

/ GREEK ISLAND GETAWAY / The Beachgoer's Ultimate Guide / COUNTRY TALES /
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/ SUMMER SWEETNESS / Devouring Cypriot Tradition



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Editor's Letter



A Summer's Dream

I like to think that travel is all about anticipation. Anticipation about what comes next. That tingle of elation when the soft morning sun peeps through the curtains, waking you up bright and early to embark on a new discovery; a feeling of absolute freedom as you travel paths less explored without a care in the world. And there's no time better than the balmy summer months, to live those carefree sunkissed moments that dreams are made of, as you switch off and unwind during languid days that seamlessly melt into one, made all the more alluring by intoxicating jasmine-scented summer nights.

Beach addicts are in for a treat in Cyprus, with soft golden sands begging to be trodden and shimmering salty seas ready to invigorate the senses. When temperatures soar, and the appeal of an ice cold drink kicks in, turn to page 14 and simply take your pick from some of the best beach bars on the island, oozing boho-chic cool.

Culture vultures looking for inspiration beyond the sandy shores, can leave those comfy beach shoes on for a night of toe-tapping fun at outdoor theatres and festival grounds, where top performances are set to leave you star struck (pages 28-32). And fashionistas will no doubt be itching to put their best foot forward, while they summon their feminine divine in a pair of artisan sandals by Alasia Lifestyle (pages 68-71).

Looking for summer fun further afield? The Greek islands are the Alpha and Omega of mythical, sun soaked summer heaven, and luckily, Cyprus Airways now offers convenient flights to Crete, Rhodes and Skiathos. We've dutifully slathered on our sunscreen and found the perfect Greek island getaways for you (pages 34-40). Stopover in Athens on the way back home and spend the night in sleek urban style in a city of sensory overload (pages 56-57). In the mood for an alternative summer adventure, filled with forest walks and historic sightings? Fairy tale magic comes to life in Slovakia (pages 42-47).

Happy travels!

Zoe Christodoulides.

Editor

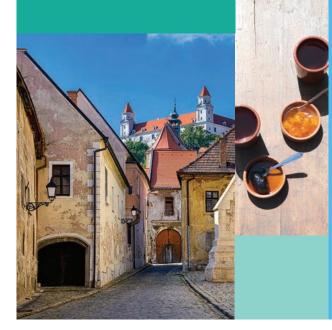
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Published by:

Action PR and Publications Ltd, part of Action Global Communications 6 Kondilaki Street, 1090 Nicosia, Cyprus Tel: +357 22 818 884 publishing@actionprgroup.com www.actionprgroup.com

This magazine was published on behalf of:

Cyprus Airways 1 Spartis Street, Antoniou Building, 6th Floor 6025 Larnaca, Cyprus Tel: +357 24 020976 Publisher • Chris Christodoulou
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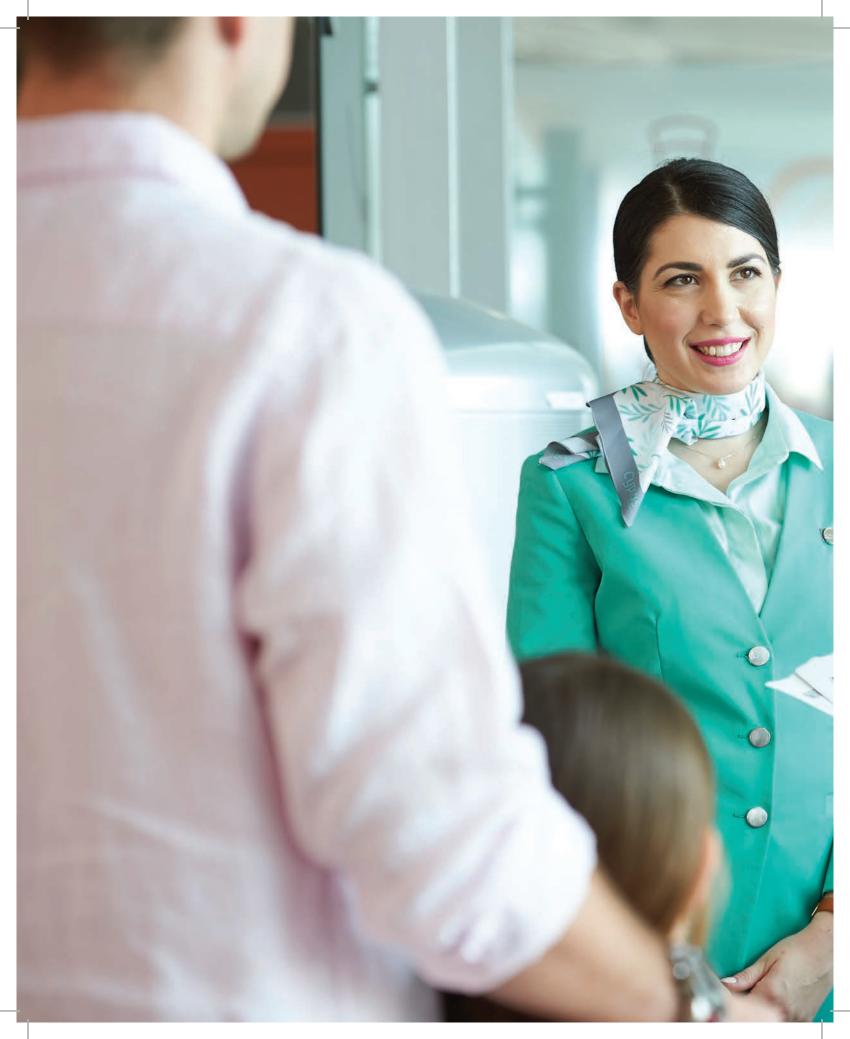
Laser Graphics Ltd

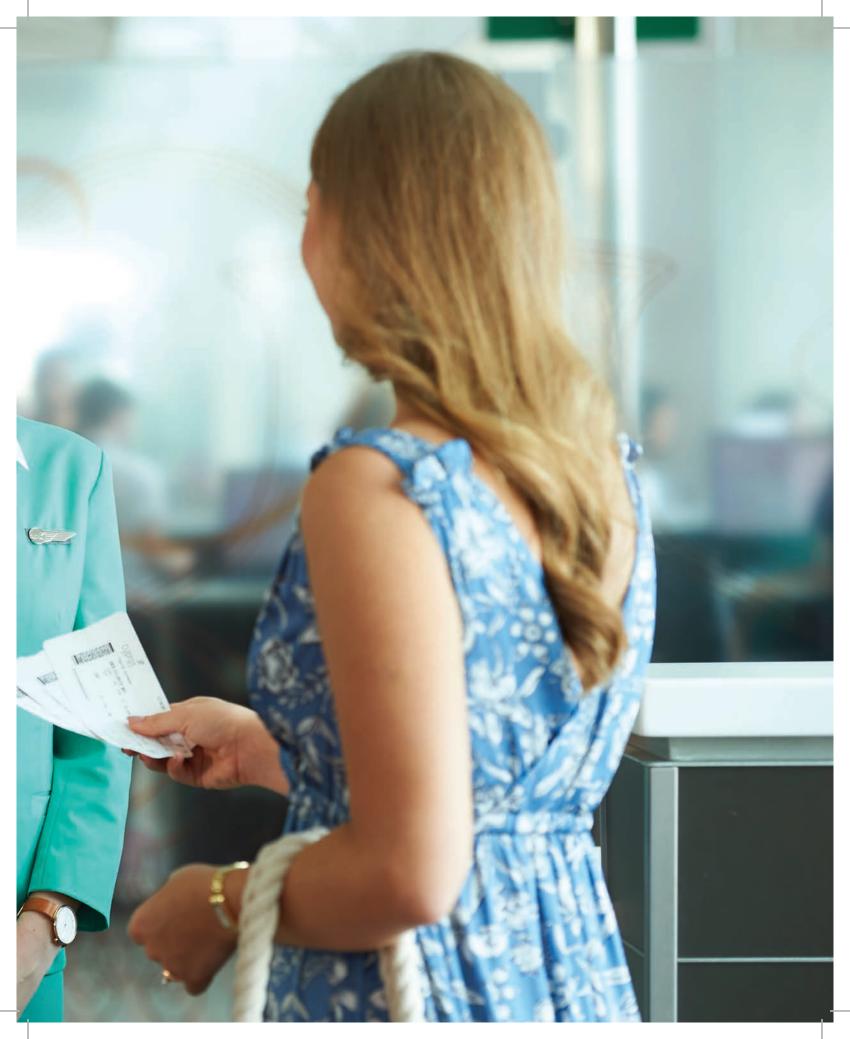
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Welcome to Cyprus Airways

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 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 moufflon has also been maintained as a core part of the company's identity.

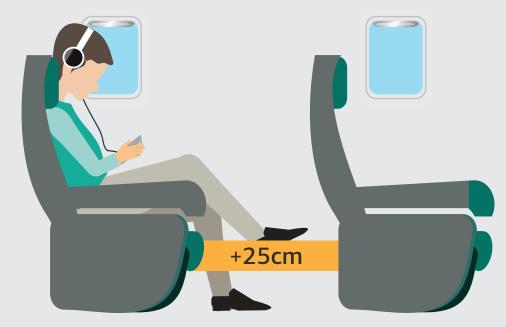
The revival of the national carrier trademark not only expands the island's connectivity, but also re-establishes

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 11 destinations (Heraklion, Skiathos, Rhodes, Athens, Tel Aviv, Beirut, Thessaloniki, Prague, Zurich, Bratislava and Košice), the airline is continually broadening its network, catering to the travel needs of both locals and incoming tourists.



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In the instance that extra baggage is purchased at the airport, there will be a higher charge. For more detailed information regarding extra baggage charges, please visit our website.











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In an effort to facilitate our customer's travel plans, while providing an enhanced and seamless travel planning experience, Cyprus Airways has partnered up with established and specialised service providers, offering 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.



Qatar Airways partnership and Blue Air Codeshare

Cyprus Airways passengers can now enjoy more travel opportunities, owing to a partnership with Qatar Airways. The Qatar Airways partnership 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.



The collaboration between Cyprus Airways and Blue Air has been extended over the summer 2019 period. Thanks to this codeshare partnership, the two airlines' customers now 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 news!

Under a new improved baggage policy, basic fare ticket holders can now 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.

Useful information

To book your flight, find out more about Cyprus Airways destinations, or to join our newsletter for the company's latest news and offers visit: cyprusairways.com

For any information or support, the Cyprus Airways Call Centre is open between 7.30am and 10.30pm, seven days a week, with a toll-free number for Cyprus: 8000 8111. From 3 June 2019, the Call Centre will be open 24/7. When calling from abroad tel: +357 24 000053



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Q: Favourite Cyprus Airways destination to spend a weekend?

It has got be Prague! It's a beautiful city; rich in history, culture and architecture. It's the best place to enjoy nice food and a drink by the river.

Most enjoyable airport to fly into?

A: It's always pleasing to fly into major airports around Europe, like Zurich and Athens, representing our own airline and country alongside all major airlines of the world.

Most memorable flight?

A flight into Thessaloniki earlier this year. It was a couple of days after snow fall, but the weather was crystal clear with excellent visibility. The approach on the northbound runway offers great views of the Chalkidiki Peninsula, which was dressed in glistening white all the way down to its sandy coastline.

Most exciting thing about life as a captain?

A: The reward of completing a flight and having delivered your passengers and aircraft to their destination safely, while enjoying the best office views in the world!

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

I would love to visit Japan, the 'Land of the Rising Sun'. There are so many islands to visit, and a rich history to experience. And I'd love to get to know its people, whose way of thinking, ethos and strict adherence to rules, has led their country to accomplish so much.

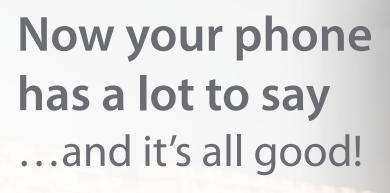
Ask the pilot!

