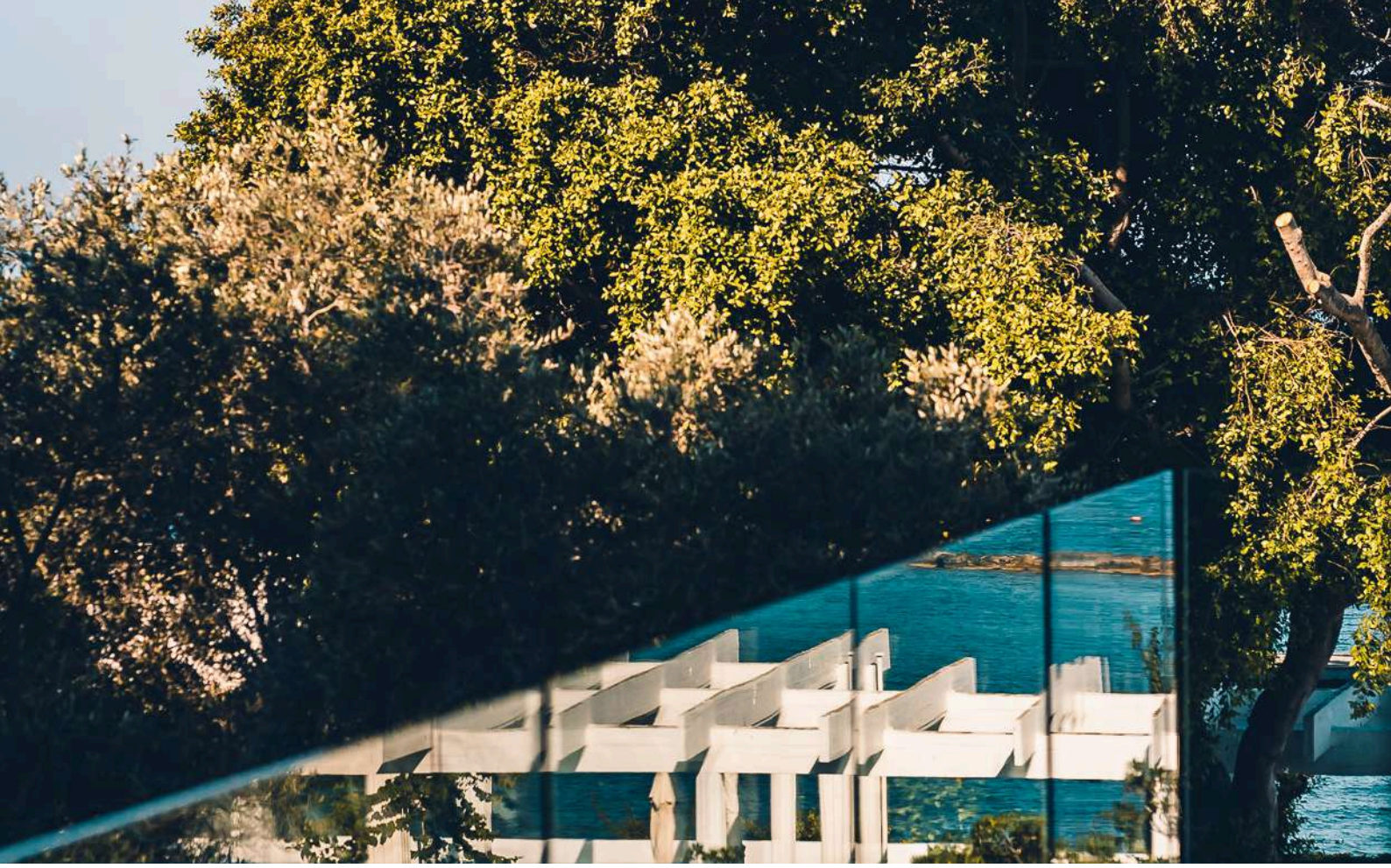
PAFOS

WEST CYPRUS



LET YOURSELF BE SEDUCED BY A DIFFERENT PAFOS.

A PAFOS THAT STILL DANCES AT FAIRS, THAT LOVES ITS LAND, THAT STILL WEAVES ON A LOOM, AND, MAINLY, BREATHES AND DRAWS ITS STRENGTH FROM ITS ROOTS.



