



Stuttford Van Lines Country Guide for

Cyprus



Country Guides: Courtesy of Overseas Moving Network International (OMNI)

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1 CONTACT ADDRESSES

Location: Europe, eastern Mediterranean.

Time: GMT + 2 (GMT + 3 from last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October).

Cyprus Tourism Organisation in the UK

17 Hanover Street, London W1S 1YP, UK Tel: (020) 7569 8800. Website: www.visitcyprus.org.cy

Cyprus Tourism Organisation in the USA

13 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA Tel: (212) 683 5280. Website: www.visitcyprus.org.cy Also deals with enquiries from Canada.

High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in the UK

93 Park Street, London W1K 7ET, UK Tel: (020) 7499 8272 or 7491 2955 or 7629 6288 (Cyprus Trade Centre) or 5350 (consular section). Website: www.cyprus.gov.cy Opening hours: Mon-Fri 0930-1700; 0930-1300 (consular section).

Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the USA

2211 R Street NW, Washington DC 20008-4082, USA Tel: (202) 462 5772 or 462 0873. Website: www.cypriusembassy.net

Consulate General of the Republic of Cyprus in the USA

13 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA Tel: (212) 686 6016/7.

2 OVERVIEW

Country Overview:

Cyprus is an island in the eastern Mediterranean. The landscape varies between rugged coastlines, sandy beaches, rocky hills and forest-covered mountains. The Troodos Mountains in the centre of the island rise to almost 1950m (6400ft) and provide good skiing during the winter. Nicosia (Lefkosia), the capital of Cyprus, is situated at the heart of the Mesaoria Plain. The old city has many quaint and ancient shops. Nicosia District extends westwards into the vine-covered Troodos Mountains, where magnificent forests and valleys feature hill resorts such as Kakopetria and Byzantine churches in Galata. Limassol (Lemesos) is the island's main port and centre of the wine industry. In September the town has a wine festival, during which wine and food are served free. Cyprus is becoming established as a winter destination with both Platres and Kakopetria conveniently placed for the skiing season on Mount Olympus. Local dishes include kebabs (lamb or other meat skewered and roasted over a charcoal fire) and dolmas (vine leaves stuffed with minced meat and rice).



3 GENERAL INFORMATION

Area: 9251 sq km (3572 sq miles)

Population: 807,000 (2004)

Population Density: 87.2 per sq km

Capital: Nicosia (Lefkosia). Population: 208,900 (2001, excluding Turkish-occupied portion).

GEOGRAPHY: Cyprus is an island in the eastern Mediterranean. The landscape varies between rugged coastlines, sandy beaches, rocky hills and forest-covered mountains. The Troodos Mountains in the centre of the island rise to almost 1952m (6400ft) and provide skiing during the winter. Between these and the range of hills which run eastward along the north coast and the 'panhandle' is the fertile Messaoria Plain. The Morphou Basin runs around the coast of Morphou Bay in the west.

Government: Republic since 1960. Head of State and Government: President Tassos Papadopoulos since 2003. Recent history: The majority of the international community recognises the Greek-Cypriot administration in Nicosia as the legitimate Government of the Republic of Cyprus (Kipriaki Demokratia). Until February 2003, this had been led for a decade by President Glafkos Clerides. That month, he was deposed at the most recent Presidential election by Tassos Papadopoulos, candidate of the centre-right Komma Dimokratiko (Democratic Party). The present Government is a coalition of DIKO, AKEL the Communist Party which has long been the single largest force in Greek-Cypriot politics and the smaller KISOS party. The northern occupied part of the island was run by Rauf Denktash, who was the dominant political figure in the enclave for almost 30 years. However, in 2005, Mehmet Ali Talet was elected leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. President Papadopoulos oversaw the Republic of Cyprus' entry, along with nine others, into the European Union in May 2004 despite the absence of a political settlement between the two parts of the island. (This had previously been a precondition of Cypriot entry). The principal issue for the Greek-Cypriot government remains the same; how to normalise relations with the northern occupied part of the island and reunify the island.

Language: The majority (approximately 80 per cent) speak Greek and approximately 11 per cent speak Turkish. The Greek Cypriot dialect is different from mainland Greek. Turkish is spoken by Turkish Cypriots. English, German and French are also spoken in tourist centres.

Religion: Greek Orthodox.

Electricity: 240 volts AC, 50Hz. Square 13-amp three-pin plugs (UK-type) are used.

SOCIAL CONVENTIONS: Respect should be shown for religious beliefs. It is customary to shake hands and other normal courtesies should be observed. It is viewed as impolite to refuse an offer of Greek coffee or a cold drink. It is acceptable to bring a small gift of wine or confectionery, particularly when invited for a meal. For most occasions, casual attire is acceptable. Beachwear should be confined to the beach or poolside. More formal wear is required for business and in more exclusive dining rooms, social functions, etc. Photography: Photography is forbidden near military camps or installations. A licence from the appropriate authorities is required to photograph museum artefacts - this can sometimes be purchased from the museum's ticket desk. No flash photography is allowed in churches with murals or icons.



Passport/Visa

| | <i>Passport Required?</i> | <i>Visa Required?</i> | <i>Return Ticket Required?</i> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| British | 1 | No | No |
| Australian | Yes | No | Yes |
| Canadian | Yes | No | Yes |
| USA | Yes | No | Yes |
| OtherEU | 1 | No | No |
| Japanese | Yes | No | Yes |

Restricted Entry: (a) Holders of Former Yugoslav Republic passports bearing the stamp 'Macedonia'. (b) Holders of passports issued illegally by the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'. Other nationalities having stamps or visas of the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' in their passports are only allowed to enter Cyprus after the visas/stamps are cancelled by the Immigration Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus.

PASSPORTS: Passport valid for at least three months beyond length of stay required by all except:(a) 1. EU/EEA nationals (EU + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) and Swiss nationals holding a valid national ID card. Note: EU and EEA nationals are only required to produce evidence of their EU/EEA nationality and identity in order to be admitted to any EU/EEA Member State. This evidence can take the form of a valid national passport or national identity card. Either is acceptable. Possession of a return ticket, any length of validity on their document, sufficient funds for the length of their proposed visit should not be imposed.

VISAS: Required by all except the following for stays of up to 90 days: (a) nationals of countries referred to in the chart above; (b) nationals of Andorra, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong (SAR), Iceland, Israel, Korea (Rep), Liechtenstein, Macau (SAR), Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, Uruguay, Vatican City and Venezuela;(c) transit passengers continuing their onward journey by the same or first connecting aircraft within 24 hours, provided holding valid onward or return documentation and not leaving the airport, except nationals of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Congo (Dem Rep), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Turkey, who require an Airport Transit visa.

Types of visa and cost: Tourist/Business: C£6 (free of charge to nationals of Egypt, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, provided holding onward or return tickets and sufficient funds to cover the duration of their stay). Multiple-entry visas are only issued to those who require it for business purposes and cost C£20. Transit: C£6. Airport Transit: C£6.

Validity: Tourist/Business: Three months. Transit: Five days.

Application to: In person to the Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy or High Commission).

