

11.000 YEARS OF HISTORY & CULTURE



INTRODUCTION

Although a small island, the history of Cyprus is long and rich, and its cultural contribution invaluable. As such, it is no wonder that UNESCO has recognised and included many Cyprus monuments on its list of World Heritage Sites, including Pafos antiquities, the Choirokoitia Neolithic settlement and ten of the Byzantine period churches of Troodos.

The aim of this publication is to help visitors discover this immense cultural heritage of Cyprus. The qualified personnel at any of our Information Offices across the island will be happy to assist you in organising your visit in the best possible way. Parallel to answering questions and enquiries, our offices also provide a wide range of publications, maps and other informational material free-of-charge. Additional information is available at our website: www.visitcyprus.com.

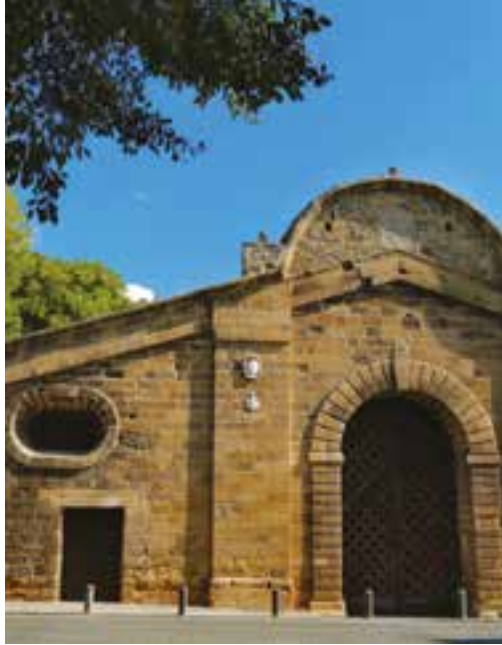
*The archaeological site
of Choirokoitia*



Pafos Mosaics



*Agios Nikolaos
tis Stegis
Church,
Kakopetria Village*



Lefkosia (Nicosia)



Lemosos (Limassol)



Larnaka



Pafos



Ammohostos (Famagusta)



Troodos

TIMELINE

11000 YEARS OF HISTORY AND CIVILISATION

A country's cultural heritage is the most important living treasure of its people. It is through this legacy that its identity can be expressed and an awareness of its historical continuity through time can be created. Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean. It is situated at the crossroads of three continents - Europe, Asia and Africa. This geographic position has played an important part in the island's turbulent history since antiquity.

Its prehistoric age inhabitants were joined by the Mycenaean Greeks 3500 years ago, who introduced and established their civilisation, thus permanently instilling the island's Greek roots.

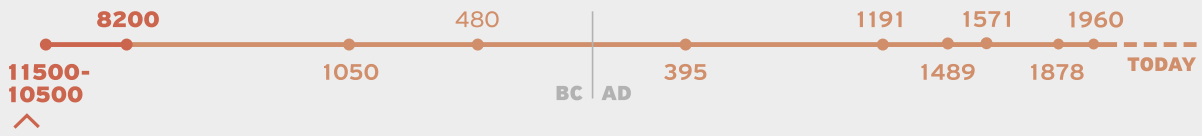
Many other cultures have followed since then, including Phoenicians, Assyrians, Franks, Venetians, Ottomans, British - all leaving behind visible traces of their passage, with the remnants of each contributing to a beguiling cultural tapestry. On this island once walked Christ's apostles, whilst the splendour of the Byzantine Empire for many centuries encapsulated Cyprus. The island is an extensive open-air museum where one can experience a variety of sites: prehistoric settlements, classical Greek temples, Roman theatres and villas, Early Christian Basilicas, Byzantine churches and monasteries, Crusader castles, Gothic cathedrals, Venetian fortifications, Muslim mosques and British colonial-style buildings.

In the villages one can still observe the charming old ways of life; the cherished customs and the folkloric traditions. Here, festivities whose origins hark back to the depths of antiquity are still celebrated to this day. These include Carnival and Flower Festivals. Aphrodite, the ancient Greek Olympian Goddess of Beauty and Love, who according to mythology was born on the island, still roams her beloved Pafos and the 'Sweet land of Cyprus', is omnipresent in the bright atmosphere, the beauty of the landscape and the warmth of the local people.

At Kouklia, where once stood her great temple, now stands a church fittingly known as the church of 'Panagia Aphroditissa'. The immortal verses of the ancient Greek playwrights still reverberate on a balmy summer evening at the ancient theatre of Kourion and at the Pafos Odeon, where classical Greek plays are regularly staged. And in the month of September, wine flows copiously and the spirit of Dionysos, the Greek god of wine and wellbeing, lives on through the merriment of the Wine Festival. Popular medieval songs can still be heard on the island, reviving the legends of Digenis, the invincible folk hero of the Byzantine era, as well as the unfettered Rigaina; the beautiful medieval queen of Pentadactylos. Cyprus, as the easternmost part of Europe, constitutes a cultural bridge between people of different religions, cultures and ways of life, and is a delight to discover.

It is important to note that since July 1974, a large part of the island's cultural heritage has been under Turkish occupation. This heritage has been subjected to severe damage and neglect, with the occupation forces systematically trying to alter the demographic and cultural identity of the area under their control.



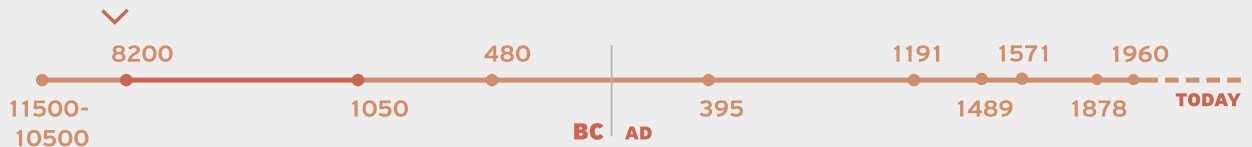


11500 - 10500 BC

Prehistoric Age

First signs of permanent settlement in Cyprus date back to the Early Pre-Pottery Neolithic Levant (11500-10500). Excavations at Agios Tychonas - Klimonas site, have shown that the inhabitants of this early settlement were hunter - cultivators. Extensive sieving has provided evidence of emmer wheat cultivation; a primitive sort of cereal introduced from the continent. Animal bones found on site, also confirm that the villagers hunted wild boar and birds; and that domesticated cats and dogs were already introduced to the island. Large quantities of stone tools and vessels, as well as stone and shell beads, were unearthed but no signs of pottery were found. The Agios Tychonas - Klimonas site has given us the earliest signs of organized agricultural village life, not only on the island but worldwide.





8200 - 1050 BC

While copper is mined in small quantities during the next period the Chalcolithic Age (3900-2500 BC), this brings about only minor changes in the way of life of humans. In both the Neolithic and the Chalcolithic Ages the Cypriots lived in single room dwellings, used stone tools and vessels. They made jewellery out of picrolite, ate fish, cereal, lamb and goat's meat and buried their dead within their dwellings. The earliest pottery found, dates back to the 5th millennium BC.

The first significant cultural changes affecting all aspects of society took place around 2700-2500 BC, towards the end of the Chalcolithic Age and at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age. Instead of building cylindrically-shaped dwellings, people began to construct multi-room oblong structures, started to process copper in jewellery, used the plough for agriculture and began to bury their dead in organised cemeteries. Despite the fact that these developments contributed to the economic growth that occurred both during the Early (2500-2000 BC) and Middle (2000-1650 BC) Bronze Age periods, people still lived in small hinterland villages. Communication and trade with the surrounding Mediterranean lands was limited.

At the location of Pyrgos-Mavrorachi in Lemesos, excavations have brought to light a complex of buildings that was destroyed by an earthquake circa 1800 BC. The findings date back to the end of the Middle Bronze Age II 2400-1800 BC. The entire site is estimated by geophysical prospection and GIS systems to cover about 4,000 square metres; part of which was an organised industrial zone that focused mainly on the production of olive oil. Further on site discoveries have shown that part of said industrial zone was also used for refining copper, dyeing, weaving, composing pharmaceutical substances; but most important of all, for the extraction of aromatic essences and for the preparation of perfumes. This site is very important for its industrial identity as well as for the information that it provides; since everything was buried by the sudden collapse of the walls after an earthquake, the site remained virtually intact.

The Late Bronze Age (1650-1050 BC) was the first period of prehistoric Cyprus when tangible and irrefutable evidence exists that a number of significant developments occurred. These include the establishment of coastal towns, intensive mining of copper and other metals, development of a writing script, contact and trade with the neighbouring regions of Egypt, the Middle East, the Aegean and the wider Eastern Mediterranean area.

From the latter part of the 13th century BC successive waves of mainland Greeks begin to settle in Cyprus. Hence, Mycenaean pottery is imported in great quantities from the Aegean (Greece) and used extensively, both in everyday life as well as for religious ceremonies. Later on, Mycenaean type pottery is reproduced locally and incorporated in the island's ceramic tradition.



> *Stone container, Neolithic age*



> *Cruciform picrolite figurine, Chalcolithic Age*



> *Plank-shaped figurine, Early-Middle Bronze Age*



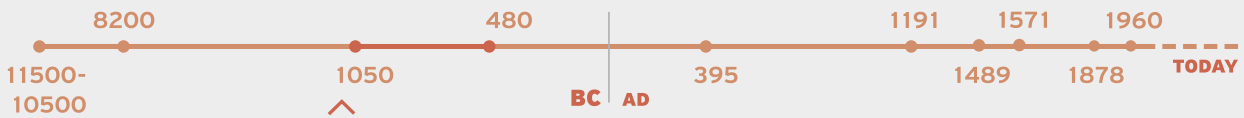
> *Plank-shaped figurine, Early-Middle Bronze Age*



> *Bronze figurine of the 'Horned God', Late Bronze Age*



> *White slip pottery,*



1050 - 480 BC

Historic Times: Geometric and Archaic Periods

Two major developments marked the transition from the Prehistoric Age to Historic periods - the first was political and the second technological.

The first major development was the establishment of new city-kingdoms. Up until the 11th century BC, all the large cities of the Late Bronze age had been destroyed by natural causes, possibly by earthquakes. Folk tales that the new cities were created by heroes of the Trojan War upon their return from Troy correlate to historical facts, namely to the last wave of Achaean Greek settlement, which led to the eventual Hellenisation of Cyprus, with the adoption of the Greek culture and language. From the 10th century BC onwards the ties between Cyprus and the Greek islands such as Euboea and Crete became particularly close.

The second major development was the use of iron in metallurgy, which marked the start of a new era, the Iron Age. At first, iron was used only in jewellery,

but it gradually replaced copper in tool making. The Iron Age includes the Geometric period (1050 - 750 BC), in view of the fact that geometrical motifs were mainly used in decorating pottery. This period coincided with the arrival of the Phoenician in Cyprus and their colonisation of the large coastal Mycenaean city of Kiton.

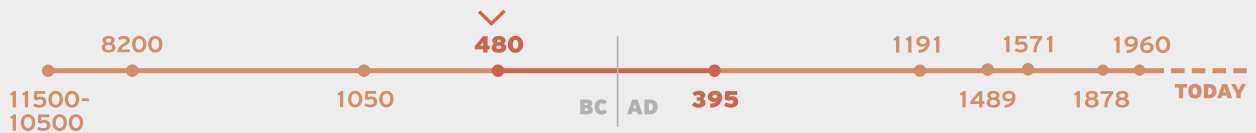
Typical Phoenician black-on-red colour pottery was introduced and later produced locally on the island.

The beginning of the next historical period, the Archaic period (750-475 BC), was marked by the subjugation of Cyprus to the Assyrians. During this period, the Cypriot city-kingdoms of Salamis, Kiton, Amathous, Kourion, Idalion, Palaipafos, Marion, Soloi and Tamassos remained independent for as long as they were in a position to pay a subjugation tax to the Assyrian ruler.

After the Assyrian hegemony, the Egyptian Pharaoh Amasis took over Cyprus. Typical of this period were the strong Greek and eastern influences evident in all aspects of life, more so in art and religion.



> *Geometric and Archaic period pottery*



475 BC - 395 AD

Classical, Hellenistic and Roman Periods

During the Classical period (475-312 BC) Cyprus found itself in the middle of the Greco-Persian Wars. The Greek strategy was to drive the Persians away from all Greek lands, including Cyprus, where they succeeded just for a short period, between 450 and 449 BC, when the Athenian fleet led by Kimon took over Marion, liberated Soloi and besieged Kition.

Despite this, Cyprus did eventually become part of the Persian Empire, though still maintaining its independence to a large degree. During the rule of Evagoras of Salamis (411-374 BC) Cyprus developed into one of the most important political and cultural centres of the Hellenic world. Evagoras rebelled against the Persians, but after a lengthy war he was forced to sign a peace treaty with Persia. Throughout the Persian rule, Greek influences in Cyprus were very strong. Deities of the Greek pantheon were introduced and Greek artists were assigned to create the seals of the coins to be minted for use by the Cypriot city-kingdoms.

The Persian rule came to an end during the Hellenistic period (310-30 BC) during Alexander the Great's campaign to the East. After Alexander's death, Ptolemy, one of his successors, became ruler of the island.

Strong influences from Alexandria, the capital of the new Ptolemaic kingdom of Egypt, are evident in all areas of art, such as sculpture, ceramics and statuette making.

During the Ptolemaic period (305-30 BC) Cyprus was mainly used as a military base. The Ptolemies exploited the island's natural resources, such as copper, olives and wheat, as well as timber that was mainly used for the construction of ships.

The Romans, who took control of Cyprus after the Ptolemies, mainly exploited its copper mines. Although the Roman period is said to have begun in 58 BC, Cyprus did not come under Roman rule until 30 BC. During the Roman period (58 BC-395 AD), the name of Cyprus became synonymous with the Latin equivalent name for copper (cuprum). Under the Roman rule, Cyprus enjoyed a three hundred year period of economic growth that was mainly a result of vast trading. One of the main exports at the time was decorative Cypriot pottery.

Cypriot jewellery and glassware copied the decorative styles of Roman craft shops. At the start of the Roman period burial tombs were particularly rich, often containing exquisite golden jewellery and beautiful handcrafted glassware pottery.

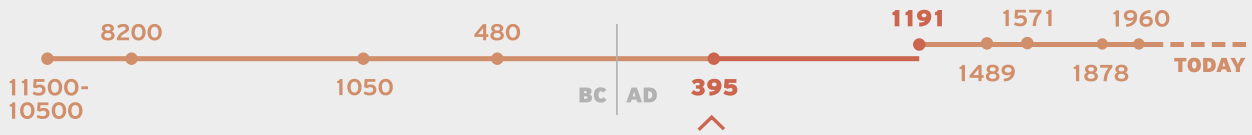
A landmark in the history of Cyprus during the Roman period was the conversion of the island to Christianity by the Apostles Paul and Barnabas starting in 45 AD.



> Marble head of Aphrodite



> Roman period coins



395 - 1191

Byzantine Period

In 330 AD the capital of the Roman Empire was moved from Rome to Constantinople. Christianity was declared the official religion of the state. In 395 AD the Roman Empire was split into the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire. The Eastern part, also known as the Byzantine Empire, also included Cyprus, from the 4th to the 12th centuries. During the Early Christian - Early Byzantine period, between the 4th and 7th centuries, the church of Cyprus succeeded with great effort to remain autocephalous (having its own head or chief bishop, though in communion with other Orthodox churches) fully independent and to increase its influence considerably. In 488 AD Byzantine Emperor Zeno accorded the Archbishop of Cyprus and his successors the privileges of wearing a purple cloak during official ceremonies, holding an imperial sceptre and signing in red ink. Archbishop Anthemios, wishing to express his gratitude to the Emperor for ratifying that the Church of Cyprus would be autocephalous, presented him St. Barnabas' manuscript of St.

Mathew's Gospel, which Archbishop Anthemios had discovered in the Apostle's tomb near Salamis. A monastery dedicated to St. Barnabas was erected on the spot where his tomb was discovered. St. Barnabas is considered to be the founder of the Church of Cyprus.

Peace prevailed in Cyprus during the first centuries of the Byzantine period. New cities sprung, while others were abandoned as a result of major destructive earthquakes. The capital of Cyprus was moved from Pafos to Salamis-Constantia, near which the town of Arsinoe - Ammochostos (Famagusta) developed from the 7th century onwards. Amathous remained an important centre since Roman times, while a new city was established nearby, Neapolis or Nemesos, that later became Lemesos during the Frankish period. The old city of Ledra was replaced by Lefkosia, which eventually became the capital of Cyprus sometime between the 11th and 12th centuries.

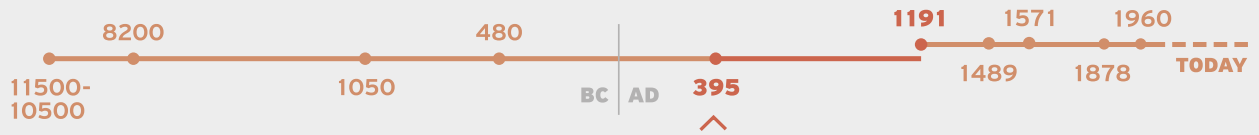
The silk industry, which the Byzantines introduced clandestinely from China, originally developed in the 6th century and grew to become one of the most lucrative handicrafts of the island. The



Silver plate, Lambousa, 7th century



Panagia Asinou



shipbuilding yards of Cyprus continued to produce woodenships on a large scale, while an aqueduct was built in Salamis, funded by the Byzantine Emperor Heraklios. The silver and goldsmith industries flourished, as evidenced by precious plates with depictions of the life of David, part of the discovered treasure of Lambousa (Lapithos). Some of the plates are now exhibited in the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia, while other objects from the collection are housed in the British Museum in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Ecclesiastical art flourished in Cyprus, adopting elements from the Greco-Roman tradition, as well as eastern elements. The island's first churches were built based on the Roman Basilica model of an elongated oblong room, divided by a row of columns forming archways and aisles. As time went by, domes and arches were added and architectural variations were developed around the shape of a cross. The most important examples of architecture during this period are the early Christian wooden-roofed Basilicas decorated with frescoes. The most important ones are those of Lambousa, Chrysopolitissa at Kato Pafos, Kambanopetra in Constantia, Agia Triada in Gialousa, Panagia Kanakaria in the Karpasia peninsula, Kourion and Agios Georgios in Pegeia.

Three rare mosaics that still survive in the apses of three early Christian Basilicas depict the artistic connection between Cyprus and Constantinople. The oldest of the three mosaics, was the one in the apse of the now occupied church of Panagia Kanakaria at Karpasia peninsula, the one in the best condition is found in the apse of the church of Panagia Angeloktisti at Kiti, while the third is in the church of Panagia Kyra, in the occupied village of Livadia, near Ammochostos.

The Basilicas were destroyed during the Arab raids that took place between the 7th and 10th centuries, but the mosaics were spared because they were incorporated into subsequent churches.

