



Photo: matthew Feeney/unsplash



Irina Shishkina/unsplash



kirill\_makarov/Shutterstock.com



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Clear blue waters, mild temperatures and caressing sunshine. It is easy to see how the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite, was born from the waves lapping onto the Cypriot shore. The mythology, language, traditions and lifestyle are Greek, but the island features a beauty that is shrouded by its own, one-of-a-kind atmosphere, shaped by a structure that divides Cyprus and its capital Nicosia into the Turkish North and the Greek South. Its multi-faceted personality has an allure that attracts tons of holidaymakers.

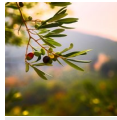
### Featured



**Kykkos Monastery**  
Nestled in the picturesque Marathasa Valley, Kykkos Monastery is not only th...



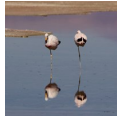
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Aphrodite's Rock is a captivating geological formation situated along the st...



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Kolossi Castle, a former Crusader stronghold, is steeped in history. The ori...



## THE ISLAND



*Pawel Kazmierczak/Shutterstock.com*

With 300 days of sunshine a year, Cyprus is a hot touristic destination, and the island's history is equally hot. Cyprus got its name 3,500 years ago when valuable copper (kypros) was found within the island, attracting hordes of Greeks and invaders. Ten different cultures have ruled the island over 27 centuries, which is easy to see in Cyprus' multi-coloured traditions and in its blend of cultures. And it's not only Cyprus' fascinating history that enchants travelers. From golden beaches and entertaining water-sports, through citrus trees, pines and the unspoiled Troodos mountains, to delightful urban areas, Cyprus is an exciting adventure. See the vibrant Cypriot villages, discover the food and culture and participate in the pulsating nightlife.

## DO & SEE



*kirill\_makarov/Shutterstock.com*

Cyprus is a stunning and diverse island, boasting a wide array of attractions and activities for visitors to enjoy.

For a taste of culture and history, consider a trip to Nicosia — the capital city of Cyprus. It's famed for its rich history, cultural hotspots, and buzzing nightlife. Alternatively, make your way to Paphos, a coastal city in the southwest, where you'll find ancient ruins like the captivating Paphos Archaeological Park.

If you're craving outdoor adventures and natural beauty, the Troodos Mountains are a must-visit. Located in the heart of Cyprus, this mountain range is celebrated for its gorgeous landscapes, hiking trails, and cultural gems. On the western coast, you'll discover the unspoilt Akamas Peninsula, with its pristine beaches and scenic hiking paths.

### Paphos



Paphos is located on the southwest coast of the island and is sheltered from the north by the Troodos mountains. It has a temperate climate, one of the healthiest in the Mediterranean. Beautiful countryside, a cosmopolitan resort, historical

sights as well as sporting activities, the Paphos region has something for everyone at any time of year.

Paphos, with its pleasant harbour and medieval fort, combines a dynamic holiday resort with spectacular countryside, unspoiled nature and sensational history. The region offers the possibility of enjoying both sea and mountains, as well as getting a taste of the island's culture with its many archaeological sites.

Feel the romance floating through the air in the place where Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love and beauty, once roamed. Swim in the sea by the rocks known as Petra tou Romiou, where she was believed to have risen from the waves, make a pilgrimage to her sanctuary at Kouklia, or visit the grotto near Polis where she supposedly bathed.

Whatever you desire: activity, tranquillity, good food, fine wine, spas, nature, bird watching, scenic walks, golf, culture — the Paphos region offers it all.

Photo: Oleg Bakhirev/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Paphos, Cyprus  
Internet: [www.visitpafos.org.cy](http://www.visitpafos.org.cy)

### Archaeological Site of Nea Paphos



Delve into the captivating blend of ancient Greek and Roman history at the Paphos Archaeological Park, situated in Nea Paphos on the southwest coast of Cyprus. This extensive site, which is still under excavation, encompasses a significant part of the ancient city that dates back to prehistoric times and spans through the Middle Ages.

Founded in the late 4th century BC, Nea Paphos was once encircled by formidable walls and served as the centre of political and administrative life in Cyprus. Today, the park is renowned for its enchanting collection of well-preserved mosaics that depict ancient Greek myths. These intricate and colourful masterpieces can be found in the remains of opulent Roman villas, which are among the park's most remarkable discoveries.

As you wander through this UNESCO World Heritage site, immerse yourself in the rich history and culture that influenced the lives of the early inhabitants of the island. From the worship of gods to the emergence of early Christians, the ruins of Nea Paphos offer a fascinating insight into a bygone era.

Photo: Wolfgang Sauber/cc by-sa 3.0/wikimedia(image cropped)  
Address: Kato Pafos Archaeological Park, Paphos, Cyprus  
Phone: +357 26 306 217  
Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/culture/sites-monuments/239-archaeological-park-of-kato-pafos-paphos](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/culture/sites-monuments/239-archaeological-park-of-kato-pafos-paphos)

### Paphos Castle & Harbour



Paphos Harbour is a vibrant hub of activity, where you can savour freshly caught fish at charming seafood restaurants or grab a quick snack and drink before embarking on thrilling water sport adventures or day boat trips. At the heart of this bustling area stands the majestic Paphos Castle, a medieval fortress with its base partially submerged in the sea.

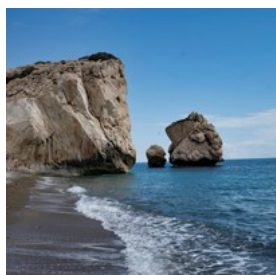
Since the 13th century, Paphos Castle has been

an imposing presence, serving as a watchtower for potential seafaring invaders, a prison, and even a storage facility for salt supplies during British rule. Today, this historic monument is a stunning backdrop for an array of cultural events, including music, dance, and pop concerts that take place throughout the summer months.

The castle is a testament to the various powers that controlled Cyprus and their efforts to solidify their rule over the land. As a symbol of the rich cultural heritage of the area, Paphos was chosen as the European Capital of Culture in 2017. Don't miss the opportunity to explore this remarkable site and soak up the lively atmosphere of Paphos Harbour during your visit to Cyprus.

Photo: George M. Groutas/cc by 2.0/Flickr  
Address: Kato Paphos Harbour, Coastal Broadwalk, Paphos  
Opening hours: Winter: daily 8:30am-5pm. Summer: daily 8:30am-7:30pm  
Phone: +357 26 306217  
Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/culture/sites-monuments/item/245-pafos-paphos-castle](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/culture/sites-monuments/item/245-pafos-paphos-castle)

### Aphrodite's Rock



Aphrodite's Rock is a captivating geological formation situated along the stunning coastline of southwest Cyprus, between Paphos and Limassol. This sea stack is not only famous for its natural beauty but also holds great mythological significance as the alleged birthplace of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty. Legend has it that Aphrodite emerged from the sea foam and was escorted to this very beach on a shell.

The area is also associated with the Byzantine

hero Digenis Akritas, who supposedly hurled the giant rocks into the sea to protect Cyprus from Saracen Arab invaders. This act gave the site its name Petra tou Romiou, meaning "rock of the Greek." Visitors to Aphrodite's Rock often swim around the rock, believing that doing so three times can bring blessings such as eternal youth, beauty, good luck, fertility and true love.

Photo: Datingjungle/unsplash  
Address: Petra tou Romiou, Aphrodite's Beach, Kouklia, Cyprus  
Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/rural/sites-monuments/732-birthplace-of-aphrodite-petra-tou-romiou](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/rural/sites-monuments/732-birthplace-of-aphrodite-petra-tou-romiou)

### Kolossi Castle



Kolossi Castle, a former Crusader stronghold, is steeped in history. The original castle was likely built in 1210 by the Frankish military, while the current structure dates back to 1454, constructed by the Hospitallers under Commander Louis de Magnac. The castle once held great strategic importance and housed extensive facilities for sugar production, a major export for Cyprus during the Middle Ages.

Today, the castle consists of a three-story keep and an attached rectangular enclosure, showcasing military architecture of its time. The region is also renowned for the production of the sweet wine, Commandaria, which is considered one of the oldest continuously-produced and named wines globally. The wine was declared it to be the "wine of kings and the king of wines" by Richard the Lionheart when he celebrated his conquest of Cyprus by wedding a Spanish princess in this very castle.

Photo: Becks/cc by 2.0/Flickr

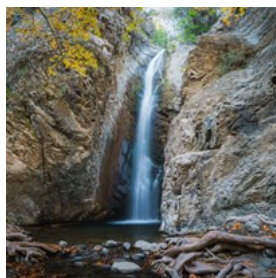
Address: Kolossi, 14km west of Lemesos on the road towards Paphos

Opening hours: Summer: daily 8:30am-7:30pm. Winter: daily 8:30am-5pm

Phone: +357 25 934 907

Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/ural/sites-monuments/2401-kolossi-medieval-castle](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/ural/sites-monuments/2401-kolossi-medieval-castle)

## Troodos Mountains



Take a trip to the mountains to discover an alternate view of the island. Rising to almost 2,000 metres above sea level, the Troodos peaks

provide panoramic views of all corners of the island, a cool retreat from the heat of the coast and a popular destination for taking in the healthy mountain air and enjoying nature in all its majesty. Charming villages, some with cobbled streets and preserved folk architecture, nestle on terraced slopes among pines or amid vineyards and orchards.

