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Josephine has visited Cyprus many times and finds that the island continually throws up surprises, although there is one constant: the genuine friendliness of the locals, on both sides of the Green Line. Highlights during this trip included sipping coffee and chatting to locals in simple village tavernas in the Akamas Heights, scuffing sand and avoiding turtle eggs at Lara Beach and gazing at the soul-stirring art in Lefkosia galleries and Byzantine churches. She also happily increased her knowledge (and her waist measurement) by sampling endless meze, washed down with local Cypriot wine from one of the growing number of wineries in the Troödos.

Jessica Lee
Lemesos & the South, Larnaka & the East, Kyrenia (Girne) & the North, Famagusta (Mağusa) & the Karpas (Kırpaşa) Peninsula

Jessica Lee fell head-over-heels for the rugged beauty of Cyprus’ mountains the first time she visited over 10 years ago. This trip took her from the bustling resorts of Lemesos and Larnaka out into the wilderness of the Karpas and up to the craggy castle-topped peaks of the Kyrenia Range. Her favourite place on the island, though, will always be Famagusta. When there, she is usually found sitting atop the old Venetian walls, eating dondurma (ice cream) while reimagining the Gothic splendour. Jessica also wrote the Life Outdoors, The Cyprus Way of Life and Landscapes & Wildlife chapters, and cowrote the Accommodation chapter.

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