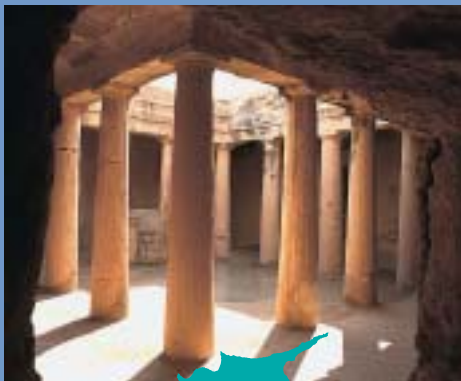














The hidden  
**Cyprus**



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# Preface

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Cyprus, Europe's easternmost Mediterranean isle, lies at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa. Yet it is the European cultural identity that sets the tone of the island's infinitely varied character.

The birthplace of Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty, Cyprus offers a magical blend of romance, history and relaxation in a superb setting – virtues that help make the island a perfect year round destination.

This is a landscape untouched by time – tranquil villages and priceless cultural treasures, a modern infrastructure combine with cosmopolitan cities and a range of high quality hotels to meet the needs and expectations of discerning visitors of the island.

This brochure will introduce you to the true Cyprus, whose charms are hidden and just waiting to be discovered. Cyprus and its people look forward to your visit, and consider themselves fortunate to share their great heritage with you.

Your Cyprus Tourism Organisation

# Light & Colour

## Fascinating countryside and activities

With its rich vegetation, the island of Aphrodite is a paradise for nature lovers. In spring, the land is transformed into a sea of blossom. Colourful flowers and shrubs cover the hills and valleys, whilst fruit and ornamental trees are displayed in full bloom.

During the sun drenched summer months, grain turns the countryside golden yellow and flowering oleander provides a colourful counterpoint. Autumn is redolent with the scent of herbs, fruit and wine when the rare strawberry tree bears its crimson fruit.

In the island's mild winter, almond trees blossom and citrus ripens while the mountains are covered in a white blanket of snow. This is the season of the migratory birds who winter here. Flocks of song-birds, pink flamingoes, geese and swans populate the island.

There are vistas of beaches and sea on the one hand, woods and mountains on the other. Also gently rolling hills and steep coastal cliffs, picturesque coves and Mediterranean vegetation. It's so easy to discover Cyprus' richly contrasting beauty at every season – the garden of Aphrodite displays its splendours all year round.

### Hiking

The best seasons are spring and autumn, but winter can be a good choice thanks to its mild temperatures. In the Troodos Mountain range there are numerous hiking trails winding through pine woods and vineyards offering a variety of vast panoramic views and scenery. Choose Cedar Valley and you'll be rewarded by the memorable sight of some 200,000 massive and majestic trees. Many more hiking trails are found in the Akamas area near Polis, in Cape Greco near Agia Napa, and in the region around Pafos, such as the Avakas Gorge.

### Cycling

For those who prefer wheels to walking, the island can be discovered by cycling along many interesting trails, especially on the Akamas Peninsula and the hills of Troodos massif. Mountain bikes for rental are available in all tourist resorts.

Information:

Cyprus Cycling Federation  
Viziinos St., Lefkosia (Nicosia)  
Tel. +357-2-459056

### Water Sports

The safe, clear and warm waters around Cyprus mean that water sports can be enjoyed all year round, making the island an ideal destination for those who enjoy swimming, sailing, yachting, surfing, diving and waterskiing. Qualified instructors are available, if required, to teach these skills at all levels.

### Golf

Golf enthusiasts can choose from two professional courses on the island: the Tsada Golf north of Pafos and the Secret Valley east of Pafos.

Information:

Cyprus Golf Resorts Ltd.  
P.O. Box 2085, 8062 Pafos  
Tel. +357-6-642774/5, Fax 642776

For all your leisure and adventure activities in Cyprus, you will find well-developed facilities and professional service. Organised tours can be booked through your hotel, whilst travel agencies can arrange tours of special interest escorted by licensed guides. For individual excursions by car, motor-cycle or bicycle, numerous rental firms are available. The transportation network is well developed.



# Past & Present

History at the crossroads



Assyrians, Egyptians and Persians conquered and ruled the island until it was liberated in 333 BC by Alexander the Great.

Under the Ptolemies, a Cypriot philosopher, Zenon of Kition, founded the Stoic school of Philosophy in Athens, which spread throughout the ancient world.

