

**Welcome
to Cyprus, port
of history
&
civilisation**



www.visitcyprus.com



Kalosorisate - Welcome to Cyprus

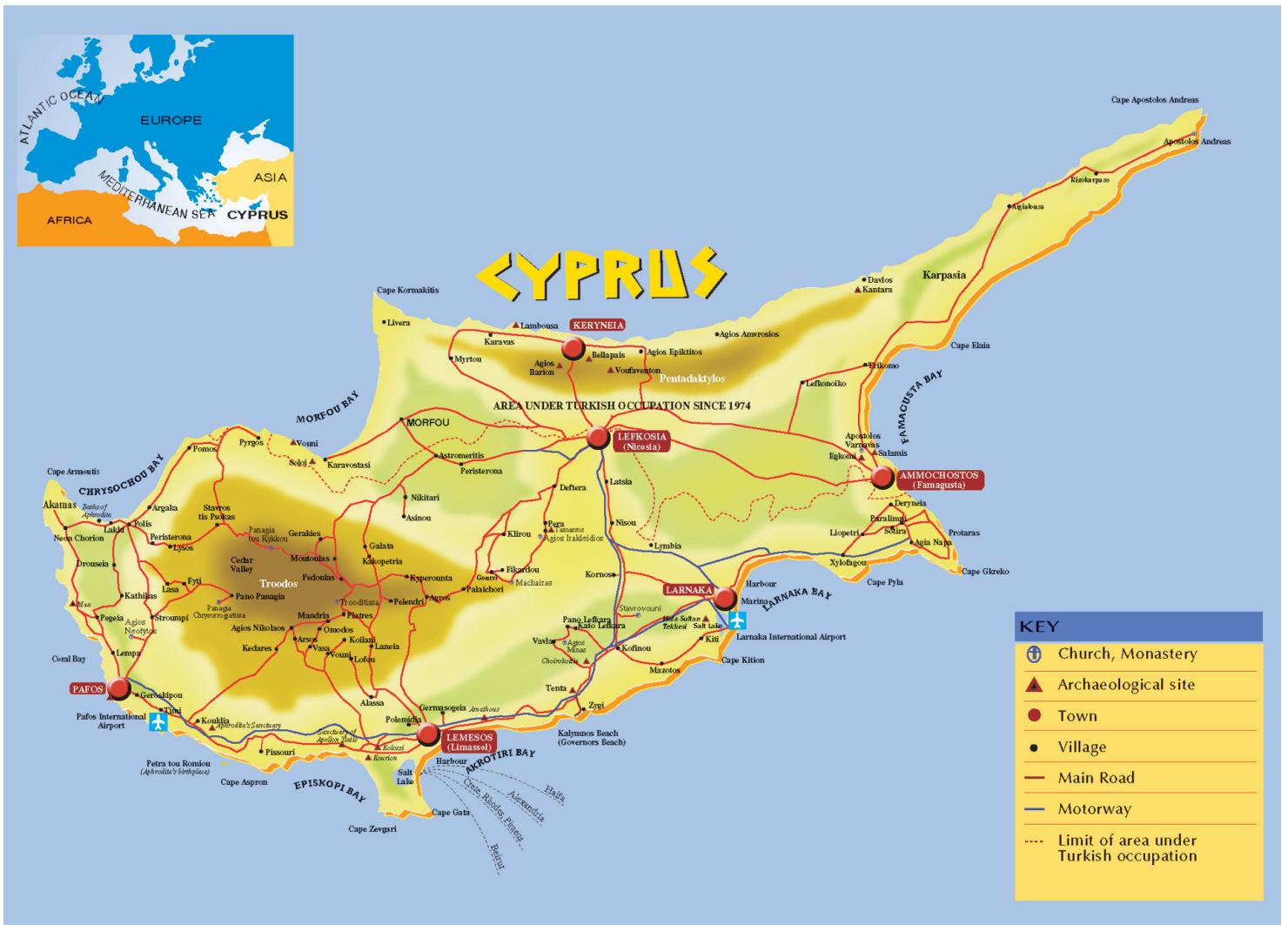


Since earliest times the beautiful Mediterranean island of Cyprus has welcomed visitors to her shores and today is one of Europe's most popular holiday and conference destinations. The island is a unique blend of stunning scenery and a rich archaeological inheritance that is intrinsically interwoven with the myths and legends of the beautiful goddess Aphrodite whose legacy was to earn Cyprus the name Island of love.

