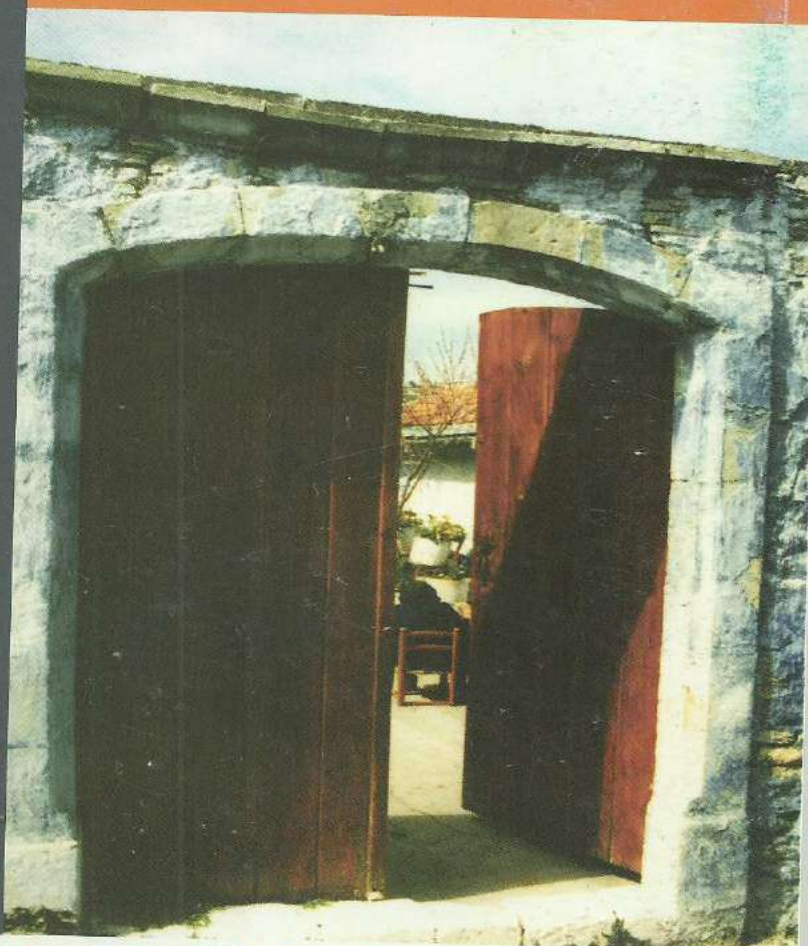


Village Route **Orini Larnaka**

Discover the Real Cyprus



A self-drive tour guided by nature and tradition

Published by the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative



CSTI is affiliated to

the
travel foundation



Publisher

Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative
PO Box 58538,
3735 Limassol, Cyprus
Email: csticyprus@hotmail.com
Tel: 99440983

Writing

George Michaelides

Design and layout

Salome Loukas

Pictures

George Michaelides
Sonia Been
Salome Loukas

Printed at

Cyprint Public Ltd.
Industrial Area, Ayios Athanasios
P.O.Box 58300
CY-3732 Limassol, Cyprus
Tel. + 357 25720035
<http://www.cyprint.net>

All information in this booklet was correct at the time of going to press. The publishers would be grateful for any amendments and comments.

Acknowledgments

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship and support of The Cyprus Tourism Organisation and The Travel Foundation (UK).

**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 memorable.

The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) 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 CSTI include First Choice, My Travel, Sunvil, Thomas Cook, and Thomson, village communities, village producers and crafts people and various environmental organizations. CSTI is affiliated to the Travel Foundation.

One of the ways CSTI meets these changing needs is through the production of a series of Village Routes. This is the second of a series of six routes. The routes 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 CSTI village route are specially designed to help you discover a very different Cyprus - one where time and tradition are linked to passing seasons, where crafts people follow the traditions of their grandparents and the Cyprus that was once Aphrodite's playground!

Through this work, CSTI 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. Going on these routes, not only you will have valuable memories to take away with you, but you will also put a little something back into rural Cyprus. Your visit here will have a positive impact on local communities. Thank you for enjoying the 'real' Cyprus.

CSTI is affiliated to **the travel foundation**
caring for places we love to visit



■ Kalosorisate - A village Welcome ■

Orini Larnaka - The region west of Larnaka and beyond

West of Larnaka and east of Limassol lies a region that waits to be explored. With the exception of the village of Lefkara - famous for its lace and embroidery - other villages nearby are less known, but equally charming. From the Orini (mountainous) villages you have wonderful views of the coast, and most importantly you have the unique opportunity to spend time close to nature and the people and culture of Cyprus.

This hidden part of the island is ideal for those wishing to leave the busy coast for a day and make a short, but exciting, journey of discovery on their own. This journey takes you away from the cosmopolitan Lemesos (Limassol) - Agia Napa - Protaras - on a route which starts from the 7th millennium B.C. ancient site of Choirokoitia to traditional villages, monasteries, museums and tavernas which are conducive to a harmonious co-existence of man with nature. It is this wonderful blend that we invite you to experience. Step back in time and discover ancient traditions and sacred places and enjoy the wonderful hospitality with locally produced delicacies from the region.

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

Route Information:

Approximate length of main and side routes and time needed:

From Lemesos (Limassol): 210 km - 7 hours.