Application requirements: (a) Passport valid at least six months after returning from Cyprus. (b) One completed application form. (c) One passport-size photo. (d) Proof of sufficient funds to cover duration of stay. (e) Provisional booking or itinerary of travel arrangements and evidence



of hotel reservation or letter of invitation from resident of Cyprus. (f) Fee (payable by cash or postal order only, subject to rate of exchange). (g) Application must be submitted in person; however, those who reside more than 200 miles (300km) from the Consulate may apply by post and send a registered self-addressed special delivery envelope. Business: (a)-(g) and, (h) Introductory letter from the applicant's company, giving details of salary. (i) Official letter of invitation from a company in Cyprus.

Working days required: In most cases personal applications will be processed on the same day or within 24 hours after an interview, but it may take up to a minimum of 10 days if application needs to be referred to Cyprus (depending on nationality, eg Turkey).

Temporary residence: Nationals of any country coming to Cyprus for employment or studies must secure an employment or student's permit through the Migration Officer, Nicosia prior to arrival. Applications should be submitted by the prospective employers or the directors of the schools.

Passport/Visa Information: High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in the UK93 Park Street, London W1K 7ET, UK Tel: (020) 7499 8272 or 7491 2955 or 7629 6288 (Cyprus Trade Centre) or 5350 (consular section). Website: www.cyprus.gov.cy Opening hours: Mon-Fri 0930-1700; 0930-1300 (consular section). Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the USA2211 R Street NW, Washington DC 20008-4082, USA Tel: (202) 462 5772 or 462 0873. Website: www.cyprusembassy.net Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus in the USA13 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA Tel: (212) 686 6016/7.

4 MONEY

Currency: Cyprus Pound (CYP; symbol C£) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of C£20, 10, 5 and 1. Coins are in denominations of 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Currency exchange: Visitors wishing to obtain non-Cypriot currency at Cypriot banks for business purposes are advised that this is only possible by prior arrangement. There are ATMs operate in main towns and tourist areas.

Credit & debit cards: All major credit cards are accepted at most places. Check with your credit or debit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available.

Traveller's cheques: May be cashed in all banks. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travellers are advised to take traveller's cheques in Pounds Sterling or Cyprus Pounds.

Currency restrictions: The import of local currency is unrestricted, subject to declaration; foreign currency for amounts over US\$1000 (or the equivalent in other currency) must be declared. The export of local and foreign currency is limited to the amount declared on arrival. Local currency withdrawn from Cypriot banks may be exported provided a holding certificate is obtained by the bank.

Exchange rate indicators

Date At time of publishing £1.00=C£0.83 \$1.00=C£0.47



Banking hours: Generally Mon-Fri 0830-1230 in June, July and August; Mon-Fri 0815-1230 and Mon 1515-1645 rest of year. Certain central banks may also open Tues-Fri in the afternoon. Banks in Larnaca and at Pafos International Airport are open all day.

5 DUTY FREE

The following goods may be imported into Cyprus without incurring customs duty: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1l of spirits (over 22 per cent volume) or 2l of fortified wine or sparkling wine, 2l of still wine; 50g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette; goods (excluding jewellery) up to €175. The limit is reduced to €90 for travellers under 15 years of age to all EU countries except Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK.

Prohibited imports: Agricultural products and propagating stock, such as natural fruit, flowers, seeds etc. without the approval of the relevant authorities; the importation of a number of other articles such as uncooked meat, fish and dairy products, animals, fire arms and explosives, pirated or counterfeit goods, obscene publications is also prohibited or restricted.

Abolition of duty free goods within the EU: On 30 June 1999, the sale of duty free alcohol and tobacco at airports and at sea was abolished in all of the original 15 EU member states. Of the 10 new member states that joined the EU on 1 May 2004, these rules already apply to Cyprus and Malta. There are transitional rules in place for visitors returning to one of the original 15 EU countries from one of the other new EU countries. But for the original 15, plus Cyprus and Malta, there are now no limits imposed on importing tobacco and alcohol products from one EU country to another (with the exceptions of Denmark, Finland and Sweden, where limits are imposed). Travellers should note that they may be required to prove at customs that the goods purchased are for personal use only. Note: Goods are considered to be for your own use if you have no more than: 800 cigarettes or 200 cigars or 1kg of tobacco; 10l of spirits, 20l of fortified wine, 90l wine, 110l beer.

6 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2006 - June 2007 period. Jan 1 2006 New Year's Day. Jan 6 Epiphany. Mar 6 Green Monday. Mar 25 Greek National Day. Apr 1 Greek Cypriot National Day. Apr 21 Greek Orthodox Good Friday. Apr 24 Greek Orthodox Easter Monday. May 1 Labour Day. Jun 12 Pentecost (Kataklysmos). Aug 15 Assumption. Oct 1 Cyprus Independence Day. Oct 28 Greek National Day (Ochi Day). Dec 24-26 Christmas. Jan 1 2007 New Year's Day. Jan 6 Epiphany. Mar 6 Green Monday. Mar 25 Greek National Day. Apr 1 Greek Cypriot National Day. Apr 6 Greek Orthodox Good Friday. Apr 9 Greek Orthodox Easter Monday. May 1 Labour Day.

7 HEALTH

| | Special Precautions | Certificate Required |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Yellow Fever | No | No |
| Cholera | No | No |



| | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|
| Typhoid and Polio | No | No |
| Malaria | No | No |

Food & drink: Milk is pasteurised and tap water is generally safe to drink. Powdered and tinned milk are available. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Pork, salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

Other risks: Immunisation against hepatitis A is sometimes recommended.

Health care: European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland: If you or any of your dependants are suddenly taken ill or have an accident during a visit to an EEA country or Switzerland, free or reduced-cost necessary treatment is available in most cases on production of a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Each country has different rules about state medical provision. In some, treatment is free. In many countries you will have to pay part or all of the cost, and then claim a full or partial refund. The EHIC gives access to state-provided medical treatment only and the scheme gives no entitlement to medical repatriation costs, nor does it cover ongoing illnesses of a non-urgent nature, so comprehensive travel insurance is advised. Note that the EHIC replaces the Form E111, which is no longer valid. Note: A European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is not valid in the north (Turkish) part of Cyprus. Health facilities are generally of a good standard. The emergency departments of all hospitals are manned with English-speaking personnel, although it is advisable to seek the assistance of an interpreter for more complex medical matters. Travellers can get treatment from doctors or dentists practising in state health centres. They will be charged a patient contribution of C£1 for each visit to a doctor or dentist and C£40 for each denture. These charges are not refundable. Prescriptions issued by a state doctor are free. However, they must be presented to a state pharmacy. If you do not have your EHIC, you will have to get them from a private pharmacy and you will be charged. You can only get in-patient treatment if a state doctor refers you to hospital, or if you are admitted through the accident and emergency department of a state hospital. More information can be obtained from the Ministry of Health (website: www.moh.gov.cy).

Travel - International

Note: Since October 1974, the Cyprus Government has declared the ports of Famagusta (Amochostos) and Kyrenia, and the airport of Ercan, all in the northern part of the island, as illegal ports of entry to Cyprus.

AIR: Over 40 airlines, including the national airline Cyprus Airways (CY) (website: www.cypusairways.com), operate scheduled flights within, to and from Cyprus.

