

RELIGION IN NORTHERN (& SOUTHERN) CYPRUS

9 nights / 10 days REF: RELIGION-N-9-2015

Spiritual trip to the origins of Christianity

SAT - DAY 1: FLIGHT TO LARNACA (LCN) AND TRANSFER TO KORMACIT VILLAGE

Arrival in Landing in Larnaca (LCN) airport – Welcome and pick up by our professional guide
Private guided group transfer to KORMACIT Maronite village
Tasting of bread, wine and cheese, check-in Kormacit Villas
Overnight in Kormacit Villas

Our guide welcomes you at LARNACA (LCA) airport. Transfer to Kormacit, where we are welcomed with a light dinner: cheese, bread and wine. Afterwards we check in for the first night in the Kormacit Villas. Kormacit is the last village of the Maronite catholic community in Cyprus. The Maronites came with the crusaders in the middle ages and stayed on the island until today.

SUN - DAY 2: ARAMAIC HOLY MASS AND “THE WILD WEST” OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

08:00 Aramaic Holy Mass in the Church of St. George in Kormacit
09:00 Breakfast
10:00 Departure to Güzelyurt
10:30 St. Mamas and the archaeological museum
12:00 Soli Ruins
13:00 Traditional Lunch “Kleftiko” (lamb in the oven) in Lefke
15:00 Palace of Vouni
17:00 Return to Kormacit Village
20:00 *PREMIUM EXTENSION: Maronite Dinner with live music and all drinks included
Overnight in Kormacit Villas

In the early morning we have the exclusive chance to take part in a holy mass in Aramaic, the language of Jesus in the Holy Land! After a breakfast we head for Güzelyurt, where we visit the Monastery of Saint Mamas, the patron saint of the tax evaders and the nearby archaeological museum with the “Golden Leaves”. In Soli we will visit the ruins of the ancient Byzantine church of Saint Auxibius and the Greek theatre. For lunch we continue to the city of Lefke, which is famous for a modern Islamic Saint, Sheik Nazim, who died only two years ago. The last sightseeing spot for today is Vouni Palace, a former Persian military camp with marvellous views to the Troodos Mountains and the western coastline before we return to our village.

*PREMIUM EXTENSION: A typical Maronite Dinner with Aramaic live music and all drinks included



MON - DAY 3: SOUTHERN CYPRUS: TROODOS, OMODOS AND PAPHOS

- 09:00 Departure after breakfast
- 10:00 Visit of Kakopetria and coffee break
- 11:30 Troodos View Point
- 12:30 *PREMIUM EXTENSION: Lunch with typical Troodos trout
- 13:30 Visit of the Church of the Holy Cross and wine tasting in Omodos
- 15:30 Paphos – Visit of the mosaics and the Column of Saint Paul
- 17:00 Free time for exploring the Paphos harbour
- 18:00 Departure from Paphos
- 20:00 Arrival at Kormacit and Dinner
Overnight in Kormacit Villas

We leave Kormacit after breakfast, heading for the Troodos Mountains. After crossing the inner Cypriot border at Bostanci checkpoint our first visit will be the mountain village of Kakopetria with its beautifully renovated old quarter. The lookout point next to the Mount Olympos is one of today's highlights. The southern slopes of the Troodos Mountains are famous for wine production. In the village of Omodos we will have a wine tasting and visit the Monastery of the Holy Cross. Our journey continues to Paphos, which was the first Christian city outside of the Holy Land. The highlights of Paphos are its mosaics of Dionysus's house and the Column of Saint Paul. After a guided tour you have some free time to explore the harbour before we drive back to Kormacit, where we have dinner.

*PREMIUM EXTENSION: Typical Troodos trout for lunch

TUE - DAY 4: MARONITE VILLAGE LIFE AND HIGHLIGHTS OF KYRENIA

- 09:00 Breakfast next to the bread oven
- 09:30 Cooking course and tastings
- 12:30 *PREMIUM EXTENSION: Traditional Maronite Lunch
- 14:00 Transfer to Kyrenia
- 15:00 Visit of the Harbour Castle
- 16:30 Boat trip with dinner
- 20:00 Check in Dome Hotel
Overnight in Kyrenia-Dome Hotel

The day starts with a breakfast next to Ema's mud brick oven. The Maronite women will explain about the techniques of baking bread, making Halloumi cheese and Carob cake. After the experience of preparing some of the Maronite Cypriot specialities we visit the ethnographical museum, before we leave the village and move on the scenic road of Sadrazamköy to the town of Kyrenia (Girne). In Kyrenia the visit of the impressive Harbour Castle is a must! The highlight of this day is a boat trip with dinner, to see the island from a totally different point of view and enjoy the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea. After coming back from the boat tour we check in at the seaside DOME Hotel next to the Venetian harbour.

