©Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd



Cyprus



Joe Bindloss, Jessica Lee, Josephine Quintero

PLAN YOUR TRIP

ALEXILENA / SHUTTERSTOCK ©





LALA MUSTAFA PAŞA CAMII, P207

ON THE ROAD

LEMESOS & THE SOUTH...... 56

Road Trip > Picturesque Villages, Beaches & Wine58
Lemesos (Limassol)60
Around Lemesos 68
East of Lemesos
West of Lemesos69
Akrotiri Peninsula69
Episkopi & Around 70
Ancient Kourion 71
Pissouri Bay & Village 73
Petra tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock & Beach)

TROÖDOS LARNAKA & MOUNTAINS 75 THE EAST......121

Road Trip > Monasteries & Mountain Villages 78 Road Trip > Wine Route 6
Troödos
Platres
Omodos & the Krasohoria
Marathasa Valley 87
Pedoulas
Kalopanayiotis
Kykkos Monastery
& Around
Treis Elies 91
Solea Valley92
Kakopetria92
Pitsylia 93
Agros94
Around Agros95
Spilia-Kourdali96

PAFOS & THE WEST 97

Pafos
Road Trip > Wineries, Weaving & Abandoned Villages100
Around Pafos 111
Coral Bay & Agios Georgios 111
Akamas Heights 111
Akamas Peninsula 113
Polis 114
Tylliria 117
Pomos 118
Kato Pyrgos 118
Western Troödos 119

Larnaka Road Trip > Craftwork o Traditional Villages	f 124
Around Larnaka	133
Choirokoitia	134
Lefkara	135
Agia Napa	136
Ammochostos Region	142
Cape Greco	
Konnos Beach	142
Protaras	143
Paralimni	144
Deryneia	145
Dekelia Sovereign Base	. 145
Pernera	145

NICOSIA (LEFKOSIA)..... 147 ...

Nicosia	(Lefko	osia) .	• • •	148
The Mes	aoria	Plain		168

Understand Cyprus

CYPRUS TODAY

Wrangles over reunification continue to bring hope and consternation in equal measure, as Cyprus looks beyond decades of division.

226

From the rise of ancient city-states to the squabbles of empires, Cyprus has been one of the most sought-after treasures in the Mediterranean.

Despite the tensions engendered by recent history, a strong Cypriot national identity still unites people more than it divides.

LANDSCAPES & WILDLIFE...... 244

Behind the blissful beaches and orange-grove-dotted coastal plain, the land surges up into mighty mountains, providing a haven for rare birds and wildlife.

Cyprus has rich artistic traditions for a small island, covering everything from shadow puppetry and ceremonial dance to icon-painting, pottery and lace-making.

Cyprus Today

Peace talks have been front and centre of Cypriot news as negotiations between the Republic and the North reach higher levels than ever before. Away from politics, the preservation of cultural heritage island-wide is receiving much-needed attention, while the prospect of exploratory drilling on the island's offshore gas reserves is both a cause for economic optimism and a major divisive issue on the road to peace.

Best on Film

Birds of a Feather (2012) Documentary exploring the different historical narratives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Akamas (2006) Controversial film set in the 1960s about a Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot who fall in love.

Best in Print

Gregory and other Stories (Panos Ioannides; 2014) War, guilt, duplicity and loss are explored in this short-story collection by the island's most lauded living writer.

Bitter Lemons of Cyprus (Lawrence Durrell; 1957) Durrell's famous memoir of Cypriot village life at the end of British rule.

The Sunrise (Victoria Hislop; 2015) Novel set in Famagusta during the Greek coup and following Turkish invasion in the 1970s.

Best Music

Sikoses (Monsieur Doumani; 2015) This second album from Cyprus' hottest band continues to invent fresh sounds while riffing on folk-music traditions.

East Meets West (Oytun Ersan Project; 2015) Funk and fusion jazz from bass player and composer Oytun Ersan.

Road Blocks on the Way to Reunification

Since Cyprus' division in 1974, talks to reunite it have taken place sporadically with little success. In April 2015 Mustafa Akinci came to power in the North on a proreunification platform, reigniting hope on both sides for the revival of talks and direct negotiations between the two leaders of the divided nation.

Talks between Akinci and the Republic's president Nicos Anastasiades began in 2015 and continued with surprising commitment from both sides, despite failures to agree on several complicated issues. In November 2016 the two leaders met in Switzerland, and for the first time, maps of potential territorial boundaries were presented and debated. Twenty months of talks culminated in January 2017's Geneva summit, when Anastasiades and Akinci were joined by representatives of Cyprus' three guarantor powers – Greece, Turkey and Great Britain – to attempt to hammer out a final solution. However, no deal was reached and both sides pledged to continue discussions.

The next round of talks in February 2017 broke down after the Republic's parliament voted to pass a bill on establishing a new annual commemoration for the 1950 *enosis* (union with Greece) referendum. Although negotiations recommenced in April, in the background disagreements flared over the Republic going ahead with its hydrocarbon exploration program without first putting a plan in place to equitably share gas-reserve profits, along with rhetoric from both sides about the other's commitment to a deal. Despite this, both sides signalled their willingness to work towards a new summit in June.

Relations in the run-up to the talks, however, were as fractious as ever, with both Anastasiades and Akinci disagreeing on the agenda for negotiations. Eventually, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres persuaded the

Welcome to Cyprus

Strike out beyond the sun-soaked stretches of sand to discover an island of compelling culture and landscapes, steeped in myth and riddled with ancient riches.

Crossing the Line

Crossing the line between the South and the North allows you not only to gain some understanding of the island's complex and painful modern-day history, but also experience the two Cypriot communities. Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot societies are intrinsically different yet incredibly similar, linked by the still-strong role of traditional family life and a rich history where food cultures and folk customs have intermingled, but divided by belief. One thing's for sure wherever you are on the island: the naturally warm Cypriot hospitality is much in evidence on both sides of the Green Line.

The Great Outdoors

The landscape and Mediterranean climate mean that outside is where it's at – and where you should be. Sun-soaked stretches of sand are Cyprus' calling card and there's a beach for everyone here, from wild and windswept to family-friendly and packed. Every conceivable water sport is on offer, from scuba diving to skimming the surface on a kite- or windsurf board. And if you tire of all that blue, strike out into the interior, where wildflower-studded meadows and valleys of densely planted vineyards sweep up to a pine-clad mountain spine offering hiking, biking and, yes, even winter skiing.

A Sense of the Past

Steeped in myth, coveted by every conqueror with an eye for a prize, Cyprus' tumultuous and multilayered past has left ancient riches strewn across this island. Neolithic dwellings, Bronze Age and Phoenician tombs, remnants of once-mighty city-kingdoms, Roman mosaics, mountaintop castles and Byzantine churches lay scattered through the countryside. Cyprus may welcome you to flop out on the beach, but dig into the past here and you'll unearth the entire history of the Mediterranean.

A Culinary Feast

Meze is a delicious way to acquaint yourself with the local cuisine, tantalising the taste buds with a feast of small dishes, from creamy hummus to kebabs or afelia (pork cooked in red wine) and everything in between. Heavily influenced by Turkish, Greek and Middle Eastern food cultures, Cypriot cooking has some of its own culinary stars, including haloumi (hellim in Turkish) and kebab favourite sheftalia (seftali kebap in Turkish; grilled sausages wrapped in caul fat). And don't forget the desserts. Flavoured with almonds, rose water and pistachios, sweet treats range from comforting rice puddings to gloriously sticky baklava.



Why I Love Cyprus

By Jessica Lee, Writer

For a girl not big on beach time, Cyprus' appeal may seem strange. But just like Aphrodite's ability to lure in the lovers, this island has exuded a magnetic charm on all who've washed up here across the centuries. Whether hiking between time-warp villages and ruins, over hillsides strewn with Jerusalem sage and wild fennel, or admiring crumbling castle ramparts and the golden glint of richly saturated Byzantine frescos, for me, Cyprus encapsulates the convoluted and fascinating history of the eastern Mediterranean, all wrapped up in one bite-sized package.

For more about our writers, see p288.

Famagusta (Gazimağusa) & the Karpas Peninsula

Includes 🔿

Famagusta (Gazimağusa) 207
Ancient Salamis 217
Karpas Peninsula 221
Yenierenköy (Yiallousa) 223
Sipahi (Agia Triada) 223
Dipkarpaz (Rizokarpaso) 224
Agios Filon & Afendrika 224

Best Places to Eat

- Othello's Meyhanesi (p215)
- Alevkayalı Restaurant (p223)
- Kiyi (p220)
- Oasis Restaurant (p224)
- Aspava Restaurant (p215)

Best Reminders of Old Cyprus

- Ancient Salamis (p217)
- Petek Confectioner (p214)
- Kantara Castle (p222)

 Monastery of Apostolos Andreas (p222)

Why Go?

The thin finger of the Karpas Peninsula (Karpasia in Greek; Karpaz in Turkish) is all rolling meadows, craggy cliffs and wild beaches with a handful of snoozy villages thrown in. It's a taste of old-style Cyprus that can't be beaten. Despite new roads and development, its agrarian soul still feels untouched by modern life.

When you've recharged your batteries with the Karpas' serene wilderness, turn back west to visit Ancient Salamis. This enigmatic window into the Hellenic world is the island's most impressive archaeological site.

Just to the south is the fortified city of Famagusta where you can climb the ramparts to walk the city walls. The city's faded long-lost grandeur can be found in lanes filled with gently dilapidated houses that sit beside crumbling ruins of once-majestic churches.

Brimming with history and full of mesmerising natural beauty, this is by far the island's most rewarding region to explore.

When to Go

 Wild orchids and flowers bloom on the Karpas Peninsula and bird life can be spotted from March to May.

- The International Famagusta Art & Culture Festival in July features performances amid the ruins of Salamis.
- Green and loggerhead turtles nest and hatch eggs on Karpas' wild beaches in August and September.

FAMAGUSTA (GAZIMAĞUSA)

POP 40,920

The walled city of Famagusta (Gazimağusa) was made for exploration. Winding lanes rimmed with terrace rows of houses suddenly give way to ruined Gothic churches where birds nest between roofless arches and scraps of faded frescos cling to stone walls. From atop the Venetian walls, the shattered shards of these once-grand churches punctuate the skyline of what was Cyprus' most lavish city.

Long since slumped into down-at-heel dilapidation, the area within the walls is endearingly shambolic. For years tourist infrastructure remained poor and most travellers only visited on day trips. Recently over $\in 3$ million in funding to preserve the walls and monuments has flooded in under the auspices of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, the EU and the United Nations Development Programme. This spruce up has led to the opening of a clutch of guesthouses, finally allowing travellers a chance to sleep within the walled city itself.

History

Famagusta and its surroundings have an affluent and complex history. The wide sweep of Famagusta Bay and the sprawling Mesaoria plain was home to three major settlements over the ages: the Bronze Age city of Ancient Enkomi (Alasia), which existed during the 17th century BC; the Mycenaean settlement and tombs from the 9th century BC, described as a flourishing culture in Homer's *Iliad*; and the illustrious kingdom of Salamis, which prospered through the 6th century BC.

Founded by Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt in the 3rd century BC, Famagusta was originally known by its Greek name, Ammochostos, meaning 'buried in the sand'. For many years it was considered the bridesmaid to the famous city kingdom of Salamis, just to its north.

After Salamis was abandoned in AD 648, Famagusta's population greatly increased, but the city didn't truly bloom until the fall of Acre in 1291.

At this point, Christians fleeing the Holy Land took refuge in the city. In the late 13th century it became the region's main shipping stopover, gaining immense wealth almost overnight. A lavish and decadent lifestyle bloomed and more jewels and gold were said to be in Famagusta than in all of Europe's royal courts. This provoked scorn from the pious, who criticised what they felt were the loose morals of its citizens. To counteract this, a great number of churches were quickly built.

The great city's first decline began when the Genoese took control in the 14th century, prompting an exodus of its wealthiest and most illustrious citizens.

Although the town was recaptured by the Venetians 117 years later, its former fortune and decadence never really returned. During this time the huge walls and bastions were constructed, but this belated measure did little to prevent its capture by the Ottomans in 1571. In the bloody 10-month siege that ensued, an estimated 100,000 cannon-balls were fired.

Under the Ottomans, Famagusta rotted like a bad tooth. Its ruined buildings were never repaired, leaving it in an almost Gothic time warp. The Old Town, Kaleici, became a Turkish Cypriot stronghold.

The region flourished again in the early 1960s. The renowned, predominantly Greek Cypriot resort district of Varosia (Maraş), just outside the southern side of the Old Town's walls, bloomed as the Mediterranean's new favourite holiday destination, annually pulling thousands of sun-seeking tourists to its stunning beaches. However, communal conflicts in 1964 saw more skirmishes in the area, resulting in the Turks essentially barricading themselves within the Old Town's walls and exiling any Greeks left to the confines of Varosia.

The island's invasion by the Turkish army in 1974 forced Famagusta, and more particularly Varosia, into the restricted border zone. Deserted by its Greek population in anticipation of the fast-approaching Turkish military, Varosia remains part of the large, uninhabited buffer zone and is now a ghost town. Haunting, with its gaping dark windows and abandoned tower blocks, and barricaded by oil drums and barbed wire, it is as it was in 1974, save for a few military outposts and occasional UN patrols.

O Sights

The eclectic mix of arched lanes, chapel ruins, Turkish baths, Byzantine and Knights Templar churches, and medieval quarters are best appreciated on foot. Allow the better part of a day to see the city properly.

★ Lala Mustafa Paşa Camii MOSQUE (St Nicholas Cathedral; Erenler Sokak; ⊙outside prayer times) The former Cathedral of Agios Nikolaos (St Nicholas) is the finest example of

Famagusta & Karpas Peninsula Highlights

Ancient Salamis
 (p217) Exploring one
 of the most important
 cities of Cypriot
 antiguity.

2 Kantara Castle (p222) Savouring spectacular coastal views from this oncemighty Byzantine fortress.

S Karpas Peninsula (p221) Road-tripping through scenery of undulating hills and patchwork fields to wild beaches, halfhidden church ruins and remote villages.

Famagusta
 (p207) Strolling atop
 the commanding
 walls then standing
 amid the shattered
 church fragments
 of Lusignan and
 Venetian splendour
 within the Old Town.

5 Golden Beach (p222) Swimming off one of the island's finest stretches of sand.

G Church of Apostolos Varnavas (p218) Admiring the important icon collection kept within the soaring interior of this stately church.





MEDITERRANEAN SEA (AKDENİZ)



ROAD TRIP > REMOTE RURAL VILLAGES OF THE KARPAS

The Karpas is Cyprus' most charming backwater, where peaceful silence replaces the sound of beach bars and car horns. This drive winds through sleepy villages where traces of Greek Cypriot culture live on in the Turkish north.

Panagia Theotokos

Start the trip at the village of **iskele** (Trikomo), where the **Panagia Theotokos** (p220) houses an impressive collection of ancient icons, then take the main road into the Karpas, veering west to **Turnalar** (Yerani), where you can check out the church of **Panagia Evangelistria**, 1km to the town's west.



5–6 Hours 85km Great for... History & Culture; Outdoors Best Time to Go Any time of year, even peak season

2 Büyükkonuk (Komi)

From here go east (via Kutulus-Turnalar Yolu) through the traditional village of Ergazi (Ovgoros), then a further 9km northeast to Kilitkaya (Krithea). Another 2.5km along this road is the settlement of Büyükkonuk (Komi), Cyprus' first ecovillage, with restored traditional buildings and an old olive mill. After you've tried some local almonds and figs, take the old road east to the village of Sazlıköy (Livadia) and the 6th-century ruins of Panagia tis Kryas, which sits amid the fields 1km east of the village.

3 Panagia Kanakaria

The road northeast takes you to the vineyards of **Mehmetcik** (Galateia) village and its 95-proof *zivania* (Cypriot spirit). Leave via the main northeasterly road (not the stadium road) through the centre of the Karpas, and travel 16km through fields and groves to reach **Balalan** (Plantanissos). Continue southeast another 3km to **Ziyamet** (Leonarisso) then carry on past the Karpaz Yolu crossroad and through Gelincik (Vasili) to the village of **Boltaşlı** (Lythrangomi). Near the village entrance you'll find the church of **Panagia Kanakaria**. The church is famous as the original home of the Kanakaria Mosaics, which were looted a few years after the island was divided and repatriated to the Republic of Cyprus in the early 1990s. The church is usually kept locked but the village *muhtar* (elected leader) has the key. Ask around to find him.

4 Skoutari Beach

From here a road joins a string of small villages, **Derince** (Vothylakas), **Avtepe** (Agios Simeon) and **Kuruova** (Koroveia), with a series of unmarked tracks that lead to ancient cliff-tombs and the Bronze Age stronghold of **Nitovikla** (3km away) on the southern coast. Ask at the villages for the best paths to hike. Hop back in the car and go east to **Kaleburnu** (Galinoporni), where you can grab a bite and take the beach track to **Skoutari Beach** (Üsküdar) for a refreshing swim.



Lusignan Gothic architecture on the island, built between 1298 and 1326. Modelled on France's Cathedral of Reims, it outshines its sister church, the Church of Agia Sofia (now Selimiye Mosque) in North Nicosia (Lefkoşa).

Converted into a mosque (*camii* in Turkish) after 1571's Ottoman invasion, it still dominates the skyline of the Old Town. To enter, time your visit outside of prayer times and dress modestly.

