

CYPRUS

10000 years

of history
and civilisation





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LEFKOSIA - NICOSIA



LEMESOS - LIMASSOL



LARNAKA



PAFOS



AMMOCHOSTOS - FAMAGUSTA



TROODOS



Cyprus is a small country with a long history and a rich culture. It is not surprising that UNESCO included the Pafos antiquities, Choirokoitia and ten of the Byzantine period churches of Troodos in its list of World Heritage Sites.

The aim of this publication is to help visitors discover the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The qualified personnel at any Information Office of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) is happy to help organise your visit in the best possible way. Parallel to answering questions and enquiries, the Cyprus Tourism Organisation provides, free of charge, a wide range of publications, maps and other information material. Additional information is available at the CTO website: www.visitcyprus.com

It is an unfortunate reality that a large part of the island's cultural heritage has since July 1974 been under Turkish occupation. This heritage has been subjected to severe damage. The occupation forces have been systematically trying to alter the demography and cultural identity of the area under their occupation.



Pafos Mosaics



Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis Church, Kakopetria Village



The archaeological site of Choirokoitia



10 000 years of history and civilisation

A country's cultural heritage is the most important living treasure of its people. It is through this 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 since antiquity played an important part in the island's turbulent history. 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 followed since then, including Phoenicians, Assyrians, Franks, Venetians, Ottomans, British, all leaving behind visible traces of their passage.

On this island once walked Christ's apostles. The splendour of the Byzantine Empire for many centuries encapsulated Cyprus. The island is an open-air museum, where one can visit prehistoric settlements, classical Greek temples, Roman theatres and villas, Early Christian basilicas, Byzantine churches and monasteries, Crusader castles, Gothic cathedrals, Venetian fortifications, Moslem mosques and British colonial-style buildings.

In the villages one can still observe old ways of life, customs and traditions. Here, festivities whose origins hark back to the depths of antiquity are still being celebrated. These include Carnival and the 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", omnipresent in the bright atmosphere, the beauty of the landscape and the charm 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 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 well-being, lives on throughout the duration 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 and the unfettered Rigaina, the beautiful amazonian queen. Cyprus, as the easternmost part of Europe, constitutes a cultural bridge between people of different religions, cultures and ways of life.

8200 - 1050 BC

Prehistoric Age

The very first signs of permanent settlement in Cyprus date from the Neolithic Age (8200-3800 BC). While copper is mined in small quantities during the next period, the Chalcolithic Age (3800-2400 BC), this brings about only minor changes in the way of life of the people. In both the Neolithic and the Chalcolithic Ages the Cypriots lived in single room dwellings, used stone tools and vessels, made jewellery out of picrolite, ate fish, cereals, lamb and goat's meat and buried their dead within their settlements. The earliest pottery found dates back to the 5th millennium BC.

The first significant cultural changes affecting all aspects of society took place around 2400-2200 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, applied 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 (2400-1900 BC) and Middle (1900-1650 BC) Bronze Age periods, people still lived in small hinterland villages. Communication and trade with the surrounding Mediterranean lands was limited.

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 it 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, Late Bronze Age



The ancient city-kingdom of Kition

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 earthquakes. Folk tales that the new cities were created by heroes of the Trojan War on their return from the conflict correlate to historical facts, namely the last wave of Achaean Greek settlement, which led to the eventual hellenisation of Cyprus, with the adoption of Greek culture and language. From the 10th century BC onwards the ties between Cyprus and 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 Phoenicians in Cyprus and their colonisation of the large coastal Mycenaean city of Kition.

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

The beginning of the next period, the Archaic period (750-480 BC), was marked by the subjugation of Cyprus to the Assyrians. During this period, the Cypriot city-kingdoms of Salamis, Kition, 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 rule of 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

480 BC - 330 AD

Classical, Hellenistic and Roman Periods

During the Classical period (480-310 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 Persian rule, Greek influences on 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.

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 of 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 Cyprus was mainly used as a military base. The Ptolemies exploited the island's natural resources, such as copper, timber for the construction of ships, olives and wheat.

The Romans, who took control of Cyprus after the Ptolemies, mainly exploited its copper mines. Although the Roman period proper is said to have begun in 58 BC, Cyprus did not come under Roman rule until 30 BC. During the Roman period (30 BC-330 AD), the name of Cyprus became synonymous with the Latin equivalent name for copper (cuprum). Under Roman rule, as a result of trade, Cyprus enjoyed a three hundred year period of economic growth. 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 crafted glassware.

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



Silver plate, Lambousa, 7th century

330 - 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, 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, 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 up, 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. Amathous remained an important centre since Roman times, while a new city was established nearby, Neapolis or Nemesos, later becoming Lemesos, in 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 century.

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 on the island. The shipbuilding yards of Cyprus continued to produce wooden ships 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 and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



Machairas Monastery

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 area, divided by a row of columns into archways and aisles. As time went by domes and arches were added and various types 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 inside 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 in the 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 by 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 acquired particular importance to Byzantium and to Islam in the 7th century as a result of the conflict between the powers of the time. 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, Voufaveno and Kantara, as well as the monasteries at Kykkos, Machairas and Agios Neophytos.



Panagia tis Asinou Church, Nikitari



Panagia tou Araka Church, Lagoudera



Richard the Lionheart

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 a local uprising on the island.

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 Poitiers in France. Frankish rule of Cyprus, known as the Lusignan period, lasted for three centuries (1192 - 1489). The governing regime in Cyprus became feudal 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 commerce 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 export 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.



Frankish period coins

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 Venetian rule. Venice’s main aim was to secure a firm hold of 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 Venetian rule, Larnaka became the most important port of Cyprus, from where salt was exported. The port of Lemesos also started to develop at this time.

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



Venetian Walls, Lefkosia



Venetian Walls, Lefkosia



1571 - 1878

Cyprus becomes part of the Ottoman Empire

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

Cyprus went through hard times during Ottoman rule. The contribution of the Greek Cypriots to the Greek War of Independence in 1821 resulted in the execution of Cyprus Archbishop Kyprianos, 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 War of Independence. These first urbanised townfolk began to express the first strong nationalist sentiments.



The house of Chatzigeorgakis Kornosios, Lefkosia



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, these did not materialise. Greek Cypriot disappointment with 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 15 January 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 20 October 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 anticolonial struggle of 1955-59, by the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA). The struggle resulted in the ending of British rule, but not to union with Greece. The Zurich-London Agreements led to the establishment of the independent Republic of Cyprus. On 13 December 1959 Archbishop Makarios III was elected first President of the Republic and Dr Fazil Kutchuk first Vice President.



Presidential palace, Lefkosia



District office, Lemesos



1960 - today

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

The Republic of Cyprus was proclaimed on 16 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. 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 provisions 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 at the overthrow of elected President Makarios. Turkey used the coup as a pretext to invade militarily the island on 20 July 1974 and occupy 37% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, displacing about 200000 Greek Cypriots from the occupied northern part of the island. Despite international condemnation of Turkey and the acknowledgement of the rights of the Cypriot people 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 the 1st of May 2004, with its northern part still under occupation, Cyprus became a full member of the European Union. The accession act included a protocol which states that implementation of the *acquis communautaire* on the areas not controlled by the Cyprus government (as a result of the Turkish invasion) is suspended. This suspension will be removed as soon as the Cyprus problem is solved. Efforts and negotiations to find a just and functional solution to the Cyprus problem are continuing.



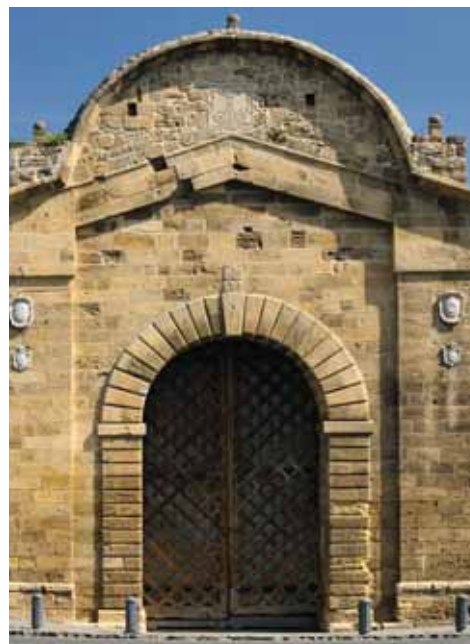
Monument to Liberty, Lefkosia

LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA)

Lefkosia, the only divided capital in the world, is 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 "Chora", 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 cosmopolitan rhythms. A few kilometres into the countryside one can admire superb Byzantine churches and monasteries.



St John's Cathedral and Cyprus
Ethnographic Museum



Famagusta Gate, Lefkosia



THE CYPRUS MUSEUM

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, to reach 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 to the Early Byzantine period (7th century AD). Finds from extensive excavations 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, sculpture, coins, copper objects, and other artifacts, exhibited in chronological order in the various museum 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 a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Mouseiou 1
Tel.: 22865854,
22303112



THE OLD CITY WITHIN THE WALLS

BYZANTINE MUSEUM AND ART GALLERIES

Byzantine Museum

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 century, 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 century paintings, engravings and maps on themes from the 1821 Greek War of Independence.
- The third gallery contains works of Greek artists from the 19th and 20th century.
- The fourth gallery contains representative works of 20th century Cypriot artists.

ARCHBISHOPRIC (NEW AND OLD)

The new Archbishopric, the seat of the Cyprus Orthodox Church, was built in 1960 in a neo-byzantine style. The Old Archbishopric, built in 1730, stands alongside it. Its ground floor houses the Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus.

