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Editor's Letter



Winter Wonders

If you're landing down in Cyprus in the thick of winter, you'll be lucky enough to witness a country dressed in its finest green attire. Rugged lands blanketed in vibrant emerald provide the perfect setting for alternative Mediterranean holidays and coax travellers away from seaside resorts and villages, into a lush world of winter wonders.

It's against this idyllic backdrop that visitors can enjoy the most unusual sites in off-the-beaten-track spots that make jaws drop (pages 16-20). And as new blooms slowly paint wintry surrounds with a vibrant colour palette come spring, the setting becomes all the more spectacular. With endless sites to see and activities to enjoy as the weather warms up, we shine the spotlight on the historic town of Pafos which hosts some fun sporty springtime events (pages 14–15).

Further afield, stunning parks add a dream-like appeal to any central European city break (pages 36-39), while modern architectural feats give design lovers good reason to head to the Middle East and explore the ever evolving streets of Tel Aviv (pages 48-51). But what would a holiday be without epicurean escapades? Satiate your palate in nearby Beirut, where seriously good street food melts in your mouth and lavish fine dining sets the culinary bar incredibly high (pages 52–58).

Planning ahead for a sunkissed summer break? In all my travels, I haven't found anywhere in the world that can possibly compare to the Greek islands during the warmer months, blessed with dramatic coastlines and an enviably laid-back way of life. To avoid the tourist traps, join us on an insider journey to hidden beaches, quirky stays and alternative eateries (pages 62-68).

Happy travels!

Toe Christodoulides.

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Cyprus Map





Welcome to Cyprus Airways Who we are

Established in 2016 and based at Larnaka International Airport, Cyprus Airways launched operations in June 2017, holding the trademark of the island's national carrier. The relaunch of Cyprus Airways marks a significant milestone, both for the local aviation sector, and for the country as a whole.

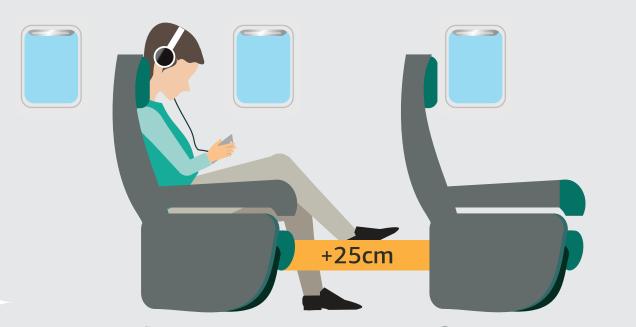
Having rebranded its visual identity to signify the beginning of a new era, Cyprus Airways has chosen the olive branch – deeply rooted in the identity of Cyprus – as the airline's symbol, while the iconic mouflon has also been maintained as a core part of the company's identity.

The revival of the national carrier trademark not only expands the island's connectivity, but also re-establishes and reaffirms Cyprus' strong and positive image abroad. Having built and developed all the necessary infrastructure for a safe and reliable airline, the company's long-term goals include promoting the island as a prime holiday and business destination, while increasing inbound tourism.

Currently flying to Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, the airline is continually broadening its network, catering to the travel needs of both locals and incoming tourists.



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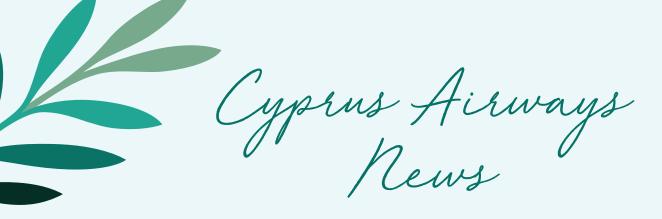
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Additional summer 2020 destinations

Prioritising the satisfaction of local traveller needs, Cyprus Airways expands its network across Greece, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa this summer. We are proud to be flying passengers to the historic cities of Rome and Verona in Italy, as well as offering new connections to the mesmerising Egyptian metropolis of Cairo. The airline will also be landing down in two cosmopolitan Swiss hubs (Zurich and Geneva), two world heritage recognised cities in Slovakia (Bratislava and Košice), and the pretty city of Prague in the Czech Republic. In the Middle East, Cyprus Airways will be flying into the popular cities of Tel Aviv and Beirut.

Dramatic expansion into Greece

This summer, Cyprus Airways expands its network to eight Greek airports, flying travellers to the islands and mainland Greece, with services to Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion, Rhodes, Corfu, Santorini, Skiathos and Preveza.



New take off from Pafos International Airport

Cyprus Airways planes took to the skies from Pafos International Airport for the first time in December 2019, re-connecting the popular seaside town with Athens, with three flights per week. This coming summer season, flights will also commence between Pafos and Tel Aviv, connecting the two destinations twice a week.



Direct flights departing from Slovakia and Israel

This summer, Cyprus Airways will be spreading its wings beyond its Cyprus bases, operating direct flights between Bratislava and Corfu and Rhodes, as well as between Košice and Corfu. Additionally, travellers can enjoy new direct flights from Tel Aviv to Athens.



Stunning branded merchandise available on-board

We always create memories that last a lifetime on-board, and you can now make your trip more memorable than ever with Cyprus Airways merchandise. Take your pick from four new products including a cool eco bag that can be transformed from a shopping bag, to a signature bag, to a tote bag, as well as a funky luggage cover adding tons of personality to your suitcase. For a great holiday keepsake, we've also made an exact replica of our Airbus A319. And for your ultimate comfort on-board, you can now enjoy a special ergo pillow with a gel cooling system and memory foam.





'Hold my Booking' service

Travellers can now make the most of the Cyprus Airways 'Hold My Booking' service, available on the website and displayed prior to booking payments. Enabling you to gain extra time until officially booking your trip, the booking price is held for 48 hours (for bookings up to seven days prior to departure) or for five days (for bookings up to 14 days before departure.)

Customers can visit cyprusairways.com for more info, terms and conditions.



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In an effort to facilitate our customers' travel plans, while providing an enhanced and seamless travel planning experience, Cyprus Airways' partnerships with established and specialised service providers offer travellers airport parking (parkvia.com), car rentals (rentalcars.com) and hotel booking services (booking.com), both in Cyprus and destinations abroad. All services are available via cyprusairways.com.



Interline agreements

Cyprus Airways now enjoys new partnerships with Sky Express, Qatar Airways, Middle East Airlines, Arkia and Hanh Air, offering passengers increased travel opportunities and ease of travel when travelling with multiple airlines on the same itinerary.



National Carrier

S7 Airlines, Blue Air and Bulgaria Air Codeshare

Cyprus Airways' commitment to strengthening its network gives customers the chance to enjoy even more travel opportunities via numerous codeshare partnerships. Cyprus Airways' customers can enjoy flights from Larnaka to Moscow and Novosibirsk, and from Pafos to Moscow, thanks to an S7 Airlines codeshare agreement. Owing to a Blue Air codeshare partnership, the two airlines' customers can benefit from enhanced connectivity from Larnaka to Athens and Thessaloniki. An agreement with Bulgaria Air enables customers to fly from Larnaka to Sofia via a Cyprus Airways flight code.

Customers can visit cyprusairways.com to view the full flight schedule of all Cyprus Airways destinations.



For any information or support, the Cyprus Airways Call Centre is open between 7.00am -10.30pm daily, with a toll-free number for Cyprus: 8000 8111. When calling from abroad tel: +357 24 000053







Q: Favourite Cyprus Airways destination to spend a weekend?

Beirut – it's a city that's so close to Cyprus but it is so different culturally. It provides a nice break from the everyday routine.

Most enjoyable airport to fly into?

A: I think Heraklion is truly unique, with its beautiful and one-of-a kind landscape blending in with the sea.

: Most memorable flight?

A: It has to be Colombo in Sri Lanka. It was my first flight so deep into Asia with big challenges.

Most exciting thing about life as a pilot?

A: The respect that you earn from the people around you and the globalisation that comes with flying passengers around the world. And as a pilot, you're given the chance to visit so many different countries and have to adapt to all sorts of different cultures.

One country in the world on your 'must-visit' list that you haven't been to yet?

A: Cuba! I'm fascinated by the contrast between old and new.



Ask the pilot!

Marios Kyriakou will never forget looking up to the skies and watching aircraft fly in and out of the Old Lefkosia International Airport. He hadn't even started primary school at that point, but he recalls his sheer fascination with the sound and look of planes. And whenever anyone asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he would always let on that he wanted to be a pilot, despite being told that this was an impossible feat, as there were no Cypriot pilots at the time. Never one to shy away from a challenge however, Kyriakou set about achieving his dreams.

Kyriakou obtained his first private pilot licence while in the army, and then set off for professional aviation studies in Texas, USA. Following his studies, he worked as assistant chief flight instructor in a large Texas training school, and in 1989, he joined the former Cyprus Airways as a co-pilot, becoming a captain in 2000, while also working as a trainer and examiner for Airbus A320 until he left the company after 25 years of service. He then joined Saudia Airlines in 2014, flying the Airbus A320, while also serving as a captain and line instructor. In September 2017, he happily returned to Cyprus and joined the new Cyprus Airways as training manager, maintaining airline flight/cabin crew training and education to the highest possible standards in the interest of safety and efficiency.





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This Season

WE LOVE...PAFOS

When the Greek Goddess Aphrodite rose from the shores just off the western coast of Pafos, she certainly picked a spectacular birthplace, where a rocky coastline cradles deep azure waters. On dry land, rich archeological sites take visitors on a whirlwind journey back to ancient times. And despite its proximity to the sea, Pafos is by no means just a summer destination. In fact, it boasts the best winter climate in Cyprus, with mild temperatures providing the ideal environment for exploring on foot. And the moment spring sets in, the surrounding countryside erupts in wildflowers, while blossoming trees spread their dainty branches far and wide.

But it's not just the natural world that springs into action in Pafos, as sporty types descend on the historic town to enjoy a holiday in the fast lane. The Cyprus Logicom Marathon, set to take place on March 15th this year, combines a half marathon, a 10km race and a 5km fun run. Giving athletic enthusiasts the chance to take in breathtaking scenery, the race begins at Aphrodite's birthplace and follows a coastal route, culminating right by the Pafos Medieval Castle at the scenic harbour area.

A few weeks later, between March 27^{th} - 29^{th} , attention turns to the Cyprus Gran Fondo, a three day 'cycling for all' event, suitable for both pros and beginners. All participants of Cyprus Gran Fondo have the opportunity to earn their qualification in the Gran Fondo World Championship. What's more, you'll be starting your day by the coast, before heading up into the green mountainous region of the island, while passing through traditional rustic villages along the way.













Ayioi Saranta Cave Church, Protaras

Forget the party loving image of Ayia Napa or the crystal-clear beaches of neighbouring Protaras that you may have ingrained in your minds; this place exudes an altogether different kind of magic. Blanketed in mystery, the church is reached by driving along a rocky dirt path, across roads which dissect bumpy fields. Soon enough, you'll discover one of the most remarkable and wonderfully isolated locations on the island, despite its very close proximity to the most popular seaside haven in Cyprus.

