



Welcome to Cyprus

Dear Participants

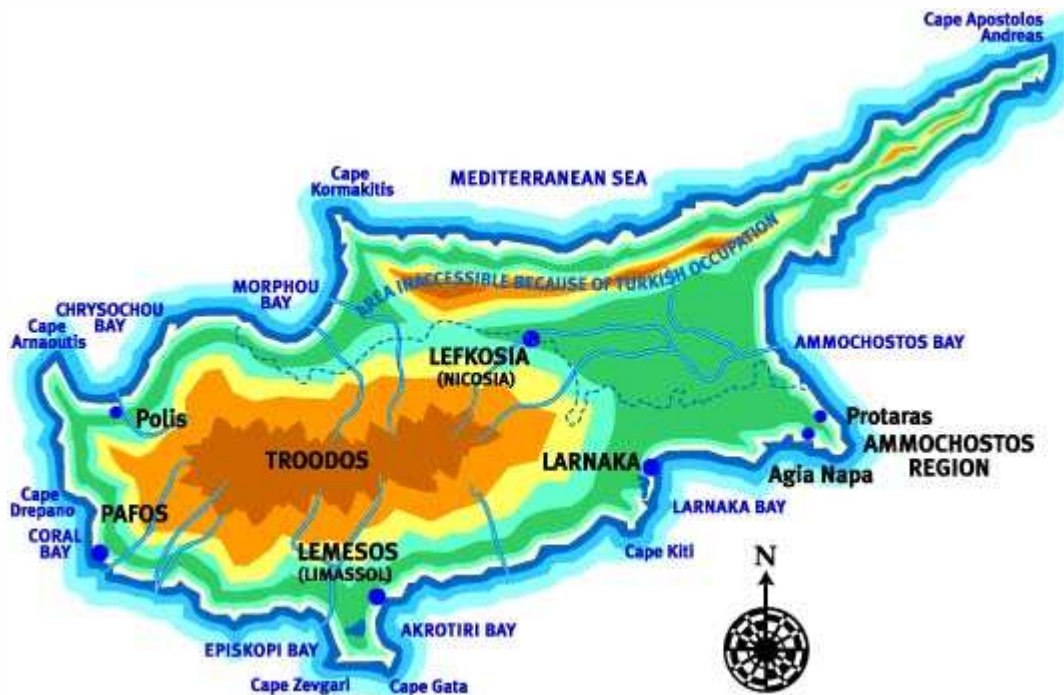
To make your stay in Cyprus a pleasant and enjoyable one, we would like to provide you with some additional information about the island.

Your SME-Conference Team





Map of Cyprus



History of Cyprus

The history of Cyprus is one of the oldest recorded in the world. The first signs of civilisation go back to the 9th millennium BC. Around 1200 BC a process began that was to stamp the island with an identity that it still has today; the arrival of Mycenaean – Achaean Greeks as permanent settlers, who brought their language and culture. The Turkish Cypriots were descendants of the Ottoman Turk who occupied the island for more than 300 years between the 16th and 19th century, and have contributed their own heritage on the country. From 1878 to 1960 Cyprus was a British colony and during this period many of the features of modern Cypriot society were shaped.

Between 1955 and 1959 EOKA, a Greek-Cypriot underground organisation, fought an armed struggle for union of the island with Greece. This conflict resulted also in civil strife between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities and led to the involvement of Greece and Turkey which came to the brink of war over the island. In the end a compromise was found nobody had wished for: independence. The UK shared together with Greece and Turkey the responsibility for the preservation of the constitutional order and the territorial integrity of the island. Moreover, Britain retained two sovereign military bases as colonial relics.

The unresolved conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots as well as their “mother countries” culminated in a Greek coup d’état against the Greek Cypriot president Makarios and an ensuing Turkish invasion in 1974, which led to the current division of the island.

In a two-stage offensive Turkish troops took control of 38% of the island. Many Greek Cypriots fled south while many Turkish Cypriots fled north. Since then the southern part of the country has been under the control of the Government of Cyprus and the northern part under an autonomous Turkish-Cypriot administration supported by the presence of Turkish troops. In 1983 that administration proclaimed itself the “Turkish Republic of Northern





Cyprus", recognized only by Turkey. UN peacekeeping forces maintain a buffer zone between the two sides. In 2003 there was a partial lifting of restriction of movement across the dividing line by the Turkish Cypriot leadership. Several crossing points have been opened on the line and there have been millions of crossings by both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 2004 the Council approved the Green Line Regulation which provides for the movement of goods, services and people across the line.





