

# Directory

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## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Cyprus ranges from huts on a beach to superluxurious five-star hotels on a beach. Prices vary between the South and the North, the latter mostly offering cheaper accommodation across all budgets. Note that the prices quoted in CY£ are for the Republic of Cyprus, and those quoted in UK£ are for Northern Cyprus. In this book, accommodation is categorised as budget (up to CY£30 and up to UK£20, for a double room), midrange (CY£30 to CY£100, and UK£20 to UK£70) and top end (CY£100 and up, and UK£70 and up). En-suite bathrooms and breakfast are included in the price, unless otherwise stated.

Budget places are usually small hotels. Unfortunately, with only a couple of exceptions,

there is almost no culture of private room renting. It's often a gamble whether you get air-conditioning or not in the budget options. In the Republic you can sometimes stay overnight in a monastery, ostensibly for free, but a donation is expected. Sleeping rough is not recommended and is frowned upon, but you might get away with sleeping on a deserted beach as a one-off solution.

Midrange places almost always have a swimming pool, and this price range has the most versatile and interesting choice of accommodation.

Top-end places range from five-star hotels of international fame, such as the Intercontinentals or Holiday Inns of the world, to Cypriot-run temples to luxury and style.

August is the most expensive time of the year since it's Cyprus' holiday month; rates go down significantly before and after. The rates listed in the *Cyprus Hotel Guide*, issued free by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO), are maximum allowable prices, and will normally only be applicable in high season (July to August). Winter months offer a 20% to 30% discount, especially if you book online.

The prices quoted in this book are for the high season, unless otherwise stated.

## B&Bs & Pensions

In the Republic, the B&B system is generally known as agrotourism. This is a superb and often very economical way for independent travellers to see the country. Guests stay in renovated village houses or purpose-built pensions. Most of them are self-contained and fully equipped. Rates range from CY£12 for a single room to CY£65 for a luxury studio.

### BOOK ACCOMMODATION ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com). You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

## PRACTICALITIES

- The Republic of Cyprus' English-language newspapers are the *Cyprus Mail* and the *Cyprus Weekly*. In Northern Cyprus, look for the *Turkish Daily News* and *Cyprus Today*.
- UK dailies, and German and French newspapers are widely available in the South and North.
- Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC) has programmes and news bulletins in English on Radio 2 (91.1FM) at 10am, 2pm and 8pm. British Forces Broadcasting Services (BFBS) 1 broadcasts 24 hours a day in English on 89.7FM (Lefkosia), 92.1FM (west Cyprus) and 99.6FM (east Cyprus). BFBS 2 broadcasts on 89.9FM (Lefkosia), 91.7FM (Lemesos) and 95.3FM (Larnaka). BBC World Service is picked up 24 hours a day on 1323AM.
- Bayrak International is the voice of the North and has a lively English-language programme on 87.8FM and 105FM.
- CyBC TV has news in English at 8pm on Channel 2. Many hotels have CNN, BBC, Sky or NBC.
- The electricity current is 240V, 50Hz. Plugs are the large type with three square pins as in the UK. Multipleplug adaptors are widely available.
- Cyprus uses the metric system. A standard conversion table can be found on the inside front cover of this book.

However, the vast majority of agrotourism houses and pensions are away from major centres, so you will either need your own transport to get around, or have to rely on sometimes-sketchy public transport.

For an excellent colour brochure listing places to stay, contact **Cyprus Agrotourism Company** (☎ 2233 7715; [www.agrotourism.net](http://www.agrotourism.net); PO Box 4535, CY-1390 Lefkosia) or check its listings online.

## Camping

The South has seven licensed camping grounds, most with limited opening times. All are equipped with hot showers, a mini-market and a snack bar, and charge about CY£1.50 per day for a tent site, plus CY£1 per person per day. In the North, there are six camping grounds, but facilities are not as good or well developed as in the South. Costs are similar to those in the South.

## Guesthouses

*Domatia* (rooms for rent), advertised by the word *camere*, are not common in Cyprus; in fact, the practice is officially discouraged. However, in Agia Napa you will see signs advertising rooms, and occasionally come across them in some of the more popular mountain resorts such as the Troödos Massif in the South.

## Hostels

There are four Hostelling International (HI) hostels in the Republic of Cyprus. Try

contacting the **Cyprus Youth Hostel Association** (☎ 2267 0027; [montis@logos.cy.net](mailto:montis@logos.cy.net); PO Box 21328, CY-1506 Lefkosia). There are no HI hostels in Northern Cyprus.

HI cards are not mandatory for a stay in any of Cyprus' youth hostels, though an HI card may get you a 10% discount.

## Hotels

In the South, hotels are classified from one to five stars; prices for a double room range from CY£30 to more than CY£200. While most hotels deal primarily with package-tour groups paying cheaper bulk rates, individual travellers can usually find a room even in ostensibly marketed 'resort' hotels. Quality varies markedly, though prices are strictly controlled by the CTO.

The quality of hotels in the North is generally good to excellent at the top end of the scale, though the supply is necessarily smaller. Package-tour visitors constitute the bulk of guests. The same principle applies to individual travellers as in the South: there will usually be a room available for walk-ins. The *North Cyprus Hotel Guide* is available from the North Cyprus Tourism Organisation (NCTO), if you ask specifically for it.

## ACTIVITIES

There are outdoor activities to suit most tastes in Cyprus. Some activities, including cycling, skiing and hiking, are better

sued to the cooler months. Organised water-based activities in general run from mid-March to late October, though if you want to be active independently at any time of the year, all you need is your own equipment. The CTO produces a handy pocket-sized 150-page booklet called *Cyprus Travellers Handbook*. This alphabetically organised, free publication contains a wide range of data and information on the Republic of Cyprus, and is available from any CTO office.

### Boating

Boats of all kinds can be hired at the major beaches in both Northern Cyprus and the Republic of Cyprus. Popular spots for boating include Geroskipou Beach and Coral Bay near Pafos, Polis and Latsi to the north of Pafos, Larnaka Public Beach, Dasoudi Beach near Lemesos and, in Northern Cyprus, Kyrenia (Girne). Costs range from CY£10 for 30 minutes in a 49HP speedboat to CY£30 for 30 minutes in a 150HP speedboat. Prices for hiring a craft in the North are somewhat cheaper.

Yachties might like to get a copy of Rod Heikell's *Turkish Waters & Cyprus Pilot*. The 6th edition has been extensively revised. It covers the coasts and islands from Istanbul, through the Sea of Marmara, the Dardanelles, the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts to the Syrian border, and includes Cyprus.

### Cycling

The CTO produces a helpful brochure called *Cycling in Cyprus*, which lists a number of recommended mountain-bike trails using both surfaced and unsurfaced roads and off-road trails. This should be available from most CTO offices; if not, you can obtain a copy from the CTO head office in Lefkosia (South Nicosia; p61). The NCTO does not yet produce a similar cycling guide.

Overall, cycling in Cyprus is quite easy and not yet overrun by long-haul cyclists, due to the island's geographic isolation. The distances are relatively short, and quieter roads run parallel to the busy motorways that connect Lefkosia, Larnaka, Lemesos and eventually Pafos. Cyclists may use the wide, hard shoulder of the two-lane motorways, but the scenery of passing vehicles is

less enticing than that found on the less-busy roads.

Cyclists in the Troödos Massif in the South will find some of the island's most scenic areas, but bicycles with a good range of gears are necessary to cope with the long, though not necessarily steep, gradients that lead up and down the mountains. Mountain bikes can be hired in Troödos (p102) should you not relish the idea of riding your own bike uphill to the town.

In the North, cyclists will find the relatively trafficless roads of the Karpas (Kırpaşa) Peninsula the most rewarding. Only the narrow and quickly conquered Kyrenia (Girne) Range will provide any real obstacle to movement between the north coast and the interior plains. There are no places to rent bicycles in the North.

### Diving

Diving is very popular in Cyprus as the island is free from seriously dangerous currents and other underwater perils. Organised subaqua clubs can be found at major tourist centres in both the North and the South, and most of them run one- to three-day training courses for novices. Dive responsibly: do not remove antiquities or sponges from the sea bottom.

For further information, contact the **Cyprus Federation of Underwater Activities** (CFUA; ☎ 2275 1757; fax 2275 5246; PO Box 21503, CY-1510 Lefkosia). For the lowdown on the island's best dive spots, see the boxed text, p86.

### Hiking

Hiking in Cyprus is a major activity, except during July and August when the weather can get too hot. In the South, well-marked trails have been set up and maintained by the CTO. The most popular trails are in the Troödos Massif (p101), which sports at least four excellent, relatively easy trails around and close to Mt Olympus.

Other trails include a series of overland hikes in the Pitsylia region (p114) immediately east of Mt Olympus. These normally require a drop-off and pick-up arrangement for hikers. The trails of the Akamas Peninsula (p132) in the far northwest are circular, as are a couple of trails in the Stavros tis Psokas park immediately south of the Tyllirian wilderness in the northwest of the country (p137). Get a copy of the CTO

brochure *Cyprus: Nature Trails* for details on the organised trails in the South.

The North has some excellent hiking opportunities as well, particularly in the Kyrenia Range (p189). Local hiking operators take people on guided walks around the mountains, but armed with a walking guide you can do it easily yourself. *Walks in North Cyprus*, by Christina Hessenberg, Alison Dowey and Derek Dowey, is a handy guide to walking in the North. This spiral-bound booklet describes 30 walks and lists a number of good bird-watching areas. The maps are hand drawn and lack a scale bar, but the fairly detailed descriptions should suffice. It's available locally in bookshops in Northern Cyprus or by email (adowey@iecnc.org).

### Horse Riding

In the South there is a surprisingly well-developed and organised network of horse-riding facilities, with at least nine major centres to choose from. Rates run from CY£10 to CY£12 for either an hour's unsupervised riding or an hour's instruction. The CTO puts out a detailed flyer called *Horse Riding in Cyprus*, but for further details contact the **Cyprus Equestrian Federation** (☎ 2277 2515; fax 2235 7002; PO Box 14043, Aglantzia, CY-2153 Lefkosia).

### Skiing

The Troödos Massif enjoys a brief, but often vigorous, skiing season; the sport is fairly popular for those who have the equipment and energy to get up to the slopes of Mt Olympus from early January to mid-March. There are four ski runs close to Troödos, which are operated and maintained by the **Cyprus Ski Club** (☎ 2236 5340; PO Box 22185, CY-1518 Lefkosia). There are also two runs on the north face of Mt Olympus; one is 350m long and the other 500m long. There are two more 150m runs in 'Sun Valley' on the southern side of Mt Olympus. For further information contact the Cyprus Ski Club or get the CTO leaflet, *Skiing in Cyprus*. There is no skiing in Northern Cyprus.

### Snorkelling

Snorkelling is as popular as organised diving in Cyprus. Masks, snorkels and flippers can all be bought or hired if you haven't brought along your own, and no special

permission is required. Possibly the best area for snorkelling is in the less-exposed coves of eastern Cyprus, especially around Protaras (p169). In the North, the beaches to the west of Kyrenia (p192) are probably the best bet.

### Windsurfing

Windsurfing is a widespread activity in both halves of Cyprus, though the area around Protaras (p169) in the South is particularly popular. Windsurfing equipment can be hired for around CY£5 per hour for solo surfing, or for CY£5 with 30 minutes of instruction.

### BUSINESS HOURS

Throughout Cyprus, restaurants are open from 11am to 2pm and from 7.30pm to 11pm daily. Public-service hours are 7.30am to 3.30pm weekdays and also 3pm to 6pm Thursday (September to June), or 7.30am to 2.30pm weekdays (July to August).

### Republic of Cyprus

Shopping hours vary by season. In summer (June to mid-September), shops open at around 8.30am and close at around 7.30pm weekdays. In the major cities there is an afternoon break from 1pm to 4pm. In spring and autumn (April to May and mid-September to October), shops close at 7pm, and in the winter period (November to March) at 6pm. On Wednesday and Saturday early closing is at 2pm, and shops do not open on Sunday.

Banks maintain somewhat shorter hours: 8.30am to 12.30pm weekdays as well as 3.15pm to 4.45pm on Monday. In July and August banks open 15 minutes earlier. Centrally positioned banks also offer afternoon tourist services; you'll see notices posted on their doors. Currency-exchange bureaux operate over more extended hours and are often open until late in the evening.

### Northern Cyprus

Banks are open 8am to noon, and 2pm to 5pm weekdays from September to March, and from 8am to 1.30pm, and 2.30pm to 5pm the rest of the year. Shops are open 7.30am to 2pm weekdays from May to August, and 8am to 1pm, and 2pm to 5pm the rest of the year. There is also late opening on Monday from 3.30pm to 6pm.

## CHILDREN

Visiting Cyprus with junior travellers is very easy. Children are the focal point of family life for all Cypriots and will always be received very warmly. Children are welcome in restaurants and bars; they can be seen running around way past midnight at the many weddings that take place around the country during the summer.

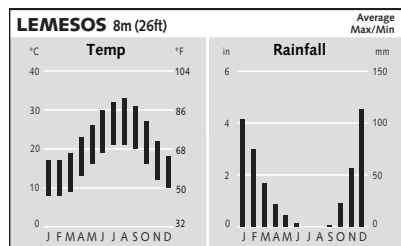
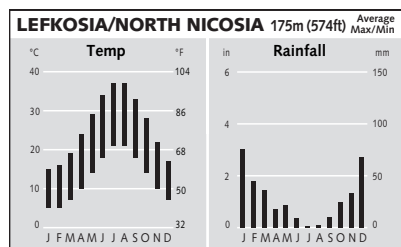
Restaurants will often have highchairs for children, and hotels should be able to supply cots if requested in advance. Hotels also often provide child-minding facilities; check before you book your accommodation. Hire cars will not normally supply child safety seats, so check with the company beforehand if you need one.

While large, grassy playgrounds are few and far between in the main towns, there are several water theme parks around the country to keep kids occupied for the best part of a day, and there are usually video games and rides available at most tourist centres.

And there are always the beaches – most of them very safe with shallow water – and associated water activities to keep the little ones entertained all day.

For a rundown on how to amuse children on holiday, read Lonely Planet's *Travel With Children*.

## CLIMATE CHARTS



## CUSTOMS

General EU customs rules apply to the Republic of Cyprus, since it entered the EU. This means that between EU countries, you are allowed to bring in or out an unrestricted amount of (legal) goods, as long as they are for your own consumption.

Entering or leaving Northern Cyprus, the limit is 200 cigarettes and 1L of spirits or wine. The importation of agricultural products, including dried nuts, seeds, bulbs and cuttings, fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and so on, are subject to strict quarantine control, and requires prior approval by the Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources.

## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

In general, Cyprus is a very safe place to travel, both for locals and for tourists, and personal safety is pretty well guaranteed. The crime rate is minimal and muggings are almost unknown, although petty theft and crime may be on the increase in urban centres – this applies equally to both the Republic and the North.