Approximate flight times: From Pafos and Larnaca to London is four hours 30 minutes, to Paris is three hours 30 minutes, to Zurich is three hours, to Frankfurt is three hours 30 minutes, to Athens is one hour 40 minutes and to Stockholm is five hours.

Main airports: Larnaca (LCA) is 5km (3 miles) south of Larnaka and 50km (31 miles) from Nicosia. To/from the airport: Taxis are available outside the airport terminal. Facilities: Duty free shop, tourist information, bank/bureau de change, bars and restaurants, Cyprus Hotel Information and Reservation Office, first aid, facilities for disabled travellers, car hire and post office. Pafos (PFO) is 15km (9 miles) east of the city (travel time 25 minutes). Facilities: Tourist information, duty free shop, Cyprus Hotel Information, cafeteria, facilities for disabled travellers and car hire.



Departure tax: None.

SEA: Main ports: Passenger ships from the ports of Limassol and Larnaca connect Cyprus with various Greek and Middle Eastern ports, including Piraeus, Rhodes, Heraklion, Haifa, Port Said, Jounieh and many Greek islands. Services are reduced during the winter months. For detailed information on ferry boats and shipping lines, contact the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (see Top Things To Do). One-day cruises are organised from May to October, weather permitting. Several cruise lines call at Cyprus, including Classical Cruises, Costa, Cunard Line, Euro Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Princess and Swan Hellenic Cruises. Louis Cruise Lines sail to Egypt and the Holy Land (tel: (25) 570 000 or (0800) 018 3883 toll-free UK; website: www.louis cruises.com). Paradise Cruises also operates to Egypt, Greece and Lebanon (tel: (25) 357 604; website: www.paradise.com.cy).

Travel - Internal

ROAD: Bus: Services connect all towns and villages on the island every day except Sunday and public holidays. Service is efficient and cheap. Urban buses: They operate frequently during the daytime and, in some areas during the summer, timetables extend until midnight. Rural buses: Limited to one or two services each day and can be slow; however, they are a good way of seeing the more remote villages. Taxi: These run 24-hours between all the main towns on the island. Fares are regulated by the Government and all taxis have meters. Rural taxis can only be hired from the base station and do not have a meter. Transurban Service Taxis offers an excellent, cheap service using seven-seat taxis running fixed routes between main points. Taxis run to a timetable. Services operate every 30 minutes (Mon-Fri, 0600-1800; Sat and Sun, 0600-1700) and can be booked by phone. Fares under this system are often one-tenth of the usual rate. Car hire: Cars are one of the best ways to explore the island. They may be hired at airports and commercial centres, but should be reserved well in advance during the summer season. Road signs are in both Greek and English. Traffic drives on the left. Although most roads are of a good standard, the driving standards of others are not. It should also be noted that there are strict repercussions for those not wearing seatbelts or a crash helmet, or using a mobile telephone/under the influence of alcohol whilst driving. Visitors wishing to bring their car to Cyprus can do so for up to three months provided the car has a valid registration licence for its country of origin. Motorcycles: Riders and pillion passengers must wear crash helmets if the motorcycle is over 50cc. Documentation: An International Driving Permit or national driving licence is valid for one year.

URBAN: Nicosia has its own privately run bus company operating efficient services at flat fares, which offers a comprehensive service covering the urban area of Limassol and linking the port with the tourist area. For more details, contact the Limassol Urban Bus Company (E.A.L.) Limited, PO Box 51117 (tel: (25) 354 050). Taxis are widely available: a 15 per cent surcharge is in operation from 2300-0600. Tipping is expected.

TRAVEL TIMES: The following chart gives approximate travel times (in hours and minutes) from Nicosia to other main towns and tourist centres in Cyprus. Road
Limassol 1.00 Pafos 2.15 Larnaca 0.50 Ayia Napa 1.10

8 ACCOMMODATION

HOTELS: There are over 500 hotels and hotel apartments scattered throughout the island. There are also simple hotels that are ungraded. A VAT charge of 15 per cent is added to bills. Most hotels and hotel apartments offer discounts during the low season, which for seaside resorts is



from 6 November to 15 March (excluding the period 20 December to 6 January) and for hill resorts from 1 October to 30 June. There are discounts for children occupying the same room as their parents: under one year, by private arrangement; one to six years, 50 per cent discount; six to 10 years, 25 per cent discount. Some hotels may only charge 80 per cent of the daily room rate for single occupancy of a double room. Visitors should check discounts with their hotel prior to arrival. Grading: Hotels range from deluxe 5-star to 1-star. Hotel apartments are classified A, B or C.

GUEST HOUSES: Located mainly in Nicosia, Limassol, Pafos and Larnaca. The Cyprus Agrotourism Company (See Accommodation Information) offers traditional countryside accommodation.

CAMPING/CARAVANNING: There are seven organised camping sites, at Polis (open March to October), Kalymnos Beach (open all year round), Forest Beach (open June to October), Feggari (open all year round), Geroskipou Zenon Gardens (open April to October) and Ayia Napa (open April to October). Facilities available in camping sites include showers, toilets, washing facilities, mini market, and usually a snackbar or restaurant. Rates for camping sites range between C£1-C£2 per day for a tent space, plus C£1-C£1.50 per person daily for service and taxes.

YOUTH HOSTELS: There are youth hostels in Nicosia, Larnaca, Pafos and Troodos Mountains (April to October, weather permitting) open to members of the International Youth Hostels Association. Non-members are also accepted, but on arrival at the hostel they will be provided with a guest card.

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION: Cyprus Hotel Association PO Box 2772, 1303 Nicosia, Cyprus Tel: 22 152 820. The Hotel Association also has an office at Larnaca International Airport (tel: 24 643 186). Cyprus Youth Hostel Association 34 Theodotu Street, PO Box 24040, 1700 Nicosia, Cyprus Tel: 2267 0027 or 2267 5574. The Cyprus Agrotourism Company Tel: 22 340 071. Website: www.agrotourism.com.cy

Nicosia (Lefkosa)

The capital of Cyprus since the 12th century, Nicosia stands at the heart of the Mesaoria Plain. It is currently divided by the 'Green Line', a UN buffer zone that separates the Turkish-occupied north of the island and the Government-controlled south. The Old City, which is being renovated in part, is defined by 16th-century walls built by the Venetians. Among attractions and points of interest are the Cyprus Museum, a storehouse of the island's archaeological treasures, the Folk Art Museum, the new Archbishop's Palace, St John's Cathedral, Byzantine churches, the Byzantine Museum/Makarios Cultural Centre and the Ömeriye Mosque. The city hosts the annual International State Fair (end of May) and the Nicosia Arts Festival (beginning of June).

Excursions: The Nicosia area has some interesting excursion possibilities, including the Royal Tombs and Agios Irakleidos Monastery at Tamassos; the five-dome church and the mosque in Peristerona; the Panagia Chrysospiliotissa Church, in a cliff-side cave near Deftera. Further into the rugged Pitsylia Region, in the hills southwest of Nicosia, is Machairas Monastery, close to the restored and protected traditional villages of Fikardou, Gourri and Lazanias.

