

CYPRUS

CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATION

TRAVEL PLANNER

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS – 50 YEARS
1960-2010

KOPIASTE!

Welcome to Cyprus

Dear Traveler:

There are myriad islands in the Mediterranean, but only one does Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love, calls home, and that's Cyprus. As Cyprus celebrates this year its 50th Anniversary as an Independent Republic, there's never been a better time to plan your visit.

Whatever your speed or special interest, Cyprus is uniquely poised to welcome you. Our beaches are not only beautiful, they are certified as among the cleanest in Europe. If you want a captivating counterpoint to the crystal blue waters where Aphrodite washed ashore long ago, it's easy. Just a short drive from the coast brings you to the pine-clad Troodos Mountains, where wild moufflons roam, cedars grow and ancient churches and monasteries with stunning Byzantine frescoes and icons await.

Archaeology-lovers are spoiled for choice in Cyprus. From Neolithic settlements more than 10,000 years old, to spectacular Greco-Roman ruins, such as the ancient seaside amphitheater of Kourion, to Crusader fortresses such as Kolossi, the list of treasures is boundless. By no means will you want to miss Pafos, a wellspring of antiquities on the western flank of the island. The mysterious Tombs of the Kings...and Roman mosaics that are so colorful, extensive and well-preserved they are all recognized by UNESCO.

Although Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, it is surprisingly compact and easy to explore. In between rugged mountain peaks and the shimmering coast you'll traverse untrammelled landscapes and rolling hills with vineyards that still produce the world's oldest named dessert wine, sweet Commandaria. Linger in idyllic villages such as Omodos and Lefkara where the rhythm slows down and there's always time for another coffee. All across Cyprus, you'll have the opportunity to experience a distinctive cuisine composed of meze, small plates of everything from flame-grilled, delicately spiced meats to fresh vegetables and amazing cheeses, such as the famous halloumi (the savory sheep's cheese that grills).

With its rich past as anchor, Cyprus is also a thriving modern nation with a service economy second to none in the whole region, and the Cypriot people, worldly and warm, are only too happy to share it with you. Which means, among other things an attractive range of accommodations, luxurious hotels with both local flavor and the highest international standards, quality tourist villas, agrotourism options and more.

Cyprus's location, coveted by empires since ancient times, is still ideal today for visiting nearby countries, such as Greece, Israel and Egypt. But with so much history to see and culture to enjoy and cuisine to savor – and with Aphrodite at your side as your guide – you will have more reasons to stay and explore Cyprus than you might think.

– Cyprus Tourism Organization

“...you are welcome in Cyprus”
~ William Shakespeare, “Othello”



Kourion Theater, Lemesos



Agia Kyriaki Church, Pafos

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Tombs of the Kings, Pafos

CYPRUS

THE ISLAND OF APHRODITE AWAITS...

She was not the most powerful of the gods, but if art and archaeology are any guide, Aphrodite was undeniably the most beautiful of them all – so it is no wonder that once she drifted onto the shores of Cyprus in ancient times, she never left. Her mythical spirit still pervades the Mediterranean's third largest island, from the classical, unspoiled landscapes of olive trees and citrus groves to the welcoming smiles of the Cypriot people. Exotic but approachable, they are proud of an island that has been witness to the arc of history from Alexander the Great to the European Union (of which the Republic of Cyprus is a member), and are always happy to share this vast cultural richness with travelers.

Cyprus, at the eastern end of the Mediterranean sea, has always been linked culturally to ancient Greece but in fact has known human settlement for some 10,000 years – before any known or named empire. But those would come: from Phoenicians to Romans to Venetians to Ottomans and others, few powers in history have failed to be seduced by Aphrodite's uncomplicated but earnest charms. If the island's copper mines made it a place to covet throughout much of antiquity – indeed, Cyprus gives its name to copper – its very location has for centuries served as a fulcrum for empires on the move.

And that location today is irresistible for travelers on the go, too. It's easy to fly to from just about anywhere, for one. And in no other place can so many visible traces of the past be seen and savored in such a compact, dynamic space. The turbulence of yesterday is today's unparalleled tapestry of archaeological sites, fascinating and impeccably curated museums and more. All this in a resolutely modern republic with one of the highest standards of living in the world. It will take you only a few hours to see why, so many centuries after the goddess of love and beauty arrived, she and her fellow Cypriots are still smiling.

Explore a Rich, Multilayered Past

On an island with over 11,000 years of history, simply walking around can be a memorable and historically enriching experience. In the capital of Lefkosa (Nicosia), you can touch the stone of the formidable walls the Venetians built which still encircle the city. In Pafos, there is St. Paul's Pillar, and predating that, the incomparable mosaics of the Houses of Aion and Dionysus; so many other fascinating vestiges of the past reside here, in fact, the whole town has been designated a UNESCO

Petra tou Romiou – Rock of Aphrodite, Pafos



World Heritage Site; or discover Cyprus's Crusader past at the Medieval Museum in bustling Lemesos (Limassol). It is housed in the imposing castle where Richard the Lionheart married the beautiful Berengaria of Navarre in 1191. Also not to be missed is the Greco-Roman theater of Kourion, the nearby Temple of Apollo Hylates (Apollo of the Woods), Petra tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock) and much more.

Natural Splendors

The incredibly stunning Akamas Peninsula has been a nature lover's paradise ever since the days when Aphrodite made it her home, and, following her interludes with Adonis, bathed in the mineral spring that still bears her name. Visitors can see her legendary baths and then take a ramble through the protected Avakas Gorge, where, as in ancient times, goats comprise the only traffic. For those wishing to take tranquility and hiking trails to the next level, there are the Troodos Mountains, where the lofty peaks clad in tall pine trees and majestic cedars provide a striking contrast to the splendors of the coast – never more than an hour or so away by car.

A World-Famous Port and a Coast that Calls

Lemesos, also called Limassol, is Cyprus' biggest port and boasts some of the most exciting nightlife. Numerous four- and five-

star resorts line the beachfront and everything from elegant yachts and cruise ships to fishing boats fill the harbor. You can hit the beach in a big way in Ayia Napa, one of the Mediterranean's liveliest resorts, or savor the tranquility of nearby Nissi Beach. Cypriot beaches are famously clean (and fly the Blue Flag of certification), and many offer facilities for windsurfing, parasailing, scuba diving, and more. For a change of pace, head inland from the coast and you'll discover villages of whitewashed stone untouched by the sweep of time: Lefkara, famous for its lace; Lania, an artists' colony; and splendid Omodos, with its sleepy, sunny central square and plethora of small artisans' workshops.

A Destination For All Travelers

Today, Cyprus seamlessly blends ancient history with a modern infrastructure and a contemporary cosmopolitan lifestyle. From the moment you arrive at Larnaca's sparkling new international airport, you will feel the stress go out and the relaxation settle in. Which isn't all that surprising, considering that even Aphrodite couldn't bring herself to leave here.

Come and discover the quiet treasures of Cyprus, where antiquity is alive at every turn. Wander about in comfort and awe, and if you should ever have any questions, the locals will happily share their knowledge and show you the way. "Kopiaste!" is how they say "Come join us" here, and it's sincere.

That's the sun-kissed spirit of Cyprus.

"[A] confluence of different destinies

[have] touched and illumined the history

of one small island in

the eastern basin of

the [Mediterranean],

giving it significance

and depth of focus."

*~ Lawrence Durell,
"Bitter Lemons"*

CYPRUS

THROUGH THE AGES...

Cyprus is an island at the crossroads of many civilizations – from Neolithic cultures to ancient Greek and Roman and many more. Phoenicians. Venetians. Alexander the Great. Knights Templar. So many civilizations, in fact, that to properly examine them all would take the acumen of an archaeologist and many lifetimes. But sun-kissed and compact, Cyprus can be explored in a much shorter time than that, with plenty of opportunity for stops at the beaches, vineyards, monasteries, museums and tavernas along the way. One look at the blue swirl around Petra tou Romiou, or Aphrodite's rock, and you'll get a sense of why Cyprus attracted so many throughout the millennia.

