

CYPRUS



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Cyprus is a Eurasian island country in the Eastern Mediterranean, south of Turkey and west of Syria and Lebanon. It is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and one of its most popular tourist destinations. An advanced, high-income economy with a very high Human Development Index, the Republic of Cyprus was a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement until it joined the European Union on 1 May 2004.

Cyprus is home to some of the oldest water wells in the world, and is the site of the earliest known example of feline domestication. As a strategic location in the Middle East, Cyprus has been occupied by several major powers, including the empires of the Hittites, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Rashiduns, Umayyads, Lusignans, Venetians and Ottomans.

Modern history

In the aftermath of the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878), administration, but not sovereignty, of the island was ceded to the British Empire in 1878 in exchange for guarantees that Britain would use the island as a base to protect the Ottoman Empire against possible Russian aggression. The island would serve Britain as a key military base in its colonial routes. By 1906, when the Famagusta harbour was completed, Cyprus was a strategic naval outpost overlooking the Suez Canal, the crucial main route to India which was then Britain's most important colony. Following the outbreak of The First World War and the entry of the Ottoman Empire on the side of the Central powers, Great Britain formally annexed the island in 1914.

In 1915, Britain offered Cyprus to Constantine I of Greece on condition that Greece join the war on the side of the British, which he declined. In 1923, under the Treaty of Lausanne, the nascent Turkish republic relinquished any claim to Cyprus and in 1925 it was declared a British Crown Colony. Many Greek Cypriots fought in the British Army during both World Wars, in the hope that Cyprus would eventually be united with Greece. During the Second World War many enlisted in the Cyprus Regiment.

In January 1959, the Church of Cyprus organized a referendum, which was boycotted by the Turkish Cypriot community, where over 90% voted in favor of "enosis", meaning union with Greece. Restricted autonomy under a constitution was proposed by the British administration but eventually rejected. In 1955 the EOKA organisation was founded, seeking independence and union with Greece through armed struggle. At the same time the TMT, calling for Taksim, or partition, was established by the

Turkish Cypriots as a counterweight. Turmoil on the island was met with force by the British.

Independence

On August 16, 1960, Cyprus attained independence after an agreement in Zürich and London between the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey. The UK retained the two Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia while government posts and public offices were allocated by ethnic quotas giving the minority Turks a permanent veto, 30% in parliament and administration, and granting the 3 mother-states guarantor rights.

Geography

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean (after the Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia) and the world's 81st largest. It measures 240 kilometers long from end to end and 100 km wide at its widest point, with Turkey 75 km to the north. Other neighbouring territories include Syria and Lebanon to the east (105 km and 108 km, respectively), Israel 200 km to the southeast, Egypt 380 km to the south, and Greece to the northwest: 280 km to the small Dodecanesian island of Kastellórizo (Meyísti), 400 km to Rhodes, and 800 km to the Greek mainland.

The physical relief of the island is dominated by two mountain ranges, the Troodos Mountains and the smaller Kyrenia Range, and the central plain they encompass, the Mesaoria. The Troodos Mountains cover most of the southern and western portions of the island and account for roughly half its area. The highest point on Cyprus is Mount Olympus at 1,952 m , located in the center of the Troodos range. Geopolitically, the island is subdivided into four main segments. The Republic of Cyprus, the internationally recognized government, occupies the southern two-thirds of the island (59.74%)- (population:754,064). The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus occupies the northern third (34.85%) of the island and is recognized only by Turkey, as it consists of the Turkish-occupied areas. The United Nations-controlled Green Line is a buffer zone that separates the two and covers 2.67% of the island. Lastly, two bases under British sovereignty are located on the island: Akrotiri and Dhekelia, covering the remaining 2.74%.



Topographic image of Cyprus

Wildlife

One of the unique features of Cyprus' habitats is the wild and sharp differences in elevations and habitats in different parts of the island as well as different climate conditions, all of which supply a diverse habitat for a unique array of fauna and flora. The number of plant species and sub-species of wild plant in Cyprus is possibly in the thousands, many of them being endemic. Wildlife can be seen in Troodos mountains, Larnaca salt lake, Akrotiri salt lake and undoubtedly Akamas national park. Cyprus is home to Cyprus moufflon which is a national symbol of the country. Moufflon is protected and can be seen in Paphos forests towards branches of Troodos Mountain.



