

IEEE Region 8 Meeting 2015 – Limassol, Cyprus

Travelling Advisory

Air Travel

Cyprus (Larnaca and Paphos airports) can be reached by several major international airlines from European gateway cities. From North America, travelers can break up the journey in the European city of their choice or elect to keep connection time to a minimum. Popular gateways include London, Paris, Amsterdam, Athens, Frankfurt, Zurich, Helsinki, Rome, Dubai etc. In addition, Cyprus Airways provides regular daily flights from many Major European and Middle Eastern gateways.

If you need any assistance with flight itineraries and fares, please contact the Meeting Secretariat.



Legal Points of Entry

Larnaca Airport is the most popular point of entry in Cyprus and is located less than 60 km (around 36 miles) from the Four Seasons Hotel. **Paphos Airport** is located less than 70 km (around 43 miles) from the Four Seasons Hotel. The alternative option is the **Limassol Harbor**, which has easy access to the hotel. These are the only legal points of entry which are situated in the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. Entry into the territory of the Republic of Cyprus via any other airport or port on which the Government of the Republic does not exercise effective control (Turkish military occupied areas) is illegal.

Airport Transfers

From either airport there are shuttle bus services to transfer you to the station in Limassol and from there you can take a taxi to your hotel of residence. The cost of the bus is €9.00 per way from both airports. You may view the timetables of the [airport shuttle bus services here](#). In addition, taxis are always available at both Airports for your transfer to Limassol. The

cost for a 4-seated taxi from Larnaca Airport to Limassol is approximately €55.00 per taxi per way and from Paphos Airport approximately €65.00 per taxi per way. Please note the prices for taxis vary depending on the time of arrival.

Climate and Weather

Cyprus enjoys a Mediterranean climate with long dry summers from mid-May to mid-October and with mild winters from November to mid-March, which are separated by short autumn and spring seasons. See [Cyprus Weather](#) for more details.

Month of year	March	April
Temperature Highs (°C)	16.7	19.2
Average air temp. (°C)	15.9	18.7
Temperature Lows (°C)	14.8	18.0
Average Wind speed (kts)	11	10
Dominant Wind direction	West	West
Precipitation (mm)	12.5	15.6

Language

Greek is the official language. English and Russian are widely spoken in Limassol. French and German are also spoken within the tourism Industry.

Currency / Banking Hours / Credit Cards

The currency of the Republic of Cyprus is the Euro (€). Banking hours for the public: Monday-Friday 08:00 – 13:30. There are many Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) outside most branches of banks in all towns and in the main tourist resorts. Hotels, large shops and restaurants normally accept credit cards and traveller's checks. Banknotes of major foreign currencies are also acceptable.

[Rates of exchange](#) are published daily in the local press and are broadcasted via the media.

Tipping

Because of the 10% service charge levied in hotels and restaurants, a tip is not obligatory, but small change is always welcome.