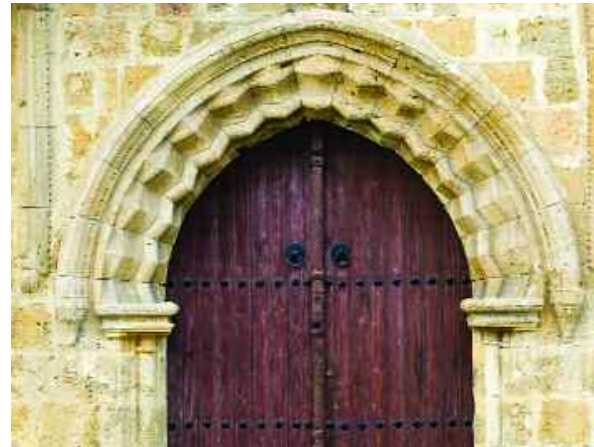
If the island's natural Mediterranean beauty was a magnet for Aphrodite's acolytes, so too do it attract the attention of the dominant regional empires throughout history. And even pre-history: Some of the Neolithic ruins in Cyprus give new meaning to the word "timeless": in places like Choirokoiitia, a UNESCO World Heritage site, stone ruins of ancient human settlements date back 10,000 years. Copper was found on the island between 3900 B.C. and 2900 B.C., a discovery that would change the course of commercial and cultural history in the ancient world. In the geographic orbit of ancient Greece,

it's no surprise that Greek merchant and settlers (Mycaenaens and Achaens) would establish Cypriot city-kingdoms, from 1650 B.C.-1050 B.C. One of these was Kourion, where today you can wander explore well-preserved ancient ruins. Fast forward in antiquity to 333 B.C. and Alexander the Great swept through, decisively albeit briefly: by 325 B.C. the Hellenistic Period had commenced, with the Ptolemies of Egypt in control. Pafos was their capital, and today the necropolis known as the Tombs of the Kings bears witness to this stage of the island's rich past.

Pafos is also where you'll find a treasure trove of ancient mosaics that date from Cyprus's Roman Period, from 30 B.C.-330 A.D. And important Early Christian relics like St. Paul's Pillar. Christianity gained an early foothold in Cyprus and was also a place from which it would be defended: Richard the Lionheart and the Knights Templar arrived in 1191, and in Lemesos (Limassol) you can visit the castle where he married Berenaria of Navarre. The Frankish, or Lusignan, period followed, and in 1489, the Venetian Empire held sway. The fortifications in Lefkosia (Nicosia) are of solid Venetian construction. Ottoman and British traces are still visible in places throughout the island, too. As you explore Cyprus, the mosaic of myriad civilizations comes into sharper focus, because so much of world history began right here. And continues every day.

*"Here the beauty of
some pleasant hill
invites the wandering
mariners to take their
ease among its flowery
verdure, where the
zephyrs continually
come and go, filling
with sweet odors
the island and the
encompassing sea..."*

*~ Leonardo da Vinci,
1452-1519 A.D.*



8500-3900 B.C.: Neolithic Age

The oldest settlements found on the island date from this period. Stone vessels and later, pottery was used.

3900-2500 B.C.: Chalcolithic Age

Chalcolithic settlements and evidence of a fertility cult, have been found in Western Cyprus. Copper discovered.

2500-1650 B.C.: Early and Middle Bronze Age

Beginning in about 2400 BC, prospectors from Anatolia explored the island for copper. These newcomers settled in the foothills of Troodos Mountains which was a copper rich area. In the early Bronze Age the use of metal became more widespread in Cyprus. Cyprus began to export copper.

1650-1050 B.C.: Bronze Age

Cyprus was known as "Alasia" during this great trading period with its neighbors, partly because of its exploitation of copper. After 1400 B.C., the first of many waves of Greek merchants and settlers (Mycenaens and Achaecans) reached the island, spreading the Greek language, religion and customs. They gradually took control and established the first city-kingdoms.

1050-750 B.C.: Geometric Period

The Hellenization of Cyprus was complete, with ten city-kingdoms. The cult of Aphrodite flourished in a period of great prosperity.

750-480 B.C.: Archaic and Classical Period

An era of prosperity and conquest. Cypriot kingdoms became tributary to Assyria, Egypt and Persia. But King Evagoras (411-374) unified the island, making it an important center of the Greek world.

333-325 B.C.

Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, takes Cyprus as part of his empire.

310-30 B.C.: Hellenistic Period

Alexander's generals fought for succession, and Cyprus eventually came under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemies of Egypt, belonging from then on to the Greek Alexandrine world. Pafos became capital.

30 B.C.-330 A.D.: Roman Period

Cyprus became part of the Roman Empire. But Saints Paul and Barnabas converted the Roman consul to Christianity, and he became the first Christian ruler in the world. In 313 freedom of worship was granted, and Cypriot bishops attended the council of Nicea in 325. The period was marked by earthquakes that required rebuilding of cities.

330-1191 A.D.: Byzantine Period

After the division of the Roman Empire, Cyprus became part of Byzantium, with Christianity becoming the official religion. Empress Helena visited the island and founded Stavrovouni Monastery. The period again saw earthquakes and rebuilding, including large Basilicas. In 488, after the discovery of St. Barnabas' tomb, the Church of Cyprus was granted full autonomy by Emperor Zeno. In 647 the first of a series of Arab raids occurred. The raids went on until 965, when Arabs were expelled from Asia Minor and Cyprus.

1191-1192: Richard the Lionheart and the Knights Templar

Richard, leader of the Third Crusade, took possession of Cyprus and married Berengria of Navarre, crowning her Queen of England. A year later he sold Cyprus to the Knights Templar who resold it to Guy de Lusignan, deposed King of Jerusalem.

1192-1489: Frankish (Lusignan) Period

The Catholic Church officially replaced the Greek Orthodox Church, but the latter managed to survive. The city of Ammochostos became one of the richest cities in the world in this period, which ended when the last queen Catherina Cornaro ceded Cyprus to Venice in 1489.

1489-1571: Venetian Period

The last queen of Cyprus, Caterina Cornaro, wife of King James the II, ceded the island to Venice in 1489. 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 uninterrupted movement and supply of Venetian ships in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Venetians fortified the island against the Ottomans, building formidable walls around Lefkosia and Ammochostos, where the defenses were considered works of art in military architecture.

1571-1878: Ottoman Period

The period of Ottoman rule in Cyprus began with the fall of Ammochostos (Famagusta) in 1571. Cyprus fell to the Ottoman troops after much bloodshed. The Latin leadership was expelled and the Orthodox church restored with the Archbishop becoming the people's representative to the Sultan. When the Greek War of Independence broke out in 1821, many prominent Cypriots, including the Archbishop, were executed. During this period a proportion of Cypriots and Latins succumbed to pressures and converted to Islam, thus creating the Muslim minority.

1878-1960: British Period

In 1878 Britain assumed administration of the island, subsequently annexing it in 1914, after the Ottomans entered the First World War in Germany's side. In 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey relinquished all rights to Cyprus, and in 1925 Cyprus became a Crown Colony. During the Second World War, Cypriot volunteers served in the British forces. Hopes for self-determination by the Cypriot people however, were denied by the British, who considered the island strategically vital. A national liberation struggle began in 1955 against Colonial rule and for the union of Cyprus with Greece, which lasted until 1959. The Zurich-London Agreements led to the establishment of the independent Republic of Cyprus. On December 13 1959 Archbishop Makarios III was elected first President of the Republic and Dr Fazil Kutchuk first Vice President.