During the Lusignan reign the church was Famagusta's centrepiece. As such, the last Lusignan king of Cyprus, Jacques II, and his infant son (Jacques III) were buried here. The church was damaged considerably during the Ottoman siege of Famagusta and its twin towers were destroyed. The Ottomans added the minaret, stripped the church's interior of its Christian accoutrements and emptied the floor tombs.

The west-facing facade, now a pedestrian zone, is the most impressive part, with three gracious portals pointing towards a six-paned window, decorated with a circular rose.

Inside, the walls have been whitewashed in Islamic fashion, but the soaring Gothic architectural lines are still easy to follow.

Famagusta (Gazimağusa)

Top Sights

1	Lala Mustafa Paşa Camii	C2
2	Venetian Walls	B4

Sights

8

3	Nestorian Church	B3
4	Othello's Tower	C2
5	Palazzo del Provveditore	СЗ
6	Ravelin (Rivettina) Bastion	B4
7	St George of the Greeks Church	СЗ
8	St George of the Latins Church	C2
9	St Peter & St Paul Church	B3
F	ating	
	Aspava Restaurant	C2

De Molay	B2
Hamam Inn Bar	
Monks Inn	.C2
One Shot Coffee	В3
	Monks Inn

.....C3

Shopping

HISTORIC SITE

20 Hoşgör		
-----------	--	--

★ Venetian Walls

Defining the Old Town, these imposing ramparts were constructed by the Venetians in the early 16th century. Although over 15m high and up to 8m thick, and surrounded by a now-waterless moat, the ramparts failed to keep the Ottomans at bay in 1571.

Like their counterpart in Nicosia (Lefkosia), Famagusta's walls comprised 14 bastions and five gates. Unlike in Nicosia, you can walk on sections of the walls here and get a sense of the sheer bulk of the fortifications.

Start your Famagusta wall tour at the southern end near the Land Gate on the **Ravelin (Rivettina) Bastion** (Akkule; Old Town entrance; @ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) IREE. It was here that the Ottomans first breached the fortifications. The Ravelin Bastion was being restored when we were last in town, but work should be finished by the time you arrive.

A set of stairs heads up onto the top of the walls on the eastern side of the Ravelin Bastion. From here, you can walk all the way along the top to the **Canbulat (Arsenal) Bastion** via the **Santa Napa, Andruzzi** and **Camposanto Bastions**. The Canbulat Bastion was renamed in honour of the Ottoman hero General Canbulat Bey, who died valiantly while attacking the walls on horseback during the bloody siege.

If restoration work on the eastern walls is still ongoing, take the path down the slope here, and walk down Canbulat Yolu until you reach **Porta del Mare** (the original Sea Gate). Here you can climb stairs up to the top again, although the views over the modern port are less than inspiring. This gate originally opened directly onto the sea; today the wharves have extended the land bridge considerably. The next section of wall you can climb up on is at the **Diamante Bastion**, though you can't get very far as another restoration project is currently at work on the western walls. When this is finally finished, it is one of the most interesting sections of the walls to walk, starting from the steeply pitched **Martinengo Bastion** and passing the four minor bastions of **San Luca**, **Pulacazara**, **Moratto** and **Diocare** on your way back to the Ravelin Bastion.

Othello's Tower

(Othello Kalesi; Canbulat Yolu; adult/student 9/5TL; ⊗ 9am-5.30pm Apr-Oct, 8am-3.30pm Nov-Mar) An extension of the Old Town's walls, Othello's Tower was constructed during Lusignan rule, in order to protect the harbour. In 1492 the Venetians further fortified the citadel and transformed it into an artillery stronghold.

In 2014 the building underwent a €1 million restoration carried out by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage. The restoration has sensitively preserved the tower's once-crumbling stonework.

The tower's name stems from a vague link to Shakespeare's play *Othello*, which has a modest stage note referring to 'a seaport in Cyprus'. Above the citadel's impressive entrance you'll see the Venetian Lion inscribed by its architect, Nicolò Foscarini. Leonardo da Vinci also apparently advised on the refurbishment of the tower during his visit to Cyprus in 1481.

The mix of Venetian and Lusignan architecture inside is a prime highlight of a visit here. The internal courtyard is bordered by the Great Hall, with beautiful vaults and corroded sandstone walls on its far side.

HISTORIC SITE

Ventilation shafts look out to the border ramparts, leading to Lusignan corridors and sealed chambers. Legend has it that fortunes still lie hidden here, buried by Venetian merchants in the face of the advancing Ottomans.

Palazzo del Provveditore

(Venetian Palace; Namik Kemal Meydani) The ruined arches and supporting columns (taken from Salamis) of the Palazzo del Provveditore sit opposite Lala Mustafa Paşa mosque. The triple-arched entranceway is the best-preserved part.

St Peter & St Paul Church

CHURCH

HISTORIC SITE

(Sinan Paşa Camii; Abdullah Paşa Sokak) Although not open to the public, the magnificent facade of this mammoth 14th-century church, which has survived intact, gives you a good impression of what Famagusta would have looked like before most of its churches and monuments were ruined.

The church's construction was funded by a local merchant, Simon Nostrano, between 1358 and 1369. During the Ottoman period it served as a mosque and after the British arrived it was used as a wheat store.

St George of the Greeks Church CHURCH (Mustafa Paşa SM Ersu Sokak) The ruins of this once-stately and splendidly Gothic church are one of the most picturesque in the walled city. You can still make out the faint outlines of once-rich frescos upon the interior stone walls. Beside it is the smaller, Byzantime **St Simeon's Church** where Salamis' archbishop St Epiphanios was said to have been first buried before his body was carted off to Constantinople by Emperor Leo in the 9th century.

St George of the Latins Church CHURCH (Cafer Paşa Sokak) Sitting incongruously amid a traffic intersection, St George of the Latins is one of Famagusta's oldest churches. The remaining walls with their distinctive lancet windows are a good example of early Gothic architecture.

Nestorian Church

CHURCH

(Abdullah Paşa Sokak) Built between 1360 and 1369 this Nestorian-order church has a sublimely well-preserved bell tower and squat golden-stoned facade.

According to local tradition, if you take soil from the church grounds and place it in your enemy's house, within one year they'll either die or leave Cyprus (it's probably best not to try out if this works on any enemies you have at home).

Beaches

With Varosia being off limits, the best sand at Famagusta is at the south end of the city walls, at Palm Beach, or north of the city at Bediz Beach (p221) near Salamis.

Palm Beach BEACH (off Palmiye Sokak) The best strip of sand in Famagusta, and probably the weirdest beach you'll ever visit. The edge of the sand is rimmed with ruins of hotels with blown-out windows, and the southern end comes to an abrupt halt with a barricade of barbed wire and metal poles that run into the sea – with a soldier stationed in the watchtower above. Behind the barricade is the rest of Varosia's fine sweep of sand, backed by empty, decrepit hotel high-rises.

To get here, walk along the coast road (Havva Sentürk Caddesi) to the Palm Beach Hotel, head past the hotel and take the small alleyway signposted for the beach.

***** Festivals & Events

International Famagusta Art & Culture Festival

MUSIC

(www.magusa.org/festival.aspx; O Jul) The festival takes place during July and includes a line-up of everything from classical and jazz to hip-hop, modern rock and reggae, performed by international and local artists. Concerts are usually staged near Othello's Tower within the Old Town and at Ancient Salamis' theatre.

X Eating

Within the Old Town there are plenty of cafe-style places as well as a handful of more formal restaurants. Many places are open for lunch only due to the influx of day trippers who leave once the sun has set.

★ Petek Confectioner CAFE € (\bigcirc 0392 366 7104; Liman Yolu 1; cakes & desserts 4-10TL, ice cream 3-8TL; \bigcirc 10am-11pm; \bigcirc \bigcirc) Famed throughout Northern Cyprus, Petek is a temple to all things sugary, with towers of *lokum* (Turkish delight), syrupy baklava, and what might be the best *dondurma* (ice cream) on the island. So pull up a pew and watch the world go by from Petek's verandah. Just make sure you've got enough money left over for the dentist bill afterwards.

Sweet Mama

BAKERY €

(Mustafa Paşa SM Ersu Sokak 10; pastries & cakes 2-10TL; ⊙9am-6pm) Recover from trooping between the church ruins by grabbing a refreshing homemade lemonade and a börek (stuffed savoury pastry) or piece of cake, and relaxing in the leafy garden with its pots of colourful petunias and chirping birds.

Desdemona Bar & Restaurant TURKISH €€ There's a rough-and-ready look to this place but don't be put off, this restaurant-bar is superfriendly and serves excellent-value kebabs which come with plenty of meze. It's in an old stone building attached to the city walls. The dimly-lit interior is festooned with farming implements, instruments and oil paintings, and the bar area is a real local hang-out.

Ginkgo

INTERNATIONAL CC

(20392 366 6660; Namık Kemal Meydanı; mains 22-35TL; ⊙11am-10pm; ⑦ Z) This friendly cafe-restaurant occupies an old madrasa (Islamic religious school) and arched Christian building right next to the Lala Mustafa Pasa mosque. The wide-ranging menu does everything from decent salads and sandwiches to kebabs, pasta and grilled fish. The lunch set menus are excellent value.

★Othello's Meyhanesi CYPRIOT EEE (M. Celalettin Sokak; full meze per person 50TL; ⊙ 6pm-late; <a>) It may not look fancy but this joint is where the locals go when they want to indulge in full meze blow-outs. Pace yourself; this is the real-deal 30-plus-dish spread - don't expect to eat and run. If you are here on a weekend night, spontaneous folk dancing is likely to break out late in the evening.

🗙 Aspava Restaurant

CYPRIOT CCC (20392 366 6037; Liman Yolu 19; set menu per person 60TL; 🕑 11am-11pm; 🖻) Always bustling with tourists at lunchtime and locals during the evening, this vine-draped courtyard restaurant dishes up meze followed by a bevy of succulent grilled meats. Make sure you're hungry.

Drinking & Nightlife

The Old Town has a couple of really good bars and plentiful cafes where you can quaff a wine or two. To check out Famagusta's vibrant, modern youth scene, visit the cafes lining the New Town's main drag heading past the university towards Salamis.

De Molav

(Kışla Sokak; ⊗noon-midnight; 🕤) Here's your chance to drink a beer in a Crusader church. The twin churches of the Knights Templars and Hospitallers were built in the 13th century and acted as headquarters for both orders in Cyprus. Where once swashbuckling knights prayed, now man-bun-toting cool kids hang out as the churches are now a bar.

One Shot Coffee

(Kemal Zeytinoÿlu Sokak; ⊗9am-11pm; 🗟) Just opposite the Land Gate, this is hands down

VAROSIA (MARAŞ)

Before partition, Famagusta's new town district of Varosia (Maraş in Turkish) was a thriving community of Greek Cypriots and one of the liveliest beach resorts in the Mediterranean. All that changed in 1974, when Varosia's residents fled the Turkish invasion, leaving uncleared breakfast dishes and taking with them little more than the clothes they wore. Many left on the assumption that they would return within a few days, but Varosia has remained a ghost town ever since.

Behind the barricades, apartment blocks, shops and houses are caked in over 40 years of dust and sediment. A looted car dealership still stocks a single 1974 model, entombed in its showroom. The grand hotels that once played host to Elizabeth Taylor and Brigitte Bardot have been left to slowly decay like giant hollow sentinels on the coast. On rare occasions, access has been granted to Agios Ioannis Church (@9am-1pm Mon-Fri). 120m into the restricted area, but most of Varosia has been closed to the outside world since 1974.

However, there are signs that the Turkish administration may be rethinking its policy of isolation. In 2017 the military announced that part of the beach would be opened to Turkish Cypriots, as a prelude to more widespread access. However, the announcement was met by outcry from Greek Cypriots, who regard the move as a violation of the UN resolution guaranteeing right of return for the town's original inhabitants.

CAFE

BAR

the best coffee in Famagusta. To be fair, it doesn't have much competition but One Shot serves up both excellent European-style coffees and *Türk kahve* (Turkish coffee) at reasonable prices and with friendly, on-theball service to boot. Also a good choice for a quiet beer.

Hamam Inn Bar

BAR

RAR

(Liman Yolu; \odot noon-late; R) This bar-cafe is inside the stately 17th-century Cafer Paşa Hamam (Turkish bath). An atmospheric and historic choice for a beer or wine at the end of the day in the Old Town.

Monks Inn

(⊙6pm-late; ⑦) Inside a medieval house, this well-stocked bar is all about relaxing and sampling the cocktails. It's tucked away in a side street just east of Lala Mustafa Paşa Camii.

Devran Beach Restaurant

CAFE

(Palm Beach; ⊙10am-11pm; ⑦) The place for a beer on Palm Beach, with sun loungers and umbrellas to rent in front of the terrace.

Shopping

Craft and souvenir shopping is limited. There's a glut of shops in the Old Town touting counterfeit brand-name watches, sneakers and apparel all brought over from Turkey.

Hoşgör

ANTIOUES

(M Celalettin Sokak 24/1; \odot 10am-2pm Mon-Sat) In this interesting antiques trove you can find traditional Cypriot ceramics, engravings, embroidery and gifts.

Information

EMERGENCY

Police station (≥ 0392 366 5310; İlker Sokak Körler) Located just to the south of the old city along İlker Sokak.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Yaşam Hastanesi (20392 366 2876; Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvarı; ⊗ 24hr) The nearest hospital; 1.5km west of the Old Town.

MONEY

There are ATMs and a bank in the central Old Town around Namık Kemal Meydanı, opposite Lala Mustafa Paşa mosque.

Money-Exchange Office (İstiklal Caddesi; @ 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri)

POST

FAMAGUSTA (GAZIMAGUSA) & THE KARPAS PENINSULA FAMAGUSTA (GAZIMAGUSA)

Post office (20392 366 2250; Fazıl Polat Paşa Bulvarı; ⊗ 8am-3.30pm Mon-Fri)

TOURIST INFORMATION

North Cyprus Tourism Organisation (NCTO; 203923662864; Ravelin Bastion; ⊕8am-5pm) Just inside the Land Gate. Englishspeaking staff. Good free maps of the Old Town in English.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Ercan Airport (p182) is 50km northwest of Famagusta.

Kibhas (0533 870 7847; www.kibhas.org; Famagusta Bus Terminal; ticket 17.50TL) runs airport shuttle buses between Famagusta and the airport (50 minutes) every two hours.

BOAT

Akgünler Denizcilik (www.akgunlerbilet.com; Eşref Bitlis Caddesi; adult/car TL115/190; ⊗ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) run three services weekly at 11pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Famagusta's ferry terminal (Famagusta Port) to Mersin, in Turkey.

Coming from Mersin the ferry sails at 11pm on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Its ticket office is next to the Port View Hotel.

BUS

Famagusta is well connected with both North Nicosia and Kyrenia (Girne) by bus.

From the **İtimat bus station** (İtimat Otogar; 20392 366 6666; Onbeş Ağustos Caddesi), buses to North Nicosia (Lefkoşa; 11TL, one hour) leave every 15 minutes between 6am and 7pm Monday to Saturday, and between 7am and 7pm on Sundays. There are also hourly buses to Kyrenia (12TL, 1¼ hours) between 6.20am and 6.20pm from here.

If you're coming from Kyrenia, the buses usually terminate at the **Goçmen Transport office** (20392 366 4313; www.gocmentransport.com; Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvarı) rather than at the bus station.

MINIBUS

There are *dolmuşes* to İskele (Trikomo; 5TL, 20 minutes) at 8.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm and 5pm. To Yenierenköy (Yiallousa; 5TL, one hour) there are three buses on weekdays at 1pm, 3.30pm and 5pm. All these services leave from the **minibus station** (Dolmuş Otogarı; Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvarı).

TAXI

Kombos (shared taxis) leave for Kyrenia (13TL, one hour) hourly between 7am and 5pm from the Kontor Office (Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvarı).

A regular taxi to Salamis should cost 30TL one way.

1 Getting Around

There are no public buses within the city as most major sights and services are within walking distance.

Taxi stands are dotted around the central town. **Raşıt Taxi** (20392 366 6636; Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvarı) and **Ada Taksi** (İsmet İnönü Bulvarı) both operate in and around Famagusta as well as further afield. Tariffs are generally fixed but check before accepting a ride. **Sur Car Hire** (20533 841 7979, 0392 366

Sur Car nire (205338417979, 0392366 4796; İsmet İnönü Bulvarı; from €22 per day, 3 day min; © 9am-5pm) is a reliable car hire company.

AROUND FAMAGUSTA

The vast crumbled ruins of Ancient Salamis, overtaken by weeds and wild fennel, are the big-hitter sights here, but there's plenty more to explore. Both the Church of Apostolos Varnavas and Ancient Enkomi are close by and combining all three makes for an excellent day trip. Afterwards, there are a couple of decent beaches which make for good swim stops or you can head to Boğaz's dinky fishing harbour for dinner at one of the fish restaurants with platforms right over the sea.

O Sights

★ Ancient Salamis ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Salamis Yolu; adult/student 9/5TL; ③ 9am-6pm Apr-Oct, to 5pm Nov-Mar) According to legend, Salamis was founded around 1180 BC by Teucer (Teukros), son of Telamon, king of Salamina, on the Greek mainland. Brother to the hero Ajax, he was unable to return home from the Trojan War after failing to avenge his brother's death.

Today the vast, scattered remnants of this ancient kingdom, 9km north of Famagusta on the seaward side of the Famagusta-Boğaz Hwy, are one of the island's premier archaeological sites.

