

# Cyprus

Cyprus is an island with a split personality, in more ways than one. Divided into Greek and Turkish enclaves since 1974, Cyprus is famous as a summer destination for British sun-seekers, who spend more time on the beaches and bars than exploring the island's history and culture. But there's more to the Med's third-largest island than sun umbrellas and banana-boat rides. Cyprus was the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, and the landscape is strewn with ancient ruins and historic mosques and monasteries.

The last few years have seen a sea change in Cypriot politics. The island is edging ever closer to reunification and travellers can now cross between the two sides just by showing their passports at the border. For the first time in a generation, visitors to the Republic of Cyprus can also freely explore the wild beaches and Frankish and Crusader ruins of North Cyprus, while travellers to North Cyprus can also visit the incredible Byzantine and Graeco-Roman treasures of the south.

## FAST FACTS

- **Area** 9250 sq km
- **Capital** Republic: Lefkosia; North Cyprus: Lefkoşa.
- **Currency** Republic: Cyprus Pound (CY£); North Cyprus: Turkish Lira (TL); €1=CY£0.58/TL1.88; US\$1=CY£0.45/TL1.47
- **Famous for** beaches, mezes, mosaics
- **Officials languages** Republic: Greek; North Cyprus: Turkish.
- **Phrases** Republic: *yasas* (hello); North Cyprus: *merhaba* (hello)
- **Population** 784,301 (plus 120,000 Turkish settlers and soldiers in North Cyprus)
- **Telephone codes** 📞 Republic 357, 📞 North Cyprus 90 392



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Be king of the castle at the Crusader fortresses of **Kolossi** (p186), **Kantara** (p193) and **St Hilarion** (p192).
- Bring history to life at the fabulous Graeco-Roman ruins of **Pafos** (p188), **Kourion** (p186) and **Salamis** (p193).
- Step back to Byzantine times in the **Troodos Massif** (p187), home to stone villages, medieval monasteries and rugged mountain trails.
- Trek the wild trails of the **Akamas Peninsula** (p188), the last untamed wilderness in southern Cyprus.
- Walk along beaches untouched by human footprints in the splendidly isolated **Karpas Peninsula** (p193).

## ITINERARIES

- **One week** With just a week in Cyprus, head to the capital to explore north and south Lefkosia. Cross the border for an overnight trip to Girne, then head south to Lemesos and Pafos for the island's best Graeco-Roman ruins, with a stop in the scenic Troodos Massif.
- **Two weeks** With more time to kill, hire a car and explore the rugged Akamas Peninsula and Polis. Visit Larnaka to pay your respects at the grave of Lazaros, and join the island's most hedonistic club crawl in Agia Napa. In the north, explore Frankish ruins in Gazimagusa and drive up to the wild Karpas region.

## CLIMATE & WHEN TO GO

Cyprus has a typical Mediterranean climate: cool and dry in winter, hot and dry in summer. The peak season is from June to August, but the island really cooks and you can go from pasty white to lobster red in minutes. April to May and September to October offer warm sunny days and pleasantly balmy nights – perfect for walking in the hills. See p863.

## HISTORY

Blessed with natural resources but cursed by a strategic location, Cyprus has been a pawn in the games of empires since ancient times. Greek culture arrived in 1400 BC with the Mycenaeans, but the ancient Greek cities at Pafos, Salamis and Kourion were massively expanded by the Romans, who converted the island to Christianity.

## HOW MUCH?

- **Meze meal** CY£7 in the Republic; TL8 in North Cyprus
- **Budget hotel room** CY£15/TL30
- **Intercity bus ride** CY£3/TL5
- **Museum admission** CY£0.75-1.50/TL4.5-9
- **2kg bag of oranges** CY£1/TL3

## LONELY PLANET INDEX

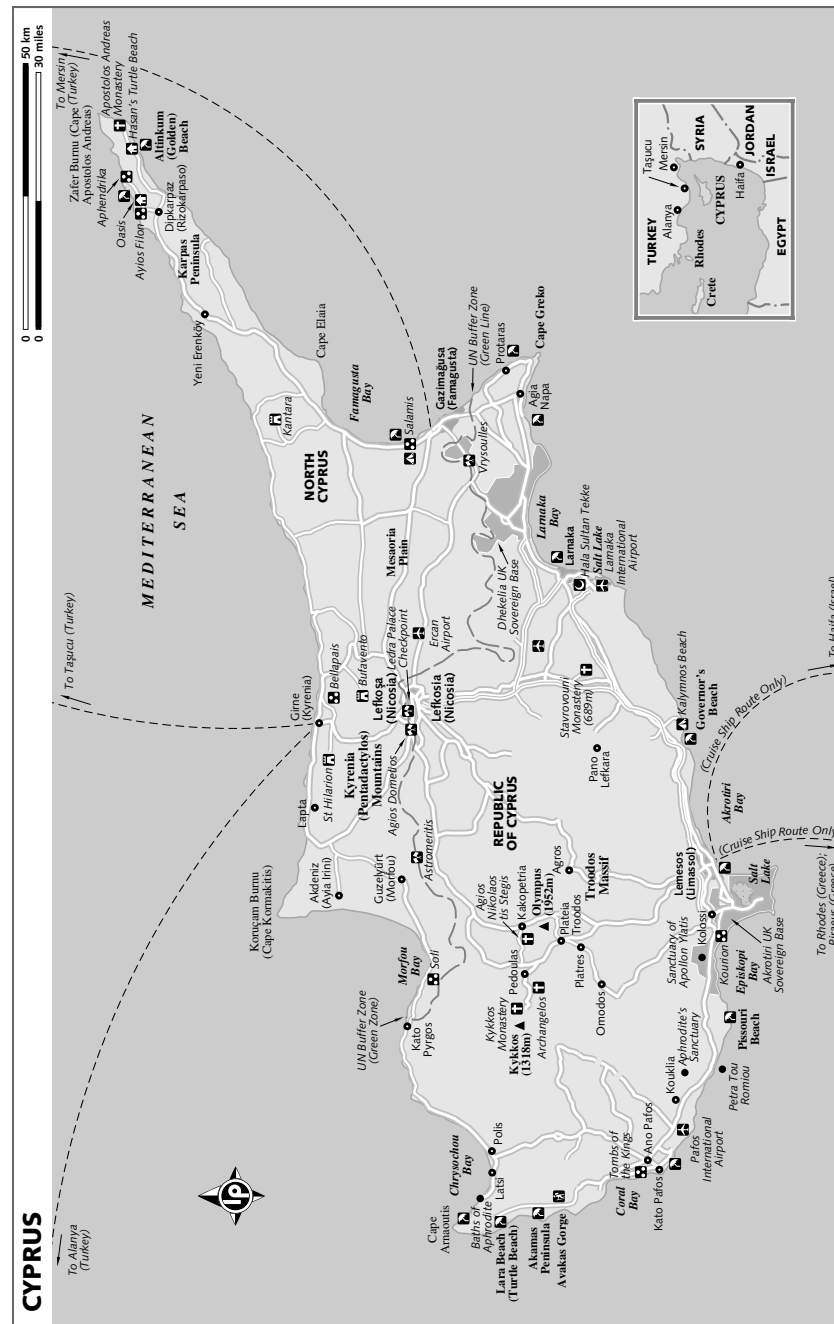
- **Litre of petrol** CY£0.50 in the Republic; TL1.5 in the North
- **Litre of bottled water** CY£0.50/TL1.5
- **Beer** CY£2/TL3
- **Souvenir T-shirt** CY£6/TL15
- **Snack kebab** CY£2/TL5

As Roman influence declined, Cyprus was incorporated into the Byzantine Empire, and Orthodox Christianity became the dominant religion. King Richard the Lionheart of England annexed Cyprus on his way to the Third Crusade in 1191, and the island then passed to the castle-building Knights Templar, then the Catholic Franks, and then the Venetians, who built huge walls around Lefkosia and Gazimagusa to protect them from Arab marauders. This failed to stop the Ottomans from invading in 1570 and dominating Cyprus for the next 300 years.

In 1878 Turkey sold Cyprus to Britain, but the majority Greek Cypriot population demanded *enosis*: independence from foreign rule and union with Greece. In response, the British created a Turkish Cypriot police force to subdue the Greek Cypriots. This cynical piece of 'divide and rule' politics paved the way for civil war.

Over the next 60 years, ripples of violence spread across the island, spearheaded by The National Organisation of Freedom Fighters (EOKA) and the Turkish Defence Organisation (TMT), which aimed to divide Greek and Turkish Cypriot populations as a stepping stone towards *taksim* – the partition of Cyprus. Britain finally granted independence to Cyprus in August 1960, but the violence continued.

Forces from mainland Greece launched a coup against the government of Archbishop



Makarios III on 15 July 1974, killing dozens of Turkish Cypriots. In response, Turkish forces occupied the northern third of the island, driving 180,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and killing 8000 more. Some 65,000 Turkish Cypriots were displaced in the opposite direction before the island was partitioned into Greek and Turkish states.

Over the following decades, all traces of Greek culture were removed from the north. The area was flooded with thousands of illegal settlers from mainland Turkey and hundreds of churches, monasteries and archaeological sites were plundered of their treasures – the greatest looting of art by an occupying force since WWII.

Despite a series of international resolutions, Cyprus remains a divided island. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, created by Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş in 1983, is recognised only by Turkey. However, there have been moves towards reunification.

The Green Line was opened in 2003 to allow refugees from both sides to revisit their homes, and in 2004, the two communities held a referendum on UN proposals for reunification. Unfortunately, the UN plan was heavily skewed in favour of Turkey – it was accepted by 65% of Turkish Cypriots and rejected by 75% of Greek Cypriots.

As a result, the southern Republic of Cyprus entered the EU alone in May 2004. Since then, border restrictions have eased, allowing easy travel between the two sides, but wounds are still fresh. Many Greek Cypriots now fear that their struggle will be swept under the carpet in the EU's enthusiasm to sign Turkey as a new member state.

## PEOPLE

Since partition, the vast majority of Greek Cypriots live in the Republic, but a few hundred Greek Cypriot farmers cling on in the remote Karpas Peninsula. In the north, the Turkish Cypriot population is now heavily outnumbered by Anatolian settlers from the Turkish mainland. Culturally, the occupied area is closer to mainland Turkey than pre-1974 Cyprus.

Cypriots on both sides of the line are friendly, honest and law-abiding, if nationalistic. Family life, marriage and children still play a central role in society, as does religion. The population of the Republic has recently become much more diverse with

the arrival of large numbers of migrant workers from southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

## RELIGION

More than 99% of the North Cyprus population is Sunni Muslim, while the Republic is 94% Greek Orthodox, with small but growing communities of Maronites, Roman Catholics, Hindus and Muslims. You should wear clothing that covers the legs and shoulders when visiting churches and monasteries, and remove your shoes before entering mosques.

