



RELIGIOUS TRAVEL

by **sidetour**



CYPRUS 2017

In the footsteps of the first saints



As SIDETOURL agency we find it important to show our guests the more unknown face of Cyprus – off the beaten track.

A unique fact of Cyprus is that apostle Paul came here, together with his friend and companion St. Barnabas, on his first missionary trip and converted the governor of Paphos to Christianity; making him the first Christian ruler outside of Palestine.

When Barnabas came a second time, he was arrested and stoned to death in Salamis, his original home-town!

This and many other stories and legends awaits you in Cyprus – we are looking forward to see you here!

Some of the saints of Cyprus are unknown in the Western Church, others like Paul are among the founders of the worldwide Christian community.

The 7 most important saints of Cyprus are (from West to East):

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1. St. Auxibius | SOLI | Bishop of Salamis and Soli |
| 2. St. George | KORMACIT | Patron of the village |
| 3. St. Mamas | GÜZELYURT | Miraculous hermit |
| 4. St. Hilarion | KYRENIA | Hermit from Egypt |
| 5. St. Paul | SALAMIS | Apostle and missionary |
| 6. St. Barnabas | ENKOMI | Companion of Paul |
| 7. St. Andrew | KARPAZ | Apostle and missionary |

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GETTING THERE

Airports:

ERCAN AIRPORT offers very good daily connections to most major cities in Europe and Middle East.

Airlines offering connecting flights (transit) to Ercan:

- Turkish Airlines: 4-5 flights daily (over Istanbul IST)
- Atlas Global: 2-3 flights daily (over Istanbul IST)
- Pegasus Airlines: 4-5 flights daily over Istanbul SAW)
- Onur Air: 2-3 flights daily (over Istanbul IST)
- Borajet: 2-3 flights daily (over Adana ADA)

Sea ports:

KYRENIA / GIRNE: daily connection for passengers (3h) to Taşucu (South Turkey), 2x weekly for cars (8h). In high season also connection to Alanya.

Visa requirements:

Arrivals over Ercan Airport or Kyrenia port: no visa is required for North Cyprus for all countries except Nigeria and Armenia and Pakistan (can be arranged before arrival with our assistance)

Airport transfers:

Our transfer service include “meet, greet and assist” as well as extensive information material, personal advising and waiting for longer flight delays.

TURKISH AIRLINES

THERE ARE THOSE OF US WHO LIKE TO VENTURE
TO THE UNEXPLORED.
TO SEE THE BEAUTY
IN THE STRANGE AND UNKNOWN.
THOSE OF US WHO GO OUT THERE WITH A SENSE OF
WONDER.
BRIDGING WORLDS,
CULTIVATING OUR CURIOSITY
AND FINDING DELIGHT IN OUR DIFFERENCES.
IF YOU'RE ONE OF US,
AND YOU WANT TO EXPLORE MORE OF THIS GREAT PLANET,
WE'RE READY TO TAKE YOU THERE.
IT'S TIME.

**WIDEN YOUR
WORLD**

TURKISHAIRLINES.COM A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

THE “WILD WEST”



Religious sights of the West Coast:

- The Roman and early Christian ruins of Soli
- The church of St. Mamas in Güzelyurt
- The Sufi Order of Sheikh Nazim in Lefke

Other sights and natural beauties:

- The view from the Persian Palace of Vouni
- The eco-village Bağlıköy
- The eco-farm with strawberry fields in Yeşilirmak
- The 1000-year-old olive grove of Kalkanlı

The Legend of Saint Mamas:

St. Mamas lived as a hermit in the southern slopes of the Troodos Mountains, probably at the time of the last Byzantine Emperor of Cyprus, Isaac Komemnos. He sent his tax collectors to him, and when Mamas refused to pay, they took him to Nicosia, where on the way Mamas tamed a wild lion, saved a lamb, and thus gained lifelong tax exemption. So he still applies today as a patron of tax evaders!



