egypt, belonging from then on to the Greek Alexandrine world. Pafos became the capital.

30 BC-330 AD: Roman Period

Cyprus became part of the Roman Empire. But Saints Paul and Barnabas converted the Roman proconsul to Christianity, and he became the first Christian ruler in the world. In 313 freedom of worship was granted, and Cypriot bishops attended the Council of Nicea in 325. The period was marked by earthquakes which resulted in the rebuilding of cities.

330-1191 AD: Byzantine Period

After the division of the Roman Empire, Cyprus became part of Byzantium, with Christianity becoming the official religion.



Empress Helena visited the island and founded Stavrovouni Monastery. The period again saw earthquakes and rebuilding, including large Basilicas. In 488, after the discovery of St. Barnabas' tomb, the Church of Cyprus was granted full autonomy by Emperor Zeno.

1192-1489: Frankish (Lusignan) Period

The Catholic Church officially replaced the Greek Orthodox Church, but the latter managed to survive.

The city of Ammochostos became one of the richest cities in the world in this period, which ended when the last queen Caterina Cornaro ceded Cyprus to Venice in 1489.

1489-1571: Venetian Period

The last queen of Cyprus, Caterina Cornaro, wife of King James the II, ceded the island to Venice in 1489. This resulted in the definitive ousting of the Genoans from the island and the prevalence of Venetian rule. Venice's main aim was to secure a firm hold of Cyprus that would allow the uninterrupted movement and supply of Venetian ships in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Venetians fortified the island against the Ottomans, building formidable walls around Lefkosia and Ammochostos, where the defenses were considered works of art in military architecture. Towards the end of the Venetian rule, Larnaka became the most important port of Cyprus, from where salt was exported.

Cypriot city-kingdoms, from 1650 BC – 1050 BC. One of these was Kourion, where today you can wander and explore well-preserved ancient ruins. Fast forward in antiquity to 333 BC and Alexander the Great swept through: by 325 BC the Hellenistic Period had commenced, with the Ptolemies of Egypt in control. Pafos was their capital, and today the necropolis known as the Tombs of the Kings bears witness to this stage of the island's rich past.

Pafos is also where you'll find a treasure trove of ancient mosaics that date from Cyprus' Roman Period, from 30 BC – 330 AD, and important early Christian relics like St. Paul's Pillar. The Frankish, or Lusignan period followed, and in 1489, the Venetian Empire held sway. The fortifications in Lefkosia (Nicosia) are of solid Venetian construction. Ottoman and British traces are still visible in places throughout the island, too. As you explore Cyprus, the mosaic of a myriad of civilizations comes into sharper focus, because so much of world history began right here and continues every day.



"Here the beauty of some pleasant hill invites the wandering mariners to take their ease among its flowery verdure, where the zephyrs continually come and go, filling with sweet odors the island and the encompassing sea..."

~ Leonardo da Vinci, 1452-1519 AD

1571-1878: Ottoman Period

The period of Ottoman rule in Cyprus began with the fall of Ammochostos (Famagusta) in 1571. The Latins were expelled from the island and a Muslim community was established in Cyprus for the first time. Privileges were given to the Orthodox church of Cyprus from the beginning of Ottoman rule, giving it not just religious authority but also political authority. Cyprus went through hard times during the Ottoman rule.

1878-1960: British Period

In 1878 Britain assumed administration of the island, subsequently annexing it in 1914, after the Ottomans entered the First World War on Germany's side. In 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey relinquished all rights to Cyprus, and in 1925 Cyprus became a Crown Colony. During the Second World War, Cypriot volunteers served in the British forces. Hopes for self-determination by the Cypriot people however, were denied by the British, who considered the island strategically vital. A national liberation struggle began in 1955 against Colonial rule and for the union of Cyprus with Greece, which lasted until 1959. The Zurich-London Agreements led to the establishment of the independent Republic of Cyprus. On December 13, 1959 Archbishop Makarios III was elected first President of the Republic and Dr. Fazil Kutchuk first Vice President.

1960: The Republic of Cyprus

Cyprus became an independent Republic in 1960, and a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. Britain, however, retained two sovereign bases. In 1964, UN peacekeeping forces arrive in Cyprus, following intercommunal clashes. In July 1974, Turkish forces invaded and occupied the northern third of the island (37%), where they remain to this day. Despite the many continuing humanitarian, social, and economic consequences, Cyprus still is today a modern society with a robust and healthy economy. In May 2004, the Republic of Cyprus became a full member of the European Union, adding its own uniqueness to the mosaic and serving as the European Union's lighthouse in the Eastern Mediterranean. The island and the Cypriot people stand as a beacon for closer co-operation, understanding, and dialogue with the countries and people in its immediate neighborhood and wider region. Strategically located, Cyprus continues to have a rich historical maritime tradition. Today, its merchant fleet is the third largest in the European Union and the tenth largest worldwide. On January 1st, 2008, Cyprus introduced the euro as its official currency, replacing the Cyprus pound. Cyprus is home to many international companies that use the island as a springboard to the surrounding regions and further afield.





LEFKOSIA

Discover venetian fortifications,
ancient doors and cheerful tavernas in this capital city

During the Venetian expansion eastward in the 1500's, Lefkosia (Nicosia) was fortified with imposing stone walls and massive gates. The imposing Famagusta Gate still stands today, proudly encircling the thousand-year-old city.

Through the Gate lies Laiki Geitonia, an old section which has been lovingly restored. Wander your way through narrow stone streets where crimson flowers cascade from window pots and the aroma of traditional baking wafts through open doorways. Explore jewellery and handicraft shops, dine in charming tavernas, marvel at churches centuries old.

Those engrossed in history and art will make their way directly to the Cyprus Museum, which holds the island's priceless treasures from the first stirrings of the Neolithic Age through the Roman period. At the Byzantine Museum, encounter a dazzling collection of early Christian icons from the Mediterranean's Golden Age. The State Collection of Contemporary Art takes a newer perspective, focusing on Cyprus' modern artists, some of whom have gained note on the international market.

Come full circle in time and visit the Cyprus Handicraft Center workshops, where traditional arts are practiced today much the same way they were in ages past. Relax and enjoy a splendid Cypriot meal accompanied with a refreshing drink.

Later, the nightlife beckons near Famagusta Gate, giving expression to the Cypriot's legendary spirit of celebration.



Photos from left to right:
Shopping, Traditional Cafe, Dining Out

LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA) IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Cyprus Museum (Archaeological)

Mousciou 1. Collection of Cypriot antiquities and treasures from the Neolithic Age to the Early Byzantine period. Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-16:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-16:00; Sun: 10:00-13:00

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

Ippokratous 17, near Laiki Geitonia. The historical museum of Lefkosia revives life in the capital from ancient times to present. Tues-Sun: 10:00-16:30; (closed on public holidays)

Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries

Archbishop Makarios III Foundation Cultural Centre, Plateia Arch, Kyprianou. Largest collection of icons on the island, covering the 9th- to 18th- centuries. The Art Galleries contain oil paintings, maps and lithographs. Mon-Fri: 09:00-16:30; Sat: 09:00-13:00

Ethnological Museum –

The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornosios

Patriarchou Gregoriou 20. The most important 18th-century building in Lefkosia. Once the residence of the Dragoman Hadjigeorgakis Kornosios. Mon: 08:30-14:00; Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:30-15:30; Thurs: 08:30-17:00; Sat & Sun: closed. (closed on public holidays)

Famagusta Gate

Leoforos Athinon. The Venetian walls which encircle the old city possess eleven heart-shaped bastions. The city has three gates. One, the Porta Giuliana called Famagusta Gate is now the Lefkosia Municipal Cultural Centre. Mon-Fri: 10:00-13:00, 16:00-19:00 (May-September: 10:00-13:00, 17:00-20:00)

National Struggle Museum

Plateia Arch, Kyprianou. Documents, photographs and other memorabilia of the 1955-1959 National Liberation Struggle. Mon-Fri: 08:00-14:00; Thurs: 15:00-17:30 except July & August

Agios Ioannis Cathedral

Plateia Arc, Kyprianou. Built by Archbishop Nikiforos in 1662, the wall paintings depict bible scenes and the discovery of the tomb of St. Barnabas. Mon-Fri: 08:00-12:00; 14:00-16:00; Sat: 08:00-12:00 (and during mass)

State Gallery of Contemporary Art

Leoforos Stasinou and Kritis. Representative collection of paintings and sculpture by 20th-century Cypriot artists. Mon-Fri: 10:00-16:45; Sat: 10:00-12:45



Archbishopric

Plateia Arch, Kyprianou. Centre of the Cyprus Orthodox Church, the New Archbishopric was built in a neo-Byzantine style in 1960

Chrysaliniotissa Church

Within walking distance of the Archbishopric. Considered the oldest Byzantine church in Lefkosia, it is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Flax." Believed to have been built in 1450 by Queen Helena Palaeologos

Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus

(Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou within the old Archbishopric). Wide collection of Cypriot Folk Art of the 19th- and early 20th-century, including wood carved objects, tapestry, embroidery, pottery, national costumes and hand-woven materials. Mon-Fri: 09:00-13:30; Sat: 09:00-13:00

Omeriye Baths

Tyllirias Square 8. The baths were built in the 16th-century by Lala Mustafa as a gift to the city and it has now been restored and used as public baths. Tues, Thurs, Sat: 09:00-21:00 (for men); Wed, Fri, Sun: 09:00-21:00 (for women); Mon, 09:00-21:00 (for couples)

Cyprus Handicraft Center

Leoforos Athalassas 186. The center aims to promote and enrich traditional folk art and craft skills. It has workshops and a showroom/shop on premises. Workshops: Mon-Fri: 07:30-14:30; Thurs: 15:00-18:00 except July & August

The Nicosia Municipal Arts Center

Apostolou Varnava 19. Housed in an old power station, one of the finest examples of industrial architecture in Cyprus. The center's aim is to promote contemporary creativity at its highest level. Tues-Sat: 10:00-15:00, 17:00-23:00; Sun: 10:00-16:00

Ledra Museum Observatory

Ledra Street, Shakolas Building. The observatory on the 11th floor of the Shakolas tower building provides a panoramic view of the whole town of Lefkosia. Visitors can admire unobstructed all round views of the city and its landmarks. Mon-Sun: 10:00-20:00 (April-October); 09:30-16:00 (November-March)

Museum on the History of Cypriot Coinage

Stadinou 51, Agia Paraskevi area. The museum collection traces the history of Cypriot coinage from the 6th-century BC to the present. Mon-Fri: 08:00-14:00 (closed on Bank holidays); Mon: 08:30-17:00 (September-April)

