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Cyprus *Authentic*





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Cyprus Authentic

Welcome to Rural Cyprus

Mention Cyprus in conversation and most people will visualise a cloudless sky, warm sand underfoot, and a blue sea to cool and refresh. With at least 300 days of sunshine per year, Cyprus' reputation as a favoured summer destination is well-deserved.



Kato Drys

Less than an hour's drive from the coastal resorts, however, lies another Cyprus, off the beaten track: a Cyprus of majestic pine forests and stone-built village houses, of vineyard-covered rolling hills and family-run wineries, of narrow cobbled streets and traditional handicrafts.

Whenever a Cypriot makes the acquaintance of another Cypriot, one question is inevitably asked: "Which village are you from?" And this is a question that even millennials, born and brought up in the city, will be able to answer. Everyone, ultimately, is from one of Cyprus' 575 villages, and loyalties run deep. Each village has its speciality, its produce, its church and patron saint, its local myths and legends, and, more often than not, according to local rivalries, its own temperament. Long before the age of WiFi and social media, the question provided an effective and friendly way to make connections and establish relationships, and this instinct survives to this day. "Ah yes, my mother's second cousin's husband is from that village too, maybe you know him?" is the type of query that still helps Cypriots bond.

Many village communities have undertaken initiatives to keep alive their time-honoured crafts, such as basket-making, pottery, weaving, wood carving, and lace-making. While names like Lefkara, Foini and Kornos are undoubtedly rural superstars, there are countless treasures dotted around the island, each guarding its customs and traditions in the face of a more modern pace of life.

Cyprus may be best known for its long hot summers and its dry climate, but the countryside bursts into life in spring, when sporadic February

rains and fresh March sun carpet the fields with brilliant wildflowers: yellow wood sorrel, purple wild rosemary, white wild garlic and red poppy anemone, creating a dazzling display that transforms the landscape.

Spring is also when snowmelt causes the many tributary streams in the Troodos mountains to fill briefly with cool, fresh water. Walking in the mountains is a treat for the nature lover; the distances are small enough that one can plan to be in the next village for lunch or dinner, while those desiring a little more solitude can, with a little planning, choose one of the more remote mountain paths and walk for hours with nothing but magnificent views and the sounds of the forest for company. The lucky few might catch a glimpse of the notoriously shy indigenous mountain sheep, the moufflon.

Despite the ubiquitous presence of global chain coffee shops in the cities, central to village life is the coffee shop, locally known as kafenion, which in the smaller villages may also variously fulfill the role of post office, grocers, restaurant, and general meeting place, and like the current online discussion board, the main

aim of the coffee shop is to provide a forum for animated, passionate conversation: football, current affairs, politics and local gossip fill the air, punctuated by the fast-paced clatter of dice on a tavli (backgammon) board and sips on small cups of strong local coffee, ordered as skettos (bitter), metrios (medium) or glykis (sweet). Here you will probably also come across the local priest and keeper of the keys to the village's monumental churches, often kept locked but whose wall paintings in the interior are worth a look.



Cyprus Coffee



Tavli

generations looking on, offering commentary, predictions, cautious advice, congratulation and commiseration.

A village life

Life in the villages still revolves around the land, the pace of life dictated by the rhythms of sowing and harvesting, and the type of produce dictated ruthlessly by local geology and climate. Modern technology has made



Agios Theodoros

some inroads, but here and there you can see some holdover from an earlier age still clinging on stubbornly. A farmer might use a smartphone to chat to his cousin, but he still needs a sure-footed donkey when the time comes to harvest his trees, because no tractor can navigate up and down the steep narrow path to his grove.

Lowland villages in the south-east of the island lie on rich red soil that yields excellent potatoes, watermelons and taro

(kolokasi), a root vegetable found in very few places across Europe. Coastal villages around the warm, humid south-west produce citrus and small, sweet bananas. Highland villages on the cool fertile slopes of Troodos produce apples, cherries and grapes. Inland villages in the hot, dry interior surround themselves with groves of that consummate survivor, the olive tree.

Beautiful, hardy, shade-giving, and drought-tolerant, olive trees have been grown in Cyprus since antiquity and the local oil is prized for its lightness and distinct aroma. It is easy to believe that many of the vast, gnarled trees that dot the landscape have outlived their planters many generations over. Indeed, one variety of local olive trees, the Apostolitzi, derives its name from the legend that they sprang forth from olive pits discarded by the Apostles Paul and Barnabas during their travels to the island.



Carob tree

Another Mediterranean hero is undoubtedly the carob, known as 'the black gold of Cyprus'. Native to the area and a major source of income for centuries, the tree is perfectly

adapted to the local climate with its thick-skinned pods and shade-giving leaves. As cultivation increased over time, Cyprus' carobs gained renown for their high sugar content and the island became a major supplier to countries like Egypt and Italy. Carob production and export reached its peak in the mid-20th century, and provided a vital livelihood to many villages, especially those located in the Troodos foothills around Lemesos. Nowadays, while carobs are no longer cultivated on a mass scale, you can still sample locally produced carob syrup, famed for its ability to aid digestion and provide a healthy energy boost. Carob extract is also used when making the delicious traditional nougat-like sweet called pastelli.



Vineyard Episkopi

Viniculture has also been practiced since antiquity, but in the modern era was mostly dominated by several large producers. In the last 20 years, however, incentives were created for the establishment of small regional wineries. These have flourished, driven by a worldwide appetite for craft



Agios Mamas

wines and Cyprus now boasts a large number of truly unique wines, many made with indigenous grape varieties grown on-site. Look out for wine made from the Maratheftiko grape variety, used in antiquity and recently rediscovered and revived. Seven wine

routes are available in the mountainous areas, and a day trip to the wineries is well worth the effort.

Villages also abound with produce that no greengrocer will ever see: vines drape over driveways, offering welcome dappled shade as well as vine leaves for koupepia, the grapes served on the family table, made



Commandaria

into a robust wine served in clay jugs, or else made into soutzoukos, a naturally sweet delicacy of long strings of almonds and walnuts dipped into a must of heated grape juice and flour.

One of the island's traditional alcoholic drinks, Zivania, produced by the distillation of pressed

grape residues, is a strong, clear spirit, stored in the freezer and served ice-cold as an all-purpose beneficial tonic: local wisdom will varyingly prescribe it as a disinfectant and cure for such diverse ailments as sore muscles, toothache and the common cold.

And, of course, no reference to Cypriot wine would be complete without mentioning 'the wine of kings and the king of wines' – Commandaria – as noted by King Richard the Lionheart in the 12th century. A true native of Lemesos, Commandaria is a sweet fortified wine that has been produced on the island for centuries. Made using two indigenous varieties of grapes known as Xynisteri and Mavro, Commandaria holds a protected designation of origin and is produced in a number of villages that make up the 'Commandaria Region', such as Agios Pavlos, Agios Konstantinos, and Kalo Chorio.

Pomegranate trees are abundant and seem to thrive cheerfully in the most unlikely of places: a crack in a wall, an empty and untended lot, a steep and stony cutting. Treasured as a symbol of good luck and fertility, they are today experiencing



Pomegranate

a renaissance as a source of antioxidants. They are also an ingredient of "koliva", a treat with boiled wheat kernels and sesame seeds given out at

memorial services.

Walking down the narrow winding streets, a visitor will catch sight of balconies and doorways laden with containers of all manner of plants that thrive in the long growing seasons: tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers, aubergines and salad greens. Chickens can still be seen in the smaller villages, as well as the once ever-present goat, fulfilling the roles of self-propelled ecological lawnmower, scrubland clearer, organic fertiliser source and milk for village halloumi.



With a plethora of natural habitats to explore, a web of nature trails and cycle paths has been created to offer ample opportunity for nature lovers to discover the island at their own pace. Bird watchers, amateur botanists and run of the mill nature lovers are in for a treat. Cyprus is a major north-south migratory path and during spring and autumn millions of birds either fly over the island or break their long journey here. In winter, the salt lakes at Larnaka and Akrotiri fill with thousands of pink flamingos wading in the



Salt lake

shallow waters. In the secluded beaches surrounding the Akamas nature reserve at the north-western tip of the island are breeding populations of endangered green (Cheloniemydas) and loggerhead (Caretta caretta) turtles.

Fikardou





Luckily for visitors, hospitality is taken seriously on the island. While the question “Which village are you from?” might not be applicable to a tourist

from overseas, anyone who visits Cypriot villages is not just a new face, but a welcome guest whose interest in local life is seen as a compliment that must be reciprocated with a cup of coffee or a bag of home-grown fruit. And when the time comes to leave, visitors are sent off with the parting phrase ‘stokalo’ – a heartfelt wish that you’ll be safe and well on your travels



Lofou

Away from the hustle and bustle of the island's busy towns, and moving inland to the heart of the countryside, the pace of life slows down to follow the patterns and rhythms of nature and the seasons. Living in harmony with the land, Cyprus' village communities cherish their time-honoured traditions, handed down from generation to generation.

The lore relating to rural life still has much to offer, teaching younger village dwellers practical skills and creative crafts that represent the island's rich and diverse history. One of the most famous examples is that of Lefkara lace, a centuries-old embroidery technique taking its name from the village nestling in the southern foothills of Troodos. Lefkaritika has its roots in the simple white embroidery, first practised in Cyprus by Venetian Ladies, with fine details reflecting influences of the Venetian designs favoured by the island's nobility. While many modern conveniences have been incorporated into the daily routine of country life, Lefkaritika is still lovingly and painstakingly hand-made with the exceptional craftsmanship and attention to detail that, as legend has it, prompted Leonardo da Vinci to purchase an altar cloth for the Cathedral of Milan



Lefkara

when visiting the island in the 15th century. These days, Lefkaritika is mostly applied to household items such as curtains, tablecloths, and bed linen, and is a thriving skill practised in numerous villages besides Lefkara, including Skarinou, Kornos, Ora and Kato Drys.



A visit to any folklore or archaeological museum on the island will undoubtedly feature impressive displays of pottery, with samples of various styles of earthenware going back to the Neolithic Age. This ancient craft grew from the rich red clay soil found in villages like Kornos

and Foini, where it still flourishes as a cottage industry. Hand-thrown jars, pots and jugs are crafted using timeless techniques in small workshops, and fired in wood-burning kilns before being decorated with engravings and glazed. The huge storage jars known as pitharia – used for centuries to store wine and vinegar – are no longer produced, but surviving examples can be found dotted around the countryside, adorning gardens and paved courtyards. The



Water jug

most prevalent modern use of traditional pottery is the humble water jug,

Choirokoitia

which is imbued with the almost magical property of keeping water cool, even in the searing Cyprus summer.

Throughout the ages, Cypriot villagers traditionally made the most of natural resources at their disposal, and this can be seen in the ingenious use of the gourd known as kolotzia. A member of the marrow family, the



Gouri Pumpkins

gourd grows on a climbing vine and apart from providing valuable shade, the vessel-shaped vegetable was a common feature in most rural homes, serving as a decorative item but also in a more practical role as a wine carafe, container, or candleholder. These days, gourds have mostly been

replaced in their functions by purpose-made items, but in villages like Pachyammos they are still decorated in traditional ways, with patterns delicately cut or burnt into them using time-honed skill and a steady hand.

As dictated by both the constraints and opportunities of life in the countryside, functionality was a driving force in the development of many crafts, with basket-making in particular being a skill that blended both strength and beauty. With its origins lost in the mists of time, this vital art was inspired by nature and took advantage of the many varieties of reeds, canes, rushes and leaves available on the island to create an enormous range of baskets. From strong wicker baskets for transporting potatoes to macramé hanging baskets for storing bread, these attractively woven vessels were an indispensable part of country life, aiding the villagers in their daily chores and colourfully decorating their homes. The large, flat, patterned tsestos, for instance, was primarily a food platter, but also functioned as a wall ornament, and as part of traditional wedding custom where it was used during the preparatory celebrations to display the bridal clothes. To this



Limnatis

day, a variety of baskets are crafted in villages across the island, such as Mesogi, Liopetri, and Akrotiri, and the heritage of Cypriot basket-weaving can be seen at a dedicated museum in Ineia.

While the exact origins of its name aren't known, Cyprus' history is inexorably linked to that of copper, which took its own name from the island, and it is fitting that metalwork is among the many local crafts. Copper was mined throughout the ages, and was a major source of income for the island, both as a raw material and in finished products such as cauldrons and pots. These days, the art of copper work lives on as smiths



produce copper pots and kettles, and the long-handled pots, called brikki, still used in every home to make Cyprus coffee. Beyond its reputation for fine lacework, Lefkara is also renowned as a local centre for skilled silver crafts, where artisans create delicate filigree work seen in functional items like teaspoons and containers, as well as decorative items of jewellery.

Solid silver items such as serving trays are also crafted, and used as gifts and wedding presents.



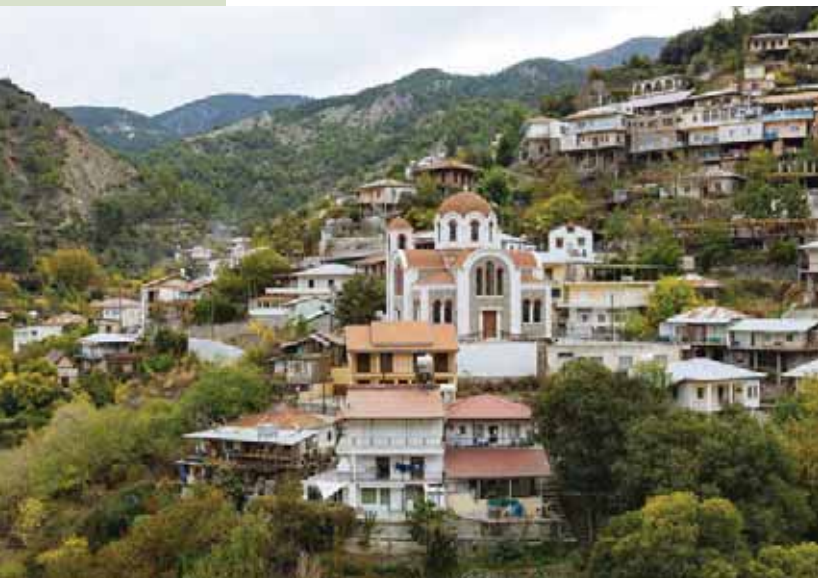
Troodos

rise to a huge gamut of practical and decorative wood-based crafts. From boat building to carving of household items, woodworkers were in

Evrychou

demand across the island to lend artistic expression and functional design to rural homes and industries. Taking inspiration from the world around them, and using the flora and fauna of Cyprus as a basis for their designs, wood carvers adorned items such as wardrobes, shelves and the chests - sendoukia - used for girls' trousseaus, while the more specialised craft of ecclesiastical woodcarving was an indispensable part of any church

decoration. Other items crafted by woodworkers, particularly in villages like Moutoullas on the northern slopes of Troodos, include pinewood troughs, known as vournes, that played a vital role in village homes as a place to knead bread or wash clothes, and also specially carved boards



Moutoullas

called "sanidhia" that were used to carry loaves of bread to and from the oven.

Domestic crafts may have originated through necessity, but this certainly didn't preclude their beauty or artistic value, and weaving is a superb example.

Centred around the village of Fyti in the Pafos region,

the style of hand-weaving by the same name is an ancient and vital craft that lives on, albeit on a much smaller scale, despite the prevalence of factory-produced items currently available. Echoing the geometric designs found on ancient pottery, Fyti weaving creates vibrantly coloured patterns of thick coloured threads in household linens like tablecloths, napkins and bedcovers.



Fyti

Another skill that contributed significantly to the comfort of many village dwellers, especially in the mountains, was that held by the paplomatas – mattress maker. This craftsman would travel from village to village and create hand-sewn and customised mattresses and bedcovers using homespun fabric and cotton or wool for stuffing, but unfortunately samples of this work can only be found in museums these days.

With its timeless appeal, Cyprus delights and enchants all those who explore its rich and varied countryside. The ten routes described below cover all districts of the island, and have been specially designed to ensure that visitors have the opportunity to experience the island's natural beauty and cultural heritage to the fullest.

