



Cyprus



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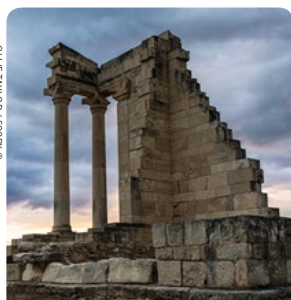
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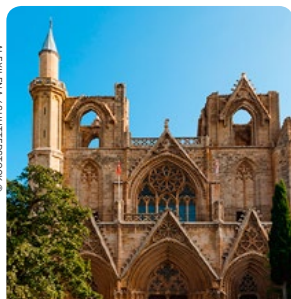
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RUINS AT ANCIENT
KOURION, P71



LALA MUSTAFA PAŞA CAMII,
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FIG TREE BAY, P143

Plan Your Trip

Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Top Spots in the Republic of Cyprus

Take in beaches, wide-arcng 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.





Beach promenade, Lemesos (Limassol; p56)

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**.



10
DAYSSpanning the
Peninsulas

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 Dhrousia 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 **Troödos 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 (Gazimağusa)** 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 Dipkarpaz (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.



Top: Street scene in Platres (p84)
Bottom: Mosaic, Pafos Archaeological Site (p98)

ALDO ACQUARONE / LOOK FOTO / GETTY IMAGES ©

DENISEY / SHUTTERSTOCK ©



Essential Northern Cyprus

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 gÜlet (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 Lapta (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 alleys, 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 crumbled 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 Kaplıca beach and wild **Alagadı Beach**, with its official turtle-hatching program, along the way.

LUDMILA YILMAZ/SHUTTERSTOCK



GOKHAN DILLER/SHUTTERSTOCK



Top: Kyrenia Harbour (p188)

Bottom: St George of the Greeks Church (p214)



Off the Beaten Track: Cyprus

KORUÇAM (KORMAKITIS) PENINSULA

The last refuge of Cyprus' dwindling Maronite community, with deserted beaches and dusty villages that see few outside visitors. (p204)

KATO 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)



0

0

50 km

25 miles

PANAGIA TOU MOUTOULLA

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

AGIOS FILON

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

ZAFER BURNU (CAPE APOSTOLOS ANDREAS) AGIOS FILON

ZAFER BURNU (CAPE APOSTOLOS ANDREAS)

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

KOKKINHORIA

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)

TREIS ELIES

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



MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

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)
- Sportsground
- 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



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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.



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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

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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.

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