LEFKOSIA (Nicosia) AREA

Politiko-Tamassos Royal Tombs

Politiko village, 17 km southwest of Lefkosia. Tamassos was a rich city-kingdom in ancient Cyprus renowned for its copper mines. Excavations have brought to light the relics of Aphrodite Astarte. 08:30-16:00 (November-March); 09:30-17:00 (April-October) (closed on public holidays)

Agios Irakleidos Convent

Politiko village, 0.5 km from the Royal Tombs. When Saints Paul and Barnabas came to Cyprus, they were guided to Tamassos by Irakleidos. He was martyred and buried in the cave where he had lived and preached. The monastery, founded in 400 AD, was destroyed and rebuilt several times until Archbishop Chrysanthos renovated it in 1773. The relics of the saints are kept in a silver gilt case. Open daily. (closed 12:00-15:00)

Machairas Monastery

40 km south of Lefkosia through Deftera and Pera villages. Founded by two monks in 1148, when an icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave, the monastery is set in a picturesque dip in the Machairas Mountains. Open daily: 08:00-17:30

Fikardou Rural Museum

Housed in the House of Katsiniorou, in Fikardou village, Fikardou Museum is 1.5 km east of Gourri village (Machairas Lefkosia Road via Klirou). The village has been declared an ancient monument by the Department of Antiquities to preserve the remarkable woodwork and folk architecture of the 16th- and 18th-century houses. Some of the houses received the Europa Nostra Award in 1987. Open daily: 08:00-16:00 (November-March); 09:00-17:00 (April-October)

"The island has in its midst a fair city called Lefkosia, which is the capital of the kingdom, well walled, with its fine gates, which are three, to wit the gate of Paflo, of Famagusta and Cirina. That of Famagusta, is the most beautiful, and in my judgment the city of Barcelona has none to match it."

~ P. Joan Lopez, 1470



Larnaka Marina

LARNAKA

Stroll the famous seaside

promenade of this gateway city and home to Saint Lazarus

Most travelers first see Cyprus at Larnaka, the country's second largest port and home of the main international airport. No welcome could be sunnier: at Larnaka, deep blue seas meet bright sand beaches under incomparably brilliant skies.

Here yachts and sailing vessels from around the globe bob and glint, and along the harbor perimeter is a palm-lined promenade.

Between shopping trips to Larnaka's international-caliber boutiques, inviting cafés offer shady resting spots and sweeping ocean views. The promenade winds its way to a striking finale, the Larnaka Medieval Museum, housed in a 17th-century fort.

Make your way north from the fort, toward the center of the city, and you will come to one of Larnaka's and the island's most cherished sites – the church of Saint Lazarus. After his resurrection from the dead by Jesus, Lazarus elected to live out his “second” life as Bishop of Larnaka. He was reputedly buried in a crypt under the main altar and his tomb can be seen today.

Originally called Kition in the days of the Old Testament, Larnaka reached a heyday as a commercial center in the 1700's, when the consulates were established here.

One of the oldest, continually-inhabited cities in the world, Larnaka abounds with sights. Nearby is an 18th-century aqueduct, and two wonderful museums – the Larnaka District Archaeological Museum and the Pierides Foundation Museum. Both contain exceptional examples of Mediterranean art.

Heading out from Larnaka toward Lemesos, stop by the enchanting village of Lefkara. Doubtless you, like Leonardo Da Vinci five centuries before you, will be seduced by Lefkara's exquisite handmade lace.



LARNAKA IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Larnaka District

Archaeological Museum
Plateia Kalogreon. Collection of finds from the Larnaka area dating from the Neolithic Age to the Roman period. Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-15:00. Mon & Sun: closed

Pierides Foundation Archaeological Museum

Zenon Kiteos 4. Remarkable private exhibition of Cypriot antiquities, originally collected by Demetrios Pieridis (1811-1895) and further enriched by members of his family. Mon-Thurs: 09:00-16:00; Fri-Sat: 09:00-13:00

Larnaka Medieval Museum – Larnaka Fort

Larnaka sea front. Built in 1625, it was used as a prison in the first years of British rule. It houses the District Medieval Museum. The fort is also used as the Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre during the summer. Mon-Fri: 09:00-17:00; (09:00-19:30, June-August)

Agios Lazaros Church (Saint Lazarus)

Plateia Agiou Lazarou. Saint Lazarus is the patron Saint of Larnaka. After his resurrection by Christ, he lived here for another 30 years. He was ordained Bishop of Kition by Saints Barnabas and Mark. The 9th-century church was faithfully restored in the 17th-century, and the iconostasi is an excellent example of baroque woodcarving. Mon-Sun: 08:00-12:30, 14:00-18:30 (April-August); Mon-Sun: 08:00-12:30, 14:00-17:30 (September-March)

Kition Archaeological Site

Approximately 500 m northeast of the Archaeological Museum. One of the most important ancient city-kingdoms, with architectural remains dating back to the 13th-century BC. In about 1200 BC it was rebuilt by the Mycenaean Greeks, and excavations have revealed cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of stone and a complex of five temples. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-14:30; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat & Sun: closed

LARNAKA AREA

Kamares Aqueduct

Kamares area on the Larnaka-Lemesos road. A beautiful 18th-century aqueduct which was in use until 1930



Hala Sultan Tekke – Salt Lake

5 km west of Larnaka on the road to Kiti, passing the Larnaka Airport. Built in 1816 over the tomb of Umm Haram, allegedly a relative of Prophet Mohammed. The mosque is an important place of Muslim pilgrimage ranking immediately after the shrines of Mecca, Medina and Al Aqsha in Jerusalem. Daily: 08:00-19:30 (June-August); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-17:00 (November-March)

Angeloktisti Church

Kiti village, 7 km west of Larnaka. Angeloktisti means "Built by the Angels." This 11th-century Byzantine church was erected over the ruins of an early Christian basilica. The original apse survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a rare 6th-century mosaic of the Virgin Mary and Child between two Archangels, which rivals the Ravenna Mosaics. Mon-Sun: 08:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00; (14:00-18:00 June-August)

Chapelle Royale

Pyrga village, 35 km south of Lefkosia, 32 km from Larnaka. Built by the Lusignan King James in 1421, it contains a wall painting of the king with his wife, Charlotte de Bourbon. Open daily any reasonable hour. The key can be obtained from the coffee shop near the chapel

"To Larnaka through an extraordinary landscape reminding one of Plato's God geometrizing: low hills, almost perfect cones with leveled tops suggesting the Euclidean objects found in art studios. Wind erosion? But the panel of geometrical mounds seems handmade. And the valleys tapestried with fat-tailed sheeps, plots of verdure, and here there a camel train and palm tree. A strange mixture of flavors, the Bible, Anatolia and Greece."

~ Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"

Photos from left to right:
Foinikoudes Promenade, Makenzy Beach, Salt Lake by Hala Sultan Tekke

Stavrovouni Monastery

9 km off the Lefkosia-Lemesos Road, 40 km from Larnaka. Perched on a rocky peak, Stavrovouni means Mountain of the Cross. According to tradition, it was founded in the 4th-century by St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who left a fragment of the Holy Cross to the monastery. Women are not allowed in the monastery, though men may visit daily from sunrise to sunset, except from 12:00-13:00 (13:00-14:00 in summer). There is an impressive ceremony and celebration on September 14th, the day of the raising of the Holy Cross. The Monastery of Agia Varvara (St. Barbara) at the foot of Stavrovouni Hill, is easily accessible. The monks here have a high reputation for icon painting

Choirokoitia Neolithic Settlement

48 km south of Lefkosia, off the Lefkosia-Lemesos road and 32 km from Larnaka. Neolithic settlement dated to 7000 BC. Excavations have brought to light one of the most important Neolithic cultures in the world with a defense wall, circular houses, tombs and many stone utensils. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Kalavassos-Tenta

40 km from Larnaka, 2.5 km off the Lefkosia-Lemesos Road. Tenta, one of the most important Neolithic settlements in Cyprus, lies near the village of Kalavassos

Lefkara

8 km from Skarinou, off the Lefkosia-Lemesos Road, 40 km from Larnaka. A picturesque village, famous for its local lace known as 'Lefkaritika' and for its silverware. According to tradition, Leonardo da Vinci visited the village. The beautiful houses of Patsalos houses the Lace and Silverware Museum of Lefkara. The church of Archangelos Michail in Kato Lefkara is of the single-aisled domed type and has wall paintings of the late 12th-century. At Pano Lefkara there is the Church of the Holy Cross with beautiful 18th-century and 13th-century artifacts. Lefkara lace or Lefkaritika inscribed in 2009 on the UNESCO Representative List of the intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Agios Minas Convent

Near Lefkara. 15th-century monastery with a church at the centre of the cloisters. The nuns, besides performing their religious rites, paint icons. Daily: 08:00-12:00, 15:00-18:00 (May-September); 08:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00 (October-April)



Vibrant nightlife of Lemesos Promenade

LEMESOS

Cyprus' major port is also home
to world-class resorts and historical treasures

Today, the tradition of celebration and hospitality continues in this vibrant seaside town. In February, before Lent, masked revelers invade the streets with music, parades and dancing for Carnival. And every night people in restaurants, cafès and nightclubs celebrate events momentous and trivial, from a soccer win to a sudden romance to yet another stunning sunset at day's end.

Explore Lemesos Castle, which contains the Cyprus Medieval Museum, or Folk Art Museum, which is housed in an old mansion. Walk on ten miles of beautiful beaches, deservedly known as the Cypriot Riviera. Stroll along the sea promenade or visit the Municipal Gardens. On the coastal road to the east, just after the luxurious hotels, you will find Amathous, one of the ancient city kingdoms of Cyprus. See the ruins and take a dip near the site of an ancient port.

At 14 km west of Lemesos lies Kolossi Castle, a medieval fortress whose walls contain not only an imposing tower and surrounding living quarters, but also an ancient sugar factory. Just 19 km west of town, visit the Kourion archaeological site, an ancient city-kingdom, where you can take in a play or concert at the ancient Greco-Roman theater, overlooking the blue Mediterranean. And a bit further on, explore a treasure trove of Greek and Roman sites, such as the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates.