After its legendary beginnings, Salamis later came under Assyrian rule; the first recorded mention of it is on an Assyrian stele dated to 709 BC.

After a land and sea battle between the Greeks and the Persians in 450 BC the city (and island) submitted. The city remained under Persian control until the great patriot king Evagoras fought for and obtained independence. During his reign Salamis flourished. It issued its own money and nurtured a thriving philosophical and literary scene, receiving noted Greek thinkers and poets.

Later, after Alexander the Great put an end to Persian domination across the island, the city saw a short period of peace. Nicocreon (the last king of Salamis) submitted to Alexander's rule and after Alexander's death, continued to cooperate with the subsequent Ptolemaic rulers, quelling uprisings in other Cypriot kingdoms. Nicocreon's death in 311 BC remains a mystery. Some texts says that he committed suicide while others hold that he was murdered. What is clear is that despite Ptolemy rule over Salamis lasting until 58 BC, the city began to flounder after Nicocreon's death.

It wasn't until Cyprus became a Roman colony that the city prospered again, through rebuilding and public works. It went on to suffer two earthquakes and a tidal wave, requiring rebuilding once more, courtesy of Emperor Constantine II. In AD 350 the city was renamed Constantia and declared Episcopal.

Constantia suffered similar problems to its predecessor and in the 7th and 8th centuries it suffered Saracen Arab raids.

Its silted-over harbour became unusable and the city was essentially forgotten. Many of its stones were later used to build Famagusta.

Gymnasium

The remains of the city's gymnasium, with columned courtyard and adjacent pools, used for exercise and pampering, allude to Salamis' original grandeur. Its northerly portico is surrounded by headless statues despoiled by Christian zealots as symbols of pagan worship. Many that had survived numerous raids have disappeared since 1974. Fortunately, some made it to Nicosia's Cyprus Museum and are now prized exhibits.

Baths

East of the portico are the Hellenistic and Roman baths, where you can see the exposed underfloor heating system. The southern entrance has a fresco of two faces, and in the south hall are two of the site's finest mosaics, dating from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

One mosaic depicts Leda and the Swan, the other Apollo and Artemis combating the Niobids. Some believe that the latter is a scene of a battle between warriors and Amazons.

Theatre

Dating from the time of Augustus (31 BC to AD 14), the theatre once held 15,000 spectators. Much of it was destroyed by

TIPS FOR VISITING ANCIENT SALAMIS

 Allow at least half a day for your visit.
 There is about 7km of rambling to see it all.

 Once you pass the main entrance, stick to the site map so that you don't retrace your steps too much.

 On hot days take a hat and bottles of water with you as there's no shade.

 Be wary of snakes, especially in the more overgrown parts of the site. This is not a site for wearing flip-flops.

 The adjacent beach is perfect for a swim after a day's exploring.
 There's a good patch of sand right by the entrance car park or, for a midexploration dip, take the short trail down to the beach from the Kambanopetra Basilica.

 The handy restaurant at the site entrance car park dishes up excellent meze and grills. It's a top spot for lunch.

earthquakes, leaving stone raiders to seize its blocks for building projects elsewhere. Since then, it has been partially restored and occasionally hosts outdoor events.

Roman Villa

South of the theatre, the villa was originally a two-storey structure made up of a reception hall and an inner courtyard with columned portico. The villa was utilised long after the city was finally abandoned and used as an olive-oil mill. The grinding stone can still be seen today.

Kambanopetra Basilica

The vast remains of this 4th-century basilica are an entrancing spot with lonely columns backed by the sea. Originally it would have been an impressive church with three apses. In the complex behind the church (believed to have contained a bathhouse) there is an intricate, well-preserved mosaic floor.

Basilica of Agios Epifanios

Once the largest basilica in Cyprus, this church was built during the episcopacy of Epifanios (AD 386–403) and completely destroyed during Arab raids in the 7th century.

Reservoir

At the southern end of the site you come to the Roman-era reservoir, which stored the water brought to Salamis by a 50km aqueduct.

Agora & Temple of Zeus

Just behind the reservoir are the sparse remains of Agora – the city's place of assembly during the Roman era – and the Temple of Zeus which the Romans built over an earlier Hellenistic temple. Not much remains from either complex, the stones having long been pilfered for other building projects.

Necropolis of Salamis ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Royal Tombs, Salamis Mezarlık Alanı; adult/student 7/3TL; ⊗9am-5pm) This ancient cemetery dates back to the 7th and 8th centuries BC and consists of a scattering of 150 graves spread out over the wide field.

The arrangement of the burial chambers closely matches descriptions of Mycenaean tombs in Homer's *Iliad*. Kings and nobles were buried here with their favoured worldly possessions, food, drink, and even their sacrificed slaves.

The tombs are prominently signposted, south of the Salamis turn-off, along the road to the Church of Apostolos Varnavas.

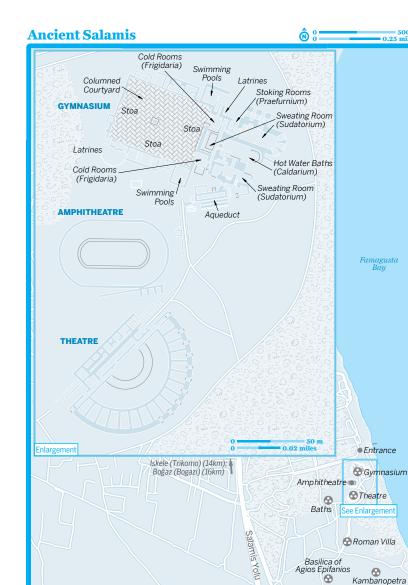
★ Church of Apostolos Varnavas CHURCH (20392 378 8331; adult/student 9/5TL; ⊗9am-6pm Jun-Sep, to 3.30pm Oct-Apr) This beautiful Orthodox church is dedicated to St Paul's good friend Varnavas (Barnabas), who was born in Cyprus and carried out his missionary work here. Although his name and work are listed in the Bible's 'Acts of the Apostles', he was never officially one of them.

Today the church is an icon museum with a wide selection of Greek Orthodox icons and some frescos on display, but its the stunningly well-preserved architecture of the building that is the true star.

Three monks (who were also brothers) called Barnabas, Stefanos and Khariton governed the church from 1917. They attempted to remain after 1974 but ultimately left in 1976, following constant searches of the premises and travel restrictions imposed by the Turkish authorities. They lived out their days at Stavrovouni Monastery.

The church was spared from the destruction and looting that befell many churches in the North when Turkish authorities turned it into a museum. Although many Greek Cypriots have objected to the site's use for monetary gain and not for worship, they are pleased the church has survived.

The original church was built in AD 477, beside the site of Varnavas' tomb. It was dis-



Necropolis of Salamis (Royal Tombs)

Cellarka Tombs

Church of Apostolos Varnavas G

Ancient Enkomi

(Alasia) (3km)

🕄 Roman Villa

Reservoir

Famagusta

(Gazimağusa) (9km)

Kambanopetra Basilica

🕄 Agora & Temple of Zeus

İSKELE (TRIKOMO) & AROUND

North of Famagusta (Gazimağusa), the crossroads village of İskele (Trikomo), birthplace of Ethniki Organosi tou Kypriakou Agona (EOKA; National Organisation for the Cypriot Struggle) leader Georgios Grivas, is noteworthy for its 12th-century church **Panagia Theotokos** (Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary) which is now an icon museum (İskele İkon Müzesi; Mustafa Orhan Caddesi; adult/student 7/5TL; © 9am-5pm Jun-Sep, to 3.30pm Oct-May) housing paintings of the Virgin Mary of the Annunciation and the Prayer of Joachim and Anna. It's easy to spot the domed building on the western edge of the village.

Northwest of İskele, you can tootle your way into the agricultural hills to blink-andyou-miss-them villages along roads where chugging tractors are the only traffic. The village of **Ağıller**, with crumbled stone buildings sitting amid the cottages, is a very typical example of this region's settlements. Follow the (signposted) road up behind the village that twists and turns for around 5km, through lush green scenery, to the **Bulusia Monastery**, which sits in splendid isolation overlooking the plains below.

Back down on the coast, stop off at **Boğaz** (Bogazi), about 24km north of Famagusta, for a meal at the harbour. Although the coastline here has been overtaken by villa-developments, the teensy harbour itself still has a local feel, packed with fishing boats rather than pleasure cruisers. The clutch of fish taverns here, right on the water's edge, serves up excellent fresh seafood. Head to Kiyi (mains 25-35TL; \otimes 11am-11pm) for its friendly service, reasonable prices and the well-cooked, hearty portions of chips which come with the meals.

covered by Anthemios, the bishop of Constantia (Salamis), following a revelation in a dream. The current structure was built by Archbishop Philotheos in 1756 and incorporates much of the original church.

In the courtyard there is also a small archaeological museum, which contains some excellent finds from Salamis and nearby Enkomi. Some of its contents may have been moved from the now defunct Archaeological Museum (p215) in Varosia.

The artefacts and the rooms are not well signed. Clockwise from the entrance, the first room houses Bronze Age objects, the next has exhibits from the Venetian period, and there's a mixture of Ottoman and Classical periods in the final room. The most interesting exhibit is the statue of a woman holding a poppy, believed to be the goddess Demeter.

Slightly apart from the main church compound, down a trail just off the car park, is the little chapel said to contain Varnavas' tomb.

The church is 9km northwest of Famagusta, 2km down the well-signposted turnoff just south of Salamis.

Ancient Enkomi ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Enkomi Ören Yeni; adult/student 7/5TL; ⊗9am-6pm May-Sep, to 3.30pm Oct-Apr) Settlement at Enkomi dates back as far as 1800 BC. The city rose to prominence when it became a large copper-producing centre during the late Bronze Age (1650–1050 BC). What remains of the present site dates from around 1200 BC, when the rectangular grid layout was established and its fine public buildings were erected.

The widespread site is 2km west from the Church of Apostolos Varnavas, along the same road.

Enkomi was known for its high standard of living and its wealthy merchants who conducted trade as agents of the Mycenaeans. Akkadian cuneiform slabs found in Tel el-Amarna, Egypt, contain promises of copper to the pharaoh from the king of Alasia, in return for silver and luxury items. It's still unclear whether the name Alasia referred to Cyprus as a whole or just Enkomi itself.

A fire and at least two earthquakes led to Enkomi's decline, and then its inland harbour silted up. Some speculate that its last residents headed to the coast and founded Salamis. Much of the site has been looted, but many of its tombs were said to have held gold, ivory and exquisite Mycenaean pottery.

Southern Site

The southern end of the site (nearest the ticket office) is where excavations in the early 20th century unearthed some of Enkomi's most important finds.

From south to north you see the **House** of **Bronzes**, where bronze accoutrements were unearthed in 1934, the **House of Pil**- **Iar**, a public building, the **Sanctuary of the Horned God**, where a 60cm-tall bronze statue (now in the Cyprus Museum) was found, and **Tomb 18**, where most of the site's treasure was recovered.

Cenotaph Mound

The cenotaph mound, built on a rocky outpost, escaped most of the looting the rest of Enkomi suffered, with its funeral pyre concealing much of its contents from tomb robbers. Limestone statues, amphorae from Rhodes, an archaic bronze shield and clay effigies have all been recovered from here.

Archaeologists now contend that this probable tomb may have belonged to Nicocreon and that the plain between Enkomi and Salamis was once a significant connection between the two cities.

P Beaches

Great stretches of beach can be found from Ancient Salamis, north of Famagusta, right around Famagusta Bay. The sea is knee deep to about 70m out and can be quite choppy on windy days.

Glapsides Beach

BEACH

About 4km north of Famagusta, on the road to Salamis, this shallow sandy beach is perfect for swimming and snorkelling, and exploring the submerged harbour of the ancient city.

It's popular with locals and great for kids. There's a beach bar and restaurant, and you can hire sun loungers and umbrellas, as well as pedalos and kayaks. The beach is also a great birdwatching location during migratory seasons.

Glapsides is accessed via the path beside Golden Terrace restaurant.

Bediz Beach

BEACH

Just past Salamis, this soft-sand beach offers all amenities, including sunbeds, umbrellas, showers and a restaurant-bar. If it's hot and you plan to see the ruins at Ancient Salamis, take a swim here afterwards.

1 Getting There & Away

The area is easiest seen with your own car, but most sites are close enough together for taxis to be affordable. A taxi from Famagusta to Ancient Enkomi or Ancient Salamis costs about 30TL.

Dolmuşes between Famagusta and İskele run at 8.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm and 5pm (5TL, 20 minutes) and can drop you near the Salamis turn off. They return from İskele at 7am, 8am, 9am, 1pm and 4.30pm.

KARPAS PENINSULA

A journey up the Karpas Peninsula – a Mediterranean rural idyll of rolling fields, olive groves and remote white-sand beaches licked by shallow turquoise water – is like watching the clocks wind themselves back to a time before investors and developers gobbled up much of the island's coast. East of Boğaz' forlorn tourism centre and Bafra's woefully bad-taste luxury resorts, you enter one of the island's last true wildernesses.

Set between a spine of undulating hills, country roads weave between forgotten archaeological sites, ruined churches and sleepy villages up to the thin tapering finger of land at the eastern tip where wild donkeys wander onto the roads and turtles nest on dune-backed Golden Beach. This region is a beacon for cyclists, hikers and anyone simply weary of matching lines of holiday villas.

Come in March when the fields erupt in a kaleidoscope of wild flower colours and rare orchids bloom.

1 Getting There & Around

In order to explore this region properly, you'll need your own wheels. Apart from the bus to Yenierenköy (5TL, 1¼ hours, three daily Monday to Friday), the only other option is to hire a taxi.

The main road (Karpaz Yolu) through the peninsula is first-rate for most of the way with excellent signage. Once you're off the main road, though, prepare for narrow, winding, unsigned roads, and expect to get lost periodically.

The last section of Karpaz Yolu – from Dipkarpaz (Rizokarpaso) to Apostolos Andreas Monastery – is narrow and riddled with potholes. It's also often roamed by the Karpas' wild donkeys. Take it slow here.

The South Coast

Sights in the Karpas are mainly strung out along the south coast of what locals euphemistically call the 'Panhandle'. The following sights are arranged in the order you reach them driving along the isthmus from Salamis.

O Sights

Kumyalı Beach

(Koma tou Gialou) This little beach-fishing harbour, just outside the village of Kumyah (Koma tou Gialou), is ideal for a last stop and swim before you make the long drive up the western flank of the peninsula to the

BEACH

KANTARA CASTLE

Perched above the coastal plain at 690m, Kantara Castle (Kantara Kalesi; adult/student 7/5TL; ⊕9am-5pm Jun-Sep, to 3.30pm Oct-May) is lowest of the three romantic Crusader castles that crown the ridge of the Kyrenia (Girne) mountain range, but it still offers 360-degree views across the island. On a clear day, you can see the coast of Turkey and even Syria. The castle's documented history dates back to 1191 when Richard the Lionheart seized it from Isaak Komninos, the Byzantine emperor of Cyprus, but its significance faded under the Venetians, and it was abandoned to the ravages of treasure-seeking raiders in the 16th century.

Although decayed by the centuries, the northern section of the castle stills stands resolutely above the forest, guarding the remains of the garrison and a deep water cistern. The roof of the north tower is narrow, unfenced and vertiginous, but the views are incredible. A free map of the site is provided but children should be accompanied at all times, as there are some dangerous drops and uncapped holes on the site.

From Kyrenia it takes about two hours to reach the castle; turn off the coastal highway at Kaplıca (Davios) and take the narrow, winding (but easily drivable) road upwards to the car park.

more exquisite beaches at the far end of the Karpaz.

★Golden Beach

BEACH

(Nangomi Bay) Possibly the best on the island, Golden Beach is worth the trip to the Karpas in itself. Its white-sand dunes and gentle curves meet the calm, clear sea, and wild donkeys graze nonchalantly on the hills while you soak up the tranquillity. It's truly enchanting, with little development.

The beach is 5km before Zafer Burnu (Cape Apostolos Andreas), situated between scrubby headlands and stretching for several kilometres. There are some basic restaurants and accommodation options.

It's now part of a national park and also prime turtle-nesting ground. If you're visiting in September, contact the certified volunteers at the **Society for the Protection of Turtles** (SPOT; www.cyprusturtles.org) who monitor the progress of the turtles – you may even be lucky enough to witness baby turtles hatching.

Monastery of Apostolos Andreas

CHURCH

(donations accepted; ⊗8am-6pm) It's not as glitzy as other churches, with a plain, small interior holding an iconostasis with some lovely icons from the late 19th century. But the Monastery of Apostolos Andreas, sitting facing the sea near the tip of the Karpas, remains one the island's most important religious sites. On 15 August and 30 November, coachloads of Greek Cypriots make the long trek out here on pilgrimage to visit this monastery where miracles are reputed to take place.

The monastery's reputation for miracles was obtained during the time of St Andrew (the patron saint of sailors), who reputedly restored the sight of a ship's captain when he arrived from Palestine. Since then, attested-to miracles range from curing blindness and epilepsy to healing the crippled and granting extraordinary wishes.

Before 1974 the monastery was well supported by its devotees and pilgrims but since then - isolated from its patrons and with only a few Greek Cypriot caretakers - the great monastery has had a slow and steady deterioration. Turkish Cypriot authorities began to allow a small number of pilgrims to enter the North on organised visits to the monastery from 1996. Today, with the crossings opened, the pilgrimage is far simpler and the faithful can visit this site of holy miracles unescorted. A long overdue restoration project on the monastery buildings. carried out by the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, began in 2013, Although work is still ongoing on peripheral buildings, the main monastery church restoration was finished in 2016 and the church has been reopened to the public.