Captain Andreas Foullis first headed skywards in 2007, turning his passion into a profession and soaring to new heights as a pilot for the former Cyprus Airways, following studies in London. Foullis proudly joined the new Cyprus Airways team in November 2017 as Senior First Officer, before being promoted to Captain in July 2018.

But Foullis was never a stranger to the cockpit, fascinated by airplanes and the mechanics of flight ever since he was a young boy, jumping at the chance to head into the flight deck and excitedly watch the pilots at work. He recalls asking them a constant stream of questions, keen to take in all the information he possibly could while airborne. Fast forward to the present day, and he now answers our own set of questions, letting us in on his favourite destinations, be that in the air, or well after touchdown!







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Away from the crowds Kaliva on the Beach

Ayia Napa is known for its hedonistic lifestyle and decadent summer party vibes. But while this renown makes the area a top choice for vivacious beachside revelry, many of the bars along this stretch of coastline can get overcrowded and raucous during the peak summer season. Enter Kaliva on the Beach; a hip haven of chill tucked away on Pantohou Beach, beside the Ayia Napa harbour.

This chic, yet easy-going lounge bar is ideal for visitors looking to get off the well-trodden tourist trail and indulge in some seriously good food and top-class cocktails right on the sea. Try the seafood pasta or fresh sushi, which is allegedly amongst the best on the island. Want to see how local islanders in the know enjoy Ayia Napa's famous party vibes? Head down to Kaliva on a Sunday, where the chilled lounge bar transforms into an all-out beach party, offering a stylish and sophisticated alternative to the more typical Ayia Napa debauchery.

12 Sklavou Street, Ayia Napa

All day, all night Re.Buke Lounge

Right at the heart of Larnaca's coolest and most lively beachfront stretch, is a lounge bar that stands out from the crowd for its undisputed quality and all-year-round, magnet-like allur. Housed in the funkiest of interiors, and all right by the sea, this trendy, yet decidedly laid back and unpretentious lounge bar has quickly become a popular option amongst locals and tourists alike, thanks to its effortlessly cool, tropical island décor, delicious culinary creations and epic cocktails.

The hot spot exudes alluringly casual summer vibes from morning to night, meaning that whether you fancy sipping on an iced coffee in the morning, nibbling on a light lunch at midday, indulging in sundowner cocktails and dinner, or you just want to party the night away in style, your mood will always be catered to at Re.Buke Lounge. Guests can choose to sit outdoors and dig their toes in the sand as they recline on soft beach mattresses under the shade of bamboo tents. Or those looking to escape the heat of the Cypriot summer can choose to sit in the cool surrounds of the interior space and chillout under the air-conditioning. Floor-to-ceiling glass windows provide that voyeuristic touch.

Makenzy Beach, Larnaca / rebukelounge.com





Sun kissed sanctuary of sophistication Aplostra Restaurant-Beach Bar

Everything is beautiful at Aplostra. Chic tropical hideaway décor complements glorious views of Lady's Mile, across the turquoise waters, to the city's coastline in the distance. The menu features mouth-watering platters, salads and seafood dishes, all washed down with expertly crafted drinks and cocktails. And let's not forget the beautiful people who frequent this elegant gem of a place - well-heeled, sophisticates and trend-setters drawn to the restaurant-cum-lounge bar thanks to its offthe-beaten track vibes and top-quality service.

Located away from the buzz and excitement of Limassol's city centre, Aplostra has a sanctuary-style atmosphere which is reflected in the design and furnishings. Visitors can choose to relax on oversized sunbed mattresses right on the sand, chill by the bar on a wooden deck, or stay cool in the beachside-chic, wood and wicker interiors with boho touches. Get your cameras ready; this venue is an Instagrammer's dream, with Insta-worthy photo opportunities at every corner.

Lady's Mile Beach, Limassol

Local favourite PlusSea

Ask some of Limassol's coolest locals which beach bar is the hottest in town and the answer is unanimous - PlusSea. Open year round, this longestablished restaurant and bar really comes into its own in the summer season, when cosy sofas and plush sunbeds and umbrellas are rolled out right on the beach, so that clientele can feel the sand beneath their feet as they enjoy morning iced coffees or signature cocktails at sunset.

The rest of this meticulously designed venue exudes an effortless exoticism, with timber and bamboo décor and a layout which easily makes the most of its seafront setting, with stunning unobstructed views of the Mediterranean. And with a reputation for serving up some of the best dishes in Limassol, this hotspot is also a real foodie haven. Try the truffle tagliatelle, or for a taste of authentic Cyprus, order melt-in-yourmouth grilled squid, washed down with a glass of crisp local white wine.

95 Amathus Avenue, Agios Tychon, Limassol





Dreamy sunsets Oniro by the Sea

Perhaps one of the most picturesque beach bars in Cyprus, Oniro by the Sea is as dreamy as its name suggests ('oniro' means dream in Greek). The perfect viewpoint for some of the most jaw-droppingly beautiful sunsets on the Paphos side of the island, the bar is tucked away on the secluded and peaceful Peyia coastline, right beside the final resting place of the impressively photogenic Edro III Shipwreck on one side, and the scenic sea caves on the other.

All these elements add up to make it one of the most Instagrammable spots on the island – but let's not forget, this popular venue also serves up an incredible menu of delectable dishes for even the most discerning epicurean, as well as a winelist to die for, and a selection of signature cocktails that make those famous sunsets all the more inspiring. Arrive early to get a table near the water's edge for the ultimate photo opportunity, then stay for a spot of stargazing over dinner.

Glykou Nerou St, Peyia, Paphos

Secluded paradise Grape by the Sea

It doesn't get much more remote and secluded then the faraway island paradise that is Grape by the Sea. This is one of those places that cluedup locals are loathed to share for fear of breaking the spell. So far their efforts have paid off, with only those in search of the island's most exclusive, hidden secret, making the trek out to visit this magical corner of Cyprus. And it is quite the journey to get there; Grape by the Sea is located in Kato Pyrgos, on one of the most undeveloped and untouched stretches of coast on the island, which means the backdrop to this venue is pristine beach and clear blue waters, with only the sound of the waves lapping on the shore to break the stillness. Simplicity done well is the name of the game at the bar itself, where fresh fish and seasonal local produce are served, as visitors kick back on repurposed pallet furniture or recline in hammocks overlooking the water.

21 Nikola Pilidi St, Kato Pyrgos, Paphos



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Hidden secret Elya Beach Bar

It's easy to drive right past Elya Beach Bar without even realising it's there. This secret beachside watering hole is tucked away behind the manicured lawns of Elya Beach Suites in Ayios Theodoros, on the coastal road between Larnaca and Limassol, miles away from the crowds that pile onto the beaches closer to the main cities.

The result is a real castaway island feel, with just a tiny wooden shack for a bar and seating made up of bean bags on a sun-bleached timber deck, simple garden furniture shaded by oversized palms and gnarled olive trees, as well as a handful of sunbeds and umbrellas on the cosy private beach. You don't have to be a guest at the luxury rental suites to enjoy the blissful peace and tranquillity of this tropical island style outpost, and with chilled beer on tap, tasty nibbles and endless views out to the deep blue, it's easy to see why those in the know want to keep it a secret.

Ellados Avenue, Ayios Theodoros, Larnaca

Treehouse vibesAntamoma Events Venue and Chill Out Bar

For the ultimate island castaway Robinson Crusoe style treehouse vibes as you sip your iced coffee or chilled beer, the only place to be is Antamoma Events Venue and Chill Out Bar. Here, raw wooden furniture, cosy cushioned corners and colourful beanbags are dotted in amongst the leaves and branches of the huge tree this bar is built around, on multiple story wooden platforms overlooking the sandy beach below.

Atmospheric fairy lights enhance the exotic hideaway atmosphere at this beach bar, which offers the perfect verdant, shady respite from the hot summer sun in Cyprus. Popular local DJs provide the ideal soundtrack for a lazy afternoon or sultry evening, spent enjoying the jungle-like surrounds over an aromatic shisha or tasty bites from the impressive menu.

Golden Coast Beach Hotel, 64 Pinias Street, Paralimni



Summer Sweetness

Dive into Cyprus' sun-kissed countryside, abundant in wildlife and awash with history, and head towards serene traditional villages, each telling a profoundly different tale to those which reverberate in the island's fast-paced cosmopolitan city centres and buzzing seaside towns. Rife with natural beauty and a rich cultural heritage, tight-knit village communities are proud of traditions that have been passed down through the centuries. And nowhere is local passion for tradition better exemplified than in quaint village coffee shops, where the best-known traditional treats in the country step into the spotlight: the delicious spoon sweet, referred to in local dialect as 'glyka tou koutaliou'.

Sold and served in multicoloured jars, these bite-sized nuts, fruits and vegetables are boiled and preserved in thick syrup, with local folk so enthusiastic about the process that they often use ingredients that may otherwise have been thrown away, like orange peel or watermelon rind. Cherries, bergamots, apricots, lemons and grapefruits are also popular, while the delicious walnut is an all-time favourite. Discerning travellers simply need to hit roads less travelled to experience this taste of true Cyprus sweetness, best accompanied by a strong Cyprus coffee and a glass of iced cold water.





Kakopetria: Village Café Serenity

There are few places where Mother Nature is as mesmerising as the verdant Troodos Mountains. And come summer, it's not just the appeal of rugged green peaks and cooler air at higher altitudes that attracts intrepid travellers.

Walk through the old neighbourhood of Kakopetria in the summer months – without a doubt the most picturesque and photogenic part of the village – and you'll spot weather-worn elderly ladies proudly displaying and selling homemade spoon sweets outside their old stone houses.

"Walnut season is the end of June, and making these sweets is quite a procedure, it certainly keeps us busy!" one lady lets on. "They need to be soaked for over a week before we even start peeling, washing and boiling." Cherry is also king in the summer, the old ladies of the village explain, blossoming in mountainous regions at the end of May and the beginning of June.

And it's in this old pocket of Kakopetria, where old stone and wood houses reach out to touch each other across narrow cobbled paths, and sunny

porches flaunt pots of colourful local mountain flowers, that Village Café Serenity welcomes the weary traveller with a choice of delicious village spoon sweets.

There's a whole range on offer, but the owners of the establishment let on that walnut is always the first choice in the village – accompanied by traditional Cyprus coffee. The venue itself, owned by the local Stelios Stylianou, has always functioned as the village coffee shop, dating back over 100 years when his great grandfather first opened shop. Packed with old village memorabilia collected by Stelios' father (and likened to a "small museum" by Stelios himself), the coffee shop boasts a tiny balcony right above the gurgling river, while the front porch is the perfect place to kick back and watch village folk go about their daily lives, as curious travellers stop to take in the beauty of a place stood still in time.

Old Kakopetria main cobbled street - Marios Ioannou / Tel: +357 22 922602

Kyperounta: Kafes stin Xovoli

A 20 minute drive from Kakopetria, leafy Kyperounta beckons from deep in the Pitsilia region of the Limassol district. Widely famed for its delicious apple produce, pretty village churches and quaint museums, the village now boasts a new spot bringing tradition to life in the most brilliant fashion.

Right by the Agia Marina church and the central village square, 'Kafes stin Xovoli' coffee shop awaits the curious visitor, housed in an old stone building. First opened back in the 1950s, 'Kafes stin Xovoli' was, at one time, one of the only coffee shops in the area. Abandoned after the 1970s, the daughter, husband, and four grandchildren of the original owner decided it was time to breathe new life into the place last year.

Once only frequented by men of the village, today the daughter of the original owner, Marina Allagioti, is proud of the fact that the little

establishment is now the weekly meeting point for groups of women, while young families from across the country are also frequent visitors. The family owners are also proud of making Cyprus coffee the good oldfashioned way, with the 'priki' (a long-handled pot traditionally made of copper) placed on hot sand. But what to enjoy as an accompaniment? Marina reaches for her prized jars of colourful spoon sweets stacked behind the bar, all homemade to perfection.

"I've been making these ever since I was a young girl," she says with a bright smile. "Mostly through great trial and error! Now, it's the highlight of my summer; it starts with the walnuts, then the watermelon and figs. Only the bitter orange is prepared and jarred in the winter." And which one is her favourite? "Oh that's too hard to say, there's a different sweet for every occasion!" she chuckles.

