

# Cyprus at a glance



	Nicosia	Limassol	Pafos	Larnaca	Troodos
Limassol	72				
Pafos	164	77			
Larnaca	51	69	146		
Troodos	77	57	120	123	
Ayia Napa	88	106	183	37	160

DISTANCES ( k m )

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TEMPERATURE (°C)	17	17	23	25	27	30	32	33	31	27	22	19
SUNSHINE (HOURS)	6	7	7	9	10	12	12	12	11	9	7	6
SEA TEMPERATURE (°C)	18	17	18	20	21	24	26	27	26	24	22	19

## C L I M A T E

## Entertainment

Entertainment ranges from Modern Greek and international shows, glass dancing demonstrations, jazz concerts, oriental evenings, Bouzouki music and traditional folklore shows, to carnival celebrations and village festivals.

### Special events

**Carnival:** beginning of March. Fancy dress balls, parades and festivities.

**Opera:** Festival in Pafos in September.

**Wine festival:** in Limassol in September. A wine extravaganza, where wine flows freely for everyone to enjoy.

### Theatre

In Curium, Pafos and Limassol concerts and performances take place all year round.

## Museums

### Nicosia

- > The Cyprus Museum
- > House of Folk Art
- > National Struggle Museum
- > Byzantine Museum

### Larnaca

- > District Museum
- > Pierides Collection

### Limassol

- > House of Folk Art
- > Archaeological Museum
- > Cyprus Medieval Museum

### Pafos

- > Archaeological Museum
- > Ethnographical Museum
- > Geological Museum
- > Tombs of the Kings

## Public Transportation

Public busses operate locally between 6h00 and 19h00. Service taxis (for up to 8 people) provide transportation between the major cities (not including the airports) and operate on workdays from 6h00 - 18h00 and on weekends from 6h00 - 17h00 (no service on public holidays). Bookings in advance.

Limassol - Nicosia approx. €7.00

Limassol - Pafos approx. €5.60

Limassol - Larnaca approx. €6.00

Larnaca - Nicosia approx. €6.00

Busses operate between the major cities as well.

## The island

**Geography/Topography** Cyprus is situated in the north-eastern Mediterranean Sea and lies at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa. It is the third largest island in the Mediterranean after Sicily and Sardinia.

The island has been blessed by the Gods and nature with a varied countryside, natural and historic settings, sandy beaches, rocky coast-lines, mountain resorts, crystal clear waters and picturesque villages. Each resort or town has its own unique beauty and everything is within easy reach.

**Climate** Cyprus enjoys an intense Mediterranean climate, with long summers from May to October, and mild winters from December to February. Spring and autumn seasons are short. With an average of 340 sunny days a year, Cyprus can pride itself on being one of the sunniest and healthiest destinations in the Mediterranean that allows for a wide choice of outdoor activities and entertainment. It is the ideal destination, all year round.

**Required clothing:** Lightweight cottons and linens during summer months, warmer medium weight clothes and rainwear during the winter.

## Facts and figures

**Capital** Nicosia: 270.000 inhabitants

**Language** Greek is the official language, English follows second and German, French and other languages are spoken in the tourist-related areas.

**Religion** Greek Orthodox.

**Currency and Banking** Currency: Euro exchange facilities are available at all ports of entry, banks, hotels and bureaux de change. Major credit cards are widely accepted and traveller cheques may be cashed at all banks.

**Opening hours:**

Monday - Friday: 8h30 - 13h30

Monday afternoon: 15h15 - 16h45

**Passports and Visas** A valid passport is necessary. Visas are not required for holders of EU passports or countries with which a Bilateral Agreement exists.

**Vaccination** Immunisation against hepatitis A is sometimes recommended.

**Flights and Airports** Over 40 airlines operate flights within, to and from Cyprus. Larnaca International Airport (LCA) is 5 km south of the city, Pafos Airport (PFO) is 15 km east of the city.

**Local Time** GMT +2 (GMT +3 from March to October).

**Electricity** Square 13-amp three-pin plugs (UK-type) are used.



## General information

**Driving** Traffic drives on the left and sign posting is very good, in both Greek and English. Drivers must be 21 years old and in possession of either a valid international driving license or their national license when hiring a car.

**Safety** Cyprus is still a very safe island with a low crime rate.

**Health** All health requirements are EU standard. Doctors visit the hotel upon request and hospitals and Medical Centres are located in the cities and tourist areas. Pharmacies can be found in towns and tourist resorts.

**Communication** Cyprus is connected to the cellular network (GSM) and compatible mobile phones can be used. Internet access is widely available.

**Churches** Ecumenical, Catholic and Protestant masses are available in all cities and tourist areas.

## Infrastructure

Cyprus benefits from an excellent infrastructure. Modern roads and motorways allow easy travelling, advanced tele-communication system is standard, modern Health Sector, International Banking, Offshore and Shipping Centre, efficient government support and Health and Safety regulations are in accordance with the European Law.

