

WHERE TO ...
LARNAKA

-PAST & PRESENT TREASURES REVEALED-





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Members of the Board

Larnaka Tourism Board's members derive from a varied professional background. The common thread bringing these people together is their love for Larnaka.

The members of the board have taken time out of their busy schedules to share with us the key things they love most about Larnaka town and the surrounding region.



Dinos Lefkaritis

The Chairman of the Larnaka Tourism Board welcomes you to Larnaka.

Dinos Lefkaritis, endeavours along with the other board members to highlight this beautiful, historical region.

Born and raised in Larnaka, he is pas-

sionate about his home, "I love every single thing about Larnaka. I strongly believe that Larnaka is the most beautiful city in Cyprus."

As you browse through our guide, we hope that you will begin to understand why this is the feeling that so many people from Larnaka carry in their hearts.

The charismatic personalities, the hospitable warmth, as with good food is a staple amongst the Cypriot people. However what is rare in a city the size of Larnaka, is the preservation of the true Cypriot authenticity from years gone by. It really is like nowhere else.

What do you love most about Larnaka?

I love Larnaka not only because it is my hometown, but because of its special atmosphere and its unique characteris-

tics which don't exist in other cities.

Where To Visit?

The Larnaka Medieval Castle and the old town around Saint Lazarus Square.

Where To Go?

Watersports, which one can find in all Larnaka's beaches, kitesurfing, and nightlife at the Mckenzie hotspot.





Andreas Louroutziatis
Larnaka Mayor

What do you love most about Larnaka?

The fact that although Larnaka is a dynamic city, it is yet a historic place which has not lost its character. I love Larnaka because of its delightful and compact city centre, its charming Promenade and because of its friendly and hospitable citizens.

Where To Visit?

I recommend a visit to the Saint Lazarus Church, which is one of the most important surviving Byzantine monuments in Cyprus. Also, a visit to the various city's Museums and the unique Salt Lake. On the outskirts of Larnaka it is recommended to visit the traditional village of Lefkara and the Neolithic Settlement of Choirokoitia. I personally enjoy walking along the cosmopolitan Foinikoudes Promenade and also at the very lively night spot of McKenzie.

Where To Go?

Larnaka offers a variety of activities such as water sports, which are provided on most beaches, bird watching at the Salt Lake, diving at the famous Zenobia wreck, kitesurfing and, of course, gastronomy!



Othonas Theodoulou, President of the Larnaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry

What do you love most about Larnaka?

The fact that it has the atmosphere of a small city and the convenience of a metropolitan area.

Where To Visit?

Every piece of Larnaka offers something special. It is highly recommended to explore the hidden parts of the region.

Where To Go?

Snorkelling or scuba diving at the Zenobia and night walks not only in the promenade but also in the narrow picturesque streets of the old town.



Chrysostomos Parpounas, President of Voroklini Community Council

What do you love most about Larnaka?

What I love most about Larnaka is its peacefulness. It's the only place in Cyprus that combines places of residence, for leisure, recreation and holidaying and still keeps its serenity and peacefulness.

Where To Visit?

During summer time you can visit the Yiannades Beach in Voroklini. Here you will find the safest waters for swimming on the whole of the island. It is the best beach for families with young children. Water sports activities are also situated on this beach.

At night you can have a walk on the promenade that covers the length of the Voroklini Beach and enjoy your drink or meal under the clear summer sky of Cyprus.

Where To Go?

Larnaka is not just a summer resort. Apart from the fact that you can still swim and enjoy the sea for the whole year, you can also have long walks on the nature trails of the Arodaphne Hill in Voroklini, enjoy a picnic on its

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picnic sites and enjoy the spectacular views from its view points.

You can have a leisure cycling tour in the village and on the hill, ending your day savouring the tradition's and hospitality in the small coffee shops and tavernas in the village.

If you are a person who loves sports, then you can do your cycling training on the trails of the Voroklini Hill (Prophet Elias and Gerakomouti) or have an exciting quad bike safari that you will never forget.

For persons who love nature, Voroklini Lake is a must-see wildlife site in the Larnaka district. This fantastic nature patch is literally in the heart of Voroklini community and, despite its small size, is home to rich wildlife.



Savvas Xenofontos
Lefkara Mayor

What do you love most about Larnaka?

The village of Lefkara with its unique architectural style, its narrow paved streets, its natural environment, the clear horizon and the hospitality of the people.

Where To Visit?

The folk art museum of Lefkara, the

church of the Holy Cross, the old houses that have been named ancient monuments, the Dafermou Winery, the small churches inside and outside Lefkara village that have been recognized as monuments B in the catalogue of the Government Antiquities Department and the Lefkara delights shop.

Where To Go?

Handicraft lessons on Lefkara embroideries and silversmithing, Walks or hiking at the surrounding environment, Fishing at the Lefkara Dam (relevant license is required), Hiking from Livadiotissa to Agia Marina church, Hiking to the Sotira mountain and Mountain biking.



Victor Mantovani, Director V.M.Mantovani Plotin Travel Ltd, ACTA President

What do you love most about Larnaka?

There are two things that distinguish Larnaka from most holiday resorts. The concentration of so much to see and do in the small, but rich in culture town center and the easy contact and interaction with the locals. In Larnaka you never feel like a tourist. The locals mingle continually with the visitors and there is not one single place where you see more tourists than locals. In the compact center you can find every-

thing from sandy beaches to shops, tavernas, museums, churches, archaeological sights, clubs and a lot of genuine local character.

Where To Visit?

There is nothing more rewarding but to walk in the narrow streets of the center of Larnaka specially in the area surrounding the Medieval Castle and Saint Lazarus Church. Around each corner is a hidden story, each building, however humble it is, has something that reminds us of years gone by.

Where To Go?

During the warm sunny days a visit at the McKenzie Beach is a must. A lovely, long stretch of sandy beach washed by the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean sea. Let's not forget that Cyprus is blessed with the cleanest sea water in Europe. The water sports center of the area is extremely well equipped and one can try any kind of activity like wind surfing, water skiing, canoeing, jet ski, banana ride etc.



Joanna Florentiadou
General Manager, Sandy Beach Hotel

What do you love most about Larnaka?

The magical blue waters. The ultimate blend of history with the mod-

ern world, where East meets West in harmony. The buzzing nightlife on the water, the warm hearts of its people!

Where To Visit?

The Salt Lake flooded with flamingos in the winter months. Saint Lazarus Church at nightfall. Larnaka-Dekeleia magical waters.

Where To Go?

Starting with waterskiing early in the morning on the lake-like still waters of the sea. Horse riding around the Salt Lake with Hala Sultan in the background. Enjoying the sunset on a beautiful yacht in the Larnaka Marina with a refreshing glass of wine and beloved friends. A stroll on the tranquil beach late at night.



Alkis Maros, General Manager, Golden Bay Beach Hotel

What do you love most about Larnaka?

Its seaside areas such as Foinikoudes and Mckenzie.

Where To Visit?

Saint Lazarus Church and Panagia

Angeloktisti Church in Kiti.

Where To Go?

Beach Volley and Beach Tennis.



Stavros Stavrou, Pyla Community Council General Secretary

What do you love most about Larnaka?

The fact that the people are very friendly and also because the distances are short and the visitor can see many places of interest.

Where To Visit?

The Royal Tombs of Pyla Archaeological Site, the beaches in the Larnaka-Dekeleia road and Foinikoudes Promenade.

Where To Go?

Trolling Fishing in Larnaka Bay, diving at the Zenobia wreck and the Pyla Caves.



Antonis Papakyriakou, General Manager, Palm Beach Hotel

What do you love most about Larnaka?

Its compactness and relaxed feeling.

Where To Visit?

Ayioi Vavatsinia village with Ayioi Anargyroi Church and coffee at the village square.

Where To Go?

Play tavli (backgammon) at the Beach Bar with Mojitos!



Pantelis Livadhiotis, Director, Livadhiotis City Hotel

What do you love most about Larnaka?

Larnaka has the best set up as a

place to live and visit. It is a compact city that offers everything within very small distances. From the old town to the new one, from the shopping center to the coffee shops, from night clubs to lounge bars, from the Salt Lake to the beach. You can change scenery so many times and yet you are in the same town.

Where To Visit?

Recommended places for a must visit when in Larnaka are, a) Saint Lazarus Church and b) Larnaka Salt Lake (especially during the flamingo period).

Where To Go?

Try to do some "bar hopping" experience at the upcoming trendy bar/club/lounge scenery at Mckenzie Beach. For a more relaxed time on the beach you should try "Foinikoudes Beach" or "Kastella Beach".



Byron Christodoulides, General Manager, Lordos Hotel

What do you love most about Larnaka?

Larnaka is a quiet place, excellent choice for families and yet so close to everything for those who want to

experience different things. Larnaka combines culture, fun, agrotourism, relaxing but also the best beaches, a variety of water sports and nightlife.

Where To Visit?

The best starting point to explore Cyprus and not only...Saint Lazarus church, Angeloktisti Church, Medieval Castle, Lefkara village.

Where To Go?

Mckenzie area day and night, diving at the Zenobia wreck, Kitesurfing in Pervolia and a Larnaka Bay Cruise.



George Psaras, Director, Larnaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

What do you love most about Larnaka?

The fact that the historic and commercial centre is harmoniously combined with the seaside area.

Where To Visit?

It is recommended to visit attractions which are off the beaten track such as churches with unique and significant wall paintings, for instance the Archangel Michael Church in Kato Lefkara, Angeloktisti Church in Kiti and Agios Antonios

Church in Kellia.

Where To Go?

Having a cup of coffee any time of the day at a cafeteria on the Foinikoudes Promenade and enjoying a meat or fish meze fiesta.



Antigoni Kapodistria, Cyprus Tourism Organisation

What do you love most about Larnaka?

Larnaka is the most accessible and relaxing place to be around! A resort type of area offering tourists a multidimensional experience including historical sites, clean and safe beaches, diversified gastronomic flavors, entertainment for all ages throughout the year, very children friendly and a lot more.

Where To Visit?

Do not miss Saint Lazarus Church. Walk down Foinikoudes promenade from morning till sunset.

Where To Go?

Swimming at Yiannathes beach at 5.30 in the morning. Enjoying a Cyprus coffee with friends at the Foinikoudes promenade with the view of the Larnaka Marina.



Andreas Constantinou
Cyprus Tourism Organisation

What do you love most about Larnaka?

What I mostly love about Larnaka is the fact that while it seems a quiet and laid back region, at the same time a visitor can have an experience of a lifetime, from down in the town, to its long beaches, the villages and up in the mountains.

Where To Visit?

I especially recommend visiting one of the villages of the region for enjoying the tranquility of the landscape and the experience of mouthwatering local delicacies, and of course a walk on the Foinikoudes promenade that will end up with a coffee or dinner at one of many restaurants.

Where To Go?

As for activities of course dancing the night out at one, or why not several clubs and beach bars on Mckenzie Beach and trying kitesurfing at Larnaka's west coast.



Michalis Zanos, Director, Larnaka District Development Agency

What do you love most about Larnaka?

I love the hospitality of people in Larnaka, the weather of Larnaka and the beautiful beaches of Larnaka.

Where To Visit?

I recommend a visit to the Saint Lazarus Church, Larnaka Salt Lake and Lefkara Municipality as well.

Where To Go?

Recommended activities in Larnaka are sailing, swimming and cycling.



Demetris Michael
Agrotourism Company

What do you love most about Larnaka?

There is nothing not to love about Larnaka. However what I love the most is the location as it is right next to the beach. It offers itself for long walks and swimming. It is ideal for relaxing.

Where To Visit?

One of the most monumental churches to visit is Saint Lazarus Church. Its outstanding architecture can leave everyone at awe.

Where To Go?

Have a cruise with a glass-bottom boat over the Zenobia Wreck, or even better go diving there.



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Where To Stay

From the friendliness of the locals right through to the attentiveness of staff. Everything is geared to make your stay as pleasurable and as memorable as possible. Larnaka's large variety of accommodation ensures there is something to suit every budget and style of holiday a guest could require.





CTO Licensed Accommodation Establishments

Built on the site where ancient Kition once stood, Larnaka is the successor of one of the ancient city-kingdoms of Cyprus.

Contemporary Larnaka, with its palm-lined sea-front promenade known as Foinikoudes and picturesque yachting marina, has a charm of its own. Larnaka is an ideal base for those wishing to explore the entire island. Its central position and good highway access, connect you to the entire island with great ease.

Both Larnaka and Lefkara Municipalities offer services for Civil Weddings with a choice of breathtaking reception venues throughout the region.

The abundance of activities and facilities available in close proximity of one another make Larnaka an excellent destination for conference and team building events also, with many destination management companies providing such services to the area.

HOTELS

HOTEL APARTMENTS

TRADITIONAL HOUSES -HOTELS/APARTMENTS

TOURIST APARTMENTS/VILLAS



Our island's hospitality is legendary and I can assure you that in Cyprus you will be given the warmest of welcomes. Whether you prefer to lounge around in the lap of luxury at a five-star hotel right on the beach with every amenity, including health centre and spa, or if you choose a hotel apartment or villa with pool for independent flexibility, or even a quiet hide-away in the hills in a simple family-run establishment for a back-to-nature experience, you will find what you want. Whether mountains or beach, city or countryside, our island can accommodate you.

Cyprus is definitely a place of beautiful contrasts, offering wide possibilities and choices. Larnaka is an accordingly diverse, exceptional destination that is capable of offering a multidimensional and qualitative holiday experience. It is both a historical and contemporary destination that is continuously evolving and improving towards the best, pursuing the highest tourist standards. However, what is of utmost importance is that the people of Larnaka believe in the true substance of hospitality and cherish each and every visitor.

Alecos Orountiotis
Chairman
Cyprus Tourism Organisation

Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

HOTELS

GOLDEN BAY 5*

Web: www.goldenbay.com.cy

ALDIANA 4*

Web: www.zypern.aldiana.com

HOTEL-E 4*

Web: www.hotel-e.com

LORDOS BEACH 4*

Web: www.lordosbeach.com.cy

PRINCESS BEACH HOTEL 4*

Web: www.princessbeachhotel.com

PALM BEACH HOTEL AND BUNGALOWS 4*

Web: www.palmbeachhotel.com

SANDY BEACH 4*

Web: www.sandybeachhotel.com.cy

SUN HALL 4*

Web: www.aquasolhotels.com

FLAMINGO BEACH 3*

Web: www.flamingobeachcyprus.com

HENIPA 3*

Web: www.crownresortsgroup.com

SVELTOS 3*

Web: www.sveltoshotel.com

ACHILLEOS 2*

Web: www.achilleoshotel.com

CACTUS 2*

Web: www.cactuscyprus.com

EASY HOTEL 2*

Web: www.easyhotel.com

ELYSSO 2*

Web: www.elysso.com

I.B. SANDBEACH CASTLE 2*

Web: www.castlehotel.com.cy

LARCO 2*

Web: www.hotelsinlarnaka.com

LES PALMIERS 2*

Web: www.lespalmiers.com.cy

LIVADHIOTIS 2*

Web: www.livadhiotis.com

MARIANDY 2*

Web: www.mariandyhotel.com

ONISILLOS 2*

Web: www.onisillos.com.cy

REBIOZ 2*

Tel: +357 24 635 300

SAN REMO 2*

Web: www.sanremo.com.cy

LEFKARA HOTEL 1*

Web: www.lefkaramahotels.com

HOTEL APARTMENTS

ATRIUM ZENON A'

Web: www.atrium-zenon.com

ANTONIS G. B'

Web: www.antonisg.com

BORONIA B'

Web: www.boroniahotelapts.com

FRANGIORGIO B'

Web: www.frangiorgio.com

FRIXOS B'

Web: www.frixoshotel.com.cy

KLASHIANA B'
Tel: +357 24 647 500

LAYIOTIS B'
Tel: +357 24 624 700

LUCKY B'
Web: www.luckyhotelapts.com

LYSITHEA B'
Web: www.lysitheahotel.com

SEA'N LAKE VIEW B'
Tel: +357 24 623 777

SUN HALL HOTEL APTS B'
Web: www.sunhallbeachhotelapts.com

SUNFLOWER B'
Web: www.sunflowerhotelapts.com

TSIALIS B'
Web: www.tsialishotel.com

LARNAKA ALEXIA C'
Web: www.alexiahotelapartments.com

PATSALOS C'
Tel: +357 24 628 200

TSOKKOS NO.7 C'
Tel: +357 24 622 900

TRADITIONAL HOUSES - HOTEL/ APARTMENTS

AGIA ELENI
Tochni
Tel: +357 24 828 240

ANESI HOUSE
Skarinou
Tel: +357 24 531 809

ANNA
Tochni
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

ANNA SKARINOU HOUSE
Skarinou
Web: www.agrotourismincyprus.com

ANTRI HOUSE
Kalavassos
Web: www.kalavassos-cy.com

ARISTOS HOUSE
Kalavassos
Tel: +357 99 624 767

AUNT MARIA'S
Pano Lefkara
Web: www.auntmarias.com

CHRIS HOUSE
Tochni
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

DANAE'S
Tochni
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

DIMITRIS & MELANI
Tochni
Tel: +357 99 372 093

EVELEOS COUNTRY HOUSE
Tochni
Web: www.filokypros.com

EVELEOS COUNTRY HOUSE A
Tochni
Web: www.filokypros.com

EVELEOS COUNTRY HOUSE B
Tochni
Web: www.filokypros.com

EVKARPOS COUNTRY HOUSE
Psematismenos
Web: www.filokypros.com

GABRIEL HOUSE
Kato Drys
Web: www.gabrielhouse-cy.com

GARDEN KAMARA HOUSE
Kato Drys
Tel: +357 99 892 677

**IOSIPHIS'S STONEBUILT
HOUSE**
Lefkara
Web: www.iosiphishouse.com

JASMINES HOUSE
Tochni
Tel: +357 22 782 525

KLEANTHIS HOUSE NO.1
Tochni
Web: www.tochnivillas.com

KONTOYIANNIS
Kalavassos
Web: www.kontoyiannis.com

KOZAKOS HOUSES
Lefkara
Web: www.kozakosluxuryhouses.com

LITO 2
Skarinou
Web: www.agrotourismincyprus.com

LITO 3
Skarinou
Web: www.agrotourismincyprus.com

MESPILO
Tochni
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

MODUS VIVENDI
Psematismenos
Web: www.modusvivendiholidays.com

MYRTO
Tochni
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

NIOVI HOUSE
Tochni
Web: www.tochnivillas.com

O NOSTOS
Tochni
Tel: +357 24 333 122

PAVLIS HOUSE
Agiou Vavatsinias
Tel: +357 99 626 744

**PORFYRIOS
COUNTRY HOUSE**
Choirokoitia
Web: www.filokypros.com

REDBLUEDOOR
Lefkara
Web: www.redbluedoor.com

ROMIOS HOUSE
Kalavassos
Tel: +357 24 333 425

SOFRONIS
Kalavassos
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

STRATOS HOUSE
Kalavassos
Web: www.stratoshousecyprus.com

TA DOMATA TOU ZENIOU
Troulloi
Tel: +357 99 664 033

TAKIS
Kalavassos
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

TENTA
Kalavassos
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

THE HOUSE OF ACHILLES
Choirokoitia
Web: www.thehouseofachilles.com

TO KONATZI TOU FLOKKA
Agiou Theodoros
Tel: +357 24 322 718

TO SPITI TIS MELISSAS
Psematismenos
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

TO SPITI TIS MELISSAS NO. 2
Psematismenos
Web: www.cyprusvillages.com.cy

**TO SPITI TOU
DASKALOU**
Maroni
Tel: +357 99 676 207

TO SPITI TOU KALOGIROU
Tochni
Web: www.kalogirou-house.com

TO SPITI TOU KOSMA
Skarinou
Web: www.agrotourismincyprus.com

TO SPITI TOU MICHALI
Skarinou
Web: www.agrotourismincyprus.com

TO SPITI TOU VASILOPOULOU
Tochni
Web: www.vasilopouloshouse.com.cy

TO SPITI TOU VRAKA
Tochni
Web: www.tochnivillas.com

TO SPITIKO DAMIANOU
Odu

VALIS & GIORGIANA HOUSE

VAVLA RUSTIC RETREAT
Vavla
Web: www.vavlarusticretreat.com

CITY ALKISTI
Larnaka Town
Web: www.cityalkisti.com

**THE LIBRARY WELLNESS
RETREAT**
Kalavassos
Web: www.libraryhotelcyprus.com

TOURIST APART- MENTS/VILLAS

AUGUSTA
Web: www.augusta-cyprus.com

NAUTILUS
Web: www.nautilusapartments.com.cy

PASIANNA
Web: www.pasianna.com

PASYEK PEO
Tel: +357 24 645 640

PETROU BROS HOLIDAY
Tel: +357 24 650 600

THALASSA TON FOINIKON
Tel: +357 24 659 232

REGINA'S EXCLUSIVE VILLAS
Web: www.reginasvillas.com

Larnaka's Loyal Friends

The Larnaka Tourism Board has established the Larnaka Loyal Friends Scheme to show returning visitors they are in the region's heart.