Wander through the village roads in the Solea Valley, known as the “apple valley” and Marathasa, known as “valley with cherry trees”. Those areas are renowned for their traditional architecture and their Byzantine churches and monasteries. Explore the traditional character of the villages of the picturesque Pitsilia, the interesting churches and the hospitality of their inhabitants and also the Wine Villages (Krasochoria), renowned for their vineyards and wine. A number of small wineries welcome visitors on wine tasting tours.

Burbling mountain streams and nightingale’s songs are often the only sounds to fill in the air in a region that poets have waxed lyrical over. The Troodos mountains are where the painted

churches of Cyprus can be found, superb examples of Byzantine art, ten of which have been listed among UNESCO’s World Heritage wonders.

There’s much you can do, from mountain biking to playing tennis, angling in one of the dams, or even skiing in winter. A series of walking trails will take you through areas of exceptional beauty among scented pines, running streams and the occasional waterfall, stopping at a shady picnic site. Some of these form part of the European path E4, an international network of long-distance walking routes crossing the whole of Europe.

The specific climatic conditions created by the high altitudes and the peculiar geological substratum may have contributed to the unique flora found in Troodos with nearly 800 different plant species, 12 of which found nowhere else in the world. Occasionally, if lucky, one may spot a Cyprus mouflon, a kind of wild sheep which roams free in the extensive forests. Birdwatchers may spot the rare and protected eagles or the colourful hoopoe with a pink body, a black and white crest and a call which can be heard from miles around.

Photo: alexilena/Shutterstock.com

Address: Troodos, Cyprus

Internet: [mytroodos.com](http://mytroodos.com)

## Tombs of the Kings



Just off the Tomb of the Kings road in Paphos, lies a huge area which dates back to 300 BC here was the last resting place for top officials and members of Paphian aristocracy, each would have been laid in burial niches along with jewellery and

other artefacts relating to their life. Tragically, these tombs were looted many many years ago leaving behind only an echoing and very powerful sense of stillness and a certain mystery. The tombs were carved out of solid rock and with frescoed walls, and looming Doric columns line the 100 tombs which have been unearthed. This site is well worth a visit and the best examples can be seen if you visit the atrium area.

Photo: Stjepan Gadze/unsplash

Address: Archaeological Site of the Tombs of the Kings,  
Tombs of the Kings Avenue 63, Chloraka, Cyprus

Opening hours: Winter: daily 8:30am-5pm. Summer: daily  
8:30am-7:30pm

Phone: +357 26 306 295

Internet: [www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/da/da.nsf/All/238DE8D409BF6077C225719B0039F785?OpenDocument](http://www.mcw.gov.cy/mcw/da/da.nsf/All/238DE8D409BF6077C225719B0039F785?OpenDocument)

### Kykkos Monastery



Nestled in the picturesque Marathasa Valley, Kykkos Monastery is not only the wealthiest and most lavish on the island, but also a significant cultural and religious site. Perched at an altitude of 1,318 metres, this historical gem is a must-visit for anyone keen to understand modern Cyprus.

The monastery's origins can be traced back to the end of the 11th century when it was founded by Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos. Although the original structure has not survived the various fires that have swept through the region, today's buildings are beautifully maintained and filled with intricate murals and religious treasures.

One of the monastery's most prized possessions is an icon of Panagia (the Virgin Mary) attributed

to Apostle Luke. This silver gilt-covered icon is housed in a stunning tortoiseshell and mother-of-pearl shrine, which stands in front of the iconostasis.

When visiting Kykkos Monastery, be sure to explore the grounds, including the museum that showcases antiquities, documents, vessels, vestments, ornaments, icons, frescoes, and woodcarvings. You'll also find that the monastery produces Zivania spirit and other alcoholic drinks, and hosts religious fairs on September 8th (Birth of the Virgin) and August 15th (Dormition of the Virgin).

As a place of worship, observance, and commercial enterprise, Kykkos Monastery offers a unique insight into the lives of Greek Cypriots and their religion. Don't miss the chance to experience this captivating site during your time in Cyprus.

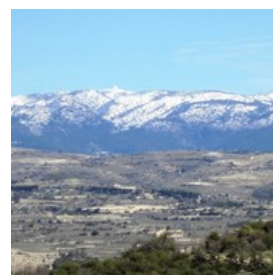
Photo: Rapid Spin/cc by-nd 2.0/Flickr

Address: 20 km west of Pedoulas, Troodos Mountains,  
Nicosia district, Cyprus

Phone: +357 22 942435

Internet: [www.kykkos.org.cy](http://www.kykkos.org.cy)

### Mount Olympus (Chionistra)



Mount Olympus, also known as Chionistra, is the highest point in Cyprus, standing tall at 1,952 meters (6,404 feet) in the heart of the

Troodos Mountains. When you visit, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views of rugged landscapes and the shimmering Mediterranean Sea in the distance.

If you decide to visit Mount Olympus in the winter, you can enjoy skiing at the resort, which

consists of the Sun Valley and North Face areas. Operated by the Cyprus Ski Club, the resort offers a variety of ski lifts and slopes catering to different skill levels.

In addition to skiing and hiking, the mountain holds historical significance, with the late first-century geographer Strabo reporting a temple dedicated to Aphrodite Acraea on one of its promontories. Experience the beauty and history of Mount Olympus during your visit to Cyprus.

Photo: Dickelbers/cc by-sa 3.0/wikimedia (cropped)(image cropped)

Address: Troodos Mountains, Limassol District, Cyprus

More Info: Make sure to wear appropriate gear, bring insect repellent, and stay on the designated trails to avoid any encounters with snakes during the summer months.

## Larnaca



Larnaca is where East meets West, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities of the world and a fascinating blend of the many civilizations that shaped its history. This quiet seafront city, situated on the southeastern coast of Cyprus, near the island's main airport, is a perfect starting point from which to explore Cyprus and its endless possibilities. Villages offering agrotourism, beautiful beaches, sports and recreation options, cultural events, religious tourism and authentic Cyprus taverns are just some of the choices in and around town. Welcome to Larnaca, the gateway to Cyprus.

See the Old Town and enjoy the sun and sea at the seafront. Here, there are many clubs lounges and bars. The ruins of Kition, founded by Noah's grandchild Khittim, and the 17th-century fort

are certainly worth seeing. After Mecca and Medina, the Tekke mosque, built in honour of the prophet Mohammed's relative is one of the Muslims' most important destinations for pilgrimages. A most-fascinating site is Choirokoitia, a settlement from the earliest period of the Stone Age.

Photo: Curioso/Shutterstock.com

Address: Larnaca, Cyprus

Internet: larnakaregion.com

## Church of Saint Lazarus



The Church of Saint Lazarus in Larnaca is a captivating late-9th-century Orthodox church, steeped in history and showcasing

remarkable Byzantine craftsmanship. Believed to be built over Saint Lazarus' tomb, the church is adorned with intricate frescoes, stained glass windows, and exquisite stone architecture.

Annually, eight days before Easter, the church hosts a religious procession through Larnaca. Just an eight-minute walk away, you'll find the Byzantine Museum for further historical exploration. This architectural gem is a must-visit for history, architecture, and spirituality enthusiasts.

Photo: Secret Travel Guide/unsplash

Address: Plateia Agiou Lazarou, Larnaca

Opening hours: Summer: Mon-Fri 8am-6:30pm; Sun 6:30am-12:30pm / 3:30pm-6:30pm. Winter: Mon-Fri 8am-12:30pm / 2:30pm-5:30pm; Sun 6:30am-12:30pm / 3:30pm-5:30pm

Phone: +357 24 652498

Internet: agioslazaros.org.cy

### Larnaca Salt Lake



Discover the breathtaking beauty of Larnaca Salt Lake, a complex network of four salt lakes located just west of Larnaca city.

As the second largest salt lake in Cyprus, it spans a total area of 2.2 square kilometres and is considered an important wetland, holding the status of a Special Protected Area.

During winter months, the lake fills with water, providing a temporary home for numerous migrating bird species, including thousands of vibrant pink flamingos. These elegant birds can be seen feeding on the brine shrimp *Artemia Salina*, a crucial element of the lake's food chain. As summer arrives, the water evaporates, leaving a crust of salt and a striking landscape. In the past, salt harvested from Larnaca Salt Lake was one of Cyprus' major exports.

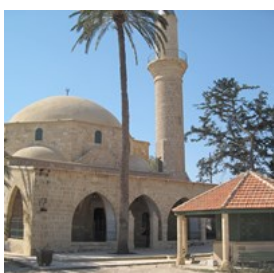
A 4 km-long nature trail winds through the area, offering an opportunity to explore the lake's surroundings and observe the diverse flora and fauna. Larnaca Salt Lake is not only a stunning natural attraction but also a site with a rich history dating back to the Late Bronze Age.

Photo: Thomas Griggs/unsplash

Address: 4 km (2.5 miles) from Larnaca International Airport

Internet: [www.atlasobscura.com/places/larnaca-salt-lake](http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/larnaca-salt-lake)

### Hala Sultan Tekke



Hala Sultan Tekke, situated on the west bank of the Larnaca Salt Lake, about 6 km southwest of Larnaca, is a mosque and tekke complex that holds significant importance in Islam. The mosque was

built just before 1787, and its current structure was completed in 1816. The complex is set amidst a beautiful garden and stands as a symbol of tranquillity.

Ranked as the fourth most important holy place of worship in the religion, the mosque is built over the tomb of Umm Haram, the foster-mother of the Prophet Mohammed and wife of Ubada bin al-Samit, a high-ranking officer who led raids against Cyprus in the 7th century.