Cultural Centre of the
Archbishop Makarios III
Foundation
Archbishopric grounds
Plateia
Archiepiskopou
Kyprianou
Tel.: 22430008









AGIOS IOANNIS (ST. JOHN'S) CATHEDRAL

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

(next to the Archbishopric)
Plateia Archiepiskopou
Kyprianou

It was turned into an Orthodox monastery in 1426 when the Benedictine Order left the island following 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 in Cyprus. It is a small single-aisled church with Franco-Byzantine architectural elements, its high external buttresses giving the impression from the outside 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.



ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF CYPRUS

The Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus, housed on the ground floor of the old Archbishopric, consists of a large collection of 19th and early 20th century Cypriot folk art. It includes wood-carved objects, tapestry, embroidery, pottery, Cypriot folk costumes and material hand-woven on the loom.

Plateia Archiepiskopou
Kyprianou
Tel: 22432578

MUNICIPAL ARTS CENTRE

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.

(Associated with the
Pierides Museum of
Contemporary Art in Athens)
Palias Elektrikis 19
Tel.: 22797400



PANAGIA CHRYSALINIOTISSA CHURCH

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

Chrysaliniotissa Street



CHRYSALINIOTISSA CRAFTS CENTRE

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 walls.

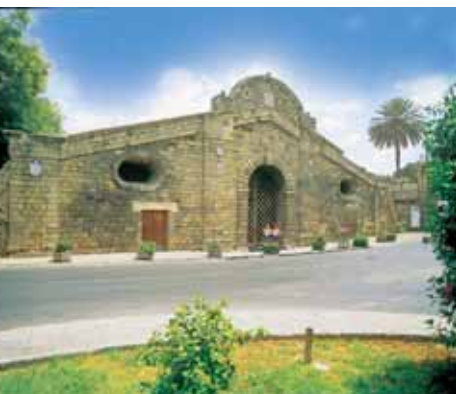
Dimonaktos 2, (Corner
of Ipponaktos and
Dimonaktos Streets)
Tel.: 22348050,
22347465



NATIONAL STRUGGLE MUSEUM

The museum houses documents, photographs and relevant items of the 1955-59 National Liberation Struggle.

Plateia
Archiepiskopou Kyprianou
Tel.: 22305878



PYLI AMMOCHOSTOU (FAMAGUSTA GATE)

Famagusta Gate is one of the three entrances into old Lefkosa 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 Juliana), 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.

Leoforos Athinon
Tel.: 22797660



THE HOUSE OF CHATZIGEORGAKIS KORNESIOS - ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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

Patriarchou Grigoriou 20
Tel.: 22305316



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.



OMERIYE BATHS

The Omeriye Baths were built in the 16th century by Lala Mustafa as a gift to the city. The bath complex or hammam was dedicated to the Caliph Omer and the area became known as Omeriye. It is now been restored to its present state. In 2005 it was given the "Europa Nostra" award.

Plateia Tillirias
To arrange a visit
please call 22460570



OMERIYE MOSQUE (EX AUGUSTINIAN CHURCH)

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 Turkish 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.

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



CYPRUS CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

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 formed part of 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.

Granikou 44
Tel.: 22680222,
99543215



HOLY CROSS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Church of the Holy Cross, built in 1902, is situated near Pafos Gate, one of the three entrances into the town through the Venetian walls surrounding Lefkosia. The church does not belong to any definite style and its architectural features are austere. The cross of Jerusalem can be seen in the facade.

Pafos Gate
Tel.: 22662132



KASTELIOTISSA MEDIEVAL HALL

This hall was part of the Lusignan palace and dates 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.

Opposite Pafos Gate



BAYRAKTAR MOSQUE

It is built on the Constanza Bastion, in honour of the flag carrier who first climbed on to the walls of Nicosia during the siege of the city by the Ottoman troops in 1570. The mosque dates to 1820. It was restored and opened for worship in late 2003.



LAIKI GEITONIA (TRADITIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD)

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.

200m east of Eleftheria Square



LEVENTIS MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF LEFKOSIA

This is the only historical museum of Lefkosa that presents the social and historical development of the city, from the Chalcolithic Age to the present day. 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.

Ippokratous 17,
Laiki Geitonia
Tel.: 22661475



THE PANCYPRIAN GYMNASIUM MUSEUMS

The Pancyprrian Gymnasium Museums is a fascinating 12-room space in the historical centre of Lefkosa, 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.

Ag. Ioannou +
Theseos 10-16
Tel.: 22466014

The Museums consist of the following: Museum of the History of the School, the Archaeological and the Numismatic Collection, collection of Old Maps, collection of Old Weaponry, the Art Gallery with the work 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 by its size, style and iconographical references.

LEDRA STREET OBSERVATORY

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

Ledra street, Shakolas
Tower Building
Tel.: 22679369



MUSEUM OF THE GEORGE AND NEFELI GIABRA Pierides Collection

The museum presents one of the most important collections of Greek Mycenaean pottery. Due to the widespread export of this pottery style especially in the Eastern Mediterranean, such pottery was reproduced locally in other regions such as in Cyprus and in Syria. Of special significance is a unique anthropomorphic vessel. The collection is enriched by white slip pottery and base ring pottery, two typical styles of pottery from the Late Bronze Age in Cyprus. The richest part of the collection consists of limestone sculptures from the 6th century BC to the Hellenistic period. The museum is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Donated by Clio and Solon
Triantafyllides,
Phaneromenis 86-90,
Tel.: 22128157



FANEROMENI CHURCH

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 in Cyprus.

Onasagorou Street,
within the old city



STAVROS TOU MISSIRIKOU CHURCH

Stavros tou Missirikou is a medieval Orthodox church converted into a mosque when Cyprus was taken over by the Ottomans in 1571. Originally built in the first half of the 16th century, it is a Frankish building whose architectural style is a blend of Byzantine, Gothic and Italian renaissance elements.

Lefkonos Street, near
Faneromeni church





TRYPLOTIS CHURCH

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

Solonos Steet, near Laiki Geitonia



CYPRUS POSTAL MUSEUM

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.

Agiou Sawa 3B Street,
Laiki Geitonia
Tel.: 22304711



OUTSIDE THE WALLS

CYPRUS HANDICRAFT CENTRE

The Cyprus Handicraft Centre has workshops and an outlet 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.

Leoforos Athalassas 186
Tel.: 22305024



CYPRUS POLICE MUSEUM

The museum was originally founded in 1933 during British colonial times as a Criminal Museum by the then British Chief of Police of the colonial government. A substantial part of the museum is dedicated to the history of the Cyprus Police Force, from the British period up to the present time. The visitor can see uniforms, arms, equipment and police vehicles, as well as musical instruments, photographs and documents of the Police Band. The Museum also houses objects and documents from the Second World War and the 1955-59 Liberation Struggle.

Evangelou Floraki, within
the Police Headquarters
building
Tel.: 22808748



STATE GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY CYPRIOT ART

The gallery is housed in a restored building. The collections consist of paintings and sculptures by 20th century Cypriot artists.

Corner Leoforos
Stasinou & Kritis Street
Tel.: 22458228



MUSEUM ON THE HISTORY OF CYPRIOT COINAGE

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' numismatic history. The museum is linked to the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Phaneromenis 86-90
Tel.: 22128157





ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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.

Leoforos Lordou Vyronos
Tel.: 22677897



KYKKOS MONASTERY DEPENDENCY (Metochi Monis Kykkou)

The dependency of Kykkos Monastery in Lefkosia was established in 1890. It is a solitary institution, dependent on the Monastery of Kykkos.

Prokopiou Street, Egkomi



Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum

The museum houses the permanent collection of Zampelas family. A pioneer museum in its field, this museum exhibits great modern and contemporary art of Cypriots and Greek artists. Furthermore, it organises temporary exhibitions of artists from Cyprus and abroad. These are complemented with educational programmes and other cultural activities. Situated in Kaimakli, it is very close to the centre of Nicosia and the walled city.

27 Arch. Makarios III
Avenue, Kaimakli,
Tel.: 22456098

FILAKISMENA MNIMATA (Incarcerated Graves)

In an enclosure within the Central Prison complex rest nine young men convicted and hanged by the British Administration, during the course of the Liberation Struggle of 1955-59. It is also the resting place of four other EOKA heroes who died in combat. After Independence the area was converted into a place of veneration and aptly named 'Filakismena Mnimata' (Incarcerated Graves), from a painting by Cypriot artist Pol Georgiou.

Central Prison
Tel.: 22406000

GREATER LEFKOSIA DISTRICT AREA

WEST

CHURCH OF SAINTS BARNABAS AND HILARION

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.

Peristerona village,
27km from Lefkosia on
the Lefkosia – Troodos
road
Tel.: 99620753



AGIOS PANTELEIMON CONVENT

An 18th century convent with a gabled roof, restored shortly after 1960.

Northwest of Agrokipia
village. 30 km west of
Lefkosia

TOMB OF MAKEDONITISSA

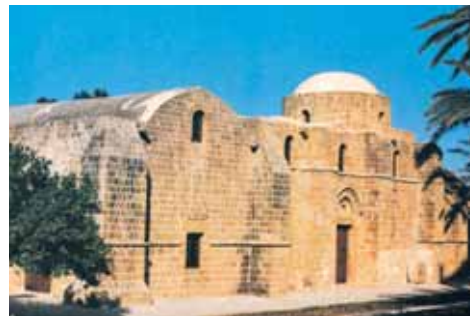
A military cemetery and war memorial, near the monastery of Makedonitissa. Officers and soldiers who died defending Cyprus during the Turkish invasion in 1974 are buried here.

Makedonitissa area,
Leoforos Iroon. 3km west
of Lefkosia

ARCHANGELOS MICHAEL MONASTERY

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

Lefkosia - Anthoupolis
road.





