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DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TOURISM REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



A GUIDE TO THE CITY







Larnaka (Larnaca) is the third-largest urban area in Cyprus, with a metropolitan population of 155,000. The city is located on the southern coast of the island and is built around a charming old town. Larnaka is a place where contrasts come together in harmony. Its diversity can be seen in the religious centres, the cuisine and the entertainment. Most of the popular sights and facilities are all within walking distance. Larnaka is also a popular hub for travelling to and exploring other regions of the island, since most destinations are reachable within a two-hour journey.

# Arriving at Larnaka by plane

Cyprus' biggest international airport is located just minutes from Larnaka, therefore the city is easily accessible from abroad. Bus No. 425 (Direction Airport) connects the Airport with the town

## Arriving at Larnaka on a cruise ship

Larnaka also has a port, which is situated just 1,2 km from the city centre. From the Larnaka port operate cruises to neighboring countries and many international cruise liners include Larnaka in their East Mediterranean itineraries. You can reach the city centre by bus or taxi, however it is accessible also on foot (15 minutes' walk). Bus No. 425 (Direction Dhekelia) connects the Port with the town centre and the tourist area that expands to the east.

# Larnaka – most interesting historical facts

Larnaka is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Modern day Larnaka is built upon the ruins of the ancient City-Kingdom of Kition, the birthplace of the Stoic philosopher Zenon. The ancient kingdom was established by the Mycenaeans in the 13th century BC. Around the 10th century BC, Kition was destroyed and rebuilt by the Phoenicians and it subsequently adopted many elements of the Phoenician culture. Kition was conquered by a series of great powers of the region like the Assyrians and the Egyptians and like most Cypriot cities Kition came to be part of the Persian Empire. In 450 BC Kimon, the famous Athenian general, laid siege to the city of Kition, during which he died of a wound or illness. However, his death was kept secret from the Athenian army, who kept its moral high and subsequently won an important victory over the Persians under his 'command' at the Battle of Salamis-in-Cyprus. The victory was attributed to the dead Kimon, and to this day the phrase "He won even in his death" survives for great accomplishments.

During the middle Ages, until the end of the 18th century, the port-anchorage close to Larnaka Bay is referred to as Scala (meaning "ladder" or "landing stage"). From here the salt produced from the Larnaka salt lake, was exported. The current name Larnaka derives from the Greek word larnax which means sarcophagus due to the fact than numerous sarcophaguses were discovered in the area.

### Useful Information

Larnaka's International Airport and Port are connected with the Larnaka has an intense Mediterranean climate with a hot, dry for each route. For intercity buses please visit: https://intercity-buses.com/en/

Just outside the airport and port passenger areas, private taxis offer service on a 24hour basis. Taxis must have taximeters and the charge commences from the minute the passengers board the

city centre with buses and private taxis. The ticket costs €1.50 summer which begins in mid-May and lasts until mid-Septembe and with a rainy, but very moderate winter from November until mid-March. Spring and autumn are very brief periods, characterised by very good weather. The duration of the day, with a very clear sky and sunshine throughout the year, ranges from 9.8 ours in December to 14.5 hours in June

> The temperature during the day in summer ranges between 22 and 36 degrees Celsius, while in winter it ranges between 1 and 18 degrees Celsius depending on the altitude of the area. The sea emperature is approximately 15.5 degrees Celsius in winter and 24 degrees Celsius in August and September so swimming is

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yprus Public Transport:	1416	First Aid	112
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olice Station	112/199	Pharmacies (all night / all day)	90901414
re Station	112	Larnaka Tourist Information Office	24654322

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











# **Explore the City**

While exploring the city... There are plenty of statues, busts and monuments that adorn the city, however look out for those ones that have the Storytelling Statues logo and a QR **code**. Scan the QR code to receive a call-back on your smart device and hear each statue, recount its story in English and gain a fascinating insight into the personalities and events that shaped Larnaka region's long and rich history.

#### 1. Foinikoudes (Palm Trees) Promenade

Foinikoides is the city's most popular and oldest seafront promenade. It stretches from Europe's Square to the Medieval Castle and is lined with palm trees, planted in the 1920s. On one side of the promenade stretches an organized Blue Flag beach with fine brown-beige sands, calm and shallow waters, which is ideal for families. Facilities include sunbeds and umbrellas (for a fee). On the other side there is a plethora of food and drink outlets to meet all tastes and budgets, from fast-food franchises and light bites, to cafes and elegant restaurants. Free WiFi is available along the entire strip and on the beach.



