

TRAVEL PLANNER

GUIDE TO CYPRUS



KOPIASTE!

Welcome to Cyprus

Dear Traveller:

There are a myriad of islands nestled in the Mediterranean, but only Cyprus can lay claim to being the birthplace of beautiful Aphrodite, the Ancient Greek Goddess of Love.

Whatever your preference, pace or special interest, Cyprus is uniquely poised to welcome you. Our idyllic and picturesque beaches are certified as among the cleanest in Europe, with the crystal-clear waters of the coast unfolding towards the pine-clad Troodos Mountain Range, where the wild sheep, Mouflon, freely roam, and cedars grow amidst the rich history of gem-like churches and monasteries adorned with unparalleled Byzantine frescoes and icons.

Cyprus is a haven for archaeology lovers. From Neolithic settlements of over 11,000 years old, to spectacular Greco-Roman ruins - such as the ancient theatre of Kourion, to Medieval fortresses such as Kolossi, the list of treasures is boundless. The evocative stories of civilisations past can be found in these and other wonders, including the mysterious Tombs of the Kings and regal villas with their well-preserved, colourful, and intricate mosaic floors.

Although Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, it is surprisingly compact and easy to explore. In between rugged mountain peaks and the shimmering coast you'll traverse undulating landscape and rolling hills with vineyards.

Linger in idyllic villages where the rhythm slows down and there's always time for another coffee. All across Cyprus, you'll have the opportunity to experience a distinctive cuisine composed of meze; small plates of local delicacies from flame-grilled, delicately spiced meats, to fresh vegetables and amazing cheeses, such as the famous Halloumi (the savoury sheep and goat's cheese that is beloved for its versatility, and particularly popular grilled or eaten with watermelon).

With its rich past as its anchor, Cyprus is also a thriving modern nation with a service economy second to none within the wider region. You will soon discover that Cypriot people are worldly and warm, and only too happy to share their island with you, including, among many other things, an attractive range of accommodation - luxurious hotels of the highest international standards infused with local flavour, quality tourist villas, agrotourism options and more.

~ Deputy Ministry of Tourism

"...you are welcome in Cyprus"

~ William Shakespeare, "Othello"



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DISCOVER CYPRUS

CYPRUS

the island of Aphrodite awaits...

Legend tells us that she was not the most powerful of the Gods, but art and archaeology paint an alluring portrait of Aphrodite as undeniably the most beautiful of them all. It is no wonder then that once the Goddess had emerged from the waves on the western shores of Cyprus in ancient times, she saw her beauty reflected in the island and never left.

Her mythical spirit still delicately lingers across the island, from the classical, unspoiled landscapes of olive trees and citrus groves, to the welcoming smiles of the Cypriot people. Exotic but approachable, they are proud of a place that has been witness to the arc of history, from Antiquity to the European Union (of which the Republic of Cyprus is a full member), and so, they always delight in sharing this vast cultural richness with travellers.

Cyprus, at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, has always been linked culturally to Ancient Greece, but in fact has been known as a human settlement for some 11,000 years – before any known or named empire. But of those who have trodden these shores; from Achaean Greeks to Romans and Byzantines, to Franks, Venetian, Ottomans and others, few powers in history have escaped the seduction of Aphrodite's uncomplicated but earnest charms. If the island's copper mines made it a place to covet throughout much of antiquity – indeed, Cyprus gives its name to copper – its very location has for centuries served as a fulcrum for empires on the move.

This favourable location remains irresistible today. For travellers on the go, the ease of flying to Cyprus from almost anywhere is complemented by the fact that in no other place can so many visible traces of the past be seen and savoured, and in such a compact, dynamic space. The turbulence of yesterday is today's unparalleled tapestry of archaeological sites, fascinating and impeccably curated museums and more. All this in a resolutely modern republic with one of the highest standards of living in Europe.





Explore a Rich, Multilayered Past

On an island that enjoys such a long and vast history, simply walking around can be a richly memorable and enlightening experience. In the capital of Lefkosia (Nicosia), you can touch the stones of the formidable walls the Venetians built, which still encircle the city today. In Pafos, marvel at St. Paul's Pillar, and pre-dating that, the incomparable mosaics of the Houses of Aion and Dionysos. So many other fascinating vestig-

es of the past reside here, in fact, the whole ancient city has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Other must-sees include the Greco-Roman theatre of Kourion, the nearby Temple of Apollo Hylates (Apollo of the Woods), Petra tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock), and many more sites steeped in history and legend.

DISCOVER CYPRUS

Natural Splendors

The incredibly stunning Akamas Peninsula has been a nature lover's paradise ever since the days when Aphrodite made it her home, and, following her interludes with Adonis, bathed in the mineral spring that still bears her name. Visitors can see her legendary baths and then take a ramble through gorges reminiscent of ancient times, where goats comprise the only traffic.

For those who enjoy a higher level of tranquility, or hiking along nature trails, the Troodos Mountain Range beckons with its lofty peaks clad in tall pine trees and majestic cedars. Its fragrant greenery is in striking contrast to the splendours of the coast and is never more than an hour or so away by car.

A World-Famous Port and a Coast that Calls

Lemesos, (Limassol), is home to Cyprus' biggest port and boasts some of the island's most exciting nightlife. Numerous four and five-star resorts line the beachfront, and everything from elegant yachts and cruise ships to bobbing fishing boats fill the new marina and the harbour.

As one of the Mediterranean's liveliest resorts, Agia Napa offers a beach experience that balances the vibrant with the tranquil at iconic beaches such as Nissi. Cyprus beaches are famously pristine, with a large number awarded the coveted of Blue Flag, and many offering facilities for windsurfing, parasailing, scuba diving, and more.

For a change of pace, head inland from the coast and you'll discover villages of whitewashed stone, untouched by the sweep of time: Lefkara, famous for its lace; Lania, an artists' colony; and splendid Omodos, with its sleepy, sunny central square and a plethora of small artisans' workshops.



A Destination for All Travelers

Cyprus seamlessly blends ancient history with modern infrastructure and a contemporary cosmopolitan lifestyle. From the moment you arrive at Larnaka's sparkling, new international airport you will feel the frenetic pace of daily life evaporating and a sense of relaxation settling in, echoing the soothing vibe of the island's past that even Aphrodite herself could not bear to leave.

Come and discover the quiet treasures of Cyprus, where antiquity is comes to life at every turn. Wander about in comfort and awe. And if you should ever have any questions, the locals will happily share their knowledge and show you the way. "Kopiaste!" is how they say "Come, join us!", and it's always with the greatest delight and sincerity.

“

"[A] confluence of different destinies [have] touched and illumined the history of one small island in the eastern basin of the [Mediterranean], giving it significance and depth of focus."

- Lawrence Durrell, *"Bitter Lemons"*

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That's the sun-kissed spirit of Cyprus.



THE HISTORY OF CYPRUS

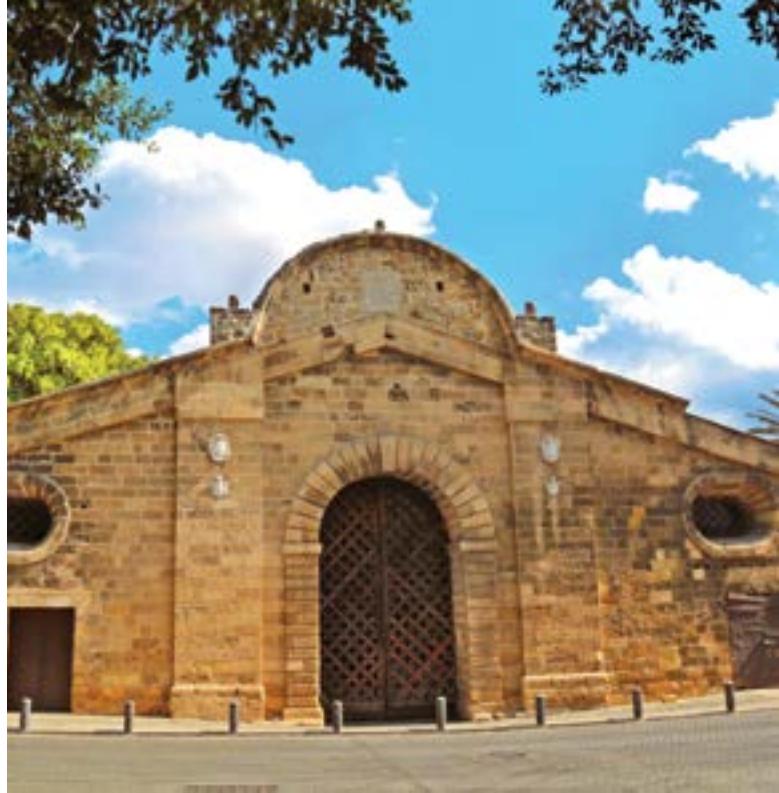
CYPRUS

through the ages...

Cyprus is an island at the crossroads of many civilisations. From Neolithic settlements to the ancient Greek and Roman periods and many more; Byzantine, Frankish, Venetian, all have left an enduring, rich legacy that would take a lifetime to explore. But thanks to the compact nature of the island, this wealth of contrasting eras can be discovered and enjoyed in just a short space of time. From beaches and vineyards, to monasteries, museums and tavernas, the island's attractions - old and new - are all waiting to be discovered, with time to stop and linger along the way. One look at the blue swirl around Petra tou Romiou, or Aphrodite's rock, and you'll get a sense of why Cyprus has attracted so many throughout the millennia.

The word 'timeless' is felt in every sense when viewing Cyprus' Neolithic ruins in places like the UNESCO World Heritage site of Choirokoi-tia, where the stone ruins of ancient human settlements date back 11,000 years. Copper was found on the island in 3900 BC, a discovery that would change the course of commercial and cultural history in the ancient world. Conversely, it also attracted the attention of dominant regional empires throughout history. In the geographic orbit of Ancient Greece, it's no surprise that Greek merchants and settlers (Mycenaeans and Achaeans) would establish Cypriot city-kingdoms, from 1650 BC - 1050 BC.





One of these was Kourion, where today you can wander and explore the well-preserved ancient ruins. Fast forward in antiquity to 333 BC and Alexander the Great swept through the island. By 325 BC the Hellenistic Period had commenced, with the Ptolemies of Egypt in control. Pafos was their capital, and today the necropolis known as the Tombs of the Kings bears witness to this stage of the island's rich past. During the Roman period (30 BC-330AD) the name of Cyprus became synonymous with the Latin equivalent name of copper (cuprum).

After the division of the Roman Empire, Cyprus came under the eastern Roman Empire, known as Byzantium, with Constantinople as its capital. The Frankish, or Lusignan period followed, and in 1489, the Venetian era held sway. The fortification in Lefkosia (Nicosia) are of solid Venetian construction. Ottoman and British traces are still visible in places throughout the island, too. As you explore Cyprus, the mosaic of various civilisations comes into sharper

focus, because so much of world history began right here and continues every day.

THE HISTORY OF CYPRUS

11000-3900 BC: Neolithic Age

The oldest settlements found on the island date from this period. Stone vessels and later, pottery was used.

3900-2500 BC: Chalcolithic Age

Chalcolithic settlements and evidence of a fertility cult have been found in Western Cyprus. Copper discovered.

2500-1600 BC: Early and Middle Bronze Age

Beginning in about 2400 BC, prospectors from Anatolia explored the island for copper. These newcomers settled at the foothills of Troodos Mountains which was a copper rich area. In the early Bronze Age the use of metal became more widespread in Cyprus. Cyprus began to export copper.

THE HISTORY OF CYPRUS

1600-1050 BC: Bronze Age

Cyprus was known as “Alasia” during this great trading period with its neighbours, partly because of its exploitation of copper. After 1400 BC, the first of many waves of Greek merchants and settlers (Mycenaeans and Achaecans) reached the island, spreading the Greek language, religion and customs. They gradually took control and established the first city-kingdoms.

1050-750 BC: Geometric Period

The Hellenisation of Cyprus was complete, with ten city-kingdoms. The cult of Aphrodite flourished in a period of great prosperity.

750-312 BC: Archaic and Classical Period

An era of prosperity and conquest. Cypriot kingdoms became tributary to Assyria, Egypt and Persia. But King Evagoras (411-374) unified the island, making it an important centre of the Greek world.

333-325 BC: Alexander the Great takes Cyprus as part of his empire.

310-30 BC: Hellenistic Period

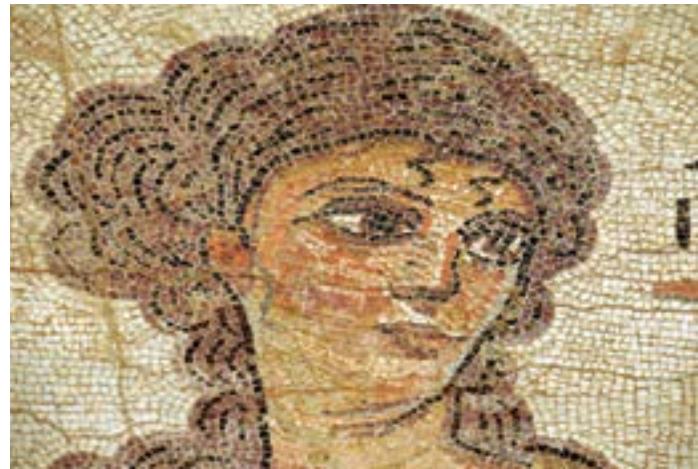
Alexander's generals fought for succession, and Cyprus eventually came under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemies of Egypt, belonging from then on to the Greek Alexandrine world. Pafos became the capital.

