

A-Z OF CYPRUS

A

APHRODITE

The Goddess of Love & Beauty, the most ancient goddess in the Olympian pantheon. Around 1200 BC she emerged from the gentle jade-colored sea foam at Petra tou Romiou, south coast of Cyprus, and remains today the pride of the Island. A sanctuary was built in her honour at Palea Pafos (present-day Kouklia), the most significant of a dozen such consecrated sites in Cyprus.

AIRLINES

Cyprus Airways is the island's main carrier, flying to both Pafos 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, Etihad, Emirates, Gulf Air, Jat Airways, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Malev Hungarian Airlines, Royal Jordanian, Scandinavian Airlines, Syrian Air, Tarom

Arriving at Larnaca & Pafos Airports

Condor, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Olympic Airlines

AIRPORTS

Cyprus is an ideal destination due to its easy flight accessibility with two international airports, Larnaca International Airport and Pafos International Airport. There is a wide network of air-routes connecting Cyprus with Europe, Africa and Asia.

The new Larnaca International Airport officially opened last November 2009. The new terminal design is a 'finger' style with 16 air bridges (resembling a medieval aqueduct) leading into a central concourse, accepting almost all types of aircraft ranging from the small Airbus A321 to the larger Boeing 747-400 Jumbo. Outside of the terminal there is a 1,750-space car park for private cars, rental cars, taxis, buses and staff car parking. For further information, please visit the official website of Hermes Airports.



ARCHEOLOGY

During prehistory the island was influenced by the Pharaohs of Egypt to the south, the Mesopotamian kingdoms to the east, the Hittite empire to the north and the Minoan and Mycenaean cultures of the west. It is this unique fusion of cultures and influences that is one of the great joys of Cypriot archaeology. For more information about the dates, see also "History".

AUTUMN

Autumn is a barely discernable season and is really only an extension of the summer, with fantastic good weather, sunny skies, and the water wonderfully warm for water sport activities and swimming.

AYIA NAPA

Ayia Napa means "The Holy Lady of the Forest". Tradition has it that a Holy Icon of the Virgin was found here in a cave during a hunting expedition. Ayia Napa was originally a fishing village and is today one of the most pulsating, vibrant and popular holiday destinations in Europe.

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

The climate of Cyprus offers more than a simple pleasure to residents and tourists. Thanks to the warm weather, Cyprus produces abundant fruit and vegetables throughout the year. For further information about the temperatures, see also “Weather”.

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, halloumi 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. The new generation of well-travelled chefs influenced by genuine Cypriot cuisine and contemporary International food are preparing dishes that look that works of art.

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

As of 1st of January 2008, Cyprus adopted the Euro, giving up its national currency (the Cyprus Pound). At the same time, it entered the euro zone and benefited from a single monetary policy.

The euro symbol € is inspired by the Greek letter epsilon pointing back to the cradle of European civilisation and to the word "Europe", crossed by two parallel lines to indicate the stability of the euro. For further information, see also “European Union”.



CYCLAMEN

Is the national plant of Cyprus.

CITRUS

Citrus is the second most important export crop of Cyprus after potatoes. The main citrus exported from Cyprus are grapefruit, lemons and oranges.

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. For further information, see also “Sunset & Sunrise”.

DISTANCES

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

	LEFKOSIA (Nicosia)		LEMESOS (Limassol)		PAFOS		LARNACA		POLIS		LARNACA AIRPORT		PAFOS AIRPORT	
	Km	Mi	Km	Mi	Km	Mi	Km	Mi	Km	Mi	Km	Mi	Km	Mi
LEFKOSIA	---	---	83	52	146	91	45	28	176	109	50	31	142	88
LEMESOS	83	52	---	---	68	42	66	41	98	61	63	39	63	39
PAFOS	146	91	68	42	---	---	135	84	35	22	140	87	15	9
LARNACA	45	28	66	41	135	84	---	---	165	102	5	3	130	81
POLIS	176	109	98	61	35	22	165	102	---	---	175	109	45	28
LARNACA AIRPORT	50	31	63	39	140	87	5	3	49	30	---	---	125	78
PAFOS AIRPORT	142	88	63	39	15	9	130	81	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 and you must carry your own national driving License and vehicle documents at all times while driving in Cyprus.

E EUROPEAN UNION

Cyprus became member of the European Union on 1st of May 2004.

F FLYING TIMES

With its excellent location, Cyprus is just 4 ½ hours from London, around 4 hours from Paris and Frankfurt, only 3 hours from Rome and 3 ½ hours from Dubai.