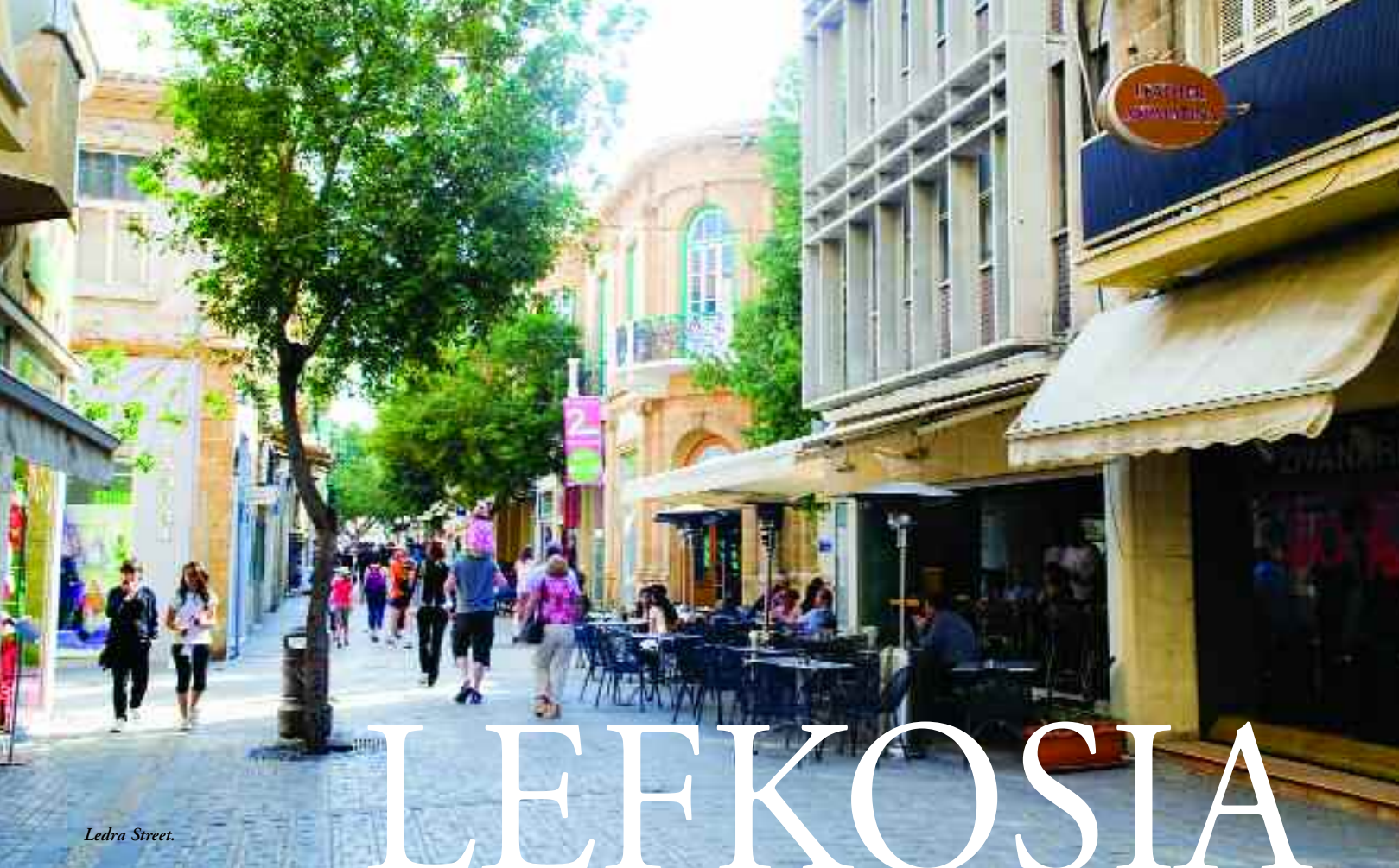
1960-The Republic of Cyprus

Cyprus became an independent Republic in 1960, and a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. Britain, however retained two sovereign bases.

In 1964, UN peacekeeping force arrive in Cyprus, following intercommunal clashes. In July 1974, Turkish forces invaded and occupied the northern third of the island (37%), where they remain to this day. Despite the many continuing humanitarian, social, and economic consequences, Cyprus today is a modern society with a robust and healthy economy.

In May 2004, the Republic of Cyprus became a full member of the European Union, adding its own uniqueness to the mosaic and serving as the European Union's lighthouse in the eastern Mediterranean. The island and the Cypriot people stand as a beacon for closer cooperation, understanding, and dialogue with the countries and people in its immediate neighborhood and wider region.

Strategically located, Cyprus continues to have a rich historical maritime tradition. Today, its merchant fleet is the third largest in the European Union and tenth largest worldwide. On January 1, 2008, Cyprus introduced the euro as its official currency, replacing the Cyprus pound, while it is home to many international companies that use Cyprus as a springboard to the surrounding regions and further afield.



Ledra Street.

LEFKOSIA

VENETIAN FORTIFICATIONS, ANCIENT DOORS AND CHEERFUL TAVERNAS AWAIT DISCOVERY IN THE CAPITAL CITY

During the Venetian expansion eastward in the 1500's, Lefkosia was fortified with imposing stone walls and massive gates. The famous Famagusta Gate still stands today, proudly protecting the still ancient town within from the modern city without.

Through the Gate lies Laiki Geitonia, an old section which has been lovingly restored. Wander your way through narrow stone streets where crimson flowers cascade from window pots and the aroma of traditional baking wafts through open doorways. Explore jewelry and handicraft shops, dine in charming tavernas, marvel at churches centuries old.

Those engrossed in history and art will make their way directly to the Cyprus Museum, which holds the island's priceless treasures from the first stirrings of the Neolithic Age through the Roman period. At the Byzantine Museum, encounter a dazzling collection of early Christian icons from the Mediterranean's Golden Age. The State Collection of Contemporary Art takes a newer perspective, focusing on Cyprus' modern artists, some of whom have gained note on the international market.

Come full circle in time and visit the Cyprus Handicraft Center workshops, where traditional arts are practiced today much the same way they were in ages past. Relax and enjoy a splendid Cypriot meal, accented by one of the island's famous wines.

Later, the nightlife beckons near Famagusta Gate, giving expression to the Cypriot's legendary spirit of celebration.



Photos from left to right: St. John's Cathedral, Famagusta Gate, Municipal Building

LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA) IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Cyprus Museum (Archaeological)
Mousciou 1. Collection of Cypriot antiquities and treasures from the Neolithic Age to the Early Byzantine period. Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-16:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-16:00; Sun: 10:00-13:00

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia
Ippokratous 17, near Laiki Geitonia. The historical museum of Lefkosia revives life in the capital from ancient times to present. Tues-Sun: 10:00-16:30; (closed on public holidays)

Byzantine Museum and Art Galleries
Archbishop Makarios III Foundation Cultural Centre, Plateia Arch, Kyprianou. Largest collection of icons on the island, covering the 9th- to 18th-centuries. The Art Galleries contain oil paintings, maps and lithographs. Mon-Fri: 09:00-16:30; Sat: 09:00-13:00

Ethnological Museum – The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornosios
Patriarchou Gregoriou 20. The most important 18th-century building in Lefkosia. Once the residence of the Dragoman Hadjigeorgakis Kornosios. Mon: 08:30-14:00; Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:30-15:30; Thurs: 08:30-17:00; Sat & Sun: closed. (closed on public holidays)

Famagusta Gate
Leoforos Athinon. The Venetian walls which encircle the old city possess eleven heart-shaped bastions. The city has three gates. One the Porta Giuliana called Famagusta Gate is now the Lefkosia Municipal Cultural Centre. Mon-Fri: 10:00-13:00, 16:00-19:00 (May-September: 10:00-13:00, 17:00-20:00)

National Struggle Museum
Plateia Arch, Kyprianou. Documents, photographs and other memorabilia of the 1955-1959 National Liberation Struggle. Mon-Fri: 08:00-14:00; Thurs: 15:00-17:30 except July & August

Agios Ioannis Cathedral
Plateia Arc, Kyprianou. Built by Archbishop Nikiforos in 1662, the wall paintings depict bible scenes and the discovery of the tomb of St. Barnabas. Mon-Fri: 08:00-12:00; 14:00-16:00; Sat: 08:00-12:00 (and during mass)

State Gallery of Contemporary Art
Leoforos Stasinou and Kritis. Representative collection of paintings and sculpture by 20th-century Cypriot artists. Mon-Fri: 10:00-16:45; Sat: 10:00-12:45



Archbishopric
Plateia Arch, Kyprianou. Centre of the Cyprus Orthodox Church, the New Archbishopric was built in a neo-Byzantine style in 1960.

Chrysaliniotissa Church
Within walking distance of the Archbishopric. Considered the oldest Byzantine church in Lefkosia, it is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Flax." Believed to have been built in 1450 by Queen Helena Palaeologos.

Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus
(Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou within the old Archbishopric). Wide collection of Cypriot Folk Art of the 19th- and early 20th-century, including wood carved objects, tapestry, embroidery, pottery, national costumes and hand-woven materials. Mon-Fri: 09:00-13:30; Sat: 09:00-13:00

Omeriye Baths
Tyllirias Square 8. The baths were built in the 16th-century by Lala Mustafa as a gift to the city and it has now been restored and used as public baths. Tues, Thurs, Sat: 09:00-21:00 (for men); Wed, Fri, Sun: 09:00-21:00 (for women); Mon, 09:00-21:00 (for couples)

Cyprus Handicraft Center
Leoforos Athalassas 186. The centre aims to promote and enrich traditional folk art and craft skills. It has workshops and a showroom/shop on premises.

Workshops: Mon-Fri: 07:30-14:30; Thurs: 15:00-18:00 except July & August

The Nicosia Municipal Arts Center
Apostolou Varnava 19. Housed in an old power station, one of the finest examples of industrial architecture in Cyprus. The Center's aim is to promote contemporary creativity at its highest level. Tues-Sat: 10:00-15:00, 17:00-23:00; Sun: 10:00-16:00

"The island has in its midst a fair city called Lefkosia, which is the capital of the kingdom, well walled, with its fine gates, which are three, to wit the gate of Paffo, of Famagusta and Cirina. That of Famagusta, is the most beautiful, and in my judgment the city of Barcelona has none to match it."