Wherever you travel, the rich history of the island is evident.

It is a colourful and sometimes turbulent history that stretches back 10,000 years. Since 1200BC the island embraced the Hellenic culture which prevailed ever after. Phoenicians, Persians, Romans and Venetians have all left their footsteps on the island's soil. Chalcolithic pottery and Roman mosaics, Byzantine churches and Venetian fortifications are just part of the island's rich cultural inheritance. Today Cyprus is a unique blend of European culture and the mystique of the Levant. The major towns offer bright modern shops, international cuisine and all types of leisure facilities, whilst in complete contrast, life in the villages is still interwoven with the passing seasons and continues at a leisurely pace.





Facts about the island

Cyprus, an independent republic since 1960, is situated at the eastern end of the Mediterranean and is a natural stepping stone between the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. It is the third largest island in the Mediterranean after Sardinia and Sicily, and covers an area of 9,251 square kilometres, (3,572 square miles) and has a population of 867,600. Greek and Turkish are the official languages. English is widely spoken.

French and German are also spoken within the tourism industry. It is an island of colourful contrasts between old and new, seascapes and landscapes, the bustle of the towns and the tranquillity of the villages, and for more than 330 days each year it is bathed in glorious sunshine. Each year the island welcomes visitors with special interests in walking, cycling, archaeology, byzantine art and much more.

Enjoy the traditional **Cypriot hospitality...**



The Cypriots proudly welcome visitors with warm hospitality and wonderful food.

They embrace life wholeheartedly and love an excuse to push back the chairs, start the music and begin the dancing!

In the villages and little coffee shops you will be welcomed with the invitation - kopiaste- come and join us and you will be offered fresh fruit, nuts or olives to enjoy in their company.

Meals are leisurely affairs and dishes incorporate the freshest seasonal produce, beautifully prepared and cooked with local herbs and olive oil. Cypriot food is a blend of recipes from all over the Levant that have been adapted by local housewives.

The perfect way to get a feel for the local cuisine is to order a mezedes which is a wide variety of little dishes including, savoury dips, vegetables, fish or meat that can be enjoyed throughout the evening. Cyprus has been famous for its wines for centuries and has many crisp dry whites, or dark fruity reds and roses to choose from. If you would rather, you can enjoy a chilled local beer or the popular Brandy Sour - made with Cyprus brandy and lemon juice with a dash of angostura bitter and plenty of ice - Stin-i-Yamass - Cheers!



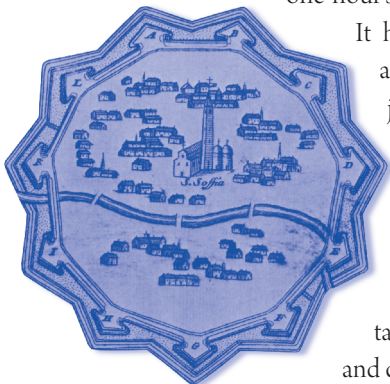
Cyprus, an island of contrasts....

With just a few short hours in Cyprus you will be delighted to know that many of the main places of interest are within easy reach from Lemesos (Limassol) and Larnaka ports.

LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA)

Lefkosia (Nicosia) the capital, is situated in the centre of the island about one hour's drive from Lemesos (Limassol).

It has the cosmopolitan appeal of a modern European city and yet just a stone's throw away, within its old Venetian walls with their eleven heart-shaped bastions, lies a different world of winding narrow streets, little pavement cafes and craft workshops where tailors and carpenters, coppersmiths and cobblers can still be seen at work.



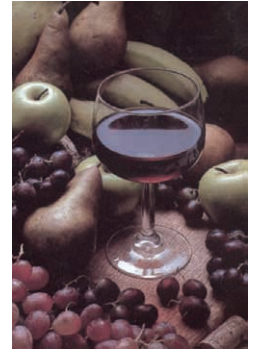
The island's ancient treasures and colourful folk history are displayed in the city's fascinating museums, including the Cyprus and Byzantine Museums. As dusk falls, the bright lights of the capital beckon visitors to enjoy a wealth of good restaurants, theatres and cultural events.