The tiny Ayioi Saranta Cave Church is revered as one of the quirkiest in the world, distinguished by a brilliant blue door cocooned and protected by the stunning rock formation which surrounds it. Enter the cave and take a moment to adjust to the almost surreal surrounds. There are no windows here – a stream of light simply slips through the narrow opening above the door. Then take a look up at the natural skylight, with the bright sun's rays beaming through a drum dome. There is no official reference of when this church was first built, and as for its name, it's believed that the word 'Saranta' (which means 'forty' in Greek) is derived from the 40 stalagmites on the ceiling of the cave, linked to the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste.

Chalcolithic Settlement, Lempa

Pafos may be a modern seaside city, but it doesn't take long to get to grips with its phenomenal history and culture. As a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, Pafos barely has a street corner without a fascinating tale to tell from days gone by. And while most tourists head straight for the Pafos Archaeological Park or the Medieval Castle, just 4km out of town, a hidden treasure awaits in Lempa; the most ancient village on the island, believed to have played host to the very first settlers in Cyprus.

Here, excavations by the School of Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh have also brought to life an important settlement of the Chalcolithic Age (3900-2500 BC), revealing a number of cruciform female figurines carved in stone. Head to the area to catch a glimpse of some great replicas of five houses from this period that have been reconstructed with the same building materials used centuries ago. Keep in mind that this settlement is part of the Aphrodite Cultural Route marked out by the Deputy Ministry of Tourism.





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The Museum of MAA-Palaiokastro, Pafos

Another Pafos under-the-radar gem, this unassuming modern museum just a few kilometres north west of the city often goes unnoticed. And it's hardly surprising, given that the quirky place, (initially designed as the 'Museum of Nothing') is an underground structure that's barely visible from the outside, with only a dome shaped copper roof calling out for attention, perfectly blending in with the surrounding landscape.

The site on which the museum is built is highly significant; a thin peninsula overlooking the sea, standing as the point where the first ancient (Mycenaean) Greeks settled on the island, having emigrated to the country around 1200 BC after the fall of the Mycenaean Kingdom in mainland Greece.

Today's contemporary and unusual museum is the work of Andrea Bruno, Professor at the University of Turin, and one of Europe's greatest architects. Initially designed as a place of simple reflection and memory, it wasn't actually meant to house any exhibits. After much thought, the Cyprus Department of Antiquities decided to include a small exhibition in the space, highlighting the role which the Mycenaeans played in influencing and shaping Cypriot culture, and the growth of Cyprus in the late Bronze Age when the island emerged as a key trading partner in the region, owing to its rich copper desposits.

Panayia tis Asinou Church, Troodos

If it's a beautiful site nestled amid a stunning natural world that appeals to your senses, this postcard worthy religious building in the foothills of the Troodos Mountains is the place to visit. Add to that a UNESCO World Heritage status, and you've got a winner. All this, with an added sense of mistery: you will feel as though you are crossing the middle of nowhere to get to this age-old building 3km south of the village of Nikitari – undoubtedly the very reason why Panayia tis Asinou Church once functioned as the quiet and peaceful Monastery of Forbion.

While no traces of the monastery survive today, it is known that the original building was built in 1099, and was abandoned at the end of the $18^{\rm th}$ century. Step inside the church, which consists of two parts (the vaulted single aisled nave and the narthex) and you'll be looking left and right, up and down, taking in the splendour of a place covered in wall paintings. With some dating back to the 1100s, these depictions beautifully reflect the style of the Comnenian period. The church is protected by a $12^{\rm th}$ century steep timber roof covered in flat tiles. Notably, Panayia tis Asinou is one of the ten buildings on the official list of painted Byzantine churches in the Troodos mountain range.

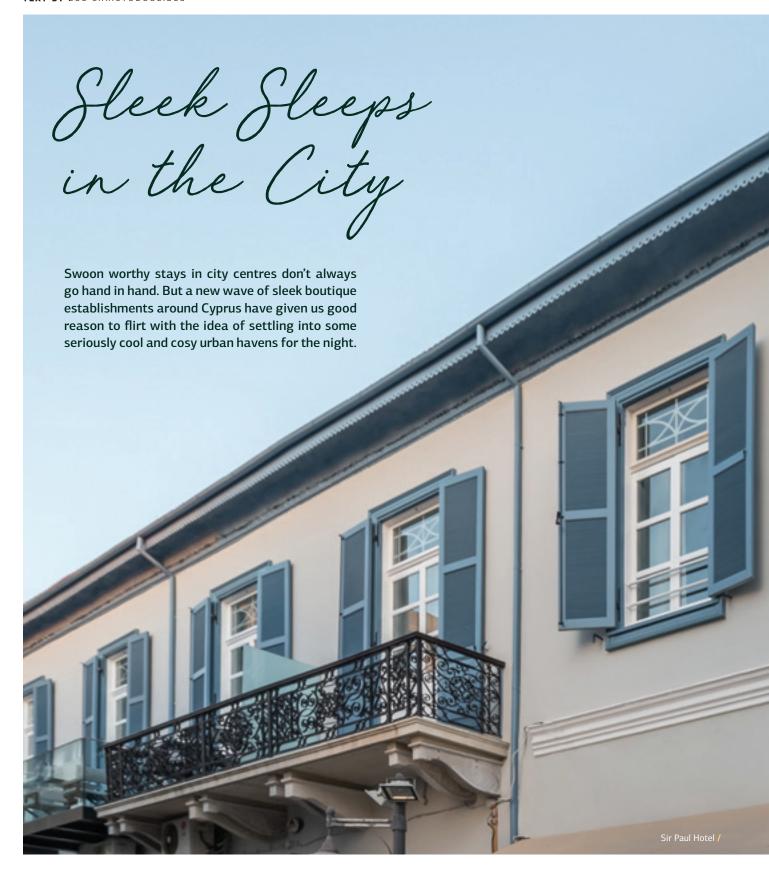


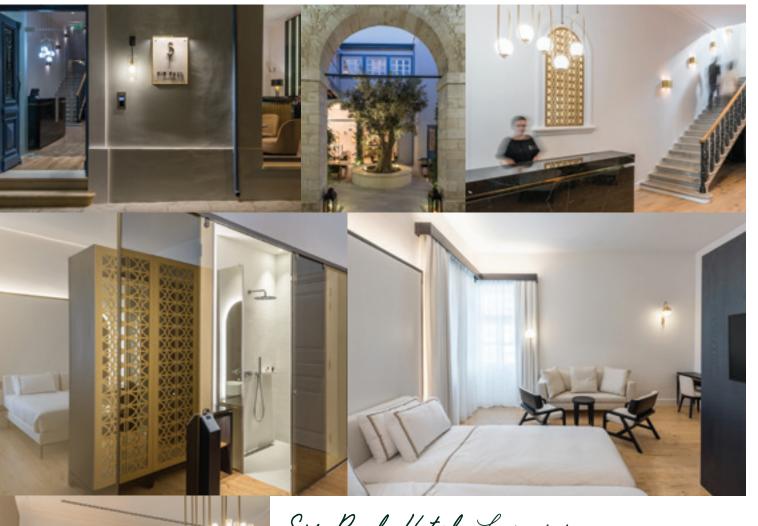






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Sir Paul Hotel, Lemesos

Oozing opulence in the centre of cosmopolitan Lemesos, the building that now houses Sir Paul Hotel may date back to the 18th century – once functioning as the city's town hall – but once you step inside the venue today, you'll be luxuriating in high end contemporary design and brilliant bespoke elegance. A family-owned establishment, the once abandoned building has become a high-end haven and ultimate city retreat for the jet-set, the fashionable and the discerningly curious traveller. That's not to forget the dedicated gastronomes, who rave about the delectable brunch and night-time delights.

Two floors are spread out across a central sunny courtyard, which borders the sophisticated hotel bar, restaurant and dining room, while the 22 meticulously decorated guest rooms offer comfort and luxury aesthetics, defined by elegance and attention to detail. Contemporary chic meets tradition in a brilliant fashion, and we absolutely love the imposing marble staircase, the solid cypress wood floors and local stone, all accentuated with very much on-trend marble and bronze details.

Must do: Sir Paul Hotel is the perfect spot from which to dive into the historic backstreets of the area. Take a leisurely walk through the old hub, before heading right down to the seafront sculpture park in the Molos area.

Sir Paul Hotel, 5 Ifigenias St, Lemesos. Tel: +357 25 755454 www.sirpaulhotel.com



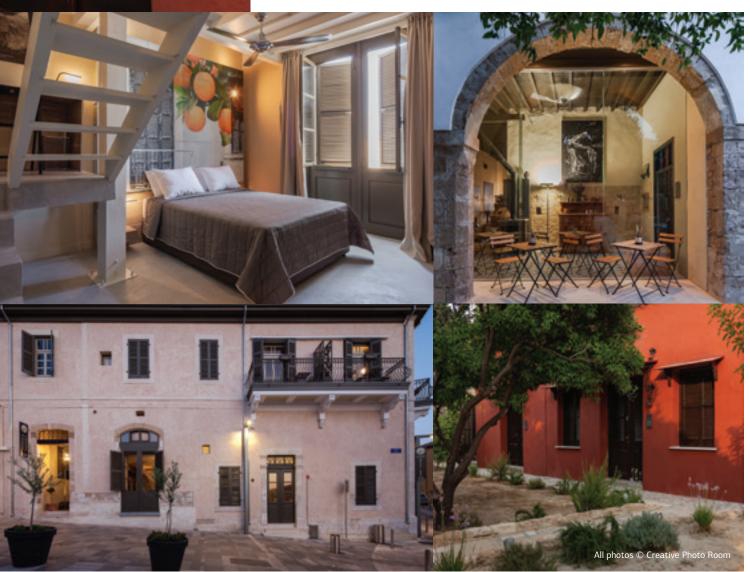
Casa Mespilea, Pafos

It doesn't get much cuter than this little hotel in the recently revamped old town; another grand old stunner renovated to dreamy perfection. Once a traditional bourgeois townhouse built in 1890, the building has been recently remodelled into a gorgeous guest house to offer visitors the ultimate experience of Mediterranean urban holidays.

We love the way fruity artwork adorns every room, each of which is named after a different local variety. But the best part of Casa Mespilea (so-called because of the medlar tree on the premises) has to be the serene Mediterranean courtyard garden, dotted with local fruit trees and providing a fine spot to soak up the soothing sunshine.

Must visit: The nearby Hani of Ibrahim – a place where traders and pedlars once gathered in the heart of the city years ago, now transformed into shops selling local produce and creative workshops.

Casa Mespilea, 3 Pygmalionos St, Pafos. Tel: +357 99 683757 www.casamespilea.com





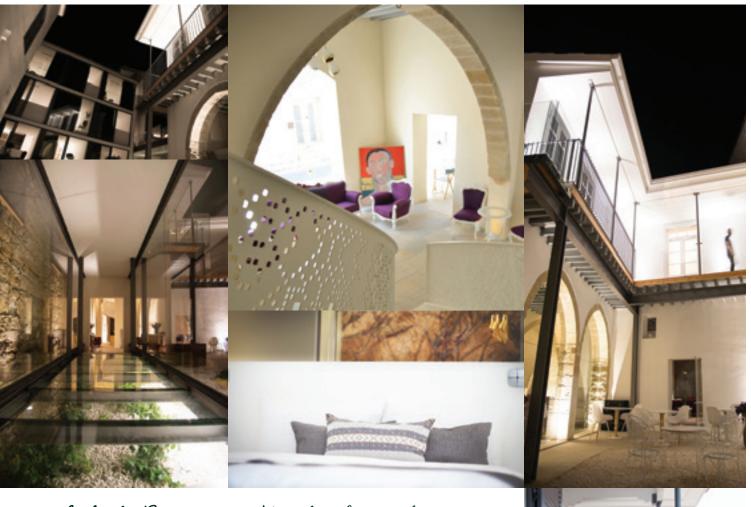
neoclassical building from the 1800s, transformed into modern, fully functional accommodation with a great vintage aesthetic. Combining minimalist design with neoclassical architecture, ten high ceiling suites offer comfy queen-sized beds; just take your pick between an old town view, or panoramic sea vistas.