– P. Joan Lopez, 1770

Ledra Museum Observatory
Ledra Street, Shakolas Building. Mon-Sun: 10:00-20:00 (April-October); 09:30-16:00 (November-March)

Museum on the History of Cypriot Coinage
Stadinou 51, Agia Paraskevi area. The museum collection traces the history of Cypriot coinage from the 6th-century B.C. to the present. Mon-Fri: 08:00-14:00 (closed on Bank holidays); Mon: 08:30-17:00 (September-April)

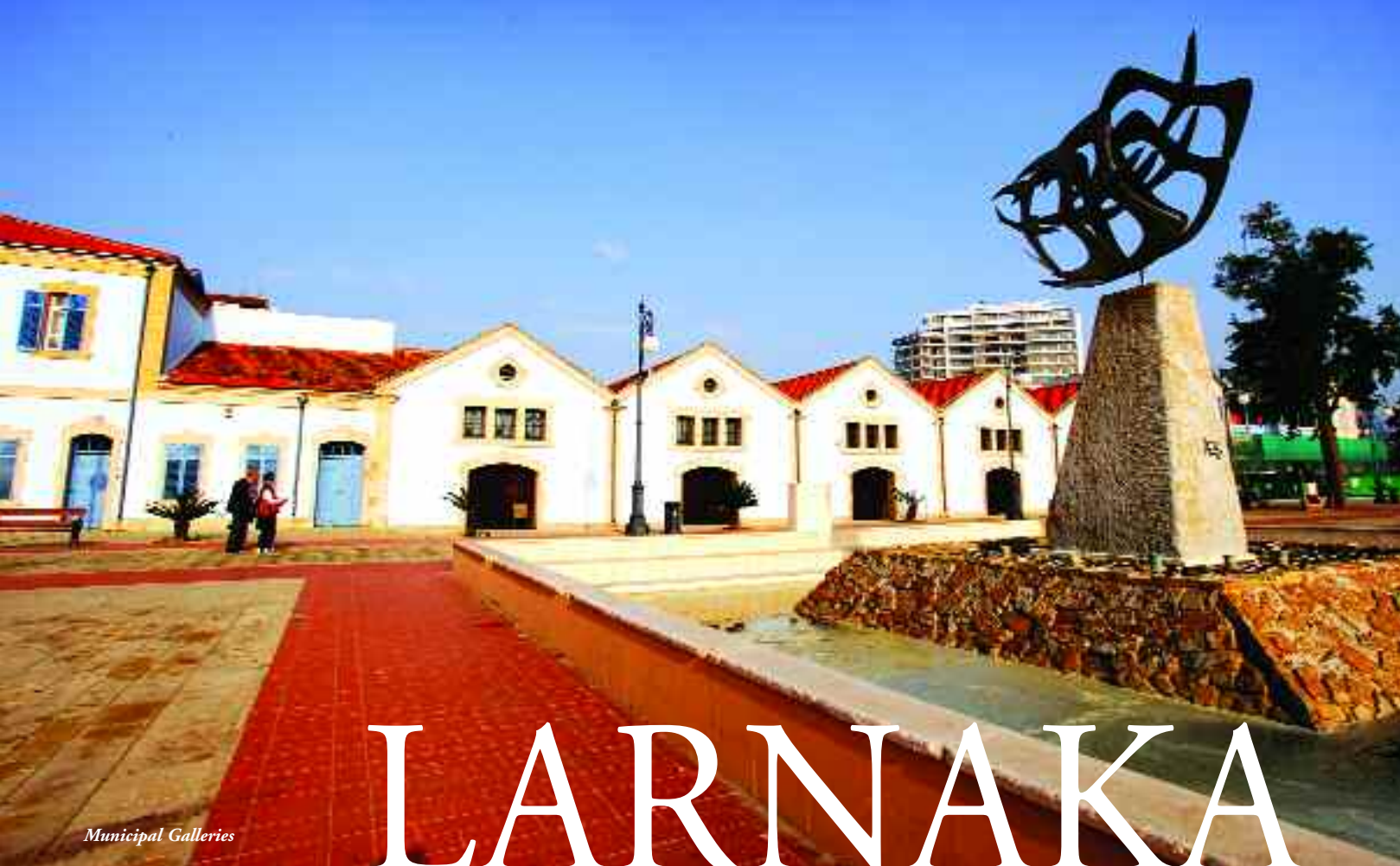
LEFKOSIA (Nicosia) AREA

Politiko-Tamassos Royal Tombs
Politiko village, 17 km southwest of Lefkosia. Tamassos was a rich city-kingdom in ancient Cyprus renowned for its copper mines. Excavations have brought to light the relics of Aphrodite-Astarte. 08:30-16:00 (November-March); 09:30-17:00 (April-October) (closed on public holidays)

Agios Irakleidios Convent
Politiko village, 0.5 km from the Royal Tombs. When Saints Paul and Barnabas came to Cyprus, they were guided to Tamassos by Irakleidios. He was martyred and buried in the cave where he had lived and preached. The monastery, founded in 400 A.D., was destroyed and rebuilt several times until Archbishop Chrysanthos renovated it in 1773. The relics of the saints are kept in a silver gilt case. Open daily. (closed 12:00-15:00)

Machairas Monastery
40 km south of Lefkosia through Deftera and Pera villages. Founded by two monks in 1148, when an icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave, the monastery is set in a picturesque dip in the Machairas Mountains. Open daily: 08:00-17:30

Fikardou Rural Museum
1.5 km east of Gourri village (Machairas Lefkosia Road via Klirou). The village has been declared an ancient monument to preserve the remarkable woodwork and folk architecture of the 16th- and 18th-century houses. Some of the houses received the Europa Nostra Award in 1987. Open daily from 08:00-16:00 (November-March); 09:00-17:00 (April-October)



Municipal Galleries

LARNAKA

STROLL THE FAMOUS SEASIDE PROMENADE OF THIS GATEWAY CITY AND HOME TO SAINT LAZARUS

Most travelers first see Cyprus at Larnaka, which is the second port and the site of an international airport. No welcome could be sunnier: at Larnaka, deep blue seas meet bright sand beaches under incomparably brilliant skies.

Here yachts and sailing vessels from around the globe bob and glint, and along the harbor perimeter is a palm-lined promenade.

Between shopping trips to Larnaka's international-caliber boutiques, inviting cafes offer shady resting spots and sweeping ocean views. The promenade winds its way to a striking finale, the Larnaka Medieval Museum, housed in a 17th-century fort.

Make your way north from the fort, toward the center of the city, and you will come to one of Larnaka's and the island's most cherished sites – the church of Saint Lazarus. After his resurrection from the dead by Jesus, Lazarus elected to live out his "second" life as Bishop of Cyprus. He is reputedly buried in a crypt under the main altar.

Originally called Kition in the days of the Old Testament, Larnaka reached a heyday as a commercial center in the 1700's, when the consulates were established here.

One of the oldest, continually-inhabited cities in the world, Larnaka abounds with sights. Nearby is an 18th-century aqueduct, and two wonderful museums – the Larnaka District Archaeological Museum and the Pierides Foundation Museum. Both contain exceptional examples of Mediterranean art.

Heading out from Larnaka toward Lemesos (next section), stop by the enchanting village of Lefkara. Doubtless you, like Leonardo Da Vinci five centuries before you, will be seduced by Lefkara's exquisite handmade lace.



Photos from left to right: Kamares Aqueduct, Lace-making in Lefkara Village, Saint Lazarus Church

LARNAKA IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Larnaka District

Archaeological Museum
Plateia Kalogreon. Collection of finds from the Larnaka area dating from the Neolithic Age to the Roman period. Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-15:00. Mon & Sun: closed

Pierides Foundation Archaeological Museum
Zenon Kitieos 4. Remarkable private exhibition of Cypriot antiquities, originally collected by Demetrios Pieridis (1811-1895) and further enriched by members of his family. Mon-Thurs: 09:00-16:00; Fri-Sat: 09:00-13:00

Larnaka Medieval Museum – Larnaka Fort
Larnaka sea front. Built in 1625, it was used as a prison in the first years of British rule. It houses the District Medieval Museum. The fort is also used as the Larnaka Municipal Cultural Centre during the summer. Mon-Fri: 09:00-17:00; (09:00-19:30, June-August)

Agios Lazaros Church (Saint Lazarus)
Plateia Agiou Lazarou. Saint Lazarus is the patron Saint of Larnaka. After his resurrection by Christ, he lived here for another 30 years. He was ordained Bishop of Kition by Saints Barnabas and Mark. The 9th-century church was faithfully restored in the 17th-century, and the iconostasi is an excellent example of baroque woodcarving. Mon-Sun: 08:00-12:30, 14:00-18:30 (April-August); Mon-Sun: 08:00-12:30, 14:00-17:30 (September-March)

Kition Archaeological Site
Approximately 500 m. northeast of the Archaeological Museum. One of the most important ancient city-kingdoms, with architectural remains dating back to the 13th-century B.C. In about 1200 B.C. it was rebuilt by the Mycenaean Greeks, and excavations have revealed cyclopean walls made of giant blocks of stone and a complex of five temples. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-14:30; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat & Sun: closed.

LARNAKA AREA

Kamares Aqueduct
Kamares area on the Larnaka-Lemesos road. A beautiful 18th-century aqueduct which was in use until 1930.



