

Cyprus

Continent: Europe

Languages Spoken: Greek, Turkish, English

Population: 1,250,000

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Area: 9,251

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Kourion', 'writeup': 'An ancient city-kingdom with well-preserved Greco-Roman ruins including a theater and mosaics.'}
- {'name': 'Kyrenia Castle', 'writeup': 'A historic castle located in the harbor of Kyrenia, showcasing Byzantine and Crusader architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Tombs of the Kings', 'writeup': 'A large necropolis dating back to the 4th century BC, known for its underground tombs carved out of solid rock.'}
- {'name': 'St. Hilarion Castle', 'writeup': 'A medieval castle with panoramic views, linked to Crusader legends and fairy tales.'}
- {'name': 'Nicosia Old City', 'writeup': 'The walled city center of the capital, featuring narrow streets, historic buildings, and the Green Line dividing north and south.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Nikos Christodoulides

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Carnival', 'writeup': 'A lively pre-Lenten festival with parades, costumes, and traditional music celebrated across the island.'}
- {'name': 'Kataklysmos (Festival of the Flood)', 'writeup': 'A unique festival celebrating the biblical flood with water-based activities and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Wine Festival', 'writeup': "Held in Limassol, this festival celebrates Cyprus's ancient winemaking tradition with tastings and folk music."}
- {'name': 'Anthesteria', 'writeup': 'An ancient flower festival marking the arrival of spring with floral decorations and rituals.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Cypriot cuisine blends Greek, Turkish, and Middle Eastern influences, featuring dishes like halloumi cheese, souvlaki, meze platters, and fresh seafood, often accompanied by local wines and olive oil.

Brief History:

Cyprus has a rich history influenced by various civilizations including the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, and British. It gained independence from Britain in 1960. The island remains divided between the Greek Cypriot south and Turkish Cypriot north since 1974.

Important People:

- Makarios III - First President of independent Cyprus and Archbishop

- Glafcos Clerides - Former President and key figure in peace efforts
- Nicos Anastasiades - Current political leader and President prior to 2023
- George Michael - Internationally renowned singer of Cypriot descent
- Costas Montis - Prominent Cypriot poet and writer

Current Conflicts:

The island remains divided between the Republic of Cyprus (predominantly Greek Cypriot) and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey. Ongoing disputes involve territorial control, property rights, and political recognition.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Cyprus: A Mediterranean Gem
- History of Cyprus Explained
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Cyprus
- Cypriot Cuisine: Traditional Foods You Must Try
- The Cyprus Conflict: A Brief Overview