

Cyprus

EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER



COLUMBIA®
BEACH RESORT PISSOURI





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'Cyprus: Explore. Dream. Discover', is an exclusive publication of Columbia Hotels & Resorts, informed - in parts - by local guides. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, kindly note that details are subject to change.



PISSOURI BAY

Our charming hideaway

Sculpted into the landscape of Pissouri, Columbia Hotels & Resorts takes great pride in its home space, fiercely respecting the full force of its natural beauty and charm. And our eagerness to be able to intimately acquaint our guests with the village and its surrounding area is palpable.



Pissouri's rolling, lush hills fuse with the sapphire, clear waters of the 2km-long, Blue Flag-honoured Bay – upon which Columbia Beach Resort is poised – making for a majestic sight to behold.

Nestled into the mountain's side is the village, alive with familial generations of different backgrounds and cultures.

Quaint and intimate as it may be, Pissouri village's administrative area is in fact the third largest in the Limassol district, with some 1,100 inhabitants. And as remote and secluded as the village is, it is still only a mere 30 minutes from both Limassol and Paphos, thus affording visitors the best of both worlds.

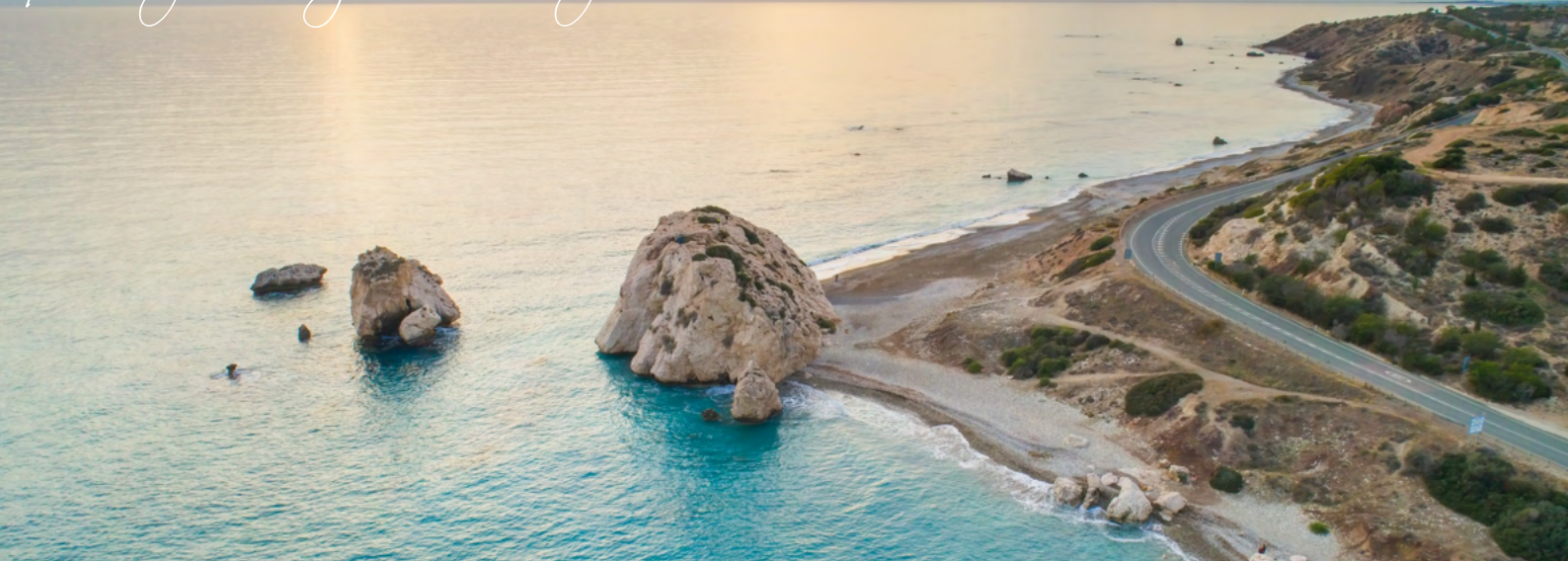


Of course, with verdant vineyards, fresh orchards, and wildly growing flowers, visitors need not venture far in search of activities and entertainment. Further to dedicated nature trails — upon which you may stumble upon citrus fruits,

olive, carob and almond trees, and, of course, ripening grapes — our in-house cycling centre affords an up-close-and-personal discovery of the village by bike, whilst our water sports centre — situated on the Bay — is on hand to introduce you to the thrills of the calm Mediterranean Sea.