As a traveller, you run few risks of personal loss or harm in Cyprus, though you're advised to lock hotel rooms and keep personal belongings secure. The greatest risk will often come from fellow travellers in resorts with a high concentration of tourists, where petty theft and drunkenness are the most likely annoyances to be encountered.

Care must be exercised when travelling in the area of the Attila Line (known as the Green Line in the capital) that divides the North from the South. Be sure to only cross at designated checkpoints and nowhere else. The dividing line is normally clearly visible and identifiable by barbed wire, sentry boxes and UN watchtowers. Despite this, there have been cases of people inadvertently straying across the line towards the North, whereupon they have been arrested. The delineation between North and South is less clearly marked within the Dekelia Sovereign Base Area in the east, where there is no UN buffer zone as such. Extra care must be exercised here.

There are still occasional demonstrations and gatherings by Greek Cypriots at various points along the Attila Line, and tensions can run very high. In August 1996, two Greek Cypriots were murdered by Northern Cypriot counter-demonstrators

## NORTH TO SOUTH CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

When crossing from the North into the South, you are allowed to bring in up to CY£80 of goods, 200 cigarettes and 1L of spirits or wine. Be aware that you will be subject to both British and the Republic's customs regulations when crossing at Pergamos (Larnaka District) and Agios Nikolaos (Famagusta District), as those two checkpoints are in the Dekelia Sovereign Base Area (Great Britain). The regulations are the same, but it might take a bit more of your time.

at Deryneia, close to Famagusta (Mağusa). At the same time, some Greek demonstrators and several foreigners were also injured by gunshots. See the boxed text, p167, for further details.

To avoid possible problems, travellers should not linger near military bases in the North or the South, and should obey prominent signs prohibiting photography.

## DISABLED TRAVELLERS

Any CTO can send you the *What the Disabled Visitor Needs to Know about Cyprus* factsheet, which lists some useful organisations. The Republic's airports have truck lifts to assist disabled travellers. Some hotels have facilities for the disabled, but there's little help at historical sites and museums.

Wheelchair travellers might like to check out **GC Paraquip** (☎ 2694 9758; www.paraquip.com.cy; Ahepans 1, Pafos CY-8026). It offers a wide range of services and information on hotels, wheelchair hire and airport transfers.

In Northern Cyprus there are few facilities for the disabled visitor.

## DISCOUNT CARDS

The most well-known and easily obtainable student ID card is the **International Student Identity Card** (ISIC; www.isic.org). This is available from your home educational institution before you depart. Its only real advantage in Cyprus is to obtain student discounts for admission to museums and archaeological sites.

There is no substantial student discount-travel scene, and no special student concessions on bus travel within Cyprus.

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

It's important to realise what your own embassy – the embassy of the country of which you are a citizen – can and can't do to help you if you get into trouble.

In general, it won't be much help in emergencies if the trouble is remotely your

own fault. Remember that you are bound by the laws of the country you are visiting. Your embassy will not be sympathetic if you end up in jail after committing a crime locally, even if such actions are legal in your own country.

In genuine emergencies you might get some assistance from the embassy, but only if other channels have been exhausted. For example, if you need to get home urgently, a free ticket is exceedingly unlikely – the embassy would expect you to have insurance. If you have all your money and documents stolen, it might assist with getting a new passport, but a loan for onward travel is out of the question.

Some embassies used to keep letters for travellers or have a small reading room with newspapers from home, but these days the mail-holding service is not common, and any newspapers tend to be out of date.

## Cypriot Embassies & Consulates

The Republic of Cyprus has diplomatic representation in 26 countries, including the following:

**Australia** (☎ 02-6281 0832; fax 02-6281 0860; 30 Beale Cres, Deakin, ACT 2600)

**Canada** (☎ 416-944 0998; fax 416-944 9149; 365 Bloor Street East, Suite 1010, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3L4)

**France** (☎ 01 47 20 86 28; fax 01 40 70 13 44; 23 Rue Galilée, F-75116 Paris)

**Germany** (☎ 030-308 68 30; fax 030-275 91 454; Wallstrasse 27, D-10179 Berlin)

**Greece** (☎ 21-0723 2727; fax 21-0723 1927; Irodotou 16, GR-106 75, Athens)

**Ireland** (☎ 01-676 3060; fax 01-676 3099; 71 Lower Leeson St, Dublin 2)

**Israel** (☎ 03-525 0212; fax 03-629 0535; 50 Dizengoff St, 14th fl, Top Tower, Dizengoff Centre, 64322 Tel Aviv)

**Netherlands** (☎ 070-346 6499; fax 070-392 4024; Surinamestraat 15, NL-2585 GG, Den Haag)

**UK** (☎ 020-7499 8272; fax 020-7491 0691; 93 Park St, London W1Y 4ET)

**USA** (☎ 202-462 5227; fax 202-483 6710; 2211 R St North West, Washington, DC 20008)

The Northern Cyprus administration has representative offices in countries including the following:

**Canada** (☎ 905-731-4000; 328 Highway 7 East, Suite 308, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 3P7)

**France** (☎ 01 40 50 01 77; fax 01 46 47 68 68; 4 Rue André Colledébousuf, F-75016 Paris)

**Germany** (☎ 0268-33 27 48; fax 0268-33 17 23; Auf Dem Platz 3, D-53577 Neustadt Wied-Neschen)

**Turkey** (☎ 0312-437 6031; fax 0312-446 5238; Rabat Sokak 20, Gaziosmanpaşa 06700, Ankara)

**UAR** (☎ 2627 2977; fax 2627 0844; Khalifa Bin Zayad St, Blue Tower, Suite 704-A, Abu Dhabi)

**UK** (☎ 020-7631 1920; fax 020-7631 1948; 26 Bedford Sq, London WC1B 3EG)

**USA** (☎ 212-687 2350; fax 212-949 6872; 821 United Nations Plaza, 6th fl, New York, NY 10017)

## Embassies & Consulates in Cyprus

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

**Australia** (Map p60; ☎ 2275 3001; fax 2276 6486; cnr Leoforos Stasinou & Annis Komninis 4)

**Canada** (Map p58; ☎ 2277 5508; fax 2277 9905; Lambousa 1)

**France** (Map p58; ☎ 2277 9910; fax 2278 1052; Ploutarhou 12, Engomi)

**Germany** (Map p58; ☎ 2245 1145; fax 2266 5694; Nikitara 10)

**Greece** (Map p58; ☎ 2268 0645; fax 2268 0649; Leoforos Lordou Vyronos 8-10)

**Ireland** (Map p58; ☎ 2281 8183; fax 2266 0050; 7 Aiantas)

**Israel** (Map p58; ☎ 2266 4195; fax 2266 3486; Grypari 4)

**Netherlands** (Map p58; ☎ 2265 3451; fax 2237 7956; Hilton Hotel, Leoforos Arhiepiskopou Makariou III)

**UK** (Map p58; British High Commission; ☎ 2286 1100; fax 2286 1125; Alexandrou Palli)

**USA** (Map p58; ☎ 2277 6400; fax 2278 0944; cnr Metohiou & Agiou Ploutarhou, Engomi)

Countries with diplomatic representation in Northern Cyprus include the following, all in North Nicosia:

**Australia** (Map p173; ☎ 227 7332; Güner Türkmen Sokak 20, Köşklüçiftlik)

**Germany** (☎ 227 5161; Kasım 15)

**Turkey** (☎ 227 2314; fax 228 2209; Bedrettin Demirel Caddesi)

**UK** (Map p173; ☎ 228 3861; Mehmet Akif Caddesi 29, Köşklüçiftlik)

**USA** (Map p173; ☎ 227 8295; Güner Türkmen Sokak 20, Köşklüçiftlik)

If you're sending mail to any of these addresses in Northern Cyprus, ensure that you use the suffix 'Mersin 10, Turkey', not 'Northern Cyprus'.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS Republic of Cyprus

In the South, Easter is the most important religious festival, and just about everything stops. Carnival celebrations begin around fifty days before Easter.

The diary of events, available from any CTO, is a useful publication for finding out about festivals in the South.

### February

**Lemesos Carnival** This 11-day party starts 50 days before Easter, with the 'King of the Carnival', who leads the parade. See p87 for more.

### March

**Cyprus International Film Festival** (www.ciff2006.com) Events take place in Lefkosia, Larnaka and Lemesos. See p68 for more.

### May

**EU Accession Day** The most important day in modern Cypriot history is celebrated on 1 May with a party in all of the island's towns.

### July & August

**Ancient Greek Drama Festival** A fantastic opportunity to see some ancient Greek plays under the stars in Kourion's amphitheatre and other venues in Pafos, from 1 July to 3 August.

### September & October

**Pafos Aphrodite Festival** Opera performances are staged at Pafos Fort from 2 to 4 September.

**Lemesos Wine Festival** From 30 August to 11 September, locals and tourists take to the streets of Lemesos and celebrate (lots of) wine.

### December

**New Year's Eve** Fireworks and music into the night on Lefkosia's Plateia Eleftherias and in other towns on 31 December.

## Northern Cyprus

### May & June

**Bellapais Music Festival** (www.cypnet.co.uk/n/cyprus/culture/music/agenda/bellapaisfestival) Taking place in and around Bellapais Abbey, the festival consists of concerts, recitals and even brass-band performances within the refectory of the abbey.

## June & July

**International Famagusta Culture & Art Festival** (www.magusa.org/festival) The North's biggest festival, with music, theatre and arts taking place in Famagusta's Othello Tower and town square, and in Ancient Salamis, from 21 June to 12 July.

## FOOD

We have ordered our food choices primarily by author preference. The prices indicated are for a main course for one person, or in the case of meze, per person.

## GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Homosexuality is legal in the Republic; contact the **Gay Liberation Movement** (☎ 2244 3346; PO Box 1947, Lefkosia) for more information. You will find a useful link to gay activities in Cyprus on the website of **Gayscape** (www.gayscape.com).

In the North, homosexuality is technically illegal but in practice police maintain a generally liberal attitude, particularly to foreigners who won't be arrested unless caught in flagrante delicto. There are no organised support groups in Northern Cyprus.

## HOLIDAYS

### Republic of Cyprus

Holidays in the Republic of Cyprus are the same as in Greece, with the addition of Greek Cypriot Day (1 April) and Cyprus Independence Day (1 October). Kids are on holiday in August and over the New Year. Greek public holidays:

**New Year's Day** 1 January

**Epiphany** 6 January

**First Sunday in Lent** February

**Greek Independence Day** 25 March

**(Orthodox) Good Friday** March/April

**(Orthodox) Easter Sunday** March/April

**Spring Festival/Labour Day** 1 May

**Kataklysmos** (Deluge) June

**Feast of the Assumption** 15 August

**Ohi Day** 28 October

**Christmas Day** 25 December

**St Stephen's Day** 26 December

## Northern Cyprus

Northern Cyprus observes Muslim religious holidays. Like Easter, these holidays change each year, since they are calculated by the lunar system. The two major holidays are Kurban Bayramı and Şeker Bayramı, both coming at the end of the month-long

Ramadan (Ramazan in Turkish) fast. The fast itself is not strictly observed in the North, and restaurants and cafés are open as normal. As in the South, kids are on holiday in August and over the New Year. Other holidays:

**New Year's Day** 1 January

**Peace & Freedom Day** 20 July

**Victory Day** 30 August

**Turkish National Day** 29 October

**Proclamation of the TRNC** 15 November

## INSURANCE

Don't leave home without it! Choose a policy that covers theft, loss and medical expenses. Some policies offer a range of options for medical expenses; the more expensive ones are chiefly for countries such as the USA, which has extremely high medical costs. There is a wide variety of policies available, so check the small print to find one that suits you. Cyprus will normally be covered under 'European Countries' provisions.

Some policies specifically exclude 'dangerous activities', which can include scuba diving, motorcycling and even hiking. A locally acquired motorcycle licence is not valid under some policies.

You may prefer a policy that pays doctors or hospitals directly rather than requiring you to pay on the spot and claim later. If you have to claim later, make sure you keep all documentation. Some policies ask you to call (reverse charges) a centre in your home country where an immediate assessment of your problem is made.

Check that the policy covers ambulances or an emergency flight home.

Worldwide cover to travellers from more than 44 countries is available online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services).

## INTERNET ACCESS

Cyprus is well connected to the Internet for both private and public users, and Internet cafés abound in the North and the South. If you plan to bring your own laptop, note that the phone plugs are of the flat modular kind such as those used in the UK. Adaptors are easy to find in major towns. For more information on travelling with a portable computer, see the website [www.teleadapt.com](http://www.teleadapt.com).

Your local Internet Service Provider (ISP) may well have Internet roaming agreements with Cyprus; check with your ISP for local

dial-up numbers before you leave home. In the South, an easy way to connect without having to take out a local account is to use the Cytanet For All service. You only pay for time connected (CY€0.20 per 10-minute block). Dial ☎ 0992 6262 from anywhere in the South; enter 'cytanetforall' as the user-id and leave the password entry blank.

If you plan to spend any time in Cyprus, you can get a temporary account with one of the country's ISPs. **SpiderNet** (☎ 2284 4844; www.spidernet.net; 4th fl, Iasonos 1, CY-1082, Lefkosia), in the South, can provide a temporary 'Click & Connect' account for CY€20. With this you get three months of Internet access. Buy the CD package from any authorised dealer, or order it from the website.

In Northern Cyprus, Comtech is the main ISP. You can take out a temporary account for one month (UK£9.80), three months (UK£22.80) or one year (UK£75). Dial-up rates are cheap at only UK£0.13 per hour. Accounts can be opened at Kyrenia's Cafe Net Internet café (p186).

Most travellers use Internet cafés and free web-based email such as **Yahoo** (www.yahoo.com) or **Hotmail** (www.hotmail.com).

If you're travelling with a notebook or hand-held computer, be aware that your modem may not work once you leave your home country. The safest option is to buy a reputable 'global' modem before you leave home, or buy a local PC card modem if you're spending an extended time in any one country. For more information on travelling with a portable computer, see www.teleadapt.com.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The importation of drugs or any psychotropic substances is strictly forbidden. Also, the police are very vigilant on speeding and drink-driving in both the South and North.

Read the boxed text **Buyer Beware** (p187) on the legal implications of buying property in Northern Cyprus.

## MAPS

The free country and city maps available from the CTO (p232) for the Republic of Cyprus are adequate for getting around, but check the publication date (in the lower right-hand corner). These maps are not available commercially outside Cyprus, other than from CTO offices overseas.

The NCTO (p232) also produces a few free maps – a regional map and city maps of North Nicosia (Lefkoşa), Famagusta and Kyrenia. While they are fairly skimpy and cheaply produced, these maps cover a wider urban area than the equivalent city maps in this book. Similarly, these maps are only available in Northern Cyprus, or from NCTO outlets overseas.

Possibly the best map to cover Cyprus in general is the 1:200,000 *Cyprus Travel Map* by Insight. It's quite up to date and accurate and, most importantly, has both Turkish and Greek place names for Northern Cyprus – essential if you're touring the North by car, where road signs list only the Turkish names of the towns and villages. The nifty, pocket-sized and laminated *Cyprus Insight Flexi Map* is handy for quick references and folds very easily (a boon when you are on a bus or in a taxi), but does not have Turkish place names for the North.

