

Cyprus

11000 years

of history
and civilisation





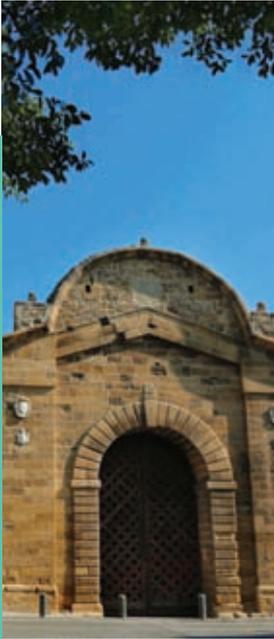
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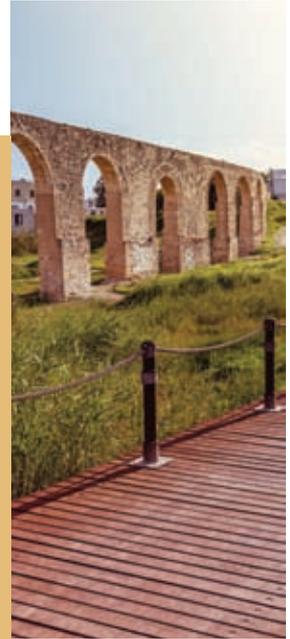
Our official website provides comprehensive information on the major attractions of Cyprus, complete with maps, an updated calendar of events, a detailed hotel guide, downloadable photos and suggested itineraries. You will also find a list of tour operators covering Cyprus, information on conferences and incentives and a wealth of other useful information.



Lefkosia



*Lemesos -
Limassol*



Larnaka



Pafos



*Ammochostos -
Famagusta*



Troodos

Introduction

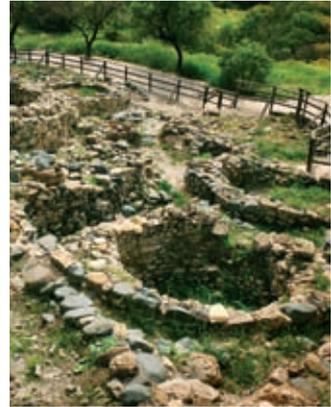
Cyprus is a small country with a long history and rich culture. It is not surprising that UNESCO included the Pafos antiquities, Choirokoitia Neolithic settlement and ten of the Byzantine period churches of Troodos on its list of World Heritage Sites.

The aim of this publication is to help visitors discover the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The qualified personnel at any of our Information Offices will be happy to assist you in organising your visit in the best possible way. Parallel to answering questions and enquiries, our offices provide a wide range of publications, maps and other informational material free of charge. Additional information is available at our website: www.visitcyprus.com.

Since July 1974 a large part of the island's cultural heritage has been under Turkish occupation. Said heritage has been subjected to severe damage. The occupation forces have been systematically trying to alter the demographic and cultural identity of the area under their control.



Pafos Mosaics



The archaeological site of Choirokoitia

Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis Church, Kakopetria Village



11000 years of history and civilisation

A country's cultural heritage is the most important living treasure of its people. It is through it that its identity can be expressed and an awareness of its historical continuity through time can be created. Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean. It is situated at the crossroads of three continents - Europe, Asia and Africa. This geographic position has since antiquity played an important part in the island's turbulent history. Its prehistoric age inhabitants were joined by the Mycenaean Greeks 3500 years ago, who introduced and established their civilisation, thus permanently instilling the island's Greek roots. Many other cultures followed since then, including Phoenicians, Assyrians, Franks, Venetians, Ottomans, British, all leaving behind visible traces of their passage.

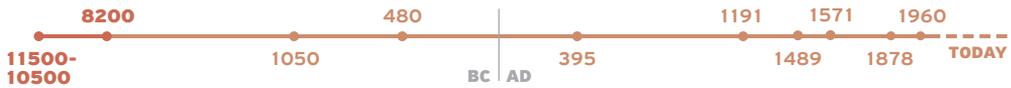
On this island once walked Christ's apostles. The splendour of the Byzantine Empire for many centuries encapsulated Cyprus. The island is an open-air museum, where one can visit prehistoric settlements, classical Greek temples, Roman theatres and villas, Early Christian Basilicas, Byzantine churches and monasteries, Crusader castles, Gothic cathedrals, Venetian fortifications, Muslim mosques and British colonial-style buildings.

In the villages one can still observe old ways of life, customs and traditions. Here, festivities whose origins hark back to the depths of antiquity are still being celebrated.

These include Carnival and Flower Festivals. Aphrodite, the ancient Greek Olympian goddess of beauty and love, who according to mythology was born on the island, still roams her beloved Pafos and the "Sweet land of Cyprus", is omnipresent in the bright atmosphere, the beauty of the landscape and the charm of the local people. At Kouklia, where once stood her great temple, now stands a church fittingly known as the church of "Panagia Aphroditissa".

The immortal verses of the ancient Greek playwrights still reverberate on a balmy summer evening at the ancient theatre of Kourion and at the Pafos Odeon, where classical Greek plays are regularly staged. And in the month of September, wine flows copiously and the spirit of Dionysos, the Greek god of wine and well-being, lives on throughout the duration of the Wine Festival. Popular medieval songs can still be heard on the island reviving the legends of Digenis, the invincible folk hero of the Byzantine era as well as the unfettered Rigaina, the beautiful medieval queen of Pentadactylos. Cyprus, as the easternmost part of Europe, constitutes a cultural bridge between people of different religions, cultures and ways of life.



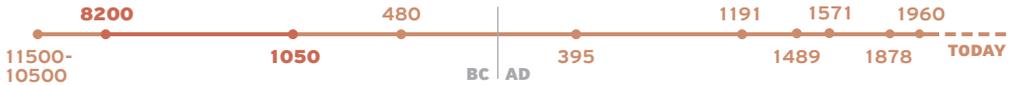


11500 - 10500 BC Prehistoric Age

First signs of permanent settlement in Cyprus date back to the Early Pre-Pottery Neolithic Levant (11500-10500). Excavations at Agios Tychonas - Klimonas site, have shown that the inhabitants of this early settlement were hunter - cultivators. Extensive sieving has provided evidence of emmer wheat cultivation; a primitive sort of cereal introduced from the continent. Animal bones found on site, also confirm that the villagers hunted wild boar and birds; and that domesticated cats and dogs were already introduced to the island.

Large quantities of stone tools and vessels, as well as stone and shell beads, were unearthed but no signs of pottery were found. The Agios Tychonas - Klimonas site has given us the earliest signs of organized agricultural village life, not only on the island but worldwide.





8200 - 1050 BC

While copper is mined in small quantities during the next period, the Chalcolithic Age (3900-2500 BC), this brings about only minor changes in the way of life of humans. In both the Neolithic and the Chalcolithic Ages the Cypriots lived in single room dwellings, used stone tools and vessels. They made jewellery out of picrolite, ate fish, cereal, lamb and goat's meat and buried their dead within their dwellings. The earliest pottery found, dates back to the 5th millennium BC.

The first significant cultural changes affecting all aspects of society took place around 2700-2500 BC, towards the end of the Chalcolithic Age and at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age. Instead of building cylindrically-shaped dwellings, people began to construct multi-room oblong structures, started to process copper in jewellery, used the plough for agriculture and began to bury their dead in organised cemeteries. Despite the fact that these developments contributed to the economic growth that occurred both during the Early (2500-2000 BC) and Middle (2000-1650 BC) Bronze Age periods, people still lived in small hinterland villages. Communication and trade with the surrounding Mediterranean lands was limited.

At the location of Pyrgos-Mavrorachi in Lemesos, excavations have brought to light a complex of buildings that was destroyed by an earthquake circa 1800 BC. The findings date back to the end of the Middle Bronze Age II 2400-1800 BC. The entire site is estimated by geophysical prospection and GIS systems to cover about 4,000 square metres; part of which was an organised industrial zone that focused mainly on the production of olive oil. Further on site discoveries have shown that part of said industrial zone was also used for refining copper, dyeing, weaving, composing pharmaceutical substances; but most important of all, for the extraction of aromatic essences and for the preparation of perfumes. This site is very important for its industrial identity as well as for the information that it provides; since everything was buried by the sudden collapse of the walls after an earthquake, the site remained virtually intact.

The Late Bronze Age (1650-1050 BC) was the first period of prehistoric Cyprus when tangible and irrefutable evidence exists that a number of significant developments occurred. These include the establishment of coastal towns, intensive mining of copper and other metals, development of a writing script, contact and trade with the neighbouring regions of Egypt, the Middle East, the Aegean and the wider Eastern Mediterranean area.

From the latter part of the 13th century BC successive waves of mainland Greeks begin to settle in Cyprus. Hence, Mycenaean pottery is imported in great quantities from the Aegean (Greece) and used extensively, both in everyday life as well as for religious ceremonies. Later on, Mycenaean type pottery is reproduced locally and incorporated in the island's ceramic tradition.



Stone container, Neolithic age



Cruciform picrolite figurine, Chalcolithic Age



Plank-shaped figurine, Early-Middle Bronze Age



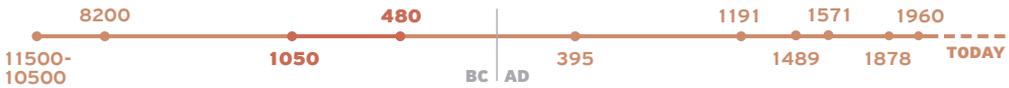
Plank-shaped figurine, Early-Middle Bronze Age



Bronze figurine of the 'Horned God', Late Bronze Age



White slip pottery, Late Bronze Age



1050 - 480 BC

Historic Times: Geometric and Archaic Periods

Two major developments marked the transition from the Prehistoric Age to Historic periods - the first was political and the second technological.

The first major development was the establishment of new city-kingdoms. Up until the 11th century BC, all the large cities of the Late Bronze age had been destroyed by natural causes, possibly by earthquakes. Folk tales that the new cities were created by heroes of the Trojan War upon their return from Troy correlate to historical facts, namely to the last wave of Achaean Greek settlement, which led to the eventual Hellenisation of Cyprus, with the adoption of the Greek culture and language. From the 10th century BC onwards the ties between Cyprus and the Greek islands such as Euboea and Crete became particularly close.

The second major development was the use of iron in metallurgy, which marked the start of a new era, the Iron Age. At first, iron was used only in jewellery, but it gradually replaced copper in tool making. The Iron Age includes the Geometric period (1050 - 750 BC), in view of the fact that geometrical motifs were mainly used in decorating pottery. This period coincided with the arrival of the Phoenicians in Cyprus and their colonisation of the large coastal Mycenaean city of Kition.

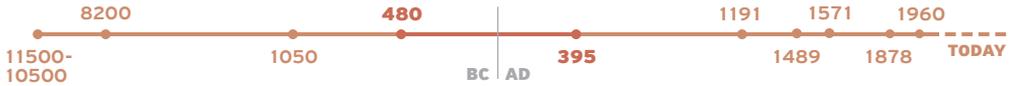
Typical Phoenician black-on-red colour pottery was introduced and later produced locally on the island.

The beginning of the next historical period, the Archaic period (750-475 BC), was marked by the subjugation of Cyprus to the Assyrians. During this period, the Cypriot city-kingdoms of Salamis, Kition, Amathous, Kourion, Idalion, Palaipafos, Marion, Soloi and Tamassos remained independent for as long as they were in a position to pay a subjugation tax to the Assyrian ruler.

After the Assyrian hegemony, the Egyptian Pharaoh Amasis took over Cyprus. Typical of this period were the strong Greek and eastern influences evident in all aspects of life, more so in art and religion.



Geometric and Archaic period pottery



475 BC - 395 AD

Classical, Hellenistic and Roman Periods

During the Classical period (475-312 BC) Cyprus found itself in the middle of the Greco-Persian Wars. The Greek strategy was to drive the Persians away from all Greek lands, including Cyprus, where they succeeded just for a short period, between 450 and 449 BC, when the Athenian fleet led by Kimon took over Marion, liberated Soloi and besieged Kition.

Despite this, Cyprus did eventually become part of the Persian Empire, though still maintaining its independence to a large degree. During the rule of Evagoras of Salamis (411-374 BC) Cyprus developed into one of the most important political and cultural centres of the Hellenic world. Evagoras rebelled against the Persians, but after a lengthy war he was forced to sign a peace treaty with Persia. Throughout the Persian rule, Greek influences in Cyprus were very strong. Deities of the Greek pantheon were introduced and Greek artists were assigned to create the seals of the coins to be minted for use by the Cypriot city-kingdoms.

The Persian rule came to an end during the Hellenistic period (310-30 BC) during Alexander the Great's campaign to the East. After Alexander's death, Ptolemy, one of his successors, became ruler of the island.

Strong influences from Alexandria, the capital of the new Ptolemaic kingdom of Egypt, are evident in all areas of art, such as sculpture, ceramics and statuette making.

During the Ptolemaic period (305-30 BC) Cyprus was mainly used as a military base. The Ptolemies exploited the island's natural resources, such as copper, olives and wheat, as well as timber that was mainly used for the construction of ships.

The Romans, who took control of Cyprus after the Ptolemies, mainly exploited its copper mines. Although the Roman period is said to have begun in 58 BC, Cyprus did not come under Roman rule until 30 BC. During the Roman period (58 BC-395 AD), the name of Cyprus became synonymous with the Latin equivalent name for copper (*cuprum*). Under the Roman rule, Cyprus enjoyed a three hundred year period of economic growth that was mainly a result of vast trading. One of the main exports at the time was decorative Cypriot pottery.

Cypriot jewellery and glassware copied the decorative styles of Roman craft shops. At the start of the Roman period burial tombs were particularly rich, often containing exquisite golden jewellery and beautiful handcrafted glassware pottery.

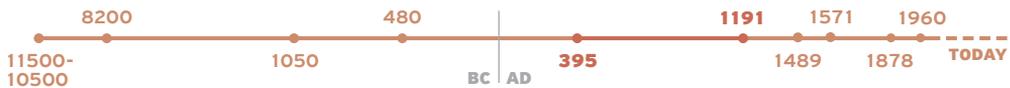
A landmark in the history of Cyprus during the Roman period was the conversion of the island to Christianity by the Apostles Paul and Barnabas starting in 45 AD.



Marble head of Aphrodite



Roman period coins



395 - 1191

Byzantine Period

In 330 AD the capital of the Roman Empire was moved from Rome to Constantinople. Christianity was declared the official religion of the state. In 395 AD the Roman Empire was split into the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire. The Eastern part, also known as the Byzantine Empire, also included Cyprus, from the 4th to the 12th centuries. During the Early Christian - Early Byzantine period, between the 4th and 7th centuries, the church of Cyprus succeeded with great effort to remain autocephalous (having its own head or chief bishop, though in communion with other Orthodox churches) fully independent and to increase its influence considerably. In 488 AD Byzantine Emperor Zeno accorded the Archbishop of Cyprus and his successors the privileges of wearing a purple cloak during official ceremonies, holding an imperial sceptre and signing in red ink. Archbishop Anthemios, wishing to express his gratitude to the Emperor for ratifying that the Church of Cyprus would be autocephalous, presented him St. Barnabas' manuscript of St. Mathew's Gospel, which Archbishop Anthemios had discovered in the Apostle's tomb near Salamis. A monastery dedicated to St. Barnabas was erected on the spot where his tomb was discovered. St. Barnabas is considered to be the founder of the Church of Cyprus.

Peace prevailed in Cyprus during the first centuries of the Byzantine period. New cities sprung, while others were abandoned as a result of major destructive earthquakes. The capital of Cyprus was moved from Pafos to Salamis-Constantia, near which the town of Arsinoe - Ammochostos (Famagusta) developed from the 7th century onwards. Amathous remained an important centre since Roman times, while a new city was established nearby, Neapolis or Nemesos, that later became Lemesos during the Frankish period. The old city of Ledra was replaced by Lefkosia, which eventually became the capital of Cyprus sometime between the 11th and 12th centuries.

The silk industry, which the Byzantines introduced clandestinely from China, originally developed in the 6th century and grew to become one of the most lucrative handicrafts of the island. The shipbuilding yards of Cyprus continued to produce wooden ships on a large scale, while an aqueduct was built in Salamis, funded by the Byzantine Emperor Heraklios. The silver and goldsmith industries flourished, as evidenced by precious plates with depictions of the life of David, part of the discovered treasure of Lambousa (Lapithos). Some of the plates are now exhibited in the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia, while other objects from the collection are housed in the British Museum in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



Silver plate, Lambousa, 7th century



Panagia Asinou

Ecclesiastical art flourished in Cyprus, adopting elements from the Greco-Roman tradition, as well as eastern elements. The island's first churches were built based on the Roman Basilica model of an elongated oblong room, divided by a row of columns forming archways and aisles. As time went by, domes and arches were added and architectural variations were developed around the shape of a cross. The most important examples of architecture during this period are the early Christian wooden-roofed Basilicas decorated with frescoes. The most important ones are those of Lambousa, Chrysopolitissa at Kato Pafos, Kambanopetra in Constantia, Agia Triada in Gialousa, Panagia Kanakaria in the Karpasia peninsula, Kourion and Agios Georgios in Pegeia.

Three rare mosaics that still survive in the apses of three early Christian Basilicas depict the artistic connection between Cyprus and Constantinople. The oldest of the three mosaics, was the one in the apse of the now occupied church of Panagia Kanakaria at Karpasia peninsula, the one in the best condition is found in the apse of the church of Panagia Aggeloktisti at Kiti, while the third is in the church of Panagia Kyra, in the occupied village of Livadia, near Ammochostos.

The Basilicas were destroyed during the Arab raids that took place between the 7th and 10th centuries, but the mosaics were spared because they were incorporated into subsequent churches.

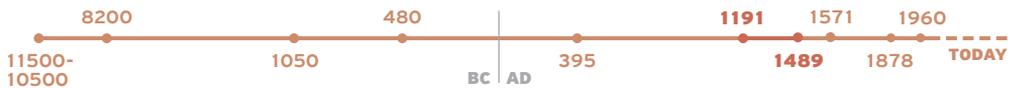
Cyprus became particularly important for Byzantium and Islam, because of its position in the Mediterranean and because of the many conflicts between these two great empires. The Arab raids against Cyprus began in 648-649 AD and continued until 965 AD, when Emperor Nicephorus II Phocas finally defeated them. Up until the 12th century the Byzantines built castles and fortifications along the Pentadaktylos mountain range at St. Hilarion, Voufavelto and Kantara, as well as at the monasteries of Kykkos, Machairas and Agios Neophytos.



Kanakaria mosaics

Panagia tou Araka Church, Lagoudera





1192 - 1489

Frankish Period

In 1191, the king of England, Richard the Lionheart, foresaw the strategic importance of Cyprus as a base for supplying the forces taking part in the Third Crusade, and conquered the island. In Cyprus Richard married his fiancée Berengaria of Navarre, who was accompanying him, and crowned her Queen of England. Realising how difficult it would be to maintain control of the island, Richard sold it to the Knights Templars, who handed it back, following several uprisings by the locals against them.