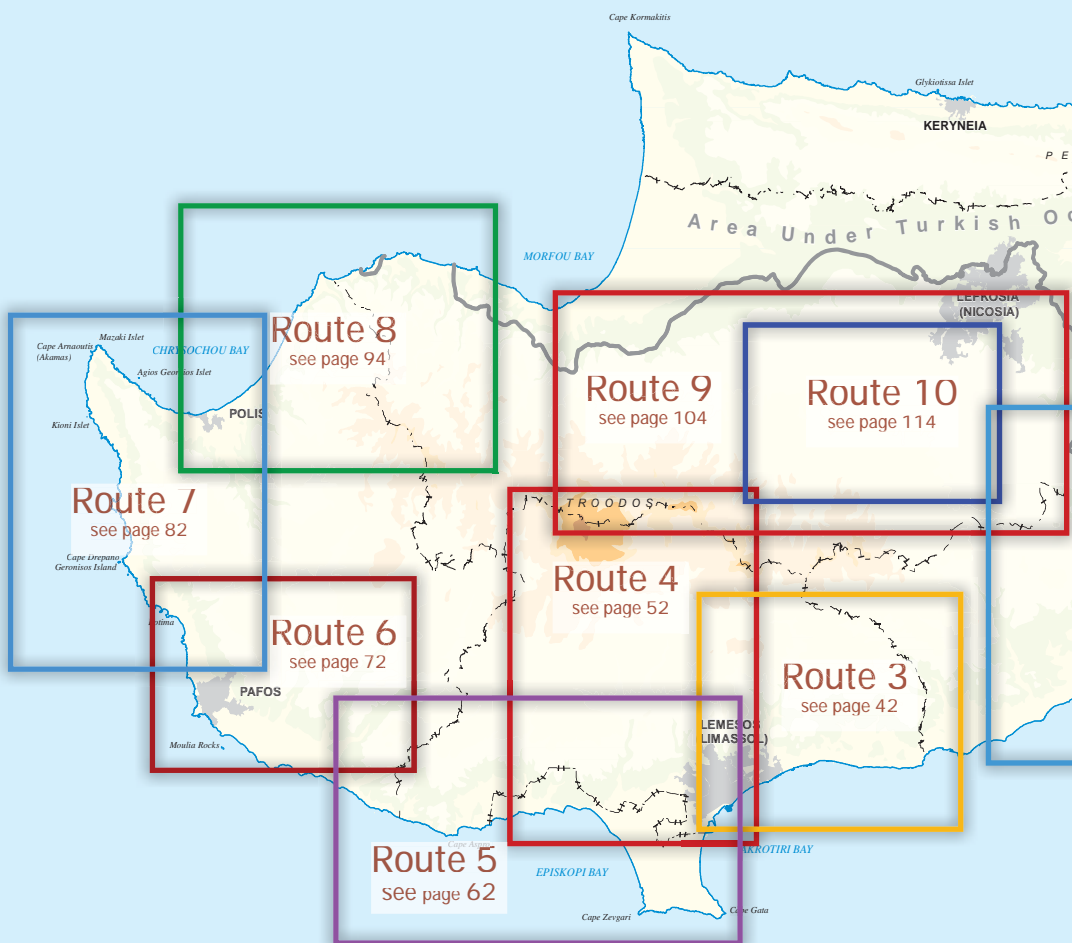


Kato Drys



Map of C

Kilometers 10 5 0 10



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department, Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Cyprus

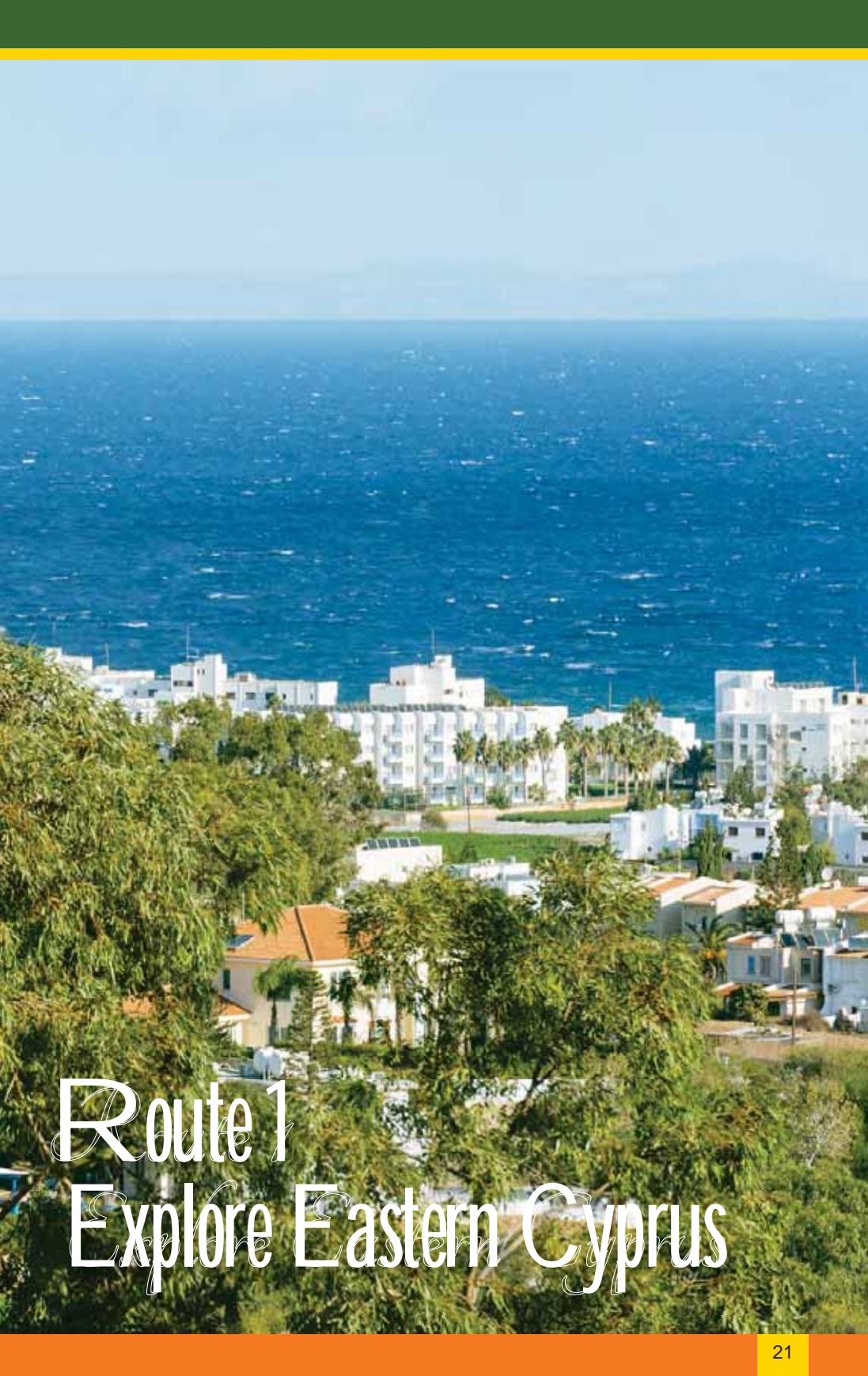


REFERENCE

- +—+— District Boundary
- Limit of area under Turkish occupation since 1974
- +—+—+— British Sovereign Base Area Boundary
- Build up area
- LARNAKA Municipality Name

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Route 1 Explore Eastern Cyprus

Route 1

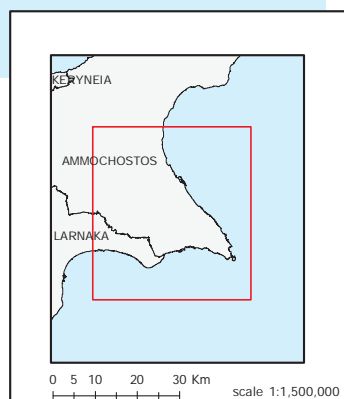
Agia Napa – Cape Gkreko – Protaras – Paralimni – Deryneia – Frenaros – Avgorou – Along the Green Line (passing outside Achna) – Xylotymvou – Ormideia – Xylofagou – Liopetri – Agia Napa



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department,
Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Motorway | Natural Trails (Start of) |
| Main Road | Picnic Sites |
| Secondary Road | Lighthouse |
| European Long distance path E4 | Archaeological Sites |
| Nature Trail | Church |
| District Boundary | Monastery |
| British Sovereign Base Area Boundary | Museum |
| Limit of area under Turkish occupation since 1974 | Place of Interest |
| | Fishing Shelter, Port, Marina |



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Explore Eastern Cyprus:

Iconic beaches, bustling resorts and the fertile hinterland

Cyprus boasts a beautiful coastline and this route gives you the perfect chance to discover some of the finest natural attractions of the southeast, golden sandy beaches and the National Forest Park of the rocky Cape Gkreko promontory. This is one of the shorter route options, about an hour and a half to two hours without stops. It's ideal as a morning or a late afternoon route, especially pleasant on a sunny day as you spend half of it driving by the coast. The roads are easy to drive on throughout the route, which explores the main coastal resorts of the Ammochostos district, such as

Protaras, Agia Napa and Paralimni and the smaller villages known as the Kokkinochoria because of their distinct red soil ideal for growing potatoes further inland. A section of the route runs parallel to part of the Green Line. A quarter of a tank is more than enough, but, even if you run out of petrol, gas stations can be found throughout the route.

The route begins in Agia Napa, once a sleepy fishing village and now one of the island's best known resorts, attracting

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 1



Agia Napa Monastery

Type: Circular

Suggested

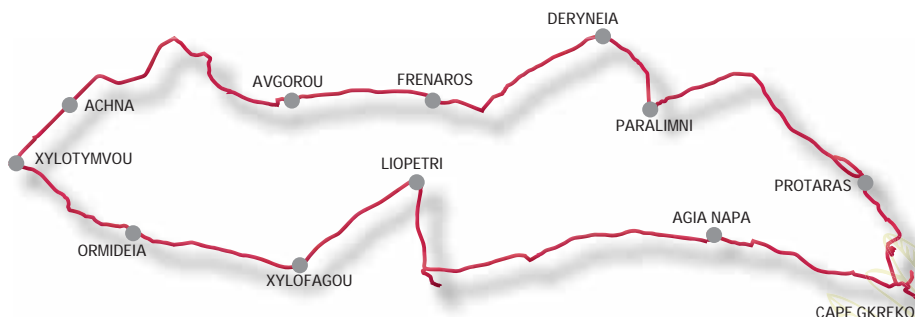
Starting point:

Agia Napa

Duration:

Approx. 2 Hours

Distance: 96 Km



tourists drawn by the combination of endless golden beaches and a bustling nightlife.

The village takes its name from a Venetian-era monastery of the same name, located in the centre of the town.



Coast Line Agia Napa - Protaras

Heading down the coastal road that leads to Protaras, you will have an exquisite view of the sea on your right. On your left you encounter rocky landscape with sparse vegetation, mostly olive trees, fig trees and prickly pears, among others. The glorious

blooming bougainvilleas that adorn the gardens and streets serve as a perfect reminder of the beauty of the Mediterranean.

A must-see stop on your route is Cape Gkreko, also known as Cavo Greco, a headland and rocky promontory at the southeastern tip of the island which has been declared a Natura 2000 protected area. To access the national park turn right about half-way between Protaras and Agia Napa; a sign on your left will show you the way. Initially, it's an almost unassuming dry landscape, but you will soon come across one of its highlights – a small trail tucked between red soil fields leads you to a beautiful Phoenician juniper Cypress



Juniper Cypress Tree Cape Gkreko



tree, which provides shade to a wooden bench, and is a beautiful and romantic spot for any Instagram enthusiast.

At the end of that road you will come across a sign that shows you the entry point to Cape Gkreko. During the tourist season (April – October) you'll find a couple of food trucks by the side of the road where you can grab a coffee, water and if you are feeling peckish a mouth-watering Cypriot sandwich with traditional halloumi cheese and lountza (cured ham).

Drive carefully as the road is narrow and there is traffic coming both ways, and try not to get too distracted by the stunning blue expanse of water that unfolds in front of you. If you feel like making a longer stop and immersing yourself in the pristine natural beauty of the park you can opt for a relaxing hike along one of the nine walking trails, or simply enjoy the captivating views of the sea at the nearby picnic area.

Cape Gkreko, also known as Cavo Greco, is a headland and rocky promontory at the southeastern tip of the island



Cape Gkreko

As you're driving in the park, don't miss the small white washed church of Agioi Anargyroi on your left which sits right next to the water, an all year round attraction.

On your way out of the park on your right stands the so-called Cyclops Cave, which you can also visit on foot by following an easy nature trail from Konnos Bay approximately 1,5Km in length.

Leaving Cape Gkreko behind, head to the resort of Protaras, popular with both locals and tourists looking for a family-



oriented holiday.

Access the tourist road which is lined with tourist shops, fish and meat restaurants, bars and convenience stores, by turning right off the Protaras – Cape Gkreko Avenue and onto the busy coastal road of Protaras which leads to one of Europe's top beaches, Fig Tree Bay.

Follow the road all the way to the end to get back onto the main avenue. Before leaving Protaras to reach Paralimni, take a short detour to visit the church of Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) which sits on the top of a hill offering a stunning view of the coastal town and sea. The climb up to the church is more than 100 steps but the view from the top is definitely worth the trek.

Visit the church of Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) which sits on the top of a hill offering a stunning view of the coastal town and sea



Fig Tree Bay Protaras

Protaras and Paralimni, the next stops on the route, are just a few kilometres away from each other on the main road. Paralimni, meaning 'by the lake', is the largest municipality in the free Famagusta area. In its centre lies the beautiful

town square dominated by the large stone church of Agios Georgios. During the summer months you will find some delicious homemade goods, such as soutzoukkos (a long string of almonds dipped repeatedly in thickened grape juice and hung to harden), sugared almonds and much more. It is worth noting that if you are taking this route off season, you will be much more likely to find open restaurants, hotels and shops here than in Protaras or Agia Napa.

From Paralimni head to Deryneia, with the optional detour to Paralimni Lake, a seasonal lake, home to the rare grass snake.

An interesting stop in Deryneia is the local Folk Art Museum, offering insight into traditional village life, and the stone built church of the Virgin Mary, located right next door.



Kaparis Beach

The area is also famed for its strawberry production and hosts a biennial 'Strawberry Festival' in May, where visitors can enjoy an array of strawberry products, from fresh strawberry juice and liqueur, to strawberry ice-cream and jam. Only a few kilometres from the Turkish-occupied areas, the town's Cultural Centre offers a unique opportunity to gaze out on the 'Ghost Town' of Ammochostos (known as Varosha).

The town's Cultural Centre offers a unique opportunity to gaze out on the 'Ghost Town' of Ammochostos (known as Varosha)

The next village on your route, Frenaros, was named after the Lusignan monks, called Femenors, who lived in Panagia of Hortanion, a nearby monastery. Frenaros has two wonderful mediaeval Byzantine Churches, Agios Andronikos and the old church of Archangelos Michail. Well known for its tasty watermelons, used also to produce a range of products including watermelon ice cream and sweet preserved watermelon rind, the village hosts a watermelon festival every July.



Agia Andronikos Frenaros

As you leave Frenaros, heading towards Avgorou, the landscape continues to be agricultural, primarily wheat fields. Approximately five kilometres southwest from Frenaros village, on your right is the well-known church of Panagia Asprovouniotissa, known for its wonderful frescoes dating back to the late 15th or early 16th century. You will also come across a monument dedicated to the missing persons of 1974 as well as Achna Dam, a botanical and ornithological paradise, popular with anglers.

For the next 5 kilometres, the road runs along the buffer zone, the abandoned village of Achna within the Turkish occupied area, visible on your right. This road will take you to Xylotymvou, a small village that belongs to the Larnaka district. On your right is the Holy Convent of Saint Raphael and Saint Marina, which is built around



Deryneia Folk Museum

the 14th century church of Agia Marina. This monastery was established in 1989 by nuns and is very welcoming to all visitors should you wish to stop by and light a candle.



Agios Rafael Monastery Museum Xylotymvou

Ormideia, the next village that you come across, is very famous for its antiquities, a number of which are found in famous museums around the world, such as at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

On the last stretch of the road, heading towards Xylofagou, the last of the agricultural villages,

you will find yourself amidst a rich red soil landscape, ideal for growing potatoes. Potamos Liopetri, a small fishing shelter with colourful fishing boats is a pleasant detour off the main road on the way back to Agia Napa.

Returning to Agia Napa, you will come across the Blue Flag sandy beach Agia Thekla, with a rocky promontory. The whitewashed church that sits just over the beach offers promising views. A little further down the road you'll come across one of Europe's biggest waterparks on your left, and more beautiful sandy beaches along the coast for you to explore.

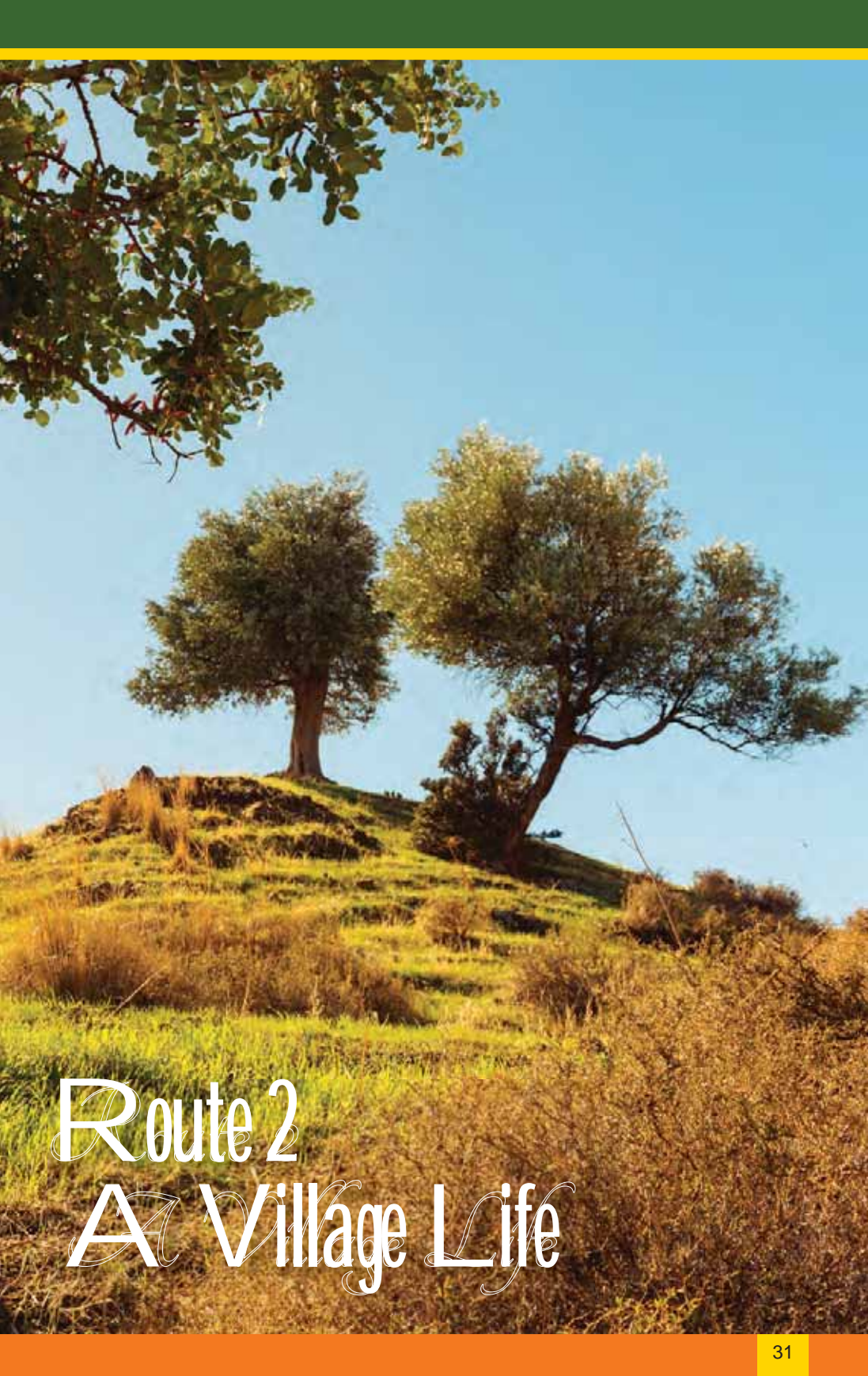
Potamos Liopetri, a small fishing shelter with colourful fishing boats is a pleasant detour off the main road