30 BC-330 AD: Roman Period

Cyprus became part of the Roman Empire. But Saints Paul and Barnabas converted the Roman proconsul to Christianity, and he became the first Christian ruler in the world. In 313 freedom of worship was granted, and Cypriot bishops attended the Council of Nicea in 325. The period was marked by earthquakes which resulted in the rebuilding of cities.

330-1191 AD: Byzantine Period

After the division of the Roman Empire, Cyprus became part of Byzantium, with Christianity becoming the official religion. Empress Helena visited the island and founded Stavrovouni Monastery. The period again saw earthquakes and rebuilding, including large Basilicas. In 488, after the discovery of St. Barnabas' tomb, the Church of Cyprus was granted full autonomy by Emperor Zeno.



1192-1489: Frankish (Lusignan) Period

The Catholic Church officially replaced the Greek Orthodox Church, but the latter managed to survive.

The city of Ammochostos became one of the richest cities in the world during this period, which ended when the last queen Caterina Cornaro ceded Cyprus to Venice in 1489.

1489-1571: Venetian Period

The last Queen of Cyprus, Caterina Cornaro, wife of King James II, ceded the island to Venice in 1489. This resulted in the definitive ousting of the Genoans from the island and the prevalence of Venetian rule. Venice's main aim was to secure a firm hold of Cyprus that would allow the uninterrupted movement and supply of Venetian ships in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Venetians fortified the island against the Ottomans, building formidable walls around Lefkosia and Ammochostos, where the defenses were considered works of art in military architecture. Towards the end of the Venetian rule, Larnaka became the most important port of Cyprus, from where salt was exported.

“

Here the beauty of some pleasant hill invites the wandering mariners to take their ease among its flowery verdure, where the zephyrs continually come and go, filling with sweet odors the island and the encompassing sea...”

~ Leonardo da Vinci, 1452-1519 AD

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1571-1878: Ottoman Period

The period of Ottoman rule in Cyprus began with the fall of Ammochostos (Famagusta) in 1571. The Latins were expelled from the island and a Muslim community was established in Cyprus for the first time. Privileges were given to the Orthodox Church of Cyprus from the beginning of the Ottoman rule, giving it not just religious authority but also political authority. Cyprus went through hard times during the Ottoman rule.

1878-1960: British Period

In 1878 Britain assumed administration of the island, subsequently annexing it in 1914, after the Ottomans entered the First World War on Germany's side. In 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey relinquished all rights to Cyprus, and in 1925 Cyprus became a Crown Colony. During the Second World War, Cypriot volunteers served in the British forces. Hopes for self-determination by the Cypriot people however, were denied by the British, who considered the island strategically vital. A national liberation struggle began in 1955 against Colonial rule and for the union of Cyprus with Greece, which lasted until 1959. The Zurich-London Agreements led to the establishment of the independent Republic of Cyprus. On December 13, 1959 Archbishop Makarios III was elected first President of the Republic and Dr. Fazil Kutchuk first Vice President.



1960: The Republic of Cyprus

Cyprus became an independent Republic in 1960, and a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. Britain, however, retained two sovereign bases. In 1964, UN peacekeeping forces arrive in Cyprus, following intercommunal clashes. In July 1974, Turkish forces invaded and occupied the northern third of the island (37%), where they remain to this day. Despite the many continuing humanitarian, social, and economic consequences, Cyprus still is today a modern society with a robust and healthy economy. In May 2004, the Republic of Cyprus became a full member of the European Union, adding its own uniqueness to the mosaic and serving as the European Union's lighthouse in the Eastern Mediterranean. The island and the Cypriot people stand as a beacon for closer co-operation, understanding, and dialogue with the countries and people in its immediate neighborhood and wider region. Strategically located, Cyprus continues to have a rich historical maritime tradition. Today, its merchant fleet is the third largest in the European Union and the tenth largest worldwide. On January 1st, 2008, Cyprus introduced the euro as its official currency, replacing the Cyprus pound. Cyprus is home to many international companies that use the island as a springboard to the surrounding regions and further afield.

LEFKOSIA

Discover venetian fortifications, ancient doors and cheerful tavernas in this capital city

With its distinction as the only divided capital in the world, Lefkosia (Nicosia) is steeped in history and culture, comprised of a charming old city surrounded by massive Venetian walls, and the island's largest concentration of museums, art galleries and religious and historical monuments that all tell wonderful stories of the island through the ages. The imposing Famagusta Gate still stands today, proudly encircling the thousand-year-old city. Through the gate lies the old city with a quarter known as 'Laiki Geitonia' - an old section that has been lovingly restored. Meander through narrow stone streets where crimson flowers cascade from window pots and the aroma of traditional baking wafts through open doorways. Explore jewellery and handicraft shops; dine in charming tavernas, and marvel at churches centuries old.

History and art connoisseurs will make their way directly to the Cyprus Museum, which holds the island's priceless treasures from the first stirrings of the Neolithic Age through the Roman period. At the Byzantine Museum, encounter a dazzling collection of icons from the Mediterranean's Golden Age. The State Collection of Contemporary Art and other private galleries take a newer perspective, focusing on Cyprus' modern artists, some of whom have gained note on the international market.

Come full circle in time and visit the Cyprus Handicraft Centre workshops, where traditional arts are practiced today much the same way they were in ages past. Relax and enjoy a splendid Cypriot meal accompanied by a refreshing drink.

A city always on the go, the many layers of Lefkosia's various attractions and features make it the island's capital in every sense.





LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA) IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

The Cyprus Museum (Archaeological)

Mouseiou 1. Collection of Cypriot antiquities and treasures from the Neolithic Age to the Early Byzantine period.

Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries

Archbishop Makarios III Foundation Cultural Centre, Plateia Arch, Kyprianou. Largest collection of icons on the island, covering from the 9th-18th centuries. The Art Galleries contain oil paintings, maps and lithographs.

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

Ippokratous 17, near Laiki Geitonia. The historical museum of Lefkosia revives life in the capital from ancient times to present.

Ethnological Museum - The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios

Patriarchou Gregoriou 20. The most important 18th-century building in Lefkosia. Once the residence of the Dragoman Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios.

Famagusta Gate

Leoforos Athinon. The Venetian walls which encircle the old city possess eleven heart-shaped bastions. The city has three gates. One of them, Porta Giuliana called Famagusta Gate is now the Lefkosia Municipal Cultural Centre.

National Struggle Museum

Plateia Arch. Kyprianou. Documents, photographs and other memorabilia of the 1955-1959 National Liberation Struggle.

Agios Ioannis Cathedral

Plateia Arch. Kyprianou. Built by Archbishop Nikiforos in 1662, the wall paintings depict bible scenes and the discovery of the tomb of St. Barnabas.

CITIES & REGIONS

LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA) IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

State Gallery of Contemporary Art

Housed in two locations, the Majestic Gallery at Leoforos Stasinou & Kritis and the SPEL Gallery at 73, Ammochostou Str. Exhibiting paintings and sculptures of the 19th and 20th centuries of Cypriot artists plus modern art, design and architecture.

Chrysaliniotissa Church

Within walking distance of the Archbishopric. Considered the oldest Byzantine church in Lefkosia, it is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Flax." Believed to have been built in 1450 by Queen Helena Paleologos.

Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus

Plateia Arch. Kyprianou, within the old Archbishopric. Wide collection of Cypriot Folk Art of the 19th and early 20th-century, including wood carved objects, tapestry, embroidery, pottery, national costumes and hand-woven materials.

Omeriye Baths

Tyllirias Square 8. The baths were built in the 16th century by Lala Mustafa as a gift to the city and it has now been restored and used as public baths.

Cyprus Handicraft Centre

Leoforos Athalassas 186. The centre aims to promote and enrich traditional folk art and craft skills. It has workshops and a showroom/shop in its premises.

The Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre

Apostolou Varnava 19. Housed in an old power station, one of the finest examples of industrial architecture in Cyprus. The centre's aim is to promote contemporary creativity at its highest level.

Ledra Museum Observatory

Ledra Street, Shakolas Building. The observatory on the 11th floor of the Shakolas tower building provides a panoramic view of the whole town of Lefkosia. Visitors can admire unobstructed all round views of the city and its landmarks.

Museum on the History of Cypriot Coinage

Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation 86-90 Faneromenis Str., The museum collection traces the history of Cypriot coinage from the 6th-century BC to the present.



Centre of Visual Arts and Research

285 Ermou Str. The Centre of Visual Arts and Research (CVAR), houses a collection of more than 1000 artworks created by foreign artists who have visited Cyprus during the 18th – 20th centuries, as well as a collection of costumes presenting the evolution of the local Cypriot dress.

Leventis Art Gallery

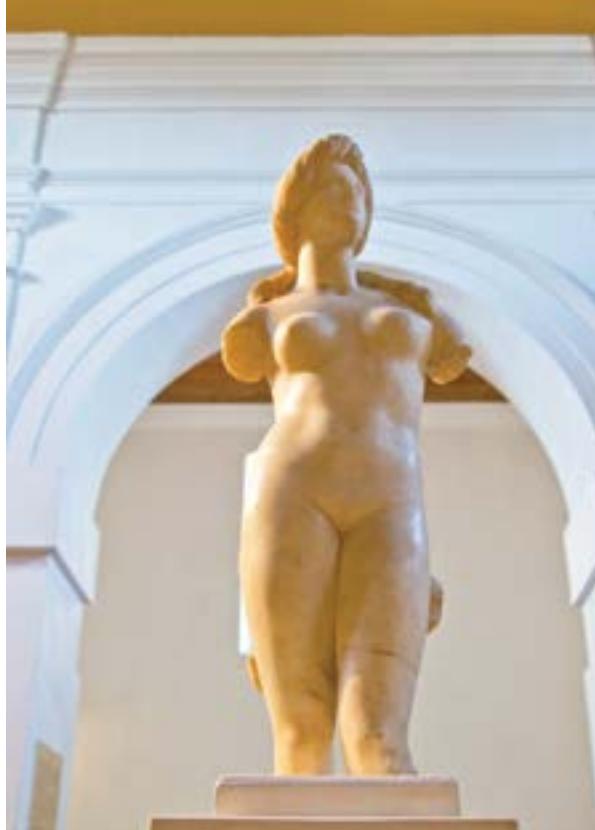
Anastasiou Leventi str. Build in the heart of Lefkosia, the Leventis Art Gallery houses more than 800 paintings and works of art, which constitute part of the most important collections of the Leventis Foundation.

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“The island has in its midst a fair city called Lefkosia, which is the capital of the kingdom, well walled, with its fine gates, which are three, to wit the gate of Paffo, of Famagusta and Cirina. That of Famagusta, is the most beautiful, and in my judgment the city of Barcelona has none to match it.”

~ P. Joan Lopez, 1770

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LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA) GREATER AREA

Politiko-Tamassos Royal Tombs

Politiko village, 17 km southwest of Lefkosia. Tamassos was a rich city-kingdom in ancient Cyprus renowned for its copper mines. Excavations have brought to light the relics of Aphrodite Astarte.

Agios Irakleidios Convent

Politiko village, 0.5 km from the Royal Tombs. The monastery, founded in 400 AD, was destroyed and rebuilt several times until Archbishop Chrysanthos renovated it in 1773. The relics of the saints are kept in a silver gilt case.

Machairas Monastery

40 km south of Lefkosia through Deftera and Pera villages. Founded by two monks in 1148, when an icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave, the monastery is set deep in the heart of Machairas Mountains.

Fikardou Rural Museum

Housed in the House of Katsiniourou, in Fikardou village, Fikardou Museum is 1.5 km east of Gourri village (Machairas-Lefkosia Road via Klirou). The village has been declared an ancient monument by the Department of Antiquities to preserve the remarkable woodwork and folk architecture of the 16th and 18th centuries houses. Some of the houses received the Europa Nostra Award in 1987.

Archaeological Site and Museum of Idalion

Dali village. Idalion was another ancient city-kingdom. On the Lower City parts one can visit the first millennium BC settlement with small sanctuaries and industrial areas, while up the hilly area, the remains of the administrative Acropolis, an impressive architectural complex that functioned as the seat of the Greek-speaking royal dynasty of Idalion. The exhibits of the museum represent all the chronological phases of the history of Idalion.

LEMESOS

Cyprus' major port is also home to world-class resorts and historical treasures

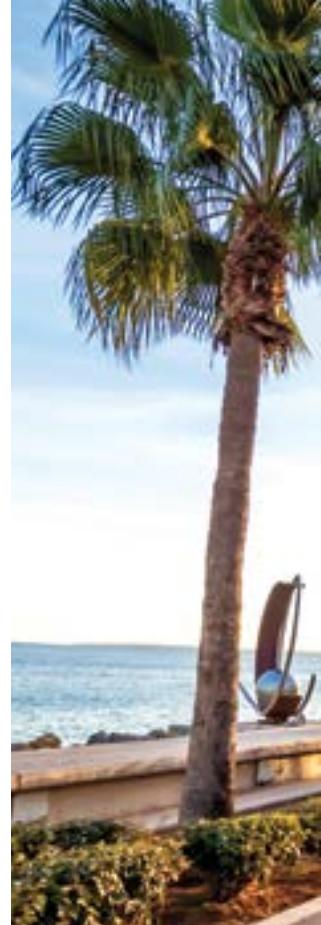
The city of celebrations since ancient times, Lemesos (Limassol) continues its status as the festive centre of the island to this day and is vibrant and lively, yet also provides all the elements for a relaxing beach break or an unhurried expedition of historical discovery.

