The Magical West

Pafos • Mesogi • Agios Neophytos monastery • Tsada • Kallepeia • Letymvou • Kourdaka • Lemona • Choulou • Statos • Agios Photios • Panagia Chrysoorogiatissa Monastery • Agia Moni Monastery • Pentalia • Agia Marina • Axylou • Nata • Choletria • Stavrokonou • Kelokedara • Salamiou • Agios Ioannis • Arminou • Filousa • Praitori • Kedares • Kidasi • Agios Georgios • Mamonía • Fasoula • Souskiou • Kouklia • Palaipaphos • Pafos
Route 6

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.
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.

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, Koudaka 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.

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

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

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 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, Stavrokonou, Kelokedara and all the way up to

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary
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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.

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.

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

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...
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 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.

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 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.
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 65 km/h. Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit on ordinary inter-urban and rural roads is 80 km/h. In built up areas, the maximum limit is 50 km/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 South 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 motorcy- cle 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/moped 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 Chatzieorgakis 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 Kykkoos)
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 Gaton 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
   Tel: 25 82 65 62, 25 82 65 63
   Fax: 25 82 65 63
   All year round

b) Kapnos & Sons Transport Ltd
Tel: 77 77 14 77, 24 00 87 18
www.Kapnosairportshuttle.com

c) EAL Ltd
Tel: 77 77 70 75, 25 33 87 67
Calling from abroad:
+357 97 77 90 90
limassolairportexpress.eu
E-mail: info@limassolexpress.eu

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
CTO Offices
in Cyprus
Leoforos Lemesou 19, Lefkosia
P.O. Box 24535, CY 1390 Lefkosia
Cyprus
Tel: 22 69 11 00, Fax: 22 33 16 44
E-mail: cytour@visitcyprus.com
Web-site: www.visitcyprus.com

Information Offices

Lefkosa (Nicosia)
- Aristokyprou 11, Laiki Geitonia
  (East of Plateia Elétherias)
  CY 1011 Lefkosa
  Tel: 22 67 42 64, Fax: 22 66 07 78

Lemesos (Limassol)
- Entrance of Old Port, Syntagmados Square, Lemesos
  Tel: 25 36 27 56, Fax: 25 74 65 96
- Georgiou A’ 22, CY 4047 Lemesos
  Potamos tis Germasogeias
  (Eastern entrance of Dasoudi beach)
  Tel: 25 32 32 11, Fax: 25 31 34 51
- Lemesos Harbour
  P.O. Box 55605, CY 3781 Lemesos
  (Service to all passenger boats)
  Tel: 25 57 18 68, Fax: 25 56 03 43

Larnaka
- Plateia Vasileos Pavlou, CY 6023
  Larnaka
  Tel: 24 65 43 22, Fax: 24 65 34 92
- Larnaka International Airport
  CY 7130 Larnaka
  Tel: 24 00 83 68, Fax: 24 00 83 69

Pafos
- Agoras 8, CY 8010 Pafos
  Tel: 26 93 28 41, Fax: 26 95 33 41
- Poseidonos 63A, CY 8042 Kato Pafos
  Tel: 26 93 05 21, Fax: 26 93 05 19
- Pafos International Airport, CY 8320
  Pafos
  (Service to all flights)
  Tel: 26 00 73 68, Fax. 26 00 73 69

Polis
- Vasileos Stasioikou A’ 2
  CY 8820 Polis Chrysochous
  Tel: 26 32 24 68, Fax: 26 32 13 27

Agia Napa
- Leoforos Kryou Nerou 12, CY 5330
  Agia Napa
  Tel: 23 72 17 96, Fax: 23 72 45 07

Paralimni - Protaras
- Protara 14, CY 5296 Paralimni
  Tel: 23 83 28 65, Fax: 23 83 28 64

Pano Platres
- CY 4820 Platres
  Tel: 25 42 13 16, Fax: 25 81 30 80

The e-brochure was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the implementation of the project “Rural Tourism Marketing Plan 2007-2013”