Cyprus wild Moufflon

Climate

Cyprus has a Subtropical climate - Mediterranean and Semi-arid type (in the north-eastern part of island), with very mild winters (on the coast) and warm to hot summers. Snow is possible only in the Troodos mountains in the central part of island. Rain occurs mainly in winter, with summer being generally dry. Also, coastal of Cyprus is one of the few places in Europe which are "green" all year round.

Cyprus has the warmest climate (and warmest winters) in the Mediterranean part of the European Union. The average annual temperature on the coast is around 24 °C (75 °F) during the day and 14 °C (57 °F) at night. Generally – summer's/holiday season lasts about 8 months, begins in April with average temperatures of 21–23 °C (70–73 °F) during the day and 11–13 °C (52–55 °F) at night, ends in November with average temperatures of 22–23 °C (72–73 °F) during the day and 12–14 °C (54–57 °F) at night, although also in remaining 4 months temperatures sometimes exceeds 20 °C (68 °F). Middle of summer is hot - in the July and August on the coast the average temperature is usually around 33 °C (91 °F) during the day and around 23 °C (73 °F) at night (inside the island, in the highlands average temperature exceeds 35 °C (95 °F)) while in the June and September on the coast the average temperature is usually around 30 °C (86 °F) during the day and around 20 °C (68 °F) at night.



Troodos Mountains in winter

Government

Cyprus is a Presidential republic. The head of state and of the government is elected by a process of Universal suffrage for a five-year term. Executive power is exercised by the government with legislative power vested in the House of Representatives whilst the Judiciary is independent of both the executive and the legislature.



The Presidential Palace (Residence) in Nicosia

Districts

The Republic of Cyprus is divided into six districts: Nicosia, Famagusta, Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos.

Nicosia, is the capital and largest city of both Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Located on the River Pedieos and situated almost in the centre of the island, it is the seat of government as well as the main business centre. Nicosia is the capital of the Nicosia District.



Map of Cyprus Districts

Military

The Cypriot National Guard is the main military institution of the Republic of Cyprus. It is a combined arms force, with land, air and naval elements. The National Guard is a required 26 month service for all men upon completing their 18th birthday.

Economy

The Cypriot government adopted the euro as the national currency on 1 January 2008.



Cypriot euro coin

Religion

Most Greek Cypriots are members of the autocephalous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus, where as most Turkish Cypriots are adherents of Sunni Islam. According to Eurobarometer 2005, Cyprus is one of the most religious countries in the European Union, alongside Malta, Romania, Greece, and Poland.

Greek Orthodoxy : 78%

Sunni Islam : 14%

Other : 8%

Languages

The country has one official language: Greek. Turkish is used only in Northern Cyprus. In addition to these languages - according the Eurobarometer by European Commission - 76% of the population of Cyprus speak English, 12% speak French, and 5% speak German.

Education

Cyprus has a highly developed system of primary and secondary education offering both public and private education. The high quality of instruction can be attributed to a large extent to the above-average competence of the teachers but also to the fact that nearly 7% of the GDP is spent on education which makes Cyprus one of the top three spenders of education in the EU along with Denmark and Sweden.

The *University of Cyprus* (UCY) is a public coeducational university established by the Republic of Cyprus in 1989. It admitted its first students in 1992 and has currently approximately 3,500 students (2004/2005). It was the first university to be established in Cyprus. It is based in the capital of Cyprus, Nicosia. Since September 2005, the University's credit point system is based on ECTS. The programmes of studies at the University of Cyprus are based on credit hours. One credit hour is normally equivalent to one weekly 50-minute «class» per semester. To graduate from the University, a student must successfully complete 120 credit hours as described in the programme of the Department, which must include 12-15 credit hours of free elective courses outside the major area of studies and from at least two faculties of the University. In addition to the 120 credit hours, the student must complete the University's foreign language requirement of 6 to 9 credits.



University of Cyprus modern facilities

Art

Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love, beauty, and sexuality is said to be born in Cyprus. The art history of Cyprus can be said to stretch back up to 10,000 years, following the discovery of a series of Chalcolithic period carved figures in the villages of Khoirokoitia and Lempa and the island is also the home to numerous examples of high quality religious icon painting from the Middle Ages.



Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love, beauty, and sexuality is said to be born in Cyprus

One of the features of Cypriot art is a tendency towards figurative painting although conceptual art is being rigorously promoted by a number of art “institutions” and most notably the Nicosia Municipal Art Centre. Municipal art galleries exist in all the main towns and there is a large and lively commercial art scene. Cyprus was due to host the international art festival Manifesta in 2006 but this was cancelled at the last minute following a dispute between the Dutch organizers of Manifesta and the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture over the location of some of the Manifesta events in the Turkish sector of the capital Nicosia.

Music

The traditional folk music of Cyprus has several common elements with Greek, Turkish, and Arabic music including Greco-Turkish dances such as the *sousta*, *syrtos*, *zeibekikos*, *tatsia*, and *kartsilamas* as well as the Middle Eastern-inspired *tsifteteli* and *arapie*. There is also a form of musical poetry known as *chattista* which is often performed at traditional feasts and celebrations. The instruments commonly associated with Cyprus folk music are the bouzouki, oud, violin, , accordion, Cyprus flute and percussion.



The bouzouki, the mainstay of most Cypriot folk music

Popular music in Cyprus is generally influenced by the Greek *Laika* scene with several artists including Anna Vissi, Evridiki, and Sarbel earning widespread popularity in Cyprus, Greece and parts of the Middle East. Hip Hop, R&B and reggae are also very popular genres on the island and have been supported by the emergence of Cypriot rap and the urban music scene at Ayia Napa. Cypriot rock music and *Éntekhno* rock is often associated with artists such as Michalis Hatzigiannis and Alkinoos Ioannidis. Metal also has a small following in Cyprus represented by bands such as Winter's Verge and Quadrasonic.

Cuisine

Halloumi cheese originated in Cyprus and was initially made during the Medieval Byzantine period, subsequently gaining popularity throughout the Middle-East. Halloumi (Hellim) is commonly served sliced, either fresh or grilled, as an appetiser. Seafood and fish dishes of Cyprus include squid, octopus, red mullet, and sea bass. Cucumber and tomato are used widely in salads. Common vegetable preparations include potatoes in olive oil and parsley, pickled cauliflower and beets, asparagus and *Taro*. Other traditional delicacies of the island are meat marinated in dried coriander, seeds and wine, and eventually dried and smoked, such as *lountza* (smoked pork loin), charcoal-grilled lamb, souvlaki (pork and chicken cooked over charcoal), and sheftalia (minced meat wrapped in mesentery). *Pourgouri* (bulgur, cracked wheat) is the traditional carbohydrate other than bread, and is used to make the Cypriot delicacy koubes.



Slices of fresh halloumi cheese with mint leaves packed in the center

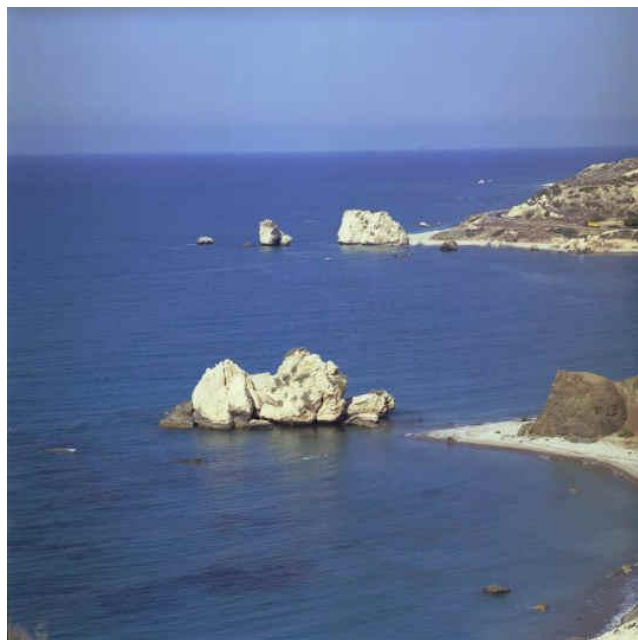
Fresh vegetables and fruits are common ingredients in Cypriot cuisine. Frequently used vegetables include courgettes, green peppers, okra, green beans, artichokes, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and grape leaves, and pulses such as beans, broad beans, peas, black-eyed beans, chick-peas and lentils. The commonest among fruits and nuts are pears, apples, grapes, oranges, mandarines, nectarines, mespila, blackberries, cherry, strawberries, figs, watermelon, melon, avocado, lemon, pistachio, almond, chestnut, walnut, hazelnut.