While visiting the mosque, take the opportunity to explore the picturesque Larnaca Salt Lake, located just a short five-minute walk away.

Photo: Dickelbers/cc by-sa 3.0/wikimedia(image cropped)

Address: Tekke Road, Larnaca

Opening hours: Summer: daily 8:30am-5pm. Winter: daily 8:30am-7:30pm. Closed to tourists every Friday from 1pm to 3pm

Internet: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hala\\_Sultan\\_Tekke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hala_Sultan_Tekke)

More Info: Hala Sultan Tekke is an active mosque, welcoming visitors of all faiths, but it is essential to adhere to a modest dress code out of respect for the religious site. In short, you can't wear shorts.

### Nicosia (Lefkosia)



Nicosia, also known as Lefkosia, the island's capital, combines both old and new in a busy modern commercial and business centre and a

centuries-old culture. The centre of the city comprehends its old quarter surrounded by a Venetian sandstone fortress wall with a moat and heart-shaped bastions.

Mosques and palm trees give an oriental atmosphere to the old city. Wander along narrow streets with overhanging balconies and beautifully restored pedestrian precincts with



craft shops, cafes and taverns. Make sure you stop off at St John's cathedral with its frescoes and the marvellous museum of Byzantine icons. In the evening catch a concert or an exhibition at the Famagusta Gate, one of the three original entrances into the old city, which has now been restored and it is used as a cultural centre.

The new town spreads beyond the walls with a modern European-like centre of high-rise buildings, office blocks, shops and cafes, expanding into suburban residential areas. Lefkosia offers the best in shopping with Stassicratous Street as the destination for an ultimate shopping experience.

Of the city's main sights, Cyprus Museum houses the best collection of archaeological artefacts on the island, including a first century AD Roman statuette of Aphrodite of Soli and the original mosaic of Leda and the Swan, while the Leventis museum depicts the history of the town.

Photo: Datingjungle/unsplash  
Address: Nicosia, Cyprus  
Internet: [www.visitnicosia.com.cy](http://www.visitnicosia.com.cy)

### Cyprus Museum



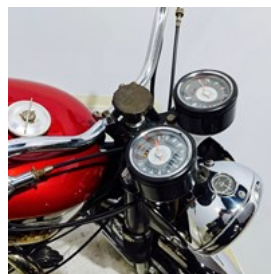
The Cyprus Museum, located in Nicosia, is the perfect destination for anyone looking to delve into the rich history and civilization of Cyprus. The museum showcases a vast array of ancient artefacts that demonstrate the island's significant role in the development of civilization. The collections span the Neolithic period to the Roman era, featuring tools, stone vessels, figurines, pottery, and much more.

As you wander through the well-labelled and

chronologically arranged exhibits, you'll be amazed by the island's unique archaeological treasures. Some highlights include the rich collection of Early Bronze Age pottery, Archaic statues reflecting Egyptian and Assyrian influences, and stunning finds from the royal tombs of Salamis. The Cyprus Museum is an essential stop for anyone interested in understanding the island's fascinating history and cultural heritage.

Photo: A.Savin/FAL/wikimedia(image cropped)  
Address: Mouseiou 1, Nicosia  
Opening hours: Tue-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-1pm, Mon closed  
Phone: +357 22 865 854  
More Info: Also known as the Cyprus Archaeological Museum

### Cyprus Classic Motorcycle Museum



Step into the fascinating world of vintage motorcycles at the Cyprus Classic Motorcycle Museum, located in the old town of Nicosia. This impressive collection, founded by Andreas Nicolaou, showcases over 150 models of motorcycles dating from 1914 to 1983. The museum is a testament to the passion and dedication of its founder, who spent years gathering some of the island's most historically significant bikes.

As you explore the museum, you'll come across captivating exhibits, such as motorcycles from the Presidential Guard of Archbishop Makarios, the bike used by EOKA fighter Stylianos Lenas to transport weapons and ammunition, and the motorcycle of the first champion in Cyprus, Turkish Cypriot Zeki Isa. You'll also find military motorcycles used during World War II.

Photo: Addy Osmani/unsplash

Address: Granikou 44, Nicosia, Cyprus

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, Sun closed

Phone: +357 99 543 215

Internet:

[cyclassicmotormuseum.wixsite.com/cyclassicmotormuseum](https://cyclassicmotormuseum.wixsite.com/cyclassicmotormuseum)

## Agia Napa



Once sleepy fishing villages, the fabulous beaches of fine white sand of Agia Napa and Protaras, and the coastal area of Paralimni with its hundreds of windmills, nowadays buzz with life.

This area is known collectively as the Kokkinochoria, “red soil villages”, because of the rich red earth in which Cyprus’ famous potatoes are grown. Culture lovers can explore the medieval churches found in villages like Sotira or go round the folk art museums displaying rural artefacts in Deryneia and Avgorou. Children will love the Marine Life museum or the new Sea Museum, “Thalassa”, in Agia Napa, which has an amazing replica of a 4th century trading ship which sunk off the coast of Kyrenia. Or you could stop at the tiny estuary known by the locals as Potamos and watch the fishing boats haul in their catch in their multi-coloured baskets.

Spend the day sunbathing at the beach, swimming in warm turquoise waters or taking a short cruise along the coast. Some of the best snorkelling and diving spots are at Cape Gkreko, the national forest park, with its secluded coves and rocky outcrops, impressive cliff top views and sea caves.

In the evening dine at one of the many restaurants, especially the local ones in

Paralimni, or jive to the latest sounds at one of the numerous nightclubs.

Photo: Marcin Krzyzak/Shutterstock.com

Address: Agia Napa, Cyprus

Internet: [www.visitfamagusta.com.cy](http://www.visitfamagusta.com.cy)

## Northern Cyprus



For many travellers, a visit to Northern Cyprus feels like stepping back in time. This region, which is controlled by Turkey, is a world away from the busy resorts, malls, and familiar international chains that can be found in the south. Instead, visitors will find remote villages and a slower pace of life. This sense of suspended animation can be traced back to the Turkish invasion of 1974, which led to the north becoming isolated from the rest of the world and self-proclaimed as a republic, recognized only by Turkey.

Northern Cyprus stretches from the Karpass Peninsula to Morphou Bay, Cape Kormakitis, and its westernmost point, the Kokkina exclave. The southernmost point of Northern Cyprus is the village of Louroujina. This region is separated from the rest of the island by a buffer zone controlled by the United Nations, which also divides Nicosia, the largest city on the island and the capital of both north and south Cyprus.

Despite its isolated status, Northern Cyprus has a lot to offer travellers. Its two prettiest towns, Girne and Gazimağusa, are located here, as well as half of the capital city. The region is home to three of the island's mightiest Crusader castles (St Hilarion, Buffavento and Kantara) and the island's most important archaeological site at Salamis. The Kyrenia Mountains, in particular, are a hiker's paradise, and many of the region's

beaches are relatively untouched by high-rise resorts. Additionally, a visit to Northern Cyprus provides the unique opportunity to experience two very different cultures: the Orthodox Greek Cypriot and the Muslim Turkish Cypriot worlds.

The north can also feel more affordable than the south, as it is not part of the Eurozone, and though its tourist infrastructure is not as well-developed yet.

Photo: Secret Travel Guide/unsplash

Internet: [www.roughguides.com/cyprus/north-cyprus](http://www.roughguides.com/cyprus/north-cyprus)

### Kyrenia Castle & Shipwreck Museum



Kyrenia Castle, situated at the entrance of the picturesque harbour, is a remarkable historical site dating back to the 7th century. Originally built by the Byzantines and modified by various conquerors throughout the centuries, the castle offers you a captivating glimpse into Cyprus' past. As you walk along the ramparts, you can enjoy stunning views of the harbour and explore the castle's cistern, dungeon, chapel, and two small museums.

One of the castle's most intriguing attractions is the Kyrenia Shipwreck Museum, housing the remains of a 4th century Greek merchant ship discovered in Cypriot waters. Believed to have sunk around 300 BC, the ship's cargo included amphorae, almonds, grain, wine, and millstones from the Greek islands of Samos, Rhodes, and Kos. The museum offers a unique opportunity for you to explore an ancient shipwreck and its well-preserved artefacts, providing insight into maritime history and trade during the time of Alexander the Great and his successors.

Photo: Katerina Bot/unsplash

Address: Kyrenia/Girne, Northern Cyprus

Internet:

[www.visitncy.com/discover/kyrenia-castle-shipwreck-museum](http://www.visitncy.com/discover/kyrenia-castle-shipwreck-museum)

More Info: Kyrenia Castle is also known as Girne Castle

### Güzelyurt (Morphou)



Welcome to Güzelyurt, a charming town in Northern Cyprus, nestled in the centre of the island's citrus-growing region. With its name

translating to "Beautiful Place," Güzelyurt lives up to its reputation with stunning, rich, and fertile landscapes. Located close to the Troodos Mountains' foothills, this town is a bountiful agricultural hub, producing a variety of vegetables and fruits, earning it the nickname "Fruit Basket" of Cyprus.

