

Sights

The rock of Aphrodite

The Rock of Aphrodite is a rock on the coast of Cyprus, close to the town of Paphos. According to local residents, Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, was born on this rock from the waves of the sea. Cyprus people often call their island the Island of Aphrodite.



Nicosia

Nicosia is the capital of Cyprus. There is a lot to see and experience. Walk along the Green Line, the border between Turkish and Greek Cyprus. Nicosia is the only capital located in two countries.



Cape greco

There are hidden places along the popular south coast of Cyprus that have not yet been discovered by tourists. Cape Greco is one of them. It is a beautiful national park along the rugged coastline where you can take beautiful walks along marked routes. The hiking trails start near the resort of Agia Napa and guide you through a beautiful coastal landscape along the azure blue sea. You will pass many different flower species along the way. The hiking trails lead to idyllic Cape Greco.



Tombs of the kings

Just two kilometers north of Paphos harbor are the royal tombs. It is an underground cemetery that was carved into the rocks in the 4th century BC. High officials were buried there, but when you see the splendor of the tombstones, you would think that kings found their final resting place there. Hence the name.



Kolossi

Kolossi Castle has a long history. Within the ruins you will find a kitchen, a remarkable fireplace and the main room of the castle. The land around Kolossi was once used as sugar cane plantations and a little further on you will also find an old sugar factory. Today grapes are grown there and used to make wine.



Troodos

The Troodos Mountains are located in the southwest of the island. Some of the most beautiful villages in Cyprus are hidden in this hilly area. The houses are made of stone and you will find medieval monasteries. The area is best known for its churches. They have great historical value and no fewer than 9 churches are therefore on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The most beautiful church is the Archangelos Michail in the quiet village of Pedoulas.



Limassol

Limassol is the second largest city in Cyprus. The city has experienced rapid economic development since the island was divided in 1974 and is now a major financial center. In the city, be sure to walk along the harbor promenade and through the old town. In the old town you will find a large market hall with many cafes, restaurants and bars. There is also a medieval castle in Limassol. And there are many beautiful beaches around this bustling city in southern Cyprus.



Food

Halloumi

Halloumi is the real pride from Cyprus. Halloumi is pickled and not ripened cheese; it is made from goat milk. The structure is rubbery in the begin, but when you warm it, it tastes much better. Inside it is soft, but outside it is crispy.



Taramosalata

Taramosalata starts by the Greeks and Turkish kitchen. Taramosalata means food made from completely ripe eggs from a fish. They call it also tarma. You can also eat it with cucumber or other things.



Dolmades

Dolmades starts by the Greeks and Turks kitchen and is made from wineleaves, rice (and sometimes minced meat). It forms a good basis for a healthy meal.



Keftedes

Keftedes is a bit bigger seasoned meatball. The Greeks eat them as a starter, as part of a mezze dish, in soup. It is also maked with munt. They also eat it with a kind of sauce. You also can eat it as a main course, fried in tomato sauce and served with pasta (keftedes giouvetsi).



Loukanika

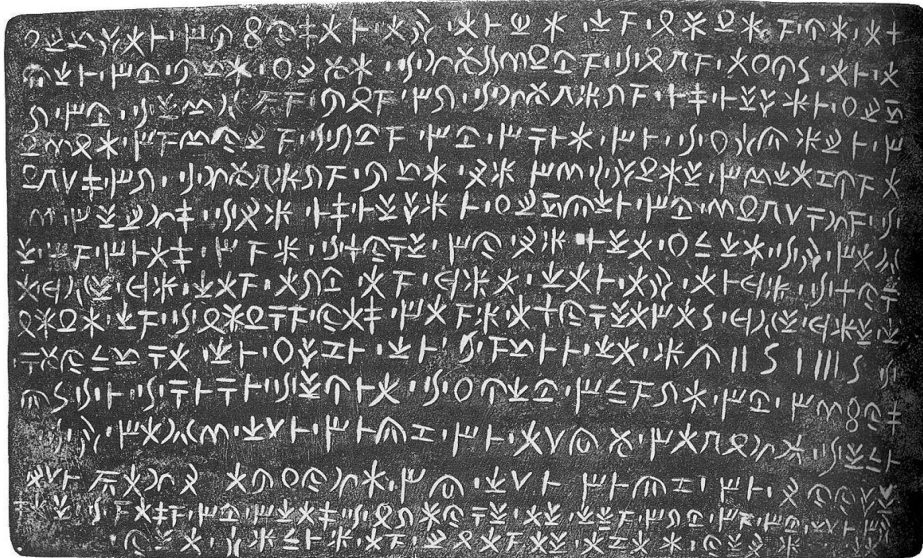
Loukanika are spicy sausages made from pork, they contain dry red wine, salt, garlic and spices including coriander seed and black pepper. You can also eat it with a bbq .



History

The first inhabitants of Cyprus

The first inhabitants of Cyprus were very cultured. They built round houses with floors made of terrazzo of burned lime. They got rich because of the copper mines. They were exporting that from ±335 BC till ±1800 AD. Nowadays they have stopped mining copper, because it was too dangerous. The inhabitants had their own script, the Cypriot syllabic script.