Liopetri







Route 2 A Village Life

Route 2

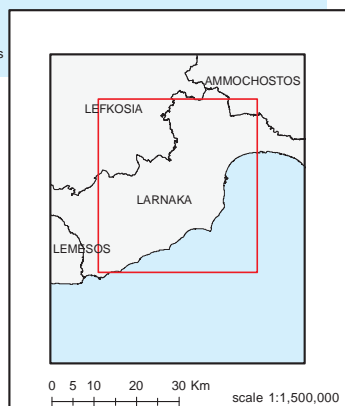
Larnaka – Livadia – Kellia – Troulloi – Avdellero – Athienou – Petrofani – Lympia – Ancient Idalion – Alampra – Mosfiloti – Kornos – Pyrga – Stavrovouni – Kofinou – Psematismenos – Maroni – Agios Theodoros – Alaminos – Mazotos – Kiti – Hala Sultan Tekke – Larnaka



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department,
Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Motorway | nesco world Cultural Heritage |
| Main Road | Natural Trails (Start of) |
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| Nature Trail | Archaeological Sites |
| District Boundary | Church |
| British Sovereign Base Area Boundary | Monastery |
| Limit of area under Turkish occupation since 1974 | Museum |
| | Mos ue |



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A Village Life

A tour of the thriving communities of the Larnaka district

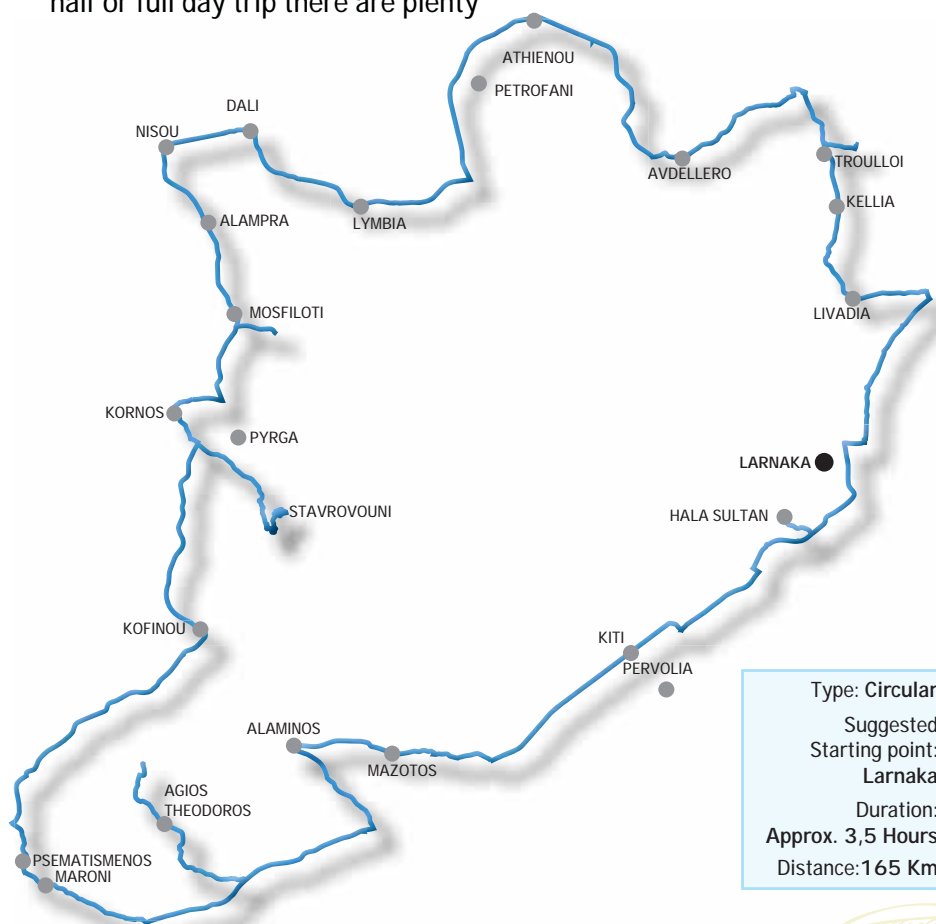
This Larnaka route offers a relaxed trip around the picturesque and quiet outskirts of the city and will prove to be an eye-opener for those who want a truly authentic rural Cypriot experience. With an itinerary that takes you through small agricultural villages, tucked away off the busy highway, the route offers a glimpse of traditional village life, a taste of delicious Cypriot cuisine, as well as insight into the ancient past and historical importance of the island.

An easy drive that can be enjoyed as a half or full day trip there are plenty

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 2



Larnaka Fort



petrol stations along the way, as well as options for food and drinks. Watch out for pedestrians and cyclists.

Begin by following Larnaka's main coastal road to travel north past Larnaka port, and then take a left turn at the lights towards Oroklini. Make sure not to miss the first left and follow the sign towards Livadia. On your right you will have views over the Oroklini Lake, a Natura 2000 wetland which hosts migratory birds in spring and autumn. At the end of the road follow the signs to the small village of Kellia to enjoy a nice and easy drive through the area's long stretching wheat fields, a beautiful sight especially during spring.

Before reaching Troulloi, it is worth visiting the Agios Georgios Mavrovouniou monastery which you encounter on your right. From Troulloi, travel south past the tiny village of Avdellero, and then further north to reach



Troulloi Larnaka

Athienou. Known for its delicious halloumi cheese, yogurt and baked goods, Athienou makes for a pleasant stop, and one that will satisfy your taste buds. Here you should try the traditional Athienitiko bread, which is cooked on stone, along with a slice of locally made halloumi, for a truly authentic Cypriot culinary experience. The area is also famed for its delicious wedding cake sweet called Loukoumi, made with

semolina and butter and filled with either almonds or pistachios. Of interest is a visit to the church of Panagia Chryseleousa, with its impressive frescoes. Excavations continue at the archaeological Athienou-Mallourasite, which encompasses the Geometric, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Frankish, Venetian, and Ottoman periods of the island's history. The fully restored traditional flour mill of Andreas Hadjitheocharous, in use since 1910, offers visitors insight into Cyprus' rural life.

Next, follow the road past Athienou, taking a left at the roundabout of the community's industrial area. On your left you will find Petrofani, a former Turkish Cypriot village with some derelict houses. The surrounding



landscape and the remains of the village with its small animal farms serve as a great spot for some memorable pictures.

At the end of the road take a left to travel south, past Lympia and onto Dali, to visit the site and local museum of Ancient Idalion, an ancient kingdom estimated to have been founded around 1220 BC. The town

was comprised of three sections, the west and east acropolis and the lower city between the two. On the site, which is still under excavation, you can explore the remains of the Temple of Athena on the summit of the west acropolis. Findings from the site are housed at the area's museum and the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia, the most important being an inscribed bronze tablet

(480-470 BC), which has been in the property of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) since 1862.



Kornos

Leaving Dali behind, follow the signs for Pera Chorio and onwards to Mosfiloti. Drive through the old back road connecting Mosfiloti to Pyrga via a narrow road and through a

luscious landscape of cypresses and a few orchards.



Pyrga Chapelle Royal

Stavrovouni Monastery is the earliest documented monastery on the island, dating back to the 4th century AD, and one of the most ancient monasteries around the world

At the end of the road, now in Pyrga, you will encounter the new church of Agia Marina in front of you, next to which lies the Royal Chapel of St. Katherine. Dating back to the beginning of the 15th century, this relic of the Lusignan kingdom was built with volcanic rocks, and its interior walls and domes still showcase many surviving frescoes.

Take a right to make your way to Kornos, a village known for its high quality honey production and its clay pottery craft. The village's Co-operative Company of Potters uses soil from the foot of Stavrovouni mountain to make a huge array of red clay products, plain, engraved or embossed, including pots, wine jars, pitchers, clay hive homes, urns etc. From Kornos take the road south of the village through the forest of Kornos, where you could also take a few minutes

to rest at the nearby picnic site nestled amongst cypresses, pine, olive, and eucalyptus trees, terebinths and lentisks.



Stavrovouni Monastery

As you reach the main road, make a right and then take the first left following the road uphill for 7 kilometres to reach the peak of the hill at Stavrovouni Monastery. Literally translated as 'the mountain of the cross', this is the earliest documented monastery on the island, dating back to

the 4th century AD, and one of the most ancient monasteries around the world. It is also one of the few places where pieces of the Holy Cross can be found, left at the monastery by its founder, St. Helen, mother of Byzantine Emperor, Constantine the Great. Women are not allowed to visit the monastery. Men may visit, but must be decently dressed.

The road up the hill is winding with very narrow turns and requires slow and cautious driving. As you ascend, you will encounter on your right a viewpoint area with a few benches that offers panoramic views of the Larnaka and Lemesos coastlines.

Continue straight onto the main road and drive south, parallel to the Lefkosia – Lemesos highway, past Kofinou



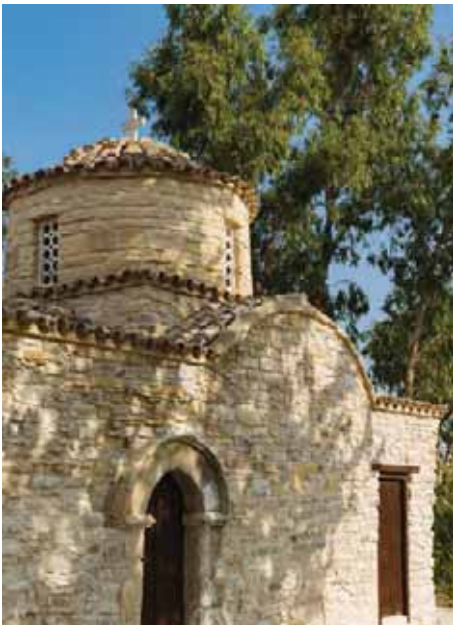
and on to the small villages Psematismenos and Maroni.

The traditional picturesque stone-built village Psematismenos, with its beautiful narrow little alleys, is a welcoming distraction to those looking for a change of scenery from the bustle of the city. On your way to Maroni you come across

signs directing you to the village's Natural Vegetation Park, which is home to a few dozen perennial olive trees that are over 500 years old. Take a few minutes for a quiet walk and admire the striking size of these olive tree trunks.



Agios Theodoros



Agios Mamas Alaminos

Keep on route to visit Maroni, a village which dates back to the late Bronze Age. With its renovated traditional old mansions and stone-paved alleys, this destination serves as a great example of lowland Cypriot architecture, still preserved to this day. The village and its surrounding valley is ideal for vegetable production, grown both out in the open

Keep on route to visit Maroni, a village which dates back to the late Bronze Age. With its renovated traditional old mansions and stone-paved alleys

as well as in greenhouses, which you will come across

as you drive south and onto the coast.

Heading eastward along the coast turn left inland to reach AgiosTheodoros, a village situated at the banks of Pentaschoinos river. The six kilometre drive there, through fragrant citrus groves, is one worth your while. A mixed village with both Greek and Turkish Cypriots until 1974, Agios Theodoros has several abandoned houses now in complete ruins and boasts a Venetian watermill and the 16th century Gothic style church of Panagia Astathkion.



Kiti Panagia Aggeloktisti

As you continue on the main coastal road, take a left for a small detour to Alaminos to visit the 15th century Alaminos Tower, which you will encounter on your right. Currently situated within a field, this oblong stone-built structure, which has a clear view of the sea, served as a watchtower. Take your first right to reach Mazotos and get back onto the main coastal road.

Pervolia, a village southwest of Larnaka, known for its rocky and pebbled beach, attracts kitesurfing enthusiasts all year round

On your way to Kiti, you will go past Pervolia, a village southwest of Larnaka, known for its rocky and pebbled beach, which attracts kitesurfing enthusiasts all year round. The beach stretches for some 10 kilometres and its shallow waters and constant winds offer the ideal conditions for long distance and bump and jump kitesurfing. Whether it is to admire the surfers or to actually have a go at the sport, this beach makes for a great stop.

As you drive through Kiti, don't forget to make a stop at the magnificent 11th century church of Panagia Angeloktisti, built over the ruins of a 5th century early Christian basilica. According to legend, the church, which was under construction at the time, was moved to a new location overnight by divine intervention. There, it was completed by angels, hence the name "Angeloktisti", which translates as "built by angels".

Follow the road past the International Airport on your right to make your way into Larnaka.

Be sure to leave some time for a final stop at the Hala Sultan Tekke, a holy shrine of the Muslim religion and the grave of Umm Haram a relative of the prophet Mohammed, which you encounter on your left. Nestled around beautiful tall palm trees, the mosque, one of the most important Muslim pilgrimage sites in the world, was built in 1816 and is situated at the western edge of Larnaka's salt lake. A Natura 2000 site, the lake serves as a major migratory passage for approximately 85 species of water birds, including flamingoes, a trademark of the city. During winter, the lake's shallow waters offer spectacular mirroring images of the nearby mosque and the beautiful red and orange-coloured sunset sky, best enjoyed through the lake's four-kilometre nature trail. The lake preserves its beauty even throughout the summer months, when the area turns into a glistening salt pan of white and pink.

Nestled around beautiful tall palm trees, the mosque, one of the most important Muslim pilgrimage sites in the world, was built in 1816 and is situated at the western edge of Larnaka's salt lake



Salt Lake Larnaka





Route 3

Antiquity and Tradition

Route 3

Lemesos – Amathus – Agios Georgios Alamanos – Governor's Beach – Kalavassos Tenta – Tochni – Choirokoitia – Skarinou – Kato and Pano Lefkara – Kato Drys – Vavla – Lageia – Ora – Melini – Eptagoneia – Arakapas – Agios Konstantinos – Agios Pavlos – Kalo Chorio – Louvaras – Dierona – Akrounta – Germasogeia – Lemesos



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department, Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Motorway | Natural Trails (Start of) |
| Main Road | Picnic Sites |
| Secondary Road | Castle |
| European Long distance path E4 | Archaeological Sites |
| Nature Trail | Monastery |
| District Boundary | Museum |
| British Sovereign Base Area Boundary | Place of Interest |
| UNESCO World Cultural Heritage | Camping Site |
| | Fishing Shelter, Marina, Port |



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Antiquity and Tradition

From prehistoric sites to lace-making villages

Combining sea and mountain, this route is rich in archaeological sites – including the ancient city kingdom of Amathus and prehistoric Choirokitia. It also takes you into the hilly area east of Lemesos to the famous village of Lefkara. Known for its time-honoured tradition of lace making, Lefkara is just one of the many picturesque villages well worth exploring for a glimpse into much of what characterises rural Cyprus. Most of the roads are generally good, although sections may require a four-wheel drive during the wet season, but it is worth

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 3



Lefkara embroidery



Type: Circular

Suggested
Starting point:
Lemesos

Duration:
Approx. 4,5 Hours
Distance: 150 Km

taking it slow and spending a full day to visit the many sites.

Take Lemesos' main coastal road and drive east; on your left you will find the archaeological site of Amathus, one of the most important city-kingdoms of ancient Cyprus.

According to myth, it was founded by King Kinyras and was also where Theseus left a pregnant Ariadne to be cared for by the locals. Human presence dates back to around 11th century BC, with the city undergoing a tumultuous history, being conquered by the Persian, Ptolemies, Romans and Byzantines before the Arab raids dealt a final blow in the 7th century AD after which it was abandoned. Among the attractions at the



Agios Georgios Alamanos Coast

site are the ruins of the Temple of Aphrodite, the Agora, the baths and four basilicas. One of the world's biggest monolithic vases, used for the worshipping rituals of Aphrodite, was unearthed here and is today part of the collection of the Louvre Museum in Paris. The external port of the city was situated in front of the agora and its ruins are preserved today under the sea.

Visit the monastery of Agios Georgios Alamanos, which offers wonderful views of the whitewashed rocky coastline

Take the road inland along the busy highway and follow the signs as you head south to Agios Georgios Alamanos Monastery. This 12th century Byzantine style monastery, currently serving as a Greek Orthodox convent, is dedicated to Saint George the Alaman, one of the three hundred so-called Alaman Saints, refugees who fled during the early Byzantine period to live a life as hermits in Cyprus. Take a right up the hill to visit the monastery, which offers wonderful views of the whitewashed rocky coastline, or continue straight to find the beautiful pebbled seaside where you can also enjoy fresh fish at the nearby tavern.

To discover more of the wild beauty that unfolds along the island's south coastline, visit the sandy grey Kalymnos beach, known also as Governor's beach



because, according to local folklore, it was a popular bathing spot for a former British governor. Perhaps the most noteworthy spot of the entire Governor's beach area, you could also have lunch at this Blue Flag beach, which offers stunning views of the deep blue Mediterranean Sea.

Continue onto the main road, take a left turn and go under the highway to visit the archaeological site of Kalavasos (Tenta), which is today protected by a contemporary cone-shaped roof structure resembling a tent. Legend has it that St. Helen (327AD), mother of Constantine the Great, stayed in a tent here during her stay on the island. Dating back to 7000 BC, the site in Kalavasos along with that of Choirokitia provides evidence of the initial Cypriote Aceramic Neolithic period.

Drive further west, past the traditional Kalavasos village, which lies at the west bank of Vasilikos river, and follow the road up to Tochni, which has preserved its traditional character and boasts many facilities for agrotourism.



Tochni

At the centre of the village, northeast of the church of St Constantine and Helen, lie the ruins of the Gothic style church of Timios Stavros (Holy Cross).

Meander through the village and then follow the road to Choirokoitia, a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site. One of the most important prehistoric sites of the eastern Mediterranean, this Neolithic settlement (7000-4000 BC), still under excavation, offers insight

Visit the archaeological site of Kalavasos (Tenta), which is today protected by a contemporary cone-shaped roof structure resembling a tent



Choirokoitia Settlement

into the evolution of the first human occupation of the island by farmers who came from the Near East, as well as the spread of the Asian civilisation to the Mediterranean world.

During his visit in Lefkara, Leonardo da Vinci commissioned a lace cloth for the main altar of the Duomo di Milano

Next, head up to the picturesque Kato and Pano (Upper and Lower) Lefkara via Skarinou. Famed for its traditional lace embroidery, known as Lefkaritika, and silver handicraft, Lefkara was named after the white silica and limestone hills of the area. This picturesque village, located on the southern slopes of Troodos, with its cobbled streets and charming stone-built merchant and artisans' houses, is surely worth a stop. Wander through the village's narrow alleys and visit the quaint little shops to get acquainted with the famous local lacemaking art and filigree silverwork, or visit the local Lace and Silverware Museum. Legend has it that during his visit here in 1481, Leonardo da Vinci commissioned a lace cloth for the main altar of the Duomo di Milano.



