

discover the real Cyprus

A self - drive tour to create your own adventure

village route - 1

Central and Western
Lemesos (Limassol) District

Published by
Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative



CSTI is affiliated to

the
travel foundation
caring for places we love to visit



Introducing the C.S.T.I.



C.S.T.I.
CYPRUS SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM INITIATIVE

Tourism has changed dramatically over the years, and today's holidaymakers are more discerning; you want much more than sunshine and sand. You want to try a new sport, a new leisure activity or visit a little known village. You really want your holiday to be a memorable one.

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (C.S.T.I) has been formed by people in the tourism industry to meet these challenges because Cyprus has something special to offer all individuals - you just need to know what's available! Members of the C.S.T.I include Cosmos, First Choice, My Travel, Sunvil, Thomas Cook, and Thomson (Tui-UK), village communities, village producers and craftspeople and various environmental organisations. C.S.T.I is affiliated to the Travel Foundation.

One of the ways the C.S.T.I is meeting these changing needs is through the production of a series of Village Routes. This is the first of a series of six routes. The routes will encourage holidaymakers to discover the 'real' Cyprus. This will help boost the economy and regenerate people's lives in the villages. Some of them have lost out

due to tourism in coastal areas. The C.S.T.I village route has been specially designed to help you discover a very different Cyprus - one where time and tradition are linked to passing seasons, where craftspeople follow the traditions of their grandparents and the Cyprus that was once Aphrodite's playground!

Through its work, the C.S.T.I promotes conservation, the protection of the environment and the sensible use of natural resources so that the Cyprus of today can be enjoyed by the holidaymakers of tomorrow. So not only will you have valuable memories to take away with you but you will have put a little something back into rural Cyprus. Your visit here will have had a positive impact on local communities. Thank you for enjoying the 'real' Cyprus.



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Kalosorisate - A Village Welcome

Away from the bustle of the coast, step back in time and discover the real Cyprus! A place unchanged for generations, where traditional life goes on in the hilltop villages and surrounding vineyards, olive groves and farms.

Experience breathtaking views, ancient traditions, festivals and sacred places from the past. Take time out and wander through the cobbled streets - enjoy the wonderful hospitality, with locally produced wine and delicious delicacies from the region.

Create your own adventure ... a whole new experience of Cyprus awaits you!

This booklet has all the information you need to experience the real Cyprus: what to do, see, where to eat, drink and buy local crafts and produce. Roads are smooth and well signposted to ensure an easy drive and a truly memorable visit.

Ω

Like the Greek letter Omega (Ω) our tour is not quite a circle. It takes you through some of the finest scenery in Cyprus, with some lovely little detours or even separate tours. You can go right around in a day, you can do part of the route in one day and part on another, or you can break your journey as you wish.

* Where possible we have given dates of village festivals and other special events. If dates are not shown, the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) or your travel representative can help you. Likewise if you need help making reservations at a particular taverna, please ask them.



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How to Use This Guide:

There are many sites to visit and rich natural beauty on this village route, which will take you through the "Krasochoria" (wine producing villages) of Cyprus. You do not have to stop at every village or visit every site listed in the guide. You can choose to visit some highlights and stop in other places for food or drinks. You should not miss the **Oleastro Olive Park**, especially if you have children with you, the **Pera Pedi**, where you can enjoy a walk by the river to the old village, the stunning scenery on the road from **Arsos to Agios Nicolaos**, the **Kolossi Castle**, Headquarters of the Crusader Knights of St. John Hospitaller, the **Erimi Wine Museum** and the **Akrotiri Peninsula** with its' salt lake, which in the spring and autumn hosts more than 260 species of migratory birds. Please be advised that the prices and opening hours listed in the guide may change. To avoid disappointment (particularly during the pruning and harvesting time) do call ahead of time if the guide indicates that you need to pre-arrange your visit to a site. Enjoy your drive and do not forget to fill out the evaluation form at the back of the book. You can drop it into the basket with the CSTI logo at one of the sites along the route. Your opinion counts and your suggestions will help CSTI to improve this route, but also develop subsequent village routes. You may even win the prize!

Symbols used in this booklet

[DA]	Access for disabled
[CH]	Facilities for children
[V]	Vegetarians catered for
[CC-M]	Non-electronic Credit Cards Accepted
[CC]	All Major Credit Cards accepted

A word about tavernas...

Tavernas - unless otherwise stated, offer a selection of traditional Cypriot snacks and dishes and many serve the famous Meze which is a selection of 15-20 small portions of local hot and cold seasonal dishes that give a tasty insight into Cypriot cuisine! Some of the larger tavernas also offer international dishes and an à la carte menu. In Cyprus it is usual for bread and salad to accompany all meals and visitors are often served a complimentary bottle of house wine with their meal or dessert or local liqueur afterwards.