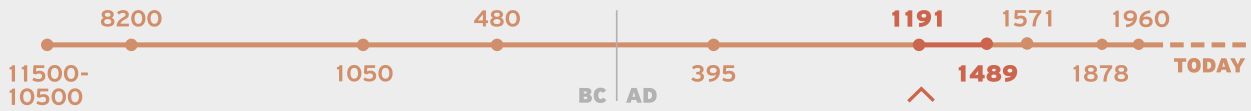
Cyprus became particularly important for Byzantium and Islam, because of its position in the Mediterranean and because of the many conflicts between these two great empires. The Arab raids against Cyprus began in 648-649 AD and continued until 965 AD, when Emperor Nicephorus II Phocas finally defeated them. Up until the 12th century the Byzantines built castles and fortifications along the Pentadaktylos mountain range at St. Hilarion, Voufavento and Kantara, as well as at the monasteries of Kykkos, Machairas and Agios Neophytos.

Kanakaria mosaics



Panagia tou Araka Church,





1192 - 1489

Frankish Period

In 1191, 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. In Cyprus Richard married his fiancée Berengaria of Navarre, who was accompanying him, and crowned her Queen of England. Realising how difficult it would be to maintain control of the island, Richard sold it to the Knights Templars, who handed it back, following several uprisings by the locals against them.

Richard finally sold Cyprus to the former king of the Latin state of Jerusalem, French nobleman Guy de Lusignan, founder of the Lusignan dynasty of kings and queens in Cyprus, whose family originated from Poitier in France. The Frankish rule of Cyprus, known as the Lusignan period, lasted for three centuries (1192 - 1489). The governing regime in Cyprus followed the feudal system and the Catholic Church was instated as the official institution of the state. In 1291, after the fall of Acre (Latin kingdom of Jerusalem) to the Mamelukes of Egypt, Cyprus remained the sole bastion of Christianity in the East, as well as the most important trading post in the Eastern

Mediterranean. The granting by the Frankish kings of commercial privileges to powerful trading cities of the West, such as Venice and Genoa gave rise to conflict between the Western powers, as to who would prevail over Cyprus. This had a detrimental political and economic effect on the island.

The 14th century saw great commercial and economic activity in Cyprus. The capital of the island Lefkosia and the coastal city of Ammochostos (Famagusta) grew into large urban centres with considerable trading activity.

During the Middle Ages, Cyprus produced and exported high quality sugar, excellent wine and other fine agricultural products. At the same time the weaving and lace industries flourished. Another growing industry was the production of glazed ceramic ware, both for local as well as for exporting needs.

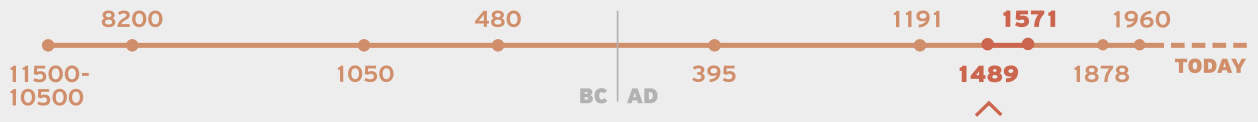
The gothic monuments that survive from the Frankish period consist mainly of places of worship and castles that combine Byzantine and western elements. The church of Agia Sofia in Lefkosia, St. Nicholas Cathedral in Ammochostos and the Abbey of Belapais are just some of the better known structures.

Richard the Lionheart



Ruins of Gothic Church Potamia





1489 - 1571

The Venetians in Cyprus

The last queen of Cyprus, Caterina Cornaro, wife of King James II and sister of Venetian nobleman Andreas Cornaro ceded the island to Venice in 1489, where upon Cyprus became part of “the Most Serene Republic” of Venice. This resulted in the definitive ousting of the Genoans from the island and the prevalence of the Venetian rule. Venice’s main aim was to secure a firm hold on Cyprus that would allow the unimpeded movement and supply of Venetian ships in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The main agricultural products that the island exported were wheat, barley, sugar, cotton, wine and olive oil. The main cottage industry was textiles, while at the same time lace was beginning to be produced in the village of Lefkara. Most exports were shipped out of the port of Ammochostos. Towards the end of the Venetian rule, Larnaka became the most important port of Cyprus, from where salt was exported. The port of Lemesos also started to develop during this period.

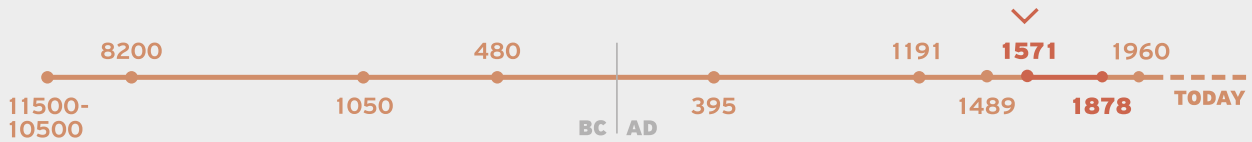
When the Ottomans conquered the island of Rhodes in 1522, the Venetians were alerted to the danger of losing Cyprus. Hence they built fortification walls around Lefkosia and strengthened the existing walls of Ammochostos, on whose sea side stood the tower of Othello, known from the Shakespearean tragedy.

Venetian Walls, Lefkosia



*Venetian Walls,
Map of Lefkosia (1570)*





1571 - 1878

Cyprus becomes part of the Ottoman Empire

The period of the Ottoman rule in Cyprus began with the fall of Ammochostos 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.

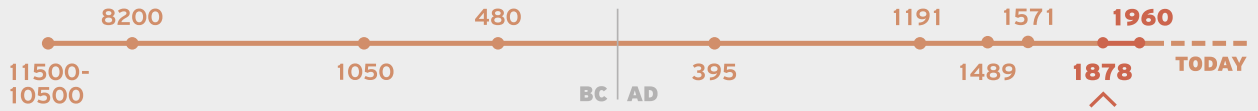
Cyprus went through hard times during the Ottoman rule. The contribution of the Greek Cypriots to the Greek Revolution in 1821 resulted in the execution of the Archbishop of Cyprus, Kyprianos, along with three of his bishops and about 470 clerics and laymen.

Since the early 18th century, there took place a positive social and economic resurgence in the lives of Greek Cypriots and Greeks, alongside the parallel decline of the Ottoman Empire.

The trading activities of Europeans in the coastal towns of Cyprus and the establishment of foreign consular offices in Larnaka marked the start of a change in the social fabric of the island, from agricultural and semi-feudal as it was in previous periods, to semi-urban in the coastal towns. This social change was strengthened by the close contacts of the Greeks of Cyprus with the newly independent Greek state that emerged after the Greek Revolution. These first urbanised townfolk began to express the first strong nationalist sentiments.

Hala Sultan Tekkesi, Larnaka Salt Lake





1878 - 1960

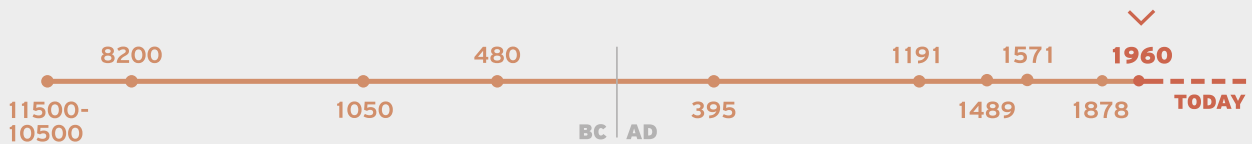
British rule

In 1878, under a secret treaty established between Great Britain and the Ottomans, Cyprus was ceded to the former. Despite early expectations of Cypriots that there would be substantial changes in their political, economic and social lives and that their desire for union of Cyprus with Greece would be fulfilled, the peoples' expectations did not materialise. Greek Cypriot disappointment with the British colonial rule together with the prevailing economic recession, led to the uprising events of October 1931. These events resulted in even harsher colonial measures being imposed by the British.

The Greeks of Cyprus continued to press on with their demand for national restitution and union with Greece but the British government continued to reject it. On January 15th 1950 a referendum on union "Enosis" with Greece was held, in which 95,7% of Greek Cypriots voted in favour. The referendum outcome had no effect on the British stance. On October 20th 1950 the Bishop of Kition Makarios III was elected as Archbishop. The political deadlock the Greek Cypriots faced, led to the waging of the National Liberation Struggle of 1955-59, by the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA). The struggle resulted in the ending of the British rule, but did not lead to union with Greece. The Zurich-London Agreements led to the establishment of the independent Republic of Cyprus. On December 13th 1959 Archbishop Makarios III was elected first President of the Republic and Dr Fazil Kutchuk first Vice President.

*University of Cyprus Archaeological
Research Unit*





1960 - Today

The Republic of Cyprus, the Turkish invasion, European Union entry

The Republic of Cyprus was proclaimed on the 16th of August 1960. The island became a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and the Non-Aligned Movement. On the basis of the Zurich- London agreements Britain maintained two sovereign military bases on the island with a total combined area of 158,4 square kilometres, consisting of Dhekelia to the east of Larnaka and Akrotiri-Episkopi near Lemesos to the west. Two treaties were signed as part of the Zurich-London agreements, the Treaty of Alliance and the Treaty of Guarantee. The latter gave the right to the three guarantor powers, Britain, Turkey and Greece, to take action in the event that the provision of the Treaty were violated.

Although the Cyprus constitution safeguarded the basic rights and freedoms of all its citizens, it contained community provisions that made it complex and non-workable. In 1963 the President of the Republic proposed constitutional amendments which both the Turkish Cypriot community leadership and Turkey rejected.

The Turkish Cypriots withdrew from the government and proceeded to set up an illegal

“Temporary Turkish Cypriot Administration”. As a result of subsequent inter-communal conflict that ensued at the beginning of 1964, a United Nations Security Council resolution established a U.N. Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus.

In 1974 the military junta ruling Greece at the time, staged a military coup in Cyprus aiming to overthrow the elected President Makarios. Turkey used the coup as a pretext to invade the island with military forces on July 20th 1974 and occupied 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, displacing about 200.000 Greek Cypriots of the northern part of the island. Despite the international condemnation of Turkey and the acknowledgement of the Cypriot peoples’ rights drafted in various resolutions issued by the United Nations, the Security Council, the Commonwealth, the Non- Aligned Movement and other international organisations, Turkish troops still illegally occupy the northern part of Cyprus. On May 1st 2004, with its northern part still under occupation, Cyprus became a full member of the European Union. The Accession Treaty provides that the application of the Acquis shall be suspended in those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control (as a result of the Turkish invasion). This suspension will be removed as soon as the Cyprus problem is resolved. Efforts and negotiations to find a just and functional solution for the Cyprus problem continue.

Monument to Liberty, Lefkosia



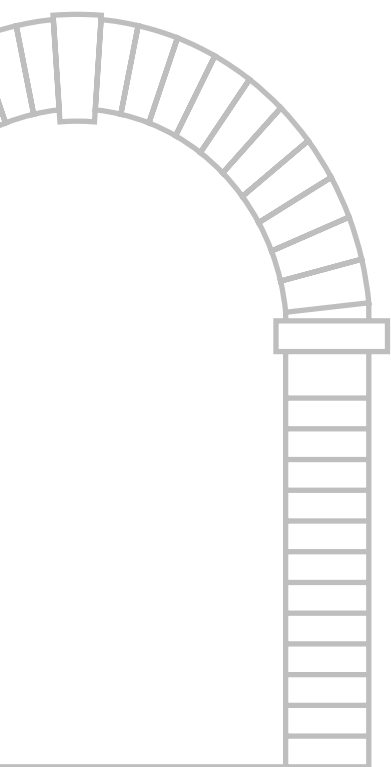
LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA)

Lefkosia, is the only divided capital in the world

Lefkosia, the only divided capital in the world, it's situated practically in the centre of Cyprus and constitutes a rich cultural hub. The history of the city dates back to the Bronze Age. In antiquity and in early Christian times it was known as Ledra. It has been the capital of Cyprus since the Late Byzantine period (11th century).

The Lusignans transformed it into a splendid city, with royal palaces and 50 churches. Contemporary Lefkosia combines the historic past with the liveliness of a modern city. The city centre, the old "Hora", surrounded by 16th century walls, with museums, old churches and medieval buildings, maintains the leisurely atmosphere of yesteryear. Outside the walls, the modern city with its contemporary comforts pulsates to more cosmopolitan rhythms. A few kilometres into the countryside one can admire superb Byzantine churches and monasteries.





Did you know that Famagusta Gate is also known as Porta Giuliana and takes its name after Giulio Savorgnano the architect of the Venetian Walls of Lefkosia?

The Cyprus Museum



1, Mouseiou Street T. +357 22865854, +357 22303112

The Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia is the main and largest archaeological museum in Cyprus. Work on the building commenced in 1908 and was completed in 1924, when Cyprus was still a British colony. Several extensions were added later on, until it reached its present form. A visit through the collections of the museum provides an opportunity to experience the development of Cyprus' civilisation, from the Neolithic Age up to the Early Byzantine period (7th century AD). Finds from extensive excavations from all over the island enrich the museum's collections and contribute to the development of Cyprus' archaeology and research into the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean. The collections consist of pottery, jewellery, sculptures, coins, copper objects, and other artifacts, exhibited in chronological order throughout the museums galleries.

Pieces of important artistic as well as archaeological and historical value that are typical of Cypriot culture, include the cross-shaped idol of the Chalcolithic period, the Early Bronze Age pottery from Vouni, the Late Bronze Age golden jewellery from Egkomi and the 1st century BC statue of Aphrodite of Soloi. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries



Byzantine Museum

Cultural Centre of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation Archbishopric grounds Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou T. +357 22430008. The Museum will open its doors to the public in summer 2023 following the completion of the undergoing extensive renovation project.

The Byzantine Museum contains the richest and most representative collection of Byzantine art in Cyprus. Over 200 icons dating from the 9th to the 19th centuries, as well as ecclesiastical vessels, robes and books, are exhibited in the museum. The 6th century mosaics from the church of Panagia Kanakaria in Lythragkomi are the most impressive of all the exhibits. These mosaics were brought back to Cyprus after having been illegally exported from the occupied part of the island.

Art Galleries

The four galleries of the Cultural Centre of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation, exhibit a unique collection of representative works of Western-European art, dating from the Renaissance to modern times, as well as Greek and Cypriot masterpieces.

The first gallery contains works of Western European painters such as Nicolas Poussin, Eugene Delacroix and others. The second gallery contains 18th and 19th centuries paintings, engravings and maps on themes from the 1821 Greek Revolution. The third gallery contains works of Greek artists from the 19th and 20th centuries. The fourth gallery contains representative works of 20th century Cypriot artists.





The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios - Ethnological Museum

20, Patriarchou Grigoriou Street, T. +357 22305316

This manor house is one of the most important surviving 18th century buildings in Lefkosia. It was once the residence of the Dragoman of Cyprus, Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios, who was executed by the Ottomans in 1809. The office of the Dragoman was introduced in Cyprus at the start of the Ottoman rule and was abolished in 1821 with the Greek Revolution. Dragomans acted as liaisons between the pasha and the occupied population and were the most important political figures after the pasha. During the first years of the Ottoman rule the dragomans were foreigners or Greek speaking Franks and later on Orthodox Greek Cypriots. Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios was the most prominent of all the dragomans of Cyprus.

The building was restored by the Department of Antiquities and today houses the Cyprus Ethnological Museum. In 1988 it was given the “Europa Nostra” award.



Municipal Arts Centre

19, Palias Elektrikis, T. +357 22797400

The building of the old power station, a fine example of industrial architecture, has since 1994 been the home of the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre. Its aim is to promote fine art in Cyprus. It has a large exhibition area where it houses rare and specialist publications for art lovers. The restoration of the building was given the “Europa Nostra” award in 1994.



Leventis Municipal Museum of Lefkosia

17, Ippokratous Street, Laiki Geitonia, T. +357 22661475

This is the only historical museum of Lefkosia that presents the social and historical development of the city, from the Chalcolithic Age up to today. Founded in 1984, it is named after its donor, the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation, which bought and restored the building. The museum is administered by the Municipality of Nicosia. The collection includes archaeological finds, traditional costumes, photographs, medieval pottery, maps, engravings, jewellery and furniture. The museum is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



State Gallery of Contemporary Art

Corner Leoforos Stasinou & Kritis Street T. +357 22458228

Housed in two locations. The Majestic Gallery is housed in a restored building exhibiting paintings and sculptures of the 19th and 20th centuries of Cypriot artists. The SPEL Gallery organises exhibitions and parallel events related to modern and contemporary art, architecture and design.



Leventis Art Gallery

Anastasiou Leventi (ex Leonidou) T. +357 22668838

Built 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.

The specially designed eco-friendly building, with its contemporary aesthetics, hosts three important Collections of unique works of art, as well as antique furniture and porcelain.

The above Collections include masterworks of great painters, such as Canaletto, Fragonard, Corot, Boudin, Renoir, Monet, Signac, Chagall, Vryzakis, Volanakis, Moralis, Tsarouchis, Ghika, Kissonerghis, Diamantis and Kanthos.



Museum on the History of Cypriot Coinage

86-90, Phaneromenis Street, T. +357 22128157

The museum collections trace the development of Cypriot coinage from the 6th century BC to today. Two thousand six hundred years of turbulent Cypriot history portrayed through the display of 370 coins. The collections are divided into nine time periods and are an important source of information on Cyprus' umismatic history.



Centre of Visual Arts and Research



285, Ermou Street, T. +357 22300999

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.

The CVAR collection includes more than 5.000 volumes of history, travel and art, in addition to archives of photographs, travelogues, manuscripts and information on the contemporary history of Cyprus.



The Pancyprian Gymnasium Museums

10-16, Agiou Ioannou & Theseos Street T. +357 22466014

The Pancyprian Gymnasium Museums is a fascinating 12-room space in the historical centre of Lefkosia, depicting the history of the oldest establishment of Secondary Education in Cyprus (Founded 1812), as well as many other aspects of Cypriot history and culture.

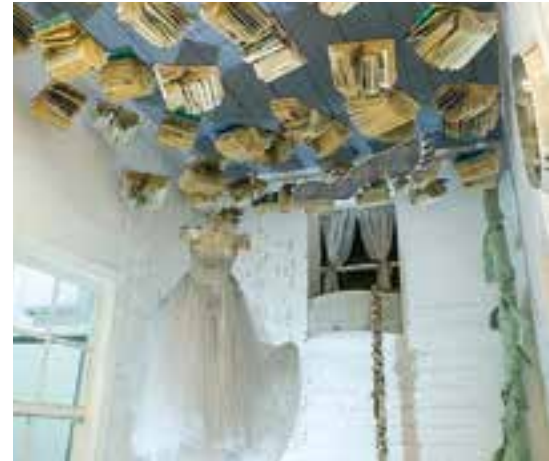
The Museums consist of the following: Museum of the History of the School, the Archaeological and the Numismatic Collection, a collection of Old Maps, a collection of Old Weaponry, the Art Gallery with the works of great painters who served as teachers and students of the school, a Natural History Collection and other exhibits. The collection is completed with a unique sample of gothic sculpture from Cyprus, which is impressive due to its size, style and iconographical references.



Fairy Tale Museum

32, Granikou Street, Old Nicosia, T. +357 22376522

The Fairy Tale Museum is housed in a beautiful old mansion in the heart of Lefkosia. Its goal is to disseminate the cultural heritage of fairy tales, legends, myths and traditions from Cyprus and from all over the world. The Fairy tale Museum arranges narrative tales, thematic exhibitions, educational programs, as well as events and performances based on fairy tales. The Museum is an extension of the work of the Systemic Cyprus Institute, a Research Centre of theoretical evolution and systemic application. At the museum visitors can learn about the evolution of fairy tales, make their own stories, discover hidden passages, open secret compartments and feel the stories come alive.