If you're a large group of people, either visiting Lemesos for work, or taking a break with extended friends and family, it's worth noting that the entire La Maltese Mansion can be booked privately to accommodate 20 to 24 guests. Shared common and living room areas give you the chance to kick back and relax in style.

Handy hint: When you've explored the old town, be sure to visit the renovated old port. Forming a hub of activity day and night, the port is the perfect place to enjoy an ice cream as you sit back to watch the world go by right by the sea.

La Maltese Mansion, corner of Anexartisias St & Aq.Andreou St, Lemesos. Tel: + 357 96 471983 www.lamaltesemansion.com





Lokal Boutique Hotel, Larnaka

Old and new forms a perfect union at Lokàl; the first boutique hotel of its kind in Larnaka, set within a grandiose old building that attracts travellers from near and far. The 17-room bespoke hotel boasts a dash of design flair and a sprinkle of sophistication, giving visitors the chance to get some precious shut eye in dreamy style accentuated with art deco touches. The lovingly transformed old family mansion – dating back to the late 1800s – artfully combines a taste of contemporary cool with tradition. Just look up at the wooden beams and walk through the traditional arches to get a feel of the old architecture. Restored furniture also honours the past and the legacy of what has been left behind from days gone by.

Pull up a chair at the sophisticated in-house Relish Bistro or head up to the rooftop and enjoy a cool cocktail on the rooftop bar or a refreshing dip in the adjacent pool in the spring and summer months. And when you fancy exploring, the seaside town's notorious Finikoudes Promenade and gorgeous St Lazarus Church are just a stone's throw away.

Insider tip: Larnaka is known for its rich history and there are few places better to take it all in than the Medieval Castle (often referred to as the Larnaka Fort) housing the District Medieval Museum, which exhibits centuries old paintings, pottery and utensils. Head up to the roof for terrific views of the surrounding area.

Lokàl Boutique Hotel, 98 Ayiou Lazarou St, Larnaka. Tel: +357 24 023102 www.lokalcyprus.com



Obic City Hotel, Larnaka

Another Larnaka gem, this hotel has become a real local foodie haunt, having gained a tremendous reputation for its satiating brunch offerings at the ground floor Mingle Café. But Qbic City Hotel is more than just a gastronomes delight; the gorgeous little place offers first rate facilities, luxury rooms and quality hospitality, right in the heart of the urban centre.

The hotel is perfect for a quick stay in the city or a business meeting, while the funky modern exterior – you can't miss the geometric balconies – is perfectly paired with geometric design on the inside. All rooms boast sleek decorative touches, designer furniture and technology to suit the needs of every modern traveller, from mirror televisions to touch screens.

Must see: Head a little further afield, just outside the centre of the Larnaka hub, to visit the town's notorious Salt Lake. If you are visiting in the wet winter months, you might be lucky enough to spot the flamingos that so gracefully descend on the area.

Qbic City Hotel, 153 Ermou St, Larnaka. Tel: +357 24 209300 qbichotel.com.cy







Unlock Cyprus, the insider way...

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Switzerland is dramatic. But not in the exciting 'hustle and bustle' way that one might find in other destinations. Rather, in a more serene yet theatrical manner, where stunning landscapes call out for visitors to don their hiking boots or rent bicycles, and head outside to explore the picturesque nature, with its film-set-like sceneries and majestic backdrops inspiring awe at every step.

But it's not just these iconic sweeping vistas and natural phenomena that beg to be discovered. This relatively

small, landlocked destination is also bursting at the proverbial seams with quintessential charm, unique cultural experiences and mouth-watering gastronomic delights – all in a place where the quality of life and personal safety exceeds most other places in the world. And Switzerland's two largest cities – Zurich and Geneva – make the perfect lakeside bases to soak up the magic of the country's natural beauty, as well as the charisma and contemporary cool of the urban hubs themselves.

Lakeside Living

Despite being a landlocked country, Switzerland is home to an impressive six percent of Europe's freshwater, with some 1,500 lakes making up a significant portion of the country's landmass. From silent bodies of turquoise, so translucent you can see all the way to the bottom, to endless lakes so vast and sprawling that several cities call its shores home, this destination knows how to live life lakeside.

The biggest of Switzerland's lake is Lake Geneva – or Lac Léman as it is known by locals – which is anchored by the city of the same name. Views out across the water to the alps in the distance characterise this stunning place, which visitors can explore on walks, hikes and scenic train rides around its shores, as well as daily boat trips and tours on the water itself.

Zurich is also home to an eponymous lake of international renown – Lake Zurich – framed by medieval towns, picturesque villages and snow-topped mountains. Adventures around the lake's shores will reveal the charms of authentic Switzerland, but the best way to discover Lake Zurich is by daily boat tours which run between sunrise and sunset throughout the year.



/ Lake Geneva





Swiss Alps

Hike the Alpine Peaks

Perhaps the most iconic image of Switzerland is that of its awe-inspiring alpine landscapes: chocolate box-like vistas where vertiginous mountain peaks loom almost imposingly over green valley's dotted with quaint villages and traditional wooden chalets. And although only 15 percent of the Alps actually lie within Switzerland, the country is home to some of the mountain range's highest peaks and most spectacular views.

If you've ever eaten a Toblerone, you'll already be familiar with the now iconic pyramid-shaped Matterhorn mountain, majestically rising 4,478 metres from its base. Other famous mountains include the Eiger and the Jungfrau. And although these hikes are not really doable as day trips from Geneva or Zurich, there are 62,000km of well-marked walking trails across the country, including plenty of options in and around these two urban hubs. The Jura mountains just west of Geneva are a hiker's haven, as is Mont Saleve with its spectacular views overseeing the city and its eponymous lake. Experienced mountaineers can also explore Mont Blanc, on the French side of Lake Geneva, in a day. Zurich also has a whole world of hiking opportunities located just outside the city centre and easy to reach via public transport. Try the easy Planet Trail from the Uetliberg to Felsenegg, or the Rigi Panoramic Trail affording magnificent views of Lake Lucerne and Lake Zug.

Art Expectations

As the origin of the Dadaist art movement and the birthplace of internationally renowned artists such as Augusto Giacometti, Le Corbusier and Paul Klee. Switzerland has a strong artistic streak that is most evident in its urban centres. Art aficionados in Zurich should not miss a visit to the Cabaret Voltaire, a bohemian nightclub for artists, poets and freethinkers. Founded in 1916, it became the very place where the anarchic art movement, known as Dada was dreamt into being.

Zurich is also home to a wealth of easily accessed public art installations such as Jean Tinguely's Heureka sculpture or Max Bill's Pavillon-Skulptur on Bahnhofstrasse. Don't miss the Kunsthaus Zürich gallery, which features works by Van Gogh, Monet and Chagall on its hallowed halls. Contemporary art lovers will find plenty to keep them stimulated at the many alternative establishments such as Migros Museum of Contemporary Art (migrosmuseum.ch/en) or Löwenbräu-Areal (lowenbraukunst.ch).

Commonly thought of as Switzerland's cultural capital, Geneva is also a hot bed of artistic innovation and creativity. A good place to start is the website of the globally acclaimed ArtGenève art fair (artgeneve.ch), which lists the best contemporary galleries and collectives in town. Don't miss La Fonderie Kugler cultural space (guide-contemporain.ch/en/lieux/ fonderie-kugler), or MAMCO Geneva located in an old industrial building which now houses over 3,500 works of contemporary art.



Kunsthaus Zürich

Two Wheeled Explorations

If there's one sport that the Swiss really have a passion for, it's cycling. So much so that they even voted to put the sport and cycle infrastructure into their constitution in 2018. Getting out and about on two wheels has become a popular transport and lifestyle choice for many locals, and with some 8,500km of scenic marked cycle paths around the country, it's easy to see why. Renting bicycles and heading out on either a guided tour or a self-guided ride is one of the best ways to see both urban city environments (where bike lanes line almost all the roads in both Geneva and Zurich) as well as more rural surroundings. City paths around both lakes are easy to find and follow, while more adventurous cyclists can head up steep Alpine paths on mountain bikes.



Say Cheese

The Swiss sure love their cheese; to the extent that this iconic dairy delight has become an international symbol of the country. The most famous Swiss cheeses include Emmental with its distinctive holey texture, Gruyère from the namesake picturesque village, and raclette – best known for being mouth-wateringly melted over potatoes or cured meat. But the country actually makes over 450 different types of cheese, with more than half the milk in Switzerland going towards its production. Any visit would be incomplete without indulging in some of this delectable fromage.

Cheese tasting tours and classes are available in both Zurich and Geneva through the local tourism boards and can be easily combined with a wine tasting experience. Adventurous epicureans should be sure to order a raclette from the many traditional restaurants in both cities. And visitors looking for a more hands-on educational activity can visit the Milchmanufaktur dairy (milchmanufaktur.ch) in Einsiedeln near Zurich, where they learn how to make Alpine cheese according to traditional methods, and even get to take home their creations. Looking for a cultural day trip from Geneva? Visit the village of Gruyere to learn how the iconic cheese is made and then produce your very own fondue.



Chocoholics Anonymous

As if cheese expertise didn't make Switzerland appealing enough, the destination is also famous as the birthplace of milk chocolate and still produces some of the world's best chocolate to this day. Think high-end internationally renowned chocolatiers such as Lindt, Toblerone and Teuscher, along with a wealth of smaller producers, all of whom work collectively to uphold the country's reputation. Staying in Zurich or Geneva? Make sure to pop by the many quaint little chocolatier shops and pick up unique local sweet souvenirs to bring home. Visitors to Zurich can become Maître Chocolatiers themselves on a trip to the Lindt chocolate factory in Kilchberg by Lake Zurich. Or during your cheesy daytrip to Gruyère from Geneva, stop off at the nearby village of Broc to visit the picture-postcard Maison Cailler chocolate factory (cailler.ch/en) where you'll learn how one of Switzerland's oldest and most famous chocolatiers produces its sweet treats, followed by an obligatory chocolate tasting experience, fresh from the source.



Fairy Tale Castles

Swiss landscapes are already jaw-droppingly beautiful in their own right; but the country is also home to a smattering of spectacular historic castles and strongholds that preside regally over these picturesque backdrops, adding a touch of grandeur to the scenery. Many of these chateaux can be visited on a day trip out of Geneva, such as the Château de Chillon, which clings to the eastern shores of the lake, its mirror image reflecting in the still waters only serving to render the vision all the more magnificent.