Electrical Power Utilities

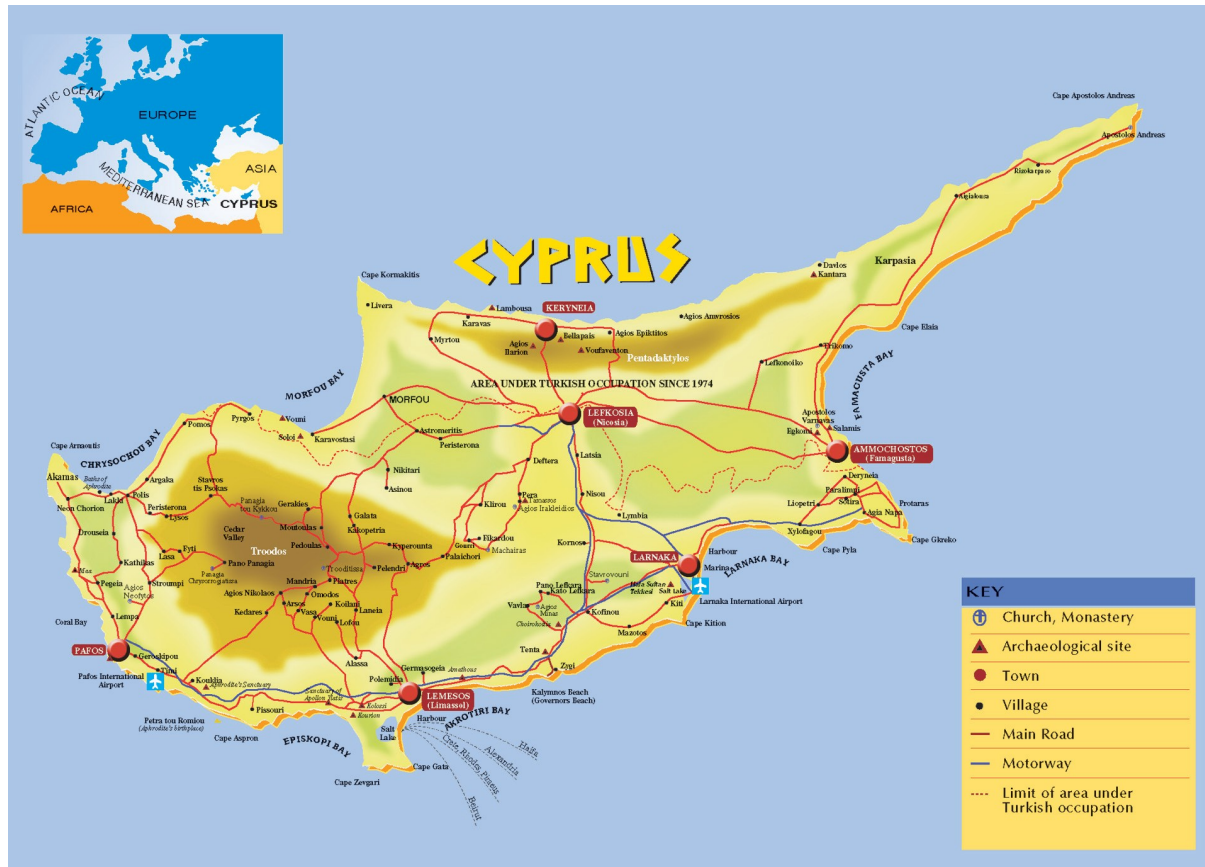
The supply in Cyprus is 230 Volts, 50 Hertz. Sockets are 13 Amperes (although most adaptors allow only 10 Amperes) [BS 1363 three-pin](#) rectangular plugs and sockets. Many hotels provide adaptors upon request from the reception.



Four Seasons Hotel

The prestigious independently owned and operated Four Seasons Hotel lies on a sandy beach east of Limassol approximately midway between the airports of Larnaca and Paphos and only a few minutes' drive from the city centre. This five-star resort is the pinnacle of luxury and style, combining impeccable facilities with world class hospitality and service. For more information please click fourseasons.com.cy.

Cyprus Brief Historical Survey



7000-3900 BC Neolithic Age

Remains of the oldest known settlement in Cyprus dating from this period can be seen in Khirokitia and Kalavassos (Tenta), off the Nicosia-Limassol road. This civilization had developed along the North and South coasts. First only stone vessels were used. After 5000 B.C., the art of pottery was invented.

3900-2500 BC Chalcolithic Age

Most Chalcolithic establishments are found in Western Cyprus, where a fertility cult develops. The copper of the island begins to be exploited and used.

2500-1050 BC Bronze Age

Copper is more extensively exploited bringing wealth to Cyprus. Trade is built up with the Near East, Egypt and the Aegean. After 1400 BC, Mycenaeans from Greece reach the island, perhaps as merchants. During the 12th and 11th centuries several waves of Achaean Greeks come to settle on the island bringing with them the Greek language, their religion and their customs. They build new cities like Paphos, Salamis, Kition and Kourion. The island from now on is progressively Hellenised.

1050-750 BC Geometric Period

There are ten Kingdoms in the island. Phoenicians settle at Kition. The 8th century B.C. is a period of great prosperity.

750-325 BC Archaic and Classical Period

The era of prosperity continues, but the island falls prey to several conquerors. Cypriot Kingdoms try to preserve their independence but come variously under the domination of Assyria, Egypt and Persia. King Evagoras of Salamis (who ruled from 411-374 BC) rebels against Persia and unifies the island but, after a great siege has to conclude peace with Persia and loses control of the whole island.

333-325 BC

Alexander the Great defeats Persia and Cyprus becomes part of his empire.

325-58 BC Hellenistic Period

After the succession struggles, between Alexander's generals, Cyprus eventually comes under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemies of Egypt, and belongs from now onwards to the Greek Alexandrine world. The capital is now Paphos. This is a period of wealth for Cyprus.

