Antiquity and Tradition

Lemesos • Amathus • Agios Georgios Alamanos • Governor’s Beach • Kalavasos 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
Route 3


Reference

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

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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

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 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.

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 Choirikitia 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. 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
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.

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.

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 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 Louvariotes rivers and also renowned for its mandarin cultivations. Make a stop at the old timber roof church of Panagia Kato Drys.
Iamatiki, 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 Papoutsa 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.

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.
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.**

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.

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 Zealand, 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 (i.e. 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 stationery 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.
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.

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.

Cyprus Agrotourism Company
19, Limassol Ave.
1390 Nicosia,
Cyprus
Telephone: +357 22340071
Fax: +357 22334764
Email: info@agrotourism.com.cy
Website: www.agrotourism.com.cy

Further information regarding accommodation is available on www.visitcyprus.com
Tourist Guides
Tourist Guides in Cyprus are trained and licensed by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation which is the Government authorised operator of the “Tourist Guides School”. Licensed guides for sightseeing tours in Cyprus can be reached through:

Cyprus Tourist Guides Association
P.O.Box: 24942, CY 1355, Lefkosia
Tel: 22 76 57 55, Fax: 22 76 68 72
E-mail: cytouristguides@cytanet.com.cy
www.cytouristguides.com

Guides can also be contacted directly. A “List of qualified licensed Tourist Guides” can be obtained from the Cyprus Tourism Organisation Offices in Cyprus or through the web-sites: www.visitcyprus.com and www.visitcyprus.biz

Audio Guides
Have you ever imagined the new possibilities of your personal audio guide when visiting a new country? Learn about the history, the civilisation, the people...
The Cyprus Tourism Organisation has digitised in mp3 format a series of Audio Guides (listed below) to Archaeological Sites and the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus, which can be downloaded for free from CTO’s website www.visitcyprus.com. Try them on your mobile phone or mp3 player and experience the rich culture and heritage of Cyprus through a different perspective.

List of audio guides available to download:

**Lefkosia area:**
1. The Cyprus Museum
2. Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries
3. The House of Chatzigeorgakis Kornesios/ Ethnological Museum
4. Omeriye Mosque (Ex Augustinian church)-Lefkosia

**Lemesos area:**
1. Kourion Archaeological site
2. Kolossi Medieval Castle

**Larnaka area:**
1. Agios Lazaros church + ecclesiastical museum
2. Halan Sultan Tekkesi Mosque
3. Choirokoitia Archaeological Site

**Pafos area:**
1. Kato Pafos Archaeological Park
2. Medieval Fort of Pafos
3. Tombs of the Kings
4. Sanctuary of Aphrodite and Palaipafos Museum - Kouklia village
5. “Petra tou Romiou”- Birthplace of Aphrodite
6. “Baths of Aphrodite” - Akamas
7. Monastery of St. Neophytos the Enkleistos

**Free Famagusta area:**
1. Agia Napa Monastery

**Troodos**
1. Kykkos Monastery (+ the Museum of the Holy Monastery of Kykkos)
2. The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis - Kakopetria village
3. The church of Timios Stavros (Church of the Holy Cross) - Pelendri village
4. The church of Stavros tou Ayiasmati - Platanistasa village
5. The church of Panagia tou Araka - Lagoudera village
6. The church of Panagia Podithou-Galata village
7. The church of Ayios Ioannis Lampadistis - Kalopanayiotis village
8. Panagia Asinou church-Nikitari village
9. The church of Transfiguration of the Saviour (Metamorfosis tou Sotiros) - Palaichori village
10. The church of Archangel Michael-Pedoulas village
11. The church of Panagia tou Moutoula
12. The Monastery of Panagia tou Machaira

**Byzantine Churches and Monasteries**

Many fine examples of Byzantine art have survived on the island that can be seen /admired both in painted churches with colourful frescoes and monasteries. Because of the eminent importance of the icons and frescoes, most churches and monasteries are kept locked. Therefore, visitors wishing to see any of these churches should first ask at the “coffee shop” of the village for the priest or any other responsible person who will escort them. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation’s publication “10,000 years of History and Civilisation” refers briefly to various churches and monasteries on the island. Some of the monasteries have visiting hours which have to be respected by visitors.

**Important Notes:**
- Wearing shorts, backless tops, very short dresses etc., should be avoided.
- The use of flash is prohibited as it may damage the icons and frescoes.
- No accommodation is available in the monasteries.
- Most of the monasteries and convents remain closed on Saturday or Sunday for group visits.
- It is advisable especially for certain monasteries e.g. Machairas and Agios Irakleidios that the guiding should be done outside the monasteries.