Take A1 from Limassol towards Lefkosa (Nicosia). Start your route at Choirokoitia.

From Larnaka: 185 km - 6 hours.

Take A5 from Larnaka towards Lemesos (Limassol). Start your route at Choirokoitia.

Petrol Stations: Make sure you start your route with a full tank. Fill up at Limassol/Larnaka or Choirokoitia as there are very few petrol stations on the route, and there is no guarantee that they will be open.



Fikardou Village.



Main Route:

Choirokoitia, Vavla - Agios Minas - Kato Drys - Lefkara - Vavatsinia - Agioi Vavatsinias - Ora - Lageia - Tochni - Kalavassos - Tenta.

Side Route 1:

Odou - Farmakas - Gourri - Fikardou - Lazaniàs - Machairas - Kampia - Analiontas - Mathiatis - Sia.

Side Route 2: From Limassol: Kofinou - Mazotos. From Larnaka: Kiti - Mazotos - Choirokoitia.

Content

Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative	1
Kalosorisate - A village Welcome	2
Main Route	
Choirokoitia	6-7
Vavla	8-9
Agios Minas Monastery	10-11
Kato Drys	12-14
Lefkara	15-17
Vavatsinia	18-19
Agioi Vavatsinias	20
Tochni	22-23
Kalavassos	24-25
Tenta	26
Side Route 1	
Odou - Gourri	27
Fikardou	28-29
Machairas	30
Side Route 2	
Mazotos Camel Park	31-32
Kopiaste - Come eat with us.	33-34
Insider Guide to Cyprus	35-37
Your Opinion Counts - Questionnaire	39-40
Travel Foundation	42



■ Choirokoitia ■

10,000 Years Old Neolithic Settlement



Coming from Larnaka or Lemesos (Limassol) follow the sign Choirokoitia (brown colour) and leave the motorway towards the parking area of the Archeological site. Once you buy your ticket, walk towards the circular houses, a replica of the Neolithic Village.

The Department of Antiquities has reconstructed five cylindrical habitation units in order to show how the first settlers who arrived at the end of the 9th Millennium B.C. used to live. Follow the steep hillside above the Maroni River and wander among the incredibly ancient ruins and admire the exceptional technical skills of the inhabitants of Choirokoitia who used the local stones for the foundations of their circular houses and walls, some of which are still standing. The rigorous architectural activity of the occupants of Neolithic Choirokoitia is evident on the excavated remains of structures such as the successive phases of the defense wall and the complex entrance way that gives access to the village. Another unique structure was the construction of a staircase within a massive rectangular stone on the exterior of the defense wall. This well preserved settlement from Neolithic age has been a listed UNESCO World Heritage site since 1998. The vegetation around the enclosed area which was reserved exclusively for human habitation consists of wheat, barley, lentils and native trees such as figs, olives and plums that have grown in Cyprus since ancient times.

Parking

Park your car to the side of the building where you buy your ticket.

Opening hours and entrance fee

Daily, November - March, 8:00 to 17:00

April-May and September - October: 9:00 to 18:00

May - August: 8:00 to 19:30

Entrance fee: £ 1.00 CP (EUR 1.71).

Your next stop is Vavla.

Distance: 11 km. Time: 13 minutes

From Choirokoitia continue your trip off the beaten track, uphill towards Vavla. Just outside the new village of Choirokoitia, the little known medieval Church of Panagia tou Kam pou (Lady of the Valley) is waiting to be discovered and photographed.



Choirokoitia Replica.

Vavla

Traditional Village 470m above sea level.

This small traditional village has preserved its traditional architecture to a large extent. Some of the magnificent stone built houses with their impressive arches and courtyards are part of the rural tourism project of the Cyprus Tourism Organization. Here you can enjoy your holidays in the Cyprus countryside guided by nature and tradition. Walk around the beautiful stone paved streets of Vavla and proceed to the church of Agios Georgios and the old school. The icon of Panagia with the most gentle face is housed in Vavla's Agios Georgios Church.



Vavla Village.

Parking-Village map

Park your car next to the public telephone box outside the office of the Municipality. The village map is next to the public telephone box.

What to see

1900 Agios Georgios Church
1905 Old School.

What to do

Have a picnic at the Municipal Park. The park is located across Agios Georgios entrance gate.

Nature trail: 3 km

Panagia tis Agapis Nature Trail. If you feel like taking a walk follow the nature trail to Panayia tis Ayapis (Love). Start your walk outside Agios Georgios Church gate (to your right). On your way you will see almond trees, daphne (laurel), thyme, oleander and acacia, before reaching the church of Panagia tis Agapis.



Vavla Village.

Your next stop is Agios Minas Monastery.

Distance: 3 km. Time: 5 minutes

After Vavla follow the road to Kato Drys and your next stop is Agios Minas Monastery.



20 Agios Minas Monastery.

Agios Minas Monastery

A Charming Religious Place

Dated back to the 15th century, this monastery is a good mix of Byzantine and Gothic styles. The monastery which was abandoned by the monks in the 18th century was taken over and rebuilt with great charm by a group of nuns in 1965. On the north and south walls are two paintings dedicated to Agios Georgios and Agios Minas, dated 1757. The nuns, apart from selling religious souvenirs, fruits, herbs and honey are practicing icon painting and you may place an order or simply watch them at work in their studio. On the Saint's Nameday, there is a religious fair (paniyiri) reviving traditional life. Local products and sweets are sold at stalls especially set up for the occasion. Visitors wearing shorts will be provided with long cotton skirts to enter the monastery.