30, 1st April Street, Kyperounta / Tel: +357 99 577031





Lofou: Xenis o Poyiatzis

Sprawling over a series of vine-growing rolling hills that rise up to greet the towering Troodos Mountains, the hamlet of Lofou was once a hub of winegrowing activity and has now become an idyllic escape for those in search of peace and quiet. And one village coffee shop in the main heart of the well-kept stone-built village, perfectly defies the hands of time.

Decorated in traditional fashion and adorned with old memorabilia, the stone-built coffee shop, 'Xenis o Poyiatzis' (Xenis the Painter), once belonged to present owner Xenios Economou's grandfather, while the building itself dates back centuries. "It's the architecture that makes this place so very special," enthuses Xenios. Sit and have a chat with the proprietor and he will fill you in on anything you need to know about village life and its history. The whole area is, after all, approximately 500 years old. "It's the architecture that makes this place so very special," enthuses Xenios. But all things architectural aside,

the coffee shop is where locals meet and greet each other, often stopping by for a sweet treat or a cup of steaming herbal tea; little wonder, given that the shelves here are stacked with just about every wild herb imaginable.

Picked from the surrounding area by herbalist George Ellinas, each has its own special properties, from aiding digestion, to facilitating detoxification. Be sure to ask for a delightful brew with a dash of Cyprus oregano, rose or mint, or get hold of some tasty local nibbles to take back home. And what's the best spoon sweet to devour? "Bitter lemon!" says one of the ladies taking a bite of the bitter-sweet delicacy while enjoying a read of the daily paper. "Walnut!" declares another elderly gentleman, who pops in to say hello to his village friends. "Definitely cherry for me," enthuses another. Opinion is divided, one thing they all agree on is that sweet diversity is the undisputed spice of life!

Lofou main cobbled street / Tel: +357 99 490745

Vouri: I Plateia

Old men congregate down cobblestoned streets to catch up on the gossip of the day, while the odd car travelling through the narrow lanes gives everyone a reason to wave. Life moves at an exceptionally slow pace in Vouni; another handsome stone-built village hailed as one of the most beautiful of the Limassol winegrowing area, just a short drive away from Lofou. Panoramic countryside views are worth writing home about, while the abandoned old village school is likened to the Athenian Parthenon by locals. But it's a colourful, flower-filled little place in the village centre that has everyone talking of late – a meeting spot where locals congregate and excitedly await the next visitor.

'I Plateia' (The Square) is as charming from the outside, as it is on the inside, filled with all sorts of old-fashioned bric-a-brac and memorabilia that bring a great olde-worlde feel to life. Run by young and passionate, Michalis Karseras, and his mother, Clio, the place stands proud as the very first coffee shop to have opened its doors in the village over a century ago.

Having changed hands over the decades, Michalis and Clio decided to take over the establishment a couple of years ago, giving it a total revamp at the start of 2019, while keeping with the old village style. "The whole area is an open-air museum," Michalis exclaims. Reflecting his huge passion for days gone by, old black and white photos of the village adorn the walls, while handicrafts around the coffee shop have been made by Michalis himself.

And stacked above the bar, jars of spoon sweets made by one of Clios' dear village friends, tell their sweet tales, always intriguing visitors and delighting locals who have their clear favourites: watermelon in the summer months, walnut in the winter. And perhaps, because of their positioning over the bar area, visitors usually ask for an ice-cold shot, or two, of Zivania (a strong distilled mixture of grape pomace and local dry wines) to wash down the delectable sweetness.

Vouni Village Square, Limassol district / Tel: +357 96 475847



Star Struck

In the summertime, when the weather is fine, the island of Cyprus truly comes alive, with an exciting line-up of music and theatre events taking place in some of the most interesting, unique and downright beautiful locations around the country.

There's so much more to Cyprus' long hot summers than the tried and tested sun, sea and sand formula that so many tourist brochures promote. In fact, for the island's well-versed locals, while the beach is always a welcome respite from sweltering city life, it's actually the plethora of musical, theatrical and cultural offerings that really make the summer season so special. From operatic renditions against a medieval castle backdrop, to raving the night away on the beachfront with international superstar DJs on the decks, there is sure to be something to tickle your fancy this summer in Cyprus. Read on for a pick of some of the best events of the season.







Superstar DJ here we go: Nick Warren at Guaba

What do you get when one of the world's top DJs meets one of the world's best beach clubs? The answer is simple. An epic night of unmatched electronic beats, in a unique outdoor venue right by the sea. And that is exactly what's on the menu at Guaba Beach Club in Limassol this June, as the venue welcomes superstar DJ Nick Warren, for a night of signature progressive and tech house sounds. As for Guaba itself, the open-air beach club has become famous both in Cyprus and abroad for consistently bringing world-class DJs to the island and hosting crazy parties that fill the dance floor with hedonistic party-goers without fail. The graffiti adorned venue, located right on the seafront just outside the centre of Limassol, is hard to miss, and the inside is even more impressive. Think tropical jungle meets pirate ship rave party. For fans of Nick Warren, or progressive or tech house music, this event will be too good to miss.

When: 21 June 2019 Where: Limassol

Contact: guababeachbar.com





To be or not to be: Shakespeare At Curium

Curium Ancient Theatre in Limassol is one of the most spectacularly impressive historical destinations in Cyprus and, that's even without actors performing live on stage! The ancient amphitheatre clings to the edge of a cliff overlooking the golden shores of Curium beach below and out to the endless blue horizon beyond. So, just imagine the experience when this ancient Greco Roman amphitheatre comes to life each year, with an annual production of work by the most prolific and celebrated writer in the English language and the world's most illustrious and eminent dramatist – William Shakespeare. This year, the committee for The Performing Arts for Cyprus Charities will be putting on a production of *Hamlet* for three nights in June, so fans of the Bard should grab a pillow and head to the theatre to watch the Prince of Denmark ask one of the most famous questions in literature. All profits will be given to Cyprus charities.

When: 21-23 June 2019 Where: Limassol

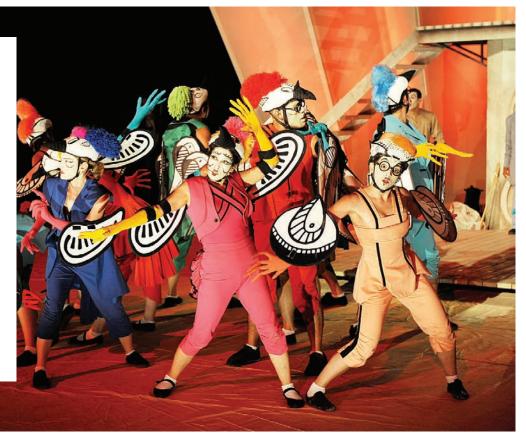
Contact: shakespeareatcurium.com



Feast of entertainment: Larnaca Summer Festival of Music and Performing Arts

Every year in July, the Municipality of Lamaca organises a huge, city-wide festival in celebration of all things performing arts. And with such a rich and diverse history, Cyprus' performing arts scene is a fascinating amalgamation of diverse influences, making this festival a must-visit for locals and tourists alike. Comprising a schedule of ballet and contemporary dance performances, theatrical productions, music concerts, wind band and choir recitals, it also includes film screenings and poetry nights by national and international talents. Most of the concerts and events take place in the atmospheric outdoor venues of The Lamaca Fort and Pattichion Municipal Amphitheatre, as well as a variety of venues throughout the town.

When: July 2019 Where: Larnaca Contact: larnaka.org.cy



Bringing history to life: International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama

First launched back in 1997 in the hope of widening the presence of Greek drama amongst the island's thespian circles, the International Festival of Ancient Greek Drama has grown by leaps and bounds, to now enjoy a status as one of the most highly-anticipated theatre events of the annual calendar. Every year, theatre companies from around the world are invited to Cyprus to perform Greek dramas in their own languages. And while the performances themselves make the festival a must-attend event for theatre enthusiasts of all ages, it is the spectacular outdoor amphitheatres where these recitals take place that really give this festival that extra allure. Bringing historic amphitheatres such as The Ancient Odeon in Paphos, Curium Ancient Theatre in Limassol and Skali Amphitheatre of Aglantzia in Nicosia to life, the festival offers a unique opportunity to see these stunning venues in all their dramatic glory.

When: 28 June-27 July 2019 Where: Nicosia, Limassol and Paphos Contact: greekdramafest.com





Headline acts to thrill: Foivos Delivorias at Fengaros

With a firmly established reputation for bringing big internationally renowned musicians to Cyprus every year, Fengaros' line-up for 2019 is set to thrill music lovers yet again, with famous artists from Greece and Cyprus to grace the stage. Previous years have welcomed award-winning artists such as Joss Stone, Fantastic Negrito and Joan as Police Woman, so music lovers can expect more big things from the 2019 edition of the event. Giving Breeze magazine an exclusive sneak preview of what festival goers can expect this year, the Fengaros team have confirmed that alternative Greek rocker Foivos Delivorias will be amongst the headline acts to entertain the crowds with his unique sounds. Joining Foivos will be Planet of Zeus, Metaxas, Amalgamation Choir, Balothizer, Eleni Era, Underwater Chess, as well as local talent spread out on three stages in Kato Drys Village.

When: 1-3 August 2019

Where: Kato Drys Village, Larnaca region

Contact: fengaros.com



Operatic renditions: Pafos Aphrodite Festival

The stage is already set for the Pafos Aphrodite Festival, which takes place every year at the end of August and beginning of September, against the stunning backdrop of the Medieval Castle, right on the seafront in the centre of Paphos. And as if the venue wasn't already impressive enough on its own, each year, the performances themselves get such outstanding critical acclaim, that this event alone puts Cyprus firmly on the operatic map. Last year the festival staged The Barber of Seville by Gioachino Rossini, and this year, rumour has it that Macbeth by Giuseppe Verdi will be performed, although it had yet to be confirmed at the time of publication. Whichever opera is chosen for the event, visitors can expect a once-in-a-lifetime experience, watching top-class musicians and singers performing in one of the most unique and spectacular outdoor venues in the world.

When: 30 August-1 September 2019 Where: Paphos Medieval Castle, Paphos

Contact: pafc.com.cy











Splashing about in Crete

Never have rugged mountains and stunning beaches been so very intimately involved as they are in Crete. Whether you're after under-the-radar coves backed by eye-popping greenery, or dream of shimmering waters lapping up against wide sweeping coastlines, there are endless pristine spots to enjoy.



Balos

If fairy tales were ever to come to life, they would have to be in Balos; hands down one of the most exotic beaches in Greece, and certainly one of the most beautiful in Crete, located 60km north west of Chania and cradled by the rugged Gramvousa Peninsula. You'll stop in your tracks on the hills above the glistening turquoise waters, as postcardworthy panoramic views of a lagoon shaped by powdery white sands beckon. All this, with the rocky islet of Imeri in the distance, topped by a steep Venetian fortress. You'll need a 4x4 to traverse a rough track road from Kaliviani to get here, but it's most certainly worth the bumpy ride. A morning ferry from Kissamos may appeal to the less adventurous. It does get very crowded here in July and August, so visiting the beach off-peak is best. And if you wish to continue exploring this magical western stretch of coastline, be sure to make a splash in the equally stunning Elafonissi, renowned for its fine white and pink sand.

Seitan Limania

Although not quite as well known as Balos, Seitan Limania fares just as well in the looks department. A small pocket of paradise nestled between two dramatic cliffs, it's the colour of the shallow waters that will astound you; a translucent teal that's as dazzling as can be, lapping up against perfectly white sands. Getting to this captivating cove is half the fun, hidden in a corner of the northeast side of the Akrotiri peninsula, 20km from Chania. You'll need sturdy shoes to reach the beach, and be sure to stock up on water and food before heading down there.



Vai Beach

Over on the far east of the island, the exotic vibe of Vai beach (close to the north coast resort of Sitia) is a real stunner, perfectly framed by Europe's largest palm grove. Once a hippy mecca and camper's paradise, the palm grove is now a conservation area, and organised facilities mean you can grab a bite to eat, and rent a sunbed and umbrella, before dipping into the clear seas. A snorkeller's haven, the little islet at the south end of the beach adds to the dream-like appeal.