Larnaka & the Southeast

An industrious resort town, Larnaka has Cyprus' main international airport on its doorstep, a harbour with deep-water berths and a marina. The seafront promenade is fringed with palm trees and cafes and tavernas. Places of interest include the Agios Lazaros Church and its



associated Byzantine Museum, Larnaka Fort, the District Archaeological Museum, the Pierides Museum (a private archaeological museum), the Natural History Museum, the Tornaritis-Pierides Palaeontology Museum and the scant ruins of ancient Kition. During the feast of Kataklysmos (the Greek Orthodox Whitsun), celebrated throughout Cyprus but with especial enthusiasm in Larnaka, crowds throng the shore for watersports, singing, dancing, eating and drinking.

Excursions: Near the airport is the Hala Sultan Tekkesi, a historic mosque standing in beautiful gardens on the edge of Larnaka Salt Lake (dry in summer), a winter home of migratory flamingoes. Nearby, in Kiti, Panagia Angeloktisti Church contains a superb sixth-century Byzantine mosaic of the Virgin and Child. In the hills to the west is the village of Lefkara, famous for its handmade lace, and the Convent of Agios Minas. Off the Limassol/Nicosia road are the hilltop Stavrovouni Monastery, and the Crusader-era Chapelle Royal near Pyrga. Further west, on a hillside at Choirokoitia, are the remains of a neolithic village from 5800 BC, one of the earliest settlements in Cyprus. East of Larnaka, Larnaka Bay has a sand beach lined with hotels. Beyond the bay, and the Dekeleia British Sovereign Base Area, much of Famagusta (Ammochostos) District, including the town of the same name, lies across the Cypriot divide in the Turkish-occupied zone. The part still under Government control includes the fertile Kokkinochoria (Red Villages) belt, where potatoes and other vegetables are grown for export. On the coast south of Famagusta lie busy resorts, speckled with golden sand beaches, that are ideal for children, like those at Fig Tree Bay and Flamingo Bay. Agia Napa has a 16th-century monastery and an increasingly boisterous reputation as a major clubbing resort. It also attracts families to its beaches, Waterworld leisure centre and Go-Karts track. Boat tours leave from the harbour. Family-oriented Protaras and Pernera resorts have good beaches, with cafes and beach bars. Other attractions in the area include watersports and rock climbing. Around Cape Gkreko, the coastline becomes indented with rocky coves and small sandy beaches, ideal for snorkelling and scuba-diving (both for experienced practitioners), explorations by boat and picnics. The Potamos Creek fishing harbour presents a scene of colourful fishing boats. Inland, the small town of Paralimni provides entertainment in its restaurants, dance clubs and cafes.

Limassol (Lemesos) & the Southwest

The second-largest city in Cyprus, Limassol is the island's main industrial centre and port. It is also the focus of Cyprus' wine industry. In September, the town holds a wine festival, at which wine and food are served free. During the pre-Lenten Carnival, Limassol bursts into celebration, with bands, gaily decorated floats and dancing. The city is an important tourist destination, and has beaches like Dassoudi Beach and those at nearby Germasogeia, backed by cafes and tavernas. Limassol Castle stands guard over the old harbour and houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum. There is also a Folk Art Museum, the Limassol District Archaeological Museum and, in the Municipal Gardens, a small zoo.

Excursions: There are several places of historical and archaeological interest around Limassol. Amathus, just outside the city to the east, was once the capital of a city-kingdom, but is now in ruins and partly covered by the sea. The Acropolis, Necropolis and the remains of an early Christian basilica can be seen, and excavation continues in the lower part of the ancient city. Further east lies Agios Georgios Alamanos Convent and the black sands of Governor's Beach. West of Limassol, at Fassouri, are extensive citrus orchards and the Water Mania leisure park. Nearby Kolossi Castle was the headquarters of the Crusader Knights of St John of Jerusalem. The ancient city of Kourion, on a steep hillside near Episkopi, has a superbly sited Graeco-Roman theatre where concerts and Shakespearean plays are performed in summer. Kourion contains other interesting sites, including the House of Eustolios, which has beautiful mosaics; the Acropolis, the ruins of the Roman-era forum; the Christian Basilica; and public buildings. Beyond Kourion to the west are the city's stadium and the Sanctuary of Apollo Ylatis. All of these sites lie



within the Akrotiri-Episkopi British Sovereign Base Area. South of Limassol, on the Akrotiri Peninsula (and also inside the British military base), Lady's Mile Beach is a long stretch of excellent sand. Nearby Akrotiri Salt Lake (dry in summer) is a winter home to thousands of flamingos; on its southern shore stands the Agios Nikolaos ton Gatou Convent.

Pafos & the West

The booming main town and year-round resort in the west consists of Upper Pafos, built on a rocky escarpment that commands a superb view of the coastline, and Lower Pafos, with a taverna-fringed harbour and a long seafront lined with hotels. Pafos is rich in ancient sites, in particular a cluster of excavated Roman villas near the harbour, among them the House of Dionysos and the Villa of Theseus, that contain superb mosaic floors, and the Tombs of the Kings. Other attractions include the Pafos District Museum, the Byzantine Museum, Pafos Fort commanding the harbour, the remains of the Byzantine castle of Saranda Kolones, and Panagia Chrysopolitissa Church, the largest early Christian basilica on the island. Pafos Aquarium is of more recent origin.

Excursions: Pafos is a good base for exploring the rugged west of the island. To the east and northeast, the land rises through vineyards and the Pafos Forest to Cedar Valley, part of the Tripylos Nature Reserve, centred on the Stavros tis Psokas Forest Station. Wild mountain sheep (mouflon) are being protected here. The Panagia Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery is situated in scenic surroundings and is an interesting stop on the way. A main road skirts the foothills on the edge of this area, passing close to Agios Neofytos Monastery, and finally descending to the north coast at Polis, a small town that until recently was virtually undeveloped and is now a bustling resort, though it retains traces of its former 'alternative' character. Nearby, at the fishing port and resort of Latchi (Lakki), tavernas around the harbour serve freshly caught fish. Westwards, at the edge of the Akamas Peninsula, are the Baths of Aphrodite, a grotto containing a freshwater pool legend says the Greek goddess of love bathed here. Going east from Polis, around Chrysochou Bay, the barely developed coast as far as the UN buffer zone at Kato Pyrgos gives an idea of what Cyprus looked like before mass tourism began on the island. On the coast north of Pafos, Coral Bay is a fast-growing resort around a small but good beach. Further on in this direction, the fishing harbour at Agios Georgios is overlooked by cliffs into which ancient tombs are cut; at the top is an excavated early Christian basilica. At Lara Bay, beyond the rugged Avakas Gorge, a reserve has been established to protect the dwindling number of loggerhead turtles that nest here. In the opposite direction, southeast of Pafos, Geroskipou village now little more than a suburb of sprawling Pafos is the home of 'Greek Delight' (like 'Turkish Delight') and has a small Folk Museum. Farther along, at Kouklia, are the ruins of ancient Palaia Pafos and the Temple of Aphrodite. At the coast are Petra tou Romiou (Rock of Aphrodite) and a busy small resort at Pissouri Bay.