If you have visited the Larnaka region more than ten times and stayed in one of its licensed accommodation establishments, listed within this section, please request an application form from your hotel reception or call the Larnaka Tourism Board on: Tel: +357 24 657 070.

It may be you we are honouring at the next Loyal Friends ceremony, where you will be presented with a commemorative plaque and a bottle of wine!

Where To Visit

There are many amazing places to visit whilst in Larnaka. The region's Religious, Cultural and Rural locations offer you a great insight into not only the history, for which Cyprus is plentiful, but they will also allow you to unearth a true understanding of the Cypriot way of life and that of its people.

When visiting multiple sites or museums belonging to the Department of Antiquities, it may be good to know that you can pick up a one-day, three-day or seven-day pass, which will allow unlimited access to a number of sites. These can be purchased from the Larnaka District Archaeological Museum or the Medieval Castle Museum.



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Religious Sites

Cyprus is steeped in religious history. It is one of the first places visited by apostles Paul and Barnabas to spread the word of God, with Larnaka itself being the location where Saint Lazarus spent the remainder of his years following his resurrection by Jesus Christ.

Being strategically placed amongst the three continents of Europe, Africa and Asia, this magnificent island is ideally situated as a hub or link for import and export activity, the main reason why so many historical nations have fought for its occupation. Sadly this still remains a fact today.

As a result, through the centuries Larnaka has been at the crossroads of civilisations. This heritage is evident today, here Christians and Muslims exercise their faith, co-existing in harmony. Places of worship include Muslim Mosques, Armenian, Catholic or Anglican Churches and many others alongside the countless Greek Orthodox Churches that are an integral part of the scenery.

Should you have an interest in churches and Byzantine Art, the Larnaka region becomes an open museum.

AGIOS LAZAROS CHURCH

STAVROVOUNI MONASTERY

HALA SULTAN TEKKE

ANGELOKTISTI CHURCH

AGIOS MINAS CONVENT

ROYAL CHAPEL

RELIGIOUS ROUTES

Left image © Where To Cyprus. All remaining images © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Agios Lazaros Church

When Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, fell ill and subsequently died, Jesus wept at the news of his death, (John 11:35). Jesus was so deeply moved in spirit and troubled by these events, in a demonstration of the Glory of God, Jesus requested that Lazarus' tombstone be removed even though it had been four days since Lazarus' death, 'Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" The dead man came forth', (John 11: 43).

Following the resurrection by Christ, the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus, (John 12:10) as he constituted living evidence of a miracle and more and more people were turning to God and believing in Jesus. As a result it was suggested that the Saint should flee to the island of Cyprus in 33AD. Here he met the Apostles Paul and Barnabas who ordained him as the first Bishop of Kition, the modern day Larnaka. Lazarus' presence became an example of God's love for his people and his deeds symbolized man's love for God.

Saint Lazarus was said to have died at the age of sixty. His sarcophagus at Kition with the inscription, "The four-Day Lazarus, friend of Christ", was later unearthed in the small church that once existed in this current location.

In 890 AD the emperor of Byzantium Leon VI built the church of Agios Lazaros (Saint Lazarus) over the original tomb in exchange for the transfer of



the Saint's relic to Constantinople.

The tomb, along with other marble sarcophagi and box shaped tombs brought to light during excavations, can be seen inside the church crypt. The precious 12th century icon of the Saint and the unique baroque wood-carvings of the gold covered iconostasis that were completed in 1782, have all survived until today.

Situated in the centre of Larnaka, the magnificent early 10th century stone church of Agios Lazaros is one of the most important surviving Byzantine monuments of Cyprus.



Address:
Plateia Agiou Lazarou (Saint Lazarus Square), Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 652 498

Opening Hours:
Sunday 08:00-12:30, 15:30-17:00
Summer Period
Monday-Saturday
08:00-12:30, 14:00-18:30
Winter Period
Monday-Saturday
08:00-12:30, 14:00-17:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

Left Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation. Image Right © Where To Cyprus.

Stavrovouni Monastery

The Stavrovouni Monastery was built on the peak of what was once known as Olympus Mountain during the 4th century.

The mountain has since adopted the name of the monastery 'Stavrovouni' deriving from two greek words 'stavros' meaning cross and 'vouno' meaning mountain, translated as "the Mountain of the Cross". Today 'Olympus' is used to refer to the highest point of the Troodos Mountains further to the west of the island.

Being the earliest documented monastery from the Byzantine period on the island, Stavrovouni Monastery is dedicated to the Holy Cross. According to religious tradition, the monastery was founded by the mother of the Byzantine Emperor Constantine I, the Great, Helena. During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Saint Helena found the three crosses on which Jesus and the two thieves had been crucified. Following the excavation Saint Helena left Jerusalem and the eastern provinces in 327AD to return to Rome, bringing with her the crosses or large parts of the True Cross and other relics. On her return to Constantinople she was shipwrecked on the island of Cyprus.

Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Legend has it that the Holy Cross was transferred by a miracle to the peak of the mountain. Following several attempts to remove the cross from the



mountain, Saint Helena left a piece there and built a small chapel in its place.

Saint Helena spent some time in Cyprus and it is said that she left several of her treasures behind. Items such as, part of Jesus Christ's tunic, pieces of the Holy Cross and the world's only pieces of the rope with which Jesus was tied on the Cross. The latter is held at the Timios Stavros Monastery in Omodos, whereas a silver cross in which a minute piece of the holy cross is inserted, remains in Stavrovouni with one other piece held at the Timios Stavros Church in Lefkara.

The monks here are renowned for their icon painting.

Address:
Stavrovouni,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 22 533 630

Opening Hours:
September-March
07:00-11:00, 14:00-17:00
April-August
08:00-12:00, 15:00-18:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

Please Note: Women are not allowed to visit Stavrovouni Monastery. Men may visit the monastery however they must be modestly dressed. The use of cameras or video cameras is prohibited.

Hala Sultan Tekke



Overlooking the Salt Lake, Hala Sultan Tekke is built over the gravesite of Umm Haram, wife of Ouwadas Ibn - as Samiz, a general of Moavias who was the leader of the first Arabic invasion of the island in 649 B.C.

According to legend, Umm Haram was an aunt or close friend of the prophet Mohammad. It is said that she followed Mohammad in his Hajar (withdrawal) from Mecca to Medina in 622 A.D. Mohammad was to be the one to tell Umm Haram of his vision from God. He told her that she would be one of the first to fight and conquer the islands so as to allow Muslims to conquer the Mediterranean Sea region in order to spread their faith. As a result of this vision,

Umm Haram was eager to join her husband when the time came for the Arab naval attacks on Cyprus.

During the victory parade, Umm Haram died when she fell from the mule carrying her, she was said to have died instantly from a broken neck. Umm Haram was buried in the exact spot on which she died. The mosque was built over her grave some time later, however the exact date is not known.

Hala Sultan Tekke is the main site of Muslim pilgrimage on the island of Cyprus and is deemed one of the most sacred holy places of Islam, visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.

Address:
Dromolaxia,
Larnaka

Opening Hours:
Summer 16 April-15 September
Daily 08:30-19:30
Winter 16 September-15 April
Daily 08:30-17:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

Please Note: Part Wheelchair Accessible

Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Angeloktisti Church

This 11th century Byzantine church, whose name means “built by angels”, was erected over the ruins of an Early Christian basilica in Kiti.

The original apse survived together with one of the finest pieces of Byzantine art of the Justinian period, a rare 6th century mosaic of the Virgin and Child between two archangels.

Only in Cyprus and in Mount Sinai mosaics of this period survived the iconoclastic decrees ordering the destruction of most icons and objects of idolatry.

Other 10th and 14th century mosaics can also be seen at this wonderful stone built church.



Address:
Kiti,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 424 646

Opening Hours:
June-August
Daily 06:00-18:30
September-May
Daily 06:00-16:30

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

Please Note: Wheelchair Accessible

All Images © Where To Cyprus.



Agios Minas Convent



This 15th century convent in Vavla, near the village of Lefkara consists of a church, cloisters and other monastic buildings.

It is known that this convent likely began as a Dominican establishment with eighteenth century surrounding monastic buildings.

A mix of Byzantine and Gothic architectural styles are demonstrated with the pointed vault with traverse ribs and side porticos.

On the north and south walls are two large paintings of Agios Georgios and Agios Minas dated 1757.

There are currently thirteen nuns who reside within this peaceful idyllic setting. Once you enter the main build-

ing a beautiful courtyard welcomes you, leading you to the convent's main church of Agios (Saint) Minas.

The Orthodox Saint Minas was born in Egypt in 250 AD. Once a military man of the Roman army, Saint Minas deserted following orders to persecute Christians in North Africa. Saint Minas remained on the mountain to which he fled for many years and purified himself with prayers, sleeplessness and fasting. He was later beheaded following his refusal to denounce Christ.

In addition to performing their religious rites, the nuns who reside here are recognised for their sought after icon painting. You can also expect to find both tourists and locals alike purchasing items made or grown at the convent, such as marmalades and nectarines.



Address:
Vavla,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 342 952

Opening Hours:
May-September
Daily 09:30-11:30, 15:00-16:30
October-April
Daily 09:30-11:30, 14:00-16:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

Please Note:
Advance group bookings
Modesty dress is required to enter church

All Images © Where To Cyprus.

Royal Chapel



This small unimposing Chapel of Agia Aikaterini, (Saint Catherine) in Pyrga retains a great history from the Frankish period.

Guy of Lusignan purchased the island of Cyprus from the Knights Templar in 1192; they themselves purchased it from Richard the Lionheart after he conquered the island in 1191 during the Third Crusade.

Guy Lusignan was crowned

as the first King of Cyprus, although technically he was Lord of Cyprus, as it was not deemed a Kingdom at that time.

The descendants of the Lusignans continued to rule the Kingdom of Cyprus until 1489 ending with Caterina Cornaro Queen of Cyprus, wife of King James II of Lusignan.

King Janus of Lusignan, the thirteenth King of Cyprus, built the

Royal Chapel in 1421. The Chapel contains a wall painting of the King with his second wife, Charlotte de Bourbon, whom he married in 1411. Charlotte later died from the plague on 15th January 1422 and was buried in Lefkosia.

The Royal Chapel is considered one of the most interesting structures surviving from the Frankish period, and is situated in Pyrga village.



Address:
Pyrga,
Larnaka

Opening Hours:
Daily any reasonable hour

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,50 Euros
2,00 Euros each for Groups 10+

Religious Routes

The Cyprus Tourism Organisation has put together unguided religious routes to allow visitors to follow these in their own time and at their own pace. We have listed examples of four religious itineraries which include Larnaka's religious heritage.

Larnaka Religious Route

Larnaka Religious Route is a 73 kilometre route starting at Agios Lazaros Church followed by the Ecclesiastical Museum of Agios Lazaros and Angeloktisti Church, a very significant Byzantine church with a mosaic of the 6th century, in Kiti.

Heading towards Kato Lefkara, the route passes from the church of Archangelos Michael, with beautiful

frescoes of the 12th and 15th centuries. Then onto the church of Timios Stavros, in Pano Lefkara followed by Agios Minas Convent, in Vavla.

In Choirokitia lie the ruins of a monastery which once belonged to Knights Templar and later to Knights Hospitaller as well as the church of Panagia tou Kampou which has some significant frescoes. Pyrga is the last stop of this route with Stavrovouni Monastery, followed by the Royal Chapel as well as the church

of Agia Marina.

Larnaka To Ammochostos Route

Larnaka - Ammochostos Religious Route is 76 kilometres long starting at the Church and Ecclesiastical Museum of Agios Lazaros.

In Sotira, the route passes from the Church of Metamorfoseos tou Sotiros (Transfiguration of the Saviour), a cemetery church dating back to the last years of the Venetian rule



Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.



Top Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Bottom Image © Where To Cyprus. 'Religious Routes' text obtained from the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Multi-Cultural Christian Cyprus

Multi-Cultural Christian Cyprus shows its tolerance to other religions best with this route.

A basic characteristic of Cyprus, which makes it special, is the peaceful coexistence of Christianity and Islam, while at the same time, the Orthodox share the same space with the Armenians and the Catholics. This coexistence of many years has been the reason for the construction as well as preservation of various monuments. The relation between the Orthodox and the Muslims starts in the 7th century with the commencement of the Arabic raids on the island. The Hala Sultan Tekke mosque signals the relation between the area and Prophet Mohammad. Later, in the 11th century with the commencement of the Crusades and, more specifically, after the conquest of the island by Richard the Lionheart and its surrender to the Franks, Cyprus gets to know Catholicism which dominates the island after its occupation by the Venetians. Monuments on this route are, the Church of Agios Lazaros in Larnaka, the Hala Sultan Tekke in Dromolaxia, Angeloktisti Church in Kiti, the Church of Panagia in Kisivili, the Church of Agia Aikaterini in Klavdia, the Gothic Church of Panagia Stazousa and the Royal Chapel in Pyrga and finally the Stavrovouni Monastery.

Worship of the Holy Cross

Worship of the Holy Cross in Cyprus is a fantastic route to follow through the island.

The fact that Cyprus is at the cen-

tre of Eastern Mediterranean, very close to the Middle East and Asia Minor, played a significant role as a stop on the way to and from the Holy Land. Tradition has it that Saint Helena, the Mother of Constantine I the Great, when transferring the Holy Cross from Palestine stopped in Cyprus and followed a course along which churches dedicated to the Holy Cross were built.

The route starts from the Stavrovouni Monastery, followed by the church of Timios Stavros in Tochni which is the only church built on a bridge. In Timios Stavros Monastery in Omodos, visitors will see a piece of the rope used to tie Jesus on the cross. Legend has it, this was left there by Saint Helena.

Monuments listed on this route are, the Monasteries of Timios Stavros in Stavrovouni, Omodos, Anogyra and Tsada and the Churches of Timios Stavros in Tochni, Lefkara, Pelendri and Kouka.

The entire route length is not fixed.





Cultural Sites

Larnaka has a long, colourful and rich history. Hundreds of years of contrasting civilizations, architecture and culture have left their mark on what has always been one of Cyprus' most important and diverse regions.

With such a varied number of cultural sites and museums, visitors are able to take with them a true indication of Larnaka's history, spanning thousands of years.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

HISTORICAL FIGURES

MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY

LARNAKA DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE PIERIDES MUSEUM

LARNAKA MEDIEVAL CASTLE & MUSEUM

ECCLESIASTICAL MUSEUM OF AGIOS LAZAROS

KYRIAZIS MEDICAL MUSEUM

KALLINIKEIO MUSEUM

KITION ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

CHOIROKOITIA NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT

KALAVASOS-TENTA NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT

KAMARES-THE OLD AQUEDUCT

LARNAKA SALT LAKE

LARNAKA CULTURAL WALK

LARNAKA GUIDED WALKING TOURS

Left and Right Images © Cyprus Tourism Organisation. Middle Image © Ntina Halla.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

Pre - Neolithic 10000 - 8200BC

Larnaka boasts one of the few places in Cyprus that can show evidence of life during the Pre-Neolithic period. Just a few kilometers from Larnaka, at a site on the river Tremithos near the village of Agia Anna, the bones of now extinct local primitives were discovered.

Neolithic 8200 - 3900BC

The most well known Neolithic life on the island developed around the Maroni and Vasilopotamos rivers, about 25 kilometers west of Larnaka. Choirokoitia is also considered to be the first 'urban' settlement in Europe and is recognised by UNESCO. Recent discoveries near the famous site of the Larnaka Salt Lake have also uncovered a Neolithic settlement. At the site of Ancient Kition, several items of movable Neolithic equipment have also been discovered. Some of the unique handmade pieces from this period are exhibited at the District Archaeological Museum and at the Pierides Museum.

Chalcolithic 3900 - 2500BC

With the widespread use of copper marking the Chalcolithic period, the Larnaka area had an array of copper mines, the most well known at Troulli, Kalavastos and Shia villages. Many other findings from this period, especially artefacts made of clay, decorate the city's museums.

Bronze Age 2500 - 1050BC

The Larnaka area was the most populous in Cyprus throughout the Bronze Age. The trading of copper and other island products with other civilisations across the Mediterranean required the use of a port, and Larnaka had one of the first in Cyprus, together with a developed sense of 'urban' life. With the region continuously inhabited without interruption

for about 4,000 years, trade became plentiful. For example, tombs in the city provide evidence of trade exchanges with Egypt since the year 2000BC. During the 13th century BC, Larnaka became known as "Kition", with ancient myth describing how the town was named after Noah's son, "Kittim." Larnaka hosted the great Greek - Mycenaean colonisation in the 13th century BC.

Geometric Period 1050 - 750BC

Larnaka hosted the Phoenician colonisation in the 9th century BC. Surviving architectural remains of the 12th century include the Cyclopean walls and, of the 9th century, the Temple of Astarte - Aphrodite, which is described in the Old Testament. These architectural remains can be visited at the site called "Ancient Kition".

Archaic Period 750 - 480BC

After the Assyrian conquest of Cyprus, which lasted from 709 - 670BC, the City Kingdom became autonomous and very powerful, with its commercial and battle navy very significant within the Eastern Mediterranean. This period of power lasted until the Persian conquest of 546BC, when the Persians allowed the self-rule of the Kingdom in return for the provision of having their battle ships armed and ready. The ships of the town fought on the side of the Persians against Egypt and Greece, but the Satrap later blamed the Cypriot crews, being mostly of Greek descent, for the defeat at the naval battle of Salamis (490BC), executed the King of Kition and established a new Phoenician dynasty, which lasted until 312BC.

Classical Period 480 - 310BC

The new Phoenician dynasty, with the support of the Persians, put under its control the nearby Kingdom of Idalion and the whole rural surrounding area. Temples and statues found from the period demonstrate the popular gods of Hercules - Melkart,

Aphrodite - Astarte, Artemis - Diana and the legendary Zeus. In the 5th and 4th centuries BC, the Cypriot - Phoenician dynasty of kings undertook a vast amount of building and public work, including the port of this period, which was discovered in the early 1990's in a rare and excellent condition. During the period, the Athenian alliance repeatedly attempted to free Cyprus from Persian rule. The Athenian General Kimon died in Larnaka-Kition in 449BC and he is regarded a hero of the town until this day. His statue stands proudly on the Palm Trees Promenade of Larnaka. At around 329BC, Alexander the Great succeeded in defeating the Persians on all fronts and Kition lived its last period as an autonomous City Kingdom.

Hellenistic Period 310 - 30BC

Kition lived and prospered in the Hellenistic times under the rule of the Ptolemaic Empire of Egypt. At this time, Zeno of Kition and his stoic, Athenian philosophy was established and became popular culture with the Greeks and Romans. The last Ptolemaic Queen of Cyprus was Cleopatra the Beautiful. She lost Egypt first and then Cyprus (30BC) after her alliance with the Roman General Anthony and their defeat by the Roman naval power. Zeno's copper statue in the town was confiscated by the Romans and was shipped to Rome with all the other treasures of the Ptolemaic State in Cyprus. Two statues of Zeno of Kition now decorate the city as he is considered the greatest Cypriot scholar of all time.

Roman Times 30BC - 330AD

During the 1st century AD, the town had a large Jewish population up until the Roman Imperial Decree of 116AD. At about the same period, the Phoenicians adopted the Greek language and culture, not only in Cyprus, but also in Phoenicia. Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine I the Great, passed through the area in 326 AD and donated one piece of the Holy Cross to the Church that she built at

'Stavrovouni'. This marked the final Christianisation of the town.

Byzantine Period 330 – 1191AD

The Arab - Islamic attempt to occupy Cyprus interrupted Byzantine peace in Kition. After the first attempt in 649AD, the Hala Sultan Tekke near the salt lake was founded by the Arabs to honour Umm Haram who died there. This made Hala Sultan Tekke an important religious place for all Muslims. The Arab attempts against Cyprus continued unsuccessfully for about three centuries. These raids destroyed most of the early Christian monuments in Cyprus, except for the famous mosaic of the 6th century AD at the Church of Angeloktisti in nearby Kiti. In the 10th century, the Byzantines again restored their order and the town's famous Church of Saint Lazarus, built in 890AD by Emperor Leo the Wise, is regarded as the most important Byzantine monument surviving on the island.

The Frankish Kingdom 1191 – 1489AD

King Richard the Lionheart of England occupied Cyprus in 1190AD during the 3rd crusade but, as he could not rule Cyprus, he first sold it to the Knights of the Templar and then to his friend Guy Lusignian, who established a Frankish Kingdom on the island, lasting until 1486AD. This is a period that Kition began to be called 'L'Arnica' in French, eventually morphing into Larnaka. This change of the name is due to the fact that 'Larnakas' (the tombs) was at that time a known quarter of the town, confused by the Franks with 'L'arnica', named after the plant that had once densely covered the area. In the Frankish period, Larnaka was also called Salinas (salt lakes), as it was the major port for the export of salt, which was massively produced here. For 90 years, Larnaka served the Kingdom as its major port with the King obliged to upgrade the castle for protection.

Venetian Period 1489 – 1571AD

In 1489AD, Katrina Cornaro, the last Luzignian Queen of Cyprus, abdicated in favour of Venice after the sudden death of her husband. The Venetians ruled Cyprus until 1571 when the Ottoman fleet landed a strong army in Larnaka. The Venetians maximized the exploitation of Larnaka's salt, which they traded with great profit. As a result, they undertook protection works for Larnaka's salt lake and established an early-warning network of watchtowers around Larnaka's bay for protection against both pirates and the long expected Ottoman attack. When this attack eventually happened in 1570AD, they did not resist in Larnaka, only in Lefkosia and Ammochostos.