The island's privileged geographical position, explains both its tumultuous history and the fact that Cyprus has played an important role in the Eastern Mediterranean, through the ages.

The first traces of civilisation date back more than 9000 years to the Neolithic period. Subsequent cultural phases developed during the Chalcolithic and Bronze Age periods until the end of the 2nd millennium BC.

But the most important event in the history of Cyprus was the arrival of Achaean Greek settlers in the 12th and 11th centuries BC, who decisively determined its cultural identity. Greek language, religion, arts and traditions were introduced, and towns founded which still exist today.

Well-known to the ancients for its copper mines and forests, Cyprus was an object of contest among the great powers of the Mediterranean region.

Important events during the Roman period (58 BC – 330 AD) were the missionary journeys of Apostles Paul and of the Cypriot born Barnabas, who converted the Roman proconsul to Christianity. Cyprus became the world's first Christian-ruled land and the Cypriots are the first Europeans to have become Christians.

After the division of the Roman Empire, the glorious Byzantine era began when some of the most beautiful churches and renowned monasteries were established.

On his way to the Holy Land, Richard the Lion-Heart, leader of the 3rd crusade, conquered the island (1191), soon sold it to the Knights Templar who in turn bestowed it on Guy de Lusignan, the ex Frankish King of Jerusalem.

His family, originally from Poitiers of France, established a Catholic monarchy and ruled Cyprus for 3 centuries. Caterina Cornaro from Venice, the last Lusignan queen,



was forced to yield her rights to the Venetians after the death of her husband who used Cyprus as a bulwark, so securing their commercial and strategic interests against the Ottomans from 1489 till 1571.

They, however, conquered the island and started a very oppressive rule lasting for 3 centuries, when Cyprus' connections with Europe were severed. The latins were expelled but eventually the Greek-Orthodox Church which had been oppressed during the period of Lusignan and Venetian rule, recovered its autocephaly (jurisdictional independence).

With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Cyprus' strategic value became even greater. With this in mind, in 1878 Great Britain took over administration of the island and in 1925 made it a British crown colony. After a four year liberation struggle, Cyprus became an independent republic in 1960.



*Archaeologists unearthed an important Chalcolithic Age settlement at the village of Lempa near Pafos. Model dwellings have been authentically reproduced next to the settlement. The monastery of Agia Napa dates from the Venetian period, while the ruins of Saranta Kolones Castle are from the Byzantine and Medieval periods. Reconstructed remains of the altar of the sanctuary of Apollo tower high above the plain.*

In 1974, Turkish forces invaded the north of the island turning one third of the population into refugees. The continued violation of the fundamental human rights of the people of Cyprus has been condemned by international bodies, but to date Turkey has refused to withdraw from Cyprus and maintains the island's division by the force of arms.

Although the invasion has dealt a tremendous blow to the economy of the island, Cyprus has managed to sustain a policy of reconstruction and economic development. Economically and politically, Cyprus has aligned itself with the European Union and aspires to become a full member in the near future.

As from May 1, 2004 the Republic of Cyprus is a member of the European Union.



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now declared a  
by UNESCO.

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Churches of the Troodos Mountains have also been included in the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List. In the Byzantine period, churches with their precious frescoes were hidden by being built in the mountains. Additional protection was provided by the steep wooden sloped roofs over the domes – an architectural curiosity found only in Cyprus. The gems among these churches are Assinou, Panagia tou Araka, Agios Ioannis Lampadistis. Other Byzantine masterpieces are the churches of Angeloktisti with the fabulous 6th century wallmosaic and the five-dome church of Agia Paraskevi.

Cyprus' most beautiful *mosque*, the Tekke of Hala Sultan, is one of the holiest shrines in the Islamic world.

### **Museums**

The Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia (Nicosia) houses a large collection of Cypriot antiquities and art treasures from Neolithic times until the early Christian period.

Further witnesses to the past are on exhibit at the Byzantine Museums in Lefkosia (Nicosia) and Pafos, the District Archaeological Museums of Larnaka, Lemesos (Limassol), Pafos and Polis as well as at the Cyprus Medieval Museum in Lemesos (Limassol), the Pierides Collection of Antiquities in Larnaka, the Leventis Municipal Museum of Lefkosia (Nicosia), the Museums of Kykkos and Agios Neophytos Monasteries, the Kouklia Palaipafos, Maa Palaiokastros, Episkopi and other smaller museums.



