

OM's A-Z OF CYPRUS

A



AREA

Cyprus is 9251 sq kms (3572 sq miles). It is 240 kms from east to west and 100 kms from north to south, meaning any town or attraction is only a short drive away.

AIRLINES

Cyprus Airways is the island's main carrier, flying to both Paphos and Larnaca Airport. Many other airlines service Cyprus, including:

Arriving at Larnaca Airport

Aegean Airlines, Aeroflot, AeroSvit, Air Malta, Air Slovakia, Alitalia, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Brussels Airlines, Czech Airlines CSA, Emirates, Gulf Air, Jat Airways, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Malev Hungarian Airlines, Royal Jordanian, Syrian Air, Tarom

Arriving at Larnaca & Paphos Airports

Condor, Eurocypria Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Olympic Airlines

B

BEACHES

Whether it's golden sand and sparkling seas at the doorstep of your luxurious hotel, or the crisp waves of Curium Beach surrounded by ancient monuments and impressive cliff faces, the island offers an endless stretch of magnificent beaches.

C

CLIMATE

See "Weather"

CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

OM Destination Management will deliver an event program that not only addresses all your requirements, but also incorporates additional innovative touches. By arranging everything from airport transfers, accommodation and venues, to activities, tours and unforgettable dining experiences, **OM makes perfection look effortless.**

COOKING & CUISINE

In Cyprus, **eating and drinking is arguably the centrepiece of life.** Traditional cooking is second to none, incorporating olive oil, fresh fruits and vegetables, pulses, tender meats and fresh seafood to create a delicious feast of the senses. Red wine is also a staple in the Cypriot kitchen, used alongside fresh herbs and locally grown spices.

A Cypriot Meze truly captures the essence of the island's culture; a meal of numerous delicious dishes and courses makes for an evening-long feast where guests can relax, indulge and enjoy the conversations. Grilled lamb, mouth-watering dips, village bread, Greek salad, haloumi Cypriot cheese (usually grilled on an open air fire) and tender fried vegetables are just a sample of the delicious offerings continually brought to your table.

The dining options in Cyprus are endless – from open-air village taverns and restaurants in restored homes, to gourmet cuisine in stylish and trendy urban settings.



CULTURE

An influence of all countries surrounding Cyprus has infiltrated the island's culture, which remains strongly Greek but with a flavour of the Eastern. The people of Cyprus are warm, friendly and naturally hospitable, and it is a **genuine pleasure for us to welcome visitors** – perhaps because we have been doing just that for thousands of years.

CURRENCY

See "European Union".

CYPRUS CYCLAMEN

Is the national plant of Cyprus.



D DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Every year, the last Sunday of March, daylight saving time comes into effect in Cyprus. All clocks are advanced by one hour. Cyprus reverts to Standard Time on the last Sunday in October.

DISTANCES

Distances in km and miles (approx.) between major cities and other tourist areas:

| | LEFKOSIA (Nicosia) | | LEMESOS (Limassol) | | PAPHOS | | LARNAKA | | AYIA NAPA | | POLIS | | LARNAKA AIRPORT | | PAPHOS AIRPORT | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|--------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-----|--------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| | km | mls | km | mls | km | mls | km | mls | km | mls | km | mls | km | mls | km | mls |
| LEFKOSIA | --- | --- | 83 | 52 | 146 | 91 | 45 | 28 | 81 | 50 | 176 | 109 | 50 | 31 | 142 | 88 |
| LEMESOS | 83 | 52 | --- | --- | 68 | 42 | 66 | 41 | 107 | 66 | 98 | 61 | 70 | 43 | 63 | 39 |
| PAPHOS | 146 | 91 | 68 | 42 | --- | --- | 135 | 84 | 175 | 109 | 35 | 22 | 140 | 87 | 15 | 9 |
| LARNAKA | 45 | 28 | 66 | 41 | 135 | 84 | --- | --- | 41 | 25 | 175 | 109 | 5 | 3 | 130 | 81 |
| AYIA NAPA | 81 | 50 | 107 | 66 | 175 | 109 | 41 | 25 | -- | -- | 197 | 122 | 45 | 28 | 169 | 105 |
| POLIS | 176 | 109 | 98 | 61 | 35 | 22 | 175 | 109 | 197 | 122 | --- | --- | 175 | 109 | 45 | 28 |
| LARNAKA AIRPORT | 50 | 31 | 70 | 43 | 140 | 87 | 5 | 3 | 45 | 28 | 175 | 109 | --- | --- | 125 | 78 |
| PAPHOS AIRPORT | 142 | 88 | 63 | 39 | 15 | 9 | 130 | 81 | 169 | 105 | 45 | 28 | 125 | 78 | --- | --- |