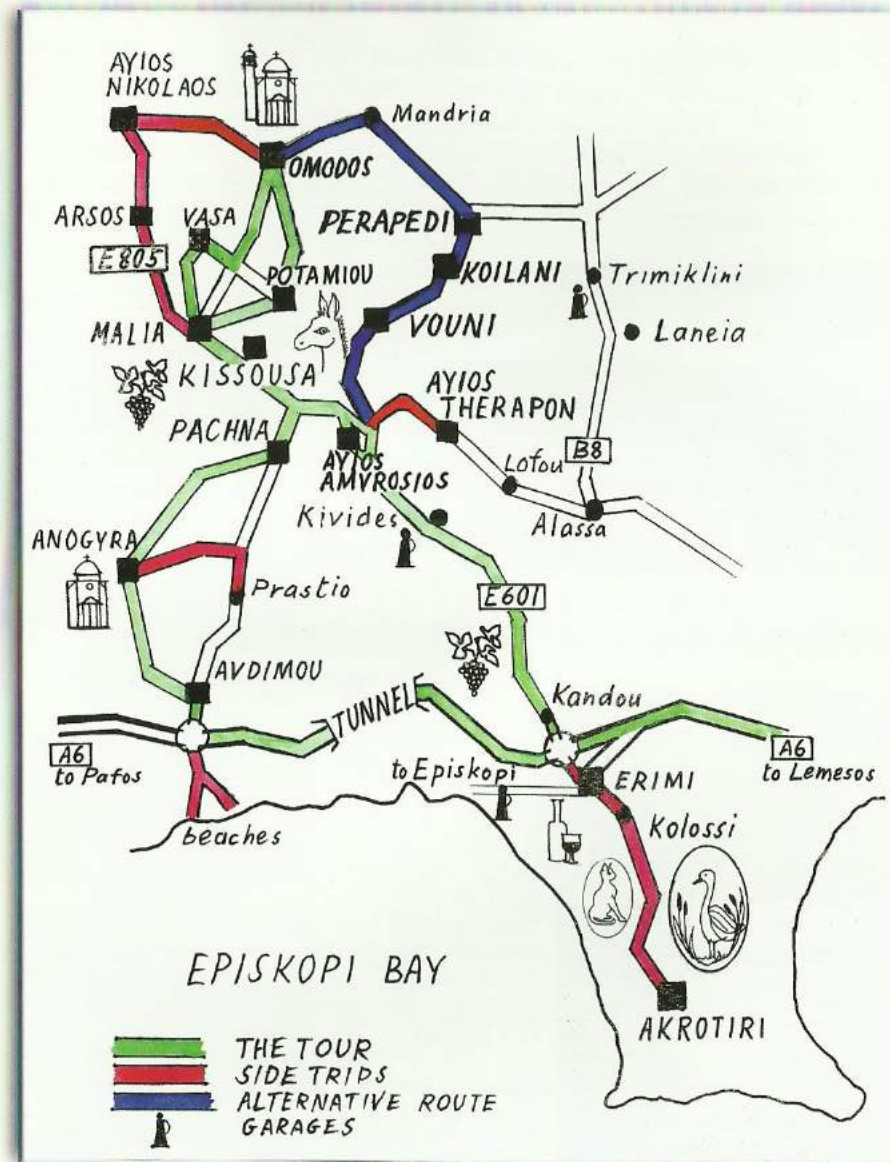
Outward Bound

Starting from Lemesos (Limassol)

Take the A6 highway from Lemesos westwards towards Pafos. If you wish to enjoy the coast at Avdimou, take the left-hand turning at the Avdimou junction. If your first destination is going to be Anogyra take the right-hand turning.

Starting from Pafos

Travel along the A6 from Pafos eastwards towards Lemesos. Take the Avdimou turning - and at the junction at the top of the slip road, turn right for the beach, or left for the village of Anogyra. You will reach Avdhimou first.



Avdimou

The village of Avdimou and the beach hamlet are situated on opposite sides of the Lemesos - Pafos highway. The village itself is in two parts; the older part with its assortment of buildings - including a minaret- and the newer part, with buildings lining part of the road to Prastio and Pachna. It is quiet, pleasant and friendly. Coffee shops, supermarkets, patisserie.

Restaurants and Tavernas

In the village: **Famagusta Taverna** (Tel. 25-221545) Open every day except Mondays, 18.00 - 21.30 for food, and until midnight for drinks. Bright and cheerful with a roaring log fire in the winter. Good grills and Cyprus mezé.

[DA] [CH] [V]

Kyrenia Beach (Tel. 25-991070, 99-679451) Close to the long beach, ideal for swimming and sunning. The 'KB' as it is popularly known, is open every day 09.00-15.30 and 17.30 - 21.30. March-November. Local and international dishes served. [WA] [CH] [V] [CCM].



Melanda Beach

(Tel.99-422233, 99-565336) Pebbly beach, with cliff side and cove walks with small secluded bays. Open daily (except Monday evening). March-April & November only for lunch 09.00-17.00, May - October 09.00-22.00. Fresh local fish and other local specialities. Sunday roast Cyprus-style, cooked in the traditional oven. Booking for this essential! (DA)(CH) (V) (CCM).

To reach **Anogyra**, drive through Avdimou village, turn left at the sign off the main road, then turn right at the butcher shop and follow the signs to Anogyra.

Anogyra

Anogyra is a very attractive village with plenty of traditional style architecture. Many buildings have been restored, using locally quarried limestone. Wander in the pretty cobbled streets. Anogyra was the regional centre for the important carob trade and caravans of camels and donkeys used to head down to the jetty at Avdimou carrying panniers laden with carobs for export.

The road to Anogyra is good quality, but with several sharp bends - so take your time. As you approach the village, a few meters before the sharp bend at the towering rock, on your left, you will see the **Apicreni** -not bitter water- spring, said by many to be the best water in the area. After the next sharp bend stands the 14th century



Monastery of Timios Stavros - The Monastery of the Holy Cross - on your right. It is worth stopping to see as the main building has been restored and there are traces of old frescoes.



Just past the monastery, as you approach the "Welcome to Anogyra" sign and directly opposite the sign, is the Anogyra cemetery, which contains the "**tripimeni petra**", a large pierced monolith. Mothers pass their sick babies through the hole of the monolith as this is said to restore infants to good health.

Late in September the village celebrates the end of the carob harvest with its **Pastelli Festival**. Pastelli, (which you can buy in the village) is *carob toffee*. Why not try a jar of Teratsomelo - carob syrup? Delicious spread on toast or poured on local yoghurt. It is a good marinade for lamb and other grilled or roasted meats.

Pastelli Museum: Discover the story of the carob - once a mainstay of Cyprus diet and a major export. The museum is located 2 houses down from the winery junction on your left. Contact Savvas and Yiota Stavrinou, on 25-222357.

Tavernas

Anogyra Tavern is located at the entrance of the village, just past the cemetery, on your right. (25-222444) Open every day from 18.00-22.00 and Sunday for lunch only, April -November. [WA] [CH] [V] [CCM]

Nicolas Taverna and Swimming Pool is located in the centre of the village, a few meters down the street from the Church of Archangelos Mikhail. (25-221584, 99681637). Open every day 10.00 - 22.00 May until December. Vegetarian meals can be pre-arranged. Large pool for visitors' enjoyment. [WA] [CH] [V] [CCM]



Winery

To find the **Nicolaides** family winery, turn left at the "Y" junction which you find before you reach the centre of the village. There you can look, taste and buy from their range of good wines that runs from very dry white to a delicious liqueur wine. Third generation winemaker Nicos Nicolaides got his training in France on one of the best oenology courses.

Tours by prior arrangement.
Tel: 25-221709

Fairs and Events

Pastelli Festival - usually held on the third Saturday in September. In August there are musical and Greek drama performances.

Anogyra (website: www.anogyra.org)

Leaving Anogyra, follow the signs to Oleastro, turn right off the main road and follow the track up the hill to the Olive Park.



Oleastro Olive Park

Incorporating the Olive Park, Museum and Mill, this is essential visiting! (Tel. 99-525093, 99-565768) Open daily 10.00- 19.00. Entry fee £1.50 Adults, & 1.00 Children.