Southwest

PANCYPRIAN GEOGRAPHICAL MUSEUM

This is the island's first geographical and natural history museum. It was established by the Strovolos Municipality. It displays specimens of the island's flora, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks and minerals, as well as historic and modern maps and charts of Cyprus.

Strovolos Municipality
Leoforos Strovolou 100
Tel.: 22470407



AGIOS IRAKLEIDIOS CONVENT

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

Politiko village, 20km
southwest of Lefkosa
Tel.: 22623950

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



ROYAL TOMBS OF TAMASSOS

Tamassos, rich in copper ore, 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.

Politiko village, 20km southwest of Lefkosia
Tel.: 22622619



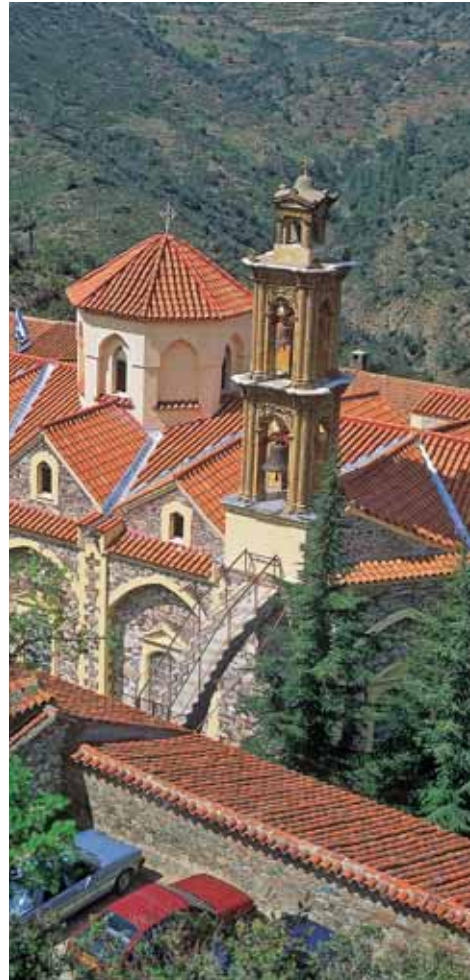
MACHAIRAS MONASTERY

One of the oldest and most important monasteries in Cyprus. It was founded by two monks in 1148, when a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave. During 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 Turks together with hundreds of other clerics and laymen on 9 July 1821. The brotherhood follows equally strict rules here as the brotherhood at Mount Athos in Greece.

Every year on 15 August and on 8 September a large religious fair is held here. About 2km north of Machairas monastery lies the hide-out of Grigoris Afxentiou, hero of the 1955-59 Liberation Struggle. On 3 March 1957 British troops surrounded his hide-out and called upon Afxentiou to surrender. He refused and after 7 hours of battle the British poured petrol into the hideout and blew it up. Afxentiou perished. Personal belongings of the hero are exhibited in a special museum.

The vestry of Machairas monastery, which is situated in the basement, has been restored and set up 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 ecclesiastic objects.

40km south of Lefkosia through the village of Deftera
Tel.: 22359334





PANAGIA CHRYSOSPILIOTISSA CHURCH

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 15 August, the day of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.

Near Kato Deftera Village, 11km southwest of Lefkosia



FIKARDOU VILLAGE AND RURAL MUSEUM

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.

Machairas-Lefkosia road via Klirou, 39km southwest of Lefkosia
Tel.: 22634731



SOUTH

ATHALASSA NATIONAL FOREST PARK

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 area vegetation, birds, mammals and reptiles.

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

Athalassa Visitor Centre
Leoforos Keryneias 1,
Aglantzia
Tel.: 22462943



CYPRUS MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Cyprus Museum of Natural History was founded by "The Photos Photiades Charity, Scientific and Cultural Foundation". It is the largest museum of its kind in Cyprus. Most of the museum's approximately 2500 exhibits consist of stuffed mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and insects, as well as rocks, minerals, semiprecious stones, shells and fossils.

Photos Photiades
Breweries Ltd
The Cyprus Carlsberg
Brewery Old Lefkosia -
Lemesos road
Lakkia (Latsia) area
To arrange a visit call
Tel.: 22585834,
22585858



EARLY-INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

The early industrial workshop of Agia Varvara is unique in Cyprus. It combines the traditional house with the place of work. The workshop uses equipment from the 1920s, such as a flourmill, olive press and wine press.

Agia Varvara Village
22km south of Lefkosia
To arrange a visit call
Tel.: 99888070



DALI REGION

Monuments from all periods of Cyprus' history can be found in the region. In the town of Dali lies the archaeological site of ancient Idalion, one of the city-kingdoms of ancient Cyprus. The region is linked with the Aphrodite Cultural Route. Its strategic position, the presence of water and fertile land were factors that contributed to the area's flourishing between the 8th and 5th centuries BC. According to legend, Dali is where Adonis, Aphrodite's lover, was killed by her jealous lover Aris, the Olympian god of war.

The Byzantine church of Agioi Apostoloi is situated at Pera Chorio in the Dali region. It contains some of the most exquisite frescoes found in Cyprus, dating back to the late 12th century and considered to be some of the most beautiful examples of Comnenian art. Of interest is the church of Agios Demetrianos (13th century).

Medieval ruins can be found in the region of the village of Potamia, including those of a summer palace of the Frankish kings and queens of Cyprus and a Gothic church.

About 20km south of Lefkosia, on the Lefkosia-Larnaka / Lemesos (Limassol) road



Local Museum of Ancient Idalion

The local museum of Idalion was founded in 2007 with the aim to promote the rich finds of the region of Idalion and later to function as a visitor's centre for the archaeological site in which it is located. The exhibits of the museum represent all the chronological phases of the history of Idalion and come from both the old and the more recent excavations of the area ancient city and from both settlements and cemeteries.

Tel.: 22444818

LEMESOS (LIMASSOL)

Lemesos, the second largest city of the island, 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, 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's 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.





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.

Richardou & Berengarias,
near the old port
Tel.: 25305419



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.

Vassilissis str., behind
the Medieval Castle
Tel.: 25342123

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.

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, lamps and a variety of copper tools and objects, while the third 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.

Anastasi Sioukri
& Vyronos 5,
near the Municipal
Gardens
Tel.: 25305157



MUNICIPAL FOLK ART MUSEUM

The renovated building housing the Municipal Museum showcases collections of 19th and 20th century 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.

Agiou Andreou 253
Tel.: 25362303



KEBIR MOSQUE (THE GREAT MOSQUE)

Kebir Mosque was built in the 16th century and is still operational today. Recent excavations to the east 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 Moslems of Lemesos.

At the intersection of
Genethliou Mitella
Str., Zig-Zag Str.
and Jami Str.



AGIA NAPA CHURCH

The church was built towards the end of the 19th century and early 20th century, replacing an older 18th century church. It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. According to tradition it takes 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.

Agiou Andreou Street



LEMESOS MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY

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

28 Octovriou 103
Tel.: 25586212



SCULPTURE PARK

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

On the sea-front
promenade



ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The church was built in 1879 by architect Friar Francesco da Monghidoro from Bologna, following the architectural style for similar buildings of that period throughout Europe. He used an interior baroque style, 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.

28 Octovriou 259
Tel.: 25362946

MUSEUM OF STRATEGOS GEORGIOS GRIVAS DIGENIS

The museum houses personal belongings of Digenis, leader of the EOKA Liberation Struggle 1955-59. Next to the museum lies Digenis burial place.

Griva Digeni 70
(Hide-out of Digenis)
Tel.: 25582107

GREATER LEMESOS DISTRICT AREA WEST

KOLOSSI MEDIEVAL CASTLE

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.

14km west of Lemesos
on the road to Pafos
Tel.: 25934907





THE CYPRUS WINE MUSEUM

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.

Erimi village, on the Lemesos-Pafos road
13km west of Lemesos
Tel.: 25873808



KOURION ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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 number of offerings from the nearby Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates.

Episkopi village, 14km west of Lemesos
4km before reaching Kourion site
Tel.: 25932453



KOURION STADIUM

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.

20km west of Lemesos
on the road to Pafos

KOURION ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

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.

19km west of Lemesos
on the road to Pafos
Tel.: 25934250









SANCTUARY OF APOLLON HYLATES

Apollo 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.

21km west of Lemesos
Tel.: 25991049



ANOGYRA VILLAGE

1. Pastelli Museum

The Pastelli museum is a small museum depicting the manufacture of pastelli, a traditional sweet delight made from carobs.

39km west of Lemesos

To arrange a visit
Tel.: 25221500,
99765078

2. Olive Park - Oleastro

Educational and fun park encapsulating 60,000 years of olive culture. It houses an ecological oil mill, representations of a biological olive grove, as well as demonstrations of various methods of olive pressing from the beginning until modern times, agricultural activities and traditions surrounding the olive.

Tel.: 99525093,
99565768



3. Church of Timios Stavros (Holy Cross)

Situated south-west of the village, the church has 15th century murals of Palaeologue technique. The church is built in the north-east corner of an early Christian basilica that was divided into rooms known as monastery.

Tel.: 25222115,
25221496, 99411082

AKROTIRI ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION CENTRE

Situated at Akrotiri village the Centre has been operating since October 2004. It has an exhibition room, library, projection room and observation kiosk. It offers educational programmes for schools on the history and habitat of the region. Visitors can view exhibits related to the protected Akrotiri peninsula, the geological formation of the region and can admire the view of the nearby salt lake.

Akrotiri village, 14km west of Lemesos
Tel.: 25826562



AGIOS NIKOLAOS TON GATON CONVENT (ST. NICHOLAS OF THE CATS)

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

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



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.