Photos from left to right:
Kolossi Castle, Amathous Area, Nightclubbing

LEMESOS (LIMASSOL) IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Cyprus Medieval Museum- Lemesos Medieval Fort

Near the old port. Built in the 14th-century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle. According to tradition, Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England here in 1191. Mon-Sat: 09:00-17:00; Sun: 10:00-13:00

Lemesos District Archaeological Museum

Vyronos 5, near the Public Gardens. Collection of Neolithic antiquities found in the Lemesos area. Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-15:00; Mon & Sun: closed

Lemesos Municipal Art Gallery

The art gallery houses a representative collection of paintings of well-known contemporary Cypriot artists. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat: 08:30-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Mon & Sun: closed

Municipal Folk Art Museum

Agiou Andreou 253. A beautiful collection of Cyprus Folk Art of the 19th- and early 20th-century is exhibited in a restored old house. Mon-Fri: 08:30-13:30; Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 15:00-17:30 (16:00-18:30 June-September)

Carob Museum

Vasilissis St. (behind Lemesos Medieval Castle). The Carob Mill was built in 1900 at a time when carobs were a major export of Cyprus. The machinery used in processing the carobs is preserved and displayed in a renovated building, blending the authentic atmosphere of the past with the sophisticated high-tech look of the present. Open daily

Amathous Archaeological Site

11 km east of Lemesos town center, close to Amathus Hotel. One of the ancient city-kings of Cyprus where, according to mythology, Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne after his battle with the Minotaur. The remains date from the Archaic, Roman and Christian periods. Daily 8:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)



LEMESOS (Limassol) AREA

Kolossi Castle

14 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos. A fine example of military architecture, originally constructed in the 13th-century and subsequently rebuilt in its present form in the middle of the 15th-century. It served as the Grand Commandery of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and later the Knights Templar. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Kourion Museum

14 km west of Lemesos, 4 km before Kourion site at Episkopi village. Collection of finds from nearby archeological sites, exhibited in a beautiful old house. Mon-Fri: 09:00-14:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat & Sun: closed

Kourion Archaeological Site

19 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos. An important ancient city-kingdom and one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the island. The magnificent Greco-Roman theater was originally built in the 2nd-century BC and is now used for music and theater. The house of Eustolios became a public recreation center during the early Christian period. The early Christian basilica dates to the 5th-century. The house of Achilles and the House of the Gladiators have beautiful mosaic floors, and the Nymphaeum is an elegant Roman structure. The stadium is dated to the 2nd-century AD. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates

3 km west of Kourion, on the road to Pafos. The Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates is recorded in historical sources as one of the most important sanctuaries on the island. Strabo wrote about a cap past the Kourion from where those who touched the Sacred Altar of Apollo were flung into the sea. Many inscribed testimonies, which have been found on the spot and in the city, confirm the historical sources. Apollo Hylates, God of Woodland, was the protector of the city of Kourion. The cult of Apollo was celebrated here from the 8th-century BC to the 4th-century AD. Excavations have also revealed other structures of this important sanctuary such as the bath complex, the pilgrim halls, the palaistra and a holy precinct. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Agios Nikolaos ton Gatou Convent

(St. Nicholas of the Cats)
On Cape Gata near Lemesos. This is possibly the oldest monastery in Cyprus. The monastery chapel dates to the 14th-century, it was abandoned in the 16th-century and was reinstated by Orthodox nuns in the early 1980's. According to tradition, the monastery was founded by St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, who left a piece from the Holy Cross there. During the period Cyprus experienced a severe drought, the area became infested by snakes. Constantine the Great sent a commander to Cyprus called Kalokeros, who released thousands of cats to the Cape, in order to exterminate the snakes. The monastery today is home to hundreds of cats

Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Center

Situated at Akrotiri village, the center has been operating since October 2004. It has an exhibition room, library, projection room and observation kiosk. It offers educational programs for schools on the history and habitat of the region. Visitors can view exhibits related to the protected Akrotiri peninsula, the geological formation of the region and can admire the view of the nearby salt lake. Open daily (including weekends and public holidays): 08:30-15:00

*"Cyprus was to become mine by adoption-
therefore he must try to see it through my eyes.
At once it became fertile, full of goddesses
and mineral springs; ancient castles and
monasteries; fruit and grain and verdant
grasslands; priests and gypsies and brigands...."
~ Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"*



PAFOS

Old traditions and customs

still kept alive in the town of Aphrodite

Enter another world, where idols and temples, graves and goddesses make up the fabric of everyday life. Pafos is where Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, is said to have risen from the waves that crash on its shores. Petra tou Romiou or Aphrodite's Rock, is a massive chunk of stone that marks the spot. Her birthplace was a place of pilgrimage for the entire Hellenic world.

Aphrodite's presence seems to have drawn other divinities and notable mortals as well. Excavations have unearthed the spectacular 3rd- to 5th-century mosaics at the Houses of Dionysus, Orpheus and Aion, and the villa of Theseus – buried for sixteen centuries and yet remarkably intact. Their grace of line and subtlety of color will surely inspire elevated feelings in those who see them. Also in this region is the Odeon Theater, a stone structure still used as it was in ancient times for outdoor concerts, plays and games. Small wonder then that the whole town of Pafos is included in the official UNESCO list of Cultural and Natural Treasures of World Heritage.

Past Polis and Latsi, the baths of Aphrodite provided the ancients with a dramatic setting for outdoor bathing. The Fontana Amorosa or fountain of love, still bubbles forth nearby. Is it simply water... or Aphrodite's fabled love potion?

Later periods of history have also left their traces. The Tombs of the Kings, in Kato Pafos, is a monumental honeycomb structure carved into sheer rock whose vaults held the tombs of Ptolemy period nobles. Nearby, the stone pillar where St. Paul, according to tradition, was bound and beaten for preaching Christianity, thrusts heavenward. The Chrysorogiatissa Monastery was founded in the 12th-century AD and is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate". The neighboring monastery of Agios Neofytos contains some of the world's finest Byzantine frescoes and icons as well as an interesting Byzantine museum.

Archaeological discoveries in the Pafos region are continual, making it a highlight for those tracing civilizations roots in Cyprus. For a glimpse of the artifacts and masterworks found in the area, visit the District Archaeological Museum.

Returning to the 20th-century, enjoy a cool drink, a steaming Cypriot coffee, or a meal of just-caught seafood in one of the tavernas that dot the scenic harborside in the town of Pafos. Hotels for every taste and budget can be found in town and the surrounding area. Use them as your home base for discovering this rich region.



Photos from left to right:
Coral Beach, Water Sports, Tombs of the Kings

PAFOS IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Pafos District

Archaeological Museum
Griva Digeni 43. Attractive collection of Cypriot antiquities – Neolithic Age to 1700 AD. Tues, Wed, Fri 08:00-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-15:00; Mon & Sun: closed

Byzantine Museum

A. Ioannou 5. Icons from the 12th- to 18th-centuries. Mon-Fri: 09:00-16:00 (09:00-15:00 November-March); Sat: 09:00-13:00

Ethnographical Museum

Exo Vrysis 1. From the Neolithic age to the present day. Mon-Sat: 09:30-17:00; Sun: 10:00-13:00

Tombs of the Kings

Kato Pafos. These 4th-century BC underground tombs are carved out of solid rock, some decorated with Doric pillars. Their magnificence gives the locality its name. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Agia Solomoni Church

Kato Pafos, Leoforos Agiou Pavlou. Originally a Christian catacomb retaining 12th-century frescoes. A sacred tree is believed to cure the sick

Pafos Mosaics

Kato Pafos, near the harbor. The mosaic floors are considered among the finest in the Eastern Mediterranean. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Pafos Odeon

Kato Pafos. A 2nd-century Odeon. Used in the summer for music and theater. Nearby the remains of ancient city walls and the Roman Agora. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Saranta Kolones

Kato Pafos, near the harbor. Built by the Lusignans in the 13th-century on the site of a previous Byzantine castle. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Pafos Medieval Fort

Kato Pafos harbor. A Byzantine fort. Rebuilt by the Lusignans. Dismantled by the Venetians in 1570 and rebuilt in the 16th-century. Daily: 08:00-19:30 (June-August); 08:00-18:00 (April-October); 08:00-17:00 (November-March)



Panagia Chrysopolitissa

Church/St. Paul's Pillar
Kato Pafos. Built in the 13th-century over the ruins of the largest early-Byzantine basilica on the island. See St. Paul's Pillar, where according to tradition St. Paul was flogged, before the Roman Governor Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity

Pafos Municipal Art Gallery

Gladstonos 7. The gallery exhibits works of art by local artists. Mon-Fri: 10:00-13:00 & 17:00-20:00; Sat & Sun: 10:00-13:00 (April-October); Mon-Fri: 10:00-13:00 & 15:00-17:00; Sat & Sun: 10:00-13:00 (November-March)

PAFOS AREA

Geroskipou Folk Art Museum

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Named after the sacred garden of Aphrodite. Folk arts and crafts are exhibited in the beautiful "House of Hadjismith". Daily: 08:00-16:00 (November-March); 09:00-17:00 (April-October)

Agia Paraskevi Church

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Byzantine church. A basilica surmounted by five domes forming a cross, with beautiful 15th-century murals. Mon-Sat: 08:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 (April-October); Mon-Sat: 08:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:00 (November-March)

Sanctuary of Aphrodite Palaipafos Museum

Kouklia village, 14 km east of Pafos, off the Lemesos Pafos Road. Palaipaphos, Old Paphos, was a celebrated pilgrimage center of the ancient Greek world. Here stood the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, which dates back to the 12th-century BC. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun: 08:00-16:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00

Petra Tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock)

Birthplace of Aphrodite. 25 km east of Pafos. Legend dictates that the goddess of love and beauty rose from the waves in this strikingly beautiful spot. The Greek name is Petra tou Romiou or "The Rock of the Greek"

*"The dawns and sunsets in Cyprus are unforgettable-better even than those of Rhodes which I always believed were unique in their slow Tiberian magnificence."
~ Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"*

Lempa

5 km from Pafos. At Lempa, village excavations have brought to light an important settlement of the Chalcolithic period. Near the site replicas of two houses have been constructed

Pegeia

Agios Georgios Basilica and the fountains of Pegeia. Pegeia village, 19 km northwest of Pafos. 4.5 km from the village are the ruins of two early Christian basilicas with mosaic floors. Pegeia Village is famous for its fountains in the stone-paved village square

Agios Neofytos Monastery

9 km north of Pafos. Founded at the end of the 12th-century by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neofytos. The "Egkleistra," an enclosure carved out of the mountain, contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes dating from the 12th- to the 15th-century. In the monastery's church there is an interesting ecclesiastical museum. Mon-Sun: 09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00 (April-October); Mon-Sun: 09:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:00 (November-March)

Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery

40 km northeast of Pafos. The monastery, originally founded in the 12th-century AD, is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate". It dates back to 1770 and has a collection of important icons and treasures. Daily: 09:30-12:30 & 13:30-18:30 (May-August); 10:00-12:30 & 13:30-16:00 (September-April)

Pano Panagia

On the west of Troodos 1.5 km from Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery. The birthplace of Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus. The house where he was born has been converted into a museum

Polis

37 km north of Pafos. Polis tis Chrysochou lies where there once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion. Its beautiful climate, crystal clear beaches and breathtaking scenery have made the area an attractive popular resort

Baths of Aphrodite

Akamas Peninsula, near Polis, 48 km north of Pafos. They say that the Goddess Aphrodite took her beauty baths in a pool of a natural grotto, shaded by a fig tree, which can still be visited. It is here that she met her beloved Adonis for the first time. Nature trails that leave from Akamas reveal incomparable views of unspoiled land

Museum of Mycenaean Colonisation of Cyprus

Maa-Paleokastro (Coral Bay area). Daily: 08:30-17:00 (November-March); 08:30-18:00 (April-October)



TROODOS

Walk in pine-scented forests

and explore Byzantine churches and picturesque villages

The thick cedar, pine forests and sun-soaked slopes of the Troodos region offer an unexpected contrast to the Mediterranean coast, less than an hour away. Halfway between the busy towns of Lefkosia and Lemesos, halfway between sea and sky, rising to 1,950 meters (6,400 feet), Troodos is a counterpoint to the rest of the island.