Cyprus Classic Motorcycle Museum

44, Granikou Street, Old Nicosia T. +357 22680222, +357 99543215

The Classic Motorcycle Museum was created by motorcycle collector, Andreas Nicolaou. The 150 motorbikes of the museum date from 1914 to 1983. The exhibits include AJS Norton, Triumph and BSA motorcycles, as well as three police bikes that were part of the Archbishop Makarios' police escort, a motorcycle belonging to EOKA hero Stylianos Lenas and one belonging to Turkish Cypriot champion Zeki Isa. The museum also houses an exhibition of photographs.



Cyprus Postal Museum

3B, Agiou Savva Street, Laiki Geitonia T. +357 22304711

The museum has a collection of Cyprus stamps from 1880 until today. The collection is accompanied by a display of objects related to the history of the island's postal services.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Agios Ioannis (St. John's) Cathedral

(next to the Archbishopric) Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou
T. +357 99618763

It was built by Archbishop Nikiforos in 1662 on the site of a 14th century Benedictine chapel dedicated to St. John the Evangelist.

It was turned into an Orthodox monastery in 1426, when the Benedictine Order left the island due to the Mameluke raids. The Orthodox church dedicated to St. John the Theologian, remained a monastery until the 18th century when Archbishop Sylvester converted it into a cathedral, establishing it as the seat of the Orthodox Archbishopric of Cyprus. It is a small single-aisled church with Franco-Byzantine architectural elements. Its high external buttresses give it the impression of being a fort. It is the only church in Lefkosia in which the whole of the internal frescoes have survived in their entirety. The four large icons on the iconostasis were painted by the Cretan master, Ioannis Kornaros, in 1795 and 1797. Its 18th century frescoes depict scenes from the Holy Bible and the discovery of the tomb of St. Barnabas at Salamis.



Trypiotis Church

Solonos Street, near Laiki Geitonia

Built by Archbishop Germanos II in 1695, it is an example of the Franco-Byzantine style architecture. The interior of the church is rich, with an unusually wide iconostasis and silver icons.



Faneromeni Church

Onasagorou Street, within the old city

Built in 1872 within the old city walls, Faneromeni church is one of the largest churches of Lefkosia. The marble mausoleum to the east of the church contains the relics of the bishops and priests executed by the Ottomans in 1821. Opposite the church is the school of Faneromeni, one of the most historic academic institutions of Cyprus.



Panagia Chrysaliniotissa Church

Chrysaliniotissa Street

It is believed to be the oldest Byzantine church in Lefkosia. It is dedicated to Panagia Chrysaliniotissa and it is estimated to have been first built in 1450 by Queen Helena Palaeologina.



Omeriye Mosque (Ex Augustinian Church)



Trikoupi & Plateia Tillirias. Near the old Municipal Market. The mosque can be visited whenever there are no worshippers.

The mosque was formerly a 14th century Augustinian monastery dedicated to St. Mary. It was converted into a mosque in 1571 by Mustafa Pasha, the Ottoman conqueror of the island, who believed that the original church was built on the spot where the caliph Omer rested when visiting Lefkosia. Most of the original building was destroyed by the Ottoman artillery in 1570. Inscribed tombstones from the Lusignan period were used to install a new floor for the mosque. Visitors can see the remains of a late Venetian building near the eastern side of the mosque.



Bayraktar Mosque

It is built on the Constantinou Palaiologou, Nicosia, in honour of the flag carrier who first climbed on to the walls of Nicosia during the siege of the city by the Ottomans.



St. Paul's Anglican Church

Leoforos Lordou Vyronos, T. +357 22445221

The church of St. Paul was built in 1893 when Cyprus was part of the British Empire. The influence of politics on architecture is evident by the structural elements of the building which is reminiscent of an English parish church.



Famagusta Gate

Leoforos Athinon, T. +357 22865888, -
+357 22865873

Famagusta Gate is one of the three entrances into old Lefkosia through the Venetian walls. The walls have a perimeter of 4.5 km, with eleven heart-shaped bastions and completely encircle the old city. The eastern gate (Porta Giuliana), known nowadays as Famagusta Gate, has been restored and operates as the Nicosia Municipal Cultural Centre. It consists of a large vaulted passage and two side rooms. The internal entrance is very impressive, while the external one opens onto the moat that surrounds the walls.



Kasteliotissa Medieval Hall

Opposite Pafos Gate

This hall was part of the Lusignan palace and dates back to the 13th-14th century. Kasteliotissa, with its strong gothic elements, has been restored by the Department of Antiquities. It is used today as an exhibition centre and is open to the public only when functions are held there.



Hamam Omeriye

8 Tyllirias Square, Nicosia

The Hamam Omeriye baths, a historic jewel in the heart of Nicosia's old town, is located in Tylliria 8, next to many other historical monuments such as the Omeri Mosque and the Archbishop's Palace. With respect towards the tradition of the space we bring you an authentic experience of a Hamam. The refreshing feeling that takes over you when you experience our Hamam, we want to share and spread it or better yet to bring it back to our culture and everyday life, which used to be such an integral part for centuries ago. At Hamam Omeriye, aromas and colours take you to a truly magical atmosphere of oriental baths, with the imposing dome of the cabins but also the bath with the polygonal marble, warm surface in the centre and the individual troughs in the perimeter, as well as the other Prive smallest spaces designed with respect to tradition and adapted to modern life. In 1570-71, when the island fell into the hands of the Ottomans, Hamam Omeriye was built as a donation to the city by Lala Mustafa Pasha. It was named in honour of the Omar caliph, making the area known as Omeriye. In 2005 it received the Europa Nostra Award for Architectural Heritage Conservation.



HERITAGE

Laiki Geitonia (Traditional Neighbourhood)

200m east of Eleftheria Square

This pedestrian area within the walled city has seen the restoration of houses that are typical examples of traditional Cypriot urban architecture and are used today as shops, restaurants and craft centres.



Cyprus Handicraft Centre

186, Leoforos Athalassas, T. +357 22305024

The Cyprus Handicraft Centre has workshops and a small shop for producing and selling traditional folk art and crafts such as pottery, basketry, copperware, wood-carving, embroidery and lace, mosaics, traditional costumes, dolls, leather goods and other genuine Cypriot handicrafts.



Ledra Street Observatory

Ledra Street, Shakolas Tower Building T. +357 22674139

The observatory on the 11th floor of the Shakolas Tower Building provides a panoramic view of the whole town of Lefkosia. Visitors can admire the city and its landmarks, since the observatory offers a 360 degree unobstructed view of the city centre.



Chrysaliniotissa Crafts Centre

2, Dimonaktos (Corner of Ipponaktos & Dimonaktos Streets), T. +357 99556250

This complex of eight workshops is situated near Chrysaliniotissa church. The workshops nestle around a central courtyard, in the manner of a traditional inn. They consist of various units engaged in contemporary applications of traditional crafts and a coffee shop. The Crafts Centre is part of the project to restore and regenerate the old part of Lefkosia within the city walls.



Fikardou Village and Rural Museum



Machairas-Lefkosia road via Klirou, 39km southwest of Lefkosia, T. +357 22634731

Deserted at the beginning of the 19th century, the village of Fikardou has been declared an “ancient monument” and carefully restored to preserve its 18th century houses with their remarkable woodwork and folk architecture. The “House of Katsinioros” and the “House of Achilleas Dimitri”, sections of which date back to the 16th century, have been restored and constitute a vivid example of rural Cypriot architecture. These buildings house the Rural Museum. In 1986 the village received the “Europa Nostra” Award.



Archaeological Site and Museum of Idalion

T. +357 22444818

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.



Panagia Chrysospilotissa Church

Near Kato Deftera village, 11km southwest of Lefkosia

This church in the shape of a catacomb is built inside a natural cave and is dedicated to the ‘Lady of the Golden Cave’. The church possibly dates back to the early Christian period. This type of church is rare in Cyprus but common in the Near East. Sadly the decorated walls of the cave have suffered great damage and the frescoes are no longer visible. A large religious festival is held on August 15th, the day of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.



Agios Irakleidios Convent

*Politiko village, 20km southwest of Lefkosia T. +357
22623950*

Irakleidios, the son of a pagan priest, was ordained Bishop of Tamassos by Saints Paul and Barnabas. He became a martyr at the age of 60 and was buried in the cave where he had lived and from which he had preached the Gospel. In 400 AD a church was built over his grave.

The monastery was destroyed and rebuilt several times. Today's buildings, date back to 1773 when Archbishop Chrysanthos restored the church and the convent cells. The saint's relics are kept inside the church. Today the monastery functions as a convent.



Machairas Monastery

*40km south of Lefkosia through the village of Deftera T. +357
22359334*

Is one of the oldest and most important monasteries in Cyprus. It was founded by two monks in 1148, when an icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave. During the Ottoman rule, it was an educational centre, as were the other monasteries of Cyprus. This is the cloister monastery of Archbishop Kyprianos, who was executed by the Ottomans alongside hundreds of other clerics and laymen on July 9th 1821. The brotherhood follows equally strict rules here as the brotherhood of Mount Athos in Greece.

Every year on August 15th and on September 8th a large religious fair is held there. About 2km north of Machairas monastery lies the hide-out of Grigoris Afxentiou, hero of the 1955-59 Liberation Struggle. The vestry of Machairas monastery, which is situated in the basement, has been restored and organised thanks to a donation by the A. G. Leventis Foundation. It consists of the original monks' cells, as well as restored stables and storehouses. The vestry maintains a room where the old books and manuscripts of the monastery are kept, exhibition areas and storage rooms with icons and ecclesiastical objects.



Church of Saints Barnabas and Hilarion

Peristerona village, 27km from Lefkosia on the Lefkosia - Troodos road

The church is dedicated to Saints Barnabas and Hilarion. It was probably built in the 9th or 10th century and is an outstanding example of Cypriot Byzantine architecture. Next to the church lies the Turkish mosque of Peristerona, one of many visible evidences of the peaceful coexistence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots prior to the 1974 Turkish invasion.



Agios Panteleimon Convent

Northwest of Agrokippia village, 30 km west of Lefkosia

It is an 18th century convent with a gabled roof, restored shortly after 1960.



Archangelos Michael Church

Lefkosia - Anthoupolis road

The church of the monastery dates back to the Byzantine period. It was rebuilt in 1636 and in 1713 it was ceded to Kykkos Monastery. The monastery was founded by Archbishop Nikiforos, whose tomb can be seen in the narthex of the church. The iconostasis dates back to 1650. The monastery has a 1785 fresco depicting the Archangel Michael. Today the monastery houses the Kykkos Monastery Research Centre.



Royal Tombs of Tamassos



Politiko village, 20km southwest of Lefkosia T. +357 22622619

Tamassos, rich in copper, was an important city-kingdom in ancient times. Excavations have brought to light the Royal Tombs, copper workshops and the Temple of Aphrodite-Astarte.

Impressive archaeological finds from Tamassos are the six oversized limestone statues dating back to the 6th century BC. They are now exhibited in the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia. Tamassos is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Athalassa National Forest Park

Athalassa Visitor Centre, 1 Leoforos Keryneias, Aglantzia, T. +357 22462943, +357 22805527

Athalassa park has a Visitor's Centre that provides information about the environmental features of the park. A scale model replica of the park shows its basic natural features, vegetation and recreational facilities. Dioramas give three-dimensional representations of the areas, vegetation, birds, mammals and reptiles of the island.

Geological samples, fossils and related objects are exhibited in a separate room, while visual material is used to present the local fauna and flora.



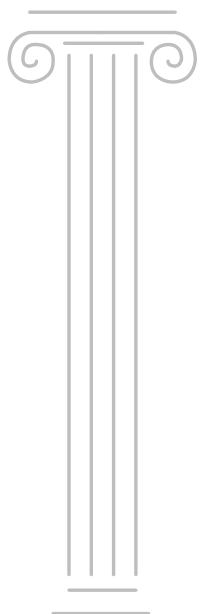
LEMESOS (LIMASSOL)

Lemesos, is the second largest city of the island

Lemesos, is the second largest city of the island, it lies between two ancient city-kingdoms: Amathous to the east and Kourion to the west. The city developed after the destruction of Amathous by Richard the Lionheart in 1191. Many important antiquities as well as Byzantine and Frankish monuments are found in the city of Lemesos, evidence of its long history.

Today, Lemesos is the island's main port, the centre of Cyprus' wine industry and a major tourist resort. The city is also known for its lively Carnival celebrations, the annual Wine Festival and the traditional, spontaneous hospitality of its inhabitants. In the nearby mountainous regions of the district, one finds beautiful wine producing villages, the relaxing mountain resort of Platres and the picturesque region of Pitsilia.





Did you know that Lemesos city is built between the two ancient city kingdoms of Kourion and Amathus and quite possibly derives its name from the Greek word “Anamesos”, which literally means “to be in between”?

Lemesos District Archaeological Museum



5, Anastasi Sioukri & Vyronos, Near the Municipal Gardens, T. +357 25305157

The Lemesos Archaeological Museum houses a rich and notable collection of antiquities from the Neolithic age to the Roman period, originating from excavations at archaeological sites in the Lemesos region.

The exhibits are housed in three rooms and are divided into three main categories. The first room contains pottery from different historical periods; the middle room has coins, jewellery, clay oil lamps and a variety of copper tools and objects, while the third one has sculptures, tombstones, capitals, inscriptions and other marble and limestone artifacts. Exhibits include a variety of objects related to the cult of Aphrodite, such as fertility and other votive offerings and female terracotta figurines. The museum is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Cyprus Theatre Museum

8, Panos Solomonides Street, T. +357 25343464

The museum is housed in the Panos Solomonides Cultural Centre. Printed material, scale models, props, set and costume designs, 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 history of theatre.



Municipal Folk Art Museum

253, Agiou Andreou Street, T. +357 25362303



The renovated building housing the Municipal Museum showcases collections of 19th and 20th centuries Cypriot folk art. Over 500 exhibits are displayed in six rooms. These include interesting urban attire, traditional costumes, furniture, wood carvings, embroidery and jewellery. In 1988 the museum was awarded the "Europa Nostra" award.



Lemesos Municipal Art Gallery

103, 28 Octovriou Street, T. +357 25583383

The gallery contains collections of paintings of well-known contemporary Cypriot artists, among them Adamantios Diamantis, Christophoros Savva and Telemachos Kanthos.



Pattichion Municipal Museum Historical Archive

5, Lordou Vyronos Street, T. +357 25763756

The museum is housed in the old restored residence of the District Officer next to the Municipal Gardens. The philosophy behind the creation of the city's Archive is based on the exploitation of the written, visual and verbal material regarding the history and culture of Lemesos city from the 18th century onwards.



Cyprus Historic & Classic Motor Museum

Epimitheos street, T. +357 25393912, 99252626

The museum opened in 2014 and it is the only automobile museum in Cyprus. The museum was founded by Mr. Dimi Mavropoulos, a veteran Rally racing champion of both International and Cypriot rally competitions alike.



Lemesos Medieval Castle/ Museum

Richardou & Berengarias, near the old port T. +357 25305419

Lemesos Castle was built in the 13th century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle near the old harbour. According to archaeological sources, the castle was much larger in its original form. The Venetians strengthened its walls to ward off pirates. Legend has it, that Richard the Lionheart, the King of England and leader of the 3rd Crusade, married Berengaria of Navarre here in 1191. In 1570 the Ottomans conquered the castle and used it as a garrison and jail. During the British rule it functioned as a police station and briefly as a detention centre. Today the castle houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum, whose exhibits include medieval pottery, superb silver Byzantine era plates, tombstones, weapons, crosses and coins.



Agia Napa Church

Agiou Andreou Street

The church was built towards the end of the 19th century, early 20th century, replacing an older 18th century church. It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. According to tradition it took its name from an icon of the Virgin Mary, which was found in a glen (Napa in Latin means glen). Another source says that the church owes its name to a temple built in the Frankish period, dedicated to the Holy Nappe of St. Berenice, known by the name of Saint Nape.



Kebir Mosque (The Great Mosque)



At the intersection of Genethliou Mitella, Zig-Zagand Jami Street

Kebir Mosque was built in the 16th century and is still in use today. Excavations on the east side of the monument have revealed the architectural remains of the 10th century cathedral of Agia Ekaterini. The mosque is one of the most important places of worship for the Muslims of Lemesos.



St. Catherine's Catholic Church

259, 28 Octovriou Street, T. +357 25362946

The church was built in 1879 by architect Friar Francesco da Monghidoro from Bologna, following the architectural style of similar buildings found throughout Europe during that period. He used a baroque style, for the interior whilst opting for an eclectic design on the exterior facade. The walls on the apse and its vault are decorated with neo-byzantine frescoes, which were repainted during renovations in 1979.



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS/ ANCIENT WONDERS

Lemesos Medieval Castle/Museum

*Richardou & Berengarias, near the old port
T. +357 25305419*

Lemesos Castle was built in the 13th century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle near the old harbour. According to archaeological sources, the castle was much larger in its original form. The Venetians strengthened its walls to ward off pirates. Legend has it, that Richard the Lionheart, the King of England and leader of the 3rd Crusade, married Berengaria of Navarre here in 1191. In 1570 the Ottomans conquered the castle and used it as a garrison and jail. During the British rule it functioned as a police station and briefly as a detention centre. Today the castle houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum, whose exhibits include medieval pottery, superb silver Byzantine era plates, tombstones, weapons, crosses and coins.



HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Lemesos (Limassol) Old City Centre

Limassol's historical centre is spread around the medieval Castle and the Old Port. The city today has grown substantially, it has spread along the Mediterranean coast and it has extended much farther than castle and port. Its suburbs stretch along the coast, from Ancient Amathus, all the way out to Kourion Archaeological site.



Agiou Andreou Pedestrian Street

To get a real feel of the city of Limassol, you have to pay a visit to Agiou Andreou Pedestrian Street. Start your walk from the old port and work your way up to the castle straight to Agiou Andreou Street, in order to end up in the historic city centre. Limassol has a surprise in store for you around every corner.



HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Old Port

The fully transformed old port is adjacent to the Limassol marina. A quaint fishing harbour with small traditional boats, which is framed by an amazing recreational area, with cafes and high quality restaurants. It is the place to be to absorb and adopt the “limassolian” way of life.



Sculpture Park

On the sea-front promenade

Seventeen sculptures made by local as well as foreign artists, are exhibited in the park. The works exhibited in the park, were produced during the sculpture symposiums held from 1999-2001.



Municipal and University Library of Lemesos

Karaiskaki & 26, Agiou Andreou streets, T. +357 25002211

The construction of this impressive building began in 1919 and was completed in 1934. It was the residence of Antonis Pilavakis, an important merchant who lived in Lemesos and went on holidays every year in Monaco. Greatly influenced by the architectural style of the French Riviera and the residential areas of Monaco he build his house in the same architectural style. Since 1970 the building houses the Public Library of Lemesos.



The Old Carob Mill

Behind the Medieval Castle, T. +357 25820430

The Carob Mill was built in 1900, at a time when carobs were a major export product of Cyprus. They were used to make a wide variety of products such as photographic film plates, medicine, sweets and chocolates. 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. The Carob Mill area has been divided into a complex of two distinct areas: the first area consists of the restored Carob Mill and the second houses the Evagoras Lanitis Centre, an arts and exhibitions area.