LEMESOS (LIMASSOL)

Lemesos (Limassol), the second largest town, has evolved between the two ancient sites of Amathous in the east and Kourion in the west. Lemesos is a delightful blend of old and new. The main shopping area (Agios Andreas and Anexartisias str.) is full of brightly little shops selling locally made leather goods, clothing, jewellery and pottery. The area's history can be traced by visiting the town's Archaeological Museum and Lemesos castle near the old port, which was the splendid setting



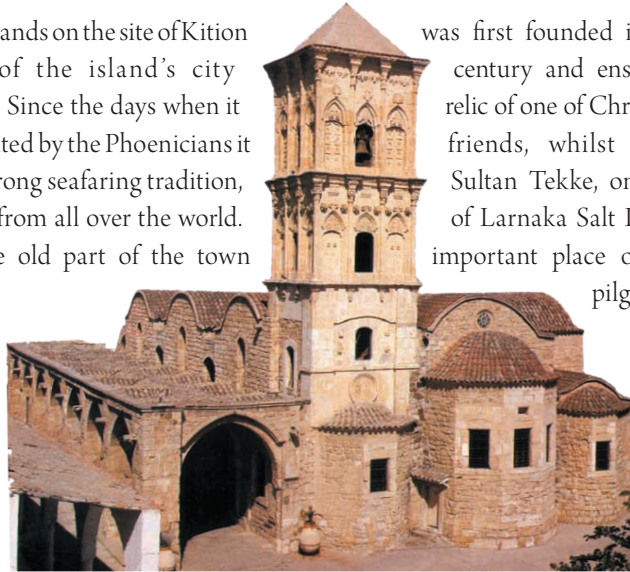
for the marriage of King Richard the Lionheart to Berengaria of Navarre in 1191 and now houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum. Further afield lie the fascinating ruins of Ancient Amathous one of the island's oldest city kingdoms where the first temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built.



LARNAKA



Larnaka stands on the site of Kition another of the island's city kingdoms. Since the days when it was inhabited by the Phoenicians it has had strong seafaring tradition, and today its marina welcomes boats from all over the world. The church of Agios Lazaros in the old part of the town



was first founded in the 9th century and enshrines the relic of one of Christ's closest friends, whilst the Hala Sultan Tekke, on the edge of Larnaka Salt Lake, is an important place of Moslem pilgrimage.



PAFOS



The picturesque harbour town of Pafos is situated on the island's south-west coast, about one hour's drive from Lemesos and has a rich archaeological inheritance. Pafos has earned a place on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list.



The beautiful coastline at Petra tou Romiou is, according to mythology, the place where Aphrodite emerged from the waves, and went to her temple at Palaipafos (now Kouklia village) where the ruins can still be seen today. Pafos

district stretches up through rolling countryside to the north coast, and the small town of Polis and its fishing shelter, Latsi. The numerous little hill villages in the area have changed little in generations and give a unique insight into rural life in Cyprus whilst the unspoilt wilderness of the Akamas beckons nature lovers.



AMMOCHOSTOS (FAMAGUSTA) REGION



Agia Napa has long been an international tourist centre, welcoming visitors from all over Europe to enjoy its luxurious hotels and beautiful sandy beaches. It has also been an important agricultural area since Venetian times, and it was during this time that its most famous historical monument, the monastery, was built to mark the place where a beautiful icon of Our Lady was discovered. Today life centres on the harbour where visitors mingle with the fishing boats, sit and enjoy fresh fish in the tavernas or try some of the watersports.

The town of Paralimni with its sea resort of Protaras stands on the edge of a fertile plain where scores of windmills turn silently in the breeze.

Its sandy beaches and rocky headlands stretch for more than five kilometres.



The nearby coast at Cape Gkreko is particularly beautiful with unusual rock formations created by the wind and waves.

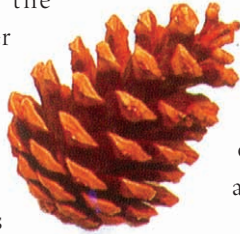


TROODOS MOUNTAINS



Throughout the year, the Troodos mountains offer a stunning contrast to the rest of the island with its rugged scenery of steeply wooded valleys and numerous streams that tumble down the ravines that radiate from the summit of Mount Olympos.