Connecting the mountain resorts of Troodos, Kakopetria, Platres and Agros are trails that hold delights for mountain bikers, hikers, bird watchers and botanists alike. Signs mark the presence of flora and fauna unique to Cyprus. Glimpses of the blue sea beyond peek through the lace-like canopy of cedar trees. Close enough to touch, herds of grazing moufflon, or agrino – the shaggy mountain sheep indigenous to Cyprus – pass by. And the clear mountain air is fragrant with lemon and orange from the groves below. Happily, a natural reserve in the heart of the region ensures that this wild beauty will remain forever.

Along the way, each village will be glad to offer you a local specialty, whether that be a mountain goat cheese, fresh cherries, or rosewater. And of course, because you are still in Cyprus, history and culture are never far away. Ten of Troodos' remarkable painted Byzantine churches have been listed on UNESCO's prestigious World Cultural Heritage List. The famous Kykko and Trooditissa Monasteries are well worth a visit for their icons, frescoes and inspiring architecture.



Photos from left to right:
Troodos Mountains, Hiking, Kakopetria Village

TROODOS IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Platanistasa

Stavros tou Agiasmati. Platanistasa village, 15 km from Agros, 30 km off the Lefkosia-Astromeritis Road. A 15th-century church, lying about 3 km outside this charming old village, retains the most complete cycles of mural paintings of the second half of the 15th-century in Cyprus. Ask for the key from the village priest

Lagoudera

Panagia tou Araka. Lagoudera village is 15 km from Agros or off the Kakopetria-Troodos-Lemesos Road (Karvounas crossroad). The 12th-century church situated just outside the village has fine frescoes. Together with Asinou Church and that of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, it is considered to be one of the most important Byzantine churches on the island. Ask for the key and be escorted by the priest, who is found on the premises next to the church

Kakopetria

Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis. The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis stands about 5 km to the north of the village. It is completely painted with murals dating from the 11th- to the 17th-century and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. The small 16th-century-church of Panagia Theotokos, off the main road, has retained about half of its murals. The church of Agios Georgios Perachoritis has some very original wall paintings belonging to the first quarter of the 16th-century. The old quarter of the village with its traditional houses has been declared a protected area

Galata

There are four painted churches in and around the village. The church of Agios Sozomenos, dating from the early 16th-century, retains a complete series of frescoes in the post Byzantine style. The church of Archangelos Michail is a timber-roofed chapel and is completely painted in the post-Byzantine style. Nearby is the larger church of Panagia Podithou, which once belonged to a monastery. It was erected in 1502, and its paintings are of the Italo-Byzantine style. The small church of Agia Paraskevi on the old Kakopetria-Galata Road has murals dating to 1514



Pelendri

Timiou Stavrou. 3 km below Kato Amiantos, off the Karvouna-Lemesos Road, 32 km from Lemesos. Once the property of Jean De Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugh IV. There are two interesting churches: the 14th-century church of Timiou Stavrou (The Holy Cross), with beautiful wall paintings, and the church of Panagia Katholiki in the center of the village

Kykko Monastery and Museum

20 km west of Pedoulas village. The most famous and richest monastery in Cyprus. Founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it possesses one of the three surviving icons ascribed to St. Luke. The first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III served here as a novice. At his own wish he was buried at Throni, 3 km west of the Monastery. Fairs are held at Kykko on August 15th and September 8th. The Museum is an integral part of the monastery and houses a priceless collection of icons, manuscripts and Cypriot antiquities. The monastery and museum are open daily: 10:00-16:00 (November-March); 10:00-18:00 (June-October)

Nikitari, Asinou Church

5 km from Nikitari village, off the main Lefkosia Troodos road, around 20 km north of Kalopetria. An early 12th-century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary with frescoes of the 12th-century and later periods, considered to be among the finest examples of Byzantine mural painting in the island. Visitors should ask for the priest of Nikitari village to escort them

Kalopanagiotis

Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Church. The village is famous for its sulphur springs and the church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, with excellent frescoes of the 13th- and 15th-centuries. It is a complex of two churches and a chapel. One of the biggest religious fairs in the valley is held here on St. John's day, October 4th

Moutoullas

Panagia tou Moutoulla. Less than a kilometer further up is Moutoullas village, with its tiny 13th-century chapel of Panagia tou Moutoulla, an early example of the steep-pitched wooden roof type with frescoes dating to 1280. Visitors can obtain the key from the adjacent house. The traditional craft of wooden carved basins has been preserved in Moutoullas

Pedoulas

Archangelos Michail. The third village up the mountain is Pedoulas, a summer resort famous for its cherries. The painted church of Archangelos Michail in the lower part of the village dates from 1474. Visitors can obtain the key from the adjacent house

Trooditissa Monastery

5 km northwest of Platres, on the Platres-Prodomos Road. This beautiful monastery was originally founded in the 13th-century. The present church dates from 1731 and contains many valuable icons. A large religious fair is held on the grounds on August 15th

Omodos

11 km southwest of Platres. A wine-producing village, once the property of Sir John De Brie, Prince of Galilee, with the Monastery of Stavros, "Holy Cross," standing by the stone-paved square. A festival is held in the village every August and there is a large religious fair on September 14th

Foini

The village is found 44 kilometers northwest of the city of Limassol. Famous for its pottery and its loukoumi sweet. Visitors can see the Pilavakeion private pottery collection. The state forests of Troodos and Pafos take up a large part of its administrative domain

Koilani

1.5 km southwest of Pera Pedi, off the Lemesos-Troodos Road. An attractive wine producing village with the single aisle vaulted church of Agia Mavri, typical of the 12th-century. Also has its own local ecclesiastical museum

The nightgales won't let you sleep in Platres.

Tearful bird, on sea-kissed Cyprus consecrated to remind me of my country, I moored along with this fable, if it's true that it is a fable, if it's true that mortals will not again take up the old deceit of the gods; If it's true

from Helen, by George Seferis, Nobel prize poet



AMMOCHOSTOS

The southeast coast: enjoy the azure waters and sandy beaches of this region

With its superb beaches and multi-star hotels, the Ammochostos (Famagusta) region draws discerning sun-seekers from all over the globe. But this part of the island remains the agricultural heart of Cyprus, where traditional windmills stand with modern aqueducts to irrigate the fertile red soil.

Agia Napa, once a small fishing village, is as lively a resort as any in the Mediterranean. But the historic sites such as a 16th-century Venetian monastery, lend character to a town that's best known for its colorful shops, tavernas and nightclubs. Another focal point is the crescent harbor, crowded with bright fishing boats. The day's catch is tonight's dinner at the popular restaurants nearby.

Life in this southeastern corner of Cyprus revolves around the sea, with water sports of all kinds readily available – from scuba diving to water-skiing and paragliding.

Explore the rugged coast toward Cape Greko, with its string of calm sandy coves, and stay for the indescribably beautiful sunset. Or head north, toward the basket-making community of Liopetri, stopping at Sotira to take in the pretty village churches that date from the 15th- and 16th-centuries.

East to Protaras, more glorious beaches spread out under the sun, while just inland the white-washed town of Paralimni boasts open air tavernas known for their succulent grilled fish. Only a few miles from the most contemporary of resort scenes, you'll feel eons away.



Photos from left to right:
Agia Napa Beach, Turtle Rock Diving, Cape Greko

AMMOCHOSTOS REGION IN BRIEF: (PARALIMNI – AGIA NAPA) Places of Interest

Paralimni

Since the Turkish military occupation of Ammochostos in 1974, this small town has become the temporary administrative center of the district. The twin-aisled vaulted church dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Panagia), is decorated with unusual 18th-century porcelain plates. The church, parts of which belong to the 13th-century, houses a small ecclesiastical museum

Agia Napa

Originally a fishing village, it is now a major tourist resort. The charming medieval monastery dedicated to "Our Lady of the Forests" stands in the middle of the village. Its 16th-century church is partly underground and cut into the rock. The Sycamore tree in front of the south gate is believed to be over 600 years old. Visit the Marine Life Museum

Agia Napa Monastery

The medieval monastery dedicated to "Our Lady of the Forests" stands in the middle of Agia Napa. Its 16th-century church is partially underground, carved into rock. An ancient Sycamore tree, believed to be over 600 years old, grows in front of the south gate

Deryneia

The village has three interesting churches, dating from the 15th- and 17th-centuries. From this village you can look at the "ghost city" of Ammochostos, now under occupation by the Turkish forces

Sotira

Here you'll find the partly ruined church of Agios Mamas, which was built in the 12th-century and rebuilt in the 16th. Most of the surviving frescoes date from then. About 15 km to the west is the church of Agios Georgios, an early Christian basilica

Liopetri

Here is a 16th-century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the 15th-century church of Agios Andronikos, with an octagonal dome and murals. Liopetri still carries on the traditional craft of basket-making



Frenaros

The village of Frenaros has its own small Byzantine churches. Two of them, the Agios Andronikos and the

Archangelos Michail, date back to the 12th-century. The church of Agia Marina has some interesting frescoes painted by different artists

Potamos Liopetriou

A picturesque fishing refuge. Nearby are remains of a Venetian watch-tower. The French poet Arthur Rimbaud worked in this area in the 1880's

Thalassa Marine Museum - Agia Napa

The theme is the sea and marine heritage of Cyprus from prehistoric times to the present. Pride of place among the exhibits is a life-size functioning replica of a 4th-century BC Greek trading vessel, the original was found off the coast of Kyrenia. Mon: 10:00-13:00, Tues-Sat: 09:00-17:00, (October-May); Mon: 09:00-13:00, Tues-Sun: 09:00-13:00 & 18:00-22:00 (June-September)