FESTIVALS

The island certainly knows how to celebrate and finds many excuses to do so! In September, culture reverberates through Pafos with the Opera Festival, while The Cyprus Wine Festival in Limassol 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 Carnival in Limassol, and there's always a Saint's day around the corner that is cause for celebration.



G GEOGRAPHY

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

'GLYKO'

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.

H HALLOUMI

Halloumi is a traditional white semi-hard folded cheese, which is made from fresh goat's milk, salt, mint and rennet. Halloumi is produced only in Cyprus. Recently, demand for halloumi cheese exports has increased. The barren parts of the mountainsides are used as pastureland for sheep and goats.

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, please visit www.cyprus.gov.cy

I INNOVATIVE & INCENTIVE

Cyprus offers a wide range of original and exciting possible locations where can be organized activities for groups to take away life-long memories of their stay in Cyprus such as 4x4 corporate challenges, local experiences, adventurous survival days, boat building, yacht racing, tuna fishing, treasure hunting and so much more.

ICONS

The icons hold a very religious significance and some of the religious art works are even believed to possess miraculous powers. Byzantine art and architecture is featured widely in many churches and monasteries in Cyprus.



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'

It is the Greek word for Cyprus and comes from the Ancient Greek language.

'KEFI'

It is a Greek style energy that has Temper and Passion, which Cyprus can be compared with.

L LANDSCAPE

The island enjoys the best of both worlds with its location in the east of the Mediterranean providing amazing weather, stunning beaches and easy access from almost any country. New, exciting developments contrast spectacularly with historic ruins, giving a vivid and dramatic context, while the fertile mountains and stark cliff faces complete the unforgettable picture.

LANGUAGES

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

LARNACA

With a population of over 48,000, Larnaca is the oldest surviving town in Cyprus founded around 6,000 years ago. Nowadays, Larnaca remains an important point of entry to the country with its large port and International Airport.

LIMASSOL (LEMESOS)

With a population of over 151,000, Limassol is the largest city in geographical size, and the biggest municipality on the island. The city is located on Akrotiri Bay, on the island's southern coast and it is the capital of Limassol District.

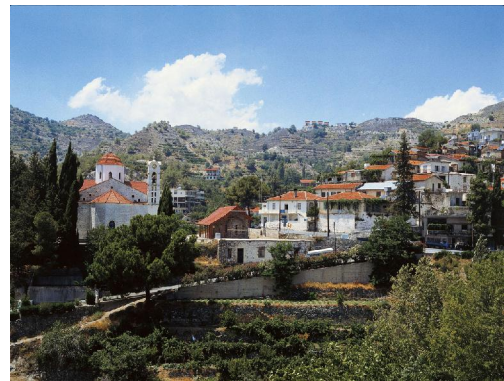
M MOUFLON

The mouflon is thought to be one of the two ancestors for all modern domestic sheep breeds. It is featured on the symbol of Cyprus Airways, as well as on the 1, 2, and 5 cent Cypriot euro coins. Cypriot mouflon was nearly extirpated during the 20th century. In 1997 about 1,200 of this subspecies were counted.

MOUNTAINS

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 (+/-80%), with a portion of Turkish Cypriots (+/-10%) and other minorities.

NATURAL RESSOURCES

The main agricultural products from the plains are cereals (wheat and barley), vegetables, potatoes and citrus fruits. Olives thrive all over the island, but particularly on the slopes near the sea. Vines cover a large area on the southern and western slopes of the Troodos mountain range. Deciduous fruit trees thrive in the fertile valleys. The most important export products are citrus fruits and potatoes. However, Cyprus also exports watermelons, melons, tomatoes, leaf vegetables, fresh herbs and other early vegetables.

NICOSIA (LEFKOSIA)

The capital of Cyprus since the 11th century, lies roughly in the centre of the island and it is the only major inland town with more than 200,000 inhabitants. It is the most important cultural center of the island, being the home of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, the Archbishop, all foreign Embassies, the main government offices as well as the headquarters of many major local and international companies.

O

OLIVES

Olive oil is a humble yet vital part of the diet of millions of people around the world. Many people see olives and the rich oil extracted from the olives as some sort of wondrous elixir that guarantees a long and healthy life. For centuries olive oil is a way of life in Cyprus!



PAFOS (PAPHOS)

P

With a population of over 33,000, archaeologists report that the site of Pafos has been inhabited since the Neolithic period. The remains of villas, palaces, theatres, fortresses and tombs of the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods mean that the site is of exceptional architectural and historic value. The mosaics of Pafos are among the most beautiful in the world.