EAST

AMATHOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

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.

11km east of Lemesos city centre



CHURCH OF PANAGIA IAMATIKI

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 wall paintings of the early 16th century that are among the most important surviving examples in Cyprus of the Italo-Byzantine style of art. An extraordinary leather icon of the Virgin (in the nearby new church) is believed to have special curative powers.

Arakapas Village
20km east of Lemesos

AGIA CHRISTINA CHURCH

Situated in the center of Germasogeia village the church of Agia Christina was built in the 12th century and was restored in 1996. During the restoration work 14th and 15th century wall paintings were uncovered under the plaster and were restored. The small church, which also houses an ecclesiastic museum, has a level roof, the result of subsequent structural interventions.

Germasogeia Village
6,5km east of Lemesos
To arrange a visit
call Germasogeia
Municipality:
Tel.: 25879898



AGIOS GEORGIOS ALAMANOS CONVENT

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 with icon painting, cultivation of flowers and herbs and in the production of honey.

20km east of Lemesos

NORTH

AGIA ANASTASIA CHURCH

This is a complex of two churches. The older one, possibly dating to the 12th century, is on the east side and is a cross-insquare domed church. The second church on the west side was added in the 14th century and built in the same architectural style. The surviving mural paintings date to the 14th and 15th centuries.

Polemidia village
5km north of Lemesos



FASOULA AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

The village of Fasoula dates back to the Middle Ages and is depicted on old maps of Cyprus with the name Fasula or Phasula. The most likely origin of the name is that it comes from the Frankish word "Fasoula" meaning scythe, the tool for harvesting. The Agricultural Museum is in a traditional house and contains agricultural tools, such as a plough, yoke, scythe and earthenware jars for everyday use or for storing wine or olive oil.

Fasoula village
10,5km north
of Lemesos
Tel.: 25452240

KOURIS VALLEY

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

22,5km north
of Lemesos



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

The church has a series of wall paintings from the 12th, 14th and 16th centuries. The monastery functions nowadays as a convent.

The church of Archangelos at Monagri was built in 1740 on the foundations of an older monastery that had burned down. Of interest is its 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 Palaeologue art in a 14th century wall painting.

Also worth visiting in the area is the picturesque village of Laneia, beloved village of artists.









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. The area villages house various local wine museums, well worth a visit. This is the area which produces the island's renowned dry red wine. The area is best reached from the Lemesos-Pafos road, turning right after Erimi village.



KOILANI VILLAGE

Koilani is an attractive wine-producing village. On the outskirts of the village sits the single-aisled vaulted church of Agia Mavri dating to the 12th century, with wall paintings 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 (currently under renovation) is housed in a traditional village house. Viticulture 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.

37km north of Lemesos

Ecclesiastical Museum
To arrange a visit
please call 25471008,
99608196

OMODOS VILLAGE

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 of the national Liberation Struggle of 1955-59. An old wine-press known as Linos is a short distance from the Monastery and is open to visitors.

39km north of Lemesos



ARSOS VILLAGE

One of the largest wine producing villages of Cyprus. There are two versions as to where it derives its name: one suggests it comes from the Holy Alsos (grove) of the goddess Aphrodite, where the village is built, the other that it was 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 traditional village way of life.

40km north of Lemesos

Folk Art Museum.
To arrange a visit
please call 25943223





FOINI VILLAGE

Nestling in the heart of the 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 Feniu, 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).

42km north of Lemesos

The Pilavakeion, a private museum of folk art, displays examples of local pottery, traditional agricultural tools and kitchen utensils.

Pilavakeion Museum
(Pottery)
Tel.: 25421508



VASA VILLAGE

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.

38km north of Lemesos

The ecclesiastical museum of Vasa houses important icons and religious objects.

Ecclesiastical Museum.
To arrange a visit one
has to contact the village
priest. Tel.: 25944227

LARNAKA

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-kingsdoms 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 from the 9th century BC. In the 18th century AD it became Cyprus' commercial centre, the place where all European consuls established their missions. The new city, Larnaka, has a charm of its own. In the winter months thousands of flamingoes, 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 Moslem monuments, such as the renowned Hala Sultan Tekkesi.





AGIOS LAZAROS CHURCH AND ECCLESIASTICAL MUSEUM

The magnificent 9th century stone church of Agios Lazaros was built by Byzantine Emperor Leo VI in the 9th century and restored in 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.

Plateia Agiou Lazarou
Tel.: 24652498



KITION ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

The architectural ruins of the ancient city-kingdom of Kition dating 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 in ancient Cyprus. Of interest are the drawings of ships etched into the walls of buildings. The site is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

About 500m from the District Archaeological Museum
Tel.: 24304115



LARNAKA DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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 a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Plateia Kalograion
Tel.: 24304169



THE BUSTS OF KIMON AND ZENON

The bust of Athenian general Kimon, who led 200 triremes in 450 BC to liberate Cyprus from Persian rule can be seen on the palm lined seaside promenade "Foinikoudes". He perished during the siege of Kition.

The marble bust of Zenon of Kition at the city centre honours the philosopher, who was born in ancient Kition, today's city of Larnaka and who founded the famous Stoic School of Thought in Athens in the 4th century BC.





LARNAKA MUNICIPAL CULTURAL CENTRE

Five old British colonial-style warehouses, part of the old Larnaka Customs houses have been renovated and now make up the city's Municipal Cultural Centre. The Centre houses the Municipal Gallery and the Municipal Historical Archives - Museum of Larnaka.

Leoforos Athinon
Plateia Evropis.
Opposite the Marina



Larnaka Municipal Gallery

The galleries display works of art by local artists.

Tel.: 24658848



Municipal Historical Archives - Museum of Larnaka

The Municipal Historical Archives - Museum of Larnaka is housed in the restored residence and offices of the first colonial Port Master of Larnaka, built in 1881. It is situated next to the warehouses. The Museum of Larnaka is on the ground floor with exhibits on the history of the town of Larnaka. A large collection of coins from the city kingdom of Kition of the late 6th century and photographs of the city from 1850 onwards, are among the most interesting exhibits. The Municipal Historical Archives which consist of rare books, documents and articles are situated on the second floor and are accessible only to researchers.

Tel.: 24657745

THE PIERIDES FOUNDATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Pierides Museum is the oldest private museum in Cyprus. It is housed in the ancestral Pierides family home, a colonial style building built in 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 dating from 4000 BC to the 15th century AD are an important testimony to a centuries old civilisation that flourished in Cyprus. Prized items in the collection are the red polished ware from the Early Bronze Age, Roman glassware and medieval ceramic dishes. The museum is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Zinonos Kitieos 4
Tel.: 24814555



LARNAKA FORT DISTRICT MEDIEVAL MUSEUM

Originally built during the Middle Ages, the Fort took its present form during 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 Fort houses the District Medieval Museum, whose collection covers 15 centuries of history, from early Christian period to the 19th century. The open-air courtyard is used in the summer for functions by the Larnaka Municipality.

Leoforos Athinon,
Larnaka seafront
Tel.: 24304576





MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The museum displays large collections of local reptiles, rare insects, birds, animals, as well as fossils and marine life species from Cyprus and neighbouring countries. Of particular interest are the collections of insects and plants.

Leoforos Grigori Afxentiou
(within the Larnaka Municipal Gardens)
Tel.: 24652569



KEBIR (BUYUK) MOSQUE

The Kebir (Buyuk) mosque is probably the first Ottoman mosque in Cyprus. It was originally a catholic church dedicated to St. Catherine in the 13th-14th century, before being 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. This public fountain still survives outside the mosque today.

Leoforos Athinon,
opposite Larnaka Fort



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 can be seen by the wall paintings in the building. In the 12th or 13th century it became the Catholic Church of the Holy Cross and was turned into a mosque after the Ottoman occupation of 1571. The minaret is built on the foundations of the original bell tower. Opposite this mosque is a Venetian period public water fountain.

ZACHOURI MOSQUE

The Zachouri 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.

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

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.

Terra Santa, 8
Tel.: 24642858



KAMARES AQUEDUCT

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 sources to carry water to Larnaka from a source about 10km away. The aqueduct was abandoned in 1939, its function replaced by modern pipes.

Kamares area on the
road to Lemesos



GREATER LARNAKA DISTRICT AREA

LARNAKA SALT LAKE (ALIKI)



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. In prehistoric times the salt lake was a harbour that served the town, unearthed here near where the Hala Sultan Tekkesi mosque stands today. The town was one of the large urban and commercial centres of Cyprus in 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.



HALA SULTAN TEKKESI MOSQUE

The mosque was built in 648 AD, on the spot where Umm Haram died when she fell off her mule, during one of the first Arab raids on the island. According to tradition Umm Haram was related to the Prophet Mohammed. Grand Chalif Moavia, who was taking part in the expedition, immediately ordered the construction of a mosque on the spot. It is now one of the most important holy places of worship for Muslims, ranked immediately after Mecca, Medina in Saudi Arabia and Al Aksha in Jerusalem. The mosque was first renovated in 1816 and more recently in 2002 by UNOPS.

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



ANGELOKTISTI CHURCH

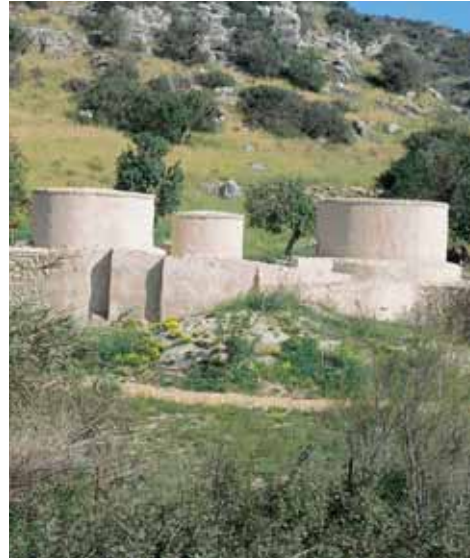
This 11th century Byzantine church was erected over the ruins of an Early Christian basilica. The original apse of the basilica has survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a rare 6th century mosaic of Virgin and Child between the two archangels Michael and Gabriel. It is a rare 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 in Lefkosia.