From the wedding of Richard the Lionheart and the feasts in honour of ancient deities, to today's carnival celebrations and Wine Festival, Lemesos has always attracted visitors in their flocks for its exciting events and social revelling.

As day turns to night, the restaurants, cafès and nightclubs fill with people celebrating life and all its occasions, from the trivial to the momentous... be it a soccer win or a sudden romance, or just the simple pleasure of another stunning sunset at day's end. Wander round the narrow streets of the old town that radiate out from the fishing harbour and the exclusive modern marina where both residents and visitors alike can enjoy sea views at one of the many waterfront establishments.

Explore Lemesos Castle, which contains the Cyprus Medieval Museum, or the Folk Art Museum, which is housed in an old mansion. Stroll along ten kilometres of beautiful coastline, deservedly known as the 'Cypriot Riviera', or along the sea promenade leading to a visit to the Municipal Gardens. On the coastal road to the east, just after the luxurious hotels, you will find Amathous, one of the ancient city kingdoms of Cyprus, where you can see the ruins and walk through the ancient Agora, admiring the remnants of a time past.

At 14 km west of Lemesos lies Kolossi Castle, a medieval fortress whose walls contain not only an imposing tower and surrounding living quarters, but also a medieval sugar factory.





Just 19 km west of the town, visit the ancient city Kingdom of Kourion; one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the island. Here you can take in a play or concert at the ancient Greco-Roman theatre, overlooking the blue Mediterranean.

And a bit further on, explore a treasure trove of Greek and Roman sites, such as the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates. As its rural areas stretch upwards to the mountains, some of the island's main wine-making villages can be found, giving the Lemesos region its unique link with the age-old tradition of viticulture.

For a voyage of cultural discovery and celebration, combined with sand, sea and mountains, Lemesos offers an experience not to be missed.

LEMESOS (LIMASSOL) IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

Cyprus Medieval Museum Lemesos Medieval Castle

Near the old port. Built in the 14th-century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle. According to tradition, Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England here in 1191.

Lemesos District Archaeological Museum

Vyronos 5, near the Public Gardens. A rich collection of antiquities from the Neolithic age to the Roman period, originating from excavations at archaeological sites of the Lemesos region.

Lemesos Municipal Art Gallery

The art gallery houses a representative collection of paintings of well-known contemporary Cypriot artists.

CITIES & REGIONS

LEMESOS AREA

Municipal Folk Art Museum

Agiou Andreou 253. A beautiful collection of Cyprus Folk Art of the 19th- and early 20th-century is exhibited in a restored old house.

The Old Carob Mill

Vasilissis St. (behind Lemesos Medieval Castle). The Carob Mill was built in 1900 at a time when carobs were a major export of Cyprus. The machinery used in processing the carobs is preserved and displayed in a renovated building, blending the authentic atmosphere of the past with the sophisticated high-tech look of the present.

Agia Napa Church

The Church was built at the end of the 19th and early 20th century and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Sculpture Park

Seventeen sculptures made by local and foreign artists are exhibited in the park, the products of sculptur symposiums held from 1999-2001.

LEMESOS (LIMASSOL) GREATER AREA

Amathous Archaeological Site

11 km east of Lemesos town centre, you will find one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus where, according to mythology, Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne after his battle with the Minotaur. The remains date from the Archaic, Roman and Christian periods.

Kolossi Castle

14 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos. A fine example of military architecture, originally constructed in the 13th-century and subsequently rebuilt in its present form in the middle of the 15th century. It served as the Grand Commandery of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and later the Knights Templar.

Kourion Museum

14 km west of Lemesos, 4 km before Kourion site at Episkopi village. Collection of finds from nearby archaeological sites, exhibited in a beautiful old house.



Kourion Archaeological Site

19 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos. An important ancient city-kingdom and one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the island. The magnificent Greco-Roman theatre was originally built in the 2nd century BC and is now used for musical and theatrical shows. The house of Eustolios became a public recreation centre during the early Christian period. The early Christian basilica dates to the 5th century. The house of Achilles and the House of the Gladiators have beautiful mosaic floors, and the Nymphaeum is an elegant Roman structure. The stadium dates back to the 2nd century AD.

“

“Cyprus was to become mine by adoption-therefore he must try to see it through my eyes. At once it became fertile, full of goddesses and mineral springs; ancient castles and monasteries: fruit and grain and verdant grasslands; priests and gypsies and brigands....”

- Lawrence Durrell, “Bitter Lemons”

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Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates

3 km west of Kourion, on the road to Pafos. The Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates is recorded in historical sources as one of the most important sanctuaries on the island. Strabo wrote about a ridge past Kourion from where those who touched the Sacred Altar of Apollo were flung into the sea. Many inscribed testimonies, which have been found on the spot and in the city, confirm the historical sources. Apollo Hylates, God of Woodland, was the protector of the city of Kourion. The cult of Apollo was celebrated here from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. Excavations have also revealed other structures of this important sanctuary such as the bath complex, the pilgrim halls, the palaistra and a holy precinct.

Kouris Valley

Kouris Valley, about 20 minutes from Lemesos, has a number of important Byzantine monuments such as the 12th century church of the Monastery of Panagia tis Amasgou, the church of Timios Stavros at Kouka village and the church of Archangelos at Monagri.

Agios Nikolaos ton Gatou Convent

(St. Nicholas of the Cats)

On Cape Gata near Lemesos. This is possibly the oldest monastery in Cyprus. The monastery chapel dates to the



14th century, it was abandoned in the 16th-century and was reinstated by Orthodox nuns in the early 1980's. According to tradition, the monastery was founded by St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, who left a piece from the Holy Cross there. When Cyprus experienced a severe drought, the area became infested by snakes. Constantine the Great sent a commander to Cyprus called Kalokeros, who released thousands of cats to the Cape in order to exterminate the snakes. The monastery today is home to hundreds of cats.

Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre

Situated at Akrotiri village, the centre has an exhibition room, library, projection room and observation kiosk. Visitors can view exhibits related to the protected Akrotiri peninsula, the geological formation of the region, and can admire the view of the nearby salt lake.

LARNAKA

Stroll the famous seaside promenade of this gateway city and home to Saint Lazarus

Most travellers first see Cyprus at Larnaka, the country's second largest port and home of the main international airport. No welcome could be sunnier... At Larnaka, deep blue seas meet sandy beaches under incomparably brilliant skies.

At the small harbour, the yachts and sailing vessels bob and glint, heralding the start of the famous palm-tree promenade, which leads to Larnaka Medieval Castle (Fort) and its museum. Inviting cafès offer shady resting spots and sweeping sea views along the way, and the parallel commercial centre is made for shopping trips at Larnaka's international-calibre boutiques, with cultural gems nestled in its historic streets.

Make your way north from the fort, toward the centre of the city, and you will come to one of Larnaka's - and the island's - most cherished sites - the church of Saint Lazarus. After his resurrection from the dead by Jesus, Lazarus elected to live out his 'second' life as Bishop of Kition. He was reputedly buried in a crypt under the main altar and his tomb can be seen today.

Originally called Kition in the days of the Old Testament, Larnaka reached a heyday as a commercial centre in the 1700's, when the consulates were established here.

One of the oldest, continually-inhabited cities in the world, Larnaka abounds with sights, such as its 18th-century aqueduct, whilst two wonderful museums - the Archaeological Museum of the Larnaka District and the Pierides Museum - Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation - both contain exceptional examples of the island's art and civilisation.

Heading out from Larnaka toward Lemesos, stop by the enchanting village of Lefkara. Doubtless you, like Leonardo Da Vinci five centuries before you, will be seduced by Lefkara's exquisite handmade lace.





LARNAKA IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

Archaeological Museum of the Larnaka District

Plateia Kalogreon. Collection of finds from the Larnaka area dating from the Neolithic Age to the Roman period.

Agios Lazaros Church (Saint Lazarus)

Plateia Agiou Lazarou. Saint Lazarus is the patron Saint of Larnaka. After his resurrection by Christ, he lived here for another 30 years. He was ordained Bishop of Kition by Saints Barnabas and Paul in the 9th-century. The church was faithfully restored in the 17th-century, and the iconostasis is an excellent example of baroque woodcarving.

Pierides Museum – Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation

Zenon Kitieos 4. Remarkable private exhibition of Cypriot antiquities, originally collected by Demetrios Pieridis (1811-1895) and further enriched by members of his family.

Larnaka Medieval Museum – Larnaka Castle (Fort)

Larnaka palm-tree promenade. Built in 1625, it was used as a

prison during the first years of British rule and also houses the District Medieval Museum. The fort is also used as the Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre during the summer..

Kition Archaeological Site

Approximately 500 m northeast of the Archaeological Museum of the Larnaka District. One of the most important ancient city-kingdoms, with architectural remains dating back to the 13th-century BC. As well as cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of stone and a complex of five temples, dating back to 1200 BC of the Mycenaean Greeks.

The Kebir (Buyuk) Mosque

Leoforos Athinon, opposite Larnaka Castle (Fort). The Kebir (Buyuk) mosque is probably the first Ottoman mosque in Cyprus. It was originally a catholic church dedicated to St. Catherine in the 13th-14th century, before being turned into a mosque.

CITIES & REGIONS

LARNAKA GREATER AREA

Kamares Aqueduct

Kamares area on the Larnaka-Lemesos road. A beautiful 18th century aqueduct which was in use until 1930.

Hala Sultan Tekke – Salt Lake

5 km west of Larnaka on the road to Kiti, passing Larnaka Airport. Built in 1816 over the tomb of Umm Haram, who was believed to be the sister of the Prophet Mohammed's foster mother or a follower from Medina to Cyprus. The mosque is an important place of Muslim pilgrimage after the shrines of Mecca, Medina and Al Aqsha in Jerusalem.

Salt Lake

Larnaka Salt Lake is one of the most important habitats in Europe for waterfowl. Scores of flamingos, wild ducks and other water or shore fowl find refuge here in winter on their migratory journeys. Archaeological finds show that the salt lake area, and that of the nearby Mosque, have been inhabited since the Neolithic age. A nature trail has been created along the banks of the lake connecting the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Aggeloktisti Church

Kiti village, 7 km west of Larnaka. Aggeloktisti means 'Built by the Angels'. This 11th-century Byzantine church was erected over the ruins of an early Christian basilica. The original apse survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a rare 6th-century mosaic of the Virgin Mary and Child between two Archangels, which rivals the Ravenna Mosaics.

Chapelle Royale

Pyrga village, 35 km south of Lefkosia, 32 km from Larnaka. Built by the Lusignan King James in 1421, it contains a wall painting of the king with his wife, Charlotte de Bourbon.



Stavrovouni Monastery

9 km off the Lefkosia-Lemesos Road, 40 km from Larnaka. Perched on a rocky peak, Stavrovouni means Mountain of the Cross. According to tradition, it was founded in the 4th-century by St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who left a fragment of the Holy Cross at the monastery. Women are not allowed in the monastery, but men may visit it daily. There is an impressive ceremony and celebration on September 14th, the day of the raising of the Holy Cross. The Monastery of Agia Varvara (St. Barbara) at the foot of Stavrovouni Hill, is easily accessible. The monks here have a high reputation for icon painting.

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“To Larnaca through an extraordinary landscape reminding one of Plato’s God geometrizing: low hills, almost perfect cones with leveled tops suggesting the Euclidean objects found in art studios. Wind erosion? But the panel of geometrical mounds seems handmade. And the valleys tap-estried with fat-tailed sheeps, plots of verdure and here there a camel train and palm tree. A strange mixture of flavors, the Bible, Anatolia and Greece.”

”

- Lawrence Durrell, “Bitter Lemons”

Choirokoitia Neolithic Settlement

32 km southwest from Larnaka and 48 km south of Lefkosia, off the Lefkosia-Lemesos Road. Neolithic settlement dated to 7000 BC. Excavations have brought to light one of the most important Neolithic settlements in the world with a defence wall, circular houses, tombs and many stone utensils.

Kalavassos-Tenta

40 km from Larnaka, 2.5 km off the Lefkosia-Lemesos Road. Tenta, one of the most important Neolithic settlements in Cyprus, lies near the village of Kalavassos.

Lefkara

8 km from Skarinou, off the Lefkosia-Lemesos Road, 40 km from Larnaka. A picturesque village, famous for its local lace known as ‘Lefkaritika’ and for its silversmithing. There you will find the beautiful Patsalos residence, which houses the Local Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silversmith-work, Lefkara. The church of Archangelos Michail in Kato Lefkara is of the single-aisled domed type and has wall paintings of the late 12th-century. At Pano Lefkara there is the Church of the Holy Cross with beautiful 18th-century and 13th-century artifacts. Lefkara lace or ‘Lefkaritika’ are on the UNESCO Intangible World Heritage List, and the village is also awarded the UNWTO ‘Best Tourism Villages’.