Troodos Mountains

The scenery in the forested or, more accurately, reafforested mountains is spectacular. Platres, 1200m (3937ft) above sea level on the southern slopes, is the ideal base for excursions. It lies on the approaches to Mount Olympus, at 1952m (6404ft), the highest peak in Cyprus, with a summit that is invariably snow-covered in winter and has skiing slopes and facilities. Prodromos, the highest village on the island, 1530m (5019ft) above sea level, is reputed to grow the best apples. Pedoulas in the fertile Marathasa Valley is famous for cherries (and in spring for cherry blossom) and other fruits. Kalopanagiotis also has orchards. Moutoullas is a source of mineral water bottled and sold locally as well as exported to the Middle East. Omodos, a restored conservation village, has the Stavros Monastery and a small Folk Art Museum. Foini is a centre of local craft pottery. On the northeastern slopes, Kakopetria, 730m (2395ft) above sea level and a touring centre like



Platres, has a traditional quarter that is being protected and restored. Agros produces rose water, mineral water and wine. The Commandaria Region, midway down the southern slopes, where the grapes for the Commandaria sweet red dessert wine are grown, has attractive villages like Zoopigi, where almond and walnut trees grow. Other places of interest include Kykkos Monastery, which houses a golden icon of the Virgin Mary; Throni tis Panagias, uphill from the monastery, where the tomb of the late Archbishop Makarios III, the first President of Cyprus, occupies a setting that commands a magnificent view; the small but prettily situated Kaledonia Falls; and the monasteries of Mesa Potamos and Trooditissa. UNESCO has listed nine Byzantine churches in the mountains as World Heritage Sites for their magnificently frescoed interiors. These are Panagia tis Asinou near Nikitari, one of the finest examples of Byzantine art in the Levant; Stavros tou Agiasmati near Platanistasa; Agios Ioannis Lampadistis in Kalopanagiotis; Panagia tou Araka near Lagoudera; Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis southwest of Kakopetria; Panagia tis Podythou outside Galata; Archangelos Michail at Pedoulas; Panagia tou Moutoulla in Moutoullas; and Timiou Stavrou in Pelendri.

9 SPORT & ACTIVITIES

Cycling: A cheap and effective way of seeing the island. Facilities for renting bicycles are available in all towns and resorts, although the quality of the bicycles can vary considerably. The terrain offers many opportunities for mountain biking. Cyclists are advised to avoid cycling along the main roads at weekends, especially in the summer when traffic is heavy. The Cyprus Cycling Federation organises various non-racing activities and events; PO Box 24572, CY 1301, Nicosia (tel: (22) 663 344; website: www.geocities.com/cyclingcy). The Cyprus Tourism Organisation can also provide free maps (see Tourist Information).

Hiking and trekking: The many unspoilt areas in Cyprus make the land ideal for hiking. Recommended Nature Trails include Atalante, Kaledonia and Persephone in the Troodos area and Aphrodite and Adonis in the Akamas area, with other trails in the forests of Machairas and Limassol.

Watersports: Opportunities abound for windsurfing, paragliding and swimming. Recommended beaches include Geroskipou, Dasoudi and Larnaca (all of which are public beaches). Some or all offer full facilities to swimmers and include bars, restaurants and changing rooms. Sailing, diving, water-skiing and scuba-diving are also available at specific locations. The Cyprus Federation of Underwater Activities, PO Box 21503, 1510 Nicosia (tel: (22) 754 647) and Cydive (tel: (26) 934 271; website: www.cydive.com) can provide information on diving facilities, for instance at Protaras, Larnaca, Limassol and Polis (near Pafos). Fishing can be practised on Cyprus, although a licence needs to be obtained from the Department of Fisheries, Aioulou 13, CY, Nicosia (tel: (22) 807 861). Licences cost C£3 for each reservoir or C£10 for all reservoirs.

Skiing and snowboarding: Cyprus is also becoming established as a destination for winter sports with some hoteliers and tour operators, offering off-peak incentives. Both Platres and Kakopetria are conveniently placed for the skiing season on Mount Olympus, which usually lasts from January to mid-March, but Troodos is actually the nearest resort to the skiing area; it has hotels and cafes. Although Cyprus is not well known for its skiing, the Troodos Mountains offer excellent winter sports facilities and there are four ski-lifts on Mount Olympus. The Ski-Club, which is based in Troodos, has its own shelter and accepts tourists as temporary members. Ski equipment can be hired there, PO Box 22185, CY 1518, Lefkosia (tel: (22) 675 340, website: www.cyprusski.com).



Other: Golf can be played on three courses on the island: the Tsada Golf Club, an 18-hole course, situated near Tsada village, 15 minutes' drive north of Pafos town; The Secret Valley Golf Club, also 18-hole, situated 18km (11 miles) east of Pafos and 49km (30 miles) from Limassol; and the Aphrodite Hills 18-hole course in Limassol. A number of hotels also offer limited golfing facilities. Tennis courts are available in most towns and in the grounds of many hotels; the Cyprus Tennis Federation can provide further information at PO Box 23931, CY 1687, Nicosia (tel: (22) 666 822, mornings; website: www.cyprustennis.com). One-day Cruises are organised from a number of ports on the Mediterranean from May to October, weather permitting.

Entertainment

Food & Drink: Major resorts have bars and restaurants of every category. At larger hotels, the cuisine tends to international although authentic local dishes may also be available. All over the island there are restaurants offering genuine Cypriot food. One of the best ways of enjoying Cypriot food is by ordering mezze (snacks), a large selection of a number of different local dishes. However, the cuisine varies according to whether the visitor eats in the North or the Republic of Cyprus. Waiter service is normal and counter service is common in bars. There are no licensing hours. The highlight of the wine year is the annual wine festival in Limassol, usually held in September, when free wine flows and local food is on offer. National specialities: Tava (a tasty stew of meat, herbs and onions). Dolmades (vine leaves stuffed with minced meat and rice). Kebabs (pieces of lamb or other meat skewered and roasted over a charcoal fire). Stifado (a stew of beef or hare cooked with wine, vinegar, onion and spices). Fresh seafood: Tshipoura (seabream), Lavraki (seabass) and Garides (prawns). Loukoumades, Cyprus doughnuts with honey syrup. National drinks: Coffee is Greek-style (short, strong and unfiltered) Cyprus produces excellent wines, spirits and beer which can only be bought in the south. Tipping: A service charge is added to all bills, but tipping is still acceptable and remains at the discretion of the individual.

Shopping: Cypriot purchases include handmade lace, woven curtains and tablecloths, silks, basketwork, pottery, silverware and leather goods. Jewellery is an art which has been practised on the island since the Mycenaean period; craftspeople working in contemporary and traditional styles produce some very fine pieces. Silver spoons and forks are a traditional symbol of Cypriot hospitality. Lefkara lace is famous throughout the world as one of the products most closely associated with Cypriot workmanship; the name originates from the village Lefkara, situated on a hill on the Nicosia/Limassol road. The local wines and brandy also make good purchases. Imported goods sell at competitive prices, including cameras, perfume, porcelain and crystal. Shopping hours: Shops are closed Wednesday after 1400 as well as all day Sunday. Otherwise opening hours are 0800-1300 and 1600-1930 (summer, or until 1900 spring and autumn); 0800-1300 and 1430-1800 (winter). On Fridays, shops are generally open until 2000/2030.