Agios Minas Monastery.

Parking

Park outside the Monastery's gate.

Opening hours

May 1st to September 30th: 12 Noon to 15:00 and October 1st to April 30th: 12 Noon to 14:00. On Sundays the Monastery is closed to Tourists.

Paniyiri

If you are there on November 11th, Agios Minas Name Day join in the Fair.

What to buy

At the entrance of the Monastery you can buy icons, honey, traditional sweets, herbs, olives, marmalade, almond paste and rosewater.

*Your next stop is Kato Drys.
Distance: 3 km. Time: 7 Minutes.*

■ Kato Drys ■

Kato Drys is the village pictured on the Cypriot one pound note. Attractive stone built houses, narrow alleys surrounded by rich natural environment of wild vegetation and herbal plants are the main characteristics of Kato Drys. A series of houses charmingly restored with the philosophy of preserving their external and internal architecture make the village an ideal place to discover. On the one side of the main street, merchants' mansions of the thirties exhibit rural architecture with hanging balconies. You shouldn't miss the Rural Museum which is housed in the traditional home of Gavriel and Eleni Papachristoforou. Nearby is the beautifully restored 12th century church of Panayia which can accommodate up to 20 people. The big church of the village is dedicated to the miraculous Ayios Charalambos. Should you need more information about the village, its people and products, visit the community office, a donation from Sir Reo Stakis, a well known Cypriot from this village who lived in the UK. Evanthia Pavlou, the secretary of the Community Board will be pleased to help you.

Parking-village map

When coming from Vavla, look for the village map at the entrance of the village. Park your car on the main street near Yiota's coffee shop. You can also park in the square outside the village on the way to Lefkara and walk back into the village. This square is famous for its 100 years old Platanos Tree (Plane Tree).

What to see

The Rural Museum of Gavriel and Eleni: Walk down the narrow street in front of the House of Lace and follow the sign for the museum. The beauty of Kato Drys grows on you as you pass by the stone-built houses and the courtyards to reach the Agricultural museum. This private museum, a fine restored house with remarkable woodwork, exhibits traditional art work and furniture. The house is a typical specimen of local architecture of the 19th century, and the Antiquities Department made sure that the items and the configuration give the visitor a true picture of authentic rural household. If you want to see and learn more about traditional rural housing in Cyprus a visit to this charming museum is a must. Open Monday to Friday 9:00 to 14:00. Entrance fee £0.50 CP (EUR 0.85)



Iacovos Korniotis, Gardens Kamara House- Kato Drys Village.



Lygia Nicolaou, resident of Kato Drys Village.



Gardens Kamara House Rural Museum: As you walk along the village main road you will see one of the most beautiful traditional houses "Gardens Kamara House". Kamara House is a larger complex that also houses a Rural Museum which is the private collection of Iacovos Korniotis. Here you may also buy some of Mr. Iacovos traditional almond paste glyko, oil and olives, honey and herbs which he picks wild from the nearby mountains. Open Tuesdays and Fridays 9:00 to 13:00 and 16:00 to 19:00



What to buy

Lace House of Kato Drys: This traditional shop is part of the history of the village. It is housed in a centrally located building of the early 20th century. Here you can find Lefkara lace, fruits in syrup, honey, silver jewellery, but also the beautiful cloth dolls hand made by Ioanna Santos. Winter: open daily 9:00 to 17:00. Summer: open daily 9:00 to 19:00

Where to eat

Platanos Restaurant: As you leave the village of Kato Drys towards Lefkara just outside the village you will find the square with an old platanos tree (planted in 1906). Stop and enjoy your meal at the Platanos Restaurant where you will be served grilled meats, salad, mousaka, pasticio and of course Kato Drys Tavva, famous dish of the region. Open daily 8:00 to 22:00

Your next stop is Kato Lefkara:
Distance 5 km. Time 11 Minutes

Lefkara

Kato (Lower) Lefkara: If you are there during the spring the entire area is covered in wild flowers. Start your visit by touring first Kato Lefkara. From the main road you have a magnificent view of Kato Lefkara. Kato Lefkara is much smaller than its twin and it is very attractive with its unique houses and their colourful exteriors. Apart from the souvenir shops which are selling the famous lefkartitika lace, the visitor will enjoy a walk through the village with its clean, blue and white looking houses. The Church of Archangelos Michael with its wall paintings dating from the 12th century is worth visiting.

Pano (Upper) Lefkara: This very popular picturesque village is always included in the sightseeing programme of the tour operators. Legend has it that in 1481 Leonardo da Vinci traveled to Cyprus and visited Lefkara. He was so impressed that he bought an Altar cloth of the traditional lace, which he donated to the Cathedral of Milan. Today local women are doing the lace embroidery on their doorsteps. There is plenty on display for the visitor to see and buy. The houses are old and charming and the interiors are very pretty. Some of the houses have vine-covered courtyards.

Parking

Kato Lefkara: park near the church at the entrance of the village.

Pano Lefkara: park near the Police Station and the school.