Hala Sultan Tekke – Salt Lake

5 km west of Larnaka on the road to Kiti, passing the Larnaka Airport. Built in 1816 over the tomb of Umm Haram, allegedly a relative of Prophet Mohammed. The mosque is an important place of Moslem pilgrimage ranking immediately after the shrines of Mecca, Medina and Al Aqsha in Jerusalem. Daily: 08:00-19:30 (June-August); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-17:00 (November-March)

Angeloktisti Church

Kiti village, 7 km west of Larnaka. Angeloktisti means "Built by the Angels." This 11th-century Byzantine church was erected over the ruins of an Early Christian basilica. The original apse survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art, a rare 6th-century mosaic of the Virgin Mary and Child between two Archangels, which rivals the Ravenna Mosaics. Mon-Sun: 08:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00; (14:00-18:00 June-August)

Chapelle Royale

Pyrga village, 35 km south of Lefkosa, 32 km from Larnaka. Built by the Lusignan King James in 1421, it contains a wall painting of the king with his wife, Charlotte de Bourbon. Open daily any reasonable hour. The key can be obtained from the coffee shop near the chapel.

"To Larnaca through an extraordinary landscape reminding one of Plato's God geometrizing: low hills, almost perfect cones with leveled tops suggesting the Euclidean objects found in art studios. Wind erosion? But the panel of geometrical mounds seems handmade. And the valleys tapestried with fat-tailed sheeps, plots of verdure, and here there a camel train and palm tree. A strange mixture of flavors, the Bible, Anatolia and Greece."

– Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"

Stavrovouni Monastery

9 km off the Lefkosa-Lemesos Road, 40 km from Larnaka. Perched on a rocky peak, Stavrovouni means Mountain of the Cross. According to tradition, it was founded in the 4th-century by St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who left a fragment of the Holy Cross to the monastery. Women are not allowed in the monastery, though men may visit daily from sunrise to sunset, except from 12:00-13:00 (13:00-14:00 in summer). There is an impressive ceremony and celebration on September 14th, the day of the raising of the Holy Cross. The Monastery of Agia Varvara (St. Barbara) at the foot of Stavrovouni Hill, is easily accessible. The monks here have a high reputation for icon painting.

Choirokoiitia Neolithic Settlement

48 km south of Lefkosa, off the Lefkosa-Lemesos road and 32 km from Larnaka. Neolithic settlement dated to 7000 B.C. Excavations have brought to light one of the most important Neolithic cultures in the world with a defense wall, circular houses, tombs and many stone utensils. Daily 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Kalavassos-Tenta

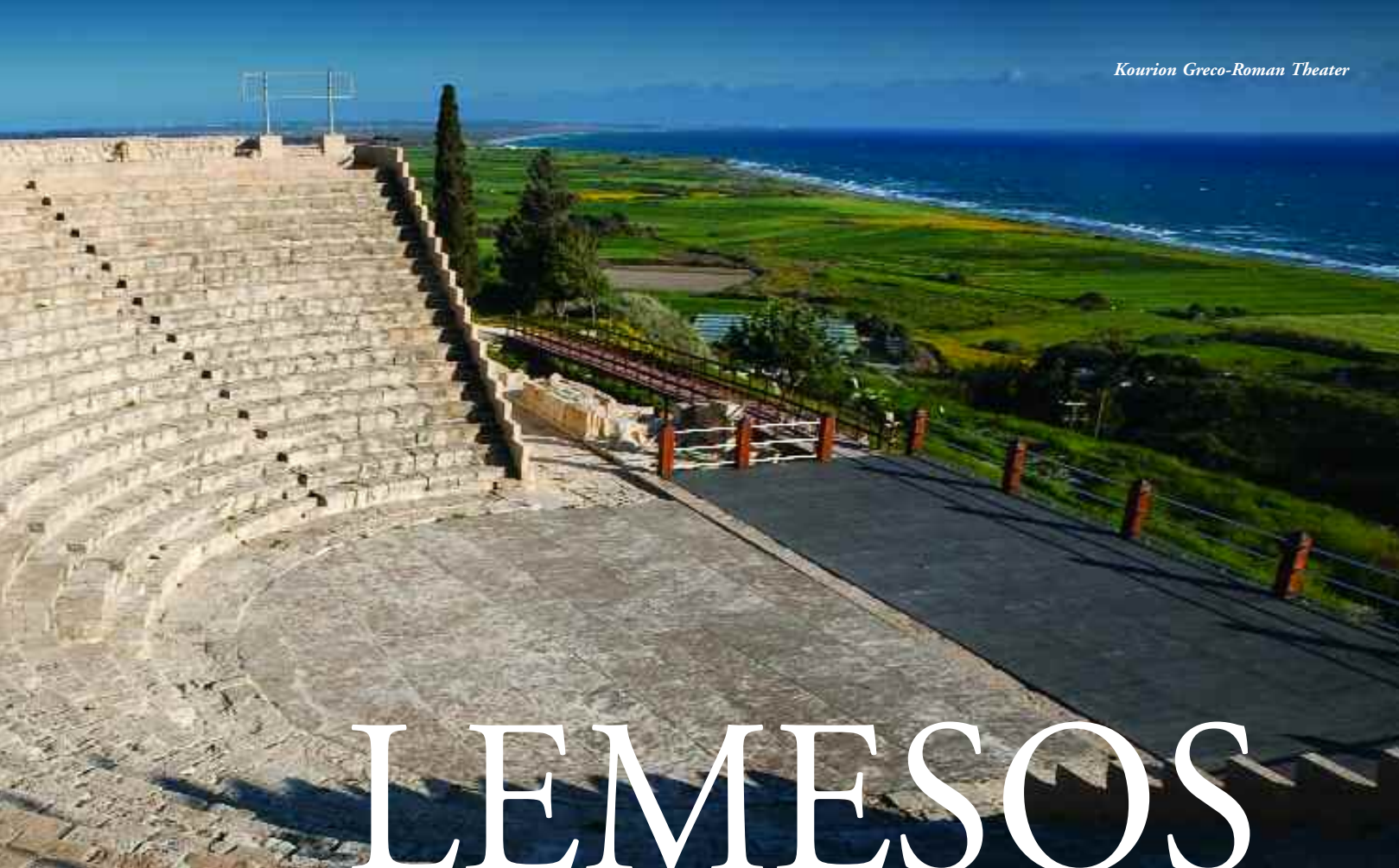
40 km from Larnaka, 2.5 km off the Lefkosa-Lemesos Road. Tenta, one of the most important Neolithic settlements in Cyprus, lies near the village of Kalavassos.

Lefkara

8 km from Skarinou, off the Lefkosa-Lemesos Road, 40 km from Larnaka. A picturesque village, famous for its local lace known as 'Lefkaritika' and for its silverware. According to tradition, Leonardo da Vinci visited the village. The beautiful houses of Patsalos houses the Lace and Silverware Museum of Lefkara. The church of Archangelos Michail in Kato Lefkara is of the single-aisled domed type and has wall paintings of the late 12th-century. At Pano Lefkara there is the church of the Holy Cross with beautiful 18th-century and 13th-century artifacts. A religious fair takes place on September 13th-14th, in celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Agios Minas Convent

Near Lefkara. 15th-century monastery with a church at the centre of the cloisters. The nuns, besides performing their religious rites, paint icons. Daily: 08:00-12:00, 15:00-18:00 (May-September); 08:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00 (October-April)



LEMESOS

CYPRUS' MAJOR PORT IS ALSO HOME TO WORLD-CLASS RESORTS AND HISTORICAL TREASURES

During the Crusades, Richard the Lionheart, leader of the Third Crusade, landed in Lemesos; not incidentally to free a noblewoman held captive by the Byzantine sovereign. The noblewoman? His betrothed, Berengaria of Navarre. In Lemesos they married, touching off the most extravagant party the island had ever seen.

Today, the tradition of celebration and hospitality continues in this vibrant seaside town. In February, before Lent, masked revelers invade the street with music, parades and dancing for Carnival. In September, the Wine Festival explodes in the town for a week. And every night people in restaurants, cafes and nightclubs celebrate events momentous and trivial, from a soccer win to a sudden romance to yet another stunning sunset at day's end.

Explore Lemesos Castle, which contains the Cyprus Medieval Museum, or Folk Art Museum, which is housed in an old mansion. Walk on ten miles of beautiful beaches, deservedly known as the Cypriot Riviera. Stroll in the sea promenade or visit the Municipal Gardens. On the coastal road to the east, just after the luxurious hotels, you will find Amathus, one of the ancient city kingdoms of Cyprus. See the ruins and take a dip near the site of an ancient port.

At 14 km west of Lemesos lies Kolossi Castle, a medieval fortress whose walls contain not only an imposing tower and surrounding living quarters but also an ancient sugar factory. Just 19 km west of town, visit the Kourion archeological site, an ancient city-kingdom, where you can take in a play or concert at the ancient Greco-Roman Theater, overlooking the blue Mediterranean. And a bit further on, explore a treasure trove of Greek and Roman sites, such as the Sanctuary of Apollo Ylatis.