Richard finally sold Cyprus to the former king of the Latin state of Jerusalem, French nobleman Guy de Lusignan, founder of the Lusignan dynasty of kings and queens in Cyprus, whose family originated from Poitier in France. The Frankish rule of Cyprus, known as the Lusignan period, lasted for three centuries (1192 - 1489). The governing regime in Cyprus followed the feudal system and the Catholic Church was instated as the official institution of the state. In 1291, after the fall of Acre (Latin kingdom of Jerusalem) to the Mamelukes of Egypt, Cyprus remained the sole bastion of Christianity in the East, as well as the most important trading post in the Eastern Mediterranean. The granting by the Frankish kings of commercial privileges to powerful trading cities of the West, such as Venice and Genoa gave rise to conflict between the Western powers, as to who would prevail over Cyprus. This had a detrimental political and economic effect on the island.

The 14th century saw great commercial and economic activity in Cyprus. The capital of the island Lefkosia and the coastal city of Ammochostos (Famagusta) grew into large urban centres with considerable trading activity.

During the Middle Ages, Cyprus produced and exported high quality sugar, excellent wine and other fine agricultural products. At the same time the weaving and lace industries flourished. Another growing industry was the production of glazed ceramic ware, both for local as well as for exporting needs.

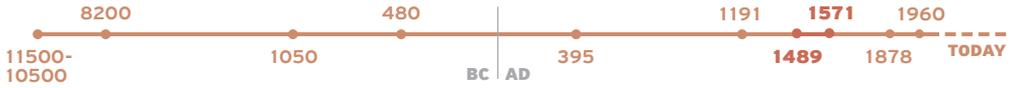
The gothic monuments that survive from the Frankish period consist mainly of places of worship and castles that combine Byzantine and western elements. The church of Agia Sofia in Lefkosia, St. Nicholas Cathedral in Ammochostos and the Abbey of Belapais are just some of the better known structures.



Richard the Lionheart



Ruins of Gothic Church Potamia



1489 - 1571

The Venetians in Cyprus

The last queen of Cyprus, Caterina Cornaro, wife of King James II and sister of Venetian nobleman Andreas Cornaro ceded the island to Venice in 1489, where upon Cyprus became part of “the Most Serene Republic” of Venice. This resulted in the definitive ousting of the Genoans from the island and the prevalence of the Venetian rule. Venice’s main aim was to secure a firm hold on Cyprus that would allow the unimpeded movement and supply of Venetian ships in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The main agricultural products that the island exported were wheat, barley, sugar, cotton, wine and olive oil. The main cottage industry was textiles, while at the same time lace was beginning to be produced in the village of Lefkara. Most exports were shipped out of the port of Ammochostos. Towards the end of the Venetian rule, Larnaka became the most important port of Cyprus, from where salt was exported. The port of Lemesos also started to develop during this period.

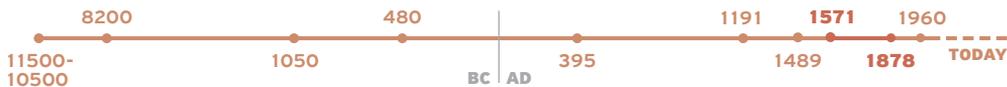
When the Ottomans conquered the island of Rhodes in 1522, the Venetians were alerted to the danger of losing Cyprus. Hence they built fortification walls around Lefkosia and strengthened the existing walls of Ammochostos, on whose sea side stood the tower of Othello, known from the Shakespearean tragedy.



Venetian Walls, Map of Lefkosia (1570)

Venetian Walls, Lefkosia





1571 - 1878

Cyprus becomes part of the Ottoman Empire

The period of the Ottoman rule in Cyprus began with the fall of Ammochostos 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 the Ottoman rule, giving it not just religious authority but also political authority.

Cyprus went through hard times during the Ottoman rule. The contribution of the Greek Cypriots to the Greek Revolution in 1821 resulted in the execution of the Archbishop of Cyprus, Kyprianos, along with three of his bishops and about 470 clerics and laymen.

Since the early 18th century, there took place a positive social and economic resurgence in the lives of Greek Cypriots and Greeks, alongside the parallel decline of the Ottoman Empire.

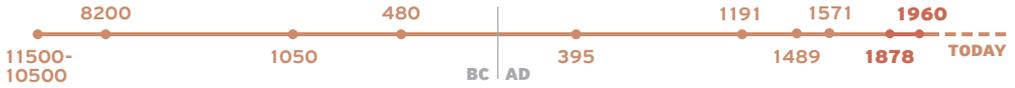
The trading activities of Europeans in the coastal towns of Cyprus and the establishment of foreign consular offices in Larnaka marked the start of a change in the social fabric of the island, from agricultural and semi-feudal as it was in previous periods, to semi-urban in the coastal towns. This social change was strengthened by the close contacts of the Greeks of Cyprus with the newly independent Greek state that emerged after the Greek Revolution.



The house of Chatzigeorgakis Kornosios, Lefkosia

Hala Sultan Tekkesi, Larnaka Salt Lake





1878 - 1960

British rule

In 1878, under a secret treaty established between Great Britain and the Ottomans, Cyprus was ceded to the former. Despite early expectations of Cypriots that there would be substantial changes in their political, economic and social lives and that their desire for union of Cyprus with Greece would be fulfilled, the peoples' expectations did not materialise. Greek Cypriot disappointment with the British colonial rule together with the prevailing economic recession, led to the uprising events of October 1931. These events resulted in even harsher colonial measures being imposed by the British.

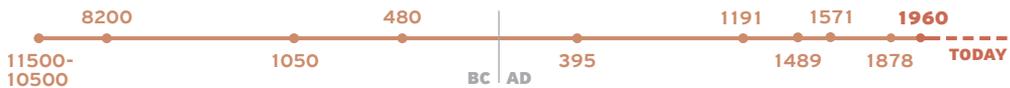
The Greeks of Cyprus continued to press on with their demand for national restitution and union with Greece but the British government continued objecting their demand. On January 15th 1950 a referendum on union "Enosis" with Greece was held, in which 95,7% of Greek Cypriots voted in favour. The referendum outcome had no effect on the British stance. On October 20th 1950 the Bishop of Kition Makarios III was elected as Archbishop. The political deadlock the Greek Cypriots faced, led to the waging of the National Liberation Struggle of 1955-59, by the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA). The struggle resulted in the ending of the British rule, but did not lead to union with Greece. The Zurich-London Agreements led to the establishment of the independent Republic of Cyprus. On December 13th 1959 Archbishop Makarios III was elected first President of the Republic and Dr Fazil Kutchuk first Vice President.



University of Cyprus Archaeological Research Unit

Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre





1960 - Today

The Republic of Cyprus, the Turkish invasion, European Union entry

The Republic of Cyprus was proclaimed on the 16th of August 1960. The island became a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and the Non-Aligned Movement. On the basis of the Zurich- London agreements Britain maintained two sovereign military bases on the island with a total combined area of 158, 4 square kilometres, consisting of Dhekelia to the east of Larnaka and Akrotiri-Episkopi near Lemesos to the west. Two treaties were signed as part of the Zurich-London agreements, the Treaty of Alliance and the Treaty of Guarantee. The latter gave the right to the three guarantor powers, Britain, Turkey and Greece, to take action in the event that the provisions of the Treaty were violated.



Although the Cyprus constitution safeguarded the basic rights and freedoms of all its citizens, it contained community provisions that made it complex and non-workable. In 1963 the President of the Republic proposed constitutional amendments which both the Turkish Cypriot community leadership and Turkey rejected.

The Turkish Cypriots withdrew from the government and proceeded to set up an illegal “Temporary Turkish Cypriot Administration”. As a result of subsequent inter-communal conflict that ensued at the beginning of 1964, a United Nations Security Council resolution established a U.N. Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus.

In 1974 the military junta ruling Greece at the time, staged a military coup in Cyprus aiming to overthrow the elected President Makarios. Turkey used the coup as a pretext to invade the island with military forces on July 20th 1974 and occupied 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, displacing about 200.000 Greek Cypriots of the northern part of the island. Despite the international condemnation of Turkey and the acknowledgement of the Cypriot peoples’ rights drafted in various resolutions issued by the United Nations, the Security Council, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement and other international organisations, Turkish troops still illegally occupy the northern part of Cyprus. On May 1st 2004, with its northern part still under occupation, Cyprus became a full member of the European Union. The accession act included a protocol which states that implementation of the *acquis communautaire* on the areas not controlled by the Cyprus government (as a result of the Turkish invasion) is suspended. This suspension will be removed as soon as the Cyprus problem is resolved. Efforts and negotiations to find a just and functional solution for the Cyprus problem continue.

Monument to Liberty, Lefkosia





----- Did you know that Famagusta Gate is also known as Porta Giuliana and takes its name after Giulio Savorgnano the architect of the Venetian Walls of Lefkosia?

*Lefkosia, is the only
divided capital
in the world*

Lefkosia (Nicosia)

Lefkosia, the only divided capital in the world, it's situated practically in the centre of Cyprus and constitutes a rich cultural hub. The history of the city dates back to the Bronze Age. In antiquity and in early Christian times it was known as Ledra. It has been the capital of Cyprus since the Late Byzantine period (11th century). The Lusignans transformed it into a splendid city, with royal palaces and 50 churches. Contemporary Lefkosia combines the historic past with the liveliness of a modern city. The city centre, the old "Hora", surrounded by 16th century walls, with museums, old churches and medieval buildings, maintains the leisurely atmosphere of yesteryear. Outside the walls, the modern city with its contemporary comforts pulsates to more cosmopolitan rhythms. A few kilometres into the countryside one can admire superb Byzantine churches and monasteries.



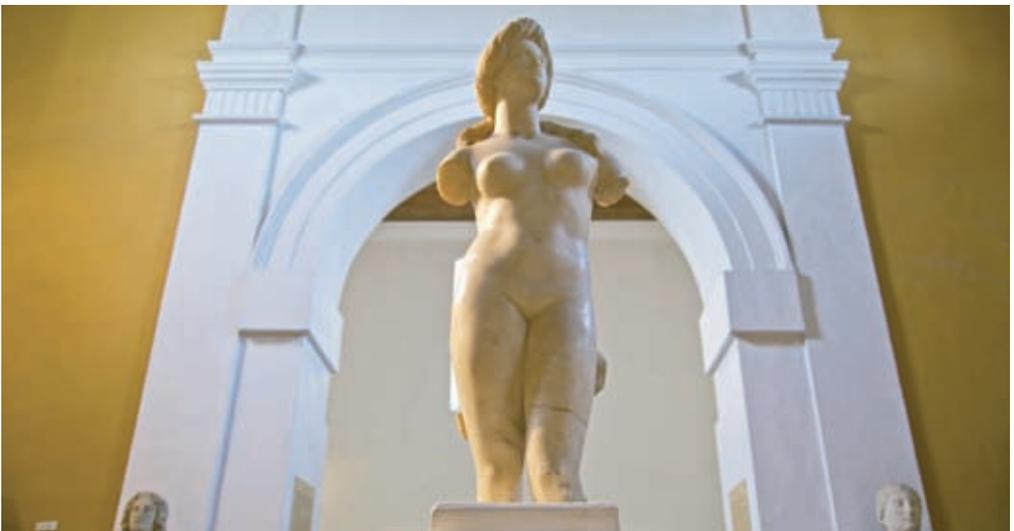
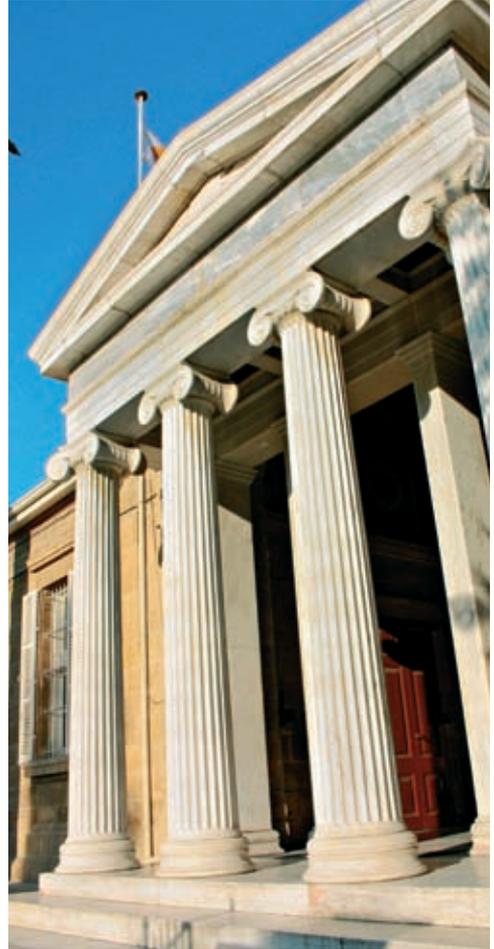
The Cyprus Museum



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T. +357 22865854, +357 22303112

The Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia is the main and largest archaeological museum in Cyprus. Work on the building commenced in 1908 and was completed in 1924, when Cyprus was still a British colony. Several extensions were added later on, until it reached its present form. A visit through the collections of the museum provides an opportunity to experience the development of Cyprus' civilisation, from the Neolithic Age up to the Early Byzantine period (7th century AD). Finds from extensive excavations from all over the island enrich the museum's collections and contribute to the development of Cyprus' archaeology and research into the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean. The collections consist of pottery, jewellery, sculptures, coins, copper objects, and other artifacts, exhibited in chronological order throughout the museums galleries.

Pieces of important artistic as well as archaeological and historical value that are typical of Cypriot culture, include the cross-shaped idol of the Chalcolithic period, the Early Bronze Age pottery from Vouni, the Late Bronze Age golden jewellery from Egkomi and the 1st century BC statue of Aphrodite of Soloi. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries



Byzantine Museum

*Cultural Centre of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation Archbishopric grounds Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou
T. +357 22430008*

The Byzantine Museum contains the richest and most representative collection of Byzantine art in Cyprus. Over 200 icons dating from the 9th to the 19th centuries, as well as ecclesiastical vessels, robes and books, are exhibited in the museum. The 6th century mosaics from the church of Panagia Kanakaria in Lythragkomi are the most impressive of all the exhibits. These mosaics were brought back to Cyprus after having been illegally exported from the occupied part of the island.



- The second gallery contains 18th and 19th centuries paintings, engravings and maps on themes from the 1821 Greek Revolution.
- The third gallery contains works of Greek artists from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- The fourth gallery contains representative works of 20th century Cypriot artists.



Art Galleries

The four galleries of the Cultural Centre of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation, exhibit a unique collection of representative works of Western-European art, dating from the Renaissance to modern times, as well as Greek and Cypriot masterpieces.

- The first gallery contains works of Western European painters such as Nicolas Poussin, Eugene Delacroix and others.



NICOSIA

COFFEE HOUSE

BY CHIKKA - 1909

LEFKOSIA,
PLACES OF INTEREST
Faneromeni Area

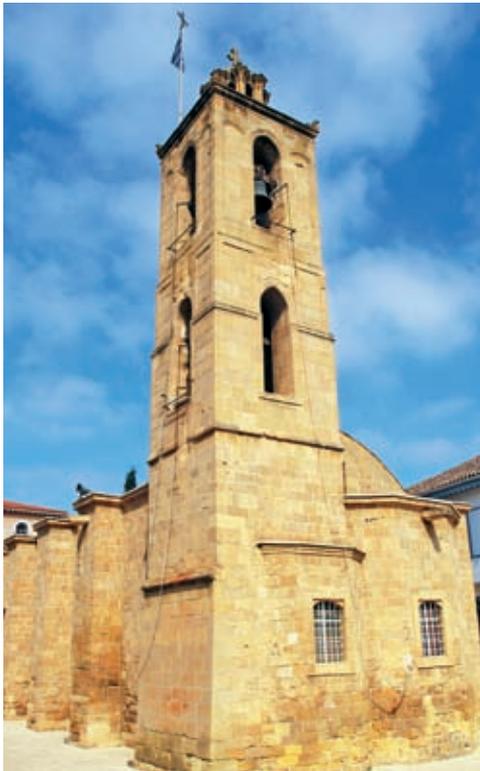


Agios Ioannis (St. John's) Cathedral

(next to the Archbishopric)
Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou

It was built by Archbishop Nikiforos in 1662 on the site of a 14th century Benedictine chapel dedicated to St. John the Evangelist.

It was turned into an Orthodox monastery in 1426, when the Benedictine Order left the island due to the Mameluke raids. The Orthodox church dedicated to St. John the Theologian, remained a monastery until the 18th century when Archbishop Sylvester converted it into a cathedral, establishing it as the seat of the Orthodox Archbishopric of Cyprus. It is a small single-aisled church with Franco-Byzantine architectural elements. Its high external buttresses give it the impression of being a fort. It is the only church in Lefkosia in which the whole of the internal frescoes have survived in their entirety. The four large icons on the iconostasis were painted by the Cretan master, Ioannis Kornaros, in 1795 and 1797. Its 18th century frescoes depict scenes from the Holy Bible and the discovery of the tomb of St. Barnabas at Salamis.



Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus

Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou
T. +357 22432578

The Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus, housed on the ground floor of the old Archbishopric, consists of a large collection of 19th and early 20th century Cypriot folk art exhibits. It includes wood-carved objects, tapestry, embroidery, pottery, Cypriot folk costumes and hand-woven textiles made on a loom.



The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios - Ethnological Museum



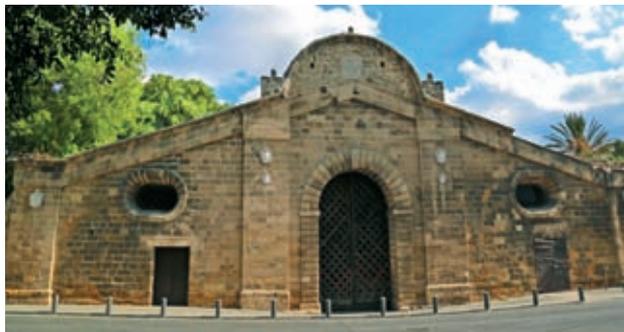
20, Patriarchou Grigoriou Street, T. +357 22305316

This manor house is one of the most important surviving 18th century buildings in Lefkosia. It was once the residence of the Dragoman of Cyprus, Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios, who

was executed by the Ottomans in 1809. The office of the Dragoman was introduced in Cyprus at the start of the Ottoman rule and was abolished in 1821 with the Greek Revolution. Dragomans acted as liaisons between the pasha and the occupied population and were the most important political figures after the pasha. During the first years of the Ottoman rule the dragomans were foreigners or Greek speaking Franks and later on Orthodox Greek Cypriots. Hadjigeorgakis Kornosios was the most prominent of all the dragomans of Cyprus.