DRIVING

Travelling between major towns is not only fast and easy, but is an experience in itself with Cyprus' highways and roads showcasing the island's beautiful beaches, flower fields, impressive mountains and classic architecture.

Vehicles are driven on the left hand-side of the road.

E EUROPEAN UNION

Cyprus is a member of the EU and will adopt the Euro as of 1 January 2008, switching over from the Cyprus Pound.

F FLYING TIMES

With its excellent location, Cyprus is just 4½ hours from London, around 4 hours from Paris and Frankfurt, and only 3 hours from Rome.

FESTIVALS

The island certainly knows how to celebrate and finds many excuses to do so! In September, culture reverberates through Paphos with the Opera Festival, while The Cyprus Wine Festival in Lemesos is a two week celebration of dancing, food and, of course, Cypriot wine. Meanwhile, the Kypria International Festival throughout the island is a fusion of music, dance and theatre performances. Cyprus dresses up with February's Carnivale in Lemesos, and there's always a Saint's day around the corner that is cause for celebration. Alternatively, OM can organise your very own Village Festival!

G GEOGRAPHY
Cyprus is located in the easternmost corner of the Mediterranean Sea at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa – **a highly desired and easily accessible location.**

H HEALTH
Health standards in Cyprus compare favourably with those of developed countries.

HISTORY

Cyprus' history is both complex and fascinating, and is difficult to summarise in a few lines, but this timeline is a good guide:

- The Stone Age - Neolithic Period I (8th millennium - 4500 BC)
- Neolithic Period II (4500-3500 BC)
- Chalcolithic Period (3500-2500/2300 BC)
- The Bronze Age - Early Bronze Age (2500/2300 - 1900 BC)
- The Middle Bronze Age (1900 - 1600 BC)
- The Late Bronze Age (1600-1100 BC)
- The Iron Age - Early Iron Age (1100 - 750 BC)
- The Archaic Period (750-475 BC)
- The Classical Period (475-325 BC)
- The Hellenistic Period (325-30 BC)
- The Roman Period (30 BC - 330 AD)
- Arab Raids (649-965 AD)
- Richard the Lionheart (1191 AD)
- The Frankish Period (1191-1571)
- The Ottoman Period (1571-1878)
- The British Period (1878-1959)
- The Turkish Occupation of over one third of Cyprus (1974 - present day)



For further information visit www.cyprus.gov.cy

I INNOVATIVE INCENTIVES
OM offers a range of original and exciting activities to promote team building, and to ensure the group takes away **life-long memories of their Cyprus visit.** OM incentives include 4x4 corporate challenges, local experiences, 'survival days', boat building, yacht racing, tuna fishing, treasure hunting and so much more.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

OM's experienced team extends to Greece, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Croatia.

J JUNE
June may be the official beginning of summer but in Cyprus, you can hit the sunny beaches for a splash any time between April and November.

K KEO BEER
Cyprus' beer of choice, and a favourite for many visitors.

'KYPROS'

Is the Greek word for Cyprus and comes from the Ancient Greek language.

L LANGUAGES
Greek is the main language. **English** is spoken almost everywhere. **French** and **German** are also spoken in places.