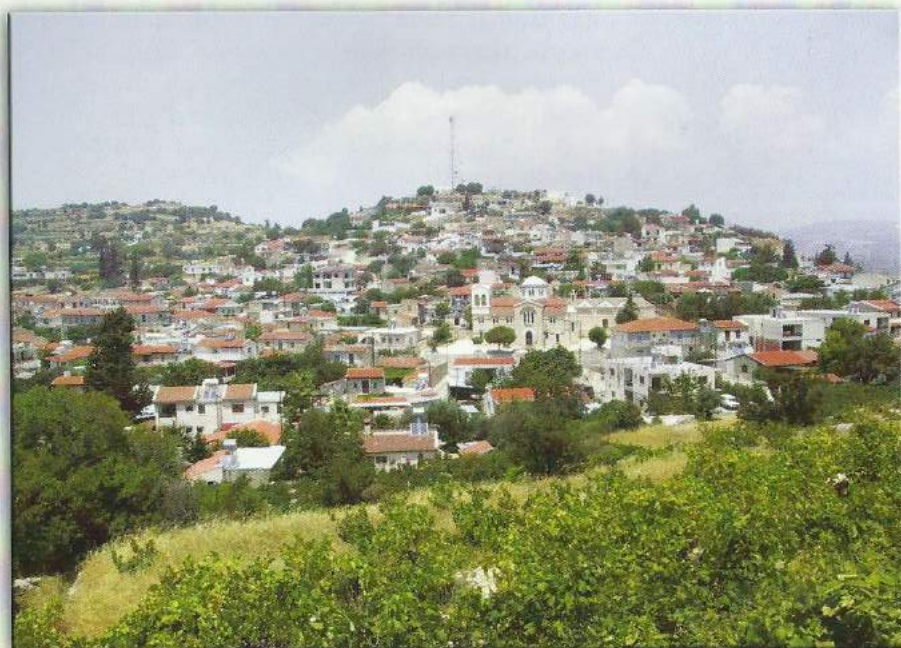
In the depths of winter, sit on a cold, dark evening with a warm drink and some bread dipped in olive oil to eat and watch thousands of kilos of newly-harvested olives from countless local farmers processed in this state-of-the-art ecological olive mill, which produces the finest virgin olive oil - much of it from organic olives. In summer stroll through this open air interactive museum which takes you through the long, long history of the olive and explains what it has done for man, and indeed what man has done with it!

Oleastro is a privately owned working olive press, with ecological olive groves, museum and centre of rural crafts - all related to the olive. It is an inspiring enterprise. Here Andreas and Lina have recreated rural Cyprus with a watermill and exhibits show the use of olives, the wood and oil in the traditional Cypriot house, with a soap making cavern, and olive wood craft shop. You can buy pure olive oil and lots of related gifts and souvenirs. You can enjoy a Cypriot meal in the new **Oregano Organic Cafe** while watching the "60 Thousand Years of Olive Civilization" film. Children can play in the playground, or enjoy a pony ride for £1.00. Oleastro also offers group demonstrations. You can find out about events at Oleastro by e-mailing Lina and Andreas info@oleastro.com.cy or by visiting Oleastro website www.oleastro.com.cy

Pachna

Situated on three ridges at an altitude of 745 metres, Pachna - divided into Pano (Upper) and Kato (Lower) Pachna - is a large, busy village of about 1,000, which has not suffered such an exodus of young people to the towns as other villages, so it has preserved its traditional style and customs, as well as thriving businesses and rural industry. It sits in the heart of the wine vineyards. Today there is a vibrant feeling about it and this includes strong religious ties that are reflected in the fact that there are seven churches in the village - several of which are well worth visiting.

Coming from Anogyra, before you enter Pachna and right after the cemetery, look for the *Yaskouris Winery on your left hand. At the "Welcome to Pachna" sign, the road to your right hand will take you to Pano Pachna where you will find the **Byzantine Church of Agios Yeoryios** (St. George). The main road will take you to Kato Pachna and to the Linos Restaurant and the Church of **Agion Petrou and Pavlou** (Saint Peter and Paul). The chapel of **Agia Marina** is on the hill outside the village to the north.



Ask where you can buy local cheese and the finest yogurt and honey, too, or relax over a coffee and a snack.

Restaurants / Tavernas:

Linus (Tel: 25-942106) Traditional Cypriot food available. Open every day, but telephone at least three days in advance to book a table. [V]



Aphrodite Restaurant - popularly known as "*Nick the Fish*" is the last building on the cliff as you leave Pachna, on the main Limassol road. (Tel: 25-942082) This is run by husband and wife; he catches the fish, she cooks it! Simple! Good food; really fresh fish. Meat kebabs are also available. This restaurant seems to cling to the cliffside and you can see fabulous views towards the mountains and the lights of seven villages at night. Open evenings only. [WA] [V]

Wineries

Yaskouris. (Tel. 25-944141, 99-633730) Long and well established family run winery with good range of red, white and rosé wines. Visitors welcome, but by appointment only.

Monolithos (Tel. 25-816212) Interesting family winery, with stunning views. Visitors welcome by appointment, Monday - Friday 09.00-18.00. Contact Martin Wood at the winery (he also arranges walks, free of charge). For Saturday and Sunday visits please telephone 22-312255, 99-557457.

Leave Pachna taking the sign-posted road to Lemesos. When you get to E601 turn left for Omodos or right for Prastio.

On your way to Prastio, about 2km south from Pahnna a rural road on your left hand will take you to the **Byzantine Church of Agios Stefanos** (St. Stephen) and cemetery. Near the church is another of the large Monoliths (**tripimeni petra**) found in a triangle (Apollo Temple - Agios Stefanos - Yeroskipou) in this area of the island. Their origin and use remain a mystery to archeologists. Some believe that they were used as part of the olive pressing, while others believe they were used as instruments for prophesizing coming events and connect these monoliths to the worship of Apollo and Aphrodite and the study of the stars.

Prastio

This village nestles amidst pretty scenery. The medieval church of "**Panagia Diakinousa**" is actually 'three churches in one' - the two older chapels are 14th century, and one was possibly part of a monastery. The barrel-vaulted part is the third and dates from the 18th century. The church is at the outskirts of the village. To find it, drive through the village on the main road and turn right just before the last village houses. Park next to the iron gates. The church is below.

Prastio Village Taverna (25-222553, 99-795468) serves good traditional Cypriot food and is opposite the school. As you come into

the village from the Pachna direction the school is on your right. The taverna is open daily 18.00 -23.00 for dinner. Special fish mezé is served on Wednesdays. [DA] [CH] [V].

To continue your tour, turn around and drive back to E601. Follow the signs to Mallia and Omodos.



Mallia

A pleasant village which is situated on one of the island's main wine routes. The main activities in the area are grape growing in the vineyards owned by KEO for its winery. Both red and white grape varieties flourish here. You can park in the main square opposite the taverna Platanos.

The **Tzami** (Mosque) dates from the early 19th century. Like many other villages in Cyprus, before the Turkish invasion of July 1974 it had a mixed population of Christian Greek Cypriots and Muslim Turkish Cypriots and the mosques in the Republic of Cyprus are testament to this. They are kept in good repair by the Cyprus Government.

Taverna Platanos (Tel:25-944944): Open daily 09.00 - late. In the winter it is closed on Mondays. [DA] [CH] [V]

Winery: The KEO winery is on the right as you take a right hand turn into the village. It is one of the country's four main wine producers and it established this big modern winery with large vineyards eight years ago. Please arrange visits by telephoning first 25-942131 (open every day).