/ Château de Chillon

Over on Lake Geneva's northern shores, history buffs will be mesmerised by the 15th-century Vufflens-le-Château, while pretty Château de Nyon offers some of the best views of Mont Blanc from its porcelain white terraces. From Zurich, castle hunters should visit the old town of Rapperswil with its wonderfully restored 13th-century stronghold, or head to the municipality of Regensburg at the Eastern foothills of Lagern ridge, where the castle has been a symbol of the region since the 13th century.



/ Vufflens-le-Château

Watch the Time

The Swiss are a highly punctual bunch who take timekeeping very seriously and whose country - as a result - runs like clockwork. So it's little wonder that the nation has also earnt itself a reputation as the world's watchmakers, applying precision and unsurpassed craftsmanship to the art. Big name brands such as Rolex, Omega and Tag Heuer all hail from Switzerland and have fascinating museums, tours and private galleries which can be visited on day trips from Geneva or Zurich.

The Clock and Watch Museum in the Beyer Chronometrie shop on the Bahnhofstrasse in Zurich (beyer-ch.com/en/museum/portrait-museum) boasts one of the most impressive collections of rare and precious time pieces in Europe, some of which date back to 1400BC. And horology enthusiasts in Geneva should visit Vacheron Constantin (vacheronconstantin.com), the world's oldest watch manufacturing company which was founded in 1755, and has an impressively uninterrupted history spanning more than 250 years. You can even step into the watchmaker's shoes, learning the basics of the craft at a three-hour workshop organised by The Fondation de la Haute Horlogerie in the historic salon of Geneva's Palais de l'Athénée. Be sure to also check out the beautiful flower clock on the eastern side of Jardin Anglais park.



/ Jardin Anglai



Cyprus Airways flies to: **Zurich** twice a week (from April 2020) Geneva once a week (from May 2020)



Geneva

Parc de La Grange

A park that dates back to Roman times (when the area belonged to a wealthy landowner; the remains of his villa can still be seen), Parc de la Grange was bequeathed to the city of Geneva in 1918 as a public space. Since then, of course, it's undergone innumerable changes, but the majority of the natural flora still remains, making this lakeside park a sanctuary for wildlife all year round.

Its flowering meadows, beehives, and various breeding sites for wood insects are all protected under the Ecological Parks Management Programme, while sheep are still allowed to graze in certain areas. Even the artificial enhancements add to the park's beauty: there's an exquisite Rose Garden which hosts international competitions for rose buffs each June, two summer theatres (L'Orangerie and The Verdur Theater, known for the diversity of concerts and plays staged during the warmer months), and a pretty decent kids' playground.

Open all year round, and a haven for visitors escaping the heat of the city, Parc de la Grange also boasts a wading pool, a pub, and a public grilling area. Though, as this is also a designated dog park, your Swiss sausage cookout may fall foul of the odd canine craving!

Parc des Bastions

One of the most popular parks in Geneva, Parc des Bastions is a wonderful retreat into nature. It's within walking distance of many of the city's most visited sites (including the St Pierre Cathedral, the Rath Museum, and the statue of Frankenstein's monster). But for locals, it's better known as a meeting place for all types of enthusiasts.

Chess players congregate by the six giant chess boards, cyclists circle the park on designated bike trails, and nature-lovers can be found enjoying the unique plant life of the city's first ever botanical gardens, created in 1817. A bandstand brings the musically-minded, ping pong tables entice table tennis fans, and a café restaurant offers a romantic rendezvous for courting couples.

The park is also home to various annual events: the Fête de la Musique in June, the Fête des Écoles in the last week of the school year, and part of the Fête de l'Escalade (a joyous celebration which commemorates the defeat of a surprise attack by the Duke of Savoy in 1602) every winter.



The Chinese Garden

Just a few francs will buy you entrance to one of Zurich's most exquisite gardens – and an ideal contemplation spot for weary travellers. Located in the Seefeld quarter, roughly ten minutes by bus from the centre, the Chinese Garden is a little oasis of calm amidst the bustle of the city.

A traditional walled Chinese garden, designed to separate the world of art from the mundane, the area is adjacent to Blatterwiese – a public lakeside meadow with playground, hammocks and water features. But for those in search of serenity, it's this tiny Oriental preserve that's just the place to get your Zen on.

Inaugurated in 1994, the garden was a gift from Zurich's partner town of Kunming, in the Yunnan Province. A red gate, complete with nine rows of nails, tiles emblazoned with dragons, and carved panels with excerpts from ancient myths open onto manicured spaces with a bridge, pond, and water temple as the central element.

As a whole, the garden is dedicated to the pine, bamboo and plum (or the 'Three Friends of Winter' because they never wither – whatever the weather!) which together represent the Confucian ideal of the scholargentleman, making this park the perfect place for a mindful moment or two.



Irchel Park

The largest public park in Zurich, Irchel has it all! Located in the central district of Unterstrass, it's easily accessible by tram and bus, just a short walk from the river, and pretty close to the city's Zoo. Home to part of the local university campus (and extensive underground sports facilities), this roughly 32-hectare park was designed to be as natural as possible: a delight of local flora and fauna surrounding an artificial lake.

Streams, courtyards, open green meadows, and gentle hills (the topography protects park-goers from the pollution of the city) make this a great place for a soothing nature walk. But if you're after a little more excitement,

there's a whole other side to Irchel: plenty of jogging paths, a good few playgrounds – complete with the usual swings and roundabouts – a number of fire pits, and a restaurant.

For the cerebral, there's a museum – the Anthropologisches Museum, which is part of the university campus. For the nature-lovers, oodles of indigenous plants and fruit trees, and for the artistic, a number of thought-provoking sculptures by local artists. But perhaps the best way to begin your visit to Irchel is at the Lookout Point – sweeping views over the park and its surrounds will give you an idea of just how much this spot has to offer!





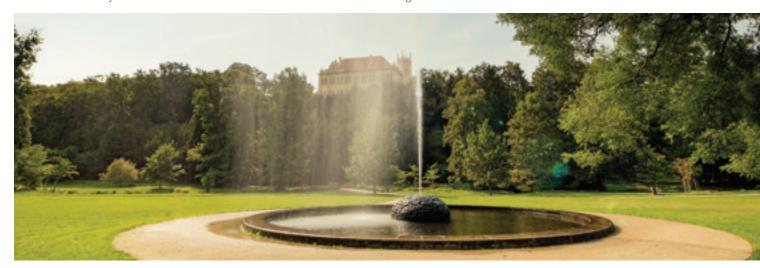
Stromovka Park

Better known as the Royal Deer Park, Prague's Stromovka was founded by King Přemysl Otakar II in 1268 as a hunting ground for the Royal Court. Expanded over the centuries to include a palatial summer house, an artificial pond, a verdant fruit garden and a hunting lodge, this is a park which has stood the test of time.

Today, Stromovka epitomises the city's past glamours and modern culture: four kilometres of renovated paths, a number of footbridges and piers, and new lighting has been added over the last few years. And that's in addition to the picnic sites, children's playgrounds, and fitness areas which dot the vicinity.

It's also home to the Prague Planetarium (which boasts one of the largest domes in the world), an outdoor sculpture gallery (with works by world-famous husband and wife Olbram Zoubek and Eva Kmentová), and a handful of traditional eateries.

Located between Prague's 6^{th} and 7^{th} districts, the park's central location and wooded beauty draw roughly four million visitors each year: everyone from hipsters to joggers, skaters to cyclists, families and couples enjoy its natural charms. You might even stumble upon a wedding or two taking place in one of the park's more dreamy corners – testament to its long-standing air of romance.





Divoká Šárka

A nature reserve on the northwestern outskirts of Prague, Divoká Šárka is lauded for its spectacular views and wondrous hiking trails. Despite being within the city limits, a visit to this park is akin to a walk in the wilds: the simple beauty of its lakes, streams, ponds, woodlands and open green meadows offer a refreshing change for visitors and locals alike.

Named after the mythical Šárka (a tempestuous female warrior), the park is a delightful amalgam of natural scenery tempered by the odd instance of man-made artifice: a reservoir offers summer visitors a cool dip and a perfect spot for sunbathing, while the central stream-fed swimming pool is often packed with local families out for a day in nature.

It's the views, however, which make Divoká Šárka so special, and rocky lookout points abound for those willing to make the climb. Guided walks are available (but those who choose their own itinerary won't get lost; information plaques dot the park), and there's even the odd Segway tour which begins in the old town and passes through parts of the park en route to the nearby Brevnov Monastery Brewery – the perfect place to recuperate after a long day in Prague's most scenic park.



Cyprus Airways flies to: Prague twice a week (from March 2020) Zurich twice a week (from April 2020)

Geneva once a week (from May 2020)

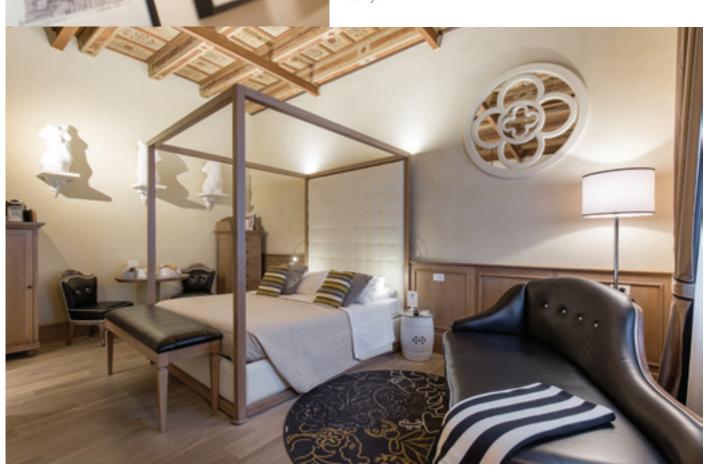
A Room to Remember in Verona

Exuding romance and bringing romantic Shakespearean tales to life, Verona is the perfect Italian fairy-tale city to live La Dolce Vita. Crowds from around the world flock here to visit the famous 'Casa di Giulietta', but there's far more to this medieval city than Romeo and Juliet. Picture-perfect plazas and fascinating bridges set the prettiest scenes, sumptuous risottos dished up in traditional trattorias melt-in-the-mouth, intricate history and whimsical art vie for attention, and operatic performances are some of the finest in the world.

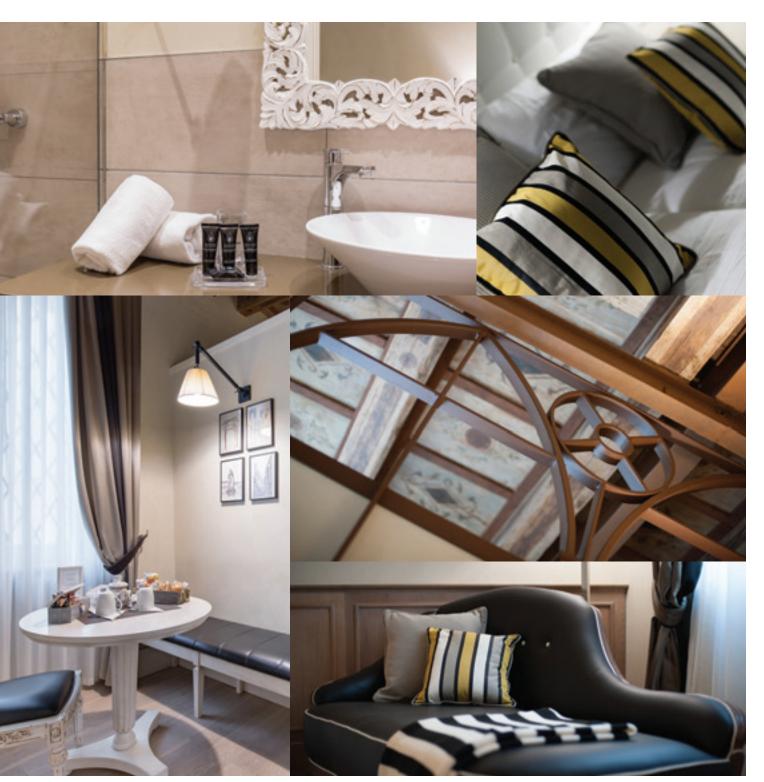
A city meant to be explored on foot, rest for the night right in the heart of the cobbled centre at Residenza Bonifacia located just off the famous.