Typical seaside tavern in Larnaca

Summer in Cyprus

For those seeking the splendour of the Mediterranean at its peak, summer is an ideal season to visit Cyprus. From May to mid-October, in Paphos, temperatures are at a steady high, the sky is a cloudless azure blue and, when the heat gets too much, the sea is a stone's throw away for a refreshing dip. It's also the ideal season for a range of water sports activities such as scuba diving and sailing. The early part of the day is perfect for exploring the exceptional local archaeological remains, including the Temple of Aphrodite, where the goddess of love was worshipped. During the summer, visitors must get into the habit of wearing sunscreen and protective head-wear. April and May bring in early summer when days are comfortably warm but the evenings are cool. Light daytime clothing and long sleeved cotton or thin woolies are recommended for this part of the season. Especially in April, the countryside is in bloom with wild flowers making it an ideal time for nature-walking. June, July and August mark the height of summer when temperatures soar and the beaches are at their busiest. There is a selection of tourist and less well known beaches to enjoy in Paphos. The Cyprus Tourist Organisation can advise visitors on where it is safe to swim. A day-tip to the Troodos villages in the mountains provide an opportunity for traditional dining, visits to UNESCO churches and welcoming cooler climes.



Paphos beaches

Another place that you must visited at the summer is *Ayia Napa*. Ayia Napa transliterated into English as Agia Napa is a resort at the far eastern end of the southern coast of Cyprus, famous for its sandy beaches. In recent years, apart from being a family holiday destination, it has become a 'party capital' similar to Ibiza, Rimini, and Mykonos. As of late, it has become particularly popular with UK Grime, House, and Garage artists/MCs for holidays and gigs in its clubs and other venues. Ayia Napa attracts a large number of tourists and features a number of bathing beaches, on which water sports such as water-skiing, windsurfing, canoeing, scuba diving, and speed boating are popular. The Cyprus Tourism Organization supervises the beaches and is responsible for protecting the interests of all tourists.



Ayia Napa beaches



Night in Ayia Napa



Larnaca beaches



Protaras beaches

Sports

Governing bodies of sports in Cyprus include the Cyprus Football Association, Cyprus Basketball Federation, Cyprus Volleyball Federation, Cyprus Automobile Association and the Cyprus Badminton Federation.

Football is by far the most popular spectator sport. There have been many accomplishments on the European scale by several teams, but most importantly the entrance in the UEFA Champions League Group Stage as firstly achieved in 2008 by Anorthosis Famagusta FC and APOEL FC in 2009. APOEL drawn in Group D, having to face Chelsea FC, FC Porto and Atlético Madrid. Stadiums or sports venues in Cyprus include the GSP Stadium (the largest in Cyprus), Antonis Papadopoulos Stadium, Ammochostos Stadium, Neo GSZ Stadium, Tsirion Stadium, and Makario Stadium. .Cyprus, also has a football national team which in the last decade has evolved to a promising squad within the European rankings.



APOEL FC – Chelsea FC in GSP stadium

Apart from the main interest in football, Cyprus has exhibited certain accomplishments in other sports. Marcos Baghdatis is one of the most successful tennis players in international stage. He was a finalist at the Australian Open in 2006, and reached the Wimbledon semi-final in the same year. Also Kyriakos Ioannou a Cypriot high jumper achieved a jump of 2.35 m at the 11th IAAF World Championships in Athletics held in Osaka, Japan, in 2007 winning the bronze medal.



Marcos Baghdatis, Cypriot professional tennis player

Churches

There are nine churches and one monastery in Troodos that are counted among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and several other monasteries, of which the Kykkos monastery is the richest and most famous.

The area has been known since ancient times for its copper mines, and in the Byzantine period it became a great centre of Byzantine art, as churches and monasteries were built in the mountains, away from the threatened coastline.



Interior View of Kykkos Monastery

Transportation

The Cyprus Government Railway ceased operation on the 31st December 1951, the remaining modes of transport are by road, sea, and air. Of the 10,663 km (6,626 miles) of roads in the Greek Cypriot area as of 1998, 6,249 km (3,883 miles) were paved, and 4,414 km (2,743 miles) were unpaved. As of 1996 the Turkish Cypriot area had a similar ratio of paved to unpaved, with approximately 1,370 km (850 miles) of paved road and 980 km (610 miles) unpaved. Cyprus is one of only four EU nations in which vehicles drive on the left-hand side of the road, a remnant of British colonisation, the others being Ireland, Malta and the United Kingdom.

