



BREEZE

SEPTEMBER 2019

ART GAZING

The culture vulture's
perfect holiday in Cyprus



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Getting to know Cyprus'
most revered sites

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A gastronomic journey through
Athens' top hot spots



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Editor's Letter

Autumnal Inspirations

I don't know if it's the inner child in me reminiscing the days when September marked the start of an exciting new school year, but I always feel that the onset of autumn is a magnificent time of change and fresh beginnings. Here in Cyprus, the endless summer sizzle gradually begins to subside; the evenings grow longer, and the sultry night-time breeze becomes noticeably cooler and more refreshing. Slowly but surely, a love affair with all things autumnal begins once again. And my absolute favourite part of it all? The promise of bright crimson hues radically transforming the countryside, as previously parched lands happily soak up the first rain of the season.

In more practical terms, the best thing about autumn in Cyprus has to be exploring the great outdoors; it's one of the most ideal seasons, and indeed the perfect temperature, to head out and about and get to know the island's treasures. And because our team of writers is always ready for a new adventure, we've located some truly inspiring ancient sites that you absolutely must add to your bucket list (pages 20 – 26). More into art that historic rambles? Follow our lead, as we take you to some of the most unusual places around the island, to ignite your creative spark (pages 58 – 63). Always conscious of our carbon footprint, we also offer some great ways to familiarise yourselves with fabulous eco-friendly experiences to enjoy while holidaying in Cyprus (pages 28 – 33).

If you're anything like me, and you love to combine travelling with culinary indulgences, Athens is the place to be; a real hot pot of gastronomic creativity (pages 34 – 40). And, if you're looking for the healthiest food in the world, combined with mesmerising historic splendour, Crete's historic capital of Heraklion should be right up your street. Speaking of streets, we've also located some of the hippest neighbourhoods to walk through in Europe... go on, put your best foot forward (pages 42 – 48).

Happy travels!

Zoe Christodoulides

Editor



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Cyprus Map



Welcome to Cyprus Airways

Who we are

Established in 2016 and based at Larnaca International Airport, Cyprus Airways launched operations in June 2017, holding the trademark of the island's national carrier. The re-launch 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.

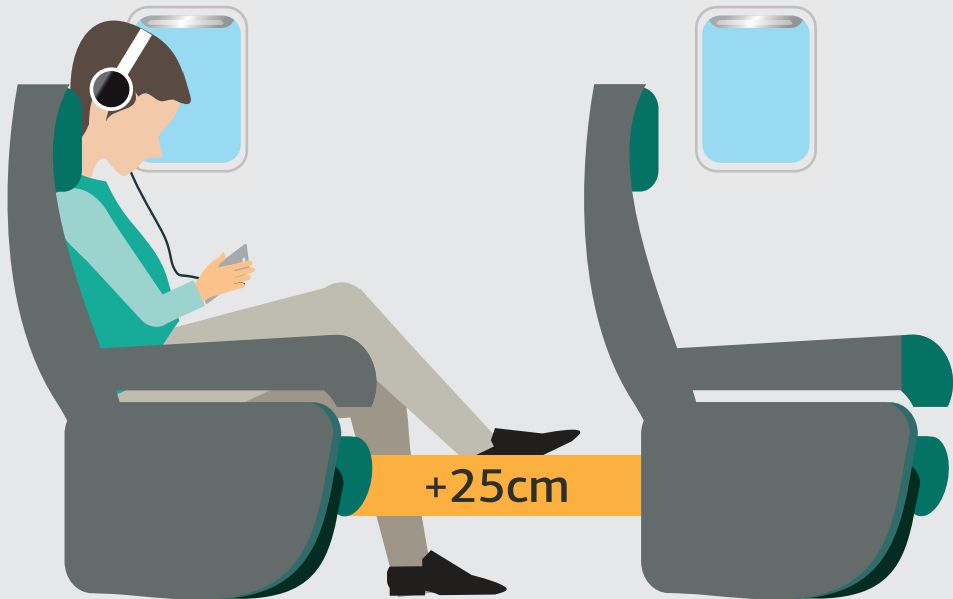
The revival of the national carrier trademark not only expands the island's connectivity, but also re-establishes and reaffirms Cyprus' strong and positive image abroad. Having built and developed all the necessary infrastructure for a safe and reliable airline, the company's long-term goals include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

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



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Cyprus Airways News



New 'Hold my Booking' service

Travellers can now make the most of a new 'Hold My Booking' service, available throughout 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.)

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Cyprus Airways becomes official air carrier of Cyprus Basketball Federation

Cyprus Airways is proud to announce the start of a co-operation with the Cyprus Basketball Federation, as the official air carrier of the National Basketball Teams for the season 2019-2021. As such, the airline exemplifies its active support for Cypriot society, sports, and the effort of national basketball teams. The cooperation between the Cyprus Basketball Federation and Cyprus Airways is expected to help Cyprus' national basketball teams in their preparations for future official games.

Cyprus Airways and Bulgaria Air launch codeshare partnership

Cyprus Airways' commitment to strengthening its network gives customers the chance to enjoy even more travel opportunities via a new codeshare partnership with Bulgaria Air. The agreement enables customers to fly from Larnaca to Sofia via a Cyprus Airways flight code. Similarly, Bulgaria Air has placed its flight code on Cyprus Airways flights to Beirut and Tel Aviv. With the aim of further expanding its network in the near future, more destinations will be added soon.

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



Stunning branded merchandise available on board

We always create memories that last a lifetime on holiday, 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.

Useful information



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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.



Sky Express and Qatar Airways partnership

Cyprus Airways now enjoys a new partnership with Sky Express, with increased travel opportunities giving passengers the chance to continue their Larnaca to Athens/Thessaloniki journey, with Sky Express flights across 25 airports in Greece and the Greek islands.



A Qatar Airways partnership also gives Cyprus Airways passengers the chance to continue their journey from Larnaca to Doha and beyond, to more than 150 destinations, across six continents, with Qatar Airways flights. Similarly, Qatar Airways passengers can now travel from Doha to any Cyprus Airways destination via Larnaca.



S7 and Blue Air Codeshare

Cyprus Airways' customers can enjoy flights from Larnaca to Moscow and Novosibirsk, and from Paphos to Moscow, thanks to an S7 codeshare agreement.



Owing to a Blue Air codeshare partnership, the two airlines' customers benefit from enhanced connectivity from Larnaca to Athens and Thessaloniki. With the possibility of additional routes to be made available in the future, passengers can look forward to more travel options and optimised flight schedules.



Baggage matters!

Under an improved baggage policy, basic fare ticket holders can check in their 10kg baggage for a more comfortable journey. All passengers are allowed a small carry-on bag (handbag or laptop or backpack) on board. This new baggage policy benefits all Cyprus Airways passengers, reducing boarding delays. The flex fare category offers additional services, such as 23kg baggage allowance, seat selection, and more, giving customers the option to customise their travel experience.





Menelaos Palaondas

Ask the pilot!

Menelaos Palaondas was ten years old when he excitedly stepped into the cockpit for the first time while flying on a family holiday. And it was at that very second when dreams of becoming a pilot began to take on even greater proportions. He never wavered for a moment, becoming a commercial airline pilot and taking to the skies in 2006, flying passengers to destinations across Europe. Having joined Cyprus Airways upon its establishment, Palaondas' favourite flights are those which lead towards Greece's Halkidiki Peninsula, with panoramic views across Thessaloniki and beyond. Taking a moment from his busy schedule, the pilot now lets us in on other destinations that never cease to inspire and astound him.

Q: Favourite Cyprus Airways destination to spend a weekend?

A: Prague! Especially because of its Old Town Square, the heart of its historic core, with such beautiful colourful baroque buildings.

Q: Most enjoyable airport to fly into?

A: Any airport in the Greek islands. The flight is always exciting, and the scenery is especially beautiful over the Aegean Sea.

Q: Most memorable flight?

A: The first commercial flight of Cyprus Airways from Larnaca to Heraklion to obtain the airworthiness of the company. That was definitely a journey I will never forget.

Q: Most exciting thing about life as a pilot?

A: Being able to travel around the world: every trip is really special. Seeing new places and different people on a regular basis is truly inspiring.

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

A: The Bora Bora islands; absolute paradise on earth!



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Bora Bora



Greek islands

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Festival Feasts

There is no better place to get acquainted with Cypriot traditions that have stood the test of time, than a vibrant village festival. And the autumn months are packed with exciting feel-good events, where locals congregate in rural hot spots to celebrate all things delicious with a myriad of edible indulgences on offer, while extravagant dancing, singing and demonstrations add to the merrymaking.



Crunchy delights Pastelli Festival, Anogyra village

Carob trees have been growing on the island for centuries, with their valuable bean-like pods once a major source of revenue for the country. Numerous remote spots around the island still take their carob production seriously, but few are as beautiful as Anogyra village; rising above the coastline between Limassol and Paphos.

Here, locals pick carobs from the trees between August and November to make a delicious and healthy carob toffee known as pastelli; carob syrup cooked until it caramelises and then spun (like toffee) to form flat, brittle, golden slabs as it cools. In celebration of the crunchy treat, villagers gather in the main streets of the village for a yearly pastelli festival in September to celebrate the harvest and test their appetite. The annual festival features pastelli-making demonstrations, traditional dances and music, food, wine and other local delicacies.

When: 6 September 2019
Where: Anogyra village, Limassol district
Tel: +357 25 221496



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A zesty affair Orange Festival, Miliou village

The shimmering Paphos coastline is revered for its rugged charm, but further inland, the lush countryside dotted with traditional villages is equally enticing. And here, every year, villagers in the hamlet of Miliou celebrate one of the most prized fruits which brighten up the area: the juicy orange.

The annual Orange Festival is a real zesty affair, as people from the wider district and beyond descend on the village square to taste bitter sweet traditional products made with local oranges. Liquors, beers, marmalades, sweets – you name it, there will be a stall serving it. And you can expect plenty on sale to take back home with you too.