Kiti village, 7 Km west of Larnaka city
Tel.: 24424646

CHOIROKOITIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

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

32km from Larnaka or
48km south of Lefkosia
(on the Lefkosia-Lemesos
motorway)
Tel.: 24322710



KALAVASOS - TENTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

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

40km from Larnaka,
2.5 km off the Lefkosia -
Lemesos motorway



AGIOS GEORGIOS ARPERAS CHURCH

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.

Tersefanou Village,
13,5km west of Larnaka







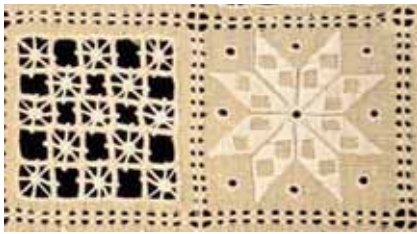
LEFKARA VILLAGE

Lefkara is a picturesque village known for its lace, the famous "lefkaritika" lace, and for its silverware. Legend has it that Leonardo da Vinci himself came here and bought an altar cloth of the traditional lace, which he donated to the cathedral of Milan. The village maintains its traditional architecture with its picturesque stone houses. In the village one can visit the Museum of Traditional Embroidery & Silversmithing, the church of the Holy Cross and the chapel of the Archangel Michael.

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

The Museum of Traditional, Embroidery and Silversmithing is housed in the restored Patsalos residence. Exhibits include examples of traditional Lefkara lace.

Tel.: 24342326



The church of the Holy Cross is situated in Pano (upper) Lefkara. It has a beautiful 18th century iconostasis and a unique silver 13th century cross.

The church the Archangel Michael, in Kato (lower) Lefkara, is a single-aisled domed church with wall paintings dating from the 12th and 15th centuries.



SKARINOU VILLAGE

“Fatsa” Wax Museum

The Wax Museum displays wax figures of prominent personalities from Cyprus history and showcases scenes from the Ottoman period (1571-1878), British rule (1878-1960), the Liberation Struggle (1955-1959) and the Turkish invasion (1974).

29km west of Larnaka
Tel.: 24621048



KATO DRY'S VILLAGE

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 recently been restored. Many buildings exhibit rural architecture, with suspended balconies, as well as doors and windows carved in relief.

38km west of Larnaka

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.

Tel.: 24342648



AGIOS MINAS CONVENT

The convent dates to the 15th century. It is a mixture of Byzantine and Gothic styles. On the north and south walls there are two large paintings of Agios Georgios and Agios Minas dated 1757. The nuns here, in addition to their religious duties, practise icon-painting.

Near Kato Drys
39km from Larnaka
Tel.: 24342952





STAVROVOUNI MONASTERY

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 14 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.

40km west of Larnaka
22km west of Lefkara
Tel.: 22533630



AGIOS ANTONIOS CHURCH

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 wall paintings from the 9th, 11th and 13th centuries.

Kellia village
10km north of Larnaka



AGIOS EFFIMIANOS CHURCH

The Byzantine church of Agios Effimianos is situated in the occupied village of Lysi. Its wall paintings 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 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 wall paintings from the dome and apse are kept in its basement. In March 2012, the original wall paintings were repatriated and are now exhibited in the Byzantine Museum of Lefkosia.

Kornos area, below
Stavrovouni Monastery
27km northwest of
Larnaka

CHAPELLE ROYALE

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

Pyrga village, 35km
south of Lefkosia and
21km from Larnaka

PAFOS (PAPHOS)

The entire town of Pafos is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. Pafos was the capital of Cyprus for a long period of time in antiquity. Today it is a charming town in the west of Cyprus. 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.

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.



Medieval Fort



PAFOS DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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

Leoforos Georgiou
Griva Digeni 43
Tel.: 26306215



BYZANTINE MUSEUM

The Byzantine Museum of Pafos has an important collection of artifacts from the Byzantine period, including 7th to 18th century icons. 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 to the 7th or 8th century.

Andrea Ioannou 5
Next to the Pafos
Bishopric
Tel.: 26931393

PAFOS MUNICIPAL GALLERY

The Gallery exhibits a total of 43 works of art of local artists.

Gladstonos 7
Tel.: 26930653

ETHNOGRAPHICAL MUSEUM

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

Exo Vrisis 1
Tel.: 26932010



“LOUTRA” - OTTOMAN HAMMAM (BATHS)

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.

Near the old market
place



AGIA SOLOMONI CHRISTIAN CATACOMB

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 the graffiti cut into the plaster are the names of 13th century Crusaders. A “sacred” tree grows above which, according to tradition, is believed to cure whoever hangs a personal votive offering on its branches.

Leoforos Agiou Pavlou,
Kato Pafos





MEDIEVAL FORT OF PAFOS

Originally a Byzantine fort built to protect the harbour, the fort was rebuilt by the Lusignans in the 13th century, but then dismantled by the Venetians. It was rebuilt by the Ottomans in the 16th century when they conquered the island.

Harbour-Kato Pafos



KATO PAFOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

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 them and provide comprehensive information to visitors. Kato Pafos archaeological Park includes sites and monuments from prehistoric times to the Middle Ages, while most remains date to the Roman period. The marvellous mosaic floors of four Roman villas form the impressive epicentre of the finds. The complex includes other important monuments, such as the Asklepieion, the Odeon, the Agora, the “Saranta Kolones” (Forty Columns) Fortress, the “Limeniotissa” Ruins of early Christian Basilica and the “Tombs of the Kings”.

Kato Pafos, near the harbour
Tel.: 26306217



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 century AD. The first house was discovered accidentally by a farmer in 1962. The villas belonged to noblemen and the mosaics are considered among the finest in the Eastern Mediterranean. They depict scenes from Greek mythology and are considered masterpieces of mosaic art. Some of the mosaics at the House of Dionysos depict the god of wine, while that of Theseus depicts the classical Greek mythology hero brandishing a club against the Minotaur. The mosaics are a stop on 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 the site of a previous Byzantine castle and was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222.

4. "Limeniotissa" Ruins of Early Christian Basilica

The basilica dates to the Early Christian period possibly to the beginning of the 5th century. It originally comprised three aisles divided by two rows of marble columns, a single apse, a narthex and 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 rebuilt in the 10th century. It was finally destroyed by an earthquake in 1159.

5. "Tombs of the Kings"

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 locality its grand name.

Kato Pafos
Tel.: 26306295

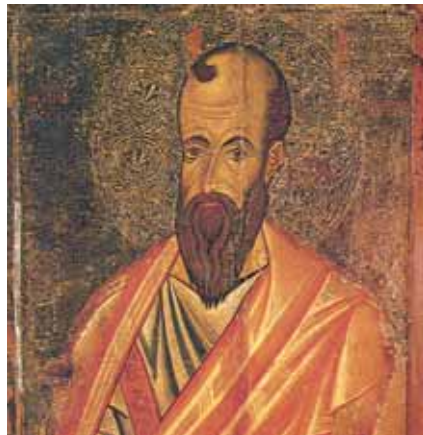




EARLY CHRISTIAN BASILICA-ST. PAUL'S PILLAR-CHRYSOPOLITISSA / AG. KYRIAKI CHURCH

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.

[Kato Pafos](#)



THEOSKEPASTI CHURCH

According to popular belief, the church was named thus, meaning "veiled by God", because God sent down a fog cloud to protect the original church during the Arab raids. The new church was built in 1923.

[Kato Pafos](#)

GREATER PAFOS DISTRICT AREA

NORTH

AGIOS NEOFYTOS MONASTERY

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

9km north of Pafos
Tel.: 26652481



CHURCH OF PANAGIA CHRYSSELOUSA

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

Empa village,
3km north of Pafos



LEMPA VILLAGE

Excavations in the village of Lempa 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 as used in Chalcolithic times (3900-2500 BC). The Chalcolithic settlement site is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

5km north of Pafos





MUSEUM OF THE MYCENAEAN COLONISATION OF CYPRUS

The archaeological site is a small settlement dating 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 at around 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.

Coral Bay, 9km from Pafos



AGIOS GEORGIOS BASILICAS - “PEGEIA FOUNTAINS”

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

Pegeia village
11km north of Pafos

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

CHLORAKAS VILLAGE

The Agios Georgios boat was used to import ammunition to be used in the Liberation Struggle 1955-59. It is displayed in a specially created shelter by the coast of Chlorakas. Nearby lays the church of Agios Georgios.

3km north of Pafos

LAONA REGION

The area near the town of Polis and the Akamas peninsula rising to about 600m above sea level is known as the Laona region. It includes picturesque villages such as Ineia, Drouseia, Kathikas, Pano and Kato Akourdaleia, all with panoramic views across the area.

1. Drouseia village - Weaving Museum

Drouseia is one of the most charming villages in Cyprus. The museum has examples of old and modern weaving and knitwear.

31km north of Pafos
Tel.: 26332561

2. Ineia village - Basket Weaving Museum

Like Drouseia, Ineia has spectacular views over the Akamas peninsula and is perfect for walks in the countryside. The local museum houses a collection of basketry.