While Güzelyurt may not be as architecturally or culturally diverse as other towns in North Cyprus, it boasts deep historical roots and hidden charms waiting to be discovered. During your visit, make sure to explore the Morphou Archaeology and Nature Museum and the Church of St Mamas, a late 18th-century church that blends Gothic and Byzantine architectural styles, housing a stunning glass chandelier. You can also immerse yourself in local life by visiting the bustling market on Saturdays, where you can find fresh local produce. Enjoy a scenic drive along the coast, stopping at roadside stalls for freshly squeezed juice, and if you're feeling adventurous, join the windsurfers who flock to Güzelyurt's windy shores to ride the waves all year round.

Photo: Xxlstier/cc by-sa 4.0/wikimedia(image cropped)

Address: Güzelyurt District, Northern Cyprus

Internet: [www.visitncy.com/island/guzelyurt](http://www.visitncy.com/island/guzelyurt)

More Info: The town is known as Morphou in Greek

### Morphou Archaeology & Nature Museum



Located in Guzelyurt, the Morphou Archaeology and Nature Museum is a unique attraction that combines natural history and archaeology.

Originally the palace of the Bishop of Morphou, the building now houses a museum that opened in 1979 after restoration. The ground floor showcases a collection of stuffed animals native to Cyprus, while the upper floors exhibit a wide range of archaeological finds from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, including displays from the Tumba Tou Skuru settlement.

The courtyard serves as an open-air museum, featuring pieces from the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods. The museum's most notable artefacts are the 'Golden Leaves of Soli', discovered in 2005, which include a breathtaking tiara of delicately intertwined gold leaves. Another significant piece is the 2nd-century AD statue of the Anatolian Goddess Artemis of Ephesus, found at the Salamis ruins in 1980. Just around the corner from the popular St Mamas Church and Icon Museum, the Morphou Archaeology and Nature Museum is a rewarding visit for those interested in the rich history and natural beauty of North Cyprus.

Photo: Xx1stier/cc by-sa 4.0/wikimedia (cropped and retouched)(image cropped)

Address: Ecevit Caddesi, Guzelyurt (Morphou), Northern Cyprus

Opening hours: Daily 8am-3:30pm

Phone: +90 392 714 22 02

Internet: [www.visitncy.com/island/guzelyurt](http://www.visitncy.com/island/guzelyurt)

### Limassol



Located in the southern coast of the island, Limassol is geographically the largest city in Cyprus and the second largest in population after Nicosia. Its central position offers easy access to all major cities as well as the Troodos Mountains within a 35 to 45 minute-drive. It is also conveniently situated only 35 minutes away from both Larnaca and Paphos airports.

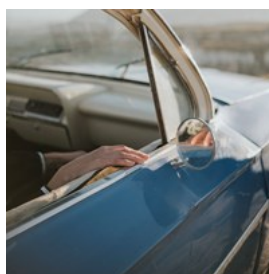
It is a fascinating area with a diversified character which caters to a variety of tastes and preferences: a heaven for sunlovers, with 16 kilometers of sandy beaches, this cosmopolitan destination also boasts high quality accommodation options, countless activities and a wide array of vibrant events and festivals throughout the year. In the midst of its lively nightlife and entertainment, one can still appreciate the cultural aspect with visits to archaeological sites and colourful wine villages.

Photo: Lucky-photographer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Limassol, Cyprus

Internet: [www.limassoltourism.com](http://www.limassoltourism.com)

### Cyprus Motor Museum



The Cyprus Motor Museum, founded by Mr Dimi Mavropoulos, a veteran of international and local rally racing, offers a unique experience for classic car enthusiasts. Since its opening in February 2014, the museum remains the only automobile museum in Cyprus, boasting 3,500 square meters of excellence and a vast collection of cars, including a 1912 Ford Model T

roadster and a car donated by the US government to Cyprus President Makarios III.

Visitors can enjoy a variety of events throughout the year, including exhibitions, fashion shows, and photoshoots. For a truly memorable experience, rent a classic car, bus, or motorbike for your wedding, city tour, or special day photoshoot. With a well-curated collection and clear signage, the Cyprus Motor Museum is a must-visit gem for car lovers and tourists alike.

Photo: Feyza Yıldırım/pexels

Address: Epimitheos, Limassol

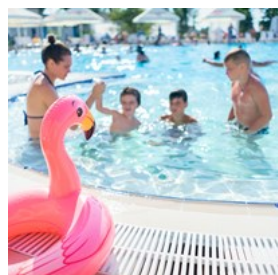
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm

Phone: +357 70 009 000

Internet: [cyprusmotormuseum.com.cy](http://cyprusmotormuseum.com.cy)

More Info: Also known as Cyprus Historic & Classic Motor Museum

### Fasouri Watermania



Fasouri Watermania, the largest water park in Cyprus, offers a refreshing escape from the hot summer days on the island. With a wide array of water activities for all ages, the park features dozens of thrilling slides, a lazy river, and the country's biggest wave pool. In addition to water attractions, visitors can indulge in a massage, enjoy a fish spa treatment, or get a temporary tattoo as a souvenir of their visit.

The park is renowned for its cleanliness, family-friendly atmosphere, and welcoming staff. Multiple restaurants and snack bars offer a variety of dining options, while life jackets can be rented for added safety. Open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, Fasouri Watermania is a must-visit destination for a fun-filled day of water adventures and unforgettable memories.

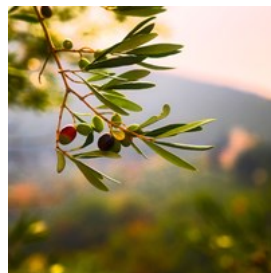
Photo: Oleksandr Pidvalnyi/pexels

Address: Fasouri, Cyprus

Phone: +357 25 714 235

Internet: [www.instagram.com/fasouriwaterpark](http://www.instagram.com/fasouriwaterpark)

### Oleastro Olive Park



Nestled in the scenic village of Anogyra, Oleastro Olive Park offers visitors an interactive and educational experience of Cypriot rural life and the timeless importance of olives. At the park, you'll learn about traditional olive extraction methods, the myriad benefits of olives, and their central role in Cypriot households.

Oleastro Olive Park features a state-of-the-art ecological olive mill, museum, restaurant and store specializing in olive products. Founded by Andreas and Lina Ellinas, the park celebrates the olive tree's rich history in the Mediterranean diet and Cyprus's authentic countryside. Don't miss this delightful gem, where you can immerse yourself in local culture and taste the exquisite olive products.

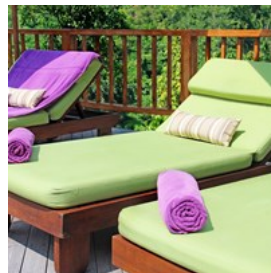
Photo: Lucio Patone/unsplash

Address: Anogyra, Limassol District, Cyprus

Phone: +357 99 611 004

Internet: [www.oleastro.com.cy/en](http://www.oleastro.com.cy/en)

### Spas



Cyprus in more recent times has emerged as one of the leading spa destinations in the Mediterranean area, offering a diverse choice of spas, including Day Spas, Mineral Spring Spas, Thalassotherapy, Wellness and Recuperation. Whether the guest is looking for

holistic wellness, boot camp motivation or pure unadulterated pampering, the top class spa facilities satisfy all needs.

Photo: Lucy Liu/Shutterstock.com

## Events



Well-known events and festivals create a vibrant and colourful atmosphere all over the island. One of the brightest events is the Carnival, taking place in February and March in all towns. The Flower Festival, that, occurring every May, celebrates the beauty of spring with a floral exhibition boasting the rich variety of Cyprus' authentic wild flora.

Throughout the year, Music, Dance and Theatre Festivals, operas, ancient drama and modern ballets enrich Cyprus cultural calendar. Athletic events such as Regattas, cycling races, the Cyprus Rally, the international Open Marathon, beach volley tournaments and sporting events with competitions in boxing, karate, triathlon, marathon, shooting, rhythmic gymnastics and cycling are just a few of the annual athletic events that take place in every corner of Cyprus.

Photo: Palis Michalis/Shutterstock.com

Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/events](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/events)

## BEACH LIFE



Marcin Krzyzak/Shutterstock.com

Fine, white sand and clear blue water — bathing in Cyprus is a memorable experience. With a wealth of beaches to choose from, you're bound to find one that suits your taste. From the untouched inlets of the western coast, to lively resorts in the east, the island has something for everyone.

The eastern coast is famous for its fine, white, sandy beaches with shallow turquoise waters. The long southern coast with its grey sand lends itself to long winter walks or jogging, while the secluded coves of the western coast beckon to those who want to reflect and relax in the tranquillity of its seafront.

### Nissi Beach, Agia Napa



A graceful green island pops up from shallow, crystalline waters.

Holiday-makers lie down on the white, sandy shore that stretches along the 500m beach. Wind-surfers hurtle on the sea and volleyball players keep themselves fit at the beach volleyball courts. White pelicans hover with elegance above the sea-line, plunging rapidly into blue water. It's not a dream, it's Nissi beach.

Photo: Marcin Krzyzak/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Nissi Beach, Agia Napa, Cyprus  
Internet: nissi-beach.com

### Aphrodite's Beach, Paphos



is hardly forgettable.

Nestled between Limassol and Paphos, Aphrodite's Beach is permeated by a romantic atmosphere, in a suggestive backdrop that

Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, chose the rock that stands imposingly in the beach's shallow waters to begin her life, donating a mythological aura to its shore.

Photo: eFesenko/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Aphrodite's Beach, Paphos

### Governor's Beach, Limassol

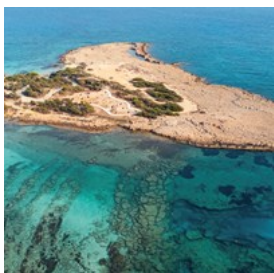


the surroundings. Restaurants and facilities are located throughout its length, and the nearby hills offer some suggestive walking trails.