VOUNI KING HOTEL

Seaside family run hotel and restaurant in Yesilirmak village
Capacity: 18 rooms
info@vounikinghotel.com
+90 533 840 91 19 / +90 533 841 44 34

THE MARONITES OF KORMACIT

Kormacit (Aramaic; Koruçam in Turkish, Kormakitis in Greek) is the largest of the last three inhabited Maronite villages in Cyprus.

The Maronites are a religious community, unified with the Catholic Church, originated from today's Syria. They came to Cyprus in the Middle Ages with the crusaders.

Over the centuries the community has spoken its original language, Aramaic, which was spoken in the time of Christ in the Holy Land.

Kormacit is now an emerging centre for agrotourism, mountain-biking and of course a fixed point in any religious study trip to Cyprus.

The main attractions are:

- The St. George cathedral from the 19th century
- The St. George chapel from the 14th century
- The Ethnographic Museum
- Ema's clay oven
- Farm “Ranco tel Vata” with local products



GUEST HOUSE “PAYT TEL RUSO”

Traditional Maronite house in the center of Kormacit
Capacity: 6 rooms + 14 rooms in the village
info@kormacit.com, www.kormacit.com
+357 22 479 300 / +357 22 761 660



KYRENIA



Girne (Greek: Kyrenia) is the tourist centre of Northern Cyprus. The medieval harbour and the small old town invite you to stroll and linger.

Interesting for religiously motivated study trips is the Catholic church St. Elisabeth not far from the harbour. Over the past few years an ever-growing, colourful community has emerged, consisting of European immigrants, African students and Asian migrant workers. The choir is audible, every Sunday at 12 during the Holy Mass (in English).



The Anglican St. Andrews Church above the harbour fortress is also visited mainly by immigrants, especially from the UK.



Other sights of the old town:

- The mighty Venetian harbour fortress
- The shipwreck museum in the harbour fortress
- The Agha Cafer Pasha Mosque from the 16th century

The two main attractions around Kyrenia are:

The crusader castle of St Hilarion:

According to the legend, the monastery was founded in the 6th century by a hermit monk from Egypt, Saint Hilarion.

The Gothic style Bellapais Abbey:

The monastery was founded in the 13th century by monks of the Augustinian order, who had to flee from Palestine after the defeats of the crusaders.

The village and the monastery were also known by the book of the English writer Lawrence Durrell – Bitter Lemons, in which he writes:

“The inhabitants of Bellapais are traditionally regarded as the laziest people on the island. They are all land owners, coffee drinkers and card players. That is why they are getting so old. Here never seems a man to die. Just ask Mr. Honey, the gravedigger. The customer shortage almost ruined him ... “



RIVIERA BEACH BUNGALOWS

Peaceful seaside family run hotel in West Kyrenia. Capacity: 52 rooms
www.rivierahotel-northcyprus.com
+90 392 822 28 77
info@rivierahotel-northcyprus.com

KLEPINI RESTAURANT

capacity: 60 persons
Insider tip outside of Kyrenia town: Mezes, fish and lamb! - in Arapköy
+90 392 824 5495 f: Klepini Restaurant
+90 533 851 0411, English: +90 542 853 1078



BEŞPARMAK MOUNTAINS



The Beşparmak Mountains (in English Five Finger Mountains) extend from west to east over 180km along the north coast. The highest elevation with 1024m is the Selvili-Tepe west of Kyrenia. Since 2015, the mountain chain has its own 255km well marked walking trail in 18 stages - the Beşparmak Trail.

The main attractions east of Girne are:

The monastery church of Antifonitis:

A few kilometres above the village of Esentepe; The church is a Byzantine building from the 12th century, in a special design: the dome rests on 8 columns instead of 4, we also find wonderful frescoes from the 12th and 15th century.

The ruins of the Armenian monastery of Sourp Magar:

About 3 kilometres north of the Alevkaya forest station are the ruins of the former powerful Armenian monastery, a worthwhile hiking destination.