You might also want to look at Kyriakou Travel Maps' *Cyprus Road & Town Maps*, which may be available in overseas bookshops. Collins' *Cyprus Holiday Map* offers less overall detail but good local maps, while the Kümmerly & Frey *Cyprus Traveller's Map* is similar to the Collins product. All of them are available internationally.

## MONEY

The unit of currency in Northern Cyprus is the new Turkish lira (Yeni Turkiye Lira; YTL). Exchange rates for the new Turkish lira are subject to fluctuations due to a high inflation rate (80% in 2002), and will most likely have changed by the time you read this. All prices in this book for Northern Cyprus are either in UK pounds for accommodation and excursions, or new Turkish lira for restaurants, museum admissions and other sundry fees.

The Republic's unit of currency is the Cyprus pound (CY£), divided into 100 cents. There are coins of one, two, five, 10, 20 and 50 cents and notes of one, five, 10 and 20 pounds. There is no limit on the amount of Cyprus pounds you can bring into the country, but foreign currency equivalent to US\$1000 or above must be declared. You can leave Cyprus with CY£100 or the amount that you brought in, but exchanging Cyprus pounds outside Cyprus may be difficult, except in Greece and perhaps in

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, all of which have close commercial and tourist ties with Cyprus.

Banks in Cyprus exchange all major currencies in either cash or travellers cheques. Most shops and hotels in Northern Cyprus accept Cyprus pounds, and hard currencies such as UK pounds, US dollars and euros.

Note that Cyprus is expected to enter the euro zone by 2008.

See the inside front cover of this book for exchange rates for the Cyprus pound and new Turkish lira; see p14 for costs in the North and South.

## ATMs

ATMs are as popular among Cypriots as they are among international visitors. ATMs are generally a convenient way to get cash at any time of the day, and the safest way to store your hard-earned dollars, pounds or euros until you need them.

Most banks now allow you to access your regular bank account directly from an overseas ATM, although in some cases you may have to use your credit card to access cash. It is a good idea to transfer some money to your credit card before you leave home. Be aware that your bank may levy a hefty charge each time you withdraw money from an overseas ATM.

You will find ATMs in most towns and in most larger villages throughout the Republic of Cyprus. In Northern Cyprus, ATMs are currently limited to North Nicosia, Famagusta and Kyrenia.

## Cash

In the Republic, you can get a cash advance on Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club, Eurocard and American Express at a number of banks, and there are plenty of ATMs. In the North, cash advances are given on Visa cards at the Vakıflar and Kooperatif banks in North Nicosia and Kyrenia; major banks (such as İş Bankası) in large towns will have ATMs.

Having cash is a fail-safe way to carry money around from one country to another. It is also the least secure method. Once you lose it, it's gone. It's a good idea to only carry as much cash as you need for three days or so. However, a safety stash of about €100 sewn into your backpack or suitcase will see you through a temporary cash-flow problem.

Foreign-currency notes may be OK to use in major tourist centres in Cyprus, but are not much use in Troödos Massif villages. In the North, foreign currency is more likely to be widely accepted in lieu of new Turkish lira.

Currency-exchange bureaus in tourist centres operate over extended hours and most weekends.

## Credit Cards

Just as popular as ATMs, credit cards can be used in stores, restaurants, supermarkets and petrol stations. In the latter, you can even buy petrol after hours with your credit card from automatic dispensers.

The Republic of Cyprus is more credit-card friendly than Northern Cyprus, though the main restaurants, hotels and car-hire companies in the North will happily take plastic.

## International Transfers

If you need to access your funds, international transfers are possible from your home bank to any of Cyprus' major banks. While this method is reliable, it is usually slow – taking a week or more – and not helpful if you need a cash infusion quickly. Telegraphic transfers are nominally quicker (and cost more) but can still take up to three working days to come through.

Private financial agencies such as Western Union are usually the best bet, as you can often obtain your transferred money the same day.

## Tipping

In both parts of the island, a 10% service charge is sometimes added to a restaurant bill; if not, then a tip of a similar percentage is expected. Taxi drivers and hotel porters always appreciate a small tip. Bargaining is not normally part of the shopping scene in Cyprus, neither in the North nor the South.

## Travellers Cheques

These are not as popular as they used to be, but are a good stand-by in an emergency. Restrictions on their use are naturally greater, though many hotels and larger establishments accept them readily. Always keep the receipts listing the cheque numbers separate from the cheques themselves,

and keep a list of the numbers of those you have already cashed. This will reduce problems in the event of loss or theft.

## PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Digital photography has taken over in a big way in Cyprus, and you can buy a range of memory cards from camera stores. Film is still widely available, but it can be expensive in smaller towns. You'll find all the gear you need in the photography shops of Lefkosia/North Nicosia and major towns.

It's possible to obtain video cartridges easily in larger towns and cities, but be sure to buy the correct format. It is usually worth buying at least a few cartridges duty-free to start off your trip.

For tips on taking great travel photos, take a look at Lonely Planet's *Travel Photography*.

## Film & Equipment

All makes of cameras and film are catered for in Cyprus, though technical services may be more limited in the North. Same-day or even one-hour film development and printing is available in both the North and the South; slide development will take up to three days.

The cost of a 36-exposure print film is CY£2.50 in the South and UK£2 in the North. To develop a 36-exposure print film will cost you CY£5 and UK£3.90, respectively. A better idea is to bring your own film and video tapes with you, especially if you can buy them duty free.

Cyprus uses the PAL video system.

## Photographing People

When handled correctly, Cypriots make engaging and often very willing subjects for photos. However, it is bad form simply to point a camera at someone without at least acknowledging your subject. A simple greeting of 'kalimera' (in the South) or 'merhaba' (in the North) or a just a smile may be all that is required to break the ice and set up a potential portrait scene.

It is not culturally appropriate to take photographs in mosques when people are praying or when a service is in progress. However, outside of these restrictions, it is usually OK to take a photograph. It is less intrusive without a flash (and draws less attention to yourself).

## Restrictions

In general, you can photograph anywhere in Cyprus, with some fairly obvious exceptions. You cannot normally photograph anywhere near the Attila Line (the Green Line, in the capital). In practice, this is rarely monitored other than on both sides of the Green Line in Lefkosia/North Nicosia, where sensitivities run high. Warning signs, usually a camera with a line through it, are normally displayed prominently, so heed them.

Military camps are another no-go area and, while there are military installations in both parts of Cyprus, you will be more aware of them in the North. Do not even get a camera out if you see a warning sign.

Airports, ports and other government installations are normally touchy photo subjects, so you are advised to keep your camera out of sight near these places too.

Museums do not normally allow you to photograph exhibits unless you have written permission.

Churches with icons do not allow the use of a flash, and, depending on the commercial value of the pictures you take, may not allow photos at all.

## POST

Postal services on both sides of the island are generally very efficient. Post offices are located in all major towns and villages. Services are normally only related to selling stamps and some packing materials. Stamps can also be bought at newsagents and street kiosks. Post boxes are everywhere (in the South, they are yellow, and in the North, red).

In the Republic of Cyprus, postal rates for cards and letters are between CY£0.31 and CY£0.41. There are poste-restante services in Lefkosia, Larnaka, Lemesos and Pafos. Post office opening times (except Wednesday) are normally 7.30am to 1.30pm, and 3pm to 6pm.

In Northern Cyprus, postal rates are between UK£0.26 and UK£0.32. There are poste-restante services in North Nicosia, Kyrenia and Famagusta.

Opening times are normally 7.30am to 2pm, and 4pm to 6pm. Note that all mail addresses in Northern Cyprus must be followed by 'Mersin 10, Turkey', rather than 'Northern Cyprus'.

## SHOPPING

Cyprus is well equipped with stores catering for all tastes and requirements. Lefkosia in particular has smart, fashionable boutiques, as well as British chain stores such as Marks & Spencer and Woolworths. The North is not as well provided for when it comes to major department stores, but there is, nonetheless, a wide range of goods on display. Hypermarket-style shopping malls are beginning to take off in the South, and the major cities will have at least one of these shopping centres in the suburbs somewhere.

While there are not all that many hi-tech consumer items that are cheap in Cyprus, many people purchase high-grade optics such as spectacles, which are probably considerably cheaper than back home. Other good buys include leather goods, woven goods, ceramics, copperware, silverware, baskets and Lefkara lace.

Local spirits such as *zivania* (*raki* in the North), brandy, Commandaria liqueur wine and other better-quality Cypriot wines are also good purchases.

Shoes, shirts and imported textiles are of high quality and most likely much cheaper than back home.

## SOLO TRAVELLERS

Solo travellers will not come across many difficulties in Cyprus. Hotels are more keen to rent rooms to more than one person, as single-bed rooms are uncommon here, but that is only in the high season.

If you're eating alone in Cyprus, you'll probably end up chatting to the restaurant

owner or anyone else working there, as Cypriots are friendly people.

As everywhere else, look after your luggage, and don't leave it unattended, although theft is rare in Cyprus. Also, when going to the beach by yourself, take as little of value with you as possible; but again, keep in mind that this is a safe country.

## TELEPHONE

For information on ringing the North from the South, or vice versa, see the boxed text, below.

There are no area codes as such in Cyprus; they are an integral part of the telephone number.

In both the North and the South, mobile phones are popular. If you have an international GSM-equipped phone, check with your local service provider if global roaming is available.

You can make overseas calls from any public telephone box.

## Republic of Cyprus

In the South, there are two types of public phones: those that accept prepaid phone-cards and those that accept coins. Phone-card-operated phones have explanations in English and Greek. Cards to the value of CY£3, CY£5 and CY£10 can be purchased from banks, post offices, souvenir shops and street kiosks, and from Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) offices in all towns.

At peak times, a three-minute call to the USA or the UK will cost CY£1.75, and CY£0.88 during off-peak periods (10pm to

### NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

Despite the easing of crossing the border from the South to the North and vice versa, telephoning the other side of the island is still done via half of Europe and Asia.

Phone calls to Northern Cyprus are usually routed through Turkey. That means you first dial Turkey (international access code ☎ 90), then the regional code for Northern Cyprus (☎ 392), and finally the local number. This can be difficult, as the lines are few and far between. However, there is fortunately a back-door route via a special line through which you can talk to the North quite easily from the South. Dial ☎ 0139, wait for the dial tone and then dial the local North number. To call from North to South, dial ☎ 0123 and follow the same procedure.

If you have a mobile phone from outside Cyprus with global roaming activated, it's possible to tune into the GSM networks of either side. If you have bought a pay-as-you-go Cypriot card from either side, note that it will only pick up its own network in Lefkosia/North Nicosia. Go any further away from the Green Line, and you will have to revert to your international card, as roaming is not supported between the two local mobile networks.

8am Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday). Rates to Australia are approximately double.

In the South, mobile-phone numbers begin with ☎99, and the only network is CYTA. If you plan to spend any time in the South, you may want to rent a mobile phone. CYTA's SoEasy pay-as-you-go mobile-phone plan is the only option. For around CY€28, you get a start-up kit consisting of a SIM card with a new number, full connection instructions in both English and Greek, and a CY€5 recharge card to get you started. Visit [www.soeasy.cyta.com.cy](http://www.soeasy.cyta.com.cy) for details.

### Northern Cyprus

In Northern Cyprus, public telephone boxes take phonecards (5YTL/UK£1.90 for a 100-unit card) bought at a Turkish Telecom administration office or at a post office. A peak three-minute call to the UK will set you back UK£1.15, and off-peak UK£0.95.

In the North, mobile-phone numbers commence with either ☎0542 (Telsim) or ☎0533 (Turkcell). To call a local number, you'll need to dial the full 11-digit number, ie including the Northern Cyprus code of ☎0392.

### TIME

Cyprus is normally two hours ahead of GMT/UTC, but has daylight-saving time during the summer months. Clocks go forward one hour on the last weekend in March and back one hour on the last weekend in October.

Also see the World Time Zones map (p270).

## TOURIST INFORMATION

### Republic of Cyprus

The main tourist organisation in the south of the island is the **Cyprus Tourism Organisation** (CTO; ☎2233 7715; [www.visitcyprus.org.cy](http://www.visitcyprus.org.cy); Leoforos Lemesou 19, Lefkosia), known in Greek as Kypriakos Organismos Tourismou (KOT). Its leaflets and free maps are excellent. The CTO's headquarters are in Lefkosia's New City, on the road to Larnaka and Lemesos. However, it should only be approached for written inquiries, as it's not really geared to handling over-the-counter queries from the public. The CTO has branch offices in

the major towns in Cyprus (Agia Napa, Lefkosia, Lemesos, Larnaka, Pafos, Polis and Platres), where brochures and assistance can be found easily. Contact details for CTO branches are given in the regional chapters.

The CTO has branches in most European countries. Apart from those listed below, there are branches in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Russia.

Contact details for CTO offices include the following:

**Austria** (☎01-513 1870; [zyperntourism@aon.at](mailto:zyperntourism@aon.at);

Parkring 20, A-1010 Vienna)

**Belgium** (☎02-735 0621; [cyprus@skynet.be](mailto:cyprus@skynet.be); Rue De Crayer 2, B-1050 Brussels)

**France** (☎01 42 61 42 49; [cto.chypre.paris@wanadoo.fr](mailto:cto.chypre.paris@wanadoo.fr); 15 Rue de la Paix, F-75002 Paris)

**Germany** (☎069-251 919; [cto\\_fra@t-online.de](mailto:cto_fra@t-online.de); An der Hautwache 7, D-60313 Frankfurt am Main)

**Greece** (☎21 0361 0178; [cto-athens@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:cto-athens@ath.forthnet.gr); Voukourestiou 38, GR-106 73 Athens)

**Israel** (☎03-525 7442; [cto@netvision.net.il](mailto:cto@netvision.net.il); Top Tower, Dizengoff Centre, 14th fl, 50 Dizengoff St, Tel Aviv 64332)

**Italy** (☎02 58 31 98 35; [info@turismocipro.it](mailto:info@turismocipro.it); Via Santa Sofia 6, I-20122 Milan)

**Japan** (☎03-3497 9329; Palais France Bldg, 729, 1-6-1 Jingumae Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo 150-0001)

**Netherlands** (☎020-624 4358; [cyprus.sun@wxs.nl](mailto:cyprus.sun@wxs.nl); Prinsengracht 600, NL-1017 KS, Amsterdam)

**Sweden** (☎08-10 50 25; [cypern@telia.com](mailto:cypern@telia.com); Norrlandsgatan 20, S-111 43 Stockholm)

**Switzerland** (☎01-262 3303; [ctozurich@bluewin.ch](mailto:ctozurich@bluewin.ch); Gottfried Keller Strasse 7, CH-8001 Zürich)

**UK** (☎020-7569 8800; [ctolon@ctolon.demon.co.uk](mailto:ctolon@ctolon.demon.co.uk); 17 Hanover St, London W1S 1YP)

**USA** (☎212-683 5280; [gocyprus@aol.com](mailto:gocyprus@aol.com); 13 East 40th St, New York, NY 10016)

### Northern Cyprus

The main office of the **North Cyprus Tourism Organisation** (NCTO; ☎228 1057; [www.tourism.trnc.net](http://www.tourism.trnc.net); Bedrettin Demirel Caddesi) is located in North Nicosia. There are also branch offices in North Nicosia at Kyrenia (Girne) Gate and at the Ledra Palace Hotel crossing point. It also maintains tourist offices in Famagusta, Kyrenia and Yenierenköy (Yiallousa), which have free country and town maps, plus an increasing number of brochures.