Zafer Burnu

(Cape Apostolos Andreas)

A mere 3km from the Monastery of Apostolos Andreas, along a dirt track, is the easternmost tip of Cyprus. From here you can see the cluster of rocky isles known as the Kleides (The Keys).

LANDMARK

The Neolithic site of **Kastros** was once located here. Later, the ancient Greeks built a temple to Aphrodite, of which nothing remains. If you have a 4WD, take the rougher northern track back to Dipkarpaz, though it can be particularly difficult in wet weather.

Yenierenköy (Yiallousa)

Formerly a predominantly Greek village, Yenierenköy was resettled by Turkish Cypriot residents of Erenköy (Kokkina) in the South. It's the peninsula's second-largest village and has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. At the **tourist information office**

(2 0392 374 4984; ⊗10am-6pm Jun-Sep, 9am-3pm Oct-May) the staff speak English and have lots of information on the peninsula.

O Sights

Yenierenköy is a good base for exploring the little-visited cave tombs of the Karpas. The **Kastros Cave Tombs** near Avtepe (Agios Simeon) are thought to date from around the 5th century BC and are cut 20m high in the cliff. A metal spiral staircase allows access into the interconnected chambers.

Near here you can take the rough tracks down to the coast (4WD recommended) leading to the ruins of the ancient Bronze Age fort of **Nitovikla**.

Further east along the coast near Kaleburnu (Galinoporni) is the large **Kastros Hill Cave Tomb**, which still has shallow niches carved into the floor where the bodies of the dead once lay.

Agios Thyrsos

CHURCH

(Karpaz Yolu) The church of Agios Thyrsos sits majestically on the seafront, with waves lapping the black rocks of the coast below. Although the church's interior is plain, it's well worth stopping off here to walk on the narrow pier just behind the church for the coastal views.

Karpaz Gate Marina

MARINA

(20533 833 7878; www.karpazbay.com; Karpaz Yolu; beach club adult/child 15TL/free) Yenierenköy's luxury €15 million marina offers berthing for yachties in the Karpas Peninsula. For those not arriving on the island aboard their own yacht, the chief attraction is the marina's swish private **beach club**, complete with small white-sand beach, pool and an attractive bar-restaurant, draped in Caribbean-chic white curtains.

X Eating

★ Alevkayalı Restaurant CYPRIOT **CCC** (2) 0533 876 0911; Karpaz Yolu; mains 30-35TL; ③ 11am-10pm; ⑦) Calamari cooked to perfection, superfresh fish and well-spiced *sheftalia* (grilled sausages wrapped in caul fat; *şeftali kebap* in Turkish); Alevkayalı is a top lunch spot. Generous mains come with a meze of hummus, haloumi (hellim in Turkish) and vegetables like broad beans in olive oil and pickled celery. Dine on the terrace with waves lapping the rocks below for the full experience.

Getting There & Away

Monday to Friday there are three dolmuses daily to Famagusta (5TL, one hour). Check current times at the tourist information office as the schedule tends to change. On weekends there are no bus services.

Sipahi (Agia Triada)

The small village of Sipahi (Agia Triada) is home to many mainland Bulgarian Turkish settlers and a tiny community of Karpas Greeks. Like the equally small group in Dipkarpaz, they refused to leave their homes in the North and have continued to live on the peninsula despite the political situation.

For travellers the village's main point of interest is the superb surviving mosaic floors of the ruined **Basilica of Agia Triada** (Sipahi; adult/student 7/5TL; ⊗9am-5pm). Although only the foundations and a few battered half-columns of the 5th-century basilica survive to show the building's rough outline, the intricately patterned mosaic flooring has managed to withstand the ravages of time. The abstract, geometric designs on show here have even held onto much of their colour. Greek inscriptions at both the northern

CELEBRATE THE GRAPE!

All hail the grape! The surrounding vineyards of Mehmetçik (Galateia) are the inspiration for the **Mehmetçik Grape Festival** (Mehmetçik Üzüm Festivali; www. mehmetcikbelediyesi.org; Mehmetçik; ⊗ Aug), which has been the Karpas' big annual event for over 50 years. Folk dancing, plenty of grape-related food products and music take over the village for one week in August.

PROTECTING THE WILDERNESS

In 1983, 150 sq km of the Karpas region, from the municipality of Dipkarpaz (Rizokarpaso) to Zafer Burnu (Cape Apostolos Andreas), was declared a national park by Turkish Cypriot authorities. Since then, however, encroaching development has continued to threaten this wilderness.

In a bid to introduce mass tourism to the Karpas region, investors have transformed Bafra, on the western edge of the peninsula, into a kind of Vegas-by-sea complete with themed luxury hotels and a high-roller casino. This rapid development has deeply concerned conservationists, who are worried about the sustainability of the region's greater environment, particularly its unique wildlife, plant life, undiscovered archaeological sites and rugged beaches.

Lobby groups, biologists and environmentalists have banded together to push for a commitment to adhere to stricter guidelines regarding the peninsula's use and further development. Most pressing are concerns over the building of new roadways and hotel developments, the scope of electrification plans for remote areas of the peninsula and the ongoing problem of litter.

and southern ends of the former nave reveal that the church's construction was partly financed by a local deacon on a personal vow of dedication.

Dipkarpaz (Rizokarpaso)

This is the peninsula's largest and most remote village, where a contemporary mosque sits next to an old Orthodox church. The church is a silent companion, as its bell is no longer tolled, although a small number of Greek Cypriots still live in the village. The once-thriving town is now mostly populated by mainland Turks and Kurds, who work the land and live in difficult rural conditions.

A small ring of shops, a couple of cafes where old men sit sipping tea all day and a petrol station form the tidy centre of town. Although there is little else in the way of facilities, thanks to a couple of great accommodation options it makes a pleasant, peaceful base for Karpaz forays.

X Eating

Manolyam Restaurant

TURKISH €€

(Dipkarpaz; mains 20-30TL; ⊗ Apr-Oct) This restaurant dishes up traditional Turkish kebab plates and a small but filling array of mixed meze.

★Oasis Restaurant

SEAFOOD CCC

(Oasis at Ayfilon, Agios Filon Beach; mains 25-40TL; ⊙11am-3pm & 6-11pm; ⑦☑) Looking over the cliffs and next door to the Agios Filon church, this little place serves up char-grills and the peninsula's best freshly caught fish, marinated in olive oil.

Agios Filon & Afendrika

Grouped together on the north coast, close to the sleepy village of Dipkarpaz, the ruins at Agios Filon span several millennia of settlements, beside a small but lovely sand beach.

O Sights

Agios Filon Beach BEACH With its soft sand and big, flat sea rocks, this is a fantastic beach some 5km north of Dipkarpaz. It's also a turtle-hatching beach and a great place to watch the sunset. The 12th-century Agios Filon Church stands silently on the sparse coastline, next to the Oasis at Ayfilon hotel and restaurant. Its well-preserved outside walls were built over an earlier 5th-century Christian basilica. The conceptual mosaics from the basilica can be seen outside the walls of the later church.

Afendrika

About 7km east of Agios Filon Beach is Afendrika, a major city in the 2nd century BC. What remains is a set of contiguous ruins comprising three churches: 6th-century Agios Georgios, Panagia Khrysiotissa and 10th-century Panagia Asomatos. Nearby are the necropolis and what remains of the citadel.

RUINS

©Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'

©Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd



Pafos & the West

Includes 🔿

Pafos98
Coral Bay & Agios Georgios 111
Akamas Heights 111
Akamas Peninsula 113
Polis114
Tylliria 117
Pomos118
Western Troödos119

Best Places to Eat

- Mandra Tavern (p108)
- Argo (p107)
- Kiniras Garden (p108)
- Imogen's Inn (p113)
- Kanalli Fish Restaurant (p118)

Best Places to Escape

- Lara Beach (p113)
- Kato Pyrgos (p118)
- Stavros tis Psokas (p119)
- ➡ Fyti (p120)

Why Go?

Pafos was nominated joint European Capital of Culture for 2017 in recognition of its extraordinary archaeological sights. Unsurprisingly, these have attracted tourists for decades – as have more hedonistic pursuits. If you find the beach strip at Kato Pafos (Lower Pafos) too developed, duck into the back streets or head up to Ktima (Upper Pafos) on the hillside, which has a more traditional feel. More beach resorts are strung out north along the coast towards Agios Georgios.

To seriously sidestep the crowds, consider renting a car and searching out traditional rural villages where some of the best tavernas are located. If you have sturdier wheels, check out the unspoilt Akamas Peninsula, where there are remote beaches and some of the best walks on the island. To the east, the vast Pafos Forest is equally enticing, melting almost imperceptibly into the sombre tracts of the Tyllirian wilderness.

When to Go

 Pafos is the island's top tourist destination and gets busy in summer, which is worth bearing in mind when planning your visit.

 The summer months of July and August are when you will find the most sunbeds on the sand, the most sunburned noses and the highest hotel prices.

 May, June, September and October are less crowded, with plenty of long sunny days.

 Spring and autumn are pleasantly warm, though evening temperatures cool down considerably.

 In winter some restaurants and hotels close down altogether; if you head to the Western Troödos, you may even see some snow. 98

POP 88.266

Linked by a traffic artery, Kato Pafos (Lower Pafos) and Ktima (Upper Pafos; 3km to the northeast) form a contrasting whole. Kato Pafos is geared towards tourists, with bars and souvenir shops lining the palmfringed seafront. Dive into the backstreets to discover historic gems such as medieval baths, catacombs and a simple fishermen's church. But the grand-slam sight is one of the South's richest archaeological locales. the Pafos Archaeological Site, just one reason the city was awarded joint European Capital of Culture in 2017. Standing here, surrounded by acres of history and fields of wild flowers, feels a world away from the busy resort just beyond the entrance.

Ktima, the old centre of Pafos, is overall a calmer place, where locals go about their daily life as they have for decades. Its neighbourhoods are culturally rich, with handsome colonial buildings that house government institutions and many of the town's museums.

🖸 Sights

Mato Pafos

Pafos

Archaeological Site ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Map p103; 2630 6217; adult/child €4.50/free; ⊗ 8.30am-7.30pm mid-Apr-mid-Sep, to 5pm mid-Sep-mid-Apr; **P**) Nea Pafos (New Pafos) is, ironically, the name given to the sprawling Pafos Archaeological Site, to the west of Kato Pafos. Nea Pafos was the ancient city of Pafos, founded in the late 4th century BC and originally encircled by massive walls. Despite being ceded to the Romans in 58 BC, it remained the centre of all political and administrative life in Cyprus. It is most famed today for its mesmerising collection of intricate and colourful mosaics based on ancient Greek myths.

Palea Pafos (Old Pafos) was in fact Kouklia, southeast of today's Pafos and the site of the Sanctuary of Aphrodite (p104). At the time of Nea Pafos, Cyprus was part of the kingdom of the Ptolemies, the Greco-Macedonian rulers of Egypt whose capital was Alexandria. The city became an important strategic outpost for the Ptolemies, and the settlement grew considerably over the next seven centuries. The city originally occupied an area of about 950,000 sq metres and reached its zenith during the 2nd or 3rd century AD. It was during this time that the city's most opulent public buildings were constructed, including those that house the famous Pafos mosaics.

Nea Pafos went into decline following an earthquake in the 4th century that badly damaged the city. Subsequently, Salamis in the east became the new capital of Cyprus, and Nea Pafos was relegated to the status of a mere bishopric. Arab raids in the 7th century set the seal on the city's demise and neither Lusignan settlement (1192–1489) nor Venetian and Ottoman colonisation revived Nea Pafos' fortunes.

The archaeological site is still being excavated since it is widely believed that there are many treasures still to be discovered. The following sections detail the major sights.

Pafos Mosaics

This superb collection of mosaics is located in the southern sector of the archaeological site, immediately to the south of the Agora. Discovered by accident in 1962 by a farmer ploughing his field, these exquisite mosaics decorated the extensive floor area of a large, wealthy residence from the Roman period. Subsequently named the **House of Dionysus** (because of the number of mosaics featuring Dionysus, the god of wine), this complex is the largest and best known of the mosaic houses.

The most wonderful thing about the mosaics is that, apart from their artistic and aesthetic merits, each tells a story, mostly based on ancient Greek myths.

The first thing you'll see upon entering is not a Roman mosaic at all but a Hellenistic monochrome pebble mosaic showing the monster **Scylla**. Based on a Greek myth, this mosaic was discovered in 1977, a metre underground in the southwestern corner of the atrium.

The famous tale of Narcissus is depicted in a mosaic in Room 2, while the Four Seasons mosaic (Room 3) depicts Spring crowned with flowers and holding a shepherd's stick; Summer holding a sickle and wearing ears of corn; Autumn crowned with leaves and wheat; and Winter as a bearded, grey-haired man.

Phaedra and Hippolytos (Room 6) is one of the most important mosaics in the house. It depicts the tragic tale of a stepmother's bizarre love for her stepson.



Pafos & the West Highlights

1 Tombs of the Kings (p102) Exploring Pafos' ancient past by visiting its

ancient past by visiting its Roman mosaics and the necropolis.

2 Avgas Gorge (p111) Keeping an eye out for tree frogs when hiking this scenic gorge in the Akamas Heights. 3 Folk Art Museum (p120) Watching the weavers in picturesque Fyti, a village famed for its craftwork.

4 Tsangarides Winery (p120) Sampling organic wines in pretty Lemona.

6 Argo (p107) Enjoying delicious kleftiko at this longtime favourite Pafos restaurant. **6 Cydive** (p106) Diving in the crystal-clear waters around Pafos with this reputable, longstanding operator.

Lara Beach (p113) Visiting the wildest beach on this stretch of the coast along with its fascinating turtle hatchery.

ROAD TRIP > WINERIES, WEAVING & ABANDONED VILLAGES

The countryside around Pafos has it all: traditional crafts, village cuisine, ancient monasteries and even the birthplace of the first leader of independent Cyprus. This loop from Pafos takes in the whole range, with plenty of stops at local vineyards to sample the local vintages.

1 Fyti

From Pafos, take the B7 north towards Polis. After around 9km, look for the sign for **Aphrodite's Rock Brewery** (p112), where you can taste (and buy) craft beers. After a further 3km head towards **Fyti** (p120) on the signposted E703; this pretty country road winds between vineyards and orchards. Pass through Polemi and Psathi, then take the



4–6 Hours 86km Great for... Food & Drink; History & Culture Best Time to Go Any time of year

signposted left turn towards Fyti. Park by the church, stop at the **Phiti Pefkos Taverna** (p120) for a drink or snack, and duck into the **Folk Art Museum** (p120).

2 Pano Panagia

Leave on the F725 towards Pano Panagia via Kritou Marottous and Asprogia. The scenery en route is lovely, with vineyards, citrus groves and distant mountains. Watch for the sign for the **Vouni Panayia Winery** (p120), a sophisticated stop for a wine tasting; the Barba Yiannis dry red comes particularly recommended. Continue on to **Pano Panagia**, the birthplace of Archbishop Makarios; have a quick nose around his **childhood house** (p119), a typical peasants' home with just two rooms.

3 Chrysorrogiatissa

Monastery

Head south out of town on the F622, stopping at the well-signposted **Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery** (p120) for a simple cafe lunch on the terrace, accompanied by beautiful countryside views. Around 4km from here is another excellent winery, **Kolios Vineyards** (p120), which makes a highly regarded shiraz. Follow signs to the E702 and Choulou. After around 3km you will pass through an **abandoned village**, where a 1969 earthquake forced the vast majority of villagers to relocate; it is just starting to show some signs of life again.

4 Lemona

In **Choulou** have a look at the simple whitewashed mosque (this was a Turkish village before 1974) and enjoy a drink across the way at the traditional Antoyaneta coffee shop, with its shaded terrace. Make the last stop on your tour at the village of Lemona, home to microwinery **Tsangarides Winery** (p120), which produces organic wines and recently won a silver medal for its shiraz rosé at the annual Cyprus Wine Competition. Continue back to Pafos on the B7, via Letmyvou and Tsada. Another str

Another stunning mosaic in the house is the **Rape of Ganymede** (Room 8). Ganymede was a beautiful young shepherd who became the cupbearer of the gods. The mosaicist had apparently miscalculated the space allowed to him, which is why the eagle's wings are cropped.

In the **Western Portico** (Room 16) is a mosaic based on a tale familiar to any lover of Shakespeare: the story of Pyramus and Thisbe, first narrated by Ovid in his *Metamorphosis*, and adapted in *Romeo and Juliet* (and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*).

A short walk away are the smaller Villa of Theseus and the House of Aion. The latter, a purpose-built structure made from stones found on the site, houses a 4th-century mosaic display made up of five separate panels. The house was named after the pagan god Aion, depicted in the mosaics. Although the image has been damaged somewhat, the name Aion and the face of the god can still be clearly seen.

The Villa of Theseus is thought to have been a 2nd-century private residence and is named after a representation of the hero Theseus fighting the Minotaur. The building occupies an area of 9600 sq metres and, so far, 1400 sq metres of mosaics have been uncovered. The round mosaic of Theseus and the Minotaur is particularly well preserved and can be seen in Room 36. Other mosaics to look out for are those of Poseidon in Room 76 and Achilles in Rooms 39 and 40.