PAPHOS

The mythological labyrinth



Paphos is the muse that travellers have long searched for: a mythological labyrinth that has interwoven with modernity. With its roots growing deep into the island's western coastline, Paphos has masterfully evolved over the years from a small seaside village into a touristic hotspot that tenaciously protects its traditional identity.

Alive with archaeological finds, Kato Paphos – the bustling centre of town – is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site (thanks to its ancient mosaics, 1st century Odeon, and Medieval Castle), whilst Ktima – Paphos' old town – is a maze of crooked streets, and demure houses demonstrative of traditional architecture.

Travellers to Paphos may expect to find engaging entertainment options – such as shops, restaurants, and cafes – alongside outdoor recreation spanning a visit to Paphos Zoo, golfing, horse-riding, sailing, hiking and biking, and more, all beneath the sun's rays.

For those desiring an opportunity to engross themselves with nature, Paphos provides an endless reprisal of awe-inspiring sunsets, untouched landscape in the Akamas Peninsula, and indigenous flora and fauna (not to mention a designating beach at which turtles are known to hatch!).

Particularly enchanting and integrated into Paphos' very essence is the story of the ancient Greek goddess, Aphrodite, from her birthplace at Petra tou Romiou, to her bathing abode known now as the Baths of Aphrodite in Polis Chrysochous: even the poppies that burst through the ground all over Paphos every spring remind of the mythological telling of Aphrodite running across thorn-covered fields to reach her wounded lover, Adonis, with her every drop of blood producing a perfect poppy.

It is no wonder that the annual open-air staged opera of international acclaim at the Medieval Castle has been bestowed the name, the Paphos Aphrodite Festival. Thus, reasoning for Paphos having been named the European Capital of Culture in 2017 is not elusive.

With the shadows of mythology's past marrying with the town's open space to embrace all that is new, one may be forgiven for imagining the goddess Aphrodite waving them goodbye upon their departure. Perhaps, even, she is beckoning their return.



Medieval Fort

Kato Paphos, by the Harbour

Credited originally to the Byzantine era when it was built to protect the harbour, the castle fell to the great earthquake of 1222. It was rebuilt by the Lusignans in 1391. Numerous cultural events are hosted by the castle and its surrounding space. Most notable is the Paphos Aphrodite Festival, which presents a different opera every September.



Tombs of the Kings

Tombs of the Kings Road

Dated to 300 BC, it is thought that the tombs served as the final resting place of at least 100 Ptolemaic aristocrats. Carved out of solid rock, eight complexes have been isolated, with three, four, and eight considered the most elaborate. A vast open space with little shade, be wary of the sun if visiting in the summer months.



Mosaics Archaeological Park

Kato Paphos, by the Harbour

Credited as some of the finest examples of mosaic work worldwide, the mosaics mostly depict scenes from Greek mythology. All are made of small cubes of marble, stone, and glass paste. With wild growing flowers, making time for a quiet walk past the amphitheatre and ancient market up to the lighthouse is certainly worthwhile.



Aphrodite's Birthplace - Petra tou Romiou

Paphos-Limassol highway

Mythology tells us that Aphrodite rose from the foam of the sea at this prized landmark. The name Petra tou Romiou, meaning 'the Rock of the Greek', actually refers to another myth, that of the Byzantine hero, Digenis, who is said to have heaved the rock into the sea to destroy the ships of the invading Saracen army. Swimming around the rock three times is said to bring you eternal beauty and love.



St. Solomon's Catacombs

St. Paul's Avenue, leading down towards Kato Paphos

St. Solomon's Catacombs, or the 'hankkerchief tree', as it is affectionately known, shades the ruins of catacombs and the Church of St. Solomon. Considered a sacred site, a wonderful tradition has endured of tying a handkerchief to the tree, which, coupled with a silent prayer, imagined as helping your hopes and dreams come true.