The building was restored by the Department of Antiquities and today houses the Cyprus Ethnological Museum. In 1988 it was given the “Europa Nostra” award.

It consists of a large vaulted passage and two side rooms. The internal entrance is very impressive, while the external one opens onto the moat that surrounds the walls.



Venetian Walls (Famagusta Gate)



Leoforos Athinon, T. +357 22797660

Famagusta Gate is one of the three entrances into old Lefkosia through the Venetian walls. The walls have a perimeter of 4.5 km, with eleven heart-shaped bastions and completely encircle the old city. The eastern gate (Porta Giuliana), known nowadays as Famagusta Gate, has been restored and operates as the Nicosia Municipal Cultural Centre.

Leventis Municipal Museum of Lefkosia



17, Ippokratous Street, Laiki Geitonia, T. +357 22661475

This is the only historical museum of Lefkosia that presents the social and historical development of the city, from the Chalcolithic Age up to today. Founded in 1984, it is named after its donor, the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation, which bought and restored the building. The museum is administered by the Municipality of Nicosia. The collection includes archaeological finds, traditional costumes, photographs, medieval pottery, maps, engravings, jewellery and furniture. The museum is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



State Gallery of Contemporary Cypriot Art

Corner Leoforos Stasinou @ Kritis Street
T. +357 22458228

The gallery is housed in a restored building. The collections consist of paintings and sculptures by 20th century Cypriot artists.



Laiki Geitonia (Traditional Neighbourhood)

200m east of Eleftheria Square

This pedestrian area within the walled city has seen the restoration of houses that are typical examples of traditional Cypriot urban architecture and are used today as shops, restaurants and craft centres.

Leventis Art Gallery

Anastasiou Leventi (ex Leonidou)
T. +357 22668838

Built in the heart of Lefkosia, the Leventis Art Gallery houses more than 800 paintings and works of art, which constitute part of the most important collections of the Leventis Foundation.

The specially designed eco-friendly building, with its contemporary aesthetics, hosts three important Collections of unique works of art, as well as antique furniture and porcelain.

The above Collections include masterworks of great painters, such as Canaletto, Fragonard, Corot, Boudin, Renoir, Monet, Signac, Chagall, Vryzakis, Volanakis, Moralis, Tsarouchis, Ghika, Kissonerghis, Diamantis and Kanthos.



MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE |

Cyprus Handicraft Centre

186, Leoforos Athalassas, T. +357 22305024

The Cyprus Handicraft Centre has workshops and a small shop for producing and selling traditional folk art and crafts such as pottery, basketry, copperware, wood-carving, embroidery and lace, mosaics, traditional costumes, dolls, leather goods and other genuine Cypriot handicrafts.



Trypiotis Church

Solonos Street, near Laiki Geitonia

Built by Archbishop Germanos II in 1695, it is an example of the Franco-Byzantine style architecture. The interior of the church is rich, with an unusually wide iconostasis and silver icons.



Faneromeni Church

Onasagorou Street, within the old city

Built in 1872 within the old city walls, Phaneromeni church is one of the largest churches of Lefkosia. The marble mausoleum to the east of the church contains the relics of the bishops and priests executed by the Ottomans in 1821. Opposite the church is the school of Phaneromeni, one of the most historic academic institutions of Cyprus.



Stavros tou Missirikou Church

Lefkonos Street, near Phaneromeni church

Stavros tou Missirikou is a medieval Orthodox church converted into a mosque when Cyprus was taken over by the Ottomans in 1571. Originally built in the first half of the 16th century, it is a Frankish building whose architectural style is a blend of Byzantine, Gothic and Italian renaissance elements.

It was named after the Frankish King of Cyprus Henry II (Monsieur Errikou), who reigned from 1285 to 1324.



Museum of George and Nefeli Giabra

Pierides Collection



Donated by Clio and Solon Triantafyllides
86-90, Phaneromenis Street, T. +357 22128157

The museum presents one of the most important collections of Greek Mycenaean pottery. Due to the widespread export of this pottery style especially in the Eastern Mediterranean, such pottery was reproduced locally in other regions such as Cyprus and Syria. Of special significance is a unique anthropomorphic vessel. The collection is enriched by white slip pottery and base ring pottery, two typical styles of pottery from the Late Bronze Age in Cyprus. The richest part of the collection consists of limestone sculptures from the 6th century BC to the Hellenistic period. The museum is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Museum on the History of Cypriot Coinage



86-90, Phaneromenis Street, T. +357 22128157

The museum collections trace the development of Cypriot coinage from the 6th century BC to today. Two thousand six hundred years of turbulent Cypriot history portrayed through the display of 370 coins. The collections are divided into nine time periods and are an important source of information on Cyprus' numismatic history.



Ledra Street Observatory

Ledra Street, Shakolas Tower Building
T. +357 22674139

The observatory on the 11th floor of the Shakolas Tower Building provides a panoramic view of the whole town of Lefkosia. Visitors can admire the city and its landmarks, since the observatory offers a 360 degree unobstructed view of the city centre.



Centre of Visual Arts and Research

285, Ermou Street, T. +357 22300999

The Centre of Visual Arts and Research (CVAR), houses a collection of more than 1000 artworks created by foreign artists who have visited Cyprus during the 18th - 20th centuries, as well as a collection of costumes presenting the evolution of the local Cypriot dress.

The CVAR collection includes more than 5.000 volumes of history, travel and art, in addition to archives of photographs, travelogues, manuscripts and information on the contemporary history of Cyprus.



Panagia Chrysaliniotissa Church

Chrysaliniotissa Street

It is believed to be the oldest Byzantine church in Lefkosia. It is dedicated to Panagia Chrysaliniotissa and it is estimated to have been first built in 1450 by Queen Helena Palaeologina.

The Pancyprian Gymnasium Museums

10-16, Agiou Ioannou ☞ Theseos Street
T. +357 22466014

The Pancyprian Gymnasium Museums is a fascinating 12-room space in the historical centre of Lefkosia, depicting the history of the oldest establishment of Secondary Education in Cyprus (Founded 1812), as well as many other aspects of Cypriot history and culture.

The Museums consist of the following: Museum of the History of the School, the Archaeological and the Numismatic Collection, a collection of Old Maps, a collection of Old Weaponry, the Art Gallery with the works of great painters who served as teachers and students of the school, a Natural History Collection and other exhibits. The collection is completed with a unique sample of gothic sculpture from Cyprus, which is impressive due to its size, style and iconographical references.



Chrysaliniotissa Crafts Centre

2, Dimonaktos (Corner of Ipponaktos @ Dimonaktos Streets), T. +357 99556250

This complex of eight workshops is situated near Chrysaliniotissa church. The workshops nestle around a central courtyard, in the manner of a traditional inn. They consist of various units engaged in contemporary applications of traditional crafts and a coffee shop. The Crafts Centre is part of the project to restore and regenerate the old part of Lefkosia within the city walls.



Filakismena Mnimata (Incarcerated Graves)

Central Prison, T. +357 22406000, +357 22406103

In an enclosure within the Central Prison complex rest nine young men convicted and hanged by the British Administration, during the course of the Liberation Struggle of 1955-59. It is also the resting place of four other EOKA heroes who died in combat. After Independence, the area was converted into a place of veneration and aptly named 'Filakismena Mnimata' (Incarcerated Graves), after a painting by Cypriot artist Pol Georgiou.



Loukia & Michael Zampellas Art Museum

27, Leoforos Archiepiskopou Makariou III, Kaimakli, To arrange a visit please call T. +357 22456098

The museum houses the permanent collection of the Zampelas family. A pioneer museum in its field, this museum exhibits great modern and contemporary art of Cypriots and Greek artists. Furthermore, it organises temporary exhibitions of artists from Cyprus and abroad. These are complemented with educational programmes and other cultural activities. Situated in Kaimakli, it is very close to the centre of Nicosia and the walled city.

National Struggle Museum

Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou
T. +357 22305878

The museum houses documents, photographs and relevant items of the 1955-59 National Liberation Struggle.



Municipal Arts Centre



19, Palias Electrikis, T. +357 22797400

The building of the old power station, a fine example of industrial architecture, has since 1994 been the home of the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre. Its aim is to promote fine art in Cyprus. It has a large exhibition area where it houses rare and specialist publications for art lovers. The restoration of the building was given the “Europa Nostra” award in 1994.



Omeriye Mosque (Ex Augustinian Church)



Trikoupi @ Plateia Tillirias. Near the old Municipal Market. The mosque can be visited whenever there are no worshippers.

The mosque was formerly a 14th century Augustinian monastery dedicated to St. Mary. It was converted into a mosque in 1571 by Mustafa Pasha, the Ottoman conqueror of the island, who believed that the original church was built on the spot where the caliph Omer rested when visiting Lefkosia.

Most of the original building was destroyed by the Ottoman artillery in 1570. Inscribed tombstones from the Lusignan period were used to install a new floor for the mosque. Visitors can see the remains of a late Venetian building near the eastern side of the mosque.

Kasteliotissa Medieval Hall

Opposite Pafos Gate

This hall was part of the Lusignan palace and dates back to the 13th-14th century. Kasteliotissa, with its strong gothic elements, has been restored by the Department of Antiquities. It is used today as an exhibition centre and is open to the public only when functions are held there.



Bayraktar Mosque

It is built on the Constanza Bastion, in honour of the flag carrier who first climbed on to the walls of Nicosia during the siege of the city by the Ottomans.



Fairytales Museum

32, Granikou Street, Old Nicosia, T. +357 22376522

The Fairy Tale Museum is housed in a beautiful old mansion in the heart of Lefkosia. Its goal is to disseminate the cultural heritage of fairy tales, legends, myths and traditions from Cyprus and from all over the world. The Fairytale Museum arranges narrative tales, thematic exhibitions, educational programs, as well as events and performances based on fairy tales. The Museum is an extension of the work of the Systemic Cyprus Institute, a Research Centre of theoretical evolution and systemic application. At the museum visitors can learn about the evolution of fairy tales, make their own stories, discover hidden passages, open secret compartments and feel the stories come alive.



Cyprus Classic Motorcycle Museum

44, Granikou Street, Old Nicosia
T. +357 22680222, +357 99543215

The Classic Motorcycle Museum was created by motorcycle collector, Andreas Nicolaou. The 150 motorbikes of the museum date from 1914 to 1983. The exhibits include AJS Norton, Triumph and BSA motorcycles, as well as three police bikes that were part of the Archbishop Makarios' police escort, a motorcycle belonging to EOKA hero Stylianos Lenas and one belonging to Turkish Cypriot champion Zeki Isa. The museum also houses an exhibition of photographs.



Cyprus Postal Museum

3B, Agiou Savva Street, Laiki Geitonia
T. +357 22760522

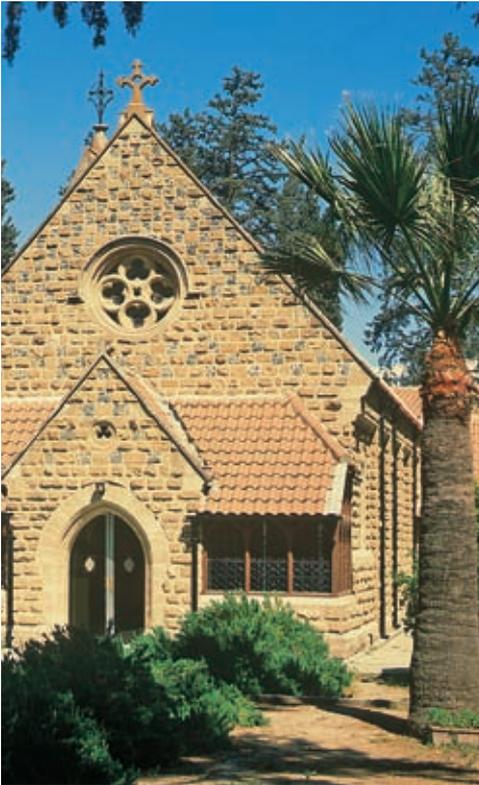
The museum has a collection of Cyprus stamps from 1880 until today. The collection is accompanied by a display of objects related to the history of the island's postal services.



St. Paul's Anglican Church

Leoforos Lordou Vyronos, T. +357 22445221

The church of St. Paul was built in 1893 when Cyprus was part of the British Empire. The influence of politics on architecture is evident by the structural elements of the building which is reminiscent of an English parish church.



Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church

T. +357 22662132

The Church of the Holy Cross, built in 1902, is situated near Pafos Gate, one of the three entrances into the town through the Venetian walls surrounding Lefkosia. The church does not belong to any definite style and its architectural features are quite austere. The cross of Jerusalem can be seen on the facade.



Cyprus Police Museum

Evangelou Floraki, within the Police Headquarters building, T. +357 22808080

The museum was originally founded in 1933 during British colonial times as a Criminal Museum by the then British Chief of Police of the colonial government. A substantial part of the museum is dedicated to the history of the Cyprus Police Force, from the British period up to present. The visitor can see uniforms, arms, equipment and police vehicles, as well as musical instruments, photographs and documents of the Police Band. The Museum also houses objects and documents from the Second World War and the 1955-59 Liberation Struggle.



Greater Lefkosia District Area

Royal Tombs of Tamassos



Politiko village, 20km southwest of Lefkosia
T. +357 22622619

Tamassos, rich in copper, was an important city-kingdom in ancient times. Excavations have brought to light the Royal Tombs, copper workshops and the Temple of Aphrodite-Astarte.

Impressive archaeological finds from Tamassos are the six oversized limestone statues dating back to the 6th century BC. They are now exhibited in the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia. Tamassos is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Agios Irakleidios Convent

Politiko village, 20km southwest of Lefkosia
T. +357 22623950



Irakleidios, the son of a pagan priest, was ordained Bishop of Tamassos by Saints Paul and Barnabas. He became a martyr at the age of 60 and was buried in the cave where he had lived and from which he had preached the Gospel. In 400 AD a church was built over his grave.

The monastery was destroyed and rebuilt several times. Today's buildings, date back to 1773 when Archbishop Chrysanthos restored the church and the convent cells. The saint's relics are kept inside the church. Today the monastery functions as a convent.



Machairas Monastery

40km south of Lefkosia through the village of Deftera
T. +357 22359334

Is one of the oldest and most important monasteries in Cyprus. It was founded by two monks in 1148, when an icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave. During the Ottoman rule, it was an educational centre, as were the other monasteries of Cyprus. This is the cloister monastery of Archbishop Kyprianos, who was executed by the Ottomans alongside hundreds of other clerics and laymen on July 9th 1821. The brotherhood follows equally strict rules here as the brotherhood of Mount Athos in Greece.

Every year on August 15th and on September 8th a large religious fair is held there. About 2km north of Machairas monastery lies the hide-out of Grigoris Afxentiou, hero of the 1955-59 Liberation Struggle. The vestry of Machairas monastery, which is situated in the basement, has been restored and organised thanks to a donation by the A. G. Leventis Foundation. It consists of the original monks' cells, as well as restored stables and storehouses. The vestry maintains a room where the old books and manuscripts of the monastery are kept, exhibition areas and storage rooms with icons and ecclesiastical objects.

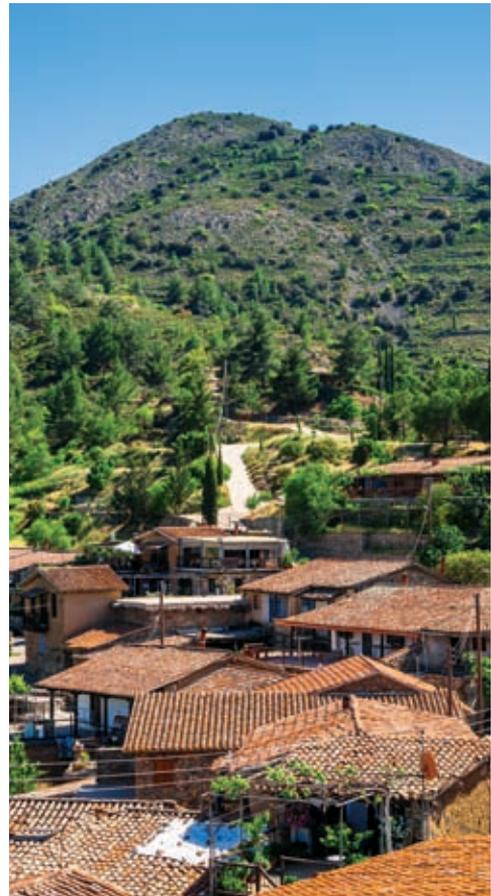


Fikardou Village and Rural Museum



Machairas-Lefkosia road via Klirou, 39km southwest of Lefkosia, T. +357 22634731

Deserted at the beginning of the 19th century, the village of Fikardou has been declared an “ancient monument” and carefully restored to preserve its 18th century houses with their remarkable woodwork and folk architecture. The “House of Katsinioros” and the “House of Achilleas Dimitri”, sections of which date back to the 16th century, have been restored and constitute a vivid example of rural Cypriot architecture. These buildings house the Rural Museum. In 1986 the village received the “Europa Nostra” Award.



Local Museum of Ancient Idalion

T. +357 22444818

The local museum of Idalion was founded in 2007 with the aim to promote the rich finds of the region of Idalion and later to function as a visitor's centre for the archaeological site in the surroundings of which it is located. The exhibits of the museum represent all the chronological phases of the history of Idalion and come from both older as well as more recent excavations done in the area of the ancient city and of both settlements and cemeteries.



Monuments from all periods of Cyprus' history can be found in the region. In the town of Dali lies the archaeological site of ancient Idalion, one of the city-kingdoms of ancient Cyprus. The region is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route. Its strategic position, the presence of water and fertile land were factors that contributed to the area's flourishing between the 8th and 5th centuries BC. According to legend, Dali is where Adonis, Aphrodite's lover, was killed by her jealous lover Ares, the Olympian god of war.

The Byzantine church of Agioi Apostoloi is situated at Pera Chorio in the Dali region. It contains some of the most exquisite frescoes found in Cyprus, dating back to the late 12th century and considered to be some of the most beautiful examples of Comnenian art. Of particular interest is the church of Agios Demetrianos (13th century).

Medieval ruins can be found in the region of the village of Potamia, including those of a summer palace of the Frankish kings and queens of Cyprus, as well as a Gothic church.

Dali Region



About 20km south of Lefkosia, on the Lefkosia-Larnaka / Lemesos (Limassol) road



MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE |

Church of Saints Barnabas and Hilarion

Peristerona village, 27km from Lefkosia on the Lefkosia - Troodos road

The church is dedicated to Saints Barnabas and Hilarion. It was probably built in the 9th or 10th century and is an outstanding example of Cypriot Byzantine architecture. Next to the church lies the Turkish mosque of Peristerona, one of many visible evidences of the peaceful coexistence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots prior to the 1974 Turkish invasion.



Agios Panteleimon Convent

Northwest of Agrokipia village, 30 km west of Lefkosia

It is an 18th century convent with a gabled roof, restored shortly after 1960.



