

Paphos

Just Like Paradise

The town of Paphos is included in the official UNESCO list of cultural and natural treasures of the world's heritage. Paphos, a small charming harbour town, on the west of the island, which has been, during certain times in antiquity, the capital of Cyprus, has a history which goes back literally thousands of years, and has always attracted visitors from the rest of the island and abroad. From the modern town centre to the picturesque harbour and, stretching across the coastline, lie innumerable ancient sites which not surprisingly have now been included in UNESCO's list of World Cultural Heritage sites. After all, this is the birthplace and centre of worship of Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love and Beauty and the whole area retains some of this magic. Bordered by a lovely coastline, the Paphos area has charming villages in its mountains, here life has gone unchanged over the years, where the customs and traditions of the country have been kept alive because that is how it has always been. And in the heartland, are famous monasteries such as Ayios Neophytos and Chrysoroyiatissa with modern day pilgrims. PAPHOS CASTLE Originally built as a Byzantine fort to protect the harbour, it was rebuilt by the Lusignans in the 13th century, then dismantled by the Venetians in 1570, who found themselves unable to defend it against the Ottomans, who in their turn restored and strengthened it after they captured the island. Kato Paphos PETRA TOU ROMIOU Birthplace of Aphrodite, 25km from Paphos. According to legend, Aphrodite mythological goddess of love and beauty, rose from the waves in this strikingly beautiful spot. The Baths of Aphrodite at Polis and the "Fontana Amorosa" - Fountain of Love - also echo her apparent penchant for the island. At Kouklia lie the remains of the Goddess's earliest Sanctuary. The Greek name, Petra tou Romiou " THE ROCK OF THE GREEK " is associated with the legendary frontier-guard of Byzantine times Digenis Akritas who kept the marauding Saracens at bay with amazing strength. It is said that he heaved this large rock into the sea destroying the enemy's ship. TOMBS OF THE KINGS Spread over a vast area, these impressive underground tombs date back to the 4th century BC. They are carved out of solid rock with some being decorated with Doric Pillars. High officials rather than Kings were buried here, but the magnificence of the tombs gave the locality its name. CHURCHES TO VISIT:

Agia Solomoni Church, Kato Paphos, Leophoros Agiou Pavlou

Panagia Limeniotissa Basilica, Kato Paphos, near the Harbour

Panagia Chrysospiliotissa Church and Byzantine Basilica, Kato Paphos

Theoskepasti Church, Kato Paphos

Agia Paraskevi Church, Geroskipou village, 3km east of Paphos

Panagia Chryseleousa, 3km north of Paphos, Empa village

Agios Neofytos Monastery, 9km north of Paphos

Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery, 40km north of Paphos

Pano Panagia, on the west of Troodos, 1.5km from Chrysorrogiatiss Odos Gladstonos 3

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Paphos International Airport

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