## ARTS

The definitive art of Cyprus is the production of icons – the paintings of saints that grace Greek Orthodox churches. You can see examples dating back to the Byzantine period in many churches and monasteries. Performing arts have been big in Cyprus since ancient times, and several Roman amphitheatres are still used for performances. Relics of Cyprus' architectural heritage can be seen all over the island, from stone-age settlements to vast Roman cities and Frankish cathedrals.

## ENVIRONMENT

Cyprus is divided by two mountain ranges: the Kyrenia (Pentadactylos) Mountains in North Cyprus and the Troodos Massif in the centre of the Republic. The most important nature reserves in the Republic are the Troodos National Forest Park and Akamas Peninsula. The north has just one reserve in the Karpas.

On both sides of the divide, the construction of tourist villas is putting a huge strain on natural resources – as long as expats continue to buy holiday homes, the concrete jungle will keep on growing. Tourism is the main polluter, but urbanisation and hunting are affecting wildlife populations, including the rare mouflon (wild sheep).

## FOOD & DRINK

Cypriot food is a combination of Greek and Turkish cuisines, based primarily on meat, salad and bread. Popular Cypriot dishes include *souvlakia* (pork kebabs), *seftalia* (pork rissoles), *kleftiko oftio* (lamb baked in a sealed oven), *afelia* (pork stew with wine and coriander), *stifado* (beef and onion stew), *koupepia* (stuffed vine leaves) and *yemista* (vegetables

stuffed with rice and mince). These dishes are often served together in a huge meal known as a *meze*.

The north relies on Anatolian cuisine, with numerous variations on the kebab theme. Vegetarian food is thin on the ground on both sides of the island. For a quick picnic anywhere in Cyprus, grab some bread, *haloumi* (squeaky cheese), and juicy Cypriot tomatoes.

The wine from the Troodos Massif mountain range is excellent – sweet *komandaria* is the traditional wine, while *zivania* (a strong spirit distilled from grape pressings) is the local firewater.

# THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Covering the southern 63% of the island, the Republic of Cyprus has the lion's share of the beaches and historical treasures. Development is rampant at the main beach resorts, but head inland and you'll find pretty stone villages that have hardly changed for centuries.

## LEFKOSIA (LEUKWSIA, NICOSIA)

pop 208,900

Package tourists largely bypass the sleepy capital of the Republic – a shame, as Lefkosia has a more genuinely Cypriot atmosphere than anywhere on the coast. The streets inside the Venetian city walls are lined with dusty stone houses and ancient Orthodox churches, and the city is packed with art centres, theatres and galleries. The UN-patrolled Green Line cuts right through the centre of Lefkosia – the northern side of the city is even quieter.

## Orientation

Almost everything of interest lies inside the city walls. From Plateia Eleftherias (Eleftheria Square), Lidras St runs north to the Green Line, but most of the tourist attractions are tucked away in the nearby alleys of Laiki Yeitonia or around the Archbishop's Palace on Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou.

Buses and shared taxis leave from Plateia Solomou and several smaller stands around the walls. The rest of Lefkosia is a sprawling mass of superstores and tower blocks, less interesting but busier than the old town.

## Information

Plateia Eleftherias has banks with foreign-exchange desks and ATMs.

**Cyprus Tourist Organisation** (CTO; ☎ 2267 4264; cytour.cto.org.cy; Aristokyprou, Laiki Yeitonia; ☎ 8.30am–4pm Mon–Fri, to 2pm Sat) Close to Plateia Eleftherias, with complimentary maps for the whole Republic. Free walking tours leave the office 10am Monday, Thursday and Friday.

**CYTA office** (cnr Mouseiou & Aigyptou; ☎ 7.30am–5.15pm, to 1.30pm Wed, to 1pm Sat) The main city call centre, near Pafos Gate.

**Emergency** (☎ 199) Police, fire and ambulance.

**General Hospital** (☎ 2280 1400; Nechrou)

**Main Post Office** (D'Avila Bastion, Konstantinou Palaiologou; ☎ 7.30am–1.30pm Mon–Fri, no afternoon service Wed, 8.30–10.30am Sat)

**Moufflon** (☎ 2266 5155; Sofouli 1) The best-stocked bookshop in town is just south of Plateia Solomou.

**Police station** (☎ 2267 1434; Lidras)

**PS Printways** (☎ 2266 1628; Rigainis 63B; per hr CY£1; ☎ 8am–midnight). The best of several internet cafés near Plateia Solomou.

## Sights & Activities

Located near the old Pafos Gate, the **Cyprus Museum** (☎ 2286 5864; Mouseiou 1; admission CY£1.50; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Sat, 10am–1pm Sun) houses an incredible collection of pots, statues and tomb offerings, including the famous Aphrodite statue from Soloi. Arrive here early to beat the crowds.

Most other attractions are inside the city walls. Just off Lidras St, the intriguing **Leventis Municipal Museum** (☎ 2266 1475; Ippokratous 17; admission free; 10am–4.30pm Tue–Sun) traces the history

### CITY WITH A PLAN

In an effort to bring north and south Cyprus closer together, more than eighty Ottoman, Frankish and Byzantine buildings in Lefkosia have been faithfully restored with funding from the UN and EU. The **Nicosia Masterplan** covers churches and mosques, *hammams* (Turkish baths) and tombs, mansions and monuments, museums and cultural centres – the aim is to promote understanding of the shared history between the two sides. Close to the Ledra Palace Hotel check point, the **Masterplan office** (☎ 2266 8864; h8am–6pm Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Sat & Sun) has full listings of the restored buildings in a handy, free guide.

**LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA)**

**INFORMATION**

1	Australian High Commission.....1 E3
	Bank of Cyprus.....2 D3
	Cyprus Tourist Organisation.....3 E2
	CYTA office.....4 C2
	French Embassy.....5 A4
	General Hospital.....6 C2
	Greek Embassy.....7 C3
	Holiday Inn (Foreign Exchange).....8 D2
	Israel Embassy.....9 B4
	Mourfion (Bookshop).....10 D3
	Nicosia Masterplan.....11 C1
	Payphones & Phonecard Kiosks.....12 D3
	Police Station.....13 D1
	Post Office.....14 D3
	PS Printways.....15 D2
	US Embassy.....16 A4

**SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES**

17	E2	Archbishop's Palace.....17 E2
		Archaeological Museum (see 38)
		Ozanne Museum.....18 C2
		Dragoman Hadjigeorgakis House.....19 E2
		Ethnographic Museum.....20 F2
		Famagusta Gate.....21 F2
		Hammam Omeriye.....22 E2
		Ledra Museum & Observatory.....23 D2
		Leventis Municipal Museum.....24 E3

**EATING**

25	E3	Mosque.....25 E3
		Omeriye Mosque.....26 E2
		Phaneromenis Church.....27 E2
		St. John's Cathedral.....28 F2
		Status of Archbishop Makarios.....(see 17)

**SLEEPING**

29	D3	Centrum Hotel.....29 D3
		Classic Hotel.....30 D2
		Delphi Hotel.....31 D2
		HI Hostel.....32 D4
		Tony's Bed & Breakfast.....33 E3

**DRINKING**

34	D2	Christakis.....34 D2
		Erodis.....35 E2
		Mattheos.....36 E2
		Municipal Market.....37 E2
		La Deilina.....38 E3
		Wednesday Market.....39 E3
		Zanettos Taverna.....40 E2
		Zoo.....41 E3

**ENTERTAINMENT**

42	C3	Lefkosia Municipal Theatre.....42 C3
		Pantheon Cinema.....43 D2
		Theatre Ena.....44 F2
		Weaving Mill.....45 E2
		Xena Palace.....46 D3

**TRANSPORT**

47	E4	Cyprus Airways.....47 E4
		Emran & Clarios Bus Stand to Agia Napa, Katopectra, Platia Troodos.....48 E3
		Intercity and Nicosia Bus Stand to Laraka, Lemesos.....49 D2
		Nea Amroza, Alepa & Solis Bus Stand to Pafos, Polis.....50 D2
		Pelotas Car Hire.....51 D2
		Travel & Express Service Taxis to Laraka, Lemesos, Pafos.....52 F3

of Lefkosia from prehistoric times. The nearby **Ledra Museum & Observatory** (☎ 2267 9369; Shacolas Tower, cnr Arsinos & Lidras St; admission CY€0.50; ☎ 9.30am-8pm), offers stupendous views over the city, including across the Green Line. Nearby, the appealing sandstone **Phaneromenis Church** (Faneromenis; admission free) is full of 17th century icons.

A little deeper in the old town on Plateia Tillirias are the recently restored **Omeriye Mosque** and the upmarket **Hammam Omeriye** (Turkish Baths; ☎ 2246 0570; sauna from CY€10; ☎ 11am-5pm Mon, 9am-9pm Tue-Sun, women only Wed, Fri & Sun). One block east of these, the imposing **Dragoman Hadjigeorgakis House** (☎ 2230 5316; Patriachou Grigoriou; admission CY€0.75; ☎ 8.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri) is fully decked out with original Ottoman furnishings.

There are three museums in the **Archbishop's Palace** compound on Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou. **St John's Cathedral** (admission free; ☎ 9am-1pm Mon-Sat, 2-4pm Mon-Fri) has stunning frescoes from 1662; the **Ethnographic Museum** (☎ 2243 2578; admission CY€1; ☎ 9am-2pm Mon-Fri) displays traditional Cypriot folk art; and the **Byzantine Museum** (☎ 2243 0008; admission CY€1; ☎ 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) has a superb collection of ancient icons and frescoes recast after 1974.

Lefkosia has many more art galleries and museums – contact the CTO or follow the brown signs.

## Sleeping

**HI Hostel** (☎ 9943 8360; Tefkrou 5; dm per person CY€5) About 1.5km from the city walls, just off Themistokli Dervi, this brightly painted hostel has a guest kitchen, fan-cooled dorms and resident cats.

**Delphi Hotel** (☎ 2266 5211; Kostaki Pantelidi 24; s/d CY€17/22; ☎) Close to Plateia Solomou bus stand, the Delphi has inviting, angular rooms that are better than you'd expect for the price. Some have balconies with views of the old town.

**Tony's Bed & Breakfast** (☎ 2266 6752; fax 2266 2225; Solonos 13; s/d CY€15/25; ☎) Expect no frills at this simple Turkish Cypriot-run guesthouse in Laiki Yeitonia. Rooms are microscopic, but all have air-con, fridges, kettles and TVs. Breakfast costs CY€3.