When: 14 September 2019
Where: Miliou village, Paphos district
Tel: +357 99 450394



Sweet as can be Honey Festival, Kalopanayiotis village

Deep in the green Marathassa valley, in the foothills of the Troodos mountains, lies one of Cyprus' most beautiful villages, exuding fairy-tale charm. Healing waters gurgle through the area, with its natural sulphur springs calling out for attention, nestled amidst breath-taking scenery, age-old buildings and UNESCO sites. The fertile valley is also home to pretty cherry trees, but it's the local beekeepers that lure visitors to the area for a seriously delicious September festival, keen to show off their fragrant honey.

Head to this year's occasion to enjoy informative lectures about the benefits of honey, while indulging your sweet tooth with a taste of locally produced aromatic honey and a whole range of treats made from the good sticky stuff.

When: 21-22 September 2019
Where: Kalopanayiotis village, Marathassa Valley, Troodos district
Tel: +357 22 952297



Naughty but nice Spoon Sweets Festival, Kakopetria village

The Troodos mountain village of Kakopetria is well known as one of the most popular on the island, blessed with a beautifully quaint old village centre, where traditional old stone and wooden houses cradle cobbled lanes. And it's in these old houses where passionate elderly ladies still make traditional spoon sweets, in much the same way as they did years ago, preserving fruits, nuts and vegetables in jars filled with thick syrup.

Keen to indulge? The Kakopetria Spoon Sweets Festival will tempt your taste buds with a whole array of treats – from the walnut variety (a firm favourite), to delicious cherry, apricots, orange and bergamot. There will be almost 50 types of spoon sweets to savour in total, and a surprise in the mix. Once you've devoured the deliciousness, prepare for some toe-tapping fun with live music and traditional Cypriot dancing, while locals organise tours around the historic village and the nearby gushing Klarios river.

When: 29 September 2019
Where: Kakopetria village, Troodos district
Tel: +357 22 922323



Wine o'clock Grape Feast, Arsos & Koilani villages

Cypriots are incredibly proud of their grapes, so much so, that inhabitants of the winemaking villages on the sun kissed slopes of the Troodos mountains spend weeks preparing for mighty grape feasts come September and October. Not just about wine tasting, the Arsos and Koilani village festivals also provide opportunities to delight in palouzes and soujoukos; two prized local grape delicacies. The former is a thick jelly-like pudding made with fresh grape juice, while the latter is a sausage shaped sweet made from grape juice, filled with nuts, sewn onto a cotton thread and hung to dry.

You can also look forward to plenty of merriment, with entertainment shows including folk music, theatre productions, and a revival of old traditional customs. All the action this year will be taking place at the community squares of both villages.

When: 29 September 2019 - Arsos village
6 October 2019 - Koilani village
Where: Limassol district
Tel: +357 25 421020



A tempting bite Apple Festival, Kyperounta village

If an apple a day really does keep the doctor away, then the inhabitants of Kyperounta village have all the more reason to rejoice. After all, they generate about a third of the national production of apples, and every October, the traditional leafy Troodos village – the third highest on the island – lures in crowds from around the country to celebrate the mighty apple harvest!

The two-day festival is renowned for its open-air market, where guests can get hold of seasonal apples, traditional products, fresh apple juice, apple cider vinegar and other treats. What's more, the community puts on an apple exhibition featuring all the different types of apples grown in Cyprus. Seminars will shed light on the benefits of apples and folklore shows will add a fun twist to all the whole affair.

When: 12-13 October 2019
Where: Kyperounta village, Pitsillia, Troodos district
Tel: +357 25 813204



Say cheers Zivania Festival, Alona & Pelendri villages

Not for the faint hearted, Zivania is often likened to local 'firewater' – and for good reason; a potent distillation is made from leftover grape skins and residue (pomace) from winemaking, and packs a punch with a whopping 45 per cent alcohol content. Only made in Cyprus, the drink has been produced on the island since the end of the 14th century, and is usually enjoyed as an ice-cold shot.

Hardly surprising then, that a festival in its honour takes place in Alona and Pelendri villages over two consecutive weekends in November, where you'll have the chance to sip on the iconic local drink while catching a glimpse of how it's made. You can also enjoy traditional Cypriot music and dancing, with heaps of traditional products to purchase and enjoy when you get back home.

3 November 2019, Alona village square, Pitsillia, Troodos district
10 November 2019, Pelendri village square, Troodos district
Tel: + 357 25 421020



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Peppered with ancient sites across its undulating and varied landscape, Cyprus is soaked in a rich history that mesmerises the senses and takes visitors back in time to the glorious past. Whether you're traipsing through the countryside, whizzing around the scenic coast or discovering somnolent villages, no end of archaeological and historic wonders command attention.



1 – Curium Amphitheatre

Rising high above the seaside town of Limassol and the surrounding countryside, nowhere does history combine with panoramic views in a more breath-taking fashion than the Curium Amphitheatre.

A Greco-Roman structure dating back to the 2nd century BC, the stunning theatre forms part of the archaeological remains of the

once flourishing kingdom of Curium, built on the hills of the surrounding area and destroyed by a severe earthquake in 365 AD. The theatre, which once formed the site's centrepiece, has now been restored, and the popular location often hosts performances under the stars.



2 – Paphos Archaeological Park

Often likened to a 'living museum', it's not hard to see why history buffs make a beeline for the UNESCO World Heritage town of Paphos to catch a glimpse of its ancient marvels. And at the top of almost every bucket list is the magnificent Paphos Archaeological Park; one of the most significant areas of archaeological significance in the Eastern Mediterranean, and home to the revered Paphos mosaics dating back to the Roman period.

Be sure to also take a look at The Tombs of the Kings; an impressive necropolis, dating back to the Hellenistic period in the 3rd century BC, as well as the Ancient Odeon, the Agora, and the remains of the Saranta Kolones (Forty Columns) Castle.



3 – Choirokitia settlement

One of the most important prehistoric sites in the eastern Mediterranean and another UNESCO World Heritage Site, this Neolithic settlement never ceases to impress the inquisitive traveller. Located on a historic hill outside the seaside town of Larnaca, the settlement was once occupied from the 7th to the 4th century BC, while excavations here have shed much light on the evolution of human society in the entire Mediterranean region.

Distinctly marked out by cylindrical stone and mud dwellings that lay claim to the earliest permanent housing on the island, it is thought that the Neolithic colony was abandoned because of a sudden catastrophe, most probably, an earthquake.

4 – Kolossi Castle

There's something incredibly impressive about this former Crusader stronghold on the outskirts of Kolossi village, standing proud amid a stark and graphic rural landscape. A fine example of military architecture, originally built in the 13th century and then rebuilt in the 15th century, it once served as the Grand Commandery of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, falling under the domain of the Knights Templar in the 14th century. During their stay in Cyprus, the Knights produced and exported what is known today as one of the oldest wines in the world still in production, Commandaria. The castle itself held strategic importance during the Middle Ages and was also home to facilities for the production of sugar from local sugarcane.





5- Panayia tis Asinou Church

Keen explorers looking to veer off the beaten track can head deep into the island's countryside, into the bucolic foothills of the Troodos mountains, south of the village of Nikitari, to take in some fascinating religious heritage. As one of the ten UNESCO Heritage churches in the Troodos Mountains, you'll be astounded by the frescoes that cover practically every inch of the interior, with some dating as far back as the 1100s, and beautifully reflecting the Comnenian period style.

The church used to be the monastery church of the Monastery of Forbion, built with the donation of Magistros Nikephoros Ischyrios, who then became a monk known by the name Nikolaos. While no traces of the monastery survive today, it's known that it was built in 1099, and was abandoned at the end of the 18th century.

6- Panayia tou Sinti Monastery

Another off-the-beaten-track gem that most visitors don't know about, this abandoned monastery and church is hidden deep in the untouched, rural Paphos countryside on the banks of the Xeros river.

Yet another designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, it also received the Europa Nostra award for restoration and conservation in 1997, following its reconstruction in the early 1990s. Believed to have been built around the 16th century, monks from the island's famous Kykkos Monastery were often sent here. The building itself is now considered one of the most important of the Venetian period on the island.



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7- Agios Sozomenos

Have your cameras at the ready – this really is the perfect place for truly Instagram-worthy shots. A site that will no doubt remain etched in your mind forever, this deserted village deserves to be on your itinerary if you're heading towards the island's capital of Nicosia. Its near abandonment is sited as the result of disputes between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, with conflict-related displacement of both communities thought to have begun in 1964. Following the division of the island in 1974, most of the Turkish

Cypriots living in the area were resettled in Argaki, near the town of Morphou, together with other displaced villagers from nearby areas. Walk around the area to take in the almost haunting surrounds, accentuated by one of the most impressive buildings in the vicinity; the ruined 16th century Gothic church of Agios Mamas, with its imposing arches; a site which was never in fact finished to begin with. The retrograde Lusignan style building is gloriously attractive, despite the fact that only its walls remain.



8- Tzelefos Bridge

A Venetian stone bridge deep in the Paphos Forest that elegantly arches over the gurgling Diarizos River, this magical place is only reached by journeying through untouched countryside. Once a site of great activity in the Middle Ages, it used to connect the Paphos area to other districts on the island, serving the needs of the region. Today's Tzelefos is no longer used for practical purposes, but intrepid travellers can still make their way into this lush region of the countryside to catch a glimpse of its beauty, before exploring the nearby Arminou dam.

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Green my Holiday

Climate change – two words that have proven hard to ignore over the past few years. And for good reason. But as we change our ways to help fight the issue, our travel habits don't need to have such a damaging effect on the environment, with a growing range of exciting sustainable options for the eco-conscious explorer to enjoy.



Cyprus is an island of great natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and abundant flora and fauna both on the land and under the surrounding crystalline waters. The destination is a veritable tourism haven, making it all the more important to ensure these natural resources and assets are protected and sustained for years to come. Luckily, the concept of eco-travel is having a moment in the international limelight right now. And closer to home, organisations such as the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) are working hard behind the scenes to promote environmentally friendly options to the growing number of tourists landing on these pristine shores.