Havouza

Saint George Havouza water reservoirs were the first construction made in Limassol in order to store and diffuse water to the city. It was built during the British Colonial times and it was pronounced an “ancient monument” in 1996. Havouza consists of two water reservoirs and it is located at a high point of the city. Water gathered in the reservoirs, was distributed to the city through stone pipes, which ended up at public, outdoor, stone & marble sinks and fountains.



Kourion Archaeological Museum

Episkopi village, 14km west of Lemesos, 4km before reaching Kourion site, T. +357 25932453

A traditional house with superb views over the bay of Agios Ermogenis houses the local Archaeological Museum of Kourion.

The exhibits consist of finds from the nearby archaeological sites and include red polished ware of the Early Bronze age, pottery and golden jewellery of the Mycenaean era and a large umber of offerings from the nearby Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates.



The Cyprus Wine Museum

Erimi village, on the Lemesos-Pafos road 13km west of Lemesos, T. +357 25873808

The Wine Museum offers a unique opportunity to learn about the history of wine production in Cyprus. The various stages of wine production and consumption, as well as the various uses of wine, are shown through different presentations. Ancient jars and canisters, medieval drinking vessels, old documents and instruments illustrate the social, economic and symbolic aspects of wine production.



Koilani Village

37km north of Lemesos, Ecclesiastical Museum To arrange a visit please call the Community Board, T. +357 25471008

Koilani is an attractive wine-producing village. On its outskirts, one can find the single-aisled vaulted church of Agia Mavri, dating back to the 12th century, with frescoes from the 15th century. The Koilani Ecclesiastical Museum was created by the Holy Bishopric of Lemesos as a district branch of the larger Byzantine Museum being planned in the city itself. It houses a collection of icons and ecclesiastical objects from the parish. The museum occupies a two room building in the courtyard of Panagia Eleousa church. The exhibits span a period of about seven centuries and include pieces of an iconostasis from 1735, icons dating from the 13th to the 19th centuries, sacred vessels and old books. The museum of Viticulture is housed in a traditional village house. Viniculture equipment and items of folk art are on exhibit. In the yard, a large cauldron used for the preparation of the local beverage zivania can also be seen.



Arsos Village

40km north of Lemesos Folk Art Museum. To arrange a visit please call the Community Board, T. +357 25943223

Arsos is one of the largest wine producing villages of Cyprus. There are two versions as to where it derives its name from: one suggests it is the Holy Alsos (grove) of the goddess Aphrodite, where the village is built, whereas the other is that one of the four towns founded by Ptolemy Philadelphos in honour of Arsinoe. It has been associated with wine production since ancient times. Nowadays most inhabitants still make their own wine, while the village womenfolk have a reputation for the special dishes they prepare using wine. The Folk Art Museum of Arsos is housed in a traditional house. Its exhibits present the village way of life.



Foini Village

42km north of Lemesos

Nestling in the heart of Troodos mountains amidst green and fragrant pines, is yet another picturesque village, that of Foini. According to tradition, the village was named after a Frankish lord, Juan de Fejniu or Feniui, while another says its name originates from the Greek word for palm tree “foinikas”. The village is renowned for its pottery, for the manufacture of traditional furniture and for the local “loukoumi” (delight).



LIMASSOL DISTRICT MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Vasa Village

38km north of Lemesos

Vasa is one of the most important wine producing villages of the region with over 40% of its agricultural land being allocated to viticulture. Some of the best red wines of the island are produced here. It is a picturesque village with cobbled streets and traditional architecture. Interesting sites of the village include the Educational Museum, the Zivania (traditional alcoholic drink) Museum and the Ecclesiastical Museum which houses important icons and religious objects. To arrange a visit please call +357 25942634



Agios Nikolaos ton Gaton Convent (St. Nicholas of the Cats)

On Cape Gata 15km west of Lemesos south east of Akrotiri Salt Lake

Agios Nikolaos ton Gaton (St. Nicholas of the Cats) is possibly the oldest monastery in Cyprus. The monastery chapel, which dates back to the 14th century, was abandoned in the 16th century and was reinstated by Orthodox nuns in the early 1980s. According to tradition, the monastery was founded by St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, who left a piece of wood from the Holy Cross there. During that period Cyprus experienced a severe drought, as a result of which many people fled from the Cape and the area became infested by snakes.

Then Constantine the Great sent a commander to Cyprus called Kalokeros, who released thousands of cats at the Cape in order to exterminate the snakes and thus save the area.

Anogyra Carob Museums & Folk Art Museum

On the outskirts of the village of Anogyra [Limassol] you will find the remains of Timios Stavros Monastery. Apart from the ruins, Anogyra boasts another few highlights to visit. This small village is also known nationwide for its carob sweets 'pasteli' as well as the Carob Museum and the Olive Oil Museum.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Kouris Valley

22,5km north of Lemesos

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. The vaulted church of the Monastery of Panagia tis Amasgou dates back to the 12th century and has a second roof made of wood and tiles.

The church has a series of frescoes dating back to the 12th, 14th and 16th centuries. Nowadays, the monastery functions as a convent. The church of Archangelos at Monagri was built in 1740 over the foundations of an older monastery that had burned down. Of particular interest is the wood-carved iconostasis. The northern buildings of the monastery have been restored and turned into an art centre.

The church of Timios Stavros at Kouka possesses a superb example of Palaeologan art in a 14th century fresco. Also worth visiting in the area is the picturesque village of Laneia, with its old wine press, the Commandaria Storage Museum and an old olive press.



Omodos Village

39km north of Lemesos, To arrange a visit please call the Community Board, T. +357 25422453

The wine producing village of Omodos, built on the Troodos hillsides amidst expanses of vines, with its narrow cobbled streets and the majestic monastery in the village square, is one of the most picturesque villages in Cyprus.

Omodos was once the property of Sir John de Brie, Prince of Galilee, as was the Monastery of Stavros (Holy Cross), in the centre of the village. The monastery contains old icons, excellent wood carvings and other ecclesiastical objects of interest, as well as a small museum about the National Liberation Struggle of 1955-59, a centre for the preservation of narrow-knit lacing, a byzantine icons museum and a small folk art museum. An old wine-press "Linos" is at a short distance from the Monastery and is open to visitors.



Anogyra Village

39km west of Lemesos To arrange a visit please call T. +357 25221496

Anogyra village with its cobbled streets, traditional houses and rich architectural heritage, remains the only village in Cyprus that is well known for its carobs and the traditional sweet delight “pasteli” made with carob syrup.

Interesting sites include the three Carob Museums, where visitors can observe the traditional process of pasteli-making step by step, as well as a small Folk Art Museum.



Arakapas Village Panagia Iamatiki

Arakapas Village, 20km east of Lemesos

The church of Panagia Iamatiki is situated on the outskirts of the village of Arakapas. It is a three-aisled wooden roofed church and contains sophisticated frescoes of the early 16th century that are amongst the most important surviving examples of the Italo - Byzantine style of art in Cyprus. An extraordinary leather icon of the Virgin (in the nearby new church) is believed to have special healing powers.



Agios Georgios Alamanos Convent

20km east of Lemesos

Originally founded as a monastery in the 12th century, today it functions as a convent. The nuns, besides performing their religious duties, spend their time doing icon painting, cultivating flowers and herbs and producing honey.



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS / ANCIENT WONDERS

Kourion Stadium

20km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos

Kourion stadium, with a capacity of 6000 spectators, is the only ancient stadium found in Cyprus. It dates back to the 2nd century AD. According to archaeological sources, ancient pentathlon events took place there.



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS/ ANCIENT WONDERS

Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates

21km west of Lemesos, T. +357 99630238

Apollon Hylates, god of the forest, was the protector of Kourion. According to archaeological sources he was worshipped here from the 8th century BC up to the 4th century AD. His sanctuary was an important religious centre. It consisted of Apollo's temple, which has been partly restored, pilgrim halls, the 'palaistra' (wrestling area), a bath complex, and a holy precinct.



Kolossi Medieval Castle

*14km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos,
T. +357 25934907*

Kolossi castle is a fine example of military architecture. It was originally built in the 13th century and rebuilt in its present form in the 15th century. After the fall of Acre in 1291 it served as the "Grand Commanderie" of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and in the 14th century came under the domain of the Knights Templar. During their stay in Cyprus, the Knights produced and exported a sweet wine, which became known as the "vin de Commanderie". Today Commandaria wine is one of Cyprus' traditional wines and one of the oldest named wines in the world, having had the same name for eight centuries. Next to the castle are the ruins of a 14th century sugar mill.



Kourion Archaeological Site



19km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos T. +357 25934250

Kourion was an important city-kingdom in antiquity and one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Cyprus. The magnificent Greco-Roman theatre was built in the 2nd century BC and was extended during the 2nd century AD. Today the theatre has been completely restored and is used for musical and theatrical performances. Excavations have unearthed the "House of Eustolios", originally a private villa, which during the Early Christian period was turned into a public recreation centre. It consists of a complex of baths and rooms with beautiful 5th century AD mosaic floors. The early Christian Basilica dates back to the 5th century AD and was probably the Cathedral of Kourion, with separate baptistery on the external northern side. The "House of Achilles" and the "House of the Gladiators" were named after their superb mosaic floors. Other parts of the site include private villas and an impressive Nymphaeum, dedicated to water nymphs. A wooden roof structure allows visitors to enjoy the site all year round. (The Stadium lies 1km to the west, on the right side of the road towards Pafos).



Amathus Archaeological Site



11km east of Lemesos city centre, T. +357 25635226

Amathous is one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus where, according to mythology, Greek hero Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne to be taken care of by local women. Amathous was an important site of worship of the goddess Aphrodite-Astarte. Archaeological finds originate from several tombs, one of which was found in the front entrance of the present Amathus hotel, others at the Acropolis and the lower section of the town, and in five early Christian Basilicas. The finds date from the Archaic period up to the Roman and Christian period. A pair of enormous stone vases, the largest ever discovered, were found here, one of which is now at the Louvre Museum in Paris. The site is also linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre

Akrotiri village, 14km west of Lemesos T. +357 25826562



The Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre is situated at Akrotiri village. The primary purpose of the Centre is to promote the unique environmental and cultural significance of Akrotiri Peninsula through programmes and exhibits. The facilities of the Centre consist of the following areas: exhibition and laboratory; projection and presentation room; library and study room; and a wildlife observation kiosk. It offers full equipment for the activities undertaken at the Centre and at the different outdoor study areas. The Akrotiri cultural trail starts from the Centre and passes through the community, from the houses where baskets are made and through other points of cultural interest. The facilities are also suitable for persons with impaired physical mobility.

Krasochoria (The Wine Villages)

The area, known as the "Krasochoria" (the Wine Villages) is located north of Lemesos, on the southern slopes of the Troodos mountain range. Traditional forms of viticulture are still kept alive in these villages. Wine production is still the main occupation for most of the inhabitants. Within the wine village region, one may find a number of local wine museums, well worth a visit. This is the area which produces the island's renowned dry red wine.



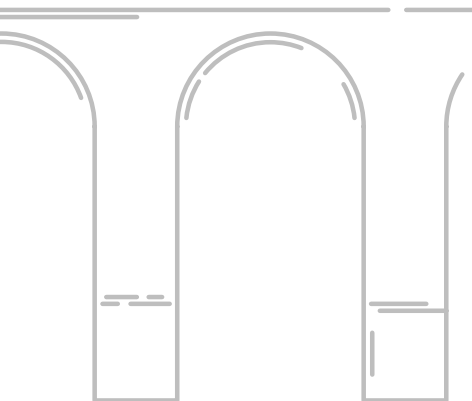
LARNAKA

Larnaka may pride itself for its contribution to the island's rich cultural heritage

Larnaka may pride itself for its contribution to the island's rich cultural heritage. Built on the site where ancient Kition once stood, it is the successor of one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus and the seat of Christianity from its earliest years. Kition was the birthplace of Zeno, the Greek philosopher, who founded the Stoic school of thought, and the second home of Jesus' friend, Lazarus. The Achaean Greeks settled in the area in the 13th century BC, while Phoenicians moved here during the 9th century BC.

In the 18th century AD, Larnaka became Cyprus' commercial centre, the place where all European consuls established their missions. The new city of Larnaka, has a charm of its own. In the winter months thousands of flamingos, wild swans and other migrating birds make their annual stopover at the nearby salt lake. The district of Larnaka has many interesting places to visit, particularly ancient, Byzantine and Muslim monuments, such as the renowned Hala Sultan Tekkesi and Saint Lazarus church.





Did you know that Larnaca is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Cyprus, with its origins reaching back to the Pre-Neolithic period?

Larnaka District Archaeological Museum



Plateia Kalograion, T. +357 24304169

The museum collections consist mainly of finds from the main Neolithic settlements of Cyprus, Choirokoitia and Tenta, and of the ancient city kingdom of Kition. Faience, ivory and alabaster artifacts are evidence of the commercial and international relations between Cyprus and the regions of the Eastern Mediterranean. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route. Closed for renovation, for further updates please refer to the following websites: www.visitcyprus.com, www.mcw.gov.cy



The Pierides Foundation Archaeological Museum



4, Zinonos Kitieos Street, T. +357 24814555

The Pierides Museum is the oldest private museum in Cyprus. It is housed in the ancestral Pierides family home which is a colonial style building that dates back to 1815. The museum's comprehensive collection was assembled by the Pierides family and includes some of the most representative items of the island's civilisation. It charts its economic, social and cultural development over thousands of years. The objects on display date from 4000 BC up to the 15th century AD and are an important testimony to a centuries old civilisation that flourished in Cyprus. Prized items in the collection is the red polished ware pottery of the Early Bronze Age, the Roman glassware and the medieval ceramic dishes. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Larnaka Castle District Medieval Museum

Leoforos Athinon, Larnaka seafront T. +357 24304576

Originally built during the Middle Ages, the Castle took its present form during the Ottoman rule. After the end of the Ottoman rule in Cyprus, the British converted it into a prison, during the first years of their rule. Today the Castle houses the District Medieval Museum, whose collection covers 15 centuries of history, from the early Christian period up to the 19th century. The open-air courtyard is used by the Larnaka Municipality, especially during the summer months for various functions.



Kyriazis Medical Museum

35 Karaoli & Demetriou Street

Housed in a traditional 1927 mansion in the centre of Larnaka, the Kyriazis Medical Museum showcases the medical, healing and health history of Cyprus, and its strong connections throughout Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Ottoman period. The exhibits range from Ancient Roman times to the 1980's, with the main collection covering the period 1850-1950 AC. Included are old books, framed documents, traditional pharmaceutical furniture and other medical items and equipment; X-ray machine, surgical instruments and a filled pharmacist's display unit, amongst others.



Larnaka Municipal Gallery

Athinon Avenue Europe Square

Most items originate from the Larnaka area and were donated to the museum, which is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) that was set-up by doctors, pharmacists, historians and interested members of the public. As part of the Larnaka Virtual Museums project, you can tour the museum virtually here, with enriched and bonus material from home, or whilst at the museum for a hybrid experience.



Agios Lazaros Church and Ecclesiastical Museum

Plateia Agiou Lazarou T. +357 24652498, +357 24620858

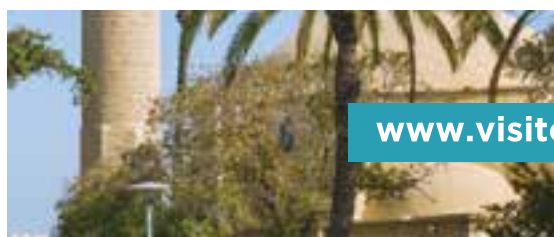
The magnificent 9th century stone church of Agios Lazaros was built by Byzantine Emperor Leo VI in the 9th century and was restored during the 17th century. The church is one of the most remarkable examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus. Saint Lazarus came to Cyprus after being resurrected by Jesus, was ordained as Bishop of Kition by the Apostles Barnabas and Paul and lived here for 30 years. His tomb can be seen under the sanctuary. The iconostasis is a superb example of baroque woodcarving. Eight days before Easter a procession is held during which St. Lazarus' icon is carried through the streets of Larnaka. Next to the church is the Ecclesiastical Museum.



Hala Sultan Tekke

5km west of Larnaka city, on the road to Kiti village

The monument is located on the westbank of the Salt Lake and was erected over different phases, commencing from 1760 and completed in 1817. It is an important Islamic monument, one of the most revered sites in the Muslim world and it is used to this day for religious purposes. The mosque was built over the grave of Umm Haram or Ummó Haram, who was believed to be the sister of the Prophet Mohammed's foster mother or a follower from Medina to Cyprus that died shortly after her arrival in Cyprus in 647 or 649. Conservation works, aiming at preserving the monument, are being conducted by the Department of Antiquities on a systematic basis since 1967, involving the masonry, the wooden or other artistic elements.



Kebir (Buyuk) Mosque

Leoforos Athinon, opposite Larnaka Castle

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 and 14th centuries, before being converted into a mosque. The oldest reference of its existence is found in a 1747 document of Bekir Pasha, creator of the Larnaka aqueduct, where it is specified that a public fountain there should receive water from his aqueduct. The fountain can still be found outside the mosque today.



Tusla Mosque

Situated in the old part of town, behind the ruins of ancient Kition, Tusla Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Larnaka. Its history goes back to Byzantine times. The mosque was originally a Byzantine orthodox church, as is evident by the frescoes inside the building. In the 12th or 13th century the building became known as the Catholic Church of the Holy Cross and was turned into a mosque during the Ottoman Rule of 1571 up to 1878. The minaret is built over the foundations of the original bell tower. Opposite this mosque there is a Venetian period public water fountain.



Agios Georgios Makris Chapel

This stone-built chapel of Agios Georgios dates back to the 13th century. It is built on a hill overlooking the salt lake.



Terra Santa Catholic Church

8, Terra Santa Street, T. +357 24642858

Terra Santa is the church of the Latin community of Larnaka. Franciscan monk Callixte Martel founded the church and the convent in 1596, mainly to house Latin pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. In 1724 a larger church and convent replaced the original buildings, which in turn were demolished in 1842 to be replaced by the present church structures. The architectural style of the convent combines Renaissance and Baroque characteristics. It is also known as Santa Maria delle Grazie.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Zouchouri Mosque

The Zouchouri Mosque lies between the Kebir (Buyuk) Mosque and the Church of Agios Lazaros on Nicolaou Roussou street. It was built in the middle of the 19th century and is an important muslim religious centre.



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS/ ANCIENT WONDERS

Palm Trees Promenade - 'Foinikoudes'

Larnaka's most infamous promenade 'Foinikoudes' is a pedestrian walk way along the coast which stretches from "Europe Square" up to Larnaka Medieval Castle showcasing its signature palm trees alongside the beach. These "famous" palm trees were planted in the 1920s and have become a landmark of the city. Many festivities and cultural events take place in "Foinikoudes" either at its central square or at the seafront stage.



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS/ ANCIENT WONDERS

Kamares Aqueduct

Kamares area on the road to Lemesos

This beautiful 18th century aqueduct consisting of a series of arches gave the area its name. It was built in 1746 by the Turkish governor of Larnaka, Bekir Pasha, who funded it out of his own resources to carry water to Larnaka from a source about 10km away. The aqueduct was abandoned in 1939, its function was replaced by a modern piping system.



HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Larnaka Salt Lake (Aliki)



3km west of Larnaka on the road to Kiti

Larnaka salt lake is one of the most important habitats in Europe for water fowl. 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 has been inhabited since the Neolithic age. Unearthed next to the Hala Sultan Tekkesi mosque, are the remains of a prehistoric harbour that served the nearby town in ancient times. The town was one of the largest urban and commercial centres of Cyprus during the Late Bronze age (1650-1050 BC). When the town was abandoned, the estuary silted up, the natural harbour was destroyed and the salt lake was formed. Salt was a valuable product of the lake, commercially exploited for many centuries. A nature trail has been created along the banks of the lake connecting the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Piale Pasa & Psarolimano



Piale Pasha Avenue

Larnaka is most famous for its Finikoudes Promenade but Larnaka also has another promenade linking from Finikoudes. This promenade is Piale Pasha, named after the Commanding General of the Ottoman Army and Navy. Piale Pasha General came to the city Larnaka in 1571. Piale Pasha Promenade was actually the first seafront street in Larnaka and later on in the 19th century the city expanded to Finikoudes. The promenade starts from the Medieval Castle of Larnaka and runs all the way to McKenzie area.

Finikoudes promenade connects smoothly with Piale Pasha from around the Medieval Castle which has two pathways. One pathway takes you around the Castle from the street side while the other takes you around the Castle from the sandy beach side. During night time these two pathways are lighted up but lighting on the ground which showcases the Castle and the beach too.

The pathway then takes you along a journey, showing you old style homes, restaurants, cafes, fish taverns on the side of the street. While on the other side of the pathway is the beach and sea. You will find many cyclists, people running, jogging, walking and even fishing also the pathway.



Larnaka Art Workshops Neighbourhood



The dedicated Larnaka Art Workshops Neighbourhood is comprised of two streets that run parallel to the Piale Pasha coastal street where the workshops of nine visual artists are nestled, including sculptors, ceramists and painters. Often inspired by ancient Cypriot folk art, the artists will welcome you to watch them at work as they explain



the history of their own particular expertise.

A self-guided tour is available thanks to the handy map and signage, allowing visitors to tailor their experience. You can also enjoy a preview before you embark on your tour via the 360° 'Larnaka Cultural Walk' here. Along the way you will find artistic flourishes and touches, from the quirky handmade signs from each artist, to surprise outdoor artworks.

In particular, pottery is a very ancient craft on the island, with the red clay vessels - known as 'pitharia' - constituting an integral part of daily life in olden times when they were used to store and transport liquids such as wine and water, as well as for the storage of agricultural products. Today, the pottery studios combine tradition with modern design. Getting your hands dirty and creating something unique is a wonderful experience and some of the studios offer pottery making lessons/sessions, offering you the opportunity to make and take home a lasting memory of your trip to Larnaka!

Art Workshop Studios

Studio Ceramics - Efthymios Symeou,

Address: 18 Akteniz Str, Tel: +357 24 650 338

Emira Pottery - Michalis Michael,

Address: 13 Mehmet Ali Str., Tel: +357 99 404 414

Fotos Dimitriou Visual Art, - Photos Demetriou,

Address: 9 Xanthou Lysioty Str.,
Tel: +357 99 466 095

Christiana Charalambous Visual Arts

Address: 28 Bozkurt Str., Tel.: +357 99 629 537

Flamma Arts - Stavros Stavrou,

Address: 8 Ak. Nteniz Str., Tel: +357 24 624 491

Rona's Art Studio

Address: Bozkurt Str., Rona Mikellides.
Tel.: +357 99923020

Andreas Kalli Contemporary Art Studio

Address: Bozkurt Str. (by appointment only)

Robin Symeou - Address: Bozkurt Str.,

Elena Georgiou - Address: Bozkurt Str

In addition to the Larnaka Art Workshops Neighbourhood, there are also artists and workshops found in the old streets surrounding Agios Lazaros (Saint Lazarus) church.

Skarinou Environmental Information Centre

Skarinou village, T. +357 24 322020

The Environmental Information Centre is located in the village of Skarinou, just off the Lefkosia-Lemesos highway, thus providing easy access from all over Cyprus. The Centre covers a total of 18 communities and its main objective is to educate and inform visitors about the significance of the natural environment and major cultural elements of Larnakas' mountainous area.



Lefkara Village Museum of Folk Art, Embroidery and Silversmithing

40km from Larnaka off the Lefkosia - Lemesos road at Skarinou

Lefkara is a picturesque village known for its lace, the famous "lefkaritika" and for its silverware. Legend has it that Leonardo da Vinci himself came here and bought an altar cloth made of the traditional lace, which he later donated to the cathedral of Milan. The village maintains its traditional architecture with its picturesque stone houses.

Interesting sites of the village include the following:

T. +357 24342326

1. The Museum of Folk Art Embroidery and Silversmithing
T. +357 99646115,
2. The Handicraft Centre of Lefkara
3. The Church of the Holy Cross
4. The church of the Archangel Michael

Lefkara Village Handicraft centre

Located in the Larnaka (Larnaca) region, the mountainous village of Lefkara is split into Pano Lefkara and Kato Lefkara (higher and lower Lefkara), and is world-renowned for its traditional handicrafts of lace embroidery and filigree silver. The village is situated at the foot of the Troodos Mountains in the south eastern region, 650 metres above sea level, 43 km from Larnaka, and can be reached by following the A5, A1 and E105 routes.

The crafts of lace and silver have been practiced in the village since Venetian times, and visitors can learn all about them, and watch the lace and silver being made at the Lefkara Handicraft Centre, the Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silversmithing, and various workshops. Legend has it that the famous painter, Leonardo da Vinci himself visited the village in 1481 and bought a lace altar cloth, which he donated to Milan cathedral.

The character of the village is very picturesque with its narrow, winding streets and traditional architecture of old, terracotta-roofed houses. It is also included as one of the stops on the island's 7th Wine Route that encompasses the area of mountainous Larnaka - Lefkosia (Lefkosia).

Among its interesting sites are the Folklore Museum, the old fountain and the old olive mill. The village also has beautiful and ancient chapels, including the church of Timios Stavros (Holy Cross), and the chapel of Archangelos Michail in Kato Lefkara, with frescoes that date from the 12th and 15th centuries.

The popular annual Lefkara Festival takes place each August, and includes a programme of music, dance, theatre and handicraft exhibitions, with visitors warmly welcomed.

Kato Drys Village bee & embroidery Museum

Located in a 300-year old residence, the Bee and Embroidery Museum in Kato Drys is a great way to discover the village's culture. Including six basic units that split into seven rooms featuring everything from old and new beekeeping tools to information on the making of Commandaria and zivania, the museum is dedicated to the Cypriot volunteers of the 1912-13 Balkan Wars. And for those wanting to see more of Cypriot textiles, there's a specific textile collection including silk fabrics, linen and a loom. With over 1,000 exhibits, the Bee & Embroidery museum offers a chance to gain a glimpse inside the villager's daily life through the ages with displays of old farming and household equipment and furniture.

Take a thirty-minute guided tour for a more thorough visit; watch the making and preparation of homemade products (such as bread, dried figs and fig pies), and the production of wine and Zivania; take part in various seasonal activities such as olive, almond and grape picking; enjoy a drink in the inner courtyard or the orchard, or purchase products made from honey, olives, wine and carobs.



Kato Drys Village Local Agricultural Museum

38km west of Larnaka T. +357 24342648, +357 24342833

Kato Drys is the birthplace of Agios Neofytos, who was born in 1134. Of interest are the church of Agios Charalambos, built in 1897 and the 16th century church of Panagia, which has been restored. Many buildings exhibit rural architecture, with suspended balconies, as well as doors and windows carved in relief.

The Rural Museum (House of Gavriel and Eleni Papachristoforou) is housed in a restored building with remarkable woodwork, a prime example of local 19th century architecture.



Angeloktisti Church

Kiti village, 7 Km west of Larnaka city T. +357 24424646

This 11th century Byzantine church was erected over the ruins of an Early Christian Basilica. The original apse of the Basilica has survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a rare 6th century mosaic depicting Virgin Mary and Child between the two archangels Michael and Gabriel. It is a rare work of art, equaling the mosaics of Ravenna-Italy. Only in Cyprus and in Mount Sinai, have mosaics from that period been found. Similar mosaics are those from the church of Panagia Kanakaria in the occupied village of Lythragkomi, now on display in the Byzantine Museum of Lefkosia.



Lefkara Village Church of the Holy Cross

Kiti village, 7 Km west of Larnaka city T. +357 24424646

The magnificent Church of Lefkara is dedicated to the Holy Cross and dates back to the 14th century. More specifically, based on frescos that were saved behind the iconostasis of the church, Byzantinist Athanasios Papageorgiou dated the eastern part of the Church to the 14th century. This date is also confirmed by the metrical inscription of Olvianos which can be found at the bottom of the silver Cross of Lefkara. There is written testimony that Olvianos was a Bishop of Lefkara in 1307, during Francocracy.

In 1740 the temple was renovated and a wooden iconostasis was carved by Chatzikyriakos, a

RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

sculptor from Rhodes who was called for this purpose by the Bishop Lourentzo. An inscription at the bottom of the icon of the Descent from the Cross testifies that in 1761 the iconostasis was gilded and the relevant celebration was attended by the -at that time- Bishop of Kition Makarios. In 1857, the magnificent bell tower was constructed, the bells of which were donated by devout Lefkarians living abroad.

Important works on the Church took place in 1867, when the Church was extended in order to be able to accommodate a larger congregation. In 1909 the Church required repair works and it was at that time that the propylea that can be seen today were built. Moreover, it became a gate to the south. In 1953, the dome was painted. At its eastern section, the Temple is of cross-in-square rhythm, whereas its most recent section is of 19th century Cypriot rhythm. On the inside it has six columns, in two rows of three.



Lefkara Village Church of Archangel Michael

One of the oldest churches in Cyprus. Time of its construction dates from around the XII century. The church building is a single-nave church, the walls of which are preserved beautiful frescoes XII-XV centuries. The frescoes depict biblical scenes and images of saints.



Vavla Village

40 km west of Larnaka was built in 1935 over the ruins of a small 16th century chapel. Although the church is relatively new, the icon of Panagia tis Agapis (Virgin Mary of Love), dates back to the 16th century. There is no other church in the world nor icon with the name of Panagia tis Agapis.



Stavrovouni Monastery

40km west of Larnaka, 22km west of Lefkara T. +357 22533630

Stavrovouni Monastery is perched on a rocky peak 750m above sea level. Legend has it that it was founded in the 4th century by Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, who left a relic of the Holy Cross at the monastery. The monks have strict rules like those at Mount Athos in Greece. Women may not enter the monastery. An impressive ceremony and festival is held here on the 14th of September, the day of the Raising of the Holy Cross. The monastery of Agia Varvara on the foothills of Stavrovouni is accessible to all visitors. The monks here are known for their iconography skills.



Chapelle Royale

Pyrqa village, 35km south of Lefkosia and 21km from Larnaka, T. +357 22532811

The chapel was built in 1421 by the Lusignan King Janus, who is depicted in a fresco together with his wife, Charlotte de Bourbon, on the eastern facade.



Agios Effimianos Church

Replicas: Kornos area, below Stavrovouni Monastery 27km northwest of Larnaka

Original Paintings: Cultural Centre of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation, Archbishopric grounds Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou, old Lefkosia, T. +357 22430008

The Byzantine church of Agios Effimianos is situated in the occupied village of Lysi. Its frescoes date back to the 14th century. After the Turkish invasion they were removed from the church, smuggled and sold abroad. They were traced in Munich. The Cyprus government and the Menil Foundation (USA) bought them back and agreed that they would be exhibited in Houston for 15 years, prior to them being returned to the island. The Lysi villagers built this new church along the lines of the old one. Replicas of the famous frescoes from the dome and apse are kept in its basement. In March 2012, the original frescoes were repatriated and are now exhibited in the Byzantine Museum of Lefkosia.

Church of Virgin Mary of Chrysopolitissa, Kiti

Panagia Angeloktisti, a Byzantine church located in the village of Kiti, has submitted an application to become an Unesco monument of cultural heritage.

The church was constructed in the 11th century on the ruins of an early Christian basilica from the 5th century.

According to popular tradition, due to the Arab raids, the inhabitants of ancient Kition moved to Kiti to escape and decided to built a church to the Virgin Mary.

The tradition says that the people noticed that the foundation of the church was moving during the night and that an army of angels came overnight to build the church, thus the name given to the church (translates into "built by angels"). The mosaic of the Virgin Mary is one of the most significant early Christian wall mosaics and is the oldest preserved depiction of Virgin Mary standing and holding baby Jesus with her left arm. On the Virgin's right is archangel Michael and on her left is archangel Gabriel.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Agios Minas Convent

Near Vavla, 39km from Larnaka, T. +357 24342952

The convent dates back to the 15th century. It is a mixture of Byzantine and Gothic architecture. On the north and south walls there are two large frescoes of Agios Georgios and Agios Minas dating back to 1757. The nuns here, in addition to their religious duties, practice icon painting.



Agios Georgios Arperas Church

Tersefanou village, 13,5km southwest of Larnaka

The church of Agios Georgios Arperas is situated about 2km from the village of Tersefanou, where once stood the medieval village of Arpera. The church was built by the dragoman Christofakis Konstantinou in 1745 and has a fresco depicting himself and his family as founders. The church contains many icons signed by the painter Ioannikios.



Agios Antonios Church

Kellia village, 10km north of Larnaka

Is one of the most important Byzantine churches of Cyprus, possibly dating back to the 9th century. It is a three-aisled vaulted Basilica which once had a dome. It contains significant frescoes from the 9th, 11th and 13th centuries.



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS/ ANCIENT WONDERS

Choirokoitia Archaeological Site

*32km southwest of Larnaka, 48km south of Lefkosia, off the Lefkosia-Lemesos motorway,
T. +357 24322710*

The archaeological site of Choirokoitia has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998. It is a well preserved settlement of the Neolithic Age. Remains from all phases of the Neolithic Age are evident in the settlement, providing an insight on the living conditions of the region during prehistoric times. Five characteristic cylindrical shaped dwellings have been reconstructed near the settlement, using



HISTORICAL MONUMENTS/ ANCIENT WONDERS

the same construction methods and materials used in Neolithic times. They are fitted with replicas of household objects found inside the originals, thus providing a vivid representation of how they appeared in antiquity. The vegetation around the dwellings consists of plant species and native trees that have grown in Cyprus since Neolithic times.



Kalavassos - Tenta Archaeological Site

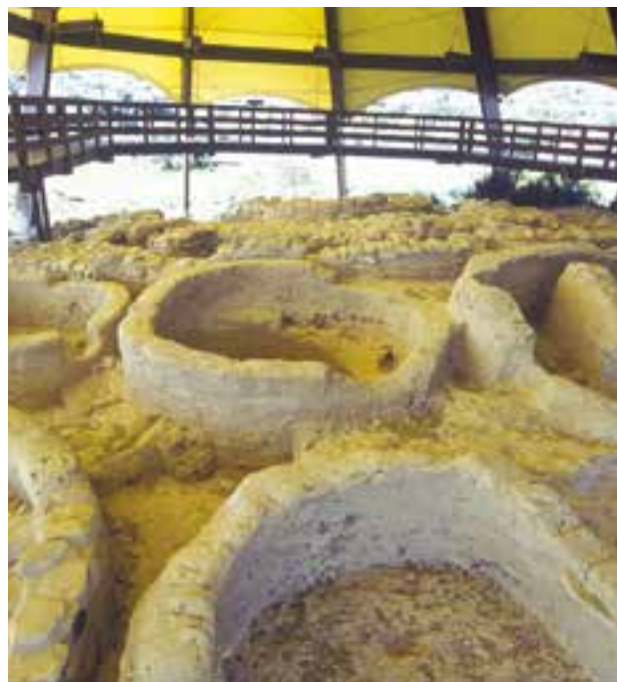
40km southwest of Larnaka, 2.5 km off the Lefkosia - Lemesos motorway

The Neolithic Age settlement of Tenta is situated at a short distance from Kalavassos village. It dates back to 7000 BC. The settlement is covered by a characteristic cone-shaped roof, which forms a contemporary architectural intervention in the natural landscape.

Kition Archaeological Site

About 500m from the District Archaeological Museum, T. +357 24304115

The architectural ruins of the ancient city-kingdom of Kition dating back to the 13th century BC were found here. Excavations have revealed cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of stone and a complex of five temples. Nearby lay the foundations of the ancient port of Kition, an important commercial centre of ancient Cyprus. The drawings of ships etched into the walls of buildings are particularly interesting. The site is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



PAFOS (PAPHOS)



The entire town of ancient Pafos is a serial archaeological property

The entire town of ancient Pafos is a serial archaeological property that consists three different parts: Kato Pafos with the famous mosaics, Kouklia with the temple of Aphrodite and the Necropolis with the Tafoi ton Vasileon (Tombs of the Kings). All three sites compose ancient Pafos which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Numerous archaeological sites can be seen from the centre of the modern town, down to its picturesque harbour, as well as all along the coast. It is out of the seas of Pafos that Aphrodite, Greek Olympian goddess of Love and Beauty is said to have risen, and it was in Pafos that the worship of the goddess flourished. Pafos was the capital of Cyprus for a long period of time in antiquity. Cyprus for is a charming town in the west of Cyprus.

The charm of the goddess can still be felt throughout the area. The Pafos region is surrounded by a beautiful coastline. Inland and in the mountainous regions lay superb monasteries and tranquil villages, where old traditions and customs have been kept alive since time immemorial.





Did you know that Pafos is the only city in Cyprus that has kept the same name since antiquity and that Homer refers to the temple of Aphrodite at Palaipafos in his epic poem, the *Odyssey*?

Pafos District Archaeological Museum



43, Leoforos Georgiou Griva Digeni T. +357 26955801/2

The Pafos District Archaeological Museum houses a collection of finds from the Pafos area dating from the Neolithic Age up to 1700 AD. Of special interest are a set of surgical instruments and a rare sculpture of warrior Aphrodite. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Ethnographical Museum

1, Exo Vrisis Street, T. +357 26932010

The Ethnographical Museum is a private museum belonging to the Eliades family. It consists of a collection of objects from the Neolithic Age to present day, including a collection of coins.

1. **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 centuries 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 a club against the Minotaur. The mosaics are linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.
2. **Pafos Odeon** The Pafos Odeon is a small 2nd century AD odeon built entirely of well-hewn limestone blocks. It is now used regularly for musical and theatrical performances. Nearby are the remains of the ancient city walls, the Asklepieion, a building dedicated to Asklepios, god of medicine, and the Roman Agora.
3. **Saranta Kolones (Forty Columns) Fortress** This Frankish castle was built by the Lusignans in the early 13th century on top of a previous Byzantine castle and was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222.
4. **“Limeniotissa” Ruins of an Early Christian Basilica** The Basilica dates back to the Early Christian period possibly to the beginning of the 5th century. It originally comprised of three aisles divided by two rows of marble columns, a single apse, a narthex and an atrium. The floors were paved with brilliantly coloured mosaics in geometric patterns. The Basilica was destroyed during the Arab raids of the 7th century and a smaller version of it was rebuilt in the 10th century. Finally, it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1159.
5. **Ancient Theatre-Pafos** It is located in the north eastern part of the ancient city, on the slopes of the so-called “Fabrica” hill. The construction of the theatre dates back to the founding of the city, but it went through alterations and its original layout changed during the Roman period. It seems that the theatre continued to be in use until the 5th century A.D.