The Ottoman Rule 1571 – 1878AD

After the Ottomans landed in Larnaka, it remained the most important port in Cyprus due to its close vicinity to Lefkosia. In 1625AD, the castle was reconstructed, as it can be seen today, to serve as the protector of the Larnaka port. All foreign consuls were based in Larnaka rather than the capital of Lefkosia and the town was the most modern and rich in Cyprus. During the Greek revolution of 1821, Larnaka was the centre of the Cypriot rebellion against Ottoman rule.

The English Rule 1878 – 1960AD

In 1878AD, Larnaka peacefully received the British navy and army, when the Sultan submitted the island to the Queen for her services in the Turkish - Russian war. The British colonial-style building of the palm trees promenade and the pier of the Larnaka Marina were constructed a year after the British occupation to serve trade and administration purposes, as the town was still the most important in Cyprus. In the early years of British rule, Larnaka became the place that

the first newspapers of Cyprus were published and the centre for Cyprus' modernisation. However, the construction by the English of a new port in Ammochostos and a railway connecting Ammochostos with Lefkosia in the 1930's were reasons for the decline of Larnaka's importance, which by 1960, had become Cyprus' fourth largest city in terms of population.

The Republic of Cyprus 1960

The island's independence was earned in 1960 and Larnaka had a mixed predominantly Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot population. The new government had constructed a new port and a marina for the city. In 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus and Larnaka received thousands of forcefully displaced persons from the northern section of the island, at the same time losing its Turkish Cypriot inhabitants. Subsequently, a new airport was constructed in Larnaka to replace the one lost in Lefkosia, which to this day sits abandoned within the Green Line that still divides the island. Larnaka's tourism continued to develop rapidly in the early 1980's and its population increased to around 80,000 in the city and 133,000 in the district.

Cyprus became a member of the European Union on the 1st of May 2004. Larnaka is now the third largest and most populated city in Cyprus. It is also now the easternmost city of the New Europe. In late 2009, the construction of the new Larnaka International Airport was completed, allowing for an annual capacity of 7.5 million passengers, underlining the city's importance as both the major gateway to Cyprus and as a wider regional hub. Larnaka offers its visitors a multitude of options, with a well-defined historical centre, important museums, excellent coastlines for swimming, a multitude of shops and an exciting nightlife scene that embraces all generations.

Chronological text obtained from the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Historical Figures



ZENO OF KITION

Zeno of Kition (Citium) was the founder of the Stoic School of Philosophy in Athens. He was born in Kition (ancient Larnaka) in 334BC to the ancient Phoenician civilization.

Zeno divided philosophy into three parts: (1) Logic; rhetoric, grammar, perception and thought, (2) Physics; the divine nature of nature itself and (3) Ethics; the belief that happiness can only be achieved through right reason, coinciding with universal reason that governs everything. From this stems morally good actions, which brings virtue.

Therefore Stoicism laid great emphasis on peace of mind and goodness gained from living a virtuous life in accordance with nature. This

“We have two ears and one mouth, so we should listen more than we say.”

philosophical and ethical thought thrived as the foremost philosophy from the Hellenistic period through to the Roman era.

Zeno had many admirers among of which was the King Antigonos II Gonatas of Macedonia, who would often visit him when in Athens. Zeno

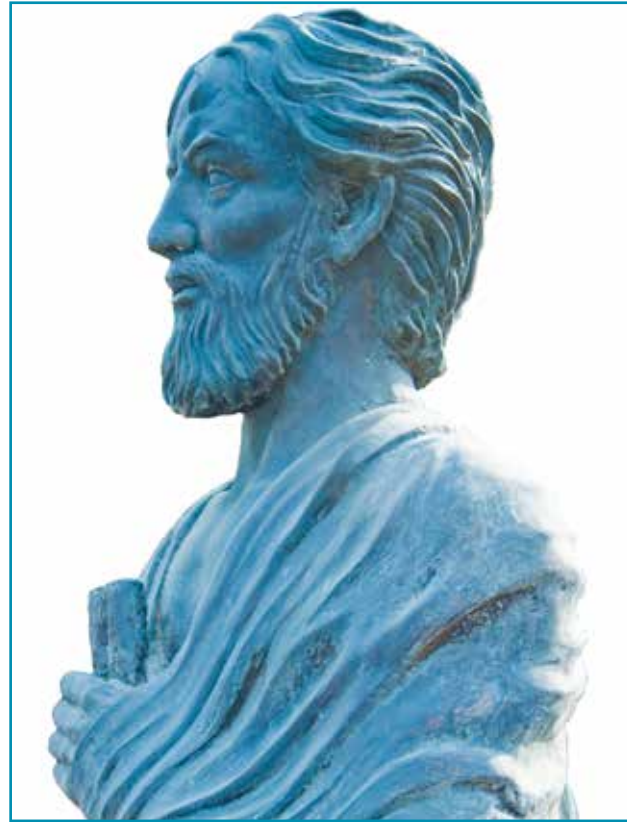
was honoured for his work, teachings and for the moral influence on the youth in his era. The crater Zeno on the Moon is also named in his honor. However, it is said, he declined when offered Athenian citizenship, so as not to appear unfaithful to his native land where he was held in high regard. Zeno died around 262 BC.

Larnaka honoured Zeno with two statues in the city centre, one located in Europe Square and the other one opposite the Municipal Gardens.

KIMON THE ATHENIAN

Kimon was a popular statesman who was an imposing figure and brilliant soldier who was known for his kindness - never letting anyone go hungry.

Kimon was the son of General Miltiades and he too quickly became an accomplished soldier who won numerous military victories but was best known for destroying an entire Persian fleet and Army in 466 BC and for establishing the Athenian maritime empire. The Ancient city of Kition in Cyprus was held by the Persians and Kimon and his army besieged the city. It was during the siege that Kimon was killed but 30 days after his death, the Persians surrendered. He is known as the General who “even in death, he was



All images © Larnaka Tourism Board. Zeno of Kition written by Androulla Kyriacou. Kimon the Athenian and Apollonios of Kition written by Chrissie Flint.

victorious.” This was because on his death bed he urged his officers to conceal his death from both their allies and the Persians. Kimon’s body was returned and buried in Athens, the city that he worked for its development such as the expansion of Acropolis and the city walls as well as the construction of a road network.

APOLLONIOS OF KITION

Apollonios was a Cypriot physician who was famous throughout the Ancient Greek world. He was born

in Kition (ancient Larnaka) in about 60 BC and studied medicine in Alexandria. He returned to Kition where he soon gained the reputation of being the best physician, specialising in surgery and trauma.

He is thought to have written 21 books and his best known is ‘Peri Arthron’ meaning ‘On Joints’. The book is divided into three sections and in it he discusses the teachings of Hippocrates. The first section is about dislocations of the shoulder, the second, dislocations of the elbow, wrist, jaw and spine and the third section deals with dislocations of the lower limbs. The book is illustrated by 30

hand paintings and the original copy can be seen in the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence. Certainly the illustrations portray some drastic treatment methods including suspending the patient on an upright ladder by his ankles to cure a dislocation in the lower limbs!

Apollonios was definitely ‘ahead of his time’ as in other books he looked at epilepsy and also the effects of alcohol on a person including a detailed analysis of the changes in a person’s voice caused by excess alcohol. Today medical students still study his works with interest and in Larnaka a street has been named in his honour.

Municipal Art Gallery



Top Image © Andreas Constantinou. Bottom Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

The Municipal Art Gallery hosts thematic exhibitions of those that have been recognised in the arts in Cyprus, Greece and abroad.

The Gallery can be found directly next door to the Historic Archives Museum. Within the four halls of the Gallery you will find displays including paintings, sculptures and modern installations.

The permanent collections of paintings at the gallery consist of work by Cypriot and other artists, representative of contemporary artistic talent.

The Gallery also often participates in exchanges of works of art with other galleries so as to allow the opportunity for the Larnaka Municipal Art Gallery’s collection to be presented abroad.



Address:
Leoforos Athinon,
Plateia Evropis (Europe Square,
Seafront Promenade),
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 658 848

Opening Hours:
Saturday
10:00–13:00
Summer
Monday–Friday
10:00–13:00, 15:00–18:00
Winter
Monday–Friday
10:00–13:00, 16:00–19:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

Larnaka District Archaeological Museum

Address:
Plateia Kalograion,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 304 169

Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday 08:00-16:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,50 Euros
2,00 Euros each for Groups 10+

Please Note: Chair Lift Available



Here you will enjoy fine exhibits taking you through the ages with many findings from the main Neolithic settlements of Choirokoitia and Tenta - Kalavastos in Larnaka.

The Larnaka Archaeological Museum exhibits include coin collections from as early as the end of the 6th century. A large collection of pottery along with glass, alabaster and ivory artefacts are fascinating to see. The limestone figures from the Archaic Period along with Bronze Age jugs, bowls, tools and weapons are also an intriguing find. A small collection of jewellery from the late Bronze Age also make interesting viewing.

The museum is linked with the CTO's Aphrodite Cultural Route.



Top Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Bottom Image © Where To Cyprus.

Municipal Museum of Natural History



The museum has a great collection of international and local shells, corals, sponges and rock formations. This ever-growing collection has led to an additional wing being added to the museum. This was completed, along with refurbishment works in January 2012.

The new part of the building houses historical displays which depict a 'typical Cypriot yard' such as large collections of local reptiles, insects, birds, animals. Also on exhibit are fossils, rock formations, marine life and plants from Cyprus and neighbouring countries. An interesting collection of Cyprus insects, as well as the collection of the endemic plants of the island can also be seen here.

Address:
Leoforos Grigori Afxentiou,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 652 569

Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday 09:00-16:00
Saturday 10:00-13:00
Sunday Closed

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
0,50 Euros



All Images © Andreas Constantinou

This charming modest single storey building can be found within Larnaka Municipal Gardens.

The Municipal Gardens are situated in a large city triangle formed by streets Afxentiou, Kiouppis and Pierides. All within small distances of one another you will find the Municipal Theatre, the Larnaka Municipal Library, the Municipal Museum of Natural History and a collection of children's public games.

The Pierides Museum

Within the Pierides family mansion, a colonial style building of 1825, you will find exhibits from the private collection belonging to the Pierides family. The museum is deemed to be a prominent museum on the island as it contains some of the most representative items of Cypriot civilisation.

The Pierides Museum, houses, by far, one of the most interesting collections on the island, displaying items from the Neolithic Age (7000-3800 B.C.), Early, Middle and Late Bronze Ages (2500-1050 B.C.), Archaic Period (750-475 B.C.), Roman Period (50 B.C.-395 A.D.), Byzantine Period (395-1185 A.D.) through to the Frankish Rule (1191-1489 A.D.), to name but a few.

The Pierides family's long history

with Cyprus started in 1753 with the arrival of Pietro Corella and his son Demetrios to Larnaka from Venice. The collection began with Pietro's great-grandson Demetrios Pierides (1811-1895). Demetrios began collecting ancient artefacts, thereby preventing the illegal exportation to Europe and America. The collections continued to be enriched by the following five generations of the Pierides family.

The Pierides family continue their efforts to preserve and exhibit the collections today, where the present head of the family, Demetrios Z. Pierides persists in enriching the museum's collections, as his ancestors once did.

Modern sculptures are exhibited in the garden of the museum.



Address:
Zinonos Kitieos 4,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 814 555

Opening Hours:
Monday-Thursday 09:00-16:00
Friday-Saturday 09:00-13:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
3,00 Euros Adults
1,00 Euro Children/Students
2,00 Euros each for Groups 10+

Top Image © Ntina Halla. Bottom Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Larnaka Medieval Castle and Museum

Larnaka Castle stands at the southern end of 'Foinikoudes', Larnaka's coastal Avenue. The original foundations, which formed part of the Castle are much larger than the building which currently remains today.

The construction methods used in these foundations indicate a 14th century build, possibly during the reign of King James I of Cyprus, (1382-1398 AD). The original plans remain a mystery however it is thought that the Castle was built to protect the harbour of the town, following the capture of Famagusta, thus rendering Larnaka the main port on the island.

Rebuilt in 1625 during the Ottoman period, it was used as a prison in the

first years of British rule. The present day fort of Larnaka is a square building of different eras, with a courtyard in the centre. At the entrance of the fort on the north side is a two - storey building, probably of the Ottoman period. It is joined to earlier parts of the original fort in the south and east by a stone wall. On the second floor of the Larnaka Castle you can visit the small museum which exhibits items related to its long history; collections of Early Christian period (4-7th centuries), Byzantine wall-paintings of the 11-16th centuries, Medieval glazed pottery from the 12-18th century, helmets and swords of the Venetian period (15-16th century), metal cooking utensils of the Ottoman period (18-19th century). The castle courtyard is used for cultural events, especially during summer.

Right Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Left Image © Where To Cyprus.



Address:
Leoforos Athinon,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 304 576

Opening Hours:
Saturday-Sunday 09:30-17:00
Summer-16 April-15 September
Monday-Friday 08:30-19:30
Winter-16 September-15 April
Monday-Friday 08:30-17:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,50 Euros
2,00 Euros each for Groups 10+

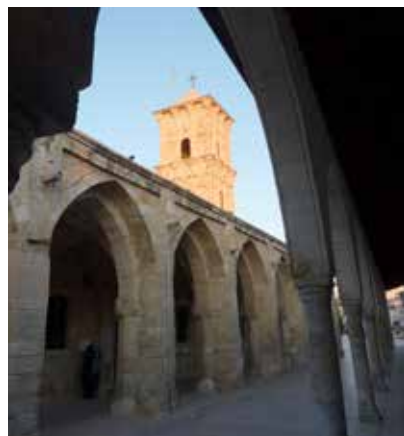
Ecclesiastical Museum of Agios Lazaros



The Agios Lazaros (Saint Lazarus) Byzantine Museum is located next to the superb early 10th century stone church of Agios Lazaros, situated in the centre of Larnaka.

The museum is actually housed in some of the cells of the hypostyle porch, still standing to the south of the church.

Exhibits include important Byzantine icons, Gospels, Crosses and other Ecclesiastical treasures.



Address:
Plateia Agiou Lazarou, Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 652 498

Opening Hours:
Monday–Friday
08:30–12:30, 15:00–17:30
Saturday
08:00–13:00
Sunday Closed

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
1,00 Euro

All Images © Where To Cyprus.

Kyriazis Medical Museum



The Kyriazis Medical Museum (Iat-riko Mouseio Kyriazi) is a new, non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) set up specifically in order to operate a museum of the medical, healing and health history of Cyprus.

Its founding members include medical doctors, pharmacists, historians and members of the public interested in the history of Cyprus.

The vision of the organization is to “preserve, for the future generations, the medical and healing inheritance of the Cypriot people”.

Its aims are: 1. To rescue and preserve antique medical and pharmaceutical items from Cyprus. 2. To initiate dialogue on present health matters,

based on past practices. 3. To safeguard the cultural memory and identity of the lay healing arts.

The museum is housed in a traditional mansion in the centre of Larnaka (a



town with strong medical connections throughout antiquity, middle ages and the Ottoman period). An initial donation of over 50 old books, 60 framed documents, traditional pharmaceutical furniture and over 400 items forms the nucleus of the collection. Additional donations in kind have now been negotiated.

Exhibits include forgotten sayings and poetry with a Byzantine, Frankish, Venetian or Ottoman slant, most of which were influenced by inadequate treatments and lack of medical facilities at the time.

The interesting displays include an X-ray machine, surgical instruments and a pharmacists display unit filled with plenty of interesting things.

The presence of the museum will address the continuing loss of the medical/therapeutic cultural heritage of Cyprus.

Address:
35 Karaoli & Demetriou Street,
Larnaka
(Close to St. Lazarus Church)
Tel: +357 24 652 017

Opening Hours:
Wednesday, Saturday
09:00–12:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

All Images © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Kallinikeio Museum



ological Collection, the Collection of Ecclesiastical Art and the Ethnographic Collection. It is housed in the Kallinikeio Municipal Hall of Athienou along with the Municipality of the town.

The aim of the exhibition areas of the Museum is to operate as a centre of communication with the visitors, as a source of knowledge for both adults and children, to bring back memories of the past and to give locals and tourists the opportunity to become aware of our local and national history and culture.



All image © Kallinikeio Municipal Museum.

Address:
2 Archbishop Makarios III Ave.,
Athienou,
Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 524 002

Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday 08:00-15:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,00 Euros Adults
Free Children up to 12 years old
1,00 Euro each for Groups 10+

The creation of the Kallinikeio Municipal Museum of Athienou was a matter of time for the Municipality, a place rich in cultural heritage, whose existence is dated back to the ancient times.

The Museum, which is distinguished for its modern architecture, was named after monk Kallinikos Stavrovouniotis, a son and benefactor of Athienou and an excellent icon painter.

The Museum consists of the Archae-

Kition Archaeological Site



Remnants of ancient Kition, located in the area occupied by the city of Larnaka, are visible in various parts of the modern city centre. The first organized settlement in the area of Kition dates to the beginning of the 13th century BC.

At the end of that century or the beginning of the next, Achaean Greeks redesigned and rebuilt the city, fortifying it with cyclopean walls. The Phoenicians settled in the area in the 9th century BC. In 312 BC the city kingdom of Kition was occupied and then destroyed by Ptolemy 1st Soter, though habitation continued into Christian times. One of the

most interesting architectural remains are those of the Temple of Aphrodite – Astarte, built by the same Phoenician masonry that built the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, both originating in the 9th Century BC.

Kition was well known during antiquity because of its harbour, from which many agricultural products were exported to the eastern Mediterranean, Egypt and the Aegean. Moreover, its strategic position rendered it an exceptional naval base. French excavations have brought to light the dockyards (neoria), at the foot of Pamboula Hill.

Address:
Leoforos Archiepiskopou Kyprianou, Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 304 115

Opening Hours:
Saturday-Sunday Closed
Summer-16 April-15 September
Monday-Friday 09:30-17:00
Winter-16 September-15 April
Monday-Friday 08:30-16:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,50 Euros
2,00 Euros for Groups 10+

Choirokoitia Neolithic Settlement



The ancient site of Choirokoitia dates back to the 6th millennium BC. It lies in the domain of the village from which it takes its name in the Larnaka district on the west bank of the Maroni River overlooking the south coast, 6 kilometres from the sea.

Included in the **UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list since 1988**, Choirokoitia is one of the best-preserved settlements of this period in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. The settlement's only entrance - a stairway integrated within a stone massif that lay against the exterior face of the settlement's enclosure wall, can be traced for more than 180 metres. Each house consisted of a compound of several buildings with a circular ground

plan, grouped around an open space, a kind of small inner courtyard. The population of the village is estimated at some 300 inhabitants.

This civilization suddenly vanished and no explanation has been found for its disappearance. Choirokoitia, like the other Aceramic sites on the island, was abandoned in the 4th millennium BC.

Close to the site are five 'model' dwellings. These were constructed in the Neolithic style to give a better impression of the village as it was in antiquity. The area around the dwellings has been planted with plants and trees cultivated or growing in Cyprus since Neolithic times.

UNESCO states the following: "In the prehistoric period, Cyprus played a key role in the transmission of culture from the Near East to the European world. Choirokoitia is an exceptionally well-preserved archaeological site that has provided, and will continue to provide, scientific data of great importance relating to the spread of civilization from Asia to the Mediterranean world. Both the excavated remains and the untouched part of Choirokoitia demonstrate clearly the origins of proto-urban settlement in the Mediterranean region and beyond. The Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia is one of the most important prehistoric sites in the eastern Mediterranean."

Address:
Choirokoitia, Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 322 710

Opening Hours:
Summer-16 April-15 September
Daily 08:30-19:30
Winter-16 September-15 April
Daily 08:30-17:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,50 Euros
2,00 each for Groups 10+

Please Note:
Reconstructed huts are wheelchair accessible

Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.



Kalavassos-Tenta Neolithic Settlement



Lying to the west of the Vasilikos River is the archaeological site of Kalavassos. According to local tradition the name goes back to 327 A.D. when Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great stayed in a tent (tenta in greek) in this location during her visit to the island following the discovery of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

The site was initially excavated in 1947 by P. Dikaio for the Department of Antiquities. Although there was a break in excavation for some years, work recommenced in 1976 and still continues to this day under the direction of Professor Ian Todd of the American Mission of the University of Brandeis with the Vasilikos Valley Project.

As with Choirokoitia, Kalavassos-Tenta

provides evidence of initial establishment at the end of the 7th millennium B.C. of sedentary communities on the island, who originated from the neighbouring mainland. These communities developed an original civilisation: the Cypriot Aceramic Neolithic.

The settlement is surrounded by walls and consists of buildings with simple circular or double circular ground plans built with sun-dried mud brick or stone or a combination of both. The plastered surfaces of the walls were occasionally embellished with painted decoration as in the case of one house where the wall-painting depicting two human figures with upraised hands has survived. This discovery, which dates to the beginning of the 7th millennium BC, is the earliest example of wall painting on the island and testi-

mony to the high artistic skills of the inhabitants of Aceramic Neolithic Cyprus. Some of the surviving walls which can be seen are up to 1,5 metres high.

