



Larnaka & the East

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Art Cafe 1900 (p110)
- ➔ Voreas (p110)
- ➔ Militzis (p110)
- ➔ Karousos Beach (p121)
- ➔ La Cultura Del Gusto (p125)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Opera (p207)
- ➔ Gabriel House (p208)
- ➔ Iosiphis House (p208)
- ➔ Alkisti City (p207)
- ➔ Golden Bay (p208)

Why Go?

Cyprus' east has more to offer than sunbathing and sandcastles. Hike Cape Greco's coastal path for glorious scenery and weird rock formations then follow the winding roads inland to wander snoozy villages which hug hillsides speckled with wild fennel. Delve into the very beginning of this island's human habitation at the neolithic site of Choirokoitia or whiz back not quite so far in history with a fresco-infused church-hop of this region's Byzantine relics.

Larnaka itself is an easygoing seaside town with a handful of excellent historic sites. It's an ideal base for further exploration.

Those golden strips of sand along the coast are what beckon most travellers here though. As resorts, hedonist-fuelled Agia Napa and family-friendly Protaras may be as different as chalk and cheese but both owe their success to this region's beach-sloth beauty. Pick a beach. Any beach. You're pretty much guaranteed to come up trumps.

When to Go

➔ Between February and March pink clouds of flamingos, waterfowl, wild ducks and many other migratory birds check in at Larnaka's salt lake for their annual spring break and turn the serene waters into birdwatcher central.

➔ June's Kataklysmos Festival in Larnaka is a great opportunity to witness how the traditional ties still play an important role in modern Cypriot life.

➔ From May to September someone turns the hot switch on and everyone makes for the beach. With excellent visibility and peak sea conditions, this is also the best time to head underwater and check out the famed *Zenobia* wreck dive (p109).

➔ In July and August Agia Napa's party scene reaches full throttle and all-night clubbing is the name of the game.



Larnaka & the East Highlights

1 Checking out the beach-life along Finikoudes promenade in **Larnaka** (p106) before visiting the gorgeous Byzantine church of Agios Lazaros, built to honour

the man who wouldn't stay dead.
2 Mandering the cobblestone alleyways of **Lefkara** (p116) in search of the perfect piece of lace.

3 Finding your perfect patch of Mediterranean sandy bliss at **Nissi Beach** (p119).
4 Hiking or cycling the stunning **Cape Greco** (p123)

trail with wave-sculpted rock arches and sea caves.
5 Diving the **Zenobia Wreck** (p109), one of the world's most famous wreck dives.
6 Digging into Cyprus'

history at the neolithic site of **Choirokoitia** (p116).
7 Taking the day off to let the kids go wild at **Water World** (p120), Cyprus' biggest water park.