Lefkara Museum

Especially stunning in terms of landscape during spring, with its blossoming almond trees, visitors here will find many options for restaurants and cafes, as well as accommodation and a petrol station.

As you exit Pano Lefkara, take a left back onto the main road to travel south to Kato Drys, but be sure to take a few minutes to appreciate the panoramic view of the village, on your left. Possibly named after the area's oak trees, make your way through the small village of Kato Drys. Similar in terms of architecture this is another one of Cyprus' lacemaking villages.

Drive through the extensive vineyards on your left as you head to Vavla. On your way, you will see signs for the 15th century monastery of Agios Minas, where you can buy icons and honey produced by the convent's nuns.



When you reach the T junction at Vavla, take a right and follow the road towards Lageia, a scenic village with stone-built taps, which although no longer in use, are a prominent feature that catches the eye.

Go left at the sign towards Ora and onto Melini, a quiet picturesque village still upholding its tradition of lacemaking. Drive through the village's narrow paved street to find the 16th century stone-built and wooden-roofed church of Panagia Eleousa, located north of the village next to a small park.

At Melini, go left and head for the mountainous Eptagoneia, about 25 kilometres northeast of Lemesos which is especially known for its delicious mandarins. Here you will find the magnificent church of Agia Marina standing tall in the village centre. Built in the



Kato Drys

early 19th century, the church is made of black stone and its external wall is said to have a width of 1 metre.

Follow the road five kilometres west to Arakapas, nestled between Panagiotis and Louvariotis rivers and also renowned for its mandarin cultivations. Make a stop at the old timber roof church of Panagia

Eptagoneia, about 25 kilometres northeast of Lemesos is especially known for its delicious mandarins.



Agia Marina Eptagoneia

Visit the small mediaeval church of St Mamas (1455 AD) with its beautifully preserved frescoes and its restored olive press, at the village centre

lamatiki, said to have been built by the area's first inhabitant, 'Arokopos', who found the holy water of the Virgin Mary two kilometres northeast of the village and built the church in her honour.

As you exit Arakapas, take a right turn and drive for about four kilometres to reach Agios Konstantinos, which lies on the south slope of mount Papoutsia and features wall paintings of the early 16th century that are among the most important surviving examples of the Italo-Byzantine style of art in Cyprus. Offering breathtaking views, at an altitude of 767 metres, the area is known for its thriving vineyards used for the production of Commandaria. Drive through the village and go right at the signpost to the small walnut and plane tree-filled village of Agios Pavlos, or take a left to reach Kalo Chorio.



Kalo Chorio Lemesos

Exiting the village, take a left with a direction towards Gerasa, before you follow the signs to Louvaras. Drive through the tiny mountainous village to visit the small mediaeval church of St. Mamas (1455 AD) with its beautifully preserved frescoes and its restored olive press, at the village centre.

Just outside of Louvaras, take a left uphill to reach Dierona via a dirt road in Limassol's forest. The road is best suited for a 4WD, especially during the island's wet season. If you're using a regular car and don't feel like being adventurous, you can opt for a much quicker way back by continuing straight onwards to Limassol.

Drive past Kakomallis forest station at an altitude of 900 metres and you'll find yourself surrounded by long stretching rocky hills dressed in luscious green, and a near-by lovely picnic site. As you drive through the rocky dirt road, keep an eye out for the endemic *Bosea cypria*, a woody, semi-deciduous shrub with long arching stems and very bright red berries during late summer.

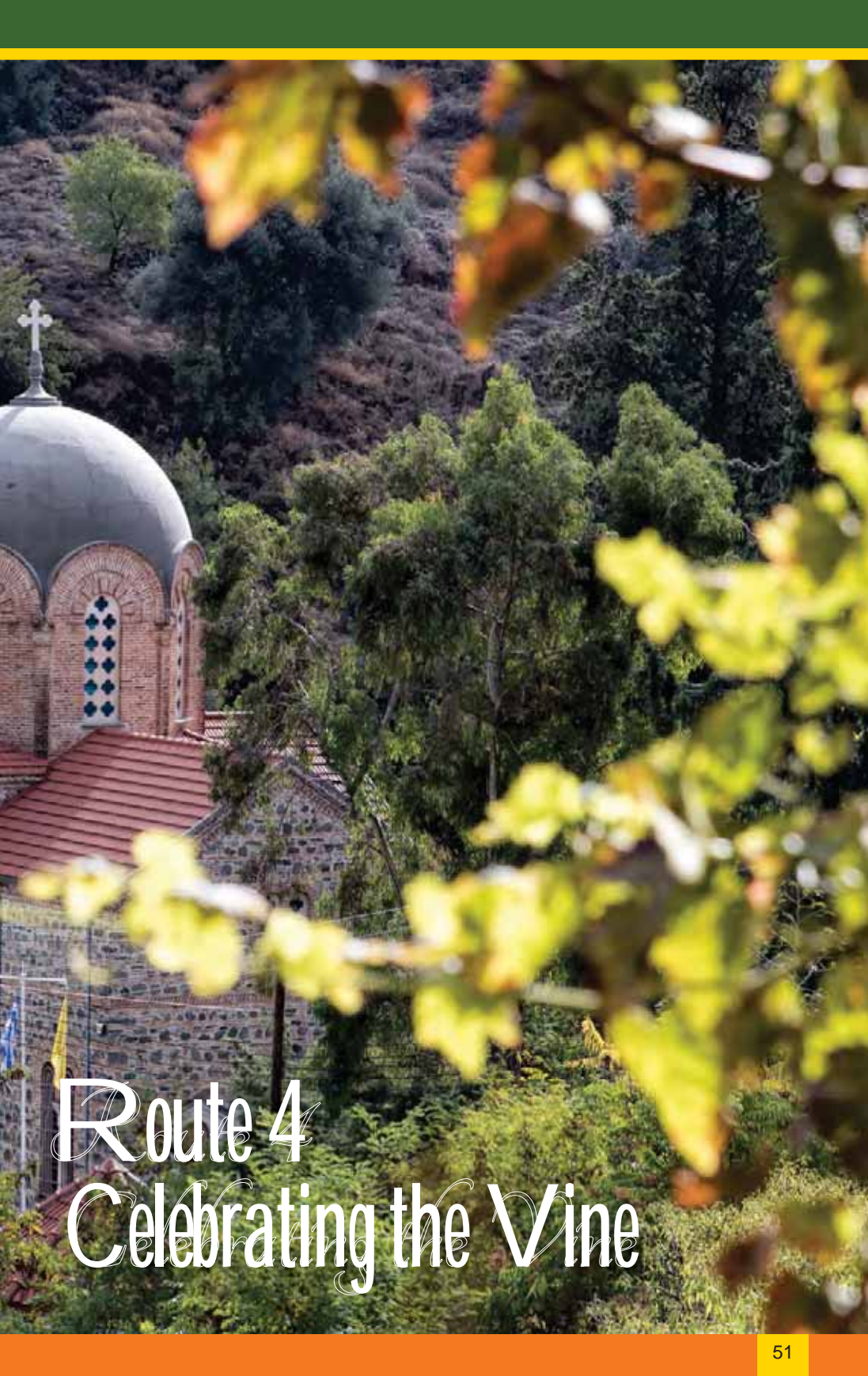


Drive south past Dierona, on the west bank of Germasogeia river with its beautiful citrus groves and on to Akrounta to reach Germasogeia dam, built in 1968. If you have the time, make a stop and opt for a nice stroll along the dam's nature trail, which is just over a kilometre long and a comfortable half hour walk.



Germasogeia Dam





Route 4 Celebrating the Vine

Route 4

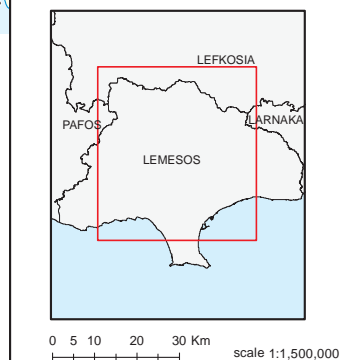
Lemesos – Pano Polemidia – Apesia – Korfi – Limnatis – Kapileio – Agios Mamas – Pelendri – Potamitissa – Dymes – Agros – Chandria – Kyperounta – Troodos Square – Lemithou – Prodomos – Palaio mylos – Trooditissa Monastery – Foini – Kato and Pano Platres – Mandria – Omodos – Pera Pedi – Kouka – Silikou – Lofou – Lemesos



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department, Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Motorway | UNESCO World Cultural Heritage |
| Main Road | Picnic Sites |
| Secondary Road | Archaeological Sites |
| European Long distance path E4 | Church |
| Nature Trail | Monastery |
| District Boundary | Museum |
| Place of Interest | Natural Trails (Start of) |



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Celebrating the Vine

A tribute to the rose and wine villages

This route takes you into the heart of Lemesos' thriving wine villages, all the way up to the forest of Troodos and the famous mountain resort of Platres, and back down to Lemesos. With lush scenery of vineyards, orchards and wild vegetation, picturesque villages dotted with fine churches and splendid views, this route deserves a full day to explore and enjoy the sites. Please note that extra caution is required on road because of the numerous bends.

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 4



Limnatis



Type: Circular

Suggested

Starting point:

Lemosos

Duration:

Approx. 4 Hours

Distance:172 Km

Travel north from the Polemidia roundabout towards Troodos on the B8 and take the right exit to Apesia and on to Korfi, which was built in the 1970s to house the villagers after landslides caused a lot of damage, rendering the original settlement unsafe.



Timios Stavros, Pelendri

A must-see is the church of the Holy Cross, in Pelendri which has frescoes from 1178 and is a part of the global cultural heritage of UNESCO

Limnatis, located around 480 metres above sea level, is a village full of greenery, both from its natural vegetation as well as from cultivations. Known as the 'almond tree village', it is famed as one of the most picturesque villages in Cyprus when the almond trees are in full bloom during spring.

From Limnatis, follow the road north that runs parallel to Ambelikos river. At Kapileio, a picturesque wine village built on a hill, it is worth parking the car and taking a walk among the pine trees and vineyards, as the roads are rather narrow and often paved. Large pots that had been used for oil or wine and traditional clay ovens decorate the gardens of these stone-built houses. There are also a number of churches, the most noteworthy one being that of the ancient church of Agios Georgios o Tropeoforos (St. George the Triumphant) dating from the 12th century which lies east of the village.

Follow the road to Agios Mamas, taking a left to enter the village, which is full of vineyards and is renowned for the exceptional quality of its Commandaria (sweet wine). One of the main occupations of its inhabitants is the cultivation of almond, olive and fruit-bearing trees.

Continue on the main road towards Moniatis, and take a right-hand turn into Pelendri. On your way to the village you will pass by Saittas dam on your left, a welcoming stop for all nature lovers and photographer enthusiasts. Pelendri has existed as a settlement since mediaeval times and offers picturesque views all around. It has a high annual rainfall, which helps the growth of a variety of vegetation such as apple, pear and peach trees, olive, almond and walnut trees as well as lots of winemaking vineyards. For cultural



enthusiasts, a must-see is the church of the Holy Cross, which has frescoes from 1178 and is a part of the global cultural heritage of UNESCO as well as the church of Panagia Catholiki which dates back to the early 16th century and features wall paintings of the Italo-Byzantine style. This village ranks first in the Lemesos district for its Byzantine heritage.

Exit Pelendri and go past Potamitissa, where on a

clear day you will have a spectacular view of Akrotiri bay. Take a right to travel east to Agros, the main village of the Pitsilia region. The name of the village comes from the Monastery of Megalos Agros, which was destroyed in 1894. Today, in its place you will find the Church of Panagia Eleousa.



Agros

Agros is a wonderful summer resort with a variety of restaurants, cafes and hotels. Known as the rose village, if you are around in May, you will be lucky



Wild Rose, Agros

enough to experience the renowned Rose Festival, where you can visit local workshops and learn all about the distillation of roses, as well as enjoy folk dance and music performances. Any time of the year though, you can try its famous

Agros is known as the rose village. If you are around in May, you will be lucky enough to experience the renowned Rose Festival

rose water, as well as its other rose products, such as wine, liquor, tea, scented candles and organic cosmetic products. Other culinary highlights that the village has to offer include the traditional preserved sweets, grape products such as soutzoukos and palouzes or traditional smoked and wine-braised sausages.

Before the village square in Agros, take a left and follow the signs towards Karvounas/Troodos to get to Chandria and then Kyperounta. As you drive along this road you will encounter exquisite views of Agros.

Kyperounta may have taken its name from "kyperos" (scientific name, *Cyperus rotundus*), a weed that grows widely in the area, which is used to feed the animals. Make a point of visiting the small chapel



Agia Marina Kyperounta

of the Holy Cross, with murals dating from 1521, which has actually been turned into a museum. An interesting feature of the church is its uneven wooden roof, which has the shape of a capital L.

On your way to Troodos Square, you will come across the Sanatorium or District Hospital, an interesting building architecturally, which

serves the surrounding 25 communities; it also has an emergency room that operates 24 hours.

Prodromos is a popular village, particularly for its cool summer temperatures, its lovely picnic site located near the dam and the luxurious hotel Berengaria

Your next stop is Troodos Square, an ideal spot for a quick coffee or a long lunch. Nature enthusiasts should save some time for a stop at the Visitor Centre of the Troodos National Forest Park exhibiting the geology, flora and fauna of the area, as well as for the 250-metre botanical and geological trail. Another place of interest is the Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre, situated in the newly restored elementary school, hosting a geological garden with all the rock types of the area, a seed bank of endemic species and exhibits from mining activity in the area. Covering 45% of the Troodos range, the Troodos Geopark has recently been included in the global network of UNESCO geoparks.



Just off the road is the Troodos Botanic Garden "A.G. Leventis" which is included in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas of Cyprus. The garden with endemic and riverine plants as well as an arboretum, also offers spectacular views.

As you exit Troodos, following the road towards Prodomos, you could take a left to visit the mountain range's highest peak, Mount Olympus. Prodomos is a popular

village, particularly for its cool summer temperatures, its lovely picnic site located near the dam and the luxurious hotel Berengaria. Not in use since 1984, this once luxurious hotel had accommodated important

personalities such as the king of Egypt Farouk and the president of Israel Ezer Vaisman.

At Prodomos roundabout make a left and then a tight right turn and meander through the area's stone-built houses to descend to Lemythou, and then travel

south past the picturesque village of Palaioomylos to



Prodomos



Hantara Waterfalls Foini

Troodos Botanic Garden "A.G. Leventis" is included in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas of Cyprus

reach Foini. A well-kept secret, Hantara waterfalls, located between Foini and Trooditissa Monastery is a must-see for all nature lovers.

British writer Daphne Du Maurier wrote a large part of her acclaimed novel *Rebecca* during her stay in Platres.

Continue on the main road towards Kato Platres, follow the signs and drive east to reach Pano Platres, one of the region's wine villages and the largest of the Troodos resorts, whose history can be traced back to the Lusignan and Venetian eras. Popular with both local and foreign visitors, it has hosted many notable personalities, including Nobel Prize winner, and Greek poet Giorgos Seferis and British writer Daphne Du Maurier, who wrote a large part of her acclaimed novel *Rebecca* during her stay. Pano Platres also offers spectacular natural attractions such as the Kalidonia Waterfalls and the highest waterfall in Cyprus,

Millomeri, with a height of 15 metres, both of which are included as part of the nearby nature trails.



Omodos

From Pano Platres drive through Mandria and take a right to visit Omodos, one of the best known of Lemesos' villages. Meander through Omodos' cobblestone paths and sample traditional products and wine sold by the many vendors on the street. You could also visit

its 17th century stone-built monastery, containing treasures such as a gilded icon stand dating back to 1817 and the fragments of the skull of Saint Phillip. In front of the monastery you will find the large square, filled with cafes, taverns and coffeeshops.

Another highlight is the mediaeval wine press, one of the oldest in Cyprus, representative of traditional craftsmanship.

From Omodos, travel further south towards Agios Amvrosios, and then head north through Vouni and Koilani to arrive at Pera Pedi. Just outside of Koilani on your way to Pera Pedi you will find the ancient Agia Mavri Chapel, which is shaded by a huge 800-year-old plane tree.



In these wine villages, which lie at the west bank of Kryos river, you will find traditional workshops that produce Cypriot sweets and wines and where you can observe how delicacies such as soutzoukos, kiofteri, palouzes, daktyla and many other sweets are made.

In the centre of Pera Pedi, you will find the historical church of Saint Nicolas, built in 1776, where two portable icons are kept, that of the Virgin Mary of the 16th century and that of St. John the Evangelist which dates back to 1550.



Agios Ioannis Theologos church, Pera Pedi

Drive through the vineyards of Kouka and Silikou, making stops along the way for a few clicks of the impressive surroundings.

As you drive through Silikou, take a right to reach the beautifully restored and picturesque village of Lofou via a dirt road. The road is best suited for a 4WD especially during rainy periods. If you don't feel like being adventurous you can choose the quicker way back through Agios Georgios.

Then drive south past Alassa, located only 12 kilometres from Lemesos and offering beautiful views of the Kouris dam.



Mill Kouka





Route 5 In Praise of Aphrodite

Route 5

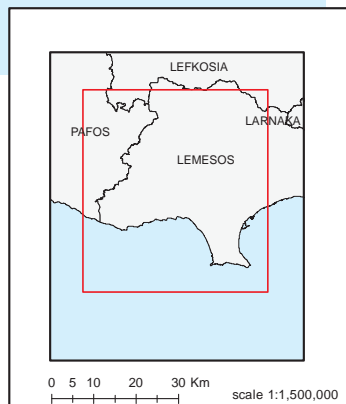
Lemesos – Lady's Mile – Agios Nikolaos ton Gatou Monastery – Akrotiri – Kolossi Castle – Kourion Archaeological Site – Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates – Avdimou – Pissouri – Petra tou Romiou – Alektora – Platanisteia – Agios Thomas – Anogyra – Pachna – Agios Amvrosios – Kato and Pano Kivides – Kantou – Erimi – Asomatos – Lemesos



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department, Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- | | |
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| Motorway | UNESCO World Cultural Heritage |
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| Secondary Road | Archaeological Sites |
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| Nature Trail | Monastery |
| British Sovereign Base Area Boundary | Museum |
| District Boundary | Place of Interest |
| Natural Trails (Start of) | |



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In Praise of Aphrodite

From the birthplace of the Goddess of Love to ancient Kourion

A unique combination of exquisite coastal and mountainous scenery, this route takes you on a journey through Cyprus' ancient history via its archaeological monuments, whilst also offering a varied experience of Cyprus' natural landscapes. A half or full day trip, you will come across some of Cyprus' wine villages, beautiful ancient monasteries, and Lemesos Salt Lake.