A city meant to be explored on foot, rest for the night right in the heart of the cobbled centre at Residenza Bonifacio, located just off the famous Piazza delle Erbe. One of the finest boutique hotels in the city, each of the tastefully decorated rooms pay homage to the vibrant history of the town: just look up at the decorated wooden ceiling dating back to the 16th century, brought to light following recent renovations.

If you're visiting Verona with your other half, be sure to cosy up in the gorgeous Giulietta room – with its dreamy canopy bed, elegant chaise-longue and cosy sitting corner – all beautifully lit by the stream of light flooding through the grand windows overlooking the pretty private courtyard.



Residenza Bonifacio / 14 Vicolo Samaritana, Verona, Italy / Tel: +39 351 2483135 / www.residenzabonifacio.it







Why go?

A treasure trove of awe-inspiring antiquities, this sprawling city is as chaotic as it is charming. You can hear the incessant roar of Cairo from miles away; a bizarre composition of car horns intercepted by the district ripples of prayer calls echoing through bustling streets. Maddening yet intriguing, you'll be hooked the moment you catch a glimpse of the metropolis from afar: a dusty golden skyline punctuated by minarets making way for new sleek skyscrapers, backed by the timeless breathtaking grandeur of the iconic ancient pyramids.

Dive into the Egyptian capital and you'll be itching to know more and see more. Cairo is, after all, a city where curiosity is fiercely ignited; a place drenched in almost mind-boggling history, spiced with mystery, and saturated in eye-catching colour. Work your way through the streets of old Cairo to soak up the history and get to know the city's feisty inhabitants, tease your taste buds with street side Ta'ameya (falafel), enjoy a leisurely cruise down the Nile, head up to the top of Cairo tower for dazzling views, and be sure to step into the treasured museums and sites where time stands notoriously still.

Must visit

The Egyptian Museum of Antiquities. Dig up ancient tales in this fascinating museum at the edge of Tahrir Square, with its collection of over 120,000 items, spanning the beginning of the Old Kingdom of Ancient Egypt, through to the Greco-Roman period. Prepare to ogle at mesmerising mummies and gilded King Tutankhamun artifacts.

Don't leave without

Haggling at the Khan Al-Khalili market. From fun souvenirs, to gorgeous lamps, it's almost impossible to leave this 14th century market empty handed. Even if you try to, its smooth talking traders will convince you otherwise! Then, kick back at one of the old cafés in the area: El Fishawi. Sip on hibiscus or mint tea to invigorate the senses, puff on a fruity shisha, and enjoy the olde-worlde charm!

Take a selfie @

As cliché as it may sound, absolutely nothing beats taking a selfie with the pyramids of Giza behind you. After all, they are the oldest of the world's Seven Wonders and an absolute marvel of impeccable construction and engineering. If you want to take good photos, head here a little later in the day when the morning fog clears.





A Multi-faceted Journey

Renowned for his virtuoso smashed glasswork, and recently established in his father's village of Pafos after leaving his mark on the London art scene, Cypriot artist Yorgos Papadopoulos is ready for new dimensions in his craftsmanship, and fresh milestones in his personal journey.



It would be easy to imagine, given the ever-growing demand for his work, that leading Cypriot artist Yorgos Papadopoulos' focus would be squarely on his commercial projects. His success bears testimony to the arresting power of his signature smashed glasswork, resplendent with hues ranging from pinks and golds to sea-green blues.

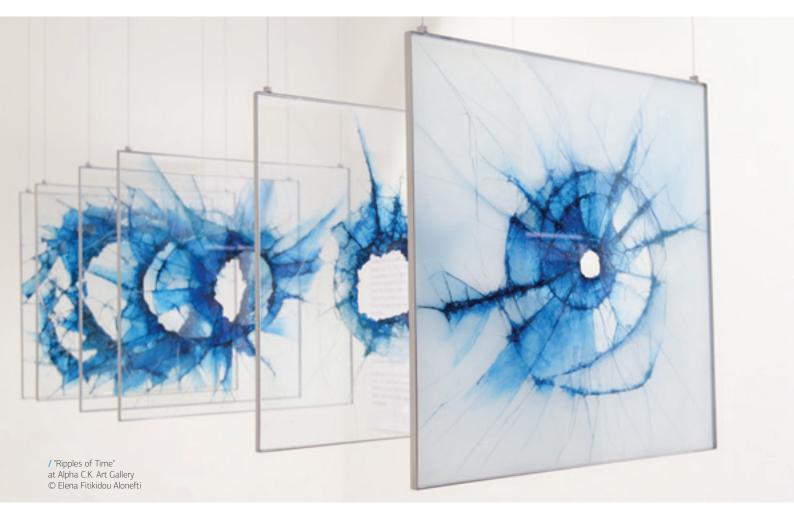
It would be just as easy to read the 2017 relocation of his studio to Pafos as establishing a permanent home on the island, having been based in London for 35 years. The truth, though, lies somewhere in between.

Commissioned works aside, the artist's most anticipated goal for 2020 is to immerse himself in the malleable, three-dimensional medium of clay. And while the Ammochostos native has settled in his father's village of Kedares, Yorgos himself always feels just short of 'rooted'. Which is why, despite reveling in Pafos' light – celebrated in his fluorescent 'Radiant Dusk' series - and savouring a quiet life in the 28-inhabitant hamlet, Yorgos is adamant he and partner/manager Arjen de Neve, "haven't moved here".

Instead, the Kedares base is another milestone. A new chapter after the searing period of losing his sister to cancer in 2016, a break from London's urban pressures and a place to expand his studio without breaking the bank.

Love of travel seems the constant in Yorgos' peripatetic life: his depthless hunger to encounter as many cultures and natural forms as possible. In the mid-nineties, putting on hold his Interior Design BA he embarked on a nine-month inter-rail trip across Europe. From 2009-11, his studio was a mountaintop near Estepona. Australia's barrier reef, Japan's bamboo forests and Norway's fjords are highlights of yet other travels.

The restlessness also comes from having had to flee Cyprus for London as a four-year-old after the 1974 Turkish invasion, returning some years later to Lemesos, then heading back to the British capital, aged 14. Other than his life's shifting landscapes, Yorgos' art is also in flux. He never holds back from reinventing genres and eluding categories.



While pursuing an MA in Ceramics and Glass at London's acclaimed Royal College of Art between 1998-99, the ambiguous artistic identity he began cultivating left his instructors baffled.

Their confusion came in the wake of Yorgos' decision to produce his degree show work at the Chelsea Artisans & Fusion Glass Designs company, having discovered the aesthetic potential of broken, laminated glass, during a placement under artist Richard Jackson. Thanks to its protective membrane, the industrial sheet of glass, smashed when knocked over accidentally, had remained intact, its lattice of cracks inspiring Yorgos to adopt the breakage that would become his signature.

"I zoom into the cracks and use the cracks to come back to the design of the overall thing - I let the cracks take over," he explains of his process, which entails breaking, colouring and texturing the glass, using silicone gels tinted with metallic powders.

Fast forward to today, and his art has been showcased in spaces as diverse as Heathrow airport and cruise liner ships, and installed in private residences and corporate premises in France, Italy, Germany, South Africa, the UK and US. "I never want to categorise a piece. I just want people to feel joy, to love it," says Yorgos.

For his 'New Icons' series, he fearlessly merged Orthodox iconography with the abstractions of his cracked surfaces, placing a particular emphasis on the Virgin Mary. The works enjoyed a memorable showcase in 2008, with a solo exhibition in Old Lefkosia entitled '12 Madonnas'.

In 2011, participating in the 'Transparency' exhibition in Istanbul, he was inspired to reimagine the Orient's blue and white 'evil eye', common in both Greek and Turkish cultures. Rather than amulets against evil, Yorgos' majestic glass discs – his 'Stratified Jewels' series – represent values, concepts and attitudes promoting good. In 2017, 60 such works were displayed in 'Choices', a solo exhibition in Clerkenwell, allowing the artist, in the process, to grieve the untimely loss of his sister the year before. Pieces from both series featured in recent Cyprus shows '35°N / 33°E GEOREF' and 'Breaking the Surface', held, respectively, at Pafos' Almyra and Anassa hotels.

Today, with a new studio complex in the pipeline, the launch of a wine label from grapes harvested from his father's vineyards and the much-anticipated shift of focus to clay, Yorgos has much to keep him busy. "I'm not going to throw glass away," he reassures. "This might be about combining glass and clay. Don't forget glaze is glass, so any ceramic object that's glazed has glass on it."

Then the Fitbit he wears on his wrist beeps, reminding him "it's time to move," he laughs. Given the breadth of his talent and desire to both experiment and delight his clients, Yorgos will undoubtedly keep moving – evolving geographically, artistically and personally along the way.













Design Museum Holon

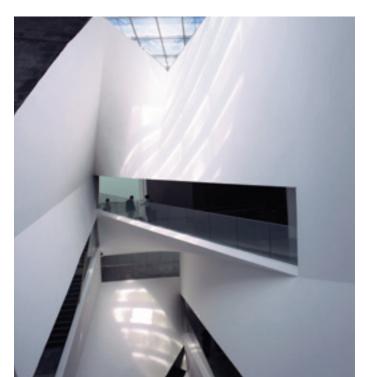
Just veer a little off-the-beaten-track, ten minutes south of central Jaffa to the suburb of Holon, to set your sights on the city's iconic dedicated design museum – a real eye-popper, which opened to the public in 2011. A work of art by the internationally acclaimed Israeli architect and industrial designer, Ron Arad, created in cooperation with Bruno Asa, the museum boasts a magnificent composition with five bands of Cor-Ten steel, undulating and meandering around the internal exhibition galleries, at times in unison and at times apart, forming a ribbon-like facade. Step inside to discover a dynamic resource for designers, students and all sorts of creative minds, with collections including a dazzling variety of unique objects, from furniture and visual communication items to textile designs, fashion, jewellery, shoes, and accessories.



Tel Aviv Museum of Art

Spectacular in every sense of the word, this beauty is proclaimed by many to be one of the greatest museums of modern art in the world. And rightly so. Housing a fine collection of works by both Israeli and leading international artists, the new-ish wing of the building (completed in 2011) was designed by American architect, Preston Scott Cohen. A real geometrical triumph, galleries are housed within a stunning concrete and glass façade.