#### 2. Europe Square

Five old British colonial-style warehouses, part of the old Larnaka Customs houses, are situated at the square. The buildings have been fully restored and today house the city's Municipal Art Gallery and Historical Archives. The Seafront Stages at the Foinikoudes beach and Europe Square are both used for cultural events, bazaars and markets, as well as hosting sporting events.



#### 3. Larnaka Castle/ District Medieval Museum

Located at the west end of the Foinikoudes promenade, the Medieval Castle of Larnaka (Larnaca) (also referred to as Larnaka Fort) is believed to have been originally built during the Middle Ages, and took its present form during the Ottoman rule. After the end of the Ottoman rule in Cyprus, the British converted it into a prison. Today, the castle houses the small Larnaka Medieval Museum across three rooms, and exhibits artefacts from the Early Christian period (4th-7th centuries) to the Ottoman period (18th-19th century).



#### 4. Agios Lazaros Church and the Ecclesiastical Museum

Not far from the Castle towards the city's centre stands the magnificent 9th century stone church of Agios Lazaros (St. **Lazarus)**, which was restored during the 17th century. It is one of the most remarkable examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus and its iconostasis is a superb example of baroque woodcarving. Lazarus was risen from the dead by Jesus four days after his entombment. Sometime after the Resurrection of Christ, Lazarus was forced to flee Judea because of rumored plots on his life and came to Cyprus. Here he was ordained by Barnabas and Paul the Apostle as the first bishop of Kition (present-day Larnaka). He lived here for thirty more years and when he died he was buried in a catacomb under the church. Next to the church is the Ecclesiastical Museum, which exhibits important religious artefacts.



#### 5. Larnaka Municipal Market and **Zouchouri Square**

Near the Agios Lazaros Church at Ermou Street operates the Larnaka Municipal Market, housed in a modern building that has recently replaced the old market area. The market consists of individual shops on the ground level offering, locally produced fruits, cheeses, wine, honey and other products and more amenities on the upper level. Located adjacent to the Municipal Market is the Zouchouri old Muslim school complex, which was repurposed to create a courtyard with kiosks, a charming social space for the public to enjoy.



### 6. Shopping

The area east of the Larnaka Municipal Market and parallel to the Foinikoudes promenade attracts visitors with the shopping bug. Zenonos Kitieos and Ermou streets with modern boutiques and international fashion brands is

where you can have not only a modern shopping experience you would expect from a European city, but also discover unique, locally made items. In the side streets you can The Archaeological Museum of the Larnaalso discover smaller art, souvenir and handicraft shops where you can find ceramics, jewelry, in particular silver, and other handmade souvenirs. There are also shops offering carefully prepared sweets, delicacies, bottles of olive oil and local wine.

#### 7. Piale Pashia seafront

From the Medieval Castle (Larnaka Fort) to the west, there is a charming seaside walkway that offers two walking paths; one on road level, partitioned with glass panels that do not obstruct the sea views, and a second lower walkway with a feeling of 'walking on the water'. If you continue to walk towards the west you will reach first the quaint fishing shelter 'Psarolimano', where you will find several traditional fish restaurants. Here you can taste fresh fish dishes and pretty views of the bobbing boats. After the small harbor there is a strip of ice-cream parlors. The walking path ends at the trendy McKenzie beach.



#### 8. Larnaka Art Workshops Neighbourhood

If you take a detour from the Piale Pashia seaside walkway before reaching "Psarolimano", you can explore the side streets and discover more examples of traditional architecture, as well as the workshops of many local craftsmen and artists. Here you will find many pottery-makers and painters, all of whom will welcome you to watch them at work and explain the history of their respective handicraft and art work.



#### 9. Mckenzie Beach - Blue Flag

Located near the site of Larnaka's old airport, the Mckenzie Beach area is known for being the centre of Larnaka's trendiest nightlife, as well as a popular beach. Facilities on the beach include toilets, showers, changing rooms, sun beds, and umbrellas (for a fee). In the evening, the strip fills with lights and the beat of live music. DJs from around the world play their music at venues on the beach. Here you will find a great choice of lounge bars and elegant dinners.