Cape Greko National Park

It is believed that a temple dedicated to Aphrodite once existed in the area. Cape Greko National Park is an area of unique natural beauty, where one can admire magnificent cliff formations. The local nature trail links the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route

Deryneia Folk Art Museum

The museum is situated in a beautiful old house, which serves as a charming venue for civil marriages. Its collection consists of folk art items from past centuries. With the co-operation of the Cyprus Handicraft Service, the Folk Art Museum has been arranged in a way that shows how a traditional Cypriot house would look like. Mon-Sat: 09:00-17:00

Cultural Center of Occupied Ammochostos (Famagusta)

The Cultural Center hosts regular presentations and briefings with regard to the Cyprus problem. Binoculars are available for viewing the occupied city of Ammochostos. There is also a small photographic exhibition of the occupied city, as well as a handicraft center selling traditional items. Mon-Fri: 07:30-16:30; Sat: 09:30-16:30

Ecclesiastical Museum

Avgorou Village. An old chapel has been turned into a museum to house a small but important collection of ecclesiastic artifacts and icons, such as a 15th-century icon of Christ. To arrange a visit call: +357 23823932

Ethnographic Museum

Avgorou Village. Avgorou has many Byzantine and post Byzantine churches. The main church is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. Inside the church are two double-sided 17th-century icons, one of St. George and the other featuring St. John the Baptist. There is also an icon of Christ dating to 1629. Other churches include the chapel of Agios Georgios and the church of Agios Georgios Terrachotis. The Avgorou Ethnographic Museum is situated in an old two-story house. Its exhibits depict the way of life in the area of bygone generations. Mon-Fri: 08:30-13:30; Wed & Thurs: 16:00-18:00 (15:00-17:00 November-May); Sat: 09:00-13:00

Xylofagou Village

The village church of Agios Georgios was built and decorated in the late 15th-century. A new iconostasis was built in 1770 and later the church was turned into a monastery. The Annunciation and the Nativity are amongst the church's most important wall paintings

"...in Cyprus I stumbled upon many more such echoes from forgotten moments of history with which to illuminate the present. Invaders like Haroun al Rashid, Alexander, Coeur de Lion; Women like Catherine Cornaro and Helena Paleologus...the confluence of different destinies which touched and illuminated the history of one small island in the Eastern basin of the Levant, giving it significance and depth of focus."

~ Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"

CYPRUS ITINERARIES

Visiting the island as a destination unto itself...
or as an exciting add-on-trip



Akamas Peninsula



Governors Beach, Lemesos

Whether you have a week or more in Cyprus or just a few days, any number of itineraries are possible. The island's history is rich and multilayered but its size is relatively compact, making it easy to explore. You can craft a route, based purely on geographic variety. For example, from Larnaka in the east, to Pafos in the west, by way of Lefkosia, the capital, in the center, making time to explore the Troodos Mountains along the way (three to five days). Or keep things purely coastal, from the beaches of Agia Napa to Pafos and the rugged Akamas Peninsula beyond, by way of Lemesos, with a stop in ancient Kourion and perhaps even in the Troodos' vineyard-covered foothills en route (four to seven days). Or follow thematic routes, nature (hiking and nature trails), antiquity, beaches, footsteps of Aphrodite and more. In these crossroads of civilizations, all roads lead to discovery.

Sample Itinerary:

DAY 1 – LEFKOSIA

In the morning visit the Cyprus Handicraft Center, followed by a visit to the Cyprus Archaeological Museum, Byzantine Museum, Art Galleries and St. John's Cathedral. Lunch at Laiki Geitonía, a restored old neighborhood with cafés, tavernas, souvenir shops and galleries. In the afternoon visit the Hadjigeorgakis Komesios Ethnological Museum and the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia.

DAY 2 – LEMESOS

In the morning visit Kolossi Castle built in the 13th-century, the important city-kingdom of Kourion and the Sanctuary of Apollo Ylatis. In the afternoon visit the Lemesos Medieval Castle and the ancient site of Amathous.

DAY 3 – PAFOS

On the outskirts of Pafos visit "Petra tou Romiou" - Aphrodite's birthplace. In the town of Pafos visit the Tombs of the Kings and the Pafos Archaeological Park with the mosaics at the House of Aion, Dionysus and Theseus. Lunch at the Pafos Harbor followed by a visit to the Pafos Castle and St. Paul's Pillar. The whole town of Pafos is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAY 4 – PAFOS

In the morning visit Agios Neophytos Monastery and Agios Georgios in Pegeia to see the sea caves. Continue to Latsi village to enjoy some fresh fish for lunch at one of the sea-side restaurants. In the afternoon visit the Baths of Aphrodite and take one of the nature walks at Akamas Peninsula.

DAY 5 – LARNAKA

In the morning visit Saint Lazarus Church, Pierides Museum and the ancient Kingdom city of Kition. Lunch at the Palm Tree Promenade. In the afternoon visit Choirokítia Neolithic Settlement a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Lefkara village famous for its lace-making.

DAY 6 – TROODOS MOUNTAINS

Visit Kykko Monastery, one of the richest monasteries on the island and the ecclesiastical museum. Lunch in the village of Pedoulas followed by a visit to one of the ten UNESCO Byzantine churches, Archangel Michail. In the afternoon visit another important UNESCO Byzantine church, Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis in Kakopetria village, followed by a walk in the old part of town.

DAY 7 – AMMOCHOSTOS AREA

Visit "Thalassa" Municipal Museum of the Sea and Agia Napa Monastery. Spend your afternoon swimming in the crystal clear waters of Agia Napa and Paralimni. In the afternoon you can explore one of the hiking trails at Cape Greko.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Omodos village: The Monastery of Stavros contains old icons, excellent wood carving and other ecclesiastical objects of interest, as well as a small National Struggle Museum.

Fikardou village, in the Lefkosia district:

The whole village has been declared an ancient monument in order to preserve the 18th-century houses.



CYPRUS' CULTURAL ROUTES



The best way to explore Cyprus is by car. An excellent road network links the cities making distances short and easy. Here are some thematic routes to help you discover the island.

Following the footsteps of history

Cyprus is an island nation steeped in myth and legend, with a living legacy of history, culture, and tradition that's uniquely Mediterranean. It values the past but lives very much in the present, and as you explore its mix of the ancient and contemporary this will come readily into view.

From charming Larnaka, where most visitors arrive, to the inland capital city of Lefkosia, to the stunning beaches in the environs of Lemesos, Pafos and Ammochostos, to the cedar and pine forests of Troodos, each region offers travelers a uniquely rewarding experience. The cultural routes described below offer a suggestion of journeys across the best of Cyprus. You can also refer to the day-by-day itinerary on page 20 for recommendations on touring the entire island in seven days.

Antiquity Route

Imagine life in the Stone Age by visiting the ancient settlements of Tenta and Choirokoitia with its quaint reconstructed round huts. Wander through the remains of the ancient city kingdom of Kition, once a rich seaport and major copper trading center. Admire the spectacular views from the cliff tops of Amathous and Kourion, the two ancient city kingdoms that flank the modern town of Lemesos. Amathous was where the world's largest stone vase was found, now displayed in the Louvre Museum. The splendid Greco-Roman theater at Kourion is still used for cultural performances today. Visit the world heritage sites of the sanctuary of Aphrodite at Kouklia, the Tombs of the Kings and the exquisite Pafos Mosaics.

Eastern Route

Take in the eastern corner of the island starting from Agia Napa with its white sandy beaches or Protaras with its windmills. Drive through the agricultural area of the Kokkinochoria (Red Soil villages), through the city of Larnaka with its palm-lined seafront. Continue on through Meneou to Kiti, making sure you visit the beautiful Byzantine church of Angeloktisti, as well as the museum of Mazotos and the camel park. Admire the panoramic view from the peak at Stavrovouni with its monastery and tour through the picturesque hillside villages, particularly Lefkara, known for its lace and silverware.

Nature Route (European Path E4)

The E-paths are designated by the European Ramblers Association and form a European Network of 11 long distance walking routes running for many thousands of kilometers across the whole of Europe. The Cyprus section of path E4 starts or finishes at Larnaka airport, goes through Cape Greko, up into the Troodos Mountains and down to the Akamas region, ending or starting at Pafos airport. Along the way it takes ramblers through areas of exceptional beauty, and significant ecological, historical, cultural and scientific interest.

Byzantine Route

See the famous painted churches of Cyprus, ten Byzantine churches are on UNESCO's World Heritage List, with their remarkable pitched wooden roofs, icons and frescoes. Scattered throughout the Troodos mountain areas of Marathassa, Solea and Pitsillia, they are often situated in beautiful settings among the trees and are bound to impress you.

Aphrodite Route

Follow in the footsteps of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty and protectress of Cyprus. The route centers on the archaeological sites dedicated to the ancient cult of Aphrodite and includes Palaipafos (Kouklia), Amathous and Kition. These are linked to other sites and museums with artifacts related to the goddess. Wander through layers of history, culture and mythology as you learn all about her birth, mythology, character, the rituals connected with her cult, as well as the plants and seashells associated with her.

Western Route

Tour the unspoilt western part of Cyprus. The short route will take you through the area around Polis with its traditional architecture, along a long stretch of beach to the villages of Pomos with its pretty fishing shelter and Pachyammos with an important pilgrimage church, returning through the mountains via Stavros tis Psokas, where you can see the mouflons, via Lysos and Peristerona with its Byzantine museum. The longer trip takes the scenic route back to Pafos through the cedar valley, Kykko Monastery, Platres and then down through the Diarizos valley.



CYPRUS

AND THE SPECIAL-INTEREST TRAVELER

At the crossroads of ancient civilizations, Cyprus is famous for its archaeological sites and storied history. But there's even more to Cyprus than cultural treasures: its natural landscapes and sunny climate provide an ideal setting for nature trails, adventure sports, golf, cycling, bird-watching and more. Set in the azure waters of the eastern Mediterranean, Aphrodite's island is ready to welcome you no matter why you choose to travel here – outdoor activities but also memorable weddings and unforgettable honeymoons, conferences or conventions in state-of-the-art facilities and more.

Archaeology

Cyprus is an endless source of fascination for archaeology enthusiasts. The island is studded with ancient Greek and Roman ruins, as well as sites that date back to the Neolithic Age. The Bronze Age, Roman period, and Byzantine periods are particularly well-represented.