Mosaics House



Pafos Odeon

Saranta Kolones
(Forty Columns)



Pafos Municipal Gallery

40, Konstantinou Kanari Street, Ibrahim's Khan,
T. +357 26932014, +357 26822270

The Gallery exhibits a total of 43 works of art of local artists. One of the first mansions in the city, which was built in the early 20th century, houses the Pafos Municipal Gallery. This is one of the first two-storey buildings of the era, with characteristic arches and an internal courtyard. The Gallery houses an important art collection, by artists who were either born or chose Pafos as an inspiring place and as a residence.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Early Christian Basilica - St. Paul's Pillar - Chrysopolitissa / Agia Kyriaki Church

Kato Pafos

The church was built in the 13th century over the ruins of the largest Early Byzantine Basilica on the island. St. Paul's Pillar is situated in the church courtyard, where according to legend the Apostle was flogged before converting the then Roman governor Sergius Paulus to Christianity.



Agia Solomoni Christian Catacomb

Leoforos Agiou Pavlou, Kato Pafos

A small underground complex of chamber tombs from the Hellenistic period, which has been called the Chapel of the Seven Sleepers, or the Seven Maccabees, to which almost every medieval pilgrim paid a visit. The complex was first used as a Christian catacomb in the 2nd century and may have served as a synagogue before that. It has 12th century frescoes and among them, carved into the plaster are the names of 13th century Crusaders. A "sacred" tree grows above the catacomb, which according to tradition, is believed to cure whoever hangs a personal votive offering on its branches.



Theoskepasti Church

Kato Pafos

According to folklore, the church was named "Theoskepasti", meaning "veiled by God", because God sent down a cloud of Fog to protect the original church during the Arab raids. The new church was built in 1923.



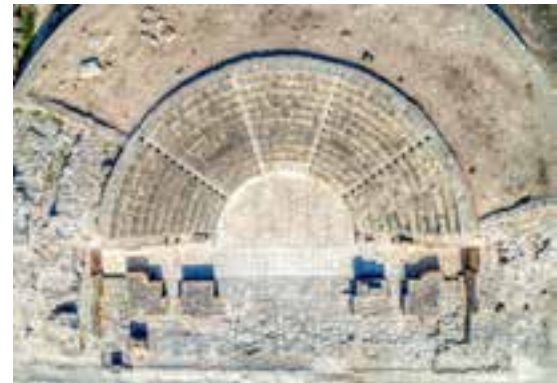
HISTORICAL MONUMENTS/ ANCIENT WONDERS

Kato Pafos Archaeological Park



Kato Pafos, near the harbour, T. +357 26306217

The inclusion of the Kato Pafos archaeological site in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1980, was the starting point for the creation of a General Plan, whose aim would be primarily to protect and maintain the archaeological remains, as well as to promote and provide comprehensive information to visitors about them. Kato Pafos archaeological Park includes sites and monuments from the 4th century B.C. up to the Middle Ages, while most remains date back 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 the early Christian Basilica and the “Tombs of the Kings”.



Tombs of the Kings

Kato Pafos, T. +357 26306295

The “Tombs of the Kings” are one of the major archaeological attractions of Pafos. These monumental underground tombs carved out of solid rock, date back to the 3rd century BC and some are decorated with Doric pillars. High ranking officials rather than Kings were buried here, but the magnificence of the tombs gave the location its current name.



Medieval Fort of Pafos

Harbour-Kato Pafos

It was originally built during the Byzantine era to protect the harbour. The fort was rebuilt later on by the Lusignans in the 13th century, but was dismantled by the Venetians. It was rebuilt by the Ottomans in the 16th century when they conquered the island.



“Loutra” - Ottoman Hamam (Baths)

Near the old market place

The Ottoman baths operated up until the 1950's. They consist of a stone vaulted building with three areas: a reception area, an intermediate area and the main baths. The building has now been restored and is used as the Pafos Municipality cultural centre.



HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Pafos Old Town (Ktima)

The Old town Pafos, also known as Ktima. Within the old town you will find medieval, Ottoman and neoclassical buildings demonstrating the island's rich colonial history.

This is the historic city center of Pafos and it is among the most charming places to walk around and explore. This Old Town was rehabilitated in 2017 to restore its public places and historical buildings so they have a great look. In 2017, the Old Town received funding to restore its historic buildings and public spaces, meaning it currently looks tip top. Dine outdoors, watch the sunset, and shop at Kennedy Square and Makariou Avenue. The latter's known for its boutiques and farmer's market. The unique architecture of the Public Library, the Town hall the District Administration of

Pafos and the numerous neoclassical buildings. In the same square you will find the Town Hall, another neoclassical building built within the Municipal Gardens. An architectural reference to ancient Greece with the Parthenon like columns. Another neoclassical historic building found in the old city, is the District Administration of Pafos, which was renovated during the city's restoration. Another 1920s build is the old Post office located next to the District Administration. Finally visit the 'Palia Ilektriki' (Old Powerhouse) Cultural Centre which has recently been transformed and hold various events. If you walk past the Public Library, you will find Kennedy square. This is the main square of Pafos where at times dance, music events and art exhibitions are hosted. The square was remodeled in 2017 adding a modern touch in the heart of the old town. Archbishop



HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Makarios Avenue is the main shopping street of the old city, with buildings dating from the 1920s. For the shopping enthusiasts, a walk down Archbishop Makarios Avenue shopping street will not disappoint. There you will find both high street shops as well as unique boutiques to satisfy all tastes. The old town market offers Shops selling leather shoes, jewellery, souvenirs, spectacles and sunglasses and designer labels and the Municipality fruit market. The Old town market is an experience that should not be missed. Built in the 1920s where meat, fish and vegetable traders sold their produce, it has now been transformed.

Take a stroll through the market to find unique shops selling leather shoes, jewelry, souvenirs, spectacles, sunglasses and designer labels and discover the Cypriot culture in person. Step out to the Municipality Market just next door and find an array of colorful fresh fruit, vegetables and local produce for a true taste of Cyprus. Located next to the town market the 'Hani of Ibrahim' entices the visitors to explore the neighbourhood. Abandoned in the early 1960s, the building was recently restored to combine modern architecture and traditional brickwork. Housing travellers and traders in the past, it now hosts unique workshops with distinctive crafts and local products. Explore the place to find paintings, silk, porcelain and wood workshops. Choose special jewellery inspired by Italian culture, ancient Greek mythology and the sea or handmade jewellery made from precious metals and stones. Incite your taste buds with exceptional carob syrup, traditional marmalades, honey and Cypriot sweets or for the savoury lovers discover Cypriot deli and cheese. Enjoy delicious deserts at the local bakery or a gourmet meal at the restaurant.



St. kendeas church, the Turkish baths & Ayia Sofia Mosque

Religion plays an important part in the Cypriot culture, hence the old city includes many religious monuments including the St Kendeas church, St. Theodoros church, the Ottoman baths and Ayia Sofia mosque. Saint Kendeas church was built in 1923 and opened officially in 1952. The Saint's name is celebrated on October 6th and many visit the church on the day to worship him. Saint Theodoros church is located near the Byzantine Museum, built in 1896 and renovated in 1917 and 1923.

Street Art

If you take a wander around the streets of old Paphos, you will occasionally stumble upon some random art installations. Most of them are situated in a small area to the west of Kennedy Square. However, there are a few others scattered around, so it pays to explore.

StreetArt Square is an annual event that takes place in Paphos Old Town. During the festival, street artists from all around the world are gathered in order to create their works on the walls of Paphos. Each year a different part of the town is chosen and parallel events such as concerts, conferences and screenings take place.

Sunset

The most magnificent sunsets over Paphos from the Old Town and Mouttalos Area.

End your stroll around the old town, at the Mouttalos Area and watch as the sun sets over Paphos, taking in the magnificent view.

Cafes, lounge bars & restaurants

Relax at one of the numerous cafes in the old city like the Hamam Café Lounge Bar. Fill your belly with delicious Cypriot food at one of the traditional taverns located within the old town.

Visit the Old Powerhouse at the heart of the old town and enjoy a meal, or visit the 'Hani of Ibrahim' for some gourmet meals. As the sun sets and the air mellows have a drink at one of the local bars while taking in the town's fascinating beauty.

PAFOS DISTRICT

Kouklia Local Archaeological Museum of Palaipafos and archeological site

The archaeological site of Palaipafos ('old Pafos' in Greek) is located in Kouklia Village and was one of the most important city-kingdoms of Cyprus, as well as the first Cypriot site to be included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO in 1980.

There are two versions of how Palaipafos was founded; one story tells that Agapenor, the King of Tegea (Peloponesus), founded the city-kingdom on his way back from the Trojan War. A second legend tells that Kinyras, the local legendary king (12th century) was the founder and first High Priest of The Sanctuary of Aphrodite, which is one of the most significant monuments at the site and the most famous of the Goddess' sanctuaries. Its ancient remains date back to the 12th century BC, whilst it remained a place of worship until the 3rd - 4th centuries AD.

The other significant monuments of Palaipafos are: The House of Leda; the northeast gate of the defensive wall; the city wall and the Palace of Hadji Abdulla; the Church of Panagia Katholiki; the

Lusignan Manor House; the cemeteries and the Lusignan sugar-cane refinery in the coastal plain.

The museum, housed in a Lusignan Manor, exhibits many interesting finds from the area and portrays how the Cult of the Goddess of Fertility developed into the Cult of Aphrodite, whilst the sugar-cane refinery is also open to visitors.

The site is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

The local Archaeological Museum of Palaipafos (Kouklia) is housed in the eastern wing of the Lusignian Medieval Manor House in the archaeological site of Kouklia village. The museum's two rooms present finds from the archaeological site of ancient Palaipafos as well as from the area's cemeteries.

The first room's floor is covered by a roman mosaic, and it includes important finds from the sanctuary of Aphrodite. In front of the left wall stands the conical stone which served as the cult idol in the sanctuary. In front of the right-hand wall a terracotta bath is on display, a find which witnesses the settlement of the Mycenaean Greeks on the island. In this room we can also see other finds dating from the 13th century B.C. to the Roman period. In the cases of the second room important finds from the cemeteries of the area, principally from Vathyrkaka, Teratsoudia, Skales, Evreti and Marcello are on display. These find date from the 2nd millennium B.C. until Roman times and include stone tools, bronze objects, pottery, jewels, inscriptions and statues. Limestone Ionian and Corinthian capitals are arranged in equal distance between them in the middle of the room. The last section of the room is dedicated to Medieval and more recent times. Here we can see local glazed pottery next to imported pottery from Italy, as well as plain pottery which was used for the production of sugar. At the back of the room two large bronze cannons belonging to Venetian ships are on display.



Geroskipou Village Folk Art Museum



3km east of Pafos

The name Geroskipou derives from the classical Greek “Hieros Kipos” meaning “Sacred garden”. It is believed that in ancient times it used to be an extensive area of beautiful gardens, dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite. Today the gardens have been replaced by the modern village renowned for its “Cyprus delights” sweets. Geroskipou is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

T. +357 26306216

The museum is housed in the 18th century “house of Hadjismith”. It carries a rich collection of Cypriot folk art and crafts consisting of pottery, kilims and scarves, as well as tools used in silk production. The building is named after Sir Sidney Smith, a British Admiral, who appointed the owner of the house, Andreas Zimboulaki, as British consul. Thus the house came to be referred to as “the house of Hadjismith”.



Pano Panagia Village

35km northeast of Pafos

The village of Pano Panagia is the birthplace of the late Archbishop Makarios III, first President of the Republic of Cyprus. His humble house has been converted into a museum.



Fyti Village Weaving Museum

Fyti village, 27km northeast of Pafos, T. +357 99824544, +357 26732782

Fyti village has been known for its own special style of weaving since medieval times. The textiles made in the village are known as “Fithkiotika” and stand out for their variety in design and for their rich colours. Examples of such textiles are exhibited in the museum where one can also observe how they are made.



The Steni Museum of Village Life

40km northeast of Pafos T. +357 99625004, +357 26352143

The Museum is dedicated to all those men, women and children who lived in Steni Village during the difficult and challenging years from the day of its creation to the end of the Second World War. A weaving on the loom scene, a ploughing scene, tools and equipment, handicrafts, kitchenware, pots and jars, traditional clothing, are some of the exhibits of this village museum.



Polis archaeological museum Marion/ Arsinoe



26 Archiepiskopou Makariou III Avenue

Polis Chrysochous

The small town of Polis is the location where once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion, an important commercial centre of the Classical and Hellenistic periods, with close ties to Athens. During the Hellenistic-Roman periods, Marion was renamed Arsinoe. Polis has become a popular sea-side resort with a noteworthy traditional centre that maintains its beauty and many of its traditional buildings.

Agios Andronikos church This is a 16th century vaulted church in the middle of Polis with frescoes of the same period. During the Ottoman period this church was turned into a mosque. A northern annex was added to it and the frescoes were covered up. These have recently been uncovered. Other churches in the region include the 16th century church of Agia Aikaterini in the village of Kritou Tera, as well as the 15th century church of Panagia Horteni in the village of Pelathousa.

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 linked to the Aphrodite Cultural



Ecclesiastical Museum of Pafos

5, Andrea Ioannou, Next to the Pafos Bishopric T. +357 26271221

The Byzantine Museum of Pafos has an important collection of artifacts from the Byzantine period, including icons that date from the 7th to the 18th centuries. In addition to icons, exhibits include wood carvings, ecclesiastical works of metallurgy, sacerdotal vestments and embroideries, manuscripts, old printed books and frescoes. The museum houses one of the oldest icons found in Cyprus, that of Agia Marina, dating back to the 7th or 8th century.

1, Exo Vrasis Street, T. +357 26932010

The Ethnographical Museum is a private museum belonging to the Eliades family. It consists of a collection of objects from the Neolithic Age to present day, including a collection of coins.



Agia Paraskevi Church

One of the most interesting and beautiful Byzantine churches in Cyprus. It dates back to the 9th century and is a three-aisled five-domed Basilica. Its frescoes date from the 9th up to the 15th century



Agios Neofytos Monastery

9km north of Pafos, T. +357 26652481

Founded circa 1200 by Cypriot recluse and writer Neofytos. The 'Enkleistra', a cave that the hermit carved inside the mountains, is covered with some of the finest examples of Byzantine frescoes that date back to the 12th and 15th centuries. The monastery has a noteworthy ecclesiastical museum. The monastery's church contains some of the finest Post Byzantine icons dating back to the 16th century.



Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery

37km northeast of Pafos, T. +357 26722455/7

Set in beautiful surroundings, the Monastery of Chrysorrogiatissa is dedicated to 'Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate'. It was founded in 1152 by monk Ignatios who found a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary off the shore of Pafos. Legend has it that it was thrown into the sea in Asia Minor during the iconoclastic period and drifted in the sea to Pafos. The present building dates to 1770. An impressive religious ceremony is held here on August 15th, which is the Dormition Day of Virgin Mary. The monastery's Icon Depository includes an important collection of icons, religious objects and artifacts. The monastery's old winery produces some of the best vintage wines on the island.



Panagia Chryseleousa Church

Polemi village, 18km northeast of Pafos

A complex of two churches, the oldest of which is a domed cross-in-square type building possibly of the 12th century. In the 18th century a barrel-vaulted church was added, which houses excellent surviving icons dating back to the 16th century.



Panagia tou Sinti Monastery

Near Pentalia village 31km northeast of Pafos

It is an abandoned monastery on the banks of the Xeros river. The central nave of the monastery, dating back to the 16th century is in good condition and is considered one of the most important buildings of the Venetian period. In 1997 it received the "Europa Nostra" award for restoration and conservation.



Church of Panagia Chryseleousa

Empa village, 3km north of Pafos

A combination of two churches, the eastern part of which was built in the 12th century, possibly over the ruins of an Early Christian Basilica, as a cruciform church with a dome. An extension to the west was built later on, during the 13th century with the addition of a new cruciform with a dome. Rare 12th, 13th, 15th and 16th centuries frescoes survive in the interior of the church.



Agios Georgios Basilicas - Pegeia

Pegeia village 11km north of Pafos

Approximately 4.5km from the village of Pegeia, near the fishing shelter, lay the ruins of two early Christian Basilicas with very interesting mosaic floors depicting animals. This must have been the site of an important early Christian settlement. Nearby are rock-hewn tombs of the Roman period.



Choulou Village Churches

22km northeast of Pafos

During the Middle Ages it was a well-known feudal village, associated with the popular Cypriot folk song, 'Arodafnousa'. Significant churches of the village are the Church of the Panagia Pantanassa with 16th century frescoes, the Byzantine chapel of Agios Georgios and the 12th century chapel of Agios Theodoros.



Byzantine Museum of Arsinoe

Arsinoe Bishopric, Peristerona village 44km north of Pafos, 9km south east of Polis, T. +357 26352515

The museum is situated at the Holy Bishopric of Arsinoe. It houses one of the largest collections of icons dating from the 13th to the 19th centuries, wood carved ecclesiastic items, local and imported silver and metal artifacts, as well as local textiles. Rare books and manuscripts are also on display.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Polis Agios Andronikos church

37km north of Pafos

Agios Andronikos church This is a 16th century vaulted church in the middle of Polis with frescoes of the same period. During the Ottoman period this church was turned into a mosque. A northern annex was added to it and the frescoes were covered up. These have recently been uncovered. Other churches in the region include the 16th century church of Agia Aikaterini in the village of Kritou Tera, as well as the 15th century church of Panagia Horteni in the village of Pelathousa.



Kato Pyrgos

About 100km from Pafos

Kato Pyrgos is a small village in the Tylliria area, north of Pafos, lying on the roots of the Troodos mountain range, with a stunning view of the sea. Kato Pyrgos is one of the few villages left in Cyprus where the natural environment remains virtually untouched and maintains its natural beauty. It is an ideal spot for fishing and hiking. Rich in history and culture, Kato Pyrgos hosts many monuments, chapels and churches. Especially interesting is the chapel of Virgin Mary 'Galoktisti', built using milk instead of water, around the 12th and 14th centuries.



St Georgios Nikoxilitis

As one of the richest monasteries on the island, in terms of land, Saint George Nikoxilitis formed a hub of activity until it was burned and looted in 1821. Founded between the 9th and 10th Century, the monastery is located 3km northeast of Droushia Village, and was brought back to its former glory before it suffered extensive damage following a major earthquake in 1953. It is currently in its final stages of restoration.



