Cyprus

Joe Bindloss,
Jessica Lee, Josephine Quintero
Welcome to Cyprus
Cyprus Map
Cyprus’ Top 18
Need to Know
What’s New
If You Like
Month by Month
Itineraries
Accommodation
Getting Around
Eat & Drink
Like a Local
Activities
Travel with Children
Regions at a Glance

LEMESOS & THE SOUTH
Road Trip > Picturesque Villages, Beaches & Wine
Lemesos (Limassol)
Around Lemesos
East of Lemesos
West of Lemesos
Akrotiri Peninsula
Episkopi & Around
Ancient Kourion
Pissouri Bay & Village
Petra tou Romiou (Aphrodite’s Rock & Beach)

PAFOS & THE WEST
Pafos
Road Trip > Wineries, Weaving & Abandoned Villages
Around Pafos
Coral Bay & Agios Georgios
Akamas Heights
Akamas Peninsula
Polis
Tylliria
Pomos
Kato Pyrgos
Western Troödos

TROÖDOS MOUNTAINS
Road Trip > Monasteries & Mountain Villages
Road Trip > Wine Route 6
Troödos
Platres
Omodos & the Krasohoria
Marathasa Valley
Pedoulas
Kalopanayiotis
Kykkos Monastery & Around
Treis Elies
Solea Valley
Kakopetria
Pitsilia
Agros
Around Agros
Spilia-Kourdali

LARNAKA & THE EAST
Larnaka
Road Trip > Craftwork of Traditional Villages
Around Larnaka
Choirokoitia
Lefkara
Agia Napa
Ammochostos Region
Cape Greco
Konnos Beach
Protaras
Paralimni
Deryneia
Dekelia Sovereign Base
Pernera

NICOSIA (LEFKOSIA)
Nicosia (Lefkosia)
The Mesaoria Plain
Contents

NORTH NICOSIA
(LEFKOŞA) ........ 171

KYRENIA (GIRNE)
& THE NORTH ...... 184

Road Trip > Combing
the Northeastern
Ridge & Coast ........ 186
Kyrenia (Girne) ....... 188
Around Kyrenia
& the Ranges ......... 194
Bellapais (Beylerbeyi) . 199
Lapta (Lapithos) ....... 200

The Northwest ......... 201
Morfou (Güzelyurt) .... 201
Gemikonağı (Karavostasi) .... 202
Lefke (Lefka) ........ 203
Ancient Soloi ......... 203
Ancient Vouni ........ 205

FAMAGUSTA
(GAZIMÂĞUSA) &
THE KARPAS
PENINSULA ...... 206

Famagusta
(Gazimağusa) ....... 207
Road Trip >
Remote Rural Villages
of the Karpas ....... 210
Around Famagusta .... 217
Karpas Peninsula .... 221
The South Coast ....... 221
Yenierenköy
(Yiallousa) ........ 223
Sipahi (Agia
Triada) ........ 223
Dipkarpaz
(Rizokarpaso) ....... 224
Agios Filon & Afendrika .... 224

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A–Z .......... 258
Transport ............. 265
Language ............. 270
Glossary ............. 279
Index ................. 282

SPECIAL FEATURES

Eat & Drink
Like a Local .......... 41
Activities .......... 46
Landscapes &
Wildlife .......... 244
The Arts ............ 251

Cyprus
Today ............... 226
History ............. 228
The Cypriot
Way of Life ......... 241
Landscapes &
Wildlife .......... 244
The Arts ............ 251
Plan Your Trip

Itineraries

Take in beaches, wide-arching history, mountain vistas, rural villages and urban buzz, all in one swoop.

Fly into Larnaka for a day of beach time. Brush off the sand to discover the history behind this beach resort by checking out the Agios Lazaros and Pierides Archaeological Foundation. Afterwards, head for Nicosia (Lefkosia) via the cobblestone villages of Kato Drys and Lefkara. In the capital, delve into the historic Old City, framed by Venetian walls and crammed with art galleries, museums and contemporary cafe life.