The capital: Lefkosia (Nicosia)

The capital of Cyprus is Lefkosia (Nicosia) with a population of 219.200. It is the only divided capital in the world. Since the Turkish invasion in 1974 the northern part is under occupation. There is a UN controlled buffer zone running across the city and the island.

In Nicosia you will find a wide variety of sights and museums for planning your stay in Cyprus. We would suggest visiting the following places:

Cyprus Archaeological Museum

This museum was established to collect study and display archaeological artefacts from all over the island. Some of the exhibits are as old as 8,500 years. The museum is arranged in chronological order. The first hall contains pottery and implements from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods whilst the other rooms trace the history of Cyprus through the ages from the Bronze Age, Hellenic Period, Mycenaean times, and Roman Period to the early Byzantine. A unique feature of the museum lies in the basement, where several graves rest in a dark cellar complete with skeletal remains and grave adornments that have been reconstructed.

Address: 1 Mouseiou Street, Old City; **Telephone:** +357 22 865 864, 865 888;

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 1pm;

Admission: C£1.50



Byzantine Museum

The largest collection of icons on the island of Cyprus is displayed in the Byzantine Museum in Nicosia. The icons date from the ninth through to the 18th centuries. The museum also contains an art gallery exhibiting oil paintings, maps and lithographs.

Address: Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou, Archbishopric; **Telephone:** +357 22 430 008; **Opening hours:**

Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm; Saturday 9am to 1pm; closed Sundays; **Admission:** C£1

Ethnographic Museum (former Folk Art Museum)

The colourful collections in this museum represent Cypriot folk art of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and include wood carvings, jewellery, woven goods, tapestries, embroidery, pottery and national costumes. The museum is housed in the Old Bishopric in a 15th-century Gothic building that used to serve as a Benedictine Monastery and then became the palace of the Archbishop.

Address: Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou, Archbishopric; **Telephone:** + 357 22 432 578; **Opening hours:**

Monday to Friday 9am to 1.30pm; **Admission:** C£1

St John's Cathedral (Agios Ioannis)





The Orthodox Cathedral in the Old City was built in 1662 by Archbishop Nikiforos, dedicated to Saint John the Theologian. The 18th-century wall paintings show Biblical scenes and illustrate the discovery of the tomb of Saint Barnabas at Salamis. The Cathedral's prize features, however, are the iconostasis of carved wood covered with gold leaf, and the magnificent double-headed eagles.

Address: Archbishop Kyprianos square, Archbishopric; **Opening hours:** Monday to Friday 8am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm; Saturday 8am to 12pm and during mass;

Admission: Free



Old City Walls

The walls that completely encompass the Old City date from the Venetian occupation in the 16th century, and have a circumference of three miles (five km). Eleven heart-shaped bastions are interspersed along the walls, which have only three gates, in the north, south and east. One of the gates, the Famagusta Gate, has been restored and serves as the Lefkosia Municipal Cultural Centre, used for exhibitions, conferences, lectures and occasional performances. The gate's vaulted passage leads on to the moat encircling the Old City, which has been planted to create a garden.



Lemesos (Limassol)

The second biggest town on the island is the main commercial port of Lemesos (Limassol) in the south of the island, also a popular tourist resort, which has a population 163.900.

Cyprus Medieval Museum

Limassol Castle, built in the 14th century, stands sentinel over the old harbour on the site of an earlier Byzantine castle. Today it houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum with a host of fascinating exhibits. The castle is renowned for being the place where Crusader Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre, and crowned her Queen of England in 1191.

Address: Limassol Castle, Richard and Berengaria Street; **Telephone:** +357 25 305 419; **Opening hours:** Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 1pm; **Admission:** C£1

Folk Art Museum

A collection of traditional costumes, farm and household tools and a variety of local handicrafts are among the displays at Limassol's Folk Art Museum, contained in a restored house. Authentic Cypriot handicrafts are also offered for sale.





Address: 253 Ayios Andreas Street; **Telephone:** +357 25 362 303; **Opening hours:** Monday to Friday 8.30am to 1.30pm, and 3pm to 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (June to September 4pm to 6.30pm); **Admission:** C£0.50

Excursions:

Pitsilia

A worthwhile day trip from Limassol is to explore the unspoilt villages in the foothills of the Troodos Mountains, in the region known as Pitsilia. A rental car or a hired taxi is necessary because public transport is infrequent. Many of the villages make their own wines, and other products such as honey and cheeses. The picturesque houses, painted churches and red-tiled roofs are striking, and many restored houses have been turned into cafes or restaurants.