When the hunger pangs kick in, be sure to dine in incredible style at Chef Hillel Tavakuli's Pastel. Adjacent to the museum, the modern brasserie and alternative dining hot spot serves Mediterranean dishes almost as creative as the art next door. Expect fresh local flavours, with an eclectic twist in a space designed by Israeli architects, Alon Baranowitz and Irina Kronenberg, and hailed as 'Best Designed Restaurant' by the 2014 Space Design Award – Idea Tops. With three separate seating areas to choose from, head out onto the spacious terrace overlooking the sculpture garden for al fresco inspiration, when weather permits.





Tel Aviv Port

Once an abandoned part of the city now transformed into a thriving hub of activity, this influential public regeneration project by Mayslits Kassif Architects has not only been embraced by the general public, but has also scooped a prestigious Rosa Barba European Landscape Prize at the 6th Biennial of landscape architecture in Barcelona in 2010.

A real urban landmark, the project revived the area's waterfront with its undulating surface that honours the mythological dunes where the port was built, while providing the perfect platform for public activities, sports, social initiatives and more.



Cymbalista Synagogue and Jewish Heritage Center

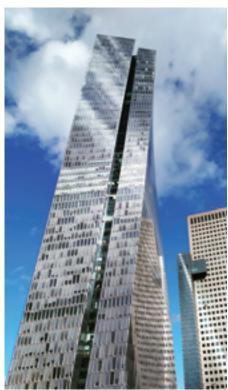
When internationally renowned Swiss architect, Mario Botta, was asked to create a space where religious and secular people could meet - a place of prayer and a place of discussion, a building where different minds can engage in fruitful dialogue and be equally inspired – it resulted in an exceptional architectural landmark and reference point on the grounds of the Tel Aviv University.

Erected in 1998, two cylindrical towers identical in height (13.5 metres) rise from a rectangular base. The exterior is made of a reddish stone from the Italian Dolomite Mountains, while the interior walls are made from golden-hued stone.



Cyprus Airways flies to Tel Aviv from:

Larnaka International Airport up to 11 times a week Pafos International Airport twice a week (from May 2020) and from Tel Aviv to Athens once a week (from June 2020)



Azrieli Sarona Tower

You don't need to spend too much time cricking your neck as you gaze up at the tallest building in the city by Mosche Tzur Architects; simply step inside this modern marvel and head to the top floor observatory for stunning views across the urban landscape.

Standing tall at 255 metres high in Tel Avi's cool Sarona neighbourhood - a newly revived hot spot and commercial hub - this building is the perfect lookout post from which you can spend time gazing across the coastline. We guarantee you'll feel on top of the world as you kick back for a drink at the onsite lounge bar.







Whatever the time and whatever the day, the people of Beirut are always eating. Simply wander down any street in the capital, and you'll find laid-back locals sitting around tables laden with deliciousness; socialising, eating together and enjoying the rich culinary pleasures of this Middle Eastern nation. And you can't really blame them. With such a vast and diverse collection of eateries, even the most discerning gastronomes will have their palates satiated in Beirut, where delectable street food rivals Michelin-starred fine dining. But why choose between the two, when you can have both?

Five-star dining

A cosmopolitan capital with a reputation for gastronomic excellence, it comes as no surprise that Beirut's foodie scene is peppered with a few epicurean experiences that put the fine in fine dining. From fivestar, traditional Levantine cuisine delivered in palatial surroundings, to international delicacies served up in style, this is a city where haute cuisine is le menu du jour.

Em Sherif

The only thing that rivals the insanely good food at Em Sherif in the Achrafieh district, is the stunning design and décor of the space itself, that tries and elegantly succeeds in recreating the look and feel of a lavish, antique Oriental mansion. The results are homely and luxurious all at the same time, with the opulence evident all the way down to the finest details. But it's not just a veneer; this first-class dining outpost also guarantees an incredible meal, with a seasonal menu that puts a contemporary twist on traditional Levantine cuisine. Order the Fattoush with aubergine fritters before heading out onto the terrace for a shisha to help you digest. (emsherif.com)

Paname

Setting the bar higher for fine dining in Beirut, Paname is a relatively new addition to the foodie scene, bringing unique upscale brasserie vibes to the chi-chi Saifi Village district. Famous for their "almost French" cuisine, Paname uses the highest-quality ingredients to create an exquisite and creative menu to thrill, from early morning breakfast delights, lazy liquid lunches and all the way through to dinner. Outdoor seating makes for the perfect high-society people-watching outpost on a sunny day and an excellent wine pairing menu will help wash it all down once you've finally satiated that appetite. (panamebeirut.com)

Liza

Exuding an effortless air of glamour and sophistication, Liza is the epitome of epicurean luxury amongst Beirut's gourmand crowd. Revolving around the culinary philosophy of 'high-end, healthy comfort food', Liza's reinterprets Lebanese staples, giving them a contemporary edge and dishing them up in an ambience of red-carpet style elegance. Peruse the menu with one of Liza's signature 'Cocktails of the Month' and good luck deciding between the delectable arak-marinated shrimps or melt-in-the-mouth lamb shank confit. (lizabeirut.com)



Luna's Kitchen

Lebanon's first fully vegan restaurant opened in 2018 in a market that had – until then – been relatively unfriendly for non-meat-eaters. But as the trend for sustainable living and compassionate eating grew, the Lebanese capital came through and delivered a serious contender on the healthy, ethical eating end of the spectrum. Offering an alluring menu featuring local delicacies, from falafel, meat-free shawarma and vegan mezze, to plant-based burgers and pizzas, this cute little spot also has seriously homey vibes, a leafy garden, and hosts regular artsy events and open-mic nights. (facebook.com/lunaskitchenlb)

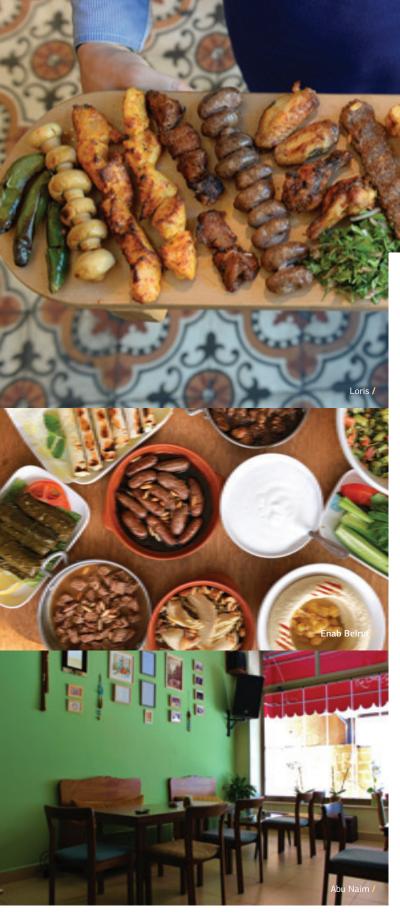
Eat Sunshine

Healthy eating usually comes hand-in-hand with a plant-based diet, however at Eat Sunshine in the trendy Monot district, even meat-lovers will have their taste buds satiated, with a focus on the freshest, highest-quality organic and free-range ingredients, rather than a strictly vegan or vegetarian menu. And the food tastes extraordinary, proving that healthy can also mean tasty. Pop in for a nutritious breakfast bowl and a cold-pressed juice to start the morning right or stop off for a lunchtime power salad or poke bowl to refuel. (eatsunshine.com)

Fiber

The perfect meeting point between healthy and delicious, Fiber restaurant in Hamra proves that food can be both nutritious and mouth-wateringly tasty at the same time. On a mission to help diners watch what they eat, but still eat what they like, Fiber has a delectable menu of guilty pleasures, just without any of the guilt. Think homemade burgers cooked on the grill, or gluten-free pizza with low-calorie cheese. This spot is also perfect for those with dietary needs with a wealth of vegetarian, gluten-free, reduced sodium and sugar-free options. Don't forget to wash it all down with a lip-smacking, smugness inducing healthy smoothie. (fiberresto.com)





Like a local

Firmly established as a world favourite, Lebanese cuisine has long since been a mainstay on the hallowed halls of international culinary renown, with a global reputation as being and inspiring some of the best food in the Middle East. And nowhere are these traditional delicacies more authentic or tasty, then in Lebanon itself. Stroll through the Lebanese capital and uncover Levantine delicacies made to perfection.

Loris

Adding a creative twist to Lebanese classics, Loris is best enjoyed as an indulgent, long, leisurely dining experience where sampling as many dishes as possible is the aim of the game. Located in the heart of Gemmayze, in a sprawling villa with an elegant leafy garden, this eatery is not as glitzy and high-end as it looks at first glance. In fact, the down-to-earth menu focuses on the authentic tastes of Levantine cuisine and each dish is bursting with flavour. The muttabal (aubergine dip) is one of the best in town. (loris.restaurant)

Enab Beirut

Nothing says breaking bread and sharing a meal like a traditional Lebanese mezze, and according to locals in the know, the best of the best can be found at Enab Beirut in Mar Mikhael. Located in a gorgeously renovated old French colonial house - complete with chandeliers, pretty pastel furniture and vintage carpets - Enab serves up all the mouthwatering aromas and flavours we've come to expect from Levantine food, in a buzzing atmosphere. Enab's popularity means you'll need to reserve in advance, and don't leave without trying the soujok hot pot and the chicken kafta. (facebook.com/Enabbeirut)

Abu Naim

Finding a truly authentic place to sample local delights without being joined by a hoard of hipsters can be a challenge in trendy Beirut, but diners looking for the real deal should head to Abu Naim in Hamra. This no-frills, family-run business is as simple and unpretentious, as it is genuine, and infused with the infectiously warm hospitality that the Lebanese are famous for. And while the space might be plain, the menu is far from it, with excellent food made with the freshest ingredients. Adventurous diners should try the kibbeh nayyeh (minced raw beef) and marinated lamb brains. (facebook.com/AbuNaimHamra)



Caffeinated boosts

You've had a busy morning soaking in the sights and sounds of Beirut and now you're craving a much-needed caffeine boost with a side of sugar to keep you going until lunch. Fret not, Beirut is as serious about its coffee culture, as it is about indulging that pesky little sweet tooth.

Home Sweet Home

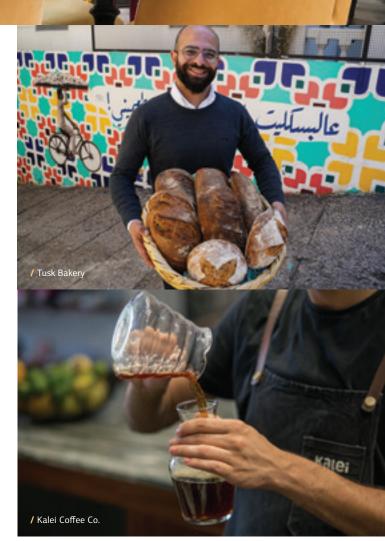
As the name might suggest, Home Sweet Home café is a cosy and welcoming joint in hip Mar Mikhael, where great coffee comes hand in hand with some incredible sweet treats including reputedly superlative pancakes. Not to be missed, the house specialty is a tooth-achingly sweet combination of frozen banana with homemade Halawa and honey. (hshcafe.com)

Tusk Bakery

For the best bread in Lebanon, look no further then Tusk Bakery, where each loaf is baked the traditional slow way, with natural sourdough culture, organic and locally sourced ingredients and a healthy dose of passion. The bakery features a small shop where bread lovers can indulge in fresh-from-the-oven pastries, sweet treats and sandwiches, all washed down with freshly ground coffee. (tuskbakery.com)

Kalei Coffee Co.