Next head for the hills. The slopes of the Troödos hide a clutch of churches, home to fabulous frescos which fizz with Byzantine-era flair. While here, pull on your hiking boots to traverse a mountain trail or two. Roll back to the coast, stopping at neolithic Choirokoitia on your way to Lemesos (Limassol). Base yourself here while exploring the spectacular hillside perch of Ancient Kourion and the Commandaria region’s village idylls.
Then veer west, getting your best goddess-of-love strut on beside **Aphrodite's rock** at Petra tou Romiou, as you hop to **Pafos**. Check out the swag of mosaics and ruins here before escaping the crowds to flop on the sand at **Lara Beach**.
PLAN YOUR TRIP ITINERARIES
Stretching from western tip to eastern tail, this evocative journey encompasses crumbled ruins, rural vistas and white-sand stretches as it sweeps across the island.

Head up to the rugged Akamas Peninsula from Pafos airport. Hike in the footsteps of Greek gods on the Aphrodite and Adonis trails and throw your towel down on strips of wild and windswept beach. Then make a beeline east inland, stopping at traditional villages such as Ineia and Dhrouisia on the way to charming Fyti to revel in the slow pace of Cypriot rural life.

Dive onwards into the sylvan backwoods of Cedar Valley to visit ornate Kykkos Monastery before heading to the Troodos Mountains to stride out on the nature trails meandering through the hills. After a few days of birdsong, forest walks and frescoed church frippery, high-tail it to Lemesos (Limassol) to explore the nearby archaeological sites and feast on meze while overlooking the castle within the compact old town. Scoot along the coast all the way to Protaras; stopping to say hi to the flamingos at Larnaka Salt Lake, and calling in to Agia Napa Monastery and Museum of the Sea en route. Kick back on Konnos Beach for a day and discover the dramatic limestone cliffs of Cape Greco National Park on foot or by kayak while hanging out at the Republic’s most easterly point.

Cross the border to the North to spend the night amid shattered church shards in the old city of Famagusta (Gazimagusa) and then crane your neck at the Gothic glory inside the Lala Mustafa Paşa Camii. Devote a day to tootling around the Famagusta hinterland, delving far back into the island’s mind-boggling past at the nearby ruins of Ancient Salamis, Ancient Enkomi and the beautiful Church of Apostolos Varnavas. Then unplug from modern life with a journey up the Karpas Peninsula. On your way up the island’s eastern tail, climb the ramparts of Kantara Castle and view the mosaic remnants of the Basilica of Agia Triada before basing yourself near teensy Dipkarpac (Rizokarpaso) for some serious downtime soaking up the long swath of sand at Golden Beach (Nangomi Bay).

From here you could zoom back down to Larnaka to fly out, or turn west along Northern Cyprus’ coast to Kyrenia.
Take a week to traverse the highlights of Northern Cyprus, capped by castles, scattered with lonely ruins and monuments and rimmed by beaches.

Make your first stop **Kyrenia (Girne)** to take in the old-fashioned Mediterranean vibe of this picturesque harbour town loomed over by a Byzantine castle. Base yourself here while you explore the Augustinian splendour of **Bellapais Abbey** just inland. Here you’ll capture a sense of simple village life while meandering the narrow alleys which spindle up the hillside beyond. Afterwards take to the water to swim, fish and soak up coastal views with an afternoon aboard a gulet (traditional wooden ship with raised bow).

Head west to the fairy-tale crumbled ramparts of **St Hilarion Castle**, where, if you puff your way up to St John’s Tower, you’ll be rewarded with vistas which can stretch all the way to Turkey’s Taurus Mountains on a clear day. Then scoot coastwards to L apta (Lapithos) for the night. From here, road-trip through the north-west, heading through citrus country with stops at the remarkable blue-toned frescos of **Agios Mamas Church** in Morfou (Güzelyurt) and the lonely coastal ruins of **Ancient Soloi** and scattered clifftop remnants of **Ancient Vouni**, before hitting the road to **North Nicosia (Lefkoşa)**.

