

Information concerning the Zenobia

During the summer months, many divers choose a shorty for their dives, however for extended and deeper dives a warmer wetsuit is recommended. Tanks can be filled onboard the catamaran and lunch is served after the second dive.

The Zenobia is suitable for less experienced, since the railing lies at a shallow 17 metres. Due to the excellent visibility, divers can appreciate the majestic atmosphere of the ship even from this vantage point. For the more adventurous, the Zenobia is probably the best reason to consider a deep diver speciality course. All of the wrecks' highlights can be reached thereafter, since 42 metres is the maximum depth.

Cyprus: Quick Facts

Capital: Lefkosia (Nicosia)

Other towns: Lemesos (Limassol), Larnaka, Pafos, Paralimni, Ag. Napa

Languages: Greek and Turkish are the official languages. English is widely spoken. French and German are also spoken within the tourism industry.

Population (de jure): 865,900 (2012)

International Airports: Larnaka & Pafos

Currency: Euro (€)

Diving at the Zenobia - World's most amazing wreck dive



Journey to the Zenobia

The Zenobia lies close to the shore in the bay of Larnaka, only a few (boat) minutes from the cosy marina, from which there is also a daily catamaran service. Almost all major diving centres on the island offer package deals, including day trips with two guided dives and lunch. If you arrive without a pre-arranged travelling plan, the marina with its large beach promenade in the centre of Larnaka is your first port of call. There is ample parking in the harbour area and push carts are available to transport equipment from your car to the catamaran.

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The Zenobia Wreck is owned by a private enterprise



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TOURISM

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Life at the Zenobia

What seems to be a massive reef from the surface, reveals itself to be the overgrown hull of the ship. Myriads of fish circle the wreck, with barracudas patrolling along the railing, ready to snap at any passing form of life. Seemingly tame groupers materialise out of the deep blue water only to descend along the multi-storey superstructures. The Zenobia magically lures its visitors to its most fascinating features: the light-flooded bridge, the unbelievable vastness of the bow, the elongated cargo bays with their many trucks and the two imposing propellers. And all this accompanied by a varied underwater fauna and flora.



The Zenobia

When divers think of Cyprus, the first thing that springs to mind is the sunken wreck of the Zenobia, which not only constitutes one of the three largest wrecks in the Mediterranean, but also ranks amongst the top 10 diveable wrecks worldwide.

The huge hull of the Zenobia lies at a depth of between 16 and 42 metres and can be reached in a couple of minutes by boat from Larnaka harbour. With a length of some 172 metres, a width of 23 metres and its erstwhile cargo of 104 trucks, it makes the heart of any diving enthusiast miss a beat in anticipation.

In June 1980, the Swedisch RoRo-ferry began her maiden voyage, with cargo bays full, in Greece enroute to Syria. Just off Cyprus, the ship banked. The Zenobia was equipped with a computer-assisted stabilising system, designed to compensate such banking by filling water tanks on the opposite side of the bays. A malfunction of this system caused the water tanks on the wrong side to be filled. In the course of the following days, the ship inclined further and further until it finally sank, on June 7th 1980, only 2 kilometres from the harbour of Larnaka.

Due the vast size of the wreck, two dives are necessary to fully appreciate this marvel of the Mediterranean floor. The first dive leads towards the bow of the ship, along the railing, past the only remaining lifeboat and the mounting brackets of the missing ones to the easily accessible bridge and cafeteria. The second dive starts at the descent line and continues towards the stern and the unrivalled highlight of this dive: Over 100 trucks float in eerie suspension within the huge cargo bay. The two enormous propellers present the breath-taking final stage of this dive, before the return along the 16-metres long railing. Penetration of the wreck is possible at numerous access hatches but requires careful planning and guidance in order to prevent getting lost in the labyrinthine innards of the ship.



The Zenobia for Non-Divers

Non-divers need not do without the rich maritime life, which the Zenobia is home to. A spacious catamaran heads for the Zenobia, complete with sun deck and lots of room both in and out of the sun. Non-divers are welcome and can thus accompany their partners and friends on their diving trip. The catamaran stays moored at the Zenobia during the surfacing break between the two dives and affords the opportunity to relate the impressions from below first-hand.

Glass-boats also regularly offer trips to the Zenobia. Good visibility in these waters ensures a perfect exploration of the immensity of the Zenobia and the riches of fish, even from above. Snorkellers can often catch a glimpse of divers at the Zenobia's deco bar.