*The horned god from Engomi, worshipped by the Cypriots, dates from the 12th century BC.*

*Witnesses to a tempestuous past: the timber roof church of the Byzantine period, the Tombs of the Kings at Pafos and the Castle of Kolossi.*



# Ancient & Modern

The arts and crafts of nine millennia

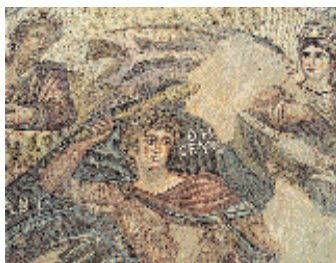
Being close to Africa, Asia and Europe, Cypriot culture has been shaped since time immemorial by numerous artistic influences, yet consistently created its own quite distinctive works of art.

Pottery vessels first appeared during the Stone Age. They were colourfully painted and glazed and engraved with patterns. Cypriot terracotta art developed in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age. An example is the Sanctuary model from Vounous exhibited in Lefkosia (Nicosia) Archaeological Museum, portraying a celebration of mystic rites. The Late Bronze Age saw not only the manufacture of vases of imaginative shapes but also of gold jewellery, ivory carvings and bronze statues.

From the Classical period onwards marble statues were created in addition to limestone ones. Byzantine frescoes are famed for their high quality and were painted during the period when Cyprus was part of the Byzantine Empire. The best examples of those frescoes (11th to 12th century AD) were painted by artists from Constantinople. Later during the Frankish and Venetian periods the Byzantine art tradition continued with a local revivalist style influenced by western art.

*During the heyday of the Roman Empire, colourful mosaics embellished the houses and thermal baths of the wealthy. The naturalistic head of Aphrodite from Salamis dates back to the Classical Era, while the*

*cruciform statuette is no less than 5000 years old. Contemporary art is exhibited and promoted by the Lefkosia (Nicosia) Art Centre.*



From the end of the 12th century, with the Frankish Lusignan dynasty, came the advent of the Gothic style, which developed a distinctive character of its own in Cyprus. Magnificent cathedrals and abbeys were built and richly furnished, while the little mountain churches were given deep-slop-



Many of the trends which influenced art in the 20th century, particularly the various expressions of abstract conceptualism and minimalism, also influenced Cypriot artists who developed their own aesthetic identity of contemporary Cypriot art.

A representative collection of painting and sculpture by Cypriot artists of the 20th century is offered by the State Collection of Contemporary Art in Lefkosia (Nicosia).

The Lefkosia (Nicosia) Art Centre which is housed in the building of the old power station, organises important and prestigious exhibitions and promotes contemporary art and creativity. There are also municipal galleries and art centres in Larnaka and Lemesos (Limassol).

ing saddle roofs as a protection against the elements of nature. Ceramics such as bowls and beakers are imaginatively adorned with scraffito artwork.

Contemporary Cypriot art started at the beginning of the 20th century, deriving its inspiration from the landscape and the contemporary life of the people depicted in various, but always representational, styles. However, the conditions of freedom created after Cyprus became independent in 1960, provided Cypriot artists with a new language and allowed them to continuously renew and broaden their expression. The 80's and 90's added fresh dynamism and creative vigour.



# Worship & Faith

Byzantine art and tradition



Cyprus was part of the Byzantine Empire for a period of around 1000 years. The Byzantine art is a continuation of the ancient Greek heritage which was dominant in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Byzantine frescoes and icons form a religious and spiritual expression of the reality existing beyond the everyday world. Some Byzantine churches are completely decorated with splendid frescoes. Their purpose was to serve as an illustrative Bible for the poor and the illiterate.

The Byzantine art tradition in Cyprus has persisted throughout the centuries, and is still alive and maintained by a number of dedicated Cypriot artists. Today, their work can be seen in churches and monasteries throughout the island.

The faithful Cypriot pilgrims frequent the various monasteries and churches, especially the ones believed to possess miraculous icons. Votive gifts and huge candles attest to the faith in the power of prayer.

Many monasteries offer home made specialities. The winery of Chrysorogiatissa Monastery produces one of the finest Cypriot wines, and Kykkos Monastery produces its famous red zivania, a local distilled spirit.

The nuns of Agios Irakleidios turn out sweet marzipan confections, while those of Agios Minas make fragrant honey.