Troodos Mountains

The Troodos Mountains in the interior of Cyprus north of Limassol offer a selection of four interesting signposted summer walks for nature lovers. The Artemis Trail is circular, extending four miles (7km) in the Black Pine region through the distinctive sub-alpine flora of the area. Orchids can be found under the pines, and one may spot the rare *Epipactis condensata*. The Atalanta Trail, six miles (9km) long, starts at Troodos and also offers rich plant life, spectacular scenery and birdwatching opportunities. The shorter and easier Caledonia Trail, covering two miles (4km), follows the Kryo Potamo stream about one mile (2km) from Platres, and winds through pine forest, and among plane trees. It also bypasses the Caledonian Falls, which are the only waterfalls on Cyprus. The Persephone Trail, named after the Greek goddess of spring, is about two miles (3km) long and offers lovely views.



Restaurants in Lefkosia, Lemesos and surroundings

We would like to give you some suggestions for going out in Lefkosia, Lemesos and surroundings. Of course, there are much more places to go. If you look for additional recommendations either for restaurants or sightseeing and excursions, please contact the hotel reception desk or the





Cyprus Tourist Board in Lemesos:

Spyrou Araouzou 115A

CY 3036 Lemesos

Telephone: 00357 25 36 27 56

Opening Hours: every morning except Sunday & on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons

Boghjalian

The restaurant is named by the Armenian family who built the house in the Arabahmet neighbourhood in the 19th century.

The high rooms are setup old by a good taste.

Meze and grilled food will be served and occasionally musicians accompany the dinner with traditional Turkish sounds.

Address: Salahi Sevkett Sok, Lefkosia; **Telephone:** +357 2280700; **Opening hours:** only in the evenings

Aliada

An excellent restaurant that is a dining experience in itself. It's a set meal, but you'll have no problem finding something you like because of the huge buffet.

Address: 117, Irinis, 3041 Lemesos; **Telephone:** +357 25 340758, **E-Mail:** aliada@logosnet.cy.net;

Homepage: www.aliada.com.cy ; **Opening hours:** Mon - Sat from 8 p.m.; Sun closed

Edo

Every night in Edo Lemesos tavern you may enjoy traditional Limassol "Cantadori" and special Cyprus meze besides the guitar music.

Address: 111, Irinis, 3341 Lemesos, **Telephone:** +357 25 367981, **E-Mail:** pantro@cytanet.com.cy

Homepage: www.cytanet.net/edo-lemesos

Psarolimano Fish Restaurant

The restaurant is situated in front of the small harbour which hosts many fishing boats in the Mackenzie area of Larnaca. There you have a spectacular panoramic view of the harbour, something you can only find in the Greek islands. It is served fresh local fish, with a variety of special fish mezes at very reasonable prices.

Address: Pigia Pasha 118, 6028 Larnaca; **Telephone:** +357 24 655408





Niazi's Restaurant

Niazi's Restaurant (since 1949), the inventor of the "full kebab" which has become a passion for Cypriots, is beginning to get international recognition. The kebabs are grilled in front of the customer on an open charcoal grill. At Niazi's, the "full kebab" today concludes with delicious home made desserts from the open buffet.

Address: Kordonboyu St. Opposite the Dome Hotel Kyrenia, Telephone: +90 392 815 2160

Email: info@niazis.com, **Homepage:** www.niazis.com

Cyprus House

Cyprus House is probably the one of the most authentic restaurants in North Cyprus providing delicious, home made local delicacies, in a very authentic setting, decorated as 1930s old Cypriot village house. A must for gourmets visiting the island. Booking recommended

Address: Opposite Famagusta County Courts, Famagusta; **Telephone:** +90 392 3664845

Music and Night Clubs

Plato's Bar

The most unique bars in the world. Plato's bar can offer you a cross section of the best beer, spirits and wine of the world. It has the richest bar on the island. Situated in the heart of old Nicosia town.

Address: Platonos St. No 8-10, Nicosia; **Telephone:** +357 22 666552

Folia tou Koukou

It could be possible to confound the bar for an antique trade. The innkeeper used to be a foreign legionnaire and captain. He is known for paying a round to his guests while telling stories about his life. Also street musicians are present playing some songs.

Address: 228 Agiou Andreou, Limassol

Sto Perama

A tavern with greek- cypriot life music which lies between the castle and the Agía-Nápa church.

Address: Genethiou Mitella, Agía-Nápa; **Telephone:** +357 25373763, **Opening hours:** Thu, Wed, Sat, Sun from 11 p.m.





Some helpful facts

Demography

In 2004, the Cypriot population was estimated at 793,100. The population in the government controlled area was 705,500 and the estimate for Turkish Cypriots in the non government controlled area was 87.600. In addition, it is estimated that there were 140,000 Turkish citizens from Turkey living in the non government controlled area. In addition, there were more than 80,000 foreign residents.