What to see

Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silver Smithing: Open daily April to October 9:30 to 17:00 and November to March 19:00 to 16:00. Entrance fee: £ 1.00 CP (EUR 1.71).

Fatsa-Wax Museum, Pano Lefkara: This is perhaps Cyprus' answer to Madam Tussaud's. The wax museum at Pano Lefkara provides a historical view of the culture of Cyprus. There are more than 150 wax images on display offering a strong impression not only of history, but of the day-to-day life of the island. Inside the Museum there is also an exhibition gallery and a souvenir shop. May to October open daily 9:00 to 19:00. November to April open daily 9:00 to 17:00. Entrance Fee Adults: £ 3 CP (EUR 5.13). Children: £ 2 CP (EUR 3.42). Children under 6 years old and people with special needs: free

What to do

For a longer walk outside Kato Lefkara, follow the road to the water reservoir 'Dipotamos' which is very popular with anglers and birdwatchers.

Lefkara Village.



16

Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silversmithing, Lefkara.



Fatsa Museum, Lefkara.

Nature Trail: 2.3 kms

Nature Trail - Get panoramic views of Pano and Kato Lefkara villages, Kato Drys village and Agios Minas Monastery. Starting and finishing point along the main road to Vavatsinia village.

Where to eat

Iasonas Taverna (House of the Winds): This popular taverna is located on the main road to Pano Lefkara at the junction from Kato Drys. Pavlos Pavlou and his family will serve you the traditional Cypriot mezè and also the famous Lefkara Tavva. Open daily 9:00 to 24:00

Your next stop is Vavatsinia.
Distance 10 km. Time 15 Minutes.

17

■ Vavatsinia ■

The short drive out of Lefkara, on the road to Vavatsinia provides a magnificent view of the Syrkatis Valley. Soon you will be leaving behind the chalky terrain and the white hills of the region, and through the pine forest and after 10km you will be reaching another traditional hill village, Vavatsinia. A post card view awaits you at the entrance of the village. Quiet narrow streets, a picturesque village square with a church and tavernas are the characteristics of Vavatsinia. Again here, have a glimpse of the real Cyprus that no ordinary guided tour could provide.



Old window.

Where to eat

Maria's Restaurant: Coming from Lefkara on your way to Vavatsinia just before arriving to the village you will see a big sign for Maria's Restaurant. It is really worth making a break for a meal. Maria's Restaurant is located in the pine forest of Vavatsinia village which is famous for its unique traditional recipes. This family restaurant is very popular among Cypriots simply because Maria keeps the secrets of Cypriot cooking for two generations, and she is there to present true traditional recipes with a personal touch. The dishes from the wood charcoal grill and brick oven and from Maria's casserole are served as meze (a bit of everything) but certainly kleftiko and Lefkara Tavva are a must. Vegetarians will be delighted with Maria's Vegetarian Delight (a selected variety of home made halloumi cheese, zucchini, mushrooms and roast potatoes). Open daily from 8:00 until late, except between the hours of 14:00 to 17:00.

Your Next Stop is Agioi Vavatsinias:

Distance: 10 km. Time 22 minutes.



Vavatsinia Village.



Maria, owner of Maria's Restaurant, Vavatsinia village.



Vavatsinia Village.

■ Agioi Vavatsinias ■

The drive through this quiet and remote region blessed by nature is a great experience. Soon you will enter the village of Agioi Vavatsinias sited in an unspoiled hinterland. The village is the birth place of famous Greek composer Manos Loizos. You will see his statue at the entrance of the village. During the day you have the feeling that the village is abandoned. It is on Sundays that you can enjoy some sweets at the village square and if Pavlos is there, you can try his wine from the traditional jars.

What to see



Traditional Sweets Workshop - Ermi Papakyriakou:

Before you drive into the village look for the sign that will lead you to Ermi's workshop of traditional sweets made of fruits from the valley of Agioi Vavatsinias. If you are there in autumn, don't miss fresh *sutzuko* and *paluzé*. Both delights are made of unfermented grape juice, a sweet and fragrant grape puree thickened and served with almonds. Ermi's workshop is a prime example of reviving the tradition-

al art of making Cyprus sweets, or *glyko*, which are fresh fruits preserved in syrup. Most popular *glyko* are walnuts, grapes, cherries, melon peel and citrus fruit peel. Ermi will show you how she prepares the sweets. Even if you are not a sweets fanatic, don't leave the place without giving these delicacies a try and perhaps buy some to take with you. Remember they are well preserved in syrup. Ermi's workshop is open Monday to Friday 7:00 to 19:00