Agios Minas Convent

Near Lefkara. This 15th-century convent with a church at the centre of the cloisters, is home to a relatively small number of nuns, who besides performing their religious rites, also practice icon painting.



PAFOS

Old traditions and customs kept alive in the town of Aphrodite

Enter another world, where idols and temples, shrines and Goddesses make up the fabric of everyday life. Pafos is where Aphrodite, the Ancient Greek Goddess of Love and Beauty, is said to have risen from the waves that crash on its shores. 'Petra tou Romiou' or Aphrodite's Rock, is a massive stone that marks the spot where she emerged from the sea. Her birthplace was a place of pilgrimage for the entire Hellenic world. Past Polis and Latsi, the baths of Aphrodite provided the ancients with a dramatic setting for outdoor bathing.

Aphrodite's presence seems to have drawn other divinities and notable mortals as well. Excavations have unearthed the spectacular 3rd-5th century mosaics at the Houses of Dionysos, Orpheus and Aion, and the villa of Theseus – buried for many centuries and yet remarkably intact. Their grace of line and subtlety of colour will surely inspire elevated feelings in those who see them. Also in this region is the Odeon, a stone-built, small theatre, still used as it was in ancient times for outdoor concerts.

Archaeological discoveries in the Pafos region are continuous, putting many pieces together for those tracing various civilisational origins in Cyprus. For a glimpse of the artefacts and masterworks found in the area, visit the District Archaeological Museum.

Later periods of history have also left their traces. The Tombs of the Kings, in Kato Pafos, is a monumental honeycomb structure carved into sheer rock, whose vaults held the tombs of Ptolemy period nobles. Nearby, the stone pillar where St. Paul, according to tradition, was bound and flogged for preaching Christianity, still stands tall. The Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery was founded in the 12th century AD and





is dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate'. The neighbouring monastery of Agios Neofytos contains some of the world's finest Byzantine frescoes and icons, as well as an interesting Byzantine museum.

Enjoy a cool drink, a steaming Cypriot coffee, or a meal of freshly-caught seafood in one of the tavernas that dot the scenic harbour side in the town of Pafos. Hotels for every taste and budget can be found centrally, and in the surrounding area. Use them as your home base for discovering this rich region.

PAFOS IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

Archaeological Museum of the Pafos District

Griva Digeni 43. An attractive collection of Cypriot antiquities – Neolithic Age to 1700 AD.

Ethnographical Museum

Exo Vrysis 1. From the Neolithic age to the present day.

Agia Solomoni Church

Kato Pafos, Leoforos Agiou Pavlou. Originally a Christian catacomb retaining 12th-century frescoes. Above the catacomb stands a sacred tree believed to have healing properties.

CITIES & REGIONS

PAFOS IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

KATO PAFOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

Kato Pafos, near the harbour. Kato Pafos Archaeological Park includes sites and monuments from its foundation in the 4th century BC to the Middle Ages, while most remains date to the Roman period. The marvellous mosaic floors of four Roman villas form the impressive epicentre of the finds. The complex includes other important monuments, such as the Asklepieion, the Odeon, the Agora, the 'Saranta Kolones' (Forty Columns) Fortress, the 'Limeniotissa' Ruins of an early Christian Basilica, and the 'Tombs of the Kings'.

Pafos Mosaics

House of Dionysos, House of Theseus, House of Aeon, House of Orpheus. The mosaic floors of these houses date from the 2nd to the 5th century AD. The first house was discovered accidentally by a farmer in 1962. The villas belonged to noblemen and the mosaics are considered among the finest in the Eastern Mediterranean. They depict scenes from Greek mythology and are considered masterpieces of mosaic art. Some of the mosaics at the House of Dionysos depict the God of Wine, while that of Theseus depicts the classical Greek mythology hero brandishing his club at the Minotaur.

Tombs of the Kings

Kato Pafos. These 4th-century BC underground tombs are carved out of solid rock, some decorated with Doric pillars. Their magnificence gives the locality its name.

Pafos Odeon

Kato Pafos. A 2nd-century Odeon. Used in the summer for music and theatre shows. Nearby the remains of the ancient city walls and the Roman Agora frame the site.

Saranta Kolones

Kato Pafos, near the harbour. Built by the Lusignans in the 13th-century on the site of a previous Byzantine castle. It was later destroyed by an earthquake in 1222.

Pafos Medieval Fort

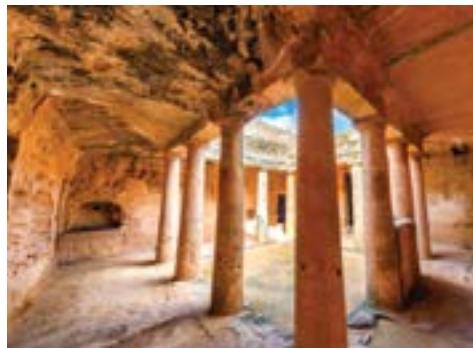
Kato Pafos harbour. A Byzantine fort. rebuilt by the Lusignans, dismantled by the Venetians in 1570 and rebuilt during the 16th century.

Panagia Chrysopolitissa

Church/St. Paul's Pillar Kato Pafos. Built in the 13th century over the ruins of the largest early-Byzantine basilica on the island. See St. Paul's Pillar, where according to tradition St. Paul was flogged, before the Roman Governor Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity.

Pafos Municipal Art Gallery

Gladstonos 7. The gallery exhibits works of art by local artists.



PAFOS GREATER AREA

Geroskipou Folk Art Museum

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Named after the sacred garden of Aphrodite. Folk arts and crafts are exhibited in the beautiful 'House of Hadjismith'.

Ecclesiastical Museum of Pafos

Exhibiting 7th-18th centuries icons.

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"The dawns and sunsets in Cyprus are unforgettable-better even than those of Rhodes which I always believed were unique in their slow Tiberian magnificence.

- Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"

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Agia Paraskevi Church

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Byzantine church. A basilica surmounted by five domes forming a cross, with beautiful 15th century murals.

Sanctuary of Aphrodite Palaipafos Museum

Kouklia village, 14 km east of Pafos, off the Lemesos-Pafos Road. Palaipaphos, (Old Paphos), was a celebrated pilgrimage centre of the ancient Greek world. Here stood the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, which dates back to the 12th century BC.

Petra Tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock)

Birthplace of Aphrodite. 25 km east of Pafos. Legend dictates that the Goddess of Love and Beauty rose from the waves in this strikingly beautiful spot. The Greek name is 'Petra tou Romiou' or 'The Rock of the Greek'.

Lempa Archaeological Site

5 km from Pafos. At Lempa, village excavations have brought to light an important settlement of the Chalcolithic period. Replicas of two houses have been constructed near the site.

Pegeia Village

Agios Georgios Basilica and the fountains of Pegeia. Pegeia village, 19 km northwest of Pafos. 4.5 km from the village are the ruins of two early Christian basilicas with mosaic floors. Pegeia Village is famous for its fountains in the stone-paved village square.

Agios Neofytos Monastery

9 km north of Pafos. Founded at the end of the 12th-century by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neofytos. The 'Egkleistra', an enclosure carved into of the mountain, contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes dating from the 12th-15th-century. In the monastery's church there is an interesting ecclesiastical museum.



Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery

40 km northeast of Pafos. The monastery, originally founded in the 12th-century AD, is dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate'. It dates back to 1770 and has a collection of important icons and treasures.

Pano Panagia Village

On the west of Troodos 1.5 km from Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery. The birthplace of Archbishop Makarios III, first President of the Republic of Cyprus. The house where he was born has been converted into a museum.

Polis

37 km north of Pafos. Polis tis Chrysochou lies where there once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion. Its beautiful climate, crystal-clear beaches and breathtaking scenery have made the area an attractive, popular resort.

Polis Archaeological Museum Marion / Arsinoe

The museum consists of an interesting collection of antiquities discovered in the region where once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion- Arsinoe. The Museum is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural route.

Baths of Aphrodite

Akamas Peninsula, near Polis, 48 km north of Pafos. They say that the Goddess Aphrodite took her beauty baths in a pool formed by a natural grotto, shaded by a fig tree, which can still be visited. It is here that she met her beloved Adonis for the first time. Nature trails that run through Akamas reveal incomparable views of unspoiled land.

Museum of Mycenaean Colonisation of Cyprus

Maa-Paleokastro Coral Bay area.

TROODOS

Walk in pine-clad forests and explore Byzantine churches and picturesque villages

The thick cedar, pine forests and sun-soaked slopes of the Troodos region offer an unexpected contrast to the Mediterranean coast less than an hour away. Halfway between the busy towns of Lefkosia and Lemesos, halfway between sea and sky, rising to 1,952 meters (6,400 feet), Troodos is a counterpoint to the rest of the island.

Connecting the mountain resorts of Troodos, Kakopetria, Platres and Agros are trails that hold delights for mountain bikers, hikers, bird watchers and botanists alike. Signs mark the presence of flora and fauna unique to Cyprus. Glimpses of the blue sea beyond peek through the lace-like canopy of cedar trees. Close enough to touch, are herds of grazing Mouflons or Agrino – the mountain sheep endemic to Cyprus - that pass by leisurely. The clear mountain air is fragrant with aromatic plants and shrubs, and of course, the scent of pine trees that are found all around you. It is a natural reserve in the heart of the island that promises that this wild beauty will remain forever.

Along the way, each village will be glad to offer you a local specialty, ranging from mountain goat cheese or fresh cherries to aromatic rosewater. And of course, because you are still in Cyprus, history and culture are never far away. Ten of Troodos' remarkable painted Byzantine churches have been listed on UNESCO's prestigious World Cultural Heritage List. The famous Kykko and Machairas Monasteries are well worth a visit for their icons, paintings and inspiring architecture.





TROODOS IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

Troodos Square Environmental Information Centre

Troodos Visitor Centre is situated 200m west of Troodos square (Plateia). It is the first of its kind in Cyprus and provides information about the Troodos National Park..

Troodos Geopark

The Troodos Geopark Visitor Centre is located in the old Asbestos mine (Amiantos mine), an area with enormous historical value, which now hosts an extraordinary botanical garden with information about the flora of the area; a seed bank of endemic species, and a plethora of evidence documenting the past mining activity and the community which once flourished there.

Cyprus Railways Museum

The Cyprus Railways Museum is housed in the old Railway station near Evrychou village, in the Troodos mountains. Original documents, drawings, photos and various objects related to the Cyprus railways are exhibited in the museum rooms.

Platres Resort

Platres village is the largest and most stylish mountain resort of Lemesos district, and a popular place for excursions that offers a refuge from the intense summer heat.

CITIES & REGIONS

TROODOS IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

UNESCO BYZANTINE CHURCHES

Stavros tou Agiasmati

Platanistasa village, 15 km from Agros, 30 km off the Lefkosia-Astromeritis Road. A 15th century church, lying about 3 km outside this charming old village, retaining the most complete cycles of mural paintings of the second half of the 15th century in Cyprus.

Panagia tou Araka

Lagoudera village is 15 km from Agros or off the Kakopetria-Troodos-Lemesos Road (Karvounas crossroad). The 12th century church situated just outside the village has fine frescoes. Together with Asinou Church and that of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, it is considered to be one of the most important Byzantine churches on the island.

Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis

Kakopetria village. The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis stands about 5 km to the north of the village. It is completely painted with murals dating from the 11th-17th century and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island.

Timios Stavros

Pelendri village 3 km below Kato Amiantos, off the Karvouna- Lemesos Road, 32 km from Lemesos. Once the property of Jean De Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugo IV. There are two interesting churches: the 14th century church of Timiou Stavrou (The Holy Cross), with beautiful wall paintings, and the church of Panagia Katholiki in the centre of the village.

Asinou Church

5 km from Nikitari village, off the main Lefkosia Troodos road, around 20 km north of Kakopetria. An early 12th century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary with frescoes of the 12th century and later periods, considered to be among the finest examples of Byzantine mural painting on the island.

Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Church

Kalopanagiotis village. The village is famous for its sulphur springs and the church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, with excellent frescoes of the 13th and 15th centuries. It is a complex of two churches and a chapel. One of the biggest religious fairs in the valley is held here on St. John's day, on October 4th.



Panagia tou Moutoulla.

Less than a kilometre further up is Moutoullas village, with its tiny 13th century chapel of Panagia tou Moutoulla, an early example of the steep-pitched wooden roof type with frescoes dating to 1280. Visitors can obtain the key from the adjacent house. The traditional craft of wooden carved basins has been preserved in Moutoullas.

Archangelos Michail, Pedoulas village

The painted church of Archangelos Michail in the lower part of the village dates back to 1474.

Panagia Podithou, Galata village

The church of Panagia Podithou once belonged to a monastery. It was erected in 1502, and its paintings are of the Italo-Byzantine style.