One of the island's most iconic archaeological sites is Kourion, on a hilltop setting west of Lemesos. It was founded by Achaean colonists from Argos in the Greek Peloponnese in the 12th- and 13th-centuries BC and would become one of the most important of the ancient city kingdoms of Cyprus. In the scenic west of Cyprus, Pafos carries the designation of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on the strength of the Sanctuary of Aphrodite at Kouklia (Palaipafos) and Nea Pafos. An important area in terms of both Aphrodite worship in ancient times and the spread of early Christianity, Pafos is also home to remarkably well-preserved Roman mosaics which can be viewed at the House of Dionysos, the Villa of Theseus and the Basilica of Panagia Chrysopolitissa.

Family Activities

Cyprus also has the unquestionable ability to provide a multitude of options available for families to participate in together. Besides the numerous beaches where families can put on their swimwear and enjoy an unforgettable bathing experience, Cyprus also has Europe's largest Waterpark – the award winning WaterWorld which is based in Ayia Napa.

Away from the water, the Santa Marina Retreat situated just five kilometres east of Limassol is where families can participate in horse riding and archery classes or various other relaxing or more challenging activities available, whilst Pafos Birdpark is a well visited place for children to learn about exotic wildlife.

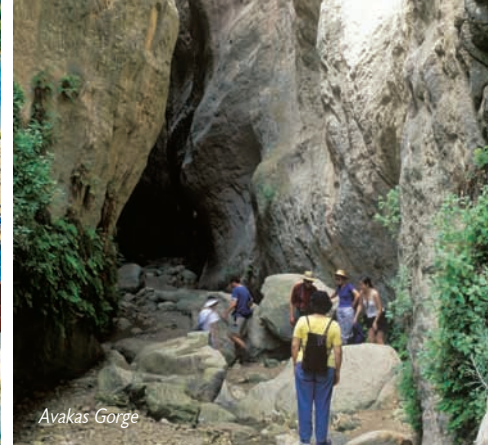
".....the true meaning of Cypriot hospitality which is wrapped up in a single word - 'Kopiaste' which roughly speaking means 'sit down with us and share'. Impossible to pass a café, to exchange a greeting with anyone eating or drinking without having the word fired at one as if from the mouth of a gun."

~ Lawrence Durrell,
"Bitter Lemons"



Sanctuary of Apollo





For those seeking a family shopping experience, My Mall in Limassol is the perfect venue with numerous designer stores, F&B options and entertainment facilities.

Weddings and Honeymoons

With destination weddings continuing to grow in popularity, Cyprus has become one of the most popular places in the Mediterranean to say "I do." Visitors can choose from a wide variety of locales to exchange their vows – from a majestic seaside ceremony at sunset to a chapel in one of the country's resort hotels, or a church.

Cyprus is also one of the most romantic destinations for honeymoons – and with 330 days of sunshine each year, perfect weather is practically guaranteed. Here you can travel the countryside and discover the unique historic, cultural, and natural attractions, or do nothing more than luxuriate at one of the island's fine seaside resorts.

Conferences and Incentives

Cyprus is a popular meetings and convention destination. More than 30,000 participants are welcomed annually from over 600 international organisations. Many major hotels have conference facilities. The Cyprus International Conference Center in Lefkosia, one of the largest and best-equipped venues in the Eastern Mediterranean, was designed for large-scale meetings and conventions. Meeting planners need to spend only a day in Cyprus to realise what a perfect place it is for an incentive trip.

Sports and Adventure

With its variety of terrain and excellent climate, Cyprus is a dream location for adventure sports including, mountain biking, mountain climbing and water sports. A haven for cyclists, you can explore everywhere from the pine-scented earth tracks in the heart of the Troodos mountains to the rocky grounds of the verdant Akamas Peninsula, which is one of the last remaining natural areas on the island protected by UNESCO. You can swim, cycle, walk and explore this very beautiful area of the island and not be disturbed.

The clear waters of the Mediterranean also make Cyprus the ideal place for water sports including sailing, windsurfing, kiteboarding, snorkeling, swimming, and scuba diving.

Hikers will find that the island's best trails are in the mountain regions, primarily in the Troodos Mountains and the Akamas Peninsula, where the most enjoyable island hikes lead through nature reserves.

Golf

Cyprus offers perfect weather for golf for much of the year and several 18-hole courses, which all provide golf club rentals. A few of the most noteworthy courses are the Aphrodite Hills Golf Club (Pafos), the new Elea Golf Course in Pafos designed by Nick Faldo and the Tsada Golf Club near Pafos on the picturesque grounds of a 12th-century monastery. These courses offer varying degrees of difficulty for every golfer's ability.





FOOD OF CYPRUS

When you taste the food in Cyprus, you're part of the delicious sweep of history that counts Greek, Turkish, Levantine and other savory influences in its varied gastronomy. Its most distinctive feature is the meze, a collection of as many as 30 small plates of artfully prepared food, from koupepia (stuffed grape leaves) to Mousaka, Village Salad and much more. In some restaurants and tavernas, you can choose to order seafood meze or meat meze, and can opt to start your meal with a selection of mezes followed by a main course of meat or fish.

True Mediterranean Cuisine

The local cuisine in Cyprus is based on classic elements of the Mediterranean diet, which includes fresh fruits and vegetables, olive oil, and often seafood. Vegetarian meze abound: from elies tsakistes, or cracked green olives with coriander seeds, lemon and crushed garlic, to kolokotes, small pastries stuffed with red pumpkin, raisins and cracked wheat pilaf and myriad plates of simply cooked fresh vegetables like moungra (pickled cauliflower), pickled beets and roast potatoes. Seafood includes fangri, or sea bream, red mullet and more. Heartier appetites will be satiated by the likes of fresh moussakas, stifado (a rich beef and onion stew), and ofto kleftiko, a Cypriot specialty foil-wrapped lamb baked with Mediterranean herbs in a sealed oven.

Halloumi is the signature cheese and everyday delicacy of Cyprus. This is a firm cheese made from the milk of thyme-fed sheep, often served grilled (the cheese doesn't melt). Gaining in popularity abroad, it's regularly served in Cypriot restaurants. Delicious on its own, it's often paired with the likes of grilled vegetables or fresh-cut watermelon slices.

Cyprus is famous for its grapes, and the best local desserts are fruit or almonds in grape juice served with Cypriot-style coffee. But it's hard to resist a plate of baklava or piping hot loukoumades – mini-doughnuts in honey syrup.

Dining Out

The predominant type of eatery is the small, inexpensive bar; the most popular serving local cuisine. Whether in larger towns or small villages, Greek-style tavernas guarantee an evening with a great Cypriot atmosphere, often featuring folk performances and music. Pride in local cuisine runs strong here, meaning that even at popular resorts you'll have the opportunity to sample authentic cuisine.

There are also a wide variety of cafés and snack bars serving Cypriot specialties

and doner kebabs, as well as popular fare from sandwiches to pizza. Dinner, the most celebrated meal of the day, is usually eaten after 20:00. In addition to the traditional tavernas one can also find all types of international cuisine here.

Nightlife and Entertainment

For many, dining out in Cyprus is an eventful experience that can encompass many hours savoring fine food and drink, but there are additional nightlife options for those with the energy after a meal. Many hotels have Cypriot musicians who entertain diners nightly or stage folk evenings with traditional music and dancing where guests can join in on a local Greek dance. It's easier than you might think! Resorts with clubs, bars, and pubs are the most popular places to enjoy a lively night out, but more local options abound. Most hotels also sell tickets to concerts, dance shows, and other cultural performances. Larger towns have theaters offering both classical performances and modern plays, often in beautifully historic settings.





Lemesos Carnival Parade



THE FOLLOWING ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN CYPRUS:

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany Day
February/March	Green Monday (50 days before Greek Orthodox Easter)
March 25	Greek National Day
April 1	Greek Cypriot National Day
April	Good Friday (Greek Orthodox Church)
April	Easter Monday (Greek Orthodox Church)
May 1	Labor Day
May/June	Pentecost-Kataklysmos (Festival of the Flood)
August 15	Assumption
October 1	Cyprus Independence Day
October 28	Greek National Day (Ochi Day)
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day

A Country of Festivals, Folklore and Celebration

Rich layers of history have promoted both religious and folkloric traditions that still resonate today. Cyprus offers a wide variety of cultural events for visitors to experience from national holiday celebrations, to smaller festivals that take place in villages and towns throughout the island all year long.

For those who want to immerse themselves in a truly unique Mediterranean culture, multifaceted Cyprus has a wealth of options...opera performances in a medieval castle...concerts at an ancient Greco-Roman theater.

The traditional religious festivals in Cyprus coincide with those celebrated in Europe. On New Year's Day, Cypriots typically exchange presents and eat the traditional New Year cake known as Vasilopita. Epiphany is observed in the seaside towns with a swimming competition where the winner recovers the crucifix hurled into the water. During Holy Week, an effigy of Judas is burned and icons are covered with a pall. In May, the Anthestiria flower festival heralds the arrival of spring, while September brings the annual arts festival in Nicosia (Lefkosia).

Lemesos is home to Carnival in the Spring, with its grand parade and masquerade parties; and the Lemesos Festival in summer, which attracts musical, dance, and theater groups from all over the world.

Pafos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to the Pafos Aphrodite Festival in late August/early September. That's when opera lovers from all over the globe converge at the Medieval Castle Square for world-class performances. Music lovers will also enjoy the International Pharos Chamber Music Festival each May/June in Kouklia.

HOW TO GET THERE

ANCIENT CROSSROADS, MODERN GATEWAY

The new terminal of the Larnaka International Airport, which covers an area of 100,000 square meters and is the country's largest airport, can serve 7.5 million people annually. The new terminal of the Pafos International Airport can serve 2.7 million people annually.



HOW TO GET TO CYPRUS BY AIR

from Middle East

Cyprus is easily accessible from the Middle East thanks to its close proximity to most major regional cities such as Damascus, Cairo, Beirut, Amman, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Cyprus Airways along with major regional airlines such as Egyptair, Royal Jordanian, Middle Eastern Airlines, Emirates Airline, Gulf Air and Etihad Airways provide frequent international flight connections.

Cyprus Airways – Tel: +357 22 396080 • Fax: +357 22 663398 • Web: www.cyprusair.com

A note to the visitors of The Republic of Cyprus

Travelers arriving in the Republic of Cyprus may enter the Republic only through the legal ports of entry: Larnaka and Pafos International Airports, or the ports of Larnaka, Lemesos and Pafos. The ports of Ammochostos (Famagusta), Keryneia and Karavostasi, as well as the airports in the part of the Republic illegally occupied by the Turkish invasion forces, have been declared by the Government as prohibited ports of entry and exit, and no passenger should enter or leave the Republic through these ports.