Starting from Lemesos drive north past Lemesos Port to get onto the long stretch of Lady's Mile beach

at Akrotiri Bay. This is a dirt road, with a rather rough terrain, so take care as you drive along. On the right hand side a barren landscape unfolds before you; on the left you encounter Lady's Mile, an 8 kilometres beach with shallow waters, particularly popular with the locals. Here you will find a variety of restaurants, kiosks and coffee shops, ideal for a quick snack or a

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 5



Lady's Mile

Type: Circular

Suggested

Starting point:
Lemesos

Duration:

Approx. 4 Hours

Distance: 135 Km



proper fish tavern style meal.

When you reach the last cafeteria, close to the end of the road, make a right inland. The road is not sign posted and may be hard to trace at first, but drive west and soon you'll find yourself on a small road surrounded by the luscious vegetation of the Salt Lake, which you will encounter a bit further down on your right.

Take the first left and follow the road past the olive groves, until you come across the Agios Nikolaos ton Gatou Monastery, also known as The Holy Monastery of St. Nicholas of the Cats. As its name suggests, the monastery has for long been associated with felines. Take a few minutes to talk to the nuns who reside



Akrotiri Monastery

there, and ask them to tell you the story that surrounds the monastery. Situated on Cape Gata, a popular version of the legend tells that the monastery was founded in the 4th century BC by Saint Helen, mother of Constantine the Great, who brought hundreds of cats to Cyprus in order to deal with the huge snake population that drove locals away. In 1983, the monastery was assigned to a group of

nuns, who to this day take care of a large number of unwanted cats that have been abandoned there.

As you leave the monastery behind, follow the road for a short drive to Akrotiri.

The natural landscape that surrounds you is not familiar to the rest of the island and Akrotiri, part of the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, has been a British Overseas Territory since 1960. The Salt Lake that borders the road to your right, covering an area of approximately 10 Km², is one of its most impressive sites. According to geologists, it is believed that the lake was formed after an offshore islet was gradually joined to the mainland. Thousands of birds stop over during the migration period, due to



the fact that over half the lake is less than 30 cm deep. The Greater Flamingos are some of its most popular visitors, and it is considered to be one of the most important wetlands of the eastern Mediterranean.

As you exit Akrotiri, take a right and follow the road driving north to Kolossi, to find Kolossi Castle, a former Crusader stronghold. The original castle was built in 1210 by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem,



Kolossi Castle

known also as the Knights Hospitallers, but was destroyed during the Mameluke raids in 1425-26. The Great Commander Louis de Magnac, whose coat-of-arms can be seen on the castle's walls, built the existing castle on the ruins. During the Middle Ages, this impressive stronghold was of great strategic importance – it also contained large facilities for the production of sugar, which was one of Cyprus' main exports. This area is also famous for its sweet wine, Commandaria, known as the oldest continuously



Commandaria

The highlight of the Archaeological site Kourion is the Greco Roman theatre, which is now fully restored and used for musical and theatrical performances

produced wine in the world. It is said that King Richard the Lionheart, upon tasting the wine, declared that it was the “wine of kings and the king of wines.”

Double back on the same road and take a right onto the main coastal road with an exquisite view of the Mediterranean sea on your left, and follow the signs for the Archaeological site of Kourion, one of the finest in Cyprus. This site contains many monuments such as the Theatre, the Public Baths, the Fountain House, the House of the Gladiators and the House of Achilles among others; many of these date to the Roman Period. Excavations are still taking place and new treasures are continuously coming to light. The highlight of the site is the Greco Roman theatre, which is now fully restored and used for musical and

theatrical performances. It has unique acoustic qualities and offers exquisite views, an ideal location for a photography enthusiast.

About 3 kilometres down the road you come across the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates on your right. Hylates, God of the Woodlands was the protector of the city of Kourion, celebrated here



Kourion Theatre

from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. This site is one of the most interesting architectural complexes in Cyprus, and gives us a window into the development of a Cypriot sanctuary, from the Bronze Age through to the end of paganism on the island.

Continue on the main coastal road past Avdimou and onto Pissouri Bay, another one of Cyprus' turtle nesting sites and a Blue Flag awarded beach, at Cape Aspro. Rich in its production of Sultanina grapes, olives, carob and almonds, what makes this place stand out is the dramatic combination of sea and mountain as the main village is located on a higher altitude a few minutes away from the coast. The village square offers visitors a vast array of places for a break, including



stone-built restaurants, formerly used as carob storage units.

A few kilometres down the road, while driving along one of the island's most beautiful coastlines, lies Petra tou Romiou, a striking geological formation of large and tall rocks, better known as Aphrodite's Rock. According to mythology, this is the birthplace of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty and daughter



Petra tou Romiou

of Zeus and Dione, who rose from the foaming waves and traveled ashore on a shell to begin her worldly life. Perhaps the island's most notable natural site and a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural route, "Petra tou Romiou" is literally translated as 'the Rock of the Greek' and is associated with the legendary Byzantine hero, Digenis Akritas. Legend has it that with one hand he grabbed hold of the Kyrenia mountain range thereby forming 'Pentadaktylos' (five fingers) mountain, while at the same heaving a huge rock and tossing it into the sea at the Saracens to keep them at bay. Opposite the site you'll find a restaurant, cafe, and kiosk. The rocky beach of Petra tou Romiou is open to swimmers all year round and is especially popular with the helpless

romantics and Greek mythology buffs.



Pissouri

Double back on the same road and take a left inland north of Pissouri to ascend to

Alektora, known for its beautifully aligned vineyards. Travel from Alektora to the neighboring stone-built picturesque villages of Platanisteia and Agios Thomas to reach the village of Anogyra, on the southern slope of Troodos.

Anogyra is especially known for preserving the traditional method of making pastelli, a popular carob-based sweet

On your way to Anogyra, which is surrounded by carob orchards, you will come across the ruins of the Byzantine Monastery of Timios Stavros (Holy Cross) with its beautiful surviving frescoes.

Go up to the paved village square, where you will find the island's only Carob Museum and Factory. The village is especially known for preserving the traditional method of making pastelli, a popular carob-based sweet, celebrated annually with the Pastelli Festival in September. Also worth a visit is the village's 14th century limestone well.



Timios Stavros, Anogyra

Perched at a higher altitude on the southern slopes of Troodos, Pachna and its neighboring villages of Agios Amvrosios and Kato and Pano Kivides, boast reputable local wineries, worth a visit for anyone who would like to have a taste of

the high quality wine produced in the area.

Within the village of Agios Amvrosios you'll find the 14th century church dedicated to St. Ambrosios. A little outside the village, you could make a stop at chapel of Saint Elisabeth (16th century) with notable Byzantine frescos.

Drive south, past the Kouris dam to get to Kantou, with its 16th century limestone Byzantine



Kantou Olive picking



chapel of Agia Napa, and then head to Erimi. Make a point of visiting the Cyprus Wine Museum for an informative journey through the history of Cyprus wine making. With the use of traditional and contemporary audiovisual aids, visitors get a glimpse into the cultivation, production, storage and consumption of wine in the past. Ancient vases and jars, mediaeval drinking vessels, old documents, instruments and other findings are sure to impress and inspire a new found appreciation for fine wine.

Make a point of visiting the Cyprus Wine Museum for an informative journey through the history of Cyprus wine making

Follow the road back to Akrotiri and take a left at Asomatos to head back to Lemesos.



Grapes





Route 6 The Magical West

Route 6

Pafos – Mesogi – Agios Neophytos monastery – Tsada – Kallepeia – Letymvou – Kourdaka – Lemona – Choulou – Statos – Agios Photios – Panagia Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery – Agia Moni Monastery – Pentalia – Agia Marina – Axylou – Nata – Choletria – Stavrokonnou – Kelokedara – Salamiou – Agios Ioannis – Arminou – Filousa – Praitori – Kedares – Kidasi – Agios Georgios – Mamonía – Fasoula – Souskiou – Kouklia – Palaipaphos – Pafos



Reference

- Motorway
- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- European Long distance path E4
- Nature Trail
- British Sovereign Base Area Boundary
- District Boundary
- A Natural Trails (Start of)
- nesco world Cultural Heritage
- X Picnic Sites
- + Archaeological Sites
- + Church
- + Monastery
- + Museum
- + Place of Interest
- + Camping Site



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The Magical West

Majestic monasteries and the Diarizos river

Combining natural beauty with historical interest, this route takes a full day as it covers a significant part of southern Pafos and its hilly hinterland, dotted with vines and traditional villages. Key attractions are two of Cyprus' better known monasteries of Agios Neofytos and Panagia Chrysorogiatissa, the magnificent archaeological site of Palaipafos, and the beautiful Diarizos valley. Optional detours into some of the villages are an added bonus. Driving conditions are good, though a 4WD may be advisable during the winter months.

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 6



Panagia Chrysorogiatissa Monastery



The monastery of Agios Neophytos is famous for its 12th and 15th century Byzantine frescoes and its striking architecture

Start your trip from Pafos and onto Mesogi. From Mesogi take a left and follow the signs to Agios Neofytos monastery.

You will be driving uphill with a great view of the entire Pafos coast on your left. Drive through the rocky terrain of wild trees and forest-like surroundings.

Driving into the monastery, drive slowly and make your way through the parked cars and buses to find a place to stop. The monastery founded by the Cypriot Neofytos, who carved a home for himself out of the mountain rock, is famous for its 12th and 15th century Byzantine frescoes and its striking architecture. Home only to a handful of monks, the monastery is located below the grottoes and sits at about an altitude of 400m offering amazing views of the entire Pafos coast.



Agios Neophytos Monastery

Take the same way out of the monastery site and make your way through the village of Tsada, the home village of EOKA national hero Evagoras Pallikaridis. Take a left to enter the village or continue straight onto Kallepia. Take a right into and up through the narrow streets of Kallepeia,

to reach the main road and onto Letymbou. The area is blessed with fertile lands ideal for wine production, which is exactly what the area and the villages of Letymvou, Kourdaka and Lemona are particularly proud of.

Drive carefully up through the old traditional village of Choulou and make your way through the beautiful old stone houses. With their windows and doors open throughout the summer months you'll probably get a glimpse of everyday life in the mountain villages with the women going about their daily chores or sipping on their Cyprus coffee and the men working on the fields or playing backgammon.

Once you reach Agios Fotios the road becomes even



narrower as you drive past abandoned old houses and scattered wild fig trees, in an area that is rich in its production of apples, grapes, pears, peaches, cherries, local wine and raisins, almonds and walnuts and is a blessing to walk through in Spring.

Take the main road towards Pano Panagia and follow the sign for Agia Moni monastery. An annex of Kykkos monastery, Agia Moni is said to have been built by St. Eftychios

and St. Nicolas in the 4th century AD on the ruins of the temple of Hera. In 1752, in one of the fires that destroyed Kykkos monastery the holy icon of the Virgin Mary was transferred here to be kept safe.



Panagia Chrysorogiatissa

Back onto the main road you also come across the Panagia Chrysorogiatissa monastery, dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate." Originally founded in the 12th century AD the monastery holds important icons and treasures of the Christian faith,



Panagia

Agia Moni is said to have been built by St. Eftychios and St. Nicolas in the 4th century AD on the ruins of the temple of Hera

including a silver and gold plated icon of Christ and the Virgin Mary said to have been painted by Apostle

Luke the Evangelist. The monastery comes with its own winery and produces fine wine from its own vineyards.

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary Panagia tou Sinti dates back to the first half of the 16th century has been awarded the Europa Nostra award for its restoration.

Continue on to find the beautiful and picturesque village of Panagia at an altitude of 900m, birthplace of Archbishop Makarios III. The village was named after the Virgin Mary, a tribute to the surrounding churches and monasteries dedicated to her. Here you'll find small traditional coffee houses and places to sit down for a bite. The nearby 10km nature trail of Vouni Panagias, which requires 3.5 – 4 hours of hiking, is a promising option for nature enthusiasts.

To get back on route follow the same way back and take a left to go through the village of Pentalia via a winding dirt road, to one of the most important structures built during the Venetian period, the monastery of Panagia tou Sinti which lies on the west bank of Xeros river. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary this



Panagia tou Sinti Pentalia

remarkable monument which dates back to the first half of the 16th century has been awarded the Europa Nostra award for its restoration. The movie-like setting and remote location of the monastery, at the base of the valley enveloped by the surrounding hills, which turns gold during the summer months and a luscious green during spring, with its rocky and shrubby terrain grazed by flocks of

goats make for a truly authentic Cypriot landscape which takes you back in time.

To make your way on to Agia Marina you can double back and ascend to Pentalia to reach the main road. Alternatively, those with a 4WD can opt to follow the road past the church, over the rocky terrain of the river through the fruit tree orchards of the valley and up the slope to Agia Marina. A beautiful sight is the almond orchards that line either side of the road. Take a left to go through Nata, crossing Xeros river to Choletria, Stavrokonnou, Kelokedara and all the way up to



Salamiou.

If you have time to spare take a few minutes off your route and follow the signs for Agios Ioannis an abandoned village up on the hill, at a dead-end, which offers amazing views of the beautiful natural landscape. There are only a handful of people residing in the village so feel free to roam the streets for a few nice clicks with your camera.



Tzelefos Bridge

Carry on to the small village of Arminou with its traditional stone built houses nestling on the slope lining narrow spiral alleys. North of the village, lies one of the most notable attractions on the island, the Tzelefos Bridge, the largest of the mediaeval stone bridges situated on the bank of the Diarizos river. The nearby picnic site is a promising stop for those who would like to spend some more time connecting with nature.

The Tzelefos Bridge, the largest of the mediaeval stone bridges situated on the bank of the Diarizos river

Drive onto the other side of the river through Filousa, onto Praitori, Kedaress, Kidasi, Agios Georgios, Mamonia, and Fasoula villages situated along Diarizos river all the way down south to Asprokremmos dam.



Kidasi

As you drive down the hill past Fasoula on your way to Nikokleia look out your window to the left. Pull on the side of the road to admire the abandoned

village of Souskiou on your left, or if you are driving a 4WD take one of the side dirt tracks into the village. A picturesque setting for those looking to snap a few pictures and of particular archaeological interest, this deserted settlement lies on the right bank of Diarizos. The remarkable pre-Bronze Age necropolis of bell-shaped tombs near the settlement, unearthed 2.5 kilometres inland from Kouklia, has brought to light



Palaipafos

significant Chalcolithic findings, including picrolith figurines, necklaces, stone bowls and composite vases. In fact, a unique Cypriot fertility statue has found its home all the way across the world in the private collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum in California. Past the abandoned village you will arrive in Kouklia and Palaipafos.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Palaipafos or Old Pafos in Kouklia, is best known for its Sanctuary of Aphrodite, the most ancient remains of which date back to the 12th century BC

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Palaipafos or Old Pafos in Kouklia, is best known for its Sanctuary of Aphrodite, the most ancient remains of which date back to the 12th century BC.

The largest religious centre of western Cyprus until the 3rd - 4th century BC, it was a celebrated pilgrimage centre of the ancient Greek world

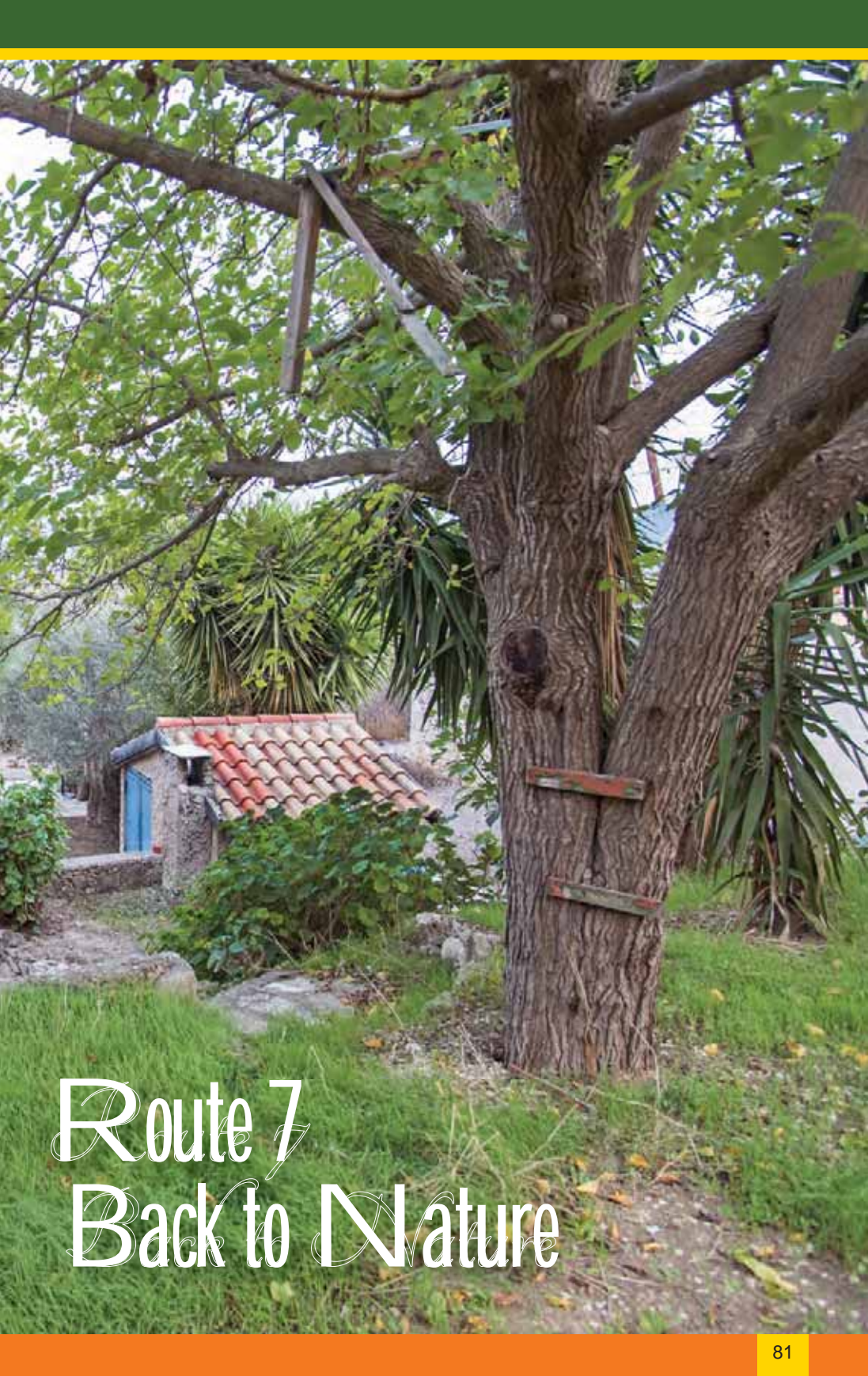


Palaipafos

and a former city-kingdom of Cyprus. Other important monuments are the defensive walls and the Roman House of Leda with its exquisite floor mosaic, the original of which is exhibited at Kouklia Museum. Housed in a Lusignan Manor, the museum also exhibits important finds from the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, tools from the 2nd millennium BC to Roman times, mediaeval pottery and Venetian cannons.