**Centrum Hotel** (☎ 2245 6444; www.centrumhotel.net; Pasikratou 15; s/d incl breakfast CY€38/48; ☎) What's this? A design hotel in Lefkosia? Close to Plateia Eleftherias, this stylish place is full

## AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Lefkosia has never been famous for charitable accommodation, but the **Classic Hotel** (☎ 2266 4006; www.classic.com.cy; Rigainis 94; s/d CY€40/50; ☎) is setting the record straight. Easily the best of the up-market hotels near Pafos Gate, this elegant place has moody interiors and cavernous rooms full of design furniture and striking faux leopard-skin trim, plus a sophisticated haute-cuisine restaurant.

of mood lighting and polished timber, while business facilities are excellent.

## Eating

**Mattheos** (☎ 2275 5846; Lefkonos; mains from CY€2.50; ☎ lunch Mon-Sat) The owner of Mattheos has been serving up tasty local meals like *kleftiko ofto* and *fasolia* (stewed haricot beans) since the 1950s.

**Zanettos Taverna** (☎ 2276 5501; Trikoupis 65; meze CY€7.50; ☎ from 7pm) Zanettos only serves one meal, but it does it excellently. The house meze is a veritable feast of *souvlakia*, *seftalias*, *haloumi*, *keftedes* (meatballs) and other Cypriot specialities.

**Erodis** (☎ 2275 2250; Patriachou Grigoriou 1; mains CY€3-7) On the square by the Omeriye Mosque, Erodis is part pub, part art fresco restaurant. The Cypriot food is convincingly done and beers are icy cold.

There are several workers' cafés that sell rustic village meals of *seftalias* and *souvlakia* for less than CY€3 – try **Christakis** (☎ 2266 8537; Plateia Solomou; ☎ Mon-Sat) by the bus stand or **Ta Deilina** (☎ 2275 8287; Thermopylon; ☎ dinner Mon-Sat) just off Xanthis Xenierou.

Half a dozen pavement restaurants in the alleys of Laiki Yeitonia serve Cypriot food to visitors on package tours from the coast. All are packed at lunch time, and empty at night.

Every Wednesday there's a fantastic fruit and veg market in the Constanza bastion. Alternatively, drop in on the **municipal market** (Plateia Dimarchias; ☎ Mon-Sat) in the old town.

## Drinking & Entertainment

There are several cinemas that show international films (the *Cyprus Mail* has full listings). **Zena Palace** (☎ 2267 4128; Theodorou 28) and **Pantheon Cinema** (☎ 2267 5787; Digorou 29) are conveniently

central. Art-house movies are shown at the bohemian **Weaving Mill** (☎ 2276 2275; www.ifantourgio.org.cy; Lefkonos 67-71) in the old town.

Classical theatre is showcased at the **Lefkosia Municipal Theatre** (☎ 2266 4028; Mousseiou), while **Theatre Ena** (☎ 2234 8203; Athinas 4) is the leading venue for off-beat productions. Contact the Cyprus Tourist Organisation (CTO) for information on performances.

Most of the nightclubs are in the new town – the ultra-modernist **Zoo** (☎ 2245 8811; cnr Afroditi & Stasinou) pulls in a young, hedonistic crowd at weekends. Lidras St is the hang-out of choice for enthusiastic migrant workers on nights off.

## Shopping

Laiki Yeitonia is full of touristy souvenir shops selling reproductions of archaic pottery, Lefkara lace and old maps of Cyprus.

## Getting There & Away

Buses leave from several stands around the old city walls, but there are no Sunday services.

From the main stand at Plateia Solomou, **Intercity** (Green Bus; ☎ 2464 3492; www.intercitybuses.com) runs to Larnaka (CY£3.50, one hour, seven daily), while **Alepa** (☎ 2266 4636) and **LLL Bus** (☎ 2266 5814) run to Lemesos (CY£3, one hour, four to nine daily). Alepa also has a bus from Tripolis Bastion to Pafos (CY£5.50, 2½ hours) at 2.45pm (12.45pm Wednesday and Saturday).

**Solis** (☎ 9943 1363) and **Lysos** (☎ 9941 4777) have daily minibuses from Tripolis Bastion to Polis (CY£8, 3½ hours), leaving around 11.30am. **Eman** (☎ 2372 1321; www.emantravel.com) goes from Constanza Bastion to Agia Napa (CY£3, 1½ hours) at 3pm.

For towns in the Troodos, **Clarios** (☎ 2275 3234; Constanza Bastion) has around 10 daily buses to Kakopetria (CY£2.50, one hour) – the 10:20am weekday and 11.30am Saturday services continue to Plateia Troodos (CY£3.50, 1½ hours), where you can pick up buses to Platres. There are also one or two daily services to Pedoulas (CY£2.50, 1½ hours).

From Tripolis Bastion, **Kambos** (☎ 9962 3604) has a daily bus to Kykkos Monastery (CY£3, two hours) at 11.30am, returning at 6am the next day.

Close to Podocataro Bastion, **Travel & Express** (☎ 7777 7474; www.travelexpress.com.cy; Salaminos) has half-hourly service taxis to Larnaka (CY£4, one hour) and Lemesos (CY£5.50, one hour), with connections to Pafos and Agia Napa.

## Getting Around

**Nicosia Buses** (☎ 2266 5814; www.nicosiabuses.com.cy) to the suburbs leave from Plateia Solomou.

Private taxis loiter around Plateia Eleftherias. For car hire, try **Petsas** (☎ 7777 1515; Kostaki Pantelidi 24; per day from CY£20) near Plateia Solomou.

## LARNAKA

pop 73,200

Calmer and friendlier than the other coastal resorts, Larnaka is famous as the final resting place of Agios Lazaros, who rose from the dead in the Bible. There's a busy waterfront strip with a modest beach and a quieter old town and Turkish quarter. The Republic's main airport is 5km south of town, near the salt lake.

The **CTO** (☎ 2465 4322; Plateia Vasileos Pavlou; ☎ 8.15am-2.30pm & 3-6.15pm Mon-Fri, 8.15am-1pm Sat, closed Wed afternoon) has the usual maps and brochures. Free walking tours of the city leave at 10am on Wednesday (from the CTO) and Friday (from Larnaka Castle).

The main post office and banks are on Zinonos Kiteios, near the CTO. You can check your mail at **Livadhotis Hotel** (☎ 2462 6222; Nikolaou Rossou 50; per hr CY£2) opposite the HI hostel.

## Sights & Activities

The old town is dominated by the stately Byzantine-era **Agios Lazaros Church** (Agiou Lazarou; ☎ 8am-12.30pm & 3.30-6.30pm), which contains fabulous icons and the tomb of the esteemed Lazaros. There's also a small **museum** (☎ 2465 2498; admission CY£0.50; ☎ 8.30am-1pm & 3-5.30pm, closed Wed afternoon) with ancient icons.

Down on the waterfront, **Larnaka Castle** (☎ 2430 4576; admission CY£0.75; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) has Crusader grave slabs, and displays on ancient architecture and ceramics.

Close to the tourist office, the excellent **Pierides Museum** (☎ 2481 4555; Zinonos Kiteios 4; admission CY£1; ☎ 9am-4pm Mon-Thu, to 1pm Fri & Sat), has an amazing collection of ceramics, maps and folk art amassed by the Pierides family. There are more antiquities in the town's **Archaeological Museum** (☎ 2430 4169; Kimonos; admission CY£75; ☎ 9am-2.30pm Mon-Wed & Fri, 3-5pm Thu, 10am-1pm Sat).

Islamic monuments include the **Büyük Mosque** (Büyük Cami) in old Larnaka and the **Hala Sultan Tekke** near the airport, containing the mausoleum of Hala Sultan, the foster-aunt of the prophet Mohammed.

About 30km west of Larnaka, the monastery of **Stavrovouni** (☎ 2253 3630; admission free; ☎ 6am-noon & 3-6pm) is perched atop a 688m but-tress with panoramic views over the island – unfortunately, only men can enter.

## Sleeping & Eating

**HI hostel** (☎ 2462 8811; Nikolaou Rossou 27; dm/r CY£5/10) Upstairs by the Bekir Pasa mosque, the hostel is old and creaky but OK for the money. Dorms are single-sex and family rooms sleep four.

**Harry's Inn** (☎ 2465 4453; harrysinn@cytanet.com.cy; Thermopylon 2; s/d CY£10/16) A wholesome place set back from the waterfront near the Pierides Museum, with the feel of a family home.

**Militzis Restaurant** (☎ 2465 5867; Piale Pasia 42; mains from CY£4) A Larnaka institution, Militzis offers fabulous *kleftiko ofto* fresh from the clay oven.

**Art Café 1900** (☎ 2465 3027; Stasinou 6; mains from CY£4; ☎ from 6pm Wed-Mon) Near the CTO, this classy place serves fine wines and even finer Cypriot food in an upstairs dining room full of old movie posters.

For a cheap bite, there are pavement restaurants along the waterfront and inexpensive kebab houses near Agios Lazaros.

## Getting There & Away

The bus stop is on the waterfront, opposite the old Four Lanterns Hotel. **Eman** (☎ 2372 1321) and **Intercity** (☎ 2462 3492) have regular daily buses to Agia Napa (CY£2, one hour), except on Sunday. Intercity also runs to Lefkosia (CY£3.50, one hour, seven daily) and Lemesos (CY£3, one hour, four daily); two services run on each route on Saturday.

**Travel & Express** (☎ 7777 7474; Papayriakou) operates service taxis every half-hour to Lemesos (CY£5, one hour) and Lefkosia (CY£4, one hour).

## TO/FROM AIRPORT

From the airport to central Larnaka, you have the choice of taxis (CY£5, 20 minutes) or local buses 22 and 24 (CY£0.50, 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday). Buses in the opposite direction stop on Ermou, near the junction with Vasilou Evagorou.

## AGIA NAPA (AYIA NAPA)

Two generations of runaway development have transformed the quiet monastery of Agia Napa into Cyprus' answer to the Costa del Sol.

Sunbathing, clubbing and binge-drinking are the main attractions – some love it, others are happy to leave it well alone.

As well as the busy beach, you can visit the town **monastery** and the new **Thalassa Museum** (☎ 2381 6366; Kriou Nerou 16; admission CY£1.50; ☎ 9am-2pm & 6-10pm Tue-Sun, 9am-2pm Mon), dedicated to the maritime history of Cyprus.

Approximately 4km along the coast, **Waterworld** (☎ 2372 4444; www.waterworldpark.com; adult/child CY£15/8; ☎ 10am-5pm) is a huge, Acropolis-themed water park. More water activities are possible on **Cape Greko**, the rocky isthmus southeast of Agia Napa.

The **CTO** (☎ 2372 1796; Kyrrou Nerou 12; ☎ 8.30am-2.30pm & 3-6pm Mon-Fri, closed Wed afternoon) has information on tours to North Cyprus and other touristy activities. You'll find more package-holiday resorts at **Protaras** on the other side of the cape.

## Sleeping & Eating

There are loads of holiday apartments for rent in the area.