**Environmental Centres**

1. **Troodos Visitor Centre (Environmental Information)**
   Plateia Troodos, Tel: 25 42 01 45

2. **Troodos Geopark**
   Karvounas – Troodos Road, next to Botanical Gardens
   Tel: 22 952 043
   Website: www.troodos-geo.org
   All year round

3. **Botanical Gardens Asbestos Mine Cyprus, Amiantos mine**
   Tel: 25 55 00 91
   Tel/Fax: 25 55 00 92
   E-mail: troodosbg@fd.moa.gov.cy

4. **Visitor Centre of the Athalassa National Forest Park**
   Keryneia Ave. 1, 2116 Aglantzia
   Tel: 22 462943, 22805527
   All year round

5. **Akrotiri Environmental, Education and Information Centre**
   Akrotiri village, Lemesos area 4640
   www.akrotirienvironment.com
   Email: akrotiricentre@cytanet.com.cy
6. Cyprus Centre of Environmental Research and Education
Holy Church of Limassol
4km from Akrotiri village (next to Agios Nikolaos ton Gatou Convent), Lemesos area
Website: www.kykpee.org
Tel: 25954954, 2586444
Fax: 25371548, 25335682
E-mail: kykpee@cytanet.com.cy
a.chadjihambi@cytanet.com.cy
All year round

7. Environmental Information Centre of Larnaka
Mountainous Area
Agiou Louka 35, 7731 Skarinou
www.perivallontiko.anetel.com
Tel: 24322020
All year round

8. Episkopi of Pafos Environmental, Education and Information Centre
Episkopi village, Tel: 26 642 234
(Closed on Public Holidays)

Transportation
One can travel around Cyprus either by bus or by taxi. There are no trains in Cyprus.
Visitors are requested to confirm itineraries and prices with the appropriate company as these are subject to alterations.

BUS SERVICE FACILITIES
1. Interurban buses:
Various Bus companies link all major towns and Larnaka Airport with routes at specified intervals.
For more information please contact:
   a) L.L.L.A. Intercity Buses Ltd
   b) Kapnos & Sons Transport Ltd
   c) EAL Ltd

2. Public Service vehicles
These operate frequently during daytime and in certain areas extended till midnight. For more information you may contact:

Lefkosia:
Transport Organisation for Nicosia District (OSEL) Ltd
Tel: 77 77 77 55, 22 46 80 88
www.osel.com.cy

Lemesos:
Transport Company for Limassol District (EMEL) Ltd
Tel: 77 77 81 21, 25 35 21 11
www.limassolbuses.com

Larnaka:
Larnaka Buses Zenonas Ltd
Tel: 80 00 77 44, 24 66 55 31
www.zinonasbuses.com

Pafos:
Pafos Transport Organisation Ltd
Tel: 80 00 55 88, 26 93 42 52
www.pafosbuses.com

Paralimni/Protaras & Agia Napa:
M.E. Ammochostos Buses Ltd
Tel: 23 81 90 90, 80 00 52 00
www.osea.com.cy
Intercity:
L.L.L.A Intercity Buses Ltd
Tel: 24 64 34 93, 80 00 77 89
www.intercity-buses.com
Taxi Facilities
1. Service (shared) Taxis:
This service offers the opportunity to share a taxi with 4-8 passengers and provides connection between all major towns of Cyprus (Lefkosia, Lemesos, Larnaka and Pafos) every half hour Monday-Friday 6am-6pm, Saturday-Sunday 7am-5pm. Seats can be booked by phone and passengers can be collected from and dropped off at any place they wish within municipal boundaries. They are run by an amalgamation of private companies under the umbrella of Travel & Express.
Tel: 77 77 74 74
www.travelexpress.com.cy

2. Urban Taxi
A 24-hour taxi service is available in all towns. They can be booked on the phone or hailed on the street. Urban taxis are equipped with meters, the use of which is obligatory. Charging commence upon the entrance of a passenger in the taxi.

Should you decide to explore the island in a guided tour hire a licensed tourist guide.

Emergencies/
Hospitals
In case of emergency, immediate response is given by the following telephone numbers, where English is spoken:
ALL OVER THE ISLAND
Ambulance: 199/112
Fire Service: 199/112
Police: 199/112
Night Pharmacies: 11892 or automatic recording for Lefkosia
90901412, Lemesos
90901415, Larnaka
90901414, Pafos
90901416,
Ammochostos 90901413
AIDS Advisory Centre:
22 30 51 55
NARCOTICS Emergency Service: Information Centre for drugs and Poisoning: 90901401

Hospitals:
Lefkosia Gen. Hospital:
22 60 30 00
(Accidents & Emergency)
Makareio Hospital: 22 40 50 00
Lemesos Gen.l Hospital:
25 80 11 00
Lemesos Old Gen. Hospital:
25 30 53 33
Larnaka Gen. Hospital:
24 80 05 00
Larnaka Old Gen. Hospital:
24 30 43 12
Pafos Gen. Hospital: 26 80 31 00
Paralimni Hospital: 23 20 00 00
Platres Hospital 25 42 22 24,
25 42 13 24
Polis Hospital: 26 32 14 31
Kyperounta Hospital:
25 53 20 21
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