30km north of Pafos
Tel.: 26332562

3. Kato Akourdaleia village - Folk Art Museum

The local museum has examples of local folk art and crafts.

30km north of Pafos
Tel.: 26632024



Kathikas village



Kritou Terra village



“BATHS OF APHRODITE” - AKAMAS

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 extreme physical beauty. The area is ideal for hiking, cycling, diving and swimming in crystal clear waters.

The “Baths of Aphrodite” is an area in the 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.

Akamas region
Near Polis,
48km north of Pafos



POLIS

The small town of Polis is the location where once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion, an important commercial centre in the Classical and Hellenistic periods, with close ties with Athens. During the Hellenistic-Roman period, 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.

37km north of Pafos

1. 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 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 Pelathousa village.

2. Polis Archaeological Museum Marion / Arsinoe

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

Leoforos Makariou III 26
Tel.: 26322955



BYZANTINE MUSEUM OF ARSINOE

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, as well as wood carved ecclesiastic items, local and imported silver and metal artifacts, as well as local textiles. Rare books and manuscripts are also on display.

Arsinoe Bishopric,
Peristerona village
44km north of Pafos,
9km south east of Polis
Tel.: 26352515



THE STENI MUSEUM OF VILLAGE LIFE

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. Weaving in the loom scene, ploughing scene, tools and equipment, handicrafts, kitchenware, pots and jars, traditional clothing are some of the exhibits of this village museum.

40km northeast of Pafos
Tel.: 99625004



KATO PYRGOS

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.

About 100km from Pafos

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 century.



NORTH-EAST

AGIOS KIRYKOS AND AGIA IOULITTI CHURCH

A cross-in-square domed church dating to the 12th century, with many later additions, especially from the 15th century. It has a few surviving fragments of frescoes dating to the 12th century, the majority dating to the 15th century.

Letymvou village,
16km northeast of Pafos



WEAVING MUSEUM

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 of design and rich colours. Examples of such textiles are exhibited in the museum where one can also observe how they are made.

Fyti village,
27km northeast of Pafos
Tel.: 99824544



PANO PANAGIA VILLAGE

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.

35km northeast of Pafos

PANAGIA CHRYSELEOUSA CHURCH

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 to the 16th century.

Polemi village,
18km northeast of Pafos

METOCHI IERAS MONIS KYKKOU (KYKKO MONASTERY DEPENDENCY)

To the northwest of the village there is an interesting group of buildings of traditional architecture known as the "Metochi tou Kykkou". They are now used as a community cultural centre.

Polemi village,
18km northeast of Pafos

CHRYSORROGIATISSA MONASTERY

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 by the waves to Pafos.

The present building dates to 1770. An impressive religious ceremony is held here on 15 August, on the occasion of Mother's of God Dormition Day. The monastery 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.

37km northeast of Pafos
Tel.: 26722457



PANAGIA TOU SINTI MONASTERY

An abandoned monastery on the banks of the Xeros river. The central nave of the monastery, dating 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.

Near Pentalia village
31km northeast of Pafos



AGIA MONI MONASTERY

Agia Moni Monastery is linked to the very origins of monasticism in Cyprus. According to tradition, the monastery was founded around 300 AD by Agios Nicolas and Agios Eutychios, as a place of prayer and contemplation. A sacred relic which had been given to Agios Nicolas and a piece of the cloak of the Virgin Mary were kept at the monastery until 1754.

38km northeast of Pafos



CHOULOU VILLAGE

During the Middle Ages it was a well known feudal village, associated with the popular Cypriot folk song, 'Arodafnousa'. Significant churches in 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.

22km northeast of Pafos





EAST

GEROSKIPOU VILLAGE

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 a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

3km east of Pafos



Agia Paraskevi Church

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

Tel.: 99438639



Folk Art Museum

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".

Tel.: 26306216







SANCTUARY OF APHRODITE AND PALAIPAFOS MUSEUM

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 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 a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Kouklia village, 14km east of Pafos on the Pafos-Lemesos road
Tel.: 26432155



“PETRA TOU ROMIOU” - BIRTHPLACE OF APHRODITE

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 amazing strength. With one hand he was said to have grabbed hold of the Kyreneia mountain range thereby forming “Pentadaktylos”, the Five Fingered mountain, while with the other hand he heaved a huge rock and tossed it into the sea at the Saracens who were trying to land. The rock still remains and thus gave the region its name. The site is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Pafos - Lemesos motorway, 25km from Pafos

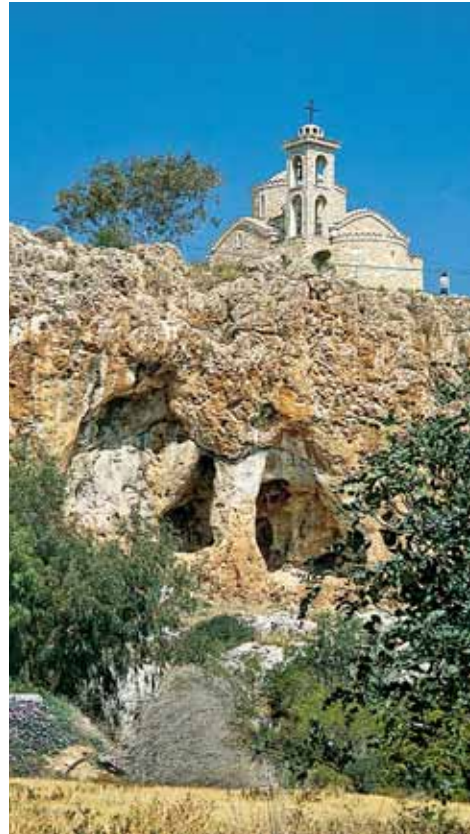


AMMOCHOSTOS (FAMAGUSTA)

Agia Napa - Protaras (The Southeast Coast)

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 lovers of the sea, 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 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.



Profitis Ilias, Protaras



Agia Napa



PLACES OF INTEREST

AGIA NAPA

1. 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.

2. "Thalassa" Agia Napa Municipal Museum

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 palaeontological to historic periods until present times. Among the exhibits are bones and skulls of Cypriot pygmy mammals, a 4th Century B.C. Greek trading vessel, the original of which was found off the coast of Kyreneia, Cypriot antiquities and stuffed marine life animals.

3. Agia Napa Aqueduct

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

4. Makronisos Archaeological Site

The Makronisos archaeological site is a Hellenistic and Roman Period cemetery, which consists of 19 underground tombs. They are all provided with a rectangular trench in the middle, slightly lower than the floor and three benches at the sides of the chamber.



Kriou Nerou 14
Tel.: 23816366

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 36 different orchid species growing on the island are found here, as well as crocuses and lillies. The local nature trail links the area with the Aphrodite Cultural Route.







DERYNEIA VILLAGE

Deryneia has three important churches - the small medieval domed church of Agios Georgios dating to the 17th century, the 15th century chapel of Agia Marina, and a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Panagia) which has two exquisite 17th century icons. From the hill to the north of the village one can view the occupied city of Ammochostos (Famagusta), once the most popular holiday resort in Cyprus.

8km north of Ag. Napa

1. Deryneia Folk Art Museum

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.

Demetri Liperti 2
Tel.: 23740353



2. Cultural Centre of Occupied Ammochostos (Famagusta)

The Cultural Centre hosts regular presentations and briefings with regard to the Cyprus problem. Binoculars are available for viewing the occupied city of Ammochostos (Famagusta). There is also a small photographic exhibition of the occupied city, as well as a handicraft centre selling traditional items.

Evagorou 35
Tel.: 23740860



SOTIRA VILLAGE

Sotira was an important village in Byzantine times. There are five interesting Byzantine churches in the village, particularly as regards 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 wall paintings also date 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).

9km north of Ag. Napa
To arrange a visit
Tel.: 23823932

Ecclesiastical Museum

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

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 are a number of other interesting churches in the wider Paralimni area.



FRENAROS VILLAGE

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 to the 12th century. Also of interest is the 15th century church of Agia Marina, containing some interesting frescoes painted by different artists only a few of which survive today.

12km north west
of Ag. Napa



AVGOROU VILLAGE

Avgorou has many Byzantine and Post Byzantine churches. The main church of the village is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. Inside the church 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 to 1629. Other churches include the chapel of Agios Georgios and the chapel of Agios Georgios Teratsiotis.

20km north west
of Ag. Napa



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

Ethnographic Museum
Leoforos Karyon 52
Tel.: 23923340



XYLOFAGOU VILLAGE

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

14km west of Ag. Napa

LIOPETRI VILLAGE

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

13km west of Ag. Napa

POTAMOS LIOPETRIOU

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

15km west of Ag. Napa

TROODOS

Ten Byzantine period churches from Troodos are listed UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Stavros tou Agiasmati, Panagia tou Araka, Timios Stavros at Pelendri, Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, Panagia Podithou, Panagia Asinou, Agios Ioannis Lambadistis, Panagia (Moutoulla), Archangelos Michael at Pedoulas and Sotiros at Palaichori.

The imposing Troodos mountain range raises its highest peak to 1951m above sea level and stretches across most of the southern and western part of Cyprus. This tranquil region provides a cool refuge for long walks in the summer among idyllic pine scented forests. Covered in snow in winter, it offers an opportunity for skiing and other winter sports.

Nestled in the Troodos mountains are some of the most beautiful hill resorts of the island, with mountain streams, Byzantine monasteries and picturesque villages built on terraced hillsides. The Troodos area has been renowned since antiquity for its rich mines. In Byzantine times it became a centre for art, as monks and ordinary citizens built churches and monasteries far from the Arab raid threatened coastal areas. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation, in cooperation with the Forestry Department, has issued a publication with information on various nature trail options, many in the Troodos area. Besides the Machairas region to the east and the Troodos proper region surrounding the tallest peak of Mount Olympos (1951m), there are four other distinct regions, each with its own character and charm. These regions are the Pitsilia area to the east of Mount Olympos, the Solea Valley to the north, the Marathasa Valley to the west and the Krasochoria region to the south (the northwestern part of Limassol district).