At 1,951 metres (6,400 feet), the summit offers breathtaking panoramic views in all directions. Scattered throughout the mountains are monasteries,



churches and small pretty villages, well known for their abundance of fruit including cherries, pears and apples and their traditional crafts including pottery, rug making and lace.



Breakaway - Suggested itineraries from Lemesos (Limassol) Port

a) Lemesos (Limassol)/ Kolossi/ Kourion/ Sanctuary of Apollo [3 hours]



The road from Lemesos leads through fragrant citrus groves of lemons, oranges and grapefruit towards Kolossi Castle, which stands in a fertile plain where cotton and sugar cane were grown in the Middle Ages. The castle was originally built in the 13th century by the Crusader Knights of the

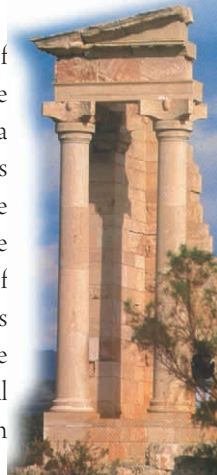
Order of St. John and was constructed from large hewn limestone blocks. After the fall of Acre in 1291, the castle served as the Grand Commandery of the Order and gave its name to the delicious sweet dessert wine Commandaria, for which Cyprus is famous. The ancient site of Kourion is the most spectacular in



Cyprus, situated on a steep vertical cliff overlooking the Mediterranean.

It was once one of the ancient city kingdoms of Cyprus and was very prosperous in Roman times. The theatre was excavated in 1950 and was reconstructed a decade later. The villa of Eustolios and the Roman Baths

both have spectacular mosaics from the early Christian period. Just a little further westwards stands one of the most important sanctuaries dedicated to Apollo Ylatis, God of the woodland. According to archaeological sources he was worshipped here from 8th century BC to the 4th century AD.

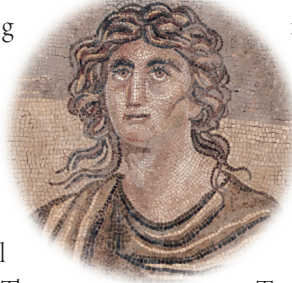


b) Lemesos (Limassol) Kolossi/ Kourion/ Petra tou Romiou/ Kato Pafos [6 or 5 hours not including Kolossi/ Kourion]



If you have a little more time to spare, itinerary (a) can be extended with a trip to Pafos.

Aphrodite has long been associated with Pafos and is said to have emerged from the waves at Petra tou Romiou, one of the island's most beautiful stretches of coastline. The small picturesque harbour at Kato Pafos is dominated by Pafos Castle. From the castle roof there is a splendid view of the harbour,



town and countryside beyond. Not far away, is the Archaeological park of Pafos which includes the beautiful mosaics of the Houses of Dionysos, Aeon, Orpheus and Theseus with their spectacular floor designs depicting scenes from Greek mythology and the ancient underground Tombs of the Kings, carved out of solid rock, date back to the 3rd century BC. Nearby in the compound of an Early Byzantine basilica one can see St. Paul's Pillar.



c) Lemesos (Limassol) and the Troodos Mountains [5 hours]



If you don't want to travel too far away from the port, you will find plenty to interest you in Lemesos (Limassol).

The medieval castle near the Old Port dates from the

13th century and was built on the site of an older fortification. The Lemesos Archaeological Museum contains many treasures that have been unearthed at the sites of Ancient Amathous and Kourion, whilst the Folk Art Museum gives an interesting insight into the island's traditional costumes, jewellery and crafts.

The Troodos area is just one hour's drive inland from Lemesos and its pine-clad mountains and crystal clear air contrast sharply with



the bustling coastal resort. There are monasteries and churches of all sizes nestling in the mountains including ten beautiful Byzantine painted churches that are so rare that they are listed on the

UNESCO World Heritage List. The villages are equally fascinating and each has a story to tell; Foini has been

famous for its red clay pottery for generations, Omodos

and Koilani for their good wines, Kakopetria

for its beautiful old

houses while Laneia is

affectionately known as

Village of the Artists. Platres

is a popular mountain resort for

those who enjoy peace, tranquillity and

a good stroll in the woods.



d) Lemesos (Limassol)/ Lefkosia (Nicosia) [5 hours]



If you would like to explore the island's archaeology a trip combining Lemesos and Lefkosia museums will reveal a wealth of treasures. On the way to Lefkosia you will see signs to Choirokoitia, the earliest settlement in Cyprus, and one of the most important in the world, dating from the 7th millennium BC.

