





Evoke the myths and legends of Cyprus' fabled history on an imagination inspiring visit to the ancient kingdom of Amathounta in Limassol. Organised by our Guest Relations team, this immersive tour transports guests back in time, through the ruins of one of the island's most important ancient historical sites.

Dating back to the Iron Age of 1100 BC, when the earliest detection of human activity at the location can first be traced to, the site was vanquished by many a conquering empire. From the Hellenistic and Roman eras, all the way into the middle ages. Soak in the atmospheric energy of this storied place as you learn all about the people who once called its maze of architectural remains home. The tour is complimentary for our guests and runs either a weekly basis or upon request.



#### 1. AKAMAS JEEP SAFARI: THE ALLURE OF UNTOUCHED NATURE

Experience the captivating beauty of untouched nature at its most breath-taking on this safari around the island's stunning southwestern tip. Our journey begins at Petra tou Romiou – the mythical birthplace of the Goddess Aphrodite – before continuing on to explore the Akamas Peninsula. This wild nature reserve is home to some of the island's most dramatic landscapes and sparkling waters. Here, we will venture inside the natural wonder that is the Avakas Gorge, where striking limestone walls rise up from the winding riverbed.

Next, we head off-road to Lara Bay – a spectacular swathe of secluded golden-sand beach, known as a favourite nesting place for the island's protected Green Turtle population. After a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters, we will visit the enchanted Baths of Aphrodite, a natural spring water grotto surrounded by beautiful botanical gardens. The excursion includes lunch at a traditional Cypriot family tavern, with spectacular sea views.

#### 2. TROODOS JEEP SAFARI: AN AUTHENTIC MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Venture off the coastal routes, to experience a taste of real Cypriot culture and hospitality in the scenic Troodos mountains. On this enriching excursion, guests will uncover a lesser known side of the island, starting with the charming mountain village of Omodos. Here time stands still, as age-old customs live on through the skilled hands of a fading generation of artisans. Wander winding cobbled lanes, stopping at Timios Stavros Church of the Holy Cross, before sampling a selection of exceptional local wines from this famous wine-producing region.

Next, we head deep into the mountains to find the hidden secret that is the ancient Venetian Kelefos Bridge. Then off-road to Kykkos Monastery – the wealthiest and most lavish in Cyprus, home to famous icons attributed to Apostle Luke the Evangelist. After reaching the highest point of the island, we will stop at a traditional mountain tavern to enjoy a homemade Cypriot meze accompanied by regional wines. The return journey will take in the spectacular Millomeri Waterfalls, culminating in a stroll through the Village of Laneia, with its beautiful flower-lined streets and quaint old stone houses.





## 3. SUNSET CRUISE BY YACHT/ SAILING BOAT/CATAMARAN: SAIL INTO THE SUNSET

One of our most unforgettable excursions, this boat trip will take guests on a magical voyage out to sea, to watch the sun set over the horizon and admire Limassol's sparkling coastline by night – all from the deck of a luxury yacht, sailing boat or catamaran.

Guests are invited to discover the exquisite allure of a cool evening being lulled by the soothing swell of the Mediterranean. As the golden sun slowly dips down beneath the skyline turning the sky a myriad of incandescent hues, you will be able to swim in the crystal-clear waters under a star-filled sky and enjoy a sophisticated menu and a glass of wine. What could possibly be more romantic. This transformative nautical adventure invites guests to immerse themselves in the ultimate magic of the moment, sharing cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

## 4. FISHING/DEEP SEA FISHING: TRAWLING FOR THE TREASURES OF THE MED

As an island nation, Cyprus has long been revered for its unsurpassed seafood flavours and deeprooted seafaring traditions. And we want guests to experience this indelible pillar of cultural history, on a personal fishing cruise offering you the opportunity to come face-to-face with the treasures of the Mediterranean.

Spend a relaxing day out on the water with family or friends, as our skilled fishermen show you how to catch fish the old way. Fishing enthusiasts can try their hand at getting the 'catch of the day', in between swimming off the side of the boat and admiring the panoramic views across Larnaca's dynamic coastline.

On returning to dry-land, guests are invited to stroll along the iconic Finikoudes seafront promenade; named after the majestic palm trees that line the street. Enjoy a refreshing cocktail or delicious lunch at one of the many restaurants and bars in this vibrant local hub of dining and entertainment, before heading back to the resort.



## 5. WINE TOUR & PICNIC: CURATED WINE TASTING AT ITS FINEST

Cyprus has a long established history of wine making. Going back to ancient times, the island has been cultivating vines for the production of wine for millennia. And today the custom still holds strong, with the contemporary wine scene in Cyprus now gaining international recognition for its distinguished wines of exceptional high quality.

On this tour, your guide will pick you up from a location of your choice and take you up into the beguiling Troodos mountain villages to visit three carefully curated wineries. Here you will learn about the production practices and extensive native varietals, hear what makes high altitude vine-cultivation so distinct and also taste a refined sample of some of the island's best bottles and vintages. Try and pick out the delicate aromas and crisp, rounded flavours that make this island's wines the ones to watch. Along the way you will stop and explore a traditional village and sit down nearby for a lavish picnic lunch.

