



Discover Lemesos



Lemesos is the second largest city in Cyprus with a population of 235,000 (end 2017), and is a significant touristic and commercial centre. The old city of Lemesos is the heart of the city where its narrow radial streets lead outside the old fishing harbour. The city developed during recent years and currently, hotels, dispersed parks and eucalyptus trees cover 15 kilometres of its coast, which are linked to a popular walking and jogging area, as well as beautiful sandy beaches suitable for sunbathing and swimming.

Industry/Commerce/Economy

Lemesos is considered to be one of the most significant commercial and industrial centres of Cyprus. It has developed into one of the largest Mediterranean harbours for transit of goods and transportation of passengers, and is rapidly developing into one of the most significant marine, touristic, commercial and service centres in the area.

Lemesos is the centre of Cyprus's wine industry and is popular for its wine factories. The well-known Commandaria, Zivania and all kinds of wines comprise Cyprus's wine industry. These are produced and cultivated in the popular wine villages, and are of exceptional quality, and have won several prizes at international exhibitions. A large number of local wineries have developed during recent years in the area, contributing to local development and forming a new wine culture.



Harbour

Lemesos harbour, a harbour of multiple purposes, is the main harbour of Cyprus. It began to operate as the basic harbour of the country in 1974, immediately after the Turkish invasion and occupation of the Famagusta harbour. The harbour's marine area covers one square kilometre, while its terrestrial area covers 1.3 square kilometres.

The Port Authorities have set high objectives for Lemesos Harbour, creating a new passenger area consisting of an innovative modern building with sheltered areas covering 8,500 square metres, parking spaces and pedestrian and vehicle passages. The passenger area is undergoing various upgrades in compliance with the directives of the European Union (Schengen).



Cruises

Cruises take place from the harbour towards Greece, the Greek islands, Egypt and Israel. The journey is made on large and comfortable cruise ships that offer full board services at very reasonable prices, including entertainment. Cruises last from two to five days, departing in the afternoon or early evening and the journey lasts overnight while travellers sleep.

Additionally, throughout the year, most international cruise ships arriving in the area include Lemesos in their schedule. A large variety of site-seeing places are situated very near to the harbour and travellers may visit them throughout the duration of their short stopover.



Culture

Lemesos is a city with a time-honoured tradition and a long history. There is no other city in Cyprus with such a disparate history and culture. The city's name has been associated with crusades of medieval years and, studying its past, one can see an unending coherence of many years.

Lemesos is known for its age-long tradition in cultural issues. It offers visitors a large variety of activities, but also museums and archaeological sites, and comprises a unique combination of ancient, Frankish, Byzantine and other contemporary influences.

Welcome to the city of festivals! Residents of the city are renowned for their love of entertainment. All kinds of taverns, discos and entertainment clubs are open throughout the year, while beach bars along the walking areas add to the list of choices. Participate in the Bacchic extravaganza during the September Wine Festival or have fun at the Carnival with the parade of floats and people disguised in brilliant costumes, as well as parties in February. Summer concerts under the stars at the Greek-Roman Kourion theatre should not be missed.



History

The city of Lemesos is situated between the ancient cities of Amathous to the east and Kourion to the west. Lemesos was inhabited since ancient years and tombs discovered there date back to around the 2nd century B.C., while others date back to around the 8th and 4th centuries B.C. The few ancient finds that were discovered show that a small settlement existed there which did not manage to develop and flourish.

The city, in the 10th century, was known as Nemessos and the Byzantine emperor, Constantine Porphyrogenitus, refers to this city with this name.

The history of the city is mainly known for its events in 1191 A.D., which marked the end of the Byzantine Rule in Cyprus. The king of England, Richard the Lionheart, foresaw the strategic importance of Cyprus as a base for supplying the forces taking part in the Third Crusade and conquered the island. Richard celebrated his marriage to Berengaria in Lemesos where the latter was crowned Queen of England. And that is how Byzantine rule in Cyprus came to an end.

The island was then sold to the Knights Templar who established their administration centre in Kolossi for about a year and who later sold the island to the Frankish Empire of the Lusignan Kings of the medieval Cypriot kingdom. For about three centuries (1192-1489), Lemesos experienced a remarkable period of prosperity. In 1489 A.D., the Queen of Cyprus, Ekaterini Cornaro, surrendered Cyprus to the city of Venice. This lasted until the Turkish Occupation which took place in 1570 A.D. The British then conquered Cyprus in 1878, while in 1960, significant changes followed the liberation of Cyprus, which contributed to the cultural and artistic life of the city. Schools, theatres, art galleries, music halls and football clubs were formed and played a significant role in the cultural life of Lemesos.