Where to eat

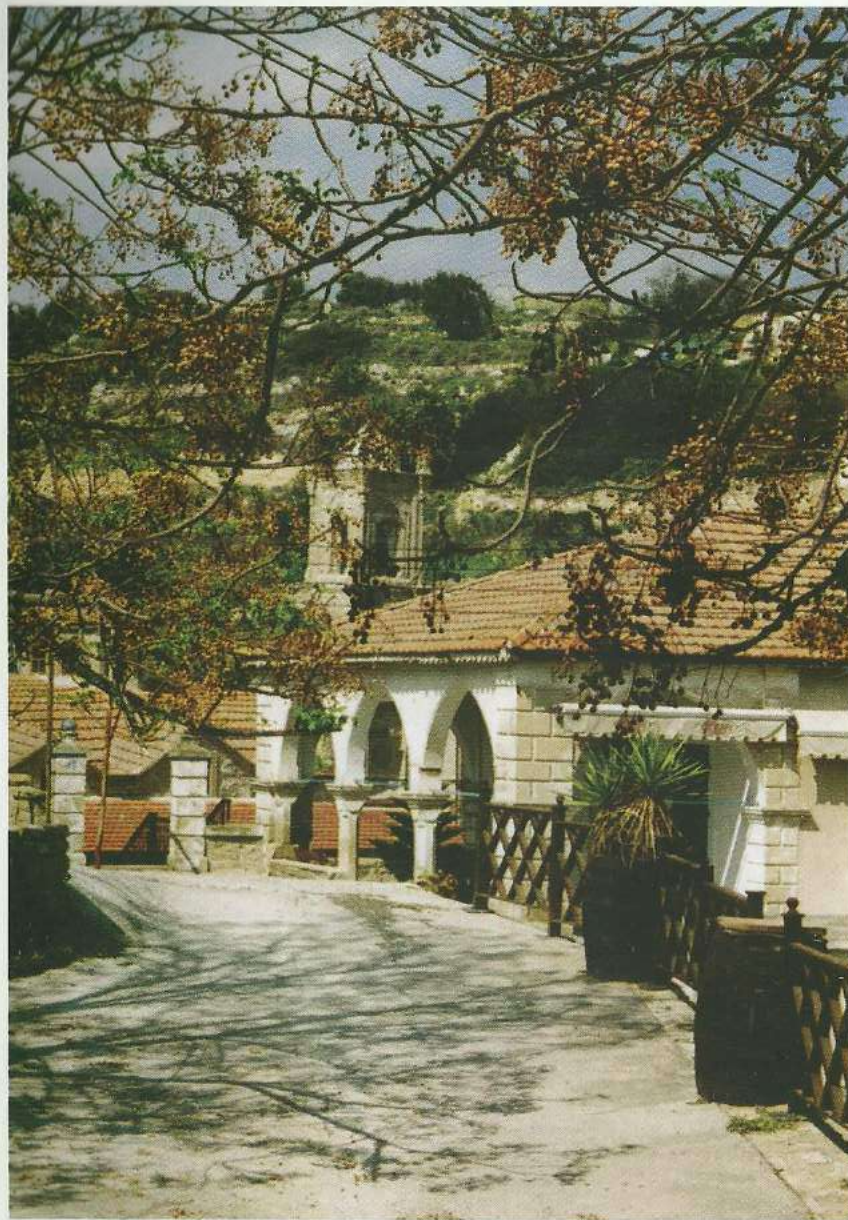
Manos Loizos Restaurant: Manos Loizos Restaurant is located at the entrance of the village on the main road, just before the school. Here you can taste seasonal traditional Cypriot dishes, which include *kleftiko* and grill dishes, and of course the famous *Lefkara Tavva*. All vegetables and meats used at the restaurant are locally produced. Open daily, winter and summer from 9:00 until late.

Your Next stop is Tochni:

Distance: 32 km Time: 30 minutes

From Agioi Vavatsinias turn south and continue your trip through Ora - Lageia - Vavla- Choirokitia and soon you will reach Tochni.





22 Church of Agion Konstantinou and Elenis, Tochni Village.

A Village Built of Stone

This small village is built of stone on the hills along a small river. Aesthetic improvements are constantly being made to the village. Some examples are the Church of Agion Kostaninos and Eleni, the Religious Centre and the many stone built houses with a history of more than 100 years. The most recent improvement is the restoration of the building of the old water mill. The amphitheatrical slopes with the beautiful houses, the church and the kafenion (coffee shop) will please every photo enthusiast. If you see someone in the village working on a stone don't be surprised. The name of the village derives from Techni (Art) since the village was famous for its great master masons who worked the stone of the area in quite a unique way. As you walk through the village you will find yourself in a beautiful synthesis of stone-built houses, court yards and gardens. Tochni is a good example of authentic rural tourism development.



Traditional village fountain, Tochni Village.

Your next stop is Kalavassos:
Distance: 3 km . Time: 8 minutes

Kalavassos

Center Between 3 Cities

Kalavassos is a relatively big village with 750 people living there together with some tourists who are renting traditional houses. The name of the village comes from Kali Vasi (good base) and is because of its central position between Nicosia-Limassol-Larnaka. From the road leading to the village you have a wonderful 'postcard' view of Kalavassos with the Church and the Mosque dominating the scene. At the entrance of the village you will see the old abandoned railway and Belgian made train. This is a reminder of the mining operation in the region that yielded copper as far back as 2000 B. C. The train served the local copper mine until its closure in 1965. Walk around the picturesque village, or enjoy a coffee at the village square between the Church of Panagia Titiotissa and the Mosque on top of the hill, symbols of the coexistence in the past of Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Parking - Village Map

You will find the village map at the entrance of the village near the abandon train. Parking is available at the village square across the Church of Panagia Titiotissa.

What to see

Abandoned Railway and Train: You will find the abandoned railway and train at the entrance of the village.

Panagia Titiotissa and Mosque: The church is located in the village square and the Mosque on top of the hill.

Kalavassos Water Dam: If you are there in the spring time it is worth driving 5 km outside the village to see the Kalavassos Dam and the old mines.

