



Cyprus Κύπρος

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Best Places to Eat

- » Inga's Veggie Heaven, Lefkosia (p291)
- » 1900 Art Café, Larnaka (p295)
- » Sabor, Lefkoşa (p298)

Best Historical Sites

- » Kykkos Monastery (p296)
- » Kourion (p295)
- » Pafos Archeological Sites (p297)

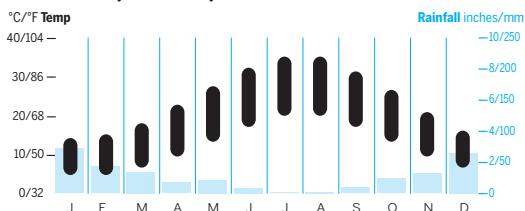
Why Go?

Cyprus captures the imagination. This is not your standard Mediterranean island cliché; Cyprus reflects its proximity to Asia and the Middle East in its culture, cuisine and history. Similarly evocative is the contrast between old and new, particularly evident in the capital, Lefkosia (Nicosia). Here you can see the merging of traditional and modern Cyprus, with dusty dilapidated buildings lying round the corner from smart boutiques and arty bars. The flip side of this are the tourist driven areas of Kato Pafos and Agia Napa although, thankfully, development has remained relatively low rise.

Get away from the coastal clamour and head for the Troodos Massif, or the iconic northern Cyprus resort of Kyrenia (Girne). Most importantly, visit both the Turkish and Greek sides of the divided island – you'll get a fuller picture of the complex and fractured Cypriot identity. Talks on peace and unification continue: watch this space.

When to Go

Lefkosia (Nicosia)



Mar–Apr Enjoy superb weather and that top religious festival for Greek Cypriots: Easter Week.

Jun–Aug Culture, art and music festivals such as the International Music Festival in Lemesos in July.

Sep–Oct An impressionist's palette of autumn colours; hike the trails in the Troodos mountains.

AT A GLANCE

» **Currency** Republic: euro (€); North Cyprus: Turkish lira (TL)

» **Languages** Republic: Greek; North Cyprus: Turkish

» **Money** ATMs are plentiful

» **Visas** Nationals of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand can stay for up to three months without a visa; visas are not needed for EU citizens

Fast Facts

» **Area** 9250 sq km

» **Capital** Lefkosia (Republic); Lefkoşa (North Cyprus)

» **Country codes** Republic 357, North Cyprus 90
392

» **Emergency** 112

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	€0.74/ TL1.69
Canada	C\$1	€0.74/ TL1.64
Euro Zone	€1	~TL2.27
Japan	¥100	€0.87/ TL1.96
UK	UK£1	€1.16/ TL2.62
USA	US\$1	€0.72/ TL1.60

Set Your Budget

» **Budget hotel room**

Republic: €45; North Cyprus: €35 (hotels in North Cyprus commonly quote prices in euros)

» **Two course evening meal** Republic: €15; North Cyprus: TL25

Connections

The main place to get to and from Cyprus by boat is Turkey – go between Girne (in Turkish North Cyprus) and Taşucu or Alanya in summer, and Gazimağusa to Mersin overnight (for details, see p301). Ferries to the (Greek) Republic of Cyprus were suspended in the 1990s but are expected to resume soon, with a route opening between Lemesos and Laurion in Greece. Meanwhile mini three-day cruises between Lemesos and Egypt are one option for those wanting to take to the seas (see p301). Most visitors arrive in Cyprus via air to Pafos or Larnaka airports in the (Greek) Republic, and to Ercan airport in the (Turkish) North. Note that the latter is not recognised by the international airline authorities so flights there are via Turkey.

ITINERARIES

One Week

With just a week in Cyprus, head to the capital to explore north and south Lefkosia. Cross the border for an overnight trip to Girne, then head south to Lemesos and Pafos for the island's best Graeco-Roman ruins, with a stop in the scenic Troodos Massif.

Two Weeks

With the extra week, hire a car and explore Frankish ruins in Gazimağusa (Famagusta), then drive up to the wild Karpas region. If you're up for some more untamed nature, head to the rugged Akamas Peninsula. Then visit Larnaka to pay your respects at the grave of Lazarus.

Essential Food & Drink

» **Meze** A healthy and sociable way to enjoy a wide variety of different foods and flavours, a meze comprises around 30 small plates of food, including dips, vegetables, and a wide range of traditional fish and meat dishes, like *calamare* (squid), *keftedes* (meatballs) and *sheftalia* (pork and lamb rissoles)

» **Halloumi** This quintessential Cypriot cheese made from goat's or sheep's milk, or a combination of both, appears everywhere. Enjoy it grilled as a side dish or stuffed in pita bread with salad, or just as it comes with cucumbers and tomatoes

» **Kebabs** Tuck into the original doner kebab, especially in the north where the traditional shredded lamb is usually wrapped in flat bread and served with salad. *Urfa* kebab comes with onions and black pepper, while *adana* is slightly hot with spicy red pepper

For Cyprus' internet resources, see p300