The NCTO can be found in the UK, Belgium, the USA, Pakistan and Turkey; otherwise inquiries are handled by Turkish tourist offices. The following two offices may provide useful information:

**UK** (☎020-7631 1930; fax 020-7631 1873; 29 Bedford Sq, London, WC1B 3EG)

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

### VISAS

In both the Republic of Cyprus and Northern Cyprus, nationals of the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore can enter and stay for up to three months without a visa. Citizens of South Africa may enter for up to 30 days without a visa. EU citizens have no work or stay restrictions in the South, but can stay in the North for up to three months.

When you are crossing from the South into the North, you must fill in a visa paper, which requires your personal details, such as name and date of birth, and your passport number.

You can use the same visa paper for several entries and exits, and it gets stamped

each time you cross. You must have your passport to cross from one side to the other.

The same border-crossing rules apply for Greek and Turkish travellers as for everyone else.

For more details on travelling across the border, see the boxed text, p235.

### WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Women travellers will encounter little sexual harassment, although you'll get more or less constant verbal 'approaches' from Cypriot men. This is common for both foreign and Cypriot women, but foreign women merit particular attention from these verbal Romeos. This can get rather tiresome, if not outright offensive. It is best to remain polite and try to ignore the advances.

Solo women travellers should take reasonable care at rowdy nightclub resorts, such as in Agia Napa, where inebriated foreign males may be a nuisance.

# Transport

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### THINGS CHANGE

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works, and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

Most visitors to Cyprus arrive by air and many of them come on charter flights. Tickets on scheduled flights to Cyprus tend to be expensive, but Europe-based travellers may be able to pick up cheap last-minute tickets with charter companies if they shop around. This applies in practice only to travellers to the Republic of Cyprus, as charter tickets to Northern Cyprus are rarely available. If you're already in Greece, you can pick up reasonably priced one-way or return tickets to the South from travel agents in Athens, Thessaloniki or Iraklio. The only way to arrive in the South by sea is by a cruise boat; there are no longer any passenger ferries, but vehicles may travel unaccompanied. However, there are fast and slower passenger ferries and car-ferry

services linking the Turkish mainland with Northern Cyprus.

Travelling between the South and North is easy nowadays, since the restrictions on crossing the border have been eased. However, you are only allowed to cross at designated checkpoints, so read the boxed text, opposite, for full information.

Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services).

### ENTERING THE COUNTRY

Entering Cyprus is a smooth process, providing your papers are in order of course. The immigration officers are pretty relaxed, and will usually give you only a cursory glance.

### Passport

You will need a valid passport to enter Cyprus (North or South), and you will need one to cross between the North and South. You'll need to produce your passport or ID card every time you check into a hotel in Cyprus, and when you conduct banking transactions. For visa requirements, see p233.

As a foreigner, it's best to carry your passport or ID card with you at all times, in case you are stopped by the police or the military for routine checks.

### AIR

There are scheduled flights and a limited amount of charter-only flights to Cyprus from most European cities and the Middle East, with discounts for students. Flights are heavily booked in the high season.

### Airports & Airlines

The Republic's airports are at **Larnaka airport** (LCA; ☎ 2481 6130) and **Pafos airport** (PFO/LCPH; ☎ 2624 0506), while the North is served by **Ercan airport** (ECN; ☎ 231 4806).

Note that on most airline schedules Larnaka is listed as 'Larnaca' and Pafos as 'Paphos'. This is particularly important to know when making online bookings.

Ercan airport, 14km east of North Nicosia (Lefkoşa) in Northern Cyprus, is not recognised by the international airline authorities, so you can't fly there direct. Airlines

### CROSSING THE THIN GREEN LINE

Once only a distant memory, crossing freely between the North and the South has become pretty straightforward since the easing of border restrictions in 2003. It is now possible to cross at five points on the island, and there are ongoing negotiations between the two sides about opening more. At the time of going to print, you could cross at: Ledra Palace Hotel (pedestrians only), Agios Dometios, Pergamos, Agios Nikolaos, and Zodhia (vehicles). If you don't have your own transport, a taxi will take you across the border and onto anywhere you want to go.

When you cross from the South into the North, you will have to fill in a visa paper, giving your name, date of birth and passport number. You will then be issued with a 'visa' (the small piece of paper will be stamped) and you'll be allowed to stay for up to three months in Northern Cyprus. It is important to look after this piece of paper, since you will be required to show it when you leave. There are no restrictions on how many times you can cross backwards and forwards. The visa paper is enforced only in the North.

You are now also allowed to cross into the Republic of Cyprus if your point of entry into the country is in the North. The border is open 24 hours a day, and many cross in the middle of the night, after a night's clubbing or gambling at the casinos in the North. There are no requirements for crossing from the North into the South, apart from a valid passport (see p233).

must touch down first in Turkey and then fly on to Northern Cyprus. Ercan is smaller than Pafos airport and not particularly well-equipped with arrival facilities such as baggage carts and other conveniences. Car hire must be arranged beforehand. Taxis are your only choice to and from the airport.

Cyprus Airways is the national carrier of the Republic of Cyprus, and Northern Cyprus is served primarily by Turkish Airlines (Türk Hava Yolları; THY).

### Airlines flying to & from Cyprus

**Aegean Airlines** (A3; ☎ 22 71 65 00; [www.aegeanair.com](http://www.aegeanair.com); hub Athens International Airport, Athens)

**Air Malta** (AMC; ☎ 2266 1666; [www.airmalta.com](http://www.airmalta.com); hub Malta Airport, Valetta)

**Alitalia** (AZA; ☎ 2267 8000; [www.alitalia.com](http://www.alitalia.com); hub Rome Fiumicino Airport, Rome)

**Austrian Airlines** (AUA; ☎ 2288 1222; [www.aua.com](http://www.aua.com); hub Vienna International Airport, Vienna)

**British Airways** (BAW; ☎ 2276 1166; [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com); hub Heathrow Airport, London)

**Cyprus Airways** (CYP; ☎ 2266 3054; [www.cypusairways.com](http://www.cypusairways.com); hub Larnaka Airport, Larnaka)

**Cyprus Turkish Airlines** (KTHY; ☎ 231 4142; [www.kthy.net](http://www.kthy.net); hub Ercan Airport, Famagusta)

**First Choice Airways** (FCA; ☎ 2258 8000; [www.firstchoice.co.uk](http://www.firstchoice.co.uk); hub Gatwick Airport, London)

**GB Airways** (BA; ☎ 2276 1166; [www.gbairways.com](http://www.gbairways.com); hub Gatwick Airport, London)

**Helios Airways** (ZU; ☎ 2481 5700; [www.flyhelios.com](http://www.flyhelios.com); hub Larnaka Airport, Larnaka)

**Lufthansa** (DLH; ☎ 2287 3330; [www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com); hub Frankfurt Airport, Frankfurt)

**Malev** (MAH; ☎ 2268 0980; [www.malev.hu](http://www.malev.hu); hub Budapest Ferihegy Airport, Budapest)

**Turkish Airlines** (TK; ☎ 228 3901; [www.turkishairlines.com](http://www.turkishairlines.com); hub Istanbul Ataturk Airport, Istanbul)

### Tickets

Tickets to Cyprus are at their most expensive in August. It's a good idea to try picking up flight-only deals with package-holiday companies during this time. Prices depend to a large degree on the season, and to a lesser degree on the day of the week or even the time you fly.

### CHARTER FLIGHTS

Vacant seats on charter flights block-booked to Cyprus by package-tour companies are cheap, but conditions apply. First, you can rarely get more than two weeks for your itinerary and, second, the departure and arrival times are quite inflexible once booked. That said, a percentage of all package-tour seats is given over to flight-only travellers, so give it a go. More information on charter flights is given later in this book under specific point-of-origin headings.

### INTERCONTINENTAL (RTW) TICKETS

Neither Cyprus Airways, Olympic Airways nor Turkish Airlines are signatories to any round-the-world (RTW) ticket agreement, but Olympic Airways often has very reasonable add-on deals to its intercontinental flights to Athens. Check with your local travel agent for prices.



**DEPARTURE TAX**

Departure tax in Cyprus is normally included in the cost of your air fare. For the record, you are paying CY€19.50 for the privilege in the Republic. Leaving from the North, the equivalent fee is UK€3.50.

**Africa**

Travellers in Africa can get to Cyprus most easily via Johannesburg and Nairobi on one of Egyptian Airways regular flights through Athens. An alternative route into Cyprus is from Cairo to Larnaka direct with either Egypt Air or Cyprus Airways. Both airlines fly twice a week for US\$150/200 one way/return. Tickets are available from **Egypt Panorama Tours** (☎ 359 0200; ept@link.net; 4 Rd 79, Maadi, Cairo). Cash payment is advisable in preference to credit cards, which may incur a 10% surcharge.

**Asia**

STA Travel, which is reliable throughout Asia, has branches in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. The Singapore office of **STA Travel** (☎ 6737 7188; retail@statravel.com.sg; 33A Cuppage Rd, Cuppage Tce, Singapore) is a good one-stop shop. Flights from Singapore to Larnaka cost from S\$770/950 one way/return to around S\$1000/1400 one way/return.

**Australia & New Zealand**

There are no direct services from Australia to Cyprus, but Emirates flies more or less directly from Melbourne or Perth via Singapore, with a change of aircraft in Dubai. Olympic Airways flies to Athens from Melbourne and Sydney, and can usually offer good value add-on Cyprus legs. Singapore Airlines flies into Athens three times a week, and there are daily connections with Cyprus Airways and Olympic Airways. You can also fly Malaysia Airlines from Melbourne to Beirut via Kuala Lumpur, and pick up a Royal Jordanian connection in Beirut to Larnaka.

Cyprus Airways is represented in Australia by **Cyprus Tourist Agency** (☎ 03-9663 3711; 237 Lonsdale St, Melbourne).

**STA Travel** (☎ 1300 733 035; www.statravel.com.au) and **Flight Centre** (☎ 133 133; www.flightcentre.com.au) are major dealers in cheap air fares. Fares

are some 10% cheaper if booked online. Another good website to check fares from Australia is www.travel.com.au.

**Axis Travel Centre** (☎ 08-8331 3222; www.axistravel.com.au; 176 Glynburn Rd, Tranmere, SA 5073) specialises in travel to and from the Middle East, Greece and Cyprus.

Return ticket prices from Australia to Cyprus cost around A\$2200/2835 in low/high season. Discounted fares of around A\$1555 can also be found, but these have restricted conditions.

In New Zealand, as in Australia, **STA Travel** (☎ 0508 782 872; www.statravel.co.nz) and **Flight Centre** (☎ 0800 243 544; www.flightcentre.co.nz) are popular travel agents. Connections to Cyprus are as for Australia, with the additional cost of flying to and from Australia.

Sample fares from the above websites for return flights to Larnaka from Auckland range from around NZ\$2535 with Emirates to NZ\$3950 with Qantas and British Airways.

**Canada**

The *Vancouver Sun* and *Toronto Globe & Mail* carry ads from travel agents. The magazine *Great Expeditions* is useful; it's available at newspaper and magazine stores.

**Travel CUTS** (☎ 1-866-246-9762; www.travelcuts.com) has offices in all major cities. Its Montreal office, **Voyages Campus Travel CUTS** (☎ 514-843-8511), is a good place to ask about cheap deals. You should be able to get to Larnaka and back from Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver for C\$1500.

**Olympic Airways** (Montreal ☎ 514-878-3891; Toronto ☎ 905-676-484) has two flights a week from Toronto to Athens via Montreal. From Athens, you can connect with either an Olympic Airways or Cyprus Airways flight to Larnaka.

You can use the same online sites as for the USA to search and book return flights from Canada to Cyprus. Return ticket prices include C\$1420 from Toronto to Larnaka with British Airways or Lufthansa, and from C\$2800 flying from Vancouver to Larnaka with various combinations of Lufthansa, Air Canada and British Airways.

**Continental Europe**

Many European carriers fly into Larnaka airport, and some also stop in Pafos, though the bulk of the traffic is made up of charter flights.

**FRANCE**

There are regular services between France and the South with **KLM** (☎ 08 90 71 07 10) and **Cyprus Airways** (☎ 01 45 01 93 38). **Austrian Airlines** (☎ 08 20 81 68 16) also has daily flights to Larnaka via Vienna. **Turkish Airlines** (☎ 01 56 69 33 50) links Paris with Ercan airport in Northern Cyprus daily via Istanbul. Costs range from €339 to €485 return.

Reliable travel agents that you can check out include the following:

**Héliades** (☎ 01 42 60 87 81; 63 Rue Sainte-Anne, Paris)

**Nouvelles Frontières** (☎ 01 45 68 70 00; www.nouvelles-frontieres.fr; 87 Blvd de Grenelle, Paris)

**OTU Voyages** (☎ 01 40 29 12 12; www.otu.fr; 39 Ave Georges Bernanos, Paris)

**Planète Havas** (☎ 01 53 29 40 00; www.havasvoyages.fr; 26 Ave de l'Opéra, Paris)

**GERMANY**

In Berlin, try **Alternativ Tours** (☎ 030-881 20 89; www.alternativ-tours.de; Wilmersdorfer Strasse 94), which has discounted fares to just about anywhere in the world.

**STA Travel** (SRS Studenten Reise Service; ☎ 030-285 82 64; www.statravel.de; Gleimstrasse 28) offers special student (aged 34 or under) and youth (aged 25 or under) fares.

Travel agents that offer cheap flights advertise in *Zitty*, Berlin's fortnightly entertainment magazine.

In Frankfurt, try **STA Travel** (☎ 069-904 36 970; frankfurt.berger118@statravel.de; Berger Strasse 118). There is also an office for **Cyprus Airways** (☎ 069-695 89 30; Hahnstrasse 68) in Frankfurt.

**GREECE**

Not surprisingly, Greece is well-connected to Cyprus, with up to seven flights daily to and from the South. **Olympic Airways** (reservations ☎ 0801 44444; www.olympic-airways.gr) flies up to four times weekly from Thessaloniki and twice daily from Athens to Larnaka, while **Cyprus Airways** (☎ 21-0372 2722) flies from Athens to Larnaka up to five times daily, and to Pafos twice weekly. There is an additional service from Iraklio in Crete to Larnaka three times a week. Ticket prices are reasonable but not overly cheap. Bank on around €220 to €250 for a return ticket from any of these destinations.