Language

The official languages of the Republic of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish. The Greek Cypriot dialect differs from mainland Greece. Many Cypriots speak English fluently. German and French are spoken in tourist areas.

Weather

The average maximum temperature in September is 30 degrees centigrade and the average water temperature is 26 degrees centigrade.

Emergency

In case of emergency dial 112 or 199

Traffic and public transport

Please keep in mind that Cyprus has a left-hand traffic!

Public transport in Cyprus is limited. There are no trains and there is **no train service**. There are **inter-urban public bus services** connecting major towns, **urban buses** which run in most larger towns and tourist centres, **rural buses** which connect smaller villages to their nearest towns.

Bus time tables and schedules are available from tourist offices or directly from the bus company. Be aware that services stop early daily (about 18:00) and there is no bus service on Sundays. Bus fare is paid directly to the bus driver; make sure to bring change.

Shared and private taxi services provide an alternative method of transport with the options being: **shared interurban service taxis**, **rural taxis** and **urban taxis**.

Bus companies serve the following routes:

- **Larnaca - Nicosia - Limassol - Larnaca Airport - Ayia Napa - Protaras Intercity Buses (Green Buses)**
Tel: 24 643 492 or 24 722 700





- **Ayia Napa - Larnaca - Paralimni**
Eman Buses
Tel: 23 721 321
- **Nicosia - Limassol**
Lefkosia Interurban Co Ltd
Tel: 22 665 814
- **Larnaca - Nicosia**
Larnaca - Limassol
K. Interurban Co Ltd
Tel: 24 643 492 or 24 722 700 or 24 665 814
- **Paphos - Limassol - Polis**
Nea Amoroza Transport Co Ltd.
Tel: 26 936 822 or 26 936 740
- **Larnaca - Paralimni - Protaras**
E.P.A. Co.
Tel: 23 821 318 or 23 825 607 or 99 484 818
- **Paralimni - Protaras - Ayia Napa**
Paralimni - Deryneia - Larnaca
Paralimni - Protaras - Larnaca
Leopa Bus Service

Post office

Opening hours of the post office:

Monday - Friday 7.30 – 13.30

Also: Thursday 15.00 – 18.00 and Saturday (central branches only) 08.30 – 10.30

Currency - Exchange Rates

The currency of the Republic is the Cyprus pound - CY£, which is divided into 100 cents.
Notes and coins currently in circulation are as follows:

Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents

Notes: 1, 5, 10 and 20 pounds.

The exchange rate offered by banks is approximately: 1 Euro = CYP 0,56

Banking hours for the public

September

Monday-Friday 08:15 - 13:30 until the end of October

In tourist areas, some branches open Saturday morning to exchange foreign currency.

ATMs are available outside numerous bank branches in all areas.

LOST CREDIT CARDS





In case you lose your credit card, you can call JCC Payment Systems Ltd., on +357 22 86 81 00 and at the same time contact your bank either in Cyprus or your home country.

Shopping hours

Summer Period (April 1 - October 31)

Mon, Tue, Thu : up to 20:30 hrs

Wednesday : up to 14:00 hrs

Friday : up to 21:30 hrs

Saturday : up to 17:00 hrs

Electric Current - Voltage

The supply in Cyprus is 240 volts, a.c. 50Hz. Sockets are usually 13 amp, square-pin in most buildings.

Many hotels provide adaptors upon request from the Reception.

Adaptors can be purchased from electricians, supermarkets, grocery shops, etc., at approximately C£1,50.

Time difference

The time in Cyprus in September and most of October is GMT +3 hours.

Car rental

All major car rental companies are represented in Cyprus. Below you find a selection with contact details:

Europcar Cyprus

38-40 Omonias Avenue

3507 Limassol

Phone: (00357) 25880222

Fax: (00357) 25877866

E-mail: europcar@europcar.com.cy

Herz Cyprus Head Office

4, Salaminos Street

1045 Nicosia

Phone: (00357) 2234 6010

Fax: (00357) 2234 7040

E-mail: info@hertz.com.cy

SIXT

Larnaca	Limassol	Nicosia
---------	----------	---------





Larnaca Airport Phone 1 (+357) 24 816161 Phone 2 (+357) 24 643584	Georgiou 1st Ave. Belmar Co.5c Phone 1 (+357) 25 312345 Phone 2 (+357) 25 312898	Limassol Avenue 46D Phone 1 (+357) 22 333841 Phone 2 (+357) 22 333974
---	--	---