What to buy

Herb Store of Antri Pagoni: You will find Andri's Herb Store just before entering the village. Here you can buy herbal teas, soap, oils, honey and hand made small crochet items. Open daily 15:00 to 18:00. Closed on Sundays.

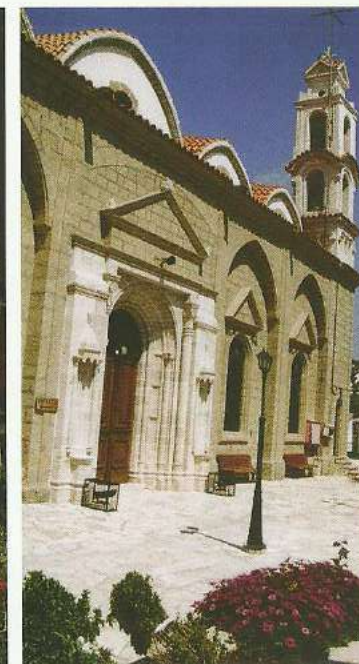
Paniyiri

If you are there between the 23rd-25th of March, you will be celebrating with thousands of people the Nameday of Virgin Mary.

Where to eat

There are a number of restaurants and coffee shops in the village square.

Your next stop is Tenta:
Distance 3 km. Time: 8 minutes



Church of Panagia Titiotissa, Kalavassos.

Kalavassos Mosque



Abandoned railway and train, Kalavassos.

Tenta



From Kalavassos follow the road close to the train to reach Tenta, a strange architectural intervention in the landscape which is visible from the motorway. This is the cone-shaped roof of a most important Neolithic settlement dating back to 7000 B.C. Since 1976 excavations in the region revealed the fascinating secrets of ancient Cyprus.

Opening hours and entrance fee

The site is open Monday to Friday 9:00 to 18:00
Entrance fee £0.75 CP (EUR 1.28).

Side Trips You Shouldn't Miss

Side Route 1:

Fikardou and Machairas Monastery: The drive from Agioi Vavatsinias towards Odou-Farmakas-Gourri-Fikardou-Machairas is yet another excellent example of the island's varied scenic beauty. As you come from Odou and you start driving down the hill you will have a wonderful view of Farmakas village with its Agia Erini Church in the middle. Here you can refill your car's tank if you need to, and then follow the sign to Machairas, Gourri and from there to Fikardou.

A word of caution: On the way to Odou, Gourri, Fikardou and Machairas make short stops in between in order to return back on the motorway before sundown. It is dangerous to drive on the mountains after dark.

Side Route 2:

Mazotos Camel Park: Whether you decide to take this trip on the same day you will be driving the rest of the route, or on a different day, just don't miss it. If you love animals, this park is amazing and children will love it.

Odou



This beautiful mountain village links the region of Larnaka with Lefkosia (Nicosia) and is surrounded by fertile plains and covered by olive, almond and pear trees. The old church of Agia Marina in the village is worth visiting. There is a stunning view of the valley below, and the area of Chelidonomoutti with its many swallows and nightingales near an old well, are typical of the region's beauty. In Odou you will find the quiet rhythms of country life and the unspoiled Cypriot naturalness and simplicity.

Agia Marina Chapel, Odou.

Your next stop is Gourri:
Distance: 12 km. Time: 30 minutes

Gourri



This quiet village takes its name from the great medieval family of 'Gourri' whose coat-of-arms, a sun displayed, is found in several places on the island. Here, a group of talented women have revived the ancient - almost lost - art of the loom and have adapted it to the needs of modern living. Make your way to their Textile Workshop (is housed in the village school) and watch them work, or let them explain to you the basics of weaving. All their creations which include towels, curtains, tablecloths, and cushion covers as well as olokentita (all embroidered) priests' vestments, are of exceptional beauty. Open Monday to Thursday 9:00 to 13:00.

Your next stop is Fikardou:
Distance: 2 km. Time: 5 minutes.



Europa Nostra



Fikardou is perhaps the best kept secret of Cyprus rural tourism. This tiny village is a protected monument located on the southeastern slopes of the Troodos Mountain chain. Its name is associated with the noble medieval family 'Fikardo' and was probably an estate of the family. In the past, Fikardou's economy was based on the cultivation of vineyards, almond, fig and olive trees. To create more land for cultivation, the residents had elevated their farming plots on the slopes of the mountain, which you can still see today climbing the slopes. Walk along the winding narrow alleys and admire the houses which are authentic specimens of 19th century folk architecture. The building materials are invariably the rough local stone, sun-dried bricks and wood. In 1978, in an effort to revitalize this abandoned rural settlement, the Department of Antiquities restored two houses to become the local rural museum of Fikardou. The houses of Katsinioros and Dimitri are original examples of rural architecture. In 1986, this project received the Europa Nostra Award. Today the village is the best location for Film-production provided of course the theme is based on rural life of the 18th and 19th centuries.



What to see

Rural Museums: April to October, open daily 9:00 to 17:00. November to March, open daily 8:00 to 16:00. Entrance fee: £ 1.00 CP (EUR 1.71).