Governor's Beach is situated off the well-trodden path, where a wall of white-washed cliffs plunge into the shore, standing out from

Photo: Styve Reineck/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Governor's Beach, Limassol

### Makronissos Beach, Agia Napa



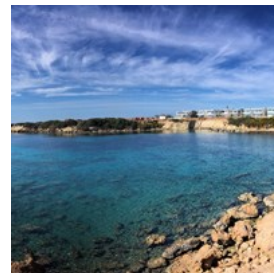
The dolphin tail-shaped peninsula in Cyprus boasts pristine white sandy beaches that lead gently into the clear blue sea. Surrounded by lush

green shrubs, a short two-minute walk takes you to a more secluded stretch of coastline, perfect for a peaceful and relaxing beach experience. The area's former reef status has resulted in fascinating rock formations that add to its charm and allure.

At the tip of the peninsula, you'll discover ancient tombs, which can be explored at no cost. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty and history of this captivating coastal destination, an ideal spot for beach lovers and those seeking a serene escape in the stunning surroundings of Cyprus.

Photo: Kamil Molendys/unsplash

### Coral Bay, Peyia



Coral Bay, one of Cyprus' best beaches, is a beautiful stretch of golden sand nestled between protective cliffs. This sun-worshipper's paradise boasts calm waters, making it perfect for swimming and water sports. Recognized with a Blue Flag, the beach guarantees clean and safe waters for all to enjoy. Umbrellas and sun loungers are available, ensuring a comfortable and relaxing experience.

Despite its popularity among tourists, controlled development has allowed Coral Bay to retain its charm. A variety of restaurants and bars are conveniently located within walking distance, offering a diverse range of dining options.

Photo: Sergei Gussev/cc by 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)  
Address: Coral Bay, Peyia, Paphos District

### Fig Tree Bay, Protaras



Fig Tree Bay is the most precious gem in this coastal tiara and is named after the solitary fig tree that was planted here by eastern invaders in the 17th century. On the headland of the bay one can see the recently revealed, glass-covered Hellenistic tombs. A selection of watersports abounds at these beaches, ranging from skiing and paragliding to snorkelling and scuba diving, and boats wait on the piers to take you on unforgettable trips. The bay also has excellent facilities, with sun beds and parasols available for hire. It provides disabled access and is serviced by a lifeguard.

Photo: Falco Ermert/cc by 2.0/Flickr  
Address: Fig Tree Bay, Protaras

### Akti Olympion, Limassol



Akti Olympion Beach showcases how a city beach can be both lively and relaxing. Once a narrow strip of pebbly sand, Limassol's seafront has undergone a significant makeover and now thrives as an attractive and bustling city center. The beach boasts pristine waters and over 2 km (1.2 mi) of soft, inviting sand.

Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the promenade or take in the sea view while wandering through the nearby park. Akti Olympion Beach adds a refreshing touch to the city atmosphere, making it a great spot to unwind and soak up some sun.

Photo: Mark Pegrum/cc by 2.0/Flickr

### Konnos Beach, Protaras & Agia Napa



Located to the East of Agia Napa, Konnos bay stands out from within the Cape Greco National Park. Found in between Protaras and Agia Napa, the beach is prominent for its white sands and crystal clear water. Flanked by rocky hills full of pine trees, the road to the beach offers excellent opportunities for amazing photographs. Special plastic sun beds, tailor-made for this beach and which can be used on water, are available for rent. Many yachters drop anchor here to relax for hours.

Photo: Didier Provost/unsplash

### Latsi Beach



Latchi Beach is a hidden gem on Cyprus's coastline, featuring a blend of soft sand and small pebbles. The beach has minimal facilities, making it an ideal spot to bring your own umbrella and enjoy a peaceful picnic. The waters here are clean and tranquil, perfect for a relaxing swim surrounded by stunning natural scenery.

This charming beach is part of the quaint village of Latchi, which is situated within the Polis municipality. The village boasts a small harbour, and the beach offers lifeguards as well as sunbed and umbrella rentals for visitors.

Photo: Paul Lakin/cc by 3.0/wikimedia (upscaled)(image cropped)

Address: Latsi Beach, Latsi, Polis Municipality, Paphos District

More Info: The name of the village is also spelled Latchi, Lachi and Lakki



### Fontana Amorosa



Fontana Amorosa is a breathtaking remote beach known for its captivating turquoise waters. Accessible by 4x4 vehicles, boats, or a challenging hike, this unspoiled gem has been preserved from commercial development, offering a pristine and serene environment. Snorkelling and swimming in the shallow, blue-green water are popular activities here, and the underwater world is teeming with fascinating artefacts and marine life. Make sure to bring your snorkelling gear and explore the underwater wonders, but remember not to disturb any ancient clay pots or artefacts you may come across.

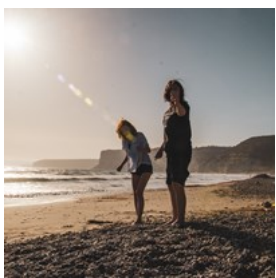
If you're up for a day trip, consider taking a jeep "bus" service for Aphrodite's Bath parking area.

Photo: Datingscout/unsplash

Address: Fontana Amorosa, Neo Chorio, Paphos District

More Info: The beach is also known as Blue Lagoon Akamas

### Kourion Beach



Kourion Beach, with its dramatic landscape and unique atmosphere, provides a thrilling alternative to the calmer beaches typically found in Cyprus. Famed for being a popular kitesurfing destination, the steady winds and looming limestone cliffs create the perfect conditions for the sport. These cliffs are also an excellent spot to observe the beach from above, as they overlook the ancient ruins of Kourion.

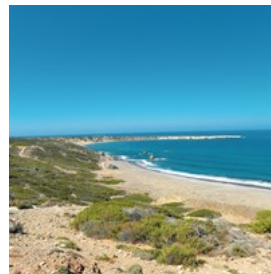
Although strong currents make swimming

off-limits in the eastern part of the coast, wading into the waves further along is both safe and enjoyable. The beach offers plenty of space, wooden walkways, sun loungers, and lifeguard supervision for a comfortable experience. Families will appreciate the on-site playgrounds and restaurants, while the beautiful sand and refreshing breeze make sunbathing a dream.

Photo: Sasha Cures/unsplash

Address: Kourion Beach, Episkopi village, Limassol District

### Lara Beach

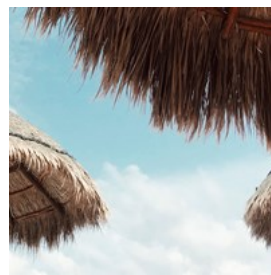


Lara Beach, nestled just north of the bustling resort of Coral Bay, offers a wild and secluded escape for those seeking a more private experience. Requiring a bit of extra effort and a 4x4 vehicle to traverse the dirt road leading to it, this hidden gem rewards visitors with a serene sandy cove and stunning views. As an added bonus, the lack of artificial light in the area creates the perfect environment for green and loggerhead turtles to nest, with easily spotted markers put up by dedicated volunteers. So, if you're up for a bit of an adventure, Lara Beach is well worth the journey.

Photo: Antigoni Karakoulli/unsplash

Address: Lara Bay, Paphos District

### Malindi Beach, Limassol



Situated at the northern edge of Limassol, Malindi Beach is a superb sandy stretch that's arguably one of the finest in Cyprus. Found near St Raphael Marina, the beach is divided into two parts: Malindi Beach to the right and St Raphael

Beach to the left. With St Raphael Beach often busier due to its adjacent hotel, Malindi Beach provides ample space for sunbathing, with a generous supply of loungers and sandy spots for those who prefer to lay out a towel.

The sea at Malindi is remarkably calm and shallow, remaining knee-deep for around 50 meters out, making it an ideal destination for families with children or those who enjoy seafront ball games. Malindi Beach Bar is a popular hotspot among locals and tourists alike for its delicious food, refreshing cocktails, and striking views, though it can be a tad pricey. For a more budget-friendly option, check out the unpretentious beach shack cafe next door, offering cold beers, snacks, and coffee.

Photo: Ellen Tanner/unsplash

Address: Malindi Bay, Limassol

More Info: Amenities include a beach bar and restaurant, lounge chairs, public toilets, and changing facilities.

### **Mackenzie Beach, Larnaca**



Just a stone's throw away from the heart of Larnaca, Mackenzie Beach is a gorgeous 1-kilometre stretch of golden sand lapped by tranquil, azure waters that are perfect for swimming. The expansive beach offers a wealth of loungers and open spaces for those who prefer to bring their own beach set-up, along with a range of amenities such as restaurants, bars, and public toilets. It's an excellent alternative to the more crowded Finikoudes Beach in Larnaca.

Photo: Lydia Noire/unsplash

Address: Makenzie Beach, Larnaca

Public Transport: Bus 425 from Larnaca Center to Mackenzie Beach

More Info: To reach Mackenzie Beach, you can drive, take a

taxi from Larnaca, or hop on the 425 bus. Note that sometimes the name of the beach is spelled as Makenzie

### **Pissouri Beach, Pissouri**



Boasting the prestigious Blue Flag status, Pissouri Beach is a popular destination on Cyprus's south coast. Located near the top-rated Columbia Beach Resort and a village with its amenities and welcoming bars, this beach offers an array of water sports such as jet skiing, windsurfing and paragliding. For the dedicated sun-seeker, there's even a nearby nudist beach.