Village Fair (choresperida) held in August each year and there are stalls selling local specialities and drinks as well as traditional crafts.

To leave Malia, turn right on the village main road, then right again to get back to E601. Only a kilometre or so you will see a turning to "Vasa - Old Road".

Take this road and pass (or linger at) Ariadne's Taverna (see page14) and then join the 'main' road into Vasa.



Vasa

Vasa has been inhabited since ancient Greek times and its name comes from the old Greek word 'Vissa', which means 'wooded valley'. Drive down through the valley. As you round the sharp bend at the bottom, you go across a stream and there on your left is the pretty little church of **Agios Yeoryios** (Saint George). The door is not locked and a peep inside will reveal some important old frescoes dating from the 15th century: On a hot day, there is a lovely cool spot to rest awhile under the shady trees.

Up the hill and into the village, there is parking outside the Vasa Winery, which makes some of the best wine in Cyprus. To visit, you must make an appointment first (*). This is worth doing, because it is quite an experience! Not only is the building an up-to-the-minute jewel winemaking establishment but a living museum of old winemaking equipment, too. This is appropriate because Vasa has a very long history of winemaking and examples of the huge terracotta pots (**Pitharia**) in which the wine was once fermented and stored are everywhere.

To park, drive into the village and follow the signs for Lemesos and you will find space to park next to the taverna. Walk on into the village centre with the **Evangelismos Church**, small shops and two tavernas. Lots of houses are currently being restored, the streets are cobbled and the **Ecclesiastical Museum** is well worth a visit to see historic religious paintings, robes and other artefacts.

After a good walk, during which you may well be befriended by English-speaking Cypriots - some of whom may be seen relaxing in the coffee shop or playing Tavli (backgammon) - you can retire to one of the tavernas in the village.

Tavernas

Ariadne's Taverna. (25-944064, 25-942185). Ariadne's Taverna is on the Vasa Old Road, at the top of the hill where the road bends and merges with the main road that leads into Vasa. Ariadne is one of the best cooks of Cyprus food and her mezé is outstandingly good and reasonably priced. Vasa wines are served here too - at exceptionally good prices. Open daily 08.00 (for breakfast) - 23.00 [DA] [CH] [V]

Palati (Tel. 25-943888) is owned and run by the Mukhtar (village Mayor) and serves good traditional Cypriot fare at reasonable prices. It is open every day from 10.00 - midnight, closed on Wednesdays and Sunday evenings [V] [CH].

Pyrgos Taverna (Tel. 25-942655, 99-491455) is in the old school building, adjacent to the main church and well sign-posted. The location is wonderful, especially on a warm evening when you can dine on the terrace overlooking the rooftops of Vasa. This is a Mezé place, the minimum order is for two people and the meal fills you up with freshly cooked seasonal dishes. Open daily (closed on Thursdays) 12.30 - 16.00, and 19.00 - 23.00 [V] [CH].

The Vasa Kilaniou Ecclesiastical Museum: (25-944227) just off the centre of the village, after the Evangelismos Church and before the Palati Taverna on your right hand, (you will be directed to it easily) is well worth a visit. There are religious paintings (icons dating from 14 -19th centuries), religious vestments and fascinating items like a medieval silver spoon connected with the marriage of King James II of Cyprus to the Venetian noblewoman Caterina Cornaro (1472) and a small bell looted from Napoleon's fleet! Please pre-arrange your visit.

Other items of interest:

Folk Museum - Leonidas Nicolaou, (Tel.99-341829, 25-942188) Open every day, but check by telephoning first.

Festivals: Wine Festival (mid-August), Palouzé Festival (mid-late September)

(*) **Vasa Winery** with outstanding historical section, owned and directed by Pambos Argyrides. Visits by appointment (Tel:25-945999, 25-945888).

From Vasa, or Mallia, you may take the road to Arsos and make a loop round to Agios Nikolaos and Omodos.



Arsos

There are many versions concerning the name of Arsos. The name may have originated from the ancient Greek word "alsos" which means small forest and may relate to the holy forest of goddess Aphrodite. This large, unspoilt village is set amongst hills of chalky rock, 830m above sea level. It has a traditional ambience about it, with old houses built in the same local style as several new buildings. The natural beauty of Arsos emerges when you take the **Six Fountains** nature trail through the valley on the northwest of the village. You can admire the flora which includes more than 40 kinds of trees such as terebinth, aspen, walnut and platan (plane) trees and the fauna which includes foxes, endemic and migrating birds and rare species of butterflies. Six traditional fountains are placed along the trail. Ask a local for guidance.



Ancient church.

The Church of **Apostolos Philippos**, who is the patron saint of Arsos, stands in the centre of the village near the plaza. The church was re-built on the same site of the older church, which was built in the 13th century. The **Iconostasi** of the church constitutes a wooden piece of art. Near the big church stands the smaller church of **Agia Mariame**, who was the sister of Apostolos Philippos. Agia's Mariame church is used as an **Ecclesiastical Museum**. The chapel of **Panagia Katholiki** (Catholic) is on the west side. Open Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 13:00. Thursday also open from 15:00 - 18:00. Tel: 25-943223

Folk Art Museum

If you want to learn about the village's heritage and traditions visit the **Folk Art Museum**, near the central plaza. The museum houses a collection of traditional agriculture tools and old photographs. (Tel. 25-943223). Open Monday - Friday 08.00 -13.00 and on Thursday afternoon 15.00 -18.00

Fairs and Events

Traditional Music Night - late July each year
Village Fair (Choresperida)-held in mid-August.
Palouzé Festival - held on the last Sunday of September
Saint's Day (Panayiri) of Apostolos Philippos, 14th November.

Winery

Nikolettino Winery (99-437137) This winery has an adventurous range of wines, made from both indigenous and imported grape varieties. Visitors are welcome but phone first to arrange your visit.

Tavernas

Michalakis Karagiannis Restaurant: (Tel. 25-944193) Open every day for rural Cypriot food, but you should call to book 2-3 days in advance [WA] [CH] [V].

Krasotaverna Arsos (Wine Tavern Arsos) (Tel. 99-927020, 99-138358) Open every day from 08.00 - midnight for traditional rural Cypriot fare. [WA] [CH] [V].

Coffee Shop & Breakfast Dimitra Kazouli (Tel.25-944117,99-33 5103) Open every day 07.40 -20.00. This coffee shop has organic soujouko to taste and to buy.

website: www.arsos.org

From Arsos take the road to **Agios Nikolaos**. Turn left and there is a gorgeous scenic route to take you to Pafos. You may venture a little way down this road to the simple -but most enjoyable- tavernas. The adventurous can travel down small roads to the sign-posted bridges which cross the river bed.