In 1999, Cyprus had six heliports and two international airports: Larnaca International Airport and Paphos International Airport. Nicosia International Airport has been closed since 1974 and although Ercan airport was still in use it was only for flights from Turkey.

Public transport in Cyprus is limited to privately run bus services (except in Nicosia), taxis, and interurban 'shared' taxi services (referred to locally as *service taxis*). In 2006 extensive plans were announced to improve and expand bus services and restructure public transport throughout Cyprus, with the financial backing of the European Union Development Bank. The main harbours of the island are Limassol harbour and Larnaca harbour, which service cargo, passenger, and cruise ships.



Larnaca International Airport

International Dialling Code & Telephone Area Codes for Cyprus : 00 + 357 + City Area Code + Local number

PSICOLOGIA DEL DESARROLLO

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Cyprus

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There are nine churches and one monastery in Troodos that are counted among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and several other monasteries, of which the Kykkos monastery is the richest and most famous. If you want to travel in Cyprus there are two international airports: Larnaca International Airport and Paphos International Airport. The international Dialling Code & Telephone Area Codes for Cyprus : 00 + 357 + City Area Code + Local number.

Η Κύπρος είναι ένα νησί της Ευρώπης και της Ασίας στην ανατολική Μεσόγειο. Είναι το τρίτο μεγαλύτερο νησί στη Μεσόγειο Θάλασσα και ένας από τους πιο δημοφιλείς τουριστικούς προορισμούς. Την 1η Μαΐου του 2004, είναι επίσημο μέλος της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης. Η Κύπρος έχει ένα εύκρατο κλίμα (στο βόρειο-ανατολικό τμήμα του νησιού), με πολύ ήπιους χειμώνες (στην ακτή) και ζεστά καλοκαίρια. Το χιόνι είναι δυνατό να εμφανιστεί μόνο στο όρος Τρόδος στο κεντρικό τμήμα του νησιού. Η Κύπρος είναι

διαιρεμένη σε έξι επαρχίες: Λευκωσία, Αμμόχωστος, Κερύνεια, Λάρνακα, Λεμεσό και Πάφο. Η Λευκωσία, είναι η πρωτεύουσα και είναι η μεγαλύτερη πόλη. Η κυπριακή κυβέρνηση υιοθέτησε το ευρώ ως εθνικό νόμισμα την 1η Ιανουαρίου 2008. Οι περισσότεροι Ελληνοκύπριοι είναι μέλη της αυτοκέφαλης Ελληνικής Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας της Κύπρου. Η χώρα έχει μία επίσημη γλώσσα: Τα Ελληνικά. Τα Τουρκικά χρησιμοποιούνται μόνο στη Βόρεια Κύπρο. Η Αφροδίτη, η ελληνική θεά του έρωτα και της ομορφιάς, λέγεται ότι είναι γεννημένη στην Κύπρο. Το αγρινό ζώο είναι το εθνικό σύμβολο της Κύπρου. Η παραδοσιακή λαϊκή μουσική της Κύπρου έχει πολλά κοινά στοιχεία με την ελληνική, την τουρκική και τη αραβική μουσική. Το χαλούμι προέρχεται από την Κύπρο και αρχικά κατασκευάστηκε κατά την μεσαιωνική περίοδο του Βυζαντίου και στη συνέχεια κέρδισε δημοτικότητα σε όλη τη Μέση Ανατολή. Υπάρχουν εννέα εκκλησίες και ένα μοναστήρι στο Τρόδος που συγκαταλέγονται μεταξύ της Παγκόσμιας Κληρονομιάς της UNESCO και διάφορα άλλα μοναστήρια, από τα οποία το μοναστήρι του Κύκκου είναι το πλουσιότερο και το πιο διάσημο. Αν θέλετε να ταξιδέψετε στη Κύπρο υπάρχουν δύο διεθνή αεροδρόμια: το Διεθνές Αεροδρόμιο Λάρνακας και το Διεθνές Αεροδρόμιο της Πάφου. Η διεθνής Κώδικας σχηματισμού και το Τηλέφωνο Περιοχής Κωδικού της Κύπρου: 00 + 357 + Πόλη Κωδικού + Τοπικός αριθμός.