Aphrodite's Baths

Polis Chrysochous-Latchi

Discover the secluded grotto in which Aphrodite - the Greek goddess of love and beauty - is imagined as having bathed. Washing your face in the water is rumoured to ensure eternal beauty. A walking trail of about 8km commences here that will deliver you to Fontana Amorosa: pristine waters cuddled by warm sandy coves.



Adonis' Baths

Kili Village

Nestled away in the village of Kili, approximately 12km from Paphos, the legend of Aphrodite continues, with the bathing place of her lover, Adonis. The God of beauty and desire, Adonis is said to have tended his horses here, hunting in the nearby Akamas region. The citizens of Paphos are playfully believed to be the direct descendants of these lovers' offspring.



Lara Bay

Akamas, past Avakas Gorge

Veering off the beaten track, into the expanse that is Akamas, visitors would be lucky to stumble upon Lara Bay: a vast stretch of sandy beach renowned for being the home of turtles seeking a safe place to breed. A designated station is on hand to aid the protection of these beautiful animals, with enclaves erected around known nests.



Saint Neophytos Monastery

Tala Village

Saint Neophytos founded the monastery in 1159. A Cypriot hermit who wrote numerous theological treatises, Saint Neophytos carved an enclosure out of the mountain, the Enkleistra, living there until his death in 1219 at the age of 85. Painter, Theodoros Apsevdís, undertook the creation of the frescoes in the Enkleistra.



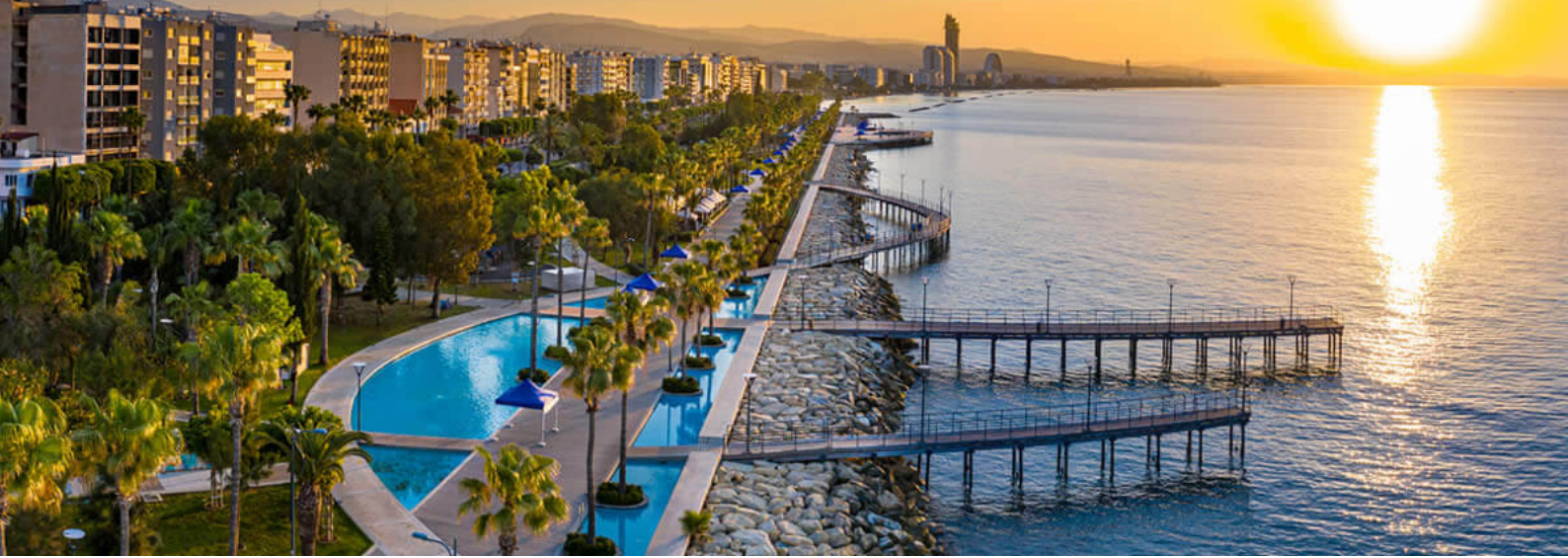
Chrysopolitisa Basilica & Saint Paul's Pillar

Kato Paphos

Tucked away behind the bustling harbour are the foundations of a 4th century basilica, which, though in ruins, betray the sheer magnificence of the structure that once stood here. On the western side of the basilica is Saint Paul's Pillar, where Saint Paul was allegedly tied and whipped 40 times for trying to convert the then ruling Roman governor to Christianity.