Retrace your steps just a little and continue your Omega Tour to **Omodos**. This road has some of the most breathtaking scenery in Cyprus, with vineyards as far as the eye can see, with a backdrop of spectacular valleys and mountains.

Omodos

Omodos is a busy, large village that is extremely popular with tourists, so do not attempt to drive through it. Park in the allocated parking outside the village. Omodos is a centre of regional wine and well known for lace making. Wander through the picturesque narrow streets, with their traditional houses and courtyards, often with ladies sitting in doorways and courtyards (*avli*) embroidering the lace on dark-coloured cushions. The glass showroom of **Demps** is also a place to visit although glass-blowing is usually done in a separate workshop.



Among the attractions of Omodos are **Timios Stavros Monastery**, at the bottom of the square, which possesses the largest door key in Cyprus; **Linos**, the village's famous old wine press (which can be found just off the Square); **Apostolos Philippos Chapel**; and traditional Cypriot houses now open as ethnographical museums.

Other sights:

Galleries, picture exhibitions, private museums, and the **Centre for the Preservation of Narrow-Knit Lacing**. There are local crafts, including the herb shop with soaps and other locally made products and lace embroidery shops.

Tavernas

There are lots of places to eat in and around Omodos. Mostly you will find inexpensive Cyprus grills and *Mezé* - often with the proprietor's own wine.

Wineries

Omodos is one of the main regional wine centres of Cyprus. There are four wineries here and all can be visited.

Omodos marks the mid-way point in our tour. As you can see from the route map, there are several ways to return to the Lemesos - Pafos Motorway. You may go back mainly on the E601, with some detours, or you may take a loop going eastwards.

Option 1: Take a side-road from Omodos to Potamiou

Just below the main car park in Omodos there is a pretty, rural road to Potamiou, from where you can rejoin the E601. Hikers can take a track across the river and up the hills to Vouni, as well as other villages. This is not suitable for ordinary cars.

Potamiou

A very pretty small village crouched in a river valley. There are watercress beds and lovely trees, flowers and rich vegetation. What is unusual for a village of this size is that it is said to have produced many fine scholars. See the ruined church bearing the name of **Agios (Saint) Mnason**, who is said to have accompanied the **Apostles Paul and Barnabas** when they were in Cyprus and the large three-aisled church of **Agia Marina** (1551A.D.) in the centre of the village with its unusual octagonal dome.

Kissousa

A tiny village just off the E601, steeped in greenery near a river bed, with a pleasing public area, where you can relax awhile. There is a natural spring in Kissousa and the water is said to be some of the best in Cyprus and the local honey is pretty good too! The bee hives are some of the oldest in Cyprus, constructed in a very old fashioned style using clay, but near the church in a hollow tree is a beehive that is more than 100 years old.

As you continue driving southwards, you may divert to some other very interesting villages: Vouni, Koilani and Agios Therapon.



Agios Amvrosios

Lying in a shallow valley surrounded by vineyards, many of them organically cultivated, Agios Amvrosios is a small thriving modern village.

The Ayios Amvrosios Organic Winery-Oekologiki Oenotechnia, located at the entrance of the village, on the main Omodos-Limasol road, (25-943981, 99-442472) This was the first ecological winery in Cyprus to receive certification from the international organisation LACON for making wine organically from local grapes. Established in 1988 by Mrs Ioanna Panayiotou (spokesperson of the Cyprus Green Party), it was one of the first 'independent' wineries in Cyprus and is open Monday -Thursday 07.30 -16.00, Friday 07.30 -15.00. Best to ring before you go.

Agia Elisabeth Chapel: The small chapel of Agia Elisabeth with its Byzantine frescoes is about 2 km southwest of the village. It is worth a visit, since this is the only church in Cyprus dedicated to Agia Elisabeth. You can enjoy the quietness next to the small creek that runs (in the winter and spring) behind the chapel. To get there, turn right on the dirt road before you exit the village, just before you get on the Limassol-Kivides main road.



Taverna

The Sykaminia (25-942650) is signposted from the main road. Open April - November, weekdays 10.00 -midnight, weekends 08.00 -midnight). Winter open daily 13.00-23.00 Good, fresh and inexpensive food [DA] [CH] [V].

Old Kivides (Pano Kivides)

Going south (towards the coast) on the E601 just below Agios Amvrosios, before you enter Kivides, you will see a sign to the left to Old Kivides. It's worth a small detour. The road from the E601 is steep and winding and is in part cobbled as was the traditional rural style for many years. This pretty deserted village was built on clay ground and every winter the whole village would slide a bit farther down the hill. In the early 1960's the inhabitants demanded that they be moved to a safer ground in what is now the large and modern village of Kivides. Do drive down (it's perfectly safe, but don't wander into the deserted buildings) and look at the old church and other buildings. Back on the main road, there is a petrol station, small shops and places to eat.

OPTION 2: Agios Therapon

Driving south, with the Ecological Winery of Agios Amvrosios on your right, 100 metres farther on there is a turn to the left to **Agios Therapon**. Therapon is the patron saint of Medicine. Situated on a promontory 800 metres above sea level, Agios Therapon enjoys wonderful views of the valleys



down towards the coast and up towards the Troodos mountains. Park the car just before the modern community taverna and enjoy a stroll along the main street. You will soon find the coffee shop, with a welcoming proprietor and nearby you can often buy organic local produce including village-made honey (wonderful!) and yoghurt.

Civic Taverna (25-943091, 99-630077, 99-325396) Open Friday and Saturday evenings 18.00-late, Sunday 12.00 -16.00 Traditional Cyprus food: Mezé and daily specials (e.g delicious. traditional casseroles). Vegetarian meals by prior arrangement. [DA] [V]

You may retrace your steps to Agios Amvrosios if you wish. Or you may take the cross country road to Lofou and Alassa, where you join the main B8 road down to Lemesos.

OPTION 3: Mandria, Pera Pedi, Koilani, Vouni

Leave Omodos on the road sign-posted to **Mandria** and **Platres**, and follow the signs for Pera Pedi, Koilani and Vouni - everywhere you will see wonderful views!

Mandria

Mandria was once two villages, each side of the little river that runs through the valley. This is a lively progressive village, and no one is more helpful than the Town Clerk - Anaxagoras 'Anax' Constantinides - who will be pleased to talk to you and guide you.

Telephone 25-422223, 25-813024 or 99-335863.

Taverna

Mandria Restaurant

(Tel: 25-421221) is open every day 08.00-22.00, for drinks, snacks and meals. Cyprus grills, salads and Mezé. Local wines too. [WA] [CH] [V]



Castellanos Shop and Herb Farm

You will find the Castellanos Herb Shop on the village main road, 50m past the church, to your right. There, you can buy essential oils, herbal teas and a variety of organically cultivated culinary herbs including mint, thyme, oregano and siderites (good for anemia.) The Castellanos



herb farm is 2km from the shop, outside the village. To get there, follow the Castellanos Herb Farm signs. Open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 09:00 to 14:00. For other days call Eleni at 25-433961 or 99-463927.

