

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips



### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Cypriot bohemia**

From the outside, the *Art Café 1900* in Lárnaka seems nothing special, but don't be put off: inside, it has become the meeting point for the regional and international art scene – thanks to its excellent food and good wines as well as classic cocktails from the bar → p. 39

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Thank God for Britannia**

Lying as they do within the sovereign territory of the British military base, the *beaches of Avdímou* are not very well known. Which means, so far, they've not been spoilt by hotels and urban sprawl → p. 48

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Bookshop restaurant**

You will find something to feed your body and soul at *Rüstems Bookshop* in northern Nicosia. On the upper floor of this traditional book shop, tables have been set up between the shelves where the chef dishes up home-style Cypriot dishes. You are more than welcome to read while you eat! → p. 59

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Market at the minaret**

Plan your trip to Nicosia for a Wednesday or a Saturday, when you can take in the *farmers' market* on the medieval Constanza bastion on the city wall (photo above) → p. 60

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **The best mesé**

In the *Laterna* taverna in Páfos, your host is an ecological winegrower and a passionate chef too. The wines come from small winemakers of the region → p. 68

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Living with artists**

In the hotel *Kinirás* in the Old Town of Páfos, paintings and frescoes by hosts and guests adorn the walls of the rooms and the secluded courtyard → p. 70

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Aphrodite up close**

The temple of Aphrodite in Páfos was a place of pilgrimage in ancient times. The goddess was worshiped in the form of a stone fertility symbol. The *Idol* is on display in Koúklia → p. 73

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **A village with history**

Modern art dominates life in what is today *Lémba*. The village's 4,500 year-old predecessor, right next door and hardly visited, has been reconstructed → p. 74

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Top table**

In Pródromos, the highest village in Cyprus, enjoy a delicious Cypriot lunchtime buffet at the *Byzántio* taverna, featuring a large selection of vegetables, meat, salads and local fruit and veg → p. 84

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Dune beaches**

At the small *Balci Plaza* hotel you are a stone's throw from the empty dune beaches of the Karpaz peninsula, and have a lot of space to yourself (photo below) → p. 93

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **White pearl**

Only at the *White Pearl* hotel do you get to enjoy the panoramic view of Kerýneia's port from your own balcony and live right on the harbour promenade → p. 95

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Alone by the sea**

Tourism has yet to reach the western coast of northern Cyprus. The beaches of *Akdeniz* attract sea turtles and the odd swimmer or two. At the moment, only one restaurant caters to beach guests → p. 95

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Seafood**

Enjoy fish *mesé* at a good price with a view of the sea at the family-run restaurant *Arapis* near the beach of Coral Bay and yet still off the beaten tourist track → p. 72

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Babbling brook**

There are many hiking trails on Cyprus, but only the *Caledonia Trail* at Tróodos keeps crossing a stream, eventually leading to a waterfall → p. 117

### INSIDER TIP ▶ **Classical music in the monastery**

For a whole month, famous virtuosi play classical music in Bellapaís Monastery between Gothic tracery and lancet windows → p. 118



# BEST OF...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

### ● **Concerts for free**

On nearly every Sunday in the year, Páfos, Limassol and Lárnaka host free concerts, sometimes folk or rock, sometimes jazz or classical. All events are organised by the relevant municipal authorities → [p. 118](#)

### ● **Where wishes (might) become reality**

Gain deep insights into Greek Cypriots' popular piety between the golden shimmering mosaics and expressive wall paintings of *Kýkko Monastery* and take up the invitation to look after your future at a wish tree. All this is still for free (photo) → [p. 80](#)

### ● **Village life in the past**

At *Melandra House*, a small private museum in northern Cyprus, you can delve into an otherwise long-forgotten world. Learn what daily life was like in the villages on the island in the 1950s → [p. 89](#)

### ● **Freebie beach**

Many of the better beaches around Kyréneia/Girne in northern Cyprus charge a fee. For some free sun worship and a swim choose the pretty *sandy beaches* of Famagusta at Hotel Palm Beach and in front of the excavations of Sálamis → [p. 90](#)