The city of Lemesos was developed to a great extent after the Turkish invasion in 1974, when Famagusta, one of the most touristic areas of Cyprus was captured by the Turkish armies. Luxurious hotels, restaurants and numerous entertainment clubs were built, as the city soon became a significant commercial and touristic centre.

Useful Information

Transportation: Lemesos harbour is connected with the city of Lemesos with buses and private taxis.

Buses: No. 30 connects the Harbour of Lemesos with the centre of the city, the touristic area of Lemesos that expands to the east and the archaeological site of Amathous. It operates from 06:25-17:50 hrs. (Mondays-Saturdays) and 08:00-17:40 hrs. (Sundays) with 15-20 minute intervals.

The ticket costs €1.50 for each route.

Private taxis: Just outside the passenger area, private taxis offer immediate service to the public. The urban service is offered on a 24-hour basis towards all the cities. The urban taxis are obligated to have taximeters and the charge commences from the minute the passengers board the taxi.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Cyprus Ports Authority	22817200	First Aid	112
EMEL – Urban Bus	25352111	Hospitals	1400
Lemesos Hospital	25801100	Airports / Flight Information	77778833
Police Station	112/199	Pharmacies (all night / all day)	90901405
Fire Station	112	Lemesos Tourist Information Office	25362756

Climate and Weather: Lemesos has an intense Mediterranean climate with a hot, dry summer which begins in mid May and lasts until mid September and with a rainy, but very moderate winter from November until mid March. Spring and autumn are very brief periods, characterised by very good weather. The duration of the day, with a very clear sky and sunshine throughout the year, ranges from 9.8 hours in December to 14.5 hours in June.

The temperature during the day in summer ranges between 22 and 36 degrees Celsius, while in winter it ranges between 1 and 18 degrees Celsius depending on the altitude of the area. The sea temperature is approximately 15.5 degrees Celsius and 24 degrees Celsius in winter, in August and September.

These specific temperatures allow for swimming throughout the year.

Interesting Sites

If there is a town that knows the true meaning of transformation, it simply has to be Lemesos (Limassol). Forever becoming more cosmopolitan with its sprawling cityscape, it is famed for its thriving cultural scene and dynamic modern life. Buzzing cafes sit alongside candlelit bistros, modern architecture and old colonial mansions vie for attention, while small galleries are tucked away near larger art centres. Then, there is an ultramodern marina that adds a dazzling new dimension to the area, complementing the whole array of luxury hotels lining the water's edge. Welcome to Lemesos (Limassol)!

1. Enjoying the Limassol Marina

The shuttle bus will take you to the town center near the Marina. Limassol Marina is the new exciting destination of this region, offering a lifestyle uniquely shaped by 'living on the sea'. It also benefits from its own dining and shopping establishments, spa, fitness and cultural facilities. Located in the heart of a vibrant city, it is surrounded by a rich history and a diverse, international community.



2. Unwinding at the Old Port area

The recently completed Old Port project has turned the Limassol traditional fishing port into a place full of life, for both locals and visitors who wish to enjoy their time by the sea. The project features trendy cafes and restaurants, as well as a picturesque pier that stands since 1880 and offers the perfect spot for a romantic walk or a place to sit, relax and enjoy the endless horizon.



3. Relaxing by the seaside Multi-Functional Park – Open Air Sculpture Park

The Lemesos (Limassol) seafront area is bustling with life and is one of the most important places for both for locals and thousands of visitors, who walk, exercise, rest and spend some recreational time here. If you feel like exercising whilst enjoying spectacular sunset or sea views, why not try the open-air exercise area on the east end of the Multi-Functional Park. But if you are more into culture, the seaside Multi-functional Park will not disappoint, featuring a remarkable set of sculptures worth visiting. An outdoor Info-point, with a digital information access system enables you to obtain additional information about the sculptures adorning the Park.



4. Immersing in history at the Lemesos (Limassol) Castle – Medieval Museum of Cyprus

Lemesos Castle was built in the 13th century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle near the old port. Legend has it that Richard the Lionheart, the King of England and leader of

the 3rd Crusade, married Berengaria of Navarre here in 1191. Today, this striking castle with its gorgeous surrounding pedestrian zone, houses the Medieval Museum of Cyprus.



5. Strolling around the Old quarter of Lemesos (Limassol)

Limesos's historical centre is spread around the medieval Castle and the Old Port. Stroll along the narrow streets of the old quarter and enjoy the feeling of a different era. Taste unique traditional ice cream flavours at two different locations in this area, which boast flavours like halloumi & KEO beer. Admire the beautiful mansions along Agiou Andreou street, explore the tiny shops, observe the various restaurants and coffee shops and chill out while sipping a brandy sour cocktail, our national cocktail here in Cyprus.