THANOS HOTELS

Thanos Hotels is an eclectic hospitality brand with a clear point of view: Curiosity, passion and aesthetics is what drives Thanos Hotels & Resorts to excel, and what it promises to inspire in guests. We, as SteMa too, are crafting guides around these three key concepts. And we hope to give you a taste of inspiration through embracing them. As you browse its pages, you will find out more about why they are so central to the DNA of Thanos, and start feeling eager and more ready than ever to explore everything world-renowned Pafos and the three stunning properties, Anabelle, Almyra and Anassa have to offer.

WEST CYPRUS

It's not possible to see everything that West Cyprus has to offer in one trip – and we don't suggest you to try. What follows is a selective and subjective taste of the island's highlights: superb ancient and religious sites, unforgettable scenery and a variety of activities. A trip through Pafos leaves a sense of incomplete satisfaction. Its abundant heritage sticks to memory without being overwhelming. It triggers a hunch for more. Its bold golden hues, the saltiness of its suburb halloumi production, a civilization that seems to escort the traveller through the centuries all at once. The chilled, slowed down atmosphere brings them back to the present, reminding us where they are: in a Mediterranean island.

PAFOS: HERE'S HOW TO VISIT

This famous part of the island has the perfect combination of local tradition and high-end luxury

Pafos is old and is deep. Many creative people here introduce themselves as “Aphrodite descendants" and see her heritage as a primary inspiration in their work. But that’s the beauty of the place with two pronunciations and a split personality. Ritzy or rustic, accessible or isolated, sybaritic or ascetic: whichever resonates with you, Pafos is the real Cypriot delight.

In fact, it’s so large, diverse and culturally rich that when you try to talk about Pafos as a whole, you quickly find yourself surrounded by a labyrinth of contrasts. Pafos can all too easily seem overwhelming. Perhaps the best way to explore the region is to leave the tourist trail behind, follow the steps of the goddess of love and meet the amazing people that live here. Pafos is a time machine. Ancient ruins can transport you back to civilizations from millennia ago, or you can visit a series of villages where the reassuring rhythm of the seasons still guides traditions, feasts and festivals, and where sharing what you have with strangers – whether it be water, fruit, olive oil or a loaf of bread – is an inviolable part of the code of hospitality.





The whole town is a Unesco World Heritage site.



The fourth-century BC Tombs of the Kings, burial chambers decorated with Doric columns, are certainly impressive. Even more remarkable are the intricate floor mosaics in the Roman baths, accidentally unearthed by a farmer in 1960. Amazingly well preserved and brilliantly conceived, the themes include a beauty contest, a hunt and an inordinate number of Dionysian scenes of drunken revelry.





BRIEF HISTORY

INTRODUCTION TO PAFOS

The original town, Palaipafos, lies some 22km to the southeast of the present one, on the edge of the modern village of Kouklia. It was established during the late Hellenistic period, and was one of two city kingdoms in the west – the other being Marion, near modern-day Polis. When Alexander the Great died in 323 BC, the Pafiot king Nicocles was faced with the same dilemma as all the other towns in Cyprus – which of Alexander's warring successors to support. He chose the Egyptian Ptolemy dynasty, which indeed eventually won. This did Nicocles little good, however. Deciding to rule Cyprus directly rather than through a proxy, the Ptolemies used a false charge of treason to get rid of him (he avoided it by committing suicide). The new rulers of Cyprus decided to move the administrative capital from Salamis in the east to the fine new city of Nea (New) Pafos in the west: apart from being closer to their home base of Alexandria, it was convenient for patrolling the western approaches to the island, and, through the thick forests inland it was able to meet the almost insatiable demand for timber of the Egyptian navy.







The transition to Roman rule in 58 BC did Pafos no harm at all, and it continued as the capital of the island. This period was the high point of Pafos's fortunes, and the origin of its wonderful Roman mosaics and plentiful early Christian ruins. St Paul visited Pafos and converted the Roman ruler of the island, Sergius Paulus, to the new faith, though not before the evangelist was tied to a post (the so-called St Paul's Pillar) and lashed "forty times less one" for spreading the gospel. In 365 AD the city was destroyed by an earthquake, and in 653 AD by a Saracen raid. It never recovered. Most of the inhabitants moved away from the coast, onto the hill of what today is Upper Pafos, and the status of capital was moved back to Salamis. The harbour silted up, the land around it became marshy, and for centuries visitors to what remained of Pafos had little good to say about it. In the fourteenth century the Lusignans built a castle to protect Christians in transit to the Holy Lands; in the sixteenth century the Ottomans built a fort on its remains.

"LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWESTERN COAST OF CYPRUS, PAFOS, A COSMOPOLITAN RESORT CITY BOASTING SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AND SUPERB BEACHES, IS NOWADAYS THE IDEAL BASE FOR EXPLORING THE WIDER AREA, ONE OF THE ISLAND'S MOST IMPRESSIVE REGIONS. "

But Pafos continued as a quiet backwater until the building of the airport and the motorway in the late twentieth century brought about a surge in tourism.

THE CULT OF APHRODITE

The cult of Aphrodite dates from 1,500 BC. Women left jewellery so the goddess would protect their marriage and beauty. Although Aphrodite was squeamish about bloody sacrifices – she preferred offerings of perfume and flowers – ritual ceremonies concluded with a sacrifice of pigs, in remembrance of her favor. Fifth-century BC Greek historian Herodotus describes how all women were expected to attend the temple and give themselves to any passing stranger. Attractive women, he comments wryly, could expect to complete their duty on the first night, while it might take ugly ones three or four years.

You don't need to spend long in Cyprus to become aware of the island's proud association with Aphrodite. Pafos district boasts the birthplace of Aphrodite at Petra Tou Romiou , the Sanctuary of Aphrodite at Palaipafos and Aphrodite bath near Polis. The antiquities found all over Pafos allow visitors to journey back in time, at least in their imagination, and appreciate the role that these played in people's lives through the centuries.

Aphrodite's birthplace, a fine beach in Pafos, so photogenic it appears widely in tourist literature, which has a rich crop of mythical associations.

This beach with the boulders lobbed by folk-hero Digenis Akritas - aka Romios - at passing pirates, is where she appeared out of the foam...

Allegedly, Aphrodite arises from the waves by this rocky outcrop every 9 January – so if you happen to be in the vicinity, you can try your luck.



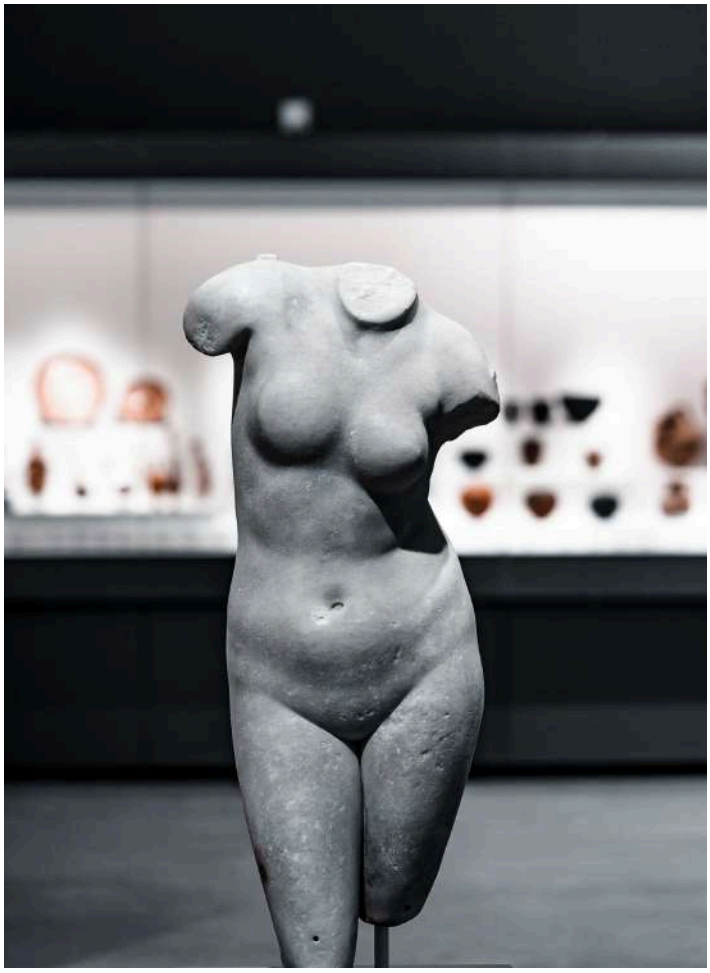
According to Ovid, the history of Pygmalion and Galatea started when a talented sculptor of Cyprus carved a beautiful ivory statue of a woman. Madly in love with the result of his work, Pygmalion slept next to it every night hoping it would come alive. On the occasion of the ritual festival in honour of Aphrodite he begged the goddess to humanize it and she made it happen. From their union, Pafos was born, giving name to the town famous for its temple dedicated to Aphrodite.