Many monasteries and convents are still lived in today by monks and nuns and are situated all over the island, particularly in the

peace and quiet of the Troodos Mountains. The most impressive and famous being the Kykkos Monastery, with its splendid icons, chandeliers, silver oil lamps, wall paintings, and a unique ecclesiastical museum.



*Museum of Kykkos Monastery.*

*Important collection of Byzantine icons and ecclesiastical relics can be seen in various museums all over the island.*

*While Stavrovouni Monastery is off-limits for women, they can still appreciate the surroundings there, and at Peristerona Church, perhaps even witness a religious procession.*

*St. Mathew the Evangelist, a 6th century mosaic from the church of Panagia tis Kanakarias now in the Byzantine Museum of Lefkosia (Nicosia).*



Especially idyllic are the numerous, now abandoned monasteries and old Byzantine churches which can also be found in most parts of the island.

One of the most important churches is Panagia Angeloktisti close to Larnaka, which houses a 6th century life-size Byzantine mosaic of the Virgin Mary – one of the world's finest examples from the era of Emperor Justinian, which indirectly confirm the Byzantine origin of the Ravenna mosaics to which they are related.



# Rare & Abundant

Flora and fauna  
in a protected environment

The island's varied scenic beauty unfolds on two mountain chains, the Kyrenia Mountains in the north and the heavily wooded Troodos range in the southwest, in the fertile Mesaoria Plain between them, and along a changing coastline of nearly 800 km.

The island's location, varied regions and mild climate favour a rich and abundant flora, not all of which has been researched. More than 1800 wild plants are indigenous here, including 40 species of orchid alone.

Mediterranean forests testify to an eco system that has survived over centuries. Still to be found here are rare reptiles, such as the Hardun Lizard, the nocturnal chameleon and the sea turtles like the *Caretta* which come ashore to lay their eggs.

The island's rich flora and fauna can be studied in museums, or from the vantage point of carefully chosen observation sites.

To maintain this heritage of flora and fauna, the government has initiated nature conservation and animal protection projects.

## Highlights

The forestry station at Stavros tis Psokas (Pafos forest) and Platania (near Kakopetria) both keep herds of mouflon, the heraldic wild sheep of Cyprus.

The animal and plant worlds of Cyprus waters are to be seen at the Marine Life Museum in Agia Napa.

The Museum of Palaeontology in Larnaka houses a unique collection of fossils including the pygmy elephant and hippopotamus which once lived on the island.

The hearthland and unspoilt coastal region of Akamas, near Polis is to become Cyprus' first national park. The park will protect one of the most important habitats for several species of fauna and flora unique in the Mediterranean, including 33 endemic flowers. The area can be explored by hiking along routes named after Aphrodite and Adonis, starting from the "Baths of Aphrodite".

Two other trails explore the Akamas forest starting at Smigies picnic site.

The Troodos Visitor Centre.

## The Troodos, scene of geological history

Just as legend says the goddess Aphrodite rose from the sea – so Cyprus is also a child of the ocean. A unique witness to the history of the earth is the Troodos Mountain range. It rose from the waters some 25 million years ago during the continental drift which separated Eurasia from Africa. With its





Growing on the island are cedar, pine, oak, cypress, olive trees and carob trees. In remote corners of the Troodos Mountains the national

animal of Cyprus, endemic to the island only, lives as a protected species: the mouflon – a shy wild sheep with curving splendid horns.



geological history, the Troodos is a unique illustrative example of the earth's genesis.

Unlike other sites, there are no major faults here. So geologists from all the world study the clearly visible stratum sequence of the earth's oceanic crust, drawing conclusions about the development and movement of seas and continents.

Today Troodos is considered to be the best preserved and the most systematically studied ophiolite complex in the world.

The flora of Troodos is of great importance too and its characteristics are largely due to the partic-

Natural stands of Cyprus cedar may be found in the Cedar Valley near Stavros tis Psokas.








More than 20 trails explore the Troodos nature at Pitsilia, Stavros tis Psokas, Machairas, etc.

There are four nature trails starting at Troodos resort for exploring the unique area around Mount Olympos (1951 m), the peak of the Troodos massif.

- Atalanti Trail, approx. 9 km**
- Artemis Trail, approx. 7 km**
- Persefoni Trail, approx. 3 km**
- Kaledonia Trail, approx. 5 km**

ular ecological conditions created by high altitude and rainfall, temperature and geology. That is why 52 % of the endemic plants of Cyprus – that's about 71 species, including the *cyclamen cypricum*, which has been recently declared as the national flower of Cyprus – can be found in the area.