Business

GDP: US\$15.4 billion. Main imports: Citrus, grapes, wine, potatoes, pharmaceuticals, clothing and footwear. Main exports: Consumer goods, raw materials, petroleum and lubricants, food and feed grains. Main trade partners: EU (especially UK, Greece, Italy and Germany), Lebanon, Egypt, Gulf States, Libya and Russia.

Economy: Tourism is the main component of the southern service economy but, in recent years, financial services including 'offshore' enterprises have also assumed an important role. The UK's sovereign military bases on the southern coast and near the partition boundary are a major source of revenue for the south. Economic development of the northern occupied part of Cyprus has been severely limited by lack of diplomatic recognition and it continues to rely heavily on economic support from Turkey. The profile of the northern occupied part of Cyprus's agricultural



sector is similar to that of the south; manufacturing is relatively insignificant; tourism relies heavily on visitors from the Turkish mainland. Both parts of the island rely on imported raw fuels for their energy supplies. The decision of the north to allow visits across the partition may presage the development of a cross-border economy, but this may take some time. This concession on the part of the north was driven mainly by the acceptance of the south into the European Union in 2004. Turkey, which ultimately controls the fate of the northern part of Cyprus, is an aspirant member of the EU, and a solution to the present division of the island is an essential precursor to their own accession.

Conferences/Conventions: Many quality hotels have first class conference facilities; Nicosia is a popular destination for budget-priced conferences and has a number of modern facilities. Advice can be obtained from the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Commercial Information: Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry 38 Grivas Digenis Avenue, Chamber Building, PO Box 21455, 1509 Nicosia Tel: (22) 889 800. Website: www.ccci.org.cy.

10 CLIMATE

Warm Mediterranean climate. Hot, dry summers with mild winters during which rainfall is most likely.

Required clothing: Lightweight cottons and linens during summer months; warmer mediumweights and rainwear during the winter.

11 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

History: The turbulent history of the island can be traced back over 10,000 years. Like many Mediterranean islands, Cyprus has long been seen as an important strategic base and has suffered a variety of occupations. The Athenians, the Persians, the Egyptians, Alexander the Great and the Romans were the most important invaders during the ancient period. After the partition of the Roman Empire in the fourth century AD, the island became part of the Eastern Byzantine Empire. It was subsequently a temporary casualty of the Arab invasions between 648 and 746. During the Third Crusade, Richard I of England conquered Cyprus and installed Guy of Lusignan (previously King of Jerusalem), whose house ruled until the island passed to the control of Venice in 1489. From 1571, the Ottoman Turks ruled Cyprus for over three centuries, before ceding it to Britain in 1878. Independence was achieved in August 1960, after a four-year military struggle between the UK and the guerrillas of EOKA (National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters) who sought 'enosis' (union with Greece), which was anathema to the Turkish community. The political leader of the liberation movement, Archbishop Makarios who was also head of the island's Greek Orthodox Church returned from exile and was elected President in December 1959. The island's new constitution was an elaborate compromise between the British and the rival Greek and Turkish communities, between whom considerable distrust remained. As part of the deal, the British retained two large tracts of land for military purposes, known as 'Sovereign Base Areas' and accounting for 5 per cent of the island's total area. It fell apart in July 1974, when Makarios was deposed by a military coup (allegedly backed by the military regime then in power in Greece). Within days, Turkish troops arrived on the northern coast of Cyprus, having been 'invited' by the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, to intervene in order to protect the



Turkish community on the island. The Greeks failed to respond effectively, not least because of the simultaneous collapse of the military junta in Athens, besides which the Greek-Cypriot-controlled National Guard was insufficiently equipped to combat a fully mobilised army. After the Turkish army had taken control of the northern third of the island, a ceasefire was arranged under UN auspices. The island has remained partitioned ever since and UN peacekeeping forces maintain a truce between the two sides. In November 1983, the Turkish part of the island proclaimed itself independent. However, formal recognition of the self-styled country only has been granted by Turkey and various other statelets (for example, the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan). For the vast majority of the international community, the legitimate government of Republic of Cyprus (Kipriaki Demokratia) is the Greek-Cypriot administration in Nicosia. Until February 2003, this had been led for a decade by President Glafkos Clerides. That month, he was deposed at the most recent presidential election by Tassos Papadopoulos, candidate of the centre-right Komma Dimokratiko (Democratic Party). The present government is a coalition of DIKO, AKEL the Communist Party which has long been the single largest force in Greek-Cypriot politics and the smaller KISOS party. The principal issue for the Greek-Cypriot government remains the same; how to normalise relations with the northern occupied part of the island and reunify the island. Numerous diplomatic initiatives have ended in failure. The main sticking points are: the balance and concentration of power within any unified government; Turkish troop concentrations in the north; and the return of property relinquished by Greek refugees and since occupied by Turkish settlers. The northern occupied part of the island was run by Rauf Denktash, who was the dominant political figure in the enclave for almost 30 years. However, in 2005, Mehmet Ali Talet was elected leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. President Papadopoulos oversaw the Republic of Cyprus' entry, along with nine others, into the European Union in May 2004 despite the absence of a political settlement between the two parts of the island. (This had previously been a precondition of Cypriot entry). The most recent plan, proposed by the UN, was not accepted. But more limited measures, notably relaxation of travel and trade restrictions, have recently brought about something of a thaw between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. EU membership, along with the growing economic disparity between the two parts of the island and, on the Turkish occupied side, the end of the Denktash era should improve prospects for a final resolution of the partition of Cyprus.

Government: The 1960 constitution, which allowed for a population-determined sharing of power between the Turkish and Greek communities, officially remains in force. However, in practice, the state organs that it established are duplicated in the two zones. Thus executive power in the Republic of Cyprus is vested in a President, elected by universal adult suffrage every five years. He is assisted by a Council of Ministers. A 56-seat parliament (Vouli Antiprosopon) is also elected by universal adult suffrage every five years. A similar system also operates in the northern occupied part of Cyprus. The legislative assembly (Temsilciler Mecsili) has 50 members elected by proportional representation to serve a five-year term. The executive President is also elected for a five-year term.