Pera Pedi

Like every village in Cyprus, Pera Pedi has a character all of its own. The road from Mandria to Saittas cuts through the middle of the village. The older part is on the right with some beautiful, traditional-style houses and streets that are a riot of lavender, roses and shrubs. On the left-hand side there is another, newer residential area, hidden away up in pine woods. The main street doesn't have much traffic and it is leafy and shady, with several coffee shops, a taverna and village shop, so start your «Peripato» (walk) here.

From the main street coffee shops (stathmos) stop over, directly across from the Neromylos Taverna, you can walk along the stone paved riverside walkway, which will lead you to **Agios Nikolaos** church in the centre of the old village. The church dates from the 18th century with icons from the 16th century. The remains of **St Spyridon, Neophytos and Philippos** are also kept in the church. Within a short walk from the church is one of the best examples of traditional stone houses. Making a short detour you can see the traditional watermill «Neromylos» just behind the car park.

You will soon see the **KEO** winery, currently being restored. It was the first 'modern' winery in Cyprus, established in 1894 by the English Chaplin family and sold to KEO in 1928. Millions of kilos of grapes are processed here every year. It is being developed as an agrotourism project.

Neromylos Taverna

(Tel: 25-470536, 99-436305). Open every day except Monday, from 12.30 till late, offering mezé and a la Carte Cypriot dishes. Gabriela presides over the kitchen whilst husband Chrysis ensures that diners enjoy their meal and likes to cook over charcoal. [WA] [CH] [V] [CC]



Winery: Costas Constantinou has made excellent orange and coffee liqueurs for some years, but in 2002 started producing table wines. They are young, fresh, fruity and very modestly priced. His small winery is situated 100 metres down the road from Pera Pedi to Koilani and is worth a visit. Best to telephone to arrange your visiting time Tel: 99-68 1431.

Drive straight on from here to Koilani and Vouni.

Koilani

Scattered on a hillside, lovely shaded streets and interesting building - a very traditional village. To find your way around, check the village map which is located at the parking lot, at the entrance (coming from Mandria) of the village. Visit the churches of **Panagia** and **Monogenis**. Within the Monogenis Church there is the **Ecclesiastical Museum**. To visit, call at least one day beforehand: Tel 99-302086.

Wine museum - Viticulture Museum. Open every day, but phone to make arrangements in advance- 25-471008.

Winery: Paradosiako Oenopoieio Takis & Sons

This traditional winery (which is not far from the parking lot) specializes in the making of Palouzé and Soujouko. Call Mario or Takis to arrange a visit. Phone: 25471616 or 99563563

Taverna: Politistiko Kentro (Cultural Centre) Anthoula Sofokleous. (Tel. 25-470394) Open April - October daily 07.00-midnight. In the winter, by arrangement. [WA][CH][V][CCM].

Agia Mavri

On the main road about 4km below Koilani, is the tiny 15th century church of Agia Mavri. According to local legend, Agia Mavri wanted to enter the convent, but her parents arranged her marriage to an older wealthy man. During the wedding reception she fled. Everyone was searching for her and in desperation she prayed to **Our Lady** as she beat the rocks with her hands. The rocks parted and swallowed her up and at that moment the spring began to flow. On this spot the villagers built the church. Close by, stands the largest plane tree in Cyprus.

Tavernas

Ta Tria Pefka (Tel 25-470046) Open in the summer on Sundays 10.00-21.00. Other times by arrangement. [CH] [V]

Agia Mavri Restaurant/Taverna

(Tel: 25-470542) Open every day 08.30 - midnight for snacks, grills, à la Carte Cyprus food and Mezé. Closed on Mondays in the winter. [WA] [CH] [V] [CCM]



Wineries

Agia Mavri Winery. Tel: 25-470225, 99-341535

Vlasides Winery. Tel: 25-471482, 99-441574.

Costas Erimoudes Winery. Tel: 99-625826

Vardalis Winery. Tel. 25-470261

Festivals: KEO festival in June. Afamia Palouzé Festival, 1st week in October.

Vouni

This delightful, unspoilt hillside village, nestles amongst almond trees and vineyard clad hills. Vouni's Old houses with their Venetian arches, some restored, others waiting for development and many of the village's other attractions are protected by the Department of Antiquities. Park and stroll through the steep cobbled streets and leafy lanes.

The Cyprus Donkey Sanctuary

Open every day from 10.00.-16.00. More than 130 loveable unwanted and retired working donkeys waiting to welcome you! Visitors may feed, groom and take a donkey for a walk. Shop and refreshments. Tel:25-945488 Website: www.donkeycyprus.com



Icon Museum The museum is housed in the Church of **Agios Ioannis**. By appointment. Call Nicolas Neroupos at 99-540605 or 25-943377

Koinotiko Museio (Local Community Museum) This museum houses traditional agriculture tools, a traditional bread baking stone oven, a zivania distiller and a traditional olive press. Call Nicolas Neroupos, the village Mayor, at 99-540605 who will open the museum for you. He will also direct you to the Havouzas, the olive press, the village library and the Icon Museum and show you the 500 years old **Tromithos** (terebinth tree).

Havouzas (the village has 2 of these old water fountains): In the old days village people were getting their water from these Havouzas with their many basins. Women would gather there to do their laundry and fill their clay pots to carry water home. Close to (one of) the havouzas stands tall the 300 years old **Platanos** (plane) Tree.

Vouni Art Gallery A permanent group exhibition with paintings, prints and gift ideas. The gallery is on the lower edge of the village clearly marked from the main road. Open every afternoon from 14.00. Ring at other times to book an appointment 99-775426.

Local Industry Bacon Factory: traditional Loukanika, Salami and other goodies, which you can try at Takis Taverna, or if you wish buy direct for eating at home!

Greek Restaurant and Cyprus Taverna

I Orea Hellas (Tel. 25-944328). Original and interesting cooking, with good Greek and Cypriot wines to accompany it! Open: June - October daily (except Monday) from 12.30 - 15.00, 20.00. - 22.30. November - May: Friday 19.30 - 22.00, Saturday 12.30 - 15.00, 19.30 - 22.00, Sunday 13.00 - 16.00. Must book in advance: [CH] [V] [CCM]

Takis Tavern It is open April - October every day 12.00-15.00 and 18.30-22.00. November to March: the same opening hours, but closed Tuesdays & Thursdays. Very good mezé and local wines. Must book in advance. (Tel:25-943631) [WA] [CH] [V]

Fairs and Festivals:

Saint's Day (Panayiri) of Chrysosotiros (meaning 'Our Saviour') is on 6 August - **Village Fair** (Horoesperida») mid-August each year.