“There is a lot that tourists can do to minimise their footprint on the environment and the local communities here in Cyprus,” says Philippos Drousiotis, chairman of CSTI. “We are responding to the increasing demand from tourists who want to do the right thing and do their bit. At the end of the day, it is in everybody’s interest to look after, protect and preserve our lands. We rely on tourism, so we need to keep our environment clean for future generations.”

A Collaborative Effort

One of the major environmental concerns in Cyprus is the disposal of single use plastics, which often end up littering the beautiful beaches, coastlines, parks and natural areas. Rather than exacerbating the problem with plastic straws, bags and take-away frappe cups, tourists on the island can actually do something about it, by saying no to single use plastics during their visit, or joining in on one of the many beach or park clean up events that are regularly organised across the island by various green organisations. Eco-conscious travellers who want to get stuck in should

keep an eye on local websites and Facebook pages such as ‘Let’s Do It Cyprus’ or ‘Let’s Make Cyprus Green’, to check when the next event will take place – they happen throughout the year and also double up as a great way to meet like-minded locals.

Facebook: [ldicyprus](#)

Website: letsmakecyprusgreen.com/beach-cleanups



Conserving Marine Life

The queen of Cyprus marine life is undoubtedly the majestic loggerhead sea turtle. But this mystical beauty is sadly now rare and endangered thanks to coastal development, plastic and fishing nets polluting their natural habitat. In order to conserve and protect this gentle sea creature, a series of conservation projects have been set up around Cyprus. These include the Turtle Conservation Project and the Lara Bay Turtle Conservation Station, the latter of which can be visited by tourists. During hatching season, which falls around July and August each year, keep your eyes peeled for metal cages on the beach which protect the nests. And if you are really lucky, you might even get to see one hatch and witness the mass stampede of baby turtles as they scramble out of the sand and head for the sea.



So Fresh and So Clean

Eco-warriors of the gastronomic persuasion should head down to Riverland Bio Farm, to witness organic dairy farming done right. Located just outside the capital city of Nicosia near the village of Kampia, the farm is run by a passionate young Cypriot, who hosts tours to visit the much-loved animals, as well as brunches, horse riding, archery and workshops on-site. Kayaking adventures can also be enjoyed in the nearby canyon.

Visitors can taste some of the farm's now island-renowned cheeses, yogurts and milks, all produced organically, sustainably and with the wellbeing of both the environment and the animals themselves in mind.

Tel: +357 99 592598
Facebook: riverlandbiofarm



Why the Long Face

With its gentle kind eyes, distinctive markings and friendly demeanour, the iconic Cyprus donkey has long been an integral part of life on the island. Today, it has become a symbol of Cyprus, fundamental to the unique cultural heritage of the country. And while not many of these long-faced creatures still live in the wild, up at Golden Donkeys Farm in Skarinou village, around 170 Cyprus donkeys are currently being looked after in a bid to preserve and sustain Cypriot traditions. All of the donkeys at the farm have their own names and characters, and visitors can get to know them personally with activities such as feeding, riding and taking pictures with the animals, while also learning about how they were used in the past.

Tel: +357 99 620736
Website: goldendonkeys.com/golden



Architecture and Education

Far removed from the madness of central Ayia Napa, the jaw-droppingly beautiful landscapes of Cape Greco are a tranquil haven of peace and serenity, only six miles away from the nightlife hub. The peninsula is a national park and is made up of a number of stunning nature trails along the cliffs, but before you don the walking boots and head off for a hike, pop into

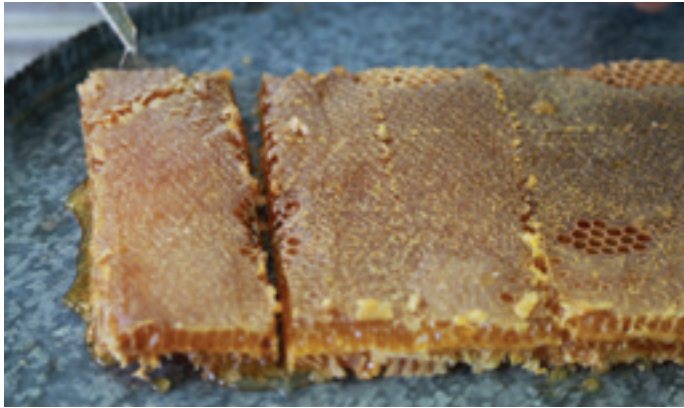
the architectural marvel that is the Cape Greco Environmental Centre at the beginning of the park. Here, you can learn all about the aquatic ecosystems of Cyprus through fascinating exhibitions and marine aquariums.

Tel: +357 23 814412

Buzzing for It

Going on a beekeeping tour may sound like an unconventional way to spend your time on holiday, but keen environmentalists will understand the important role these industrious little honey-makers play in maintaining our ecosystem. Based out of the rustic Larnaca village of Valva, Cypriot tour operator Ecophysis, offers unique beekeeper tours, as well as educational eco-nature walks around the area of Lefkara and Kato Drys, where participants can learn all about the indigenous and endemic plants and herbs that grow on the island. Not just eco-friendly, these hands-on day trips are also a truly authentic local experience that you won't forget in a honey, sorry hurry!

Tel: +357 99 171405
Website: ecophysiscy.com



Rural Adventures

Cyprus is a real haven for all things agrotourism related and there's really no better way to get stuck into real rural life on the island. Agrotourism adventures in the Cyprus countryside are guided by nature and a strong environmental and community conscience, with activities and events promoting the conservation of age-old traditions, crafts and gastronomic heritage. Within the Cyprus tourism framework, travellers can visit a multitude of picturesque villages, enjoy nature trails and learn about local produce. Keep an eye out for traditional rural festivals that happen throughout the year such as the Rose Festival, Zivania Festival, Grape Festival, Blossom Festival and Almond Festival.

Website: agrotourism.com.cy



Sustainable Stays

Amavi by Kanika Hotels & Resorts

Located in Paphos, the newly opened couples only eco-hotel is well on its way to becoming the first hotel on the island to receive the prestigious EU Ecolabel in recognition of its commitments.
amavihotel.com

Natura Beach Hotel

This gorgeous little family run hotel in Polis operates according to a philosophy of environmental consciousness and sustainability. Food is grown organically on site and an eco-water-recycling system helps save water.
natura.com.cy

Ayii Anargyri Natural Healing Spa

Located in the rolling green hills above Paphos, this stunning luxury spa resort is based around natural healing and environmentally friendly practices, with an emphasis on saving energy.
aasparesort.com

Yurts in Cyprus

This magical corner of absolute peace and tranquillity guarantees a stay that is both totally unique and ecologically friendly, with three Mongolian yurts, a newly launched tiny wooden house, sawdust toilets, eco-bathrooms and planet conscious operations throughout.
yurtsincyprus.com

Cyprus Glamping Park

Sustainability and environmental protection are at the heart of what they do at the Cyprus Glamping Park, where nine self-contained cottages are dotted around a picturesque natural landscape in Larnaca.
cyprusglamping.com.cy

Euphoria Art Land

Built out of recycled materials to combine multicultural elements and organic bioclimatic architecture with natural cooling and lighting, this quirky accommodation is a surreal playground of luxury and comfort.
euphoriartland.com

E Hotel Spa & Resort Cyprus

An eco-friendly hotel overlooking a pristine beach in Pervolia, where environmental commitments include growing their own food, recycling water, solar power and lighting sensors.
hotel-e.com

Londa Hotel

This urban haven in the heart of Limassol has implemented a series of sustainable initiatives and is a member of CYMERA, Cyprus Maritime Environmental Protection Association.
londahotel.com





/ Zampanò

Come Dine with Us...in Athens

Athens' creative gastronomy has seriously blossomed over the past ten years, thanks to ambitious local chefs and restaurateurs willing to experiment with classical Greek and world cuisine. In testimony to their efforts, the metropolis is now emerging as an ultimate foodie destination.

You've paid your respects to Athenian landmarks, but now the hunger pangs have taken over. Whatever you do, don't succumb to the tourist traps, with their bland fare and not a local patron in sight. Instead, make a beeline for some satiating re-fuelling spots, powered by the Greek capital's new breed of restaurateurs, bars and café owners. Their fresh takes on classic local dishes and playful reinvention of world cuisines are hiking the city's reputation as a foodie destination up a notch, unleashing a wave of dining concepts and gems of gastro creativity.

Bravura brunches

While breakfast has never held the same importance as lunch, the Greeks do have a genius for languor whatever the meal. In today's Athens, this translates to a wealth of toothsome brunching options.

Zampanò

Brunch and jazz in vibrant Psirri sound good? Then head to Zampanò, where your breakfast plate is a riot of colours. Glossy yolks prepared a multitude of ways – special laurels going to the eggs benedict with salmon and avocado toast using sourdough bread. Additional props for flavourful vegan options and friendly service. (zampano.gr)

IT Restaurant

Situated in chic Kolonaki, IT lets you indulge healthily, with superfood, low-cal and detox menu offerings, crafted from premium local and Cypriot produce. In addition to tangy French toast with fetta, brunch highlights include organic egg dishes – whole to whites-only – as well as creamy granola cups, lavished with grade-A yoghurt and seasonal fruits. (itrestaurant.gr)

Mama Roux

Walk in on a Sunday, and prepare to loosen your belt a few notches. Highlights from Mama Roux's New Orleans-inspired brunch include French toast variant pain perdu, stuffed-to-groaning breakfast burritos and classic bagel and lox. Sinking a superlative Bloody Mary or Mimoza is obligatory. (48 Aioulou Str. Monastiraki Metro Station)





/ Zurbaran Athens
© Sora



/ Mavro Provato
© Antonis Yiamouris

Dished upon a star

Until recently, Greek cuisine had dominated Athens' culinary landscape. Today, a new place at the table is being set by ambitious local chefs, merging traditional with international gastronomy, in a smörgåsbord of fine dining.