Take a full day to wind your way through North Nicosia’s old-town alleyes, checking out the layers of history preserved in the architecture of the Büyük Han and Selimiye Mosque, then scoot east, via the ruined towers of **Buffavento Castle** sitting high on a mountaintop, to **Famagusta (Gazimağusa)**. Wander the crumbling remnants of Gothic glory of this once-mighty Lusignan stronghold and head even further back in time amid the vast ruins of **Ancient Salamis** just to the north. From here, take a drive up the remote **Karpas Peninsula** to enjoy the beaches and raw vistas all the way along this thin finger of land, capped by the lonely **Monastery of Apostolos Andreas** watching over the coast on the eastern tip. Spend the night in one of the peninsula’s rustic hotels, then it’s time to backtrack west towards Kyrenia, stopping at the golden sweep of Kapıçica beach and wild **Alagadi Beach**, with its official turtle-hatching program, along the way.
Off the Beaten Track: Cyprus

**KATÒ PYRGOS**
A sleepy backwater tucked against the north-south border, where locals come to escape the hubbub, away from the coach-tour crowds. (p118)

**STAVROS TIS PSOKAS**
Loved by Cypriots, but rarely explored by visitors, this Tyllirian forest reserve is home to the last mouflon (wild sheep) on the island. (p119)

**ANOGYRA**
Just inland from Lemesos, this sleepy carob-producing village is a reminder of the old Cyprus – just sleepy streets of stone-walled houses and lovely peace and quiet. (p72)

**LANEIA**
The postcard vision of a Cypriot village, with flower-filled streets, rustic tavernas and a handful of traditional village enterprises. (p74)
Despite their proximity to Paralimni and Agia Napa, the red villages of the Ammochostos region are a million miles from the commercialism of the coast. (p144)

A hidden pocket of the Troodos Mountains, where the ruins of medieval bridges are dotted through the scented forests. (p91)

A lovely, lonely outpost on the north coast of the Karpas Peninsula, where ruined basilicas back onto empty sands. (p224)

Pointing like a spear towards Syria, the tip of the Karpas feels like the end of the earth, and in Cyprus, it is. (p222)

One of the least visited of Cyprus’ painted churches, set in the pocket-sized village of Moutoulla. (p89)
Map Legend

Sights
- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours
- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping
- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating
- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife
- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment
- Entertainment

Shopping
- Shopping

Information
- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic
- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population
- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport
- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes
- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries
- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography
- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas
- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book.
OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

OUR WRITERS

Joe Bindloss

Joe was born in Cyprus and has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet guidebooks since 1999, covering everywhere from Australia to the high reaches of the Himalaya. Joe currently works as Lonely Planet’s Destination Editor for the Indian subcontinent.

Jessica Lee

Jess high-tailed it for the road at the age of 18 and hasn’t looked back since. In 2011 she swapped a career as an adventure-tour leader for travel writing and since then her travels for Lonely Planet have taken her across Africa, the Middle East and Asia. She has lived in the Middle East since 2007. Jess has contributed to Lonely Planet’s Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus, Marrakesh, Middle East, Europe, Africa, Cambodia and Vietnam guidebooks, and her travel writing has appeared in Wanderlust magazine, the Daily Telegraph, the Independent, BBC Travel and lonelyplanet.com.

Josephine Quintero

Josephine first got her taste of travel when she slung a guitar on her back and travelled in Europe in the early 70s. After moving to the US she went to Kuwait where she worked as the Editor of a Kuwait Oil Company magazine. After Iraq invaded, she went to the relaxed shores of Andalucia in southern Spain where she writes regularly for in-flight magazines. Josephine primarily covers Spain and Italy for Lonely Planet, as well as Mexico City, Australia, Portugal and Cyprus.