Allow at least two hours to see the three houses properly.

Saranta Kolones Fortress

Not far from the mosaics are the remains of the medieval Saranta Kolones Fortress, named for the '40 columns' that were once a feature of the now almost levelled structure. Little is known about the precise nature or history of the original fortress, other than it was built by the Lusignans in the 12th century

🚺 TOMB TIPS

 Allow at least two hours for the Tombs of the Kings site.

 Try to visit during the early morning as it can get very hot walking around the sprawling necropolis later in the day.

Bring a hat and bottled water.

Be very careful when descending into some of the tombs, as the stone steps are large and can be slippery. and was subsequently destroyed by an earthquake in 1222. A few desultory arches are the only visual evidence of its original grandeur.

Agora, Asklipieion & Odeion

The Agora (or forum) and Asklipieion date back to the 2nd century AD. Today, the Agora consists mainly of the Odeion, a semicircular theatre restored in 1970 and not appearing particularly ancient. The rest of the Agora is discernible by the remains of marble columns that form a rectangle in the largely empty open space. What is left of the Asklipieion, the healing centre and altar of Asklepios, god of medicine, runs east to west on the southern side of the Odeion.

Be sure to stop by the Visitors' Centre at the top of the steps near the entrance. Interesting rotating exhibitions take place here and you can pick up a guidebook (\in 5.50), which explains the site in detail.

★ Tombs of the Kings ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (2694 0295; admission €2.50; ⊗8.30am-7.30pm; P; @615) Imagine yourself surrounded by ancient tombs in a desertlike landscape where the only sounds are waves crashing on rocks. The Tombs of the Kings, a Unesco World Heritage Site, contains a set of well-preserved underground tombs and chambers used by residents of Nea Pafos during the Hellenistic and Roman periods, from the 3rd century BC to the 3rd century AD. Despite the name, the tombs were not actually used by royalty; they earned the title from their grand appearance.

Located 2km north of Kato Pafos, the tombs are unique in Cyprus, being heavily influenced by ancient Egyptian tradition, when it was believed that tombs for the dead should resemble houses for the living.

The seven excavated tombs are scattered over a wide area; the most impressive is No 3, which has an open atrium below ground level, surrounded by columns. Other tombs have niches built into the walls where bodies were stored. Most of the tombs' treasures have long since been spirited away by grave robbers.

Pafos Buses (p110) 615 route to Coral Bay stops right outside the entrance (\pounds 1.50, 5 minutes), departing roughly every 15 minutes from the Harbour Bus Station (p110).

Hrysopolitissa Basilica

Basilica ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Map p103; Stassándhrou) FREE This fascinating site was home to one of Pafos' largest religious structures. What remains are the foundations of a 4th-century Christian ba-



Kato Pafos

Top Sights

1 Hrysopolitissa Basilica	C2
2 Pafos Archaeological Site	A2
3 Agia Solomoni & the Christian	
Catacomb	B1
4 Agios Lambrianos Rock-Cut	
Tomb	B1
5 Alykes Beach	C3
6 Main Municipal Beach	
7 Pafos Castle	A3
Activities, Courses & Tours	
8 Cydive	D2
9 Micky's Tours	
Pafos Aphrodite Festival	
10 Pafos Watersports	C3
11 Paphos Sea Cruises	A3

🚫 Eating

<u> </u>		
	Almond Tree	
13	Argo	C2
	Chloe's	
15	Christos Steak House	C2
16	Hondros	B2
17	Mandra Tavern	C2
18	Tea For Two	СЗ
🔁 D	rinking & Nightlife	
19	Alea	C3
20	Different Bar	C2
21	La Place Royale	C2
22	Old Fishing Shack Pub	D2
	hopping	
23	Gappa	B2

silica, which aptly demonstrates the size and magnificence of the original church, destroyed during Arab raids in 653. Several magnificent marble columns remain from the colonnades, while others lie scattered around the site, and mosaics are still visible. Further incarnations of the basilica were built over the years, leading to the present small Agia Kyriaki church, which is now used for Anglican, Lutheran and Greek Orthodox services.

A raised walkway provides excellent views of the extensive site and has explanatory PAFOS & THE WEST PAFOS

plaques in English. Look also for the tomb of Eric Ejegod, the 12th-century king of Denmark who died suddenly in 1103 on his way to the Holy Land.

On the western side of the basilica is the so-called **St Paul's Pillar**, where St Paul was allegedly tied and scourged 39 times before he finally converted his tormentor, the Roman governor Sergius Paulus, to Christianity.

Pafos Castle

CASTLE

(Map p103; adult/child €2.50/free; ⊗8.30am-7pm) This small fort guards the harbour entrance and is entered by a small stone bridge over a moat. In 2017, to commemorate Pafos' stint as European Capital of Culture, the former dungeons used by the Ottomans were transformed into spaces for contemporary-art installations, an initiative that is set to continue. Visitors can also climb to the castle ramparts to enjoy the sweeping harbour views. The castle serves as an event venue during the Pafos Aphrodite Festival (p107).

Agia Solomoni &

the Christian Catacomb ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Map p103; Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou, Kato Pafos) IIII This modest tomb complex is the burial site of the seven Machabee brothers, who were martyred around 174 BC. Their mother was Agia Solomoni, a Jewish woman who became a saint after the death of her sons. It is thought that the space was a synagogue in Roman times. The entrance to the catacomb is marked by a collection of votive rags tied to a large tree outside the tomb.

Agios Lambrianos

Rock-Cut Tomb ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Map p103; Fabrica Hill, Kato Pafos) **FEE** North of the centre, on the side of Fabrica Hill, are a couple of enormous underground caverns dating from the early Hellenistic period. These are burial chambers associated with the saints Lambrianos and Misitikos. The interiors of the tombs bear frescos that indicate they were used as a Christian place of worship.

Roman Theatre ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (Fabrica Hill, Kato Pafos) **FREE** Located on the southern slope of Fabrica Hill and best seen from above (follow the dirt track from Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou just northeast of the Kings Avenue Mall), this Roman theatre, excavated over an 11-year period to 2016, is thought to be the oldest on the island, dating from 300 BC. A Roman road to the south of the theatre forms a crucial part of the excavations, providing historians with the presumed urban layout of the site, along with a nymphaeum (fountainhouse).

💿 Ktima & Around

★ Sanctuary of Aphrodite

Aphrodite ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (1) 2643 2155; Kouklia; adult/child €4.50/free; ⊗ 8am-4pm Mon-Tue & Thu-Sun, to 5pm Wed; [P]) A World Heritage Site, the sanctuary is recognised as being one of the most important ancient sites related to Aphrodite in Cyprus and yet it is arguably the least known. The sprawling site includes the 12th-century conical stone that represented the goddess until Roman times, the ruins of a Roman temple, a second small sanctuary and ruins of a Roman house, set on a hillside in the village of Kouklia. The setting is lovely with panoramic views down to the sea.

The on-site museum has an extensive display of items discovered at the site, including some extraordinarily delicate white slip pottery dating from the late Bronze Age. For an additional €1 you can watch a 10-minute audiovisual presentation (in Greek and English), which provides a historical background to the site.

You will need your own wheels to get here. Kouklia is signposted off both the A6 and B6 highways, approximately 18km east of Geroskipou.

Ecclesiastical Museum MUSEUM (2627 1221; www.impaphou.org; Makariou III, Geroskipou Sq, Geroskipou; adult/child €4/free; 😔 9am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat; 🔲 601, 606, 616) This noteworthy museum is worth visiting for its ecclesiastical vestments, vessels, copies of scripture and collection of impressive icons, including a 9th-century representation of Agia Marina, thought to be the oldest icon on the island, and an unusual double-sided icon from Filousa dating from the 13th century. Also of note are the elaborate frescos recovered from ruined churches in the region, as well as wood carvings, crucifixes and crosses.

The museum moved to its current location in 2017. From Pafos, catch bus 606 or 616 from the Harbour Bus Station (p110) and bus 601 from Karavella station (p110).

Ethnographical Museum MUSEUM (Map p106; 22693 2010; www.ethnographicalmu seum.com; Exo Vrysis 1, Ktima; €3; ⊗10am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 2pm Sun Apr-Oct, 10am-5pm Mon-Sat

BEACH

BEACH

BEACH

BEACH

WALKING

Nov-Mar) Owned by the family of an eminent Pafos archaeologist, this museum houses a varied collection of coins, traditional costumes, kitchen utensils, Chalcolithic axe heads, amphorae and other assorted items. There's more of the same in the garden, including a Hellenistic rock-cut tomb. The €5 guidebook available at the entrance helps you sort out the seemingly jumbled collection.

Archaeological Museum

MUSEUM

CHURCH

(Map p106; 2630 6215; Leoforos Georgiou Griva Digeni, Ktima; €2.50; ⊗8am-4pm Mon-Fri) Essentially for admirers of archaeological minutiae, this small museum houses a varied and extensive collection of artefacts from the neolithic period to the 18th century. Displayed in four rooms, exhibits include jars, pottery and glassware, tools and coins. Note that at time of writing the museum was closed for refurbishment until November 2017.

Agia Paraskevi

(Geroskipou; ⊗8am-1pm & 2-5pm; 🖬 601, 606, 616) **FREE** One of the loveliest churches in the Pafos area is this six-domed Byzantine church in Geroskipou, 4.5km east of Pafos. Most of the surviving frescos date back to the 15th century AD. The first frescos visible when entering are the Last Supper, the Washing of Feet and the Betrayal. A primitive but interesting depiction of the Virgin Orans (the Virgin Mary with her arms raised) can be seen in the central cupola.

From Pafos, catch bus 606 or 616 from the Harbour Bus Station (p110) and bus 601 from Karavella (p110) station.

Pafos Zoo

Z00

(22681 3852; www.pafoszoo.com; Pegeia; adult/ child €16/9; ⊗9am-6pm; **P**, (i) A zoo and children's attraction rolled into one. Apart from birds (it started as a bird park), there are giraffes, antelopes, deer, gazelles, mouflon, reptiles, giant tortoises, emus, ostriches, small goats and so on. There is also a restaurant and snack bar, and a kiddies' playground. It's located in the Pegeia region near Coral Bay, approximately 3km from Pafos.

Beaches

Pafos' city beach is functional rather than beautiful. You'll find prettier sands north and south along the coast. Local buses run along the coastal strip.

Main Municipal Beach

BEACH

(Bania; Map p103; Kato Pafos) In the centre of Kato Pafos, the main municipal beach is not your standard holiday-brochure-style sweep of sun-kissed sand: the beach area is paved and partly pedestrianised. Comprising a collection of wooden decks, rocks, sand and diving points, it's pleasant and the water is sparkling clean. Facilities include showers, toilets and a cafe-restaurant.

Alykes Beach

(Map p103; off Poseidonos, Kato Pafos) This is a perfect spot for families with paddling tots, featuring rock pools and shallow, clear water, as well as sufficient sand for sandcastles and that all-important lifeguard. It's located in front of the Annabelle Hotel.

Vrysoudia Beach

(Kato Pafos) Stretching some 400m, Vrysoudia is arguably the best municipal beach, where you can rent sunbeds and parasols (€5 per day). There is also a popular beach bar here.

Faros Beach

(Kato Pafos) You will need wheels to reach Faros Beach, an exposed, sandy beach with some sandstone rocks and a couple of onsite snack bars. Keep in mind that the open sea often develops a swell, which can be dangerous for swimming.

Kissonerga Bay

(P; G615) Around 8km north of Kato Pafos, Kissonerga Bay is a long, sandy and undeveloped beach, where you can find banana plantations and solitude. There are almost no facilities. Be aware that this beach is notorious for riptides; enter the water with caution.

Activities

Aside from the organised tours offered by myriad companies (look for the flyers all over town), most activities here are centred on the sea. Check out the wide range of options from the kiosks at the harbour, including boat trips, pedalos and the ubiquitous banana ride.

Coastal Path

(Kato Pafos) Over recent years, the Kato Pafos promenade has been extended and it now stretches some 5km, from west of the Alexander the Great Hotel to the Louis Phaethon Beach Club, en route to Coral Bay. The most scenic stretch sets off from just east of the castle (p104) in Kato Pafos and curves around the coastal point.

Cyprus Yacht Charters

CRUISE (2691 0200; www.cyprusyachtcharters.com; Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou 54, Kato Pafos; yacht



Ktima

Sights

6

(

2 Ethnographical Museum	B3
S Eating	
3 Fetta's	B2
4 Kiniras Garden	B1
5 Laona	A1
6 Plato	B2
🔉 Drinking & Nightlife	
7 Noir	B2

Archaoological Mucou

Shopping

8 Municipal Market	A1
9 The Place	A1

Time to don the deck shoes? This reputable company offers several cruise options on its fleet of luxury yachts with captain and crew included in the price.

Mountain Bike Cyprus

CYCLING

20

(2643 2033; www.mountainbikecyprus.com; rental per day €20, bike tour €60) This company operates purely from its website but will deliver and pick up bikes free of charge from your accommodation in the Pafos area. It

also organises tours of the Troödos Mountains and Akamas Heights.

Pafos Watersports WATER SPORTS (Map p103: 29973 9344: www.pafoswater sportsandboattrips.com; Annabelle Hotel, Poseidonos. Kato Pafos: parasailing from €50: @9am-6pm) This reliable outfit is one of the most professional of the shoal of operators touting their boat trips, and similar, from the harbour. It offers just about any watery pursuit you can think of, including waterskiing and parasailing.

DIVING (Map p103; 2693 4271; www.cydive.com; Poseidonos 1, Myrra Complex 33, Kato Pafos; ⊗9am-6pm: (1) The waters off Pafos are ideal for diving, with around 50 sites to explore. This is a professional, long-standing company with its own swimming pool and a large store selling diving kits, swimwear and similar. Single dives, including all equipment, cost €45; a package of four dives costs €155.

Paphos Sea Cruises

CRUISE (Map p103; 28000 0011; www.paphosseacruises. com; Pafos Harbour, Kato Pafos; ⊗9am-7pm; . A reputable choice; most cruises include extras such as an onboard barbecue, snorkelling gear, children's entertainment and

canoes. Day trips cost from around €35 per person. Children under 12 are free or pay half, depending on the cruise.

Aphrodite Waterpark

(2691 3638; www.aphroditewaterpark.com; Poseidonos, Kato Pafos; adult/child €30/17; @10am-5.30pm; **#**; **Q**11, 611) A place for all-day entertainment - at a price to match - where the adults can have a massage while the kids battle the minivolcano. A wristband keeps track of your daily expenditure, which you pay at the end of the day. The water park is located off Poseidonos Ave, around 1.5km south of the centre.

Take bus 11 or 611 from the Harbour Bus Station (p110) in Kato Pafos.

「 テ Tours **Micky's Tours**

SIGHTSEEING

MUSIC

WATER PARK

(Map p103; 29908 9149; www.mickys-tours.com; Poseidonos, Kato Pafos; half/full day per person €24/32) Organises half- and full-day trips to the Akamas Peninsula and Troödos Mountains, among other tours, as well as car hire and even villa rentals.

***** Festivals & Events

Pafos Aphrodite Festival

(Map p103; ⊗Sep) Enjoy opera under the stars every September, when a world-class operatic performance takes place in the suitably grandiose surroundings of Pafos Castle (p104). Recent operas include the classic Cinderella by Rossini.

Eating

Pafos' food scene varies considerably. Unfortunately, many of the restaurants along the seafront strip in Kato Pafos are looking increasingly dated and unimaginative with their menus of bland international cuisine; instead, wander back a street or two for more genuine local food. Ktima offers quality over quantity, with some excellent tavernas where you can taste authentic Cypriot cuisine

Kato Pafos

Tea For Two

BRITISH €

(Map p103; 2693 7702; www.facebook.com/ TeaforTwoPaphos; Poseidonos 6; mains €6-8; ⊗8am-11.30pm; 🕤) Just the ticket for nostalgic Brits hankering after yesteryear, with house-made classics such as lemon meringue pie and apple crumble, plus a classic ploughman's (cheese, bread and chutney), cottage pie and similar. Good for breakfast too and certainly superior to many of the Brit-geared restaurants in these parts. The service is exemplary and the decor, as you would expect, is classic tearoom chintz.

Argo

(Map p103; 2693 3327; Pafias Afroditis 21; mains €10; ⊗6-11pm) Located in a relatively quiet part of Kato Pafos, this place oozes rustic charm with its natural stone, original wooden shutters and walls washed in warm ochre. The specialities, such as moussaka, are reliably authentic, as is the twice-weekly (Tuesday and Saturday) kleftiko (slow-roasted lamb); on these days it's advisable to book as word is out and the place gets busy.

Hondros

(Map p103; 2693 4256; www.facebook.com/ HondrosTaverna; Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou 96; mains €10-12; @11am-11pm; 🖬) This is the oldest traditional restaurant in Pafos, dating back to 1953, and still in the same family. Highlights include a succulent souvla (spit-roasted pork, chicken or lamb), and kleftiko cooked in a traditional clay oven, along with baked potatoes and bread. There is a delightful rambling terrace.