Photos from left to right: Kolossi Castle, Sanctuary of Apollo Ylatis, Cafe in the old part of town

LEMESOS (LIMASSOL) IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Cyprus Medieval Museum- Lemesos Medieval Fort

Near the old port. Built in the 14th-century on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle. According to tradition, Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England here in 1191. Mon-Sat: 09:00-17:00; Sun: 10:00-13:00

Lemesos District Archaeological Museum

Vyronos 5, near the Public Gardens. Collection of Neolithic antiquities found in the Lemesos area. Tues, Wed, Fri: 08:00-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-15:00; Mon & Sun: closed.

Lemesos Municipal Art Gallery

The art gallery houses a representative collection of paintings of well-known contemporary Cypriot artists. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat: 08:30-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Mon & Sun: closed.

Municipal Folk Art Museum

Agiou Andreou 253. A beautiful collection of Cyprus Folk Art of the 19th- and early 20th-century is exhibited in a restored old house. Mon-Fri: 08:30-13:30; Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 15:00-17:30 (16:00-18:30 June-September)

Carob Museum

Vasilissis St. (behind Lemesos Medieval Castle) Carobs were a major export of Cyprus. The Carob Mill was built in 1900 at a time when carobs were a major export of Cyprus. The machinery used in processing the carobs is preserved and displayed in a renovated building, blending the authentic atmosphere of the past with the sophisticated high-tech look of the present. Open daily.

Amathus Archaeological Site

11 km east of Lemesos town center, close to Amathus Hotel. One of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus where, according to mythology, Theseus left the pregnant Ariadne after his battle with the Minotaur. The remains date from the Archaic, Roman and Christian periods. Daily 8:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)



LEMESOS (Limassol) AREA

Kolossi Castle

14 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos. A fine example of military architecture, originally constructed in the 13th-century and subsequently rebuilt in its present form in the middle of the 15th-century. It served as the Grand Commandery of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and later the Knights Templar. 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Kourion Museum

14 km west of Lemesos, 4 km before Kourion site at Episkopi village. Collection of finds from nearby archeological sites, exhibited in a beautiful old house. Mon-Fri: 08:00-16:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat & Sun: closed.

Kourion Archaeological Site

19 km west of Lemesos on the road to Pafos. An important ancient city-kingdom and one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the island. The magnificent Greco-Roman Theatre was originally built in the 2nd-century B.C. and is now used for music and theater. The house of Eustolios became a public recreation center during the early Christian period. The Early Christian basilica dates to the 5th-century. The house of Achilles and the House of the Gladiators have beautiful mosaic floors, and the Nymphaeum is an elegant Roman structure. The Stadium is dated to the 2nd century A.D. 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates

3 km west of Kourion, on the road to Pafos. Apollo Hylates, God of Woodland, was the protector of the city of Kourion. The cult of Apollo was celebrated here from the 8th-century B.C. to the 4th-century A.D. Excavations have also revealed other structures of this important sanctuary such as the bath complex, the pilgrim halls, the palaistra and a holy precinct. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Cyprus Wine Museum

42 Pafos St. 4630 Erimi village. Takes you on a journey through centuries of Cyprus Wine history. Daily: 09:00-17:00

Agios Nikolaos ton Gatou Convent

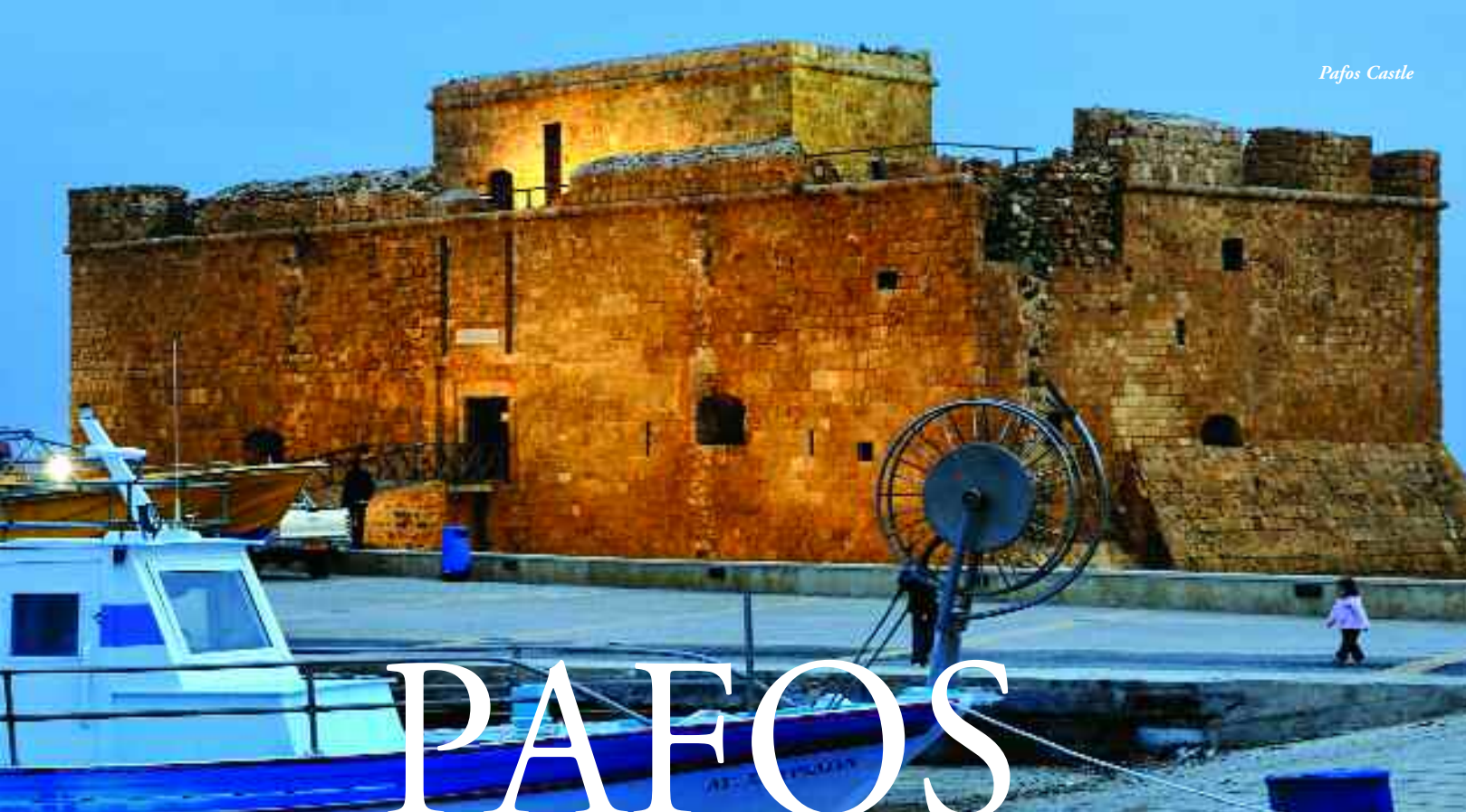
(St. Nicholas of the Cats) On Cape Gata near Lemesos. This is possibly the oldest monastery in Cyprus. The monastery chapel dates to the 14th-century, it was abandoned in the 16th-century and was reinstated by Orthodox nuns in the early 1980's. According to tradition the monastery was founded by St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, who left a piece from the Holy Cross there. During the period Cyprus experienced a severe drought, the area became infested by snakes. The Constantine the Great sent a commander to Cyprus called Kalokeros, who released thousands of cats to the Cape, in order to exterminate the snakes. The monastery today is home to hundreds of cats.

Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Center

Situated at Akrotiri village the Center has been operating since October 2004. It has an exhibition room, library, projection room and observation kiosk. It offers educational programs 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. Open daily (including weekends and public holidays): 08:30-15:00

"Cyprus was to become mine by adoption-therefore he must try to see it through my eyes. At once it became fertile, full of goddesses and mineral springs; ancient castles and monasteries: fruit and grain and verdant grasslands; priests and gypsies and brigands...."

- Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"



Pafos Castle

PAFOS

OLD TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS STILL KEPT ALIVE IN THE TOWN OF APHRODITE

Enter another world, where idols and temples, graves and goddesses make up the fabric of everyday life. Pafos is where Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, is said to have risen from the waves that crash on its shores. Petra tou Romiou or Aphrodite's Rock, is a massive chunk of stone that marks the spot. Her birthplace was a place of pilgrimage for the entire Hellenic world.