**Eligionia Hotel Apartments** (☎ 2381 9292; Kyrrou Nero Ave 1; studio/1-bed apt CY£28/32; ☎ ☎ ☎) Neat apartments arranged around a greenery-fringed sun deck and pool.

**Leros Hotel** (☎ 2372 1126; leroshotel@hotmail.com; Archiepiskopou Makarios III 41; s/d CY£20/30; ☎ ☎) A big refurb has raised standards at this long-established beach hotel, but the new bar will probably make things noisier.

**Limelight Taverna** (☎ 2372 1650; Dionysiou Solomou 10; mains from CY£5; ☎ Mon-Sat) One of the few places in town serving real Cypriot food, including *souvlaki* and *seftalia*.

The town centre is packed with touristy *tavernas* serving mainly fish and chips, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

## Entertainment

As the clubbing capital of Cyprus, Agia Napa is packed with flamboyant bars and clubs. The **Castle Club** (☎ 2372 2286; www.thecastleclub.com; Grigoriou Afentiou) is top of the heap, but the **Bedrock Inn** (☎ 2372 3162; www.bedrockinn.com; lppocratous 2) is worth visiting just for the outrageous Flintstones-themed décor.

## Getting There & Around

From Monday to Saturday, **Eman** (☎ 2372 1321) and **Intercity** (☎ 2464 3492) have regular buses to Larnaka (CY£3, one hour), stopping south of the monastery on Archiepiskopou

Makarios III. Eman also has a single bus at 8am to Lefkosia (CY£4.50, 1½ hours) and regular shuttle buses to Protaras (CY£0.70, 20 minutes).

Service taxis between Paralimni and Larnaka pick up and drop off in Agia Napa – contact **Travel & Express** (☎ 7777 7474).

Dozens of places in town rent out mopeds, cars and jeeps.

## LEMESOS (LEMESOS, LIMASSOL)

pop 163,400

Part beach resort, part economic hub, Lemesos is the second largest town in Cyprus and the location of the main port. The town rose to prominence after Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre here in 1191, but most package tourists skip the historic town centre for the string of bland beach resorts running west along the coast.

### Orientation & Information

The main shopping street is Agiou Andreou, one street back from the waterfront near the old port. The new port, 2km west of the centre, is mainly used by freight and cruise ships.

The **CTO** (☎ 2536 2756; cnr Spyros Araouzou & Dimitriou Nikolaidi; ☎ 8.15am–2.30pm & 3–6.15pm Mon–Fri, to 1.30pm Sat, closed Wed afternoon) is on the waterfront, a few blocks east of the old harbour.

There are banks all over town and a post office on Archiepiskopou Kyprianos. In the tourist zone, Oktovriou 28 has plenty of internet cafés, and there are two terminals in **Travelers Tales** (☎ 2587 8340; Agiou Andreou 4; per hr CY£2) in the old town.

### Sights

With the closure of the Time Elevator, the main attraction in Lemesos is the solid-looking **Lemesos Castle Medieval Museum** (☎ 2530 5419; Eirinis; admission CY£1; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Sat, 10am–1pm Sun). Inside you can see Crusader gravestones and lots of Byzantine sgraffito pottery.

In the same area are the **Jami Kebir mosque** (Genethliou Mitella) and the restored **Turkish baths** (2 Loutron St; steam bath & massage from £5; ☎ 2–10pm). The district **Archaeological Museum** (☎ 2530 5157; admission CY£0.75, ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 10am–1pm Sat) is also worth a trip.

The villages around Lemesos are famous for arts and crafts, but all are very touristy and you'll need a hire car to explore. Probably the best known is the lace-making village of **Lefkara**, about 30km northeast of town.

The old coast road to Pafos is dotted with sites linked to Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. About 26km towards Pafos, **Petra tou Romiou** is the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite – it's a scenic spot with huge, white-marble boulders on a pebble beach with great skimming stones. Nearby **Pissouri Beach** is nicer and less developed than the main tourist beach at Lemesos, but you need your own vehicle to get there.

A few kilometres east, the Graeco-Roman site at **Kourion** (Curium; admission CY£1; ☎ 8am–5.45pm) has Roman baths, an *agora* (public forum) and a famous amphitheatre backed by the setting sun. Get here before 10am to beat the crowds.

Nearby are the partly restored remains of the **Sanctuary of Apollon Ylatis** (admission CY£0.75; ☎ 9am–6pm), sacred to a cult of Apollo worshippers in Graeco-Roman times. Closer to Lemesos is the robust keep of **Kolossi Castle** (admission CY£0.75; ☎ 9am–6pm), built in Crusader times.

### Sleeping

There are a few old-fashioned guesthouses in between the lace shops on Agiou Andreou.

**Luxor Guest House** (☎ 2536 2265; Agiou Andreou 101; s/d with shared bathroom CY£10/14) Blink and you'll miss the doorway to this quaint guesthouse on the main shopping street. Rooms have lumpy beds but the welcome is warm.

**Continental Hotel** (☎ 2536 2530; fax 2537 3030; Spyros Araouzou 115; s/d CY£15/24) Rates at this seafront hotel are excellent considering the views. Rooms are huge and rates include a decent breakfast.

**Kalymnos Beach Camping Site** (☎ 2563 2878; camp sites per person/tent or caravan CY£1.50/2) About 20km east at Governors Beach, this family-run place overlooks a series of pretty, black-sand coves.

### Eating & Drinking

**Rizitiko** (☎ 6534 8769; Izami 4; mains £3–7) The home-style village food is excellent at this intimate *taverna* near the mosque, though the family who run the place are rushed off their feet at times.

**Draught Microbrewery** (☎ 2582 0470; Vasilissis) The first microbrewery on the island, this boisterous nightspot serves a full range of lagers, ales and wheat beers.

There's a cluster of excellent open-air kebab restaurants on the square in front of the mu-

nicipal market on Saripolou. In the evenings, locals dine at the upmarket pavement restaurants around the castle.

There are dozens more bars and clubs along the tourist strip.

### Getting There & Around

Local and long-distance buses run from near the market on Georgiou Gennadiou, except on Sunday. From Monday to Friday, **Troodos Mountain Bus** (☎ 2555 2220) has a 9.30am service to Platres (CY£3, two hours) and Plateia Troodos (CY£3, 2½ hours). **Alepa** (☎ 9962 5027) and **LLL Bus** (☎ 2266 5814) have several daily buses to Lefkosia (CY£3, one hour) from the marketplace on Andrea Themistokleous. **Intercity** (☎ 2264 3492) runs from the old port roundabout to Larnaka (CY£3, one hour, two to four daily). Alepa has a bus to Pafos (CY£3, 1½ hours) from the seafront at 4pm (2pm Wednesday and Saturday).

Alternatively, **Travel & Express** (☎ 7777 7474; Thessalonikis) has regular service taxis to Pafos (CY£5, 1½ hours), Lefkosia (CY£5.50, 1½ hours) and Larnaka (CY£5, one hour).

Local bus 30 (flat fare CY£0.70) runs from the centre along the hotel strip. Buses to the ruins and beach at Kourion (CY£1.50, 30 minutes) leave from Lemesos castle. During the season, there's also a bus to Governors Beach (CY£2.50, 30 minutes, summer only) leaving from near the CTO.

You can hire cars and mopeds all along the tourist strip.

## TROODOS MASSIF (TROODOS)

The last great wilderness in the Republic, the Troodos Massif mountain range is a haven for walkers and nature buffs. Dotted among the black pines are small wine-making villages and Unesco World Heritage-listed Byzantine monasteries. The highest point is Mt Olympus (1952m), crowned by NATO radar beacons. The former colonial government had its summer headquarters in Plateia Troodos (Troodos Square) – most visitors these days stay in Platres, about 7km south.

### Information

Platres has banks, a post office and **CTO** (☎ 2542 1316; ☎ 8.30am–4pm Mon–Fri).

Just south of Plateia Troodos is the **Troodos Visitor Centre** (☎ 2542 0144; admission CY£0.50; ☎ 10am–3pm) with a nature museum, video show and information leaflets. For skiing in-

formation, contact the **Cyprus Ski Federation** (www.cyprusski.com).

### Sights & Activities

The most famous monastery in the Troodos is **Kykkos**, about 20km west of Pedoulas. The stone-walled compound is full of shimmering, contemporary mosaics and frescoes, and there's a distillery producing *komanitaria* (sweet wine) and *zivania* (grape-skin liquor). The **museum** (☎ 2294 2736; admission CY£1.50; ☎ 10am–4pm) is full of relic cases and other intriguing bits of religious paraphernalia. With advance notification, you may be able to stay in the **pilgrim's quarters** (☎ 2294 2435; donation requested). Archbishop Makarios III is buried in a guarded mausoleum, about 2km uphill.

Nearby Pedoulas has a small **icon museum** (admission by donation CY£1; ☎ 9.30am–1pm & 2–6pm) and the teeny stone **Church of Archangelos**, with hellfire-and-brimstone frescoes from 1474 – the key is at a nearby house (signposted). Near Kakopetria, **Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis** (admission by donation; ☎ 9am–4pm Tue–Sat, 11am–4pm Sun) has even older frescoes of stern-looking saints from the 12th century.

About 30km south of Pedoulas **Omodos** is a village of perfect stone houses, set around the **Timios Stavros Monastery** (admission by donation; ☎ 8am–4pm). Local women make lace, while local men prepare *komanitaria*. The **House of Socrates** (Linou; admission free; ☎ 9am–8pm) has a small, eccentric wine-making museum.

The mountains are criss-crossed by walking trails, and walkers can pick up walking-trail brochures from the Troodos Visitor Centre. One of the most popular walks is the 1km hike from Platres to pretty **Kaledonia Falls**.

### Sleeping & Eating PLATRES

Platres is the most popular place to stay and half a dozen *tavernas* offer inexpensive Cypriot grills and stews.

**Village Restaurant** (☎ 2542 1741; Makariou; half-board per person CY£10; meals CY£3–7) Just west of the main road through Platres, this friendly and popular place has tasty Cypriot food in big portions, plus a few simple rooms at the back.

**Petit Palais** (☎ 2542 2723; www.petitpalaishotel.com; Faneromenis; s/d CY£17/28) Done up like a Swiss chalet, Petit Palais attracts hikers in the summer and skiers in the winter. Rooms are compact but neat; the ones at the back look out over the forest.

## PLATEIA TROODOS

Plateia Troodos is being redeveloped and there are several simple restaurants on the main road offering anglicised Cypriot meals.

**Troodos camping ground** (☎ 2542 0205; camp sites per tent/caravan CY£2/2.50; 📅 May-Oct) Below town on the Lefkosia road, the camping ground has plenty of pines for shade and a small café.

**Jubilee Hotel** (☎ 2542 0107; www.jubileehotel.com; s/d CY£19/30; 📅) This is a comfortable place in a long, tin-roofed building on the road to Kykos. Some rooms have forest views and you can hire mountain bikes for CY£10 per day.