The civilisation of Kalavassos-Tenta suddenly vanished at the end of the Aceramic period simultaneously with Choirokoitia, without adequate explanation for this disappearance. Kalavassos-Tenta, like other Aceramic sites on the island, was abandoned and the island appears to have remained free from human presence for a long time, until the emergence of a new civilisation: the Ceramic Neolithic.

During 1994 and 1995 a pyramidal roof, financed by the Department of Antiquities and the A.G. Leventis Foundation, was constructed over the site for its better protection.

Address:
Kalavassos, Larnaka

Opening Hours:
Saturday-Sunday Closed
Summer-16 April-15 September
Monday-Friday 09:30-17:00
Winter-16 September-15 April
Monday-Friday 08:30-16:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,50 Euros
2,00 Euros each for Groups 10+



Kamares—The Old Aqueduct

The Kamares (Arches) Aqueduct is one of the most famous landmarks in Larnaka. The grandiose arches are part of the old Larnaka Aqueduct.

Many researchers and historians believe that this tremendous public work existed since Roman times (as it is mentioned in the writings of Apostle Barnabas) and that the Ottoman Governor of Larnaka at the time, Bekir Pasha, reconstructed the whole project in 1745 on the basis of the

surviving facilities. This is supported by the fact that a similar in construction and materials water channel exists in the archaeological site of the ancient port at Kilkis Street and at many other spots in the city.

This striking structure was considered to be the most prominent water supply ever built on the island of Cyprus. The aqueduct, which consists of 75 arches, channelled the water of river Tremithos to Larnaka until 1936.



Address:
Old Larnaka–Lemesos (Limassol) Road,
Larnaka

Opening Hours:
This is an open site;
Accessible all hours

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

All Images © Ntina Halla.

Larnaka Salt Lake



One of two on the island, Larnaka Salt Lake is a unique area of natural beauty. The Lake's past as a natural habitat of sea life is traced back to around 3-5 million years.

During the winter months the lake is the haunt of more than 80 species of migratory birds, thus making it a magnificent site for bird watching. The Salt Lake is particularly noted for its flamingos that winter on the island feeding off the brine shrimp. It is considered to be one of the most important wetlands on the island and it has been declared a Ramsar and a Natura 2000 site. The Nature Trail surrounding the Salt Lake is part of the European Walking Route E4.

Completing the picture postcard beauty of the glimmering water dotted with pink specks is the oasis-like backdrop that is the home to the Hala Sultan Tekke, one of the holiest Muslim sites that houses the tomb of Umm Haram.

During the summer, the water evaporates and the crusty white surface shimmers in the glaring sunlight recalling the dried up lake's former role as an important source of salt. The salt used to be collected on donkeys and stacked up for export until the mid-1980s when this activity was abandoned.

The area is actually a network of four salt lakes, covering a surface area of 2.2 square km and lies west of Larnaka, a stone's throw from Larnaka International Airport.

The Larnaka Salt Lake offers a marvelous setting where one can enjoy the most romantic sunsets on the island.



Address:
Leoforos Artemidos
Larnaka

Opening Hours:
This is an open site;
Accessible all hours

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free



Three routes have been developed by the Larnaka Tourism Board to direct visitors to the main attractions within the Larnaka city.

Cultural Walks Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.



Larnaka Guided Walking Tours

The Larnaka Municipality along with the Cyprus Tourism Organisation offer free guided walks for those that wish to take in all the best of that which Larnaka Town has to offer.

These guided tours, which last two hours, are free of charge and are a great way to get a true feel of the magnitude of your surroundings. Your guide will walk you through the history, tradition, architecture and craftsmanship that is Larnaka.

Larnaka-Past and Present

This walk covers the history and development of Larnaka, looking at the role that the sea has played throughout the centuries. Visiting workshops and stores and seeing craftsmen at work gives a flavour of both Larnaka's past and present.

The walk visits protected buildings of the colonial period, and then follows the Palm Trees Promenade

before heading towards Valsamakis house, associated with the Cypriot attempt to join the Greek revolution of 1821. The walk continues through Cleanthi Kalogera Street down to the old market and the traditional workshops of Larnaka's craftsmen. From Pavlou Valsamaki Street, the guided walk visits the most important Byzantine monument surviving in Cyprus, Saint Lazarus Church.

After refreshments, the tour continues through Bekir Pasha Street,

Ermou, the Armenian Church, Lord Byron and Zenonos Kiteios Streets. Passing in front of the Pierides Museum and several other historic buildings, the walk ends where it began, at the CTO offices.

Scala-Its Craftsmen

Scala is used as a colloquial name for Larnaka, and yet it is mostly used to describe the specific area along the Castle seafront, around Saint Lazarus Church and the nearby city quarters. The walk explores the Scala area and visits the handicraft workshops created recently by young ceramic artists, many of them inspired by ancient Cypriot art. The walk continues through the picturesque streets of traditional houses and balconies through the old Scala Turkish Cypriot quarter, where visitors can see what is a very old residential area still in modern use. The tour also visits Eski Carsi Street, Buyuk Cami and Said Mehment Aga Streets, examining the protected houses and important traditional architecture. The tour ends at Ak Deniz and Bozkurt Streets, where visits are made to Craftsmen's workshops.

Larnaka-Past and Present

Tel: +357 24 654 322

Day: Wednesday

Time: 10:00 am

Meeting Point: Cyprus Tourism Organisation Information Office, Plateia Vasileos Pavlou

Scala-Its Craftsmen

Tel: +357 24 304 576/654 322

Day: Friday

Time: 10:00 am

Meeting Point: Larnaka Medieval Castle

All images © Larnaka Tourism Board.





Rural Larnaka

Cyprus enjoys an enviable world-wide reputation as a sun and sea holiday destination, with year round sunshine, blue skies and warm waters. However, this fascinating island has much more to offer.

Away from the tourist areas, the Larnaka countryside has a diverse wealth of its own with traditional villages, vineyards and wineries, tiny fresco-painted churches, remote monasteries and cool shady forests.

LEFKARA

This is a nature-lovers paradise, where you can walk for hours without seeing another living soul. In springtime, fields of flowers stretch as far as the eyes can see, and a ramble along a tiny chapel or a Venetian-built bridge that once formed part of the route of an ancient camel train. Around every corner is another surprise; a magnificent view or a chance to encounter with someone who will surprise you with his or her knowledge of your language and an invitation to join the family for a coffee or refreshment.

ATHIENOU

KITI

ZYGI

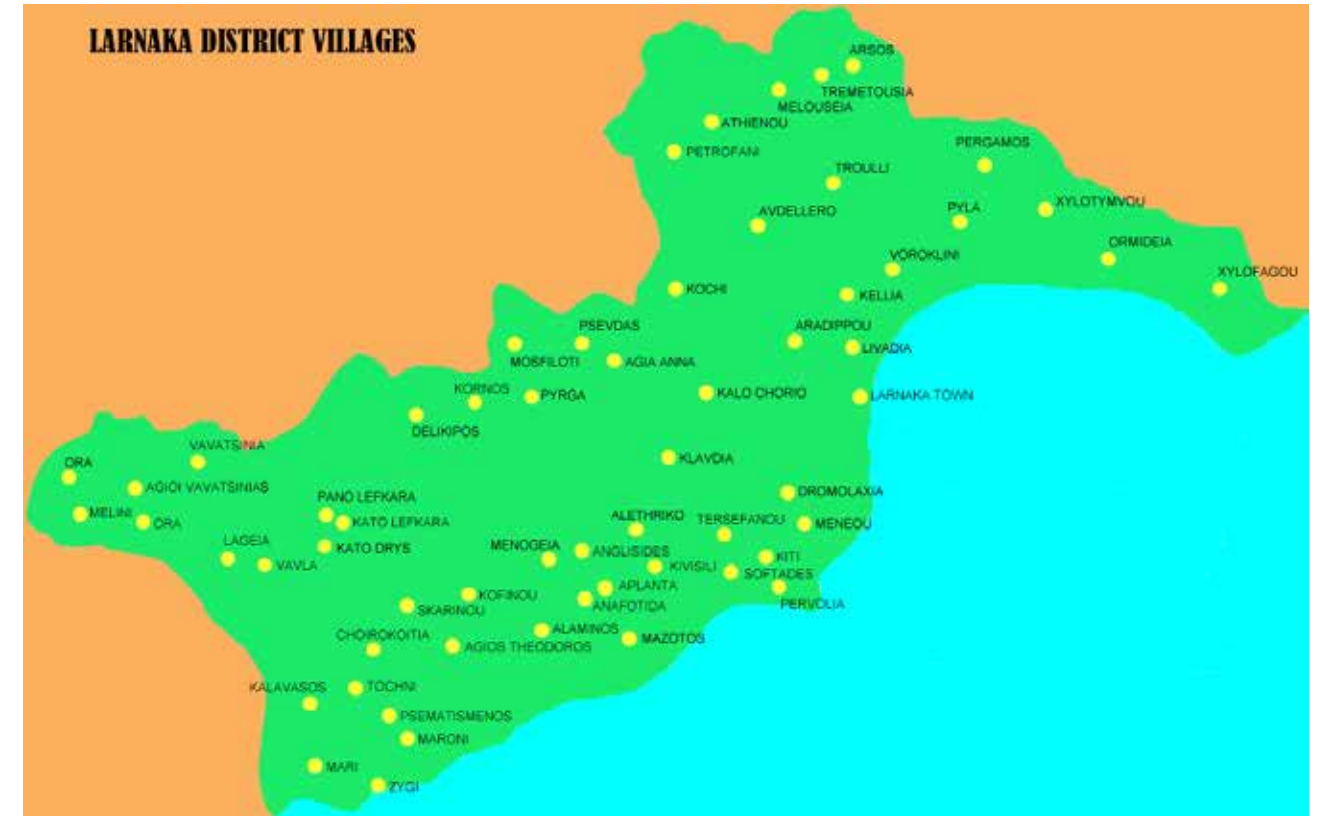
TOCHNI

VOROKLINI

PYLA

OTHER VILLAGES

Left image © Where To Cyprus, Middle image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation, Right image © Cyprus Agrotourism Company.



The island of Cyprus may be small but it has hundreds of villages, many of which are no more than a handful of houses clustered around a church, and a coffee shop that also serves as the village store, post office and general meeting place.

In the more remote parts of the island, these villages have remained virtually unchanged and although motorised transport has made them more accessible, the older inhabitants still cling to the traditional lifestyle that revolves around the seasons of planting and harvesting.

Even in the larger villages, traditional values are still very much evident. Here, maybe the village shepherd carries a mobile phone and the farmer drives to the fields in a double-

cabin pick-up truck but this is merely the sign of the times – a veneer that, when scratched, will expose the true character of the village people – family orientated, warm-hearted, friendly and unbelievably hospitable.

The villages surrounding Larnaka town are endowed with historical, natural and human riches. These traditional settings enhance and complement a wonderful natural environment, with local character, traditional architecture and village planning.

Within this environment you will have the benefit of the daily hands-on experience of the rich traditions of village people: the simple, serene rhythms of rural life, folk customs, daily activities, and the authentic tastes of traditional cuisine; all filtered

through the sense of genuine hospitality.

The Cyprus Agrotourism Company works in promoting the countryside and the traditional lodgings of historical value which host these alternative style holidays. Nestled amongst the local residents as oppose to the private gated holiday communities, Agrotourism lends a hand in creating a warm atmosphere, memories that will remain with you for many years to come. At the same time, you will enjoy a handful of pleasant surprises nature has in store for you; millions of different scents, images of unparalleled beauty, walks down nature trails, visits to historical monasteries and archaeological sites, as the real life of the country presents itself to you.

Map image © Where To Cyprus.



LEFKARA

Once a haunt of nobleman of Venice and France this old-world charm is simply captivating. Strolling through the narrow winding streets and alleys of this village is an utter delight.

Here in Pano (Upper) Lefkara the houses built from local limestone have stood for hundreds of years. As you pass by open doorways, beautiful open courtyards filled with flowers or vine shelters are revealed.

Leonardo Da Vinci visited Lefkara by the invitation of the last Queen of Cyprus Catherine Cornaro. Legend has it that Da Vinci took with him Lefkara lace, which he then donated as an altar cloth to the Cathedral of Milan.

Lefkara was once a prominent town during the 14th and 15th centuries. The village was and still is famed for its embroidery and lace works, women can still be seen sitting out in the streets carrying out their fine needlework.

Later during the early 1900's silverware, olive oil, wine and loukoumia merchants all set up operations from Lefkara. At this time it held the position as one of the leading cultural Metropolises on the island.

Many of the village's lace merchants which travelled acquired the clientele of the rich and aristocrats which included the British Royal family. When they returned home from their travels through Europe they brought back

with them neoclassical influences in art, literature and architecture.

During the 1940's this booming village had 25 coffee houses and four cultural clubs that organised lectures, theatrical performances and serenades.

As a direct result of the lace trade Lefkara took a more sophisticated turn distinguishing it from other Cypriot villages. More and more women left working in the fields and turned to needlework and embroidery as the men of the village traveled further and further afield selling their goods.

The Museum of Folk Art, Traditional Embroidery and Silversmithing, also known as the Patsalos Museum, pays homage to these times and influences. Patsalos referring to the wealthy local family which once owned the house the museum now stands in.

On entering the museum a beautiful courtyard, a signature trait of Lefkara's architecture, greets you. From here you will find the original staff quarters which house images with information on the village's history.

The steps leading to the main house display the rooms restored to their original decorative order with original furniture of the same era. The original stone oven, still takes pride of place in the courtyard, with a small side oven, which would have been used for the famous local dish, Tavas Lefkaritikos, (a slow baked lamb, onions and potato dish, with local herbs; bay leaves, cumin and cinnamon). You can also see local costume and laceworks displayed here.

Just behind the village's main square you will find, the 14th century Church of Timios Stavros. Here you will find one of two of the pieces of the Holy Cross, brought to the island by Saint Helena. The other piece is held at the Stavrovouni Monastery.

It is said that the King Hugh IV of Cyprus commissioned the Church of Timios Stavros (Church of the Holy Cross). Cypriot legend has it, his second wife, Alice (Alix) of Ibelin was left speechless during a visit to Pan-

agia of Macheras Monastery following her insistence to enter the holy altar, where access to women was forbade. She was unable to speak for some years. It is said her speech was restored when she came before the Holy Cross.

The church is the only church in Cyprus to have a double tiered seating area for women, as historically women and men sat in separate areas of the church during service.

Lefkara presents splendour at every turn, a truly unique, breathtaking experience, a must see for every traveller of rural Cyprus.

Museum of Folk Art, Traditional Embroidery and Silversmithing Lefkara, Larnaka

Opening Hours:
Summer-16 April-15 September
Daily 09:30-17:00
Winter-16 September-15 April
Daily 08:30-16:00

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
2,50 Euros
2,00 Euros each for Groups 10+

Please Note: No bags allowed in the museum, lockers available on-site at no charge

Timios Stavros Church Lefkara, Larnaka

Opening Hours:
Daily 09:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00
Sunday open all day

Operating Period:
All year round

Entrance Fee:
Free

Please Note:
The Larnaka Tourism Board has placed an electronic information kiosk in the centre of Lefkara where tourists can find all information for Lefkara and the broader Larnaka region.

Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Text © Androulla Kyriacou.

ATHIENOU

Surrounded by green in winter and bronze in the summer, Athienou is situated northwest of Larnaka. The area has been occupied since the Neolithic period. The Athienou-Malloura archaeological site can be toured year-round and during June and July you can see the site and observe the Athienou Archaeological Project as it conducts excavations at a Late Geometric-Roman period sanctuary.

Touring through the town, a visitor can easily appreciate that Athienou has maintained its traditional character, while continuing to develop over the years. You will find four important early buildings that have either been restored or are in the process of restoration to their original presentation and use. All four are located on Evangorou Street; the family house

of an icon painter, Mestanas Hani - a historic inn, the traditional flour mill remarkably demonstrates how it was working since 1910 and a traditional Mesaoritiko house.

Athienou is famous for its traditional bread and pastries, as well as its dairy products. Local producers are often happy to demonstrate the art and technique of their products for visitors. You can also visit the Kallinikeio-Municipal Museum (see cultural sites section) and the churches of special interest and significance.

Well known for its hard working inhabitants, two generations ago the people of Athienou worked in the land of Mesaoria from sunrise to sunset with diligence and care. With the same diligence they carry on and maintain their reputation for hospitality.



KITI



Athienou Images © Athienou Municipality. Athienou Text © Larnaka Tourism Board. Kiti Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Kiti Text © Larnaka Tourism Board. Kiti Text Adapted from Kiti Municipality by Androulla Kyriacou.

Kiti is found about 11 kilometres south-west of Larnaka and is built at an average altitude of 20 meters above sea level.

Kiti was likely to have been first built during the 3rd-4th century by inhabitants of the ancient city of Kition, who were said to have moved further south to escape the constant pirate raids they sustained. The village maintains that it was through the ancient city of Kition its name derived.

The village was known under the name Kiti during the medieval times too. Archaeological remains from the Neolithic era show Kiti had fortifications that protected a royal villa.

The historian Leontios Machairas mentions that the King of Cyprus, Peter, disembarked near Kiti on re-

turning to the island from Asia Minor. This indicates that there was a mooring place in the village's coastal area. History has it, King Peter had a palace here, which he had built around 1367.

In Kiti there is the ancient church of Panagia Aggeloktisti, meaning Virgin Mary, built by Angels (see religious sites). The renowned mosaic of the Virgin Mary within the church, has been dated in several eras from the 4th century to the 14th and is considered one of the rarest of its kind in the world, similar to those in Ravenna, Italy.

Today local cultivated artichokes, potatoes, zucchinis, okras, cucumbers, watermelons and carrots, along with the small distance to Larnaka and good road connections has seen rapid population growth in the village.

ZYGI

Zygi lends itself to beautiful open views of the Mediterranean Sea, this being the only village in Cyprus built on the coast itself. This charming fishing village can be found at the most south-western point of the Larnaka region.

Zygi is known to have been first established in the early years of British Rule, during the late 1800's. It was during this period that the Locust Bean (Carob) storehouses and the village dock, were built. Almost all locust beans gathered from both Larnaka and nearby Lemesos came through these storehouses, where they were milled and loaded onto ships for exportation. It is said that Zygi de-

rived its name from 'Zygizo' meaning 'Weigh', as this was where all locust bean farmers would bring their produce to be weighed. The stone storehouses and dock still remain today.

Although the village was established as a result of the work brought to the area, the convenient position of the village, within the islands three main cities, has led to its rapid development over recent years. Today Zygi is most famed for its fishing shelter which facilitates the many professional fisherman in supplying local taverna's and restaurants as well as the domestic market with fresh produce daily.

TOCHNI

Tochni village can be found inland along the south-western point within Larnaka district, 20 metres from Larnaka town itself.

This small pretty village is made up of stone-built houses, on the slopes of two hills with a small river cutting across them. It has a small population of just a few hundred.

The name Tochni is said to derive from the word 'techni', meaning 'art', as the village was once famed for its great master masons that worked the stone of the area in quite a unique way.

With the introduction of agrotourism to the area, the village has seen

a surge of renovation with more and more beautiful, heart-warming stone houses revealed from beneath the rendered exterior, where they have hidden for so many years.

The exposure of the houses made from local stone with their courtyards, blooming gardens and the winding narrow alleys, which form the streets in the village, are very much characteristics of the area. All of which contribute to invoking thoughts of what life may have been like during years gone by.

In the centre of the village you will find standing the church of Agios Constantinos and Agia Eleni and a small ecclesiastical museum.



Zygi Images © Larnaka Tourism Board. Tochni Images Top © Cyprus Agrotourism Company, Bottom Image © Andreas Constantinou. Zygi and Tochni Text © Androulla Kyriacou.

VOROKLINI

Located about eight kilometres north-east of the city of Larnaka, the beautiful village of Voroklini is a peaceful, charming treasure nestling at the foot of the Voroklini Hill which is often referred to as 'the mountain' by the locals.

The hill around Voroklini offers visitors a fabulous open area with spectacular views where families can walk in safety and enjoy picnics and barbeques at the official picnic site which is provided and maintained by the Forestry Department.

At night the stone church of Saint Elias can be seen lit up on the summit of the hill from the village and surrounding areas acting as a beacon inviting people to come and savour the traditions and hospitality that Voroklini has offered since it

was established hundreds of years ago.

The village is situated just a couple of kilometres from its Blue Flag beach, offering some of the safest conditions for families with young children.

Voroklini Lake is a must-see wildlife site in the Larnaka district. Despite its small size, is home to rich wildlife including 190 species of bird. Designated a Natura 2000 site, here, two threatened bird species come to nest; the Black-winged Stilt and the Spur-winged Lapwing (this species nest only in Greece and Cyprus within the EU). Moreover, Voroklini Lake is the only site in Cyprus where the beautiful Red-crested Pochard nests. Winter is the best time for a visit to the Lake to enjoy the birds of this unique wetland.