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St Paul's Bay

If it's calm waters that you're after, the picture-perfect St Paul's Bay is one for the bucket list! Just south of the whitewashed Lindos on the south eastern coast of Rhodes, this spot is perfect for kids to splash about in the shallow seas while adults seek comfort on a sun lounger. Pretty as can be, a whitewashed chapel in the corner of the cove adds to the charm of this picturesque spot backed by wind-sheltering cliffs. And historic tales run rife in the area, with the bay made famous way back in A.D. 51 when St Paul is said to have arrived here to preach Christianity to the people of Rhodes.





Traganou Beach

A massive pebbly stretch less than 20km from Rhodes town, this beach leaves you feeling that you're far from civilization, as you carve a space to call your own here. Sunbeds and umbrellas are only available on one part of the beach, while the rest is left untouched. As clear waters lap against light coloured pebbles, walk down to the magnificent cave to get those legs moving, or kick back at nearby taverns to satiate the palate.

Ladiko Bay

Hardly any distance from Rhodes town (a mere 15km), Ladiko Bay is an organised beach, perfect for families looking for fun times in emerald waters. With the seas here perfect for snorkelling, more daring deep-sea divers can spot rocks infused with broken ceramic pots and amphora, with an ancient merchant ship having sunk here centuries ago. The Ladiko Restaurant Beach Bar will leave you feeling replete and relaxed, curbing those hunger pangs with fresh catch of the day, and tempting fruit smoothies to wash it all down.



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Lalaria Beach

Forget about white sand stretches for a moment and hop on a boat from the old port to set your sights on a different kind of magic altogether at lovely Lalaria. Backed by white cliffs found on the north eastern side of the island, an equally bright pebbled shoreline befriends the most dazzling turquoise waters laced with silver tones at this isolated yet highly celebrated beach. Home to two must-see caves, 'Skotini' and 'Galazia', you'll be squealing with delight at the breath-taking reflections. As this beach is only accessible by boat, be sure to take your own beach supplies with you and make a day of it.

Koukounaries Beach

One of the most popular beaches in Skiathos for good reason, Koukounaries brings a touch of Caribbean charm to the Aegean, with its wide stretch of fine powdery white sands backed by fragrant pine trees (which the area is named after). Despite how well-known and busy this organised beach is however, the waters are still crystal clear, and you can enjoy a real action-packed adventure, with plenty of water sports in the mix and a beach bar serving dreamy summer concoctions.



Mikros Asselinos Beach

Want to escape the crowds? A slice of heaven on the north of Skiathos, approximately 13km west of Skiathos town, Mikros Asselinos beach (beside the larger Megalos Asselinos) attracts the intrepid explorer, thanks to its dramatic and off-the-beaten track location, surrounded by Kounistra Mountain, which stretches down to meet the sea. It's a steep walk to get down to the beach so make sure you're wearing good walking shoes, but rest assured, it's worth the legwork! Enjoy endless hours lazing under wicker umbrellas and quench your thirst or tuck into a bite to eat at the casual beach shack.



Cyprus Airways flies to Crete, Rhodes and Skiathos twice a week









You've Got to Visit Slovakia

Villages steeped in folk tales and enchanting castles vie for attention, awe-inspiring historic sites abound, and dainty wooden churches defy the hands of time, all standing proud in the knowledge that they are among the prettiest in the world. But for some, it's the dramatic natural landscapes that reign supreme in this central European country, dissected by walking and cycling trails of phenomenal beauty, taking you through dense forests, past mirror-still lakes and into alpine meadows. And when your inner urbanite shouts out for attention, glorious old towns beckon.

Slovakia's capital of Bratislava lures travellers with its lively café and brew-pub culture, as the clinking of glasses reverberates amid the cobbled streets and patchwork of historic buildings. Meanwhile, in the far east of the country, Košice coaxes visitors with dazzling historic charm and easy living allure. After the easy life? Sip on mighty fine wine at countryside festivals and luxuriate in bubbling spas around a country blessed with soothing thermal waters.

Enchanted castles

No visit to Slovakia's capital is complete without the steep walk up to Bratislava Castle – first built in the 9th century – standing proud on an isolated rocky hill above the Danube River and offering great views of the city. Housing a branch of the Slovak National Museum (Museum of History), the attraction gives visitors the chance to get better acquainted with development in Slovakia from the Middle Ages to the present day.

While Bratislava Castle is undoubtedly impressive, the UNESCO World Heritage Spiš Castle is an even more dramatic showstopper; one of the largest castles in central Europe, built in the 12th century with a huge theatrical appeal, perched high on a hill outside the town of Spišské Podhradie. For more fairy tale magic, be sure to also make the journey to the remote Orava, with its 13th century castle also resting on a rocky cliff above the surrounding village and countryside. That's not to forget the romantic charm of the 12th century Bojnice Castle, painting a perfectly pretty picture at the edge of the Strážovské vrchy mountains which rise above Bojnice town.





Gorgeous churches & cathedrals

You can't miss the Blue Church of St. Elizabeth in Bratislava; an eyepopping candy-coloured art nouveau building in the eastern part of the old town, built in the early 20th century. Others rave about the St. Elisabeth Cathedral in Košice, a real gothic masterpiece dating back to 1230.

Head out further afield and quaint wooden churches dotted around the countryside will make your head turn – try doing a Pinterest

search on the matter and you'll soon realise that you're spoilt for choice (there are over 300 of them around the country.)

So where does one begin on the journey of discovery? UNESCO have made it easy, with eight wooden beauties in the Carpathian Mountains built between the 16th and 18th century on the World Heritage List. For the real 'wow factor', visit Hronsek, the Church of St Nicholas and the church of St Michael the Archangel.





Charming old town city centres

A historic masterpiece, Slovakia's capital city of Bratislava is blessed with a vibrant cobbled old town, where each nook and cranny reflects influences from far and wide, bearing the hallmark of the countless nationalities that once resided in the historic centre. Spend a day taking in the sights – stroll through the main square to see the old town Hall, stand back to admire the elegant neoclassical Primatial Palace and step into the Bratislava City Museum – before quenching your thirst at one of the many brewpubs tucked away in just about every corner of the city, which all serve frothy home produced lagers, guzzled down by locals whose taste buds have become more discerning than ever.

Further east, Slovakia's second largest city of Košice is possibly one of the most underrated spots in Eastern Europe, slowly but surely entering the tourist radar thanks to its laid-back pace, stunning architecture, vibrant culture and fine local fare. Traverse Main Street (Hlavná UI), take in the beauty of the old town square, step back in time in Crafts Lane, grab a famous warm apple strudel from one of the area's many fine bakeries and head to St Urban's Tower, housing a Wax Museum where Andy Warhol causes a stir. Outside the old town, witness the splendour of the neo-gothic Jakab Palace.

Heavenly hikes

The Little Carpathian mountain range, north of Bratislava, is the perfect spot to unleash some energy and take in the splendour of the natural world as you ramble though undemanding hiking trails. With the foothills of the Little Carpathians home to Bratislava Forest Park, its genteel landscape makes for the perfect day trip from the capital, blessed with nature trails and gorgeous spots for picnic indulgences.

For heart-racing adventures in the tallest peaks of the country, the

High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry) and High Tatra National Park are a bucket list favourite, and for good reason. Not just about the near mythical crooked summit of Mount Kriváň (2495m), the park is also home to over 100 alpine lakes and several waterfalls. Some of the most popular – and most beautiful – are those of Štrbské pleso and Popradské pleso. For a slice of Slovak Paradise (the national park of Slovensky Raj), head to the eastern part of the country closer to Košice, and prepare to wobble over slippery foot bridges, past cascading waterfalls, or just give your arms a seriously good workout with a canoeing adventure through the area's gorges.







Cycling escapades

Every cyclist is in for a treat in Slovakia, whether you wish to embark on a leisurely ride in the mild terrain of the Little Carpathians, yearn to feel the wind in your hair as you enjoy a pleasant cycle along the river Danube, or you are determined to conquer new heights on two wheels in the Tatras, there's nothing quite like exploring the countryside by bicycle.

Many cyclists also rave about the scenery of the Demänovská, where you can cycle through a basin-shaped valley, winding around the biggest Slovak dam, Liptovská Mara, which offers panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. Keen to get to know some traditional villages while you ride? Try the Dolnoliptovská and Hornoliptovská cycle tour, both of which give you the chance to familiarise yourselves with the typical villages and towns of the Liptov region.

Indulgent cheesy moments

Slovaks love their cheese! So much so that one of their most prized national dishes, Bryndzové Halušky (potato dumplings similar to gnocchi) is slathered in their beloved Brynza; a crumbly sheep's cheese that the nation has been devouring since the 14th century. And it all began in Slovakia's mountainous regions, when Valachian people fled Romania to settle in what is now Slovakia. Mostly shepherds, they brought sheep fit to survive harsh winters, thus giving birth to what is today an absolute national favourite. For a naughty indulgent treat, go for fried cheese with French fries and tartar sauce (Vyprážaný syr), but this time, Edam is the star of the show, accompanied by pickles to balance the saltiness.

7 Festive fancies

Bratislava comes to life with flamboyant festivals in the summer months, with the biggest city festival - Cultural Summer - turning the whole town into a stage. Historic squares and buildings (including Bratislava castle) transform into pop up venues, as crowds tap their toes at dance parties and live performances.

Foodies on the other hand, will love the Slovak food festival, known as the 'biggest picnic in town'. The gastronomic weekend, taking place this year between the 6-8 September, is also hosted on the grounds of Bratislava Castle, where you can devour culinary treats while enjoying grandiose views of the city! For a dash of drama, the Summer Shakespeare Festival, taking place this year between July and August, is another Bratislava Castle affair, as some of the most famous literary works come to life to prove that "all the world is a stage" in truly dramatic fashion.





Page Delectable wine & pretty vineyards

It's one of those little-known facts about the country that surprises even the most knowledgeable and discerning traveller: Slovakia produces some mighty fine wine. But why doesn't the world know about it? Quite simply, because almost all bottles produced in the small country are consumed by the local market and never make it past Slovakian audiences.

Join local oenophiles, with some of the country's best tipple in hand in Modra; nestled in the foothills of the Little Carpathian mountain

range near Bratislava. A small town surrounded by vineyards, Modra will soak you in Slovakian history and winemaking traditions that date back 3000 years. Be sure to try Frankovka modrá, a red wine similar to pinot noir, at one of the town's many wine cellars. Holidaying in Košice? Head straight to the fascinating Tokaj region – it may be off the tourist radar, but it was once a hot spot for kings of times past, as well as modern day presidents, all craving a taste of the area's naturally sweet puttonyo wines.



9— Village splendours

There's no better way to learn about Slovakia's extensive folk traditions and culture, than with a stroll through one of the country's pretty villages. And If you're after a picture-perfect setting, head to Vlkolínec; a central Slovakian village bestowed with UNESCO World Heritage status, owing to a settlement of 45 tiny brightly coloured log homes, with all traditional features intact.

If you're exploring the High Tatras, the village of Ždiar is bound to leave a lasting impression, with its 15th century architecture taking you back to yesteryear and picturesque mountain views making it an idyllic base from which to embark on a mountain adventure. Keen to dig into more history? The Liptov Village Open Air Museum in Pribylina is incredibly charming, with fine examples of traditional buildings and furniture.