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*The nightngales won't let you sleep in Platres.
Tearful bird, on sea-kissed Cyprus
consecrated to remind me of my country,
I moored along with this fable,
if it's true that it is a fable,
if it's true that mortals will not again take up the old deceit of the gods;
if it's true*

*-from Helen, by George Seferis,
Nobel prize poet*

”

The Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour (Metamorfosis tou Sotiros)

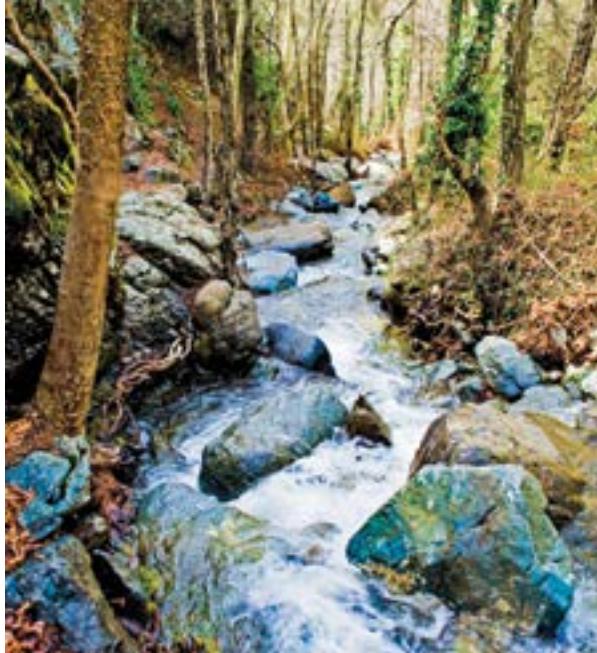
The church is an early 16th century chapel on the hill overlooking the village. Its interior is completely painted with one of the most accomplished series of murals of the post-Byzantine period.

Kykko Monastery and Museum

20 km west of Pedoulas village. The most famous and richest monastery in Cyprus. Founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it possesses one of the three surviving icons ascribed to St. Luke. The Museum is an integral part of the monastery and houses a priceless collection of icons, manuscripts and Cypriot antiquities. The monastery and museum are open daily.

Omodos Village

11 km southwest of Platres. A wine-producing village, once the property of Sir John De Brie, Prince of Galilee, with the Monastery of Stavros, 'Holy Cross', standing by the stone-paved square.



Foini Village

The village is found 44 kilometres northwest of the city of Limassol. Famous for its pottery and its loukoumi sweet. The state forests of Troodos and Pafos take up a large part of its administrative domain.

Koilani Village

1.5 km southwest of Pera Pedi, off the Lemesos Troodos Road. An attractive wine producing village with the single aisle vaulted church of Agia Mavri, of the 12th century.

Agros Village

Agros is in the heart of the Pitsilia region situated in a beautiful valley with a dry climate and cool springs. It is known for its traditional products such as aromatic rosewater, 'hiromeri' (smoked ham), 'loukanika' (spicy smoked sausages) and 'lountza' (smoked fillet of pork).



AMMOCHOSTOS



Enjoy the azure waters and sandy beaches of the island's southeast coast

With its stunning beaches of soft, white sands, and multi-star hotels, the Ammochostos (Famagusta) region draws discerning sun-seekers from all over the globe. This part of the island also remains the agricultural heart of Cyprus, where traditional windmills stand alongside modern aqueducts to irrigate the fertile red soil.

Agia Napa, once a small fishing village, is as lively a resort as any in the Mediterranean. But historic sites - such as a 16th century Venetian monastery - lend character to a town that's best known for its colourful bars, tavernas and nightclubs. Another focal point is the crescent harbour, crowded with bright fishing boats, where the day's catch is tonight's dinner at the popular restaurants nearby.

Life in this southeastern corner of Cyprus revolves around the sea, with water sports of all kinds readily available, from scuba diving to water-skiing and paragliding.

Explore the rugged coast toward Cape Gkreko, with its cluster of calm, sandy coves, and linger for the indescribably beautiful sunset. Or head north, toward the basket-making community of Liopetri, stopping at Sotira to take in the pretty village churches that date from the 15th and 16th centuries.

East to Protaras, the coastline stretches out to reveal further glorious beaches basking under the sun, while just inland the white-washed town of Paralimni boasts open-air tavernas known for their succulent grilled fish. Only a few miles from the most contemporary of resort scenes, you'll feel eons away.



AMMOCHOSTOS REGION IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

Agia Napa

Originally a fishing village, the ever-popular destination is now a major tourist resort. It boasts a variety of interesting sites to visit, ranging from archaeological and medieval to more modern offerings.

Agia Napa Monastery is imposing medieval monastery, dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Forests', stands in the middle of Agia Napa, surrounded by a high wall enclosure. Its 16th century church is partially underground, carved into the rock. An ancient sycamore tree, believed to be over 600 years old, grows in front of the south gate.

The Thalassa Municipal Museum's main purpose is to present the impact and significance of the sea in relation to the history of the island. The exhibits of the museum cover a chronological span, from paleontological and historical periods until present times.

The Agia Napa Aqueduct was originally a Roman structure, with Frankish alterations. Its main purpose was to deliver water from various water sources to the local monastery.

CITIES & REGIONS

AMMOCHOSTOS REGION IN BRIEF: PLACES OF INTEREST

The Agia Napa Sculpture Park & Park of Mediterranean Plants Cacti and Succulents located at the crossroads of Cape Gkreko and Kryou Nerou Avenue, the sculpture park and its adjoining cacti park offer a beautiful setting for a stroll with stunning, panoramic views. The sculpture park consists of a large collection of works by over 180 artists from around the world.

Paralimni

Since the Turkish military occupation of Ammochostos in 1974, this small town has become the temporary administrative centre of the district. The twin-aisled vaulted church dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Panagia), is decorated with unusual 18th century porcelain plates. The church, parts of which belong to the 13th century, houses a small ecclesiastical museum.

Deryneia Village

The village has three interesting churches, dating from the 15th and 17th centuries. From this village you can look at the 'ghost city' of Ammochostos, now under occupation by the Turkish forces.

Sotira Village

Here you'll find the partly ruined church of Agios Marnas, which was built in the 12th century and rebuilt during the 16th century. Most of the surviving frescoes date from back then. About 15 km to the west is the church of Agios Georgios, an early Christian basilica.

Frenaros Village

The village of Frenaros has its own two small Byzantine churches. Two of them, Agios Andronikos and Archangelos Michail, date back to the 12th century. The church of Agia Marina has some interesting frescoes painted by different artists.





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“...in Cyprus I stumbled upon many more such echoes from forgotten moments of history with which to illuminate the present. Invaders like Haroun al Rashid, Alexander, Coeur de Lion: Women like Catherine Cornaro and Helena Paleologus...the confluence of different destinies which touched and illuminated the history of one small island in the Eastern basin of the Levant, giving it significance and depth of focus.”

- Lawrence Durrell, “Bitter Lemons”

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Liopetri Village

Here you will find a 16th century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the 15th century church of Agios Andronikos, with an octagonal dome and murals. Liopetri still carries on the traditional craft of basket-making.

Potamos Liopetriou

A picturesque fishing refuge. Nearby are remains of a Venetian watchtower. The French poet Arthur Rimbaud worked in this area in the 1880s.

Avgorou Village

Avgorou has many Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches. The main church is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. Inside the church are two double-sided 17th century icons. Other churches include the chapel of Agios Georgios and the church of Agios Georgios Terachiotis. The Avgorou Ethnographic Museum is situated in an old two-story house. Its exhibits depict the way of life of bygone generations in the area.

The Ecclesiastical Museum is housed in an old chapel that has been turned into a museum to house a small but important collection of ecclesiastical artifacts and icons, such as a 15th century icon of Christ.

Xylofagou Village

The village church of Agios Georgios was built and decorated in the late 15th century. A new iconostasis was built in 1770 and later, the church was turned into a monastery. The Annunciation and the Nativity are amongst the church's most important wall paintings.

Cape Gkreko National Park

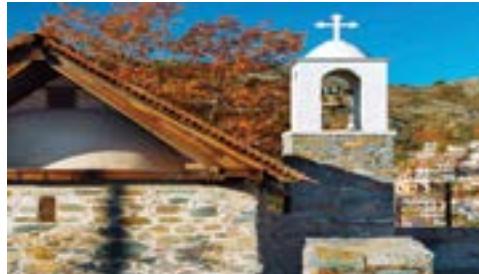
It is believed that a temple dedicated to Aphrodite once existed in the area. Cape Gkreko National Park is an area of unique natural beauty, where one can admire magnificent cliff formations. The local nature trail links the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

ITINERARIES



Visiting the island as a destination unto itself... or as an exciting add-on-trip

Whether you have a week or more in Cyprus or just a few days, any number of itineraries are possible. The island's history is rich and multi-layered, but its size is relatively compact, making it easy to explore. You can craft a route based purely on geographic variety. For example, from Larnaka in the east, to Pafos in the west, by way of Lefkosia - the capital in the centre, making time to explore the Troodos Mountain Range along the way (three to five days). Or, if you prefer to keep things purely coastal, take a route from the beaches of Agia Napa to Pafos and the rugged Akamas Peninsula beyond, by way of Lemesos, with a stop in ancient Kourion, and perhaps even stop in the Troodos' vineyard-covered foothills enroute (four to seven days). Alternatively, you can follow a number of thematic routes, from nature (hiking and nature trails) and beaches, to antiquity, in the footsteps of Aphrodite... and more. In these crossroads of civilisations, all roads lead to discovery.



DAY 1 - LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA)

In the morning visit the Cyprus Handicraft Centre, followed by a visit to the Cyprus Archaeological Museum, the Byzantine Museum, Art Galleries and St. John's Cathedral. Lunch at Laiki Geitonia, a restored old neighbourhood with cafés, tavernas, souvenir shops and galleries. In the afternoon visit the Hadjigeorgakis Kornosios Ethnological Museum and the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia.

DAY 2 - LEMESOS (LIMASSOL)

In the morning visit Kolossi Castle built in the 13th century, the important city-kingdom of Kourion, and the Sanctuary of Apollo Ylatis. In the afternoon visit the Lemesos Medieval Castle and the ancient site of Amathous.

DAY 3 - PAFOS

On the outskirts of Pafos visit 'Petra tou Romiou'- Aphrodite's birthplace. In the town of Pafos visit the Tombs of the Kings

and the Pafos Archaeological Park with the mosaics at the House of Aion, Dionysos and Theseus. Lunch at Pafos Harbour followed by a visit to Pafos Castle and St. Paul's Pillar. The whole of the ancient city of Pafos is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAY 4 - PAFOS

In the morning visit Agios Neophytos Monastery and Agios Georgios in Pegeia to see the sea caves. Continue to Latsi village to enjoy some fresh fish for lunch at one of the seaside restaurants. In the afternoon visit the Baths of Aphrodite and take one of the nature trails at Akamas Peninsula.

DAY 5 - LARNAKA

In the morning visit Saint Lazarus Church, Pierides Museum and the ancient city Kingdom of Kition. Lunch at the Foinikoudes 'Palm Tree' Promenade. In the afternoon visit Choirokoitia Neolithic Settlement - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Lefkara village famous for its lace-making.

DAY 6 - TROODOS MOUNTAINS

Visit Kykko Monastery, one of the richest monasteries on the island and the ecclesiastical museum. Lunch in the village of Pedoulas followed by a visit to one of the 10 UNESCO Byzantine churches, Archangel Michail. In the afternoon visit another important UNESCO Byzantine church, Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis in Kakopetria village, followed by a walk in the old part of the village.

DAY 7 - AMMOCHOSTOS AREA

Visit the Thalassa Municipal Museum and Agia Napa Monastery. Spend your afternoon swimming in the crystal-clear waters of Agia Napa and Paralimni. In the afternoon you can explore one of the hiking trails of Cape Gkreko.

For more itineraries log on to:
https://www.visitcyprus.com/files/cruises/CYPRUS_ITINERARIES.pdf

CULTURAL ROUTES

Following the footsteps of history

As a living legacy of history, culture and tradition, Cyprus evocatively intertwines ancient and contemporary elements with its unique Mediterranean flavour. Each region offers a distinctive experience. Discover the contrast of ancient city kingdoms and modern cities, or the rich history of ancient monuments and traditional mountain villages that border the lively seafront towns. Discover it all with the suggested cultural routes below.

Antiquity Route

Imagine life in the Stone Age by visiting the ancient settlements of Tenta and Choïrokoitia with quaint reconstructed round huts. Wander through the remains of the ancient city kingdom of Kition, once a rich seaport and major copper trading centre. Admire the spectacular views from the cliff tops of Amathous and Kourion - the two ancient city kingdoms that flank the modern town of Lemesos. Amathous was where the world's largest stone vase was found, now displayed in the Louvre Museum. The splendid Greco-Roman theatre at Kourion is still used for cultural performances today. Visit the world heritage sites of the sanctuary of Aphrodite at Kouklia, the Tombs of the Kings and the exquisite Pafos Mosaics.

Eastern Route

Take in the eastern corner of the island starting from Agia Napa with its white sandy beaches, or Protaras with its windmills. Drive through the agricultural area of the Kokkinochoria ('red soil villages'), through the city of Larnaka with its palm-lined seafront. Continue on through Meneou to Kiti, making sure you visit the beautiful Byzantine church of Aggeloktisti, as well as the camel park at Mazotos. Admire the panoramic view from the peak at Stavrovouni with its monastery and tour through the picturesque hillside villages, particularly Lefkara, known for its hand-embroidered lace and silverware.