**PYLA**

Pyla is one of the oldest villages in Cyprus. Neolithic settlements located to the north of the village, have established the area as having been inhabited and in constant use for over six thousand years.

It is unclear as to how the village derived its name, although one of the most notable explanations state Pyla originated from the Greek word 'pyli', meaning 'entrance'. Historical this was the only way to travel to Mesaoria, the broad sweeping, sixty mile plain which makes up the centre of the Cyprus.

Situated from Larnaka Bay and the Dekeleia Road inland, Pyla is one of four villages on the island situated within the United Nations buffer

zone. Strolling through the village you get a feeling of what might have been, should have all the political and geographical wranglings of recent years been resolved. It was during the Ottoman period that Muslims first settled in Pyla and remains as the only village under the administration of Republic of Cyprus whose inhabitants consist of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

As with most Cypriot villages, it is centred around the village square comprising of traditional coffee shops and small family run stores. Historic developments are apparent through a mix of architectural displays such as the medieval watchtower, village churches and mosques.



Pyla Image © Where To Cyprus. Pyla Text © Androulla Kyriacou. Voroklini Images © Voroklini Municipality. Voroklini Text © Larnaka Tourism Board.

CHOIROKOITIA

The village of Choirokoitia is an archaeological landmark and the site of a Neolithic settlement, which bears witness to a fascinating worldview that prevailed some 9,000 years ago.

KALAVASOS

Kalavasos village dates back to medieval times with many archaeological sites nearby. The village was once a thriving copper mining area, the remains of the mines and trains can still be seen today.

KATO DRYS

The village of Kato Drys was pictured in the Cyprus Pound. It is a village with big history and tradition, some of which can be seen in the village's Bee and Embroidery Museum. With an altitude of 520 metres, you will find an excellent dry climate.

SKARINOU

Skarinou village has a privileged location. With its stone-built houses peacefully scattered across the slopes, the village offers a panoramic view of the green Agios Theodoros valley. Whilst visiting this wonderful village you may like to pop into the Fatsa Wax Museum. The museum attempts to revive the civilisation and culture of Cyprus using wax works figures. This starts with the Bronze Age and ends with the present day. The Environmental Information Centre of Larnaka Mountainous Areas can also be found here. Through literature, exhibits and interactive screens guests can learn about the significance of Larnaka's rural areas. The naturally abundant area provides a beautiful backdrop for nature walks, bird watching and cycling, which you can combine with a visit to the centre for a complete day out.

VAVLA

In the west Larnaka district lies Vavla, built at approximately 470

metres above sea level. Vavla is a small traditional village preserving its traditional architecture to a large extent. The visitor should see the noteworthy Monastery of Agios Minas close to the village and walk along the nature trails of the area.

PSEMATISMENOS

Located only a 3-minute drive from the sea, Psematismenos is another small village that appears like a flashback in time. It is a quiet village that has kept its character with very interesting vernacular architecture. In the village one can visit the Greek Orthodox church of Ayia Marina (Byzantine with additions in the 19th century).

MARONI

Most of those who visit Cyprus will never discover Maroni has a resident population of about four hundred people including around sixty or so expatriates. Maroni is nestled in a valley between impressive mountains and the sparkling, beautiful blue sea.

AGIOS THEODOROS

Agios Theodoros is a traditional picturesque village situated in a lush valley along the banks of the Pentashinos river. Agios Theodoros is unique, in that it offers stunning views of the mountains and yet is just a five minute drive from the sea. Along the coastal road of the village you come across the chapel of Agioi Anargyroi and the Saints Three Children and Prophet Daniel chapel. The church of Holy Mary of Asthkiotissas can be found amongst the hills of Agios Theodoros and provides a perfect hiking destination; the church dates back to the 12th century. The village itself is filled with history and stunning traditional architecture. Take a walk along the winding cobbled streets.

LIVADIA

A short distance from Larnaka town, Livadia is ideally situated with excel-

lent links to both the main Larnaka Dekeleia Road and the island's highway network. The area has been a known settlement since the Middle Bronze Age, although historically formed the area of Tridato. Known for its basket weaving, this craft can still be seen here today.

AGIOI VAVATSIINIAS

To the west of Larnaka is situated the village Agioi Vavatsinias, which is famous for the production of wine and silk. The villagers also work on agriculture and are very concentrated with the production of the traditional local drink called 'Zivania'. This village is also known for the production of traditional sweets such as palouze, shoushoukos (made from grape juice) and spoon sweets.

MAZOTOS

The village of Mazotos is found 20 km southwest of Larnaka city. Here you will find the Camel Park, the Petraion Sculpture Park which has permanent open air stone sculptures and also the Kostas Argyrou Museum which displays the work of self-taught sculptor of the same name.

The Cyprus Agrotourism Company has a wealth of online information on Rural Cyprus.

Rural information for throughout the island along with activities and accommodation can be found at:

www.agrotourism.com.cy



Where To Go

There are countless places to go whilst staying in Larnaka. Stunning beaches, where you can take in some sun or enjoy thrilling watersports. Discover the sea aboard a sailing boat or yacht or better still explore what lies beneath it as part of a diving experience. Visit great attractions which offer fun for all the family. Walk around beautiful nature trails or cycle through untouched rural scenes. Such never-ending choices is what makes Larnaka the perfect holiday destination.

Left Image © Thompson Communications. Top Right Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation. Bottom Right Image © Lucky Star Park.





Beaches

The island of Cyprus is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Cyprus has the most Blue Flag beaches per capita and per coastline in the world with fifty-six Blue Flag beaches.

This prestigious award recognises the highest standards of cleanliness, water quality, safety and support of the wider environment.

FOINIKOUDES BEACH

MCKENZIE BEACH

CTO BEACH

KASTELLA BEACH

YIANNADES BEACH

DASAKI PYLAS BEACH

FAROS BEACH

Left and Right Images © Larnaka Tourism Board. Middle Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.



With a choice of beautiful beaches, coupled with ten months of fabulous weather each year, you may be forgiven for thinking this to be the best beach holiday location in the world.

Beaches Map Image © Where To Cyprus.

Therefore should you want to bask in the wonderful weather while still enjoying a change of surroundings, then you need not look too far.

What sets Larnaka apart from other regions in Cyprus is that it is the only place on the island where you will find both locals and visitors enjoying all that Larnaka has to offer throughout the year. Larnaka

can accommodate tourists into the area and it is quite fair to say that most of what you will enjoy and experience during your stay here is very much a way of life for local people.

Developments in the area are designed with both visitors and locals in mind, with locals being both family orientated and social people, who love to enjoy their downtime.

As a result you will find that Larnaka covers all aspects of entertainment and leisure within easy reach. This is not limited to restau-

rants, bars or clubs. But includes the beaches too.

As you can see from our map above, all beaches are easily accessible and each with a very unique character of its own.

Perfect for all the family, whether you choose to participate in adrenaline pumping, thrilling water-sport activities, take a stroll along kilometres of sandy beaches or even just to bask in the paradise ambiance, there can be no better way to relax and revitalize your mind body and soul than on one of Larnaka's fine beaches.

Foinikoudes Beach



Bordering Larnaka's central coastal promenade, Foinikoudes Beach (Palm Tree Promenade) is one of the most famous Blue Flag beaches in Cyprus.

"Foinikoudes" means small palm trees (now grown into very big palm trees) that were planted in 1922. The beach has fine grey sand and is some 500 metres long. The width varies from 30 metres to 100 metres.

The beach is well serviced with facilities such as toilets, showers, changing rooms, access for the disabled, sun-beds and umbrellas and water

sports. Lifeguards are on duty with lifesaving equipment during the bathing season. The sea is a perfect spot for families with young children, remaining shallow for quite some distance, providing lots of space for youngsters to splash around in the sea, which is usually calm with mild waves.

In addition to the beach the area is famed for its hotels, lively cafes, bars and restaurants, which remain open until quite late at night. There are also a large number of mini markets close to the beach, with the commercial and shopping centre of the



town just behind the promenade.

The main road, Athinon Avenue, is landscaped with magnificent palm trees, vibrant flowers and green areas, which only complement the magnificent scenery.

There is easy and safe access to the beach by bus and car or on foot. Many car parks are found near the beach.

The area is the venue for the two-week Larnaka Kataklysmos Fair, usually in June, during which the Blue Flag is withdrawn.

Images © Ntina Halla.

Mckenzie Beach

This is a popular Blue Flag beach and one the island's hotspots.

An ideal location for plane spotting, Mckenzie Beach is a long beach with fine grey sand. The sea is usually very calm, the water is clear and the footpath near the beach makes a walk along the sandy beach a memorable experience. The beach has a length of

about 1 kilometre, while the width varies from 35 metres to 80 metres.

There are several services and facilities at the beach, such as toilets, changing rooms, sun-beds and umbrellas, lifeguards with lifesaving equipment and first aid. There is an array of water-sports available including windsurfing.

Mckenzie beach is a hip-chic spot, with its bars and restaurants attracting a mixed and diverse crowd, ranging from families to young couples looking to savour a cool drink on the Mediterranean coast.

There is easy and safe access to the beach by bus, car or on foot with ample parking nearby.



Left Image © Ntina Halla. Right Images © Larnaka Tourism Board.



CTO Beach

This beach is situated in Pyla. Located next to a number of the island's leading hotels and resorts, the seemingly endless beach of Larnaka Bay which runs along the Dekeleia area, offers sun, sea and much more besides.

This particular section falls under the authority of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation. The beach offers areas with sun-beds as well as more spacious and private spots for those seeking to get away from it all. Apart from the range of water-sports and beach bars on offer, the beach also hosts sporting events and tournaments such as beach handball, beach volleyball and beach tennis. There's even a playground for when your young ones want a break from the sea!



All images © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Kastella Beach

Kastella Beach is situated near the Psarolimano Fishing Shelter in Larnaka, some 15 minutes walk from the town centre.

It is a small beach with fine grey sand. Another of Larnaka's Blue Flag beaches, the sea here is usually calm and the water clear. The beach has a length of about 400 metres, while the width varies from 20 to 70 metres.

There are several services and facilities at the beach including toilets, changing rooms, sun-beds and umbrellas, lifeguards with lifesaving equipment and first aid. Many fish taverns, restaurants, ice-cream shops and mini markets



can also be found nearby. There is easy and safe access to the beach either by bus and car or on foot.

There are parking facilities at a small car park at the fishing shelter nearby.

Top Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Bottom Image © Andreas Constantinou.



Yiannades Beach

Yiannades Beach is a sandy Blue Flag beach located in Voroklini (Oroklini).

Water sports and accommodation facilities are available nearby while lifeguards are on duty with lifesaving equipment from 11:00 to 17:00 hours during the bathing period.

The beach is easily accessible by bus, car, motorbike and bicycle.

Dasaki Pylas Beach

Dasaki Pylas Beach is situated along the Larnaka-Dekeleia Road.

This long beach set in green surroundings has fine grey sand both in and out of the water. The water is shallow and clear and the sea is usually calm which makes it an ideal spot for swimming.

The long sandy areas make the Dasaki Pylas Beach ideal for beach games and leisurely strolls.



Faros Beach



This is a small, tranquil, sandy beach located near Pervolia village. The Faros Blue Flag beach is named after a nearby lighthouse (faros in greek).

The cape has a sea barrier, which makes it ideal for small children to play in the sea. With a beach bar and water sports available, it makes this an ideal location for families with young children or those wishing to avoid crowds.

Lifeguards are on duty during bathing season from June to September from 11.00 hours to 17.00 hours seven days a week.

All images © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Watersports



There are many watersports available in Larnaka. All the traditional sports are available at the many beachfront service providers.

We have all seen or know of sailing, paragliding, jet skiing, windsurfing, and surfing. We have seen those banana boats and round boats, but have you ever seen a kitesurfer?

Kitesurfing or kiteboarding is the latest craze to hit the island with none other than our very own Larnaka as a favourite destination for this extreme sporting activity.

A mix of surfing, paragliding, windsurfing, and gymnastics all rolled into one. With boards strapped to extremist's feet, they take flight demonstrating skill and agility. A

recent Kitesurfing event, saw World Kitesurfing Champion, Kevin Langereer test out Larnaka's waters. He noted the thermal winds, waves and flat safe waters in specific areas between Kiti, Mazotos and Alaminos, off the western coast of Larnaka offer the ideal conditions for this fascinating sport. The World Champion was particularly impressed with the warmth of the water by saying, "it's like my bathtub!"

The best weather conditions for the sport are between the months of May, right through till the end of September.

Equipment is available for hire or to buy. Should you book a course, your kitesurf school will provide you with all the equipment that you need for your training.

It is quite important to note that kitesurfing, as with all extreme sports, does involve an element of risk and therefore it is advisable that you complete both a Level 1 and 2 IKO (International Kiteboarding Organisation) accredited courses to be deemed as safe to kitesurf without instruction. Each Level takes a few hours to complete.

This is a truly amazing sport to experience, be it from the sea, air, or from the comfort of your sun lounger.

So whether you are of a thrill seeking nature or if you simply prefer more of a leisurely calming experience, the numerous watersports operators across Larnaka offer a wide choice of watersports to satisfy all your needs.

All images © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Leisure

Every parent knows just how easy children tire of the typical holiday routine. Although the pool, beach or walks surrounded by stunning scenery, in fabulous weather is a great opportunity to unwind for most adults, this can sometimes leave a little more to be desired by children.

Should you find your little ones need that little bit more to help burn off excess energy or if you would just like to give them a great treat, then these are 'a must' on your to do list.

There are some really exciting locations to go to in the Larnaka area. You and your family can ride camels, horses, donkeys or exhaust any surplus energy on the fun play equipment at various amusement parks or even enjoy the thrilling rides and exciting adult go-karts all at nearby locations.

CAMEL PARK

Mazotos Village
Tel: +357 24 991 243
Type: Camel Rides and Pool
Opening Hours:
Winter
Daily 09:00-17:00
Summer
Daily 09:00-19:00

CITY CRUISER TOURING BIKES

Larnaka Town
Tel: +357 70 005 960
Type: Cyclist Rickshaw Tours

DIPOTAMOS DONKEY FARM

Skarinou Village
Tel: +357 99 620 736
Opening Hours:
April-October
Daily 16:00-22:00

ROCK N' BOWL

Larnaka-Dekeleia Road
Tel: +357 99 404 334
Opening Hours:
Daily 11:00-00:00

DRAPIA FARM

Kalavassos Village
Tel: +357 99 437 188
Type: Horse Riding
Opening Hours:
Daily 8:00-12:00 & 15:00-Sunset
Reservation Required

MUNICIPAL GARDEN AND BIRD PARK

Larnaka Town, Gregori Afxentiou Street (Next to Municipal Theatre).
Type: Outdoor area, suitable for children up to 10 years old.

K-MAX BOWLING

Larnaka Town
Tel: +357 77 778 373
Opening Hours:
Daily 16:00-00:00
Sat & Sun 11:00-00:00



QUAD BIKE SAFARI

Voroklini, Pyla and Troulli
Tel: +357 24 647 729
Type: Quad Bike Tour

LUCKY STAR FUN AMUSEMENT PARK

Motorway A3 Rizoelia
Tel: +357 24 534 400
Type: Amusement, Go Karts, Park Rides
Opening Hours:
16 September-30 April
Fri-Sat 16:00-24:00
Sun 11:00-24:00
01 May-31 May
Mon, Wed-Sat 16:00-24:00
Sun 11:00-24:00
01 June-31 July & 1-15 September
Mon, Wed-Sun 16:00-24:00
01 August-31 August
Daily 16:00-24:00



Top Image © Camel Park. Bottom Image © Lucky Star Park.



Diving & Cruising

Clear seas and warm waters make Larnaka ideal for both diving and cruising. In true island style there is something to suit all partialities and budgets with one of the diving, cruising, fishing, dining, sightseeing or simply relaxing tours on offer. The possibilities, like the surrounding seas, are endless.

Divers will find sea temperatures range from 28 to 16°C, resulting in one of the longest diving seasons in the Mediterranean, while the absence of plankton allows great visibility.

A number of local diving companies offer various diving excursions for the entire family, from beginners level right through to skilled divers. There are a variety of sights to encounter beneath the sea. A fantastic experience for children in particular is snorkeling or shallow fish diving where they may come in contact with schools of fish to feed.

ZENOBIAN WRECK DIVING SITE

HMS CRICKET DIVING SITE

Left and Right Images © Cyprus Tourism Organisation. Middle Image © Nina Halla.



For the more confident diver there is the opportunity to observe marine life in their natural habitats with a wide array of colourful fish, sponges, coral, sea anemones, octopus, stingrays, grouper, barracuda, tuna, eels, mussels and the ubiquitous sea urchin providing a spectacular picture. Sea turtles can be spotted regularly in Larnaka Bay.

There is also the possibility for the more experienced, qualified divers

to explore spectacular underwater caves, tunnels, walls, coastal reefs and a number of interesting paths, along with the wrecks situated around the Larnaka area.

For those wishing to take in some time at sea, there are many options available to you. You may choose to travel on board large and comfortable cruise ships offering full board accommodation. These can last two-five days and see you travel to nearby destinations such as Egypt

or the Greek Islands.

Should you prefer more intimate days at sea you may wish to venture out on a morning, afternoon or night cruise aboard a smaller cruise or sailing boat starting from the Larnaka Marina.

If you are looking for definitive luxury, why not charter a yacht for friends and family and spend the day at sea. This offers small or large groups the ultimate personal experience.



Top Image © Ntina Halla. Bottom Images © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Larnaka At Sea with Andreas Panayiotou

Andreas Panayiotou has been a keen diver for over twenty years. "For me diving is an excellent sport, there is so much to explore." Mr Panayiotou speaks with great enthusiasm.

His company purchased the Zenobia wreck in 1997. "Since owning the Zenobia, we have worked hard at making known all it has to offer. As a result many divers have been here to view the wreck, so as to give it its global position as the third most recognisable wreck dive site in the world", he states.

The Swedish ro-ro ship Zenobia and its entire cargo lay on the seabed 800 metres off the coast of Larnaka. Mr Panayiotou says, "When divers see the Zenobia for the first time they are quite astounded by the enormity of the wreck. The 174-metre wreck is made up of one entire piece with plenty to see. In fact, it can take maybe up to twenty dives before a diver can really gather everything there is to see and know about the Zenobia."

Diving in Larnaka is an excellent experience, "the reasons for this are simple. The water is clear, with good temperatures and there is plenty of marine life to see in surrounding waters", say Mr Panayiotou.

"From Larnaka we take many divers out on day and week tours of the surrounding waters." Mr Panayiotou continues, "We visit the Cape Greco in Agia Napa, it has underwater caves and is a great site to dive. We also visit Larnaka's Pyla Sea Caves. This has beautiful

crystal blue turquoise waters and is best explored during the early hours of the morning when the sea is peaceful and more settled. HMS Cricket is another good wreck to see in Larnaka".

Days at sea, enjoying the sun and sea coupled with great menus are a great alternative way to experience Larnaka. Family packages also allow younger children to snorkel on the water's surface whilst their parents take in the sights of some of the wrecks. The same applies for those wishing to achieve the first level of their Open Water Qualification, which allows you to dive up to 18 metres deep. This is a necessary requirement for those wishing to explore Larnaka's wrecks. A four-day course can



help you achieve this and although this is often booked in advance, you can also enquire about doing this on arrival at local accredited diving schools.

Whether you would like to gain a diving qualification, take in a spot of fishing at sea or simply enjoy a relaxing cruising or sailing day out, Larnaka is all you need.



All Images © Larnaka Tourism Board.



ZENOBIA DIVE WRECK

Advanced Open Water (AOW) qualification required. Access is by boat.

Whilst sailing for Syria in May of 1980 with a cargo of over 100 heavy lorries, industrial machinery, cars and extensive cargo the Swedish Zenobia, roll-on roll-off ferry ran into difficulties. The ship's computers had failed causing the continuous flow of water to be pumped into the side ballasts, a fault that could not be rectified.

With no chance of recovery the ship was towed out 800 metres off the coast of Larnaka, so as to avoid any collisions inside the port. Here the Zenobia was consigned to its final fate, 43 metres down at the bottom of the sea.



Rated one of the 10 best wreck dives in the world, the Zenobia lies on its port side on a flat bed of sand and rocks. Both the ferry and its cargo are still intact and fascinating to explore, as no salvage work was allowed. The wreck is now also home to schools of fish, including grouper, barracuda and tuna.

The dive starts at 17 metres. Visibility is up to 50 metres with water temperatures at a comfortable 16 to 28 °C.

HMS CRICKET DIVING SITE

Open Water (OW) qualification required. Access is by boat.

Situated off Larnaka, this dive is an opportunity to explore an old British battleship that rests upside down on the seabed at 27 metres. The World War II gunboat survived the war. It was then anchored in Larnaka Bay and used as target practice by the RAF but sank in 1947 due to bad weather.

There is a sandy dip under the wreck. Divers can swim inside the hull through escape hatches and underneath the wreck. The vessel is also home to groupers and other fish. Visibility is some 25 metres. Maximum depth is 33 metres.

Top Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation. Bottom Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.



Cycling

Experience Larnaka's culture, history and wonderful scenery from the saddle of a bike.