## PEDOULAS

This is a quieter alternative to Platres, with lots of historic treasures.

**Mountain Rose** (☎ 2295 2727; s/d CY£20/35) On the main road through Pedoulas, this big, wood-filled hotel has a chalet feel and the best *taverna* in town.

## Getting There & Around

Villages in the Troodos are widely spaced so a rental car is the best way to get around. From Monday to Friday, **Troodos Mountain Bus** (☎ 2555 2220) has a daily bus from Plateia Troodos to Lemesos (CY£3, 1½ hours) via Platres (CY£1, 20 minutes). See p184 for information on buses from the capital.

Rural taxis in Platres can ferry you around the monasteries. A taxi from Lemesos to Platres will cost around CY£25.

## PAFOS

pop 48,300

The former capital of Cyprus, Pafos is packed with historical relics...and tourists. If you find the beach strip at Kato Pafos too developed, head up to quieter Ano Pafos on the hillside. More beach resorts are strung out west along the coast towards Agios Georgios. To escape the crowds, rent a car and head for the wonderfully untouched **Akamas Peninsula**.

The **CTO** (☎ 2693 2841; Gladstonos 3; 📅 8.15am-2.30pm & 3-6.15pm Mon-Fri, 8.15am-1.30pm Sat, closed Wed afternoon) is just down from Ano Pafos' main square. There's a second office on Poseidonos in Kato Pafos.

There are banks and post offices in Ano Pafos and along the tourist strip. The most convenient internet café is **Maroushia Internet** (☎ 2694 7240; Plateia Kennedy 6; per hr CY£2; 📅 9am-11pm Mon-Sat, 3pm-10pm Sun) in Ano Pafos.

## Sights

It's worth braving the crowds to see **Pafos Archaeological Site** (☎ 2694 0217; admission CY£1.50; 📅 8am-5pm), with its astounding Roman mosaics, many featuring the rambunctious exploits of Dionysos, the god of wine. Within the same compound are the ruins of a castle and amphitheatre. There's another castle on the harbour and more Roman ruins in the grounds of the **Chrysopolitissa church** (Agias Kriakis; 📅 dawn-dusk).

There's more intriguing history uphill in Ano Pafos at the **Byzantine Museum** (☎ 2693 1393; admission CY£1; 📅 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) and the **Ethnographic Museum** (☎ 2693 2010; admission CY£1.50; 📅 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 1pm Sun).

For a quieter historical experience, visit the **Tombs of the Kings** (☎ 2694 0295; admission CY£0.75; 📅 7.30am-8pm), from the 3rd century BC, about 2km north of Kato Pafos. Hewn by hand from yellow sandstone, the tombs still exude a sense of mystery and power.

There's also a touristy **aquarium** (☎ 2695 3920; Artemidos 1; admission CY£3.50; 📅 9am-7pm) in Kato Pafos, and the **Pafos Bird & Animal Park** (☎ 2681 3852; www.pafosbirdpark.com; admission CY£9; 📅 9am-5pm) in Agios Georgios.

## Sleeping

Ano Pafos has the best hotels for walk-ins.

**Trianon Hotel** (☎ 2693 2193; Archiepiskopou Makariou III 99; s/d with shared bathroom CY£6/12) A simple place on the main shopping street, the Trianon is family run and friendly, but the shared bathroom is off the kitchen and the toilet is off the lounge.

**Axiothea Hotel** (☎ 2693 2866, axiothea\_hotel@hotmail.com; Eves Malloti 2; s/d CY£23/32; 📅) Run by the charismatic Andreas, this genial small hotel is just above the park in Ano Pafos. Rooms have optional air-con (CY£3), balconies and cracking ocean views.

For more romance, try the boutique **Kiniras Hotel** (☎ 2624 1604; www.kiniras.cy.net; Archiepiskopou Makariou III 91; s/d CY£41/66; 📅) or the outrageously themed **Roman Hotel** (☎ 2695 5411; www.romanhotel.com.cy; Tombs of the Kings Rd; d from CY£28; 📅) in Kato Pafos.

## Eating & Drinking

**Argo** (☎ 2693 3327; Pafias Afroditis 21; mains CY£5-9) Set back from the tourist strip, Argo is widely regarded as the best Cypriot restaurant in Kato Pafos. The *mousakka* (layered mince and aubergines with béchamel sauce) and *kleftiko* go down a treat.

**Nikos Tyrimos Fish Tavern** (☎ 2694 2846; Agapinoros 71; fish dishes CY£5-10) About 500m inland from the tourist strip, Tyrimos serves the best fish dishes in town, cooked the way locals like it.

The old harbour in Kato Pafos is a strip of touristy waterfront tavernas offering identical Cypriot and British menus – the food is fine but the crowds are overpowering.

While it isn't quite as bacchanalian as Agia Napa, Kato Pafos has its own noisy bar and club scene, centred on Agiou Antoniou. Happy hours abound...

## Getting There & Around

Most buses leave from the Karavella bus stand near the market. From Monday to Saturday, **Alepa** (☎ 2693 1755) runs one morning bus to Lefkosia (CY£5.50, 2½ hours) via Lemesos (CY£3, 1½ hours) at 8am (7.30am on Wednesday and Saturday). Alepa also has buses every few minutes to Kato Pafos (CY£0.70, 15 minutes). **Nea Amoroza Co** (☎ 2693 6822) runs hourly buses to Polis (CY£2.30, 45 minutes).

For Lemesos, you are probably better off taking a **Travel & Express** (☎ 7777 7474; Evagora Pallikaridi) service taxi (CY£5.50, 40 minutes, half-hourly). A private taxi to the airport will cost around CY£15.

Dozens of rental places in Kato Pafos rent out bikes (CY£3 per day), mopeds (CY£4) and cars (CY£15).

## POLIS

pop 1800

Built over the ruins of ancient Marion, Polis is the Mediterranean everyone remembers – orange groves above a pretty beach and small *tavernas* clustered around the village square. Pedestrianised Griva Digeni is the main street and the beach is a 15-minute walk downhill along Verginas.

The **CTO** (☎ 2632 2468; Vasileos Stasioikou 2; 📅 9am-1.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) is on the road to Prodroimi. There are several banks and a post office around Griva Digeni.

## Sights

As well as the beach, there are some interesting old churches and a small **museum** (☎ 2632 2955; Makariou III 91; admission CY£0.75; 📅 8am-2pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) with treasures excavated from Marion.

About 5km west along the coast are the **Baths of Aphrodite**, natural springs where the goddess is said to have bathed to restore her virginity. You can't try this out for yourself,

but the baths are a great starting point for hikes into the **Akamas Peninsula**. This stunning natural wilderness is protected as a national park and the hills are criss-crossed by dirt tracks and walking trails – pick up the CTO's *European Long Distance Path* brochure. The **Avakas Gorge** on the west side of the cape is a particularly rewarding hike.

There are also some wild, isolated beaches – gorgeous **Lara Beach** has a turtle-research station operating from June to September, accessible by car from Agios Georgios.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Polis camping ground** (☎ 2681 5080; camp sites per person/tent CY£1.50/2) Hidden in a grove of eucalyptus trees down on the beach, this has a beach café for day-trippers.

**Bougainvillea Hotel Apartments** (☎ 2681 2250; Verginas 13; apt from CY£25; 📅) On the beach road, Bougainvillea offers quiet and roomy split-level apartments beside a decent-sized pool.

**C&A Tourist Apartments** (☎ 2632 1881; Great Alexander St; apt from CY£36; 📅) Welcoming and disabled-friendly, C&A has spick-and-span apartments arranged around a pool. Transport can be organised for wheelchair users.

For meals, there are half a dozen *tavernas* clustered together on the main square, serving Cypriot standards like *haloumi* pittas and *keftedes*. **Savvas** (☎ 2632 1081; Griva Digeni) is usually busiest.

## Getting There & Around

Hourly **Nea Amoroza** (☎ 2632 1114; Kyproleontos) buses to Pafos (CY£2.30, 45 minutes, Monday to Saturday) leave from near the CTO. There are also three buses every weekday to the Baths of Aphrodite (CY£1, 20 minutes).

You can hire mountain bikes, motorcycles and cars from **Petrides Motors** (☎ 2632 1541; Georgiou Stylianou; bike/motorcycle/car per day from CY£2.50/5/15).

# NORTH CYPRUS

Growing numbers of tourists are exploring the refreshingly undeveloped Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), but the state is recognised only by mainland Turkey. Historic ruins abound, beaches are breathtaking and locals are friendly, but the legacy of 1974 casts a long shadow in the form of looted churches and neglected national treasures.

## LEFKOŞA (NICOSIA)

pop 46,600

The northern half of Lefkosia is lost in time. Life moves at a snail's pace and the dusty streets are lined with ancient mosques and Frankish ruins. With the relaxing of border restrictions, many people take a day trip across from the Republic (and vice versa) via the Ledra Palace checkpoint, but there are few tourist facilities – just a handful of small hotels and kebab houses.

## Orientation &amp; Information

The well-preserved Kyrenia Gate on the north side of the city wall contains the **Tourist Office** (☎ 227 2994; ☹ 9am–4pm Mon–Fri, to 1pm Sat & Sun), with free maps and brochures. From here, Girne Caddesi runs south to Atatürk Meydanı (the main square) and the historic Selimiye Mosque. **Rustum Bookshop** (☎ 228 3506; Girne Caddesi 22) sells more detailed city maps.

For foreign exchange, try the banks on Girne Caddesi or **Denizati Döviz** (☎ 228 2623; Girne Caddesi 17; 8am–5pm Mon–Fri, to 1pm Sat) by the Saray Hotel.

There's a **post office** (☹ 8am–12.30pm & 1.30–5pm Mon–Fri) on Sarayönü Sokak and **Orbit Internet Café** (☎ 229 1787; Girne Caddesi; per hr TL2.5; ☹ 24hr) has reasonably fast connections.

Dial ☎ 155 for the police or ☎ 112 for an ambulance.

## Sights &amp; Activities

Just inside the walls, the **Mevlevi Museum** (☎ 227 1283; Girne Caddesi; admission TL4.5; ☹ 9am–1pm

& 2–4.45pm Mon–Fri) is dedicated to the whirling Sufi dervishes (Muslim mystics), who were based here until the 1950s. Traditional *sema* (devotional dances) take place during the Shebu Arus celebrations in December.

The Selimiye quarter is dominated by the **Selimiye Mosque** (San Sophia Mosque, Agios Nikolaos Cathedral; Selimiye Sokak), built as a cathedral between 1209 and 1326. A major restoration project is underway at the nearby **Bedesten**, another grand Frankish church formerly used as an Ottoman bazaar.