Aphrodite's presence seems to have drawn other divinities and notable mortals as well. Excavations have unearthed the spectacular 3rd- to 5th-century mosaics of the Houses of Dionysus, Orpheus and Aion, and the villa of Theseus – buried for sixteen centuries and yet remarkably intact. Their grace of line and subtlety of color will surely inspire elevated feelings in those who see them. Also in this region is the Odeon Theater, a stone structure still used as it was in ancient times for outdoor concerts, plays and games. Small wonder then that the whole town of Pafos is included in the official UNESCO list of Cultural and Natural Treasures of World Heritage.

Past Polis and Latsi, the baths of Aphrodite provided the ancients with a dramatic setting for outdoor bathing. The Fontana Amorosa or fountain of love, still bubbles forth nearby. Is it simply water...or Aphrodite's fabled love potion?

Later periods of history have also left their traces. The Tombs of the Kings, in Kato Pafos, is a monumental honeycomb structure carved into sheer rock whose vaults held the tombs of Ptolemy period nobles. Nearby the stone pillar where St. Paul, according to tradition, was bound and beaten for preaching Christianity, thrusts heavenward. The Chryssorrogiatissa Monastery was founded in the 12th-century A.D. and is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate". The neighboring monastery of Agios Neofytos contains some of the world's finest Byzantine frescoes and icons as well as an interesting Byzantine museum.

Archaeological discoveries in the Pafos region are continual, making it a highlight for those tracing civilizations roots in Cyprus. For a glimpse of the artifacts and masterworks found in the area, visit the District Archaeological Museum.

Returning to the 20th-century, enjoy a cool drink, a steaming Cypriot coffee, or a meal of just caught seafood in one of the tavernas that dot the scenic harborside in the town of Pafos. Hotels for every taste and budget can be found in town and the surrounding area. Use them as your home base for discovering this rich region.



Photos from left to right: Mosaics from Pafos Archaeological Park, Tombs of the Kings

PAFOS IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Pafos District Archaeological Museum

Griva Digeni 43. Attractive collection of Cypriot antiquities – Neolithic Age to 1700 A.D. Tues, Wed, Fri 08:00-15:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00; Sat: 09:00-15:00; Mon & Sun: closed.

Byzantine Museum

A. Ioannou 5. Icons from the 12th- to 18th-centuries. Mon-Fri: 09:00-16:00 (09:00-15:00 November-March); Sat: 09:00-13:00

Ethnographical Museum

Exo Vrysis 1. From the Neolithic age to the present day. Mon-Sat: 09:30-17:00; Sun: 10:00-13:00

Tombs of the Kings

Kato Pafos. These 4th-century B.C. underground tombs are carved out of solid rock, some decorated with Doric pillars. Their magnificence gives the locality its name. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Agia Solomoni Church

Kato Pafos, Leoforos Agiou Pavlou. Originally a Christian catacomb retaining 12th-century frescoes. A sacred tree is believed to cure the sick.

Pafos Mosaics

Kato Pafos, near the harbor. The mosaic floors are considered among the finest in the Eastern Mediterranean. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Pafos Odeon

Kato Pafos. A 2nd-century Odeon. Used in the summer for music and theater. Nearby the remains of ancient city walls and the Roman Agora. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Saranta Kolones

Kato Pafos, near the harbor. Built by the Lusignans in the 13th-century on the site of a previous Byzantine castle. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222. Daily: 08:00-17:00 (November-March); 08:00-18:00 (April-May, September-October); 08:00-19:30 (June-August)

Pafos Medieval Fort

Kato Pafos harbor. A Byzantine fort. Rebuilt by the Lusignans. Dismantled by the Venetians in 1570 and rebuilt in the 16th-century. Daily: 08:00-19:30 (June-August); 08:00-18:00 (April-October); 08:00-17:00 (November-March)



Panagia Chryssopolitissa Church/St. Paul's Pillar

Kato Pafos. Built in the 13th-century over the ruins of the largest early-Byzantine basilica on the island. See St. Paul's Pillar, where according to tradition St. Paul was flogged, before the Roman Governor Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity.

Pafos Municipal Art Gallery

Gladstonos 7. The gallery exhibits works of art by local artists. Mon-Fri: 10:00-13:00 & 17:00-20:00, Sat & Sun: 10:00-13:00 (April-October); Mon-Fri: 10:00-13:00 & 15:00-17:00, Sat & Sun: 10:00-13:00 (November-March)

PAFOS AREA

Geroskipou Folk Art Museum

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Named after the sacred garden of Aphrodite. Folk arts and crafts are exhibited in the beautiful "House of Hadjismith". Daily: 08:00-16:00 (November-March); 09:00-17:00 (April-October)

Agia Paraskevi Church

Geroskipou village, 3 km east of Pafos. Byzantine church. A basilica surmounted by five domes forming a cross, with beautiful 15th-century murals. Mon-Sat: 08:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 (April-October); Mon-Sat: 08:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:00 (November-March)

Sanctuary of Aphrodite Palaipafos Museum

Kouklia village, 14 km east of Pafos, off the Lemesos Pafos Road. Palaipaphos, Old Paphos, was a celebrated pilgrimage center of the ancient Greek world. Here stood the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, which dates back to the 12th-century B.C. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun: 08:00-16:00; Thurs: 08:00-17:00

Petra Tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock)

Birthplace of Aphrodite. 25 km east of Pafos. Legend dictates that the goddess of love and beauty rose from the waves in this strikingly beautiful spot. The Greek name is Petra tou Romiou or "The Rock of the Greek".

"The dawns and sunsets in Cyprus are unforgettable-better even than those of Rhodes which I always believed were unique in their slow Tiberian magnificence.

- Lawrence Durrell, "Bitter Lemons"

Lempa

5 km from Pafos. At Lempa village excavations have brought to light an important settlement of the Chalcolithic period. Near the site replicas of two houses have been constructed.

Pegeia

Agios Georgios Basilica and the fountains of Pegeia. Pegeia village, 19 km northwest of Pafos. 4.5 km from the village are the ruins of two early Christian basilicas with mosaic floors. Pegeia Village is famous for its fountains in the stone-paved village square.

Agios Neofytos Monastery

9 km north of Pafos. Founded at the end of the 12th-century by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neofytos. The "Egkleistra," an enclosure carved out of the mountain, contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes dating from the 12th- to the 15th-century. In the monastery's church there is an interesting ecclesiastical museum. Mon-Sun: 09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00 (April-October); Mon-Sun: 09:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:00 (November-March)

Chryssorrogiatissa Monastery

40 km northeast of Pafos. The monastery, originally founded in the 12th-century A.D., is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate". It dates back to 1770 and has a collection of important icons and treasures. The old winery produces some of the best vintage wines of Cyprus. Daily: 09:30-12:30 & 13:30-18:30 (May-August); 10:00-12:30 & 13:30-16:00 (September-April)

Pano Panagia

On the west of Troodos 1.5 km from Chryssorrogiatissa Monastery. The birthplace of Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus. The house where he was born has been converted into a museum.

Polis

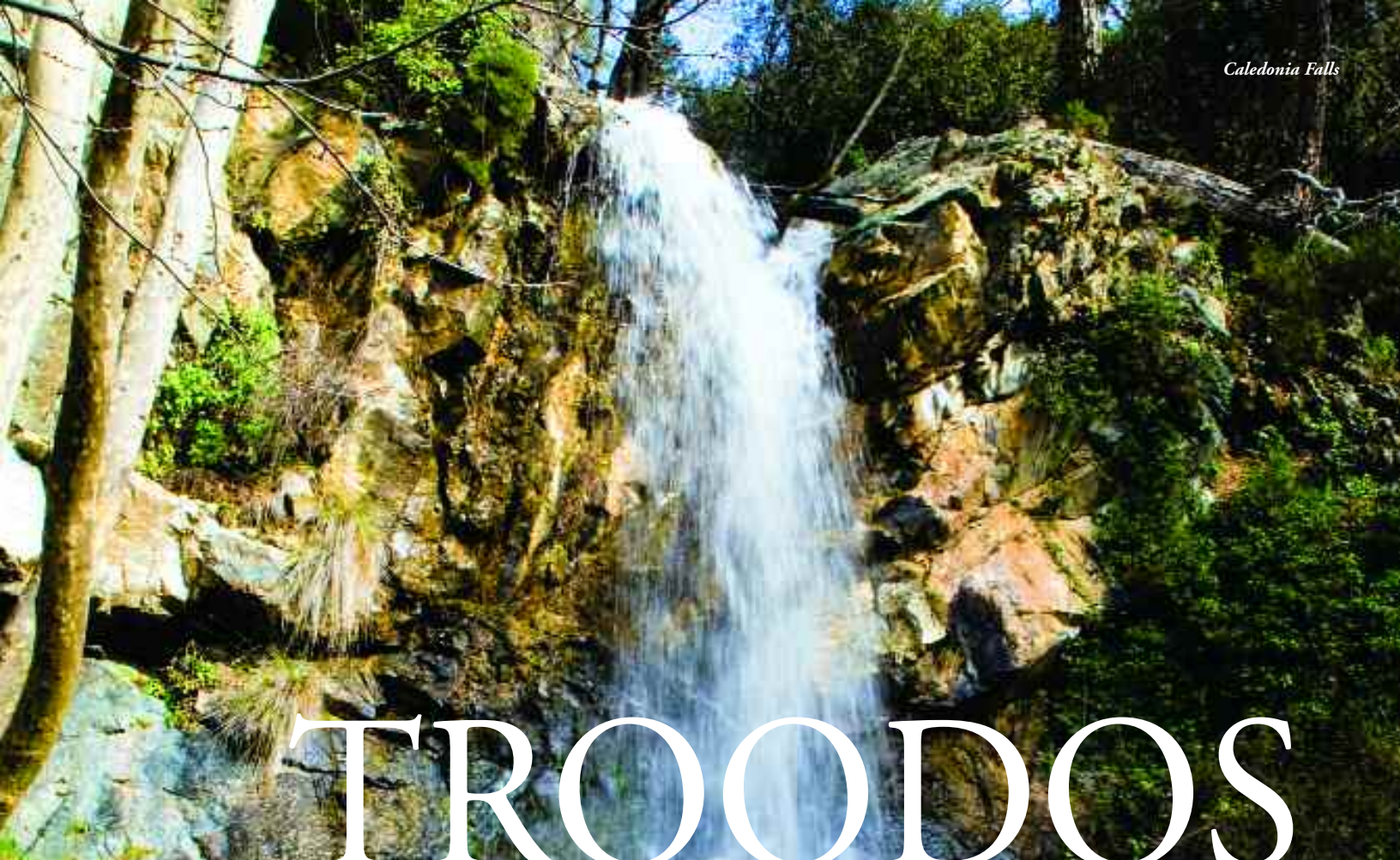
37 km north of Pafos. Polis tis Chrysochou lies where there once stood the ancient city-kingdom of Marion. Its beautiful climate, crystal clear beaches and breathtaking scenery have made the area an attractive popular resort.