LARNAKA TO MENEOU

KOFINO TO LARNAKA

RIZOELIA FOREST

MAZOTOS TO KOFINO

LARNAKA TO LEFKOSIA

OROKLINI HILL

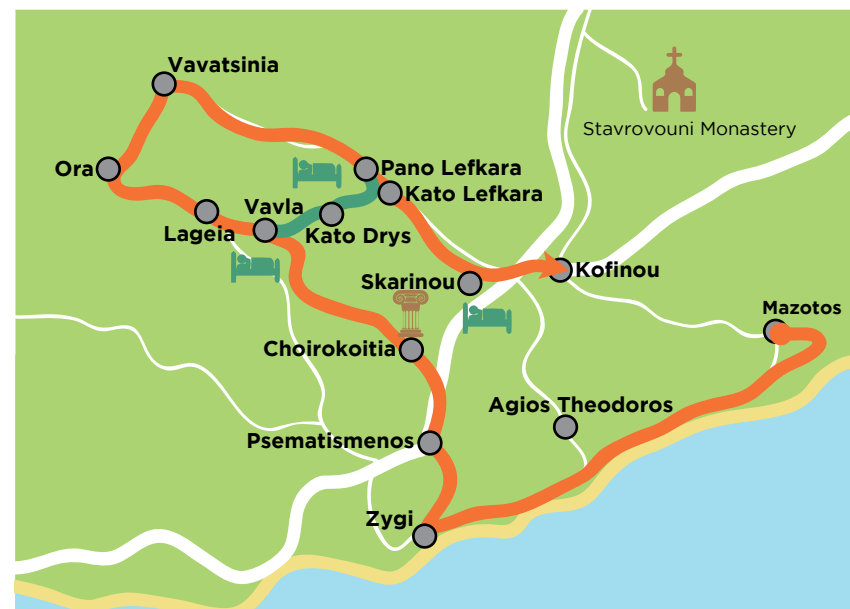
LARNAKA TO NISOU

A cycle tour enables you to come across sights, which you may otherwise miss from inside a car. A chance encounter with a local, stunning landscape to linger over, the sights and sounds of nature from up close, an ancient ruin or a secluded cove.

Follow one of the many cycling routes or even make your own. Set the pace you desire whether training or leisure and taking in the fresh air all while contributing to the fight against global warming while protecting the environment.

All Images © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Mazotos to Kofinou



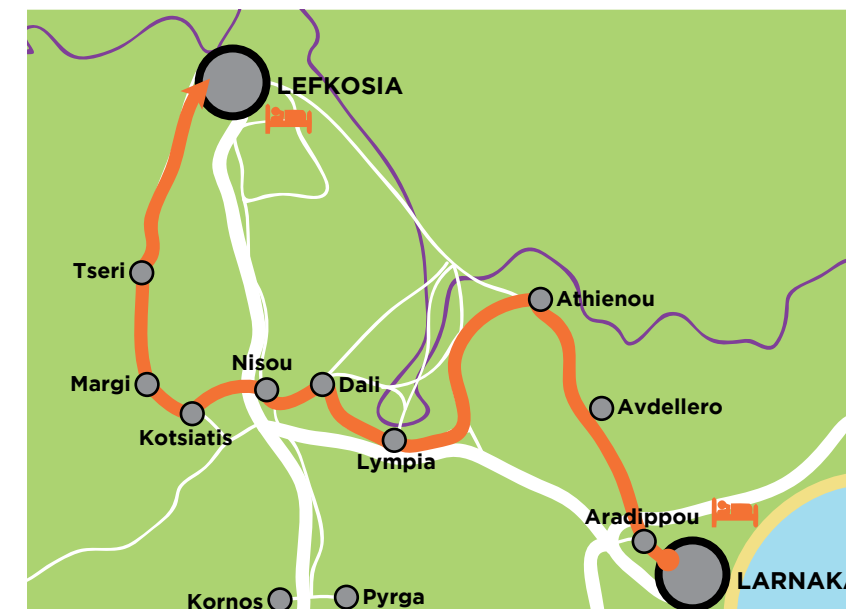
The Mazotos to Kofinou excursion travels along the western coastal district of Larnaka, climbing towards the hillside villages of the region and past the archaeological site of Choirokoitia. The route begins at the Mazotos fuel station on the outskirts of the village and continues on the road towards the villages of Agios Theodoros and Zygi to the southwest, traveling along the coast as far as Zygi. From here the road climbs north towards Psematismenos, crossing the Lefkosia - Lemesos motorway over the footbridge, and reaches the archaeological site of Choirokoitia. The route continues in a northwesterly direction, going through the village of Choirokoitia and, climbing steadily, through the villages of Vavla, Lageia and Ora. At Ora the route turns right and

after 10 kilometres, heading first north and then northwest, reaches Vavatsinia. Vavatsinia is a good spot for a rest and a snack before heading back down to Kofinou via the villages of Pano Lefkara and Skarinou. Kofinou is a 5 kilometres ride to the north of Skarinou on the old Lefkosia - Lemesos road. Alternative route: From Vavla, the route turns right, climbing up to the village of Kato Drys (6 kilometres). Three kilometres later it reaches the Skarinou - Vavatsinia road, just below Pano Lefkara. This route is 22 kilometres shorter. The original route has a distance of 80 kilometres with a 965-metre height gain. You will find paved roads throughout this difficult route; with long but not too steep uphill therefore a 16 speed street bicycle will be required.



Cycle Map © Where To Cyprus. Right Top and Bottom Images © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

Larnaka to Lefkosia



The Larnaka to Lefkosia route goes past the village of Athienou in the Mesaoria plain. It begins at Larnaka Port roundabout and heads west along Stratigou Timagia Avenue until the Tsakkilero traffic lights where it turns right towards Aradippou, heading northwest. Through Aradippou, under the motorway to Paralimni keeping in the same direction skirting the village of Avdellero before reaching Athienou. From Athienou the route turns south on to the old Lefkosia - Larnaka road up to the junction of the road to Lympia on the right heading west. From Lympia it passes through the villages of Dali and Nisou, goes under the Lefkosia - Lemesos motorway and through the villages of Kotsiatis and Margi. Then turning north, going through Tseri and ending at the Tseriou Street roundabout in the Kokkines area just outside Lefkosia. This route has a distance of 60 kilometres with a height gain of 410 metres and an average degree of difficulty. There are paved roads throughout. A street bicycle with at least 14 speeds will be required.

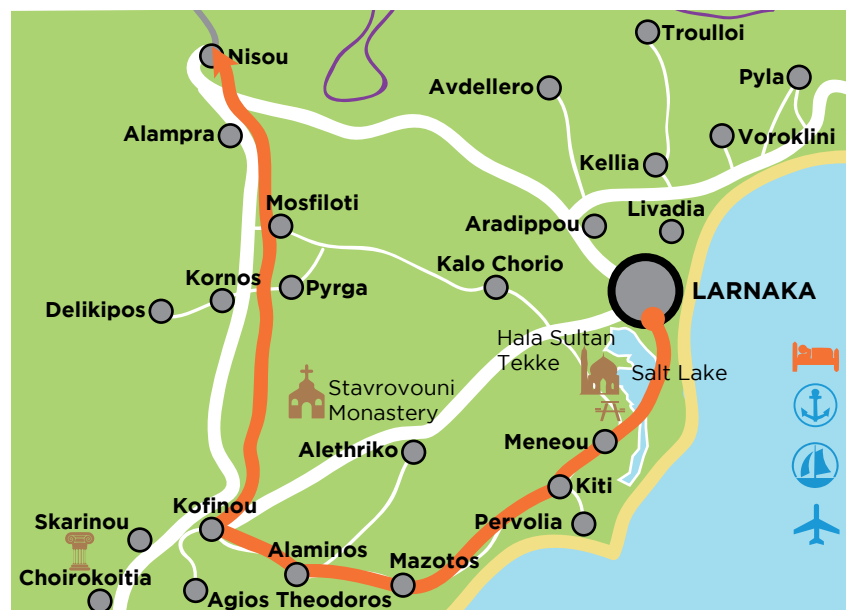
Voroklini Hill



The Voroklini (Oroklini) Hill cycling route has Gerakomoutis Hill as its focal point. The hill is situated 207 metres above sea level and has a chapel dedicated to Profitis Ilias. It offers exciting routes with various levels of difficulty. Offering magnificent views over Larnaka Bay. You will find unpaved roads therefore it requires a mountain bike with at least 21 speeds and front fork suspension.

Cycle Map © Where To Cyprus.

Larnaka to Nisou



to be the starting point for the Mazotos-Vavatsinia-Kofinou route. From Mazotos the route continues west towards Alaminos and reaches Kofinou where it meets the old Lefkosia - Lemesos road. It turns right and to the north towards Lefkosia. From this point on it becomes more difficult, owing to a 6 kilometres long 220 metres high vertical climb. After that, it is downhill all the way through the villages of Pyrga, Mosfiloti, Alamprou and Nisou. This difficult route has a distance 61 kilometres with a height gain of 505 metres. You will find paved road throughout owing to a number of steep uphill's this route requires a street bicycle with at least 14 speeds.

Larnaka to Nisou, through the hills of the Kakoradjia region is a difficult ride and links up nicely with a number of alternative routes. Starting at Larnaka Port roundabout (or vice versa), it travels along Stratigou Timagia Avenue, crosses the traffic lights at the Fire Department and continues straight to the next traffic lights where it turns left to reach the traffic lights by Phaneromeni Church on the Larnaka Airport - Meneou road. From there it turns right and goes south, past the airport roundabout and southwest to Meneou. Just before Kiti village, it turns right towards Mazotos, which is about 10 kilometres further down after the fuel station. The fuel station also happens



Cycle Map © Where To Cyprus. Bottom Image © Ntina Halla.



Nature Trails and Walks

NATURE TRAILS AND WALKS IN TOWN

LARNAKA DISTRICT NATURE TRAILS

NATURE TRAILS AND WALKS IN TOWN

VOROKLINI BEACH TRAIL

For the lovers of long walks along the beautiful sea-front of the Larnaka bay a beach trail allows comfortable walking for several kilometers. It goes parallel to the sea for 5 kilometers along the eastern beaches of Larnaka towards Voroklini and Pyla. The trail is a permanent walking structure, which combines stone - cement - wood - pier construction, which was awarded an international architectural prize. The Larnaka sandy coast of the trail is rich in sea shells and colourful very small stones and the sunrise and

sunset on this beach are magic. Stepping on this pedestrian trail can be made at any point along the Larnaka - Dekeleia tourist area.

SALT LAKE NATURE TRAIL

West of the city centre, this 4 kilometres trail has three starting points. The first is at the Kamares Aqueduct on the exit of Larnaka towards Lemesos. The second one being opposite ELDYK Memorial Park on Artemidos Avenue. The third starts in front of the Hala Sultan Tekke running along the side of the Salt Lake. Besides the migratory birds and the interesting plant life of the area, at this site goddess Artemis-Diana and Aphrodite- Astarte were worshiped. A sanctuary, which does not survive, existed in this area and an elegant sculp-

Left Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation. Middle Image © Ntina Halla. Right Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

ture of Artemis - Diana was discovered a copy of which decorates the round - about on Artemidos Avenue. The close connection of the area with these Greek, Semetic and Roman Goddess can be felt especially during the ultra-red sunsets you can enjoy walking along the trail. This trail is part of the European Walking Route E4.

CITY SEAFRONT WALK

Starting from Europe Square you can safely walk along the city's seafront pavements for 3 kilometres up to the Mckenzie pedestrian trail or vice-versa. Along this walk you may enjoy the sandy promenade mingling with the sea, the historic buildings and the seafront traditional city quarters and modern hotels. If you prefer a shorter walk, the favorite walk of the locals is recommended. It starts at the Castle and finishes at the pier inside the Larnaka Marina, as many times as there is available time. This walk will never get you bored especially after sunset, because there are always lots of people doing the same walk.

LARNAKA MARINA WALK

Opposite the colonial buildings of Europe Square is the entrance of the Larnaka Marina. It was built in the early 1970's all around the Colonial Pier, which was constructed by the British in 1879 to develop the facilities of the Larnaka port at that time. The walk on the Pier is a traditional social activity of the people of Larnaka and it is strongly recommended because it is the only place you can have a look at the Larnaka seafront from the side

of the sea and at the same time enjoy the feeling of a real sea-town where activities are extended in the open sea.

WALKING IN TRADITIONAL QUARTERS

A recommended walk for the adventurers is through the traditional city quarters between Agios Lazarus Church, the market place and the shopping area ending with a visit at the Pierides Museum.

THE PATTICHIO PARK TRAIL

The Pattichio Park is situated north of Artemidos Avenue and it is a 2 kilometres pedestrian trail. The "Pattichio Amphitheatre" is placed in the middle of a large natural park, which is part of the greater Salt Lake Park. This separation was done in the 1980's together with extensive construction of pedestrian paths, to protect a number of rare Cyprus plants blossoming here every winter on the one hand and on the other to facilitate visitors that would like to walk in the park without harming the rare plant and animal life of the area. Due to adequate lighting it is possible to use in the evenings too.

NATURE TRAILS IN THE DISTRICT

KIONIA - PROPHET ELIAS

This trail begins at the Kionia camping site near Vavatsinia, or inversely

from the Machairas Monastery in the direction of Konia. It is 7 kilometres long and it takes about 3 hours of walking to complete, passing through the Prophet Elias Monastery, where a natural spring is on hand to satisfy your thirst.

VAVATSINIA - CAVE OF ATHASHIA

Starting at the earth road of the Vavatsinia - Konia Forest, the trail has a distance of 2 kilometres that can be undertaken in about an hour. During the walk you will come across the cave of 'Athashia', which is a test excavation for mineral gold that is known to exist in the area.

LEFKARA - METAMORPHOSIS OF THE SAVIOR CHAPEL

Commencing at Lefkara on the road to Vavatsinia, the beginning of this trail follows a steep slope up to the Church of the Metamorphosis of the Savior. It then follows a circular direction, ending up back in Lefkara village after a 3 kilometres, 1.5 hour walk. Along the route, the panoramic view from the church is quite stunning.

LEFKARA - KATO DRY

This trail follows the same path towards the Metamorphosis of the Saviour Church, but subsequently detours towards the village of Kato Drys. This downward sloped walk can lead you to the Convent of Saint Minas, which accepts visitors during weekdays. The total length is 2.5 kilometres which can be completed in approximately one hour.

Larnaka Events Diary

November-March: European Cultural Winter in Larnaka-Music, dance & theatre with the participation of soloists and ensembles from Cyprus and abroad, at the Larnaka Municipal Theatre. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

November-April: Musical Sundays-Series of cultural events with traditional songs and dances, classical and contemporary music, at the Seafront Stage. Organised by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

October-March: Zenonion Free University of Larnaka-Lectures by university professors, at the House of Letters & Arts. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality, University of Cyprus & Larnaka Progressive Movement.

January 6: Epiphany Day-Religious celebrations at Saint Lazarus Church & the Marina Pier. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality & Saint Lazarus Church.

February or March (date varies-50 days before Greek Orthodox Easter): **Green Monday Feast**-Traditional music, dances and games at the Tekke Grove. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

March 25, April 1, October 28: Students' Parade-On the occasion of the National Days of the 25th of March 1821, 1st of April 1955 and 28th of October 1940. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality & the Educational Organisations POED, OELMEK & OLTEK.

March, April or May (date varies according to Greek Orthodox Easter): **Procession of Agios Lazaros (Saint Lazarus) Icon** at Saint Lazarus Church. Organised by Saint Lazarus Church & Larnaka Municipality.

March, April or May (date varies according to Greek Orthodox Easter): **Easter Festivities**-The most important Greek Orthodox religious feast is celebrated with evening processions on Good Friday, outdoor midnight mass on Easter Saturday and traditional games on Easter

Sunday and Monday, all over the Larnaka region.

April 1-30: Festival of Classical Music at the Municipal Theatre. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

May 1st Sunday of the month: "Anthestiria" (Flower Festival)-Parade of flower decorated floats and festive program at Athens Avenue and the Seafront Stage. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

May or June (dates varies): **Pentecost-Kataklysmos Fair (Flood Festival)**-Larnaka holds the most important folklore festival in Cyprus lasting 6 days with music, dance, poetry, theatre, cultural and athletic competitions and firework shows at the Larnaka Seafront. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

June 11: Zygi Village Fair.

Week 1 July: Traditional songs and dances in Voroklini, Archangel Michael Church Yard.

July 1 & 2: World Famous Musicals at the Pattichion Municipal Amphitheatre. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

July 3-31: Larnaka Festival-Music, theatre, dance & poetry with the participation of soloists and ensembles from Cyprus and abroad at the Pattichion Municipal Amphitheatre, Medieval Castle, Marina Pier and other historical places in Larnaka. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

Beginning of August: Youth Beach Party, Voroklini Beach.

August 9-15: Kiti August Festival-Concerts, dances and theatre.

August: Various events held in almost all Larnaka villages throughout the month.

September 6-Cyprus night with food, drink, traditional music and dance, Vo-

roklini traditional neighbourhood.

September: Mediterranean Folklore Dance Festival at the Seafront Stage. Organised by the Cultural Heritage Association of Nicosia and the Larnaka Municipality.

September 21-22: Procession of the Holy Image and the Sacred Relic of Patron Saint Phocas through the streets of Athenou followed by traditional dance and songs.

September or October: International Festival "Kypria"-Music, dance and theatre with the participation of soloists and ensembles from Cyprus and abroad at the Pattichion Municipal Amphitheatre & the Larnaka Municipal Theatre. Organised by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Larnaka Municipality.

October 1: Annual Festival of Tradition and Culture held at a different village in Larnaka every year. Organised by the Ladies' Association of Rural Larnaka.

Week 1 October: Bread Festival in Athenou.

November: Fortnight of Larnaka Amateurs Artistic Creation-With the participation of choirs, orchestras, dancing groups and theatrical societies at the Larnaka Municipal Theatre. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

December 17-24: Christmas events in all venues of the town. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

December 31: New Year's Eve Celebrations at Europe Square and Fireworks. Organised by the Larnaka Municipality.

For detailed monthly events please visit the Larnaka Tourism Board's website: www.larnakaregion.com

Useful Contact:

Cultural Services of Larnaka Municipality
Tel: +357 24 657 745/629 333
Email: culturalservices@larnaka.com

Where To Shop

We know how difficult it can be trying to find specific items such as souvenirs and gifts in unfamiliar surroundings. Here we try to give you a detailed picture on what Larnaka has to offer and where to go to pick up those special items.



Left and Top Right Images © Larnaka Tourism Board. Bottom Right Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation.



Retail Therapy

Larnaka is the perfect place to enjoy some leisurely retail therapy, but knowing exactly what to buy as souvenirs can be tricky!

The good news is that you will definitely be spoilt for choice from traditional Cypriot handicrafts, excellent bottles of local wines to designer labels. Whilst there are shops in many different parts of the region there is a good selection in the main shopping area which lies just behind the Foinikoudes promenade and if you have something specific in mind a quick enquiry in the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) office in Vassileos Pavlou will soon have you on the right trail.

At this stage there are two things to remember... the weight allowance for your suitcase and the fact that during the summer months (May - October) many of the local shops close for siesta between 13:00 - 16:00 but do stay open later in the evenings. Smaller shops are also closed every Wednesday afternoon. The exceptions to this rule are department stores, supermarkets and the tourist shops overlooking the Foinikoudes Promenade, which are also the only shops to stay open on a Saturday afternoon.

As well as international brand stores, Larnaka has some good boutiques and menswear shops for clothing and its shoe shops have some beautifully styled leather shoes. For fun souvenirs there are plenty of shops selling colourful tee-shirts and track suits as well as beach bags and sandals.

Left and Middle Image © Chrissie Flint. Right Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Quality jewellery is well priced and there are some really good jewellers in town and several can create pieces in the design of your choice either in gold or silver in just days. Many visitors to Larnaka visit one of the town's opticians as a pair of new glasses or sunglasses will definitely be cheaper than at home.

For those seeking something traditional you can find lace shops not only in Lefkara but also in Larnaka town. Leather was once an important industry in Cyprus and there are still a couple of leather shops where jackets, suits and trousers can be made-to-measure in just a few days. Other specialist shops stock beautiful leather accessories including handbags, belts, wallets and purses. If you are looking for presents with a difference, you will find stalls in the covered retail market in Nikolaou Rossou Street, selling handmade soaps, incense, honey, loukoumia (Cyprus Delights) and Teratsomelo (carob syrup). The market is open daily 07:30 – 17:00 except Wednesdays and Saturdays when it closes at 13:00 and Sunday when it is closed all day. Other retailers nearby also have a great range



of edible souvenirs including Cypriot nuts, honeys and herbs and plenty of Cypriot wines and spirits too.

There are several workshops in this part of town run by gifted metal workers and you can also watch craftspeople weaving rush seats on traditional chairs and hand stitching shoes in Kleanthi Kalogera Street. There is also a copper shop there that sells Cypriot coffee pots (brikia) in a variety of sizes and in nearby Pavlou Valsamaki (close Agios Lazaros Church), there is a shop filled with more than 200 icons of different Saints as it is a tradition to give an icon to a friend with the same name as the Saint.