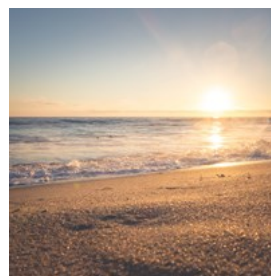
Pissouri Beach might be a bit of a drive, but its warm waters and picturesque surroundings make it worth the trip. Visitors particularly enjoy the hiking trails nearby, adding a touch of adventure to their beach experience. The beach remains relatively uncrowded, with sunbeds and umbrellas available for rent at reasonable prices. A lifeguard is always on duty, ensuring a safe and enjoyable time for all. In addition to the standard beach amenities, you'll also find pedal boats, water scooters, and motor boats for rent.

Photo: TravelingOtter/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr

Address: Pissouri Bay, Pissouri

More Info: Pissouri is a pebble beach

### **Lady's Mile Beach, Asomatos**



Stretching approximately three miles, Lady's Mile Beach may not live up to its name, but it certainly holds the title for the longest beach in Cyprus. This expansive sandy haven is popular with both horse riders and sunbathers, offering a slightly wild feel despite a few nearby restaurants. A

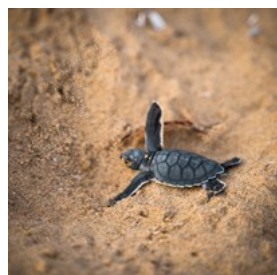
short walk inland reveals the impressive Limassol salt lake, which, if visited in winter, boasts an unmissable sight: flocks of migratory flamingos numbering up to 20,000.

With its pristine sand and clean waters, Lady's Mile Beach promises a serene experience, especially if you choose a spot away from the restaurants. The beach provides ample space to relax, and the clear, cool waters are perfect for refreshing dips. It might be windy at times, so don't forget to bring your own umbrellas, towels, and equipment. Free parking is available right next to the beach for added convenience.

Photo: Jeremy Ricketts/unsplash

Address: Lady's Mile Beach, Limassol, Akrotiri, Cyprus/United Kingdom

### Paramáli Turtle Beach, Paramáli



Paramáli Beach, with its flat sea, consistent breeze, and relatively uncrowded waters, has become a go-to spot for kite-surfers along

Cyprus's south coast. While the journey may be long, the beach's appeal for kite-surfers makes it worthwhile. For non-surfers, the beach offers the opportunity to watch these exhilarating water sports in action, though facilities are limited, which might be a refreshing change from busier city beaches.

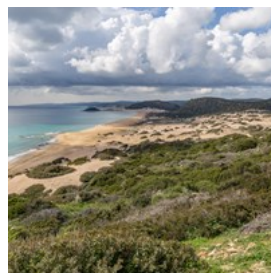
This picturesque shingle beach, framed by cliffs, is also a popular nesting ground for turtles, including loggerheads and green turtles. During the breeding season, visitors are advised to take care not to disturb the nests. Turtle Watch patrols the beach, collecting data and placing protective cages around the nests to help increase turtle numbers.

Photo: David Levêque/unsplash

Address: Paramáli Beach, Paramáli, Akrotiri, Cyprus/United Kingdom

More Info: Please note that dogs are not permitted on the beach. If you're lucky enough, you might even spot a turtle during pre-dawn hours.

### Golden Beach, Karpas



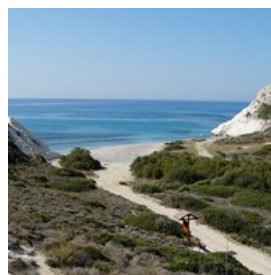
Golden Beach, located at the far end of the Karpas Peninsula in the northeast of Cyprus, is a truly remarkable remote beach. Just 130 km (80

miles) from the Syrian coast, this stunning, isolated spot boasts a wild and pristine beauty that's sure to impress. With lush greenery reaching all the way to the golden sand, it's no wonder the beach is also a nesting site for green and loggerhead turtles. Although it may be a bit of a rocky path to get there, the journey is well worth the effort.

Photo: Michal Klajban/cc by-sa 4.0/wikimedia(image cropped)

Address: Altinkum Plaji, Dipkarpaz, Northern Cyprus

### Dog's Beach, Pissouri



Dog's Beach, situated at the end of the Genesis Aphrodite's Trail, is a lovely, secluded rocky beach with fantastic views. With two

entrances: one under the highway and the other directly from the road. Parking can be found nearby.

The waters at Dog's Beach can be muddy and wavy, with some swirling currents near the edges, so caution is advised. Friendly dogs are often spotted on the beach, adding to its charm. Dog's Beach serves as a fantastic alternative for

those seeking a quieter spot.

The Genesis Aphrodite's Trail, starting at Pissouri Pine Bay, is a breathtaking hike with varying difficulty levels. The first part is easy to moderate and family-friendly, while the second section is steep, rocky, and challenging. The trail ends at Dog's Beach, taking approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes one way. This hike is a must for those who enjoy stunning views and a rewarding destination.

Photo: Mboesch/cc by-sa 4.0/wikimedia(image cropped)  
More Info: Note that there are no facilities, benches, or shade on this beach, so be prepared to bring your own.

## DINING



*IrinaChevzhik/Shutterstock.com*

With emphasis on fresh local ingredients, a pungent mix of herbs and spices and a light spattering of olive oil, Cypriot food is essentially Mediterranean, characterised by a similarity to Greek food and enriched by a hint of the Middle East and Asia Minor's culinary traditions.

Both poets and travellers have praised the flavours of the island. The grains and pulses, sun-ripened fresh fruit and vegetables, high-protein fish, lean meat and poultry, olive oil and wine are local temptations that have been extolled by health specialists for their virtues.

A cornucopia of restaurants, taverns and cafes,

many with outdoor seating and a stunning background, forms a culinary extravaganza with a taste of traditional and international cuisines.

### Piatsa Gourounaki (Nicosia)



Located in downtown Nicosia, Piatsa Gourounaki gathers Greek specialties and grilled meat and cheese, creating a menu that is a great insight into Cypriot traditions. The popular restaurant attracts a great crowd, being one of the most-loved in town.

Photo: Apostolos Mastoris / Shutterstock.com  
Address: 92 Faneromenis, Nicosia, Cyprus  
Opening hours: Mon 7am-10:30pm; Tue-Thu 12:30pm-3pm / 7pm-10:30pm; Fri-Sun 12:30pm-3:30pm / 7pm-11pm  
Phone: +357 77 787777  
Internet: [www.piatsagourounaki.com.cy](http://www.piatsagourounaki.com.cy)

### Pyxida Fish Tavern (Nicosia)



A restaurant that focuses mainly on mouth-watering seafood specialties, a welcoming atmosphere and reasonable prices - Pyxida embodies the concept of the old-style fish-tavern re-interpreted with a modern touch. Featuring a restaurant and an Oyster Bar in Nicosia and one in Limassol, Pyxida has become an institution in town.

Photo: karelnoppe / Shutterstock.com  
Address: Menandrou 5, Nicosia, Cyprus  
Opening hours: Daily noon-4pm / 6:30pm-11pm  
Phone: +357 22 445636  
Internet: [www.pyxidafishtavern.com](http://www.pyxidafishtavern.com)  
More Info: Pyxida Fish Tavern also has locations in Limassol and Larnaca

### Fat Mama's (Paphos)



The spectacular location on Tomb of King's Avenue, just a few steps away from the seaside, and an outside seating area that has gained popularity throughout Fat Mama's twenty years of service are some of the highlights of one of Paphos' favourites. Serving American-Italian cuisine, Fat Mama's is unrivalled in taste and fun for the entire family. Kitsch is the name of the game.

Photo: grafvision / Shutterstock.com

Address: Tombs Of The Kings 47, Paphos, Cyprus

Phone: +357 26 949619

Internet: [www.fatmamaspaphos.com](http://www.fatmamaspaphos.com)

### Maqam Al-Sultan (Larnaca)



A restaurant that plays heavily on vegetarian mezze and mixed grill, comprehending a wide insight into specialties of the Lebanese tradition — Maqam Al-Sultan offers hearty dishes and excellent hospitality skills. Pop in on a Friday or Saturday night, when belly dancing and exotic Lebanese-style interiors contribute in creating a one-of-a-kind experience.

Photo: margouillat photo / Shutterstock.com

Address: Agkiras 7, Phinikoudes Seafont, Larnaca, Cyprus

Opening hours: Daily noon-11pm

Phone: +357 24 400665

Internet: [www.maqamalsultan.com](http://www.maqamalsultan.com)

Email: [info@maqamalsultan.com](mailto:info@maqamalsultan.com)

### CAFES



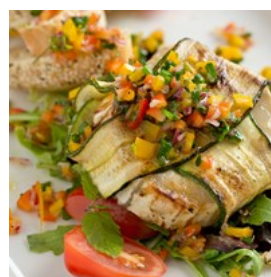
*kirill\_makarov/Shutterstock.com*

Cafes can be found in the old part of towns, on the beach or even in villages. Relax and experience a unique atmosphere everywhere you go.

Sample their strong coffee that, though it is similar to the Turkish one, has its own touch and personality; try their frappe, a cold, foam-covered iced coffee or indulge on their Soujouko, a Cypriot sweet made of grape juice and meet the mellow side of Cyprus.