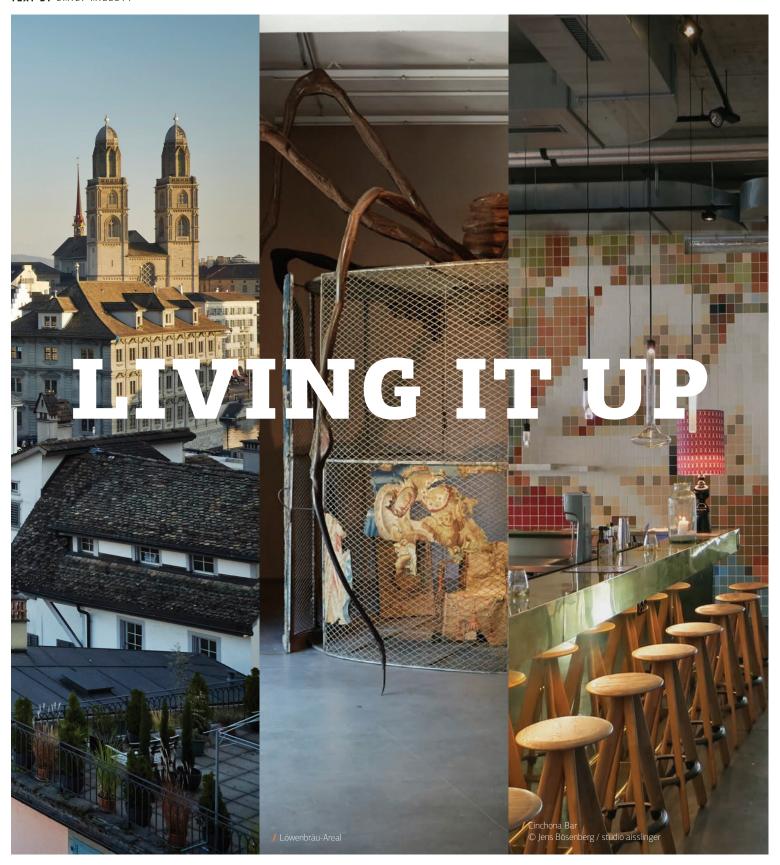
10 Soothing thermal waters

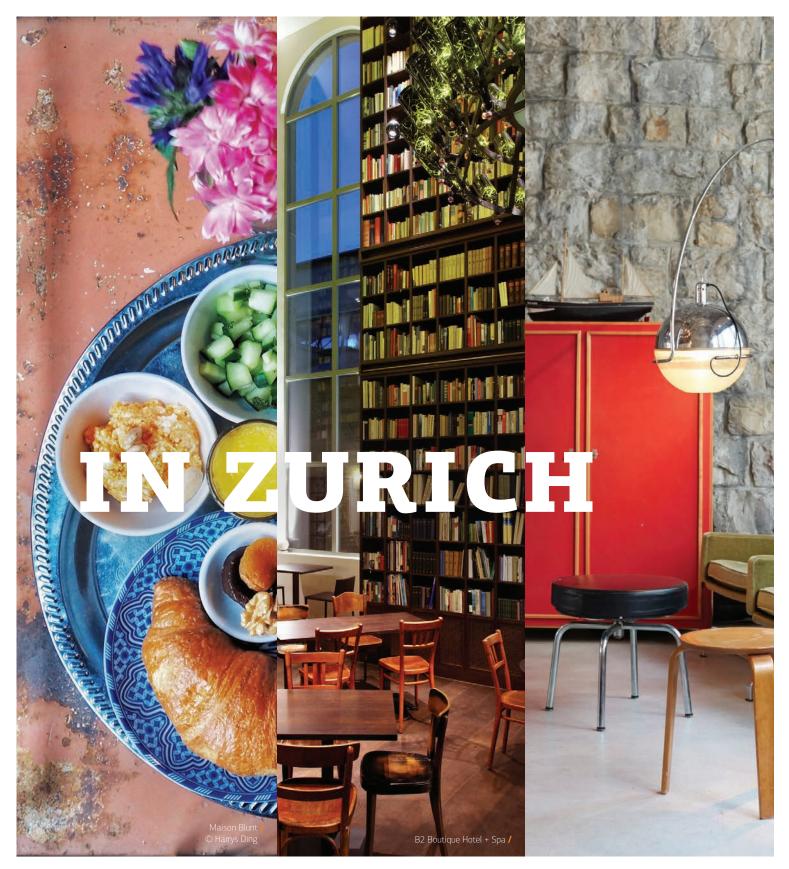
Give those tired limbs a rest in the most soothing and luxurious fashion, in a country overflowing with healing mineral water. Not just about rest and recuperation, Slovakia's spas are known for helping a whole range of ailments, including digestive, respiratory and immune disorders. Piešťany (85km north of Bratislava and just 55 minutes by train) is hands down one of the most well-known spa towns in the country, with Health Spa Piešťany located on this beautiful spa island, boasting its own luxurious park. It's thermal mineral waters and unique sulphuric mud are the cornerstones of the spa experience, while the surrounding park provides a welcome nature escape, complete with cycling and walking paths, as well as golf and tennis courts.

How about a slice of UNESCO World Heritage as you soothe those aching muscles? Bardejov makes for the perfect wellness escape for those landing down in Košice; combine a visit to the gorgeously intact Medieval town centre with a night at The Bardejov Spa. You'll be soaring high on cloud nine in no time!









Zurich's reputation as a serious, financial, banking hub, disguises a vibrant, alternative culture hiding in plain sight, easily accessible to visitors willing to scratch beneath the surface and dig for buried treasure in Switzerland's largest and wealthiest metropolis. What you find in Zurich will make it worth your while.

Against the most spectacular backdrop – with its turquoise lake on one side and snow-capped alps on the other – Zurich boasts a charmingly picturesque old town, a rich cultural identity with a plethora of galleries and museums to match, and the advent of a cool, post-industrial dynamism, catalysing the emergence of hip bars and cafés and eclectic concept shops which breathe new life into old industrial buildings. And that's not to mention the mouthwatering culinary scene, where traditional Swiss mainstays such as raclette and fondue, are complemented by a new wave of contemporary international flavours.





Sightseeing splendours

Lindenhof /

With such glorious urban landscapes, thanks to a fortunate location on the River Limmat and around Lake Zurich, this Swiss city is best experienced al-fresco. Walking, hiking, cycling, boating and even swimming are just some of the ways that intrepid explorers and leisurely urban travellers can take advantage of the destination in all its glory. Start with a stroll around the **old town** with its quaint village atmosphere and beautiful architecture, then get your bearings down by **Lake Zurich** at **Bürkliplatz**, where you can hop on a boat for a tour out on the water. Or simply enjoy the local vibes at the bi-weekly vegetable market or the Saturday flea market in the summer months.

For a bird's eye view of the city, head up hiking trails through lush green forests, to the peak of **Uetliberg mountain**, 2,850 feet above sea level,

where the views are panoramic in every direction. Take in the city itself, the shimmering blue lake and even the alps in the distance. Don't fancy the hike? **Lindenhof** also offers beautiful views of Zurich's old town and city landmarks such as the City Hall and the iconic twin spires of **Grossmünster Church**; which is well worth a visit in its own right as home to some impressive stained-glass windows, a Romanesque crypt, choir windows by Swiss art legend, Augusto Giacometti, and bronze doors by Otto Münch. For more ecclesiastical works by world famous artists, visit **Fraumünster Church** in the old town, whose stunning stained-glass windows are the creative genius of Augusto Giacometti and Marc Chagall. Visitors can also drop by the **Zurich Tourism Tourist Information Office** (zuerich. com/en/visit/tourist-information-office) on the ground floor of Zurich Main Station, to get bespoke information specifically tailored to their needs.



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Art gazing

Zurich is a haven for culture vultures and art aficionados, with excellent museums and galleries at every turn. Start off on a self-guided walking tour around the art and installations which adorn the city's public spaces. On your tour of Zurich's 'public-art', keep an eye out for **Heureka**, the first purposeless machine sculpture by Jean Tinguely, located on the short of Lake Zurich, as well as the austere granite **Pavillon-Skulptur** by Max Bill on Bahnhofstrasse; the stunning **Giacometti Hall** by Augusto Giacometti, unexpectedly situated in a police station on Bahnhofquai, or the gigantic **L'ange protecteur** by Niki de Saint Phalle, that watches over commuters as they travel through Zurich Main Station.

Kunsthaus Zurich (kunsthaus.ch) on Heimplatz, houses one of the most important collections of Classical Modernism in Zurich, including works by Swiss and international modern greats such as Giacometti, Van Gogh, Monet and Chagall. An impressive schedule of temporary exhibitions also runs each year.

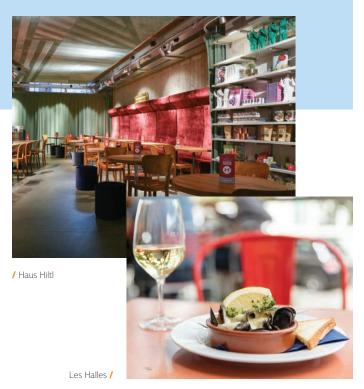
Design and visual communication is the name of the game at **Museum für Gestaltung Zürich** (museum-gestaltung.ch/en) on Ausstellungsstrasse, whose architecture is equally as impressive as the Swiss design icon exhibitions held inside. For a taste of the hip side of contemporary urban art, check out **Löwenbräu-Areal** (lowenbraukunst.ch), in an industrial old brewery with modern touches, in trendy Zurich West. The impressive building houses two art galleries – **Migros Museum of Contemporary Art** and **Kunsthalle Zurich** – and is worth a visit for its quirky vibes alone. And of course, you can't fully experience Zurich's art scene without stopping off at the birthplace of Dadaism, **Cabaret Voltaire** (cabaretvoltaire.ch/en) on Spiegelgasse, where founding artists gathered in 1916 to question the concept of the existing arts.

Delectable drinking

Kick start your day the right way at **Henrici** (cafe-henrici.ch) on Niederdorfstrasse – a place dedicated to all things coffee. Order a delicious pastry or hearty breakfast, washed down with your morning cappuccino, before you set off for a day of exploring. Fancy a bit of retail therapy with your steaming cup of joe? Stroll down Dufourstrasse and stop off at **Monocle Shop and Café Zurich** (monocle.com), where coffee is served as you browse the carefully curated line-up of products on sale. And once daylight turns to dusk, and you crave something stronger to quench your thirst, kick back and relax at the end of a long day in the uniquely cool and quirky setting of **Rimini Bar** (rimini.ch) on Schanzengraben; one of the many Badi-Bars (bathing pool bars) located at lakeside and riverside pools, which transform into chill-out lounge bars at dusk.

Another hip joint with an eclectic vibe and local legend status is **El Lokal** (ellokal.ch) – or 'the very last island on the Sihl' as it calls itself. Think pirate ship meets hippie hideaway or communist bolt-hole, right on the banks of the river, with cold beer and warm welcomes thrown in. **25hours Hotel Zurich Langstrasse** (25hours-hotels.com/en/hotels/zurich/langstrasse) in hip Zurich West is home to the popular **Cinchona Bar,** where expertly mixed cocktails are the tipple of popular choice. And late night party animals can dance the night away across the two storeys at **Plaza Klub** (plaza-zurich.ch) – the city's first ever movie theatre turned nightclub plays a diverse range of dance music and live acts throughout the week.





Divine dining

The Swiss have a name for being perfectionists, and if Zurich's culinary scene is anything to go by, the reputation is well deserved. Gastronomes and foodies will find a wealth of mouth-watering options to suit any taste, dietary preference or budget. Got a penchant for fine-dining? Indulge that sophisticated palate at **Zunfthaus zur Waag** (zunfthaus-zur-waag.ch) on Münsterhof, where the first-class traditional cuisine is as creative as it is gourmet. Best known for its Zürcher Geschnetzeltes – a local delicacy of veal cooked in creamy sauce – the classy joint also serves up a menu of sophisticated dishes, often with a contemporary and international twist. Visitors will need to book in advance at **Maison Blunt** (maison-blunt.ch) on Gasometerstrasse, such is the popularity of this cosy little Moroccan restaurant and tea house – order the lamb tagine or brunch mezze, just make sure to leave room for their delectable deserts afterwards.

Non-meat eaters will be in seventh heaven at **Haus Hiltl** (hiltl.ch) on Sihlstrasse – the world's first vegetarian restaurant, which today still serves up the same deliciously cruelty-free vegetarian and vegan dishes as when it was first established in 1898! And you can't visit Switzerland without trying the local raclette, first made in the country and melting hearts with its cheesy goodness for more than 700 years. For some of the best fondue and raclette in town, head to **Raclette Stube** (raclette-stube.ch) on Zaehringer Street, where simple yet incredibly tasty dishes are served in a traditionally Swiss setting. **Les Halles**, (les-halles.ch) housed in an old warehouse in the trendy Zurich West quarter, is a breath of fresh air in the city's often stuffy epicurean scene. Dining is self service and the speciality is the Moules frites (mussels and chips).