Where to eat

Yiannakos Coffee Shop: The shop used to be a very small coffee place where Mr. Yiannakos used to serve Cypriot coffee, home-made zivania and wine to his guests, mainly diplomats, politicians and other VIPs. Today, members of Yiannakko's family continue the tradition and also serve some home-made dishes for breakfast and lunch. It is part of the great Fikardou experience to enjoy a drink and a bite at this peaceful village of 4 -6 inhabitants. Open daily for breakfast and lunch.

Your next stop is the Machairas Monastery:

Distance: 11 km. Time: 20 minutes

From Fikardou drive back to Gourri and follow the sign to Lazaniás and the Machairas Monastery.

■ Machairas Monastery ■



Machairas Monastery.

A few km from Lazaniás you have a marvelous view of the impressive Monastery of Machairas, and it is worth taking a photograph. This is one of the oldest and most important monasteries of the island. It was founded by hermits from Syria in 1148 when a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary was found in a nearby cave. North of Machairas Monastery lays the hideout of Grigoris Afxentiou, hero of the 1955, Liberation struggle.



What to see

Machairas Monastery: A visit to the Monastery for groups is possible on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon. For individuals it is possible daily from 5:30AM to 18:00PM.

Hideout of Grigoris Afrentiou: Afrentiou's hideout is located about 2kms north of the Machairas Monastery.

Paniyiri

If you happen to be there on the 15th of August, or the 8th of September, you will take part in a large fair (*paniyiri*) which is held every year.

After Machairas:

After Machairas:
Continue towards Kapedes-Kampia-Analiontas-Mathiatis-Sia and then take the motorway to return to Larnaka, or Lemesos (Limassol).

Distance: 39 km. **Time:** (Machairas to Sia): 45 minutes

A word of caution: From Mathiatis follow the sign to Lefkosia (Nicosia) and turn right where you see the sign to Sia. Just don't miss this turn if you don't want to end up in Lefkosia (Nicosia).

■ Mazotos Camel Park ■

Recommended for children

CAMEL PARK MAZOTOS




FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
 THE CAMEL PARK AT MAZOTOS IS UNIQUE TO CYPRUS. IF YOU FOR A DAY PACKED FULL OF EXCITEMENT AND FUN, YOU WILL FIND IT HERE.

- CAMEL RIDES
- SWIMMING POOL
- RESTAURANT
- PLAY AREA FOR KIDS
- SOUVENIR SHOP
- ORGANISED PARTIES

ΔΙΑΣΚΕΔΑΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΟΛΗ ΤΗΝ ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑ
 ΤΟ ΠΑΡΚΟ ΚΑΜΕΛΩΝ ΣΤΟΝ ΜΑΖΩΤΟ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΜΟΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΣΤΗΝ ΚΥΠΡΟ. ΔΕΝ ΨΑΧΝΕΤΕ ΠΑΝΩ ΜΕΡΑ ΓΙΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΝΔΥΞΗ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΣΚΕΔΑΣΗ, ΟΔΗΓΕΙΤΕ ΕΛΘΕ.

- ΠΕΣΙΜΑ
- ΕΣΤΙΑΤΟΡΙΟ
- ΠΑΙΧΝΙΔΙΟΤΕΡΟ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ
- ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ ΜΕ ΑΝΑΜΝΗΣΤΙΚΑ
- ΟΡΓΑΝΩΜΕΝΑ ΠΑΡΤΥ



CYPRUS
 NICOSIA
 LARNACA
 PAPHOS
 LIMASSOL
 FAMAGUSTA
 CAMEL PARK MAZOTOS

CAMEL PARK Ε.Ρ. ΜΑΖΩΤΟΣ
 Τηλ: 24091243, 99416900, 99634532 www.camel-park.com

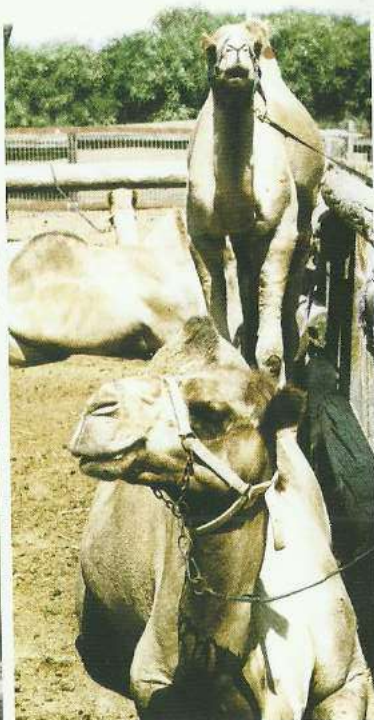
If you have children with you, a visit to this unique Cyprus park is a must. Here you will find camel rides round the grounds of the park, a variety of local wild life, a swimming pool and restaurant, a one room rural museum, a playground and a games room for children and a souvenir shop. The park guarantees to be fun for the whole family and children are sure to love it. Don't miss the opportunity to feed the camels with carobs - the long, slim, black pads-which fall from the carob trees and which are a sweet treat for the animals. Carobs are one of the largest crops grown in Cyprus and are known as St. John's Bread because they were the main diet of John the Baptist in the wilderness. Today carobs are a substitute for chocolate and the seeds are used in the production of cosmetics. While feeding the camels, remember that the carob seed is the original carat used by goldsmiths to measure their gold.

