

Cyprus - Aphrodite's Ancient Isle

8 days from £799 February, March & November 2020, February & March 2021



An ancient land of mystery, legend, beauty, and love: especially in and around Paphos, your holiday base. On the west coast of the Akamas Peninsula, Paphos was the island's capital for 600 years and its visible archaeological legacy has led to the whole town being placed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Effectively parts of the town serve as an open-air museum, with remarkable mosaics, vaults and caves, the Pillar of St. Paul, the ancient theatre, the Tombs of the Kings and a Roman Agora are all amongst the sights to see. The area is steeped in Greek myth and legend. The goddess Aphrodite rose from the sea foam near Paphos and took pity on Pygmalion by bringing to life his statue of the beautiful Galatea – their son was Paphos.

• 7 nights hb in Paphos • Paphos orientation walk • Excursion to Nicosia

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Flight to Paphos, transfer to your hotel in Kato Paphos (20 minutes away) where seven nights half board accommodation has been reserved for you.

Cyprus has a long and varied history. At the crossroads of three continents, Cyprus was a stopping off point for Crusaders and has been ruled by the Greeks, Romans, Franks, Venetians, Turks and British.

DAY TWO: Paphos orientation walk: your morning walk starts and finishes at the hotel, and will give you your bearings not only in the geography of Paphos, but also its history. You will walk along the sea front, and pass the ruins of an early Christian basilica en route to the harbour. Here you will be able to visit the archaeological area (entrance fee included) with its Roman mosaics. You return to the hotel via the lighthouse and the Christian catacomb of Solomoni.

DAYS THREE TO SEVEN: In resort in Paphos, with free time to explore the town and its historic sites and also time to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities. One day is dedicated to the included excursion to Nicosia, the full day giving you a real taste of this fascinating and charming city. In the heart of Nicosia is the old city surrounded by walls dating back to the

16th century. Enclosed in this are countless museums, churches, monuments, sites of historic interest, narrow streets overlooked by the balconies of old houses and squares surrounded by cafes, shops and tavernas. The included tour of the city will take you along the dividing Green Line and allow you to see the major sights including the Famagusta Gate and the Archbishop's Palace. Also whilst in Nicosia there will be visits to St. John's Cathedral and the Byzantine Museum, and time in the picturesque old quarter and shopping centre of Laiki Yitonia.

There may be other excursions available, into the Troodos Mountains and to the Bath of Aphrodite (a grotto pool where the goddess is said to have bathed before her marriage).

Dancing and Bowls: together with the sister hotels nearby, the hotel has dance leaders and bowling coordinators who will assist with tuition and, on request, organise events for guests of all abilities. Lawn Bowls rinks (there may be 20 rinks, indoor and outdoor, all on synthetic surfaces). A charge (currently 5 euros) is made per session (includes equipment).

DAY EIGHT: Free time until your transfer to the airport for your return flight.

YOUR HOTEL

PIONEER BEACH HOTEL ★★★★★,
Paphos (seven nights)

The Pioneer Beach is an impressive 4-star hotel with beautifully appointed bedrooms, public areas, international buffet style restaurant and colourful gardens. It is a pleasant 20-minute walk along the seafront to the shopping area and a further 10 minutes to Paphos harbour, or a short ride on the local bus. The hotel boasts a freshwater swimming pool with Jacuzzi, an indoor heated pool with Jacuzzi, indoor and outdoor short mat bowling facilities and outdoor Green Bowls facilities, and a floodlit tennis court. In the hotel's Elixir Spa there is a heated pool, sauna, steam bath, a fully equipped gym and a hairdressing salon. Bedrooms have balcony, satellite tv, fridge, minibar, hairdryer, scales, make-up/shaving mirror, bathrobes and slippers, safety deposit box, ironing facilities, espresso machine as well as tea and coffee making facilities. (www.pioneer-cbh.com)

Please note that the hotel management reserves the right to change the hotel to the 4-star Athena Beach, a sister hotel of the Pioneer Beach located along the seafront half a mile closer to the port area of Paphos. (www.athena-cbh.com)

Extend your holiday – extra week available in Paphos.

A WALKING HOLIDAY is also available from this hotel. Please ask for a copy of our Walking Holidays brochure or visit preferredts.com.