### Towns

**Limassol:** 176.000 inhabitants

**Larnaca:** 72.000 inhabitants

**Pafos:** 47.300 inhabitants

## Holidays

**Gastronomy** Cyprus is famous for one of the healthiest diets in the world and the island produces an unlimited variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, depending on the season. Fish is caught daily and the local specialities satisfy all tastes. The local restaurants and taverns offer a wealth of choices in Cypriot food. The Cypriot "Meze" offers a tantalizing, almost endless selection of small dishes.

**Hotels** The hotel industry is far developed and offers accommodation and services of high standard.

### Sports

- > Biking: bikes for rent available
- > Diving
- > Fishing
- > Golf
- > Hiking
- > Horse riding
- > Motor biking: motor bikes for rent available
- > Sailing
- > Skiing: January - March
- > Tennis
- > Wind surfing

**Shopping** Local products of special interest to visitors include leather goods, woven fabrics, ceramics, filigree silverware, baskets, "Lefkaritika" lace and local wines and spirits. Tailor-made suits and spectacles are also very good buys.

**Opening hours:** Workdays 9h00 - 13h00 and 15h00 - 19h00, Wednesdays and Saturdays half day only.

These hours may vary depending on the season.

### Local Markets

**Limassol:** Monday to Saturday: 8h00 - 13h00

**Larnaca:** Saturday: 6h00 - 12h00

**Pafos:** Monday to Saturday: 6h00 - 12h00



# History

- 7000-3900 B.C.** **Neolithic Age:**  
The oldest settlements found on the island date from this period.
- 325-58 B.C.** **Hellenistic Period:**  
Cyprus came under the Hellenistic state of the Ptolemeis of Egypt, belonging from then on to the Greek Alexandrian world.
- 58 B.C.-330 A.D.** **Roman Period:**  
Cyprus became part of the Roman Empire.
- 330-1191 A.D.** **Byzantine Period:**  
After the division of the Roman Empire, Cyprus became part of Byzantium.
- 1489-1571** **Venetian Period:**  
The Venetians fortified the island against the Ottomans, building formidable walls around Nicosia and Famagusta.
- 1571-1878** **Ottoman Period:**  
Cyprus fell to the Ottoman troops. During this period a proportion of Cypriots and Latins succumbed to pressures and converted to Islam, thus creating the Muslim minority.
- 1878-1960** **British Period:**  
In 1878 Britain assumed administration of the island.
- 1960** **The Republic of Cyprus:**  
Cyprus became an independent republic.
- 1974** **Turkish Invasion:**  
Turkey invaded and captured 37% of the island. As a result, the island is divided in the Northern Turkish part and the Southern Greek part.
- 2004** **The Republic of Cyprus joins the EU.**

## Limassol at a glance

### A spirited and cosmopolitan seaside town

**Location** Limassol is centrally situated on the island's south coast and it is the main port. It is also the focus of Cyprus's wine industry. The tourist area called Yermasoyia is in a 4 km distance from the centre.

**Infrastructure** Due to intensive renovations and road works, Limassol has become very attractive and popular to tourists during the last years. The 11 km promenade leading next to the sea invites for walking or jogging. Several parks and a small zoo can be visited as well. Bus services connect Yermasoyia and the city centre.

**Shopping & Leisure** There is a variety of shops and modern shopping centres. The Old Town, with its narrow streets, offers typical markets and a wide range of cafés, bars, restaurants and taverns, that will satisfy all tastes.

The Time Elevator in the Old Town presents the history of Cyprus in a lively and interesting way. The harbour is the base for trips e.g. to Egypt.

**Nightlife** Limassol is a lively town due to the character of Lemessonians, a fun loving lot. The Yermasoyia district is famous for its nightlife, providing a variety of discos, bars and restaurants.

**Places of Interest** Limassol Castle stands guard over the old harbour and houses the Cyprus Medieval Museum. There is also a Folk Art Museum and the Limassol District Archaeological Museum. There are several places of historical and cultural interest around Limassol. Amathus, which is just outside the city to the east, was once the capital of a city kingdom but is now in ruins and partly covered by the sea. Kolossi Castle as well as the ancient city of Kourion are also worth visiting. The Akrotiri Salt Lake on a peninsula south of Limassol is a winter home to thousands of flamingos.



#### Beaches

- > Dassoudi Beach
- > Governor's Beach (black sand)
- > Lady's Mile Beach

**Excursions** Due to its central location, most places can be reached easily:

- > Troodos Mountains
- > Larnaca
- > Ayia Napa and Capo Greco
- > Nicosia
- > Pafos
- > Petra tou Romiou
- > Akamas Peninsula

## Ayia Napa at a glance

### The village of the golden sand

Ayia Napa, a tourist paradise in the Mediterranean known for its glorious endless sandy beaches, luxury accommodation, delightful restaurants and fantastic night life. An especially popular resort with the young and lively during the peak season.

Renown for its sandy beaches, especially the ones of Nissi Beach, Makronisos Beach, Sandy Beach and Ayia Napa Main Beach. It is also known for the lively nightlife in the centre of the village and around the monastery. In the centre of the village lies the Monastery of Ayia Napa, built by the Venetians. The church of the monastery is partly underground and is entered by descending a flight of steps. Before the main entrance of the church lies a 600 year old Sycamore tree.