If it's artisanal coffee you're after, look no further then Kalei Coffee Co. — a café and micro-roastery that has become popular with local coffee connoisseurs and gourmands alike. Enjoy a freshly ground cup of joe with the perfect chocolate brownie or slice of carrot cake, as you take in the beautifully boho surroundings. (kaleicoffee.com)





/ Mashawish

/ Falafel Sahyoun

become a veritable institution amongst locals in the know, serving its loyal clientele with the same top-quality grub for the past 20 years. But what makes it so superlative? Fresh, top quality ingredients, simple yet tasty with just the right amount of spice! (facebook.com/restaurantjoseph)

Mashawish

Taking its name from the marriage of two much loved staples - namely masheweh (traditional Lebanese mixed grill) and sandwich – Mashawish is an end-of-the-night landmark, where depleted clubbers come to refuel. This hole-in-the-wall epicurean icon dishes out epic charcoal grilled sandwiches and platters inspired by authentic Lebanese cuisine. Carnivores will be in second heaven with the pork ribs, but there are also veggie options including a mouth-watering halloumi sandwich. (facebook.com/Mashawishgrill)

Falafel Sahyoun

As for the best falafel sandwiches this side of the Mediterranean, look no further than Falafel Sahyoun on Damascus Road. This 'shop-turned-Beirut-foodie-institution' first opened in 1935, quickly earning itself a reputation as the best in town for its perfectly crispy-on-the-outside and soft-on-the-inside falafel. Now, the original owner's two sons run rival shops right next door to each other; both are excellent and uphold the high original standards so you'll just have to try both to choose your favourite! (facebook.com/original.falafel.sahyoun)





to guench those post-party-hunger-pangs, or vou've awoken fresh and revived and want a power meal to set you up for the day ahead, the city that never sleeps has a multitude of mouth-watering options.

Abou Abdalla Restaurant

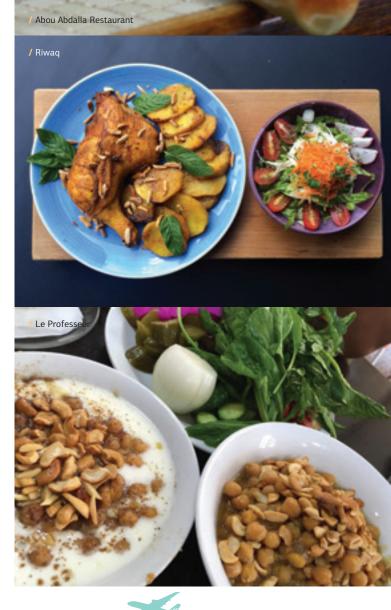
This cosy little family-run business ticks all the right boxes for travellers seeking out an authentic Lebanese breakfast. Since it first opened in 1956, Abou Abdalla Restaurant in Dora, has mastered the art of classic Lebanese breakfast staples such as foul, hummus, balilla and fatte. Today, with the second generation of the family at the helm and a slightly expanded menu including eggs and sausage, the food quality has definitely not slipped. And the restaurant itself has been lauded as one of the cleanest, friendliest and most professional in town. Be sure to get here early, as the place opens from 6am until 3pm, in keeping with its heritage as a hunger sating breakfast that will keep you going all day! (facebook.com/abouabdallahrestaurant)

Riwaa

Riwag is one of the places that makes Mar Mikael the hippest district in Beirut. And although this restaurant-cum-bar-cum-coffeeshop might look more like an alternative cultural space or hipster hangout at first glance, Riwaq also serves some of the finest Arabic coffee and aesthetically pleasing breakfasts, right in the heart of the action. For a taste of authentic Lebanon, try the village style breakfast, beautifully arranged on a wooden platter, and complete with Lebanese cheeses, yogurt, olives, fresh tomatoes and home-made date jam. (facebook.com/RiwagBeirut)

Le Professeur

Widely reputed as the best in town, Le Professeur is traditional Lebanese breakfast done right, and the huge hoard of local Beirutis who consider themselves loyal regulars are testament to the fact. Don't expect pancakes and avo on toast. This is the place to order foul, fatteh and eggs with awarma. These Lebanese staples are not only hearty and filling, they are also aromatic, melt-in-the-mouth delicious and as authentic as they come, all made fresh in front of you as you hold back the drool. (facebook.com/Leprofessuer)





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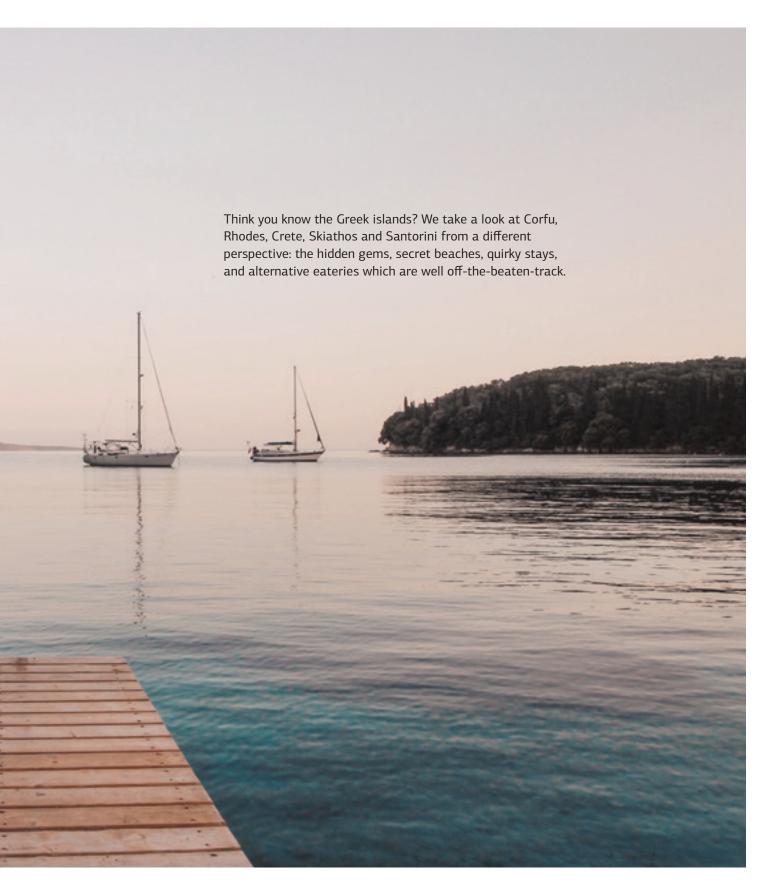
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Home of the Durrells, the stunning island of Corfu is a traveller's dream – evergreen hills and ageless orchards falling away to glittering sands, secret coves, and an endless azure horizon.



Hidden Gem

Watching over the island from its highest point, the Angelokastro (or Castle of the Angels) conceals - deep within its ancient fortifications the secret chapel of St Kyriaki. Converted from a hermitage to a place of religion in the 18th century, this rock chapel boasts an early Christian altar stone and age-old frescos.



Secret Beach

Named after the island's spiritual protector, Saint Spiridon Beach is hidden away at the very northern tip of the island, close to the protected wetlands of Antinioti Lagoon. The Blue-flagged haven is the epitome of Greek island getaways: soft white sand and glass-clear waters, with sunbeds, umbrellas, and watersports facilities.



Quirky Stay

Where better to stay in Corfu than the former home of Lawrence Durrell? Although not the house from the ITV series, the White House Villa is similarly gorgeous, right on the seafront at Kalami Bay, just 30km from Corfu Town. Open all year round, the upper floor boasts four spacious bedrooms maintained in traditional island style. (thewhitehouse.gr/stay/ white-house-villa)

Alternative Eats

One of the main exclusively organic restaurants on the island, Bioporos' ever-changing menu is testament to the farm on which it is located. Near Korission Lake, the restaurant is eminently warm and hospitable and Mrs Agathi, the cook, is always willing to welcome into her kitchen those who wish to learn a few traditional Greek recipes. Visitors can also enjoy a tour of the surrounding nature and farm. (bioporos.gr/restaurant)

Rhodes

The largest of the Dodecanese, Rhodes is history, culture, and scenery rolled into one. From the medieval streets of the capital to the charm of the outlying villages, the island is a true sightseer's paradise.

Hidden Gem

Just 10km inland from the airport is the Valley of the Butterflies – one of Rhodes' most unique attractions. Although June to September is true butterfly time, the valley is open all year round, and well worth a visit for its lush nature, sparkling streams and ponds, and serene atmosphere.



On the west coast lies the beach of Fourni – rarely frequented, even by locals. A pebbled haven of crystal waters lapping a small cove, the beach offers sunbeds, umbrellas and a small kiosk. Perfect for real explorers, the cove is surrounded by rocky headlands and boasts a camping area under the trees which line the coast.

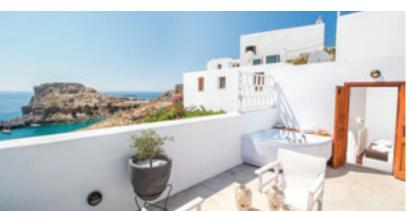
Alternative Eats

Bang in the centre of Rhodes Old Town, and just a short walk from the Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes, Dromos Street Food attracts locals and visitors alike with its mix of tasty sandwiches, delicious soups and traditional bites – the lentil patty with hummus, beetroot 'tzatziki' and pickled carrots is a favourite!



Quirky Stay

On the east coast, the three-star Lindian Polis is just 1km from the local Acropolis (take a donkey-ride up the cliffs!), and three minutes from the rocky beach at Saint Paul's Bay. Four traditional whitewashed houses offer selfcatering accommodation and spectacular views over Lindos, the island's most charming hillside village. (lindianpolis.gr)



(rete

Greece's largest island, Crete boasts ancient sites, modern resorts, and an endless array of activities for families, couples and solo travellers. Sun-soaked in the summer, and pleasantly warm in winter, it's the Mediterranean island that really has it all.

Hidden Gem

In Margarites, it's all about the pot; the clay kind that is! Known as 'the village of the jars' this hamlet in the foothills of the Rethymno district is the second most important pottery centre in Crete. Each of the local workshops features a different style, and the results grace many a flowered courtyard in the picturesque homes.



Secret Beach

Hidden away at the tip of the island's western peninsula, the secluded Balos Beach is renowned for its wild beauty. Accessible by boat (or by car, if you're willing to walk the last one kilometre), the pink sand lagoon leads into deep turquoise waters which are excellent for snorkelers.