Zurbaran Athens

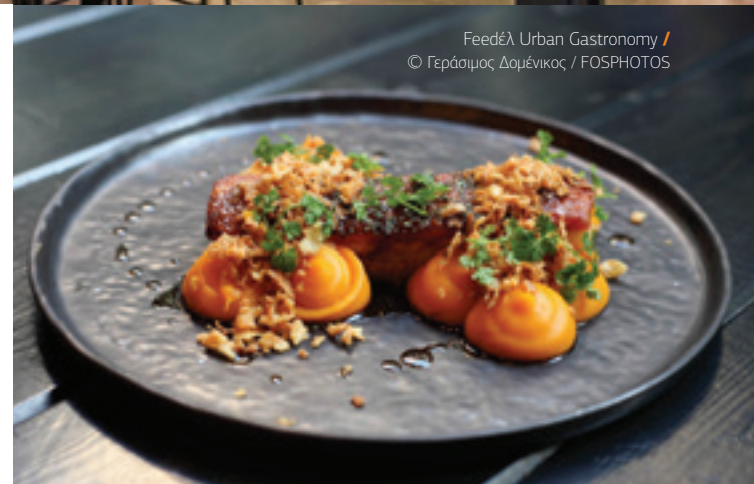
Tucked away in Kolonaki, popular bar restaurant, Zurbaran, takes its culinary innovation seriously and deliciously. With its sharp industrial interior and merger of traditional and world gastronomy, locals and visitors alike give a special thumbs-up to the salmon tataki, beef carpaccio and sinful millefeuille with tahini cream. (zurbaranathens.gr)

Feedél Urban Gastronomy

Halfway between Syntagma and Monastiraki, Feedél Urban Gastronomy provides sophisticated dining for discerning foodies. Sharing plates feature twists on classic Greek food (must-tries are fava beans with truffle oil and rabbit dumplings). Paired with an extensive wine selection and cosy seating (reserve ahead of time), Feedél is sure to delight your palate. (1 Ktena Str.)

Spondi

Greek-inspired, French haute cuisine at its best. Located near the Acropolis Museum, Spondi offers old-school elegance plus a two-Michelin-star menu. Its courtyard is the perfect setting to enjoy signature dishes like langoustine with Daurenki caviar and crab with acacia honey and passion fruit. The seven-course discovery menu, well-paired with crisp wines, is also highly recommended. (spondi.gr)



Feedél Urban Gastronomy /
© Γεράσιμος Δομένικος / FOSPHOTOS



/ Spondi



/ Avli

No plates like home

Less inclined to experiment? Dine like an Athenian local. Reputable restaurants – from historic establishments to hole-in-the-wall tavernas – will delight you with classic Greek fare, featuring seasonal ingredients celebrating earthy and marine flavours.

Mavro Provato

Like its namesake black sheep, maverick Mavro Provato puts a creative spin on classic Greek dishes. Outstanding lamb mains include buttery kleftiko, while seafood high notes feature marinated anchovies and garlicky steamed mussels. Reasonably priced and with a pleasant wine selection. (tomauroprovato.gr)

Avli

A Psirri native may have to help locate it, but once inside Avli's narrow courtyard, you'll discover why it's such an enduring hit. Huge bowls of Greek salad, crispy meatballs and fried liver are menu highlights. You'll leave stuffed with barely a scratch on your wallet. (12 Agiou Dimitriou Str.)

Vassilenas

The metropolis' oldest restaurant, Vassilenas patrons include the likes of Winston Churchill and Sophia Loren. Having relocated from Piraeus to central Athens, Vassilenas today continues to offer creative Greek cuisine with an emphasis on seafood. Signature à la carte dishes include the tuna tartar, grilled sea bass and sweet polenta 'halva'. (www.vassilenas.gr)



/ Vassilenas





/ Amandine's Bagels

Street treats

Sometimes the best dining is pedestrian. If you like your grub grab-and-go, then Athens’ many eateries provide a cheap and filling alternative to traditional street staples like cheese pies, gyro and souvlaki.

Amandine’s Bagels

Parisian artistry reinvents a New York staple, just a stone’s throw away from Syntagma Square! Amandine’s Bagels are an Instagram dream, and even tastier consumed. Freshly baked daily, the bagels’ glossy exteriors, chewy interiors and plethora of fillings (try the salmon-avocado or Barcelona with chorizo) are sure to please. (13 Nikis Str.)

Zisis

Move over souvlaki, Zisis offers fresh seafood to go! While you can dine in (try the excellent psarokeftedes and mussels saganaki), you can just as easily eat on the run. Zisis heaps perfectly fried seafood into takeaway cones, topped with tartar, sweet chili or garlic sauce. Stand-out fillings include calamari, anchovy and cod. (facebook.com/zisisfish)

El Burro

Minutes away from the Acropolis Museum, a perennial weekend vibe reigns at El Burro. Pick up a strawberry margarita and a taco or three to consume on the fly. With its 100% organic corn tortillas, and Mediterranean and Mexican flavours, El Burro packs in a sombrero’s-worth dollop of deliciousness with every bite. (102 Dimitrakopoulou Str.)



El Burro /



Meliartos /
© Αλυσίδα Πολιτισμού ΙΑΝΟΣ

Freshly-brewed interludes

Greek passion for coffee knows no bounds, especially paired with something sweet. Today, Athens’ evolving specialty coffee scene takes a novel approach to the nexus of caffeine and sugar.

Meliartos

With its four-shops-in-one concept, Meliartos is simultaneously a training kitchen, creamery, bakery and café. Its delicious coffees – try the traditional, prepped in a ‘briki’ – are accompanied by sweet and savoury goodies, including Meliartos’ divine spinach and fetta pie, lustrous tarts (try strawberry), lemon and chocolate cake and syrupy baklava and kataifi. (www.meliartos.gr)

Little Kook

Coffee? Check. Cupcakes? Check. Mary Poppins-themed staff costumes and décor? Check! Inspired by the famous, umbrella-toting nanny, Little Kook makes the medicine go down with its fantasy desserts (try the red velvet or lava chocolate cake with ice cream), then wash away the gazillion calories with hot beverages and cocktails. (17 Karaiskaki Georgiou Str.)

Little Tree Books & Coffee

A short walk away from the Acropolis, Little Tree Books & Coffee initially seems too serene a place for its caffeinated offerings. But we dare you not to enjoy its freshly-brewed coffees while sitting outdoors, enjoying a moist slice of lemon tart or chocolate cake, poring over a selection from the bookstore. (2 Kavalloti Str.)



Little Kook /



Little Tree Books & Coffee /



Let us
become part
of your
Life story



Lean and green

With well-being now a non-negotiable part of quality dining, a growing wave of Athenian restaurants are serving vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free dishes, which are as delicious as they are healthy.

Peas

With its motto 'Give Peas a Chance', this vegan variety café features a wide range of cruelty-free wraps, burgers, salads, hot dishes and desserts, using organic fruit and veggies, sourced locally from small producers. Try the excellent homemade seitan club sandwich and roasted tempeh and coconut 'cheese' wrap. (40 Falirou Str.)

Local Green

Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, you name it, this place serves it. A brand-new green haven in town, the Local Green selection of healthy eats and drinks provide a much needed boost to your day. Their Açaí bowl is a big hit, combining Amazonian Açaí berries with banana, peanut butter, fruits and superfoods, while their avocado chocolate mousse makes for a fantastic sugar, dairy and gluten-free treat. (30-32 Perikleous Str.)

Veganaki

Not far from the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Veganaki serves vegan food and coffee to a mostly-hipster clientele. Its terrace lets you dine outdoors, with favourite selections including falafels (baked, not fried), zucchini pies and tangy hummus and tabouli plates. Veganaki also boasts extensive beers from top Greek microbreweries. (38 Athanasiou Diakou & Kallirois Str.)



atlantichotels.com

LIMASSOL | PAPHOS | AYIA NAPA | PROTARAS | RHODES

CRETE | KOS | CORFU | ZAKYNTHOS | SHARM EL SHEIKH

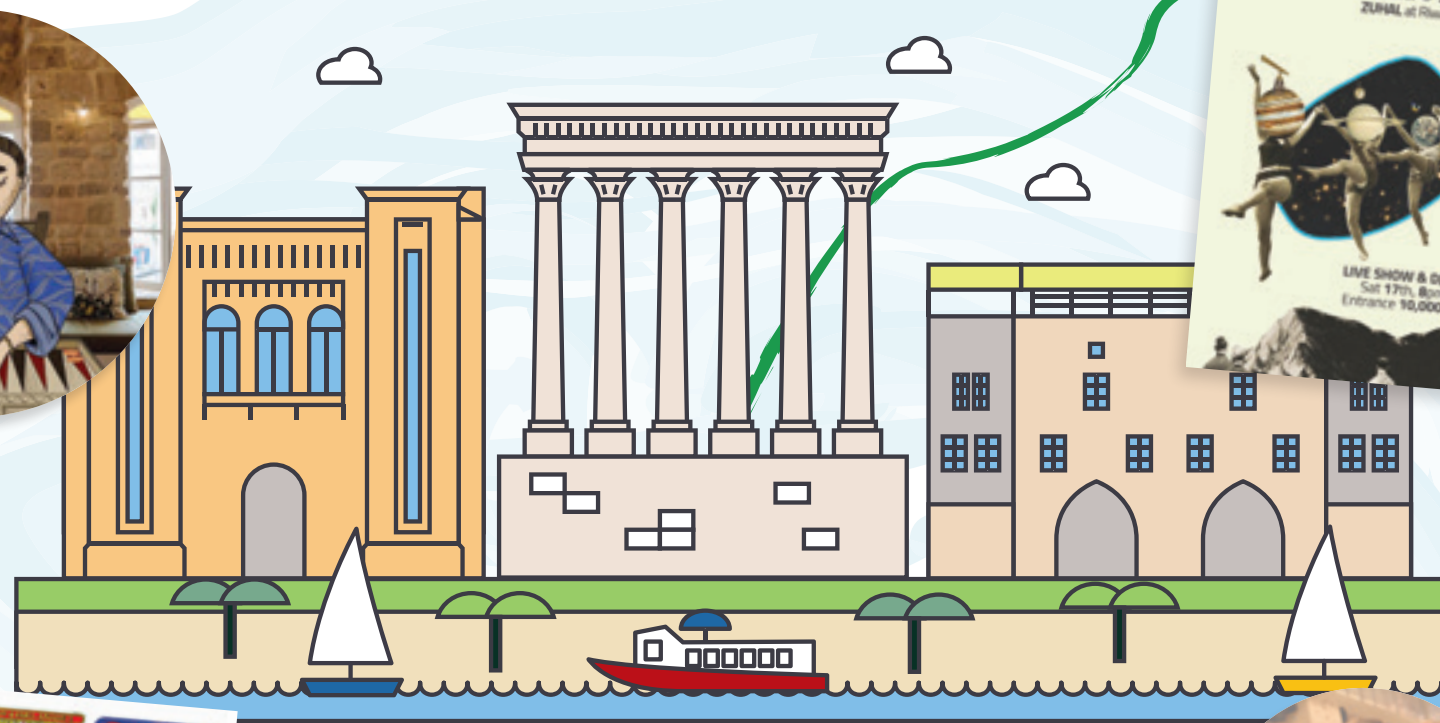


The Neighbourhood

GUIDE

While iconic sights are always worth a visit, travellers looking to really scratch beneath the surface of a destination and experience a taste of authentic local life, should venture off the well-trodden tourist trails, to discover the latest hip and happening neighbourhoods being brought to life by cool urban residents.