6. Shopping in Agiou Andreou, Anexartias Streets and Makarios Avenue

If shopping is your thing, then Agiou Andreou and Anexartias streets as well as Makarios avenue, are the places to be. Visit the Cyprus Handicraft Service to buy unique pieces of traditional Cypriot Art or a local jewellery shop for a fine replica of the fertility amulet of Cyprus: a chalcolithic crossed-shaped figurine, a one-of-a-kind jewel that can adorn any modern neckline. And why not take some traditional flavours of Cyprus home with you from specialized shops along Agiou Andreou Street? One thing is certain, that Lemesos (Limassol) shops accommodate all tastes and needs.



7. Exploring Saripolou Square

This area has become the talk of the town in recent years, filled with restaurants, bars, coffee shops, bistros and traditional eateries. By day, enjoy a traditional meal, ospria (pulses), koupepia (stuffed vine leaves), kokkinista (okra or peas or spinach in tomato sauce) and get better acquainted with the Cypriot way of life, without forgetting to order a Greek coffee after your meal. By night, the streets become very lively and the restaurants and bars fill with both locals and tourists alike, enjoying what this quaint street in the heart of the city has to offer.



8. Discovering the Cyprus Theatre Museum

This original museum is housed in the Panos Solomonides Cultural Centre. Printed material, scale models, props, set and costume designs, video installations, as well as photographs and posters constitute the exhibits of the permanent collection of the Cyprus Theatre Museum, giving visitors the opportunity to explore the island's long history in theatre.



9. Touring the Cyprus Historic & Classic Motor Museum

This museum opened in 2014 and is the only automobile museum in Cyprus. Visitors can marvel at the museum's eclectic collection of cars from the past century. The oldest car in the collection at the moment is a Ford "T" roadster from 1912, which currently has 102 years of life on the road. The museum was founded by Mr. Dimi Mavropoulos, a veteran Rally racing champion of both International and Cypriot rally competitions.



10. Relaxing at Lady's Mile Beach

The beach took its name from the mare of the governor during British rule. The mare was called Lady and he used to ride her along the beach every day for a mile. Today, the area is well-known locally for its fresh fish restaurants and its traditional Cypriot cuisine. The beach boasts crystal-clear, very shallow seawaters and dark volcanic sands.



11. Beach hopping in Lemesos (Limassol)

Hop on bus number 30 and explore the city's many beaches, among them, quite a few boasting their Blue Flag award and their many shades of blue, which spread across the coastline from the city centre, all the way up to Amathus archaeological site.



12. Gaming in Lemesos (Limassol)

Although Casino establishments are new to Cyprus, they are aiming to become bigger, better and more luxurious, eventually turning the city into leading gaming destination in Europe. So, whether you are a high stakes gambler, or just looking to have some fun, Cyprus Casinos have all the commodities you need.



13. Going 100 years back in time at the Carob Mill-Carob Mill Museum

Carob mills in Lemesos were initially built in the early 1900s when carobs were one of the basic products exported by Cyprus. They were used in the manufacturing of products, such as films, medicine, sweets and chocolates. The largest part of carob processing equipment has been preserved intact and is exhibited today in a building renovated to combine the genuine atmosphere of the past with the advanced aesthetics of the present.



14. Religions of Cyprus – Agia Napa Church

The cathedral of Agia Napa rises proudly in the heart of the suburban and commercial zone of Lemesos. It is a 19th century structure with elements of traditional Byzantine architecture. It was founded in 1896 and was completed in 1903, replacing an older 18th century church. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and, according to tradition, took its name from an icon of the Virgin Mary that was discovered in a valley (Napa in Latin means forest).



Church



Monument



Museum



Place of Interest

Legend

- Church
- Monument
- Museum
- Place of Interest

Main sites to visit

- 1 Limassol Marina
- 2 Old Port
- 3 Multi-functional Park – Open air Sculpture Park
- 4 Lemesos (Limassol) Castle – Medieval Museum of Cyprus
- 5 Old Quarter
- 6 Shopping
- 7 Saripolou Square
- 8 Cyprus Theatre Museum
- 9 Cyprus Historic & Classic Motor Museum
- 10 Lady's Mile Beach (Akratiri area)
- 11 Beach Hopping
- 12 Limassol Casino (Zakaki area)
- 13 Carob Mill – Carob Mill Museum
- 14 Agia Napa Church



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REFERENCE

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- Wheelchair Access

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Glossary
LEOFOROS : Avenue
PLATEIA : Square
AKTI : Beach

Notes on pronunciation
at : as in English Light
ai : as in English Light
oi, yi : as in English Light
ou : as in English Light

SCALE 1:7,500



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Abbreviations
CTO : Cyprus Tourism Organisation



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