AHMET EFENDI RESTAURANT

Cypriot food combined with traditional weaving workshops - Serdarlı village
Capacity: 50 persons
abilluroglu@gmail.com, f: Ahmet Efendi'nin
Gave +90 533 868 32 37 +90533 868 59 28



FROM KYRENIA TO KARPAZ

Panagia Pergamonitissia:

The church was recently renovated and the site of the former Byzantine settlement still contains a lot of secrets for the archaeologists. For example, we still do not know exactly what was the purpose of the long tunnels that are only partially explored.

Exhibition MINIACYPRUS:

The exhibition consists of miniature versions of the most important buildings on the island, a beautiful and practical summary of each study trip.

Around Tatlısu you can often see the old coastal road, today a paradise for cyclists. The old road is suitable for mountain bikes or trekking bikes for many kilometres along the coast. The ZAMBAK HOLIDAY VILLAGE, run by the municipality, is a good place to take a bath or stay overnight.

On the southern flank of the mountain chain is the Turkish Cypriot village SERDARLI, a centre for traditional crafts and typical Cypriot cuisine



MINIACYPRUS

Small scale models of Cyprus' most important buildings - Location: passing Tatlısu towards Dipkarpaz (close to Zambak Holiday Village)
www.miniakibris.com f: Minia Kıbrıs Tatlısu
+90 392 389 20 26



NICOSIA



Nicosia (Turkish Lefkoşa, Greek Lefkosia) is the capital of both island parts and thus the last divided capital of Europe.

Churches and religious sights:

- **Selimiye Mosque**, former Sophia Cathedral
- **Bedesten**, former Nicholas Cathedral
- **Mevlevi Tekkesi**, former Sufi monastery
- **Former Armenian monastery**



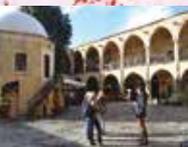
Other cultural highlights:

- Büyük Han, the big caravanserai
- Bandabulya, the lively market hall
- Lokmacı Checkpoint, since 2008 the main crossing point between North and South Nicosia, situated in the heart of the walled city.



The insider tips of Nicosia:

- Samanbahce, social housing project from the 1930s
- Rüstm Kitab Evi, traditional book-store
- Arabahmet Art School, modern art project
- Old Armenian quarter outside the city wall



BANDABULYA no:40

Traditional liquors (carob, raspberry, etc) & olive oil based creams
Location: covered market hall Bandulya, next to Selimiye Mosque
f:Bandabulya no:40 +90 542 867 3471

Travel impressions of Archduke Ludwig Salvator of Austrira (1872/73):

“The narrow, winding streets bear sometimes various names within a short distance, and usually the name of the street is not given, but the various places are designated after the neighbourhood in which they are situated. The names of the localities appear in white characters on blue tin tablets in Turkish and Greek; the houses are numbered in the same manner. The pavement consists of rough shingle, and in many cases there is none at all...”

Almost every house has an orange garden, with gigantic palms towering over the fruit-trees; and besides these private enclosures there are extensive public gardens within the boundaries of the city, occupying more than one half of the whole extent of it. All these gardens are bounded by clay walls on the side of the street; the side adjoining the open hall of the house is fenced only by a low wooden balustrade; and they are watered either from cisterns or directly from the aqueducts. All sorts of fruits are cultivated there...”



SERDIRHAN RESTAURANT

Cypriot specialities in the unique Büyük Han (Great Inn) - Capacity: 150 persons
seneylercemal@gmail.com,
f: Sedirhan Restaurant
+90 392 228 7760



FAMAGUSTA



Famagusta (Turkish: Mağosa, Greek: Ammochostos) was one of the principal markets of the Crusades. Today, the city wall, churches, church ruins and parts of the old town bear witness to this wealth.