PEOPLE

The Cypriots are known for their hospitality, warmth and zest for life. They place great stock in traditions and family values, which are passed down from generation to generation.

POPULATION

Cyprus' estimated population is over 1 Million in 2010. Apart from the capital, Nicosia, all major cities are located on the coast. Limassol is the second largest city with 228,000 residents. Larnaca and Pafos, which are popular holiday resorts, are the third and fourth largest cities respectively, while Ayia Napa is a smaller but not necessarily quieter town!

PORT

The main ports of Cyprus are Limassol and Larnaca both located on the south coast of the island. Limassol is serving most of the island's seaborne cargo and passenger traffic, the biggest port in the Mediterranean transit trade.



PROTARAS

"Fig Tree Bay" is a continuation of the lovely Famagusta beach, and lies to the east of Paralimni Village, near the picturesque "Valley of the Windmills". It offers beautiful sandy beaches and crystal clear waters.

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

February 15, 2010; March 7, 2011: Green Monday
April 2, 2010; April 22, 2011: Good Friday (Greek Orthodox)
April 4, 2010; April 24, 2011: Easter Sunday (Greek Orthodox)
April 4, 2010; April 24, 2011: Easter Sunday (Catholic)
April 5, 2010; April 25, 2011: Easter Monday (Greek Orthodox)
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.

R

RELIGION

The majority of Cyprus is Greek Orthodox.

RALLY

The Cyprus Rally is a rallying competition held yearly in Cyprus since 1970 in cooperation with the Cyprus Automobile Association. The Intercontinental Rally Challenge in Cyprus is one of just two IRC events that features both asphalt and winding gravel roads of the nearby mountains of Troodos.



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 (general)

Winter Period (November 1 - March 31)

Mon, Tue, Thu: 09.00-13.00 & 14.30-19.00

Wednesday: 09.00-14:00

Friday: 09:00-13:00 and 14:30-20:00

Saturday: 09:00-15:00

Summer Period (April 1 - October 31)

Mon, Tue, Thu: 09:00-13:00 and 16:00-20:30

Wednesday: 09:00-14:00

Friday: 09:00-13:00 and 14:30-21:30

Saturday: 09:00-17:00

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)



SMOKING

In accordance with the new law introduced in Cyprus from 1st January 2010, smoking is not allowed in any Public indoor areas.

SPRINGTIME

It is the best season to visit Cyprus, as the island assumes an unimaginable beauty as a profusion of wild flowers forming a yellow carpet, dotted with brilliant reds and blues. All around us farmers and villagers are busy setting up for impending summer, clearing land, pruning, sowing and tilling. The fields are green with the maturing wheat and barley.

SUMMERTIME

It is a magical time to visit Cyprus with nature in the mountains still in full bloom. The rivers can still be running with water from the winter rains, providing an adventurous terrain, great fun for both the nature lover and the experienced off-road driver.

SUNSHINE

Sun shines 340 days a year in Cyprus.

SUNSET AND SUNRISE

MONTH	SUNRISE	SUNSET
January	06.55	17.00
February	06.35	17.30
March	06.00	17.55
April	06.15	19.20
May	05.45	19.45
June	05.30	20.00
July	05.45	20.00
August	06.05	19.35
September	06.30	18.55
October	06.50	18.15
November	06.20	16.45
December	06.45	16.35



SURFACE AREA

Cyprus lies at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean's north-western basin and is the third largest island in the Mediterranean after Sardinia and Sicily. Cyprus' geographic coordinates are longitude 34°33' - 35°34'N and latitude 32°16' - 34°37'E. It covers an area of 9,251 km², measuring 240 km at its greatest reach and 100 km at its widest point, meaning any town or attraction is only a short drive away. It lies 800 km from mainland Greece and just 380 km from Rhodes and Karpathos. North of Cyprus lies Turkey, which is just 75 km off its northern shores. To the east lies Syria, some 105 km away, and to the south Egypt, just 380 km away.



T TELEPHONE

The International country calling code of Cyprus is 357.

If you need to make a call from Cyprus, you will need dial 00 followed by the International country calling code of the country you wish to reach and local number.

If you wish to make a call from abroad to Cyprus, you will have to dial the International dial out code of your country (00 in most of the cases) followed by the International country calling code of Cyprus + city phone code + local number.

