

Culture in Cyprus

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Step back in time with a visit to Chirokoitia, one of the best preserved sites of a prehistoric settlement found in the Eastern Mediterranean, with its reconstructed round dwellings giving a vivid representation of what life was like at the dawn of civilisation. Admire the exquisite floor mosaics of the Roman villas depicting scenes from mythology, arguably the best in the eastern Mediterranean and the impressive underground Tombs of the Kings nearby, carved out of solid rock and decorated with Doric pillars. Or enjoy an ancient Greek play performed in a Roman amphitheatre with the most spectacular view on a cliff overlooking the sea.

Mosque of Um Haram in Cyprus





Many fine examples of Byzantine art have survived on the island, which you can see for yourself in Cyprus' painted churches with their colourful frescoes, ten of which have been put on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Marvel at the sumptuous pageantry of Greek Orthodox religious festivals whose origins go back thousands of years. In addition to the wealth of outdoor sites, tour the priceless collection of artefacts displayed in the various Archaeological Museum where you can see objects spanning the island's history, including pottery, coins, jewellery, tombstones and statues.

Museums and Galleries

Cyprus' 10,000 year old history has brought up innumerable finds over the years, so much so that it is said if you scratch the soil anywhere on the island you are bound to unearth a relic from the past.

All the island's main cities have an archaeological museum to house the regional findings, with pride of place taken by the main archaeological museum in the capital, Lefkosia (Nicosia). Quite a few private and state galleries will guide you through the most

recent years of arts and culture of the island up until today.

A number of specialist museums exist on the island where you can admire some exquisite examples of icons and ecclesiastical objects that have survived over time. You can also find small folk art museums all over the island where 19th and early 20th century Cypriot folk art and crafts, can be seen displayed often in beautifully restored old buildings, in whose rooms the way of life in years gone by is recreated.





Cyprus Tourist Office - View From Porto Latchi

Sites and Monuments

Testaments to Cyprus' turbulent history can be found all over the island. Long coveted by foreign powers due to its strategic position at the crossroad between three continents, the island is like a huge open air museum where you can see evidence of the passage of the various conquerors and rulers that controlled it through the ages.

Marvel at the spectacular views from cliff top spots where the ancient Mycenaean Greek

settlers built temples to their various gods, with pride of place to Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. Watch a performance in a Roman theatre still in use today, or admire the fabulous mosaic floors that once adorned the villas of Roman noblemen when the island was a distant outpost of the Roman Empire.

Discover hidden away in the pine forests, Cyprus' painted churches with their colourful frescoes on walls and apses, ten of which have been put on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Cultural Routes

Take in the culture of Cyprus by following one of the themed routes around the island.

Follow in the footsteps of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty and protectress of Cyprus. Wander through layers of history, culture and mythology as you learn all about her birth, mythology, character, the rituals connected with her cult, as well as plants and seashells

associated with her.

Take a tour of the wineries and indulge in some wine-tasting, or sample other grape-based delicacies visiting an old monastery or a wine museum along the way.

See the Cyprus's famous ten Byzantine churches on UNESCO's World Heritage List scattered throughout the Troodos mountain areas with their remarkable pitched wooden roofs, icons and frescoes.