Kykkos Monastery



TROODOS RESORT

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

42km north of Lemesos
Troodos Visitor
Centre (Environmental
Information) Plateia
Troodos (Troodos
square)
Tel.: 25420144



PLATRES RESORT

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

37km north west
of Lemesos

EAST

PITSILIA

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 amid 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 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

LOUVARAS VILLAGE

In the village centre stands the small church of Agios Mamas built in 1455 and decorated with wall paintings signed by artist Philipos Goul. An old olive press, recently restored, is at a short distance from the church.

26km north
of Lemesos
To arrange a visit call
Tel.: 99318832

AGROS VILLAGE

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 built by monks from Constantinople once stood where the 19th century Byzantine style church of Panagia Eleoussa stands today. Agros also has a museum of icons. The village is also known for its traditional products such as aromatic rosewater, 'hiromeri' (smoked ham), 'loukanika' (spicy smoked sausages) and 'lountza' (smoked fillet of pork).

39km from Lemesos
via Gerasa - Agios
Theodoros road

KYPEROUNTA VILLAGE

The Church of Timios Stavros Stavros and Ecclesiastical Museum

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 traditional plants and herbs.

70km from Lefkosia
Tel.: 25532253,
25813204 for visits





PALAICHORI VILLAGE

As its name implies ('palaio' 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 wall paintings.

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 to the Cypriot Mother which overlooks the region. The village is famous for its smoked ham and spicy sausages.

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



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

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 murals of the post-Byzantine period.



2. Byzantine Heritage Museum

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 to the 17th centuries. They include silver and bronze work, wood-carving and textiles.

Tel.: 22643017

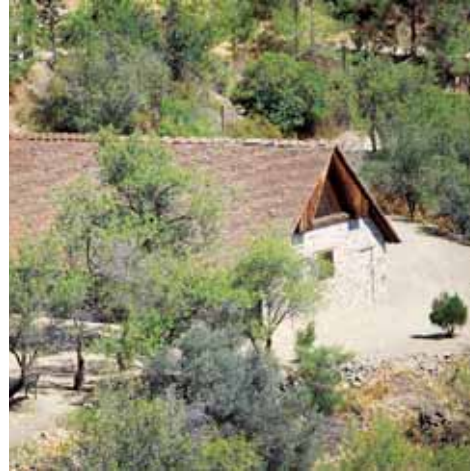


PLATANISTASA VILLAGE

The Church of Stavros tou Agiasmati

About 3km outside the village of Platanistasa there is the renowned church of Stavros tou Agiasmati, a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. It retains the most complete cycles of mural paintings of the second half of the 15th century.

48km southwest of Lefkosia, 15km from Agros, 30km off the Lefkosia - Astromeritis road, turning left before Peristerona village (Orounta-Kato Moni-Platanistasa
Tel.: 22652562, 99514179



LAGOUDERA VILLAGE

The Church of Panagia tou Araka

The 12th century church of Panagia tou Araka is 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 to open the church.

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





SPLILIA VILLAGE

Olive press

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 well preserved. 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, next to the olive press.

68km southwest of Lefkosia



KOURDALI VILLAGE

The Church of Panagia Chrysokourdaliotissa

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 the foundation stone. The wall paintings are from the same period, with western influences.

68,5km southwest of Lefkosia

The iconostasis is a beautiful example of 16th and 17th century woodcarving, with icons from this period. Excellent examples of wood carving make up the old church pews, dating to the 16th century.



PELENDRI VILLAGE

The Church of Timios Stavros (Church of the Holy Cross)

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 wall paintings of the Paleologian and other periods. It is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. The other is the church of Panagia Katholiki in the middle of the village, which dates to the early 16th century. It has paintings of the Italo-Byzantine style.

42,5km north of Lemesos
Off Trimiklini - Lemesos road
Tel.: 25552369



NORTH

SOLEA VALLEY

The beautiful valley of Solea is situated along the main Lefkosia–Troodos road (56km from Lefkosia, 56km 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.

KAKOPETRIA VILLAGE

Kakopetria is a popular hill resort with a beautiful central square and many traditional houses that have been restored. The old quarter of the village is a listed area where old houses have been carefully restored or reconstructed. The small 16th century church of Panagia Theotokos still retains about half of its original wall paintings. The same applies to the church of Agios Georgios Perachoritis, to the east of the village dating to the early 16th century.

The Church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis

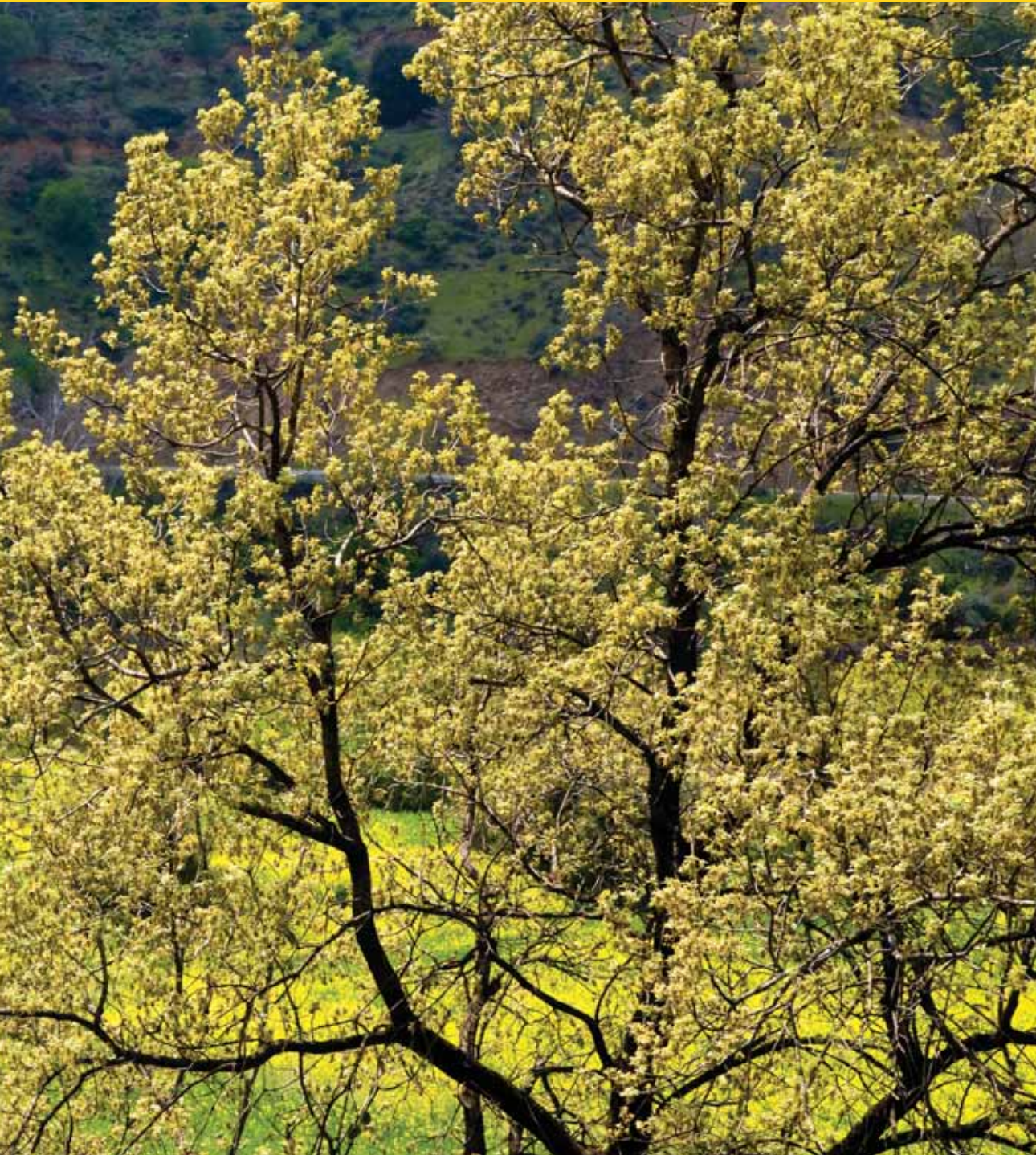
The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis (St. Nicholas of the Roof) stands about 5km from Kakopetria. It once belonged to a monastery complex. It is covered entirely in wall paintings dating from the 11th to the 17th centuries and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. It derives its name from its pitched wooden roof. The church is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

58km southwest
of Lefkosia

5km from
Kakopetria village
Tel.: 22922583









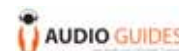
GALATA VILLAGE

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

1. Nearby is the church of **Panagia Podithou**, which once belonged to a monastery. It was built in 1502. Its paintings 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.
2. 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.
3. The church of **Agios Sozomenos**, which stands in the middle of the old village, dates to the early 16th century and retains a complete series of frescoes in the post-Byzantine style.
4. The **small church of Agia Paraskevi** on the old Kakopetria-Galata road has paintings dating to 1514.

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

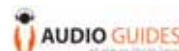
58km southwest of Lefkosia
To arrange a visit please call 99908916



PANAGIA ASINOU CHURCH

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

48km west of Lefkosia
Nikitari village 5km southwest of Nikitari village, off the main Lefkosia-Troodos road (via Vizakia-Nikitari), around 20km northeast of Kakopetria village
Tel.: 99830329



WEST

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.