It's possible to fly to Northern Cyprus from Greece. Daily flights with Turkish Airlines from Athens to Istanbul connect with a daily evening flight to Ercan. Contact

**Turkish Airlines** (☎ 21-0324 6024; Filellinon 19, Athens) for details.

Some reputable travel agents in Greece worth seeking out are **STA Travel** (Athens ☎ 21-0321 1188; statravel@robissa.gr; Voulas 31, Athens; Thessaloniki ☎ 231-022 1391; Tsimisiki 130, Thessaloniki), **Aktina Travel Services** (☎ 21-0324 9925; syntagma@aktinatravel.gr; Nikodimou 3, Athens) and **Prince Travel** (☎ 281-028 2706; 25 Avgoustou 30, Iraklio).

**NETHERLANDS**

You can fly to Cyprus from the Netherlands daily. The cheapest return deal is with Austrian Airlines (via Vienna) for €330, followed by Alitalia via Rome (€350), Lufthansa via Frankfurt or Munich (€365), and KLM (€400) direct from Amsterdam.

Travel agents in Amsterdam include the following:

**Kilroy Travels** (☎ 020-524 51 00; www.kilroytravels.com; Singel 413)

**Malibu Travel** (☎ 020-626 32 20; postbus@pointpoint.demon.nl; Prinsengracht 230)

**MyTravel Reiswinkels** (☎ 020-692 77 88; postbus@pointpoint.demon.nl; v Baerlestraat 82)

**Middle East**

With Cyprus so close to the Middle East, transport links between the countries of the Levant and Larnaka are good, but tickets are rarely discounted. Cyprus Airways is represented in Israel by **Open Sky** (☎ 03-795 1570; Ben Yehuda 23, Tel Aviv), in Jordan by **Petra Travel & Tourism** (☎ 06-562 0115; Abdulhamid Sharaf St, Amman), in Syria by **Al Patra Travel & Tourism** (☎ 011-232 4513; 29th May St, Alani Ave, Damascus) and in Lebanon by **Cyprus Airways** (☎ 01-371 136; Starco Center Block B, Beirut Central).

A good place in Israel to buy discounted tickets is **Israworld** (☎ 03-522 7099; www.israworld.com; Ben Yehuda 66, Tel Aviv). It quoted US\$110/150 for a one-way/return ticket to Larnaka with Cyprus Airways.

**UK & Ireland**

**Trailfinders** (☎ 020-7937 1234; www.trailfinder.co.uk; 215 Kensington High St, W8 6BD) produces a lavishly illustrated brochure that includes air-fare details. **STA Travel** (☎ 020-7361 6161; www.statravel.co.uk; 86 Old Brompton Rd, SW7 3LQ) has branches in the UK. Look in the Sunday papers and *Exchange & Mart* for ads. Also look out for the free magazines and newspapers widely available in London. Those that are especially useful include *Footloose*, *Supertravel*

*Magazine*, *TNT* and *Trailfinder*. You can pick these up outside the main train and underground stations.

Most British travel agents are registered with the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). If you have paid for your flight at an ABTA-registered agent that goes out of business, ABTA will guarantee a refund or an alternative. Unregistered bucket shops are riskier but sometimes cheaper.

If you book directly with the airline companies, the best deals are with **British Airways** (☎ 0845 722 2111), which flies to Larnaka direct daily. A return ticket costs UK£150/215 in low/high season. **Olympic Airways** (☎ 0870 606 0460) flies twice daily (via Athens) for UK£200/250. **Lufthansa** (☎ 0845 773 7747) flies two to four times a week (via Frankfurt) for UK£200/300. There are some flights to Pafos, but they cost around UK£300 return.

Although there is a London office for **Cyprus Airways** (☎ 020-8359 1333; 5 The Exchange, Brent Cross Gardens, NW4 3RJ), it's cheaper to buy its tickets through a travel agent.

A good website for booking your own tickets is **Travelocity** (www.travelocity.co.uk). A quick search of the website brought up return fares ranging from UK£100 with Czech Airlines to UK£180 with Austrian Airlines. **Expedia** (www.expedia.co.uk) is another good online booking site, but a search for return tickets to Larnaka brought up return fares including UK£139 with British Airways and UK£240 with Cyprus Airways. Another UK website, **Cheaptickets** (www.cheaptickets.co.uk), brought up return fares ranging from UK£240 with Cyprus Airways to UK£560 with Lufthansa.

Return tickets to Ercan airport in Northern Cyprus range from UK£320 to UK£470 with **Turkish Airlines** (☎ 020-7766 9300).

Package holidays to the Republic of Cyprus come in all shapes and sizes, and range in price from UK£350 to UK£700 for one week's accommodation with breakfast in a decent-sized hotel in Pafos. See p243 for a selection of reputable package-holiday operators.

## USA

You can fly to Cyprus from the USA with a number of airlines, but all involve a stop and possibly a change of airline in Europe. The *New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *San Francisco Examiner* all produce weekly travel sections in which

you can find any number of travel agents' advertisements.

**Council Travel** (www.counciltravel.com) and **STA Travel** (www.sta-travel.com) have offices in major cities nationwide. The magazine *Travel Unlimited* publishes details of the cheapest air fares and courier possibilities for destinations all over the world from the USA.

Among the cheaper fares offered by travel agents are return tickets with United Airlines and American Airlines connecting with Cyprus Airways flights. Tickets start at US\$1515. Other permutations with British Airways, Continental Airlines, Olympic Airways or KLM are a little more expensive at US\$1580. Cyprus Airways in the US is represented by **Kinisis Travel & Tours** (☎ 718-267 6882; 34-09 Broadway, Astoria, New York).

You can often get cheaper deals by booking online. Check out the following for some good ticket deals:

- www.travel.com
- www.itn.net
- www.hotwire.com
- www.travelocity.com

Return tickets from these sites cost from US\$1450 from New York to Larnaka and from US\$1850 from Los Angeles or San Francisco.

## SEA

There are currently only passenger ferry services from Turkey to Northern Cyprus. The Republic of Cyprus used to be connected to mainland Europe by a regular passenger- and car-ferry service between Lemesos and Piraeus, Greece, with stops in Patmos and Rhodes, or sometimes in Crete instead. Cyprus was also connected to the Middle East by an onward service to Haifa in Israel.

Unfortunately, in October 2001 the two shipping companies that held the monopoly on travel to the South suspended all passenger services until further notice. Check the website of **Salamis Lines** (www.viamare.com) for the latest information.

Lemesos is the South's main arrival and departure port, and the port is 3km southwest of the town centre. It's reasonably well-equipped for sea travellers but with the suspension of passenger ferries, facilities are now mainly used by cruise-ship passengers. The terminal building has banks, tourist information facilities and duty-free shops.

## GETTING AROUND

Cyprus is small enough for you to get around easily. Roads are good and well signposted, and traffic moves smoothly and without the excesses and unpredictability sometimes found in other countries in the Middle East or Mediterranean Europe.

Public transport is limited to buses and service taxis (stretch taxis that run on predetermined routes). There is no train network and no domestic air services in either the North or the South. Four-lane motorways link Lefkosia with Lemesos and Larnaka, and this network has now been expanded west to Pafos and east to Agia Napa. In Northern Cyprus, there is only one motorway, which runs between North Nicosia and Famagusta.

It is feasible to ride around Cyprus by bicycle along ordinary roads, which generally parallel the motorways, where cycling is not allowed.

Distances overall are generally short, with the longest conceivable leg in the South (Polis to Paralimni) no more than 220km. The North is equally compact, but it is quite a drive out to Zafer Burnu (Cape Apostolos Andreas) at the tip of the Karpas (Kırpaşa) panhandle from North Nicosia or even Famagusta (Mağusa). From Morfou (Güzel-yurt) to Zafer Burnu is 210km.

## BICYCLE

Cycling is a cheap, convenient, healthy, environmentally sound and, above all, fun way of travelling. However, it's advisable to limit long-distance cycling trips to winter, spring or autumn, as high summer temperatures will make the going tough.

It's best to stick to cycling on ordinary roads, many of which parallel motorways, where cycling is not allowed. The roads are generally good, but there is rarely extra roadside room for cyclists, so you will have to cycle with care. You will need a bicycle with good gears to negotiate the long hauls up and around the Troödos Massif and Kyrenia (Girne) Range.

Towns and cities in general are much more cyclist-friendly than their counterparts in other parts of the Mediterranean. In some tourist centres such as Protaras and Agia Napa there are urban bicycle paths.

In the Republic of Cyprus, the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) produces a very helpful brochure entitled *Cyprus for Cycling*, which lists 19 recommended mountain-bike rides around the South. These range from 2.5km to 19km from the Akamas Peninsula in the west to Cape Greco in the east.

Bicycles can be brought over to Cyprus by plane. You can take them to pieces and put them in a bike bag or box, but it's much easier simply to wheel your bike to the check-in desk, where it should be treated as a piece of baggage. You may have to remove the pedals and turn the handlebars sideways so that it takes up less space in the hold; check all this with the airline before you make a booking.

You cannot, however, take bicycles on all buses.

## Hire

Bicycles can be hired in most areas, but particularly in the Troödos Jubilee Hotel (p102), where you can hire multigeared mountain bikes. Rates start from around CY£10 a day and CY£5 for a half-day. Cycle hire is also very popular in the Agia Napa resort area.

## Purchase

If you are really keen on cycling, you can purchase a decent bicycle in the Republic of Cyprus. You could try one of the specialist shops in Lefkosia, such as **Zanetos Bicycles** (☎ 2259 0945; 34 Agiou Dometiou, Strovolos). Northern Cyprus offers less of a choice when it comes to purchasing a bicycle; it's better not count on it.

## BUS

Buses in the South are frequent, although some of the rural buses look like relics from 1950s England. However, bus travel is comfortable, cheap and, other than services to rural areas, offers reasonably well-timed services. Some buses, usually those running on the main intercity routes, can transport bicycles.

Buses run from Monday to Saturday, and there are no services on Sunday. Urban and long-distance buses are operated by about six private companies. The major bus companies and destinations in the South include the following:

## BUS FARES

### Republic of Cyprus

**Lefkosia (South Nicosia):** Lemesos (CY€1.50 to CY€2, one hour); Pafos (CY€3 to CY€5, 1¼ hours); Larnaka (CY€1.50, 45 minutes); Troödos (CY€1.50, one hour); Agia Napa (CY€2, one hour); Paralimni (CY€2.50, 1¼ hours); Polis (CY€5, 2½ hours)

**Lemesos:** Pafos (CY€2, 45 minutes); Larnaka (CY€1.70, 45 minutes); Platres (CY€2.50, one hour).

**Larnaka:** Lefkosia (South Nicosia; CY€2.50, one hour); Lemesos (CY€1.70, one hour); Agia Napa (CY€2 to CY€2.50, 50 minutes); Paralimni (CY€3, 1¼ hours)

### Northern Cyprus

**North Nicosia (Lekfoşa):** Kyrenia (Girne; 1.50YTL, 20 minutes); Famagusta (Mağusa; 2YTL, 45 minutes)

**Kyrenia (Girne):** Famagusta (Mağusa; 2.50YTL, 1¼ hours)

**Alepa Ltd** (☎ 9962 5027; Plateia Solomou, Lefkosia)

Lefkosia to Lemesos & Pafos.

**Clarios Bus Co** (☎ 2275 3234; Constanza Bastion, Lefkosia) Lefkosia to Troödos & Kakopetria.

**Eman Buses** (☎ 2372 1321; Constanza Bastion, Lefkosia) Lefkosia to Agia Napa.

**Intercity Buses** (☎ 2266 5814; Plateia Solomou, Lefkosia) Lefkosia to Larnaka & Lemesos.

**Nea Amoroza Transport Co Ltd** (☎ 2693 6822, 2693 6740; Plateia Solomou, Lefkosia) Lefkosia to Pafos.

**PEAL Bus Co** (☎ 2382 1318; Stasinou 27, Lefkosia) Lefkosia to Paralimni & Deryneia.

Buses in the North are a varied mix of old and newer privately owned buses too numerous to list here. See the regional chapters for more details.

## Costs

Bus ticket prices in the South are regulated by the government. Tickets range in price between CY€1 and CY€5 for long-distance buses, while urban buses charge between CY€0.40 and CY€0.80. Bus prices in the North generally cost 1.50YTL or 2YTL for longer distances.

See the Bus Fares box (above) for an idea of the ticket prices between major towns in Cyprus. Also read the individual city and town entries for bus frequency and departure times.

## Reservations

Bus reservations are not normally required in either the South or the North. The one exception to this is the service to some of the Troödos Massif resorts, where phone reservations are required if you want to be picked up from either Platres or Troödos in order to return to Lefkosia.

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Driving or riding your way around Cyprus is the only really effective way to get around the country properly. Having your own vehicle is essential if you want to see some of the out-of-the-way places in the Troödos Massif or the Tyllirian wilderness, where bus transport is more or less nonexistent. The scenery throughout the country is varied, petrol stations are everywhere (although there are less in remoter areas like the Troödos Massif or the Karpas Peninsula), and facilities for bikers and motorists are very good. Picnic areas in the Troödos are usually only accessible if you have your own transport. Traffic is lighter in the North, but the roads are not as good as in the South.

Parking in the South is quite cheap, with CY€0.30 buying you two hours in central Lefkosia. Parking is free in all towns in the North.

## Automobile Associations

In the South, there is a **Cyprus Automobile Association** (☎ 2231 3233; www.cypusaa.org; Hrysostomou Mylona 12, Lefkosia). The 24-hour emergency road assistance number is ☎ 2231 3131. There is no equivalent organisation in Northern Cyprus.

## Bring Your Own Vehicle

For a stay of more than three weeks, the high cost of bringing your own vehicle to Cyprus will be outweighed by the cost of hiring a vehicle locally. You will need to send your car by ferry and take a plane for yourself, unless you are arriving in Kyrenia (p192) or Famagusta (p209) from Turkey.

## Driving Licence

For citizens of the EU, your home driving licence is sufficient for use throughout Cyprus. As with your passport or ID card, keep a photocopy of the main details separate from the licence itself.

Citizens from outside the EU may not be expressly required to hold an International Driving Permit (IDP) in the North or the South, but it is a good idea to get one in any case. These permits are obtained easily and quickly from your home country's motoring association. You will normally need to provide only your regular driving licence and a photo in order to obtain an IDP.

## Fuel & Spare Parts

Being a nation that loves its motors, Cyprus is well equipped for all driving needs, with an abundance of petrol stations, spare parts and repairs, and usually a friendly local happy to give you a hand if your car breaks down. Normally, if you've rented a car, the rental agency will be responsible for repairs.

## Hire

Cars and 4WDs are widely available for hire, and cost between CY€15 and CY€50 a day in the South and around UK£25 per day in the North. In some towns, you can also rent motorcycles (from CY€12 to CY€20) or mopeds (CY€8). Rental cars are usually in good condition, but inspect your vehicle before you set off. Open-top 4WDs

are popular options (the Troödos Massif literally swarms with them on hot week-ends). They offer the option of dirt-track driving, that adventure 'look', and natural air-con. If you hire a 2WD, make sure it has air-conditioning and enough power to get you up hills.