Attractions:

- Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque, the former Nicolas Cathedral
- Twin church of the Templars and Hospitaller
- Othello Tower
- The monastery of Saint Barnabas
- The Roman-Byzantine ruins of Salamis

The legend of Saint Barnabas:

Barnabas came to Cyprus together with Mark on the first missionary journey of the Apostle Paul, where they converted the Roman governor of Paphos to Christianity. On a later voyage, Barnabas was supposedly stoned to death in Salamis - the independence of the Cypriot Orthodox Church is based on the recovery of his relics.



KARPAZ PENINSULA

The eastern peninsula is not only naturally beautiful, it is also one of the island's agricultural centres. Some villages, such as Eco-village, BÜYÜKKONUK, specialize in organic farming. Of course they also use these excellent quality products gastronomically.

Religious sights:

- St. Andrews Monastery at the tip of the peninsula, re-opened after several years of renovation since 30.11.2016
- The ruins of Ayios Philon
- The church of Ayios Thyrsos
- The mosaics of Ayias Trias

Other sights:

- The GOLDEN BEACH
- ... and of course the Wild Donkeys!

The Legend of the Apostle Andrews:

After a long voyage, Andreas opened the fountain with his cane to save the crew from thirst. The source is still there and the water is supposed to relieve eye and skin diseases.



GINGKO RESTAURANT

Capacity: over 80 persons
Beautiful mixture of Gothic and Ottoman style
- both in food and architecture!
f: Ginkgo Café&Restaurant
+90 542 850 2535



KEMERALTİ AŞEVİ

Cypriot specialties with traditional ambiance in Büyükkonuk village
Capacity: over 100 seats
f: Kemeraltı aşevi büyükkonuk
+90 533 863 51 85



FESTIVALS & RELIGIOUS EVENTS



Daily: Morning Mass in Kormacit 7:00

Every Sunday:

Catholic Mass Girne St. Elisabeth 12:00

Anglican Fair Girne St. Andrews 10:30

Aramaic Mass in Kormacit 8:00

Every Friday:

Hadra of the Sufi Order in Lefke 14:00

Important festivals (chronological):

- Tulip Festival in Tepebaşı
- St. George's Day in Kormacit
- Ayrelli (wild asparagus) in Akdeniz
- Strawberry Festival in Yesilirmak
- Eco-festival in Büyükkonuk
- Music festival in Bellapais
- Orange-festival in Güzelyurt
- Date festival in Lefke
- Walnut festival in Lefke



DENIZKIZI BEACH

Best sandy beach in Kyrenia region with easy access

Capacity: over 150 persons

info@denizkizi.com, www.denizkizi.com

+90 392 821 2676

TOWN OF LEFKE

Former Ottoman mining town.
Since 2015 member of CITTASLOW
Watch out for the snail-logo
in this brochure - Visit Lefke!

www.lefkebelediyesi.com, f: Lefke Belediyesi
+90 392 728 7358



ACTIVITIES

SIDETOUR offers a variety of day trips, according to the seasons: These tours, starting from 4 persons, are hosted by official guides in German, English, French and Dutch.

Program for spring 2017 (prices in EURO):

Monday:	Famagusta	45
St. Barnabas - Salamis - St. Nicholas & Old Town		
Tuesday:	Beşparmak Mountains	45
Short hike Antifonitis - village Serdarlı - MINIACYPRUS		
Wednesday:	Lionheart	29
Crusader castle of St. Hilarion - Bellapais Gothic monastery		
Thursday:	Secrets of Nicosia	39
Arabahmet Quarter - Rüstem Library & Bookshop - Market Hall		
Friday:	The Karpaz peninsula	45
MINIACYPRUS - Biodorf Büyükkonuk - Aostolos Andreas		
Saturday:	The "Wild West"	45
Maronite village of Kormacit - Soli ruins - Vouni - Lefke		



The current program can be found on our website at www.side-tour.com/INDIVIDUALS / DAILY TOURS, reviews on TripAdvisor at Sidetour Kyrenia