### ● **Make art not accounts**

A bank building where the talk is not about accounts for once is the museum of the *Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation* in Nicosia's Old Town. Stroll through 8,000 years of Cypriot art history without having to pay a penny for the privilege → [p. 54](#)

### ● **Rose picking**

Get up early for a free holiday experience like no other at the *rose house* in May and early June. Pick your own fresh rose petals to make rosewater! → [p. 78](#)



● ● ● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

## ONLY ON CYPRUS

Unique experiences

### ● **Capital Cypriot meal**

In the taverna *Matthéas* in Nicosia's Old Town you can eat like the locals. Simple dishes like stew and sweet potato with pork are always accompanied by a platter of crudités and olives → [p. 59](#)

### ● **Folk dancing on the village square**

If you want to experience Cypriot folk dancing on a village square, head for the *platía* in Pissouri to watch the authentic *folkloric* demonstration held once a week (photo) → [p. 51](#)



### ● **Cohabiting in no-man's land**

One of the very few villages on Cyprus where Greek and Turkish Cypriots still live together is *Pýla* near Lárnaka. On the village square you have the choice between Greek-Cypriot and Turkish beer and can meet UN soldiers: *Pýla*, you see, is in no-man's-land between Northern and Southern Cyprus → [p. 43](#)

### ● **Plenty of friends + plenty of dishes = a good dinner**

In the traditional taverna *Nápa* in Agía Nápa you can experience first hand how a true Cypriot dinner requires at least 15 different dishes on the table: from salads and *tsatziki* to calamari and lamb cutlets. And at least as many friends have to be seated around the table too → [p. 34](#)

### ● **Swimming near a ghost town**

Confront the brutal political reality at Palm Beach in Famagusta where you swim right next to a barbed-wire fence which, since 1974, has turned *Varósha* into a ghost town → [p. 89](#)

### ● **Picnic in the forest**

At the weekend "do as the Cypriots do" and pack everything you need for a delicious meal at one of the countless picnic sites in the north or south. Arguably the most beautiful lies in the forest of *Stavrós tis Psókas* → [p. 75](#)

### ● **Observe the sea turtles**

Cyprus' sea turtles lay their eggs on the beaches in summer. The babies hatch between July and September. You can watch them at the protection sites in *Lára* and *Alagadi* → [p. 73, 117](#)

# ONLY ON



# DISCOVERY TOURS

1

## CYPRUS AT A GLANCE



START: 1 Lárnaka

END: 1 Lárnaka

Distance:

850 km/528 miles

14 days

Driving time

(without stops)

20 hours



**COSTS:** hire car approx. 500 euros (or more), accommodation/meals approx. 1,000 euros/person (or more), admissions approx. 38 euros

**IMPORTANT TIPS:** when booking a hire car, make sure that it can be driven in northern Cyprus. You also need to add supplementary liability insurance (approx. 20 euros for 3 days) for the days in northern Cyprus. In most cases, you do not need to book your overnight accommodation until the morning of your arrival.

This round-trip tour explores the many different faces of Cyprus. Learn about the island's 9,000 years of history at excavation sites, castles, museums, mosques

Every corner of the earth has its own special charm. If you want to explore all the many different facets of this region, head off the beaten track or get tips for the best stops, breathtaking views, hand-picked restaurants or the best local activities, then these customised discovery tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

and monasteries. Visit the major cities, sit among the locals on village squares, cross through both sides of the island and swim at completely different kinds of beaches. Short nature hikes, boat trips, shopping and authentic tavernas will complete your experience on this diverse island.

From the airport, it is only a 15-minute drive to an old-town hotel in 1 Lárnaka → p. 37 near the beach. Stroll through the town and go for your first swim in the Mediterranean Sea. The next morning, head off in the direction of the airport, stopping first at the mosque of

DAY 1

1 Lárnaka



7 km/4.3 mi

DAY 2