PEDOULAS VILLAGE

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.

1. The Church of the Archangel Michael and Byzantine Museum

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 to 1474. It has a pitched wooden roof typical of the Troodos churches. The wall paintings are in the local post-Byzantine style that developed prior to Venetian rule.

Pedoulas Byzantine museum is located a few metres away from the church. It was established to house and preserve icons and artifacts dating from the 12th century. All the exhibits come from churches in the region.

2. Folk Art Museum

The Folk Art Museum exhibits depict the way of life, customs, traditions and history of the Marathasa village communities. On view are traditional rural objects, such as local dresses, wood-carved furniture and other household and agricultural objects.



78km southwest
of Lefkosia

Tel.: 99262070



Tel.: 22952140



MOUTOULLAS VILLAGE

The Church of Panagia tou Moutoulla

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

73,5km from Lefkosia
To arrange a visit:
Tel.: 22953385



KALOPANAGIOTIS VILLAGE

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

69km from Lefkosia
Tel.: 99476149



The Church of Agios Ioannis Lambadistis and Byzantine Museum

Originally a monastery, today's church of Agios Ioannis Lambadistis is a complex of three churches: Agios Irakleidios, Agios Ioannis Lambadistis 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 to the 13th and 16th century. The templon is particularly interesting, covered with gargoyles, including a heraldic Lusignan lion and Byzantine eagle.

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

KYKKOS MONASTERY AND MUSEUM

The best-known and richest monastery of Cyprus, Kykkos Monastery was founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It possesses one of three surviving icons ascribed to Saint Luke. It is covered in silver gilt, 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 at Kykko on 15 August and 8 September.

91km southwest of Lefkosia, 13km from the village of Pedoulas
Tel.: 22942736



TROODITISSA MONASTERY

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.

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



ROUTES

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 among the pine trees, they are bound to impress you.



PITSILIA

1. Stavros tou Agiasmati
2. Metamorphosis tou Sotiros
3. Timios Stavros
4. Panagia tou Araka

SOLEA

5. Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis
6. Panagia Podithou
7. Panagia Asinou

MARATHASA

8. Agios Ioannis Lambadistis
9. Panagia tou Moutoulla
10. Arch. Michael

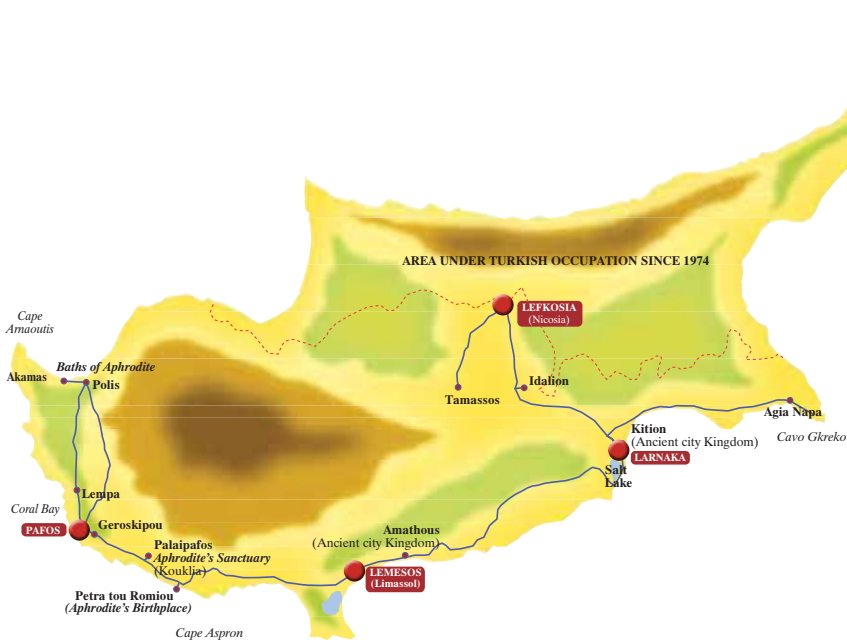


..... Area above this line, under Turkish occupation since 1974

———— Road Network

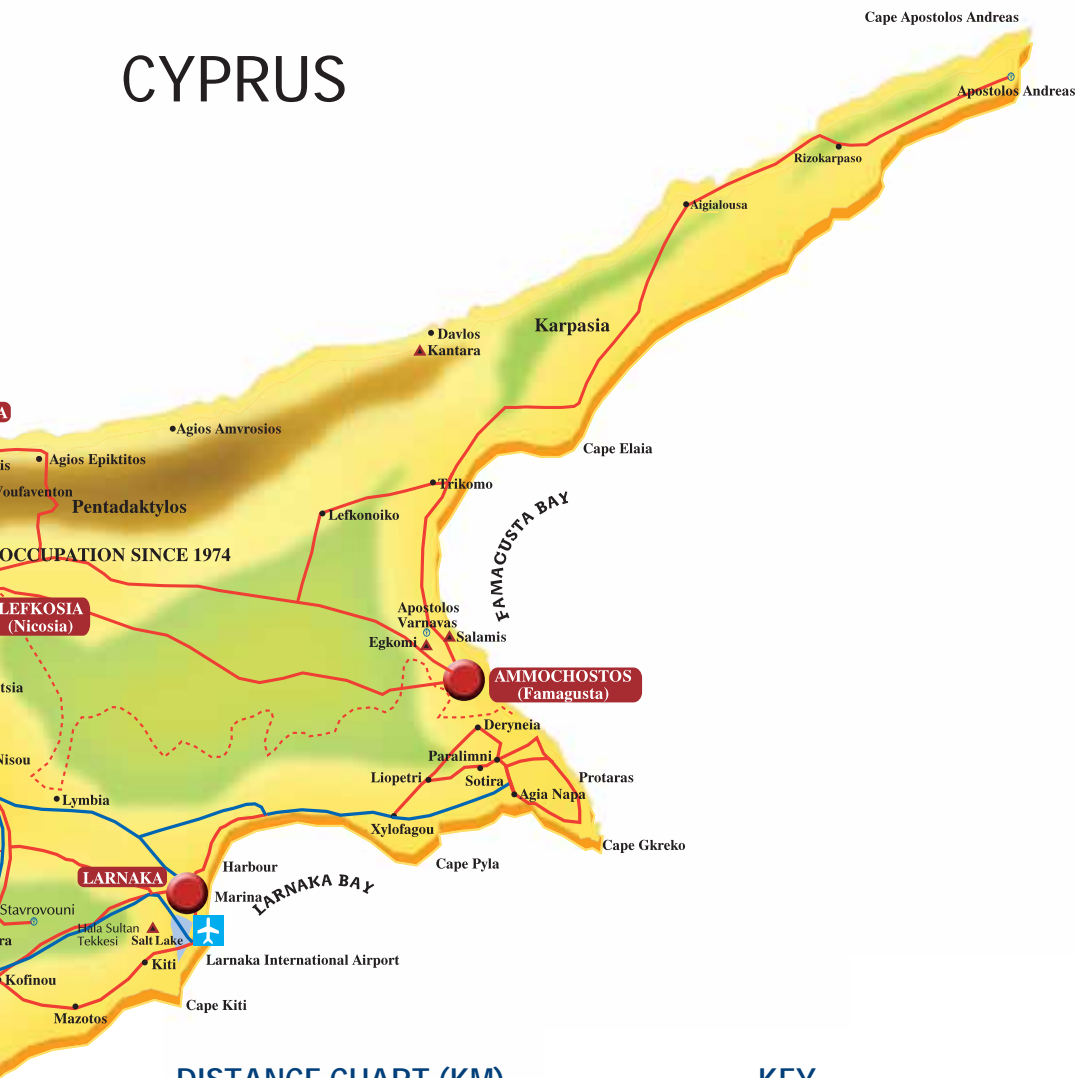
APHRODITE CULTURAL ROUTE

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. These are linked 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, mythology, character, the rituals connected with her cult, as well as plants and seashells associated with her.












CYPRUS



DISTANCE CHART (KM)

	LEFKOSIA						
LEMESOS	80						LEMESOS
PAFOS	152	72					PAFOS
LARNAKA	47	70	142				LARNAKA
TROODOS	80	51	123	121			TROODOS
AGIA NAPA	81	107	184	41	163	AGIA NAPA	
POLIS	188	108	37	177	160	220	POLIS
PARALIMNI	85	111	178	44	158	5	219
							PARALIMNI

KEY

-  Church, Monastery
-  Archaeological site
-  Town
-  Village
-  Main Road
-  Motorway
-  Limit of area under Turkish occupation

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CYPRUS

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Pafos

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Kato Pafos

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Pafos International Airport

Tel.: 26 00 73 68

Polis

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Agia Napa

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Paralimni-Protaras

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Platres

Tel.: 25 42 13 16

On 1st January 2008, the Republic of Cyprus joined the eurosystem and introduced the euro as its official currency.



The Cyprus Tourism Organisation in its efforts to best accommodate all kinds of tourists, especially the ones who do not travel in organised groups, has introduced Audio Guides for several archaeological sites and other places of interest. The Audio Guides are downloadable from CTO's website (www.visitcyprus.com) and can be uploaded to any device supporting mp3s (mobile phones, ipod etc).

Every effort has been made in the production of this publication, for the inclusion of accurate and valid information at the time of print.

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Cyprus Online

www.visitcyprus.com

The official website of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation provides comprehensive information on the major attractions of Cyprus, complete with maps, an updated calendar of events, a detailed hotel guide, downloadable photos, a travel planner to help you organise your trip to Cyprus and suggested itineraries. You will also find a list of tour operators covering Cyprus, information on conferences and incentives and a wealth of other useful information.





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