M MOUNTAINS

Cyprus is fortunate to have the best of both worlds with a beautiful coastline and lush mountain forests. The **Troodos Mountain range in the centre of the island showcases the island's highest point, Mount Olympus** at 1952 m, which is dusted with snow during winter. In summer, Cyprus' mountains are in spectacular bloom while the rivers trickle melodiously, providing a fresh escape from the heat of the coast.

Famous mountain resorts, divine Byzantine monasteries and churches perched on mountain peaks, as well as vineyards and picturesque mountain villages clinging to terraced hill slopes make up the splendour of Troodos.

N NATIONALITY

The majority of Cyprus is **Greek Cypriot** (approx 78%), with a portion of Turkish Cypriots (approx 10.5%).

O OM DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

OM Destination Management is the A-Z of Cyprus!

P POPULATION

Cyprus' estimated population is **766 400**. Apart from the capital, Nicosia, with an estimated population of 224 500, all major cities are located on the coast. Lemesos is the second largest city with 176 900 residents, and is the island's biggest port. Larnaka and Paphos, which are popular holiday resorts, are the third and fourth largest cities respectively, while Ayia Napa is a smaller but not necessarily quieter town! *Based on 2005 statistics. City populations quoted are for urban areas. See www.mof.gov.cy for further information.*

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: CYPRUS

January 1: New Year's Day
January 6: Epiphany Day
March 25: Greek National Day
April 1: Greek Cypriot National Day
May 1: Labour Day
August 15: Mother of God Dormition
October 1: Cyprus Independence Day
October 28: Greek National Day (Ochi Day)
December 24: Christmas Eve
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Boxing Day



Variable public holidays

March 10, 2008; March 2, 2009; February 15, 2010; March 7, 2011: Green Monday
April 25, 2008; April 17, 2009; April 2, 2010; April 22, 2011: Good Friday (Greek Orthodox)
April 27, 2008; April 19, 2009; April 4, 2010; April 24, 2011: Easter Sunday (Greek Orthodox)
April 23, 2008; April 12, 2009; April 4, 2010; April 24, 2011: Easter Sunday (Catholic)
April 28, 2008; April 20, 2009; April 5, 2010; April 25, 2011: Easter Monday (Greek Orthodox)
June 16, 2008; June 8, 2009; May 24, 2010; June 12, 2011: Pentecost-Kataklysmos (Festival of the Flood)

All Public Services, private enterprises, banks and shops are closed on Public Holidays. In resort and coastal areas, however, shops and certain services remain open.

Q QUEEN BERENGARIA

Richard the Lionheart is known in history as the last Byzantine ruler of Cyprus. Richard ruled the island for one year and married his fair Berengaria in Limassol Castle, crowning her **Queen of England**.

QUINCES

Glyko is a delicious Cypriot speciality; it is a sweet preserve of almost any fruit including quinces, nuts or even vegetables. It is served with a glass of cold water, a refreshing addition to the syrupy glyko.

R

RELIGION

The majority of Cyprus is **Greek Orthodox**.

S

SAFETY

Cyprus is one of the safest destinations to visit. We are very proud of the safety and security Cyprus has managed to build and preserve over many years.

SHOPPING HOURS

Winter Period (November 1 - March 31)

Mon, Tue, Thu: Up to 19:00

Wednesday: Up to 14:00

Friday: Up to 20:00

Saturday: Up to 15:00

Summer Period (April 1 - October 31)

Mon, Tue, Thu: Up to 20:30

Wednesday: Up to 14:00

Friday: Up to 21:30

Saturday: Up to 17:00

Summer afternoon recess Mon, Tue, Thu and Friday (June 15-August 31) from 14:00-17:00

In resort and coastal areas, shops have extended trading hours.

Banking hours for the public

Monday-Friday: 08:15 - 13:00

Monday: 15:15 - 16:45.