BEHICE BIRAN HANDICRAFT

Workshops, shows and sales for unique Cypriot handicrafts - Capacity: 50 persons
behicebiran2010@windowslive.com,
f: Behice Sönmez Biran
+90 548 8950005

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Program for a religious-agricultural study trip (guided, starting from 4 people):

- D1 Arrival and transfer to Girne
- D2 Harbor Castle and old town of Girne - Bellapais Monastery - Church of Antifonitis
- D3 Famagusta - Excavations of Salamis - Barnabas Monastery
- D4 MINIACYPRUS Exhibition - Karpaz Peninsula - St. Andrews Monastery
- D5 St. Hilarion and Nicosia
- D6 Maronite morning mass, village life and optional hike (orchids and tulips)
- D7 West coast with Güzelyurt, former mining town Lefke and Maronite village of Kormacit
- D8 Transfer to ECN and departure

The program includes: Airport transfer (ECN), Info meeting, 4 nights BB in Kyrenia, 3 nights BB in Kormacit), 6 guided tours according to the program



FARM "RANCHO TEL VATA"

Agrotourism center in Kormacit
Capacity: 50 persons
info@kormacit.com,
www.kormacit.com
+357 22 479 300 / +357 22 761 660



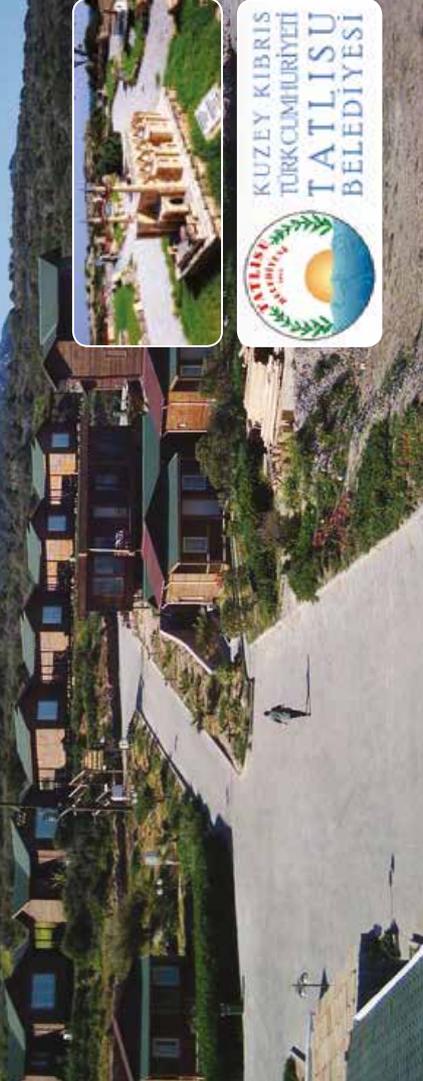
ZAMBAK HOLIDAY VILLAGE TATLISU



Capacity: 20 rooms
Cosy wooden bungalows at the
beach of Tatlisu with A/C
tatil@zambaktatilikoyu.com,
www.zambaktatilikoyu.com
+90 533 869 22 33



Kapazität: 20 Zimmer
Gemütliche Holzbungalows
am Strand von Tatlisu mit A/C
tatil@zambaktatilikoyu.com
www.zambaktatilikoyu.com
+90 533 869 22 33



KUZEY KIBRIS
TÜRK CUMHURİYETİ
TATLISU
BELEDİYESİ

DOME HOTEL KYRENIA



DOME HOTEL Seaside 4* Hotel at the centre of
Kyrenia with long tradition
Capacity: 160 rooms
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+90 392 815 24 54



DOME HOTEL 4* Traditions hotel am
Meer im Zentrum von Girne
Kapazität: 160 Zimmer
info@hoteldome.com, www.hoteldome.com
+90 392 815 24 54