Tawlet /
© elmaalouf



Beirut

Beirut is undeniably hip. And the Middle East's capital of cool is bursting at its proverbial seams with funky neighbourhoods, where tuned-in and turned-out locals work and play. A fail-safe place to start when cool hunting in Beirut, is vibrant and happening **Mar Mikhaël**. This lively district's well-established, alternative nightlife scene is now complemented by a growing number of eclectic boutiques and popular local restaurants, with most of the action centred along the main drag, Armenia St, and filtering off into the less busy (and often more rewarding) side streets.

/ Play Bey
© Mazen Kerbaj



Riwaq Beirut /



/ Station Beirut

Hungry for a taste of real Lebanon? Head to **Tawlet** (soukeltayeb.com/tawlet), where a daily buffet of mouth-watering, traditional dishes are made by farmers and local producers. Scratch that retail itch at **Play Bey** (plan-bey.com) for Lebanese prints and handicrafts; or at the hidden vintage treasure trove that is **Depot-Vente** (facebook.com/depotventebeirut), tucked away in an upstairs apartment on Badawi St. When day turns to night, try **Coup D'Etat** rooftop bar (facebook.com/CoopBeirut) for an authentic taste of the city's famous party spirit, or for an evening of more culturally rich entertainment, try **Riwaq Beirut** (facebook.com/RiwaqBeirut) – a multi-use art space, music venue and lending library.

Gemmayze district is also great for its artsy atmosphere, especially the stylish Gouraud Steet, home to hotspots like contemporary gallery **Artlab** (art-lab.me) or **Aaliya's Books** (facebook.com/AaliyasBooks), where used and new books are sold alongside cultural events, talks and workshops. Dip further into the du-jour arts scene slightly further afield in the **Jisr El Wati** area, where achingly cool galleries-cum-events hubs like **Beirut Art Center** (beirutartcenter.org/en), **Station Beirut** (stationbeirut.com) and **Ashkal Alwan** (ashkalalwan.org) are shaking things up with their non-conventional approach. **Monot Street** is also popular with local in-crowds, and a great place to sample the hedonistic nightlife, while the **Badaro** district is another up and coming area for hip new bars and restaurants such **Kissproof** (kissproofbeirut.com).

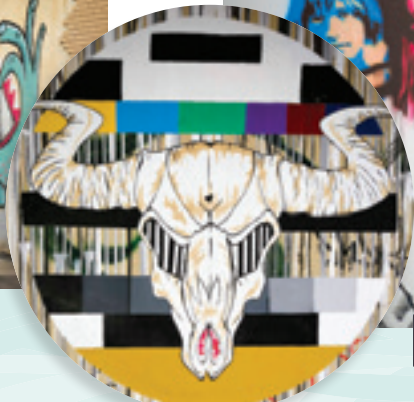


Kissproof /





/ Florentin
© Guy Yechiely



Beit Romano /



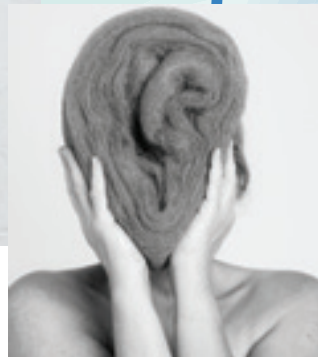
Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv's dynamic and hip counter-culture scene is thriving, and it's easy to find for travellers in search of a more authentic local experience. Street art enthusiasts should head straight to the once run-down heart of the city's alternative scene, **Florentin** – often described as the Brooklyn of Tel Aviv – where the streets and alleys are awash with colourful murals displaying the impressive local talent. Browse the vintage boutiques, artisan workshops and galleries-cum-cocktail bars as you hunt down the area's best artwork by well-known local graffiti crews and artists such as Broken Fingaz, Dede and Mas 972.

While in the area, don't miss **Beit Romano** (facebook.com/romanotlv) housing a cool restaurant and bar, as well as an underground radio station and events space. While Florentin is heading towards gentrification, nearby **Shapira** is still untouched and just as cool. Home to numerous art studios which have recently opened their doors, this artistic quarter also boasts hip new independent galleries such as the non-profit **Artspace Tel Aviv** (artspacetlv.org) showing off contemporary home-grown talent.



/ Artspace Tel Aviv
Rani Pardes © Yuval Chen

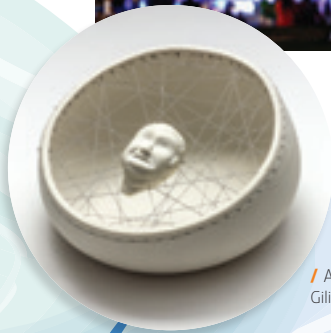


Artspace Tel Aviv /
Tamar Lederberg

Tel Aviv's artsy crowd are also currently funk up the historic **Yemenite Quarter** – or Kerem as it is also known – which is still untouched by tourism and whose walls are systematically being adorned with mural art. While in the area, check out **Nachlat Binyamin Pedestrian Mall** (nachlatbinyamin.com/en), hosting stalls selling local arts and crafts, alongside regular street performances. **Jaffa** is another area that has a firmly cemented reputation as a hipster haven, packed with quirky bars, cafés, restaurants and shops, but for something even further off-the-beaten-track, carry on into the burgeoning neighbourhood that is **Noga Complex**. Shoppers can get their fix at **Craft and Bloom** (craftandbloom.com) – the self-appointed 'intersection between organics, DIY and design', which sells locally produced art and clothing. Don't forget to grab a cup of joe at uber trendy **Cafelix** (cafelix.co.il) first.



Jaffa /



/ Artspace Tel Aviv
Gilit Levin Ronen



/ Cafelix



Athens

A city of such rich and iconic historical importance, Athens has also more recently become known for its alternative, edgy anarchist spirit, which lives and breathes in the city's more bohemian neighbourhoods. And nowhere is this rebellious attitude more strongly personified than in the graffiti adorned streets and alleys of **Exarchia**. Home to the capital's anarchists and activists, Exarchia is a hive of political revolution and nonconformity with a strong community feel.





Live the experience at the self-managed **Navarinou Park** – a former carpark turned green oasis by residents, which has become a symbol of the area. **Exarchion Square** is another counter-culture gathering place where visitors can catch a glimpse of real Athens. But despite the area's grungy reputation, Exarchia also has a thriving underground art scene, strengthened by the opening of new galleries like **Hot Wheels Projects** (hotwheelsprojects.com) and **CHEAPART** (cheapart.gr). The popular nightlife district of **Psirri** is known as an open-air street art museum, with the graffitied walls of once derelict houses now complementing the many trendy bars and live music venues frequented by artsy and anti-establishment Athenians. But perhaps the real centre of Athens' post-millennial party scene is **Gazi** – a hub of art, design and techno music, located in the heart of the post-industrial **Kerakimos** district. Don't miss **Technopolis** (athens-technopolis.gr), a multi-purpose art and entertainment centre housed in an abandoned gas factory. Nearby **Metaxourgeio** is also slowly stepping out of the shadows as an up-and-coming hipster haven, with a wealth of new quirky bars and restaurants.

Hot Wheels Projects /



/ Technopolis



/ BER.LIN Bar, Vinohrady

Thrift Store /



/ Prosekárna wine bar



Prague

There is no denying that Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, but the photogenic destination harbours a lesser known alternative side, which remains relatively undiscovered by sightseers. The coolest place in town according to locals is currently **Vinohrady**, offering a more edgy side to Prague through its hip bars, eclectic events, chilled out parks and excellent vintage and second-hand shops – such as **Thrift Store** (thriftshop.cz) on Budečská St. When the sun comes out in Vinohrady, grab a coffee or a cold brew and head to **Sady Svatopluka Čecha Park**, where locals meet to hang out and enjoy a spot of urban nature.

INGLOT PARTYLICIOUS



**NEW FREEDOM SYSTEM
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Next up, **Smíchov** on the west bank of the Vltava river, is the perfect example of a run-down industrial area getting a hipster upgrade, and is the latest as-yet-undiscovered, best kept secret in Prague. A fine selection of excellent third-wave coffee houses such as **Kavárna Co Hledá Jméno** (kavarnacohledajmeno.cz) are popping up amongst the abandoned warehouses, so visitors can refuel their energy levels with an artisan coffee before popping into **MeetFactory** (meetfactory.cz/en) – a contemporary arts centre that hosts a diverse schedule of events, including live music, art exhibitions, theatre performances, talks and more.