LIMASSOL

Cultural Cosmopolitanism



Limassol has truly blossomed in recent years, emerging from its cocoon as an industrial centre and busy shipping port (the third largest in Europe, in fact), into a butterfly of culture and cosmopolitanism.

With its serene setting along the coast, and solid infrastructure, it is no surprise that international businesses of great acclaim have gravitated towards Limassol, establishing a presence here, and thus elevating the town's status on a global stage worldwide.

Ideally located between the island's two airports (in Paphos and Larnaca respectively), Limassol has grown from the ruins of its ancient history, offering visitors insight into antiquity through a modern lens.

Most famous is Limassol's association with the Third Crusades of the Middle Ages. History tells us that the King of England, Richard the Lionheart, was on voyage to the Holy Lands in 1191 to reclaim them from Saladin, when strong winds and serendipitous fortune forced his fiancée, Berengaria's ship to Limassol's shores. Following suit, King Richard arrived in Cyprus to ensure his fiancée's safety. It wasn't long before King Richard succeeded in overthrowing the long-standing Byzantine rule, wedding Berengaria in Limassol, during which he famously proclaimed of the ancient, sweet Commandaria that it is the "wine of kings, and the king of wines."

Indeed, the castle at which King Richard and Berengaria wed is still nestled in the centre of Limassol, surrounded by bountiful restaurants and bars: beacons to the young and carefree in search of a lively night out.

Further afield on the cusp of Limassol's borders are the ancient archaeological sites of the Kourion amphitheatre, Kolossi Castle, Amathus site, and the remains of the temple Apollo Hylates.

Meanwhile, venturing into the low lying villages of the Troodos mountain range surrounding Limassol, will deliver visitors into the hands of wineries and nature trails of unsurpassed beauty. And, whilst the most distinguished golf courses at present are housed within Paphos' district lines, Limassol has great plans up its sleeve to develop not only luxury golf courses, but leisure options that are sure to attract even the most discerning of travellers.



Kourion

Near to Episkopi Village

Kourion endures as being one of the most awe-inspiring archaeological sites on the island, with its Greco-Roman amphitheatre reigning supreme atop the pedestal of distinguished sites to see. Originally built in the 2nd century BC, the amphitheatre still serves today as an impressive setting for musical and theatrical performances come summer.



Kolossi Castle

Near to Erimi Village

A former Crusader stronghold, Kolossi Castle is well-known as being of key importance in the island's sugar production. Unbeknownst to many, sugar once served as the most fecund export for Cyprus, and Kolossi Castle housed the facilities that allowed the island to maintain momentum of sugar exports at the time.



Amathus Archaeological Site

Agios Tychonas

Some 11km east of Limassol lies Amathus Archaeological Site, also known as Ancient Amathunta. This site is revered as being one of the most important kingdoms in antiquity in Cyprus, dating back to 1100 BC. The world's largest stone vase was uncovered in Amathus, and is now on display at the famed Louvre in Paris.



Temple of Apollo Hylates

Near to Episkopi Village

A mere 2.5 kilometres from the ancient city of Kourion, the Temple of Apollo Hylates was once one of the principal religious sites on the island, at which the god Apollo was worshipped as Hylates, the god of the woodlands. Whilst the present remains date to the 1st century AD, the ruins date back overall to the 7th century BC.



Limassol Medieval Castle

Limassol Old Town

Nestled in the heart of the Old Town, Limassol Medieval Castle has been immortalized as the site of King Richard the Lionheart's wedding to Berengaria of Navarre, resulting in her being crowned Queen of England in 1191. Today, it stands as a focal point around which many restaurants and bars have opened, making for an atmospheric backdrop.



Omodos Village

Alive with tradition, Omodos endures as one of the most beautifully preserved villages in Cyprus.

At an altitude of 900m, in the foothills of Troodos, Omodos is home to a museum of Byzantine icons, folk art, and the medieval Linos wine press, one of the oldest in Cyprus.