(May, June, July, August: Monday- Friday: 08:15 - 13:00)



T

TRANSFERS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TAXIS

Cyprus' public transport service is limited, but this is not a problem with OM taking care of your travel requirements. OM's transfer service from the airport includes a dedicated staff member providing a meet and greet, airport assistance, refreshments and refresher towels upon arrival. Plus, **you will travel in comfort** with either a mini bus, larger luxury coach, private Mercedes or even a Limo, depending on your group size and specific requirements. This means your fantastic Cyprus experience begins as soon as your plane touches the island.

TOURS

OM's Classic Tours can be catered for your group's requirements and interests. To **experience the more traditional side of Cyprus**, tour its historical monuments, meet the island's farmers, hop on board for a wine tour or shop your way through Cyprus' older towns, and see for yourself what makes Cyprus so truly special.

U

UNSPOILED COUNTRY

You will be struck by Cyprus' beauty whether you're swimming in clean waters, travelling through the picturesque countryside or merely breathing in the fresh air.

V

VISAS

EU citizens **do not require a visa** for entry to Cyprus, but they must carry a valid passport or their national identity card provided there is a photo and the citizenship is declared on the card. The passport must be valid at least until the day of departure from Cyprus.

The following countries **do not require an entry visa** to enter Cyprus:

A: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria

B: Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria

C: Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic

D: Denmark

E: El Salvador, Estonia

F: Finland, France

G: Germany, Greece, Guatemala

H: Honduras, Hungary

I: Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy

J: Japan

K: Korea (Republic of South)

L: Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg

M: Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco

N: Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway

P: Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal

R: Romania

S: San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

U: United Kingdom United States Uruguay

United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay

V: Vatican City, Venezuela

And: Special Administrative Regions of the Peoples' Republic of China:

Hong Kong

Macao

For other countries, OM can assist you in the establishment of Visas from CYP 10.00/EUR 17.10 per VISA.

W WEATHER

Cyprus enjoys an intense Mediterranean climate with long dry summers, from mid-May to mid-October, and with mild winters from December to February, separated by short autumn and spring seasons. **The sun shines 340 days a year** making Cyprus a weather friendly destination.

TEMPERATURE (in degrees Fahrenheit& Centigrade)

| | Day | | Night | |
|----------------------|-----|----|-------|----|
| | F | C | F | C |
| <u>Spring</u> | | | | |
| March | 66 | 19 | 50 | 10 |
| April | 72 | 22 | 54 | 12 |
| May | 79 | 26 | 61 | 16 |
| <u>Summer</u> | | | | |
| June | 86 | 30 | 68 | 20 |
| July | 91 | 33 | 72 | 22 |
| August | 91 | 33 | 73 | 23 |
| <u>Autumn</u> | | | | |
| September | 88 | 31 | 70 | 21 |
| October | 81 | 27 | 63 | 17 |
| November | 73 | 23 | 57 | 14 |
| <u>Winter</u> | | | | |
| December | 64 | 18 | 52 | 11 |
| January | 61 | 16 | 48 | 9 |
| February | 63 | 17 | 48 | 9 |

WINE

A little-known fact is Cyprus enjoys a **long tradition of winemaking**; any trip to the mountains reveals a landscape spotted with the tiered vineyards producing ruby-red wine with a rich aroma and soft taste. Small wonder that the island's signature fortified wine, Commandaria, is served at the finest restaurants in London and New York.

X

XENOS

The Cypriot way of referring to someone from overseas.

Y

YEROSKIPOU

Yeroskipou means 'sacred garden' and it is here in this special place where Cypriot Delight or 'loukoumi' takes luscious form. Only 3 km east of Paphos, the traditional village is home to loukoumi manufacturer Aphrodite Delights, which, incredibly, is still housed in the very same location after over 100 years.



YES!

At OM, we have a positive attitude, are focussed on solutions and on making your vision a reality.

Z



ZYGI

Zygi is on the south east coast of Cyprus and is the only community on the island that is built on the beach. Today, Zygi is the one of the most well-known and reputable fisherman's village of Cyprus.