The church of the monastery dates back to the Byzantine period. It was rebuilt in 1636 and in 1713 it was ceded to Kykkos Monastery. The monastery was founded by Archbishop Nikiforos, whose tomb can be seen in the narthex of the church. The iconostasis dates back to 1650. The monastery has a 1785 fresco depicting the Archangel Michael. Today the monastery houses the Kykkos Monastery Research Centre.

Panagia Chrysoseptiotissa Church

Near Kato Deftera village, 11km southwest of Lefkosia

This church in the shape of a catacomb is built inside a natural cave and is dedicated to the 'Lady of the Golden Cave'. The church possibly dates back to the early Christian period. This type of church is rare in Cyprus but common in the Near East. Sadly the decorated walls of the cave have suffered great damage and the frescoes are no longer visible. A large religious festival is held on August 15th, the day of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.

Archangelos Michael Church

Lefkosia - Anthoupolis road



Athalassa National Forest Park

1, Athalassa Visitor Centre, Leoforos Keryneias, Aglantzia, T. +357 22462943, +357 22805527

Athalassa park has a Visitor's Centre that provides information about the environmental features of the park. A scale model replica of the park shows its basic natural features, vegetation and recreational facilities. Dioramas give three-dimensional representations of the areas, vegetation, birds, mammals and reptiles of the island.

Geological samples, fossils and related objects are exhibited in a separate room, while visual material is used to present the local fauna and flora.



Museum of World Natural History

120A @ B, Leoforos Strovolou
(Entrance next to Strovolos Town Hall parking)
T. +357 22312676, +357 99526029

The Museum of World Natural History is a charitable foundation dedicated to the study, conservation, enhancement and protection of natural environment. Its foundation is based on a new approach of man with nature. The goal is the education, a new value for reintegration of human functions and economy of Nature.



Cyprus Museum of Natural History

Photos Photiades Breweries Ltd. The Cyprus Carlsberg Brewery Old Lefkosia - Lemesos road Lakkia (Latsia) area
To arrange a visit please call T. +357 22585834, +357 22585858

The Cyprus Museum of Natural History was founded by "The Photos Photiades Charity, Scientific and Cultural Foundation". It is the largest museum of its kind in Cyprus. Most of the museum's approximately 2500 exhibits consist of stuffed mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and insects, as well as rocks, minerals, semiprecious stones, shells and fossils.







Did you know that Lemesos city is built between the two ancient city kingdoms of Kourion and Amathus and quite possibly derives its name from the Greek word “Anamesos”, which literally means “to be in between”?

*Lemesos,
is the second
largest city
of the island*

Lemesos (Limassol)

Lemesos, is the second largest city of the island, it lies between two ancient city-kingdoms: Amathous to the east and Kourion to the west. The city developed after the destruction of Amathous by Richard the Lionheart in 1191. Many important antiquities as well as Byzantine and Frankish monuments are found in the city of Lemesos, evidence of its long history. Today, Lemesos is the island's main port, the centre of Cyprus' wine industry and a major tourist resort. The city is also known for its lively Carnival celebrations, the annual Wine Festival and the traditional, spontaneous hospitality of its inhabitants. In the nearby mountainous regions of the district, one finds beautiful wine producing villages, the relaxing mountain resort of Platres and the picturesque region of Pitsilia.



Lemesos Medieval Castle/Museum

*Richardou @ Berengarias, near the old port
T. +357 25305419*

Lemesos Castle was built in the 13th century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle near the old harbour. According to archaeological sources, the castle was much larger in its original form. The Venetians strengthened its walls to ward off pirates. Legend has it, that Richard the Lionheart, the King of England and leader of the 3rd Crusade, married Berengaria of Navarre here in 1191. In 1570 the Ottomans conquered the castle and used it as a garrison and jail. During the British rule it functioned as a police station and briefly as a detention centre. Today the castle houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum, whose exhibits include medieval pottery, superb silver Byzantine era plates, tombstones, weapons, crosses and coins.



Lemesos District Archaeological Museum



5, Anastasi Sioukri @ Vyronos, Near the Municipal Gardens, T. +357 25305157



Lemesos (Limassol) Old City Centre

Limassol's historical centre is spread around the medieval Castle and the Old Port. The city today has grown substantially, it has spread along the Mediterranean coast and it has extended much farther than castle and port. Its suburbs stretch along the coast, from Ancient Amathus, all the way out to Kourion Archaeological site.

The Lemesos Archaeological Museum houses a rich and notable collection of antiquities from the Neolithic age to the Roman period, originating from excavations at archaeological sites in the Lemesos region.

The exhibits are housed in three rooms and are divided into three main categories. The first room contains pottery from different historical periods; the middle room has coins, jewellery, clay oil lamps and a variety of copper tools and objects, while the third one has sculptures, tombstones, capitals, inscriptions and other marble and limestone artifacts. Exhibits include a variety of objects related to the cult of Aphrodite, such as fertility and other votive offerings and female terracotta figurines. The museum is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Agiou Andreou Pedestrian Street

To get a real feel of the city of Limassol, you have to pay a visit to Agiou Andreou Pedestrian Street. Start your walk from the old port and work your way up to the castle straight to Agiou Andreou Street, in order to end up in the historic city centre. Limassol has a surprise in store for you around every corner.



Cyprus Theatre Museum

8, Panos Solomonides Street, T. +357 25343464

The museum is housed in the Panos Solomonides Cultural Centre. Printed material, scale models, props, set and costume designs, as well as photographs and posters constitute the exhibits of the permanent collection of the Cyprus Theatre Museum, giving visitors the opportunity to explore the island's history of theatre.



Municipal Folk Art Museum



253, Agiou Andreou Street, T. +357 25362303

The renovated building housing the Municipal Museum showcases collections of 19th and 20th centuries Cypriot folk art. Over 500 exhibits are displayed in six rooms. These include interesting urban attire, traditional costumes, furniture, wood carvings, embroidery and jewellery. In 1988 the museum was awarded the "Europa Nostra" award.



Agia Napa Church

Agiou Andreou Street

The church was built towards the end of the 19th century, early 20th century, replacing an older 18th century church. It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. According to tradition it takes its name from an icon of the Virgin Mary, which was found in a glen (Napa in Latin means glen). Another source says that the church owes its name to a temple built in the Frankish period, dedicated to the Holy Nape of St. Berenice, known by the name of Saint Nape.



Sculpture Park

On the sea-front promenade

Sixteen sculptures made by local as well as foreign artists, are exhibited in the park. The works exhibited in the park, were produced during the sculpture symposiums held from 1999-2001.



Old Port

The fully transformed old port is adjacent to the Limassol marina. A quaint fishing harbour with small traditional boats, which is framed by an amazing recreational area, with cafes and high quality restaurants. It is the place to be to absorb and adopt the “limassolian” way of life.



Lemesos Municipal Art Gallery

103, 28 Octovriou Street, T. +357 25583383

The gallery contains collections of paintings of well-known contemporary Cypriot artists, among them Adamantios Diamantis, Christophoros Savva and Telemachos Kanthos.



Municipal and University Library of Lemesos

The construction of the Library's building began in 1919 and was completed in 1934. This impressive building was a result of the initiative of Antonis Pilavakis. He was an important merchant who lived in Lemesos and who went on holidays every year in Monaco. Greatly influenced by the architecture of the French Riviera, when he built his house, he requested the same architectural style as the one found so often in the residency areas of Monaco. Said building houses the public library of Lemesos since 1970.



| MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE |

Kebir Mosque (The Great Mosque)



At the intersection of Genethliou Mitella, Zig-Zag and Jami Street

Kebir Mosque was built in the 16th century and is still in use today. Excavations on the east side of the monument have revealed the architectural remains of the 10th century cathedral of Agia Ekaterini. The mosque is one of the most important places of worship for the Muslims of Lemesos.



Pattichion Municipal Museum Historical Archive

5, Lordou Vyronos Street, T. +357 25763756

The museum is housed in the old restored residence of the District Officer next to the Municipal Gardens. The philosophy behind the creation of the city's Archive is based on the exploitation of the written, visual and verbal material regarding the history and culture of Lemesos city from the 18th century onwards.



St. Catherine's Catholic Church

259, 28 Octovriou Street, T. +357 25362946

The church was built in 1879 by architect Friar Francesco da Monghidoro from Bologna, following the architectural style of similar buildings found throughout Europe during that period. He used a baroque style, for the interior whilst opting for an eclectic design on the exterior facade. The walls on the apse and its vault are decorated with neo-byzantine frescoes, which were repainted during renovations in 1979.



The Water Tower of Lemesos

The Water Tower is one of the few engineering monuments of Cyprus. It was originally built in 1931 during the British Rule, under the tenure of then Mayor Christodoulos Hadjipavlou by the English contractors Williamson - Pegkelei and Tsiro as a subcontractor. The cost came up to £9,000 British Pounds. The Tower holds a tank of 500 cubic meters, the tower's height is 40 meters and the tanks' diameter is 9 metres. It is made of iron steel and its thickness is 8 mm. The connections between the sheets of metal were made with iron nails for higher quality and durability.



The Old Carob Mill

Behind the Medieval Castle, T. +357 25820430

The Carob Mill was built in 1900, at a time when carobs were a major export product of Cyprus. They were used to make a wide variety of products such as photographic film plates, medicine, sweets and chocolates. 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. The Carob Mill area has been divided into a complex of two distinct areas: the first area consists of the restored Carob Mill and the second houses the Evagoras Lanitis Centre, an arts and exhibitions area.



was distributed to the city through stone pipes, which ended up at public, outdoor, stone & marble sinks and fountains.



Cyprus Historic & Classic Motor Museum

The museum opened in 2014 and it is the only automobile museum in Cyprus. The museum was founded by Mr. Dimi Mavropoulos, a veteran Rally racing champion of both International and Cypriot rally competitions alike.



Havouza

Saint George Havouza water reservoirs were the first construction made in Limassol in order to store and diffuse water to the city. It was built during the British Colonial times and it was pronounced an "ancient monument" in 1996. Havouza consists of two water reservoirs and it is located at a high point of the city. Water gathered in the reservoirs,



LEMESOS,
PLACES OF INTEREST
Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates



Greater Lemesos District Area

Kourion Archaeological Site



19km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos
T. +357 25934250



Kourion was an important city-kingdom in antiquity and one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Cyprus. The magnificent Greco-Roman theatre was built in the 2nd century BC and was extended during the 2nd century AD. Today the theatre has been completely restored and is used for musical and theatrical performances. Excavations have unearthed the “House of Eustolios”, originally a private villa, which during the Early Christian period was turned into a public recreation centre. It consists of a complex of baths and rooms with beautiful 5th century AD mosaic floors. The early Christian Basilica dates back to the 5th century AD and was probably the Cathedral of Kourion, with separate baptistery on the external northern side. The “House of Achilles” and the “House of the Gladiators” were named after their superb mosaic floors. Other parts of the site include private villas and an impressive Nymphaeum, dedicated to water nymphs. A wooden roof structure allows visitors to enjoy the site all year round. (The Stadium lies 1km to the west, on the right side of the road towards Pafos).

Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates

21km west of Lemesos, T. +357 99630238

Apollon Hylates, god of the forest, was the protector of Kourion. According to archaeological sources he was worshipped here from the 8th century BC up to the 4th century AD. His sanctuary was an important religious centre. It consisted of Apollo’s temple, which has been partly restored, pilgrim halls, the ‘palaistra’ (wrestling area), a bath complex, and a holy precinct.



Kolossi Medieval Castle

*14km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos,
T. +357 25934907*

Kolossi castle is a fine example of military architecture. It was originally built in the 13th century and rebuilt in its present form in the 15th century. After the fall of Acre in 1291 it served as the “Grand Commanderie” of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and in the 14th century came under the domain of the Knights Templar. During their stay in Cyprus, the Knights produced and exported a sweet wine, which became known as the “vin de Commanderie”. Today Commandaria wine is one of Cyprus’ traditional wines and one of the oldest named wines in the world, having had the same name for eight centuries. Next to the castle are the ruins of a 14th century sugar mill.



Kourion Archaeological Museum

*Episkopi village, 14km west of Lemesos,
4km before reaching Kourion site,
T. +357 25932453*

A traditional house with superb views over the bay of Agios Ermogenis houses the local Archaeological Museum of Kourion.

The exhibits consist of finds from the nearby archaeological sites and include red polished ware of the Early Bronze age, pottery and golden jewellery of the Mycenaean era and a large number of offerings from the nearby Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates.



Kourion Stadium

20km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos

Kourion stadium, with a capacity of 6000 spectators, is the only ancient stadium found in Cyprus. It dates back to the 2nd century AD. According to archaeological sources, ancient pentathlon events took place there.



Amathus Archaeological Site



11km east of Lemesos city centre, T. +357 25635226

Amathous is one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus where, according to mythology, Greek hero Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne



to be taken care of by local women. Amathous was an important site of worship of the goddess Aphrodite-Astarte. Archaeological finds originate from several tombs, one of which was found in the front entrance of the present Amathus hotel, others at the Acropolis and the lower section of the town, and in five early Christian Basilicas. The finds date from the Archaic period up to the Roman and Christian period. A pair of enormous stone vases, the largest ever discovered, were found here, one of which is now at the Louvre Museum in Paris. The site is also linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

The Cyprus Wine Museum

Erimi village, on the Lemesos-Pafos road

13km west of Lemesos, T. +357 25873808

The Wine Museum offers a unique opportunity to learn about the history of wine production in Cyprus. The various stages of wine production and consumption, as well as the various uses of wine, are shown through different presentations. Ancient jars and canisters, medieval drinking vessels, old documents and instruments illustrate the social, economic and symbolic aspects of wine production.



Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre

*Akrotiri village, 14km west of Lemesos
T. +357 25826562*

The Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre is situated at Akrotiri village. The primary purpose of the Centre is to promote the unique environmental and cultural significance of Akrotiri Peninsula through programmes and exhibits.



The facilities of the Centre consist of the following areas: exhibition and laboratory; projection and presentation room; library and study room; and a wildlife observation kiosk. It offers full equipment for the activities undertaken at the Centre and at the different outdoor study areas. The Akrotiri cultural trail starts from the Centre and passes through the community, from the houses where baskets are made and through other points of cultural interest. The facilities are also suitable for persons with impaired physical mobility.



Agios Nikolaos ton Gaton Convent (St. Nicholas of the Cats)

*On Cape Gata 15km west of Lemesos south east
of Akrotiri Salt Lake*

Agios Nikolaos ton Gaton (St. Nicholas of the Cats) is possibly the oldest monastery in Cyprus. The monastery chapel, which dates back to the 14th century, was abandoned in the 16th century and was reinstated by Orthodox nuns in the early 1980s. According to tradition, the monastery was founded by St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, who left a piece of wood from the Holy Cross there. During that period Cyprus experienced a severe drought, as a result of which many people fled from the Cape and the area became infested by snakes.

Then Constantine the Great sent a commander to Cyprus called Kalokeros, who released thousands of cats at the Cape in order to exterminate the snakes and thus save the area.



Kouris Valley

22,5km north of Lemesos

Kourris Valley, about 20 minutes from Lemesos, has a number of important Byzantine monuments such as the 12th century church of the Monastery of Panagia tis Amasgou, the church of Timios Stavros at Kouka village and the church of Archangelos at Monagri.

The vaulted church of the Monastery of Panagia tis Amasgou dates back to the 12th century and has a second roof made of wood and tiles.

The church has a series of frescoes dating back to the 12th, 14th and 16th centuries. Nowadays, the monastery functions as a convent.



The church of Archangelos at Monagri was built in 1740 over the foundations of an older monastery that had burned down. Of particular interest is the wood-carved iconostasis. The northern buildings of the monastery have been restored and turned into an art centre.

The church of Timios Stavros at Kouka possesses a superb example of Palaeologan art in a 14th century fresco.

Also worth visiting in the area is the picturesque village of Laneia, with its old wine press, the Commandaria Storage Museum and an old olive press.



Krasochoria (The Wine Villages)

The area, known as the “Krasochoria” (the Wine Villages) is located north of Lemesos, on the southern slopes of the Troodos mountain range. Traditional forms of viticulture are still kept alive in these villages. Wine production is still the main occupation for most of the inhabitants. Within the wine village region, one may find a number of local wine museums, well worth a visit. This is the area which produces the island’s renowned dry red wine.



Koilani Village

*37km north of Lemesos, Ecclesiastical Museum
To arrange a visit please call the Community Board,
T. +357 25471008*

Koilani is an attractive wine-producing village. On its outskirts, one can find the single-aisled vaulted church of Agia Mavri, dating back to the 12th century, with frescoes from the 15th century.

The Koilani Ecclesiastical Museum was created by the Holy Bishopric of Lemesos as a district branch of the larger Byzantine Museum being planned in the city itself. It houses a collection

of icons and ecclesiastical objects from the parish. The museum occupies a two room building in the courtyard of Panagia Eleousa church. The exhibits span a period of about seven centuries and include pieces of an iconostasis from 1735, icons dating from the 13th to the 19th centuries, sacred vessels and old books.

The museum of Viticulture is housed in a traditional village house. Viniculture equipment and items of folk art are on exhibit. In the yard, a large cauldron used for the preparation of the local beverage zivania can also be seen.



Arsos Village

40km north of Lemesos
Folk Art Museum. To arrange a visit please call
the Community Board, T. +357 25943223

Arsos is one of the largest wine producing villages of Cyprus. There are two versions as to where it derives its name from: one suggests it is the Holy Alsos (grove) of the goddess Aphrodite, where the village is built, whereas the other is that one of the four towns founded by Ptolemy Philadelphos in honour of Arsinoe. It has been associated with wine production since ancient times. Nowadays most inhabitants still make their own wine, while the village womenfolk have a reputation for the special dishes they prepare using wine.

The Folk Art Museum of Arsos is housed in a traditional house. Its exhibits present the village way of life.



Omodos Village

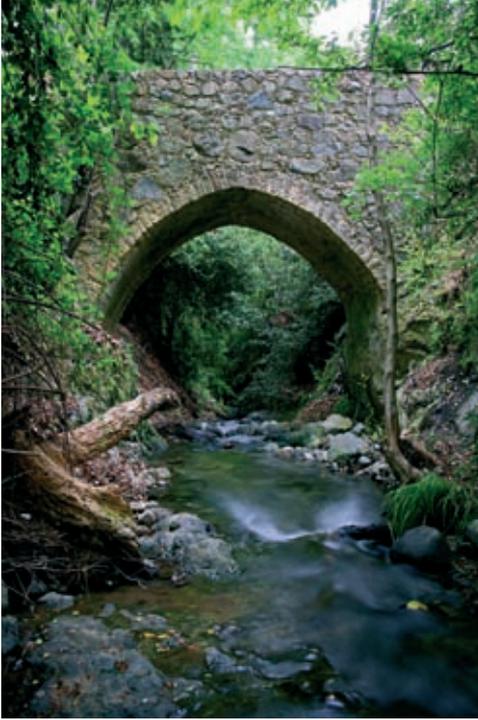
39km north of Lemesos, To arrange a visit please call
the Community Board, T. +357 25422453

The wine producing village of Omodos, built on the Troodos hillsides amidst expanses of vines, with its narrow cobbled streets and the majestic monastery in the village square, is one of the most picturesque villages in Cyprus.