Nature Route

With a favourable climate all year round, the great outdoors of the island is easily accessible, and offers a myriad of opportunities to take a journey through nature, history and culture thanks to the



numerous signposted paths and nature trails. A network of designated walking trails have been created to highlight the beautiful landscapes and strong Mediterranean character of the island. By walking them, you can see a treasure trove of varied fauna and flora, as well as the remnants of the island's mining heritage and other interesting monuments..

Byzantine Route

See the famous painted churches of Cyprus - 10 Byzantine churches on UNESCO's World Heritage List - with their remarkable wooden pitched roofs, priceless icons and frescoes. Scattered throughout the Troodos Mountain Range areas of Marathassa, Solea and Pitsillia, they are often situated in beautiful settings amidst the trees and are bound to impress you.

Aphrodite Route

Follow in the footsteps of Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love and Beauty and protectress of Cyprus. The route centres on the archaeological sites dedicated to the ancient cult of Aphrodite and includes Palaipafos (Kouklia), Amathous and Kition. These are linked to other sites



and museums with artefacts related to the Goddess. Wander through layers of history, culture and mythology as you learn all about her birth, mythology, character, the rituals connected with her cult, as well as the plants and seashells associated with her.

Western Route

Tour the unspoilt western part of Cyprus. The short route will take you through the area around Polis with its traditional architecture; along a vast stretch of beach to the villages of Pamos (with its pretty fishing shelter) and Pachyammos (with an important pilgrimage church), returning through the mountains via Stavros tis Psokas where you can see Mouflons, via Lysos, and Peristerona with its Byzantine museum. The longer trip takes the scenic route back to Pafos through Cedar Valley, Kykko Monastery, and Platres and then down through the Diarizos valley.

SPECIAL INTEREST

FOR THE SPECIAL- INTEREST TRAVELLER

“

...the true meaning... of Cypriot hospitality which is wrapped up in a single word - 'kopiaste' which roughly speaking means 'sit down with us and ...share'. Impossible to pass a café, to exchange a greeting with anyone eating or drinking without having the word fired at one as if from the mouth of a gun

Lawrence Durell, "Bitter Lemons"

”

Sit at the crossroads of ancient civilisations, Cyprus is famous for its archaeological sites and storied history, but also offers a wealth of other options alongside its cultural treasures. Set in the azure waters of the eastern Mediterranean, the island's natural landscapes and sunny climate provide an ideal setting for nature trails, adventure sports, golf, cycling, bird-watching and other activities, all-year-round. And with its picture-perfect settings for memorable weddings and unforgettable honeymoons, and state-of-the-art facilities for professional conferences or conventions, Aphrodite's island is ready to welcome you - whatever your preference.

Archaeology/Culture

Cyprus is an endless source of fascination for archaeology enthusiasts. The island is studded with ancient Greek and Roman ruins, as well as sites that date back to the Neolithic Age. The Bronze Age, Roman period, and Byzantine periods are particularly well-represented.

One of the island's most iconic archaeological sites is Kourion, on a hilltop setting west of Lemesos. It was founded by Achaean colonists from Argos in the Greek Peloponnese in the 12th and 13th centuries BC and would become one of the most important of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus. In the scenic west of the island, the ancient city of Pafos carries the designation of a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the strength of the Sanctuary of Aphrodite at Kouklia (Palaipafos) and Nea Pafos. An important area in terms of both Aphrodite worship in ancient times and the spread of early Christianity, Pafos is also home to remarkably well-preserved Roman mosaics which can be viewed at the House of Dionysos, the Villa of Theseus and the Basilica of Panagia Chrysopolitissa.

Family Activities

Cyprus has all the right 'ingredients' for a magical, exciting fairy-tale, or an adventurous time-capsule journey through 11,000 years of history and civilisation, enthralling both children and the young-at-heart! Step into a medieval castle and learn about the royal wedding that took place in its halls hundreds of years ago! Walk into the world of a Neolithic settlement and learn how people lived during the Stone Age! Hike in the woods and find hidden waterfalls!

Feeling brave? Feeling Adventurous? Want to try something new? Try the steep, hair-raising water slides at one of the island's water parks, or the thrill of the zip-line in the forest adventure park. Speed up on the go-karting tracks, or take a more leisurely pace with a donkey or camel ride. Friendly animals await at the zoo, whilst sporting options include golfing, mini-golf or bowling. And for the younger visitors, there is no shortage of parks and playgrounds to enjoy.



Weddings, Honeymoons and Romance

With destination weddings continuing to grow in popularity, Cyprus has become one of the most popular places in the Mediterranean to say 'I do'. Visitors can choose from a wide variety of locales to exchange their vows – from majestic sea-side ceremonies and sunset at a chapel, to an endless selection of grand resort hotels to quaint byzantine churches.

Cyprus is also one of the most romantic destinations for honeymoons – and with 300 days of sunshine each year, perfect weather is practically guaranteed. Travel the countryside and discover the unique historic, cultural, and natural attractions, or simply do nothing more than luxuriate at one of the island's fine coastal resorts.

Conferences and Incentives

Cyprus is a popular destination for meetings and conventions. A wide range of world-class, purpose-built event venues and major hotels offer state-of-the-art conference facilities and associated business services. Add-on services are also available, such as additional audio-visual equipment, secretarial and translation services, guest speakers, and the serving of refreshments and snacks for breaks. The Deputy Ministry of Tourism's dedicated 'Cyprus Convention Bureau' lists all venues available across the island, as well as incentive and team building activities, and other useful information for holding a professional event on the island: visitcyprus.com

Sports and Adventure

With its varied terrain and excellent climate, Cyprus is a dream location for adventure sports including mountain biking, mountain climbing and water sports. As a haven for cyclists, you can explore the breadth of the island from its pine-clad earth tracks in the heart of the Troodos mountains, to the rocky grounds of the verdant Akamas Peninsula. You can swim, cycle, walk and explore this very beautiful area of the island undisturbed and at one with the natural elements.

The clear waters of the Mediterranean also make Cyprus the ideal place for water sports including sailing, windsurfing, kiteboarding, snorkelling, swimming, and scuba diving.

Hikers will find that the island's best trails are in the mountainous regions, primarily in the Troodos Mountain Range and the Akamas Peninsula, where the most enjoyable island hikes lead through nature reserves.

Cyprus offers perfect weather for golf for much of the year with golf club rentals available at the 18-hole courses. The Aphrodite Hills Golf Club, PGA Natural, Elea Golf Course in Secret valley and Minthis Golf Club are just a few examples of what Cyprus has to offer. These courses offer varying degrees of difficulty for every golfer's ability.

FOOD OF CYPRUS

When you taste the food in Cyprus, you are instantly taken on a culinary journey through a rich history that counts Greek, Turkish, Levantine and other savoury influences in its varied gastronomy. It's most distinctive feature is the 'meze', a collection of many small plates of artfully prepared food, from 'koupepia' (stuffed grape leaves) to moussaka, village salad and much more. In charming, traditional restaurants and tavernas across the island, you can choose to order a seafood or meat meze, or can opt to start your meal with a selection of petite meze dishes, followed by a main course of meat or fish.



True Mediterranean Cuisine

The local cuisine in Cyprus is based on classic elements of the Mediterranean diet, which includes fresh fruits and vegetables, olive oil, and often seafood. Vegetarian meze is bountiful, from delectable 'elies tsakistes' (cracked green olives with coriander seeds, lemon and crushed garlic), to 'kolokotes' (small pastries stuffed with red pumpkin, raisins and cracked wheat pilaf), and a myriad of other plates of simply-cooked fresh vegetables like 'moungra' (pickled cauliflower), pickled beets and roast potatoes. Seafood includes sea bass, sea bream, red mullet and many more. Heartier appetites will be satiated by the likes of fresh moussaka, 'stifado' (a rich beef and onion stew), and 'ofto kleftiko', a Cypriot specialty of foil-wrapped lamb baked with Mediterranean herbs in a sealed wood burning clay oven.

Halloumi is the signature cheese and everyday delicacy of Cyprus. This firm cheese made from a blend of goat and

sheep milk has the unique quality of not melting when grilled, with its distinctive, 'rubbery' texture a firm favourite. Gaining in popularity abroad, it's regularly served in Cypriot restaurants and is delicious served on its own; paired with grilled vegetables, or eaten as a traditional accompaniment with fresh-cut watermelon slices.

Cyprus is also famous for its indigenous grape varieties, and the best local desserts are fruit or almonds in thickened grape juice (known as 'soutzoukos'), served with strong Cypriot coffee. But it's equally hard to resist a plate of baklava or piping hot 'loukoumades' (mini-donuts drenched in honey syrup).

Nightlife and Entertainment

For many, dining out in Cyprus is an eventful experience that can encompass many hours savouring fine foods and drinks, but there are additional nightlife options for those with the energy after a meal. Many hotels have Cypriot musicians

who entertain diners nightly or traditional folk evenings with island music and dancing where guests can join in a local Greek dance. It's easier than you might think! Resorts with clubs, bars, and pubs are the most popular places to enjoy a lively night out, but more local options abound. Most hotels also sell tickets to concerts, dance shows, and other cultural performances. Larger towns have theatres offering both classical performances and modern plays, often in beautiful historic settings.



WINE OF CYPRUS

The island has a long-standing tradition in winemaking that dates back to Ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian times, as evidenced by archaeological finds of old wine jugs at the Lemesos (Limassol) villages of Pyrgos and Erimi that are believed to be over 6.000 years old. The grape varieties of the island are some of the oldest in the world, with the sweet dessert wine 'Commandaria' remaining the oldest named wine still in production.



Wine Routes

There are seven wine routes on the island and these are: Laona-Akamas, Vouni Panagias - Ambelitis, Diarizos Valley, Commandaria, Larnaka-Nicosia and the Wine Villages of Lemesos (collectively known as 'Krasochoria' meaning 'wine villages'). They all produce both red and white wines.

The two main local grape varieties are those of Mavro (black) and Xynisteri (white). Xynisteri is the most widespread white grape variety and produces pale, light wines with a low alcohol content (11-11.5% volume). Mavro (red) is a large and juicy grape, producing dull colour wines with a light taste. When Mavro and Xynisteri are blended together they make Commandaria, and they are also used together in the production of the national spirit, Zivania. Other local grape varieties include the ancient Maratheftiko and Ophthalmos (red), whilst foreign grape varieties are also grown on the

island, including Chardonnay, Muscat of Alexandria, Palomino, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon (white), and Alicante Bouschet, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsaut, Grenache Noir, Mataro and Shiraz (red).

Commandaria

Cyprus can proudly lay claim to the world's oldest wine still in production - that of the delicious sweet dessert wine Commandaria. Thought to date back to 800 BC, references to the consumption of a wine named 'Cypriot Nama' is believed to have been Commandaria before it was given its current name during the crusades in the 12th century.

It was thought that the wine had therapeutic qualities and it was widely used as a tonic. Richard the Lionheart celebrated his capture of Cyprus and his marriage to Berengaria in Lemesos (Limassol) with Commandaria, declaring it "the wine of kings and the king of wines". In

1192 he sold the island to the Knights of St. John and the Knight Templars, who then sold it to Guy de Lusignan, but kept their headquarters at Kolossi. Commandaria was mainly produced in Kolossi - which was their administrative centre called 'La Grande Commanderie' - and it was here that the wine found its name.

The dried grapes are pressed, with the run-off collected and fermented in tanks or huge earthenware jars - much like those used in bygone times. No visit to the island is complete without picking up a bottle to take home, not just as a drink, but also as a sweet piece of the island's history!

Zivania

With an alcohol content of 40-99%, it is no surprise that the island's national drink 'Zivania' is also referred to as 'firewater'. The strong drink dates back to the 14th century when the island was under Venetian rule and is still made in the same traditional way today.

CULTURAL EVENTS & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

A Country of Festivals, Folklore and Celebration



Rich layers of history have birthed both religious and folkloric traditions that still resonate today. Cyprus offers a wide variety of cultural events for visitors to experience, from national holiday celebrations, to smaller festivals that take place in villages and towns throughout the island all-year-round.

For those who want to immerse themselves in a truly unique Mediterranean culture, multifaceted Cyprus has a wealth of options, from opera performances in medieval castle settings, to concerts at ancient Greco-Roman theatres.

The traditional religious festivals in Cyprus coincide with those celebrated in Europe. On New Year's Day, Cypriots typically exchange presents and eat the traditional New Year cake known as 'Vasilopita'. Epiphany takes place at seaside towns with a swimming competition whereby the winner recovers the crucifix hurled into the sea in order to sanctify the waters. During Holy Week, an effigy of Judas is burned and icons are covered with a pall. In May, the Anthestiria flower festival heralds the arrival of spring, while September brings the annual arts festival in Nicosia (Lefkosia).