Heavenly sleeps

Effortlessly combining the city's bourgeoisie backdrop and rich history, with its more contemporary reputation as a hub of culture and creativity, Zurich's hotels are comfortable, classic and cool all at the same time, offering a plethora of high-quality accommodation options for guests of all budgets, tastes and needs. For an authentic taste of this balance between the old and new, book a room at one of Zurich's oldest inns, **Marktgasse Hotel** (marktgassehotel.ch/en) in the heart of the city on Marktgasse. This timeless boutique hotel is housed in a listed 15th century building, whose distinct heritage was both immortalised and juxtaposed alongside eclectic modern minimalist design elements as part of a recent renovation.

Shopaholics and history buffs alike will be charmed by the 23-room boutique Townhouse (townhouse.ch/en) hotel on Schützengasse, just steps from Zurich's most famous shopping street, the Bahnhofstrasse, and within walking distance from the winding alleys and historical buildings of the old town. The hotel itself is beautifully appointed to resemble an elegant English townhouse and the result is a cosy and comfortable place to call home. Beer lovers will find themselves right at home at B2 Boutique Hotel + Spa (b2boutiquehotels.com), a stylish and modern property housed in the old Hürlimann brewery on Brandschenkestrasse. The building's past lends itself to the present, with a thermal spa located in the atmospheric old cellars. And don't forget to check out the thermal pool on the rooftop, offering exceptional views of the city from above. For an accommodation experience steeped in authentic Zurich history, bed down at **Hotel Helvetia** (hotel-helvetia.ch) at Stauffacherquai 1– a magnificent establishment with a well-deserved reputation for gastronomic excellence as deeply engrained as its status as a historical icon and city gem.



/ B2 Boutique Hotel + Spa - © Aqua Spa Resorts Thermalbad Spa Zürich

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/ Freitag Flagship Store

IMVIADUKI"

Shopping therapy

Zurich's retail scene has something for everyone. Whether you want to splash your cash on exclusive designer labels, or prefer to explore the musty corners of vintage treasure troves, you're sure to find something to scratch that retail itch in Switzerland's shopping capital. Browse authentic urban Swiss designers at **Europaallee** (europaallee.ch), one of Zurich's newest and coolest neighbourhoods, which starts at the main train station and stretches all the way to Langstrasse. The tiny quarter is bursting at the seams with cool concept stores, funky restaurants, bars and cultural venues like **Kulturhaus Kosmos** (kosmos.ch) on Lagerstrasse, which houses a cinema, live music stage and bar, a restaurant, a bookshop and a retail store.

Shopaholics with a taste for the finer things in life should head to <code>Bahnhofstrasse</code>, Zurich's most famous and exclusive shopping boulevard, where designer fashion labels such as Dior and Chanel stand side-by-side boutiques selling luxury timepieces and high-end goods. Those in search of a more alternative shopping experience should absolutely not miss <code>Im Viadukt</code> (im-viadukt.ch), in the once run-down industrial quarter of Zurich West. Now the heart of hip in the city, the arches of the old railway viaduct have been transformed into a stretch of trendy small shops, restaurants, bars and cafés, as well as a market hall where street food vendors sell their creations. While in Zurich West, pop by the iconic <code>Freitag Flagship Store</code> (freitag.ch/en) on Geroldstrasse, where the iconic eponymous bags that helped put Zurich on the international map are created from upcycled materials taken from the streets.



/ Bahnhofstrasse



Cyprus Airways flies to Zurich up to twice a week



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A Room to Remember in Athens

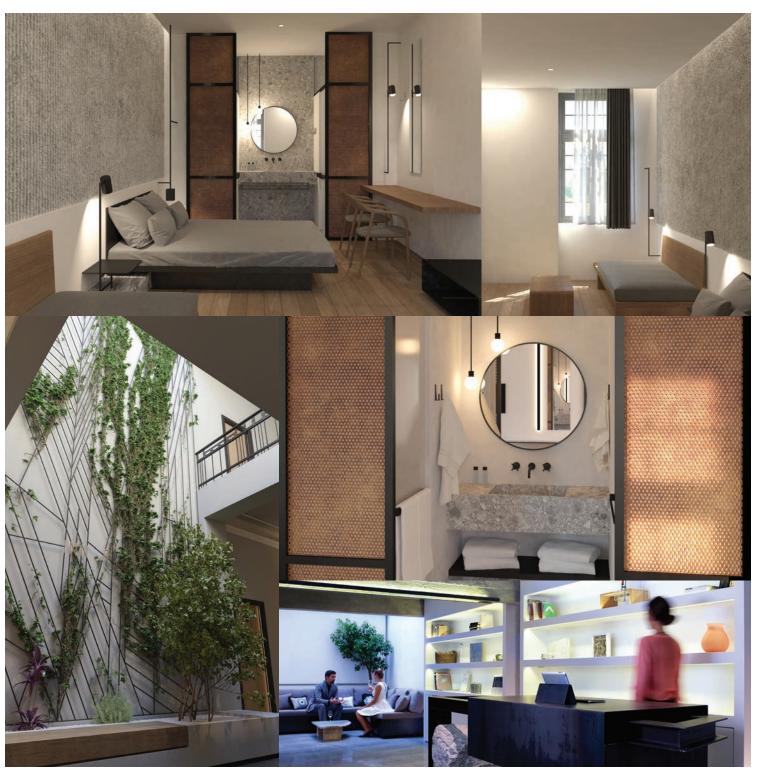


Steeped in history, yet bursting with contemporary edginess, Athens is at once elegant and alternative. While the magnificent Parthenon rises high above a topsy-turvy patchwork of rooftops and balconies, standing as a powerful reminder of ancient heritage, the pulsating maze of streets surrounding the dramatic Acropolis hill tell tales of a defiant artistic spirit, and a burning passion for all things cultural and cool, hip and happening.

Bursting with energy amid layers of historic and philosophical tales that defy time, there's never a dull moment in a flamboyant city whose inhabitants have nailed the art of surprise and intrigue. But where to relax and recuperate? Take a step away from the buzz in the aptly named ln(n) Athens hotel; an urban stay that artfully fuses comfort and sleek modern design in the heart of the city, just a few steps from the bustling Syntagma square. You'll forget the outside hubbub once you close the hotel doors, as you surrender to the overwhelming calm in this little city oasis. Housing only 37 rooms within a renovated old building, the small boutique establishment combines a classic feel with cutting-edge cool, as Greek marble and steel come together in harmonious union.

Splash out on their Junior Suite and you'll be spending the night in minimalist modern comfort with an industrial flair. The elegantly furnished extra-large room is perfect for families or couples who long for a little more space – boasting a large double bed and sofa – and comes equipped with a luxurious bathroom and shower. Overlooking the hotel's beautiful atrium, step into the Athenian sunlit courtyard and bask under open skies, savouring the moment, before heading out once more to experience the city's pulsating energy.

3 Georgiou Sourri and Filellinion St, Synatgma / Athens, Greece / Tel: +30 210 3258555 / www.innathens.com







Why go?

An architectural gem in every sense of the word, there are few cities on earth where the term 'pretty as a picture' rings truer than it does the Czech Republic's capital of Prague. Renowned as the 'city of a thousand spires', it's not just the towering peaks that wholly captivate the imagination. Look out across the city and you'll also spot domed churches beautifying the open the skies with their perfect curves, while countless stunning bridges cross the serene VItava River in grandiose fashion.

Step into the old city – one of the best-preserved historic centres in Europe – and peruse narrow lanes where fine examples of Gothic, Baroque, Renaissance and Art Nouveau buildings make every moment spent sightseeing as enchanting as it is inspiring. And in the background, the $9^{\rm th}$ century sturdy Prague Castle beckons; an exciting contrast to the chocolate-box charm of the historic city maze beneath it. When your feet tire, there are a countless leafy green parks and gardens in the city (over 200 to be precise) to catch your breath in, while there are also plenty of celebrated cafés to sip on your coffee in chic historic style.

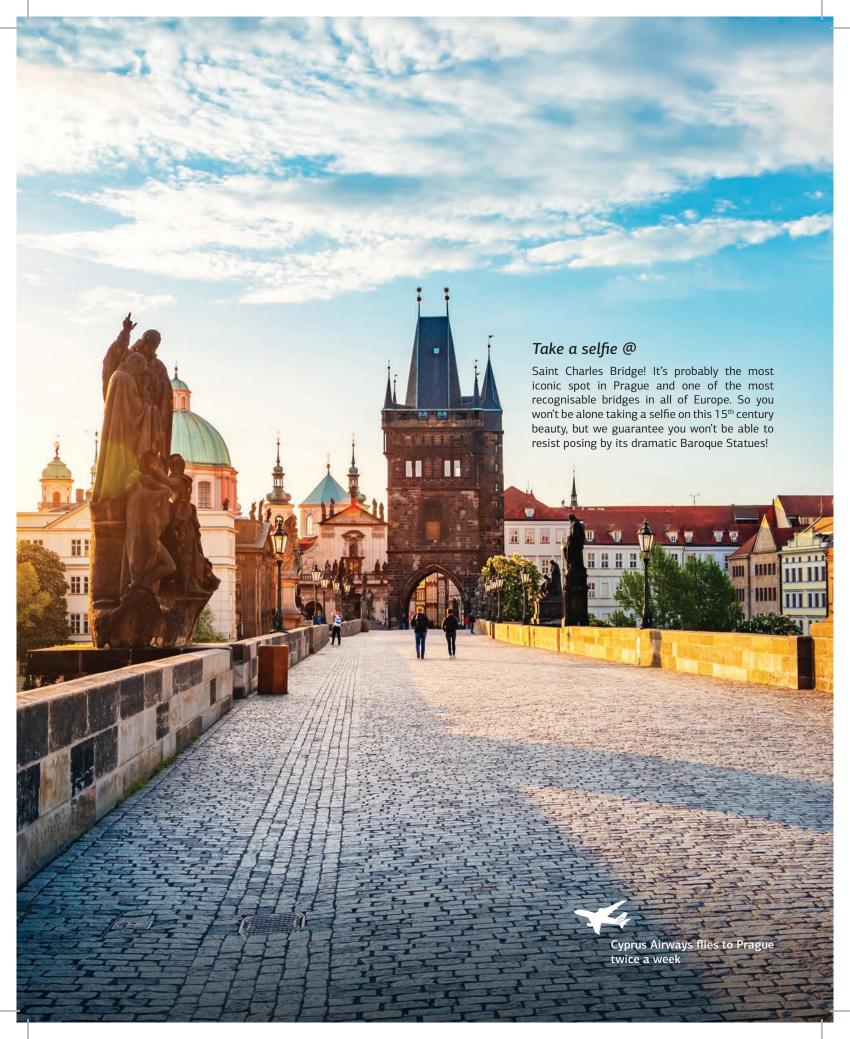
Itching for some retail therapy? Prague is a tantalising treasure trove of rare books, bohemian cut glass and antiques; just rummage through the packed shelves of curious shops in the old town, while the neighbouring Nové Město (New Town) is ideal for the fashion hungry and style conscious.