Rental cars in both the North and the South carry black on red 'Z' plates – so called because of the initial letter. Other road users normally accord a fraction more respect to 'Z' car drivers and the police are more likely to turn a blind eye for minor infractions, but don't count on it.

If you rent a car before going to Cyprus, you'll find that it is common practice for the rental agency to leave your vehicle at the airport, unlocked, with the key waiting for you under the floor mat. Don't be surprised: with the obvious red hire-car plates and a nonexistent car theft record, the car is as safe as can be.

## Insurance

The Republic of Cyprus issues full car insurance when you rent a car. The North also issues full insurance to cars rented in the North, but has a special third-party insurance for cars coming in from the South. For more information, see the boxed text, p175.

## Road Rules

Traffic travels on the left in Cyprus in both the North and the South, and locally registered cars are right-hand drive. Left-hand

## ROAD DISTANCES (KM)

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS										
Agia Napa	---									
Larnaka	41	---								
Larnaka Airport	46	5	---							
Lefkosia (South Nicosia)	80	44	49	---						
Lemesos	107	66	70	82	---					
Pafos	175	134	139	150	68	---				
Pafos Airport	170	129	104	146	63	15	---			
Paralimni	219	178	178	178	111	178	178	---		
Polis	219	169	174	185	103	35	50	219	---	
Troödos	153	112	116	78	46	114	109	158	149	---
Agia Napa										
Larnaka										
Larnaka Airport										
Lefkosia (South Nicosia)										
Lemesos										
Pafos										
Pafos Airport										
Paralimni										
Polis										
Troödos										
Famagusta (Mağusa)	---									
Kyrenia (Girne)	87	---								
Morfou (Güzelyurt)	103	58	---							
North Nicosia (Lefkoşa)	68	29	45	---						
Yenierenköy (Yiallousa)	66	135	158	118	---					
Famagusta (Mağusa)										
Kyrenia (Girne)										
Morfou (Güzelyurt)										
North Nicosia (Lefkoşa)										
Yenierenköy (Yiallousa)										

drive cars circulating in Northern Cyprus have usually been brought over from Turkey. The speed limit on motorways in the South is 100km/h and is often rigidly enforced by speed-camera-wielding police officers. The speed limit on ordinary roads is 80km/h, and in built-up areas 50km/h, unless otherwise indicated. There is just one short stretch of motorway in the North linking North Nicosia with Famagusta. Speed limits in the North are 100km/h on open roads and 50km/h in towns.

Front seat belts are compulsory, and children under five years of age must not sit in the front seat. Driving a motorcycle, vehicle or even a bicycle with more than 0.009mg of alcohol per 100mL of blood is an offence.

In the Republic, car drivers must be 21 years and over, motorcycle riders 18 years and over to drive a motorcycle with an engine capacity over 50cc, or 17 years old to drive a motorcycle under 50cc. In the North, you must be 18 years or over to drive a car; for motorcycles, the same regulations as in the South.

Road distances across the country are posted in kilometres only. Road signs are in Greek and Latin script in the Republic; in the North, destinations are given in their Turkish version only. Destination road signs in the North are white on blue, and are often indistinct or small. International drivers need to be aware of the differences between their own domestic road signs and those used outside their home countries.

It's advisable to avoid rush hours in main cities, ie 7am to 8.30am, 1pm to 1.30pm, and also 6pm to 7pm in summer (one hour earlier in winter). When driving west in the late afternoon, be aware of sun glare, which can be very strong.

## HITCHING

Hitchhiking is never entirely safe in any country in the world, and we don't recommend it. Travellers who decide to hitch should understand that they are taking a small but potentially serious risk. People who do choose to hitch will be safer if they travel in pairs and let someone know where they are planning to go.

Hitching in Cyprus is relatively easy, but not very common. In rural areas, where bus transport is poor, many locals hitch between

their village and the city. If you do decide to hitch, stand in a prominent position with an obvious space for a ride-giver to pull in, keep your luggage to a minimum, look clean and smart, and, above all, happy. A smile goes a long way.

Hitching in the North is likely to be hampered by a lack of long-distance traffic, and, in any case, public transport costs are low enough to obviate the need to hitch.

## LOCAL TRANSPORT

### Bus

While urban bus services exist in Lefkosia, Lemesos, Larnaka and Famagusta, about the only two places where they are of any practical use are in Larnaka (to get to and from the airport) and Lemesos, where buses go to and from the port (where cruises depart and dock). Distances between sights in most towns and cities are fairly short, so negate the need to depend on the bus service. Buses also run to and from Kourion from Lemesos Fort, though these are tourist buses designed to get travellers from Lemesos out to the sights around Kourion rather than to move locals around.

### Taxi

In the South, taxis are extensive and available on a 24-hour basis; they can be hailed from the street or taxi rank, or booked by phone. Taxis are generally modern, air-conditioned vehicles, usually comfortable Mercedes, and, apart from outside the major centres, are equipped with meters that drivers are obliged to use. The two tariff periods are: 6am to 8.30pm (tariff 1); and 8.30pm to 6am (tariff 2). Tariff 1 charges are CY£1.25 flag fall and CY£0.22 per kilometre. Tariff 2 charges are CY£1.65 flag fall and CY£0.26 per kilometre. Luggage is charged at the rate of CY£0.22 for every piece weighing more than 12kg. Extra charges of CY£0.60 per fare apply during most public holidays.

'Taxi sharing', which is common in Greek cities such as Athens, is not permitted. Taxi drivers are normally courteous and helpful.

In the North, taxis do not sport meters, so agree on the fare with the driver beforehand. As a rough guide, expect to pay around 2YTL to 2.50YTL for a ride around any of the towns. A taxi ride from North Nicosia to Kyrenia will cost around 20YTL; from North Nicosia to Famagusta 50YTL.

## SERVICE TAXI

Taking up to eight people, service taxis are a useful transport option. They are run by an amalgamation of private companies called **Travel & Express** (☎ 07 77 477) with one national phone number. The individual offices can also be contacted directly: **Lefkosia** (☎ 2273 0888); **Lemesos** (☎ 2536 4114); **Larnaka** (☎ 2466 1010) and **Pafos** (☎ 2693 3181).

You can get to and from Lefkosia, Lemesos and Larnaka by service taxi, but usually not directly to or from Pafos; a change in Lemesos is often the case. The fixed fares are competitive with bus travel. Either go to the service taxi office or phone to be picked up at your hotel. Note that pick-ups can often be up to 30 minutes later than booked, so build this into your plans if time is tight. Similarly, if you're departing from a service-taxi depot, expect to spend up to 30 minutes picking up other passengers before you actually get under way.

The North has minibuses (sometimes referred to as *dolmuş*) between Kyrenia and North Nicosia only, which cost 2.50YTL per person.

## TOURIST TAXIS

The 'tourist' taxis that await you near the Turkish Cypriot checkpoint at the Ledra Palace Hotel in North Nicosia will take you anywhere you want to go around Northern

Cyprus. A round-trip day tour to Kyrenia, Famagusta, Bellapais (Beylerbeyi), Bufavento Castle and St Hilarion Castle costs around CY£30. (Although Cyprus pounds are not in general use in the North, most people will accept them if you have no other currency; Turkish taxis at crossing points will always quote their prices in Cyprus pounds.)

## TOURS

Travel agencies around Cyprus offer a wide variety of prepackaged excursions. Some reputable tour agencies in the South include the following:

**Amathus Tours** (☎ 2536 9122; main@tourism.amathus.com.cy; Plateia Syntagmatos, Lemesos)

**National Tours** (☎ 2236 6666; tourism@louisgroup.com; Leoforos Evagorou 154-58, Lefkosia)

**Salamis Tours Excursions** (☎ 2535 5555; fax 2536 4410; Salamis House, 28 Oktovriou, Lemesos)

Land tours in the South usually run out of the main tourist centres. They range from full-day tours to Troödos and the Kykkos Monastery from Pafos for CY£15; day trips to Lefkosia from Agia Napa or Larnaka for CY£15; boat trips to Protaras from Agia Napa for CY£12; and half-day tours of Lemesos, a winery and Ancient Kourion for CY£11. These kinds of tours are not available in the North.

# Health

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## BEFORE YOU GO

Prevention is the key to staying healthy while abroad. A little planning before departure, particularly for pre-existing illnesses, will save trouble later. Bring medications in their original, clearly labelled, containers. A signed and dated letter from your physician describing your medical conditions and medications, including any generic names, is also a good idea. If you're carrying syringes or needles, be sure to have a physician's letter documenting their medical necessity. If you are embarking on a long trip, make sure your teeth are OK and take your optical prescription with you.

### INSURANCE

Citizens of EU countries are entitled to free or cheaper medical care in most European countries, but need to carry proof of their entitlement in the form of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which replaced the E111 form at the end of 2005. In the UK, the card is available directly from the **Department of Health** (☎ 0845 606 2030; www.dh.gov.uk/travellers) or by using a form obtained from any post office. Note that this card might not cover all medical expenses while abroad (eg repatriation) and that some insurance policies aren't valid without an EHIC.

Citizens from other countries should find out if there is a reciprocal arrangement for free medical care between their country and Cyprus.

If you do need health insurance, make sure you get a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an emergency flight home. Find out in advance if your insurance plan will make payments directly to providers or reimburse you later for overseas health expenditures.

### RECOMMENDED VACCINATIONS

No jabs are required to travel to Cyprus, but a yellow-fever vaccination certificate is required if you are coming from an infected area. The WHO recommends that all travellers should be covered for diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella and polio.

### INTERNET RESOURCES

The World Health Organization's publication, *International Travel and Health*, is revised annually and is available online at [www.who.int/ith/](http://www.who.int/ith/). Other useful websites include the following:

- www.mdtravelhealth.com** Travel health recommendations for every country; updated daily.
- www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk** General travel advice for the layperson.
- www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/fs26.asp** Advice on travel for the elderly.
- www.mariestopes.org.uk** Information on women's health and contraception.

## IN TRANSIT

### DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS (DVT)

Blood clots may form in the legs during plane flights, chiefly because of prolonged immobility (the longer the flight, the greater the risk). The chief symptom of DVT is swelling or pain of the foot, ankle, or calf, usually but not always on just one side. When a blood clot travels to the lungs, it may cause chest pain and breathing difficulties. Travellers with any of these symptoms should immediately seek medical attention. To prevent the development of

DVT on long flights you should walk about the cabin, contract your leg muscles while sitting, drink plenty of fluids and avoid alcohol and tobacco.

### JET LAG

To avoid jet lag, drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids and eat light meals. Once you arrive, get exposure to natural sunlight and readjust your schedule (for meals, sleep and so on) as soon as possible.

## IN CYPRUS

### AVAILABILITY & COST OF HEALTH CARE

If you need an ambulance, call ☎ 119 in the Republic of Cyprus, or ☎ 112 in Northern Cyprus. Pharmacies can dispense medicines that are available only on prescription in most European countries, so you can consult a pharmacist for minor ailments. Emergency medical treatment and assistance is provided free of charge at government hospitals or medical institutions. However, payment of the prescribed fees is required for outpatient and inpatient treatment. Make sure your medical insurance covers any emergency.

Hospitals can be overcrowded and hygiene is not always what it should be. Conditions and treatment are better in private hospitals, but these are expensive. All this means that a good health-insurance policy is essential.

### TRAVELLER'S DIARRHOEA

If you develop diarrhoea, be sure to drink plenty of fluids, preferably in the form of an oral rehydration solution such as Dioralyte. If diarrhoea is bloody, persists for more than 72 hours or is accompanied by fever, shaking, chills or severe abdominal pain, you should seek medical attention.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS Heatstroke

Heatstroke occurs following excessive fluid loss with inadequate replacement of fluids and salt. Symptoms include headache, dizziness and tiredness. Dehydration is already happening by the time you feel thirsty; aim to drink sufficient water to produce pale, diluted urine. To treat heatstroke, drink

water and/or fruit juice, and cool the body with cold water and fans.

### Jellyfish, Sea Urchins & Weever Fish

Avoid contact with jellyfish, which have stinging tentacles. Stings from jellyfish in Cyprus can be very painful, but are not dangerous. Dousing in vinegar will deactivate any stingers that have not 'fired'. Calamine lotion, antihistamines and analgesics may reduce the reaction and relieve the pain.

Watch out for sea urchins around rocky beaches; if you get sea-urchin needles embedded in your skin, immersing the limb in hot water will relieve the pain (test the water temperature first!). You'll then need to get a doctor to remove the needles in order to prevent infection. If you try to remove them yourself, some travellers report that olive oil applied to the skin helps to loosen needles.

Watch out for weever fish, which bury themselves in the seabed with just their dorsal fin showing, as stepping on this dorsal fin is very painful. However, instances are very rare. The only treatment is to put the affected limb in water as hot as the victim can stand without causing scalding.

### Parasites LEISHMANIASIS

This is a group of parasitic diseases transmitted by infected sandflies, which are found in Cyprus and Turkey. Cutaneous leishmaniasis affects the skin tissue, causing ulceration and disfigurement; and visceral leishmaniasis affects internal organs. Seek medical advice, as laboratory testing is required for diagnosis and treatment. Avoiding sandfly bites is the best precaution. Bites are usually itchy and yet another reason to cover up and apply repellent.

### TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Lyme disease, tick-borne encephalitis and typhus may be acquired in Cyprus. Seek immediate medical treatment if you believe you have any of these diseases.

Lyme disease usually begins with a spreading rash at the site of the tick bite, and is accompanied by fever, headache, extreme fatigue, aching joints and muscles, and mild neck stiffness.

Tick-borne encephalitis can occur in forest and rural areas. Symptoms include

blotches around the bite, which is sometimes pale in the middle. Headache, stiffness and other flulike symptoms, as well as extreme tiredness, appearing a week or two after the bite, can progress to more serious problems.

Typhus is spread by ticks, mites or lice. It begins with fever, chills, headache and muscle pains, followed a few days later by a body rash. There is often a large, painful sore at the site of the bite, and nearby lymph nodes are swollen and painful.

Seek local advice on areas where ticks pose a danger, and always check your skin carefully for ticks. An insect repellent can help, and walkers in tick-infested areas should consider having their boots and trousers impregnated with benzyl benzoate and dibutyl phthalate.

### Snakes

There are eight species of snakes in Cyprus, three of which are poisonous. They usually show up in spring and summer only. The most dangerous to humans is the (thankfully) rather rare blunt-nosed viper (*koufi*), recognised by its yellow, hornlike tail. The other two poisonous snakes are the cat snake and the Montpellier snake; although they can inflict a nasty bite, they're not as dangerous as the blunt-nosed viper.

To minimise your chances of being bitten, be sure to wear boots, socks and long trousers when walking through undergrowth where snakes may be present. Don't put your hands into holes and crevices, and be careful when collecting firewood.