Travel Advice

Most visits to Cyprus are trouble-free but you should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate international terrorist attacks, which could be against civilian targets, including places frequented by foreigners. This advice is based on information provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK. It is correct at time of publishing. As the situation can change rapidly, visitors **are advised to contact the following organisations for the latest travel advice:** British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Tel: (0845) 850 2829. Website: www.fco.gov.uk US Department of State Website: <http://travel.state.gov/travel>

Top Things To See



The capital of Cyprus since the 12th century, Nicosia stands at the heart of the Mesaoria Plain. It is currently divided by the 'Green Line', a UN buffer zone that separates the Turkish-occupied north of the island and the Government-controlled south. The Old City, which is being renovated in part, is defined by 16th-century walls built by the Venetians. **Among attractions and points of interest are:** the Cyprus Museum, a storehouse of the island's archaeological treasures; the Folk Art Museum; the new Archbishop's Palace; St John's Cathedral; Byzantine churches; the Byzantine Museum/Makarios Cultural Centre; and the Ömeriye Mosque. From Nicosia, go on an excursion to the Royal Tombs and Agios Irakleidios Monastery at Tamassos; the five-dome church and the mosque in Peristerona; the Panagia Chrysospiliotissa Church, in a cliff-side cave near Deftera. Further into the rugged Pitsylia Region, in the hills southwest of Nicosia, is Machairas Monastery, close to the restored and protected traditional villages of Fikardou, Gourri and Lazanias. In the resort town of Larnaka, stroll on the seafront promenade which is fringed with palm trees, cafes and tavernas. Places of interest include: the Agios Lazaros Church and its associated Byzantine Museum; Larnaka Fort; the District Archaeological Museum; the Pierides Museum (a private archaeological museum); the Natural History Museum; the Tornaritis-Pierides Palaeontology Museum; and the scant ruins of ancient Kition. Near Larnaca's airport is the Hala Sultan Tekkesi, a historic mosque standing in beautiful gardens on the edge of Larnaka Salt Lake (dry in summer), a winter home of migratory flamingoes. Nearby, in Kiti, Panagia Angeloktisti Church contains a superb sixth-century Byzantine mosaic of the Virgin and Child. In the hills to the west is the village of Lefkara, famous for its handmade lace, and the Convent of Agios Minas. Off the Limassol-Nicosia road are the hilltop Stavrovouni Monastery, and the Crusader-era Chapelle Royal near Pyrga. Further west, on a hillside at Choirokoitia, are the remains of a neolithic village from 5800 BC, one of the earliest settlements in Cyprus. Head for Limassol Castle which stands guard over the old harbour and houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum. There is also a Folk Art Museum, the Limassol District Archaeological Museum and, in the Municipal Gardens, a small zoo. In Amathus, now in ruins and partly covered by the sea, discover the Acropolis, the Necropolis and the remains of an early Christian basilica. Further east lies Agios Georgios Alamanos Convent and the black sands of Governor's Beach. Kolossi Castle is the headquarters of the Crusader Knights of St John of Jerusalem. In the ancient city of Kourion, on a steep hillside near Episkopi, discover a superbly sited Graeco-Roman theatre where concerts and Shakespearean plays are performed in summer. Kourion contains other interesting sites, including the House of Eustolios, which has beautiful mosaics; the Acropolis; the ruins of the Roman-era forum; the Christian Basilica; and public buildings. Beyond Kourion to the west are the city's stadium and the Sanctuary of Apollo Ylatis. All of these sites lie within the Akrotiri-Episkopi British Sovereign Base Area. Do not miss Pafos, the booming main town and year-round resort in the west, which consists of Upper Pafos, built on a rocky escarpment that commands a superb view of the coastline, and Lower Pafos, with a taverna-fringed harbour and a long seafront lined with hotels. Pafos is rich in ancient sites, in particular a cluster of excavated Roman villas near the harbour, among them the House of Dionysos and the Villa of Theseus, that contain superb mosaic floors, and the Tombs of the Kings. Other attractions include: the Pafos District Museum; the Byzantine Museum; Pafos Fort commanding the harbour; the remains of the Byzantine castle of Saranda Kolones; and Panagia Chrysopolitissa Church, the largest early Christian basilica on the island. Pafos Aquarium is of more recent origin. To the east and northeast of Pafos, the land rises through vineyards and the Pafos Forest to Cedar Valley, part of the Tripylos Nature Reserve, centred on the Stavros tis Psokas Forest Station. Wild mountain sheep (mouflon) are being protected here. The Panagia Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery is situated in scenic surroundings and is an interesting stop on the way. At the edge of the Akamas Peninsula, witness where, according to legend, the Greek goddess of love bathed at the Baths of Aphrodite, a grotto containing a freshwater pool. Going east from Polis, the fishing harbour at Agios Georgios is overlooked by cliffs into which ancient tombs are cut; at the top is an excavated early Christian basilica. At Lara Bay, beyond the rugged Avakas Gorge, a reserve has



been established to protect the dwindling number of loggerhead turtles that nest here. At Kouklia visit the ruins of ancient Palaia Pafos and the Temple of Aphrodite. At the coast are Petra tou Romiou (Rock of Aphrodite). The scenery in the forested or, more accurately, reafforested Troodos Mountains is spectacular. Platres, 1200m (3937ft) above sea level on the southern slopes, is the ideal base for excursions. It lies on the approaches to Mount Olympus, at 1952m (6404ft), the highest peak in Cyprus, with a summit that is invariably snow-covered in winter and has skiing slopes and facilities. Omodos, a restored conservation village, has the Stavros Monastery and a small Folk Art Museum. Foini is a centre of local craft pottery. See a golden icon of the Virgin Mary at the Kykkos Monastery; Throni tis Panagias, uphill from the monastery, the tomb of the late Archbishop Makarios III, the first President of Cyprus, occupies a setting that commands a magnificent view; discover the small but prettily situated Kaledonia Falls and the monasteries of Mesa Potamos and Trooditissa. Visit the nine Byzantine churches in the Troodos mountains listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites for their magnificently frescoed interiors. These are Panagia tis Asinou near Nikitari, one of the finest examples of Byzantine art in the Levant; Stavros tou Agiasmati near Platanistasa; Agios Ioannis Lampadistis in Kalopanagiotis; Panagia tou Araka near Lagoudera; Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis southwest of Kakopetria; Panagia tis Podythou outside Galata; Archangelos Michail at Pedoulas; Panagia tou Moutoulla in Moutoullas; and Timiou Stavrou in Pelendri. (Note: These are not open to visitors at all times.)

Tourist Information: Cyprus Tourism Organisation in the UK17 Hanover Street, London W1S 1YP, UK Tel: (020) 7569 8800. Website: www.visitcyprus.org.cy Cyprus Tourism Organisation in the USA13 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA Tel: (212) 683 5280. Website: www.visitcyprus.org.cy Also deals with enquiries from Canada.

Top Things To See & Do

Tourist Information: Cyprus Tourism Organisation Leoforos Lemesou 19, PO Box 24535, 1390 Nicosia, Cyprus Tel: (2) 269 1100. Website: www.visitcyprus.org.cy Cyprus Tourism Organisation in the UK17 Hanover Street, London W1S 1YP, UK Tel: (020) 7569 8800. Website: www.visitcyprus.org.cy Cyprus Tourism Organisation in the USA13 East, 40th Street, New York, NY 10016, USA Tel: (212) 683 5280. Website: www.visitcyprus.org.cy Also deals with enquiries from Canada.