PAFOS HISTORICAL TAG

Sanctuary of Aphrodite and Palaipafos Museum



Kouklia village, 14km east of Pafos on the Pafos-Lemesos road, T. +357 26432155

Palaipafos was one of the most celebrated pilgrimage centres of the classical Greek world and one of the city-kingdoms of Cyprus in antiquity. Here lie the ruins of the famous sanctuary of Aphrodite, whose remains date back to the 12th century BC. The sanctuary remained a place of worship until the 3rd or 4th century AD. The museum is housed in a nearby Lusignan manor. It houses impressive finds from the region, dating from the Chalcolithic Age up to the Middle Ages. It portrays how the cult of the goddess of fertility developed into the cult of Aphrodite. Excavations are continuing at the sanctuary, as well as in and around the ruins of the town and the necropolis. The sanctuary is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Pre - Historic Settlement of Lemba



Lemba village 5km north of Pafos

Excavations in the village of Lemba have brought to life an important settlement of the Chalcolithic Age. Near the site, replicas of five houses from this period have been reconstructed using the same materials and the same building methods that were used in Chalcolithic times (3900-2500 BC). The Chalcolithic settlement site is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Archaeological Site of Maa Paleokastro - Museum

Coral Bay, 9km from Pafos, T. +357 97883968

The archaeological site is a small settlement dating back to the 12th century BC, the end of the Late Bronze age. According to archeologists, the settlement has been termed a “colony” of the first Achaean (Mycenaean) Greeks who migrated to Cyprus circa 1200 BC, after the fall of the Mycenaean Kingdoms in mainland Greece. This small museum with its unusual architecture was designed by Andrea Bruno, a prominent architect, Professor at the University of Turin. The museum depicts the colonisation of the island by the Greeks.



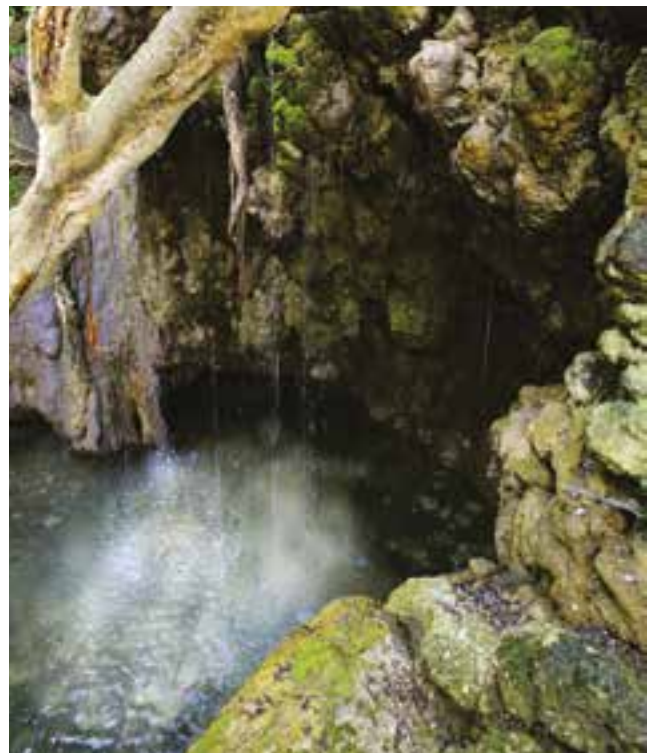
“Baths of Aphrodite” - Akamas



Akamas region near Polis, 48km north of Pafos

The northwestern peninsula of Cyprus, known as Akamas, is a wild uninhabited region with spectacular landscapes and beaches, due to be designated a National Park. The area is named after Akamantas, an Athenian warrior and son of Theseus, who arrived here after the Trojan War. It is a unique area of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. Almost all the geological formations of Cyprus are met here, from narrow deep valleys, caves and islets to gorges, and there are over 500 different types of plants. The nature trails that cross the peninsula pass through unspoiled areas of rough beauty. The area is ideal for hiking, cycling, diving and swimming in crystal clear waters.

The “Baths of Aphrodite” is an area in Akamas between Polis and Cape Arnaouti. It derived its name from a small grotto shaded by an old fig tree, in the waters of which, legend has it, the goddess Aphrodite used to bathe. According to mythology, this is where she met her lover Adonis. The site is on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



“Petra Tou Romiou” - Birthplace Of Aphrodite



Pafos - Lemesos motorway, 25km from Pafos

Cyprus is renowned as the island of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. The “Petra tou Romiou” area is one of the most beautiful coastlines in Cyprus, where, according to mythology, Aphrodite rose from the waves. The Greek name, “Petra tou Romiou” (“the Rock of the Greek”) is associated with the legendary Byzantine hero, Digenis Akritas, who according to legend, kept the marauding Saracen Arabs (7th-10th centuries) at bay with his super human strength. With one hand he was said to have grabbed hold of the Kyreneia mountain range thereby forming “Pentadaktylos”, the Five Finger Mountain, while with the other hand he heaved a huge rock and tossed it into the sea at the Saracens who were trying to dock. It is believed that said rock is the one found in this location thus giving the area its name. The site is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Pegeia Fountains

The picturesque “Pegeia fountains” of which many folk songs have been sung, can be seen in the pretty cobbled square of the village.



Episkopi Environmental Information Centre

Episkopi village, T. +357 26642234

The Episkopi Environmental Information Centre is located on the boundaries of Episkopi village in Pafos. The Exhibit Hall provides information about the geology, flora and fauna of the area by using high quality photographic material, touch screens, dioramas and microdioramas. The Centre is surrounded by a botanical garden where the significant plants of the area are organised in thematic groups (endemics, bulbs, rare plants).





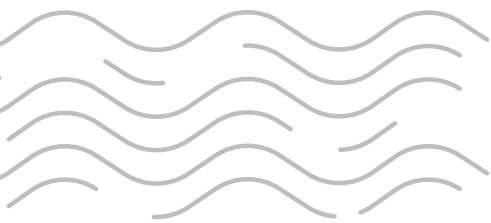
AMMOCHOSTOS (FAMAGUSTA)

Golden sandy beaches abound on the eastern coast of Cyprus, in the free part of the Ammochostos area

Golden sandy beaches abound on the eastern coast of Cyprus, in the free part of the Ammochostos area. The popular holiday resorts of Agia Napa and Paralimni-Protaras are a true paradise for sea lovers, watersports and night life. But there is more to the area. Inland one can also admire a number of Byzantine and Frankish monuments and museums. The magical landscape was an inspiration to Greek Nobel poet laureate, George Seferis. Sights worth seeing include the medieval monastery at the centre of Agia Napa, the hundreds of windmills in the sprawling fields and the many Byzantine churches in the Paralimni - Protaras region and in the surrounding villages.

The region is the main potato-producing area on the island and is known as Kokkinochoria, meaning “red soil villages”, thanks to their fertile red soil. The villages of this area are equally renowned for their folk poets and traditional song performers, who are regarded as the most inspired on the island.





Did you know that the geological formation of Cape Gkreko dates back to the Upper Cretaceous period, 84 to 75 million years ago?

“Thalassa” Agia Napa Municipal Museum

14, Kriou Nerou Street, T. +357 23816366

The “Thalassa” Municipal Museum’s main purpose is to present to the audiences the impact and the significance of the sea upon the history of the island. The exhibits of the museum cover a chronological span, from the paleontological to historic periods until present times. Among the exhibits are bones and skulls of Cypriot pygmy mammals, a 4th Century BC Greek trading vessel, the original of which was found off the coast of Kyreneia, as well as Cypriot antiquities and stuffed marine life animals.



Traditional House in Paralimni

The Traditional House in Paralimni was built during the early 19th century. It was renovated in 2010. It consists of 6 rooms and a big yard. It houses exhibits that depict the traditional rural way of life of Cyprus during the 19th century. All the exhibited items are associated with the inhabitant’s everyday life, so one may see farming tools, traditional house hold items and furniture.



Deryneia Folk Art Museum

2, Demetri Liperti Street, T. +357 23824526

Deryneia Folk Art Museum is situated in a beautiful old house, which serves as a charming venue for civil marriages. Its collection consists of folk art items from past centuries.



Ecclesiastical Museum

9km north of Agia Napa, To arrange a visit please call +357 23823932

An old chapel of Agios Georgios has been turned into a museum to house a small but important collection of ecclesiastic Artifacts and icons, such as a 15th century icon of Christ.



Avgorou Village

20km north west of Agia Napa

Avgorou has many Byzantine and Post Byzantine churches. The main church of the village is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. In the interior of the church, there are two double-sided 17th century icons, one of St. George and the other featuring St. John the Baptist. There is also an icon of Christ dating back to 1629. Other churches include the chapel of Agios Georgios and the chapel of Agios Georgios Teratsiotis.

Ethnographic Museum

52, Leoforos Karyon, T. +357 23922680

The Avgorou Ethnographic Museum is situated in an old two storey house. Its exhibits depict the way of life of past generations in the area.



RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Agia Napa Monastery



This 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.



Paralimni

After the city of Ammochostos was occupied by Turkish troops in 1974, this small township became the temporary administrative centre of the district. It has an interesting two-aisled church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which is decorated with unusual 18th century porcelain plates. Sections of the church that date back to the 13th century house a small ecclesiastical museum. There is a number of other interesting churches in the wider Paralimni area.



Sotira Village

Sotira was an important village in Byzantine times. There are five interesting Byzantine churches in the village, particularly as regards to their architecture and beautiful wall structure. The church of Agios Mamas is situated on the eastern side of the village and was built in the early 16th century. Most of its frescoes also date back to the 16th century. About one kilometre to the west, stands the cruciform church of Panagia Chordakion, the church of Agios Georgios Chordakion and the church of Agios Theodoros (of which only the narthex survives). In the centre of the village stands the church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour (13th - 16th century) with excellent examples of post - Comnenian art (early 13th century).



Agios Andronikos, Liopetri

13km west of Agia Napa

In the village of Liopetri there is a 16th century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and only one 15th century church of Agios Andronikos with an octagonal dome and the remains of frescoes which can still be detected in the apse. Liopetri has an ongoing tradition in basket weaving. A barn near the centre of the village was the location of a long battle against British troops on September 2nd 1958. This is now one of the most revered memorials of the 1955-59 Liberation Struggle.



Avgorou Village

20km north west of Agia Napa

Avgorou has many Byzantine and Post Byzantine churches. The main church of the village is dedicated to Saints Peter



Xylofagou Village Agio Georgios church

14km west of Agia Napa

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



Frenaros Village 12-15th century churches

12km north west of Agia Napa

The village of Frenaros has a number of small Byzantine churches, such as the churches of the Archangelos Michael and of Agios Andronikos, which date back to the 12th century. Also of interest is the 15th century church of Agia Marina, containing frescoes, painted by various artists. Only a few of the frescoes can still be seen.



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 50 artists from around the world and The Park of Mediterranean Plants, Cacti and Succulents is an ongoing project to showcase the various cacti and dry plant varieties of the island.



Potamos Liopetriou

15km west of Agia Napa

The estuary of Potamos is a picturesque fishing shelter. The remains of a Venetian period watchtower are also nearby. Arthur Rimbaud, the French poet whose work influenced the surrealists (1854-1891) worked in this area in the early 1880s.



Cape Gkreko National Park

It is believed that a temple dedicated to Aphrodite once existed in the Cape Gkreko area. Cape Gkreko National Park is an area of unique natural beauty, where one can admire magnificent cliff formations. Many of the 50 different orchid species growing on the island are found here, as well as crocuses and lilies. The local nature trail links the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Hadjiyiorkis Mills (workshops)

80 Fotis Pittas, Frenaros-Famagusta

The Flour Mills and Museum was created within the framework of preservation and information about the traditional rural life of Cyprus. The museum is an interactive space where tradition and intangible cultural heritage around flour and kneading are preserved and revived. During a scheduled visit, you may experience the traditional heritage and interact with it, with all your senses: watch the history of flour making through optical installations, observe its traditional process and listen to the sounds that accompanied the daily life of our ancestors, such as that of the stone mill, which operates during the tour; knead your own bread loaf, smell the aroma of freshly baked bread and taste the authentic Cypriot bread. Guided tours with traditional bread kneading are offered every Monday and Thursday, from 10am to 3pm

TROODOS



Ten Byzantine period churches found on Troodos mountain are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Ten Byzantine period churches found on Troodos mountain are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Stavros tou Agiasmati at Platanistasa, Panagia tou Araka at Lagoudera, Timios Stavros at Pelendri, Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis at Kakopetria, Panagia Podithou at Galata, Panagia Asinou at Nikitari, Agios Ioannis Lambadistis at Kalopanagiotis, Panagia at Moutoullas, Archangelos Michael at Pedoulas and Metamorfosis tou Sotiros at Palaichori.

Agios Ioannis Lambadistis Monastery





Did you know that the internationally known ophiolite complex of Troodos, is one out of only a few in the world, that has undergone extensive scientific research in order to get a better understanding on the formation of the ocean crust?

Palaichori Byzantine Heritage Museum

T. +357 99828700, +357 97790830

The museum is housed in a restored building. It exhibits Byzantine artifacts and icons from the churches of Palaichori and nearby villages. The exhibits date from the 12th up to the 17th centuries. They include silver and bronze works, wood-carving and textiles.



Cyprus Railway Museum, Evrychou

T. +357 22933010

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. At the rear side of the Museum the platform and a part of the track have been reconstructed using the original rails. A hand pump track used for the inspection of the line and a freight wagon are exhibited in the yard.



Pedoulas Village, Byzantine Museum & Folk Art Museum

78km southwest of Lefkosia

Pedoulas is a hill resort renowned for its cherries. In the village one can visit the Church of the Archangelos Michael, the Byzantine Museum and the Folk Art Museum.



Stavros tou Agiasmati Church - Platanistasa Village



48km southwest of Lefkosia, 15km from Agros, 30km off the Lefkosia - Astromeritis road, T. +357 22652090, +357 99677216

About 3km outside the village of Platanistasa one can find the renowned church of Stavros tou Agiasmati, a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. It retains the most complete cycles of frescoes of the second half of the 15th century.



Panagia tou Araka Church - Lagoudera Village



56km southwest of Lefkosia, 15km from Agros village or off the Kakopetria-Troodos-Limassol road (Karvounas junction),
T. +357 99557369

The 12th century church of Panagia tou Arakais a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. It contains some of the finest frescoes of the late Comnenian style (1192), comparable to those prevailing throughout Greece, the Balkans and Russia. The church along with the churches of Asinou and of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, are considered to be the most important Byzantine period churches on the island. Visitors may ask the priest from the nearby monastery to open the church and escort them inside in order to admire the frescoes.



Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis-Church - Kakopetria Village



5km from Kakopetria village
T. +357 99484423, +357 22922583

The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis (St. Nicholas of the Roof) stands about 2.5km from Kakopetria. It once belonged to a monastery complex. It is entirely covered with frescoes dating from the 11th to the 17th centuries and it is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. It derives its name from its pitched wooden roof. The church is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Timios Stavros Church - Pelendri Village



42,5km north of Lemesos, of Trimiklini - Lemesos road
T. +357 99909393

The village of Pelendri was once the property of Jean de Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugh IV. There are two interesting churches in the village. One is the 14th century church of Timios Stavros with superb frescoes of the Palaeologan and of other periods. It is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Panagia Podithou Church - Galata Village



58km southwest of Lefkosia, To arrange a visit please call +357 99671776, +357 99720918

Nearby is the church of Panagia Podithou, which once belonged to a monastery. It was built in 1502. Its frescoes are of the Italo-Byzantine style, which appeared on the island towards the end of the 15th century. The church is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Panagia Asinou Church - Nikitari Village



48km west of Lefkosia, Nikitari village T. +357 99830329, +357 22852534

The Panagia Asinou Church is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is a small church dedicated to the Virgin of "Phorbia", with frescoes dating from the 12th to the 17th centuries, which are considered to be some of the finest on the island. The name comes from an 11th century BC Greek city called Asine.



Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Church - Kalopanagiotis Village



69km from Lefkosia, T. +357 22953460

The picturesque village of Kalopanagiotis is known for its healthy sulphur springs and for the church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis.

The Church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis and Byzantine Museum

Originally a monastery, today's church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis is a complex of three churches: Agios Irakleidios, Agios Ioannis Lampadistis and a Latin chapel - all under a single pitched roof. The church is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The church of Agios Irakleidios was built in the 11th century while its frescoes date back to the 13th and 16th centuries. The templon is particularly interesting, covered with gargoyles, including a heraldic Lusignan lion and a Byzantine eagle.

The church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis was built in 1731. The saint's tomb, which dates back to the 12th century, can be found under the narrow northeastern arch whereas the saint's skull lies in a niche. The icon of Lampadistis dates back to 1543. A very interesting Byzantine museum can be seen near the church. The Latin Chapel contains the most complete series of Italo-Byzantine frescoes in Cyprus.



Panagia Church - Moutoullas Village



73,5km from Lefkosia, To arrange a visit please call T. +357 97733480, +357 22952677

The tiny 13th century chapel of Panagiatou Moutoulla has a steep-pitched wooden roof and frescoes dating back to 1280. It is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. The village of Moutoullas is also known for its ongoing tradition of carved wooden basins.



Archangelos Michael Church - Pedoulas Village

T. +357 99112352



The painted church of the Archangelos Michael is situated in the lowest part of the village. It is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site and dates back to 1474. It has a pitched wooden roof typical of the Troodos churches. The frescoes are of the local post-Byzantine style that developed prior to the Venetian rule.



Metamorfosis tou Sotiros Church - Palaichori Village

T. +357 99828700, +357 97790830

A listed UNESCO World Heritage Site, 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 frescoes of the post-Byzantine period.



Pelendri Village

38 km north of Lemesos, T. +357 99909393, +357 99662286

The church of Panagia Katholiki in the middle of the village, which dates back to the early 16th century and has. Has frescoes of the Italo- Byzantine style.



Kourдали Village

68,5km southwest of Lefkosia

The Church of Panagia Chrysokourdaliotissa

It is a three-aisled church with a steep pitched roof and flat roof tiles. It was built in the 16th century as the chapel of a monastery dedicated to the Virgin Mary and founded by deacon Ioannis Kourdalis, according to its foundation stone. The frescoes are from the same period, with western influences. The iconostasis is a beautiful example of 16th and 17th century woodcarving, with icons from the same period. Excellent examples of wood carving make up the old church pews, dating back to the 16th century.



Galata, Panagia village churches

58km southwest of Lefkosia, To arrange a visit please call T. +357 99671776, +357 99720918

There are three painted churches in and around the village of Galata:

The church of the Archangelos Michael, or Panagia Theotokos, is a timber-roofed chapel, just below the village, painted in the post-Byzantine style of the early 16th century.

The church of Agios Sozomenos, which stands in the middle of the old village, dates back to the early 16th century and retains a complete series of frescoes of the post-Byzantine style.

The small church of Agia Paraskevi on the old Kakopetria-Galata road has frescoes dating back to 1514.



Another interesting place worth a visit is the old inn, "the Hani Kalliana", which has been restored.

Kykkos Monastery and Museum



91km southwest of Lefkosia, 13km from the village of Pedoulas, T. +357 22942727

The best-known and richest monastery of Cyprus, is Kykkos Monastery founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It possesses one of three surviving icons ascribed to Saint Luke. It is covered in silvergilt, enclosed in a shrine of tortoise shell and mother-of-pearl, and stands in front of the iconostasis. The museum is an integral part of the monastery and houses a priceless collection of icons, consecrated vessels, manuscripts and Cypriot antiquities. The first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III served as a novice here. At his wish, he was buried at Throni, a scenic location 3km west of the monastery. Annual religious fairs (panigiria) are held on August 15th and September 8th at Kykkos square outside the Monastery.



Trooditissa Monastery

42km southwest of Lemesos, 5km northwest of Platres resort

Trooditissa Monastery is situated in a beautiful spot among pine trees. It was originally founded in the 13th century, but the present church was built in 1731. The church contains a priceless silver-leaf covered icon of the Virgin Mary brought from Asia Minor. The monastery is closed to the public.





HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Troodos Visitor Centre

Environmental Information

42km north of Lemesos, Plateia Troodos (Troodos square),
T. +357 25420145

The Troodos Visitor Centre is situated 200m west of Troodos square. It is the first of its kind in Cyprus and provides information about the Troodos National Park, its importance in the development of the region, the various facilities and activities available, as well as information about the mountains natural environment in general. The Centre has a reception area with information on the geology and on the flora and fauna of the Troodos mountain range. A nature trail where one can see various plants and rock formations typically found in the region is linked to the building.



Troodos Geopark

Amiantos village
T. +357 25752401 +357 22952043, +357 22952004

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 also a plethora of evidence of the past mining activity and the community which once flourished there. The Geopark Visitor Centre is housed in the newly restored elementary school of the abandoned mine. The building is an example of fine architecture with historical characteristics and features.



Botanical Gardens in Amiantos

Old Amiantos Asbestos Mine, T. +357 25752490

Following The ophrastus' example who is considered the father of botanical science the Cyprus Forestry Department has created Troodos Botanical Garden.. It is located within the boundaries of the old Amiantos (asbestos) mine by "Karvounas" - Troodos road, at an altitude of 1400 metres. The area is included in the "Natura 2000" network of protected areas of Cyprus and it is also a member of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). It is one of three botanic gardens established by the Department of Forests in Cyprus; the other two are located at Athalassa (Nicosia) and Akamas (Baths of Aphrodite). The botanic garden was inaugurated by the Department of Forests in 2004 and it is still in the process of enriching the area with new flora species, as well as various sections and services. Around 250 species of flora can be found today at the Garden, one may see common, rare and also endangered flora species.



Platres Village/Resort

37km north west of Lemesos

Platres village is the largest and most stylish mountain resort in the Lemesos district, a popular place for excursions and a refuge from the intense summer heat. The beauty of the area was immortalised in a poem by the Greek Nobel laureate George Seferis. Mesa Potamos monastery, near Platres is situated in an idyllic area with a small waterfall and it's one of the many attractions of the area.



Waterfalls

Millomeris Waterfall

Millomeris Waterfall, just a kilometre away from Platres, is a 15 metre high waterfall with easy access. If you want a light walk with a waterfall view at the end, start from Platres and walk for about a kilometre through nature and end up at Millomeris. If you want an even easier way of access, just walk down a flight of stairs and end up at the waterfall straight away; gargling waters and green scenery will be there to welcome you.



Pitsilia

26km north of Lemesos To arrange a visit please call T. +357 99318832

The region east of Mount Olympos is known as Pitsilia and includes about 40 villages. Its tallest peaks are Madari (1612m) and Papoutsia (1554m). The picturesque villages nestle on the mountain side amidst vineyards, or are hidden in valleys, maintaining much of their traditional charm. The surrounding hills and valleys are full of vines, almond, hazelnut, walnut and other types of fruit trees. The changing landscape, the variety of shapes and colours, the old churches and chapels and the warm hospitality of the local inhabitants, make the Pitsilia region one of the most beautiful parts of Cyprus. The Pitsilia area is accessible either from Lemesos, or from Lefkosia. From Lemesos: Lemesos - Gerasa - Agios Theodoros - Agros road or Lemesos - Trimiklini - Pelendri - Agros road. From Lefkosia: Lefkosia - Palaichori - Agros road or Lefkosia - Kakopetria - Karvounas - Kyperounta road.



Agros Village

39km from Lemesos via Gerasa, Agios Theodoros road

Agros is in the heart of the Pitsilia region situated in a beautiful valley with a dry climate and cool springs. The village was given its name by forty monks who came to Cyprus from Asia Minor during the iconoclastic period and named it after the place they had left behind, 'Megas Agros'. A 9th century monastery was built by monks from Constantinople, where the 19th century Byzantine style church of Panagia Eleousa stands today. Agros, also has an icon museum. The village is renowned for its traditional products such as aromatic rosewater, 'hiomeri' (smoked ham), 'loukanika' (spicy smoked sausages) and 'lountza' (smoked pork fillet).



HERITAGE & PLACES OF INTEREST

Kyperounta Village

70km from Lefkosia, To arrange a visit please call T. +357 25813204, T. +357 99409041

The church of Timios Stavros (Church of the Holy Cross) houses the ecclesiastical museum which contains icons and religious objects belonging to the village churches. It also has a garden with local plants and herbs.



Palaichori & the Knights Templar

45km from Lefkosia on the Lefkosia - Agros - Lemesos road 15km from Agros village

As its name implies ('palaios' means old), this is a very old village. The village is mentioned in 13th century documents and it is believed the King of Cyprus Henry II gave it to the Knights Templars. Even today some of the surnames of the inhabitants have Latin roots. The 16th century church of Panagia Chrysopantanassa has marvelous frescoes.

Also worth a visit are the Liberation Struggle Museum in a house, which was once a hide-out for 1955-59 EOKA fighters, as well as the Monument dedicated to the Cypriot Mother which overlooks the region. The village is famous for its smoked ham and spicy sausages.



Spilia, 19th century olive press

68km southwest of Lefkosia

The Olive press is a single-room, stone building with a pitched roof, restored by the Department of Antiquities in 1995. The 19th century wooden olive press machine, as well as the stone olive mill and its millstones are in very good condition. Tools for producing olive oil are displayed inside. Visitors may ask for the entrance key from the "Association of Expatriates and Friends of Spilia-Kourdali" building, found next to the olive press.



Kakopetria Village

58km southwest of Lefkosia

Kakopetria is a popular hill resort with a beautiful central square and many traditional houses that have been restored. A particularly picturesque part of the village has been declared a conservation area, thus old houses have been carefully restored or reconstructed. The small 16th century church of Panagia Theotokos still retains about half of its original frescoes. The same applies to the church of Agios Georgios Perachoritis, to the north of the village dating back to the early 16th century.



Solea Valley

The beautiful valley of Solea is situated along the main Lefkosia - Troodos road (56 km from Lefkosia, 56 km from Lemesos via Kato Amiantos).

The picturesque mountain villages of Galata and Kakopetria are popular hillside resorts with a range of hotels and restaurants, but they also retain much of their traditional architecture. Both villages are famous for their Byzantine churches. Other charming villages in the area are Evrychou, Flasou and Korakou.



Marathasa Valley

Marathasa is a fertile valley, known for its cherry trees, situated on the northern slopes of the Troodos range. It is dotted with picturesque villages, such as Kalopanagiotis, Moutoullas and Pedoulas. It can be reached from the north along the Lefkosia-Evrychou-Troodos road and from the south along the Lemesos-Platres- Prodrornos road.

Byzantine Route



Visit the famous Byzantine churches of Cyprus, with their rare icons and superb frescoes. Ten of these churches are listed UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Scattered throughout the Troodos mountain regions of Marathasa, Solea and Pitsilia, and set in beautiful surroundings amongst pine trees and aromatic shrubs, they are bound to impress you.

Pitsilia

1. Stavros tou Agiasmati - Platanistasa Village
2. Metamorfosis tou Sotiros - Palaichori Village
3. Timios Stavros - Pelendri Village
4. Panagia tou Araka - Lagoudera Village

Solea

5. Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis - Kakopetria Village
6. Panagia Podithou - Galata Village
7. Panagia Asinou - Nikitari Village

Marathasa

8. Agios Ioannis Lambadistis - Kalopanagiotis Village
9. Panagia - Moutoullas Village
10. Archangel Michael - Pedoulas Village



Area above this line, under Turkish occupation since 1974

Road Network

Area Under Turkish Occupation Since 1974

Lefkosia (Nicosia)

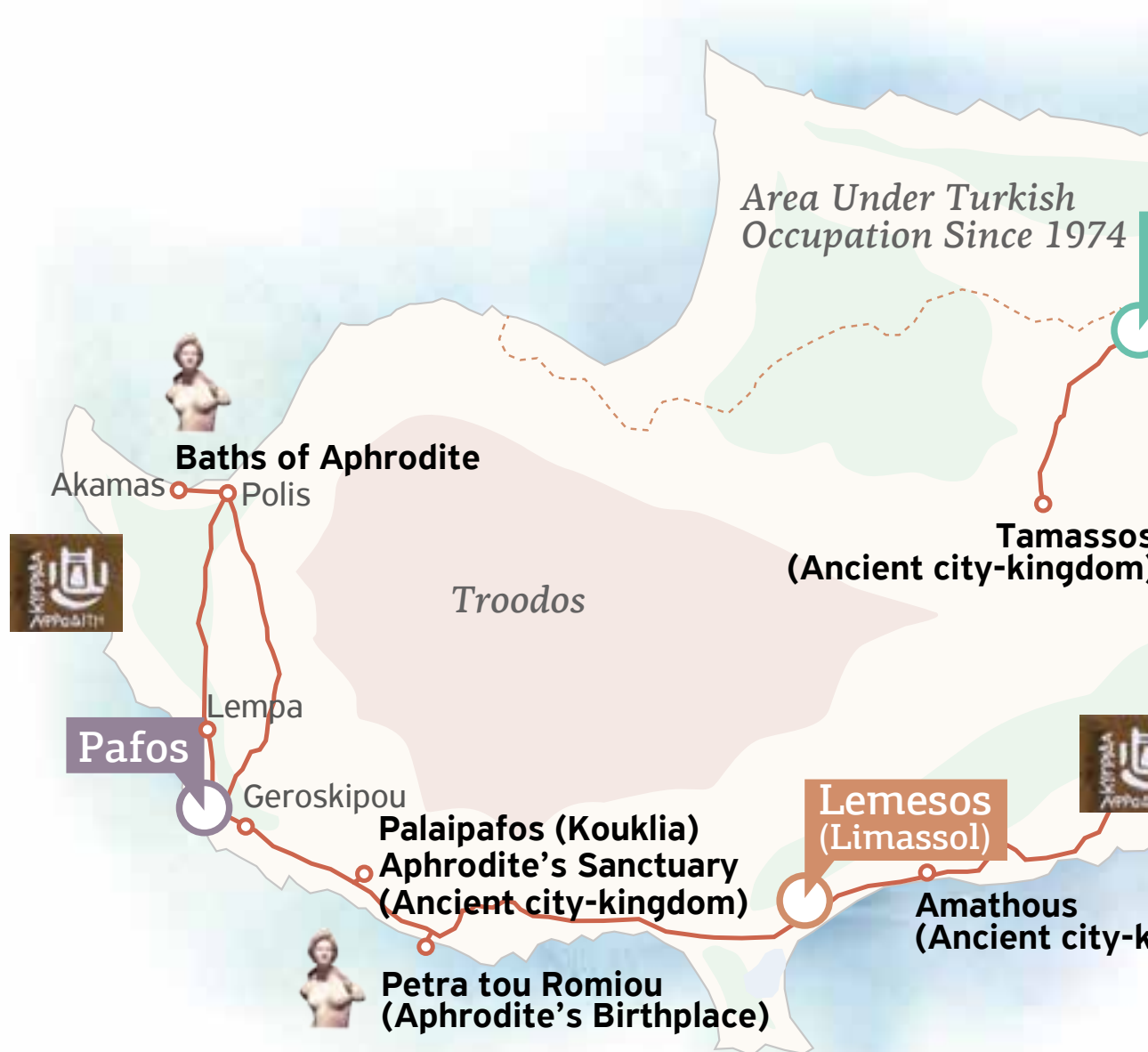
Lemesos (Limassol)



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 Route Map

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

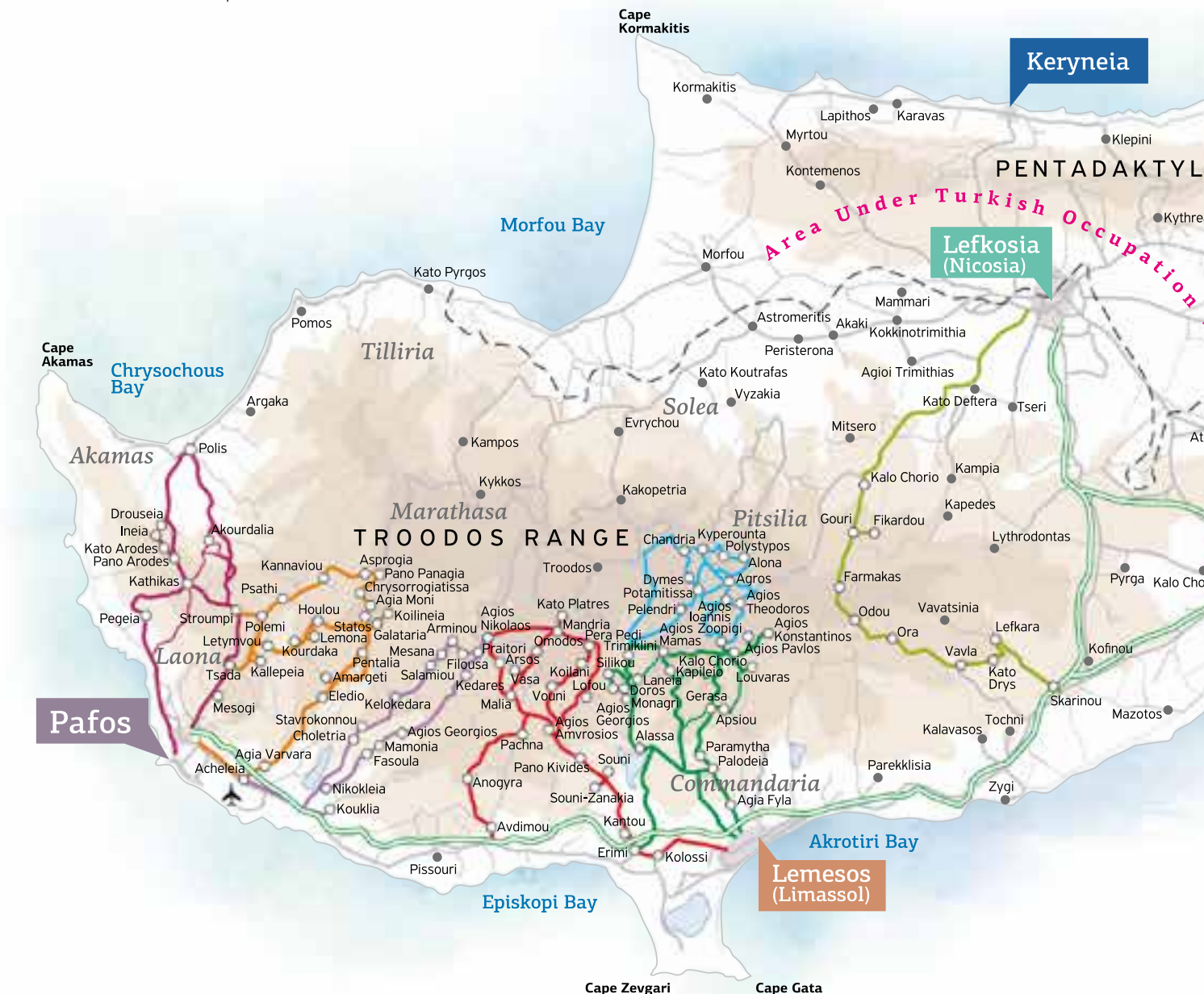
Known and unknown corners that preserve the legend of the island's most notable wine.

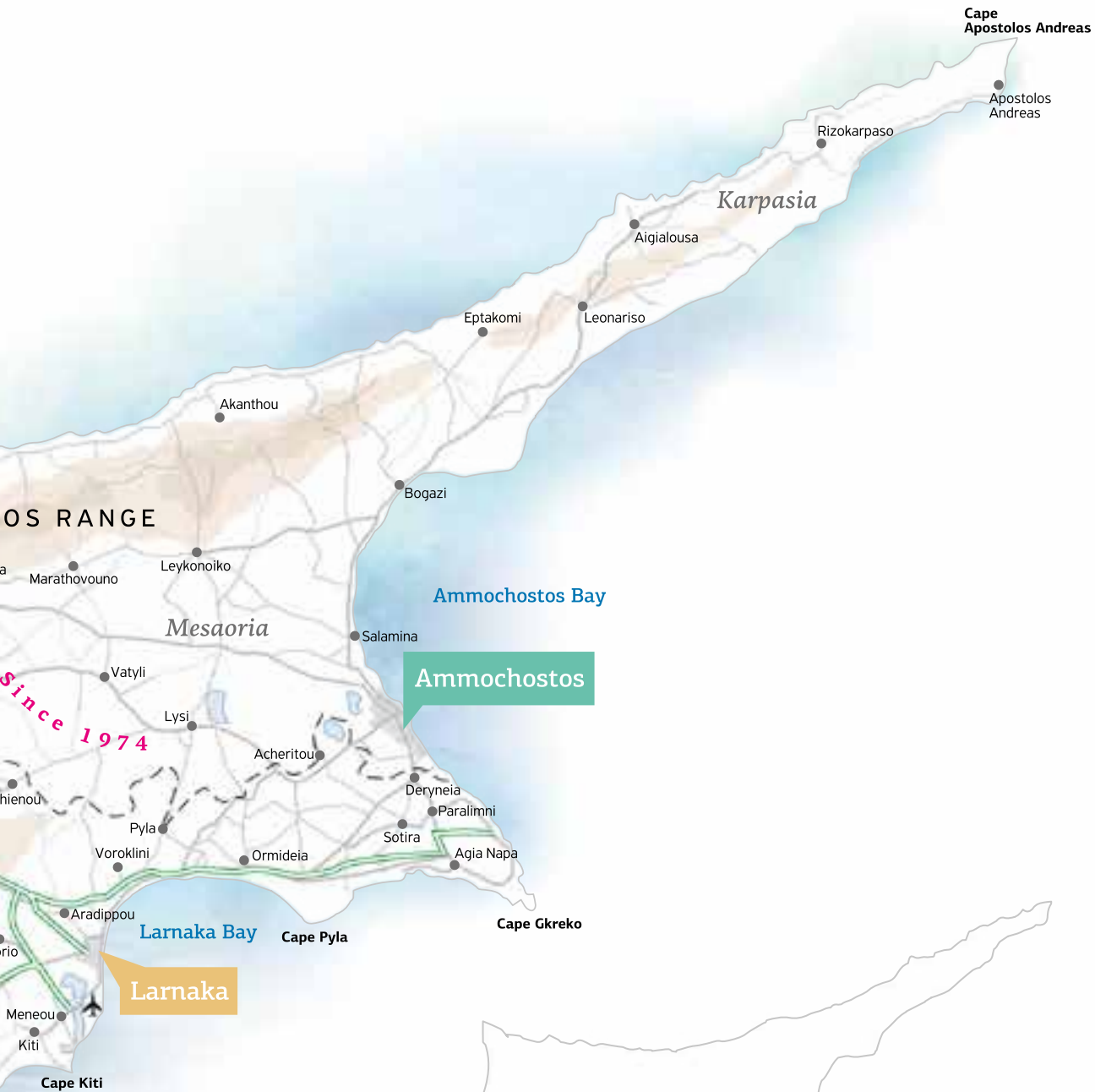
6. Pitsilia

Beautiful scenery along with excellent wine.

7. Mountainous Larnaka-Lefkosia

Superb locations with living traditions.



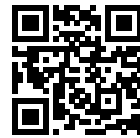


Wine making regions of Cyprus



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!







130.01.22



@visitcyprus.cy



@visitcyprus



@visitcyprus



@visitcyprus



@visitcyprus.com



@visitcyprus.com



@visitcyprus