Omodos was once the property of Sir John de Brie, Prince of Galilee, as was the Monastery of Stavros (Holy Cross), in the centre of the village. The monastery contains old icons, excellent wood carvings and other ecclesiastical objects of interest, as well as a small museum about the National Liberation Struggle of 1955-59, a centre for the preservation of narrow-knit lacing, a byzantine icons museum and a small folk art museum. An old wine-press “Linos” is at a short distance from the Monastery and is open to visitors.

Foini Village

42km north of Lemesos Pilavakieon Museum (Pottery), T. +357 25421545



Nestling in the heart of Troodos mountains amidst green and fragrant pines, is yet another picturesque village, that of Foini. According to tradition, the village was named after a Frankish lord, Juan de Fejniu or Feniu, while another says its name originates from the Greek word for palm tree “foinikas”. The village is renowned for its pottery, for the manufacture of traditional furniture and for the local “loukoumi” (delight).

The Pilavakeion, a private museum of folk art, displays examples of local pottery, traditional agricultural tools and kitchen utensils.



Vasa Village

38km north of Lemesos
To arrange a visit please call +357 25942634

Vasa is one of the most important wine producing villages of the region with over 40% of its agricultural land being allocated to viticulture. Some of the best red wines of the island are produced here. It is a picturesque village with cobbled streets and traditional architecture.

Interesting sites of the village include the Educational Museum, the Zivania (traditional alcoholic drink) Museum and the Ecclesiastical Museum which houses important icons and religious objects.



MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE |

Anogyra Village

39km west of Lemesos
To arrange a visit please call T. +357 25221496

Anogyra village with its cobbled streets, traditional houses and rich architectural heritage, remains the only village in Cyprus that is well known for its carobs and the traditional sweet delight “pasteli” made with carob syrup.

Interesting sites include the three Carob Museums, where visitors can observe the traditional process of pasteli-making step by step, as well as a small Folk Art Museum.

At the edge of the village lies the church of the abandoned monastery of Timios Stavros (Holy Cross), with its 15th century frescoes.

The church is built in the north-east corner of an early Christian Basilica, which was later divided into rooms and used as living quarters for the monastery.



Agia Anastasia Church

Polemidia village, 5km north of Lemesos

This is a complex of two churches. The older one, possibly dating back to the 12th century, is on the east side and it is a cross-in-square domed church. The second church on the west side was added in the 14th century and built in the same architectural style. The surviving frescoes date back to the 14th and 15th centuries.



Panagia Iamatiki Church

Arakapas Village, 20km east of Lemesos

The church of Panagia Iamatiki is situated on the outskirts of the village of Arakapas. It is a three-aisled wooden roofed church and contains sophisticated frescoes of the early 16th century that are amongst the most important surviving examples of the Italo - Byzantine style of art in Cyprus. An extraordinary leather icon of the Virgin (in the nearby new church) is believed to have special healing powers.



Agios Georgios Alamanos Convent

20km east of Lemesos

Originally founded as a monastery in the 12th century, today it functions as a convent. The nuns, besides performing their religious duties, spend their time doing icon painting, cultivating flowers and herbs and producing honey.





--- Did you know that Larnaka is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Cyprus, with its origins reaching back to the Pre-Neolithic period?

Larnaka may pride itself for its contribution to the island's rich cultural heritage

Larnaka

Larnaka may pride itself for its contribution to the island's rich cultural heritage. Built on the site where ancient Kition once stood, it is the successor of one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus and the seat of Christianity from its earliest years. Kition was the birthplace of Zeno, the Greek philosopher, who founded the Stoic school of thought, and the second home of Jesus' friend, Lazarus. The Achaean Greeks settled in the area in the 13th century BC, while Phoenicians moved here during the 9th century BC. In the 18th century AD, Larnaka became Cyprus' commercial centre, the place where all European consuls established their missions. The new city of Larnaka, has a charm of its own. In the winter months thousands of flamingos, wild swans and other migrating birds make their annual stopover at the nearby salt lake. The district of Larnaka has many interesting places to visit, particularly ancient, Byzantine and Muslim monuments, such as the renowned Hala Sultan Tekkesi and Saint Lazarus church.



Agios Lazaros Church and Ecclesiastical Museum



Plateia Agiou Lazarou

T. +357 24652498, +357 24620858

The magnificent 9th century stone church of Agios Lazaros was built by Byzantine Emperor Leo VI in the 9th century and was restored during the 17th century. The church is one of the most remarkable examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus.

Saint Lazarus came to Cyprus after being resurrected by Jesus, was ordained as Bishop of Kition by the Apostles Barnabas and Paul and lived here for 30 years. His tomb can be seen under the sanctuary. The iconostasis is a superb example of baroque woodcarving. Eight days before Easter a procession is held during which St. Lazarus' icon is carried through the streets of Larnaka. Next to the church is the Ecclesiastical Museum.



Hala Sultan Tekke



5km west of Larnaka city, on the road to Kiti village

The monument is located on the west bank of the Salt Lake and was erected over different phases, commencing from 1760 and completed in 1817. It is an important Islamic monument, one of the most revered sites in the Muslim world and it is used to this day for religious purposes. The mosque was built over the grave of Umm Haram or Ummó Haram, who was believed to be the sister of the Prophet Mohammed's foster mother or a follower from Medina to Cyprus in 647 or 649. Conservation works, aiming at preserving the monument, are being conducted by the Department of Antiquities on a systematic basis since 1967, involving the masonry, the wooden or other artistic elements.



Larnaka Salt Lake (Alikí)



Larnaka salt lake is one of the most important habitats in Europe for water fowl. Scores of flamingos, wild ducks and other water or shore fowl find refuge here in winter on their migratory journeys. Archaeological finds show that the salt lake area and that of the nearby mosque has been inhabited since the Neolithic age. Unearthed next to the Hala Sultan Tekkesi mosque, are the remains of a prehistoric harbour that served the nearby town in ancient times. The town was one of the largest urban and commercial centres of Cyprus during the Late Bronze age (1650-1050 BC). When the town was abandoned, the estuary silted up, the natural harbour was destroyed and the salt lake was formed. Salt was a valuable product of the lake, commercially exploited for many centuries. A nature trail has been created along the banks of the lake connecting the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Kition Archaeological Site



About 500m from the District Archaeological Museum, T. +357 24304115

The architectural ruins of the ancient citykingdom of Kition dating back to the 13th century BC were found here. Excavations have revealed cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of stone and a complex of five temples. Nearby lay the foundations of the ancient port of Kition, an important commercial centre of ancient Cyprus. The drawings of ships etched into the walls of buildings are particularly interesting. The site is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Larnaka District Archaeological Museum



Plateia Kalograion, T. +357 24304169

The museum collections consist mainly of finds from the main Neolithic settlements of Cyprus, Choirokoitia and Tenta, and of the ancient citykingdom of Kition. Faience, ivory and alabaster artifacts are evidence of the commercial and international relations between Cyprus and the regions of the Eastern Mediterranean. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Closed for renovation, for further updates please refer to the following websites: www.visitcyprus.com, www.mcw.gov.cy



The Pierides Foundation Archaeological Museum



4, Zinonos Kitieos Street, T. +357 24814555

The Pierides Museum is the oldest private museum in Cyprus. It is housed in the ancestral Pierides family home which is a colonial style building that dates back to 1815. The museum's comprehensive collection was assembled by the Pierides family and includes some of the most representative items of the island's civilisation. It charts its economic, social and cultural development over thousands of years. The objects on display date from 4000 BC up to the 15th century AD and are an important



testimony to a centuries old civilisation that flourished in Cyprus. Prized items in the collection is the red polished ware pottery of the Early Bronze Age, the Roman glassware and the medieval ceramic dishes. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Larnaka Fort District Medieval Museum

Leoforos Athinon, Larnaka seafront
T. +357 24304576

Originally built during the Middle Ages, the Fort took its present form during the Ottoman rule. After the end of the Ottoman rule in Cyprus, the British converted it into a prison, during the first years of their rule. Today the Fort houses the District Medieval Museum, whose collection covers 15 centuries of history, from the early Christian period up to the 19th century. The open-air courtyard is used by the Larnaka Municipality, especially during the summer months for various functions.



Kamares Aqueduct

Kamares area on the road to Lemesos

This beautiful 18th century aqueduct consisting of a series of arches gave the area its name. It was built in 1746 by the Turkish governor of Larnaka, Bekir Pasha, who funded it out of his own resources to carry water to Larnaka from a source about 10km away. The aqueduct was abandoned in 1939, its function was replaced by a modern piping system.



Palm Trees Promenade - 'Foinikoudes'

Larnaka's most infamous promenade 'Foinikoudes' is a pedestrian walk way along the coast which stretches from "Europe Square" up to Larnaka Medieval Castle showcasing its signature palm trees alongside the beach. These "famous" palm trees were planted in the 1920s and have become a landmark of the city. Many festivities and cultural events take place in "Foinikoudes" either at its central square or at the seafront stage.



Kebir (Buyuk) Mosque

Leoforos Athinon, opposite Larnaka Fort

The Kebir (Buyuk) mosque is probably the first Ottoman mosque in Cyprus. It was originally a catholic church dedicated to St. Catherine in the 13th 14th centuries, before being converted into a mosque. The oldest reference of its existence is found in a 1747 document of Bekir Pasha, creator of the Larnaka aqueduct, where it is specified that a public fountain there should receive water from his aqueduct. The fountain can still be found outside the mosque today.



Cross and was turned into a mosque during the Ottoman Rule of 1571 up to 1878. The minaret is built over the foundations of the original bell tower. Opposite this mosque there is a Venetian period public water fountain.

Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre



Leoforos Athinon, Plateia Evropis. Opposite the Marina

Five old British colonial-style warehouses, part of the old Larnaka Customs houses, have been renovated and now make up the city's Municipal Cultural Centre. The Centre houses the Municipal Gallery and the Municipal Historical Archives - Museum of Larnaka.



MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE

Tusla Mosque

Situated in the old part of town, behind the ruins of ancient Kition, Tusla Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Larnaka. Its history goes back to Byzantine times. The mosque was originally a Byzantine orthodox church, as is evident by the frescoes inside the building. In the 12th or 13th century the building became known as the Catholic Church of the Holy



Larnaka Municipal Gallery

T. +357 24658848

The galleries display works of art made by Cypriot artists.

Municipal Historical Archives - Museum of Larnaka (B)

T. +357 24658848

The Municipal Historical Archives - Museum of Larnaka is housed in the restored residence and offices of the first colonial Port Master of Larnaka, built in 1881. It is situated next

to the warehouses. The Museum of Larnaka is on the ground floor and its exhibits feature the history of the town of Larnaka. A large collection of coins from the city kingdom of Kition of the late 6th century BC and photographs of the city from 1850 onwards, are among the most interesting exhibits. The Municipal Historical Archives which consist of rare books, documents and articles are situated on the second floor and are accessible only to researchers.



Agios Georgios Makris Chapel

This stone-built chapel of Agios Georgios dates back to the 13th century. It is built on a hill overlooking the salt lake.



Terra Santa Catholic Church

8, Terra Santa Street, T. +357 24642858

Terra Santa is the church of the Latin community of Larnaka. Franciscan monk Callixte Martel founded the church and the convent in 1596, mainly to house Latin pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. In 1724 a larger church and convent replaced the original buildings, which in turn were demolished in 1842 to be replaced by the present church structures. The architectural style of the convent combines Renaissance and Baroque characteristics. It is also known as Santa Maria delle Grazie.



Zachouri Mosque

The Zachouri Mosque lies between the Kebir (Buyuk) Mosque and the Church of Agios Lazaros on Nicolaou Roussou street. It was built in the middle of the 19th century and is an important muslim religious centre.

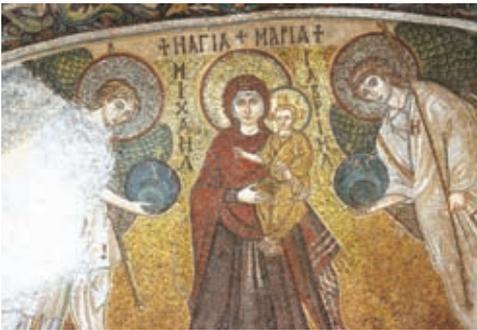


Greater Larnaka District Area

Angeloktisti Church

*Kiti village, 7 Km west of Larnaka city
T. +357 24424646*

This 11th century Byzantine church was erected over the ruins of an Early Christian Basilica. The original apse of the Basilica has survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a rare 6th century mosaic depicting Virgin Mary and Child between the two archangels Michael and Gabriel. It is a rare work of art, equaling the mosaics of Ravenna-Italy. Only in Cyprus and in Mount Sinai, have mosaics from that period been found. Similar mosaics are those from the church of Panagia Kanakaria in the occupied village of Lythragkomi, now on display in the Byzantine Museum of Lefkosia.



Choirokoitia Archaeological Site



AUDIO GUIDES
for your own history - Cyprus

32km from Larnaka or 48km south of Lefkosia on the Lefkosia-Lemesos motorway, T. +357 24322710

The archaeological site of Choirokoitia has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998. It is a well preserved settlement of the Neolithic Age. Remains from all phases of the Neolithic Age are evident in the settlement, providing an insight on the living conditions of the region during prehistoric times. Five characteristic

cylindrical shaped dwellings have been reconstructed near the settlement, using the same construction methods and materials used in Neolithic times. They are fitted with replicas of household objects found inside the originals, thus providing a vivid representation of how they appeared in antiquity. The vegetation around the dwellings consists of plant species and native trees that have grown in Cyprus since Neolithic times.



Kalavassos - Tenta Archaeological Site

40km from Larnaka, 2.5 km off the Lefkosia - Lemesos motorway

The Neolithic Age settlement of Tenta is situated at a short distance from Kalavassos village. It dates back to 7000 BC. The settlement is covered by a characteristic cone-shaped roof, which forms a contemporary architectural intervention in the natural landscape.



Environmental Information Centre of Larnaka Mountainous Area

Skarinou village, T. +357 24 322020

The Environmental Information Centre is located in the village of Skarinou, just off the Lefkosia-Lemesos highway, thus providing easy access from all over Cyprus. The Centre covers a total of 18 communities and its main objective is to educate and inform visitors about the significance of the natural environment and major cultural elements of Larnakas' mountainous area.



Lefkara Village

40km from Larnaka off the Lefkosia - Lemesos road at Skarinou

Lefkara is a picturesque village known for its lace, the famous "lefkaritika" and for its silverware. Legend has it that Leonardo da Vinci himself came here and bought an altar cloth made of the traditional lace, which he later donated



to the cathedral of Milan. The village maintains its traditional architecture with its picturesque stone houses.

Interesting sites of the village include the following:

T. +357 24342326

1. The Museum of Folk Art Embroidery and Silversmithing housed in the restored Patsalos residence. Exhibits include examples of traditional Lefkara lace.

7, Agiou Georgiou, Pano Lefkara

T. +357 99646115, +357 24342422

2. The Handicraft Centre of Lefkara was founded with the aim of preserving, developing and continuing the tradition of Lefkara embroidery and silversmithing.
3. The Church of the Holy Cross is situated in the centre of the village. It has a beautiful 18th century icon-stand and a unique 13th century silver cross.
4. The church of the Archangel Michael, in Kato (lower) Lefkara, is a single-aisled domed church with frescoes dating from the 12th and 15th century.







LARNAKA,
PLACES OF INTEREST

Panagia Aggeloktisti church



Kato Drys Village

38km west of Larnaka
T. +357 24342648, +357 24342833

Kato Drys is the birthplace of Agios Neofytos, who was born in 1134. Of interest are the church of Agios Charalambos, built in 1897 and the 16th century church of Panagia, which has been restored. Many buildings exhibit rural architecture, with suspended balconies, as well as doors and windows carved in relief.

The Rural Museum (House of Gavriel and Eleni Papachristoforou) is housed in a restored building with remarkable woodwork, a prime example of local 19th century architecture.



Vavla Village

Panagia tis Agapis was built in 1935 over the ruins of a small 16th century chapel. Although the church is relatively new, the icon of Panagia tis Agapis (Virgin Mary of Love), dates back to the 16th century. There is no other church in the world nor icon with the name of Panagia tis Agapis.



Stavrovouni Monastery

40km west of Larnaka, 22km west of Lefkara
T. +357 22533630

Stavrovouni Monastery is perched on a rocky peak 750m above sea level. Legend has it that it was founded in the 4th century by Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, who left a relic of the Holy Cross at the monastery. The monks have strict rules like those at Mount Athos in Greece. Women may not enter the monastery. An impressive ceremony and festival is held here on the 14th of September, the day of the Raising of the Holy Cross. The monastery of Agia Varvara on the foothills of Stavrovouni is accessible to all visitors. The monks here are known for their iconography skills.



Chapelle Royale

Pyrga village, 35km south of Lefkosia and 21km from Larnaka, T. +357 22532811

The chapel was built in 1421 by the Lusignan King Janus, who is depicted in a fresco together with his wife, Charlotte de Bourbon, on the eastern facade.



MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE |

Agios Effimianos Church

*Replicas: Kornos area, below Stavrovouni Monastery
27km northwest of Larnaka*

*Original Paintings: Cultural Centre of the Archbishop
Makarios III Foundation Archbishopric grounds
Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou, T. +357 22430008*

The Byzantine church of Agios Effimianos is situated in the occupied village of Lysi. Its frescoes date back to the 14th century. After the Turkish invasion they were removed from the church, smuggled and sold abroad. They were traced in Munich. The Cyprus government and the Menil Foundation (USA) bought them back and agreed that they would be exhibited in Houston for 15 years, prior to them being returned to the island. The Lysi villagers built this new church along the lines of the old one. Replicas of the famous frescoes from the dome and apse are kept in its basement. In March 2012, the original frescoes were repatriated and are now exhibited in the Byzantine Museum of Lefkosia.



Agios Minas Convent

Near Vavla, 39km from Larnaka, T. +357 24342952



The convent dates back to the 15th century. It is a mixture of Byzantine and Gothic architecture. On the north and south walls there are two large frescoes of Agios Georgios and Agios Minas dating back to 1757. The nuns here, in addition to their religious duties, practice icon painting.

Agios Georgios Arperas Church

Tersefanou village, 13,5km west of Larnaka

The church of Agios Georgios Arperas is situated about 2km from the village of Tersefanou, where once stood the medieval village of Arpera. The church was built by the dragoman Christofakis Konstantinou in 1745 and has a fresco depicting himself and his family as founders. The church contains many icons signed by the painter Ioannikios.