Larnaca phone code 24
Limassol phone code 25
Nicosia phone code 22
Pafos phone code 26
Ayia Napa-Protaras 23

Useful emergency numbers:

Emergency 112 (direct dialing for police, fire brigade, ambulance)
Hospital Information 1400 (direct dialing)
Poison Emergency 1401 (direct dialing)
Pharmacy on duty 90 90 14 15

Limassol headquarters:

Police Station 25 806 060
General Hospital 25 801 100, 25 305 770

Other numbers:

Directory Information 11892 (direct dialing)
Hermes Airports 77 77 88 33 (toll number)
Port of Limassol 25 819 200

TIME DIFFERENCE

GMT +2

TRANSFERS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TAXIS

Public transport in Cyprus is limited. There is no train service available. There are inter-urban public bus services connecting major towns, urban buses which run within larger towns and tourist centres, and rural buses connecting smaller villages to their nearest towns. Numerous taxi companies provide also transportation services in Cyprus. If you wish to travel in comfort with either minibus, larger luxury coach, private Mercedes or even Limo, we can arrange your transfers upon arrival and departure at the airport, please see “Transfers” on our website if you wish to book your transfers on-line.

TRENDY DESTINATION

The revamped Cyprus with its new dynamics has become a fashionable spot on the world map. In Cyprus’ cosmopolitan towns the people are used to a good life, dining alfresco or enjoying a leisurely meal in stone-built, restored taverns, drinking in stylish minimalist bars, and dancing at the many popular night spots by the sea or in the bustling town-centres. If you are looking for something funky in Europe, Cyprus is the best place to be!

TURTLE

Lara Bay is famous as the nesting ground for the large green turtles, who come here in August. The bay is located in Akamas Peninsula, the easternmost point of the three major flora zones of Europe where the number of plant species found here runs up to 600, of which 35 are endemic, and the variety of fauna is impressive with 168 bird species, 12 mammals, 20 reptiles and butterfly species.

U UNESCO’S WORLD HERITAGE

The first and successful submission of nomination of Cyprus for inscription on the World Heritage List was realized in 1980 concerning the archaeological sites of Pafos. It was followed by the inscription of the painted churches in the Troodos Region in 1985. Finally, in 1998 Choirokoitia was recognized as a world heritage site. The sites inscribed on the World Heritage List acquire international prestige for their universal and historic values.



UNSPOILED COUNTRYSIDE

You will be struck by Cyprus’ beauty whether you’re swimming in clear 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, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
U: United Kingdom United States of America, Uruguay
V: Venezuela

The following Special Administrative Regions of the Peoples' Republic of China do not require an entry visa either to enter Cyprus:

Hong Kong S.A.R.
Macao S.A.R.

For further information with regards to the Cyprus Entry Visa Application forms and procedures, please visit www.cyprusvisa.eu.

W WATER

Water is safe to drink in Cyprus, as water pollution is negligible and every home has fresh running drinking water. All the District Water Boards are in constant collaboration with the Government Health Services and the General Laboratory for the prevention of any toxicological and bacteriological infection of water in Cyprus.

Water is also precious in Cyprus, due to limited rainy days, we therefore encourage you not to waste water.

W WATER SPORTS

Jet skiing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, windsurfing, parasailing, canoeing, kayaking, banana and tube riding, pedal boats, hobby cats, speed boats, scuba diving and kite surfing (sea/land). The stunning scenery and wealth of water sports available makes Cyprus an extremely popular resort for visitors coming from all over the world.



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.

Temperatures (in degrees Fahrenheit & Centigrade):

Season	Month	Day		Night	
		F	C	F	C
Spring	March	46	11	64	19
	April	52	12	70	22
	May	57	14	75	25
Summer	June	63	17	82	28
	July	68	20	84	29
	August	70	21	86	33
Autumn	September	64	18	82	28
	October	61	16	79	26
	November	54	12	72	22
Winter	December	48	11	66	19
	January	45	9	63	17
	February	45	10	62	18

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. Today the country has a thriving cottage industry, with more than thirty small-scale vineyards producing an eclectic range of wines. No wonder that the island's signature fortified wine, Commandaria, is served at the finest restaurants in London and New York!



WINTERTIME

Winters are mild with some rain and snow in Troodos Mountains. There is abundant sunshine, and even in December and January there is an average of six hours of bright sunshine per day. This period offers both skiing in the mountains and swimming in the coastal resorts.

X

'XENOS'

The Cypriot way of referring to someone from overseas.

Y

YASU!

Means "Hi" in Greek.

YEROSKIPOU

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



YES!

In Cyprus, we have a positive attitude, 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.