Limassol Marina

Situated adjacent to the old port. The marina offers 650 berths for yachts up to 110 metres, as well as a commercial area comprising of restaurants and cafes, bars and shops, a spa, gym and cultural centre.



Church of Timios Stavros

Pelendri Village

One of the most important sites of Byzantine painting has survived at the Church of Timios Stavros. In 1985, it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It was originally a single-aisle, domed structure, built around the middle of the 12th century. The present form of the church is the result of several additions and alterations.



Cyprus Wine Museum

Erimi Village

In the village of Erimi lies the Cyprus Wine Museum: journey into the island's ancient history of winemaking, with photographic backdrops and audiovisual material on hand to help acquaint you with Cyprus' winemaking traditions. Don't miss the Limassol Wine Festival every year in September, staged at the Municipal Gardens.



Carnival

Carnival is widely celebrated in Cyprus to usher in the advent of Lent, with people donning elaborate costumes and masks come the Carnival Day Parade. Carnival comes most bountifully to bloom in Limassol, which has succeeded in carving a distinguished name for itself in Europe. In contrast to the ostentatious occasion famously held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, carnival in Limassol is praised for its friendly atmosphere in which all are welcome to join in.



Rialto Theatre

Heroes Square

Since 1999, the Rialto Theatre has been welcoming performing arts aficionados from far and wide. The Rialto's team is dedicated to delivering a vibrant variety of shows, spanning dance, theatre, musical, and more. Since 2011, the Rialto started a cooperation with the live programmes of The Met: Live in HD, National Theatre Live and the Royal Opera House.



Anogyra Village & Pasteli Museum

Anogyra is prided as being a key agro-touristic destination in Cyprus.

It is home to the Holy Cross (Ayios Stavros) monastery, as well as being well-known for its carob trees, the produce of which is used to make carob honey, and pasteli (a traditional sweet). Further to being home to the Pasteli Museum, a festival is held in September to celebrate the harvest of the carob, featuring Greek dancing, food, and music.



Hambis Printmaking Museum

Platanisteia Village

Located in the village of Platanisteia in Limassol, Hambis Printmaking Museum opened its doors in 2008, and is praised as being the first of its kind on the island. Museum visitors are given a unique insight into the history of printmaking, the techniques and materials involved, with some 200 prints on display for viewing dating back to the 16th century.



Carob Mill Museum

Limassol Old Town

Situated behind the Medieval Castle in Limassol, the Carob Mill was originally built in the early 1900s. Back then, carobs were one of the main exports of Cyprus, being used in the manufacture of film, medicine, sweets, and chocolates. Today, the mill has been renovated, and is used as an exhibition space featuring the original machinery used to process the carobs, as well as serving as a function hall for a variety of events.



Oleastro Olive Oil Museum

Anogyra Village

Nestled amongst an organic olive grove, Oleastro Olive Park serves as a unique representation of the island's famed olive oil. Oleastro give visitors insight into extraction methods (such as pressing olives with one's feet), farming activities, the role of the olive in the Mediterranean diet, and more. All exhibits are accompanied by selected text in Greek, English, German and French.

WINE ROUTES



Discovering the wine routes of Cyprus is tantamount to putting yourself intimately in touch with the island's history and culture. The roots of wine-making on this unassuming Mediterranean island grow 5,500 years deep into the world's history. Today, seven routes, more than 60 wineries, 18 different varieties of grape, and a yearly produce that outputs over 20 million bottles, are in existence. For such a small island, Cyprus' wine industry has soared to dizzying proportions. Your challenge for your time here? Venture out into the wild of Cyprus, explore the tastes of indigenous grape varieties (namely, Maratheftiko, Mavro, Ophthalmo and Xynisteri), as well as the unique Commandaria, and discover the world of wine at your fingertips.

Read on for details of a selection of wine routes in the surrounding regions of Paphos and Limassol.



LIMASSOL WINE VILLAGES

Such is the beautiful natural landscape and homely architecture combined with the warmth of the people and delectable flavours of food and drink created along the Limassol wine route, that a mosaic of traditional life at the most radiant bursts forth.

TSIAKKAS WINERY

The Tsiakkas Winery was founded in 1988 and is located in Pelendri, in Pitsilia region of Limassol district. Its vineyards are in the same area. The cold winters and the cool without rain summers coupled with the poor volcanic soils, help to have vineyards with low yield per hectare which is necessary for producing quality grapes.