A few blocks west, **Büyük Han** (Arasta Sokak; ☹ Mon–Sat) is an old Ottoman inn that now contains a crafts market. Nearby is the **Büyük Hammam** (İrfan Bey Sokak; ☎ 228 4462; steam-bath treatments TL10–30; ☹ 7am–10.30pm), probably the most authentic Turkish steam bath in the country.

Many more ancient monuments are being restored by the UN – pick up a copy of the *Nicosia Trail* brochure from the tourist office or visit the Nicosia Masterplan headquarters at the Ledra Palace Hotel.

## Sleeping &amp; Eating

Accommodation in Lefkoşa is limited and the few budget options are not recommended for lone female travellers.

**Seslikaya Otel** (☎ 227 4193; Cumhuriyet Sokak; s/d TL30/35) Dust hardly dares to settle at this bright and clean *pansiyon* near the main square. Rooms have fans, cartoon bedspreads and tiny TVs.

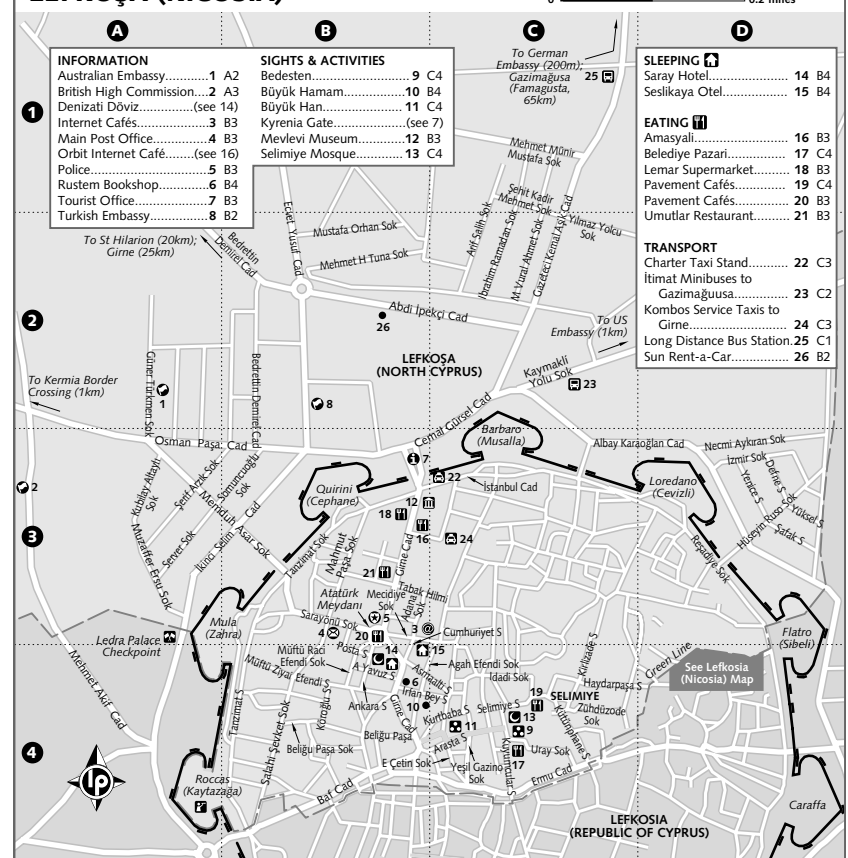
**Saray Hotel** (☎ 228 3115; fax 228 4808; Atatürk Meydanı; s/d with air-con TL90/150; ♿) It's worth upgrading to this tasteful, upmarket hotel right in the centre. There's a basement casino, and rooms have tiny balconies and luscious deep-pile carpets.

Foodwise, you pretty much have a choice of kebabs or kebabs. Girne Caddesi has several reputable *salonu* (snack restaurants) serving shish and *kofte* kebabs and *haloumi* pittas for TL4 or less – try **Amasyali** (☎ 228 3294; Girne Caddesi 186; ☹ Mon–Sat) or the superior **Umutlar Restaurant** (☎ 227 3236; Girne Caddesi 51; ☹ 24hrs).

Alternatively, there are pavement cafés on Atatürk Meydanı and more around the Selimiye Mosque.

Self-caterers should head to the **Lemar Supermarket** (Girne Caddesi) or the Belediye Pazarı covered market, just south of the Selimiye Mosque; both are closed on Sunday.

## LEFKOŞA (NICOSIA)



## Getting There &amp; Away

The long-distance bus station is a 15-minute walk from the walls along Gazeteci Kemal Aşık Caddesi. **Girneliler Seyahat** (☎ 228 1018) has very regular minibuses to Girne (TL2.5, 30 minutes), while **Akva/Ulusoy** (☎ 227 2524) goes frequently to Güzelyurt (TL3.5, 45 minutes). **İtimat** (☎ 227 1617) minibuses to Gazimağusa (TL4, one hour) leave half-hourly from Kaymaklı Yolu Sokak, just east of Kyrenia Gate.

**Kombos** (☎ 227 2929) service taxis to Girne (TL3, 30 minutes) run from Mevlevi Tekke Sokak in the old city. Taxis also loiter around the Ledra Palace checkpoint, offering day tours to Girne (TL60) and Gazimağusa (TL150). A private taxi to Ercan airport will cost TL30 (40 minutes).

For car hire, your best bet is **Sun Rent-a-Car** (☎ 227 2303; www.sunrentacar.com; Abdi İpekçi Ave 10; per day from UK£20).

## GİRNE (KYRENIA)

pop 19,300

This is the Mediterranean like it used to be – a picturesque stone harbour, ending abruptly at a looming Byzantine castle. The old part of Girne is delightful, but in the surrounding hills, hundreds of British expats are living the dream of owning a holiday villa in a housing estate overlooking a building site. Visit now before the whole area vanishes under a sea of holiday homes.

Most things in Girne are sandwiched between the harbour and Ramadan Cemil

## CROSSING THE LINE

Border restrictions were relaxed in 2005, allowing overnight trips across the Green Line. In theory, foreign tourists are permitted to cross from south to north (or vice versa) and stay for up to three months, but it is not currently possible to enter Cyprus on one side and leave from the other. The only pedestrian crossing is at the Ledra Palace Hotel in Lefkosia. Cars can cross at Agios Dometios/Kermia (near Lefkosia), Vrysoulles (near Agia Napa) and Astrometiris/Zohdia (near Güzelyurt). Temporary car insurance is available at the border, but hire cars can only be taken from south to north, not the other way round. The situation is volatile, so check locally before attempting to cross.



Meydani, the main roundabout. The **tourist office** (☎ 815 2145; ☎ 9am-5pm) is by the water at the west end of the harbour.

There are banks and foreign-exchange offices on Ziya Rifki Caddesi and the post office is on Mustafa Çaçatay Caddesi. For internet access, try **Café Net** (☎ 815 9259; Efeler Sokak; per hr TL1.5; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat) between Ramadan Cemil Meydani and the waterfront.

### Sights & Activities

Dominating the harbour is Girne's main attraction, the **Kyrenia Castle & Shipwreck Museum** (Girne Kalesi; ☎ 815 2142; admission TL9; ☎ 9am-4pm), an impressively preserved castle with spooky dungeons and the remains of Cyprus' oldest shipwreck – thought to have sunk in a storm around 3000 BC. Just uphill is Girne's main mosque, the **Aga Cafer Paşa Cami**. The tourist office has details of other museums in town.

A TL10 taxi ride from Girne gets you to the late-Byzantine abbey ruins at **Bellapais** (admission TL6; ☎ 9am-6pm), the setting for Lawrence Durrell's *Bitter Lemons*. Minibuses run from the main roundabout to the pretty hill village of **Lapta**, a popular retirement spot for British expats.

Draped along the highest, rockiest ridge above Kyrenia, **St Hilarion Castle** (admission TL6; ☎ 9am-6pm) is an archetypal Crusader castle. Views are stupendous, but it sits in the middle of an army base, so the only way in is by hire car or taxi (TL25 return from Girne). On a 4WD track off the Girne–Gazimağusa road, the remote Crusader castle of **Bufavento** offers more breathtaking views.

Various **adventure activities** are possible at the harbour, including diving, paragliding and boating – half-day boat trips cost UK£20 per person, including a barbecue lunch.

### Sleeping & Eating

**Bingöl Guest House** (☎ 815 2749; Efeler Sokak; r from TL25) Just down from the main roundabout, the tiny workers' hostel is grungy but cheap – the tiny rooms have fans and bathrooms.

**Bristol Hotel** (☎ 815 6570; www.cypushotelbristol.com; Ziya Rifki Caddesi; s/d TL50/70; ☎) A cosy, chintzy place on the main shopping street, the Bristol has rooms that are bright and cheerful with fluffy carpets, fridges and pink TVs.

**White Pearl Hotel** (☎ 815 4677; fax 815 6010; Girne Harbour; s/d with air-con TL75/100; ☎) A take-over and refurb has raised prices and standards at

this popular harbour-front hotel. Rooms have cracking views and there's a rooftop terrace.

For a romantic dinner, whisk your date into the alleys behind the harbour. **Set Restaurant Italiano** (☎ 815 6008; Aga Cafer Sokak; mains from TL20) serves authentic Italian food in a Romanesque stone courtyard, while **Brasserie** (☎ 815 9481; Efeler Sokak; mains from TL22; ☎ dinner only) offers French-inspired delicacies in a Venetian-style villa.

The waterfront has dozens of expensive tourist restaurants serving kebabs and Anatolian interpretations of a Greek meze. There's a cluster of cheaper kebab houses just west of Ramadan Cemil Meydani.

### Getting There & Away

Buses and service taxis stop near the main roundabout. **Girneliler Seyahat** (☎ 866 1068) has regular minibuses to Lefkoşa (TL2.5, 30 minutes). Hourly **Virgo Trans/Göçmen** (☎ 815 7287) minibuses to Gazimağusa (TL5, one hour) leave from an office on the south side of Ramadan Cemil Meydani.

**Kombos** (☎ 815 1872; Ramadan Cemil Meydani) has service taxis to Lefkoşa (TL3, 30 minutes) and Gazimağusa (TL6, one hour).

The ferry terminal is a TL6 taxi ride from town – see p197 for boats to Turkey.

Dozens of rental firms on Ziya Rifki Caddesi rent out bikes (UK£5 per day), mopeds (UK£12) and cars (UK£20). A taxi to Ercan airport costs TL50.

## GAZIMAĞUSA (FAMAGUSTA, AMMACHOUSTOS)

pop 36,400

Despite burgeoning villa developments along the coast, Gazimağusa still feels medieval. Bound by mighty Venetian walls, the city was one of the last places to fall in the Ottoman invasion and little has changed here in centuries. The old town is dotted with Frankish and Venetian ruins and ferries run to Mersin in mainland Turkey.