A night in the heart of Heraklion at the Veneziano Boutique Hotel is a step into the past. Classed as a historical monument and work of art by the local goverment, this old landmark incorporates elements of Venetian and Ottoman architecture, including a secret inner courtyard and impeccablyrestored stone archways. (veneziano.gr)



Alternative Eats

Located in Lion's Square, Heraklion, the award-winning Phyllo Sophies offers everything from traditional Cretan pastries ('bougatsa' with cream, and 'mizithra') to tasty omelettes, salads, and homemade pizza. Take a break from sightseeing and enjoy a lengthy brunch: delicious crêpes – both sweet and savoury – are perfect with a healthy cup of the local herbal tea. (phyllosophies.gr)



Skiathos

Part of the Sporades archipelago, Skiathos is known as an Aegean paradise. Gorgeous beaches, endless sporting activities, and buzzing nightlife turn this tiny island (just 12km by 4km) into a non-stop party.



Hidden Gem

Dividing Skiathos port into two distinct areas, the Bourtzi Peninsula was once home to a medieval fort with two great towers. Today, hidden amongst the pines, lies the Skiathos Cultural Centre (in what was once a primary school), known for its theatrical and musical performances, while the wider neighbourhood offers a host of cafés with breath-taking views of the port.

Secret Beach

Given the size of the island, it's hard to get away from the crowds. But Aselinos Beach, 13km west of Skiathos Town is a good bet: quieter than most, it boasts soft sands and clear waters, and is known for attracting those who want to strip it all off (literally) and get back to nature!

Quirky Stay

The Kivo Art & Gourmet Hotel above Mikros Vasilias Beach prides itself on offering the ultimate in Greek hospitality. With the obligatory views over the endless blue, it's the sumptuous fare (traditional and tasty) and the multitude of works from local artists lining the corridors and frescoed directly on the walls which make this tranquil getaway so unique. (kivohotel.com)

Alternative Eats

The family-run Windmill Restaurant, high above Skiathos Town, is located in one of the island's oldest buildings – a converted windmill no less! Multi-levelled, stone-flagged courtyards host the tables, which all overlook the Aegean; fresh produce lends a distinctive Greek flavour to all the tasty treats on offer. (skiathoswindmill.gr)



Santorini

A true bucket list destination for the romantic at heart, Santorini is the absolute definition of picture-postcard perfection, where whitewashed Cycladic houses cling to rugged cliffs and fiery sunsets are famed as being amongst the best in the world. Scratch beneath the surface of this tourist hot-spot and you'll even find a secret spot to call your own.

Hidden Gem

Escape the crowds and head to the southeastern side of the island, and the small village of Exo Gonia, some eight kilometres away from the capital of Fira. Here, the old wine chambers are hidden in caves carved in pumice rock. Known as the Art Space Winery, the fascinating place sheds light on the history of winemaking on the island, and doubles as an art gallery with important works by Greek and foreign artists. (artspace-santorini.com)





Secret Beach

You'll often hear that there's no seaside strip where you can possibly escape the crowds in Santorini, but you'll be in for a treat once you arrive at Black Katharos Beach. It may be a little wild for some tastes, but if you like rugged landscapes and a beach with no sunbeds, this is a great spot to soak up the sunshine in solitude.



There's nothing more fascinating than staying the night in a cave, and Pezoules is what Greek island dreams are made of. Located at the Caldera in Oia, spacious and sunny cave houses have been carved into the volcanic rock. Minimal yet luxurious, totally unique but respectful of Santorini's traditional architecture, expect to wake up to panoramic views of the Caldera and the infinity pool mingling with the deep blue of the Aegean. (pezoules.gr)



Cyprus Airways flies to: Crete twice a week (all year round) Corfu and Rhodes twice a week (from June 2020) Santorini and Skiathos twice a week (from July 2020)

Alternative Eats

Combining delicious food with a cooking class by an enthusiastic team of gastronomes, Feggera restaurant will tantalise your taste buds with a good bit of fun in the mix. Located in one of the most picturesque villages on the island, Megalochori, you can enjoy your meal on the terrace with views across the village. (feggera.gr)

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New Year, New You!

At the start of every New Year, we seem convinced that it's the right time to turn over a new leaf and embrace a healthier lifestyle. But it's not always easy to stick to our new action plans. We've narrowed down some great products to help you along the way!

Clean Slate: A Cookbook and Guide

Who doesn't crave a new slate after the gluttony of Christmas and New Year? This cookbook by the editors of Martha Stewart Living makes it easy: a go-to guide for boosting your energy and feeling your best. All about eating clean, the focus is on wholesome unprocessed foods with delicious recipes to inspire you. And if you're after something quick and easy, there are plenty of juices and smoothies that are perfect for a healthy treat on-the-go. There's also a section dedicated to healthy desserts. And to top it all, there are guidelines to keep in mind before you hit the supermarket, with useful info about how to restock your cupboards the right way – think whole grains, beans and legumes, lean proteins, and healthy fats. There's also a glossary with the best sources of detoxifiers, antioxidants, and other healthy nutrients, as well as menus for specific cleanses.

HUAWEI Band 3 Pro All-in-One Fitness Activity Tracker

If you're serious about keeping fit in the New Year, this handy companion should do the trick! A reliable tracker suitable for daily use, it's an ideal, budget-friendly gadget, offering 24/7 continuous heart rate tracking, scientific sleep monitoring and multiple outdoor and indoor activity modes to keep you fit. With its TruSeen 3.0 precision heart rate monitoring system, you can track your real-time heart rate better and deeper than ever. The interface is bold and simple and a 0.95" AMOLED colour touchscreen makes this smart band fitness tracker easily readable in strong sunshine. And you won't get lost with this wrapped around your wrist; no matter where you may wander for a cycle or run, its built-in GPS accurately locates your position. Marathon enthusiast? No worries about battery life. This new HUAWEI smart band can last up to seven hours with GPS mode on, and up to 12 days for average use.

Yoga DesignLab Combo Mat – Aamani

When your exercise/yoga mat looks as good as this, you won't have any excuses to skip that scheduled yoga or Pilates class! And this mat doesn't just fair well in the looks department, it's practical too. No need to take a towel and mat to class anymore once you get hold of this beauty as it performs both functions in one. It also reduces slipping and injuries, while being super easy it to wash – just pop it into the machine. And it's created from premium eco-friendly material too; luxurious and absorbent suede microfiber (made of recycled plastic bottles) bonded to a natural tree rubber base, giving you the grip of a towel and the cushion of a yoga mat. A carrying strap is also included.

Rifle Paper Co. Palette 2020 Planner

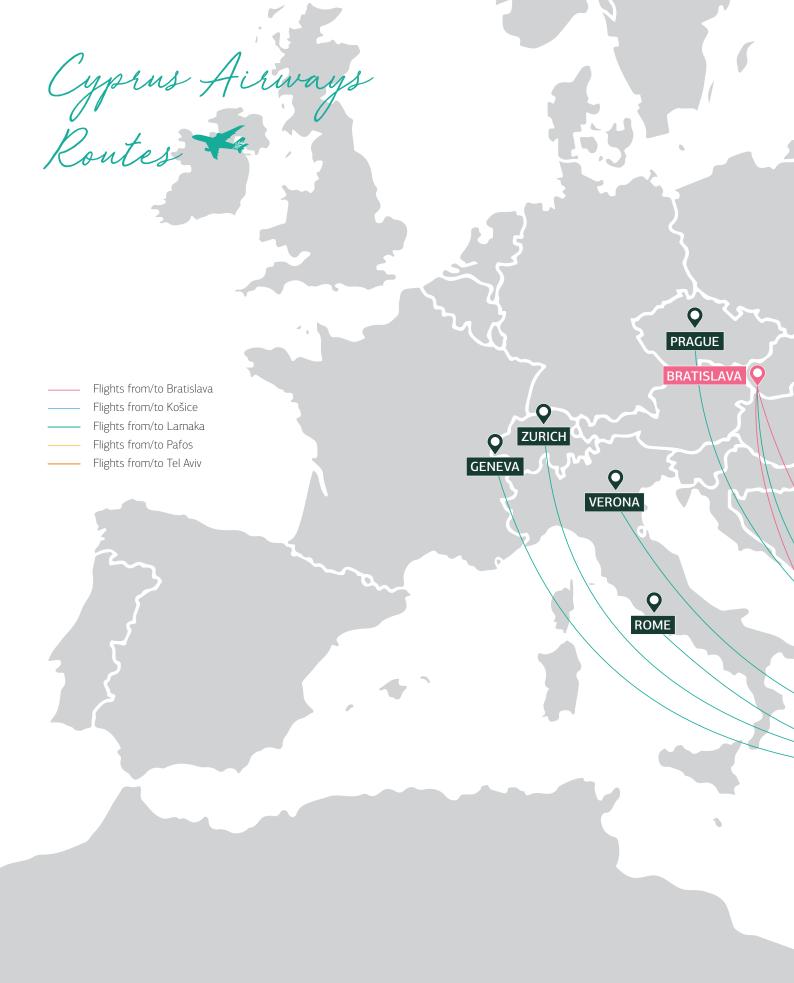
There's nothing better than the feeling of opening up a new diary at the start of the New Year, and planning all the exciting things you'd love to do in the year ahead. And we have to admit that scheduling activities and necessary obligations doesn't get much prettier than this! The gorgeous planner has been created by a Florida-based stationery boutique and design studio whose heartfelt notecards and quirky journals have left us totally smitten. The planner includes monthly and weekly views, inspirational quotes, a ruled back pocket, and sticker sheets.

This Works Deep Pillow Spray

Most of us proclaim that we'd love to start getting a bit more sleep, but somehow, life always seems to get in the way. And sometimes, on the nights when you do try and get to bed early, you just can't doze off! Wash your worries away with this Deep Pillow Spray, that – as the name suggests – actually really does work wonders, proven to help you fall asleep faster and wake feeling more refreshed. How so? An award winning natural super blend of Lavender, Vetivert and Camomile calms both mind and body, to soothe and lull you into night-time bliss. The handy bottle is small enough to take with you on all your travels – just spritz away on your pillow at bedtime!









Our Destinations at a Glance





Athens, Greece
Up to 13 times a week

Additional flights: Three times a week Athens-Pafos Once a week Athens-Tel Aviv, from June 2020





Beirut, LebanonUp to eight times a week





Bratislava, Slovakia Twice a week

Additional flights: Once a week Bratislava to Corfu and Rhodes (from June 2020)





Cairo, Egypt Up to three times a week (from April 2020)





Corfu, Greece Twice a week (from June 2020)

Additional flights: Once a week Corfu to Bratislava and Košice (from June 2020)





Geneva, Switzerland Once a week (from May 2020)





Heraklion, Greece Twice a week





Košice, Slovakia

Once a week (from June 2020)

Additional flights:

Once a week Košice-Corfu (from June 2020)





Pafos, Cyprus

Three times a week to Athens Twice a week to Tel Aviv, from May 2020





Prague, Czech Republic Twice a week (from March 2020)





Preveza, Greece Twice a week (from July 2020)





Rhodes, Greece Twice a week (from June 2020)

Additional flights: Once a week Rhodes-Bratislava (from June 2020)





Rome, Italy Twice a week (from June 2020)





Santorini, Greece Twice a week (from July 2020)





Skiathos, Greece Twice a week (from July 2020)



Tel Aviv, Israel Up to 11 times a week

Additional flights: Once a week Tel Aviv-Athens (from June 2020) Twice a week Tel Aviv-Pafos (from May 2020)





Thessaloniki, Greece Up to four times a week





Verona, Italy Twice a week (from June 2020)





Zurich, Switzerland Twice a week (from April 2020)







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