Cyprus is also a major cruise hub in the Mediterranean, with its chief port at Lemesos. Two- and three-day mini-cruises to Egypt and cruises to Lebanon and the Greek Islands, depart from this international port of call.

BY CRUISE

Seasonal (May to October with variations depending on cruise)

1. Three-day cruises to Lebanon, which includes a visit to Beirut, other attractions, plus shopping.
2. Three-day cruises to Egypt.
3. Three- to seven-day cruises to the Greek Islands, including Rhodes, Mykonos, Santorini and an overnight aboard the ship in Piraeus (Athens).

For up-to-date information and itineraries please contact:

Louis Cruises

Tel: +357 22 588000 • Fax: +357 22 442845

E-mail: sales@louiscruises.com • Web: www.louiscruises.com

Salamis Cruise Lines

Tel: +357 25 860000 • Fax: +357 25 374437

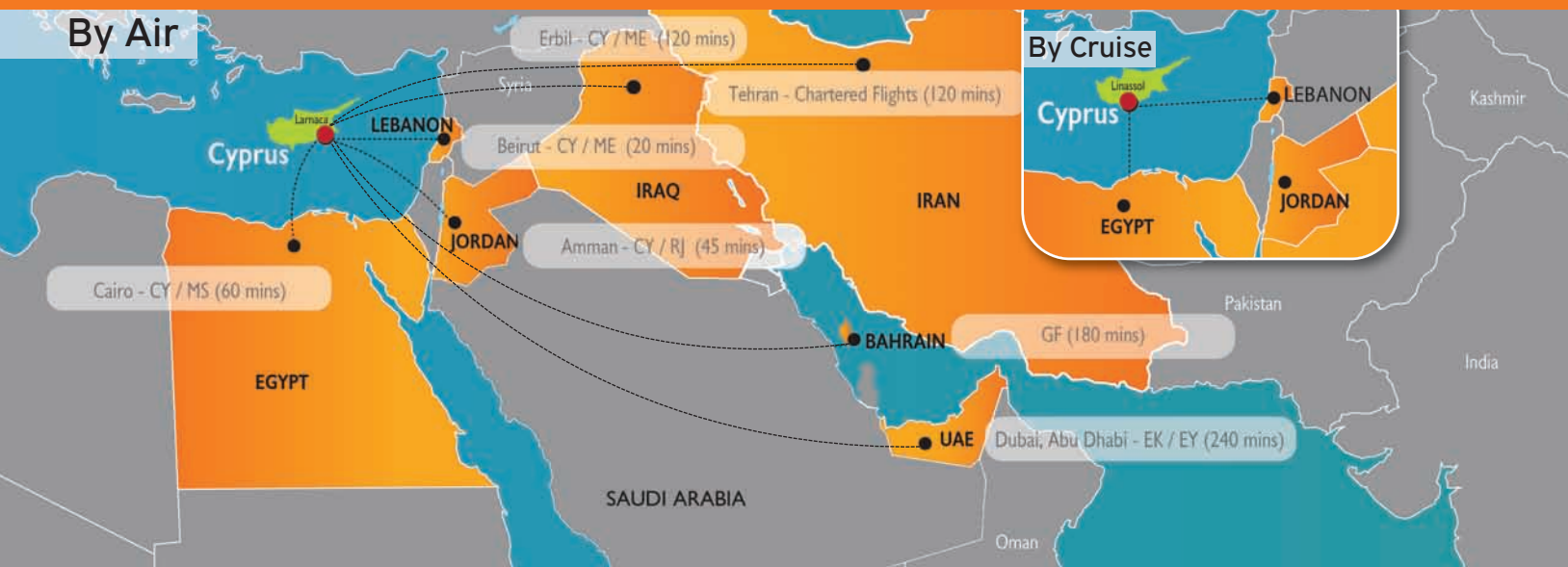
E-mail: shipsreservation@salamis-tours.com • Web: www.salamiscruiselines.com



AIRLINE KEY: (CY) CYPRUS AIRWAYS • (MS) EGYPTAIR • (GF) GULF AIR

(RJ) ROYAL JORDANIAN • (EK) EMIRATES AIRLINE • (EY) ETIHAD AIRWAYS • (ME) MIDDLE EASTERN AIRLINES

By Air





CYPRUS' ACCOMMODATION

WHERE TO STAY IN CYPRUS

The variety of accommodation in Cyprus is extensive and of international high standards and uniquely Cypriot. That means whether you choose a hotel for business, leisure or a mix of the two, and regardless of price range, you can expect quality lodgings and nothing less than the warmest welcome, as befits one of Europe's most celebrated island holiday destinations. Whether traveling as a couple, with small children, alone or with friends, you will be made to feel worry-free and at home wherever you go.

Many hotels are, naturally, on the coast, from Agia Napa in the east to Polis in the west. Beyond stylish lobbies, airy rooms and sumptuous suites, the most luxurious of these have extensive facilities and advantages, beginning with easy beach access and beautiful swimming pools but also encompassing gourmet (but informal!) restaurants, health clubs, gyms, tennis courts and world-renowned health spas. Even moderately-priced hotels generally include the famously generous Cyprus buffet breakfast in the room rate. You can check hotels' websites or inquire when making reservations.

From five-star resorts to small, simple family-run establishments, you'll find it all here. You may make your selection from large hotels, hotel apartments, tourist villages, and tourist villas as well as campgrounds, traditional homes, guest houses, and youth hostels. Rates charged by these properties are reviewed by the Cyprus Tourism Organization and travelers can gain additional value for their dollar by taking advantage of special off-season discounts (November-March).

If you are looking for a different type of vacation, perhaps one in which you stay off the beaten path and experience Cyprus much like a native resident would, Cyprus offers an Agrotourism Program where you can stay in a restored traditional house in one of the island's many picturesque villages. For additional information on the Agrotourism Program, visit www.agrotourism.com.cy or send an email to helpdesk@agrotourism.com.cy



USEFUL INFORMATION

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Kourion Greco-Roman Theater



About Cyprus

Located at the heart of the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus has a landmass of 9,251 square kilometers (3,572 square miles).

Population: 867,600 (end 2006).

The island is demographically diverse, with 76.1% of the population Greek Cypriots, 10.2% Turkish Cypriots and 13.7% foreign residents.

The largest towns are Lefkosa the capital city (Nicosia), with a population of 228,400. Lemesos (Limassol) with 180,000, Larnaka with 80,400 and Pafos with 54,000.

Banking Hours, Currency and Credit Cards

Mon-Fri 08:15-13:30 & Mon 15:15-16:45. Banks at Larnaka and Pafos International Airports provide exchange bureau services on a 24-hour service. Similar facilities are also available at Lemesos Harbor. There are Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) outside most branches of all banks in all towns and in the main tourist resorts of Agia Napa and Paralimni.

The currency is the **Euro (€)**.

All major credit cards are accepted at most places.

Before You Leave

You must have a valid passport, the appropriate visa documentation and an internationally recognised driver's licence.

You will not need to worry about getting any vaccinations prior to arrival.

Clothing and Activities

General information and suggestions on what to wear and do, according to the season.

April-May: Days are pleasantly warm, but temperatures may fall a bit at night. Medium-weight and summer apparel. Light woollies or long sleeved cotton for the evenings. Excellent season for those who prefer to enjoy nature, as the countryside is green and the flowers are in blossom.

June-July-August: Warmest months of summer. Very light weight summer clothing. Ideal for swimming and all beach/water activities.

September-October: Warm days, cool October evenings. Light weight apparel for the day and medium weight for the evenings in October. Swimming and water sports are still at their best.

November: Pleasantly warm days. Medium-weight apparel. Light woollies. Ideal weather for autumn travel. Lunches in the open-air still a delight. Sunbathing and even swimming can still be enjoyed, as well as most outdoor sports.

December-January: Winter time for Cypriots... Autumn for our foreign visitors!

It may rain occasionally, yet the promise of glorious sunshine is always there. Winter clothing – not heavy coats though! Outdoor activities and excursions can be enjoyed regularly throughout the year.

February: The possibility of exceptionally warm days. Almond trees in bloom, occasional rain and mild day time temperatures are the harbingers of spring. It can be cold however, in the evenings. Winter apparel. Conditions are ideal for snow skiing on Troodos Mountains.

March: Moderating weather with plenty of sunshine and with nature at its best. Winter apparel with medium-weight wear. Most outdoor activities can be enjoyed and March is an excellent period for long country walks.

AIR & SEA TEMPERATURES

Coastal Area (Lemesos)

Months	Mean Maximum Temperature	Mean Minimum Temperature
January	17.3	8.4
February	17.5	8.1
March	19.4	10.0
April	22.7	12.8
May	26.6	16.5
June	30.7	20.0
July	33.0	22.2
August	33.2	22.7
September	31.3	20.3
October	28.7	17.7
November	23.5	13.3
December	19.0	10.0

Inland Areas (Lefkosa)

Months	Mean Maximum Temperature	Mean Minimum Temperature
January	15.4	6.3
February	15.8	6.0
March	18.8	7.7
April	24.2	11.3
May	29.8	15.8
June	34.5	20.4
July	37.0	22.9
August	37.0	23.0
September	33.6	19.8
October	29.0	16.3
November	22.0	11.0
December	17.1	7.8

Hilly Areas (Agros)

Months	Mean Maximum Temperature	Mean Minimum Temperature
January	9.9	3.1
February	10.1	2.5
March	12.8	4.4
April	18.3	8.7
May	23.3	13.2
June	28.0	17.6
July	31.0	20.4
August	31.0	20.4
September	28.1	17.0
October	23.6	13.6
November	16.8	8.5
December	11.9	4.7



Cost of Living

Detailed information on cost of living indexes may be obtained from the Cyprus Tourism Organization Offices.

Indicative prices (supermarket prices), (May 2008):

Milk	€1.04 per litre
Bread (country bread)	€1.18 per loaf
Cyprus Cheese (Halloumi)	€5.60-11.86 per kilo (8-pck X 0.33cl)
Local natural water	€2.35 (6 bottles X 1.50lt)
Chicken	€2.95-5.12 per kilo
Tomatoes	€1.99-2.65 per kilo
Apples (various varieties)	€1.05-2.15 per kilo
Dinner at a taverna:	€17.00-21.00 per person (not incl. beverages)

Two bedrooms, unfurnished flat: €400 -500 (rent per month) for long term tenancy (over a year) depending also on the area (locality)

Rate of inflation: 2% in 2001, 2.8% in 2002, 4.1% in 2003, 2.3% in 2004, 2.6% in 2005, 2.5% in 2006 and 2.5% in 2007.