Top Things To Do

Celebrate the feast of Kataklysmos (the Greek Orthodox Whitsun); although celebrated throughout Cyprus, there is special enthusiasm in Larnaka, where crowds throng the shore for watersports, singing, dancing, eating and drinking. The many unspoilt areas in Cyprus make the land ideal for hiking and trekking. Recommended Nature Trails include Atalante, Kaledonia and Persephone in the Troodos area and Aphrodite and Adonis in the Akamas area, with other trails in the forests of Machairas and Limassol. Cyprus is also becoming established as a destination for winter sports with some hoteliers and tour operators, offering off-peak incentives. Both Platres and Kakopetria are conveniently placed for the skiing season on Mount Olympus, which usually lasts from January to mid-March, but Troodos is actually the nearest resort to the skiing area; it has hotels and cafes. There are four ski-lifts on Mount Olympus. The Ski-Club, which is based in Troodos, has its own shelter and accepts tourists as temporary members. Ski equipment can be hired there, PO Box 22185, CY 1518, Lefkosia, Cyprus (**tel:** (22) 675 340, website: www.cyprusski.com). Opportunities abound for windsurfing, paragliding and swimming. Recommended beaches include Geroskipou, Dasoudi, Larnaca, Dassoudi Beach and Germasogeia (latter two at Limassol). South of Limassol, on the Akrotiri Peninsula (and also inside the British military base), Lady's Mile Beach is a long stretch of excellent sand. On the coast north of Pafos, Coral Bay is a fast-growing resort around a small but good beach. On the north coast, Polis is a



small town that until recently was virtually undeveloped and is now a bustling resort, though it retains traces of its former 'alternative' character. There is a busy small resort at Pissouri Bay. On the coast south of Famagusta lie busy resorts, speckled with golden sand beaches, that are ideal for children, like those at Fig Tree Bay and Flamingo Bay. Agia Napa has an increasingly boisterous reputation as a major clubbing resort. It also attracts families to its beaches, Waterworld leisure centre and Go-Karts track. Boat tours leave from the harbour. Family-oriented Protaras and Pernera resorts have good beaches, with cafes and beach bars. Other attractions in the area include rock climbing. Around Cape Gkreko, the coastline becomes indented with rocky coves and small sandy beaches, ideal for snorkelling and scuba-diving (both for experienced practitioners), explorations by boat and picnics. The Potamos Creek fishing harbour presents a scene of colourful fishing boats. Inland, the small town of Paralimni provides entertainment in its restaurants, dance clubs and cafes. The Cyprus Federation of Underwater Activities, PO Box 21503, 1510 Nicosia (tel: (22) 754 647) and Cydive (tel: (26) 934 271; website: www.cydive.com) can provide information on diving facilities. Practise fishing; Note that a licence needs to be obtained from the Department of Fisheries, Aiolou 13, CY, Nicosia (tel: (22) 807 861). Licences cost C£3 for each reservoir or C£10 for all reservoirs. Those who do not fish can still taste freshly caught fish in one of the tavernas around the harbour at the fishing port and resort of Latchi (Lakki). In September, enjoy free wine during the Limassol's wine festival. During the pre-Lenten Carnival, Limassol also bursts into celebration, with bands, gaily decorated floats and dancing. West of Limassol, at Fassouri, are extensive citrus orchards and the Water Mania leisure park. Southeast of Pafos, try some Greek Delight (like Turkish Delight) at Geroskipou village, which also has a small Folk Museum. Eat the island's best apples in Prodromos, the highest village on Cyprus, 1530m (5019ft) above sea level. Pedoulas in the fertile Marathasa Valley is famous for cherries (and in spring for cherry blossom) and other fruits. Kalopanagiotis also has orchards. Moutoullas is a source of mineral water bottled and sold locally as well as exported to the Middle East. Agros produces rose water, mineral water and wine. The Commandaria Region, midway down the southern slopes, where the grapes for the Commandaria sweet red dessert wine are grown, has attractive villages like Zoopigi, where almond and walnut trees grow.

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OverviewII

The turbulent history of the island can be traced back over 10,000 years. Like many Mediterranean islands, Cyprus has long been seen as an important strategic base and has suffered a variety of occupations. From 1571, the Ottoman Turks ruled Cyprus for over three centuries, before ceding it to Britain in 1878. Independence was achieved in August 1960. The island's new constitution was an elaborate compromise between the British and the rival Greek and Turkish communities, between whom considerable distrust remained. In July 1974, President Makarios was deposed by a military coup (allegedly backed by the military regime then in power in Greece). Within days, Turkish troops arrived on the northern coast of Cyprus, having been 'invited' by the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, to intervene in order to protect the Turkish community on the island. After the Turkish army had taken control of the northern third of the island, a ceasefire was arranged under UN auspices. The island has remained partitioned ever since and UN peacekeeping forces maintain a truce between the two sides. In November 1983, the Turkish part of the island proclaimed itself independent. However, formal recognition of the self-styled country only has been granted by Turkey and various other statelets (for example, the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan). For the vast majority of the international community, the



legitimate Government of the Republic of Cyprus (Kipriaki Demokratia) is the Greek-Cypriot administration in Nicosia. Today, the principal issue for the Greek-Cypriot Government remains the same; how to normalise relations with the northern occupied part of the island and reunify the island. Despite its political problems, Cyprus is a modern country that effortlessly marries European culture with ancient enchantment. Here, visitors will discover a compact world of alluring beaches and fragrant mountain peaks, vineyards studded with olive trees and ancient ruins that stir the imagination, citrus groves and old stone villages where sweet wine flows as freely as conversations at the local café.

Communications

Telephone: Full IDD is available. Country code: 357. Telecard (C£3, 5 or 10 denominations) or coin-operated public telephones are installed at various central locations in towns and villages. Call Direct (cheaper than ordinary collect calls) is available to most EU countries, as well as Australia, USA and Canada.

Mobile telephone: Roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone companies. Coverage is good.

Internet: Public access is available in Internet cafes located in the cities, for instance, Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol, Pafos and Ayia Napa.

Post: There are daily airmail services to all developed countries. Service within Europe takes three to four days. District Post office opening hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1330 and 1500-1800 except Wednesday, Saturday 0830-1030 during the winter period (1 Sep to 30 Jun); Mon-Fri 0730-1330 and 1600-1900 except Wednesday, Sat 0830-1030 during the summer period (1 Jul to 31 Aug). Other post office opening hours: Mon-Fri 0730-1330, Thurs 1500-1800 at other times.

MEDIA: The Cypriot media reflects the island's political divide, with the Turkish-controlled zone in the north operating its own press and broadcasters. State-run services compete with a large number of private TV and radio stations. Relays of Greek and Turkish stations are available across the island. Newspapers on both sides of the divide are frequently critical of the authorities. Press: Newspapers published in English include the Cyprus Financial Mirror, Cyprus Mail (daily), Cyprus Today (Turkish Cypriot) and Cyprus Weekly. Simirini is in Greek, while Kibris Gazette is in Turkish. Most English papers are available. TV: The public Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC) operates channels RIK 1 and RIK 2. In northern Cyprus, Bayrak Radio-TV operates channels BRT 1 and BRT 2. Radio: Radio 1 (in Greek), Radio 2 (in English, Turkish and Armenian), Radio 3 (in Greek) and Love Radio are operated by CyBC. Commercial stations include Radio Proto and Astra 92.8. Bayrak Radio-TV operates Bayrak Radio 1 (in Turkish), Bayrak International (in English), Bayrak FM and Bayrak Klasik. In addition, the CTO sponsors programmes for tourists Mon-Sat on 603kHz (498m) and FM94.8. The times are as follows: German 0800; English 0830; French 0900; Swedish 0930; Arabic 1000.