Troodos is also well-known for its splendid forests. The natural centuries-old forests of black pine (*pinus nigra*) grow above an altitude of 1,200 m and cover a total forest area of 4,700 hectares. In lower levels calabrious pine grows (*pinus brutia*).

-  Church
-  Monastery
-  Archaeological excavation, ancient site
-  Place of interest
-  Fort
-  Walking
-  Village





Apostolos Andreas

Rizokarpaso

Aigialousa

Trikomo

Lefkonoika

AREA UNDER  
TURKISH OCCUPATION  
SINCE 1974

LEFKOSIA  
(NICOSIA)

Ammochostos  
(Famagusta)

Sotira

Paralimni

Protaras

Agia Napa

Cape Greco

Pyrga  
Chapelle Royal

Hala Sultan  
Tekkesi

Kiti  
Geloktisti

Larnaka

Larnaka International Airport

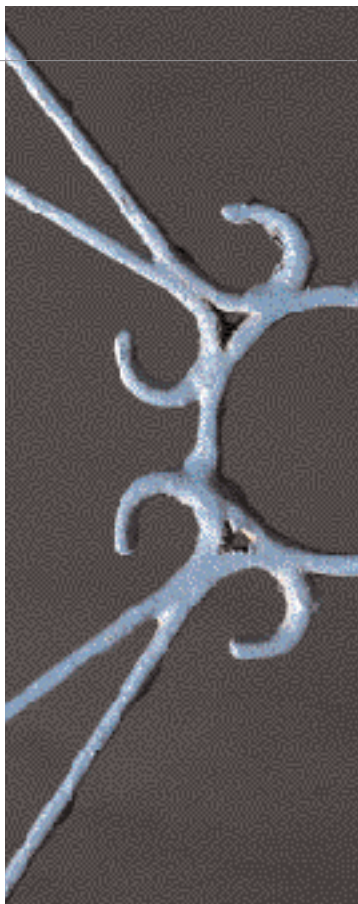
Cape Kiti

# Shapes & Sounds

Folk art and music –  
a living tradition

The cultural heritage of Cyprus lives on in the island's folk art. Age-old handicrafts, passed down from generation to generation, create works of art which are decorative and practical.

Young girls in the village of Lefkara sit at their lace-like embroidery just as their grandmothers did before them. In the village of Foini in the Troodos massif, potters still shape curious human figures to decorate their clay vessels. And in Fyti, hand looms are still heard, while the coppersmith in Old Lefkosia (Nicosia) works just as his forefathers did 5000 years ago. The raw materials of the various trades – wood, clay, copper, wool, cotton, linen and silk – are all native to the island.



Handcarvings which decorate church interiors, are still evocative of everyday life.

Silkworm breeding arrived in Cyprus probably during the Byzantine times and to this day Cyprus' looms create fabrics of outstanding quality. The art of drawn thread work goes back to the Venetian period and so captivated Leonardo da Vinci that he used – according to the legend – Cypriot lace to decorate Milan Cathedral.



*Mosaics, woodcuts and mouth-blown glass are among the many arts cultivated on Cyprus. All over the island craftsmen turn out wickerwork of reeds, often embellished with colourful geometric patterns.*



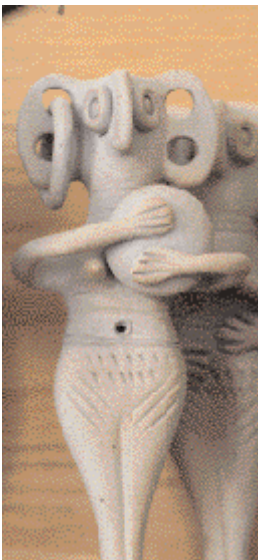


Pottery is still one of the most important local handicrafts, and is produced manually in ways unchanged for centuries.

Metalworking came to Cyprus with the discovery of copper around 2500 BC. The arts of gold and silversmithing are practised today, especially in Lefkara, Lemesos (Limassol) and Lefkosia (Nicosia). Artistic candlesticks and silver lamps can be admired in many Orthodox churches.



Decorative elements of wood, clay or fabric have always had a symbolic, even magical significance. They express the philosophy of life and faith of the Cypriot people. Thus a rosette symbolizes the sun and life, waving lines eternity, while birds are harbingers of things to come, and the serpent represents temptation.