Traditional Cyprus coffee is very different from European coffee, in that it is brewed in small pots with long handles called 'mbriki'. The coffee itself is made from fresh finely ground coffee beans and is poured into tinted porcelain cups. The amount of sugar added depends on your taste: 'sketo' (no sugar), 'metrio' (half a teaspoon of sugar), and 'glykis' (a full teaspoon of sugar).

### Ousia Lounge Cafe (Limassol)



One of Limassol's most fashionable lounge restaurants and cafe, Ousia blends traditional Cyprus style with a modern twist and the result is remarkably pleasant. The cafe is located opposite the medieval Limassol Castle, where

the area has turned into a buzzing hub, of bars and restaurants.

Photo: Mateusz Gzik / Shutterstock.com

Address: Irenes 24, Medieval Castle Square, Limassol, Cyprus

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +357 25 109040

Internet: [www.instagram.com/ousialounge](https://www.instagram.com/ousialounge)

Email: [info@ousialounge.com](mailto:info@ousialounge.com)

### Lighthouse Beach Bar (Paphos)



An imaginative assortment of fresh fruit smoothies, local ice creams, frozen yogurt and of course coffee, frappuccino and

sandwiches. Take a stroll down the promenade that from the harbour along the coastline will lead you to the Lighthouse Bar and take a soothing break by sipping a coffee or a refreshing beer.

Photo: happystock / Shutterstock.com

Address: Eleutheriou Chandrinou, Paphos, Cyprus

Opening hours: Daily 8am-9pm

Phone: +357 99 647179

### Presse Cafe (Strovolos)



Great coffee, friendly staff, excellent service: three perfect elements that make this cafe one of the favourites in Cyprus. Presse Cafe is a tiny cafe

with indoor and outdoor seating, TV casting sports and a large variety of food offerings.

Photo: Pheniti Prasomphethiran/Shutterstock.com

Address: Stavrou 96, Strovolos, Cyprus

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-11pm, Sat & Sun 7:30am-11pm

Phone: +357 22 316102

Internet: [www.pressecafe.com.cy](http://www.pressecafe.com.cy)

### Crepa Crepa (Limassol)



The best crepes in town! This place is highly recommended by Cypriots. They have crepes with mastic, chocolate, and cream.

The flavors are really good and the idea of combining traditional flavors and a chocolate spread seems to really work well.

Photo: Olena Mykhaylova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kanari 15, Limassol, Cyprus

Opening hours: Mon-Thu & Sun noon-2pm; Fri & Sat noon-4pm

Phone: +357 25 771710

Internet: [www.crepacrepa love](http://www.crepacrepa love)

Email: [info@crepacrepa.com.cy](mailto:info@crepacrepa.com.cy)

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Igor Link/Shutterstock.com

Cyprus nightlife is a frenetic mix of walking and talking, eating and drinking, dancing and laughing that doesn't slow down until the sun comes up. The bustling nightlife buzzes with clubs, bars, and discotheques, livening up Cyprus' hot summery nights in each of its cities.

Agia Napa is certainly the heart of the island's nightlife, featuring hip bars and clubs lining up tidily along narrow alleys, creating a touristy

destination that is beautifully captivating.

### The Castle Club (Agia Napa)



Garage and house music in the centre of Agia Napa's club district, featuring a diverse cocktail and drink list to suite everybody

tastebuds.

With capacity for 4,000 people, The Castle Club is a small world of its own, dominating the night scene of Cyprus since 1988.

Photo: glazok90/Shutterstock.com

Address: Louca Louca 20, Agia Napa, Cyprus

Opening hours: Open seasonally

Phone: +357 97 775550

Internet: [www.thecastleclub.com](http://www.thecastleclub.com)

Email: [enquiries@thecastleclub.com](mailto:enquiries@thecastleclub.com)

### Breeze Summer Club (Limassol)



The hippest music club in Germasogeia stays open until the early hours, being at the heart of the island's nightlife.

Catering to all tastes,

Breeze Night Club hosts numerous events, creating an underground scene in the beautiful Mediterranean island.

Photo: astarot/Shutterstock.com

Address: Georgiou 98, Yermasoyias, Cyprus

Opening hours: Daily 11:30pm-4:30am

Phone: +357 70 005868

Internet: [www.breezesummer.com](http://www.breezesummer.com)

Email: [info@breeze.com.cy](mailto:info@breeze.com.cy)

### Cleo's Cocktail Disco Bar (Peyia, Paphos)



The hectic Coral Bay in Paphos houses Cleo's Cocktail Disco Bar, a spot where high-class and a dynamic environment are the keywords. People

return again and again thanks to the exceptionally delicious drinks and upbeat club music to easily mix and mingle.

Photo: Nykonchuk Oleksii/Shutterstock.com

Address: Coral Bay, Peyia, Paphos

### Senior Frog's (Agia Napa)



The bustling Agia Napa sees another outstanding disco-bar popping up in the Cyprian heart of the club scene. Senior Frog's is the place to go for

guaranteed fun. Look out for the giant frog's head and the colourful facade, this dynamic bar and disco club is where the night starts.

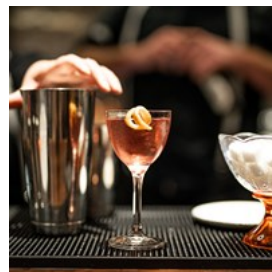
Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: 24A Agia Mavri, Agia Napa, Cyprus

Phone: +357 96 496770

Internet: [www.instagram.com/seniorfrogs\\_partybar](http://www.instagram.com/seniorfrogs_partybar)

### Lost + Found Drinkery (Nicosia)



A passion in mixology and drinks that exceeds expectations is what best characterizes the hip Lost + Found Drinkery in Nicosia. An expert team

of bartenders dominates the scene, making every night a success by accurately mixing fresh ingredients and premium spirits.

Photo: Hybrid Storytellers/unsplash

Address: Lord Byron 38, Nicosia, Cyprus

Internet: [www.instagram.com/lostandfounddrinkery](https://www.instagram.com/lostandfounddrinkery)  
More Info: Lost + Found has made it to the list of World's 50 Best Bars many years in a row

### Patio Cocktail Bar (Nicosia)



Amazing place located in the center of Nicosia, with a nice atmosphere, perfect cocktails and delicious food. This place is a tapas bar, so they

also serve a large variety of snacks and tapas, all accompanied by good music in the background.

Photo: [bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/bogdanhoda)  
Address: Megalou Alexandrou 55, Nicosia, Cyprus  
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 8pm-2:30am, Fri & Sat 8pm-3:30am, Sun 6pm-midnight  
Phone: +357 22 664488  
Internet: [www.patiococktailbar.com](https://www.patiococktailbar.com)  
Email: [info@patiococktailbar.com](mailto:info@patiococktailbar.com)

### The Wooden Pub (Paphos)



Great friendly staff, a fantastic selection of craft beers and table games, including kids' ones. A good place where you can come with your family or

your friends after a day spent relaxing on the beach or shopping in the city center.

Photo: [Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/Syda)  
Address: Poseidonos, Paphos, Cyprus  
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm  
Phone: +357 99 655681  
Internet: [thewoodenpub.blogspot.com](https://thewoodenpub.blogspot.com)  
Email: [thewoodenpub@gmail.com](mailto:thewoodenpub@gmail.com)

## SHOPPING



*Yulia Avanessova/Shutterstock.com*

Go for handicrafts such as lace and ceramics if you want to shop in Cyprus. Naturally, you can buy from shops and markets in one of the big towns, but anyone who visits the villages, where much of Cyprus' handicrafts are made, also has the chance to familiarize themselves with Cyprus' original handicraft culture — and with villagers who are happy to show their work.

In many villages and in the island's cultural areas handiwork is also sold at better prices than in town. Other items which can be worth going for are spectacles, shoes, leather items, suitcases and gold, which are cheaper than in most European cities.

Nicosia, Paphos, Larnaca and Limassol have all their quaint shopping areas, featuring international brands along with souvenir shops, pottery shops and open-air markets. In tourist resorts such as Agia Napa the shops stay open all day during the week, but in towns such as Nicosia and Larnaca shops close earlier.



### Larnaca Market



Big designer names fill up the fashionable Ermou Street in Larnaca, but on Sunday, its sparkling charm is clouded by an even greater event that

takes place in Ermou Street's parking lot.

Larnaca Sunday Market features fruit, vegetables, souvenirs, clothes, antiques and knickknacks at unbeatable prices.

Photo: Photology1971/Shutterstock.com

Address: Livadia, Larnaca

Opening hours: Sun 6am-3pm

### The Mall Of Cyprus (Nicosia)



A modern shopping mall located in the dynamic capital of the island, The Mall of Cyprus is an incredible shopping destination, ideal for

those whose shopping cravings accompany them on vacation. International and national clothing shops, groceries, restaurants and coffee shops fill up the aisles of the giant mall, in a vibrant beehive of shops and eateries.