Electricity

230 volts, a.c. 50 Hz. Sockets are usually 13 amp, square - pin.

Emergencies

Medical Services and Hospitals: Medical treatment and assistance is offered free-of-charge to international tourists in case of health emergencies at the Ambulatory and Emergency Department of Government Hospitals/Institutions.

Emergencies throughout the Island:
Ambulance, Police, Fire Service, call 112,
and Night Pharmacies call 11892.

All police officers speak English.
Crime in Cyprus is at a very low level.

Government

Cyprus, an independent sovereign Republic, has a presidential system of democratic government. Free elections are held every five years for the election of a President and Members of Parliament.

Languages

Greek is the main language, but English is also spoken by almost everyone. French is sometimes used in hotels and other establishments.

Marinas and Yacht Harbors

Larnaka Marina:

Larnaka Marina is situated in the bay of Larnaka and lies 110 nautical miles from Lebanon and Syria, 230 n.m. from Port Said, and 250 n.m. from Greece. The position of the Marina is 34 deg., 55 min. North – 33 deg., 38 min East. The Marina is an official Port of Entry, and has berthing facilities for 400 yachts of various sizes. Yachts coming to or leaving Cyprus, can clear Customs and Immigration formalities within the Marina.

Tel: +357 24 653110

Email: larnaca.marina@cytanet.com.cy

St. Raphael Marina:

East of Lemesos. The Marina, located at longitude 33 deg., 11 min. latitude – 34 deg., 42 min has 227 berths.

Tel: +357 25 636100 ext. 3312

Email: raphael@spidernet.com.cy

Shopping and Shopping Hours

Traditional hand-made items can be purchased in every corner of the island. At the Handicraft Center in Lefkosia, visitors can see the artisan weaving, basket making, woodcarving, working with leather, pottery and traditional hand-made copper goods.

All items are for sale.

In most of the tourist areas, shops remain open until late in the evenings and all day on Sunday. In town, shops remain open up to 19:00 hours during the Winter period (November-March) and up to 20:30 hours during the Summer period (April-October). From June 15 until August 31, shops in towns close between 14:00 and 17:00 hours for the summer afternoon break. On Sundays, shops in towns are closed. On Wednesdays, shops close at 14:00 hours.

Sunrise and Sunset Times

Sunrise and Sunset times are given for the 15th of each month with the hours and minutes at 5 minutes approximation.

Month	Sunrise	Sunset
January	6:55	17:00
February	6:35	17:30
March	6:00	17:55
April	6:15	19:20
May	5:45	19:45
June	5:30	20:00
July	5:45	20:00
August	6:05	19:35
September	6:30	18:55
October	6:50	18:15
November	6:20	16:45
December	6:45	16:35

(April to October: Summer Time)

Time

7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Tipping

A 10% service charge is levied in hotels and restaurants so a tip is not obligatory, but small change is always welcome. Taxi drivers, porters, etc. appreciate a small tip.



Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates

continued on page 30

USEFUL INFORMATION

continued

Transportation

Bus & Shuttle Service: There is bus and shuttle service from Larnaka International Airport to all the major towns.

Car Rental: As regular transport service is not available to remote areas where many places of interest are to be found, driving in Cyprus is most advisable. Self-drive car rental firms have offices in all towns, as well as at Larnaka International Airport. A list of firms supplying self-drive cars can be found in the Cyprus Tourism Organization's annual "Guide to Hotels, Travel Agencies, and Other Tourist Services", obtainable from all Cyprus Tourism Organization Offices in Cyprus and abroad.

Prices range from \$40 for a small car to \$60 for a medium-sized car for one day.

Driving License: Visitors in Cyprus can drive using a valid International driving license, or their National driving license, provided it is valid for the class of vehicle they wish to drive.

European driving licenses are recognized officially by the law 94 (I)/0. Driving licenses issued by Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Australia, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, United States of America, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and Russia must be replaced after a period of six months. Non-European citizens and citizens who come from any country other than the previously mentioned countries are allowed to drive holding their Nations Driving License for a period of about 30 days (this period is not strictly restricted). If they are holders of an international driving license they are allowed to drive provided their license is valid.

Taxi Service: Intercity Service taxis connect all major towns in Cyprus and run every half hour. Passengers share 4-7 seats. Intercity taxis do not operate from the airport.

For further information please visit

www.visitcyprus.com



EMBASSY / HONORARY CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

EGYPT

17 El Amir Omar Tousson Str., Mohandessin, Arab Republic of Egypt
Tel: +20 2 33455967, 33455968, 33455494 • Fax: +20 2 33455969
E-mail: kyproscail@access.com.eg

SYRIA

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Tel: +963 11 6130812, 6131823, 6123709, 3921326
Fax: +963 11 6130814 • E-mail: cyembdam@scs-net.org

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Tel: +98 212 2219842, 2201240 • Fax: +98 212 2219843
E-mail: tehranembassy@mfa.gov.cy • cyprus@parsonline.net
Website: www.mfa.gov.cy/embassytehran

JORDAN

Wadi Sakra Str. Bldg No 233, 4th Floor, P.O. Box 5525, Amman 11183, Jordan
Tel: +9626 5657467, 5657981, 5657143 • Fax: +9626 5657895

SAUDI ARABIA

P.O. Box 15, Jeddah 21411, Saudi Arabia
Tel: +966 26603996, +966 26603671, +966 26645365
Fax: +966 26603682, +966 26645365 • E-mail: mohammed@alfadlgroup.com

KUWAIT

Salwa Blook 3, Al Muttanabi Str., No. 35, State of Kuwait
P.O. Box 190, Code: 40152, Mishref, KUWAIT
Tel.: +965 25620350
Fax.: +96525620470 • E-mail: info@cyprus-embassy.org.kw

LEBANON

M.N.C. Building Ground floor, Debbas Street Rmeil - Ashrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961 13295 00 • Fax: +961 1326471
E-mail: visas@cyprussembbeirut.org

OMAN

P.O. Box 603, Muscat, Postal Code 113, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 24490200 (6 Lines) • Fax: +968 24490699
E-mail: jandpmct@omantel.net.om

QATAR

Saba Saha 12 Street, Bld. No. 3, District 63, West Bay, P.O. Box 24482, Doha, Qatar
Tel: +974 44934390/1 (Office), +974 44933086 (Cons.)
+974 44932970 (Res.) • Fax: +974 44933087
E-mail: kyprosdoha@qatar.net.qa • Website: www.mfa.gov.cy/embassydoha

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi

Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street (30th str.) No 426, P.O. Box: 63013, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Tel: +971 2 6654480 • Fax: +971 2 6657870 • E-mail: cyembadb@eim.ae

DUBAI

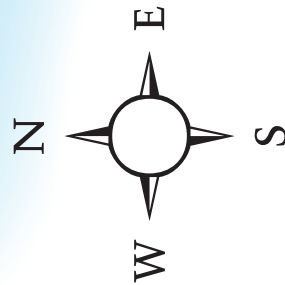
VFS Visa Centre, Dubai • 102, Atrium Centre • Bank Street, Opposite Four Points Sheraton
P.O. Box 114100 • Dubai – United Arab Emirates
Tel: +9714 3592279

BAHRAIN

Office No. 1, Building 1455, Road 256, Block 502, Jannusan, P.O. Box 5632
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: +973 17598800 • Fax: +973 17598801
E-mail: cyconsulate@gpzgroup.com • p.nicolaou@gpzgroup.com • g.rizakis@gpzgroup.com

CYPRUS

THE ISLAND OF APHRODITE
AWAITS...



LEGEND

- City/Village
- ★ Antiquity
- ⦿ Monastery
- ⦿ Castle
- † Byzantine Church
- ⓘ Tourist Information
- Area north of the green line under Turkish occupation since 1974



Rock of Aphrodite, Pafos

Tourist Information Offices

IN CYPRUS

Cyprus Tourism Organization (Head Office)

(for postal inquiries only)

Leoforos Lemesou 19, Lefkosia, Cyprus

P.O. Box 24535, CY 1390 • Tel: +357 22 691100 • Fax: +357 22 331644, 22334696

E-mail: cytour@cto.org.cy • Website: www.visitcyprus.com

The following offices are open every morning except Sunday and on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons.

For personal and telephone inquiries only.

Lefkosia

Aristokyprou 11, Laiki Geitonia (east of Plateia Eleftherias)

CY 1011 Lefkosia

Tel: +357 22 67 42 64

Lemesos

Agiou Andreou 142,

CY3036 Lemesos

Tel: +357 25 36 27 56

Georgiou A' 22, CY 4047 Lemesos
Potamos tis Gerasosgeias (eastern entrance of Dasoudi Beach)

Tel: +357 25 32 32 11

Lemesos Harbour,
service to all passenger-boats
Tel: +357 25 57 18 68

Platres

CY 4820 Platres

Tel: +357 25 42 13 16

Larnaka

Plateia Vasileos Pavlou,

CY 6023 Larnaka

Tel: +357 24 65 43 22

Larnaka International Airport

CY 7130 Larnaka

Tel: +357 24 64 35 76

(Daily 08:15-23:00 hrs)

Pafos

Agoras 8, CY 8081, Pafos

Tel: +357 26 93 28 41

Kato Pafos

63A Poseidonos, CY 8042

Kato Pafos

Tel: +357 26 93 05 21

Pafos International Airport

CY 8320 Pafos, Tel: +357 26 42 31 61

(Service to all arrival flights
up to 23:00 hrs)

Polis

Vasileos Stasioikou A' 2,
CY 8820 Polis Chrysochous

Tel: +357 26 32 24 68

Agia Napa

Leoforos Kryou Nerou 12,

CY 5330 Agia Napa

Tel: +357 23 72 17 96

Paralimni – Protaras

Leoforos Protara –

Kavo Greko 356

CY 5296 Protaras – Paralimni

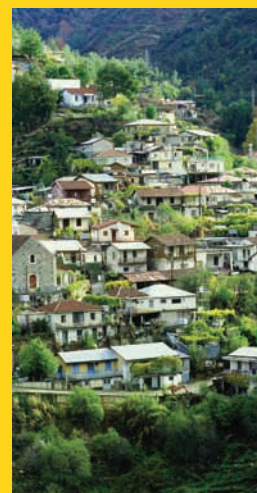
Tel: +357 23 83 28 65

Middle East & Arabian Gulf Office

Al Ghurair Center, Office 436b, Dubai, UAE

Tel: +97142277637 • Fax: +97142277638

Website: www.visitcyprus.com • Newsletter: www.cyprusme.com



Sunset in Pafos



CYPRUS TOURISM ORGANIZATION

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