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*Embroidery and silver-ware from Lefkara.*

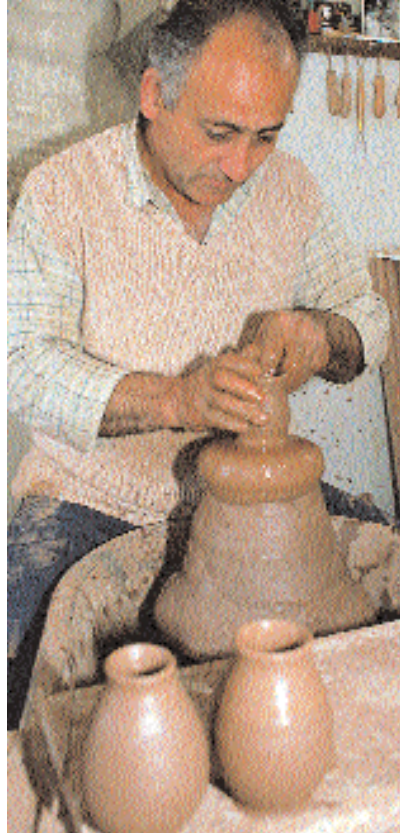
*Modern doll-making.*

Cyprus folk poetry can trace its origins back to the 10th century when minstrels toured the countryside recounting news of recent events.

This tradition is alive today. Folk poets (in recitativo) still make reference to various happenings for audiences at festivals like Kataklysmos, and at wedding feasts, where they sing (ex tempore) to the accompaniment of lute and violin.

Folk music too, with its origins in the Byzantine era, also continues the tradition of ancient Greek music.

To discover the fascination of Folk Art, visit the museums of Lefkosia (Nicosia), Geroskipou and Lemesos (Limassol) and the smaller village museums.



*Artists, painters, sculptors, potters and silversmiths continue their age-old crafts.*



# Active & Creative

Learning-by-doing holidays



Furthermore, after a course under the direction of a cleric, you can take home your own self-painted icons – together with a certificate. You can practice the art of silk printing or you can participate in a traditional workshop – for instance, woodcarving or silver-smithing.



In such cases, Cypriot artists and specialists in other fields gladly pass on their experience and skills – it's a unique opportunity for the visitor to personally and creatively get to know the country and the people of Cyprus.

Biking or mountain biking, hiking on the plains or in the mountains. Winter sports, swimming, diving, snorkeling, waterskiing or sailing. Shooting, tennis, golf, horse riding, hang gliding or parachuting, angling or fishing – in Cyprus you can enjoy them all!

You can also study and experience the culture of the island. Study tours can be arranged in archaeology, architecture, arts and crafts, Byzantine art, geology, nature, bird-watching, cooking or wine lore organised by specialised travel agents.

Courses of special interest activities and art and crafts may be offered by special arrangement.

Further information is provided in the brochure "To Cyprus: Whatever the Interest", available from the Cyprus Cultural & Special Interest Tourism Association  
P.O. Box 1455  
Lefkosia (Nicosia)  
Tel. +357-2-669500  
Fax +357-2-667593

# Peace & Quiet

The rural Cyprus



While many Cypriots live in the cities, and most holidaymakers stay in the coastal areas, the lion's share of the island consists of the unspoilt hinterland with villages steeped in timeless tradition.

Here you'll find the quiet rhythms of country life – the customs, the homestyle cooking and the hearty hospitality of the village people. Stroll through fragrant gardens, orange and lemon groves, and you'll encounter Cyprus at its authentic best.

In rural or semi-rural areas hotels are mostly small or medium sized. In addition, beautiful village houses have been restored in traditional style and they operate as licenced holiday accommodation. They can be country inns, holiday homes or apartments with fully equipped kitchens. All feature typical furnishings and often include gardens and inner courtyards, balconies and terraces. Stay at any one of these and you'll feel a part of genuine village life.



*Picturesque old villages such as Fikardu, Omodos, Lefkara, Askas and Kakopetria are models of unspoilt Cypriot naturalness and simplicity. Vernacular farmhouses and churches listed as historic monuments, winding lanes, and the unhurried pace of rustic country life delight visitors wherever they go.*

The Cyprus Agrotourism offers you alternative options in rural regions. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation has published a brochure and price list which, together with the Cyprus Hotel Guide, is available from all Cyprus Tourism Organisation offices.



# Festivals & Festivities

Events for all seasons



The people of Cyprus love to celebrate, so cultural and religious festivals are held throughout the year. Some have ancient origins, others are steeped in history and tradition, whilst some simply reflect the culture of today.