Tel: + 357 25 991080

AGIA MAVRI

The Ayia Mavri Winery is the former Kilani Winery, established in the 80s. The winery is located in Koilani village in the Limassol region. The award winning winery is famous for its sweet Moschatos wines.

Tel: +357 25 470 225

VLASSIDES WINERY

Driven by his love and passion for wine, Sophocles Vlassides realized his lifelong dream by establishing Vlassides Winery in 1998. The vineyards are located in the picturesque region of Kilani village, just south of Troodos. The altitude of the vineyards ranges from 700m to 1100m above sea level, and the soil is mainly calcareous.

Tel: +357 97789560

ZAMBARTAS WINERY

The history of the Zambartas family in wine goes back to the 1970's, when Akis Zambartas, returned to Cyprus from France (having studied Chemistry and Enology) as the first university educated enologist. Since then, Zambartas Wineries has grown to a production of 120.000 bottles a year and established itself as a pioneering, quality producer.

Tel: +357 25 94 24 24



VOUNI PANAYIAS AMBELITI

*With the tradition of wine-making from generations passed running through the green sloping hills,
it is no wonder that wineries modernised with the latest and greatest means have productively
sprouted up from the soil of Vouni Panayias.*

MAKKAS

Makkas outputs Merlot, Maratheftiko and Shyras, which are aged in French oak barrels, as well as Chardonnay, white wine created from Xynisteri grape and rosé.

Wine tasting available upon request

Tel: + 357 97 77 07 72

DOMAINE EZOUSA

Ezousa opened its doors in 2003. Since then, it has been culturing 5 different dry wines: 1 white (Xynisteri), 1 rosé (Maratheftiko) and 3 reds.

Tel: +357 7000 8844

VOUNI PANAYIA

Nestled among rolling mountains, Vouni Panayia produced in total 6 wines: 3 white (1 semi-dry and 2 dry), 1 dry rosé and 2 dry red.

Wine tasting available.

Tel: +357 26722770

KOLIOS WINERY

The winery is situated on a mountain peak about a kilometer on the outskirts of Statos Ayios Photios village towards the monastery of Chryssoroyiatissa, in the city of Pafos district, 30 km from Kykkos monastery.

The grapes are hand picked and immediately go into the workshop for the wine production, which is equipped with the latest technology.

Tel: +357 26 724090

TSANGARIDES WINERY

Picturesquely placed in the village Lemona, Tsangarides is a small, boutique-like winery, which produces a range of 90,000 bottles a year. There are 7 wine options available.

Tel: +357 26 722777

COMMANDARIA



The tradition of producing Commandaria has transcended generations since antiquity. This unique amber-coloured, sweet wine is thought to have delighted King Richard the Lionheart's wedding guests in Limassol, leading to his proclamation that Commandaria is the "wine of kings and the king of wines". And though the crusades have now receded into history, the contemporary veneration of Commandaria has not waned.

Unquestionably, a visit to the Commandaria Museum in Zoopigi is a must. Housed in a renovated building- dating back to 1935 - guests are given a unique insight into the history of Commandaria, and afforded the opportunity to taste the "King of wines".

OREINIS PITSILIAS COOPERATIVE WINERY

The harvesting of dried grapes (mostly of variety Xynisteri and Mavro) from the nearby villages amounts to a massive 120 tonnes yearly, from whence the formidable, famed Commandaria is brought to fruition by Oreinis Pitsilias Cooperative Winery.

Wine tasting: Reservation required

Tel: + 357 25542266

LIMASSOL WINE FESTIVAL



A now annual event, the Limassol Wine Festival was first conceived in 1961. Aimed at celebrating Cyprus' rich history of viticulture, the festival welcomes in excess of 10,000 guests each year, both locals and tourists alike. Further to the big wine cooperatives, such as KEO and SODAP, many smaller wineries and producers also offer free tasting.

In a bid to complement the wine tasting, there is live traditional music, dancing and food.

Each year, the festival is organised by the Municipality of Limassol, and is hosted in the Municipal Gardens, just a stones throw away from the main seafront promenade. The Festival spans a week, and is often staged in August or at the beginning of September.