Snakebites do not cause instantaneous death, and antivenins are usually available. If bitten by a snake that may be venomous,

immediately wrap the bitten limb tightly, as you would for a sprained ankle, and then attach a splint to immobilise it. Keep the victim still and seek medical help. Take the dead snake with you for identification, but if it's still alive, don't attempt to catch it if there's a possibility of being bitten again. Tourniquets and sucking out the poison are now comprehensively discredited.

### TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

Make sure children are up to date with routine vaccinations, and discuss possible travel vaccines with a health professional well before departure, as some vaccines are not suitable for children under one year old. Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* includes travel health advice for younger children.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

Emotional stress, exhaustion and travelling through different time zones can all contribute to an upset in the menstrual pattern.

If using oral contraceptives, remember that some antibiotics, diarrhoea and vomiting can stop the pill from working. Time zones, gastrointestinal upsets and antibiotics do not affect injectable contraception.

Travelling during pregnancy is usually possible, but always consult your doctor before planning your trip. The most risky times for travel are during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and after 30 weeks.

### SEXUAL HEALTH

Condoms are readily available in Cyprus, but emergency contraception may not be, so take the necessary precautions.

# Language

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Visitors to Cyprus are unlikely to encounter any serious language difficulties since many people in the North and the South speak English as a matter of course. However, if you have a smattering of Greek or Turkish and wish to fine tune your linguistic skills, there are a few pointers you should be aware of. Talking Cypriot is not as simple as it might seem.

In the South the Cypriots speak Greek, but it's not the same as what you'll hear in Greece. To an ear familiar with the standard language, Cypriot Greek sounds harsh and even incomprehensible. Consonants are palatalised so that the guttural 'ch' becomes 'sh', 'k' becomes 'tch' and the vocalised 'b' becomes 'p'. Many other phonetic variations distinguish Cypriot Greek. The vocabulary has its own set of words not heard outside Cyprus, though both standard Greek terms as well as Cypriot versions will be familiar to most Cypriots. Speakers

of Greek from the mainland are known as *kalamarades* or 'penpushers' – a hangover from the days when the only educated speakers of the language in Cyprus were from Greece.

Turkish Cypriots have their own dialect, which is distinguished from the Turkish spoken on the mainland by a number of peculiarities. These include a slurred, lazy mode of articulation, and the use of verb forms not used in standard Turkish, as well as a whole lexicon of Cyprus-specific words.

Neither Greek nor Turkish Cypriots will expect a visitor to be able to speak their respective languages – let alone the Cypriot variants. However, an hour's practice on the words and phrases in this chapter will go a long way to breaking the ice and to demonstrating to your new Cypriot friends your interest in their country. For a more in-depth guide to the languages of Cyprus, look for Lonely Planet's compact and comprehensive *Greek Phrasebook* and *Turkish Phrasebook*.

## GREEK

Most Cypriots in the Republic speak English and nearly all road signs are in Greek and English. Since mid-1995 the Republic has converted all place names into Latin characters according to the official system of Greek transliteration, which has resulted in some place names being changed (see p33 for more information). Greek may still be spoken by some Turkish Cypriots who formerly lived in the South, though they may be understandably reluctant to speak it in public. Greek is also spoken by small numbers of Greeks enclaved in villages in the northeast on the Karpas (Kırpaşa) Peninsula, and in the northwest, by Maronites living on the Koruçam (Kormakitis) Peninsula (who also speak Aramaic – see p199 for more).

## PRONUNCIATION

Cypriot Greek pronunciation treats some consonants differently with  $\kappa$  and  $\chi$  being pronounced as 'tch' and 'sh' respectively.

## THE GREEK ALPHABET

Greek	Pronunciation	Guide
Α α	a	as in 'father'
Β β	v	as in 'vine'
Γ γ	gh	like a rough, breathy 'g'
	y	as in 'yes'
Δ δ	dh	as in 'there'
Ε ε	e	as in 'egg'
Ζ ζ	z	as in 'zoo'
Η η	i	as in 'feet'
Θ θ	th	as in 'throw'
Ι ι	i	as in 'feet'
Κ κ	k	as in 'kite'
Λ λ	l	as in 'leg'
Μ μ	m	as in 'man'
Ν ν	n	as in 'net'
Ξ ξ	x	as in 'ox'
Ο ο	o	as in 'hot'
Π π	p	as in 'pup'
Ρ ρ	r	as in 'road'
		a slightly trilled 'r'
Σ σ, ς	s	as in 'sand'
Τ τ	t	as in 'tap'
Υ υ	i	as in 'feet'
Φ φ	f	as in 'find'
Χ χ	h	as the 'ch' in Scottish 'loch' (like a rough 'h')
Ψ ψ	ps	as in 'lapse'
Ω ω	o	as in 'hot'

## Combinations of Letters

ει	i	as in 'feet'
οι	i	as in 'feet'
αι	e	as in 'bet'
ου	u	as in 'mood'
μπ	b	as in 'beer'
	mb	as in 'amber'
ντ	d	as in 'dot'
	nd	as in 'bend'
γκ	g	as in 'God'
γγ	ng	as in 'angle'
γξ	ks	as in 'minks'
τζ	dz	as in 'hands'

The Greek question mark is represented with the English equivalent of a semicolon ';',

All Greek words of two or more syllables have an acute accent, which indicates where word stress falls. In the transliterations used in this language guide, italic letters indicate word stress. It's also worth noting that **dh** is pronounced as 'th' in 'then' and **gh** is a softer, slightly guttural version of 'g'.

## ACCOMMODATION

## I'm looking for ...

ψα-ηπο yi-a ...	Ψάχνω για ...
<b>a room</b>	e-na dho-ma-ti-o ένα δωμάτιο
<b>a hotel</b>	e-na kse-no-dho-chi-o ένα ξενοδοχείο
<b>a youth hostel</b>	e-nan kse-no-na έναν ξενώνα
	ne-o-ti-tas νεότιτας

## Where's a cheap hotel?

ρου i-ne e-na fti-no xe-no-do-hi-o  
Πού είναι ένα φτηνό ξενοδοχείο;

## What's the address?

ργα i-ne i dhi-ef-thin-si  
Ποια είναι η διεύθυνση;

## Could you write the address, please?

πα-ρα-κα-λο bo-ri-te na ghra-pse-te ti dhi-ef-thin-si  
Παρακαλώ, μπορείτε να γράψετε τη διεύθυνση;

## Are there any rooms available?

i-par-chun e-lef-the-ra dho-ma-ti-a  
Υπάρχουν ελεύθερα δωμάτια;

## I'd like to book ...

θα i-the-la na kli-so ... Θα ήθελα να κλείσω ...

<b>a bed</b>	e-na kre-va-ti ένα κρεβάτι
<b>a single room</b>	e-na mo-no-kli-o-no ένα μονόκλινο
	dho-ma-ti-o δωμάτιο
<b>a double room</b>	e-na dhi-kli-no ένα δίκλινο
	dho-ma-ti-o δωμάτιο
<b>a double-bed room</b>	e-na dho-ma-ti-o me δύο κρεβάτια
	dhy-o kre-va-ti-a
<b>a room with a bathroom</b>	e-na dho-ma-ti-o me ένα δωμάτιο με μπάνιο
	ba-ni-o

## How much is it per night?

πο-σο ka-ni ti vra-dhya Πόσο κάνει τη βραδιά;

## May I see it?

βο-ρο na to dho Μπορώ να το δω;

## CONVERSATION &amp; ESSENTIALS

## Hello.

ya sas (pol) Γεια σας.  
ya su (inf) Γεια σου.

## Good morning.

ka-li-me-ra Καλή μέρα.

## Good afternoon/evening.

ka-li-spe-ra Καλή σπέρα.

## Good night.

ka-li-nikh-ta Καλή νύχτα.

## Goodbye.

an-di-o Αντίο.

## Yes.

ne Ναι.

## No.

o-hi Οχι.

## Please.

pa-ra-ka-lo Παρακαλώ.

## Thank you.

ef-ha-ri-sto Ευχαριστώ.

## That's fine/You're welcome.

pa-ra-ka-lo Παρακαλώ.

## Sorry. (excuse me, forgive me)

sigh-no-mi Συγγνώμη.

## What's your name?

pos sas le-ne Πώς σας λένε;

## My name is ...

me le-ne ... Με λένε ...

## EMERGENCIES – GREEK

## Help!

vo-i-thya Βοήθεια!

## There's been an accident.

ey-i-ne a-ti-hi-ma Έγινε ατύχημα.

## Go away!

fi-ye Φύγε!

## Call ...!

fo-nak-ste ... Φωνάξτε ...!

## a doctor

e-na yi-a-tro ένα γιατρό

## the police

tin a-sti-no-mi-a την αστυνομία

## HEALTH

## I'm ill.

i-me a-ro-stos Είμαι άρρωστος.

## It hurts here.

po-nai e-dho Πονάει εδώ.

## I have ...

e-ho ... Εχω ...

## asthma

asth-ma άσθμα

## diabetes

za-ha-ro-dhi-a-vi-ti ζαχαροδιαβήτη

## diarrhoea

dhi-a-ri-a διάρροια

## I'm allergic to ...

i-me a-ler-yi-kos/ Είμαι αλλεργικός/  
a-ler-yi-ki ... (m/f) αλλεργική ...

## antibiotics

sta an-di-vi-o-ti-ka στα αντιβιοτικά

## penicillin

stin pe-ni-ki-li-ni στην πενικιλίνη

## nuts

sta fi-sti-ki-a στα φυστικά

## condoms

pro-fi-la-kti-ka προφυλακτικά

(ka-po-tez) (καπότες)

pro-fi-lak-ti-ko προφυλακτικό

farm-a-ko φάρμακο

sunblock cream kre-ma i-li-u κρέμα ηλιού

tampons tam-pon ταμπόν

## LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

## Do you speak English?

mi-la-te an-gli-ka Μιλάτε αγγλικά;

## Does anyone here speak English?

mi-lai-ka-nis an-gli-ka Μιλάει κανείς αγγλικά;

## I don't understand.

Den καταλαβαίνω.

## Please write it down.

ghrap-ste to pa-ra-ka-lo Γράψτε το, παρακαλώ.

## NUMBERS

0	mi-dhen	μηδέν
1	e-nas	ένας (m)
	mi-a	μία (f)
	e-na	ένα (n)
2	dhi-o	δύο
3	tris	τρεις (m&f)
	tri-a	τρία (n)
4	te-se-ris	τέσσερις (m&f)
	te-se-ra	τέσσερα (n)
5	pen-de	πέντε
6	e-xi	έξη
7	ep-ta	επτά
8	oh-to	οχτώ
9	e-ne-a	εννέα
10	dhe-ka	δέκα
11	e-de-ka	έντεκα
12	dho-dhe-ka	δώδεκα
13	dhe-ka-tris	δεκατρείς (m&f)
	dhe-ka-tri-a	δεκατρία (n)
14	dhe-ka-te-se-ris	δεκατέσσερις (m&f)
	dhe-ka-te-se-ra	δεκατέσσερα (n)
15	dhe-ka-pe-de	δεκαπέντε
16	dhe-ka-ek-xi	δεκαέξι
17	dhe-ka-ef-ta	δεκαεφτά
18	dhe-ka-oh-to	δεκαοχτώ
19	dhe-ka-e-ne-a	δεκαεννέα
20	i-ko-si	είκοσι

Greek Cypriots tend to talk more slowly than their mainland brethren, but speech modulation and word syncopation, especially in rural areas, may make understanding Cypriot Greek difficult. The Pafos region is well known for the difficulty of its local accent.



21	<i>i-ko-si e-nas/mi-a</i> <i>i-ko-si e-na</i>	είκοσι ένας/μία (m/f) είκοσι ένα (n)
22	<i>i-ko-si dhi-o</i>	είκοσι δύο
30	<i>tri-an-da</i>	τριάντα
40	<i>sa-ran-da</i>	σαράντα
50	<i>pe-nin-da</i>	πενήντα
60	<i>ex-in-da</i>	εξήντα
70	<i>ev-dho-min-da</i>	εβδομήντα
80	<i>ogh-dhon-da</i>	ογδόντα
90	<i>e-ne-nin-da</i>	ενενήντα
100	<i>e-ka-to</i>	εκατό
1000	<i>hi-li-i</i> <i>hi-li-ez</i> <i>hi-li-a</i>	χίλιοι (m) χίλιες (f) χίλια (n)

## SHOPPING, SERVICES & SIGHTS

### I'd like to buy ...

*the-lo n'a-gho-ra-so ...* Θέλω ν' αγοράσω ...

### How much is it?

*po-so ka-ni* Πόσο κάνει;

<b>Do you accept ...?</b> <i>dhe-che-ste ...</i>	Δέχετε ...;
<b>credit cards</b> <i>pi-sto-ti-ki kar-ta</i>	πιστωτική κάρτα
<b>travellers</b> <i>tak-si-dhi-o-ti-kes</i>	ταξιδιωτικές
<b>cheques</b> <i>e-pi-ta-ghes</i>	επιταγές

<b>more</b> <i>pe-ri-so-te-ro</i>	περισσότερο
<b>less</b> <i>li-gho-te-ro</i>	λιγότερο
<b>smaller</b> <i>mi-kro-te-ro</i>	μικρότερο
<b>bigger</b> <i>me-gha-li-te-ro</i>	μεγαλύτερο

<b>I'm looking for ...</b> <i>psach-no ya ...</i>	Ψάχνω για ...
<b>a bank</b> <i>mya tra-pe-za</i>	μία τράπεζα
<b>the ... embassy</b> <i>tin ... pres-vi-a</i>	την ... πρεσβεία
<b>the market</b> <i>ti lai-ki a-gho-ra</i>	τη λαϊκή αγορά
<b>the post office</b> <i>to ta-hi-dhro-mi-o</i>	το ταχυδρομείο
<b>a public toilet</b> <i>mya dhi-mo-sia</i>	μία δημόσια
	τουαλέτα
<b>the telephone</b> <i>to ti-le-fo-ni-i-ko</i>	το τηλεφωνικό
<b>centre</b> <i>ken-dro</i>	κέντρο
<b>the tourist office</b> <i>to tu-ri-sti-i-ko</i>	το τουριστικό
	γραφείο

<b>beach</b> <i>pa-ra-li-a</i>	παραλία
<b>bridge</b> <i>ye-fira</i>	γέφυρα
<b>castle</b> <i>ka-stro</i>	κάστρο
<b>hospital</b> <i>no-so-ko-mi-o</i>	νοσοκομείο
<b>island</b> <i>ni-si</i>	νησί
<b>market</b> <i>a-gho-ra</i>	αγορά
<b>ruins</b> <i>ar-he-a</i>	αρχαία

## TIME & DATES

<b>What time is it?</b> <i>ti o-ra i-ne</i>	Τι ώρα είναι;
<b>It's (2 o'clock).</b> <i>i-ne (dhi-o i o-ra)</i>	Είναι (δύο η ώρα).
<b>in the morning</b> <i>to pro-i</i>	το πρωί