Christos Steak House

CYPRIOT €€ (Map p103; 29916 5934; 7 Kostantias; mains from €7: ⊗5-11pm) This no-frills, long-established place has bright lights, fake flowers and a menu illustrated with faded pics, but it is still well worth visiting for the homestyle

CAT LOVERS **OF THE WORLD UNITE**

Cat lovers won't want to miss the Tala Monastery Cat Park (29925 3430: www.facebook.com/talamonasterycats; Agios Neophytos Monastery, Tala; @10am-2pm: P), where, at the latest count. some 700 kitties were being lovingly looked after by founder Dawn (who knows all their names!) and her team of volunteers. Donations (or cat food) gratefully received and it is not unheard of for tourists to volunteer here for a day (or more). It's that kind of place.

Tala is located between Pafos and Coral Bay.

CYPRIOT €€

TAVERNA €€

PAFOS & THE WEST PAFOS

traditional food. Steaks may be the speciality, but the typically Cypriot dishes and sides, such as pasta with grated haloumi (hellim in Turkish), are good choices as well. The owner is a delight.

Chloe's

CHINESE CC

(Map p103; 2693 4676; www.chloesrestaur ants.com; Poseidonos 13; mains €10-12; ⊗ noon-11pm; 🔊 🖬) The best Chinese restaurant in town, with a menu that reads like a book and includes all the standard dishes, including plenty of vegetarian choices. The decor is plushly oriental (but without the migraine-inducing moving pictures) and the service is top notch - if anything, a little too attentive.

Almond Tree

FUSION CEC

(Map p103; 2694 5529; www.facebook.com/ almondtreepaphos; Konstantias 5; mains €14-19; ⊗ 6.30-11pm; 🖉) Almond Tree serves contemporary Asian-inspired flavours to titillate the palate. Try the crab cakes with Thai coconut curry, a speciality, or one of the Indian dishes, such as samosas in a yoghurt parsley sauce. The owner and chef spent a long time in Miami so classic US-style burgers are here too, along with steak and fries. Vegetarians are well catered for with stir-fries and similar.

PAFOS FOR KIDS

As a favourite holiday destination for British families, Pafos is well set up for children. As well as the myriad ruins and museums, the beaches and the zoo, several activity operators specialise in keeping teenaged holidaymakers entertained.

Zephyros Adventure Sports (2693 0037; www.enjoycyprus.com; The Royal Complex, Shop 7, Tafon Ton Vasileon, Kato Pafos; activities €36-59; in) serves up everything from mountain biking. kayaking, climbing and trekking to snorkelling, scuba diving and, in the winter months, skiing. Out in Pegeia, George's Ranch (2 9964 7790; www. georgesranchcyprus.com: Pegeia: 1hr trek €35; 🟵 9am-7pm; 🖬 ; 🔲 615 & 616) offers pony treks to sea caves and taster sessions for younger riders.

Mandra Tavern

TAVERNA €€€

(Map p103; 2693 4129; www.mandratavern.com; Dionysou 4: main €12-15: @ noon-11pm) Many Pafos restaurants claim to serve authentic Cypriot cuisine but sneak in some international dishes. Not here. The speciality is a glideoff-the-bone home-baked lamb kleftiko and the meat meze also comes recommended, as does the signature dessert, brandy pudding with dates and walnuts. Set in the owner's family home, dating from 1979, the courtyard setting is a leafy haven, especially on a balmy summer's evening.

Ktima

🖈 Kiniras Garden

CYPRIOT CC (Map p106; 2694 1604; www.kiniras.cy.net; Leoforos Archiepiskopou Makariou III 91; mains €8-15; 🟵 8am-midnight; 🗟 🖬) 🧖 This family-run restaurant (for four generations) is a green oasis, with trees, statues and trickling waterfalls. Owner Georgios is passionate about his traditional cuisine; most of the recipes have been passed down from his grandmother and the produce comes from his own 60-hectare garden. There are homemade desserts and the wine list includes excellent vintages from family-owned local vineyards.

Laona

(Map p106; 2693 7121; Votis 4-6; mains €10, meze €10; @10am-3.30pm Mon, Wed, Thu & Sat, to 10pm Tue & Fri; 🖬) Tucked up a side street, and with all the atmosphere of a village taverna, Laona has been a family-owned restaurant since the '80s. There's no microwave or deep-fat fryer in this kitchen - Cypriot owner Chris has a purposefully limited menu of freshly made Cypriot dishes, such as rabbit stifado stew, stuffed vegetables and reasonably priced meze.

Plato

(Map p106; 27000 0785; www.plato.tbbagency. com; Grigori Afxentiou, Kennedy Sq; mains from €8.50, sushi €3-11; @ 9am-1.30am; 🗟) This slick contemporary wine bar complements its tipple with a menu that concentrates on sushi and features all the classics, including sashimi, California rolls and nigiri (raw fish over rice). If chopsticks aren't your thing, there is a limited selection of alternatives, including pastas and salads, plus platters for sharing as well as a fine selection of wine - touted as being the most extensive in town.

CYPRIOT €€

JAPANESE CC

Fetta's

CYPRIOT CEC

(Map p106; 22693 7822; loanni Agroti 33; mains $\in 10-17$, meze $\in 18$; $\odot 7-10.30$ pm Tue-Sun) Fetta's specialises in classic regional fare made with salutary (and salivatory) attention to detail. The dining space is typical taverna style, only larger, with a small outside terrace overlooking the fountain and park. Dishes include a superb meze of grilled meats and *koupepia* (grilled meat or vegetables wrapped in young vine leaves). Reservations recommended.

Drinking & Nightlife

The traditional street for clubs, Agiou Antoniou in Kato Pafos, is a sorry sight these days, with the majority of places shuttered up due to recent economic woes. A few places have survived, including a handful of English pubs with big-screen sports – as well as a lap-dancing club or two. Shisha bars are located around Agias Anastasias. Overall, the bars and cafes in Ktima are more sophisticated venues.

! Kato Pafos

★ Lighthouse Beach Bar

(29968 3992; www.facebook.com/lighthouse. beachbar; Lighthouse Beach; ⊘7am-10pm; $\textcircled{\bullet}$) The recommended route here is via the 1.7km coastal path from Pafos Castle (p104); by car it is trickier, but still possible via the Tombs of the Kings road. When you do arrive, you'll find this is what a beach bar should be: a Bob Marley soundtrack, seamless sea views and sand between your toes while you sip something long and cool.

Alea

BAR

PUB

BAR

(Map p103; 29952 4000; Poseidonos 5; O 8amlam Mon-Sat, to 9pm Sun; O) A thong's throw from the waves, this former restaurant has happily morphed into a fashionable cafe-cum-lounge bar, famed for its seven choices of daiquiri (O). The music is suitably chilled with a nightly DJ in the summer. Sit on the sprawling terrace or duck into one of the more intimate spaces within, decorated with eclectic antiques and heavy wooden furniture.

Old Fishing Shack Pub

(Map p103; 29980 5390; Margarita Gardens, Tefkrou; ⊙ 6pm-midnight Mon-Sat, 1-11pm Sun; ⑦) Owner Athos loves good beer and good music (classic rock and blues), so come here for both. He also makes his own heavily recommended cider spiked with ginger, and is a craft-beer aficionado. Reserve in advance to arrange a private tasting of the latter (he stocks around 300 different brews!). Free black pudding and potatoes on Sundays (1pm to 3pm).

La Place Royale

(Map p103; 22693 3995; Poseidonos; ⊗ 8am-11pm; ⑦) This is one of Pafos' classiest cafe-bars, right on the busy pedestrian strip at the eastern end of Poseidonos. The little oasis of glass, cane, wrought iron and miniwaterfalls in a shaded paved patio is perfect for a preclubbing cocktail. Food is served but it's fairly forgettable.

Different Bar

(Map p103; 29945 3716; www.differentbar.com; Agias Napas; ⊗7.15pm-2.45am) A popular and welcoming gay bar, thanks to the gregarious owner, Panos, with an attractive dark-ochre colour scheme and tables on the terrace overlooking the street.

🛃 Ktima

Ananas 8Bit

(22660 0126; www.facebook.com/ananas8bit coffee; Athinas 35, Ktima; ⊗ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat;) This place would fit in happily to any urban setting; an espresso bar-cum-hip hangout with contemporary decor, a cosy vibe and possibly the best coffee in town. It also serves sweet treats such as tahini carob pie and organises fun events including live gigs, old movie screenings and art exhibitions.

Noir

(Map p106; 22622 0737; Kennedy Sq, Ktima; ⊗8am-2am) This place is superbly poised right on the corner of the newly pedestrianised Kennedy Sq, coupling ace people-watching potential with upbeat modern decor. Tapas are available, including guacamole and mixed platters, and a regular line-up of live music equals a heaving venue, especially at weekends.

Shopping

The Place ARTS & CRAFTS (Map p106; 2610 1955; www.theplacecyprus. com; Kanari 56, Ktima; ⊙9am-6pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, to 2pm Wed & Sat;) Opened in 2017, this multipurpose, multispace venue supports local craftspeople, plus small family producers, selling arts and crafts as well as spices, honey, preserves, olive oil, traditional sweets and more. The crafts include woodwork, 109

BAR

BAR

CAFE

BAR

WORTH A TRIP

GOURMET GEROSKIPOU

The restaurant is in an old house with a vine- and palm-leaf-covered terrace, near the centre of the pretty, traditional village of Geroskipou, located 4.5km east of Pafos.

From Pafos, catch bus 606 or 616 from the Harbour Bus Station or bus 601 from Karavella Bus Station..

ceramics and mosaics, and there is a daily demonstration by one of the artisans. It's also an inspiring space for kids, with a shadow theatre and craft corner.

Gappa

CERAMICS

(Map p103; 29670 9690; www.facebook.com/ GabrielaGospodinova.pottery; Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou 92, Kato Pafos; ⊗9am-9pm Mon-Sat) Colourful and highly original ceramics are on display here; you can watch the potters at work in the adjacent workshop.

Kings Avenue Mall

MALL

(www.kingsavenuemall.com; Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou, Kato Pafos; ⊙9.30am-8pm Mon-Sat, 11am-7.30pm Sun; ⑦) The largest shopping mall in the Republic with around 125 stores, plus restaurants, coffee shops and a cineplex.

Municipal Market

MARKET

(Map p106; Agora St, Ktima; O 8am-6pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, to 2.30pm Wed & Sat) Recently renovated, this market lies at the centre of Ktima's pedestrian zone. As well as colourful fruit and veg, the market houses a large number of souvenir stalls, with the occasional more tasteful place selling locally produced embroidery and jewellery.

1 Information

Wi-fi is widely available in Pafos hotels, as well as in a number of cafes and bars, where you can generally connect free with a drink.

You can pick up stamps and weigh packages at the **Main Post Office** (Map p106; 2 2630 6221; Ikarou, Ktima; ⊗7.30am-1.30pm & 3-5.30pm Mon-Fri) in Ktima.

Cyprus Tourism Organisation, with Airport (2642 3161; www.visitcyprus.org.cy; Pafos International Airport: ⊗ 9.30am-11pm). Kato Pafos (Map p103; 2693 0521; www. visitcyprus.org.cy; Poseidonos, Kato Pafos; 8.15am-2.30pm & 3-5.30pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 8.15am-2.30pm Sat) and Ktima (Map p106; 2693 2841; www.visitcyprus.org.cy; Agoras 8, Ktima; @ 8.15am-2.30pm & 3-5.30pm Mon-Sat, closed Wed & Sat afternoons) offices, has decent maps, useful brochures and booklets on hiking, biking and agrotourism, as well as a hotel guide, transport information and other useful info about Cyprus. It organises free guided tours around Ktima every Thursday at 10am from the Ktima office. You need to book in advance.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Pafos International Airport (22624 0506; www.cyprusairports.com.cy) is 8km southeast of town. Both scheduled and budget airlines fly here and it is a hub for Ryanair, which serves seven destinations (at the time of research) from Pafos.

BUS

InterCity (Map p106; 28000 7789; www. intercity-buses.com; Karavella Bus Station, Leoforos Evagora Pallikaridi, Ktima) has nine daily buses weekdays to Nicosia (Lefkosia; €7, two hours) and 13 daily buses weekdays to Lemesos (Limassol; €4, one hour), departing from Karavella Bus Station in Ktima. There is a reduced service at weekends.

SERVICE TAXI

Travel & Express (Map p106; 2692 3800; www.travelexpress.com.cy; Kinyras 34, Ktima; ⊗ 6am-6pm Mon-Fri, 7am-5pm Sat & Sun) runs service taxis to Lemesos (€9.50, one hour), to Larnaka (change at Lemesos; €19.50, 1½ hours) and to Nicosia (change at Lemesos; €23, 1½ hours).

Getting Around

Pafos Buses (Map p103; 28000 5588; www.pafosbuses.com; Harbour Bus Station) provides a city-wide and regional network of buses from its two stations: Harbour Bus Station (Map p103; Pafos Harbour, Kato Pafos; ⊗ 6am-midnight) in Kato Pafos and Karavella Bus Station (Map p106; Leoforos Evagora Pallikaridi, Ktima) in Ktima. A bus-schedule booklet is available at both stations. Fares cost €1.50 per journey, €5 per day or €15 per week within the district of Pafos, including rural villages. Note that from 9pm onwards a single fare increases to €2.50.

Frequent services from Kato Pafos (harbour) include the following:

Coral Bay Bus 615; 25 minutes. Geroskipou Buses 601, 606; 25 minutes. Kato Ktima (market) Bus 610; 15 minutes. Polis Bus 626: one hour.

In Kato Pafos, there's a large free car park near the entrance to the Pafos Archaeological Site. In Ktima, there is a convenient free car park by Karavella Bus Station.

If you need a taxi, **Aphrodite Taxi** (Map p106; 2 2693 3301; www.aphrodite-taxi.com; Kennedy Sq, Ktima; ⊙ 24hr), Travel & Express (p110) and **Fytos Taxi** (⊇ 9575 7575; www. paphosineedataxi.com; Kato Pafos) are reputable companies. You can also flag one down or head for one of the plentiful taxi stands across the city. Be aware that taxi drivers will charge an extortionate €8 for the 3km Kato Pafos-Ktima ride.

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Pafos Buses (p110) operates bus 613 to the airport from the Karavella Bus Station in Ktima at 7.25am and 6.30pm, while buses from the airport to Ktima run at 8am and 7pm. Bus 612 runs roughly hourly between the Harbour Bus Station in Kato Pafos and the airport from 7am to 12.30am, with stops or pick-up points including Coral Bay and Poseidonos in Kato Pafos. A single journey is €1.50.

A taxi between the airport and Pafos costs about €30.

AROUND PAFOS

Plenty of visitors rent a moped to zip up and down the coast from Pafos, but you'll need a hire car to explore the scenic wilds of the Western Troödos and the Akamas Peninsula.

Coral Bay & Agios Georgios

About 12km northwest of Pafos, Coral Bay is a popular family hang-out, with a string of busy beaches, dotted with beach umbrellas, water-sports centres and rather interchangeable snack bars and tourist restaurants. You'll find better nosh at **Kissonerga**, a few kilometres back towards Pafos, where **Tweedie's** (2)9912 6590; www.tweed ies.com; Spyrou Kyprianou, Kissonerga; mains from €15; \odot 7-11pm Thu-Sun) serves an imaginative menu of modern European and fusion dishes (advance reservations are mandatory). Buses zip regularly between Kato Pafos harbour and Coral Bay.

Another 8km past Coral Bay is Agios Georgios Beach (Agios Georgios; \bigcirc), a 100m stretch of shadeless sand and rock with a modest harbour; beach umbrellas and loungers are available for hire (€4.50). There is a small beach bar and, up on the bluff, one of the region's most popular seafood restaurants, Saint George's Fish Tavern (\bigcirc 2662 1306; Agios Georgios; mains €14-17; \oslash 9am-11pm). The beach can also be reached by road from Polis (via Pegeia).

Akamas Heights

If you're spending any time in the greater Pafos area – and have a car – make sure you check out the Akamas Heights region. A world away from the flop-and-drop coastal scene, the mainstay of the picturesque villages here is agriculture, which means goat herds, orchards and vegetable fields are the backdrop to those cobbled streets with their historic churches, tavernas and occasional donkey.

Avgas Gorge

Avgas Gorge

(Avakas Gorge) This narrow split in the Akamas Heights escarpment is a popular and enjoyable hike of roughly 3.5km one way. The walk should take no longer than 40 minutes and starts from the gorge entrance, which becomes a defile with cliffs towering overhead. There is usually water in the gorge from November until at least May, hence the lush streamside vegetation (keep an eye out for tree frogs).

Some groups press on upwards, emerging on the escarpment ridge and heading for the nearby village of Ano Arodes. The gorge is reached by vehicle from its western end via Agios Georgios Beach. You can drive or ride more or less up to the gorge entrance, although low-slung conventional vehicles will have to take care. ŝ

HIKING

WORTH A TRIP

REAL ALE ON THE MED

For a welcome break from insipid, metallic-tasting lagers, head inland from Pafos along the B7 highway. Just after the turn-off to Tsada, you'll reach Aphrodite's Rock Brewery (22610 1446; www.aphroditesrock.com.cv: Polis Rd. Tsada; ⊗10am-4pm; 🗟), run by a cheerful family of Yorkshire brewers, committed to the production of hearty real ale. full-flavoured stouts, artisan lagers and fruity ciders. They offer a 200mL tasting of five beers for €6 and a range of brewerv tours that include drinks, return transfers from hotels in Pafos and a pizza from the brewery's wood-fired oven. Reserve ahead at weekends.

Dhrousia, Kritou Terra & Around

Once you are up on the Akamas Heights escarpment, you will come across a series of centuries-old villages that enjoy a cool climate, grow fine wine grapes and are truly picturesque. These are villages of winding streets, moustached men sitting outside the kafeneia (coffee shop), lofty fig trees offering their fruit to passers-by, and an occasional donkey standing nonchalantly on the cobbles.