Route 7 Back to Nature

Route 7

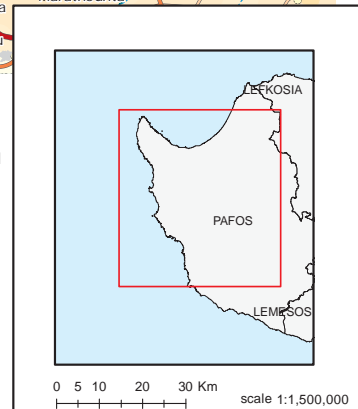
Pafos – Emba – Lemba – Kissonerga – Coral Bay – Maa Palaiokastros – Avakas Gorge – Lara Bay – Pegeia – Kathikas Akourdaleia – Kato and Pano Arodes – Ineia – Drouseia – Fasli – Androlikou – Neo Chorio – Latsi – Baths of Aphrodite – Polis – Chrysochou – Skoulli – Choli – Miliou – Giolou – Stroumpi – Tsada – Agios Neophytos Monastery – Mesogi – Pafos



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department, Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- Motorway
- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- E4— European Long distance path E4
- NatureTrail
- 🏰 Castle
- 🚶 Natural Trails (Start of)
- 🗼 Lighthouse
- 🏛 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage
- 🚶 Picnic Sites
- ✳ Archaeological Sites
- ⛪ Church
- ⛩ Monastery
- 🏛 Museum
- 📍 Place of Interest



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Back to Nature

The Akamas peninsula and Avakas Gorge

An itinerary to satisfy the tastes of many but that will mostly thrill the nature enthusiasts who are out to discover some of Cyprus' most unspoilt and stunning landscapes, this route offers breathtaking panoramic views of Pafos, the Akamas peninsula and Chrysochou bay, picturesque abandoned old villages as well as tourist attractions, beautiful churches and archaeological sites that have survived throughout the centuries and have contributed to the mythical character of this

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 7



Pegela



Type: Circular
Suggested
Starting point:
Pafos
Duration:
Approx. 4,5 Hours
Distance: 135 Km

island.

The route would be best enjoyed as a two-day trip, as its off-road tracks and inviting sites will probably inspire longer stops.

Begin your adventure by driving through one of Pafos' largest villages, Empa, which literally translates as 'come on in'. The village square is adorned by the 12th Century church of Panagia Chryseleousa, which attracts tourists for its beautiful Byzantine Rhythm architecture and wonders all year round.

The beautiful banana plantations are a prominent feature of the entire Pafos region

Neighbouring Empa, is Lempa, a village believed to have been first settled during the Chalcolithic Period (3800-2400 BC). Today Lempa is home to the Lempa Experimental Village, an archaeological project established in 1982 with the purpose of recreating a Chalcolithic village with all its prehistoric activities, from building materials to pottery firing and prehistoric cooking methods. Adding to the village's artistic character is the Cyprus College of Art, which was

founded in 1969 by one of Cyprus' most prominent artists, Stass Paraskos, and functions as a haven for local and foreign artists. If it is art you love, be sure to visit.



Kissonerga

Follow the road signs to Kissonerga and you'll find yourself driving through beautiful banana plantations, a prominent feature of the entire Pafos region, to encounter a

view of Coral bay unfolding before you. The palm tree adorned road along Coral bay caters for tourists' needs, with several hotels, mini-markets, bars, taverns and more. The sandy beach of Coral bay offers sunbeds and umbrellas for hire and is popular with water sports enthusiasts.

Past Coral Bay take a left at the sign and travel back in time by stretching your legs at the ruins found in Maa Palaikastro, a settlement of the Late Bronze Age



in Cyprus which lies at the tip of the coast between Coral bay and Corallia beach. The name Palaiokastros, translates as 'the old castle' and is indicative of its strategic advantage, as it lies between two bays with an uninterrupted view of the land and sea.

Leave Maa and continue onto the same road to head towards the area's famous sea caves. The dramatic scenery of wind and wave carved rocks washed by blue and turquoise waters calls for a few camera clicks, if not a longer evening walk

along the cliffs. Follow the road onto the main coastal road to visit the quiet shingle beach and small fishing harbour of Agios Georgios where you can also enjoy a bite or two at the restaurants that lie just above the harbour. The area is famed for its late spring and early winter dramatic sunsets with vibrant shades of red and amber colouring the Akamas peninsula.

Double back onto the main road which takes you through Agios Georgios and into Akamas. You'll be driving past Agios Georgios church on your left and

the archaeological settlement on your right. The settlement which is said to have flourished under Justinian I (527-565 AD) showcases the ruins of three Early Christian basilicas and a bath, all dating back to the 6th century.

Drive down the hill to enter Akamas, perhaps the island's most stunning natural beauties. The National



Agios Georgios Pegias



Akamas



Park, which covers an area of 230 Km² and includes valleys, gorges and long stretching sandy bays, is home to some 168 bird species, 10 species of mammals, 17 reptile species and many butterflies, including the endemic Pafos blue *Glaucopsyche paphos*. From the 530 plant species in the park, 36 of them are endemic to the island.



Avakas gorge

Avakas gorge, a trekker's paradise offering spectacular views and a plethora of local flora and fauna, including the endangered *Centaurea akamantis*

Drive slowly, taking due care to avoid spoiling the pristine beauty or damaging the flora or fauna. As the area is remote, make sure to bring some water with you, if you're planning on a longer stay. Be aware there are only two restaurants in proximity, one near Avakas gorge and the next close to Lara bay. If the weather allows for it, take a swim at one of the lovely beaches along the coastline, but do so cautiously as the waters can be dangerous and there are no lifeguards around.

A few minutes into your drive in the park you will come across a sign for Avakas gorge, a trekker's paradise offering spectacular views and a plethora of local flora and fauna, including the endangered *Centaurea akamantis*, an endemic plant with purple flowers found only in the gorge. The nature trail through the gorge, carved out of limestone rocks as high as 30 metres and quite narrow at points, is approximately 1.2 kilometres



Lara Bay Akamas

long and requires appropriate footwear. The gorge is extremely rich in flora, which includes ferns, Phoenician junipers and wild oak and fig trees, and serves as a natural habitat for many reptiles, butterflies, hawks and owls, wild goats, rabbits and foxes. Exercise due care as the terrain is slippery and make sure to look out for falling rocks.



Pegeia Fishing Harbour

A less physically demanding but equally thrilling and rewarding experience can be enjoyed a few kilometres past the gorge at Lara Bay. One of the best beaches you will come across throughout the entire island, Lara bay serves as a sanctuary to the protected Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

Continue your journey by doubling back onto the main road, past Pafos Zoo and drive uphill to reach Pegeia, which lies 15 kilometres north of Pafos and approximately 200m above sea level offering stunning panoramic views of the Pafos coast. As you ascend look out your window to your right and take in the wonderful panoramic view of Coral bay. If you want to fully take it in take a right and follow the signs to Pegeia, for a breathtaking view and a few sips of Cyprus coffee at one of the local coffee houses, or drive onwards to Kathikas and settle down at the area's



Kathikas

picnic site. As you continue your ascent onto the small cobblestone village that is Kathikas at an altitude of 645m, you will notice a significant change in scenery and temperature. It would be wise to bring something warm to wear if needed.

Ineia is one of the few villages that have managed to maintain its tradition of basket weaving

The area is famed for its grape production, especially its sultanina grapes, and has a thriving agro-tourism industry.

Drive past Pano and Kato Arodes and onto the tiny traditional village of Ineia, one of the few villages that have managed to maintain its tradition of basket weaving. Find more about the local art by making a

stop at the local museum of basketry, where you can see examples of baskets of different sizes and for various uses, wall decorations, fishing traps and much more.

Only a kilometre north of Ineia and with a similar character lies Drouseia, at the highest point of the Laona area.



Polis Museum

To travel further north to Polis, swap the main

road and opt for the more awe-inspiring and secluded way to reach Neo Chorio.

To reach Fasli you need to drive through Drouseia, via a roughly concrete patched dirt road. Finding the road might prove to be a challenge, but ask locals for help and they will be quick to point you to the right direction. The tight road requires cautious driving, so be sure to drive slowly and preferably during daylight.

Once you reach the abandoned Turkish Cypriot village of Fasli you will feel like you've stumbled upon a rural movie set. A few stone built houses scattered between cropping fields adorned with wild shrubs and fig trees provide the perfect setting for a quick and quiet stop to take in all the beauty of the stunning views provided by Akamas and Chrysochou bay.



Zig zag your way between fields for approximately two kilometres to reach Androlikou, another abandoned Turkish Cypriot village and make your way to Neo Chorio, also referred to as The Gateway to Akamas, as it is the last village before the wilderness of the peninsula.

Drive straight onwards to Latsi, the picturesque harbour of Polis formerly used for shipping carobs, among other goods, for

some fresh fish meze or take a left to reach one of the island's most popular tourist attractions, the Baths of Aphrodite.



Polis Camping Area

The site is a natural pool grotto dressed in rich green said to be the place where the goddess of love used to bathe. According to myth, this is where she met her lover Adonis. He stopped to quench his thirst after one of his hunting expeditions in the Akamas forest and fell instantly in love after taking a sip of the water and laying his eyes on Aphrodite. Opposite the entrance of the site, a restaurant offers great food and amazing views of Chrysochou bay. You can also take a swim at the beautiful rocky beach that unfolds beneath your feet.

The Baths of Aphrodite is a natural pool grotto dressed in rich green said to be the place where the goddess of love used to bathe

Refuel at Polis and start your way back by driving through the picturesque little village of Chrysochou and taking a right off the main road to find Goudi, and its neighbouring villages Choli and Skoulli. Goudi and Skoulli are situated on the bank of the Chrysochou river and connect by road through the village of Choli, which stands at an altitude of 180 metres and offers some beautiful panoramic views. Take the narrow street that connects the three villages and you'll probably come



Miliou offers the perfect setting for long walks in the countryside and is ideal for birdwatching adventures

across local farmers going about their daily chores on the fields and fruit orchards. The entire area is covered with almond, olive and carob trees, cereal, vegetable and legume cropping fields and vineyards.

Exit Skoulli and take a right onto the main road and follow the signs to Akourdaleia and onto Miliou. This mesmerising traditional little village is surrounded by citrus groves, almond trees, vineyards and more beautiful flora which thrive thanks to an abundant supply of spring water.

Adjacent to the springs is the restored monastery of Agioi Anargyroi, built in 1649, which is now being used as a spa hotel. The monastery is dedicated to two

brothers who used to take care of the sick without payment, which is the literal translation of the ancient Greek word "anargyroi."

With far-reaching mountain and valley views and unspoilt countryside, Miliou offers the perfect setting for long walks in the countryside and is ideal for birdwatching



Tsada local coffee shop

adventures as the village serves as a nesting site for nightingales. Drive slowly down the hill to exit Miliou and take a right onto the main road to go past Giolou. If you feel like making a quick stop the village which sits on the edge of the valley at 368m above sea level offers nice views of slopping hills of grape vines and citrus groves.

The road takes you past Stroumpi, a village that celebrates the nearby area's grape and wine production by hosting an annual local wine festival called Dionysia, a tribute to the Greek God of wine, at the end of August.

Head down to Pafos past Tsada, the home village



of EOKA national hero Evagoras Pallikaridis. A stop worth your time would be at the nearby 12th century monastery of "Stavros tis Minthis" which is right next to an 18-hole golf course. The chapel received its name after the efforts of a monk to protect the sacred cross from invaders by hiding it in mint bushes.

Drive through Mesogi and on to Pafos where you can call it a day and look back at all the spectacular places you explored.



The Baths of Aphrodite





Route 8 Off the Beaten Track

Route 8

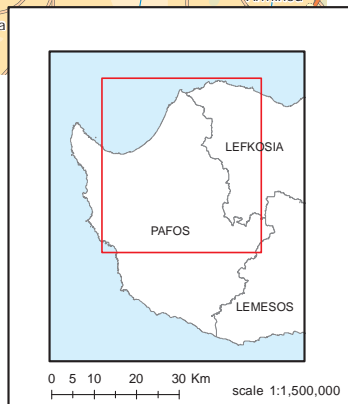
Polis – Steni – Peristerona – Meladeia – Lysos – Stavros tis Psokas – Cedar Valley – Kykkos Monastery – Tsakistra – Kampos – Pano and Kato Pyrgos – Alevga – Pachyammos – Pamos – Nea Dimmata – Polis



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department, Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Motorway | nesco world Cultural Heritage |
| Main Road | Picnic Sites |
| Secondary Road | Archaeological Sites |
| European Long distance path E4 | Church |
| Nature Trail | Monastery |
| District Boundary | Museum |
| Place of Interest | Camping Site |
| Natural Trails (Start of) | |



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Off the Beaten Track

Into the heart of the Pafos forest

This challenging route takes you into the heart of the Pafos forest, through spectacular scenery, into the Cedar Valley, up to Cyprus' most famous monastery and some of its most remote villages and back down along the craggy northern coast with its rocky outcrops and sand and pebble beaches. Ideal for a well-planned escape from the searing heat of the lowland, it is nevertheless quite a long and demanding drive along narrow, mountain roads and may be best enjoyed over two days. Road conditions vary, and though the natural landscape is of unparalleled beauty, drivers should exercise due caution, especially on the forest roads. However, it is also a particularly rewarding

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 8



Steni Museum

Type: Circular

Suggested

Starting point:

Polis

Duration:

Approx. 4 Hours

Distance: 162 Km



The chances of spotting a Mouflon out in the open are pretty slim so if you'd like to see one, be sure to make the stop

route, offering an unrivalled opportunity to enjoy the splendour of the local flora and fauna, including the protected wild sheep, the Cyprus mouflon.

Begin your trip preferably with a full tank as gas stations can only be found near the end of this route. Set off from Polis for an amazing drive through Steni, making an optional stop at the local Museum of Village life in the centre of the village, and onto the small and traditional village of Peristerona, which has a great view of Evretou Dam and the Akamas peninsula. As you approach the village you come across the Byzantine Museum of Arsinoe, and the church of St. Mamas built

in 1911 next to it. More than 60 icons from the 13th to the 19th century are exhibited at the museum which also features an olive press.

Carry on to Lysos, a traditional little village of the Pafos forest with a charming late 15th or early 16th century church with Byzantine and Gothic elements, Panagia Chryseleousa.



Cedar Valley

Take the time to see the biggest animal of the Cyprus fauna, a symbol and a significant part of the island's natural heritage, the mouflon at the Mouflon enclosure. The steep slopes of the Pafos forest and its plethora of pine, cedar and golden oak trees make for a great home for this endemic wild sheep. They have been classified as feral animals and the whole of Pafos forest has long been declared a game protected area. The chances of spotting one out in the open are pretty slim so if you'd like to see one, be sure to make the stop.

Leaving behind the Mouflon enclosure, drive further up into the mountain. Follow the road to reach the Stavros tis Psokas picnic site located at the nearby forest station at an altitude of 900m. Take a break from the demanding drive and enjoy a rest under the pines and oriental plane trees for a sip of water and a huge dose of oxygen. Here you will find all the basic facilities



including restrooms.

Make your way to Kykkos Monastery through the fairy tale like scenery of the Cedar Valley.

The road to the valley is full of tight turns and requires slow driving and some patience. Park beyond the tight corner and you'll find yourself at the starting point of a short hike up through the valley all the way up to the peak of the Tripylos

mountain. The hike is only about two and a half kilometres but it is quite the uphill climb so be sure to have the right shoes for the occasion. If you have the time, make a point of reaching the peak for some

artistic 360 degree photography. On a clear and sunny day your view stretches all the way from the coastline of Morfou and Chrysochou bay and all the hills and plains between



Holy Cross church 'Stavros tis Psokas'



Kykkos Monastery

Troodos and the sea.

When you reach the main road take a small detour and follow the signs to Kykkos Monastery, one of the wealthiest and most striking monasteries on the



The icon of the Virgin Mary, said to have been painted by St. Luke, is one of the most significant of the Orthodox Christian church worldwide, and has been protected in Kykkos monastery for some 900 years.

island. Founded sometime around the end of the 11th century by the Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos, the Holy Monastery of the Virgin of Kykkos lies at an altitude of 1318 metres on the northwest face of Troodos. This is where the first president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III began his ecclesiastical career as a monk in 1926. His tomb lies 3 Kilometres west of Kykkos monastery and remains a popular visitor destination.

According to tradition, the monastery was named after the song of a bird that flew around the area and with human voice said “Κύκκου, Κύκκουτο βουνί/ μοναστήρι θα γενεί,/μια χρυσή Κυρά θα μπει /και ποτέ της δεν θα βγει”, which translates as “Kykkou, Kykkou, Kykkos’ hill/ a monastery the site shall fill/ a golden girl shall enter in, and never shall come out again”. We can safely assume that the ‘golden girl’ refers to the icon of the Virgin Mary. The icon, said to have been painted by St. Luke, is one of the most significant of the Orthodox

Christian church worldwide, and has been protected in the monastery for some 900 years. It is considered to be a miracle icon, too sacred to be looked at, and is kept hidden under a protective cover. According to legend anyone who lays his eyes on it could turn blind.