Lemesos is home to many Carnival festivities, which take place in February/March, with its grand parade and masquerade parties. The Ancient Greek Drama Festival in summer attracts musical, dance, and theatre groups from all over the world, and the Wine Festival in September is full of merriment. Pafos, is home to the Pafos Aphrodite Festival in late August/early September; an eagerly-awaited event that brings opera lovers from all over the globe to the Medieval Castle Square for a world-class performances. Music lovers will also enjoy the International Pharos Chamber Music Festival each May/June in Kouklia.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN CYPRUS:

January	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany Day
February/March	Green Monday (50 days before Greek Orthodox Easter)
March 25	Greek National Day
April 1	Cypriot National Day
April	Good Friday (Friday before Greek Orthodox Easter)
April	Easter Monday (Monday after Greek Orthodox Easter)
May 1	Labor Day
May/June	Pentecost-Kataklysmos (Festival of the Flood)
August 15	Assumption
October 1	Cyprus Independence Day
October 28	Greek National Day
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day

CYPRUS' ACCOMMODATION

Where to stay in Cyprus



The variety of accommodation in Cyprus is extensive and of international high standards whilst remaining uniquely Cypriot. That means whether you choose a hotel for business, leisure or a mix of the two, and regardless of price range, you can expect quality lodgings and nothing less than the warmest welcome, befitting of one of Europe's most celebrated island holiday destinations. Whether travelling as a couple; with small children; alone, or with friends, you will be made to feel at ease and at home wherever you go.

Many hotels are, naturally, on the coast, from Agia Napa in the east to Polis in the west. Beyond stylish lobbies, airy rooms and sumptuous suites, the most luxurious of these have extensive facilities and advantages, beginning with easy beach access and beautiful swimming pools and also encompassing gourmet (but informal) restaurants, health clubs, gyms, tennis courts and world-renowned health spas. Even moderately-priced hotels generally include the

famously generous Cyprus buffet breakfast in the room rate. You can check hotels' websites or inquire when making reservations.

From five-star resorts to small, simple family-run establishments, you'll find it all here. You may make your selection from large hotels, hotel apartments, tourist villages, and tourist villas as well as campgrounds, traditional homes and guest houses.

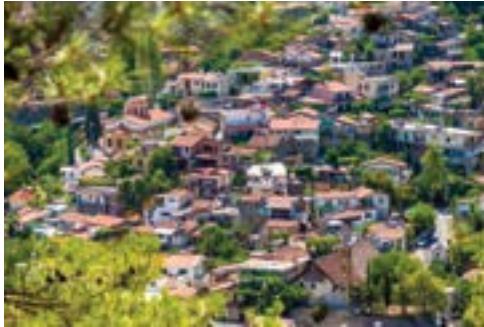
If you are looking for a different type of vacation -perhaps one in which you stay off the beaten path and experience Cyprus much like a native resident would - then Cyprus offers an Agrotourism Programme where you can stay in restored traditional houses in one of the island's many picturesque villages.

For additional information visit www.agrotourism.com.cy



USEFUL INFORMATION

Good things to know before you go



About Cyprus

Located at the heart of the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus has a landmass of 9,251 square kilometres.

Population: 918,100 (end 2021). The island is demographically diverse, with 78.9% of the population Cypriots and 21.1% foreign residents. The largest towns are Lefkosia the capital city (Nicosia), with a population of 351,600. Lemesos (Limassol) with 258,900, Larnaka with 154,200 and Pafos with 101,900.

Government

Cyprus, an independent sovereign Republic, has a presidential system of democratic government. Free elections are held every five years for the election of a President and Members of Parliament.

Languages

Greek is the main language, but English is widely spoken.

Before You Leave

You must have a valid passport, the appropriate visa documentation (where applicable) and an internationally recognised driver's licence. EU citizens are entitled to travel without any special formalities, you will simply have to possess and carry a valid passport or ID card. You will not need to get any vaccinations prior to arrival. In exceptional circumstances

(global pandemics and the like), any new updates will be clearly available on the government's travel advice pages.

Ports of Entry

Larnaka & Pafos International Airports -
www.hermesairports.com

Limassol Port -

www.dpworld.com/limassol

Larnaka Port & Marina -

www.kitionoceanholdings.com

Latchi & Pafos Anchorage -

www.cpa.gov.cy

Banking Hours, Currency and Credit Cards

The currency is the Euro (€). All major credit cards are accepted at most places.

Commercial banks in Cyprus offer a wide range of banking services, in Euro as well as in foreign currencies. They are also full members of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT). Commercial banking is fully compliant with EU banking law.

Currency exchange services and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are available at Larnaka and Pafos International Airports. There are ATMs outside most branches of all banks in all towns and in the main tourist resorts.

Bank working hours are: Monday -

Thursday: 8:00 – 14:30 / Friday: 08:00 – 14:00. Closed on weekends and bank holidays. Opening hours may be changed, depending on the season, and will be clearly displayed at the bank entrance.

Electricity

230 volts (AC) 50 Hz. Sockets are usually 13 amp, square - pin.

Emergencies

In case of an emergency, dial 112 for police, fire service and ambulance.

Emergency Service - Information Centre for drugs and poisoning: 90901401

Night pharmacies: 11892

Transportation

Bus & Shuttle Service: A bus and shuttle service operates to and from Larnaka and Pafos International Airports to all city centres. Details are available on the airports and ports websites:

Larnaka and Pafos International Airports

www.hermesairports.com

Limassol Port

www.dpworld.com/limassol

Larnaka Port & Marina:

www.kitionoceanholdings.com

Latchi & Pafos Anchorage:

www.cpa.gov.cy

USEFUL INFORMATION

Public transport is comprised of a network of modern, air-conditioned buses operating city, intercity and rural routes. Ticket types are: single, return, daily, weekly, monthly and annual.

Taxi Service: Intercity Service Taxis shared by passengers (eight per car, with air conditioning) connect all major towns in Cyprus and run approximately every half hour. The service picks passengers up and drops them off at the location of their choice or at one of the service taxi offices. www.intercity-buses.com

Car Rental: International self-drive car rental firms have offices in all towns, as well as at the Larnaka and Pafos International Airports. Rental cars are easily recognized by their red plates. Drivers under 25 years of age holding a driving license for less than three years at the time of rental must inform the car rental company so that underage insurance coverage is provided. Insurance issued is only valid within the area under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.

Driving License: Visitors in Cyprus can drive using a valid International driving license, or their National driving license, provided it is valid for the class of vehicle they wish to drive.

European driving licenses are recognized officially by the law 94 (1)/0. Driving licenses issued by United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Australia, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, United States of America, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and Russia can be used for a period of six months. Non-European citizens and citizens who come from any country other than the previously mentioned countries are allowed to drive holding their Nations Driving License for a period of about 30 days (this period is not strictly restricted). If they are holders of an international driving license they are allowed to drive provided their license is valid.

Shopping

Shop opening hours vary depending on their type and location (urban, tourist, rural areas, or in malls). Generally, shops will open between 09:00 - 20:00 on Monday - Saturday, but this can vary an hour or two either way. On Sunday, opening times are later, typically around 11:00, and closing times vary from 14:00 - 19:00.

Some shops have a half-day closing on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and close on Sunday, although in most of the tourist areas of Cyprus, both shops and supermarkets stay open till late at night and are also open on Sundays.

During the period June 15th - August 31st there is an optional three-hour siesta – an afternoon break/rest from 14:00 - 17:00.

Special shopping hours apply for Christmas and Easter with shops permitted to stay open later during the run-up to both events. All shops must be closed by 18:00 on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

Locally produced items, include leather goods, tablecloths, ceramics, copperware, handmade silverware and jewellery, traditional handmade baskets and pottery, and the famous traditional handmade 'Lefkaritika' embroidered lace linens. These can be purchased from the many souvenir and other shops found throughout the island as well as the Cyprus Handicraft Centres in Lefkosia, Lemesos, Larnaka and Pafos.

Popular consumables available at supermarkets, grocery stores and corner shops include Cyprus wines and spirits, Cyprus halloumi, raw honey and preserves, locally-grown spices, herbs and herbal teas, nuts, candied spoon sweets, Cyprus 'Loukoumi' Delights, and other traditional confectionary.

Tipping

Tipping is at the discretion of the customer and it is a gesture which is appreciated by hotel and catering establishment employees, with 10% of the bill considered to be a customary sum. Taxi-drivers, porters, hairdressers etc., always appreciate a small tip too.

Sunrise and Sunset Times

Sunrise and Sunset times are given for the 15th of each month with the hours and minutes at 5 minutes approximation.

Month	Sunrise	Sunset
January	6:55	17:00
February	6:35	17:30
March	6:00	17:55
April	6:15	19:20
May	5:45	19:45
June	5:30	20:00
July	5:45	20:00
August	6:05	19:35
September	6:30	18:55
October	6:50	18:15
November	6:20	16:45
December	6:45	16:35

(April to October:
Summer Time)

CYPRUS WEATHER

WEATHER CONDITIONS IN **CYPRUS** (Statistics from 22 Meteorological Stations) - **Decade 2011-2020**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature (°C)	15	16	19	22	27	30	34	34	31	27	22	17
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature (°C)	6	7	8	11	15	19	22	22	19	15	11	8
Mean Daily Temperature (°C)	10	11	13	17	21	25	28	28	25	21	17	12
Average Hours of Daily Sunshine	5	6	8	9	11	12	12	11	10	9	7	5
Average Sea Temperature (°C)	18	17	17	18	21	24	27	28	27	25	22	19
Average Number of Rainy Days (>=1.0mm)	12	8	6	4	3	1	0	0	1	4	5	10

ACCESSIBLE CYPRUS

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL ACCESS NEEDS

A number of facilities are available to visitors with disabilities and special access needs who wish to visit Cyprus. For thorough and detailed information on Accessible Cyprus please visit the Deputy Ministry of Tourism's website: www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/practical-info/accessible

European Disability Card: Cyprus, along with other European countries ensures more than 100 benefits (such as free or reduced entrance) for persons with disabilities in the areas of culture, tourism, entertainment, sports and transportation, including: discounts or free entrance at museums, archaeological sites, monuments, theatre, sporting events,

zoos and arts; free or discounted use of sunbeds and parasols on beaches, and discounted fares and priority seating on buses.

Airports: Both Larnaka and Pafos International Airports are accessible for travellers with disabilities or reduced mobility. The full list of accessible facilities and services can be found on the airport websites and include: airport premises access, temporary parking stalls for drop-off and pick-up, disabled parking spaces, help points, disabled bathrooms, high visibility stickers, special assistance desk, 'I Can Fly' programme for individuals and families living with autism, Sunflower Lanyard scheme for persons with hidden

disabilities, priority immigration desk. Larnaka airport additionally offers: priority car parking pay machines, blind paths, ticketing sales counters, power charging stations for electric wheelchairs, free access through express lane service, unisex toilet facilities, priority seating, eagle passenger lifts, changing place and ADi RoomMate.

Hotels: Facilities vary from hotel to hotel and can include special parking spaces, specially designed rooms with wider entrances to room and bathroom, specially-adapted bathrooms, ramps with lights and other. It is recommended to contact the hotels directly in order to ascertain that they have the right facilities

ACCESSIBLE CYPRUS

for a particular disability. Hotels offering facilities for the disabled can be found on the Deputy Ministry of Tourism's website.

Transportation: Transportation around the island can be arranged with prior notice whilst special buses are also available with low gradient ramps, safety belts and a/c as well as special taxis that may carry a wheelchair user. Discounted fares and priority seating is available on public transport buses. Updated information can be obtained from the Deputy Ministry of Tourism information offices.

Parking: In 2007, the Cyprus Parliament approved and introduced the use of the European Blue Badge for parking at designated places for the disabled, available all over the island, both in public roads, public parking areas, private car parks, and at outside most establishments. The authority responsible for issuing the Blue Badge is the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance. It can be contacted at +357 22 406 406 / E-mail: info@dsid.mlsi.gov.cy

Moving Around: Most towns on the island are fairly accessible with a wheelchair and works are ongoing to adapt many central areas. As such, it is still advisable for a wheelchair user to be accompanied for assistance in inaccessible areas. Tactile pavements for the visually impaired are also widespread.

Beaches: There are many beaches on the island that are partially or fully wheelchair accessible. Fully accessible means that a wheelchair user is able to get from the beach into the sea moving on either a wooden or plastic ramp. There is also availability of hygiene facilities and parking places for disabled persons, and the possibility of either a floating wheelchair or a Seatrac automatic system (a seat fixed in a rail that drives the disabled person into the sea at an approximate depth of 60cm that is powered by photovoltaic energy). Both the Seatrac

and floating wheelchair are free-of-charge to use with assistance from the lifeguard tower. Partially accessible means that the beaches have available ramps or pathways leading to some point on the beach but the access is not extended into the sea. On these beaches there are available hygiene facilities, parking places for disabled persons and some also have a floating wheelchair. A full list of accessible beaches is available at www.visitcyprus.com and is updated annually.