Agios Antonios Church

Kellia village, 10km north of Larnaka

Is one of the most important Byzantine churches of Cyprus, possibly dating back to the 9th century. It is a three-aisled vaulted Basilica which once had a dome. It contains significant frescoes from the 9th, 11th and 13th centuries.





----- Did you know that Pafos is the only city in Cyprus that has kept the same name since antiquity and that Homer refers to the temple of Aphrodite at Palaipafos in his epic poem, the *Odyssey*?



Pafos (Paphos)

*The entire town
of ancient Pafos
is a serial
archaeological
property*

The entire town of ancient Pafos is a serial archaeological property that consists three different parts: Kato Pafos with the famous mosaics, Kouklia with the temple of Aphrodite and the Necropolis with the Tafoi ton Vasileon (Tombs of the Kings). All three sites compose ancient Pafos which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Numerous archaeological sites can be seen from the centre of the modern town, down to its picturesque harbour, as well as all along the coast. It is out of the seas of Pafos that Aphrodite, Greek Olympian goddess of Love and Beauty is said to have risen, and it was in Pafos that the worship of the goddess flourished. Pafos was the capital of Cyprus for a long period of time in antiquity. Today it is a charming town in the west of Cyprus.

The charm of the goddess can still be felt throughout the area. The Pafos region is surrounded by a beautiful coastline. Inland and in the mountainous regions lay superb monasteries and tranquil villages, where old traditions and customs have been kept alive since time immemorial.

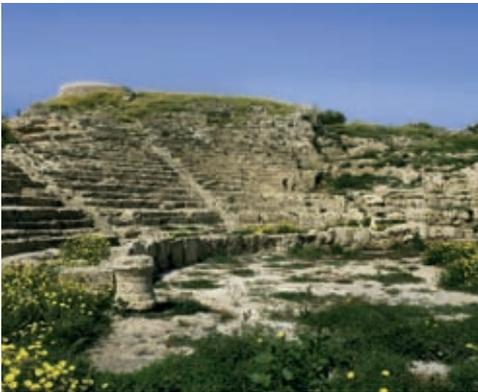


Kato Pafos Archaeological Park



Kato Pafos, near the harbour, T. +357 26306217

The inclusion of the Kato Pafos archaeological site in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1980, was the starting point for the creation of a General Plan, whose aim would be primarily to protect and maintain the archaeological remains, as well as to promote and provide comprehensive information to visitors about them. Kato Pafos archaeological Park includes sites and monuments from the 4th century B.C. up to the Middle Ages, while most remains date back to the Roman period. The marvellous mosaic floors of four Roman villas, form the impressive epicentre of the finds. The complex includes other important monuments, such as the Asklepieion, the Odeon, the Agora, the “Saranta Kolones” (Forty Columns) Fortress, the “Limeniotissa” Ruins of the early Christian Basilica and the “Tombs of the Kings”.



1. Mosaics

House of Dionysos, House of Theseus, House of Aeon, House of Orpheus. The mosaic floors of these Houses, date from the 2nd to the 5th centuries AD. The first house was discovered accidentally by a farmer in 1962. The villas belonged to noblemen

and the mosaics are considered among the finest in the Eastern Mediterranean. They depict scenes from Greek mythology and are considered masterpieces of mosaic art. Some of the mosaics at the House of Dionysos depict the god of wine, while that of Theseus depicts the classical Greek mythology hero brandishing a club against the Minotaur. The mosaics are linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



2. Pafos Odeon

The Pafos Odeon is a small 2nd century AD odeon built entirely of well-hewn limestone blocks. It is now used regularly for musical and theatrical performances. Nearby are the remains of the ancient city walls, the Asklepieion, a building dedicated to Asklepios, god of medicine, and the Roman Agora.



3. Saranta Kolones (Forty Columns) Fortress

This Frankish castle was built by the Lusignans in the early 13th century on top of a previous Byzantine castle and was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222.



4. **“Limeniotissa” Ruins of an Early Christian Basilica**

The Basilica dates back to the Early Christian period possibly to the beginning of the 5th century. It originally comprised of three aisles divided by two rows of marble columns, a single apse, a narthex and an atrium. The floors were paved with brilliantly coloured mosaics in geometric patterns. The Basilica was destroyed during the Arab raids of the 7th century and a smaller version of it was rebuilt in the 10th century. Finally, it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1159.

5. **Ancient Theatre-Pafos**

It is located in the northeastern part of the ancient city, on the slopes of the so-called “Fabrica” hill. The construction of the theatre dates back to the founding of the city, but it went through alterations and its original layout changed during the Roman period. It seems that the theatre continued to be in use until the 5th century A.D.



Medieval Fort of Pafos



Harbour-Kato Pafos

It was originally built during the Byzantine era to protect the harbour. The fort was rebuilt later on by the Lusignans in the 13th century, but was dismantled by the Venetians. It was rebuilt by the Ottomans in the 16th century when they conquered the island.

Tombs of the Kings



Kato Pafos, T. +357 26306295

The “Tombs of the Kings” are one of the major archaeological attractions of Pafos. These monumental underground tombs carved out of solid rock, date back to the 3rd century BC and some are decorated with Doric pillars. High ranking officials rather than Kings were buried here, but the magnificence of the tombs gave the location its current name.



Early Christian Basilica-St. Paul's Pillar-Chrysolitissa/Agia Kyriaki Church

Kato Pafos

The church was built in the 13th century over the ruins of the largest Early Byzantine Basilica on the island. St. Paul's Pillar is situated in the church courtyard, where according to legend the Apostle was flogged before converting the then Roman governor Sergius Paulus to Christianity.



Pafos District Archaeological Museum



43, Leoforos Georgiou Griva Digeni
T. +357 26955801/2

The Pafos District Archaeological Museum houses a collection of finds from the Pafos area dating from the Neolithic Age up to 1700 AD. Of special interest are a set of surgical instruments and a rare sculpture of warrior Aphrodite. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route. Closed for renovation, for further updates please refer to the following websites: www.visitcyprus.com, www.mcw.gov.cy.

Pafos Town/Ktima

A beautiful area in the heart of the city, with lovely squares encircled by early 20th century neoclassic buildings, that house the Municipal Library of Pafos, the Town Hall, the Demetrios Elementary School and the Iacovion Gymnasium, to name a few. Although these buildings were constructed during the British Rule in Cyprus, their facades and their overall architectural style is of the neoclassic type, reminiscent of ancient Greek temples, with columns topped with capitals decorating the entrance of each building.



MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE |

Byzantine Museum

At Agia Paraskevi church square in Geroskipou (see page 81)

The Byzantine Museum of Pafos has an important collection of artifacts from the Byzantine period, including icons that date from the 7th to the 18th centuries. In addition to icons, exhibits include wood carvings, ecclesiastical works of metallurgy, sacerdotal vestments and embroideries, manuscripts, old printed books and frescoes. The museum houses one of the oldest icons found in Cyprus, that of Agia Marina, dating back to the 7th or 8th century.



Ethnographical Museum

1, Exo Vrasis Street, T. +357 26932010

The Ethnographical Museum is a private museum belonging to the Eliades family. It consists of a collection of objects from the Neolithic Age to present day, including a collection of coins.



“Loutra” - Ottoman Hamam (Baths)

Near the old market place

The Ottoman baths operated up until the 1950's. They consist of a stone vaulted building with three areas: a reception area, an intermediate area and the main baths. The building has now been restored and is used as the Pafos Municipality cultural centre.



Agia Solomoni Christian Catacomb

Leoforos Agiou Pavlou, Kato Pafos

A small underground complex of chamber tombs from the Hellenistic period, which has been called the Chapel of the Seven Sleepers, or the Seven Maccabees, to which almost every medieval pilgrim paid a visit. The complex was first used as a Christian catacomb in the 2nd century and may have served as a synagogue before that. It has 12th century frescoes and among them, carved into the plaster are the names of 13th century Crusaders. A “sacred” tree grows above the catacomb, which according to tradition, is believed to cure whoever hangs a personal votive offering on its branches.





PAFOS,
PLACES OF INTEREST
Petra tou Romiou



Theoskepasti Church

Kato Pafos

According to folklore, the church was named “Theoskepasti”, meaning “veiled by God”, because God sent down a cloud of Fog to protect the original church during the Arab raids. The new church was built in 1923.



Pafos Municipal Gallery

*7, Gladstonos Street
T. +357 26932014, +357 26822270*

The Gallery exhibits a total of 43 works of art of local artists. One of the first mansions in the city, which was built in the early 20th century, houses the Pafos Municipal Gallery. This is one of the first two-storey buildings of the era, with characteristic arches and an internal courtyard. The Gallery houses an important art collection, by artists who were either born or chose Pafos as an inspiring place and as a residence.



Greater Pafos District Area

“Petra Tou Romiou” - Birthplace Of Aphrodite



AUDIO GUIDES
with your own voice & speed

Pafos - Lemesos motorway, 25km from Pafos



Cyprus is renowned as the island of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. The “Petra tou Romiou” area is one of the most beautiful coastlines in Cyprus, where, according to mythology, Aphrodite rose from the waves. The Greek name, “Petra tou Romiou” (“the Rock of the Greek”) is associated with the legendary Byzantine hero, Digenis Akritas, who according to legend, kept the marauding Saracen Arabs (7th-10th centuries) at bay with his super human strength. With one hand he was said to have

grabbed hold of the Kyreneia mountain range thereby forming “Pentadaktylos”, the Five Finger Mountain, while with the other hand he heaved a huge rock and tossed it into the sea at the Saracens who were trying to dock. It is believed that said rock is the one found in this location thus giving the area its name. The site is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Sanctuary of Aphrodite and Palaipafos Museum



Kouklia village, 14km east of Pafos on the Pafos-Lemesos road, T. +357 26432155

Palaipafos was one of the most celebrated pilgrimage centres of the classical Greek world and one of the city-kingdoms of Cyprus in antiquity. Here lie the ruins of the famous sanctuary of Aphrodite, whose remains date back to the 12th century BC. The sanctuary remained a place of worship until the 3rd or 4th century AD. The museum is housed in a nearby Lusignan manor. It houses impressive finds from the region, dating from the Chalcolithic Age up to the Middle Ages. It portrays how the cult of the goddess of fertility developed into the cult of Aphrodite. Excavations are continuing at the sanctuary, as well as in and around the ruins of the town and the necropolis. The sanctuary is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Agia Paraskevi Church

One of the most interesting and beautiful Byzantine churches in Cyprus. It dates back to the 9th century and is a three-aisled fivedomed Basilica. Its frescoes date from the 9th up to the 15th century.



Geroskipou Village



3km east of Pafos

The name Geroskipou derives from the classical Greek “Hieros Kipos” meaning “Sacred garden”. It is believed that in ancient times it used to be an extensive area of beautiful gardens, dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite. Today the gardens have been replaced by the modern village renowned for its “Cyprus delights” sweets. Geroskipou is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Folk Art Museum

T. +357 26306216

The museum is housed in the 18th century “house of Hadjismith”. It carries a rich collection of Cypriot folk art and crafts consisting of pottery, kilims and scarves, as well as tools used in silk production. The building is named after Sir Sidney Smith, a British Admiral, who appointed the owner of the house, Andreas Zimboulaki, as British consul. Thus the house came to be referred to as “the house of Hadjismith”.



Agios Neofytos Monastery

9km north of Pafos, T. +357 26652481

Founded circa 1200 by Cypriot recluse and writer Neofytos. The 'Enkleistra', a cave that the hermit carved inside the mountains, is covered with some of the finest examples of Byzantine frescoes that date back to the 12th and 15th centuries. The monastery has a noteworthy ecclesiastical museum. The monastery's church contains some of the finest Post Byzantine icons dating back to the 16th century.



Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery

37km northeast of Pafos, T. +357 26722455/7

Set in beautiful surroundings, the Monastery of Chrysorrogiatissa is dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate'. It was founded in 1152 by monk Ignatios who found a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary off the shore of Pafos. Legend has it that it was thrown into the sea in Asia Minor during the iconoclastic period

and drifted in the sea to Pafos. The present building dates to 1770. An impressive religious ceremony is held here on August 15th, which is the Dormition Day of Virgin Mary. The monastery's Icon Depository includes an important collection of icons, religious objects and artifacts. The monastery's old winery produces some of the best vintage wines on the island.



Pano Panagia Village

35km northeast of Pafos

The village of Pano Panagia is the birthplace of the late Archbishop Makarios III, first President of the Republic of Cyprus. His humble house has been converted into a museum.



Weaving Museum

*Fyti village, 27km northeast of Pafos,
T. +357 99824544, +357 26732782*

Fyti village has been known for its own special style of weaving since medieval times. The textiles made in the village are known as “Fithkiotika” and stand out for their variety in design and for their rich colours. Examples of such textiles are exhibited in the museum where one can also observe how they are made.



Panagia tou Sinti Monastery



Near Pentalia village 31km northeast of Pafos

It is an abandoned monastery on the banks of the Xeros river. The central nave of the monastery, dating back to the 16th century is in good condition and is considered one of the most important buildings of the Venetian period. In 1997 it received the “Europa Nostra” award for restoration and conservation.



Panagia Chryseleousa Church

Polemi village, 18km northeast of Pafos

A complex of two churches, the oldest of which is a domed cross-in-square type building possibly of the 12th century. In the 18th century a barrel-vaulted church was added, which houses excellent surviving icons dating back to the 16th century.



Church of Panagia Chryseleousa

Empa village, 3km north of Pafos

A combination of two churches, the eastern part of which was built in the 12th century, possibly over the ruins of an Early Christian Basilica, as a cruciform church with a dome. An extension to the west was built later on, during the 13th century with the addition of a new cruciform with a dome. Rare 12th, 13th, 15th and 16th centuries frescoes survive in the interior of the church.



Pre - Historic Settlement of Lemba



Lemba village 5km north of Pafos

Excavations in the village of Lemba have brought to life an important settlement of the Chalcolithic Age. Near the site, replicas of five houses from this period have been reconstructed using the same materials and the same building methods that were used in Chalcolithic times (3900-2500 BC). The Chalcolithic settlement site is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Archaeological Site of Maa Paleokastro - Museum

Coral Bay, 9km from Pafos, T. +357 97883968

The archaeological site is a small settlement dating back to the 12th century BC, the end of the Late Bronze age. According to archeologists, the settlement has been termed a “colony” of the first Achaean (Mycenaean) Greeks who migrated to Cyprus circa 1200 BC, after the fall of the Mycenaean Kingdoms in mainland Greece. This small museum with its unusual architecture was designed by Andrea Bruno, a prominent architect, Professor at the University of Turin. The museum depicts the colonisation of the island by the Greeks.



Agios Georgios Basilicas - Pegeia

Pegeia village 11km north of Pafos

Approximately 4.5km from the village of Pegeia, near the fishing shelter, lay the ruins of two early Christian Basilicas with very interesting mosaic floors depicting animals. This must have been the site of an important early Christian settlement. Nearby are rock-hewn tombs of the Roman period.



Pegeia Fountains

The picturesque “Pegeia fountains” of which many folk songs have been sung, can be seen in the pretty cobbled square of the village.



| MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE |

The Steni Museum of Village Life

40km northeast of Pafos
T. +357 99625004, +357 26352143

The Museum is dedicated to all those men, women and children who lived in Steni Village during the difficult and challenging years from the day of its creation to the end of the Second World War. A weaving on the loom scene, a ploughing scene, tools and equipment, handicrafts, kitchenware, pots and jars, traditional clothing, are some of the exhibits of this village museum.



Choulou Village

22km northeast of Pafos

During the Middle Ages it was a well-known feudal village, associated with the popular Cypriot folk song, ‘Arodafnousa’. Significant churches of the village are the Church of the Panagia Pantanassa with 16th century frescoes, the Byzantine chapel of Agios Georgios and the 12th century chapel of Agios Theodoros.



Agios Kirykos and Agia Ioulitti Church

Letymvou village, 16km northeast of Pafos

A cross-in-square domed church dating back to the 12th century, with many later additions, especially from the 15th century. It has a few surviving fragments of frescoes dating to the 12th century, the majority of which date back to the 15th century.



Episkopi Environmental Information Centre

Episkopi village, T. +357 26642234

The Episkopi Environmental Information Centre is located on the boundaries of Episkopi village in Pafos. The Exhibit Hall provides information about the geology, flora and fauna of the area by using high quality photographic material, touch screens, dioramas and micro dioramas. The Centre is surrounded by a botanical garden where the significant plants of the area are organised in thematic groups (endemics, bulbs, rare plants).



Polis

37km north of Pafos

The small town of Polis is the location where once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion, an important commercial centre of the Classical and Hellenistic periods, with close ties to Athens. During the Hellenistic-Roman periods, Marion was renamed Arsinoe. Polis has become a popular sea-side resort with a noteworthy traditional centre that maintains its beauty and many of its traditional buildings.



1. Agios Andronikos church

This is a 16th century vaulted church in the middle of Polis with frescoes of the same period. During the Ottoman period this church was turned into a mosque. A northern annex was added to it and the frescoes were covered up. These have recently been uncovered. Other churches in the region include the 16th century church of Agia Aikaterini in the village of Kritou Tera, as well as the 15th century church of Panagia Horteni in the village of Pelathousa.



2. Polis Archaeological Museum Marion/Arsinoe

T. +357 26322955

The museum consists of an interesting collection of antiquities discovered in the region where once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion-Arsinoe. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



“Baths of Aphrodite” - Akamas



Akamas region near Polis, 48km north of Pafos

The northwestern peninsula of Cyprus, known as Akamas, is a wild uninhabited region with spectacular landscapes and beaches, due to be designated a National Park. The area is named after Akamantas, an Athenian warrior and son of Theseus, who arrived here after the Trojan War. It is a unique area of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. Almost all the geological formations of Cyprus are met here, from narrow deep valleys, caves and islets to gorges, and there are over 500 different types of plants. The nature trails that cross the peninsula pass through unspoiled areas of rough beauty. The area is ideal for hiking, cycling, diving and swimming in crystal clear waters.

The “Baths of Aphrodite” is an area in Akamas between Polis and Cape Arnaouti. It derived its name from a small grotto shaded by an old fig tree, in the waters of which, legend has it, the goddess Aphrodite used to bathe. According to mythology, this is where she met her lover Adonis. The site is on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Byzantine Museum of Arsinoe

Arsinoe Bishopric, Peristerona village 44km north of Pafos, 9km south east of Polis, T. +357 26352515

The museum is situated at the Holy Bishopric of Arsinoe. It houses one of the largest collections of icons dating from the 13th to the 19th centuries, wood carved ecclesiastic items, local and imported silver and metal artifacts, as well as local textiles. Rare books and manuscripts are also on display.