Aphrodite

Cyprus is considered the island of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty. According to Greek mythology, she was born from the waves of the sea near a rock off the coast of Cyprus. For that reason, this rock is also called the rock of Aphrodite.



Roman-Catholic influences

During the Third Crusade in 1191, Cyprus became a target of the Crusaders in the late 12th century. Roman Catholics kept the power and control, while the Greek inhabitants lived in the countryside. The independent Eastern Orthodox Church of Cyprus, with its own archbishop and not under rule of a patriarch, was allowed to remain on the island. Venetian consuls were also present in Cyprus for trade and to protect traders. The government of Cyprus borrowed money from merchants in the early 16th century, but then they got in debt. They had to sell their copper mines, so Cyprus shrank.



Ottoman influence

When Turks ruled Cyprus in ±1570, they made lots of buildings such as mosques, churches, baths, markets, schools, and libraries. Cyprus' architecture was like other places from the Ottomans, but it also had its own style. Some Catholic buildings were turned into mosques or palaces, mixing Gothic and Ottoman styles. This mix of styles can be seen in buildings like mosques that date from that period. An example of Gothic influences is the tall tower of Cami Kebir (Larnaca). In 1861, Cyprus became independent under the rule of the Sublime Porte. This changed in 1868, when Cyprus became a province under the kingdom of the Archipelago (old-Turkish ruler).

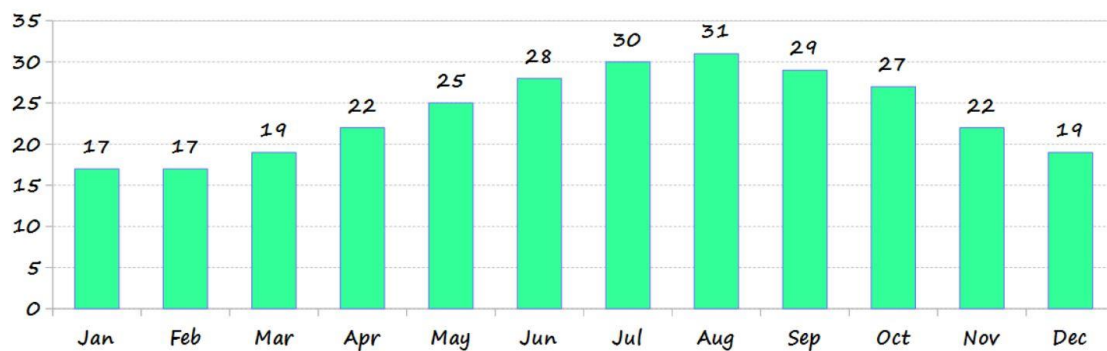


Climate

Climate of Cyprus

Cyprus has hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters, like other places by the sea.

Temperature during Daytime



Summer in Cyprus

In summer, from June to September, Cyprus is hot and dry. It often gets over 30°C and can be 40°C or more, especially in the middle. Near the coast, it's a bit cooler. It hardly rains during this time, and the sky is usually clear, so many people enjoy the beaches and the sun.



Winter in Cyprus

In winter, from December to February, it's not as hot but mild, and it rains more often. The temperatures are usually 10°C to 15°C, but sometimes colder in the mountains, where it snows. Rain in winter helps plants grow.



Spring and Autumn

Spring and autumn have nice temperatures and some rain. In spring, flowers bloom, and in autumn, it's perfect for outdoor activities. Overall, Cyprus has a warm and sunny climate for most of the year.



Animals

Mouflon

The Mouflon is the island's most well-known mammal and is also a national animal of Cyprus with beautiful, spiral horns. The mouflon likes to eat the bark of fruit trees and wheat shoots.



Egyptian fruit-bat

The Egyptian fruit-bat is the largest bat species which is found in Europe, and it can become 17 centimetres long. The bats hunt at night, flying up to 40 kilometres and feeding on unripened or spoiled fruit.



Long-eared hedgehog

The long-eared hedgehog is special because of its ears, which can become 5 centimetres long. They eat ants, beetles and other insects, as well as fruit and also the eggs of small birds.



Mediterranean monk

The Mediterranean monk seal is rare and lives in the coastal waters of Cyprus. It becomes 2,5 meters in length and eats plaices, mackerels and anchovies.



Cypriot blunt-nosed viper

The Cypriot blunt-nosed viper is the most toxic snake in Cyprus, which can become 1,8 meters. This snake has a grey-brown skin, which is a good camouflage in nature on Cyprus nature.



Green sea turtle, loggerhead and pond slider

The green sea turtle, the loggerhead and the pond slider are three of many species of turtle on Cyprus. Every year they lay eggs on the beaches from June to the middle of August. Seven weeks later baby turtles are born that go back to sea. The green sea turtle is the largest one and eats only sea algae and grass. The loggerhead turtle eats molluscs, fish, jellyfish and crustaceans.





Garpike fish

The garpike fish can become 90 cm in length and can weight 1 kilo. It is hunts on small fish.