## 6. SWEETS & TREATS TOUR: DELIGHTING YOUR SWEET TOOTH

Thoughtfully curated for those with a weakness for sweetness, this one-of-a-kind guided day out takes guests on a gastronomic adventure to satiate any sweet tooth.

The day begins with a visit to a local family of honey producers. Here, you will learn about the life of bees, how honey is made, as well as why Cypriot honey is so distinct around the world. Following a honey tasting, you will continue our journey up into the Troodos mountain villages, to discover the island's sweet wine making history. Learn how this world-famous Commandaria wine is pressed and indulge in a sweet wine tasting on the scenic grounds of a historic monastery.

The day continues with a luxurious brunch homemade by a local family, where you will be spoiled with an array of mouth-watering delicacies and fresh produce. On our return, we will stop off in the village of Geroskipou for a tour and tasting at a small workshop famous for their Cyprus Delights.

#### 7. HONEY HUNT: TIMELESS TREASURES OF RURAL CYPRUS

Engage in the enduring customs and products of rural Cyprus on this guided tour of the bucolic villages around Larnaca, famed for their continued creation of traditional delicacies and handicrafts.

This will be followed by a trip to Lefkara village; famous for its other-worldly atmosphere and emblematic lace. Here we'll enjoy a scenic stroll through the narrow winding streets and visit a small family-owned sweet factory.

Next, stop off at a rustic bee-keeping retreat, and enjoy a lavish picnic lunch surrounded by flowers and the Cypriot countryside. After lunch, guests will have the gratifying opportunity to delve into the local craft of apiculture. An enriching workshop will see you donning protective gear and inspecting the beehives where the sweet magic happens, before enjoying a memorable honey and bee product tasting and a tour of the laboratory. Finally, get behind the cooking station and learn how to make native honey pastries, to end the day with something extra sweet!

# 8. DONKEY FARM/TAVERN/CHURCH: MEETING THE ICONS OF CYPRIOT CULTURE

Experience an intimate and up-close encounter with an iconic symbol of the island, with a visit to a local sanctuary to meet the famous Cyprus donkey.

Our excursion begins with a visit to a local donkey park where guests will learn all about the indigenous Cypriot donkey and try a range of products made from their milk, such as cosmetics, chocolate and even liquor.

On this tour, you will learn more about these gentle creatures, who serve as a timeless reminder of bygone eras. Once revered as an invaluable working animal, used for transport and agriculture, today the donkey is largely protected across the island. Guests will have a chance to see just how they are looked after, learning more about the animal themselves, their lives and their intrinsic link to rural Cypriot history.

Following the activity, guests can go for a short ride to collect ingredients for dinner, before enjoying a traditional meze, complete with a memorable folkloric show, with live music and dance.



#### 9. APSIOU CHURCH: DIVINE WINDOW INTO THE PAST

Have a glimpse back into Cyprus' storied religious past on a visit up to the painted chapel of Virgin Mary in Apsiou Village.

The tour starts with a pickup from your knowledgeable local guide, followed by a scenic drive up through the traditional villages that nestle in the foothills of the mountains above Limassol. This is the idyllic setting for a sleepy little village, with a surprising religious treasure hidden within its folds. Here the notable little chapel of Virgin Mary, still bears witness to the Cyprus' ancient Byzantine history, with intricate wall paintings remaining as a reminder of the island's past as part of this rich empire . Remarkable art from this period provides a lasting example of Easter Roman art of the time. And the intricate wall paintings at Apsiou Village are particularly noteworthy. They are also gratifyingly exclusive, with access only granted upon request. Be a part of the privileged few who can say that they have there.

# 10. COOKING CLASS AND LUNCH AT SYMPOSIO: PRIVATE COOKING LESSON WITH LEADING CHEF

Located in a pretty wine village just outside Limassol is a traditional tavern that is amassing an enraptured audience of discerning foodies, both locally and further afield.

Symposio is an authentic and unpretentious village eatery, housed in a restored old stone house with an intimate ambience. Here, owner Nikos is also an expert in wild mushrooms, and the menu is curated using wild mushrooms, as well as seasonal fruit, vegetables and fresh produce that is grown and cultivated in their own kitchen gardens. On this one-of-a-kind culinary experience, guests will have the privileged opportunity to work with the chef himself.

Starting with a trip out to the gardens to collect fresh ingredients, you will then prepare a traditional farm-to-table lunch with the chef. The meal puts a creative spin and special touch to the traditional tastes of the island. You will even make your own bread, learn about Nikos' famous kleftiko, and taste his own home-produced olive oil.