/ Kavárna Co Hledá Jméno
© @vojtechtes



/ DOX Centre for Contemporary Art,
Holešovice

Once the city's meatpacking district, **Holešovice** is now famous amongst locals in the know for its alternative nightlife scene, laid-back coffee culture and creative expression. The area is also home to **Letná Park**, where visitors can enjoy a chilled beer garden, as well as ample verdant space to lie back and enjoy stunning views out over the city.



Letná Park /



/ Vystaviste Holešovice



Cyprus Airways flies to:

Beirut up to five times a week / Tel Aviv up to ten times a week
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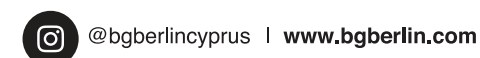
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Ayia Napa: Borcelino 23 724 395 • La Locoura 23 722 551 Paralimni: La Locoura 23 102 503

E-shop: www.suitcasecenter.com



A Room to Remember *in Beirut*



The epitome of east meets west, Beirut is at once magnificently mesmerising, downright bizarre, undisputedly chaotic and yet seriously addictive. Wild at heart but delightfully elegant in parts, it's a city filled with powerful contradictions, while its zealous and defiant inhabitants do their utmost to the heal the wounds of a tortured past.

One thing is for sure: the metropolis is oozing with more creativity than ever before, as artistic talents and young alternative entrepreneurs leave their mark in vibrant pockets of the city, begging to be explored and devoured. And It doesn't get much more hip and happening than Mar Mikhaël, forming an extension of Gemmayzeh and its offbeat charm.

Want to immerse yourselves in the quirkiness of it all? Embrace all things alternative with a stay at Beit El Tawlet guest house and forget all about the city chaos in a real homey retreat overflowing with flowers and lush plants in its sunlit rooms. Taking you on a real 1970s throwback, the eight double bedrooms boast bold lampshades, rattan and unique finds from the local art scene, complemented by breath-taking views of the mountains and sea beyond.

Ask for a room with your own private balcony and rise and shine to panoramic vistas with a Lebanese coffee in hand, or head downstairs to the gorgeous Tawlet (the establishment's farmer's kitchen), welcoming you for a daily traditional home-cooked buffet, coffee and refreshments. You can even enjoy Fatayer making (Middle Eastern meat pie) and stuffed vine leaves rolling, with bespoke cooking classes, upon request. When your belly is full, the incessant buzz of Beirut summons you onto its streets, always luring the curious traveller into a world of tantalising discoveries.



Beit El Tawlet / Beirut, Lebanon / Tel: +961 76472465 / www.soukeltayeb.com/beit-el-tawlet



Historical Heraklion



Why go?

Greek island holidays are often associated with carefree sun-drenched summer days, but holidaying in laid-back style amid undulating painterly landscapes shrouded in myths and legends can be equally enthralling when autumn sets in.

Not only is the sun still shining bright, but the milder weather provides the perfect opportunity for explorations on foot. And if it's intricate history that you're after, Crete's laid back capital city of Heraklion – the revered birthplace of famed artist, El Greco, and Nobel Prize nominated writer, Nikos Kazantzakis – has layers of intricate tales to be dissected and devoured. It may not be a perfectly postcard worthy city, but what it lacks in the striking looks department, it certainly makes up for in old-world charm.

Step into the Heraklion Archaeological Museum to get better acquainted with the historic wonder of the area, then peruse backstreets and hidden lanes in the pedestrianised old town. But it's not just history that shouts out for attention here. A vibrant café culture beckons – with cups of pure deliciousness in third wave coffee shops causing a real stir – while hip bars serve delectable world class cocktails. Head to the area behind the Church of Saint Titus to grab a drink at one the new bustling hot spots in town, before walking right down to the water's edge to kick back at the

revamped waterfront as you watch the world go by. When you're done exploring, indulge in a extravagant foodie feast on an island where olive oil is treasured as 'liquid gold'.

Must visit

It's the most famous historic attraction in Crete and it's just 5km away from Heraklion. Visit the Palace of Knossos – known as Europe's oldest city – and you'll immediately feel as though you've stepped into a time machine, transported back to the Bronze Age when this used to be the extravagant capital of Minoan Crete. You'll be left wide-eyed as you get better acquainted with colourful frescoes, courtyards and old baths, connecting the present with thrilling legends of the past.

Don't leave without

Satiating your taste buds with traditional Cretan specialties! The 'takos' are divine (barley rusks topped with diced tomato, mizithra cheese, olive oil and oregano), while their 'marathopita' (pie filled with fresh fennel) will leave you hungry for more. Love meaty dishes? Go for 'gamopilafo'; a delicious pilaf rice cooked in the broth of boiled meat and served with goat, lamb or chicken.

Take a selfie @

Heraklion harbour, with the old venetian fort Koules that once protected its entrance, forming a brilliant backdrop.



Cyprus Airways flies to Heraklion
twice a week



Directing the Future

Director, writer, producer: the multi-talented Marios Piperides is a key player in the world of film. But while his previous shorts have won numerous awards, it's his recently-released feature, *Smuggling Hendrix*, which has been sweeping the board at globally renowned festivals, bringing the local film-making industry to the attention of the world.



Hendrix is a dog; a poodle with a knack for escapism. Which, in any other country in the world, would merely result in a bit of a chase. But this is Cyprus, a divided island with strict sanctions about just what can and can't cross the 'border'. And when Hendrix's break for freedom leads him into occupied territory, it causes no end of problems for his long-suffering owner.

This is the premise of *Smuggling Hendrix*, winner of Best International Narrative Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival, the Cinephile Award at the Quebec City International Film Festival, and the Grand Prix at the Montenegro Film Festival. The full-length feature has proved a real victory for the Cyprus film industry which, after years of false starts and underfunding, is finally gaining the acclaim it deserves. But while it's the titular poodle who steals the heart of any viewer, it's the film's director, Marios Piperides, who's the real star of the show.

Born in Nicosia in 1975, Marios has been a film aficionado his entire life. "My grandfather had a cinema in one of the outlying villages; my family grew up working there, so film is in my blood," he reveals. "And

although there weren't any opportunities on the island back then for a kid interested in film-making, I got my hands on one of those old VHS cameras and made my own movies; you know, the kind of thing kids do at the age of 10 or 11. My parents thought it was a phase, an interest that would soon wane. But it didn't," he laughs. "And eventually, with their support, I went off to study film..."

A Bachelors in Kansas and a Masters in New Orleans later, and Marios was ready to return home: a prestigious teaching position at a local university awaited this young talent. And there the story might have ended, were it not for Marios' hands-on drive: eschewing a life of academia, he moved instead into film production, learning the trade from the ground up. "As a producer, you organise all the day-to-day activities on a shoot," he explains. "You're dealing with crews, locations, equipment – it's a steep learning curve, but I enjoyed it."

So much so, in fact, that he started his own production company soon after, taking on more work as a producer, and expanding his skillset to include editing for both television and film. A directorial debut was the





next step and, in 2011, Marios released his first documentary, *The Last Remaining Seats*, securing, on the strength of his talents, a job in the Cinema Department of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

"This," he explains, "was an opportunity to see the governmental side of film-making: a chance to promote Cyprus as a filming location, learn more about the legislations, the tax incentives, and the regulations that make the whole thing possible. At that point," he continues, "the island was producing only one film every two years. There wasn't a lot of funding, and I wanted to work from the inside to try to effect a positive change."

Two years later, having achieved all he could as a civil servant, Marios went back to producing, writing and directing: "I did several short films which went out to various foreign festivals, learnt more about how to develop various projects, and saw the film industry from all sides. Location scouting, graphics, sound editor – I was doing it all! It's not unusual in a small country with a burgeoning film industry to wear so many hats," he laughs. "It's a necessity driven by passion – if you want to survive, you learn to do a little bit of everything!" The one thing that was consistent throughout, however, was the writing. "No matter what else I was doing, I never stopped jotting down ideas, writing scripts..."

In 2014, Marios had a brainwave, and wrote a simple plot "about a guy who loses his dog, crosses the border to find it, and meets all sorts of characters in his quest to get his dog back home." Originally intended as a short, the project soon took on a life of its own. "There was so much to say in this story," says Marios. "The absurdity of the situation, the ongoing division of the island. And as the script became more complicated, I began developing it into a feature film."

This was the beginning of *Smuggling Hendrix*, a project which not only made Marios a key figure on the international scene, but has also put the local film industry on the map. "When I began pitching to foreign investors, most had no idea that Cyprus made films." But, with Marios' expertise in production, securing investment and developing new projects, success was assured.

"Time and persistence are key!" he acknowledges. "We started shooting in September 2016. It wasn't easy, working on limited time with a crew from Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Holland and Turkey, who were all strangers to each other. Plus there was Hendrix" – real name Pepper – "who was from a casting agency in Holland and entirely unused to the excitement of all the local stray cats. We almost lost our main character ourselves a couple of times; I guess life does imitate art!"

The film wrapped by November and, post-production completed, Marios was ready to show the world what the Cyprus film industry could do. "When we wrapped, I just hoped to deliver a decent film, something we weren't embarrassed to show at a festival, a project which might help pave the way for our local industry abroad. So all the awards have made us incredibly proud!"

"I think," he concludes, "the time is right for Cyprus to make its mark in terms of film. Everything is falling into place now; although there's still infrastructure which must be emplaced, we have the people, the equipment and the organisation. More and more big budget films are being lured to the island" – the last few months alone, Cyprus has been the location for two Hollywood blockbusters, *S.O.S.* with William Baldwin and *Jiu-Jitsu* starring Nicholas Cage – "with the promise of attractive tax breaks, stunning locations, and excellent weather. And if *Smuggling Hendrix* has played some small part in bringing the local film industry to the eyes of the world, then that gives me great satisfaction."



Alternative Art Gazing

Far from traditional city museums and galleries, culture vultures can enjoy a breath of fresh air in Cyprus at the most unusual venues that dazzle the senses with art under open skies. From stunning sculpture parks, to art lands hidden away in rural idylls, join us on an inspiring journey through places well off the typical tourist trail.