TROODOS

...off the beaten track



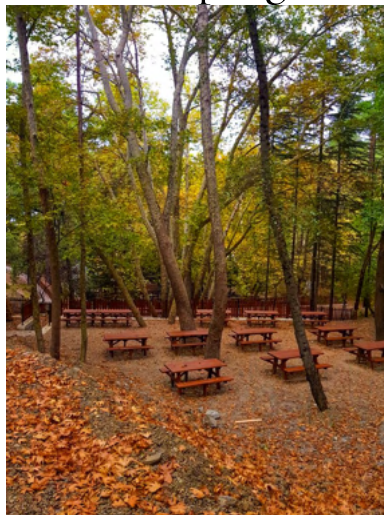
The largest mountain range in Cyprus stretching across a third of the island, is the Troodos mountains. Located at the western side of Cyprus, its highest peak also known as Chionistra, is 1,952 meters high. A cool escape during the summer months at the green heart of the island and a snow filled winter destination with four ski slopes. Filled with numerous villages a visitor can enjoy the Cypriot culture. Visit Byzantine monasteries and churches, explore nature and enjoy breath-taking views, or nestle at one of the many mountain resorts. Unearth the rich mining history of copper and other precious minerals the area was famous for throughout the Mediterranean. Troodos is the place for adventure, discovery and leisure. Within the mountains and valleys of Troodos are scenic villages offering a taste of Cyprus' traditional architecture, decorated with cobbled streets. Oozing with charm and hospitality the villages are an opportunity to explore traditional local cuisine. You can find them amid orchards, vineyards or pine trees depending on the area of the mountain range.

THINGS TO DO

Hiking



Camping



Skiing



Cycling





Kykkos Monastery

Marathasa Region

The Holy Monastery of the Virgin of Kykkos was founded at the end of the 11th century by the Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the monastery possesses one of three icons attributed to Saint Luke the Evangelist. The icon, covered in silver gilt, is in a shrine that stands in front of the iconostasis.



Caledonia Falls

Platres

Nestled along a popular nature trail in the village of Platres, Caledonia Falls makes for a beautiful sight. Surrounded by mature trees and local flora, Caledonia Falls is beloved by many travellers seeking respite from the prickly heat of summer. The nature trail requires good walking shoes, and good fitness levels. May not be suitable for very young children.



Skiing on Mount Olympus

Skiing in Cyprus has gained a loyal following, with many visitors in winter discovering this wonderful offshoot of the island's tourism product. The ski resort on Mount Olympus is home to four slopes: two on the North Face and two on Sun Valley. Aphrodite and Hera are considered best for beginners, Hermes for intermediate skiers and Dias (Zeus) for advanced skiers.



Lefkaritika

Located on the southern slopes of the Troodos mountain range, the village of Lefkara has gained great fame worldwide due to the intricate lacework traditionally practiced in the village, known as 'lefkaritika'. According to legend, Leonardo da Vinci visited the village in 1481, and purchased a lace cloth for the main altar of the Duomo di Milano. Lefkaritika was inscribed in 2009 on UNESCO's Cultural Heritage list.



Kakopetria

Kakopetria has grown in prominence in recent years, with many locals heading to this small village for a relaxing weekend away. Bursting at the seams with little shops, cafes, and restaurants, Kakopetria also boasts beautiful surroundings. Take a walk along the river, and sample the locally sourced trout. Several points of interest include the restored flour mill, and the Byzantine church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis.

