

MUSIC IN KYRENIA

AN ESCORTED TOUR OF
NORTHERN CYPRUS STAYING AT
THE ONAR VILLAGE IN KYRENIA
WITH LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

1ST TO 8TH OCTOBER 2018



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Kyrenia Harbour



Bellapais Abbey

LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



Joining us for our visit to Northern Cyprus will be members of the London Festival Opera. Bringing together established opera singers from major British opera companies including the Royal Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, London Festival

Opera have achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera and music performances internationally in palaces, castles, country houses, theatres, embassies, private homes and some of the leading opera houses of the world. Particular attention is given to the design and quality of their costumes which are as authentic as possible.

OPERA VENUES

Bedesten: Situated in the town of Nicosia, Bedesten (St Nicholas Church of the English) was originally constructed in the 12th century. It was later enlarged with some Gothic annexes built by the Lusignans. After some more changes in the Venetian period, the building was given to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis. The building with its different architectural styles is of a hybrid nature. In the Ottoman period, it served as a depot and a market where mostly textile products were sold. The masonry on its northern entrance resembles the masonry on the entrance of the St. Sophia Cathedral.

Bellapais Abbey: This Gothic building derives its name from French – ‘Abbey de la Paix’, meaning abbey of peace. Bellapais village is built around this beautiful abbey, situated near Kyrenia. The first building was constructed between 1198 A.D. and 1205 A.D. Later, between 1267 A.D. and 1284 A.D. French King Hugh III gave it the present shape that exists today. The pavilions around the courtyard and the refectory were constructed during the reign of King Hugh IV between 1324 A.D. and 1359 A.D. The Italian frescoes on the front walls were made in the 15th century. When the island was captured by the Ottomans, the building was given to the Greek Orthodox Church and it served as a parish church to the surrounding village. Much of the Bellapais Abbey now consists of picturesque ruins with great Gothic arches and towering stone walls. Many music events are held in the Refectory Hall which has excellent acoustics.

Due to the continuing popularity of our music tours in collaboration with London Festival Opera, we are delighted to be once again hosting a music-themed stay at the Onar Village in the beautiful hilltop village of Kyrenia. The beautiful scenery, fascinating history and calming ambience of the region are the perfect setting to listen to the captivating music of the great composers. London Festival Opera will perform in the atmospheric Bellapais Abbey and the Bedesten in Nicosia. Our week will also include explorations of the surrounding area, to learn of the different periods of history which have all left their mark.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Larnaca. Fly by scheduled flight. Drive to the Onar Village, crossing the border to Kyrenia, for a seven night stay.

Day 2 Kyrenia. Today we visit Bellapais Abbey, a magnificent 13th century Gothic building in the village where Lawrence Durrell wrote “Bitter Lemons”. Our day continues with a drive down to the picturesque old Kyrenia harbour and, after lunch, we visit Kyrenia Castle with its unique Shipwreck Museum. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Kyrenia. We will drive up to the Kyrenia Mountains known as the Five Finger Mountains which run for 120 kilometres parallel to the North Cyprus coastline. Enjoy a barbecue before we return to the hotel and enjoy the afternoon at leisure. After an early dinner at the hotel we will transfer to Bellapais Abbey for a performance by London Festival Opera featuring the works of the great opera composers including Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Bizet and Puccini.

Day 4 Nicosia. This morning, drive to Lefkosa (Nicosia) and enjoy a walk around the city, visiting the Girne Gate, Venetian Column, the Selimiye Mosque (formerly St Sophia Cathedral) and the Buyuk Han



Gymnasium at the ancient site of Salamis



Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque, Famagusta

(a 16th century inn). After lunch at Buyuk Han we transfer to Bedesten for a matinee concert by London Festival Opera who will perform a programme of opera tracing the life of Maria Callas in words and music. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 5 Famagusta & Salamis. Full day excursion to the old walled city of Gazimagusa (Famagusta), including Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (formerly St Nicholas Cathedral). Continue to the important ancient site of Salamis, a former capital of Cyprus. Enjoy lunch by the beach at Salamis. Dinner this evening will be at the hotel.

Day 6 Kyrenia. Drive up into the Kyrenia mountain range to the 11th century crusader castle of St Hilarion. Perched high on the mountain top, the castle has three sections to explore. The view of Kyrenia and the coastal plain is stunning from here. The remainder of the day is at leisure and dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 7 Kyrenia. A day at leisure, or perhaps take the complimentary bus into Kyrenia for some individual exploration and lunch in one of the many outdoor restaurants. Perched high on the mountain top, the castle has three sections to explore. This evening we return to Bellapais Abbey for our farewell dinner and final performance from London Festival Opera, 'A Night at the Opera'. The artists will appear in period costume for an added visual impact in the historic setting.

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



Roman theatre at Soli



Ruins of St Hilarion Castle

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR FIRST FIVE BOOKINGS

Hotel room with balcony	£1895
Garden villa	£2095
Hotel room with balcony for sole occupancy	£2195

Supplement for additional seven nights on half board basis without excursions

Hotel room with balcony	£395
Garden villa	£495
Hotel room with balcony for sole occupancy	£495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, seven nights accommodation at Onar Village on half board basis (breakfast and dinner), Farewell Dinner at Bellapais Abbey, lunches during excursions on days 2, 3, 4 and 5, three London Festival Opera performances, excursions with local guide, entrance fees, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, gratuities.



ONAR VILLAGE

The Onar Village has an enviable location just outside Kyrenia occupying elevated ground with magnificent views over the sea and surrounded by lovely gardens. The relaxing and traditional hospitality at the family-run hotel make the Onar Village an ideal retreat for a relaxing break.

Your Accommodation

There are 18 garden villas and 44 hotel rooms. Both types of accommodation are air-conditioned and offer considerable comfort. The garden villas with mezzanine are set amongst landscaped pine tree gardens and consist of a double bedroom, sitting room, bathroom, kitchen, dining area, television, telephone and large patio. The hotel rooms are spacious and well designed with a balcony, bathroom, television, telephone and mini-bar and with a view of the pool and coastline or mountains.

Your Space

The facilities include a large restaurant with sea views, a bar with outdoor terrace, an outside swimming pool with bar, indoor swimming pool, lounge and library. There is also a complimentary daily shuttle service to and from the town and free Wi-Fi in the restaurant, lounge and pool area. An unusual feature of the hotel is the small museum which displays a private collection of rare artefacts from the archaeological history of Cyprus.



Swimming pool with views of Kyrenia



Hotel room with balcony



Garden Villa



View over Kyrenia from hotel room balcony



Indoor pool



Hotel grounds



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Bellapais Abbey.