Euphoria Art Land, Pyrgos

A world away from the incessant buzz of nearby cosmopolitan Limassol, the relatively undiscovered pocket of rural paradise known as Pyrgos is home to what could possibly be deemed one of quirkiest art venues on the island. And travellers wouldn't have a clue that this place exists if it weren't for the intricate and colourful walls which surround it, calling out to greet the curious art aficionado in this hilly rural landscape. Push through the gates and you'll step into a place set to capture the imagination in every way possible, bound to leave even the most nonchalant characters totally wide-eyed.

The magical place is the creation of interior designer and teacher, Athos Myriantous, who – inspired by his travels around the world – spent six years, together with the help of dedicated volunteers, building his dream. Aiming to connect cultures from around the world, Euphoria Art Land

brings a taste of Asian, African and Latin American cultures to life with three unique houses – which visitors can stay in for the night – surrounded by stunning mosaic adorned grounds.

Having created true architectural feats with recyclable material found in nature, Anthos was also adamant about paying the utmost respect to the environment. Hardly surprising then, that the natural world is a real focal point here, as tall eucalyptus trees reach up to touch the skies, and tropical trees befriend a whole array of herbs and plants. All this, with manmade lakes, water lilies, lotus plants, and beloved swans calling out for attention.

**Open to visitors every Sunday between 10am-7pm.
76 Vasilikon, Pyrgos village / Tel: +357 97 743042**





Cyprus College of Art, Lempa

If there was one village in Cyprus that was to win a prize for hosting the most original art work on the whole island, it would have to be Lempa. Home to the inspiring Cyprus College of Art, opened here by acclaimed late artist, Stass Paraskos, back in 1980s, the college has since transformed into an incredible artist's hub, accommodating talents from around the world who explore and develop work on the grounds. Today, the most visible sign of this artistry is the sculpture wall that surrounds the college, aptly known locally as the Great Wall of Lempa.

The wall comprises a fascinating collection of sculptures, some moulded from cement and wood, others made from broken bathroom tiles and discarded building materials, as well as found objects, repurposed into works of art. What's fascinating, is that the wall was created almost by accident, as the sculptors who worked at the college often left their pieces behind, and these works were then pushed to the edge of the garden to make space for new artists to use the facilities. Paraskos soon began

placing the sculptures together, and inviting artists to make new specific works for the wall and contributing a large amount of his own work to it. As they piled up, one on top of the other, they formed the great sculpture wall that stands today; brightly coloured and punctuated by bizarre objects including a giant pair of hands, a bright yellow donkey, a King Kong size gorilla and more poignant works, such as prisoners behind bars.

Over the years, the wall and the Cyprus College of Art itself has appeared in numerous magazines and television programmes, while today, Paraskos' daughter, Margaret Paraskos, continues his efforts and strengthens the college's roots as a centre for the arts, bringing artists and groups of students from around the world together to meet, learn and create.

**Open to visitors daily between 10am-12 noon and 2pm-4pm.
6 Paraskos Str., Lempa village, Paphos. Tel: +357 99 452757**



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Mikri Salamina Sculpture Park, Fasoula

Cobblestone paths dotted with trees are beautiful in their own right, but when you add stunning bronze and marble sculptures into the mix, the experience becomes all the more inspiring. Just a stone's throw away from Limassol, this stunning park and labour of love is one that began 23 years ago. At the time, well-known local sculptor, Philippos Yiapanis, bought a plot of land in the countryside where he set up his workshop, and slowly started transforming the peaceful outdoor oasis into a stunning artistic haven. Year by year, more and more sculptures filled the area, and now, the park – which opened up to the general public just over two years ago – is home to whopping 300 bronze and marble sculptures.

From stunning female figures and erotic shapes, to silhouettes of animals and figures from Greek mythology, there is plenty to rouse the senses

as you get better acquainted with the artist's vision. Some of the bigger sculptures have taken the artist six months to create, while his inspirations are derived from life experiences, the natural world and more.

The Mikri Salamina Sculpture Park also houses a so-called Art Nest – a strikingly modern multipurpose arts centre officially opened at the end of 2018, which is said to resemble a ship and symbolise the trip to Ithaka. Step inside the space to catch a glimpse of his sculptures beautifully displayed in a gallery filled with light, set against a mountainous backdrop.

Open to visitors daily between 10am-1pm and 4pm-6pm.
Fasoula village, Limassol. Advance bookings needed for personal tours.
Tel: +357 99 681177



Ayia Napa Sculpture Park

The seaside town of Ayia Napa may enjoy a reputation as a fun and boisterous sun and sea destination, but that doesn't mean that art lovers will be left disappointed. After all, the popular tourist hot spot is home to one of the most spectacular outdoor art venues on the island, located just outside the main hub of town, commanding a dazzling location with breath-taking beautiful views out to sea.

Spread out across 20,000m², there are countless grand works to gaze at, boasting a collection of pieces by over 50 artists from all around the world, many of which were created as part of an annual Sculpture Symposium held by the Ayia Napa Municipality. The collection is continually updated, and whether you love art inspired by mythology or structures which seem

to live in harmony with the natural world, you'll be left awe struck.

Head here at sunset for a truly spectacular experience, with plenty of benches dotted around the area for moments of sheer relaxation. Plant lovers will also be impressed with the adjoining Park of Mediterranean Plants, Cacti and Succulents, showcasing various cacti and plant varieties of the island.

Open to visitors daily from sunrise to sunset.
Kryou Nerou Avenue, Ayia Napa. Tel: +357 23 816300





Athens



Thessaloniki



Non-Stop Travellers!

Just as addicted to travelling as they are to each other, the loved-up Olga and Dimosthenis are Greek travel bloggers based in Cyprus, passionate about jetting around the world as often as possible, soaking up new cultures and showing the world that it doesn't have to cost a fortune to scratch that wanderlust itch.



Taking photos of their favourite hot spots along the way and sharing travel tips online, the inspiring duo have accumulated over 16,000 followers on Instagram, with a successful travel blog to boot. Determined to discover every corner of the world, the couple give us a glimpse into their adventures: into the cool backstreets of Tel Aviv, through the historic centre of Athens, beside some of Cyprus' prettiest landscapes and beyond!

Find out more about Olga and Dimosthenis' adventures via nonstoptravellers.com, or follow them on Instagram: [nonstop_travellers](https://www.instagram.com/nonstop_travellers) or Facebook: [NonstopTravellers](https://www.facebook.com/NonstopTravellers)



Tel Aviv



Cyprus





Xmas at High Altitudes

Soaring 6000 feet above sea level, Cyprus' Troodos range is a real seasonal playground, its pine-clad peaks perfect for recreation, retreat, and revelry. And, when the snow starts to fall, there's no better place to elevate your mood. Welcome to an island of winter wonder!

Think of Cyprus, and it's the Mediterranean lifestyle which springs to mind: an idyll of sun-soaked days by a glass-clear sea. But venture inland and you'll find the island's central mountain range – the towering peaks of Troodos. In summer, these mountains are a haven from the heat. But in winter, the peaks are a snow-covered wonderland, a pine-clad paradise packed with wildlife, peppered with vineyards and villages, and home to more than a handful of boutique hotels. Lift up your eyes to the hills, and discover the higher Cyprus: a complete range of wonders.

Skiing, Snowboarding & Strolling

This may not be the Alps, but Cyprus does have a lively snow sports scene during the colder months! From December to February (and sometimes into March) the peaks are blanketed in white, and the Cyprus Ski Federation opens the slopes to skiers of all levels.

With skiers, snowboarders and sledgers taking to the four main pistes (Hermes, Hera, Sun Valley 1 and 2), it's a busy snow season out there – quieter during the week but pretty packed at the weekend. And while there's plenty of space for beginners on the lower slopes (and a well-stocked ski and snowboard rental hut at Sun Valley 1), it's the harder grades which attract the more practised adventurers, most of whom enjoy the benefits – reduced rental prices and discounted lift tickets – which come along with membership of one of the island's five main ski clubs.

As blizzards are a rarity here, most days find ski enthusiasts stripped down to their t-shirts, catching the rays while on the go or breaking for a tanning session over lunch at the piste-side café. And, being a small island, travel time is negligible between slopes and sea – hardier winter visitors can enjoy a morning on the slopes, then zip down the mountains for an afternoon on the beach!

If you prefer a slower pace, the hiking trails which criss-cross the Troodos range are a marvel of flora and fauna, especially in the winter. More than 50 well-signposted nature trails span the island, and almost half of these traverse mountain territory. Best enjoyed in the cooler months, each route is graded according to difficulty, giving casual and hard-stepping hikers the chance to immerse themselves in nature. Try the Atlanti Trail for the beauteous botanical gardens of the Troodos Geopark, the Caledonia Trail for the cascading Caledonian Waterfalls, or the Enetika Gefyria route for its ancient Venetian bridges.

Useful Info

Cyprus Ski Federation (lifts, tickets, pistes, ski clubs) cyprusski.com

Hiking Trails: visitcyprus.com

specifically visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/routes/nature-trails

Troodos Geopark: troodos-geo.org





/ Oinoessa Traditional Boutique Guest Houses



Tsiakkas winery /



To Katoï /



/ Oinoessa Traditional Boutique Guest Houses

Drinking, Dining & Downtime

With most of the main resorts on the coast of Cyprus, you'd think a home in the hills would be hard to find. Not true. Thanks to agrotourism, the island has a host of gorgeous mountain retreats, exquisite boutique hotels and delicious little Airbnb's dotted across the region.

A favourite with hikers and romantics, these getaways are the perfect jumping off point for your winter holiday explorations. In the midst of nature, surrounded by miles of walking trails and close to the Troodos National Park, Farmakas Living in the village of Palaichori is a large stone house that can accommodate the whole family. Oinoessa Traditional Boutique Guest Houses, located in the village of Lofou in the foothills of the Troodos mountains, is another idyllic retreat whose luxury studios (complete with spa baths and sweeping views of the vine-clad hills) make for romantic seclusion. And up in Platres, a short hike away from the majesty of the Caledonian Waterfalls, there's Forest View Cottage: a modernised villa, spacious enough for small groups or large families, and in close proximity to the village's many traditional tavernas.