Palouzé Festival - early September

OPTION 1: Take a side trip to Erimi

To reach Erimi from Limassol, take the Kolossi -Erimi exit off the A6 highway. The Cyprus Wine Museum, one of the highlights on this route, is located next to the Erimi Bridge on the old Limassol-Paphos road. There's nothing stuffy about this museum! It is a delight, with crisp and graphic layout of texts, pictures and artifacts, with interesting DVD presentations. These are a prelude to tasting and buying Cyprus wines, of which there is an eclectic selection with most of the wines made in Cyprus on display- soft drinks also available for drivers and children. Open every day 09.00 - 17.00 Admission: £2.50, Children £1.00. Family ticket £6.00.

Pambos Papadopoulos, phone: 25-873808

E-mail: cypruswinemuseum@cytanet.com.cy

OPTION 2: The Akrotiri peninsula

You can visit the Akrotiri Peninsula as part of the longer route, or you can visit the Peninsula another day when you want a short, relaxing trip through the citrus plantations that line the road from Fassouri to Akrotiri.



Kolossi Castle

The **Crusader Knights of St John Hospitaller** were granted land in this area in 1210 A.D. and Kolossi Castle was built as their headquarters (Commandery). Their main revenue came from sugar production and the factory can still be seen. They developed the island's already existing wine industry- in particular, the sweet dessert wine Commandaria that became well known in all the European courts. The castle is open daily June-August 09.00-19.30, Sep-May 09.00-17.00. Entrance fee £1.00

The Akrotiri peninsula is a unique place which is interesting for nature lovers. Geologically, the peninsula is a double tombolo - two strips of land formed by the alluvial deposits from two rivers. The lake in the middle is 2.7 metres below sea level and fills with sea water during the winter months, but this evaporates in the summer leaving a thick layer of sea salt. During the spring and autumn, the salt lake hosts 260 species of migratory birds and its reeds have long been used for basket-making by the villagers. The Merra are a series of freshwater lagoons and marshes in the area that are visited by migratory birds. The area has 27 different natural habitats and is a **Ramsar site**.

After 15 minutes drive from Kolossi, when you enter the Akrotiri Village, on the main road on your right, you will see the sign for The Akrotiri Environmental Information Centre.

The **Akrotiri Environmental Information Centre** overlooking the Salt Lake is a centre for exhibitions, displays, video and presentations and educational programmes about the unique natural elements of the Akrotiri peninsula. There is an observatory on the first floor which is popular when the flamingos are in Cyprus (in the winter months). Staff organise nature trails and visits into the village to see the basketmakers at work in Akrotiri village. The centre is open seven days a week 08.30-15.00. Telephone in advance to arrange walks and basketry visits 25-826562 or e-mail akrotiricentre@cytanet.com.cy

A few meters farther down, on the main road you will see the sign for the Monastery of St. Nicholas of the Cats. This same road will also take you to the Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education, which is located a few hundred feet behind the monastery.

The **Medieval Monastery of St Nicholas of the Cats** (Ayios Nikolaos ton Gatou) overlooks the Salt Lake and is said to have been founded by St Helena when she visited the island. She was so shocked by the

number of snakes she saw that she later returned from Egypt with a boat filled with cats. Today the monastery is a convent and the handful of nuns who live there care for hundreds of cats.



The Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education close to Lady's Mile Beach, is a centre for exhibitions, displays, video and educational programmes relating to the flora, fauna and abiotic elements of the Akrotiri peninsula. It is a world of nature in microcosm, with the wetland of **Despotiki Lake**, Nature Trails and the opportunity to see both local and migratory breeds of birds. You can access The Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education through the parking lot of the monastery. Call Mr. Spyros at 99-534478 for visiting hours.



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Glossary

Essential Greek

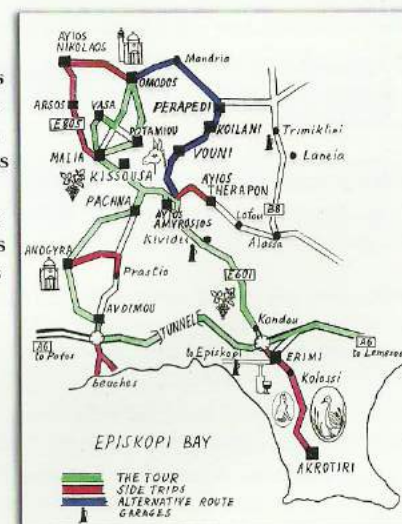
Kalimera	Good Morning
Kalispera	Good Evening
Kalinikta	Good Night
Yasass	Hello/ goodbye formally or to a group
Yassou	Hello/ goodbye informally or to one person
Parakalo	Please
Efharisto	Thank you
Simera	Today
Chtess	Yesterday
Avrio	tomorrow
Chorio	village
Pano	Upper village
Kato	Lower village
To logariasmo	The bill
Thecksia	Right
Aristera	Left
Ishia	Straight

Useful distances.

Erimi - Agios Amvrosios.....	16 kms
Erimi - Omodos.....	27 kms
Erimi - Vouni.....	23 kms
Agios Amvrosios - Omodos.....	10 kms
Avdimou - Pachna.....	10kms
Ayia Napa - Erimi.....	116kms
Ayia Napa- Avdhimou.....	135kms
Paphos-Avdhimou.....	35 kms
Paphos-Erimi.....	49kms



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Kopiaste - come share our food

Capari: Capers grow wild along tracks and in fields and are picked from spring till late summer. The shoots, buds and gherkin-like vegetables are pickled and eaten with salad.

Halloumi: medium-soft cheese, often home-made in villages from goats and sheep milk or a blend with cows milk. Delicious eaten with fruit or grilled or fried (no oil needed!).

Horta: This means '*greens of the hedgerows*' - natural plants like wild asparagus, fennel and all kinds of leaves used for salads and cooked dishes - baked in pastry or with eggs.

Lounza: Smoked loin of pork. The village Lounza is much stronger and with more character than the commercially made ones, both are tasty in salads and sandwiches.

Kleftiko: lamb chunks on the bone, roasted slowly in a sealed pot in an oven. Some cooks may add bay leaf, some tomato, onion and garlic and red wine.

Loukanika: traditional sausage, made from minced pork marinated in red village wine for anything up to week and then smoked for many hours at around 75°C

Nistissima: is Greek for '*Fasting Food*'. A devout Orthodox fasts for more than 160 days a year. Whilst fasting, no meat, fats, eggs or dairy products may be eaten; only fruit, vegetables, bread, oil and seafood (e.g. octopus).

Palouzé: after the soujouko has been made, any remaining mixture is then spooned into bowls, covered with grated nuts and eaten warm or kept for a day or two.