Particularly appealing are the villages of Dhrousia and Kritou Terra, with some splendid traditional houses. Dhrousia also has a small weaving museum, an attractive 18th-century church and one of the longest-standing and most popular tavernas in the region. In Kritou Terra, another charmer, don't miss the late-Byzantine church of Agia Ekaterini, at the southern end of the village and well worth a photo. Two other appealing villages, near Dhrousia and Kritou Terra, are unspoilt Ineia (population 350) and Goudi (population 160).

• Sights

Kouyiouka Watermill HISTORIC BUILDING (2663 2847; kouviouka@cytanet.com.cy; B7, Goudi; museum €1; ⊗7.30am-5pm; P) FREE Located 7km south of Goudi on the B7, this 200-year-old listed renovated watermill houses a modest museum, a coffee shop and a traditional bakery. The museum displays the typical (and historical) equipment necessary for baking bread, while the bakery sells delicious haloumi rolls, which you can enjoy with a coffee or beer by the stream, overlooking the orchards across the way.

TAVERNA €

CYPRIOT C

Eating

Erotokritos Tavern

(29965 0114; Kritou Terra; mains €7; @11am-3pm & 7-9pm Tue-Sun; 🖬) Easy to find, at the heart of the village, this traditional taverna has wonderful views from the courtyard (look for the giant hanging gourds). Expect honest homestyle cooking with a menu that is no-fuss traditional and depends on what is fresh in season. The playground across the way makes this a handy spot for families too.

Finikkas

(2633 2336: Dhrousia: mains €9-11. meze €13: 😁 noon-9pm Tue-Sat Apr-Sep; 🖬; 🔲 641, 648) Located just off the crossroad in the centre of town, this is the village's most popular taverna, with a traditional dining room and a typical menu of meaty mains such as grilled souvlaki and lamb kebabs, as well as a girth-expanding 15-dish meze. It also serves karaolia (snails) prepared in a rich tomato sauce, a dish typical of the Akamas region.

Getting There & Away

Pafos Buses (p110) runs bus 648 and bus 641 to Polis three times and two times daily respectively (€1.50, 45 minutes). Both routes have stops in Dhrousia and Ineia. However, to explore more than one of these villages at any given time, you will definitely need your own transport.

Kathikas & Around

Kathikas is the most easily accessible village from Pafos, midway between Pafos and Polis on the E709. A delightful village with honey-coloured stone buildings and traditional coffee shops, it is particularly famous for its vineyards and wine. Just outside the village, the Cypress tree of Agios Nikolaos is a lofty 14m high, with a pensionable age of more than 700 years.

From Kathikas you can detour onto the B7 (the direct road between Pafos and Polis) via the picturesque Pano Akourdalia, Kato Akourdalia and Miliou villages. Between them are a couple of excellent tavernas for a relaxing lunch.

Eating & Drinking

Village Cafe (29622 4934; Kato Akourdalia; mains €5-7; ⊗10am-11pm;) Ø Maria and her partner

CYPRIOT €

PAFOS & THE WEST AKAMAS HEIGHTS

Zino, a talented artist, are committed to treating customers to produce from their vegetable patch, eggs from their chickens and keeping everything as organic as possible. Sit on the terrace enjoying the blissful valley views and dine on whatever is recommended, as it's sure to be delicious.

★Imogen's Inn

CYPRIOT EE

(22663 3269; Georgiou Kleanthous, Kathikas; mains €8-10, pizzas €6.50; \odot 10am-3.30pm Thu-Tue; \square 648) For something different, head to Imogen's, located at the entrance to the village and resembling a French bistro, with the sounds of jazz and blues tinkling into the dining terrace-cum-garden shaded by a magnificent fig tree. Aside from Cypriot cuisine, there are some Middle Eastern dishes including *muhammara* (roasted red pepper dip), *tagines* (North African stews) and succulent lamb kebabs.

★ To Stekki Tou Panai

CYPRIOT **EE**

(29977 1622; www.tostekkitoupanai.com; Kathikas; mains €8-10; \bigcirc noon-10pm May-Sep, noon-3pm Mon-Fri, to 10pm Sat & Sun Oct-Apr; **a**; **a**[641) Despite its modern-looking exterior, this small taverna dates back over 200 years and is the family home of owner-cumcook Maria; a lavishly embroidered dress belonging to her grandmother adorns one wall. Maria describes her cuisine as Cypriot with a touch of innovation, adding extra spices and herbs to such traditional dishes as moussaka. A small salad and dessert are provided free of charge.

Vasilikon

WINE BAR

(22663 3999; www.vasilikon.com; B7; ⊗8am-5pm; ⑦; 2641) This winery has won several prestigious international awards for its wines. The wine bar serves platters of cheese and cold cuts to share while enjoying sweeping vineyard views from the terrace. There is also complimentary wine tasting from 8am to 3pm daily. Vasilikon is signposted just after the turn-off to Kathikas on the B7 Pafos-to-Polis road.

1 Getting There & Away

Pafos Buses (p110) runs bus 648 to Polis three times daily (\pounds 1.50, 45 minutes) with a stop in Kathikas. However, to really explore these villages in the Akamas Heights, you will need your own transport.

VIKLARI

If you haven't brought a picnic, excellent food is available near the entrance of Avgas Gorge at Viklari (Last Castle; 22699 6088; Avgas Gorge; mains £12; \odot 1.30-4pm; \blacksquare). For £12 you get delicious *kleftiko* (slow-roasted lamb), accompanied by salad and chunky homemade chips. You eat at heavy stone tables under grapevines, surrounded by petrified-rock 'sculptures', lovingly nurtured pot plants and a pretty garden.

AKAMAS PENINSULA

At the far southwest of the Akamas Peninsula is Lara Beach, accessible by car and most famous for the green and loggerhead turtles that breed at its turtle hatchery. Beyond, this part of western Cyprus juts almost defiantly into the Mediterranean and is one of the island's last remaining wildernesses. Visitors can still traverse the peninsula as long as they're prepared to walk, ride a trail bike or bump along in a sturdy 4WD. If you are visiting the mythical Baths of Aphrodite, you can leave your car in the free car park and stride out from there.

The peninsula is home to abundant flora and fauna, including some 600 plant species, 35 of them unique to Cyprus. There are also 68 bird species, 12 types of mammal (including foxes and hedgehogs), 20 species of reptile and many butterflies, such as the native *Glaucopsyche pafos*, the symbol of the region.

O Sights

★ Lara Beach

(Akamas Peninsula; **D**) **REE** This stunning unspoilt beach has clean, calm water and pristine sands for those who want to escape people and parasols. The beach is most famous, however, for being home to a **turtle hatchery**; this is one of the world's few remaining havens for green and logger-head turtles to nest. Volunteers monitor the female turtles and around June and July collect their eggs to place in the hatchery, to protect them from predators and inquisitive tots. Monk seals also dwell in the sea caves around the peninsula.

Note that the beach has been a protected area since 1971 and no sun loungers are permitted. Likewise, private vehicles are

BEACH

banned from coming to the beach during the egg-laying season; at other times you can approach, although the path is a dirt track. If you feel uneasy go for a 4WD rental vehicle or take a tour. Look for the signs to Lara **Restaurant** at the adjacent Lara Bay, where you can stop for a drink or snack on the vast terrace overlooking the beach.

Baths of Aphrodite

CAVE

(F713; B8am-7pm; P; \fbox{G} 622) **FREE** These mythical baths attract a steady crowd, who possibly expect more than they find. Surrounded by fig trees and filled with the relaxing sound of running water, the grotto is a nice spot away from the heat, but it's far from the luxurious setting that may be associated with a goddess of such amorous prowess.

The surrounding **botanical garden** is pretty, however, with labelled plants and trees, including carob trees, red gum and the slightly less exotic dandelion.

The myth surrounding the cool cave that is the Baths of Aphrodite (Loutra tis Afroditis) is great advertising. Aphrodite, goddess of love and patron of Cyprus, came to the island in a shower of foam and nakedness, launching a cult that has remained to this day. Legend has it that she came to this secluded spot to bathe after entertaining her lovers.

The baths are 11km west of Polis, along a sealed road, on the edge of the Akamas Peninsula: a great spot to embark on a hike or just meander along one of the signposted nature trails. From the baths' car park, with its adjacent cafe and gift shop, follow the well-marked paved trail for 200m. You are not allowed to swim in the baths.

🕈 Activities

Easily the most popular way to get a taste of the Akamas Peninsula is to spend a few hours hiking one of the following trails, which run through the northeastern sector. All can start and end at one of two points: the Baths of Aphrodite, or **Smigies picnic ground** (www.sitpafos.org.cy; Akamas Peninsula), which is reached via an unsealed but driveable road 2.5km west of Neo Chorio.

The two most popular trails are those that start and end at the Baths of Aphrodite. They are both longer than the Smigies trails and offer better views. The first is the **Aphrodite Trail** (www.visitpafos.org.cy; Baths of Aphrodite; **G**622), a 7.5km, three- to four-hour loop. It heads inland and upwards to begin with; as this can be tiring on a hot day, make an early start if you can. Halfway along the trail you can see the ruins of **Pyrgos tis Rigainas** (Queen's Tower), part of a Byzantine monastery. Look for the huge 100-year-old oak tree nearby before you head up to the summit of **Mouti tis Sotiras** (370m). Finally you head east and down towards the coastal track, which will eventually lead you back to the car park.

The second hike, the 3½-hour, 7.5km Adonis Trail (www.visitpafos.org.cy; Baths of Aphrodite; 622), shares the same path as the Aphrodite as far as Queen's Tower, but then turns left (south) before looping back to the car park. Note that, in order to complete its circular path, the trail follows the main road connecting the Baths of Aphrodite and Polis for about 400m. Alternatively, you can turn right (south) just after the village of Kefalovrysi and continue on to Smigles picnic ground if you have arranged a pick-up beforehand (approximately 5.5km).

Water is usually available at Queen's Tower and, on the Adonis Trail, at Kefalovrysi, but don't count on it in high summer. In any case, these trails are best attempted in spring or autumn; if you want to tackle one in Cyprus' extremely hot summer, stride out at sunrise.

The Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) produces a description of these trails in a booklet entitled *Cyprus Nature Trails*, available from the main CTO offices. You can also download it from www justabout cyprus.com. Three other trails to consider commence from Smigies picnic ground: the circular 2.5km or 5km **Smigies Trail** and the circular 3km, 1½-hour **Pissouromouttis Trail**. Both afford splendid views of Chrysohou Bay to the northeast and the Akamas coastline to the west.

Polis

Known by locals as Polis Chrysochous, this appealling small town is mainly visited by Cypriots on their August holidays, although the number of coach tours from the coast has been increasing. There's a sand and shingle beach, a good campsite, and some decent hotels and restaurants, as well as an overall welcome lack of overdevelopment. Polis makes an ideal base for trips to the Akamas Peninsula.

Polis lies on wide Chrysohou Bay, where the north coast curves round towards the

115

CYCLING

spur of the Akamas Peninsula. Buried beneath the streets are the ruins of ancient Marion and Arsinoe; treasures recovered from the sites are displayed in the town museum.

O Sights

Agios Andronikos

CHURCH

(louliou; ⊗10am-6pm; **P**) This 16th-century church was latterly a mosque and the centre of local Turkish Cypriot religious life. Don't miss the fine Byzantine frescos that were hidden behind whitewash for decades. Sitting on the western side of town, the church can only be visited in groups of 10 or more. The key is held at the Archaeological Museum (p115).

Archaeological Museum

of Marion-Arsinoe

MUSEUM

(22632 2955; Leoforos Archiepiskopou Makariou III; €1; @8am-2pm Mon-Wed & Fri, to 6pm Thu, 9am-5pm Sat) Housed in a handsome neoclassical building, the museum comprises two galleries: one spanning the history of the area from neolithic to medieval times. while the second includes the rich haul that was found at the graves at nearby Marion and Arsinoe, including some stunning statuettes and elaborate gold jewellery dating from Roman times.

🕅 Beaches

The best beaches in the area are west of Polis, towards the Baths of Aphrodite, but a short walk north from the centre will take you to Camp Site Beach, a pleasant spray of sand and shingle, backed by eucalyptus trees and the eponymous campsite.

With your own vehicle, or by bus, you can roam down the coast to Latsi, which offers a superior spread of sand and shingle and a gaggle of popular seafood restaurants. As well as enjoying the sand and surf, you can hire boats, don scuba gear and get involved in a variety of other watery activities at Latsi Watersports Centre (22632 2095; www.latchiwatersportscentre. com; Latsi Harbour; 🖬), based at the harbour, or take cruises to snorkelling spots along the Akamas Peninsula with Cyprus Mini Cruises (29930 2879; www.cyprusminicruises.com; Latsi Harbour; adult/child €25/15; 10.30am & 4pm; iii).

Suitably sea-salted and sun-frazzled, you can recharge your batteries at the harbour-front Yiangos & Peter Taverna (22632 1411; Latsi; mains €12-16; 🕑 8.30am-11pm), which has been serving locally caught seafood since 1939. Alternatively, head east past the harbour to Psaropoulos Beach Tavern (22632 1089; E713; fish meze €17.50; 💮 10am-11pm; 🖬), at the start of Polis Municipal Beach; the tavern is family run, packed with locals, and the seafood is so fresh it's virtually flapping.

A few kilometres west of Latsi, on the road to the Baths of Aphrodite, the appropriately named Aphrodite Beach is good for children, with its clear, swimmable waters and comfortably small pebbles.

Activities

Ride in Cyprus

HORSE RIDING (2) 9977 7624; www.rideincyprus.com; Lyso; rides from €30; @9am-6pm; **•**) For hour-long horse-riding treks, overnight safaris and picnic day rides, contact this company in Lyso (also known as Lysos), 12km southeast of town, on the road to Stavros tis Psokas.

Wheelie Cyprus

(≥9935 0898; www.wheeliecyprus.com; tours from €65; . Organises bike tours on little-known trails throughout the area. The price includes high-quality bike rental, all equipment and pick-up from your hotel. Book online.

Festivals & Events

Summer Nights in Polis

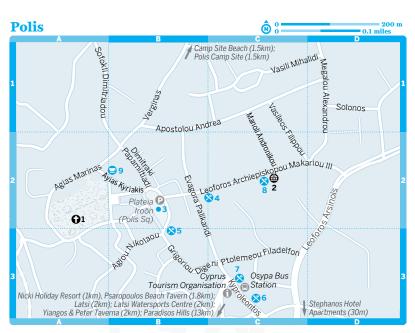
MUSIC (Town Hall Sg) In summer, Town Hall Sg is the venue for various free concerts, including traditional dancing, music, folkloric events, classical music and jazz performances.

Eating

Polis Herb Garden & Restaurant CYPRIOT CE (29958 6354: www.polisherbgarden.com; Leoforos Archiepiskopou Makariou III 24; mains €8-12; @10am-11pm; 🗟) Work up an appetite by having a stroll around this restaurant's

KOUPPAS STONE CASTLE

If you're exploring the interior of the Akamas Peninsula, a reliable lunchtime stop is Kouppas Stone Castle (2632 2526: Georgiou Paraskeva 49. Neo Chorio: mains €6-7. meat meze €16: in a mainly local crowd with its hearty, meaty meze spread and nourishing homemade mousakka.



Polis

 Sights Agios Andronikos	
🚱 Activities, Courses & Tours	
3 Summer Nights in PolisB2	
 Eating Archontariki Restaurant- Tavern	
6 Mosfilo's Tavern	
7 Old Town RestaurantC3 8 Polis Herb Garden &	
RestaurantC2	
 Orinking & Nightlife 9 Kivotis Art Cafe	

delightful herb garden, lovingly planted and tended by owner Tasos, who also creates essential oils (to sell), along with herbal teas. The cuisine is also delicately seasoned with fresh herbs, which makes all the difference to such traditional dishes as saganaki (panseared haloumi with tomatoes and green peppers).

Mosfilo's Tavern

CYPRIOT C

(22632 2104; Kyproleontos; mains €8; @ noon-10pm Tue-Sat; •) This place exudes a traditional ambience with its high ceilings, original tiles and columns, and gallery of historic pics of Polis. The menu includes classics like spinach and lamb, grilled chicken and a stifado that locals rate as being the best in town. The location is less sublime - across from the petrol station on the B7 main road to Pafos.

Arsinoe Fish Tavern

SEAFOOD €€

(22632 1590; Grigoriou Digeni; fish meze €17.50; this atmospheric, traditional family-owned place as one of the top spots in town for fresh fish. Try the succulent fish meze.

Archontariki

Restaurant-Tavern

CYPRIOT EEE (2632 1328; www.archontariki.com.cy; Leoforos Archiepiskopou Makariou III 14; mains €13-18; @ 6-11pm Tue-Sun; (2) This tavern has a timeless, classic feel, set in an old stone house with original tiling and a garden with giant urns and shady trees. The menu reflects the chef's skill at combining traditional dishes with innovative flair. Try the chicken stuffed with haloumi and mushrooms or kathisto (octopus cooked in wine and oregano). Ostrich is also on the menu.

THE CULT OF APHRODITE

Cyprus is indelibly linked to the ancient worship of the goddess Aphrodite (known as Venus in Roman mythology). She is known primarily as the Greek goddess of sexual love and beauty, although she was also worshipped as a goddess of war – particularly in Sparta and Thebes. While prostitutes often considered her their patron, her public cult was usually solemn and even austere.