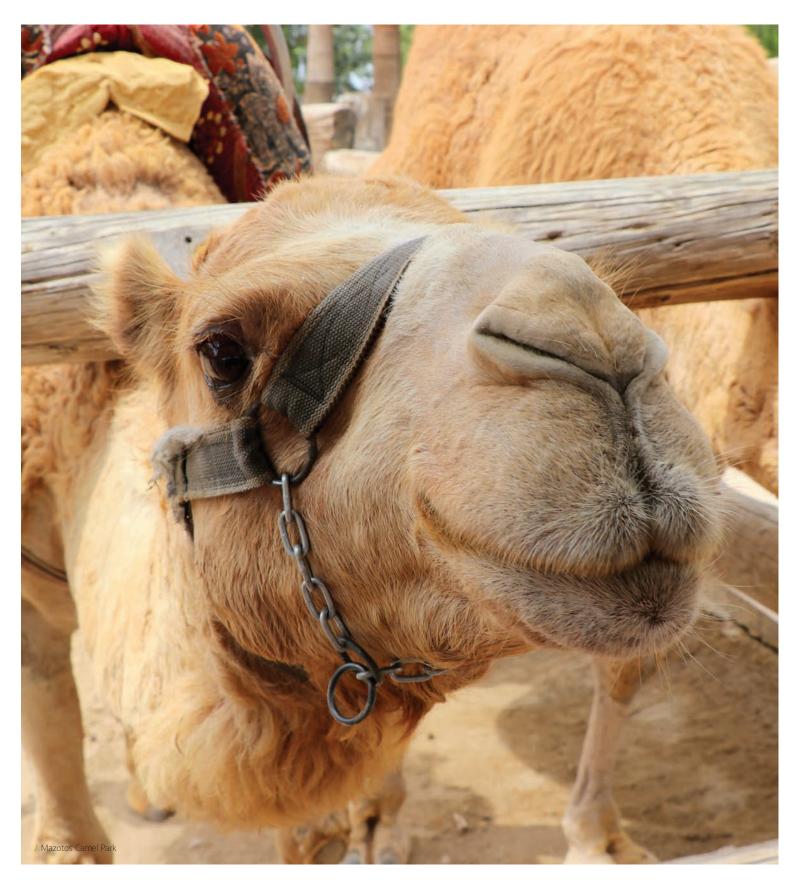
Must visit

Nothing beats a breath-taking view from above, and once you get to the top of the 63.5-metre-high Petrín Lookout Tower (Petrínská rozhledna), you'll be rewarded with a panoramic vista of the city and beyond across Bohemia on a clear day.

Don't leave without

Taking a frothy sip of local craft beer. The Czech's are famed the world over for their bubbling brew, flowing like water in every nook and cranny of the capital and beyond. But it's not just the Pilsner that runs the show. Craft beers are now all the rage, and countless new beer bars serve the good stuff from small and medium sized micobreweries on tap.





A Kid's Life!

Sea and sandcastles may guarantee smiles all round, but splashing waterside fun on bucket-and-spade-worthy beaches isn't the only thing that will leave the kids ecstatic in Cyprus. Whether you're holidaying with tireless toddlers or troublesome teens, endless child friendly adventures await!

Animal kingdom

If you're holidaying on the island's south east coast, the Mazotos Camel Park (camel-park.com) guarantees a fun day out. Only 15 minutes away from the seaside town of Larnaca, the park gives kids the opportunity to enjoy the camel rides, and to feed the animals while having their photo taken. Take them around the grounds and they'll also spot deer, ostriches, goats, ponies, horses, donkeys, and even kangaroos. A play area gives your little ones the chance to run amok, and don't worry about getting hot and bothered in the sweltering summer heat; a swimming pool and restaurant gives the whole family the chance to kick back and cool down in an area filled with lush greenery.

Further along the east coast, by the glistening Protaras seas, the Ocean Aguarium (protarasaguarium.com) awaits. Delve into the depths of the ocean and familiarise yourselves with a fascinating underwater world home to over 1000 species to be precise – before taking the little ones on a walk through tropical gardens. Heading far west? Make a day of it at the lush Pafos Zoo (pafoszoo.com), just outside the historic seaside town. Set in an unspoilt landscape that's home to beautiful lakes, ponds and gardens, the park gives families the chance to spot animals from every corner of the planet, topped off by the world's largest private collection of birds; from exotic parrots and emus to ostriches and birds of prey. There's even a petting zoo where kids can interact with the animals and enjoy getting close to nature. Once you enter the zoo grounds, be sure to pick up one of the detailed maps at the reception to help you plan your trip and locate all the animals.



Families keen on venturing out through roads less travelled can take the little ones on an equestrian adventure, with several local horse ranges teaching the kids how to saddle up like a true cowboy! Most horse ranges have pony rides available for smaller children, so you can sit back and relax while they are having the time of their lives. If you're in Nicosia, try the Lapatsa Riding School (Tel: +357 22 455194), while Artemis Riding Therapy (Tel: +357 99 900901) is great if you're in Limassol. In Paphos, go wild at George's Ranch (Tel: +357 99 647790), while Larnaca folk rave about Drapia Farm (Tel: +357 24 332998).



Walking splendours

Summer holidays provide the perfect opportunity for exploring the splendours of the natural world, and nothing beats a refreshing mountain hike when temperatures are high. And if you want to get the young ones really excited, take them to Caledonia waterfalls in Platres - with a short 3km trail making for an easy adventure. At the end of the trail – or at the beginning, depending from the side you choose to start – you'll come across the cascading waterfalls; a breath-taking sight that your children will surely cherish for years to come.

For an action-packed day, the whole family can get those adrenaline levels soaring at the Sparti Rope Park (spartipark.com/en) in the Troodos mountain village of Platres. Children of all ages will be on cloud nine the moment they walk on air, balancing on ropes between the pine trees. With a separate section for adults and children, the park provides different challenges which add to the fun and require no previous climbing experience. Once you get there, you'll receive a briefing, before being kitted our in the proper equipment and safety belts, to travel between the trees and from one platform to another.



Theme park fun

Cyprus' east coast may be revered for its turquoise waters, but kids usually have one thing in mind once they get here: whizzing down a slide at WaterWorld Themed Waterpark (waterworldwaterpark.com). And who can blame them? It's one of the biggest themed waterparks in Europe, and certainly one of the greatest tourist attractions on the island, with over 25 waterslides to drive even the most daring child into a frenzy. From the mighty 'Thuderbolt and Lightning' slide and the 'Fun Chariot Chase', to 'The Fall of Icarus' and 'The Quest of Hercules', there's heaps to enjoy! Adults needn't fear; indulge in a hydro massage in the Aphrodite's Baths adult pool with its bubble benches, or relax at The River Odyssey – WaterWorld's Lazy River which meanders around the park amidst crumbling stone pillars, Cyclops the one eyed Polyfimos and the Monster of Scilla.

Kids are also in for a splashing good time at Fasouri Watermania Waterpark (fasouri-watermania.com) in Limassol, another large-scale waterpark located just outside Limassol's city centre. Add a tropical flair to your holiday with its Polynisian theme and prepare to momentarily lose your kids down the 'Black Hole' or 'Tarzan Swing'; there are over 30 different slides to keep them entertained! Adults can relax at the massage parlour, or enjoy gentle exfoliation and a foot massage at the Fish Spa.

On the island's west coast, the fun continues at Aphrodite Waterpark (aphroditewaterpark.com), set in natural landscaped grounds and offering a wide and varied selection of exciting rides, attractions and facilities with a 'Canon Drop', 'Kamikazi' ride and much more, giving young and old alike the chance to let off a good bit of steam.

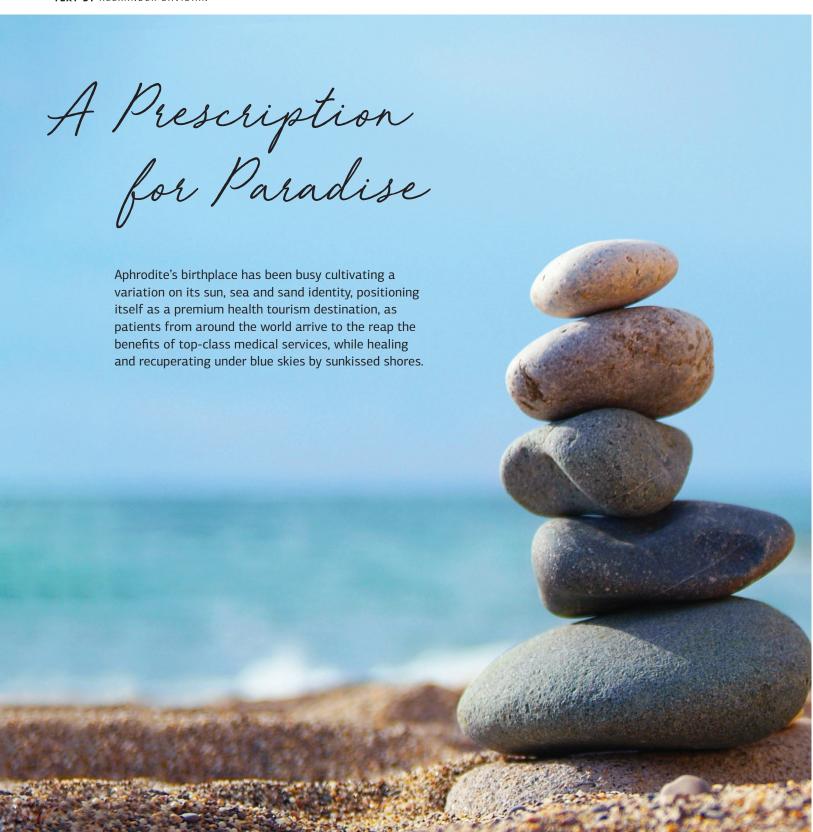


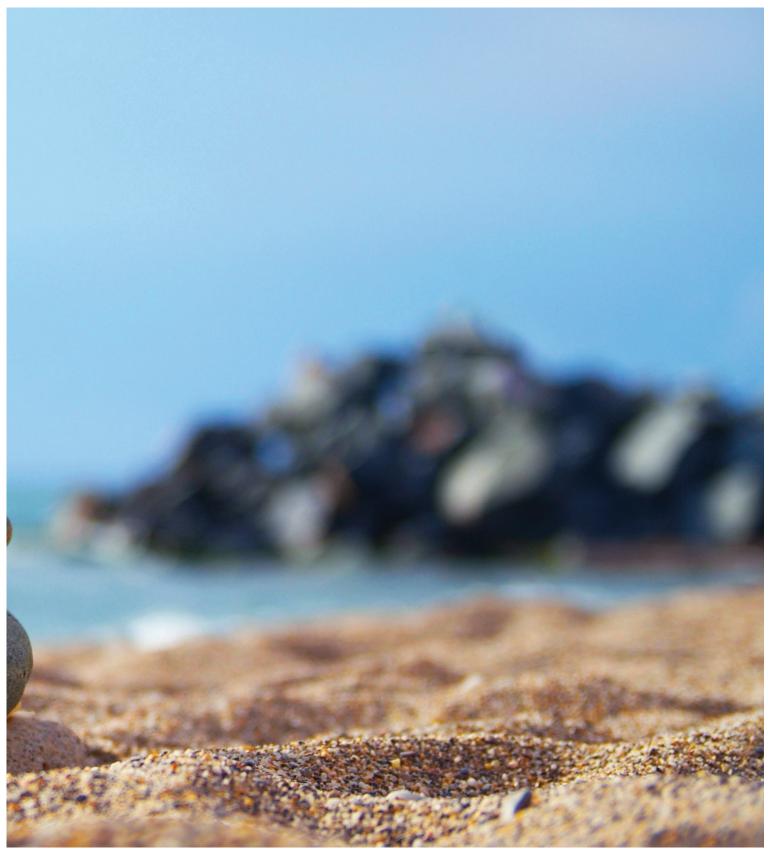




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Removed from dispiriting operating theatres and grim hospital stays, the global trend of health tourism is merging access to affordable medical procedures with wellness options, transforming trips for health and rehabilitation into genuine holidays.

The trend is driven primarily by rising medical costs in several developed countries, barring access to needful, as well as cosmetic procedures, to all but the wealthiest individuals. At the same time, in availing themselves of cheaper yet no less superior medical and wellness treatments abroad, visitor-patients contribute to the host country's economy, making it a win-win situation for all.

For Cyprus, promoting the pedigree of its multilingual doctors and outstanding and affordable hospitals, spas and wellness centres, in addition to its 300-plus days of sunshine and world-class hotels and infrastructure, is key to combating the seasonality of its tourism.