Kato Pyrgos

About 100km from Pafos



Kato Pyrgos is a small village in the Tylliria area, north of Pafos, lying on the roots of the Troodos mountain range, with a stunning view of the sea. Kato Pyrgos is one of the few villages left in Cyprus where the natural environment remains virtually untouched and maintains its natural beauty. It is an ideal spot for fishing and hiking. Rich in history and culture, Kato Pyrgos hosts many monuments, chapels and churches. Especially interesting is the chapel of Virgin Mary “Galoktisti”, built using milk instead of water, around the 12th and 14th centuries.



Did you know that the geological formation of Cape Gkreko dates back to the Upper Cretaceous period, 84 to 75 million years ago?

Golden sandy beaches abound on the eastern coast of Cyprus, in the free part of the Ammochostos area

Ammochostos (Famagusta)

Golden sandy beaches abound on the eastern coast of Cyprus, in the free part of the Ammochostos area. The popular holiday resorts of Agia Napa and Paralimni-Protaras are a true paradise for sea lovers, watersports and night life. But there is more to the area. Inland one can also admire a number of Byzantine and Frankish monuments and museums. The magical landscape was an inspiration to Greek Nobel poet laureate, George Seferis. Sights worth seeing include the medieval monastery at the centre of Agia Napa, the hundreds of windmills in the sprawling fields and the many Byzantine churches in the Paralimni- Protaras region and in the surrounding villages.

The region is the main potato-producing area on the island and is known as Kokkinochoria, meaning “red soil villages”, thanks to their fertile red soil. The villages of this area are equally renowned for their folk poets and traditional song performers, who are regarded as the most inspired on the island.



Agia Napa Monastery



This imposing medieval monastery, dedicated to “Our Lady of the Forests”, stands in the middle of Agia Napa surrounded by a high wall enclosure. Its 16th century church is partially underground, carved into the rock. An ancient sycamore tree, believed to be over 600 years old, grows in front of the south gate.



“Thalassa” Agia Napa Municipal Museum

14, Kriou Nerou Street, T. +357 23816366



The “Thalassa” Municipal Museum’s main purpose is to present to its visitors the impact and the significance of the sea upon the history of the island. The exhibits of the museum cover a chronological span, from the paleontological to historic periods until present times. Among the exhibits are bones and skulls of Cypriot pygmy mammals, a 4th Century BC Greek trading vessel, the original of which was found off the coast of Kyreneia, as well as Cypriot antiquities and stuffed marine life animals.

Makronisos Archaeological Site

The Makronisos archaeological site is a Hellenistic and Roman Period cemetery, which consists of 19 underground tombs. They all have a rectangular trench in the middle, slightly lower than the floor and three benches at the sides of the chamber.



Agia Napa Sculpture Park/Park of Mediterranean Plants, Cacti and Succulents

Located at the crossroads of Cape Gkreko and Kriou Nerou Avenue, the sculpture park and its adjoining cacti park offer a beautiful setting for a stroll with stunning, panoramic views. The sculpture park consists of a large collection of works by over 180 artists from

around the world and The Park of Mediterranean Plants, Cacti and Succulents is an ongoing project to showcase the various cacti and dry plant varieties of the island.



Cape Gkreko National Park



It is believed that a temple dedicated to Aphrodite once existed in the Cape Gkreko area. Cape Gkreko National Park is an area of unique natural beauty, where one can admire magnificent cliff formations. Many of the 50 different orchid species growing on the island are found here, as well as crocuses and lilies. The local nature trail links the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Sea Caves (Cape Gkreko)

The sea caves along the coastline of Agia Napa all the way round Cape Gkreko National Park are very popular for snorkelling, fishing and even cliff diving if you're brave enough. Crystal clear waters all around this rock strewn coast line and plenty of chances of some caving when tides are low.



Paralimni

After the city of Ammochostos was occupied by Turkish troops in 1974, this small township became the temporary administrative centre of the district. It has an interesting two-aisled church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which is decorated with unusual 18th century porcelain plates. Sections of the church that date back to the 13th century house a small ecclesiastical museum. There is a number of other interesting churches in the wider Paralimni area.



Traditional House in Paralimni

The Traditional House in Paralimni was built during the early 19th century. It was renovated in 2010. It consists of 6 rooms and a big yard. It houses exhibits that depict the traditional rural way of life of Cyprus during the 19th century. All the exhibited items are associated with the inhabitant's everyday life, so one may see farming tools, traditional house hold items and furniture.



Open Air Traditional Folk Art Museum

Located opposite the Old Traditional Residence the Open Air Traditional Folk Art Museum showcases traditional professions in its exhibition rooms, including that of furniture and shoe maker, carpenter, tailor, blacksmith, builder, barber, sculptor, fisherman and farmer, amongst others.



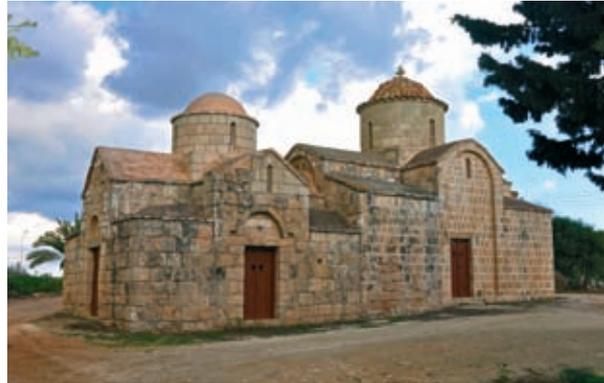
Deryneia Folk Art Museum

2, Demetri Liperti Street, T. +357 23740353

Deryneia Folk Art 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.



Sotira Village



Sotira was an important village in Byzantine times. There are five interesting Byzantine churches in the village, particularly as regards to their architecture and beautiful wall structure. The church of Agios Mamas is situated on the eastern side of the village and was built in the early 16th century. Most of its frescoes also date back to the 16th century. About one kilometre to the west, stands the cruciform church of Panagia Chordakion, the church

of Agios Georgios Chordakion and the church of Agios Theodoros (of which only the narthex survives). In the centre of the village stands the church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour (13th - 16th century) with excellent examples of post - Comnenian art (early 13th century).

Ecclesiastical Museum

9km north of Agia Napa, To arrange a visit please call +357 23823932

An old chapel of Agios Georgios 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.



Liopetri Village

13km west of Agia Napa

In the village of Liopetri there is a 16th century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and only one 15th century church of Agios Andronikos with an octagonal dome and the remains of frescoes which can still be detected in the apse. Liopetri has an ongoing tradition in basket weaving. A barn near the centre of the village was the location of a long battle against British troops on September 2nd 1958. This is now one of the most revered memorials of the 1955-59 Liberation Struggle.

Potamos Liopetriou

15km west of Agia Napa

The estuary of Potamos is a picturesque fishing shelter. The remains of a Venetian period watch-tower are also nearby. Arthur Rimbaud, the French poet whose work influenced the surrealists (1854-1891) worked in this area in the early 1880s.



Avgorou Village

20km north west of Agia Napa



Avgorou has many Byzantine and Post Byzantine churches. The main church of the village is dedicated to Saints Peter

and Paul. In the interior of the church, there 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 back to 1629. Other churches include the chapel of Agios Georgios and the chapel of Agios Georgios Teratsiotis.

Ethnographic Museum

52, Leoforos Karyon, T. +357 2392334

The Avgorou Ethnographic Museum is situated in an old two storey house. Its exhibits depict the way of life of past generations in the area.



Xylofagou Village

14km west of Agia Napa

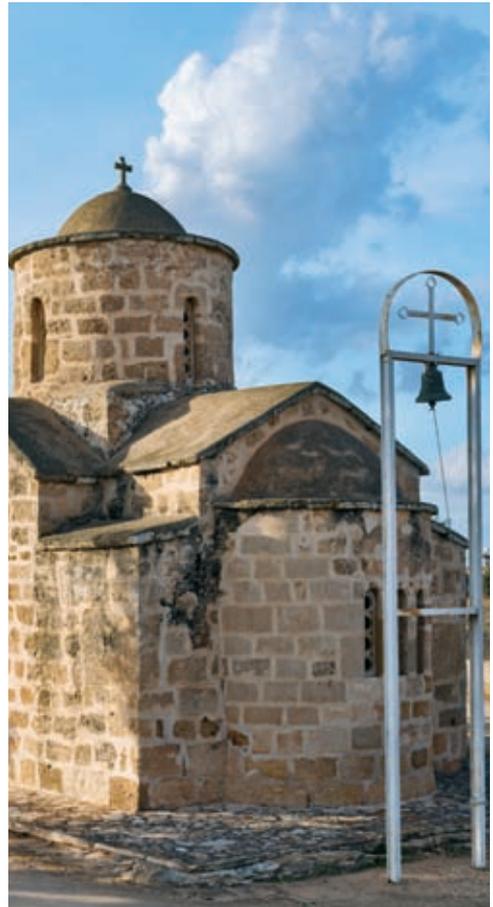


The village church of Agios Georgios was built and decorated in the late 15th century. A new iconostasis was built in 1770 and later on the church was turned into a monastery. The Annunciation scene and the Nativity scene are amongst the church's most important frescoes.

Frenaros Village

12km north west of Agia Napa

The village of Frenaros has a number of small Byzantine churches, such as the churches of the Archangelos Michael and of Agios Andronikos, which date back to the 12th century. Also of interest is the 15th century church of Agia Marina, containing frescoes, painted by various artists. Only a few of the frescoes can still be seen.







Did you know that the internationally known ophiolite complex of Troodos, is one out of only a few in the world, that has undergone extensive scientific research in order to get a better understanding on the formation of the ocean crust?



Troodos

Ten Byzantine period churches found on Troodos mountain are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Ten Byzantine period churches found on Troodos mountain are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Stavros tou Agiasmati at Platanistasa, Panagia tou Araka at Lagoudera, Timios Stavros at Pelendri, Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis at Kakopetria, Panagia Podithou at Galata, Panagia Asinou at Nikitari, Agios Ioannis Lampadistis at Kalopanagiotis, Panagia at Moutoullas, Archangelos Michael at Pedoulas and Metamorfosis tou Sotiros at Palaichori.

Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Monastery



Stavros tou Agiasmati Church - Platanistasa Village



48km southwest of Lefkosia, 15km from Agros, 30km off the Lefkosia - Astromeritis road, turning left before Peristerona village (Orounta-Kato Moni-Platanistasa)
T. +357 22652090, +357 99677216

About 3km outside the village of Platanistasa one can find the renowned church of Stavros tou Agiasmati, a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. It retains the most complete cycles of frescoes of the second half of the 15th century.



the churches of Asinou and of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, are considered to be the most important Byzantine period churches on the island. Visitors may ask the priest from the nearby monastery to open the church and escort them inside in order to admire the frescoes.



Panagia tou Araka Church - Lagoudera Village



56km southwest of Lefkosia, 15km from Agros village or off the Kakopetria- Troodos-Limassol road (Karvounas junction), T. +357 99557369

The 12th century church of Panagia tou Araka is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. It contains some of the finest frescoes of the late Comnenian style (1192), comparable to those prevailing throughout Greece, the Balkans and Russia. The church along with

Timios Stavros Church - Pelendri Village



42,5km north of Lemesos, of Trimiklini - Lemesos road
T. +357 99909393

The village of Pelendri was once the property of Jean de Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugh IV. There are two interesting churches in the village. One is the 14th century church of Timios Stavros with superb frescoes of the Palaeologan and of other periods. It is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Panagia Podithou Church - Galata Village



58km southwest of Lefkosia, To arrange a visit please call +357 99671776, +357 99720918

Nearby is the church of Panagia Podithou, which once belonged to a monastery. It was built in 1502. Its frescoes are of the Italo-Byzantine style, which appeared on the island towards the end of the 15th century. The church is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis Church - Kakopetria Village



5km from Kakopetria village
T. +357 99484423, +357 22922583

The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis (St. Nicholas of the Roof) stands about 2.5km from Kakopetria. It once belonged to a monastery complex. It is entirely covered with frescoes dating from the 11th to the 17th centuries and it is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. It derives its name from its pitched wooden roof. The church is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Panagia Asinou Church - Nikitari Village



48km west of Lefkosia, Nikitari village
T. +357 99830329, +357 22852534

The Panagia Asinou Church is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is a small church dedicated to the Virgin of "Phorbia", with frescoes dating from the 12th to the 17th centuries, which are considered to be some of the finest on the island. The name comes from an 11th century BC Greek city called Asine.



Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Church - Kalopanagiotis Village



69km from Lefkosia, T. +357 22953460



The picturesque village of Kalopanagiotis is known for its healthy sulphur springs and for the church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis.

The Church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis and Byzantine Museum

Originally a monastery, today's church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis is a complex of three churches: Agios Irakleidios, Agios Ioannis

Lampadistis and a Latin chapel - all under a single pitched roof. The church is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The church of Agios Irakleidios was built in the 11th century while its frescoes date back to the 13th and 16th centuries. The templon is particularly interesting, covered with gargoyles, including a heraldic Lusignan lion and a Byzantine eagle.

The church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis was built in 1731. The saint's tomb, which dates back to the 12th century, can be found under the narrow northeastern arch whereas the saint's skull lies in a niche. The icon of Lampadistis dates back to 1543. A very interesting Byzantine museum can be seen near the church. The Latin Chapel contains the most complete series of Italo-Byzantine frescoes in Cyprus.

Panagia Church - Moutoullas Village



73,5km from Lefkosia, To arrange a visit please call T. +357 97733480, +357 22952677

The tiny 13th century chapel of Panagia tou Moutoulla has a steep-pitched wooden roof and frescoes dating back to 1280. It is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. The village of Moutoullas is also known for its ongoing tradition of carved wooden basins.



Archangelos Michael Church - Pedoulas Village



T. +357 99112352

The painted church of the Archangelos Michael is situated in the lowest part of the village. It is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site and dates back to 1474. It has a pitched wooden roof typical of the Troodos churches. The frescoes are of the local post-Byzantine style that developed prior to the Venetian rule.



Metamorfosis tou Sotiros Church - Palaichori Village



T. +357 99974230, +357 99793362

A listed UNESCO World Heritage Site, the church is an early 16th century chapel on the hill overlooking the village. Its interior is completely painted with one of the most accomplished series of frescoes of the post-Byzantine period.



Byzantine Route



Visit the famous Byzantine churches of Cyprus, with their rare icons and superb frescoes. Ten of these churches are listed UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Scattered throughout the Troodos mountain regions of Marathasa, Solea and Pitsilia, and set in beautiful surroundings amongst pine trees and aromatic shrubs, they are bound to impress you.

Pitsilia

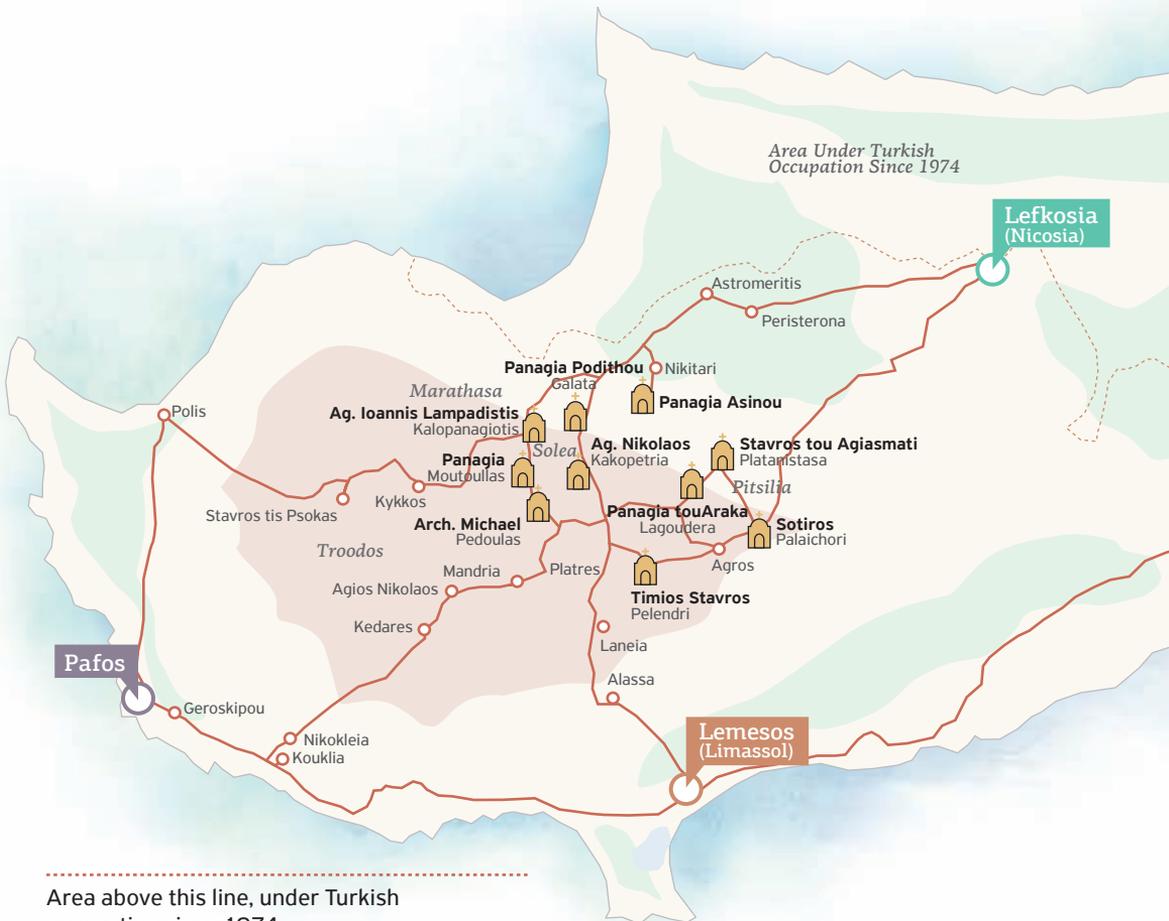
1. Stavros tou Agiasmati - Platanistasa Village
2. Metamorfosis tou Sotiros - Palaichori Village
3. Timios Stavros - Pelendri Village
4. Panagia tou Araka - Lagoudera Village

Solea

5. Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis - Kakopetria Village
6. Panagia Podithou - Galata Village
7. Panagia Asinou - Nikitari Village

Marathasa

8. Agios Ioannis Lampadistis - Kalopanagiotis Village
9. Panagia - Moutoullas Village
10. Archangel Michael - Pedoulas Village



Area above this line, under Turkish occupation since 1974

Troodos Region

The imposing Troodos mountain range raises its highest peak to 1952m above sea level and stretches across most of the southern and western part of Cyprus. This tranquil region provides a cool refuge for long walks in the summer amongst idyllic pine forests and aromatic shrubs. During the winter months, partial snowfall, especially at mount Olympus, the tallest peak of Troodos range, offers an opportunity for skiing and for other winter sports.