Places of Interest: Many tourist attractions offer partial or full accessibility and facilities for disabled persons, including wheelchair accessibility, disabled bathrooms along with discounted or free entrance for wheelchair users and their personal assistant with the European Disability Card.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Cyprus Paraplegics Association (OPAK)

Tel.: +357 22 49 64 94

www.opak.org.cy

E-mail: mail@opak.org.cy

Pancyprian Organization for the Disabled

Tel.: +357 22 42 63 01

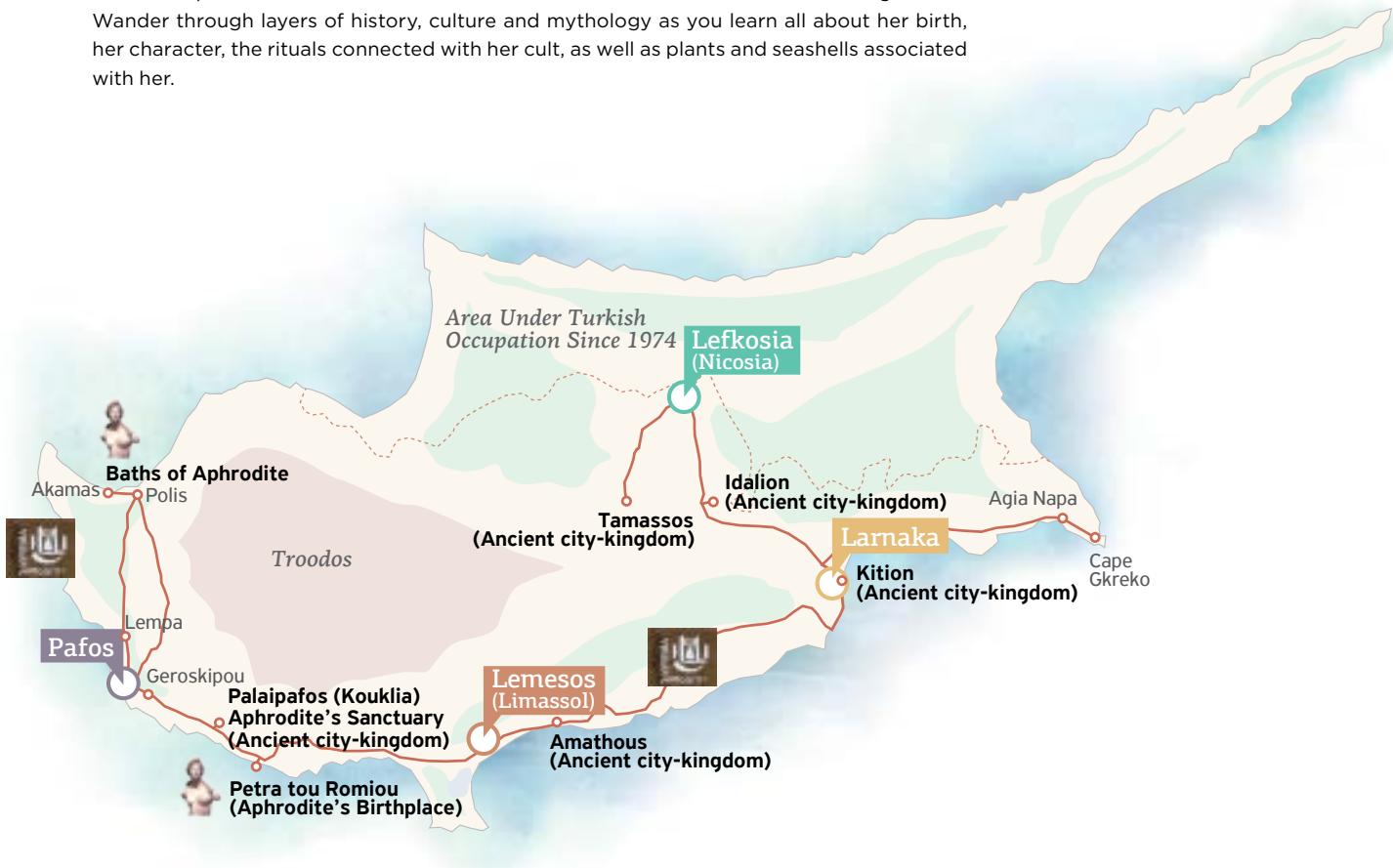
E-mail: organofdisabled@cytanet.com.cy



CYPRUS MAPS

Aphrodite Cultural Route Map

Follow in the footsteps of Aphrodite, the mythological Olympian goddess of love and beauty and protectress of Cyprus. The route focuses on the archaeological sites dedicated to the ancient cult of Aphrodite and includes Palaipafos (Kouklia), Amathous and Kition. There are quite a few links to other sites and museums with artifacts related to the goddess. Wander through layers of history, culture and mythology as you learn all about her birth, her character, the rituals connected with her cult, as well as plants and seashells associated with her.



Area above this line, under Turkish occupation since 1974

Road Network

Wine Routes



All seven Wine Routes have special road signs to assist your trip!

1. Laona-Akamas

Beautiful locations and beaches, picturesque villages with rich cultural and wine traditions.

2. Vouni Panagias-Ampelitis

Panoramic route through mountainous terrain with an endless choice of local wines.

3. Diarizos valley

Idyllic expedition to the natural beauties of a relatively 'unknown', yet rich in vineyards, route.

4. Krasochoria of Lemesos

Well known wine villages, each with its own character, all with remarkable winemaking tradition.

5. Commandaria

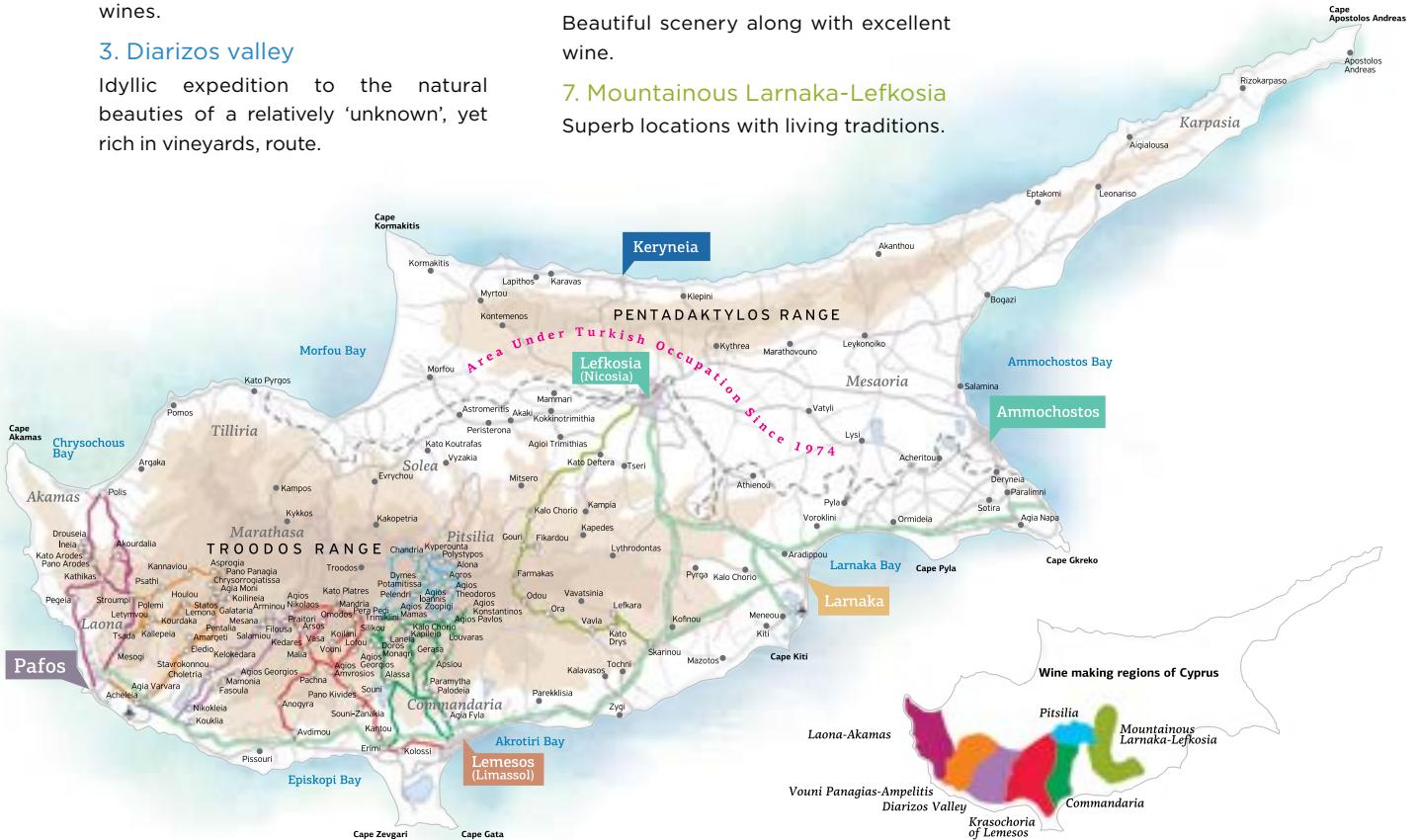
Known and unknown corners that preserve the legend of the island's most notable wine.

6. Pitsilia

Beautiful scenery along with excellent wine.

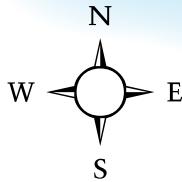
7. Mountainous Larnaka-Lefkosia

Superb locations with living traditions.



CYPRUS MAPS

The island of aphrodite awaits...



- LEGEND**
- City/Village
 - ★ Antiquity
 - ⦿ Monastery
 - ⦿ Byzantine Church
 - ⦿ Castle
 - ⦿ Tourist Information
 - Area under Turkish occupation since 1974



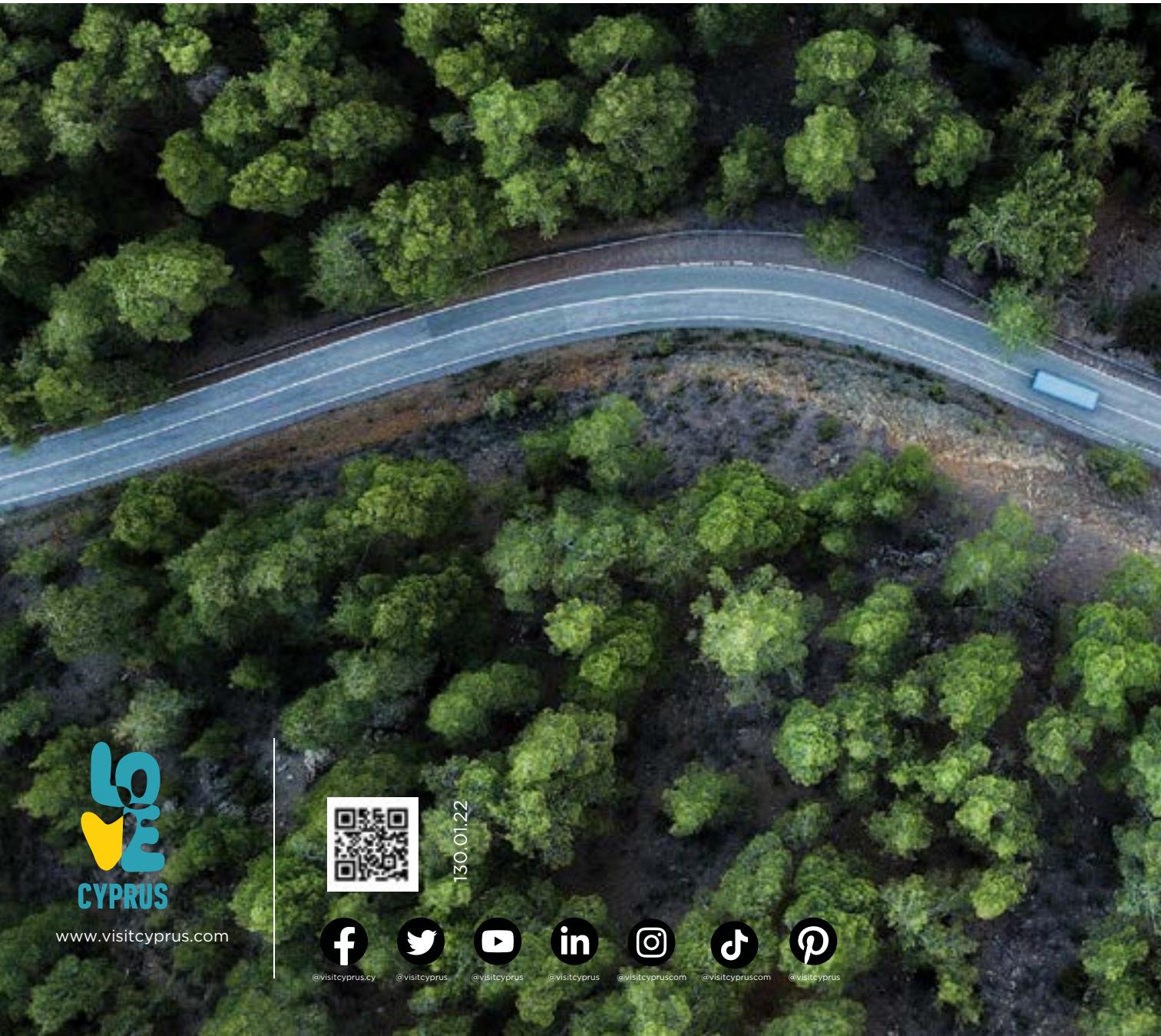
DESTINATION LABELS

Our destination labels have been created to make sure you get the most out of your stay at our beautiful Mediterranean island! Go through our list of quality-assured activities and find the one that matches your own unique taste. All you have to do, is look for the accreditation labels along your chosen route and enjoy a quality experience at your own pace!



www.heartlandoflegends.com





www.visitcyprus.com



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