The fruit market in the municipal car park is held on a Saturday morning, with stalls there known for their excellent honey. If you have room in your suitcase, a bottle of Cyprus brandy, Commandaria, Filfar (the traditional Cypriot orange liqueur) or a really good Cypriot wine, all make an excellent gift.

If you find as you start to pack your suitcase ready for the homeward

journey that everything just will not fit, some good news is that suitcases and travel bags are really cheap to buy in Cyprus and there will even be spare room for your memories.

Useful Information:

Larnaka Municipal Market
Leontos Sofou Street.
(near Agios Lazaros Church).
Sells: Fruits and Vegetables
Opening Hours:
Monday-Saturday 06:00-14:00

Open-Air Market
Dromolaxia Road
Sells: Fruits and Vegetables
Opening Hours:
Saturday 06:00-14:00

Oroklini Car-Boot Sale
Sells: Various items
Opening Hours:
Sunday 06:00-18:00

Kornos Village
Known for: Traditional pottery.
Location: 30 minutes drive from Larnaka

Lefkara Village
Known for: Embroideries and Silverware.
Location: 30 minutes drive from Larnaka

Skarinou Village
Known for: Olive oil and Carobs
Location: 30 minutes drive from Larnaka

Ayioi Vavatsinias Village
Known for: Wine and Traditional sweets
Location: 45 minutes drive from Larnaka

Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Retail Therapy: Written by Chrissie Flint.

Larnaka is well known for its pottery-making as well as its jewellery tradition and more precisely silversmithing. Although local workshops of traditional arts and crafts can be found all over the region of Larnaka, most ceramics workshops are located behind the seaside street of Piyale Pasha. Furthermore, in the old market area surrounding the historic Agios Lazaros church one can still see artisans of traditional professions such as candle-makers, icon painters, metal workers, bakers and carpenters. The picturesque village of Lefkara has been throughout the years known for its traditional lace-making which has recently been included in the Unesco World List for Intangible Heritage.

Larnaka's shopping streets are unique in the sense that local family businesses are located next to international brand name boutiques selling famous designer labels. Over the last years local prominent designers have established their businesses in Larnaka. The increasing number of fashion shows which



are being organised in Larnaka lately, give the opportunity to a larger audience all over Cyprus to get acquainted with these designers' latest collections.

The commercial centre of Larnaka stretches from Gregori Afxentiou Avenue up to Kalogeras Street. The main shopping area within the commercial centre are Ermou and Zenonos Kitieos streets and bystreets. Larnaka is the only city in Cyprus in

which the shopping area is next to a public beach and this makes shopping here quite an experience!

The recently developed three new squares in the city centre (Ermou Street, Agios Lazaros and Medieval Castle) have greatly facilitated shopping for pedestrians. Planned changes include the renovation of Pallas Square and the transformation of some roads into pedestrian streets.



Top and Bottom Left Images Chrissie Flint. Bottom Right Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Where To Taste

Cyprus lies at the crossroads of the Levant, as this eastern end of the Mediterranean is known. Just take a glance at its history and you will see how various empires, invasions, foreign settlers and traders over the past 3,000 years have brought their influence to Cyprus. With them they have brought along a plethora of recipes and ingredients. Today we combine these age old methods with current contemporary cuisine styles. It is no surprise Larnaka is said to be the gastronomic capital of the island.



All images © Larnaka Tourism Board.



Dining

Foreign flavours, mainly coming from Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Lebanon, Syria, Italy, France and latterly Britain, have combined with the food produced on the island to give Cyprus its own traditional cuisine.

For centuries, Cypriots have accompanied their drinks with meze, these are a large number of varied dishes being served in small helpings, a selection of delicacies consisting of many dishes of delicious foods.

Meze are a traditional feature of religious feast days, birthdays, weddings and name days. Feasting usually means endless eating, singing and joking, accompanied by wine and zivania.

Served all over Cyprus, mezedes cover a broad range of some the best of local cuisine and can include 20 or more dishes. The feast begins with black and green olives, tahini, skordalia (potato and garlic dip), taramosalata (fish roe dip) and tzatziki, all served with a basket of fresh bread and a bowl of village salad.

Left image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

Some of the more unusual meze dishes that may be served include, octopus in red wine, kappari (pickled capers) and moungra (pickled cauliflower). Bunches of greens, some raw, some dressed with lemon juice and salt, are a basic feature of the meze table. The meal continues with a variety of fish dishes for a fish meze. For a meat meze, it continues with grilled halloumi cheese, lountza (smoked pork fillet), keftedes (minced meatballs), sheftalia (pork rissoles) and loukanika (sausages). Kebabs, lamb chops and chicken then follow this. With the last dish to be served being fruit or the traditional preserved fruit glyko (spoon sweets).

Glyko is found in every home and is the first thing to be offered to a guest together with a glass of water. Cypriot women continue to make glyko in the traditional way handed down from generation to generation and serve it with great pride. There are a bounty of dishes to try in addition to mezedes. Cypriot classics such, Tavas (beef or lamb casserole) or Kleftiko (slow baked lamb) are also fantastic traditional recipes. Seafood, too, is very much part of the way of life on the island, the fresh catch of the day, be it fish, squid or octopus are staple Cypriot foods. Also be sure to try Cyprus' famous

'halloumi' cheese made from sheep and goat's milk. You can have it in all kinds of different ways, from grilled to fried or on its own, and in the summer you must try it with watermelon, for an unusual combination of flavours.

Get to the heart of Cypriot culture by discovering its delicious cuisine. Many great times are recalled having been spent over a meal, the same can be said whether you are eating in a home within a traditional Cypriot household or at a local taverna with friends. Bon Appetite or rather as Cypriots would say, Kali Orexi!

Insiders View

Growing up in within a Cypriot household, it is quite fair to say that your family time revolved around what we know as the heart of the home, our kitchen.

My grandmother's cooking would fill the house with wonderful fresh aromas, fresh Olive Bread baking, Koulourakia (small sesame breaded fingers and rings, likened to Biscotti), traditionally made at Easter to eat on the Holy Saturday. Another Cypriot Easter treat are Flaounes, which according to tradition, are baked on Good Friday, to be eaten on Easter Sunday following the fasting period of the Holy week.

We were welcomed home with wonderful soups, following long journeys and enjoyed hearty meals such as Moussaka and Tava (Lefkara is famed for its own special recipe of this dish), Makaronia tou Fournou (oven baked pasta), a staple at ev-



ery celebratory meal, not to mention the all weather barbecues.

Freshly made warm Haloumi and Anari (ricotta style creamy cheese) eaten fresh or dried. Green olives hand-cracked with stone and placed in a salt-water filled jar to preserve, before removing washing and dressing them with olive



oil, garlic, lemon and dried coriander when serving. Freshly prepared salads, be it Choriatici (village) with feta cheese, potato salad or simply fresh, rocket, lettuce, parsley laid on a plate, it really was very much a Cypriot taverna everyday in our home.

Our grandmother had the gift of making perfectly round Loukou-

mades (similar to donuts but soaked in home-made syrup). These can be purchased at bakeries, festivals and community events throughout the island today, along with Koupes, (cracked wheat, mince filled pies).

Our mother would make special treats, sweets such as Galatobou-reko (a sweet semolina based cream or custard baked in filo pastry covered with, yes, more syrup!). Then there is the Vasilopita cake she would make every New Years eve, with an entire family of twenty plus clambering to choose a piece, hoping to find the hidden coin inside that would represent blessings for the New Year.

My grandfather would go out and 'expertly' select wonderful fresh salad and green leaf produce, potatoes and onions. He would divide these amongst his six children each week.

Even though they were too, now grown with families and homes of their own. This is something, which our families continue to do today.

All these fond memories, days and nights spent around the kitchen table, were as much about the bringing together and sharing amongst families and friends as they were about the food.

Larnaka has the same warmth, in addition to the contemporary cafes, restaurants and sushi bars, which contribute a great deal to the city's gastronomy. There are still fantastic family run tavernas that have been around for many years. They cook for you as they would a guest in their own home, very much the Cypriot way.

A tribute to Maria Andreou (1922-2010)



The Story of the Vasilopita

Legend has it the first Vasilopita was baked by Saint Basil (from whom it took its name). It was said that, the poor citizens of Caesarea were asked to raise a ransom to prevent a siege on their city; other traditions suggest it was the emperor who had raised taxes.

In both versions of this great story, Saint Basil was given the task of returning the coins, jewellery and other valuable possessions to the citizens as the siege or tax rise was called off.

Not knowing who they belonged

to and having no way of returning each households contributions, Saint Basil was said to have knelt and prayed before icons of Lord Jesus Christ and his mother Mary.

Following his prayer he had all the valuables baked in loafs of bread and distributed amongst city's households, as if by miracle, each household received the exact valuables they had given.

Since Saint Basil's death on the 1st January 379AD, Orthodox Christians have continued to make Vasilopites in remembrance of him.



Top Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Insiders View and The Story of the Vasilopita: Written by Androulla Kyriacou.

Tonia Buxton

Tonia Buxton is a Presenter, Historian, Writer, Gourmet Cook and Beauty Expert, all of which she balances with being a wife and mother of four children.

Tonia has kindly found the time to contribute to this year's issue of our guide, sharing with us some of her personal experiences in Larnaka, mouth-watering recipes and some insider's tips on the region. Enjoy!



Tonia is best known as presenter and producer of Discovery Channels award winning series 'My Greek Kitchen' and 'My Cypriot Kitchen'. These series' have received global acclaim and are shown in 30 different countries worldwide. Her TV series 'Beauty and the Feast' is shown on UK Food and around the world. Channel Health in conjunction with the Britain's National Health Service also made a series of programmes with Tonia on educating mothers on how to have healthy pregnancies. With further TV channels scrambling to sign her for future shows.

Global ambassador of Greek and Cypriot cuisine, Tonia is passionate about Cypriot food having done her apprenticeship from a very young age in her mother's kitchen and believes Cypriot food is a largely undiscovered secret!

As a qualified nutritionist, Tonia has written for many years on healthy eating and mood foods, has her own regular newspaper column and has just finished writing her Greek Cookery Book, 'Tonia's Greek Kitchen'.

Tonia says, "I have a real love for Larnaka, because through my father, I am a 'Scaliothissa' (from Scala, a familiar name for Larnaka, mostly used to describe the specific area along the Castle seafront) as he was born & brought up in the Chryso-politissa area of town. My parents now have a house on the seafront and it is where we spend most of our summer.

"There is so much to do and see whilst we are there, I never come to Cyprus without visiting the Church of Agios Lazaros, with its amazing history. I have been lucky enough to

be in Cyprus at Easter a couple of times and no other town does the 'Epitaphio' following the flower decorated bier of Christ as well. In Larnaka there are three churches close together and they all meet whilst walking, it is a truly wonderful sight and one not to be missed.

"As a foodie I am never disappointed when I am in town, a whole wealth of traditional tavernas, one of my favourites is Voreas in Vorklini or if you have a car try Agia Anna, in the village of the same name, just remember to go hungry. If it is traditional Kleftiko you fancy then no one does it better than Miltizis. If it is a great atmosphere you hanker for then McKenzie beach is where to go and Koo is the place to eat where Chef Gil reigns supreme! And club XS is the place to dance the night away.

Image © Tonia Buxton.



"But for me what really makes Larnaka is the wonderful Palm Trees Promenade of Foinikoudes, I loved it as a child, as a teenager & now as an old lady!

"Walking up & down or sitting in one of the many cafés just watching the world go by..."

'Tonia's Greek Kitchen', can be purchased from www.toniabuxton.co.uk.



Tonia Buxton's Where To ... Larnaka

Where To Visit

Agios Lazaros Church and the Salt Lakes.

Where To Go

If you can get on one of the fishing boats or any boat tour from Larnaka they are great. The Zenobia wreck is amazing. If you have young children; the Camel Park as my boys love it.

Where To Shop

I love going to the little market in Larnaka town and buying shoushouko to take home. I always put in a bottle of wine from one of the smaller boutique wineries that I can not get in London, there is a wonderful wine shop in town. I also always buy some Commandaria as I love it.

Where To Dine

Nippon, Gregory's on Dekeleia road for souvlaki and the best place for ice-cream is Papaphilipou, the one on the main road with the parrot outside.

Where To Drink

XS bar and Galu. Children will love Hobo's as there are lots of games and things to do and they make a mean Margarita too.

POACHED PEARS IN RED WINE WITH CLOVES

This is based on a very traditional recipe but I bet a canny trick my mum has shown me (one even Wendy my food stylist had not come across) will be new to you and impress!

Ripe pears gently poached in a robust Cypriot red wine with oranges, cloves and..... yes, beetroot, you don't eat the beetroot, we only want for the lovely rich colour it will give the pears.

Serve the pears warm or chilled with vanilla or mastic ice cream or Greek yoghurt and they are also a match made in heaven sliced and served on a cheese plate.

Serves: 8

8 firm dessert pears

2 bottles of a full bodied Cypriot red wine (i.e. Maratheftiko)

1 and a half glasses (300g)caster sugar

A good handful or quarter glass whole cloves

2-3 cooked beetroots, cut into quarters

Pared rind and juice 1 orange

All Images © Tonia Buxton.



Carefully peel the pears leaving the stalks intact. If necessary take a slither off the base to make sure they stand upright-ish after soaking up the wine! Place the pears in a saucepan then tip in the sugar, a good handful of cloves, beetroot, orange rind and juice. Now pour the red wine on making sure the pears are fully immersed.

Heat to a gentle simmer then cover and poach for around 30-40 minutes until just tender – this time will vary depending on the ripeness of the pears... Use a slotted spoon to carefully remove the pears to a serving bowl. Take out the beetroot and discard. Now increase the heat to bubble the red wine down to a syrupy consistency. By now the whole house will be wafting a heady aroma of mulled wine! Cool then pour over the pears, cover and chill until ready to serve.

Tonia's tip: This dessert can be prepared up to 3 days before you wish to serve.

FETA CHEESE PARCELS WITH HONEY

These delicious individual cheese pies are served as part of a meze or as a starter...

But they can also be made with unsalted anari cheese which is similar to ricotta cheese and then becomes a dessert which I like to serve with mastic ice-cream as if not already indulgent enough....

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C (160°C Fan) Gas 4

Place one sheet of filo pastry on a large baking sheet then brush all over with olive oil; lay another sheet directly on top. Place a little slab of feta in the centre of the pastry, drizzle 1 tbsp honey on top then sprinkle lightly with sesame seeds.

Fold over the filo pastry encasing the cheese, making a secure parcel; brush with oil again.

Repeat until you have four parcels spaced evenly out on the tray. Bake in the oven for around 20-30 minutes or until golden.

In a saucepan gently heat together the remaining 4 tbsp honey and ouzo with 3 tbsp water. Stir until blended and just hot.

Transfer each cooked parcel onto individual plates, cut in two then drizzle on the warm honey mixture and finish with a scattering of sesame seeds. Serve immediately.

8 leaves filo pastry

5 tbsp olive oil or melted butter

8 tbsp Greek thyme honey (or a drizzly honey)

2 tbsp sesame seeds

4 pieces feta cheese (about 100g each)

3 tbsp ouzo



All images © Vanessa Courtier.



Drinking

Traditionally, Cypriot men used to meet at their local coffee shops and spend hours talking whilst sharing a game of cards or playing backgammon, over a Greek coffee, zivania or commandaria. This may have been often accompanied by light mezedes also. This can still be seen in some of the smaller rural villages today.

You may find you have a small wait when ordering a traditional coffee. Unlike most kinds of coffee served in Europe, Cyprus coffee is brewed in small, long handled pots, wide at the base and tapering at the top called "mbrikiia" which were traditionally made of copper. These are a permanent feature in all Cypriot households around the world.

The coffee is made from fresh, finely ground coffee beans, usually Brazilian. One heaped teaspoon of coffee is added to each demitasse of cold water. The sugar is added while the water is still cold. The amount depends on whether you want your coffee sweet "glykis", medium "metrios", or unsweetened "sketos".

Left and Right Images © Where To Cyprus. Middle Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.

The “mbrikiá” are heated on the stove or in small trays filled with heated sand that transfers the heat in a more uniform and smooth manner. When the sugar has dissolved, the coffee is allowed to come to the boil, forming a creamy froth known as “kaimaki” on top. As the froth turns in from the sides, the coffee begins to rise and the pot is removed from the heat. Served in small cups and is customarily accompanied with a glass of cold water, the coffee is strong and should be sipped slowly. The thick layer at the bottom of the cup should not be drunk. Fortune-tellers have use for this layer of coffee as it said that they are able to interpret the dried patterns left behind to reveal something about the person’s future.

Zivania, one of Cyprus’s traditional alcoholic drinks, dates back

to the end of the 14th century. It is produced by distilling pressed grape residues in special stills or cauldrons using a simple, age-old tradition passed proudly from generation to generation in the island’s wine villages. The traditional technique helps to separate ethanol from zivania’s distinctive aromatic ingredients. This is only a drink for the brave; the alcohol content of this white spirit can range from 40% to 99%. It usually accompanies a good meal such as mezedes or is served with dried fruit and nuts, and is best enjoyed in good company.

Commandaria is acknowledged to be the oldest wine in the world and was probably the first to be given an ‘Appellation d’Origin’ (label of geographical origin). Legend says



that Commandaria was originally made for Richard the Lionheart and the Crusaders. This delightful dessert wine, which has a taste not unlike sweet sherry, has been made using the same method for hundreds of years. The grapes are picked late, dried in the sun to enhance their sugar content and then pressed. The run-off is collected and fermented in tanks or in huge earthenware jars. The sweet wine of Cyprus became known throughout Europe under the name Commandaria depicting its geographical origin “Commandarie” which was the name given to the land owned by the Knights Templar and later the Knights of Saint John.

The wines of Cyprus which date back to ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian times, is definitely

Top Image © Where To Cyprus, Bottom Image © Ktima Dafermou Winery.



something to experience whilst on the island. Enjoyed in abundance since the days of antiquity, Cyprus wines have been of great importance to local life through the ages.

In the Middle Ages the famous Commandaria wines were enjoyed by travelers to the Holy Land, while in the 19th century, wines were sold in goatskins. The proliferation of new wineries in the last few decades shows Cypriots remain true to their proud wine making tradition. The art of making wine was very well known in Cyprus well before the accounts of Greek geographer Strabo around the time of Christ. Botanical remains confirming the presence of vines on the island have been found at Neolithic and Chalcolithic archaeological sites in Cyprus.

The main wine growing area in Larnaka lies around the villages of ‘Orini Larnaka’, including Lefkara and Vavatsinia. Visitors can sample the local wines at various locations, including small wineries.

The classic grapes of Cyprus are the Mavro, Xinisteri, Ophthalmo and Muscat varieties. These produce rich, vigorous, strong wines. Due to a concerted effort to broaden the range of local wines, more delicate, fruity, mellow wines made from European strains such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Grenache and Palomino are also available.

It is clear to see Cyprus has taken its love of these age old traditions into the twenty-first century.

Many people young or old, locals and visitors, men and women alike can now be found doing what had been done for centuries before.

Larnaka is inundated with great places to drink; bars, lounges, clubs, cafes, traditional and non-traditional. Larnaka is able to satisfy all tastes and styles. The city’s cosmopolitan crowd form part of the daily scene here. Whether enjoying a traditional Greek coffee at the cafes, sampling local beverages whilst taking in the ambience at one of the many beach bars available, or simply trying out one the irresistible cocktails at one of the fine contemporary bars or clubs in town. Larnaka ensures you are never short of options on where to enjoy a fabulous drink.

LARNAKA WINERIES

Larnaka has two wineries offering tours and wine tasting. Please contact ahead of your visit to make arrangements.

Ktima Dafermou Winery

Lefkara Road
Agios Georgios
Larnaka
Tel: +357 70 008 373
Web: www.dafermouwinery.com

Ktima Christoudia

Kato Drys-Agios Minas Road
Kato Drys
Larnaka
Tel: +357 99 034 828
FB: www.facebook.com/ktima.christoudia

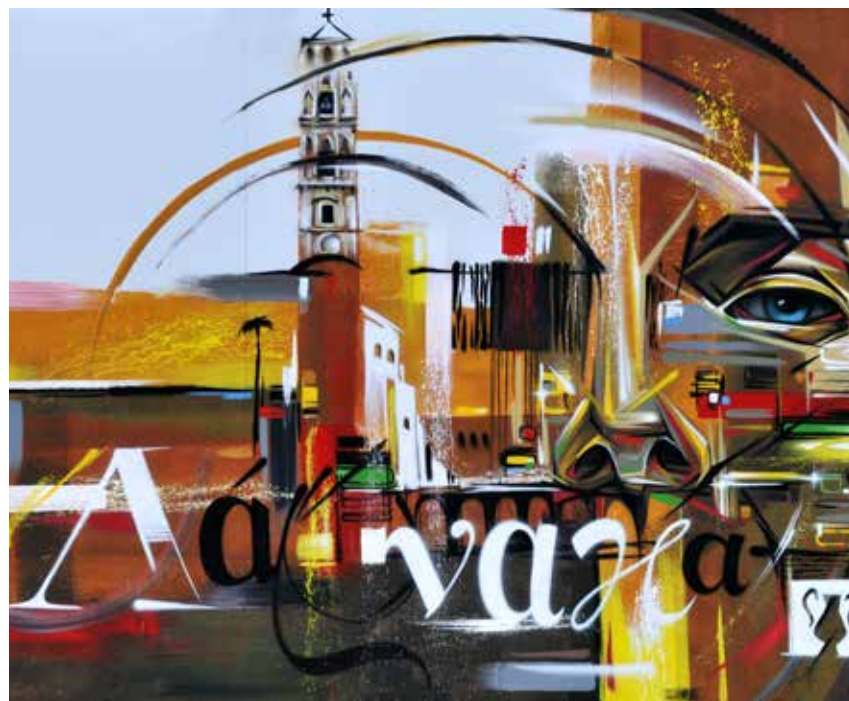


Top Image © Larnaka Tourism Board, Bottom Image © Andreas Constantinou.