The monastery’s site is fairly big, consisting of the monastery building housing the monks’ quarters, the



Kykkos Monastery

Church itself which houses the icon of the Virgin Mary, and also includes a museum and library rich in treasures of Orthodox Christianity and the School of Theological and Social studies. Visit the tourist pavilion just below the monastery and explore the small tourist shops for some souvenirs and local sweet delicacies, such as soutzoukkos and caramelised nuts, or enjoy a cup of Cyprus coffee with a view of the beautiful green that surrounds the monastery. If on offer at the coffee shop make sure to try some fresh and warm honey covered loukoumades. Rooms are also available

for rent at the site so if you want to take your time and discover the hidden treasures kept within the monastery away from the buzz of the city, this is your stop.

Double back on the same road and continue your route straight ahead to the picturesque villages of Tsakistra and Kampos.

Tucked away in the mountainous reaches of the Pafos forest, Tsakistra is together with Kampos one of the most remote and enchanting

villages of Cyprus. Some 8 kilometres from Kykkos Monastery with which it is inextricably linked, Tsakistra



Agios Nikolaos Tsakistra

is surrounded by lush greenery and owes its origins to a 15th century community when the village's main church Agios Nikolaos was built with its tiled roof and simple wooden iconostasis. An agricultural community of loggers and farmers it is particularly known for its cherries, apples and pears, as well as traditional products from the vineyards such as soutzkoukkos and zivania, Cyprus' answer to grappa. Some 3 kilometres away is the neighbouring

In Tsakistra look out also for the old village olive press, the water mills, and the Folklore Museum



Tsakistra

mountain community of Kampos with its stately sycamore and oak trees and sparkling fresh water springs which you can taste at the fountains in the centre of the village. Look out also for the old village olive press, the water mills, the Folklore Museum and

as befits a village nestling in the Pafos forest, the two giant oak protected trees in the centre of the village. Kampos' main church, Agios Kyriakos, is the largest wooden roofed church of the island and was built in the 19th century on the site of a small Frankish church.

To prolong your ride to the coast and enjoy some more of the areas forest scenery up close, take the 10



Kato Pyrgos

kilometres shortcut from Kampos which connects to the main road through a narrow asphalt road between trees and fields of crops. Drive slowly and with caution, keeping an eye out for oncoming cars that might be coming your way. Take a left on the main road and make your way through the sloping hills into Tilliria, past Pano Pyrgos and onto the coastal and fairly isolated village of

Kato Pyrgos. It sits on the western tip of Mophou Bay, between the Kokkina enclave to its west, the occupied north of Cyprus to its east, and the wilderness of the hinterland of Tilliria.

Enjoy the beautiful contrast of the wild green of Tilliria on your left and the dramatic coast-line of hill girt bays and seaweed-covered rocky shores in the deep blue colours of the Mediterranean

Have something to drink or eat under the soothing shade of the perennial oak tree at the village square.

To reach the next stop, Pachyammos, you need to drive inland through Alevga around the Kokkina Enclave's fences, guard towers and Turkish and UN troops. The scenery and the views ascending the hill are simply amazing. Drive through the serpentine mountain road and enjoy the beautiful contrast of the wild green of Tilliria on your left and the dramatic coastline of hill girt bays and seaweed-covered rocky shores in the deep blue colours of the Mediterranean on your right. You are very likely to across wild and stray goats, so drive with extra caution.

The narrow sandy Blue Flag beach of Pachyammos makes for a nice stop, but if you're pressed for time to head back, drive along the long stretch of pebble beaches of beautiful Pomos, all the way past Nea Dimmata and return to Polis.





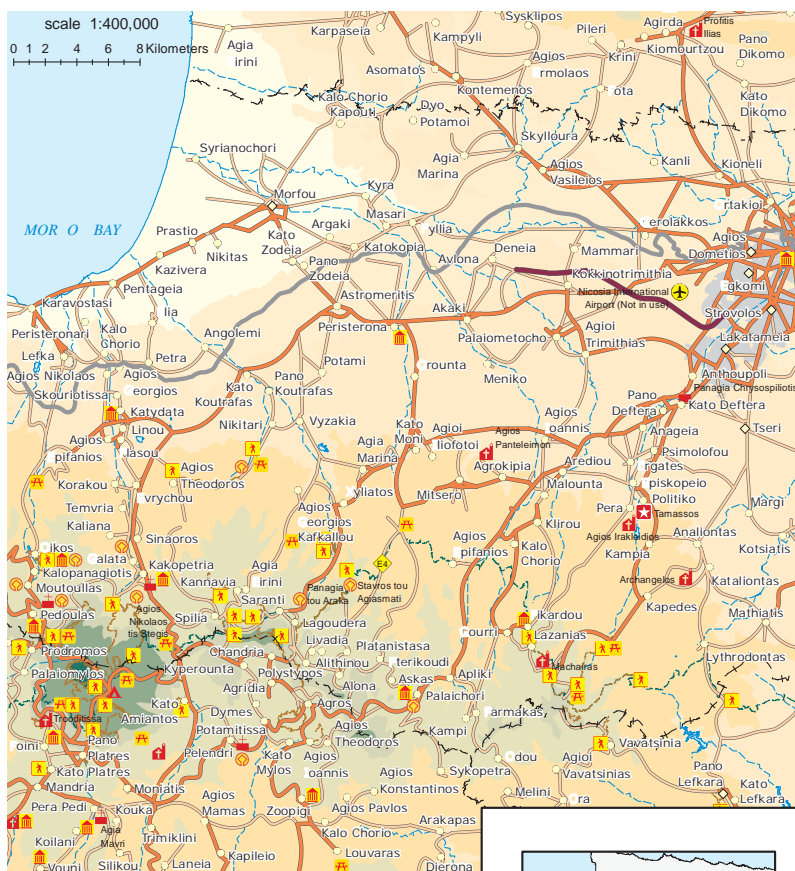




Route 9 *The Majesty of Troodos*

Route 9

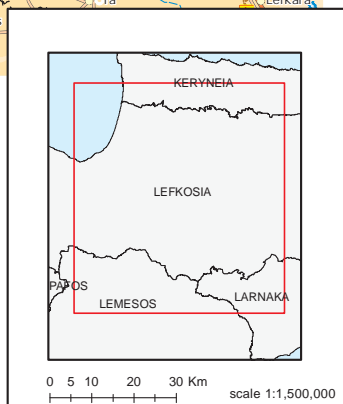
Lefkosia – Kokkinotrimithia – Akaki – Peristerona – Astromeritis – Kato Koutrafas – Katydata – Linou – Flasou – Oikos – Kalopanayiotis – Moutoullas – Pedoulas – Troodos Square – Spilia – Kakopetria – Galata – Evrychou – Nikitari – Kato Koutrafas – Peristerona – Akaki – Kokkinotrimithia – Lefkosia



Prepared by Lands and Surveys Department, Ministry of Interior, Kypros 2015.

Reference

- Motorway
- Main Road
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- European Long distance path E4
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- Picnic Sites
- ★ Archaeological Sites
- ✙ Church
- ✙ Monastery
- Museum
- Natural Trails (Start of)



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The Majesty of Troodos

Traditional villages and exquisite painted churches

This route is an opportunity to explore the northern flanks of the pine-clad Troodos Mountains with its picturesque villages, exquisite painted churches and fertile valleys. Make the best of a full-day itinerary to take in the spectacular views across to Morfou Bay, enjoy a break at a traditional village coffee shop and admire the remote UNESCO-listed stone built churches with their characteristic roofs, magnificent examples of a time-honoured Byzantine tradition. Much of the route is on well-

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 9



Shiamisi



sign posted and well maintained roads, with plenty of petrol stations in the villages and on the main Troodos-Lefkosia road.

In Peristerona, look out for the 11th -12th century Agios Varnavas & Ilarionas church

Set off from Lefkosia and drive towards Kokkinotrimithia a thriving village some 20 kilometres from the capital, with the characteristic red soil which partly inspired its name and follow the main road, driving past Akaki, along cereal and vegetable cultivation. Producers' stalls line the road, an opportunity to pick up some fresh fruit and vegetables, to give you an authentic taste of the basis of the island's cuisine.

As you approach Peristerona, which takes its name from the Greek word peristeri, meaning dove, look out

for the 11th -12th century Agios Varnavas & Ilarionas church and the nearby minaret that appears to loom over it. A mixed village until 1964 Peristerona is predominantly an agricultural village, best known for the five domed church Agios Varnavas & Ilarionas, one of only two on the island. A three-aisled, barrel-vaulted basilica, the church underwent later additions and repairs, including the 19th century



Kokkinotrimithia

belfry, but the interior houses wall-paintings from the 15th and 16th century. Look out also for the 16th century altar-doors of the iconostasis.

Back on the main road, head to Astromeritis and turn left on to the main Lefkosia-Troodos road for the gentle ascent into the mountains, past the village of Kato Koutrafas on your left with its stone built arched bridge and look out for the junction to turn right towards Katydata. The copper mine of Skouriotissa with its impressive piles of slag, is visible a few kilometres to the right, off the itinerary and makes for a great visit for those who have an eye for photography. Katydata itself is home to a mine museum. The road goes past



the villages of Linou, Flasou and Oikos, past the dam and on to Kalopanagiotis, that nestles in the fertile Marathassa valley, which takes its name from a type of fennel and is famous for its cherries and other fruit.

One of Cyprus' best known hill resorts, Kalopanagiotis is well worth exploring, not only for the magnificent church complex Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Monastery, but for its narrow cobbled stone streets lined with picturesque roof tiled



Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, Kalopanagiotis

houses with verdant balconies, many of which have been converted into traditional pension-style accommodation. Situated across a bridge from the

village is Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Monastery, one of the 10 painted churches in the Troodos range included on the UNESCO World Heritage List and made up of a complex of three churches, other monastic buildings, one of which houses a museum of icons, and an olive press.

Kalopanagiotis is well worth exploring, not only for the magnificent church complex Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Monastery, but also for its narrow cobbled stone streets



Kalopanagiotis

Originally built as an Orthodox monastery it underwent

At Kalopanagiotis a recently installed cable car offers panoramic views of the village and valley

a series of additions and renovations through the centuries, including the construction of a Latin chapel in the 15th century. Although its exact founding date remains unknown, the monastery church dates to the 11th century. The chapel of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis was added in the 12th century and was almost entirely rebuilt in the 18th century. The rich history is reflected in the surviving wall paintings of the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. The 15th century wall paintings of the narthex are in the Byzantine tradition, while those in the 'Latin' chapel belong to the 'Italo-byzantine' style, which combines Byzantine and Italian Renaissance elements. Look out for the 13th - 14th century painted wooden templon screen, the oldest wooden templon in Cyprus. The relic of Saint Ioannis Lambadistis is preserved in a reliquary.

Kalopanagiotis is also home to the Kykkos watermill on the banks of the Setrachos River declared a national heritage monument by the Department of Antiquities. A recently installed cable car offers panoramic views of the village and valley.



Pedoulas

Continue the ascent to Moutoullas, well known for its fine water and fecund orchards and stop off at tiny 13th century chapel

Panagiatou Moutoula church, also a UNESCO World Heritage site. This is one of the earliest examples of the steep-pitched wooden roofed churches in Cyprus, exquisitely decorated with frescoes dates to 1280.

The next village, Pedoulas, another one of Cyprus' best known mountain resorts at an altitude of 1100 metres is home to the 15th century Archangelos Michail Church. This Byzantine jewel is listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site and belongs to the typical single-aisle, timber-roof type of the Troodos region. The wall paintings are the work of a local artist whose name, Minas, survives. Just opposite is the Byzantine Museum housing icons from the 13th century on. The Folkloric Museum is near the main village church of the



Holy Cross.

From there, the ascent is steeper as the road winds through the forest offering panoramic views towards

Morphou Bay, to Prodromos, the highest village in Cyprus at 1380 metres and on to Troodos Square, a short drive from Mount Olympus, the highest peak in Cyprus. A former summer retreat for the British colonial government, Troodos is a popular summer

and, because of its proximity to the ski slopes, winter resort. Some 200 metres from the square is the Visitor Centre of the Troodos National Forest Park which exhibits of the geology, flora and fauna of the

area, including fossils and collections of butterflies as well as a 250 metre botanical and geological trail. The descent from Troodos Square takes you past the abandoned Amiantos Mine, site of the Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre. Situated in the newly restored elementary school, it hosts a geological garden with all the rocks types of the area, a seed bank of endemic species and exhibits from mining activity in the area.



Botanical Garden Troodos



Spilia

The Troodos Geopark was recently included in the Global network of UNESCO Geoparks

Covering 45% of the Troodos range, the Troodos Geopark was recently included in the global network of UNESCO geoparks. Just off the road is the Troodos Botanic Garden "A.G. Leventis" which is included in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas of Cyprus.

Venture into Kakopetria old quarter, a listed area cobbled streets lined with traditional buildings, some of them mud brick

Continue the descent past the landscape bearing the scars of mining back into the forest, and for an optional detour, turn right some 5 kilometres from Kato Amiantos to visit the village of Spilia, one of the picturesque villages of Solea valley, also known as apple valley.

The next stop Kakopetria to the left, is a popular summer resort for Lefkosia residents fleeing the scorching heat, and a thriving community, boasting the site of the magnificent Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis (Saint Nicolas of the roof) church. The only surviving monastery church of an 11th century Byzantine monastery, the church is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was named after its steep-pitched roof. The interior is decorated with frescoes covering a time span of over 600 years including the most important 11th century wall-paintings surviving in Cyprus.



Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis

From the village square with its imposing plane trees and bubbling streams from the River Klarios, venture into the old quarter, a listed area cobbled streets lined with traditional buildings, some of them mud brick, at various stages of restoration. The village is believed to take its name from a huge boulder (petra) very near old stream, which legend has it, rolled over

and crushed a newly-wed couple.

Stay on the old village road to head to the neighbouring village community of Galata and the church of Panagia Podithou, built in 1502, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Once part of a monastery it is decorated with late 15th century frescoes of the Italo-Byzantine style. From there, head back to main Lefkosia-Troodos road, past



Evrychou, where you can visit the old Railway Station and Museum located west of the village, and turn right to the village of Nikitari and into the forest to visit Panagia Asinou, one of the island's most beautiful painted churches, set in a secluded



Nikitari

opening in the forest and home to some of the finest Byzantine art of the early 12th century. Another one of Cyprus' UNESCO listed churches, the interior is entirely covered with wall paintings from the 12th to the 17th centuries. The return to Kokkinotrimithia takes you into Kato Koutrafas, across the bridge on to the main road past Peristerona and Akaki to Kokkinotrimithia from where you can take the highway to Lefkosia.



Panagia Podithou Galata

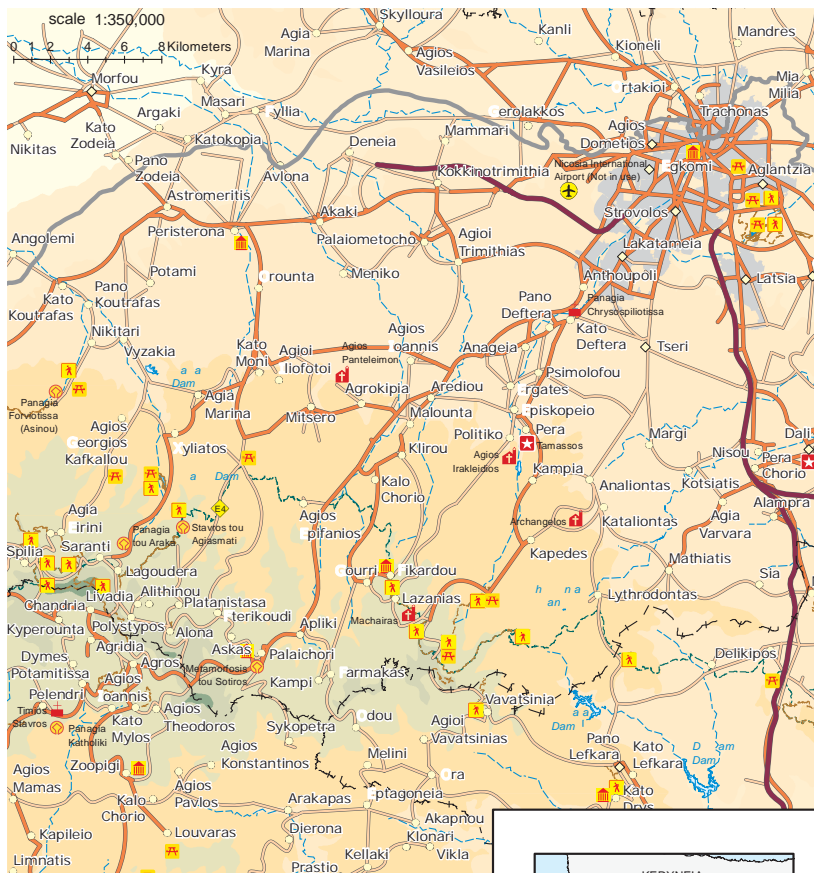


A scenic landscape featuring a stone wall, trees, and a clear blue sky. The wall is constructed from large, dark, irregular stones and runs diagonally across the lower right portion of the frame. To the left of the wall, there is a large, leafy tree with green and yellow foliage. In the background, more trees and a clear blue sky are visible. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Route 10 Ecclesiastical Treasures

Route 10

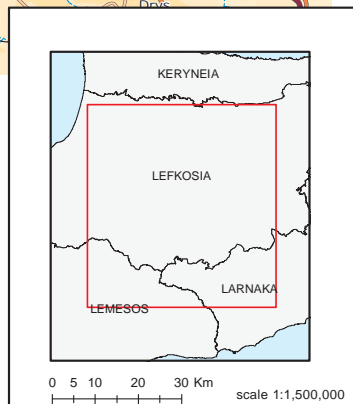
Lefkosia – Strovolos – Kato and Pano Deftera – Psimolofou – Episkopio – Politiko-Tamassos – Pera – Kampia – Kapedes – Machairas Monastery – Lazanias – Gourri – Fikardou – Klirou – Malounta – Agrokipia – Mitsero – Platanistasa – Fterikoudi – Askas – Palaichori – Alona – Polystypos – Lagoudera – Xyliatos – Agia Marina – Orounta – Peristerona – Akaki – Kokkinotrimithia – Lefkosia



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- ★ Archaeological Sites
- ✙ Church
- ✙ Monastery
- Museum
- ▲ Natural Trails (Start of)



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Ecclesiastical Treasures

Monasteries and churches in the Troodos foothills

This beautiful route to the higher foothills of the Troodos mountains offers unrivalled scenery and the opportunity to visit some of Cyprus' finest ecclesiastical treasures – from the imposing monastery of Macheras to the cave-church near Deftera and the exquisitely painted timber-roofed churches in the mountains' chapels. The route deserves a full day to give time to visit the churches and explore the many picturesque villages, including the practically abandoned

SCAN & EXPLORE ROUTE 10



Fikardou



but painstakingly preserved 18th century village of Fikardou. The roads are generally good as they wind in and out of forested areas, but due caution must be exercised because of the many bends.