How to get there:

From Larnaca: If you are coming from Larnaka (22 km) the best way is to go to Kiti Village and then follow the signs to Mazotos. You will see the Mazotos Camel Park sign before entering the village.

From Lemesos (Limassol): From A1 take the Kofinou exit and drive through Kofinou and Mazotos Villages. The park is at the exit of Mazotos village on the road to Kiti.





Xenakis Tsailis, owner of Mazotos Camel Park, with his camels.

Learn about the camels of Cyprus: Before the days of fast cars and paved roads, along with donkeys, camels were used in Cyprus for transportation. Merchants in particular made their rounds on the back of camels bringing their goods to remote villages. According to Xenakis, the owner of the park, merchants were ordered by law to dismount their camels before entering a village to prevent them from looking through windows and into peoples homes.

Opening hours

Summer: open daily 9:00 to 19:00
Winter: open daily 9:00 to 17:00

Camel ride cost

The splendid camel ride lasts for about 15 minutes. The costs is £ 3.00 CP (EUR 5.13) for children and £ 5.00 CP (8.55) for adults.

Kopiaste - come eat with us

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.

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.

Lounza: smoked loin of pork. The village made Lounza is much stronger and with more character than the commercially made one. Lounza is used in salads and sandwiches.

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 750C

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.



© Cyprus Tourism Organisation

Tavvas - A Traditional Main Dish From Lefkara

1½	cups	rice
2	cups	water
1	kg	lamb
1	kg	medium tomatoes
4		medium onions
3		medium potatoes
2	teaspoon	cumin

Salt

A round deep clay pot or deep Pyrex

Cut the meat in small pieces of 3-4 cms. Grate 3 medium tomatoes and cut the 2 onions in pieces. Wash the meat and the rice and place in the clay pot together with the cut onions and the grated tomatoes. Add 1 teaspoon cumin and mix all ingredients.

Add on top a layer of potatoes cut in slices of 5mm thick. Cut the remaining 2 onions and tomato in slices and add a layer of onion and a layer of tomatoes on top of the layer of potatoes. Sprinkle on top half teaspoon cumin and salt and add 2 cups of water or until the water covers the potatoes layers. Bake in a preheated oven. Cook at medium temperature.

Preparation time 40 minutes

Cooking time 2½ hours

Serves 8

Kali orexi

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.

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 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 site 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 kilometers not miles. Speeding, careless driving, motorcyclists not wearing helmets and using mobile phones are all offenses 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 in long pants and sleeves - women and men with shorts and bare arms are frowned upon in all religious establishments.

Insider guide to Cyprus cont.

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.

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 (no shorts).

Opening Hours (Siesta)

Siesta time is still observed in most villages and shops are closed between 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.





38 The yards of Cyprus.

Your Opinion counts

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

We hope you enjoyed the village route whether you did part or all of it. This route is the second 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.

Name.....Phone.....

Address.....E-mail.....

Where did you find out about the village route?

Tour operator ☐ Car Hire ☐ 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 would be amended or included

Was your overall experience of the restaurant?

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Very Poor ☐

Did you purchase any local products/crafts? 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:

Experience 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/restaurant

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 ☐

Did you drive this route?

By yourself ☐ With your partner ☐ With friends ☐ With Family ☐

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

.....

Please detach and return to your Tour Operator Rep, or mail to
CSTI, P.O.Box 58538, 3735 Limassol



Tradition is great but Sixt rent a car is faster!

For more information contact:

Telephone: 7777SIXT (77777498), 00357 25312345, Fax: 00357 25312898

E-mail: reservations@sixt.com.cy or contact your local representative

The Travel Foundation is an independent UK charity that aims to help the outbound travel industry manage tourism more sustainably. The Foundation offers a unique resource to the tourism industry, helping to safeguard resources on which business depends and balancing the need for sustainability with profitability.

The Foundation's focus is on protecting and enhancing the environment, improving the well-being of destination communities and enriching the tourism experience, now and into the future.

The development of the Foundation helps enable a real breakthrough for sustainable tourism and is good news for consumers, companies, destination communities and policy makers. As well, the Foundation projects and activities offer customers the reassurance that their favourite destinations will be protected for generations to come.

Business are better able to meet the needs of their customers, at the same time as protecting the resources on which their future depends.

Destination communities receive greater benefit from tourism, with a boost to their local economy and conservation of the natural environment, local traditions and culture.

Local and national governments have evidence to develop effective tourism policies and support destination communities and environments.







 **First Choice** www.firstchoice.co.uk

 **Thomson** www.thomson.co.uk

 **Sunvil**
HOLIDAYS www.sunvil.co.uk

 **MY TRAVEL** www.mytravel.co.uk

 **Thomas Cook** www.thomascook.com

 www.visitcyprus.com

 www.cyprussustainabletourism.com



Love Cyprus

If you are looking for a winter escape, I can show you the place. Cyprus.

An island of blue skies with an average temperature of 24°, where the sun shines all year long.

An island full of intriguing places to explore.

A place of natural beauty where you can swim in the clear sea one day, and walk through charming rural villages in pine-scented mountains the next.

To begin your escape, go to www.visitcyprus.com

The year-round island

Cyprus. Winters like summers

Cyprus Tourist Office, 17 Hanover Street, London W1S 1YP
Tel: 020 7569 8800, E-mail: informationctpo@btconnect.com