Photo: Максим Улитин/сс by 3.0/wikimedia(image cropped)

Address: 2025, Verginas 3, Strovolos, Cyprus

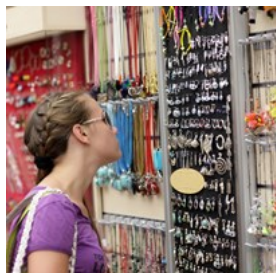
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 11am-7pm

Phone: +357 77 776255

Internet: [www.themallofcyprus.com](http://www.themallofcyprus.com)

Email: [info@themallofcyprus.com](mailto:info@themallofcyprus.com)

### Nissi Avenue (Agia Napa)



The long promenade that stretches along the coastline in the touristy Agia Napa becomes the shopping hub of the area, and perhaps of the entire

island. The trendy Nissi Avenue has seen numerous shops opening in recent years, becoming a must-visit in town. Souvenir shops are some of the most stormed by tourists, although designer clothing and beachwear shops are certainly well-known too.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com

### Shopping in Paphos



The main shopping areas develop along Poseidonos Avenue, Apostolou Pavlou Street and Makarios Avenue, featuring a main focus on pottery, souvenirs and clothes. Paphos' Market is also not to be missed - selling fresh products and knickknacks, it is one of the biggest and most interesting in the island. The flea markets that every now and again fill up some of the streets can be a true source of second-hand treasures, although you might have to haggle a bit to obtain a reasonable price. Kings Avenue Mall, located nearby Tombs of the Kings, is a shopper's paradise: a real wealth of international shops and traditional restaurants makes it the ideal destination for an afternoon of crazy shopping.

Photo: ms. Octopus/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kings Avenue Mall, Paphos, Cyprus

Phone: +357 26 200 501

Internet: [www.kingsavenuemall.com](http://www.kingsavenuemall.com)

### City Mall, Farmagusta



City Mall is a big shopping center in Farmagusta where you can find all kinds of goods: beautiful handmade gifts, typical antiques shop and many boutiques. Here, you

can also enjoy their several events (games, activities for kids, dance shows, etc.) and their beautiful decorations that vary by season (for example, the wonderful Christmas stalls).

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: Şehit İbrahim Kazım Caddesi, Famagusta, Cyprus

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10.00-22.00

Phone: +90 392 444 00 01

Email: info@citymallcyprus.com

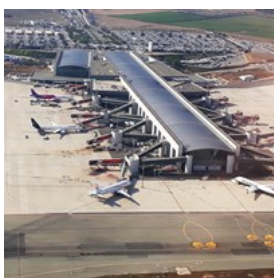
More Info: City Mall is the only mall in Northern Cyprus

## TOURIST INFORMATION



*kirill\_makarov/Shutterstock.com*

### Larnaca International Airport - Glafcos Clerides (LCA)



Visitors arriving in Cyprus by air may enter the Republic of Cyprus only through the International Airports of Larnaca and Paphos. The

largest of the two, Larnaca International Airport - Glafcos Clerides (LCA), is five kilometres from Larnaca and 50 kilometres from the capital, Nicosia.

Photo: © Mosbatho / CC BY 4.0 / Wikimedia (cropped)(image cropped)

Address: Larnaca International Airport, Larnaca, Cyprus

Phone: +357 25 123022

Internet: [www.hermesairports.com](http://www.hermesairports.com)

Email: [info@hermesairports.com](mailto:info@hermesairports.com)

### Paphos International Airport (PFO)



Visitors arriving in Cyprus by air may enter the Republic of Cyprus only through the International Airports of Larnaca and

Paphos.

Paphos International Airport (PFO) is 15 kilometres from the town of Paphos. The country's second largest airport is commonly used by tourists on vacation in western Cyprus, providing access to popular resorts such as Coral Bay, Limassol and Paphos itself

There are buses and taxis to the nearest large towns just outside the Arrivals halls.

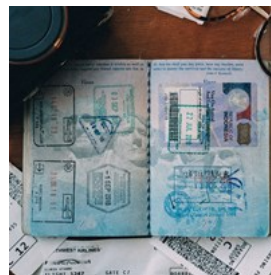
Photo: Romeparis/cc by-sa 3.0/wikimedia(image cropped)

Phone: +357 25 123022

Internet: [www.hermesairports.com](http://www.hermesairports.com)

Email: [info@hermesairports.com](mailto:info@hermesairports.com)

### Passport/Visa



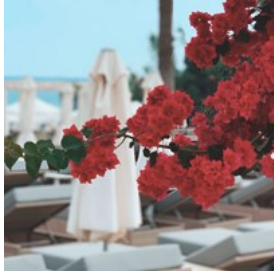
Visa requirements for entering Southern Cyprus are similar to those of other Schengen states. However, visas issued by Cyprus authorities aren't Schengen visas are not valid for travel to the greater Schengen area. Citizens of Turkey and Azerbaijan will need to apply for a Cypriot visa to enter.

For Northern Cyprus, nationals of most countries will not need to obtain a visa for stays of under 90 days. Citizens of Armenia and Nigeria will need to apply for a visa in advance, however, and citizens of Bangladesh are not allowed to enter by air.

Photo: ConvertKit/unsplash

Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/practical-info/en-try-requirements](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/practical-info/en-try-requirements)

### Best Time to Visit



Cyprus enjoys a warm, Mediterranean climate that's characterized by the region's long, hot summers and mild, wet winters. The best time to visit Cyprus is in the summer for the most heat and sunshine. Although, if you prefer milder temperatures then spring is perfect and the sea water is still mild enough for swimming. If you come to Cyprus during this time of the year, especially from April to June, you can also enjoy a lot of events, mostly music events, with live show of all genders of music.

Photo: Valeriya Avdeeva/unsplash

### Public Transport



There are many different bus routes in Cyprus, connecting both the towns to the airports and the towns one another. As the island has developed around tourism, there is a thick network of buses also available from town to rural areas.

Northern Cyprus features a transport system that is not as developed as the southern one. If you are planning on getting around from one town to another the best option is to rent a car.

Photo: NicosiaAutumn/cc by-sa 4.0/wikimedia (upscaled)(image cropped)

Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/practical-info/transportation](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/practical-info/transportation)

### Taxi



Taxis operate around the clock in all towns of Cyprus. Taxis can be booked by phone or be hailed on the street. Urban taxis are all provided with metres and charging commences upon entering the taxi. The transport of passengers by urban taxis without using the taximeter is not permitted.

You can order a cab using Bolt, Cabcy, nTaxi, Hannk Taxi and iTaxi apps.

Photo: Nikolai Rubanov/unsplash

Internet: [www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/practical-info/transportation](http://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/practical-info/transportation)

### Post



The opening hours of the post offices in Cyprus normally reflect the laid-back attitude of the entire island, being open 8:30am-1pm and 3pm-4:45pm except from May to August when the office closes at 1pm.

Post offices are easy to spot thanks to the yellow sign that pops out of the wall. In the offices you will find stamps and postcards and you will be able to post letters. Mail boxes are also located throughout Cyprus and they are yellow and round-shaped. Stamps are also available in some kiosks.

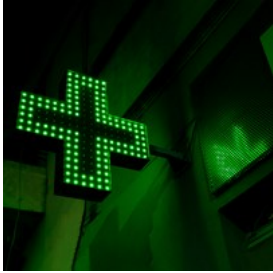
Photo: Ali Bakhtiari/unsplash

Address: Christaki Kranou 11, Germasogeia, Cyprus

Phone: +357 80 002000

Internet: [www.cypruspost.post](http://www.cypruspost.post)

## Pharmacy

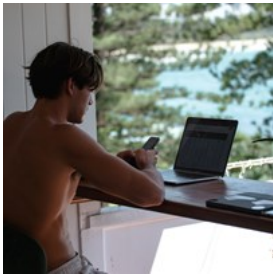


Pharmacies are located all over the island, operating on a system that features an open pharmacy at night or weekends every day.

Pharmacies have a green cross on the outside which makes them easy to find.

Photo: Mariano Baraldi/unsplash

## Telephone



Country code: +357 Area codes: Nicosia: 22  
Lamarca: 24 Limassol: 25  
Paphos: 26

Photo: Mark Broadhead/unsplash

## Electricity



In Cyprus, you will encounter plug type is G: three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. The country operates on a 230-240V supply voltage

and 50Hz.

Photo: Idyshah/pixabay

## Population

1.2 million Cypriots (2021 estimate)

## Currency

1 euro, € = 100 cent

## Opening hours

Generally, office hours are Monday to Friday 8am–1pm and 3pm–6pm.

Most shops are open Monday to Saturday 7am–9pm. On Sunday, opening times are later, typically around 11 am, and closing times vary from 2 pm to 10 pm. Some shops still observe a half-day closing on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and close on Sunday. Three-hour siesta breaks in

the summer between 2 pm and 5 pm are common in the hottest part of the summer.

Breakfast is usually served 7am–10am, lunch noon–3pm, dinner from 7 pm.

## Internet

[www.visitcyprus.com](http://www.visitcyprus.com)

## Newspapers

Cyprus Mail (in English) — [cyprus-mail.com](http://cyprus-mail.com)  
Financial Mirror — [www.financialmirror.com](http://www.financialmirror.com)  
Phileleftheros — [phileleftherosgroup.com](http://phileleftherosgroup.com)  
Politis — [politis.com.cy](http://politis.com.cy)  
Alithia — [alithia.com.cy](http://alithia.com.cy)  
Haravgi — [dialogos.com.cy/haravgi](http://dialogos.com.cy/haravgi)

## Emergency numbers

112

## Tourist information

Deputy Ministry of Tourism  
Tourist Information Office Larnaca  
Vasileos Pavlou Square, Larnaca, Cyprus  
+357 24 654 322  
[www.visitcyprus.com](http://www.visitcyprus.com)







Mediterranean Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Ammochostos Bay

Larnaka Bay