With the majority of mountain getaways located in villages, there's always plenty of culture to soak up – along with good food and wine. Many of the boutique hotels host restaurants and cafés, but every area boasts at least

one well-known eatery: try To Katoï in Omodos for a twist on traditional Cypriot cuisine (yes, halloumi is on the menu!) or The Sama tavern in Spilia for dining in a setting that oozes quintessentially Cypriot charm. And, as the foothills are home to the island's main grape-growing regions, there's always a winery or two to hand: visit Omodos' Zenon Winery for a taste of their award-winning Shiraz-Maratheftiko, or Tsiakkas Winery for a glass of the island's most ancient red, Commandaria. Theirs boasts intense citrus, sweet bergamot, mature apricot and dried fig aromas, with a nutty and fruity aftertaste.

Useful Info

Agrotourism: agrotourism.com.cy

Farmakas Living: farmakasliving.com

Oinoessa Traditional Boutique Guest Houses: oinoessa.com

Forest View Cottage: airbnb.com/rooms/31163344

To Katoï: omodosevents.com

The Sama: +357 22 519559

Zenon Winery: omodosvillage.com/wineries.html Tel: +357 25 423555

Tsiakkas Winery: tsiakkaswinery.com





/ Kykkos Monastery



Lefkara /



Robin /
© Albert Stoecker



/ Agios Nicolaos tis Stegis

Churches, Crafts & Cranes

At high altitudes the allure is unending; should your cosy fireside content start to pall, there's plenty to do. Many of the villages are renowned for their traditional crafts, especially the lower lying Lefkara – located in the southeastern foothills of the Troodos Mountains – for both its intricate 'Lefkaritito' lace (an ancient craft which stems from the 15th century Venetian occupation) and its elegant filigree (handmade by local silversmiths). Phini, deep in the heart of Troodos, is also well worth a visit and a great place to find gorgeous local pottery.

For those seeking moments of quiet contemplation, the mountains are dotted with ancient churches and monasteries. The best known of these is the Marathassa Valley's Kykkos Monastery (on the northern slopes of the Troodos range), in operation since Byzantine times, and a repository of a stunning collection of iconography. In Omodos, there's the 4th century Timios Stavros, the Monastery of the Holy Cross, which houses both the Museum of Byzantine Icons and the Museum of Folkloric Art. And the Troodos mountain range is home to a divine selection of ancient churches: all ten on the UNESCO Heritage list were constructed and painted between the 11th and 16th centuries.

Finally, there's the birds! A paradise for bird-watchers, Cyprus boasts two endemic species (the Cyprus Wheatear and the Cyprus Warbler), as well

as a host of migratory varieties. During the winter months, any visitor to Troodos will be able to spot the winter hawfinch, both the song thrush and mistle thrush, and more than a few local robins, while a number of raptor varieties (including the goshawk and Bonelli's eagle) reside in the mountains all year round. Spend the day on a birdwatching tour or at one of BirdLife Cyprus' recommended spots. And, high up in those wintry hills, you might just catch a glimpse of the elusive mouflon too – it's not a bird, but it will take flight if it senses watchers. Grab your binoculars and try your luck!

Useful Info

Lefkara: lefkaravillage.com

Kykkos Monastery: kykkos.org.cy

Timios Stavros: omodos.org/en/timios-stavros-monastery

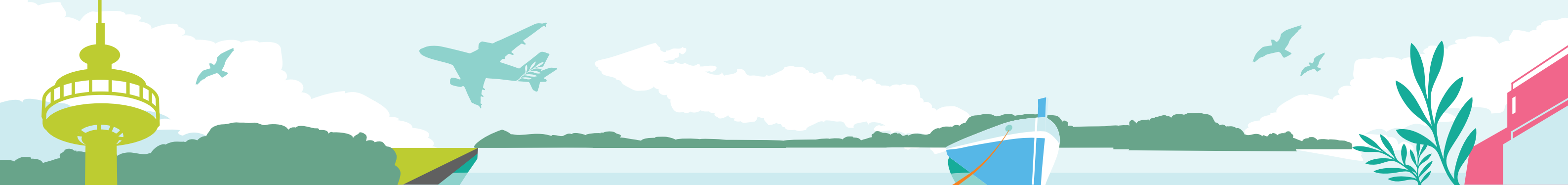
UNESCO churches of Cyprus:

chooseyourcyprus.com/discover-cyprus/unesco-churches.html

BirdLife Cyprus: birdlifecyprus.org

Birdwatching Tours: cyprusbirdingtours.com





The Savvy Traveller's Christmas Gift Guide

Give the avid globetrotter good reason to smile this festive season with a top selection of perfect jet-setter inspired presents.

Vifa Helsinki bluetooth loudspeaker

Music on the go has never been cooler! Perhaps one of the best-looking bluetooth speakers out there, this beautiful Nordic design by Danish brand, Vifa, boasts a cute handbag-shaped portable speaker with a durable leather strap crafted by the Swedish house of leather, Tätnsjö Garveri, and a woven wool grill by Danish textile designer, Kvadrat.

But it doesn't just look special, it also delivers a powerful audio performance for travellers who can't do without their favourite music on the go, complete with Force Balanced Woofers paired with a digital pure path amplifier. The Helsinki wireless loudspeaker utilises Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, to easily connect to any wireless network, letting you stream music directly to the loudspeaker from multiple devices, compatible with Apple iPhone iOS and Samsung Android. The speakers are available in a range of colours including misty blue (in picture), willow green, sandstone grey and slate black.

Patchology 'On the Fly' kit

One for the beauty buffs who always want to look their best on holiday, this Patchology set is the perfect skin saviour; a set of masks to treat the skin, eyes and lips when on the go. The fun suitcase-shaped box is ideal for a trip and includes two sheet masks for the face: the Hydrate FlashMasque is designed to deeply hydrate and smooth the skin, improving its elasticity, while the Illuminate FlashMasque will work to even the skin tone and increase lustre, helping to leave the complexion brighter, even after travelling.

A pair of FlashPatch rejuvenating eye gels will combat puffy eyes, working to brighten and smooth the skin under the eyes, while hydrating lip gels complete the set, providing deep hydration to soften and smooth the lips. Suitable for all skin types, this beauty pack will have you arrive at any destination feeling fresh and hydrated.

Panama Zip Currency Case

It's happened to all of us – that moment when you hand over the wrong currency from the bottom of your wallet and the cashier gives you a funny look! Buy the avid traveller in your entourage this super sleek gorgeous sea green Panama case this Christmas, and they'll never get their notes confused again. Crafted from the Panama collection's iconic cross-grain leather, this exquisite leather currency and passport case provides an elegant home for your travel money, with four pockets designed to store different currencies. With a fantastic selection of bold and colourful designs to choose from, the person who receives this prezzie won't be left looking for their passport or notes at the bottom of their bag ever again.

'Peaks of Europe' photography book

Everyone loves a good coffee table book, and this is by no means your typical landscape photography publication. Taking you on a five month adventure through 17 countries, the book offers readers the chance to experience some of the most stunning peaks of Europe, showcased through the lens of Johan Lolos. Not just about documenting landscapes, Johan uses the book to tell the story of his travels and people he met along the way, while living out of a car for five months. From the three major regions of Europe – the north, the Balkans and the Alps – Peaks of Europe showcases the great variety of landscapes that makes the region so diverse and unique.

Lonely Planet 'The Travel Book Diary 2020'

Avid travellers love nothing more than planning their adventures for the year ahead, making this handy travel diary the perfect stocking filler. Taking you on an exciting journey through every country of the world, turning each page is a thrilling experience, brimming with insights and ideas for those possessed with an insatiable travel bug. The photography is stunning, while handy features include a week-to-view layout, plenty of space to take notes, and loads of information to help start planning that next trip. Forget boring diaries, this one is as exciting as it is practical!



Cyprus Airways Routes



Cyprus Airways also offers a variety of additional international routes via codeshare agreements with Blue Air, Bulgaria Air and S7.

- Regular flights
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- - - Codeshare flights with Blue Air
- - - Codeshare flights with Bulgaria Air
- - - Codeshare flights with S7



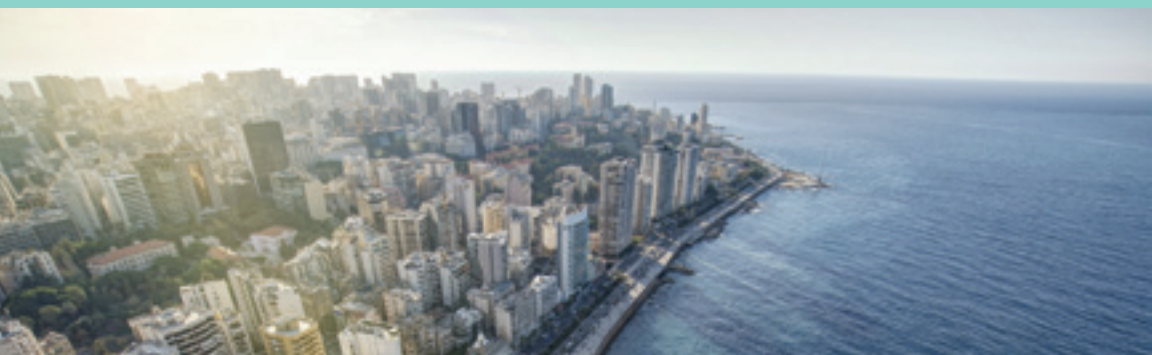
Our Destinations at a Glance



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Tel Aviv, Israel
Up to ten times a week



Beirut, Lebanon
Up to five times a week



Prague, Czech Republic
Twice a week



Thessaloniki, Greece
Four times a week



Heraklion, Greece
Twice a week



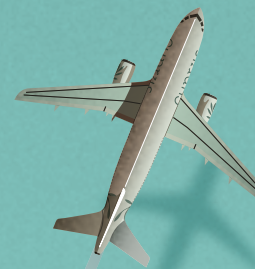
Rhodes & Skiathos, Greece
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