The name Aphrodite is thought to derive from the Greek word *afros*, meaning 'foam'. Cypriot legend has it that Aphrodite rose from the sea off the south coast of Cyprus. She was born out of the white foam produced by the severed genitals of Ouranos (Heaven), after they were thrown into the sea by his son Chronos (the father of Zeus, king of the Greek gods). The people of Kythira in Greece hold a similar view to that expressed in the legend; an enormous rock off the south-coast port of Kapsali is believed by Kytherians to be the place where Aphrodite really emerged.

Despite being a goddess, Aphrodite had a predilection for mortal lovers. The most famous of them were Anchises (by whom Aphrodite became mother to Aeneas) and Adonis (who was killed by a boar and whose death was lamented by women at the festival of Adonia).

The main centres of worship on Cyprus for the cult of Aphrodite were at Pafos and Amathous. Her symbols included the dove, the swan, pomegranates and myrtle.

Greek art represented her as a nude-goddess type. Ancient Greek sculptor Praxiteles carved a famous statue of Aphrodite, which later became the model for the Hellenistic statue known as *Venus de Milo*.

CYPRIOT €€€

Old Town Restaurant

(2) 9963 2781; www.theoldtownrestaurant.com; Kyproleontos 9; mains €20-28; \odot 7-11pm Tue-Sun) This is a discreet and relaxing place with a leafy, secluded garden and a stripped-back, stone-clad dining room with crisp white tablecloths, shelves of wine, and plants. The menu is seasonal, but you can expect dishes such as rabbit *stifado* with wild mushrooms and juniper berries, wood-roasted duck with white wine, and partridge ravioli. Reservations recommended.

Drinking & Nightlife

For harbour-front drinks head to Latsi, where most of the seafront restaurants double as popular terrace bars in the evening. In town, the cafes around Polis Sq open well into the evening in the summer and there's regular live music organised by the town hall. There are also several traditional coffee shops in town and an Irish pub on the Argaka coast road, 7km east of Polis.

Kivotis Art Cafe

CAFE

(299555183; Ayias Kyriakis; waffles €4.50, cakes €2.80; ⊗10am-6pm; ④) This shady oasis has a welcoming informality with its rambling terrace of mismatched furniture, quirky sculptures and shelves of board games and books. Homemade cakes, waffles and ice cream are the scrumptous specialities, plus

light meals and drinks, ranging from excellent coffee to beer and wine.

1 Information

Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO; 22632 2468; www.visitcyprus.com; Vasileos Stasioikou 2; ⊕9am-1pm & 2.30-5.30pm Sun-Tue, Thu & Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) Central tourist office at the entrance to town by the large municipal car park.

1 Getting There & Away

Pafos Buses (2 8000 5588; www.pafosbuses. com) has daily services to/from Polis, leaving Pafos from the Karavella Bus Station in Ktima. Leaving Polis, all buses depart from the **Osypa** Bus Station (Kyproleontos).

Baths of Aphrodite Bus 622; €1.50, 30 minutes, hourly 6am to noon and 3pm to 6pm weekdays, seven daily on weekends.

Latsi Bus 623; €1.50, 20 minutes, two daily. Pafos Bus 645; €1.50, one hour, up to 11 on weekdays, five on weekends.

Pomos Bus 643; €1.50, one hour, two daily.

TYLLIRIA

This is where you head for at the height of the summer season if you have grown weary of crowds, love untouched, tranquil nature, and long to discover a relatively undiscovered part of Cyprus. This is a sparsely populated, forested territory with a few very quiet beach resorts nestling between Chrysohou and Morfou Bays and some great scope for hiking. Tylliria has an interesting, if harrowing, history, having suffered considerably when it was partly isolated from the rest of Cyprus following the Turkish invasion in 1974.

Pomos

POP 570

118

The trip up the coastal road from Polis towards Tylliria becomes gradually more scenic, with the road flanked by oleander bushes and hugging the coastline. Aside from a couple of small communities en route, there is precious little development and the beaches are fairly empty. Don't expect golden sands in these parts, though; in the main, the beaches are shingle. Pomos is the first small town you come to (at 19km), its main street home to a handful of restaurants and coffee shops against a backdrop of lush agricultural land with olive trees, citrus groves and vines. Head for the harbour to look at the traditional fishing boats and take a dip in the shallow waters sheltered within a small cove.

O Sights

The nearest beach is 5km east of town at Pahyammos.

Museum of

Natural History

MUSEUM

(29921 0588; Charalambous Formides St; €1; ⊘ 7.30am-2.30pm Mon, Iue, Thu & Fri, to 4pm Wed, 8am-1pm Sat; P) Clearly signposted off the main street, this museum is an unexpected attraction to find here, with its two large galleries of animals and birds endemic to the island, as well as a modest display of rocks and minerals. While taxidermists may not be impressed with some of the mildly moth-eaten exhibits, the comprehensive display includes some surprises, such as pelicans, a mouflon, the loggerhead turtle and a prehistoric-looking *Gyps fulvos* vulture – all native to Cyprus.

Don't miss the photo of the skeleton of a hippopotamus found in caves in the Akrotiri area, along with skeletons of the pygmy elephant, both dating back to neolithic times.

Pahyammos

Located along a lovely stretch of highway flanked by colourful oleander bushes, Pahyammos means 'broad sand'. Its beach is indeed broad and sweeps around a large bay up to the UN watchtowers that mark the beginning of Erenköy (Kokkina), a Turkish Cypriot enclave.

Eating

Paradise Place CAFE **C** (O 2634 2016; www.facebook.com/paradiseplace; E704; snacks €6; O llam-midnight May-Sep; O) Look out for this place as you approach the centre; it gets particularly lively in August, when there is a jazz and reggae festival over two consecutive weekends. The rest of the time, it's a cool place to hang out and enjoy a brew on tap, together with a piled-high salad, vegie burger, omelette or similar.

★ Kanalli Fish Restaurant SEAFOOD EEE (2) 9956 7056; www.kanalli.com; Pomos Harbour; mains from €12; ③10am-10pm; ⑦④) Kanalli has as its main draw the stunning holiday-brochure view from its terrace: the turquoise bay and the small, upgraded harbour with forested mountains in the distance; romantics should head here at sunset. The kitchen specialises in fresh fish, namely sea bass, bream, red snapper and red mullet, served with freshly made (rather than frozen) chips.

1 Getting There & Away

Pafos Buses (p117) operates bus 643 from Polis to Pomos twice daily (€1.50, one hour).

Kato Pyrgos

POP 1135

Located in the northern Troödos foothills, the charm of this small resort lies in its remoteness. Kato Pyrgos is about as far out of the way as you can get in the Republic, yet attracts a regular summer clientele of Cypriots, who come to escape the commercialism that they feel has overwhelmed the more popular coastal resorts. Don't expect palm-fringed promenades and white sandy beaches; Kato Pyrgos has a mildly shabby, old-fashioned appeal.

X Eating & Drinking

 Pyrgiana Beach
 SEAFOOD €

 (2652 2306;
 www.pyrgianabeachhotel.com;

 Nikolaou Papageorgiou 34; mains €6-8; ⊙11am

STAVROS TIS PSOKAS

If you are striking out south into the Tylliria hinterland from the north coast, make sure you visit the lovely forest reserve of **Stavros tis Psokas**, also accessible from Pafos (51km) via a picturesque road that is unsealed for a considerable distance. This vast picnic site is part of a forest station responsible for fire control in the Pafos Forest.

Nature-loving Cypriots come here to walk and enjoy the peace, and it can get quite crowded in summer. In a small enclosure, signposted from the main parking area, you can get a glimpse of the rare and endangered native Cypriot mouflon. Move quietly and slowly if you want to see them, as they get rather skittish at the approach of humans.

You can do some hiking from the Stavros tis Psokas forest station. The **Horteri Trail**, a 5km, three-hour circular hike, loops around the eastern flank of the Stavros Valley. The trail starts at the Platanoudkia Fountain, about halfway along the forest station's approach road, which turns off the main through-road at Selladi tou Stavrou (Stavros Saddle). The hike involves a fair bit of upward climbing and can get tiring in the heat of summer; tackle the walk early in the day if you can.

The second trail is the **Selladi tou Stavrou**, a 2.5km, 1½-hour circular loop of the northern flank of the Stavros Valley. The start is prominently marked from Stavros Saddle (at the junction of the forest station approach road and the main through-road). A longer option (7km, 2½ hours) is to follow the trail anticlockwise and then branch south to the heliport. From there you can walk along a forest road to the forest station proper.

The Cyprus Tourism Organisation (www.visitcyprus.com) should be able to provide you with more information on these trails. Alternatively, consult www.visitpafos.org.cy.

You will need your own car to get here. There's a small camp site at Stavros tis Psokas with capacity for 60 people.

3pm & 6-9pm) Overlooking the harbour, and part of an older hotel (desperately in need of an update!), this restaurant continues to dish up some of the freshest seafood you will find on this stretch of coastline. Ask for the fish dish of the day and don't forget to order an accompanying village salad; one of the better versions we have tasted in the Republic.

Grape by the Sea

BAR

(2 9629 2959; Nicola Pylidis 2; ⊙1-8pm Mon-Thu, from 11am Fri-Sun) This is the dreamy photo op that will be the envy of your pals back home, especially if you happen to be sipping a strawberry mojito at the time. Right on the sand with shaded sunbed gazebos, it also serves food, including tasty pork chops, salads and sandwiches.

Getting There & Away

You will need your own transport to reach Kato Pyrgos; the easiest approach is via Pomos on the E704. Although the distance from Pomos is only 27km, the road is very windy so you should allow close to an hour for the journey.

The Kato Pyrgos crossing point to Northern Cyprus is signposted 4km to the east of town.

WESTERN TROÖDOS

The sparsely populated area flanking the western foothills of the Troödos Mountains is home to several delightful villages, where traditions hold fast and the local Cypriot dialect is just that bit more impenetrable. If you're looking for a route to central Troödos from the west coast, you can now easily follow a mixture of good sealed and unsealed roads into the mountains. The best route takes you to Kykkos Monastery (p90) via the village of **Pano Panagia**, the birthplace of the island's famous former archbishop-president Makarios III.

The Cedar Valley is the highlight of the Western Troödos hinterland, home to a large number of the unusual indigenous Cypriot cedar (*Cedrus brevifolia*), a close cousin of the better-known Lebanese cedar. There is a picnic ground here and the opportunity to hike 2.5km to the summit of Mt Tripylos.

O Sights

Childhood House

of Makarios NOTABLE BUILDING (Pano Panagia; ⊗10am-1pm & 2-6pm) **FREE** The childhood house of Archbishop Makarios III, Cyprus' first president, contains photos

FYTI

Easily accessible from Pano Panagia or Pafos, the medieval village of Fyti is well worth a visit. Whatever your approach, the surroundings are a delight, with golden cornfields, undulating vineyards and lush woodland. Park near the imposing Greek Orthodox **Agios Dimitris church** (if it is open, take a look at the 19th-century altar screen with its vibrant, fresh colours); the friendly priest can often be found sitting at the adjacent coffee shop. At the centre of the village square is a fountain with a backdrop of colourful weaving fronting the **Folk Art Museum** (\otimes 8am-1pm & 2-5pm) **FREE** and the adjacent souvenir shop. Known as *fytiotika*, the tapestries produced here with their traditional patterns and rich colours are a world away from the embroidery sold at tourist shops in places such as Omodos (usually machine-made or imported from China). After a wander around this picturesque village, its winding cobbles flanked by simple stone dwellings, stop by the **Phiti Pefkos Taverna** (**2**2673 2342; mains €6.50, meze €13; \otimes 9am-10pm) for a drink or meal accompanied by a soundtrack of birdsong.

PAFOS & THE WEST KATO PYRGOS

and memorabilia from his younger years. It's a considerable sized building, considering his family's peasant status (then again, the livestock would have lived in one of the rooms!). If the house is locked, you can obtain the key from the nearby cultural centre.

Makarios Cultural Centre MUSEUM (Pano Panagia; €0.50; ⊙9am-1pm & 2-5pm) This museum is a place for hard-core fans only, containing memorabilia from Archbishop Makarios III's life as a priest and Cyprus' first president. The collection includes plenty of photos and his overcoat, slippers and dressing gown (from the famous London department store Selfridges).

Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery MONASTERY (F622, Pano Panagia; ☺ 9.30am-6.30pm May-Sep, reduced hours Oct-Apr; ℙ) FREE Located just 1.5km south of Pano Panagia in a beautiful setting 850m above sea level, this peaceful monastery dates from 1152 and features an unusual triangular cloister, built of red stone, and some fine frescos. There is also a small gift shop and museum with a display of icons. The shaded terrace is a delightful place to enjoy a light snack from the adjacent cafe.

Activities

There are traditional wineries in several of the villages surrounding Pano Panagia, where the dramatic mountain views are as much an attraction as the local vintages.

Kolios Vineyards

WINE

(22672 4090; www.facebook.com/kolioswinery; Statos; meze €20; ⊗10am-5pm) This winery

is widely lauded for its meat meze accompanied by its own wines and including a wine tour and tasting. Reservations are essential. Drop-by visitors are also made very welcome and can enjoy tasting the Kolios wines along with the glorious valley and mountain views. This is the highest winery in the Pafos region.

★ Tsangarides Winery WINE (2) 2672 2777; www.tsangarideswinery.com; Lemona; ⊙ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat) • Re= This popular winery, which is well signposted in the centre of the village, produces organic wines and is open for free tours and tastings. Try its award-winning shiraz rosé if available.

Vouni Panayia Winery WINE (2 2672 2770; www.vounipanayiawinery.com; Leoforos Archiepiskopou III 60, Pano Panagia; ⊗ 9am-4.30pm) IREE Enjoy breathtaking scenery from the tasting room of this modern winery, where you can enjoy a free tour and wine tasting; its classic Barba Yiannis comes highly recommended. It also has an excellent restaurant.

1 Getting There & Away

You'll need a vehicle to see these places, as public transport is patchy or nonexistent. Alternatively, you could join a tour from Polis or Pafos.

The Cedar Valley is approached via a winding, unsealed forest road from Pano Panagia on the Pafos side of the Troödos Mountains, or along a signposted unsealed road from the Kykkos Monastery side of the Troödos. ©Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'

Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We love to hear from travellers – your comments keep us on our toes and help make our books better. Our well-travelled team reads every word on what you loved or loathed about this book. Although we cannot reply individually to your submissions, we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors, in time for the next edition. Each person who sends us information is thanked in the next edition – the most useful submissions are rewarded with a selection of digital PDF chapters.

Visit **lonelyplanet.com/contact** to submit your updates and suggestions or to ask for help. Our award-winning website also features inspirational travel stories, news and discussions.

Note: We may edit, reproduce and incorporate your comments in Lonely Planet products such as guidebooks, websites and digital products, so let us know if you don't want your comments reproduced or your name acknowledged. For a copy of our privacy policy visit lonelyplanet.com/ privacy.

OUR READERS

Many thanks to the travellers who used the last edition and wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes:

Alan Martin, Anne Werner, Arkadiusz Rubajczyk, Barney Smith, Chris Tozer, Colin Stevenson, Dan Livney, Gloria Ridley, Liesl Marelli, Lynne Mackey, Nicolas Kefalas, Paul Charman, Rita Cordes, Robert Power, Russell Pepper, Ruth Keshishian, Shauna Brown, Simon Godfrey

WRITER THANKS

Joe Bindloss

A big thanks to Brana Vladisavljevic for the welcome opportunity to cover the country where I was born, and to Jessica Lee and Josephine Quintero for providing such excellent material to work with.

Jessica Lee

A big thanks to Kris in Larnaka; Yiannis and Lefteris in Lefkosia; to Angela and Özgür Gökaşan in Kyrenia for loads of tips and even more coffee; to Vicky Burke and François Hameon in Farnagusta; and to the friendly staff at the CTO offices in Agia Napa and Lefkosia. At Lonely Planet, a huge thank you to Brana, fellow author Jo, and to cartographer Anthony for helping to solve a mapping conundrum.

Josephine Quintero

First and foremost thanks to Brana Vladisavljevic from Lonely Planet for commissioning me to research these fascinating regions of Cyprus. Also to the numerous helpful CTO folk throughout the island. Thanks too to Victoria Oliver in Lemesos for her insight into the local restaurant scene and to George Anagnos for being my hiking companion in the Troödos.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 11, 163344.

Cover photograph: Beach at Aphrodite's Rock, Pafos, advertize/Getty Images©



THIS BOOK

This 7th edition of Lonely Planet's *Cyprus* guidebook was curated by Joe Bindloss and researched and written by Jessica Lee and Josephine Quintero. The 6th edition was also written by Jessica Lee and Josephine Quintero, while the 5th edition was written by Josephine Quintero and Matthew Charles. This guidebook was produced by the following:

Destination Editor Branislava Vladisavljevic

Product Editors Bruce Evans, Anne Mason

Senior Cartographers Anthony Phelan, Corey Hutchison Book Designer Nicholas Colicchia

Assisting Editors James

Bainbridge, Jennifer Hattam, Kellie Langdon, Lou McGregor, Charlotte Orr, Susan Paterson, Tamara Sheward, Saralinda Turner

Assisting Cartographer Rachel Imeson

Cover Researcher Naomi Parker Thanks to Shona Gray, Ellie Simpson