Leading this initiative is the Cyprus Health Services Promotion Board (CHSPB), established in 2006 under the auspices of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), and with currently over 80, primarily private-sector members, including hospitals, dental clinics, rehabilitation and wellness centres, spas and travel agencies.

Among its many responsibilities, the CHSPB leads overseas business missions to identify potential partners, participates in exhibitions, familiarises foreign stakeholders with Cyprus' health-related resources, promotes the Board's work in print and online, and, together with the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO), sets ambitious yearly goals, rebranding the island as a health tourism player, focusing on 'light treatments'.

These include annual check-ups, cosmetic or reconstructive surgery, dental surgery, infertility treatments, and wellness and rehabilitation. Coupled with the convenience of same-day appointments, a wide range of specialists within easy reach, as well as Cyprus' hospitable, safe and uplifting environment during recuperation, it's a winning combination.

The CHSPB has led several missions to London, Moscow and Saint Petersburg over recent years and, last October, the Board offered a strong presence at the Moscow Med show – a specialised exhibition for health tourism – with reciprocal hosting of new contacts due to take place in Cyprus, later in 2019.

Meanwhile, private hospitals in Cyprus have been signing agreements with well-known foreign doctors, chiefly from the US and Israel, who are

coming to the island to operate on their patients. "If a US patient, let's say, wants to have a spine operation, she or he can come to Cyprus with their doctor, undergo the operation, stay about a month to recuperate and pay half the price of what it would cost in the States." Cyprus also draws patients from Arab countries, who are willing to receive care from Israeli physicians on the island, in lieu of travelling to Israel directly.

What has become apparent, however, after conducting a survey among all Cyprus trade centres and tourist offices abroad, is that would-be patients considering treatments overseas "want a one-stop shop". Complete packages need to be in place, covering the whole of their journey: from air tickets, accommodation and transfers, to liaising with the hospital or clinic, selection of the desired treatment and arrangement for their recuperation at rehabilitation centres.

Patients can soon look forward to a 'Cyprus cluster', "which will include hospitals, travel agents, hotels, rehabilitation centres and spas, so that patients are able to contact a single organisation and receive quotations for tailor-made and/or fixed-price packages," says the CHSPB Executive Secretary.

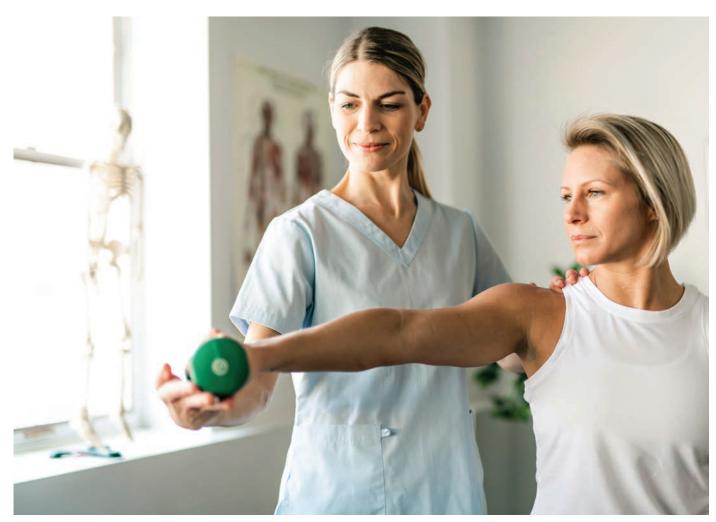
Eventually, the cluster should be accessible via an online portal and mobile app, through which a prospective patient can customise their desired

treatment and recuperation from start to finish, ending up with a final total. In terms of numbers, no official data exists yet as to how many have travelled to the island for medical purposes, but CHSPB members report a slow and steady rise in visitor-patients arriving each year. When the cluster and application are up and running, additional analytics will be on offer.

CHSPB also aims to facilitate the international accreditation of Cyprus private hospitals and clinics, while anticipating the legal framework that will regulate new rehabilitation centres. Such centres would offer a range of holistic therapies as the final component of a visitor's package, while other independent packages might, in future, offer week-long Cyprus wellness vacations at five-star hotels.

Also in the pipeline are large-scale private projects awaiting construction licences, to include hospitals, rehabilitation and wellness centres and hotels, so patients can find everything in one place. Most of these projects are located in the Troodos Mountains, as higher altitudes have been found to be particularly healing.

"Ultimately, even though Cyprus is a well-known holiday destination, this is just a fraction of what we offer," says CHSPB's Executive Secretary. "Our long-term vision remains for Cyprus to be a quality, value for money, accessible and accredited health tourism destination."





The Alasia Lifestyle

of time and has - throughout history - paid homage to the feminine divine. This is slow living at its best: a mindfulness



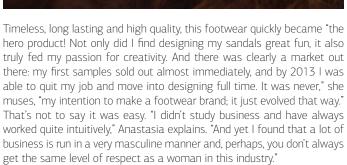
This is Alasia Lifestyle. It's a way of life which epitomises slow living, mindfulness and femininity. It takes inspiration from Aphrodite, goddess of love, and draws from a timeless culture and an island existence which has, for thousands of years, made this one of the happiest, most relaxed corners of the world. Yes, it's a brand, but its ethos is what counts: a philosophy which embraces the exquisitely languid existence one finds only in the Mediterranean.

Founded in 2010, Alasia Lifestyle – which takes its name from the ancient word for Cyprus – produces beautifully artisan sandals: footwear which is timeless in its design, styles that go from beach to street with ease. Worn by women the world over, and featured in Condé Nast Traveller, Cosmo UK and Madame Figaro, the brand is the brainchild of South African-born, Cypriot entrepreneur, Anastasia Gerali, who maintains that perseverance and dedication have been the key to her resounding success.

Originally trained as a graphic designer, Anastasia worked in London for some years before moving to the island for a brighter, easier, more fulfilling way of life. "Cyprus," she reveals, "chose me. It's a place where that authentic Mediterranean lifestyle comes into its own: connecting with the earth, growing one's food, finding a balance between work and life, with a philosophy that is conscious and purposeful. It's a way of thinking which piqued my creativity, and took me from a 9 to 5 office existence, to a world of innovation and freedom where I could work with my hands."

Starting small, with limited capital, Anastasia began designing tailored leather bags and selling her bespoke creations on the well-known online marketplace, Etsy. But, ever forward-thinking, the young entrepreneur quickly expanded her brand with various accessories and a small line of bespoke leather sandals made by local artisans from ethically-sourced leather.





But persistence paid off, and today, with two main lines to her brand – Aphrodite and Nereids – Anastasia is able to flit between London, Cyprus, and Greece, absorbing new inspiration from the island lifestyle. While her classic collection – the Aphrodite line – sees artisan leather sandals designed in a minimalistic aesthetic, her new premium collection – the Nereid line – is a gorgeous exploration of the feminine divine. Soft satin ropes, intricately detailed 'mati' (the Greek charm against the evil eye), and elegant silver detailing create a line that encapsulates the essence of the Mediterranean.

Sketching by hand, carefully narrowing down her choices, and allowing the material to determine the design, Anastasia is able to begin a year in advance: designs are created in spring and samples are ready by summer



for the following year's beach season. Then it's off to the workshops where the footwear is carefully hand crafted from premium materials by a small family business located in Athens.

"Generally, it takes between 10 and 15 days to create a pair of sandals for the Aphrodite line, and up to a month for the more intricate Nereid collection," Anastasia explains. "It's certainly not an easy process, but with my own online shops and a number of retailers, I'm currently selling up to 1200 pairs a year to customers all over the world. I even have stockists in Guadeloupe and Martinique!" she notes. But none of it, perhaps, would have materialised in the way it did, if it wasn't for the inspiration that Cyprus' languid lifestyle bestows. "I would have always done something creative with my time, but without this slow island living where a gorgeous pair of leather sandals can take you from the office to the beach to the bar, I doubt I would have discovered my love of footwear. Or," she adds, "my entrepreneurial spirit..."

"I've learnt," she concludes, "that there will always be challenges, issues and problems. But I think, at the end of the day, it's my mindset which has made the brand such a success. I'm stubborn," she laughs, "and very determined. I pride myself on my healthy, can-do attitude, my authenticity. And maybe that too is the essence of the Mediterranean lifestyle: we're laid-back and relaxed, but we're also genuine, very real, and extremely persistent!"













To the Beach!

Summer heaven for some means sipping on cool cocktails at a lively beach bar, while others yearn for uninterrupted solitude on a sleepy stretch. Whatever your take on seaside bliss, be sure to hit the beach in true style this season, with some seriously hot accessories and chic essentials in tow.

4EST Etched Black Maple Wood Shades

Nothing screams out 'I'm on vacation!' more than a fabulous pair of sunglasses. And these unisex, eco-friendly wooden beauties will upgrade your sight and style! With the frames handmade from maple wood, and etched for a real cool look, you'll even be doing the environment a favour: 4EST plants two trees with every purchase. The polarised UV400 lenses are perfect for gazing out to sea and the anti-glare blocks UVA/ UVB rays to give your eyes full protection. Each pair of 4EST Shades comes with a personalised bamboo travel case, cloth pouch and microfibre cloth to ensure they are clean and protected. And yes – they even float on water!

Havaianas Origine Hype

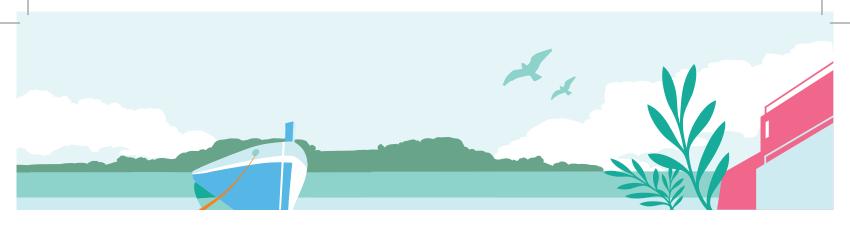
Whoever said men's beach shoes aren't as cool as women's designs? Havaianas are pretty much a summer beach staple, and this new Origine Hype model comes in an elegant palm print to jazz up any beach outfit. Super trendy, the sandy tones make for a perfect combo with most summery outfits, and they're even smart enough to wear out under loose linen trousers for a casual dinner or sundowner. Super comfy and lightweight, they are also heat-resistant and non-slip.

S'well Stainless Steel water bottle

Quench your thirst and stay hydrated in true style with this S'well water bottle. Just take your pick from a slick range of summery colours. We love the Blue granite pattern, while the Blue Marble, Calacatta Gold and Mother of Pearl designs are bound to funk up any summer holiday! Not just good looking, it's practical too; despite being super light, the triple-walled 500ml construction is designed to keep beverages cold for 24 hours. Made from premium grade, BPA-free 18/8 stainless steel, you won't have to worry about nasty toxins seeping into your water once the bottle heats up.









Funky Junque 'Do not Disturb' wide brimmed hat

Laze in the sunshine and let the world know exactly how you feel with this gorgeous embroidered sun hat by Funky Junque. You'll keep your head and face protected from harmful UVA/UVB rays, while looking stylish as can be. And once you leave the beach and head out and about for a stroll, you can effortlessly rock the look with a maxi dress or your favourite jumpsuit. This medium wide brim has an adjustable string for size and is made of 100% paper, meaning it's super light and airy!

Endless Days Dock & Bay microfibre towel

Sink your feet in the sand as much as you like when you kick back on this microfibre beach towel. The perfect travel companion, it's compact and lightweight, saving room in your suitcase with its handy pouch, and ensuring that you're ready for an off-road adventure when you veer away from your hotel. What's more, it will dry three times faster than a normal cotton towel and its elastic hook means you can easily hang it up anywhere you please. And if you do want to lay it down on a sunlounger, the manufacturers have made sure its extra-large size will totally cover the bed. Available in a range of funky summery colours, the choice, is yours!









Our Destinations at a Glance

/ May – September 2019











Prague, Czech Republic Twice a week





Thessaloniki, Greece Four times a week





Greek Islands (Heraklion, Rhodes, Skiathos) Twice a week





Zurich, Switzerland Up to twice a week





Bratislava, Slovakia Twice a week





Košice, Slovakia Once a week



