

CYPRriot TREASURES

An escorted tour discovering the ancient sites of southern Cyprus

4th to 11th November 2019 & 23rd to 30th March 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Byzantine fresco from St Neophytos Monastery, Paphos



Aphrodite's Rock



Kolossi Castle



Dotted with ancient ruins, Medieval castles, Byzantine churches and monasteries, Cyprus is a land steeped in ancient mythology with a fascinating history and compelling culture and lifestyle. The island also enjoys glorious sunshine for much of the year and a coastline teeming with endless stretches of white-sand beaches, secluded bays and rocky coves, all surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea. For our exploration of some of the island's most fascinating sites we have chosen to stay in the Bay of Limassol on the south coast with its beautiful beaches. From here we will visit Paphos with its array of extraordinary archaeological sites such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Tombs of the Kings, which are unique in Cyprus being heavily influenced by ancient Egyptian tradition and the House of Dionysos with its fabulously preserved mosaics which date back to the 2nd century AD. Close by there are also pine-clad mountain villages with their simple stone Byzantine churches featuring Medieval icons and the city of Nicosia, all of which we will discover during our guided excursions.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Larnaca, Cyprus. Fly by scheduled flight. Drive to the Mediterranean Beach Hotel in Limassol for a seven night stay.

Day 2 Limassol. Our first stop this morning is the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus, where Apollo was worshipped as God of the Woodlands. It seems that the worship of Apollo on this site began as early as the 8th century BC and continued until the 4th century AD. We will continue to the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. Of particular interest are the public baths, the necropolis, the Fountain House, House of Gladiators and House of Achilles. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre that has been completely restored and is used today for open air musical and theatrical performances. We will also visit Kolossi Castle, which was built in the 15th century on the ruins of a former fortress dated to the beginning of the 13th century. Some of these ruins can still be seen east of the present castle. This afternoon we will pass through the wine growing region around Limassol and through the fragrant citrus plantations to the old centre of Limassol for lunch and some free time before we visit Limassol Fort, just above

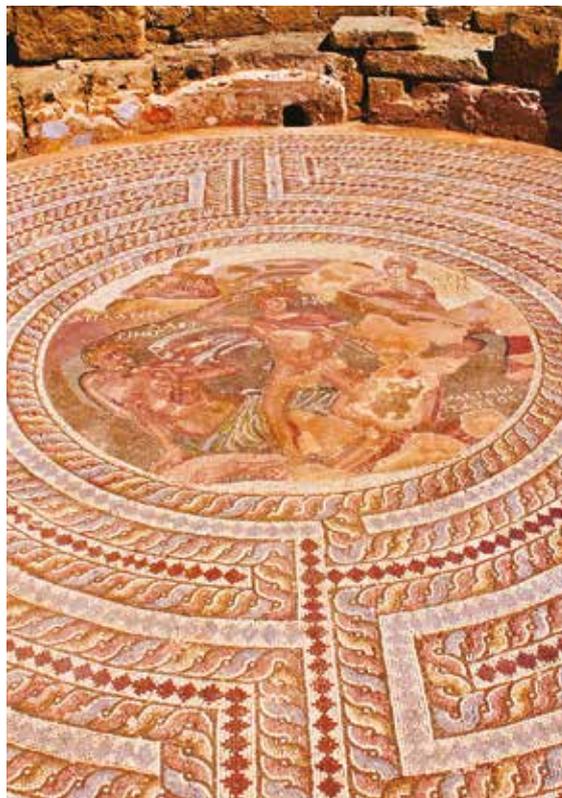
the old harbour. According to tradition, this is where Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England in 1191. The fortified walls are of considerable archaeological interest and thought to be fragments of a much larger castle.

Day 3 Troodos Mountain Villages. After breakfast, we will explore the Troodos Mountains.

We head to the south west part of Troodos, where the delightful wine villages are located. We visit the most picturesque village, Omodos, followed by a visit to a local winery where we will have the chance to taste the wine and other products produced on the estate. We will continue to Troodos Square, which is situated 1800 metres above sea level, and on to the 11th century church of Saint Nicholas of the Roof



Omodos village and vineyards in the Troodos Mountains



Fishing boats, Paphos harbour Mosaic floor in the House of Dionysos, Paphos

which in 1985 was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list alongside nine other painted Byzantine churches of the Troodos range. It is completely painted with murals dating from the 11th to the 17th centuries and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. The church took its name from the steep, pitched timber roof that was built to protect it from the weather. Close by is the beautifully cool and green village of Kakopetria where huge plane trees line the streets, squares and the banks of the river. Here we have a traditional lunch followed by a walk in the old part of the village.

Day 4 Limassol. Spend the day at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel or take the local bus into Limassol town centre. Alternately, a short walk from the hotel will take you to the impressive remains of the archaeological site of Amathus, one of the ancient royal cities of Cyprus until about 300 BC.