Several replicas of the roundhouses have been reconstructed to show how sophisticated life was like all those years ago. If you would like to see some of the island's traditional crafts, the Cyprus Handicraft Centre, situated on the outskirts of Lefkosia has a wide variety of workshops where you can watch



potters and weavers, jewellers and woodcarvers whose work can be purchased in the shop there. Lefkosia has a wealth of museums to visit including the Cyprus Museum which contains many of the island's finest archaeological treasures. A stroll in Laiki Geitonia gives the perfect insight into life in the Lefkosia of yesterday with its narrow winding streets lined with little shops and craft workshops.



Suggested itineraries from Larnaka Port

e) Larnaka and Lefkosia [5 hours]

A stroll along Larnaka's seafront promenade which is known locally as Foinikoudes (palm trees) is the perfect way to relax, but if you fancy travelling a little further afield the Salt Lake and Hala Sultan Tekke are both interesting places to visit. For information on Lefkosia see itinerary (d).



f) Larnaka / Ancient Amathous / Kolossi / Kourion / Sanctuary of Apollo [5 hours]

An excellent trip to make from Larnaka if you have at least five hours to spare which will lead you through the island's rich and colourful history. For information see itinerary (a).



g) Larnaka and Lefkara [5 hours]



Lazaros, with his tomb under the sanctuary of the church, and the mosque of Hala Sultan Tekke. A little further afield near Kiti village is the church of Panagia Angeloktisti - a beautiful Byzantine church that was said to be built by angels. The pretty villages of Pano and

After a stroll along the beautiful promenade at Larnaka it is time to explore the towns' historical treasures which include the beautiful church of Agios



Kato Lefkara have long been known for their beautiful embroidery known as Lefkaritika. The village women can be seen working intricate designs on pale linen that are symbolic of the countryside and rural life and which were taught to them by their mothers and grandmothers.

With so many wonderful places to visit, the decision of where to choose could prove daunting without the helpful advice of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) who can help and advise you on how you can make the most of your trip to Cyprus.



Tourist Information Offices in Cyprus

Lefkosia (Nicosia)

Cyprus Tourism Organisation, (Head Office)
P.O.Box 24535, CY-1390 Lefkosia, Cyprus
Tel. 357-22 69 11 00, Telefax: 357-22 33 16 44
E-mail: cytour@visitcyprus.com, www.visitcyprus.com

Laiki Geitonia: Aristokyprou 11,
(East of Plateia Eleftherias), Tel. 22 67 42 64

Lemesos (Limassol)

Limassol Port, Tel. 25 57 18 68,
Agiou Andreou 142, Tel. 25 36 27 56 (Near the old port)
Georgiou A' 22, Tel. 25 32 32 11 (Potamos tis Germasogeias)

Larnaka: Plateia Vasileos Pavlou, Tel. 24 65 43 22

Pafos: Gladstonos 3, Tel. 26 93 28 41
Poseidonos 63A, Kato Pafos, Tel. 26 93 05 21

Platres: Pano Platres, Tel. 25 42 13 16

Agia Napa: Leof. Kryou Nerou 12, Tel. 23 72 17 96

Paralimni - Protaras: Protara 14, Tel. 23 83 28 65

Polis: Vasileos Stasioikou A' 2, Tel. 26 32 24 68



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United States-New York:	Tel: (212) 683-5280,	Fax: (212) 683-5282,	E-mail: gocyprus@aol.com
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Czech Republic-Praha:	Tel: (420) 222-253 097,	Fax: (420) 222-251 639,	E-mail: cto.prague@volny.cz
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Wherever you travel in Cyprus you will be warmly welcomed and as the ship's horn announces your departure we will bid you a fond farewell, with the wish that you come back to Cyprus soon...