Baths of Aphrodite

Akamias Peninsula, near Polis, 48 km north of Pafos. They say that the Goddess Aphrodite took her beauty baths in a pool of a natural grotto, shaded by a fig tree, which can still be visited. Nature trails that leave from Akamas reveal incomparable views of unspoiled land.

Museum of Mycenaean Colonisation of Cyprus

Maa-Paleokastro (Coral Bay area). Daily: 08:30-17:00 (November-March); 08:30-18:00 (April-October)



Caledonia Falls



Photos from on left and right: Kykko Monastery, UNESCO Byzantine Church

TROODOS

WALK IN PINE SCENTED FORESTS AND EXPLORE BYZANTINE CHURCHES AND PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

The thick cedar, pine forests and sun-soaked slopes of the Troodos region offer an unexpected contrast to the Mediterranean coast, less than an hour away. Halfway between the busy towns of Lefkosia and Lemesos, halfway between sea and sky, rising to 1,950 meters (6,500 feet), Troodos is a counterpoint to the rest of the island.

Connecting the mountain resorts of Troodos, Kakopetria, Platres and Agros are trails that hold delights for mountain bikers, hikers, bird watchers and botanists alike. Signs mark the presence of flora and fauna unique to Cyprus. Glimpses of the blue sea beyond peek through the lace-like canopy of cedar trees. Close enough to touch, herds of grazing moufflon, or agrino – the shaggy mountain sheep indigenous to Cyprus pass by. And the clear mountain air is fragrant with lemon and orange from the groves below. Happily, a natural reserve in the heart of the region insures that this wild beauty will remain forever.

Along the way, each village will be glad to offer you a local specialty, whether that be a mountain goat cheese, a characterful Cypriot wine, fresh cherries, or rosewater. And of course, because you are still in Cyprus, history and culture are never far away. Ten of Troodos's remarkable painted Byzantine churches have been listed on UNESCO's prestigious World Cultural Heritage List. The famous Kykkos and Trooditissa Monasteries are well worth a visit for their icons, frescoes and inspiring architecture.

TROODOS IN BRIEF: Places of Interest

Platanistasa

Stavros tou Agiasmati. Platanistasa village, 15 km from Agros, 30 km off the Lefkosia-Astromeritis Road. A 15th-century church, lying about 3 km outside this charming old village, retains the most complete cycles of mural paintings of the second half of the 15th-century in Cyprus. Ask for the key from the village priest.

Lagoudera

Panagia tou Araka. Lagoudera village is 15 km from Agros or off the Kakopetria-Troodos-Lemesos Road (Karvounas crossroad). The 12th-century church situated just outside the village has fine frescoes. Together with Asinou Church and that of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis, it is considered to be one of the most important Byzantine churches on the island. Ask for the key and be escorted by the priest, who is found in the premises next to the church.

Kakopetria

Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis. The church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis stands about 5 km to the north of the village. It is completely painted with murals dating from the 11th- to the 17th-century and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. The small 16th-century-church of Panagia Theotokos, off the main road, has retained about half of its murals. The church of Agios Georgios Perachorititis has some very original wall paintings belonging to the first quarter of the 16th-century. The old quarter of the village with its traditional houses has been declared a protected area.

Galata

There are four painted churches in and around the village. The church of Agios Sozomenos, dating from the early 16th-century, retains a complete series of frescoes in the post-Byzantine style. The church of Archangelos Michail is a timber-roofed chapel and is completely painted in the post-Byzantine style. Nearby is the larger church of Panagia Podithou, which once belonged to a monastery. It was erected in 1502, and its paintings are of the Italo-Byzantine style. The small church of Agia Paraskevi on the old Kakopetria-Galata Road has murals dating to 1514.



Pelendri

Timiou Stavrou. 3 km below Kato Amiantos, off the Karvouna-Lemesos Road, 32 km from Lemesos. Once the property of Jean De Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugh IV. There are two interesting churches: the 14th-century church of Timiou Stavrou (The Holy Cross), with beautiful wall paintings, and the church of Panagia Katholiki in the center of the village.

Kykkos Monastery and Museum

20 km west of Pedoulas village. The most famous and richest monastery in Cyprus. Founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it possesses one of the three surviving icons ascribed to St. Luke. The first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III served here as a novice. At his own wish he was buried at Throni, 3 km west of the Monastery. Fairs are held at Kykkos on August 15th and September 8th. The Museum is an integral part of the monastery and houses a priceless collection of icons, manuscripts and Cypriot antiquities. The Monastery and Museum are open daily: 10:00-16:00 (November-March); 10:00-18:00 (June-October)

Nikitari, Asinou Church

5 km from Nikitari village, off the main Lefkosia Troodos road, around 20 km north of Kakopetria. An early 12th-century church dedicated to the Virgin Mary with frescoes of the 12th-century and later periods, considered to be among the finest examples of Byzantine mural painting in the island. Visitors should ask for the priest of Nikitari village to escort them.

*The nightgales won't let you sleep in Platres.
Tearful bird, on sea-kissed Cyprus
consecrated to remind me of my country,
I moored along with this fable,
if it's true that it is a fable,
if it's true that mortals will not again take up
the old deceit of the gods;
If it's true
~ from Helen, by George Seferis,
Nobel prize poet*

Kalopanagiotis

Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Church. The village is famous for its sulphur springs and the church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, with excellent frescoes of the 13th- and 15th-centuries. It is a complex of two churches and a chapel. One of the biggest religious fairs in the valley is held here on St. John's day, October 4th.

Moutoullas

Panagia tou Moutoulla. Less than a kilometer further up is Moutoullas village, with its tiny 13th-century chapel of Panagia tou Moutoulla, an early example of the steep-pitched wooden roof type with frescoes dating to 1280. Visitors can obtain the key from the adjacent house. The traditional craft of wooden carved basins has been preserved in Moutoullas.

Pedoulas

Archangelos Michail. The third village up the mountain is Pedoulas, a summer resort famous for its cherries. The painted church of Archangelos Michail in the lower part of the village dates from 1474. Visitors can obtain the key from the adjacent house.

Trooditissa Monastery

5 km northwest of Platres, on the Platres-Prodromos Road. This beautiful monastery was originally founded in the 13th-century. The present church dates from 1731 and contains many valuable icons. A large religious fair is held on the grounds on August 15th.

Omodos

11 km southwest of Platres. A wine-producing village, once the property of Sir John De Brie, Prince of Galilee, with the Monastery of Stavros, "Holy Cross," standing by the stone-paved square. A festival is held in the village every August and there is a large religious fair on September 14th.

Foini

4 km west of Platres. Famous for its pottery and its loukoumi sweet. Visitors can see the Pilavakeini private pottery collection.

Koilani

1.5 km southwest of Pera Pedi, off the Lemesos-Troodos Road. An attractive wine producing village with the single aisle vaulted church of Agia Mavri, typical of the 12th-century. Also has its own local ecclesiastical museum.