<b>in the afternoon</b> <i>to a-po-yev-ma</i>	το απόγευμα
<b>in the evening</b> <i>to vra-dhi</i>	το βράδυ
<b>today</b> <i>si-me-ra</i>	σήμερα
<b>tomorrow</b> <i>av-ri-o</i>	αύριο

<b>Monday</b> <i>dhef-te-ra</i>	Δευτέρα
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>tri-ti</i>	Τρίτη
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>te-tar-ti</i>	Τετάρτη
<b>Thursday</b> <i>pemp-ti</i>	Πέμπτη
<b>Friday</b> <i>pa-ras-ke-vi</i>	Παρασκευή
<b>Saturday</b> <i>sa-va-to</i>	Σάββατο
<b>Sunday</b> <i>kyri-a-ki</i>	Κυριακή

<b>January</b> <i>ia-nou-ari-os</i>	Ιανουάριος
<b>February</b> <i>fev-rou-ari-os</i>	Φεβρουάριος
<b>March</b> <i>mar-ti-os</i>	Μάρτιος
<b>April</b> <i>a-pri-li-os</i>	Απρίλιος
<b>May</b> <i>mai-os</i>	Μάιος
<b>June</b> <i>i-ou-ni-os</i>	Ιούνιος
<b>July</b> <i>i-ou-li-os</i>	Ιούλιος
<b>August</b> <i>av-ghous-tos</i>	Αύγουστος
<b>September</b> <i>sep-tem-vri-os</i>	Σεπτέμβριος
<b>October</b> <i>ok-to-vri-os</i>	Οκτώβριος
<b>November</b> <i>no-em-vri-os</i>	Νοέμβριος
<b>December</b> <i>dhe-kem-vri-os</i>	Δεκέμβριος

## TRANSPORT

### What time does the ... leave/arrive?

*ti o-ra fev-yil/ta-ni to ...*

Τι ώρα φεύγει/φτάνει το ...;

<b>boat</b> <i>pli-o</i>	πλοίο
<b>(city) bus</b> <i>a-sti-ko</i>	αστικό
<b>(intercity) bus</b> <i>le-o-fo-ri-o</i>	λεωφορείο
<b>ferry</b> <i>fe-ri-bot</i>	φερρυμπώτ

### I'd like (a) ...

*tha i-the-la (e-na) ...* Θα ήθελα (ένα) ...

<b>one way ticket</b> <i>a-plo isi-ti-ri-o</i>	απλό εισιτήριο
<b>return ticket</b> <i>i-si-ti-ri-o me e-pi-stro-fi</i>	εισιτήριο με επιστροφή

### I want to go to ...

*the-lo na pa-o sto/sti...* Θέλω να πάω στο/στη ...

<b>bus stop</b> <i>sta-si le-o-fo-ri-u</i>	στάση λεωφορείου
<b>the first</b> <i>to pro-to</i>	το πρώτο
<b>the last</b> <i>to te-lef-te-o</i>	το τελευταίο

## Directions

### Where is ...?

*rou i-ne ...* Πού είναι...;

### Can you show me on the map?

*bo-ri-te na mo-u to dhi-xe-te sto har-ti* Μπορείτε να μου το δείξετε στο χάρτη;

## SIGNS – GREEK

ΕΙΣΟΔΟΣ	Entry
ΕΞΟΔΟΣ	Exit
ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ	Women (toilets)
ΑΝΔΡΩΝ	Men (toilets)
ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ	Police
ΤΡΟΧΑΙΑ	Traffic Police
ΑΠΑΓΟΡΕΥΕΤΑΙ	Prohibited
ΝΕΚΡΗ ΖΩΝΗ	Buffer Zone

### Straight ahead.

*o-lo ef-thi-a* Ολο ευθεία.

### Turn left.

*strips-te a-ri-ste-ra* Στρίψτε αριστερά.

### Turn right.

*strips-te dhe-ksi-a* Στρίψτε δεξιά.

### far

*ma-kri-a* μακριά

### near (to)

*kon-da* κοντά

## TURKISH

Ottoman Turkish was written in Arabic script, but this was phased out when Atatürk decreed the introduction of Latin script in 1928. The Turkish spoken in Cyprus differs somewhat from that spoken on the mainland, both in pronunciation and vocabulary. In big cities and tourist areas, many locals know at least some English and/or German. For a more in-depth look at Turkish, get a copy of Lonely Planet's compact and comprehensive *Turkish Phrasebook*.

## PRONUNCIATION

### Vowels

Be careful of the symbols **ı** and **i** – the **ı** is undotted in both lower and upper case (like Isparta), while the **i** has dots in both cases (like İzmir). It's easy to read both of these as an English 'i', but you can be misunderstood if you don't pronounce the two sounds distinctly – *sık* means 'dense', 'tight' or 'frequent' but *sik* is a certain 'f' word meaning 'to copulate'. Take the same care with **o/ö** and **u/ü**.

## TURKISH PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

<b>a</b>	a as in 'father'
<b>ay</b>	ai as in 'aisle'
<b>e</b>	e as in 'red'

<b>ey</b>	ay as in 'say'
<b>ı</b>	uh as the 'a' in 'ago'
<b>i</b>	ee as in 'bee'
<b>o</b>	o as in 'go'
<b>ö</b>	er as in 'her' with no 'r' sound
<b>u</b>	oo as in 'moon'
<b>ü</b>	ew 'ee' with rounded lips, like in 'few' or French <i>tu</i>

## Consonants

### TURKISH PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

<b>c</b>	j as in 'jam'
<b>ç</b>	ch as in 'church'
<b>j</b>	zh as the 's' in 'pleasure'
<b>ş</b>	sh as in 'ship'

## Word Stress

Word stress is quite light in Turkish, and generally falls on the last syllable of the word. Most two-syllable place names are stressed on the first syllable, and in three-syllable names the stress is usually on the second syllable.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Where's a ...?

<i>Nerede ... bulabilirim?</i>	<i>ne-re-de ... boo-la-bee-lee-rem</i>
<b>guesthouse</b> <i>misafirhane</i>	<i>mee-sa-feer-ha-ne</i>
<b>hotel</b> <i>otel</i>	<i>o-tel</i>
<b>youth hostel</b> <i>gençlik hosteli</i>	<i>gench-leek hos-tee-lee</i>

### Can you recommend somewhere cheap?

*Ucuz bir yer tavsiye edebilir misiniz?*  
*oo-jooz beer yer tav-see-ye e-de-bee-leer mee-see-nee-z*

### What's the address?

*Adresi nedir?*  
*ad-re-see ne-deer*

### Could you write it down, please?

*Lütfen yazar mısınız?*  
*lew-t-fen ya-zar muh-suh-nuhz*

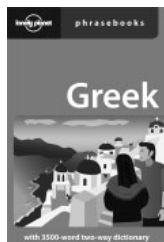
### Do you have a ... room?

<i>... odanız var mı?</i>	
<i>... o-da-nuz var muh</i>	
<b>single</b> <i>Tek kişilik</i>	<i>tek kee-shee-leek</i>
<b>double-bed</b> <i>iki kişilik</i>	<i>ee-kee kee-shee-leek</i>
<b>twin/two-bed</b> <i>çift yataklı</i>	<i>cheeft ya-tak-luh</i>



**What time does the ... leave?***... ne zaman kalkacak?**... ne za-man kal-ka-jak***What time does the ... arrive?***... ne zaman varır?**... ne za-man va-ruhr*

<b>boat</b>	<i>Vapur</i>	<i>va-poor</i>
<b>bus</b>	<i>Otobüs</i>	<i>o-to-bews</i>

**I'd like a ... ticket.***... bir bilet lütfen.* ... beer bee-let lewt-fen**one-way***Gidiş* gee-deesh**return***Gidiş-dönüş* gee-deesh-der-newsh**Directions****Where is ...?***... nerede?**... ne-re-de***Can you show me (on the map)?***Bana (haritada)**ba-na (ha-ree-ta-da)**gösterebilir misin?**gers-te-re-bee-leer mee-seen***It's straight ahead.***Tam karşıda.**tam kar-shuh-da***Turn left/right.***Sola/Sağa dön.**so-la/sa-a dem***far (from)***uzak**oo-zak***near (to)***yakınında**ya-kuh-nuhn-da*

Also available from Lonely Planet:  
*Greek Phrasebook* and *Turkish Phrasebook*

# Glossary

For items dealing with Cypriot cuisine, see p51. Abbreviations: (Fr) = French; (Gr) = Greek; (Tr) = Turkish; (m) = masculine; (f) = feminine; (n) = neutral.

**agios** (m), **agia** (f; Gr) – saint

**ano** (Gr) – upper, eg Ano Pafos (Upper Pafos)

**Attila Line** – furthest point of advancement of the Turkish army following its 1974 invasion of Cyprus; it now separates Northern Cyprus from the Republic of Cyprus; see also *Green Line*

**baglam** (Tr), **baglamas** (Gr) – very small, bouzouki-like stringed instrument

**barbican** – gatehouse of castle

**bedesten** (Tr) – covered market

**belediye** (Tr) – town hall

**bouzouki** (Gr/Tr) – stringed lute-like instrument associated with *rembetika* music

**bulvarı** (Tr) – boulevard, avenue

**burnu** (Tr) – cape

**Byzantine Empire** – Hellenistic, Christian empire lasting from AD 395 to 1453, centred on Constantinople (Istanbul)

**caddesi** (Tr) – road

**camii** (Tr) – mosque

**commandery** – a district under the control of a commander of an order of knights

**CTO** – Cyprus Tourism Organisation, the Republic of Cyprus' official tourism promotion body

**CTP** (Tr) – Cumhuriyetçi Türk Partisi (Republican Turkish Party)

**Cypriot syllabary** – a writing system based on symbols representing syllables; used in Cyprus from the 6th to the 3rd centuries BC

**CYTA** – Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (Republic of Cyprus)

**dolmuş** (Tr) – minibus (literally 'stuffed')

**dragoman** – 'interpreter' (Turkish *tercüman*), or liaison officer between the Ottoman and Orthodox authorities

**enceinte** (Fr) – enclosed area within a castle

**enosis** (Gr) – union (with Greece); the frequent demand made by many Greek Cypriots before 1974

**entrepôt** (Fr) – commercial centre for import and export

**EOKA** – Ethniki Organosi tou Kypriakou Agona (National Organisation for the Cypriot Struggle), nationalist guerrilla movement that fought for independence from Britain

**EOKA-B** – post-independence reincarnation of EOKA, which mostly fought Turkish Cypriots

**ethnarch** (Gr) – leader of a nation

**garigue** (Fr) – low, open scrubland with evergreen shrubs, low trees, aromatic herbs and grasses, found in poor or dry soil in the Mediterranean region

**Green Line** – section of the Attila Line that divides Greek Cypriot Lefkosia (South Nicosia) from Turkish Cypriot North Nicosia (Lefkoşa); see also *Attila Line*

**hammam** (Tr) – public bathhouse

**hastanesi** (Tr) – hospital

**kafeneio** (Gr) – coffee shop

**kalesi** (Tr) – castle

**kartzilamas** (Gr), **karşilama** (Tr) – folk dance

**kato** (Gr) – lower, eg Kato Pafos (Lower Pafos)

**KKTC** (Tr) – Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus)

**KOT** – Kyriakos Organismos Tourismou; the official tourist organisation of the Republic of Cyprus; see *CTO*

**körfezi** (Tr) – bay

**KTHY** (Tr) – Kıbrıs Türk Hava Yolları (Cyprus Turkish Airlines)

**Kypriako** (Gr) – the Cyprus problem; politically sensitive and never forgotten by Greek Cypriots and Greeks alike

**Laïki Vitionia** – 'popular neighbourhood'; renovated old areas now designated as urban tourist centres

**leoforos** (Gr) – avenue

**Lusignan** – Cypriot dynasty founded by French nobleman Guy de Lusignan in 1187, which lasted until 1489

**machiolation** – an opening in the floor of a gallery or roof of a portal for discharging missiles upon assailants below

**Mamelukes** – slave soldiers who won political control of several Muslim states during the Middle Ages

**maquis** (Fr) – thick, scrubby underbrush of Mediterranean shores, particularly of the islands of Corsica and Cyprus

**Maronites** – ancient Christian sect from the Middle East

**megaron** – ancient Greek and Middle Eastern architectural form consisting of an open porch, a vestibule and a large hall with a central hearth and throne

**Mesaoria** (Gr), **Mesarya** (Tr) – the large plain between the Kyrenia (Girne) and the Troödos Massif

**meydanı** (Tr) – square

**meze** (s), **mezedes** (pl) – literally 'appetiser'; used in Cyprus to mean dining on lots of small plates of appetisers

**mezedopolio** (Gr) – small restaurant specialising in *mezedes*  
**moufflon** (Fr) – endangered indigenous wild sheep of Cyprus  
**narthex** (Gr) – railed-off western porch in early Christian churches used by women and penitents  
**neos** (m), **nea** (f), **neo** (n; Gr) – new; common prefix to place names  
**NCTO** – North Cyprus Tourism Organisation; Northern Cyprus' tourism-promotion body  
**odos** (Gr) – street  
**Ottoman Empire** – Turkish empire founded in the 11th century AD, which ruled Cyprus from 1570 to 1878; it was abolished in 1922  
**panagia** (Gr) – church  
**panigyri** (Gr) – feast or festival  
**Pantokrator** (Gr) – the 'Almighty'; traditional fresco of Christ, painted in the dome of Orthodox churches  
**paşa** (Tr) – Ottoman title roughly equivalent to 'lord'  
**periptero** (Gr) – street kiosk selling newspapers, drinks and small items  
**pitta** (Gr) – flat, unleavened bread  
**plateia** (Gr) – square  
**Ptolemies** – Graeco-Macedonian rulers of Egypt in the 4th century BC

**rembetika** (Gr) – Greek equivalent of American blues music, believed to have emerged from 'low-life' cafés in the 1870s

**saz** (Tr) – long-necked stringed instrument  
**sokak** (Tr) – street  
**Sufi** (Tr) – adherent of the Sufi variant of Islam

**taksim** (Tr) – partition (of Cyprus); demanded by Turkish Cypriots in response to Greek Cypriots' calls for enosis  
**taverna** (Gr) – traditional restaurant that serves food and wine  
**tekkesi** (Tr) – gathering place of the Sufi; mosque  
**tholos** (Gr) – the dome of an Orthodox church  
**THY** (Tr) – Türk Hava Yolları (Turkish Airlines)  
**TMT** (Tr) – Turk Müdafaa Teskilati, Turkish (underground) defence organisation  
**TRNC** (Tr) – Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see *KKTC*)

**UBP** (Tr) – Ulusal Birlik Partisi (National Unity Party)  
**Unesco** – United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation  
**UNFICYP** – United Nations Forces in Cyprus; the UN body responsible for peacekeeping in Cyprus

**yeni** (Tr) – new; common prefix to place names

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