58 BC - 330 AD Roman Period

Cyprus becomes part of the Roman Empire, first as part of the province of Syria, then as a separate province under a proconsul. During the missionary journeys by Saints Paul and Barnabas, the Proconsul, Sergius Paulus is converted to Christianity and Cyprus becomes the first country to be governed by Christian. Destructive earthquakes occur during the 1st century B.C. and the 1st A.D. and cities are rebuilt. There is a great loss of life when the Jews who lived in Salamis rebel in 116 and from the plague in 164 AD. In 313 the Edict of Milan grants freedom of worship to Christians and Cypriot bishops attend the Council of Nicaea in 325.

330-1191 AD Byzantine Period

After the division of the Roman Empire in two parts, Cyprus comes under the Eastern Roman Empire, known as Byzantium, with Constantinople as its capital. Constantine the Great's mother, Helena is said to have stopped in Cyprus on her journey from the Holy Land, with remnants of the Holy Cross and founded the monastery of Stavrovouni. More earthquakes during the 4th century A.D. completely destroy the main cities. Cities lose their splendour and remain in ruins. New cities arise, Constantia is now the capital, and large basilicas are built as from the 4-5th century A.D. In 488, after the tomb of St. Barnabas is found, Emperor Zeno gives the Archbishop of Cyprus full autonomy and privileges including holding a sceptre instead of a pastoral staff, wearing a purple mantle and signing in red ink. In 647 Arabs invade the island under Muawiya. In 688 Emperor Justinian II and Caliph al-Malik sign a treaty neutralising Cyprus, but violations are reported, and the island is also attacked by pirates until 965 when Emperor Nicephorus Phocas expels Arabs from Asia Minor and Cyprus.

1191-1192 AD Richard the Lionheart and the Templars

Isaac Comnenus, self-proclaimed governor of Cyprus, is discourteous to survivors of a shipwreck involving ships of Richard I's fleet on their way to the Third Crusade. Richard defeats Isaac and takes possession of Cyprus, marrying Berengaria of Navarree in Limassol, where she is crowned Queen of England. Richard then sells the island to the Knights Templars for 100,000 dinars but they resell it at the same price to Guy de Lusignan, one of the Crusader Knights.

1192-1489 AD Frankish (Lusignan) Period

Cyprus is ruled on the feudal system and the Catholic Church officially replaces the Greek Orthodox, although the latter manages to survive. Many beautiful gothic buildings belong to this period including the Cathedrals of Ayia Sophia in Nicosia, Saint Nicholas in Famagusta and Bellapais Abbey.

The city of Famagusta becomes one of the richest in the Near East, and Nicosia becomes the capital of Cyprus and the seat of the Lusignan Kings. The Lusignan dynasty ends when the last queen Catherina Cornaro cedes Cyprus to Venice in 1489.

1489-1571 AD Venetian Period

Venetians see Cyprus as a last bastion against the Ottomans in the east Mediterranean, and fortify the island tearing down lovely buildings in Nicosia to bring the city into a tight encircled area defended by bastions and a moat which can still be seen today. They also build impressive walls around Famagusta which were considered at the time as works of military art.

1571- 1878 AD Ottoman Period

In 1570 troops attack Cyprus, capture Nicosia, and slaughter the population (20,000) and lay siege to Famagusta for a year. After a brave defence by Venetian commander Marc Antonio Bragadin, Famagusta capitulates to the Ottoman commander Lala Mustafa, who first gives free passage to the besieged but when he sees how few they are, orders the flaying, drawing and quartering of Bragadin and puts the others to death. On annexation to the Ottoman Empire, the Latin hierarchy are expelled or converted to Islam and the Greek Orthodox faith restored; in time, the Archbishop as leader of the Greek Orthodox becomes their representative to the Porte. When the Greek War of Independence breaks out in 1821, the Archbishop of Cyprus, Kyprianos, three bishops and hundreds of civic leaders are executed.

1878-1960 British Period

Under the 1878 Cyprus Convention, Britain assumes administration of the island, which remains formally part of the Ottoman Empire until 1914 when Britain annexes Cyprus, after the Ottoman Empire enters the First World War on the side of Germany. In 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey renounces any claim to Cyprus. In 1925 Cyprus is declared a Crown colony. In 1940 Cypriot volunteers serve in various branches of the British Armed Forces throughout the Second World War. Hopes for self-determination now being granted to other countries in the post-war period are shattered by the British who consider the island vitally strategic. An Armed Liberation Struggle, after all means of peaceful settling of the problem are exhausted, breaks out in 1955 which last until 1959.