### Orientation & Information

There are three entrances through the city walls, two by the waterfront and one near the main roundabout. From the inland gate, İstiklal Caddesi runs down to Kemal Meydani (the main square), lined with shops, banks and foreign-exchange offices. The **tourist office** (☎ 366 2864; ☎ 7.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat & Sun) is housed in the Akkule Bastion at the south end of İstiklal Caddesi.

### Sights

Gazimağusa is awash with Frankish ruins, and several medieval churches have been converted into mosques, including the famous **Lala Mustafa Paşa** (St Nicholas Cathedral; Kemal Meydani; admission TL2; ☎ 10am-7pm) where the Frankish kings were crowned – it's probably the finest example of Gothic architecture in Cyprus.

Right on the city walls is **Othello's Tower** (admission TL6; ☎ 10am-5pm), where the Venetian governor Cristoforo Moro is said to have killed his wife Desdemona in a fit of jealous rage. The incident inspired Shakespeare's *Othello*, but the bard mistakenly assumed that Cristoforo was a *moor* (black Arab), adding an unexpected racial twist to the tale.

About 9km north of Gazimağusa are the impressive but poorly maintained Graeco-Roman ruins of **Salamis** (admission TL6; ☎ 8am-6pm). You can see mosaics, columns and a huge amphitheatre, and there's a gorgeous sandy beach with interesting snorkelling. A return taxi from Gazimağusa will cost TL25.

Across the highway is the intriguing **Salamis Necropolis** (admission TL4.5; ☎ 8am-5pm), famous for its horse-chariot burials. Nearby, the **Monastery of St Barnabas** (admission TL4.5; ☎ 8am-6pm) has been opened as an 'icon museum', but most of the valuable treasures from the area vanished after 1974.

### Sleeping & Eating

The camping ground near the ruins at Salamis is intermittently open to tourists – check with the tourist office.

**Altun Tabya Hotel** (☎ 366 2585; cnr Altun Tabya & Kizilkule Sokak; d with fan TL40, with air-con TL50; ☎) Tucked inside the city walls, this family-owned place has a collection of simple, spotless rooms. To get here, turn right after you pass through the inland gate.

**Golden Set Pansiyon** (☎ 0533 879 9052; Yeşil Deniz Sokak; s/d with air-con TL30/60; ☎) Overlooking Othello's Tower, this old arched house has chintzy but comfortable rooms with cooking facilities. The owners are friendly but they don't speak much English.

**Palm Beach Hotel** (☎ 366 2000; www.bilferhotel.com; Deve Limani Sokak; s/d with air-con €100/140; ☎) In a surreal area of ruined Greek hotels right on the Green Line, the Palm Beach lords it over a strip of golden sand. Rooms are extremely inviting and there's a pool.

**Petek** (☎ 366 7104; Yeşil Deniz Sokak 1; snacks & sweets from TL5) An Aladdin's Cave of a cake shop, sell-

ing sweet and savoury pastries, cakes, Turkish delight, and strong, sweet Turkish coffee.

Half a dozen pavement restaurants on the main square serve pizzas, burgers and other Anglo-American meals. For home-style kebabs and *haloumi* pittas, there are several *salonus* on Liman Yolu, just north of the mosque.

### Getting There & Away

**İtimat** (☎ 366 6666) minibuses to Lefkoşa (€1.30, one hour) leave every half-hour from the main roundabout. **Virgo Trans/Göçmen** (☎ 366 4313) minibuses to Girne (TL5, one hour) leave hourly from Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvarı.

**Kombos** (☎ 365 2623) share taxis to Girne (TL6, one hour) leave from Eşref Bitlis Caddesi, about 500m northwest of the city walls.

The ferry terminal is about 500m southeast of the centre – see p197 for information on ferries to Turkey. **KT Denizcilik** (☎ 366 5786) has an office on Bülent Ecevit Bulvarı.

## KARPAS PENINSULA

For a taste of what Cyprus was like before partition, hire a car and head to the remote Karpas Peninsula. This wild area has barely been touched by tourism, but the tiny **tourist office** (☎ 374 4984; ☎ 9am-5pm) in the post office in Yeni Erenköy can point you towards archaic tombs and basilicas.

At the west end of the Karpas, reached via a winding, bumpy road, the swooningly romantic Crusader-era castle of **Kantara** (admission TL4.5; ☎ 9am-5pm) hovers above the Mesaoria plain.

Over on the south coast, **Altinkum beach** (aka Golden Beach or Turtle Beach) is a sea of golden dunes with hardly a human footprint on the sand. Turtles nest here from June to August. A handful of simple cafés rent out wooden cabins – best is **Hasan's Turtle Beach** (☎ 533 864 1063; per person TL25). On the north coast, there's another nice beach and a ruined Roman/Byzantine basilica at **Ayios Filon**, and more ruined basilicas and beaches at **Aphendrika**.

Ayios Filon has the friendly **Oasis** (☎ 533 840 5082; www.oasishotelkarpas.com; d with breakfast from UK£22), a homely restaurant and guesthouse, right on the water beside the basilica.

The enclaved Greek Cypriot population was able to protect some of the churches and monasteries, and you can see ancient icons in the slightly forlorn-looking monastery of **Apostolos Andreas** at the tip of the peninsula.

## GÜZELYURT (MORFOU)

A backwater, even by Cyprus standards, Güzeyurt is a faded, citrus-producing town, close to a rugged, rocky coast. Few tourists come here, but the **Museum of Archaeology & Nature** (☎ 714 2202; Ecevit Caddesi; admission TL6; ☎ 8am-4.30pm) has the only collection of any size in the North. Nearby, lovely **Ayios Mamas Church** (Ecevit Caddesi) has been preserved in its original condition, largely through the efforts of the exiled Bishop of Morfou. The restored amphitheatre at **Soli** (admission TL4.5; ☎ 9am-6pm) is accessible by chartered taxi.

There's nowhere to stay, but Güzeyurt is an easy day trip from Lefkoşa by bus (TL3.5, 45 minutes) or service taxi (TL5, one hour).

# CYPRUS DIRECTORY

## ACCOMMODATION

Single/double rooms in hotels or guesthouses start at CY£5/10 in the Republic and TL30/50 in the north. There are **Hostelling International (HI)** affiliated hostels in Lefkosia and Larnaka, but none in North Cyprus. Monasteries in the Republic sometimes accept overnight guests for a donation.

The Republic has six licensed camping grounds, including good sites at Polis, Plateia Troodos and Governor's Beach (near Lemesos) – expect to pay CY£3.50 to CY£6 for two people and a tent. The four official camping grounds in the north are often closed, but wild camping is popular in the Karpas.

## ACTIVITIES

All the seaside resorts offer water sports like banana-boat rides, scuba dives, boat trips and paragliding. The Akamas peninsula and Troodos Massif in the Republic and the Karpas Peninsula and Kyrenia Mountains in North Cyprus offer fantastic hiking and mountain biking. The European Long Distance path from Pafos to Larnaka connects with similar trails across Europe – pick up the *European Long Distance Path* brochure from a CTO office or the visitor centre in Plateia Troodos.

See p197 for information on mountain biking in Cyprus.

## BOOKS

To understand the glory that was undivided Cyprus, read Colin Thubron's *Journey into Cyprus* or Lawrence Durrell's *Bitter Lemons*,

set around Bellapais. Brendan O'Malley and Ian Craig's *The Cyprus Conspiracy* explores American collusion in the partition of Cyprus. Reconciliation and understanding is explored in *Echoes from the Dead Zone*, by Yiannis Papadakis, describing the author's first journey across the divide.

## BUSINESS HOURS

Banks are generally open from 8.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday, plus 3.15pm to 4.45pm Monday afternoon in the Republic. Government offices are open from 7.30am to 2.30pm on weekdays and 3pm to 6pm Thursday afternoon (or Monday afternoon in North Cyprus). Shops close early on Wednesday and Saturday, and many places close at lunch time in summer. Almost all restaurants are open for lunch and dinner daily, but smaller places close on Sunday.

## CHILDREN

Most attractions in Cyprus offer discounts for children, and hotels can arrange extra beds in rooms for a small additional charge. The coastal resorts have the most for children – Agia Napa and Pafos are packed with family-friendly attractions and activities.

## CUSTOMS

The Republic joined the EU in 2004, so duty free allowances no longer apply. In North Cyprus you can bring in 500g of tobacco or 400 cigarettes, plus 1L of spirits or wine and 100mL of perfume duty free.

## ELECTRICITY

The electricity supply in Cyprus is 240V at 50Hz. Most places use mainly British three-pin plugs.

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

The Republic of Cyprus is represented worldwide, while North Cyprus has just a few overseas offices. Take a look at p196 for visa information.

## Cypriot Embassies & Consulates

Diplomatic offices for the Republic of Cyprus include the following:

**Australia** (☎ 61-2-6281 0832; 30 Beale Crescent, Deakin, ACT 2600)

**France** (☎ 33-1 4720 8628; 23 Rue Galilée, 75116 Paris)

**Germany** (☎ 49-30 308 6830; Wallstrasse 27, D-10179 Berlin)

**Greece** (☎ 30-21 0723 2727; Irodotou 16, 10675 Athens)

**Italy** (☎ 39 06-808 8365; 15, Via Francesco Denza, 00197 Rome)

**Netherlands** (☎ 31-70 346 6499; 15 Surinamestraat, 2585 GG Den Haag)

**Spain** (☎ 34-91 578 3114; Castanella 45, 28046 Madrid)

**UK** (☎ 44-20 7499 8272; 93 Park St, London W1K 7ET)

**USA** (☎ 1-202 462 5772; 2211 R St NW, Washington DC 20008-4082)

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has the following offices (in other countries, contact Turkish embassies for information):

**Belgium** (☎ 32-26 484 870; 284-6 Ave Louise, BTE-10, 1050 Brussels)

**Turkey** (☎ 90 312-446 2920; Rabat Sokak 20, Gaziosmanpaşa, 06700 Ankara)

**UK** (☎ 44-20 7631 1930; 29 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3EG)

**USA** (☎ 1-212 687 2350; 6th fl, 821 UN Plaza, New York, NY-10017)

## Embassies & Consulates in Cyprus

Countries with diplomatic representation in Lefkosia in the Republic of Cyprus include the following:

**Australia** (☎ 2275 3001/3; Stasinou & Annis Komninis 4, 2nd fl)

**France** (☎ 2258 5300; Saktouri 14-16, Agiou Omologites)

**Germany** (☎ 2245 1145; Nikitara 10)

**Greece** (☎ 2244 5111; Vyronos 8-10)

**Italy** (☎ 2235 7635; 25th Martiou 11, Egkomi)

**Spain** (☎ 2245 0410; Strovoulou 32, Strovolos)

**UK** (☎ 2286 1100; Alexandrou Palli)

**USA** (☎ 2239 3939; Gonia Metochiou & Ploutarchou, Egkomi)

Countries with diplomatic representation in Lefkoşa in North Cyprus include the following listings:

**Australia** (☎ 227 7332; Güner Türkmen Sokak 20)

**Germany** (☎ 227 5161; 28 Kasım Sokak 15)

**Turkey** (☎ 227 2314; Bedreddin Demirel Caddesi)

**UK** (☎ 227 4938; Mehmet Akif Caddesi 23)

**USA** (☎ 227 8295; Saran Sokak 6, K. Kaymaklı)

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The Republic celebrates numerous festivals, and Christian feast days are celebrated with aplomb. The useful *List of Events* brochure is available from Cyprus Tourist Organisation offices and is well worth picking up. Events held every year in the Republic include the following:

**Epiphany** (6 January) Priests bless houses with holy water, and a sacred cross is thrown into the sea by the Archbishop and retrieved by local youths.