#### 10. Archaeological Museum of the Larnaka District

ka District houses a large collection of archaeological finds from the whole district of Larnaka, including the ancient city-kingdom of Kition, and the island's most important Neolithic settlements of Choirokitia and Tenta - Kalavasos. Exhibits include artefacts from the Neolithic period, the Copper Era and the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods. Faience (tin-glazed pottery), ivory and alabaster pieces, are testimony to Cyprus' commercial and international ties with great civilizations of the antiquity.



#### 11. Kition Archaeological Site

The architectural ruins of the ancient citykingdom of Kition date back to the 13th century BC and provide the first clear evidence that the Mycenaean Achaeans arrived here at that time. Excavations have revealed that they fortified the city with cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of limestone. Later on, the Phoenicians settled in the area in the 9th century, and built the temple of Astarte, Goddess of Fertility, related with the worship of Goddess Aphrodite. 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 the buildings are particularly interesting.



#### 12. The Pierides Museum - Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation

The Pierides Museum is the island's oldest private museum and is housed in the ancestral Pierides family home, an elegant colonial-style building. The museum's collection includes some of the most representative items of the island's civilization. Prized items in the collection are the red polished ware from the Early Bronze Age, Roman glassware, and medieval ceramic dishes





# Larnaka Outskirts/ Villages



### 13. Larnaka Salt Lake (Aliki)

Larnaka Salt Lake, located southwest of the city and near the airport, is the second largest Salt Lake in Cyprus and is one of the most important waterfowl habitats in Europe. It is an ideal spot for birdwatching during the winter, as it fills with water and between November and March, is home to migrating birds, such as flamingos, wild ducks and other water or shore fowl that find refuge here on their migratory journeys.

Winding through the area around the lake is a 4 km long, linear nature trail that leads up to the old aqueduct of Kamares.



#### 14. Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque

This Mosque is a very important religious Muslim Monument situated on the salt lake's south-east shore. According to legend, Um Haram, who was related the Prophet Mohammed, died when she fell off her mule, during one of the first Arab raids on the island and was buried on the very spot where the mosque was built.



### 15. Aggeloktisti Church

Panagia Angeloktisti church. Legend has it that during the building the church an army of angels came every night to help build it; hence the name "Angeloktisti" (built by Angels). 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. Only in Evprus and in Mount Sinai survive mosaics from this period.

In the nearby Kiti village you will find the



# 16. Lefkara village

(40 km from Larnaka). This picturesque the beehive's well-organized life:

"Lefkaritika" and for its silversmithing workshops. Visit the beautiful house of Patsalos, which houses the Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silversmithing. Lefkara lace is included in the UNESCO list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity



#### 17. The Honey Bee Route

A cluster of nine honey producing communities, situated in the mountainous region of Larnaka are collectively known as the Larnaka Honey Villages for their rich and shared honey beekeeping tradition. Together they promote beekeeping; help to encourage and protect biodiversity and offer visitors authentic experiences, from nature trails and annual bee-themed festivals, to bee hotels for solitary species. Discover more under the "Follow a story" section at:

heartlandoflegends.com



### 18. Traditional local experiences in the villages of Orini

Larnaka is proud of its traditions, which are still very much cherished and practiced across the region. From basket weaving in Choirokoitia to halloumi-making sessions in Athienou, cooking lessons in Skarinou, harvesting and donkey riding in Kato Drys and Skarinou, wine tasting in Lefkara, Byzantine icon making and pottery classes in Kornos and visits to the colourful «painters' village» in Layia; a multitude of rural activities, living up to Cyprus' customs and traditions are offered to all ages, making your stay an experience to remember! For more information, visit:

https://larnakaregion.com/page/local-experiences

#### 19. Family friendly activities

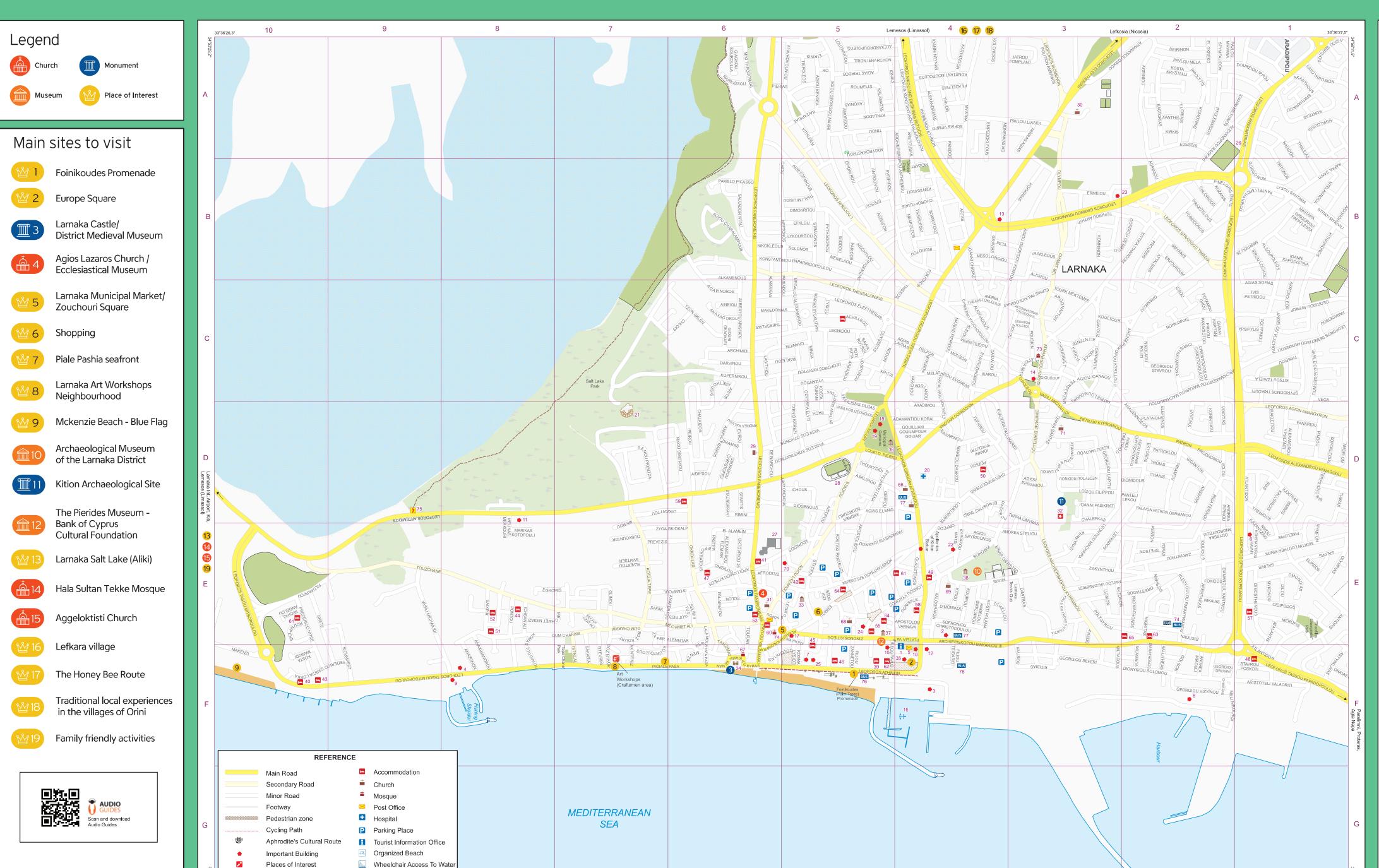
Discover the Camel Park near Mazotos Village for a family excursion. Visitors can feed the camels and other animals with bags of dried carob pods, and enjoy a camel trek or a donkey or pony ride around the park grounds: https://camel-park.com/

Visit the Donkey Farm in Skarinou village to enjoy a donkey ride around the beautiful countryside of the area. The farm is committed to the protection of the island's donkey population and to acquaint people with this beautiful animal that was for centuries an integral part of rural life.

http://www.goldendonkeys.com/golden/

Become a beekeeper for a day at Ecophysis. Wear the beekeeper's protection suit that is provided both for adults and children and inspect the hives. Spot the Bee Queen and the Drones, observe the Bee Workers at their work, browse through Honey and Pollen storerooms, If you have time take an excursion to Lefkara see the eggs inside the cells and learn all about

village is famous for its local lace known as <a href="https://ecophysiscy.com/website/index.php/en/">https://ecophysiscy.com/website/index.php/en/</a>



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66 D4 Same Greek Evangelical Church of Cyprus Santa Maria Dela Gratia - Catholic Church St. Joseph - Maronite Church St. Stefanos - Armenian Church St.Helena - Anglican Church Tuzla Mosque Zouhouri Mosque NATURE TRAILS Number Grid Name Name Salt lake nature trail

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 F4
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1,000 Meters

TAX

Shared Taxi

10

Wheelchair Access

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