# 11. LOULA'S FARM - HALLOUMI MAKING: FROM THE FARM TO YOUR TABLE

Cyprus is renowned for many things. Perhaps one of the most famous worldwide is its indigenous local cheese, produced on the island for centuries – the illustrious yet humble halloumi. Awarded the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) badge by the European Union as a 'native' quality foodstuff, the cheese has become hugely popular around the world in recent years. In fact, today it is one of Cyprus' biggest exports with the industry yielding an impressive €270 million in 2020. But have you ever tried this national delicacy straight from the pot; soft, creamy and salty in perfect proportions?

Immerse yourself in the legacy of Cyprus' traditional cheese on this intimate halloumi making experience at Loula's Farm in the picturesque village of Tochni. Guests will learn about the old and modern production process, followed by a unique opportunity to taste the freshest halloumi, just as it comes out of the pot. You will even meet the friendly goats and sheep whose milk is the prime ingredient. Loula's farm is a small family run farm and business, preserving an intrinsic element of Cypriot culture – the ideal place to stock up on halloumi to take back home.

# 12. ROSE FACTORY: A FRAGRANT SCENT OF HISTORY

Soak in the emblematic fragrance of sweet wild roses at a guided tour of The Rose Factory – a local family business who have been cultivating the majestic 'Rosa Damascena' or Damask Rose – and producing a range of traditional rose products for over 70 years. The factory was established in 1948, nestled into the slopes of Agros village – a place synonymous with rose cultivation for over 100 years.

Guests will have the chance to visit the village as part of the tour, as well as learn about the history of the industry and the cultivation, distillation and production processes. Sample some of the fantastic products on sale – such as organic face and body care cosmetics, rose jam, rose chocolate, aromatic candles, rose liqueur, wine and rose tea – which make for cherished memories of an unforgettable day out in bucolic rural Cyprus. We invite you to indulge in the magic of roses and their timeless gifts.



# 13. COMMANDARIA CRUSADE - CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP & WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE: FOLLOWING IN REGAL FOOTSTEPS

Learn all about Cyprus' distinguished 5500-year-old wine history, with a visit to the enchanting village of Omodos for a bespoke Commandaria wine experience. Here, guests will enjoy a full wine tasting, as well as a guided tour of the quaint cobbled streets.

The tour begins with a drive into the Troodos mountain villages, followed by a visit to a local Commandaria producer, to learn all about the celebrated Cyprus Commandaria wine. This tipple of choice for historic kings was made famous by Richard the Lionheart and his fellow crusaders. Today, the native wine holds a place in the Guinness World Book Of Records for having the oldest 'Appelation d'origine' and for being the oldest manufactured wine in the world. After sampling the local vintage, sit down to a traditional meze lunch at a local taverna.

The excursion concludes with a visit to a boutique chocolatier, where you will take part in a chocolate-making workshop to create delicious Commandaria truffles and then savour the fantastic combination of this sweet wine with cocoa.

## 14. LAMBOURI WINERY: VISIT ONE OF EUROPE'S HIGHEST VINEYARDS

Cyprus is fast gaining a reputation as an emerging wine producing region to pay attention to. The island boasts many fine wineries, from small local village producers to larger scale operations. And one boutique winery that has been clamouring for attention in recent years, is Lambouri winery.

On this custom tour, guests will get a rare glimpse into the traditional methods that have been used for generations to help make this upcoming star the winner of the region's top winery award five years in a row. In fact, Lambouri winery has won more than 100 awards since 2007, and you will see why, with a wine tasting to sample some of their best vintages. Of course, the real magic happens when each guest also receives a one-of-a-kind bottle of wine, custom created especially for that individual.

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#### 15. NIKI'S TRADITIONAL SWEETS: ADD SOME SWEET TO YOUR SPOON

Cyprus has a rich and storied culinary history, still rife today and in many cases using the same old methods, ingredients and recipes of days gone by. Such as Niki Agathokleous family-owned traditional sweets company, that has become a locally renowned household staple in Cyprus in the 35 years since its operation.

Following original recipes and made with care and love, the local business uses only pure fruit and premium quality ingredients, to make native products such as spoon sweets, marmalade, "soutziouko", carob syrup, grape syrup, sweets and jam. Gratify your sweet tooth and your imagination in equal amounts on this guided tour around the production process, where guests will also have the opportunity to try the local produce and find authentic Cypriot gifts to take home.

# 16. LEFKARA MICHALIS SILVER/LACES: PRESERVING AN ENDURING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Recognised as an indelible symbol of Cypriot culture and artistic legacy, 'Lefkaritiko' lace from Lefkara village is not only intrinsically beautiful, but also steeped in evocative history. This age-old embroidery tradition has been practiced in Cyprus for centuries, passed on through generations of local lace makers. And the delightful village of Lefkara is also known for its silversmiths, who equally add to the island's creative chronicles through their renowned artistry.

On this tour of the village, guests will have the rare chance to visit one of the last places on the island still working these handicrafts in the same traditional ways of old. Mr. Michalis will show you how he creates his unique handmade silverware items, while his wife Mrs. Katerina will give a first-hand demonstration of the intricate process of Lefkaratiko lace making. An extraordinary experience that invites you to step back in time, and witness the continued preservation of an iconic piece of the island's storied past.