**Apokreo** (2nd week of February) Two weeks of pre-Lent feasting all over Cyprus and a big carnival in Lemesos.

**Easter** (March/April) Huge Holy Week celebrations with special meals, religious processions and bonfires for the symbolic burning of Judas.

**Kataklysmos** (50 days after Easter) Coastal towns commemorate the Biblical flood by throwing water around, feasting and singing improvised songs.

**Ancient Greek Drama Festival** (July/August) Open-air performances of Greek dramas at Kourion and other amphitheatres.

The main celebrations in North Cyprus are linked to Muslim holidays.

## HOLIDAYS

Holidays in the Republic are the same as those in Greece (p411), with the addition of **Greek Cypriot Day** (1 April) and **Cyprus Independence Day** (1 October).

North Cyprus has a three-day holiday to celebrate the end of Ramazan, starting on 13 October in 2007, 2 October in 2008 and 21 September 2009. There is also a four-day holiday for the Muslim festival of Kurban, starting on 20 December in 2007, 8 December in 2008 and 27 November in 2009. Annual holidays include the following:

**National Sovereignty/Children's Day** 23 April

**Labour Day** 1 May

**Youth & Sport Day** 19 May

**Peace & Freedom Day** 20 July

**TMT Day** 1 August

**Victory Day** 30 August

**Turkish Republic Day** 29 October

**Proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Day** 15 November

## INTERNET RESOURCES

As well as the tourist-department sites, useful resources include [www.traveltoCyprus.com](http://www.traveltoCyprus.com), [www.cyprus-mail.com](http://www.cyprus-mail.com), [www.cypnet.co.uk/cyradise/index.html](http://www.cypnet.co.uk/cyradise/index.html) and [www.northcyprus.net](http://www.northcyprus.net) for North Cyprus.

## MEDIA

English-language newspapers in the Republic include **Cyprus Weekly** ([www.cyprusweekly.com.cy](http://www.cyprusweekly.com.cy)) and **Cyprus Mail** ([www.cyprus-mail.com](http://www.cyprus-mail.com)). *Cyprus Today* and the **Turkish Daily News** ([www.turkishdailynews.com](http://www.turkishdailynews.com)) are the main English-language newspapers in North Cyprus. Numerous radio stations on

both sides of the line play international pop music with English-language news broadcasts. In the Republic, you can see English TV news on CYBC2 at 9pm daily.

## MONEY

The Republic's currency is the Cyprus pound (CY£). Foreign exchange is mainly handled by banks, except in the coastal resorts. Most currencies of cash and travellers cheques are accepted and almost all banks have ATMs that take international cards.

The unit of currency in North Cyprus is the recently revalued Turkish lira (TL), but UK pounds, euros and Cyprus pounds are widely accepted. Note that old million-lira notes are no longer valid. Banks have exchange facilities and ATMs, and private foreign-exchange offices (*döviz*) can be found in all towns.

## TELEPHONE

In the Republic (country code ☎ 357), phone booths use CYTA phonedcards, which are available from shops – calls to Europe or the US cost around CY£0.16 per minute.

In North Cyprus, pay phones take KKTC Telekomünikasyon phonedcards, available from shops – calls cost TL0.65 per minute to Europe and TL1.35 to the USA. To call North Cyprus from abroad, dial ☎ 90 (Turkey), the regional code ☎ 392, then the number.

Roaming GSM phones can be used all over Cyprus. Prepaid phone SIM packs are available from shops and phone offices.

To call North Cyprus from the Republic, dial ☎ 0139 followed by the local number. To call the Republic from North Cyprus, call ☎ 0123 followed by the local number. Regional area codes form part of the phone number throughout Cyprus.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

The **Cyprus Tourism Organisation** (CTO; www.visitcyprus.org.cy) has offices at Larnaka and Pafos airport and in all major towns in the Republic, with excellent maps and information leaflets.

**North Cyprus Tourism** (www.holidayinnorthcyprus.com) has offices in Lefkoşa, Gazimağusa, Girne, Ercan airport and Yeni Erenköy, with limited brochures and information.

## VISAS

Nationals of Australia, New Zealand, the US, Canada, Japan and all European Economic Area countries can enter and stay in either

the Republic or North Cyprus for up to three months without a visa. However, citizens of Greece, the Republic of Cyprus and Armenia need a visa for North Cyprus, and Turkish citizens need a visa for the Republic.

With the thawing of political relations, tourists are now allowed to cross the Green Line and stay on the opposite side. No special visa is required and immigration stamps are made on a separate piece of paper to avoid future problems entering the Republic – see the boxed text, p190 for more information.

# TRANSPORT IN CYPRUS

Cyprus is a convenient gateway between Europe and the Middle East. There are air connections to major cities in Europe and the Middle East, and ferries between North Cyprus and Turkey. It has recently become much easier to travel between the Republic of Cyprus and North Cyprus, but you must enter and leave Cyprus from the same side. See the boxed text, p190 for more information.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

Ferry services to the Republic are currently suspended, so almost all travellers arrive by air. Departure tax varies with the destination and is always included in the ticket price.

### Air

The Republic's international airports are at Larnaka and Pafos. The main airport in North Cyprus is Ercan, but flights sometimes land at Geçitkale.

### TO/FROM REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

There are scheduled and charter flights from major cities throughout Europe and the Middle East with Cyprus Airways as well as other carriers – fares from London to Cyprus start at UK£200. Heading on from Cyprus, one-way fares include CY£60 to Athens, CY£70 to Damascus and CY£80 to Cairo, Amman or Tel Aviv.

As well as the following scheduled airlines, budget carriers **Aegean Airlines** (code A3; ☎ 2265 4000; www.aegeanair.com) and **Eurocypria** (code ECA; ☎ 8000 0809; www.eurocypria.com) have discount flights to Larnaka from Greece and central Europe. You can also find cheap charter flights in summer with high-street holiday companies.

Airlines flying to the Republic include the following:

**British Airways** (code BA; ☎ 2276 1166; www.britishairways.com)

**Cyprus Airways** (code CY; ☎ 2266 3054; www.cypirusairways.com)

**Egypt Air** (code MS; ☎ 2250 9000; www.egyptair.com.eg)

**El Al Israel Airlines** (code LY; ☎ 2557 4180; www.elal.co.il)

**Emirates** (code EK; ☎ 2281 7816; www.emirates.com)

**Gulf Air** (code GF; ☎ 2237 4064; www.gulfairco.com)

**KLM Royal Dutch Airlines** (code KL; ☎ 2267 1616; www.klm.com)

**Lufthansa German Airlines** (code LH; ☎ 2287 3330; www.lufthansa.com)

**Olympic Airways** (code OA; ☎ 2271 6500; www.olypmicairlines.com)

### TO/FROM NORTH CYPRUS

Flights to Ercan airport in North Cyprus start in Turkey so you must fly there first and change. Fares from London to Ercan (via İstanbul) start at UK£250. A return ticket to Ercan from İstanbul costs around US\$100.

Airlines flying to North Cyprus include:

**Atlasjet** (code KK; ☎ 231 4188; www.atlasjet.com)

**Cyprus Turkish Airlines** (code YK; ☎ 227 3820; www.kth.net)

**Turkish Airlines** (code TK; ☎ 227 1061; www.turkishairlines.com)

### Sea

Services to the Republic's main port at Lemesos are currently suspended. If they start up again, contact **Salamis Shipping** (☎ 2589 9999) and **Louis Cruise Lines** (☎ 7777 8555).

There are several ferry routes to mainland Turkey from North Cyprus. **KT Denizcilik** (Cyprus Turkish Shipping; ☎ 366 5786) sails from Gazimağusa to Mersin (one way TL65, 12 hours) on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, returning the following day.

**Fergün** (☎ 815 4993) and **Akgünler** (☎ 815 6002) both have daily fast passenger ferries and slow car ferries between Girne and Taşucu (TL60 to TL71 per person, two to five hours). In summer there's also a twice-weekly ferry between Girne and Alanya (TL75, four to five hours, Wednesday and Sunday).

## GETTING AROUND Bicycle

Cyprus has loads of quiet back roads for cyclists, and the Troodos Massif, Kyrenia Mountains and the Karpas and Akamas peninsulas

are perfectly suited for mountain bikers. The CTO produces the occasionally inaccurate *Cycling Routes* booklet or you can contact the **Cyprus Cycling Federation** (☎ 2266 3344; Kimonos 1, Efkomi, Lefkosia) for information.

Mountain bikes can be rented in Plateia Troodos and Polis and in many coastal resorts. **Bike Trek Cyprus** (☎ 2691 3676; www.biketrekcyprus.com) is one of several companies offering custom mountain-bike tours of the Republic.

## Bus

Inexpensive buses and minibuses are operated by various private companies on both sides of the Green Line – contact details for bus companies are listed under individual towns. Buses link all major cities and many villages, and fares are under CY£5 for most journeys. The last daily service on most routes leaves around 5pm. Note that few buses run on Sundays in the Republic.

## Car & Motorcycle

You can hire cars and motorbikes in most towns, and rates start at around CY£20 per day for cars and CY£5 to CY£10 per day for mopeds and motorcycles. Most car and motorcycle licenses are valid in the Republic, but only British and international licenses are accepted in North Cyprus. The minimum age for hiring a car is 21, drivers under 25 pay extra insurance fees. You must be 17 or over to ride a motorcycle (18 or over for engines bigger than 50cc).

Cars hired in the Republic can be temporarily insured for travel within North Cyprus at the border, but hire cars cannot be taken in the opposite direction. If you travel with your car to Cyprus on the ferry from Turkey, you are eligible to obtain a three-month duty waiver and local insurance upon your arrival.

## Taxi

Service taxis run between major towns, leaving when they have seven passengers. All service taxis in the Republic are run by **Travel & Express** (☎ 7777 7474; www.travelexpress.com.cy) – you can go directly to the depots or call ahead to arrange a pick-up. In the north, **Kombos** (☎ 227 2929) connects Lefkoşa, Girne and Gazimağusa.

There are urban taxis in all large towns, and rural taxis connect rural villages.

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