Soujouko: After the grape harvest, Soujouko is made by boiling and reducing white grape juice with flour for thickening and rose or orange blossom water for flavouring. Almonds or walnuts are threaded on strings and then dipped three times into the grape syrup and then hung up to dry. When cool and firm, the Soujouko is cut into pieces.

Zivania: a clear spirit distilled from the fermented juice of crushed grapes very similar to Italian *Grappa* or French *Marc*. In the villages on a cold morning, many people drink a nip of Zivania! Many village stills were illegal, but today Zivania is made commercially and is strictly controlled for quality and sale.

Insider guide to Cyprus

The Seasons

Cyprus is seasonal and breathtakingly so. From late October when the first winter rains fall, there is a sudden greening of the countryside. The winter in Cyprus is brief and cold at night when the wonderful smell of wood smoke fills the air. Spring sees the vines in leaf, and a spectacular array of wild flowers and orchids - many indigenous and some very rare. The summer is hot in Cyprus and you need to take plenty of water with you for a day out and use adequate sun protection. A hat and sunglasses are sensible, but it is best to avoid the sun in the middle of the day 11.00 - 15.00.

During the winter (mid December - early March) snow falls on the mountains and some days cars are not allowed. Best to check prior to leaving for the Troodos by telephoning the **Cyprus AA on 22 - 313233**. The weather conditions can change very quickly so do take extra clothing, food and drinks with you and check your hire car's tool kit and spare tyre before you set out.

The Fire hazard.

The Cyprus countryside does get very parched and dry in the summer months

- Please do not discard cigarettes out of car windows.
- Do not have a barbecue in the countryside other than on proper picnic sites and have a bucket of water close at hand.
- Do not discard glass bottles in the countryside as they can reflect the sun easily.
- If you see a fire please always report it by telephoning 1407. Prompt action saves animal lives and property.

Driving.

Visitors from UK are delighted as driving is on the left, with priority from the right at roundabouts. The road layout and road signs follow the British system but distances and speeds are given in kilometres not miles. Speeding, careless driving, motorcyclists not wearing helmets and using mobile phones are all offences that can be fined 'on the spot'.

Clothing/ Dress.

Following one of our routes, you can find yourself at an altitude of 1,000 metres (3,300 feet), so if you are going to spend evenings in the hills, or visit during winter months, be sure to take some warm clothing. During the spring and autumn there are often rain showers - and when it rains it really does rain! Pack a lightweight waterproof.

When visiting monasteries, please ensure you are appropriately dressed - women and men with shorts and bare arms are frowned upon in all religious establishments.

Safety in the sun.

Never underestimate the strength of the sun and avoid being out in the sun for long periods between 11.00 -15.00 in the summer months.

*Always apply the appropriate sun care preparations.

* Use high factor creams for children and the elderly.

* Always re-apply creams after swimming

* Remember it is possible to get sun burned on an overcast day.

* Always use sun protection creams if you are out in the snow.

Photographs

Most Cypriots do not mind having their photograph taken, but please always ask first. Photographs cannot be taken in most museums, monasteries and churches - please check first. Because the sunlight in Cyprus is so bright, a faster film than normal is needed and using flash will ensure that faces are not in shadow.

Religion

The official religion of Cyprus is Greek Orthodox, but other churches can be found in all towns. Visitors are welcome to join in Greek Orthodox services, but must be properly dressed.

Opening Hours (Siesta)

Siesta time is still observed in most villages and shops are closed 13.00 - 16.30.

Petrol Stations

Fill up before you go as there are a few petrol stations en route. These take Electronic Credit Cards or cash and have efficient and easy-to-work self-service pumps when the garage is closed. Some villages have diesel pumps.

Pharmacies:

These are in main towns only. Pharmacists are highly qualified and able to assist with many minor problems. The English-language newspapers give details of late-night openings and the weekend rota. This list is displayed in all pharmacy windows. The emergency number for information is 90 90 1433.

Wild flowers:

Cyprus is blessed with many endemic and rare wild flowers and herbs. Please do not pick any of them, but leave them for others to enjoy. Do not disturb wildlife.

Emergencies

Accidents:

Should you be involved in a road traffic accident, ensure the police is called. Your statements will be taken in English and read to you. Get the name and number of attending police officers. Liabilities are often agreed on the spot. Call your car hire company immediately, they will advise you.

Health:

In an emergency seek a doctor for advice (the Greek for doctor is 'yiatros'). There are Emergency Departments in Limassol and Pafos General Hospital and EU citizens are treated free of charge on production of Form E111 or EH1C.



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By sending in this questionnaire you enter a draw to win an air-ticket and hotel accommodation in Cyprus

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

We hope you enjoyed the village route whether you did part or all of it. This route is the first of a series of six and so we would like to ask your opinion to help us improve this route but also in the development of the subsequent routes. We hope that you will also drive the other routes, maybe on your next visit to Cyprus.

Where did you find out about the village route?

Tour operator ☐ Car Hire company ☐ Hotel Reception ☐

Other, please state.....

Did you drive all or only part of the route?

All ☐ Part ☐

If you only did part of the route, which part.....

From To.....

How long did you spend driving the route (including stops?)

1-2 hours ☐ 2-3 hours ☐ half day ☐ full day ☐

Where did you eat on the route? (please name the restaurant/café)

.....

Was the description of the restaurant/café accurate?

Please specify what information should be amended or included

.....

Was your overall experience of the restaurant?

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐

Did you purchase any local products/crafts/wine etc? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what did you purchase and from where?

.....

.....

What did you enjoy most about the route?

.....

.....

What did you enjoy least about the route?

.....

.....

Please let us know how the village route guide helped you with the following:

Experiencing the 'real' Cyprus

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Not sure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Exploring villages you wouldn't have known about otherwise

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Not sure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Sampling regional cooking/restaurants

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Not sure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Buying locally produced goods

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Not sure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Learning more about Cypriot history/culture

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Not sure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Meeting the local people

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Not sure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

How influential was this route guide in encouraging you to explore rural Cyprus? If this village route guide had not been available would you have visited this area by hire car anyway?

Definitely ☐ Very Likely ☐ Likely ☐ Very unlikely ☐ Definitely not ☐

About you

Is this your first visit to Cyprus? Yes ☐ No ☐

If not how many times have you visited the country before?

How did you book this holiday?

Tour Operator Package ☐ Flight and Accommodation separately ☐ Other ☐
please state.....

Did you drive this route?

By yourself ☐ With your partner ☐ With friends ☐ With family ☐

Please specify the ages of children if appropriate

Do you have any additional comments that will help us improve the village route guides?
.....
.....

Please detach and return to C.S.T.I., P.O.Box 58538, 3735 Limassol or drop in basket with C.S.T.I. logo on, at one of the sites along the route. Thank You!

This booklet has been produced by

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C.S.T.I.
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