Carnival dates back to Greek festivals in honour of the god Dionysos, divine patron of the theatre. It begins 50 days before the Orthodox Easter. Festivities take place in various towns and reach a climax on Carnival Sunday when a big parade takes place in Lemesos (Limassol).

Easter is the most important religious festival, celebrated with processions, religious services and many traditional games.

In May, colourful parades of flower-decorated floats wind through the streets of the cities. This is the "Anthestiria" Flower Festival which dates back to the celebrations in ancient Greece for the rebirth of man and nature.

On Pentecost comes the "Kataklysmos" festival. Its roots are the ancient rites of passing that celebrated the transition of man from springtime to the new season. In the coastal cities there are boat parades, fireworks, dancing and folk music.

From mid-June to September music concerts, dancing, performances of ancient Greek tragedies and comedies take place in the ancient theatres of Kourion and Pafos.



*Festivals and festive events in Cyprus: colourful Carnival parades, folk dances in traditional costumes, ancient Greek drama and opera staged in historic open-air settings.*



For detailed information on these and other attractions, see the "Diary of Events" brochure published annually and the "Monthly Events" leaflet available from your nearest Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

All through July, Art Festivals thrive in the cities of Larnaka and Lemesos (Limassol).

During the summer many local festivals with traditional atmosphere are celebrated in picturesque villages.

September is dedicated to the Wine Festival in Lemesos (Limassol), with music, folklore and free wine flowing from vats. The Kypria Festival, organised throughout September by the Ministry of Education and Culture, is a major arts event and includes all performing arts.

The winter period is welcomed with numerous classical music concerts, exhibitions of Fine Arts and theatre performances. In December Christmas Festivities take place all over the island.

One of the most important Greek Orthodox religious celebrations is Epiphany Day on 6th of January.



# Wining & Dining

Pleasures on a plate  
from the island garden



"Kopiaste" – sit down with us, eat and drink with us, be welcome! The hospitality and gusto of the Cypriots is overwhelming. Even in the tiniest mountain villages you will discover taverna serving delicious island specialities.

The traditional "meze" meal makes sampling very simple: it consists of hot and cold fare providing a tasty sample of Cypriot cuisine. Small portions of up to 30 different dishes are served, accompanied by delicious sauces.

Fish and meat dishes, even vegetables, are frequently roasted on the charcoal grill or in large dome-shaped clay ovens.

Typical regional treats are Halloumi (a firm white sheep's milk cheese, grilled or raw); Dolmades (stuffed vine leaves); and Hummus (sauce of chickpeas, sesame, olive oil and lemon juice). A special delicacy is the root plant, Kolokasi (*Colocasia esculanta*).



Meals are accompanied by local beer or one of the excellent wines of the island, produced either in one of the big wineries or in the small wineries of the hinterland. Even Mark Antony acclaimed their quality: With the words "Your love, my beauty, is sweeter than the wine of Cyprus," he presented the island to Cleopatra as a wedding gift. Also popular are the local sherries and brandies, as well as the desert wine Commandaria – one of the world's oldest vintages.



# Markets & Malls

Pick and mix or  
made to measure

Shopping in Cyprus is whatever you want it to be. Join in the bustling activity of a colourful market where you'll find fresh produce, fish and meat, as well as basket-work and national specialities which make original – and reasonably priced – souvenirs.

Or spend some time in the sophisticated shopping centres where you can choose from a selection of fashionable clothes, handbags, suitcases, optical products, gold and silver jewellery.

Suits, jackets and even shoes can be made to measure within a week. Wherever you choose to shop, you'll find outstanding quality and true value for money.

Looking for something different to take home? How about the island's culinary delicacies such as wine, Cyprus brandy, sweets, like Shuchuco, Halloumi cheese and Chiromeri ham?



*Little old quarter shops offer a tempting abundance of goods in a relaxed atmosphere of genuine friendship. Among the island's best-known handicrafts are traditional pieces of pottery.*



A large selection of genuine local crafts is offered by the Cyprus Handicraft Services with a retail shop in every town, and in numerous specialist workshops.



# Addresses

If you would like further details on any of the topics covered in this brochure, the Information Offices of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation will be happy to help you with advice, free leaflets, maps and travel suggestions.

## **Cyprus Tourism Organisation**

Leoforos Lemesou 19, Lefkosa  
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