*PREMIUM EXTENSION: typical homemade Maronite Lunch



WED - DAY 5: WEDNESDAY MARKET AND EASY WALK

- 09:00 Departure from Dome Hotel
- 09:15 Visit of the weekly Wednesday market
- 10:00 Transfer to the Five Finger Mountains and 4km walk to Antifonitis Monastery
- 12:30 Visit of Antifonitis Church and Picnic
- 14:00 Visit of Bellapais Monastery
- 15:00 Transfer back to Kyrenia, free time in the city
- 19:30 *PREMIUM EXTENSION: Transfer to Klepini traditional tavern, private dinner with live music and all drinks included. This day will be accompanied by a professional photographer
Overnight in Kyrenia-Dome Hotel

Wednesday is the day of the Weekly Market in Kyrenia. The market is a colourful mixture of fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade products from local farmers and a lot more. We continue with a transfer to the Five Finger Mountains (in Turkish: Besparmak), where we enjoy an easy walk to the Monastery of Antifonitis (alt. Antiphonitis). Antifonitis is famous for the colourful frescos dating back to the 12th and 15th centuries. After a picnic in the garden of the monastery we drive back towards Kyrenia. On the way back we visit the Bellapais Monastery, one of the most beautiful buildings from Lusignan period in Cyprus. In the afternoon we bring you back to our hotel and you have free time to explore the historic city of Kyrenia.

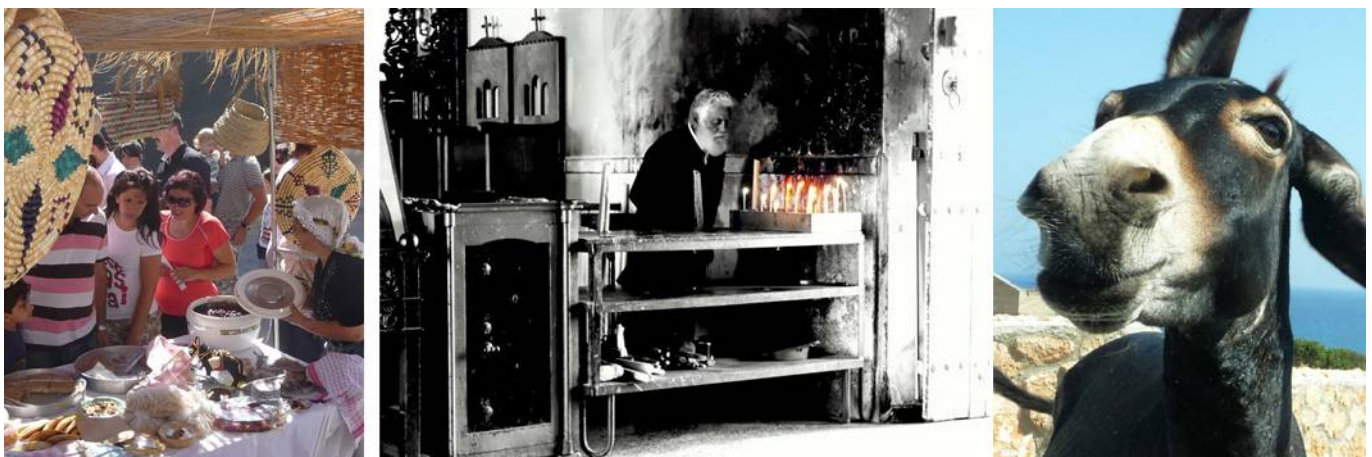
*PREMIUM EXTENSION: Exclusive traditional dinner with private concert in the KLEPINI tavern. This restaurant in the village of Arapköy is famous amongst locals for its huge variety of Cypriot Meze (starters) and the quality of its special meat and home-caught fish. This day will be accompanied by a professional photographer

THU - DAY 6: THE PRISTINE KARPAZ PENINSULA

- 09:00 Departure from our hotel to the Karpaz peninsula
- 10:00 Workshop at traditional handicraft workshop in Büyükkonuk
- 13:00 Traditional lunch at our seaside Restaurant (Fish-Sea bream)
- 14:30 Visit of Apostolos Andreas Monastery and the Holy Well (at the moment the main church of Apostolos Andreas is in restoration)
- 15:30 Swimming break at the Golden Beach
- 19:00 Return to Dome Hotel
*PREMIUM EXTENSION: This day will be accompanied by a professional photographer
- 20:00 *PREMIUM EXTENSION: Dinner at a harbour restaurant in Kyrenia
Overnight in Kyrenia-Dome Hotel

Today we are heading east towards Karpaz peninsula. Our first stop is Büyükkonuk, where we visit a traditional workshop that produces handmade goods from barley straw and reed. Here you have the chance to produce your unique souvenir with your name on it! We continue our journey to the tip of the peninsula to visit the Apostolos Andreas Monastery, well known amongst Cypriot and Orthodox Christians for its Holy Well. This water is said to be a remedy for eye and skin diseases! For lunch we have fresh Sea bream, grilled or from the oven. After a swimming break at the famous Golden Beach we return to Kyrenia.

*PREMIUM EXTENSION: This day will be accompanied by a professional photographer; the pictures will be free to download for our guests. Tonight's dinner will be organized at one of the nice harbour restaurants in Kyrenia.