1960 Republic Of Cyprus

According to the Zurich-London Treaty, Cyprus becomes an independent republic on 16th August 1960. It is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth as well as the Non-Aligned Movement. According to the above Treaty, Britain retains in the island two Sovereign Bases, (158.5 km²) at Dhekelia and Akrotiri-Episkopi.

The 1960 Constitution of the Cyprus Republic proves unworkable in many of its provisions, and this made impossible its smooth implementation. When in 1963, the President of the Republic proposed some amendments to facilitate the functioning of the state, the Turkish community responded with rebellion (Dec. 1963), the Turkish ministers withdrew from the Cabinet and the Turkish civil servants ceased attending their offices while Turkey threatened to invade Cyprus. Ever since then, the aim of the Turkish Cypriot leadership, acting on instructions from the Turkish Government, has been the partitioning of Cyprus and annexation by Turkey. In July 1974, a coup is staged in Cyprus by the Military junta, then in power in Athens, for the overthrow of President Makarios. On 20 July 1974, Turkey launched an invasion with 40,000 troops against defenceless Cyprus. Since 1974, 37% of the island is under Turkish military occupation and 200,000 Greek Cypriots, 40% of the total Greek Cypriot population, were forced to leave their homes in the occupied area and were turned into refugees. The invasion of Turkey and the occupation of 37% of the island's territory as well as the continuing violation of the fundamental human rights of the people of Cyprus have been condemned by international bodies, such as the UN General Assembly, the Non-aligned Movement, the Commonwealth and the Council of Europe.

NOTE: According to the reference (<http://www.kypros.org/Cyprus/history.html>) the above text was copied from the booklet published by the Cyprus Tourism Organization.

Limassol Attractions

Kourion Archaeological Site (as well as Kourion Archaeological Museum, Kourion Stadium and Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates)

Kourion is located 18km west of Limassol in the small town of Episkopi. 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 extended in 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. The Stadium lies 1km to the west, on the right side of the road towards Pafos. A roof structure allows visitors to enjoy the site all year round.

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

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

Apollon Hylates, god of the woodland, was the protector of Kourion. According to archaeological sources he was worshipped here from the 8th century BC 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’, a bath complex, and a holy precinct.

Lemesos Medieval Castle / Museum

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 sea-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 gaol. During British rule it functioned as a police station and briefly as a detainment place.

Today the castle houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum, whose exhibits include medieval pottery, superb silver Byzantine era plates, tombstones, weapons, crosses and coins.

Kolossi Medieval Castle

This is located in Kolossi village, 14km west of Limassol. 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 Commandery 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.

Amathous Archaeological Site

This historical point is 11km east of Limassol old town. Amathous is one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus where, according to mythology, Greek hero Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne to be attended 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 to the Roman and Christian periods. 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.

The Old Carob Mill

The Carob Mill was built in 1900, at a time when carobs were a major export of Cyprus. They were used to make a wide variety of products such as photographic filmplates, medicines, 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 hightech 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.

Lemesos District Archaeological Museum

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.

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

Agios Nikolaos ton Gaton is possibly the oldest monastery in Cyprus. The monastery chapel, which dates 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 to the Cape in order to exterminate the snakes and thus save the area.

Limassol Zoo

The zoo is located on the coastal road of Limassol, and is the only one in Cyprus. It accommodates a diverse selection of animals, an average of 300, including birds. The residents of the zoo include lions, tigers, bears, panthers, zebras, monkeys, ostriches, peacocks, vultures, emu, falcons and macaws etc.

Limassol zoo also features a natural history museum and an educational centre, which frequently screens films on wildlife and nature.

The zoo includes a special designated area for children.

Limassol Promenade

The Promenade in Limassol became a huge hit with holidaymakers for its great view of the sea, beaches and the palm fringed surroundings, with a backdrop of a long and slender sea shore and cooling water parks it creates a delightful atmosphere for adults and children alike.

Limassol Marina

[Limassol Marina](#) is an exclusive waterfront development designed by a world-renowned team of architects and engineers. It combines elegant residences and a full service marina with exclusive restaurants and shops, to create a lifestyle uniquely shaped by 'living on the sea'.