Where To Find

New to this year's issue is our 'Weddings' feature, which offers plenty of practical information and ideas about planning your wedding in Larnaka.

Details on travel, currency, details of public holidays and much more have been included in our Tourist Information section in order to ensure you are kept fully informed of what is going on during your stay with us in Larnaka.



Bottom Right Image © Larnaka Tourism Board. Top Right Image © Golden Bay Beach Hotel. Main Image Larnaka by Localati. Open-air Larnaka Art Project Graffiti Exhibition permanently located in Larnaka-Dekeleia Road.



Weddings

LOVE LOVE LOVE....dreams do come true

The birthplace of Aphrodite the Goddess of love and beauty - Cyprus, surely there can be no place more fitting in the world to exchange lifelong vows with your loved one.

Dreams of being married on a beautiful island, wonderful weather, stunning scenery surrounded by family and friends? Whether you plan a big budget wedding or a small intimate affair, Larnaka offers just that!

There are a number of tour operators, wedding agents or hotel wedding coordinators that can assist you with all the legalities, as well as tailoring the finer details to your specific needs. Or you could just arrange the entire day yourself. Either way good planning can ensure everything runs smoothly and without a hitch.

There is no dispute Larnaka's stunning picturesque backdrops offer an endless choice of charming settings for your nuptials. Cobbled stone streets and limestone houses in the rural areas, on a hill top overlooking panoramic land and sea views, secluded beaches along the coast with the crystal blue waters of the Mediterranean extending into the distance, medieval monuments, places immersed in history add that extra touch to the sun kissed romance. While visiting the island why not hire a car and go out exploring the Larnaka region in search of your picture perfect location.

Many of your pre-wedding arrangements can take place ahead of your big day. Flowers, cakes, menu's. Whether you plan for a Civil ceremony or a more traditional Religious ceremony Larnaka's cultural diversity can meet all your needs.

Left and Middle Images © Golden Bay Beach Hotel. Right Image © Palm Beach Hotel.

The hospitable character for which Larnaka is renown go hand in hand in assisting with your after ceremony celebrations. Whether you choose to celebrate in public or private places, hotels, banqueting suites, local restaurants or tavernas, they can all be draped and dressed to create that ideal setting for your big day.

We have put together a guide illustrating some key points for arranging your wedding on this magical island of love.

CIVIL CEREMONY

A civil ceremony can be carried out in a number of locations outside of the Town Hall (Municipality Office). The town hall will be happy to discuss any locations you have in mind and advise you on the viability.

The Marriage Officers are always keen to help your dream become a reality with the Civil Marriage being one of the most flexible when choosing the ideal location for your service. Civil marriages have been known to take place on beaches, along the Palm Trees Promenade, in the Medieval Castle, around the Salt Lake, Larnaka Marina, on a yacht, in hotels or other private grounds. The possibilities are pretty much endless.



The ceremony is very simple and takes about 10-15 minutes. This short, but meaningful service can be good during the summer months when the weather can be quite hot.

Some of the Town Halls have bilingual Marriage Officers and can also arrange translators, so it is always worth enquiring should you require this type of assistance.

The Procedure

A marriage can be solemnized in two different ways:

- Marriage by Special License
- Marriage with Notice

Under the provisions of the Marriage Law 104(I) of 2003, you must apply in person upon arrival in Cyprus, to the Marriage Officer of the Municipality of your choice. Here you will finalise the formalities which are necessary prior to your wedding.

(a) As a first step, in possession of legal identification (passports and birth certificates) you will need to complete, sign and submit to the Marriage Officer a joint application called "Notice of Marriage" indicating your wish to marry each other and containing your particulars on the basis of your passport.

(b) At the same time, you will both be required to make a declaration on oath or affirmation before the Marriage Officer that you know of no impediment or other lawful hindrance to your marriage and that any necessary consent required for the marriage has been obtained, or that no such consent is required.

(c) You will need to provide an official certificate indicating that you are not married. If however the Marriage Officer has any doubt as to the accuracy or genuineness of the certificate fur-

nished by the interested persons, or if you are unable to produce such an official document you will be required to make a sworn declaration before the Registrar of a District Court that you are single and have never been married before. As divorcees you have to present the "Decree Absolute" of your dissolved marriage and if you are widowed you will have to present the "Certificate of Death" of your late partner. You will also be required to make a sworn declaration (affidavit) that you have not married since.

(d) When these formalities have been completed, the marriage must be celebrated within 15 clear days at the earliest, or within 3 months at the latest, from the date the notice is given. If, for any reason, the marriage is not celebrated within 3 months, the notice given and all proceedings arising therefrom are considered null and void. In fact, interested persons, in order to have a civil Marriage by Notice, should plan to stay in Cyprus for about 20 days. Prescribed fees: 128.15 Euros.

(e) In urgent cases, or if you so wish, you may apply to the Marriage Officer via the Marriage with Notice procedure, this allows you to fix an earlier date, by paying advanced fees. In this case the marriage can be celebrated within 2-3 working days. The formalities prescribed in paragraphs 2(a)(b) and (c) above also apply in this case. You will be required to book your appointment with the relevant municipality in which you would like to be married two weeks prior to your wedding date. Prescribed fees: 281.90 Euros.



All images © Lefteris Kolokotronis. Setting: Art of Flowers, Loizos Iordanous

ties prescribed in paragraphs 2(a)(b) and (c) above also apply in this case. You will be required to book your appointment with the relevant municipality in which you would like to be married two weeks prior to your wedding date. Prescribed fees: 281.90 Euros.

Additional Fees

Marriages during non-working hours (afternoons or weekends), acquire an additional charge of 100.00 Euros indoors or if the wedding is to be conducted outdoors the additional charge of 150.00 Euros will apply.

Following the celebration of marriage you will be given a signed and witnessed copy of your original Certificate of Marriage. For a certified True Copy of the Certificate of Marriage you must apply at the Civil Marriage Office. There is a fee of 13.65 Euros for each True Copy of the Marriage Certificate. It is also a requirement that if either of you are a subject of a foreign country having an Embassy or a Consulate in Cyprus, that the Marriage Officer shall forward to the Embassy or the Consulate of such country in Cyprus a certified copy of the certificate of marriage.

Please Note: Municipality offices only accept cash payments in the Euro currency.



Image © Palm Beach Hotel.

Documentation Required

Civil Marriages can take place between Cypriot nationals and non-Cypriot nationals in Larnaka. Documentation required may vary depending on your nationalities therefore it is always advisable to contact the relevant municipality to confirm your documents ahead of your arrival. In any event, it is always best to send copies of your documentation in advance in order to gain approval. This will go far in offering you the peace of mind that you have all the necessary, original documents in hand to present in person to the town hall on arrival. Please find below a list of the standard documents required, for any further clarifications about documents that you need to present, please contact the Marriage Officer of the Municipality where you would like to be married.

•Valid Passports (the names on the wedding certificate will be the same as that on the passports).

•Birth Certificates.

•Evidence of freedom to marry or equivalent document from your country this document must be signed and dated by a legal authority of your country (i.e. registry office, court or solicitor).

•Original Decree Absolute, if either of you are divorced.

•Death Certificate with previous Marriage Certificate, if either of you are widowed.

•Letter of Consent, if you are under the age of 18. This would be the written consent of the father, mother or lawful guardian of such party.

•Adoption papers, if either of you are adopted.

•Document from a solicitor notary confirming change of name if either of

you has changed your name by deed poll.

All documents that are not in Greek must be translated into English with the translations legally certified before your arrival on the island.

MUNICIPALITY OFFICES WITHIN THE LARNAKA REGION

For further information concerning Civil Marriages please contact a Civil Marriage officer at the relevant Municipality.

LARNAKA MUNICIPALITY

P.O.Box 40045,
6300 Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 653 333/816 564
Fax: +357 24 653 384
Email: civilmarriage@larnaka.com
Website: www.larnaka.com

LIVADIA MUNICIPALITY

1 Dikaosinis Street
7060 Livadia
Tel: +357 24 633 388
Fax: +357 24 635 414
Email: demoslivadion@cytanet.com.cy
Website: www.livadia.org.cy

ATHIENOU MUNICIPALITY

2 Archiepiskopou Makariou III Avenue,
7600 Athienou
Tel: +357 24 811 370
Fax: +357 24 522 333
Email: mail@athienou.org.cy
Website: www.athienou.org.cy

LEFKARA MUNICIPALITY

P.O.Box 46005,
7705 Lefkara
Tel: 357 24 342 422/342 822
Fax: 357 24 342 769
Email: info@lefkara.org.cy
Website: www.lefkara.org.cy

RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

For those of you wishing to have a traditional religious ceremony, there are a number of religious establishments in Larnaka which will be happy to accommodate your needs.

In addition to the popular Greek Orthodox churches you will find taking prominence throughout the island, Larnaka has become a cultural melting pot causing a number of other religious denominations to set up churches in the area. This, of course, is great news for visitors wishing to marry in Larnaka, offering a number of choices outside of civil wedding ceremonies.

In addition to Eastern Orthodox churches you will also find Russian Orthodox, Anglican, Catholic, Greek Evangelical, Armenian Orthodox, Maronite Churches and a Synagogue.

Most of the documents and procedures required here are no different to those required within your own

Parish at home.

It is advisable to book your wedding date with your required church well in advance, anything from one to two years notice may be required with some churches, whereas others may require a shorter notice period, it very much depends on availability.

Wedding costs or donations can vary quite significantly between churches. Anything from 200 Euros up to 680 Euros depending on your chosen church or given religion.

Most the of the documents required with civil weddings apply here also, along with baptism certificates and other minor formalities which may be expected to be gathered from your local parish.

Please ensure you contact the religious minister in the church you wish to be married either by telephone or email for further information in advance. They will be able to best advise you on the particulars required.



CHURCH CONTACTS IN LARNAKA

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

(Marriage Licence Requests)
Diocese of Kition
(Metropoli tou Kitiou)
Tel: +357 24 652 269
Email: diafotisi@imkitiou.org
Website: www.imkitiou.org

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Church of Semistrel'naya
Tel: +357 99 805 842
Website: www.hram-alethriko.ru

LATIN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary of Graces Catholic Church
Tel: +357 24 642 858
Email: sanctamaria@cytanet.com.cy

ANGLICAN CHURCH

St. Helena's Anglican Church
Tel: +357 24 626 824
Email: sthelenasvicar@cytanet.com.cy
Email: sthelenasoffice@cytanet.com.cy
Website: www.sthelenaschurch.com

GREEK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Tel: +357 24 824 494/ +357 99 649 254
Email: argyridec@cytanet.com.cy

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

St. Stefanos Armenian Church
Tel: +357 24 654 435
Email: armpfel@spidernet.com.cy

MARONITE CHURCH

Saint Joseph Church.
Tel: +357 24 652 449
Website: www.maronitearchepar-chy.org.cy

CHABAD CYPRUS

The Cyprus Jewish Community Centre
Tel: +357 24 828 770
Email: office@jewishcyprus.com
Website: www.jewishcyprus.com

Image © Cyprus Tourism Organisation and Elpidia Media. - Written by Androulla Kyriacou with Civil Ceremony 'Procedure' adapted from Cyprus Tourism Organisation Text.



Tourist Information

The Cyprus Tourism Organisation's Information Offices should be every tourist's first point of call to the island. Each of the CTO regional offices carries a wealth of free information and literature on its locality and the island as a whole.

You can find brochures, leaflets and maps containing details on Rural, Cultural and Religious routes. Accommodation listings can also be found here along with local transport details and much, much more.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Cyprus' intense Mediterranean climate consists of hot dry summers commencing in mid-May running through to mid-September. There are milder temperatures throughout Spring and Autumn. With the coolest months of the year being January and February. The island offers clear skies and sunshine for most of the year.

As with anywhere you will find coastal temperatures slightly lower with those inland, with the higher ground being a cool refuge, especially during the summer months.

All Images © Larnaka Tourism Board.

LOCAL TIME

Cyprus Time is GMT +2.

CURRENCY

The currency of the Republic used to be the Cyprus pound - CY£. As from 1st January 2008 the Cyprus pound has been replaced by the Euro as the legal tender money of Cyprus at the irrevocable fixed exchange rate 1 Euro = CY£ 0,585274.

There are seven denominations in Euro banknotes: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Euro. They all have different colour and size, the higher the denomination, the bigger the size. One Euro is divided into 100 cent. There are eight Euro coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent, 1 Euro and 2 Euro. The designs on one side of the coins are common to all the countries of the Euro area, while the other side reflects national identities. All Euro coins can be used in all Euro area countries, irrespective of their national side.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

You will find local Banks offer a foreign currency exchange service and are happy to quote you the exchange rates of the Euro against all major foreign currencies daily. This service is also offered at hotels.

FORMS OF PAYMENT

Hotels, large shops and restaurants accept credit cards, travellers' cheques, Eurocheques and banknotes of major foreign currencies.

V.A.T. REFUND

Foreign visitors from countries outside the EU can claim back V.A.T. on goods exported in their hand luggage. Visitors are eligible for a V.A.T. refund if:

- They are not holders of a passport or other form of identification from an EU Member State.

- They have not resided in Cyprus

or in any other EU member state for more than 365 days in the two years immediately prior to the date of purchase of the goods.

- The total purchased from one store or a chain or stores is more than 171 Euros and less than 17 100 Euros.

- The goods are exported in visitors' hand luggage by the last day of the third month following the month in which the goods were purchased.

In order to claim your V.A.T. refund you will have to:

- Make your purchases from shops that display a tax-free shopping sign and simply ask for your tax-free document.

- When leaving Cyprus show your purchases and passport to customs officials and have your tax-free document stamped.

- Receive your refund in the method of your choice.

More detailed information can be



Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.



obtained from the Customs and Excise Department, V.A.T. Service at www.mof.gov.cy/ce.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Medical treatment and assistance in Cyprus is offered free of charge to international tourists in cases of emergency at the Accident and Emergency Department of Government Hospitals and Health Institutions. EU citizens must produce an E111 form or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued by their country's health care authorities to obtain additional health care. Holiday makers can also use their health insurance towards their medical expenses, provided the policy covers the length of their stay on the island.

VACCINATIONS

Cyprus has no dangerous infectious

diseases. Visitors do not require any vaccinations to travel to Cyprus.

DRIVING IN CYPRUS

Driving in Cyprus can be enjoyable and in some cases essential as regular transport services to remote areas of interest are not always available. The minimum driving age is 18. To rent a car, drivers must be in possession of a driving licence for at least three years or be aged over 25. Visitors may drive using a valid international driving licence or their national driving licence, provided it is valid for the class of vehicle they wish to drive.

Fairly good surfaced roads complying with international traffic requirements link cities and villages. Four-lane motorways connect the capital,

Lefkosia (Nicosia) with the coastal cities of Lemesos (Limassol), Larnaka (Larnaca) and Pafos (Paphos). Minor roads and forest roads are for the most part loose surfaced, but in good condition. Drivers should note that driving is on the left-hand side of the road, not on the right. All the international road traffic signs are in use and placed on the left-hand side of roads and highways. Distances and speed limits are posted in kilometres and kilometre/per hour (km/h) respectively. The maximum speed limit on motorways is 100 km/h and the minimum is 65 km/h. The use of seatbelts is compulsory both in the front and back, while the use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited while driving. It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle or a pedal bicycle when under the influence of alcohol.

The legal limit in breath is 22 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit in blood is 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. Rush hours in the cities are approximately between 07:30 - 08:00 and 13:00 - 13:30 and in late afternoon 17:00 - 18:00 in winter or 18:00 - 19:00 in summer.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Larnaka buses service all of the tourist areas within the region, as well as the residential suburbs. Local buses can be considered the most cost effective way of exploring all aspects of the region, including local villages and tourist locations in town. This is an ideal way to discover small residential villages, scenic locations for a spot of lunch or maybe stop off for a traditional greek coffee in one of the village cafes, it does not get much more authentic than that!

Image © Larnaka Tourism Board.



Service Provider:
ZINONAS BUSES LTD
TEL: 80007744/+357 24 665 531/541
EMAIL: info@zinonasbuses.com
Website: www.zinonasbuses.com
Costs of travel within the Larnaka Region are as follows:
One way ticket: 1,50 Euro
Full day ticket: 5,00 Euros
7-day ticket: 15,00 Euros
Monthly ticket: 40,00 Euros

PHARMACIES

Medicine can be purchased at pharmacies on presentation of a doc-

tor's prescription. Almost all brands of medicine are available in Cyprus. Pharmacies are all marked with a green cross.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In case of emergency call 112 wherever you are on the island.

SAFETY IN CYPRUS

Cyprus has an excellent reputation for being a safe and friendly place. You can help us keep it that way. A few basic precautions can be enough to protect your belongings.

TIPPING

Since a 10% service charge is levied in hotels and restaurants, tipping is not obligatory but is always welcome and appreciated!

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Travelling to Cyprus is very easy. The documentation required varies, depending on your nationality. A valid passport is required for a stay of up to 90 days for all bonafide tourists except citizens of European Union countries, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

Image © Department of Land and Surveys, Kypros (Cyprus).

who may enter Cyprus with their national identity card provided it bears a photo. Some non-EU third country nationals require a visa. Further detailed information can be obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Information at www.mfa.gov.cy.

LEGAL POINTS OF ENTRY

Entry into the territory of the Republic of Cyprus via ports or airports in which the Government of the Republic does not exercise effective control (Turkish occupied areas) is illegal.

The legal ports of entry into the Republic of Cyprus are the airports of Larnaka and Pafos and the ports of Larnaka, Lemesos, Latsi and Pafos, which are situated in the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

IMPORTING PRODUCTS

Every person entering Cyprus is entitled to import the following duty free articles (not intended for commercial purposes), provided they are carried in the passengers' hand luggage or accompanying baggage:

Tobacco
800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars, 1kg of tobacco.

Alcohol
10 litres of spirits, 20 litres fortified wine (such as port or sherry), 90 litres of wine (of which, a maximum of 60 litres of sparkling wine), 110 litres of beer.

Travellers under the age of seventeen are not entitled to duty free tobacco products and alcohol.

For further information visit www.mof.gov.cy/ce.

It is prohibited to import agricultural products or propagating stock such as fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, dry nuts, seeds, bulbs, bulb-wood sticks, cuttings, etc., without the approval of the competent authorities. The import, possession and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are strictly prohibited. The import of fire arms, ammunition, explosives, flick knives, daggers, swords, obscene books, photographs, films and articles as well as goods bearing a forged trademark or false trade description is prohibited or restricted. Also prohibited or restricted are pirated or counterfeit goods, animals, birds, uncooked meat and fish and products thereof, milk and dairy products.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The days listed below are public holidays in Cyprus. All public services, private enterprises, banks and shops are closed on public holidays though many shops and certain services remain open in resorts and coastal areas. Banks are closed on Easter Tuesday but not on Christmas Eve.

January 1st - New Year's Day.
January 6th - Epiphany Day.
March 25th - Greek National Day.
April 1st - National Anniversary Day.
May 1st - Labour Day.
August 15th - Assumption of the Virgin Mary.
October 1st - Cyprus Independence Day.
October 28th - Greek National Anniversary Day.
December 24th - Christmas Eve.
December 25th - Christmas Day.
December 26th - Boxing Day.
Variable - Green Monday (50 Days before Greek Orthodox Easter), Good Friday (Greek Orthodox Church), Easter Monday (Greek Orthodox Church) and Pentecost - Kataklysmos (Festival of the Flood marks the day of the Holy Spirit).



The Cyprus Tourism Organisation along with the Larnaka Tourism Board (Larnaka Region) also have vast amounts of information available online.

CTO Information Office-Larnaka
Plateia Vasileos Pavlou
6023, Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 654 322
Email: InfoOfficeLarnaka@visitcyprus.com
Website: www.visitcyprus.com

Opening Hours:
April-October
Mon-Fri 08:15-14:30, 15:00-18:00
Saturday 08:15-13:15
The office does not open on Wednesday afternoons.
November-March
Mon-Fri 08:00-14:30, 15:00-17:30
Saturday 08:00-13:00
The office does not open on Wednesday afternoons.

Larnaka Tourism Board
12 Gr. Afxentiou Av. Skouros
Court 4th Floor, PO Box 40287
6302, Larnaka
Tel: +357 24 657 070
Fax: +357 24 628 281
Email: info@larnakaregion.com
Website: www.larnakaregion.com



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-PAST & PRESENT TREASURES REVEALED-



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