NICOSIA



Having served as the capital of the island since the 10th century, Nicosia has grown in prominence in recent years, serving – alongside Limassol – as the professional and financial hub of the island. Divided in 1974, it endures – following the fall of the Berlin Wall – as the last divided capital worldwide. Indeed, its history is palpable, with Byzantine, Ottoman, Venetian, and more influences felt in every crevice of its construct, from its architecture and monuments to food and culture. A bustling city, Nicosia has blossomed, and is now home to a plethora of shops, cafes, restaurants and bars. Most famous is Ledras Street (and the parallel Onasagorou Street) – located in the so-called ‘old’ town of Nicosia – which has become a quaint pedestrianized walkway that masterfully blends the familiarity of European cities with the magic of the orient. Surrounding the old town of Nicosia are the Venetian Walls, remnants of the period Cyprus spent under Venetian rule in the 1500s. Historic defensive fortifications with a circumference of three miles, the Venetian Walls contain eleven pentagon-shaped bastions named after eleven families. Said families were considered pillars of the Italian aristocracy of the town, who donated funds towards the construction of the walls and the three gates: Porta San Domenico (Paphos Gate), Porta Guiliana (Famagusta Gate), and Porta del Proveditore (Kyrenia Gate). With a young and vibrant youth culture, Nicosia hosts, year after year, a series of festivals, focused around food, music, dance, cars, art, and more, many of which take place in the bastions of the Venetian Walls. As the biggest city on the island, there are also several museums and galleries that may be visited — from the Cyprus Museum and the Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus to the Leventis Art Gallery — giving travellers insight into the capital’s rich and complex history.



Laiki Geitonia and Eleftheria Square

Laiki Geitonia is a pedestrianised area in the old town of Nicosia, embellished with small cafes and souvenir shops. Close by is Eleftheria Square (meaning ‘Freedom Square’).

The project for the Regeneration of Eleftheria Square and its surroundings is designed to merge the modern city centre of the capital Nicosia with the neighbourhoods within the city walls in the most aesthetically pleasing and functional way.



Fikardou Village

Revered the island over for its traditional characteristics, Fikardou village has been restored by the Department of Antiquities and has been declared an ‘Ancient Monument’. Said to have been founded in approximately 400AD by dissident groups disillusioned with Cyprus’ tumultuous history marked by successive invasions, Fikardou still eerily preserves these remnants of history. An Ethnological Museum has also been established, giving insight into rural life.



Shacolas Observatory and Museum

Nestled along Ledras Street is one of the tallest buildings in Nicosia, with the 11th floor hosting the Shacolas Observatory and Museum. Small as it may be, the museum’s exhibition – a cooperation with the Leventis Museum of Nicosia – showcases photographic material of old Nicosia, alongside a multilingual taped history. The observatory permits visitors to behold a panoramic view of Nicosia.



Cyprus Archaeological Museum

The oldest museum in Cyprus, the Cyprus Archaeological Museum traces the history of civilisation on the island, leading visitors through from prehistoric times to the early Christian period. Collections are continuously enriched by the ongoing extensive excavations taking place island-wide, with many praising the museum for preserving both Cyprus’ cultural heritage as well as bringing the importance of archaeological research to the forefront of people’s minds.



A.G. Leventis Gallery

Having only opened in 2014, the A.G. Leventis Gallery displays paintings, objects, documents, and books collected by the founder of the A. G. Leventis Foundation, Anastasios G. Leventis prior to his death in 1978, as well as art and artefacts (European, Greek and Cypriot) collected by the Foundation after 1978. Situated in the centre of town, the Gallery makes for ideal respite from the heat whilst affording insight into the island’s history.

TIPS FROM THE TEAM

The Columbia family shares its secrets as to the must-see sites of the island.

“A walk along Cape Aspro – right on Columbia’s doorstep – towards Aphrodite’s Rock. Unspoilt scenery, free ranging mountain goats, Eleanora’s falcons and eagles and a secluded beach accessible only by foot: magical. You’ll need good walking shoes, water, and a hat to keep the sun off. Best time to walk this route is April-June, and September-November.

~Stelios Kizis, Director

“Exploring the abandoned Berengaria Hotel in the village of Prodromos: really atmospheric. Also, journeying through the surrounding villages, seeking out the 10 churches inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List due to their Byzantine and post-Byzantine murals, is a must.”

~Aphrodite Papamichael, Reservations & Revenue Manager

"Try to catch a concert or theatre production staged at either the ancient amphitheatre at Kourion, or the Royal Manor House in Kouklia, Paphos — both only a short drive away from Columbia! ”

~Annie Karapataki, Head of Sales

“You can’t be situated along the Blue Flag-honoured Pissouri Bay, and not try your hand at one of the many watersports on offer. Make your way down to the Bay and talk to Yiannos at Columbia Watersports: with his years of experience he’ll be able to guide you whether you’re a novice, or a seasoned watersports aficionado. From pedal boats and paddle boarding, to kite surfing and water skiing, there’s something for everyone”

~Anthea Vikis, Marketing Manager