Day 5 Paphos. We will depart for our guided excursion after breakfast and make a brief stop at the most famous landmark in Cyprus - Aphrodite's Rock, the birthplace of the Goddess of Love and Beauty. We continue to Saint Neophytos Monastery founded by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neophytos. It is built in what used to be a secluded location at the head of a picturesque valley. The Egkleistra, an enclosure carved out of the mountain by the hermit at the end of the 12th century, contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes from the 12th to the 15th centuries. The later monastery church contains some of the best examples of post Byzantine icons of the 16th century. Then on to Paphos where we will visit the 13th century Chrysopolitissa Church which is shared by the Anglican and Catholic congregation, who hold regular services at the invitation of the local Orthodox priest. Saint Paul visited Paphos in 45 AD in an attempt to convert the ruler of the

time to Christianity. He was successful in his efforts, but not before being tied and whipped to an otherwise unremarkable lump of stone, the Pillar of Saint Paul which we will see during our visit. It is one of several popular stops for pilgrims who come to see the religious sites of this early bastion of the Christian faith. After lunch and some free time in the picturesque fishing harbour of Paphos, we continue to the archaeological park, known as the House of Dionysos with the fabulously preserved mosaics which date back to the 2nd century AD. The name House of Dionysos is mainly due to the many representations of Dionysos, the God of wine. Our final stop in Paphos is at the Tombs of the Kings. Spread over a vast area, these impressive underground tombs date back to the 4th century BC and are carved out of solid rock while some are decorated with Doric pillars. High officials rather than Kings were buried here, but the magnificence of the tombs gave the locality its name.

Day 6 Nicosia. Today we visit Nicosia, the only divided city left in the world today, part of the city is under Turkish occupation. We begin the day with a visit to a handicraft centre where we can see the traditional skills still performed, and then continue to the 'Green Line' which divides the city. We will have a panoramic view of the capital passing in front of the Venetian Walls, the Famagusta Gate, the Statue of Liberty and finally we will stop in front of the Archbishop's Palace. We will visit Saint John's Cathedral which was built in 1662 and is the only church in Nicosia in which the internal wall paintings have survived in their entirety. Then on to the Byzantine Museum, to admire its remarkable collection of icons dating from the 9th through to the 19th centuries and salvaged from all over Cyprus. The tour continues towards the newly restored 'Laiki Gitonia', an example of an old Cypriot neighbourhood, where we will have time for shopping (folk art,

jewels, pottery). After lunch we visit the Cyprus Archaeological Museum, founded in 1882 it is the oldest and largest archaeological museum in Cyprus. The museum houses artefacts discovered during numerous excavations on the island.

Day 7 Limassol. A final day at leisure to enjoy the hotels' facilities.

Day 8 Larnaca to London. Transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.



Archbishop's Palace, Nicosia

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

	November 2019	March 2020
Twin:	£1595	£1645
Single:	£1895	£1945

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven nights accommodation at the Mediterranean Beach Hotel on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner) • Excursions as described with local guides • Lunch on days 2, 3, 5 & 6 • Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

The Mediterranean Beach Hotel, Limassol, Cyprus



The Terraced Gardens and split-level Swimming Pool

The base for our week-long exploration of southern Cyprus is the Mediterranean Beach Hotel, a four-star resort situated on the southwest of the Bay of Limassol. Set away from the bustle of Limassol's centre, and close to the archaeological site of the kingdom of Amathus, the hotel's unrivalled setting provides spectacular views of the island's southern coastline and access to one of the most beautiful sandy beaches of Limassol. The property features 292 rooms, many of which benefit from magnificent sea views.

Your Room

The hotel has recently been renovated and all of the guest rooms have been carefully designed using materials and soft furnishings in warm earthy colours to reflect the nature and spirit of the Mediterranean Sea. During your stay you will be accommodated in the comfortable Deluxe Seaview Rooms which offer 25 square metres of space, en-suite bathroom with bathtub and hand shower, a balcony or terrace and sea views. The room amenities include central air-conditioning/heating, direct dial telephone, radio, safe deposit box, mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities and flat screen LCD-TV. There is a choice of twin or double bed configuration. There is complimentary W-Fi in the room as well as throughout the hotel.

Your Space & Dining

The hotel commands glorious sea views and incorporates a spectacular split-level swimming pool and terraced gardens that lead to the sandy, Blue Flag beach. There is also an indoor pool (heated during the winter months), a multi-level outdoor pool and a fitness centre and spa. The hotel offers a choice of restaurants and bars. The Acquaria Restaurant serves a sumptuous buffet breakfast with sea views whilst the included evening meals are served in the stylish Celeste Restaurant. During the summer months the restaurant opens onto the Celeste Terrace which overlooks the hotel's gardens, cascading pools and the sea and from where you can enjoy a cocktail whilst admiring the breathtaking views.



Celeste Restaurant Terrace



Deluxe Seaview Room



Outdoor Pool



Hotel Grounds and the Blue Flag Beach



Blue Bar

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Paphos Archaeological Park ruins and Paphos harbour