FRI - DAY 7: SAINT BARNABAS AND THE VENETIAN GLORY OF FAMAGUSTA

09:00	Departure from Dome Hotel
09:30	Photo break at the Five Finger Rock
10:30	"Ghost city" of Varoscha
11:00	Visit of Old Town of Famagusta
12:30	Lunch at Salamis Beach
13:30	Visit of the Salamis Ruins and short swimming break
15:30	Visit of the Monastery of Saint Barnabas
17:00	Visit of an ostrich farm
19:00	*PREMIUM EXTENSION: Traditional Tavern in the quarter of "Gönyeli" in Nicosia Overnight in Kyrenia-Dome Hotel

In the morning we cross the mountain range, having a photo break at the Five-Finger-Rock. The "ghost city" of Varoscha is one of the visible remains of the troubles started in 1963. Through the Venetian City Walls we drive into the old part of Famagusta. The Lala Mustafa Pascha mosque (former Saint Nicolas Cathedral) is one of the highlights during our walking city tour. After some free time in the city we continue to the Ruins of Salamis, here we have our lunch and a short swimming break. Salamis was also the birthplace of Saint Barnabas, who evangelized Cyprus together with Saint Paul. The Church of Saint Barnabas is the last cultural spot of today's program. Heading back westwards, we visit an ostrich farm where artworks are produced out of the huge eggs.

*PREMIUM EXTENSION: Dinner in one of the famous traditional taverns in the "Gönyeli" quarter of Nicosia on our way back home to Kyrenia. Including live music and free drinks

SAT - DAY 8: ST HILARION CASTLE – NICOSIA, THE LAST DIVIDED CAPITAL OF EUROPE: NORTH AND SOUTH

09:00	Departure from Dome Hotel
09:30	Visit of Saint Hilarion Castle
11:30	Walking City tour Nicosia North
13:00	*PREMIUM EXTENSION: Lunch at the Büyük Han (Great Inn)
14:00	Walking City tour Nicosia South
17:00	Transfer back to Kyrenia

After breakfast and check out from DOME hotel, the last highlight of Kyrenia is waiting for us: St Hilarion Castle! With stunning views overlooking the northern coastline we say farewell to Kyrenia and continue to Nicosia, the last divided capital of Europe. On a walking city tour we visit the gothic style Selimiye mosque, the Büyük Han (Great Inn) and the Ottoman Arabahmet Quarter. After crossing the border, we will visit the southern part of Nicosia where we see the Joan Church in the Archbishop's palace, which is abundantly decorated with frescos and counts as one of the oldest byzantine artworks in Nicosia. Then we have a relaxing stroll along the lively Ledra Street, before we head back to Kyrenia.

*PREMIUM EXTENSION: traditional lunch in the Büyük Han in Nicosia

SUN - DAY 9: HOLY MESS AND FREE TIME AT LEISURE

12:00	Holy mess at the only active catholic church in Kyrenia
13:00	Free time at leisure.

MON - DAY 10: LARNACA - SAINT LAZARUS

07:30	Check-out and Departure from Dome Hotel to Larnaca
09:00	Visit of Larnaca City and Saint Lazarus Church
11:00	Transfer to Airport (15 minutes)
12:50	Return flight from Larnaca (LCN) to Paris (CDG) with AEGEAN AIRLINES, arrival at 16:30

After breakfast and check out from DOME hotel we drive to Larnaca. The city of Larnaca hosts the Church of Saint Lazarus, one of the most important Orthodox churches in Cyprus, dating back to the 9th century. After some free time in the city we bring you to the airport, where we have to say good bye and güle güle!



Included Services in BASIC PACKAGE:

- Transfer Larnaca – Kormacit and light dinner
- 3-night accommodation in KORMACIT VILLAS on BB basis
- 6-night accommodation in 4* DOME HOTEL KYRENIA on BB basis
- Tour “Wild West” including lunch
- Tour “Troodos”, dinner in Kormacit
- Tour “Kormacit-Kyrenia”, Boat tour with dinner
- Tour “Antifonitis walk” and picnic
- Tour “Karpaz” including lunch (Sea bream)
- Tour “Famagusta” including lunch
- Tour “Famagusta” and lunch
- Tour “Nicosia”
- Tour “Larnaca” and transfer Larnaca Airport

Price for BASIC PACKAGE:

See our attached price list. Ask for individual quotation

Included services in PREMIUM EXTENSION € 175,-- per PAX:

- Day 2: Maronite Crusader dinner with live music and free drinks
- Day 3: Typical Troodos trout for lunch
- Day 4: Homemade Maronite lunch
- Day 5: Traditional tavern KLEPINI with private concert & free drinks and professional photographer
- Day 6: Dinner at Harbour and professional photographer
- Day 7: Typical Cypriot “Meyhane” dinner with live music and free drinks
- Day 8: Traditional Lunch in Büyük Han

Not included services:

- Sea view supplement for DOME Hotel: € 90,-- per room for 6 nights
- SGL Supplement: € 390,-- (for Dome Hotel and Kormacit)
- Supplement for 6 nights in 5* Hotel ROCKS in Kyrenia: € 150,-- per person in DBL room
- SGL Supplement: € 450,-- (for Rocks Hotel and Kormacit)
- Personal expenses, drinks during lunches and dinners (except included drinks according to itinerary, tips).