The church of Panagia Chrysospilliotissa is a beautiful example of a type of Levantine monastery or hermitage uncommon in Cyprus

Take off from Lefkosia, drive through Strovolos, heading southwest of Lefkosia, via Lakatamia to go further out into the capital's outskirts, past the beautiful olive groves of Kato Deftera to find Pano Deftera and the striking church of Panagia Chrysospilliotissa (Our Lady of the Golden Cave). As its name suggests, the church is in fact a sandstone cave, one of three found within the huge rock formation, and a beautiful example of a type of Levantine monastery or hermitage uncommon in Cyprus. Possibly dating back to the early Christian period, the church, which

houses a rain-inducing icon of the Virgin Mary invoked in times of drought, celebrates on August 15th.



Agios Irakliodios

Drive through the flat hills of Psimolofou, a small 12th century village with narrow streets and some houses made of mudbrick. Take a right turn into the village to visit the 19th century church of Panagia Katholiki with its beautiful wall paintings.

Past Psimolofou take a right turn to reach Episkopio and follow the signs to Agios Irakleidos Monastery, located on the south of Politiko village. Built in the 4th century, the monastery, whose current buildings date back to 1773, serves today as a convent and features the tomb of St. Irakleidos, the first bishop of the ancient city kingdom of Tamasos. He was buried in the cave he resided in during the 1st century AD, over which a large three-aisled basilica was built during the 4th century. The exact date of the establishment of the city-kingdom of Tamasos is not known. Excavations have brought to light a temple of Aphrodite, two majestic royal tombs, part of the city's fortifications, copper-processing installations and copper workshops



among other. Six large 6th century BC limestone statues excavated on the site are now exhibited in the Cyprus Archaeological Museum.

Drive southeast through the village via a narrow dirt road to reach Pera and travel south to Kampia, which lies east of Tamasos dam. If you're looking for some outdoor adventure, visit the ruins of the village's old settlement, situated at the



Mantra tou Kampiou Kapedes

bottom of the valley and west of the village, and enjoy the unspoilt landscapes of the area.



Olive Picking

Follow the main road further south to reach the roundabout of Kapedes, situated at the foot of Machairas mountain, taking a right-hand turn to ascend to Machairas Monastery.

On your way to the monastery, about 5 kilometres southwest of Kapedes, take some time to visit the pine and cedar rich picnic site Mandra tou Kampiou, where you can also opt for the easy circular nature trail

of Mantra tou Kampiou which is also accessible for wheelchairs.

Back on the main road, drive past the small and beautiful 14th century Byzantine chapel of Agios



Visit one of the island's most famous monasteries, the royal and Stavropegic monastery of Panagia tou Machaira

Onoufrios, and opt for a right turn up to the hideout of Grigoris Afxentiou, second-in-command of the EOKA anti-colonial struggle, who, after quoting King Leonidas' famous 'molon lave' (come and get me) phrase to his enemies, left his last breath there after his hideout was doused with petrol and set on fire.

Back on to the main road, follow the signs to visit one of the island's most famous monasteries, the royal and Stavropegic monastery of Panagia tou Machaira, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Situated at an altitude of 870 metres, the monastery lies at the eastern extremity of Troodos on the beautiful pine slopes of Mount Kionia. The monastery, which is autocephalous as indicated by the cross at its foundations and funded by emperor Emmanuel Komninos, dates back to 1145



Machairas Monastery

AD and was founded by hermits Neofytos and Ignatios. The two discovered the miraculous icon of Panagia of Machairas, attributed to Agios Loukas the Evangelist, in a nearby cave. Legend has it that they had to use a knife (macheri or machera in Greek) given to them by divine hand to get through the cave's bushes and reach the icon, housed at the monastery. The monastery's

basement features the monks' original cells, stables and storage areas, and also houses a collection of old books and manuscripts, icons and other religious artefacts. Keeping vows as strict as those of Mount Athos in Greece, the monastery's self-sustained devout brotherhood lives mainly off the many agricultural activities offered in the area.

Take the steep winding road down the valley to Lazanias, a historic village of a few stone-built houses and a wood carved pitch-roofed church built in 1855 dedicated to Saint George.

Follow the main road to Gourri and on to Fikardou, a beautifully conserved village, north of Lazanias,



which serves as a great example of architecture of mountainous Cyprus in the 18th century. Abandoned in the beginning of the 19th century, the village has been declared an ancient monument, receiving the Europa Nostra Award in 1987. Take a few minutes off your route to walk the village for a journey back in time, through the quaint stone built houses with their remarkable woodwork and folk architecture, but be sure to have your camera in hand. Two of these houses have been turned into museums featuring rural items, tools and utensils from the past as well as photographs, plans, drawings and texts illustrating the preservation process.



Agrokipsa



Achangel Michael church Mitsero

Follow the road to travel further north past Klirou and into Malounta, taking a left turn to the village of Agrokipsa. As you enter the village take a right turn to visit the historic Agios Panteleimon Monastery (Monastery of Agios Panteleimonas of Achera), located in the valley of Achera and offering beautiful views of

Fikardou serves as a great example of architecture of mountainous Cyprus of the 18th century

the valley towards Lefkosia.

Follow the main road to the rich in minerals village of Mitsero, famous for its mining settlement with heaps of mine waste and large empty hollows still present on its landscape. The mine, which began operating in 1952, provided work for many, attracting workers from all over Cyprus who settled here with their families. The mine, rich in copper and iron pyrite (fool's gold), is worth a stop for any photographer enthusiast.

Back on to the main road, leaving Mitsero behind, follow the road and take a left to travel south towards Platanistassa. On your way there, take a right turn to ascend to the mediaeval Stavros tou Agiasmati Church, approximately 5 kilometres northeast of Platanistassa. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the church's single-aisled building features a steep-pitched timber roof,



which extends beyond the main structure forming a portico on all sides, a feature unique to Cyprus. Retaining some of the most complete cycles of mural paintings of the second half of the 15th century in Cyprus, the church's wall paintings represent a mixture of Palaiologan and local naïve art with a blend of Italian Renaissance elements.

Askas

Back on to the main road, travel south through Platanistasa and take a left at the end of the road towards Fterikoudi, past Askas to reach Palaichori, a village with a rich history and a unique character attracting locals and foreigners all year round. Visitors looking to escape the busy life of the city will find many options for accommodation here as well as restaurants and cafes around the village's picturesque stone-built square. Situated on a small hill with a beautiful view of the village to the east, you will find the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the church was built in the early 16th century and belongs to the single-aisled, timber-roof type churches of the Troodos region. Perhaps the most significant example of Venetian paintings, the church's interior is entirely covered with



wall paintings constituting one of the most complete and elaborate groups of wall paintings of Cyprus' late Byzantine period.

Follow the main road past Palaichori and take a right towards Agros and another right uphill through the narrow 8-kilometre winding road that leads to Alona, amidst the area's beautiful vineyards. When you reach the main road, make a left and travel past Polystypos, especially known for its hazelnut production.

At the Xyliatos Dam you will come across the starting point of a circular nature trail

Continue north towards Lagoudera to visit the Church of Panagiatou Araka. A listed UNESCO World Heritage Site, this 12th century church contains some of the finest frescoes of the late Comnenian style prevailing throughout Greece, the Balkans and Russia. Along with the churches of Asinou and Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, Panagiatou Araka is considered to be one of the most important Byzantine churches in Cyprus.



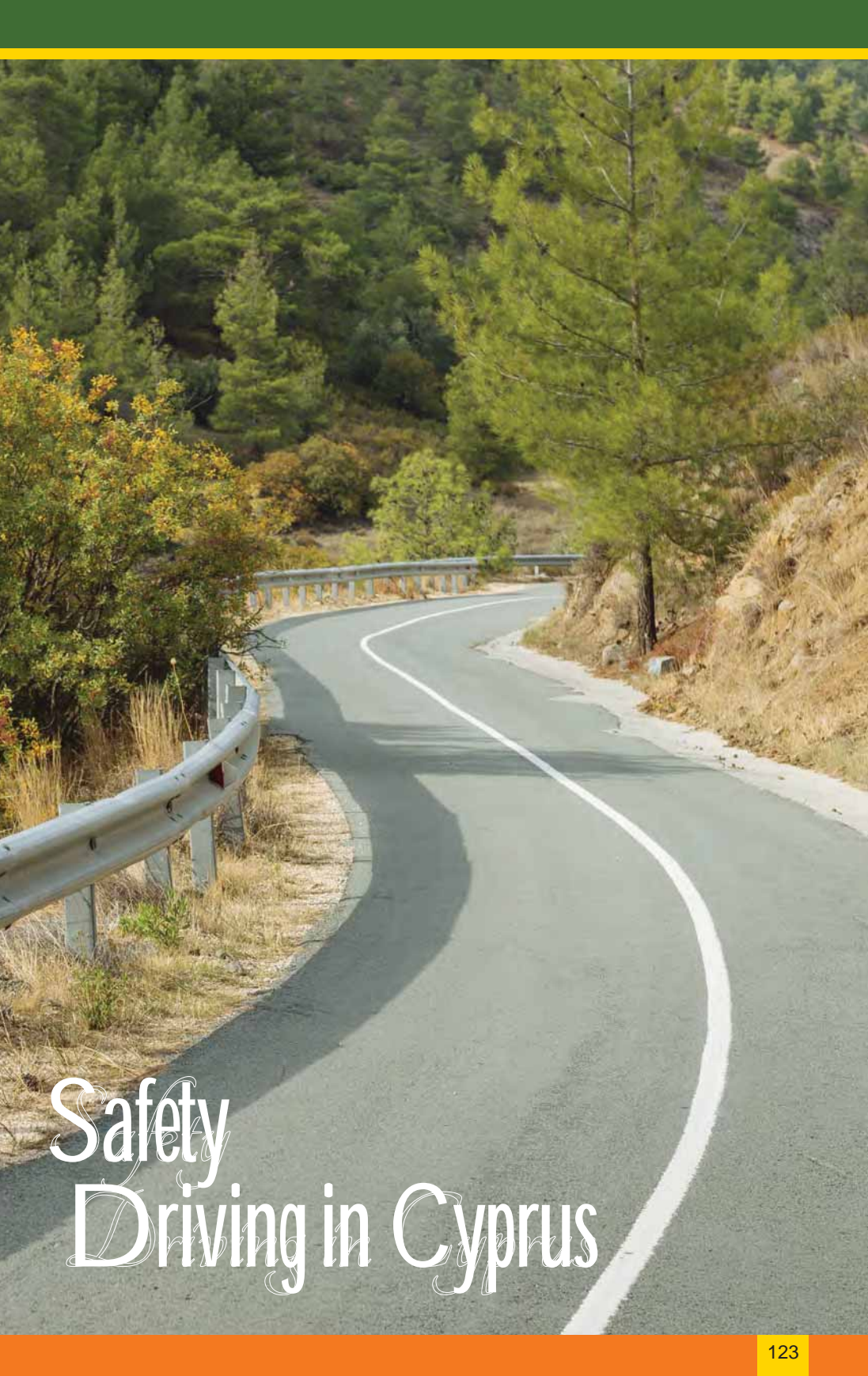
Xyliatos Dam

Descending towards Lefkosia, you come across Xyliatos Dam on your left, between the villages of Xyliatos and Lagoudera, where you will find the starting point of a circular nature trail, 3.8 kilometres long with a medium degree of difficulty. If you don't have the time to walk the trail, which requires at least an hour to walk, but still want to enjoy the area's alpine setting, visitors can opt for a short stop at the nearby picnic site.

Drive through the village of Xyliatos past Agia Marina and Orounta to reach the main road to Peristerona. Take a right towards Akaki and follow the road back to Lefkosia through Kokkinotrimithia.







Safety *Driving in Cyprus*

We hope you enjoy your time with us in Cyprus and take the opportunity to explore the island. We have a modern and efficient road system that enables easy travel between all major towns and many places of interest. Before heading out onto the road, please take the time to read the following important information.

In Cyprus, we drive on the **LEFT** side of the road.
NOT the right.



Choulou Pafos

Ensure that you have valid insurance for injuries and any damages

Driving a car

For their own safety and the safety of others, drivers must adhere strictly to the national speed limits. The maximum speed permissible on the island's major highways is 100 km/h and the minimum is 65km/h. Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit on ordinary inter-urban and rural roads is 80km/h. In built up areas, the maximum limit is 50km/h, unless otherwise posted.

It is prohibited to drive if the levels of alcohol in the blood or breath are above the admissible limit. The admissible limit in the blood is 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood (BAC 0.5 mg/ml). The admissible limit in the breath is up to 22 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of exhaled air. Since 6.5.2015, a new alcohol limit has been prescribed for the following categories of drivers: Persons who have been holders of a driving licence for less than three years, learner drivers, persons driving motorbikes, motorcycles, tricycles, quadricycles, drivers of lorries of a maximum weight that exceeds 3.5 tons, drivers of buses with more than eight passenger seats, not including the driver's seat, taxi drivers when driving on duty and drivers

of vehicles that carry dangerous cargo. The new prescribed limit for the above mentioned categories is 9 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath or 20 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

The use of hand-held mobile phones or other devices while driving is prohibited. Drivers wishing to use their mobile phone while driving must use a hands-free device.



Kelokedara

Seatbelts are obligatory both in the front and back seats of motor vehicles. Children less than 1.5m in height must wear a suitable safety belt or be protected with an effective restraint mechanism.

If you will be driving a motor vehicle during your stay, please note that a valid driving licence is required. keep in mind the following:

- European citizens may drive using their country's driving licence.
- Non-European visitors may drive using their country's driving licence for a maximum period of 30 days or on a valid international driving licence.
- Citizens from Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Australia, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Serbia, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, U.S.A, Japan, Canada, New Zeaand, South Africa and S. Korea may drive using their country's driving licence for a maximum period of 6 months. Upon the completion of the 6 month period, they are required to apply for a Cypriot driving licence without taking a driving test.
- Citizens from countries that do not fall in any of the categories mentioned above are required to acquire a Cypriot driving licence by following the

appropriate procedure i.e. taking a driving test (both theory and practice).

Driving a motorcycle: If you are going to drive a motorcycle or moped you must have the following in mind:

- The law states that both the driver and passenger must wear a helmet.
- A passenger can be carried on suitable motorcycles/mopeds provided that he/she is over 12-years-old and sits astride the seat.
- The headlight must be switched on during the daytime also.

Pedestrians should be aware of the following: Therefore you must always:

- Walk on the pavement. In case there is no pavement, walk on the right side of the road (ie. towards the oncoming traffic).
- First look right and then left before crossing the road.
- At night, use special fluorescent badges on your clothes or wear light coloured clothes so that you can be easily detected on the road.
- Never cross the road between stationary cars, on bends or corners or from a steep gradient

Highways:

- Vehicles move in the left lane.
- Use of the right lane is only allowed when:
Over-taking another vehicle
The left lane is not free
Giving priority to a vehicle entering the highway

The following is forbidden on highways:

- To stop and/or park a vehicle
- Use by pedestrians.
- Use by cyclists, motorcyclists or agricultural vehicles
- Vehicles unable to sustain a speed of 65 kms per hour.

In case of an accident, please call 199 or 112 immediately.

ENJOY YOUR STAY AND PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE ROADS OF CYPRUS SAFE FOR EVERYONE.







Comfort Rural Accommodation

Enjoy a different kind of holiday in Cyprus off the beaten track in peace and tranquillity by staying in a restored traditional house in one of the island's many picturesque villages.

Awaken to the sound of a cock crowing, or a donkey braying, take your breakfast in the shade of a vine with the smell of jasmine or wild thyme in the air, go for a long walk

in the pine-scented forest, watch how the local bread and 'halloumi' cheese are made and experience rural living at first hand. And when the sun goes down, just lie back and enjoy Cyprus' magical evenings gazing at one of the starriest skies you will ever see, lulled by the gentle sounds of the night crickets.

You will be given the warmest of welcomes, as Cypriots have a reputation for being hospitable, and you will certainly end up making many good friends before you leave. Don't be surprised if your hosts go out of their way to treat you as one of the family, lavishing a veritable feast of local delicacies upon you.



Kalopanagiotis Lefkosia

Try everything by ordering 'mezedes' and wash it all down with one of the local beers or wines. Cyprus' sweet Commandaria wine is one of the oldest in the world, and if you're brave enough, have a shot of 'zivania', which is almost pure alcohol and packs a neat punch.

More than just for summer, Cyprus is perfect at any time of year. Blessed with an abundance of sunshine and warm year-round temperatures, it is a great place to enjoy winter

sun, to avoid the crowds in the autumn and to marvel at nature's springtime tapestry of colour. With rugged coasts and mountain peaks, sunny vineyards and cool pine forests, flat expanses of wheat fields and lush citrus orchards, the island has something for everyone.

And when you've had your fill of relaxing, you'll find that in Cyprus there's much to see and do. Play a round of golf, go cycling, or hiking round the countryside, or take up a new sport. Or wonder at spectacular Greek temples, opulent Byzantine churches and ancient artefacts that are the remnants of a civilisation going back 10,000 years.

The properties offered are a great base from where to explore the island. Carefully renovated to maintain their distinctive character, while including all modern conveniences, they are ideal for those seeking comfort and privacy in friendly and attractive surroundings.

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Further information regarding accommodation is available on www.visitcyprus.com



Tochni Larnaka





Tips Useful Information





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