The visitor can also enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner in one of the many restaurants lined up along the sea front or by the fishing port, all in a walking distance from the Monastery. During the summer, boats can take the visitors from that same port, on a day trip around the island. The village of Ayia Napa is a very popular destination. With its superb golden sandy beaches, this area has become a big draw for sunseekers.

#### Places of Interest

- > Traditional Cyprus House
- > Ayia Napa's 16th century Monastery
- > Macronissos Tombs
- > Marine Life Museum
- > Dolphin marine show
- > Ayia Napa's Water Park
- > The resort of Protaras



# Pafos at a glance

## An open-air museum surrounded by a beautiful landscape

**Location** Pafos is on the south - west coast of Cyprus and the low lying scenery around it is mostly cultivated by banana plantations and backed by the gentle foothills of the western Troodos range.

**Infrastructure** The booming main town and year-round resort in the west consists of Upper Pafos, built on a rocky escarpment that commands a superb view of the coastlines, and Lower Pafos, with a taverna-fringed harbour and a long seafront lined with hotels.

Bus services operate between Coral Bay in the north of Pafos and the centre.

**Shopping & Leisure** The focal point of the resort is a charming fishing harbour by Pafos Fort, lined with open-air cafés and tavernas that serve a tempting menu of the day's catch. Upper Pafos, with its shops and boutiques, is ideal for shopping.



**Nightlife** Nightlife takes place in the lively "bar street" where a range of bars and discos is offered.

**Places of Interest** Pafos is rich in ancient sites and UNESCO added the whole town to its World Cultural Heritage List. Among the treasures are the remarkable mosaics in the House of Dionysos, the Tombs of the Kings, the Pillar of Saint Paul and the ancient Odeon Theatre. Other places of interest include several museums, Pafos Fort commanding the harbour and Pafos Aquarium.

**Beaches**  
> Coral Bay

**Excursions** Day trips to all places of interest are possible. Pafos is a good base to discover the rugged west of the island. The following places are within easy reach:

- > Akamas Peninsula
- > Baths of Aphrodite
- > Troodos Mountains
- > Limassol
- > Petra tou Romiou

## CYPRUS an island blessed by the Gods

### EXCURSIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST

#### NICOSIA

The Island's capital is over one thousand years old and situated in the heart of Cyprus. Since the Turkish invasion in 1974, the city is divided into two by the "Green Line". It is the largest town and houses the main government offices, the presidential palace as well as the headquarter of many major local and international companies. The Old City, which is being renovated, is defined by 16th century walls built by the Venetians. Among attractions and points of interest are several museums and churches, the new Archbishop's Palace and the Ömeriye Mosque.

#### LARNACA

Larnaca has a marina and the seafront promenade is fringed with palm trees and cafés, reminiscent of Nice in southern France. The Aghios Lazaros Church, several museums, Larnaca Fort and the scant ruins of ancient Kition are worth visiting. Near the airport is the Hala Sultan Tekkesi, a historic mosque in beautiful gardens on the edge of Larnaca Salt Lake, a winter home of migratory flamingos.

#### AYIA NAPA AND AREA

Ayia Napa has a 16th century monastery and an increasingly boisterous reputation as a major clubbing resort. The golden beaches, such as Fig Tree Bay and Flamingo Bay, are ideal for families. Around Capo Greco, the coastline becomes indented with rocky coves and small sandy beaches, ideal for snorkelling and scuba diving.

#### TROODOS MOUNTAINS

The scenery in the reforested mountains is spectacular. Mount Olympus, at 1952 m is the highest peak in Cyprus and its snow-covered summit has skiing facilities. UNESCO has listed nine Byzantine churches located in the mountains as World Heritage Sites for their magnificently frescoed interiors. Stavros Monastery and Kykkos Monastery are also worth visiting.

#### AKAMAS PENINSULA

At the edge of the peninsula are the Baths of Aphrodite, a grotto containing a freshwater pool. Legend has it that the Greek goddess of love bathed here. The resorts of Polis and Latchi are a perfect place for enjoying freshly caught fish. Also, the nature reserve of Akamas, with its rugged cliff formations, secluded bays and endemic flora is ideal for nature lovers.

#### SOUTH COAST

Between Pafos and Limassol is Petra tou Romiou, with the Rock of Aphrodite, where according to legends, the goddess raised from the foam of the sea and stepped on the island.

#### TRIPS

Why not take advantage of Cyprus's geographic location and go on a day trip to Egypt and its famous pyramids or travel to Jordan?



### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- 1st JANUARY: New Year's Day
- 6th JANUARY: Epiphany
- 25th MARCH: Greek National Day
- 1st APRIL: Greek Cypriot National Day
- 1st MAY: Labour Day
- JUNE: Pentecost
- 15th AUGUST: Assumption
- 1st OCTOBER: Cyprus Independence Day
- 28th OCTOBER: "Ochi Day" Greek National Day
- 24 - 26th DECEMBER: Christmas