Nestled in the Troodos mountains are some of the most beautiful hill resorts of the island, with mountain streams, Byzantine monasteries and picturesque villages built on terraced hillsides. The Troodos area has been renowned since antiquity for its rich mines. In Byzantine times it became a centre for art, as monks and ordinary citizens built churches and monasteries far from the Arab raid threatened coastal areas. The Cyprus Tourism offices, in cooperation with the Forestry Department, has issued a publication with information on various nature trail options, many of which are found in the Troodos area. Besides the Machairas region to the east and the Troodos massif region surrounding the tallest peak of Mount Olympos (1952m), there are four other distinct regions of Troodos mountain range, each with its own character and charm. These regions are the Pitsilia area to the east of Mount Olympos, the Solea Valley to the north, the Marathasa Valley to the west and the Krasochoria region to the south (the northwestern part of Limassol district).

Troodos Visitor Centre Environmental Information

42km north of Lemesos, Troodos Visitor Centre (Environmental Information) Plateia Troodos (Troodos square), T. +357 25420145

The Troodos Visitor Centre is situated 200m west of Troodos square. It is the first of its kind in Cyprus and provides information about the Troodos National Park, its importance in the development of the region, the various facilities and activities available, as well as information about the mountains natural environment in general. The Centre has a reception area with information on the geology and on the flora and fauna of the Troodos mountain range. A nature trail where one can see various plants and rock formations typically found in the region is linked to the building.



Troodos Geopark

*Amiantos village
T. +357 22952043, +357 22952004*

The Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre is located in the old Asbestos mine (Amiantos mine), an area with enormous historical value which now hosts an extraordinary botanical garden with information about the flora of the area, a seed bank of endemic species and also a plethora of evidence of the past mining activity and the community which once flourished there. The Geopark Visitor Centre is housed in the newly restored elementary

school of the abandoned mine. The building is an example of fine architecture with historical characteristics and features.



Botanical Gardens in Amiantos

Following Theophrastus' example who is considered the father of botanical science the Cyprus Forestry Department has created Troodos Botanical Garden in Amiantos village. It is located within the boundaries of the old Amiantos (asbestos) mine by "Karvounas" - Troodos road, at an altitude of 1400 metres. The area is included in the "Natura 2000" network of protected areas of Cyprus and it is also a member of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). It is one of three botanic gardens established by the Department of Forests in Cyprus; the other two are located at Athalassa



(Nicosia) and Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite). The botanic garden was inaugurated by the Department of Forests in 2004 and it is still in the process of enriching the area with new flora species, as well as various sections and services. Around 250 species of flora can be found today at the Garden, one may see common, rare and also endangered flora species.

Platres Village/Resort

37km north west of Lemesos

Platres village is the largest and most stylish mountain resort in the Lemesos district, a popular place for excursions and a refuge from the intense summer heat. The beauty of the area was immortalised in a poem by the Greek Nobel laureate George Seferis. Mesa Potamos monastery, near Platres is situated in an idyllic area with a small waterfall and it's one of the many attractions of the area.



Waterfalls

Millomeris Waterfall

Millomeris Waterfall, just a kilometre away from Platres, is a 15 metre high waterfall with easy access. If you want a light walk with a waterfall view at the end, start from Platres and walk for about a kilometre through nature and end up at Millomeris. If you want an even

easier way of access, just walk down a flight of stairs and end up at the waterfall straight away; gurgling waters and green scenery will be there to welcome you.



Kalidonia Waterfall

Kalidonia Waterfall is situated close to Platres village and it is a 12 metre high waterfall. Surrounded by lush green vegetation, in the heart of the forest, it is truly a sight to see. You can access the waterfall via a linear nature trail that leads to it, either descending from Platres towards the waterfall, either making your way to it uphill. You have to be in good shape to tackle this nature trail and see the waterfalls; however there is a shortcut, a twenty minute walk through Aedonion Street, by the trout farm in Pano Platres.



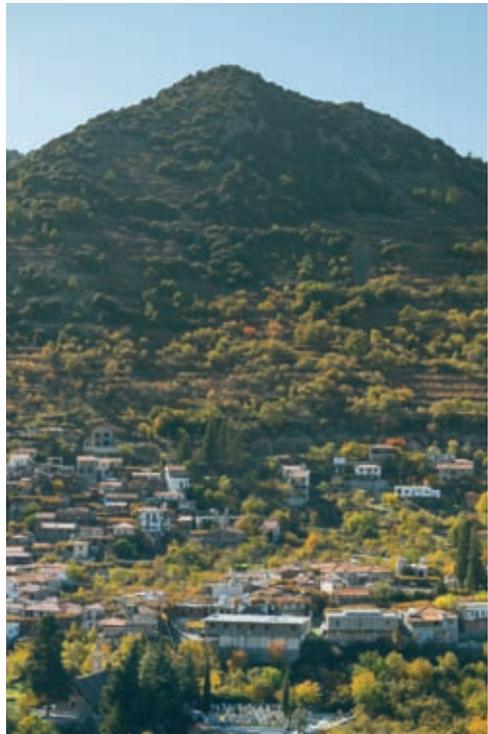
Pelendri Village

The church of Panagia Katholiki in the middle of the village, which dates back to the early 16th century. Has frescoes of the Italo-Byzantine style.



Pitsilia

26km north of Lemesos



The region east of Mount Olympus is known as Pitsilia and includes about 40 villages. Its tallest peaks are Madari (1612m) and Papoutsia (1554m). The picturesque villages nestle on the mountain side amidst vineyards, or are hidden in valleys, maintaining much of their traditional charm. The surrounding hills and valleys are full of vines, almond, hazelnut, walnut and other types of fruit trees. The changing landscape, the variety of shapes and colours, the old churches and chapels and the warm hospitality of the local inhabitants, make the Pitsilia region one of the most beautiful parts of Cyprus. The Pitsilia area is accessible either from Lemesos, or from Lefkosia.

From Lemesos: Lemesos - Gerasa - Agios Theodoros - Agros road or Lemesos - Trimiklini - Pelendri - Agros road.

From Lefkosia: Lefkosia - Palaichori - Agros road or Lefkosia - Kakopetria - Karvounas - Kyperounta road.

Louvaras Village

*39km from Lemesos via Gerasa, Agios Theodoros road
To arrange a visit please call T. +357 99318832*

In the village centre, one can find the small church of Agios Mamas that was built in 1455 and was decorated with frescoes signed by the artist Philippos Goul. An old olive press, which was recently restored, can be seen at a short distance from the church.



Agros Village

39km from Lemesos via Gerasa, Agios Theodoros road

Agros is in the heart of the Pitsilia region situated in a beautiful valley with a dry climate and cool springs. The village was given its name by forty monks who came to Cyprus from Asia Minor during the iconoclastic period and named it after the place they had left behind, 'Megas Agros'. A 9th century monastery was built by monks from Constantinople, where the 19th century Byzantine style church of Panagia Eleousa stands today. Agros, also has an icon museum. The village is renowned for its traditional products such as aromatic rosewater, 'hiromeri' (smoked ham), 'loukanika' (spicy smoked sausages) and 'lountza' (smoked pork fillet).



Kyperounta Village

*70km from Lefkosia, T. +357 99409041,
To arrange a visit please call T. +357 25813204*

The church of Timios Stavros (Church of the Holy Cross) houses the ecclesiastical museum which contains icons and religious objects belonging to the village churches. It also has a garden with local plants and herbs.



Palaichori Village

45km from Lefkosia on the Lefkosia - Agros - Lemesos road 15km from Agros village

As its name implies ('palaio' means old), this is a very old village. The village is mentioned in 13th century documents and it is believed the King of Cyprus Henry II gave it to the Knights Templars. Even today some of the surnames of the inhabitants have Latin roots. The 16th century church of Panagia Chrysopantanassa has marvelous frescoes.

Also worth a visit are the Liberation Struggle Museum in a house, which was once a hide-out for 1955-59 EOKA fighters, as well as the Monument dedicated to the Cypriot Mother which overlooks the region. The village is famous for its smoked ham and spicy sausages.

Byzantine Heritage Museum

T. +357 99974230, +357 99793362

The museum is housed in a restored building. It exhibits Byzantine artifacts and icons from the churches of Palaichori and nearby villages. The exhibits date from the 12th up to the 17th centuries. They include silver and bronze works, wood-carving and textiles.



Spilia Village

68km southwest of Lefkosia

Olive press

It is a single-room, stone building with a pitched roof, restored by the Department of Antiquities in 1995. The 19th century wooden olive press machine, as well as the stone olive mill and its millstones are in very good condition. Tools for producing olive oil are displayed inside.

Visitors may ask for the entrance key from the "Association of Expatriates and Friends of Spilia-Kourdali" building, found next to the olive press.



Kourdali Village

68,5km southwest of Lefkosia

The Church of Panagia Chrysokourdaliotissa

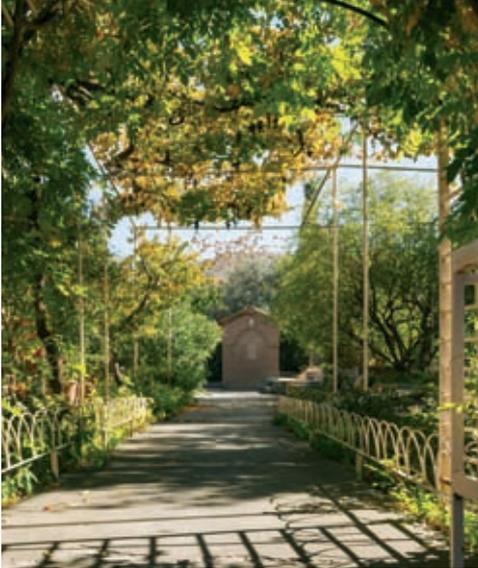
It is a three-aisled church with a steep pitched roof and flat roof tiles. It was built in the 16th century as the chapel of a monastery dedicated to the Virgin Mary and founded by deacon Ioannis Kourdalis, according to its foundation stone. The frescoes are from the same period, with western influences.

The iconostasis is a beautiful example of 16th and 17th century woodcarving, with icons from the same period. Excellent examples of wood carving make up the old church pews, dating back to the 16th century.



Solea Valley

The beautiful valley of Solea is situated along the main Lefkosia - Troodos road (56km from Lefkosia, 56km from Lemesos via Kato Amiantos).



The picturesque mountain villages of Galata and Kakopetria are popular hillside resorts with a range of hotels and restaurants, but they also retain much of their traditional architecture. Both villages are famous for their Byzantine churches. Other charming villages in the area are Evrychou, Flasou and Korakou.

Kakopetria Village

58km southwest of Lefkosia

Kakopetria is a popular hill resort with a beautiful central square and many traditional houses that have been restored. A particularly picturesque part of the village has been declared a conservation area, thus old houses have been carefully restored or reconstructed. The small 16th century church of Panagia Theotokos still retains about half of its original frescoes. The same applies to the church of Agios Georgios Perachorititis, to the north of the village dating back to the early 16th century.



Galata Village

58km southwest of Lefkosia, To arrange a visit please call T. +357 99671776, +357 99720918

There are three painted churches in and around the village of Galata:

1. The church of the Archangelos Michael, or Panagia Theotokos, is a timber-roofed chapel, just below the village, painted in the post-Byzantine style of the early 16th century.



2. The church of Agios Sozomenos, which stands in the middle of the old village, dates back to the early 16th century and retains a complete series of frescoes of the post-Byzantine style.
3. The small church of Agia Paraskevi on the old Kakopetria-Galata road has frescoes dating back to 1514.

Another interesting place worth a visit is the old Inn, “the Hani Kalliana”, which has been restored.



Evrychou Village

Cyprus Railways Museum

The Cyprus Railways Museum is housed in the old Railway station near Evrychou village, in the Troodos mountains. Original



documents, drawings, photos and various objects related to the Cyprus railways are exhibited in the Museum Rooms. At the rear side of the Museum the platform and a part of the track have been reconstructed using the original rails. A hand pump track used for the inspection of the line and a freight wagon are exhibited in the yard.

Marathasa Valley

Marathasa is a fertile valley, known for its cherry trees, situated on the northern slopes of the Troodos range. It is dotted with picturesque villages, such as Kalopanagiotis, Moutoullas and Pedoulas. It can be reached from the north along the Lefkosia-Evrychou-Troodos road and from the south along the Lemesos-Platres- Prodrornos road.

Pedoulas Village

78km southwest of Lefkosia

Pedoulas is a hill resort renowned for its cherries. In the village one can visit the Church of the Archangelos Michael, the Byzantine Museum and the Folk Art Museum.

Byzantine Museum

T. +357 22953636

Pedoulas Byzantine museum is located a few metres away from the church. It was established to house and preserve icons and artifacts dating back to the 12th century. All the exhibits come from churches from within the region.

Folk Art Museum

T. +357 22952140, +357 22952629

The Folk Art Museum exhibits depict the way of life, customs, traditions and history of the Marathasa village communities. On view are traditional rural objects, such as local dresses, wood-carved furniture and other household and agricultural objects.



Kykkos Monastery and Museum



91km southwest of Lefkosia, 13km from the village of Pedoulas, T. +357 22942742

The best-known and richest monastery of Cyprus, is Kykkos Monastery founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It possesses one of three surviving icons ascribed to Saint Luke. It is covered in silver gilt, enclosed in a shrine of tortoise shell and mother-of-pearl, and stands in front of the iconostasis. The museum is an integral part of the monastery and houses a priceless collection of icons, consecrated vessels, manuscripts and Cypriot antiquities.

The first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III served as a novice here. At his wish, he was buried at Throni, a scenic location 3km west of the monastery.

Annual religious fairs (panigiria) are held on August 15th and September 8th at Kykkos square outside the Monastery.



Trooditissa Monastery

42km southwest of Lemesos, 5km northwest of Platres resort

Trooditissa Monastery is situated in a beautiful spot among pine trees. It was originally founded in the 13th century, but the present church was built in 1731. The church contains a priceless silver-leaf covered icon of the Virgin Mary brought from Asia Minor. The monastery is closed to the public.



Aphrodite Cultural Route Map



Follow in the footsteps of Aphrodite, the mythological Olympian goddess of love and beauty and protectress of Cyprus. The route focuses on the archaeological sites dedicated to the ancient cult of Aphrodite and includes Palaipafos (Kouklia), Amathous and Kition. There are quite a few links 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, her character, the rituals connected with her cult, as well as plants and seashells associated with her.



Area above this line, under Turkish occupation since 1974

Road Network



Wine Route Map

All seven Wine Routes have special road signs to assist your trip!

1. Laona-Akamas

Beautiful locations and beaches, picturesque villages with rich cultural and wine traditions.

2. Vouni Panagias-Ampelitis

Panoramic route through mountainous terrain with an endless choice of local wines.

3. Diarizos valley

Idyllic expedition to the natural beauties of a relatively 'unknown', yet rich in vineyards, route.

4. Krasochoria of Lemesos

Well known wine villages, each with its own character, all with remarkable winemaking tradition.

5. Commandaria

Known and unknown corners that preserve the legend of the island's most notable wine.

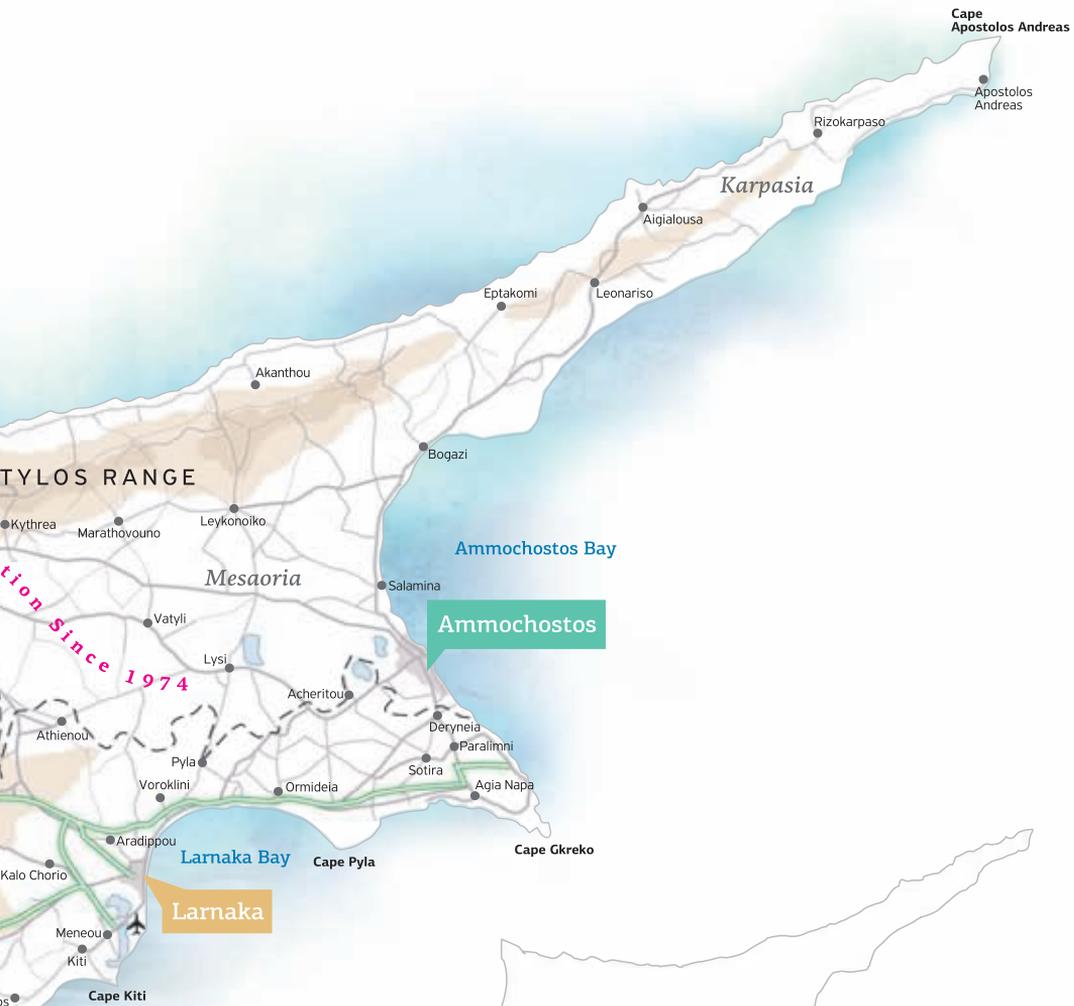
6. Pitsilia

Beautiful scenery along with excellent wine.

7. Mountainous Larnaka-Lefkosia

Superb locations with living traditions.







The Deputy Ministry of Tourism in its efforts to best accommodate all kinds of tourists, especially the ones who do not travel in organised groups, has introduced Audio Guides for several archaeological sites and other places of interest. The Audio Guides are downloadable from Deputy Ministry of Tourism's website (www.visitcyprus.com) and can be uploaded to any device supporting mp3s (mobile phones, ipod etc).

Every effort has been made in the production of this publication, for the inclusion of accurate and valid information at the time of print.

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Cyprus

11 000
years
of history
and civilisation



DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TOURISM

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