A classy diva, ethereal-like, a divine being that smells a mix of schinus and thyme. She'd be very much like the woman below – in her golden-years, all-natural, and ready to seduce travellers with her unpretentious charms, like a genuine goddess of love and desire.

"If the province of Pafos was a woman, what would she be like? "







Top Tip: Also look for the sculptures by the local artist Yiota Ioannidou in the waterfronts of the city!

PAFOS (locals still often use the old spelling, “Paphos”) has two parts:

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY AND CULTURE

Kato (lower) Pafos aka the area around the harbour and castle along a palm-studded promenade (Poseidonos). This is the main tourist area, packed with hotels, cafés, bars, restaurants, souvenir shops, amusement arcades, boat-cruise tours and a couple of indifferent beaches. Ktima Pafos (perhaps best translated as “the lands of Pafos”, known as Upper Pafos) lies 3km north, on a steep hillside overlooking the lower town. While Kato Pafos dates to the Greco-Roman era with its mosaics and amphitheater, Ktima developed more prominently in the medieval and modern periods. It rose in importance under Ottoman rule, when administrative functions and trade began moving inland.

Kato Pafos might at first appear to be the archetypal beach-and-booze resort – no different, you might think, from hundreds of others across the Mediterranean. Yet look more closely and, laced through the maze of bars and restaurants and hotels, are a number of fascinating historical remains, some of which have been granted UNESCO World Heritage status. The heart of Kato Pafos is the harbour area, a south-facing hooked finger that seems to beckon in boats from the sea. The harbour combines workaday buildings – the Customs House, Department of Fisheries and the Port Authority – with important historic sites including the castle, the wave-washed remains of an ancient breakwater, and the memorial to St Paul’s visit during his first missionary journey.









No one can deny the soul of the Paphiot summer.

The Medieval Castle, on the western flank of the harbour, is a local landmark; just metres away, the Pafos Archaeological Park is a complex of monuments included on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites that contains the town's world-famous mosaics. These include the Odeon, Agora, the Asclepeion, and the fortress known as Saranta Kolones ("Forty Columns"), as well as the ruins of the Roman mansions whose mosaic floors are masterpieces, amongst the finest in the eastern Mediterranean. The park is also home to the Tombs of the Kings, a large necropolis from the 2nd century BC to 2nd century AD, accessed via a different entrance and featuring burial chambers carved out of solid rock. The Archaeological Museum of the Pafos District recently reopened its doors to the public following extensive renovation work, including a modernised museum layout, and its collection has been enriched by recent discoveries.

Pano ("Upper') Pafos, aka Ktima, is the city's commercial district and most interesting area, has been revamped in recent years thanks to an extensive facelift of public spaces and a number of pedestrianisation projects. The Pafos Town Hall and Kennedy Square are at the heart of a network of pedestrianised streets, ideal for strolling and exploration. Look for the beautifully restored Ibrahim's Khan, also known as the Hani, a building from 1860 that was once used as an inn. Today, it's divided into three sections hosting restaurants, function halls, and shops that remain linked with the region's traditions.

Pafos district, which takes up the whole of the western end of Cyprus, is probably the single most varied and most attractive region on the island. Wild and remote in parts, it was long regarded in the rest of Cyprus as something of a rural backwater. For a start, the area has the longest coastline of any district, swinging around from Aphrodite's birthplace in the south to Aphrodite's Baths in the north and beyond, with beaches facing south, west and north along its length. And inland stretch beautiful sunny uplands, carpeted in vineyards and dotted with wineries, monasteries and pretty villages.

PAFOS OLD TOWN...



Above the glittering sea and hotel-ladden coastal strip of Kato Pafos lies Ktima, the historic heart of the city and a living tapestry woven from centuries of Cypriot Life. Known to locals as Upper Pafos, Ktima feels like a world apart and deeply connected to the island's soul.

Ktima, or else Pafos old town, has a rich history spanning millennia, evolving from ancient Greek and Roman settlements to a prominent Ottoman and British colonial center. Its significance as a cultural and administrative hub was solidified during the British era, and it continues to be a vibrant district with a blend of historical charm and modern development, particularly after its restoration for the 2017 European Capital of Culture.

...ISNT JUST A LOCATION, IT'S A FEELING. A PLACE OF MEMORY AND MOMENTUM.

Ktima is the historical and cultural heart of Pafos. The area has been beautifully restored, combining its rich past with modern vibrancy. Narrow streets, charming squares, and historic buildings tell the story of a city shaped by centuries of history. One of the main attractions here is the Municipal Market. Here, you'll find stalls with handmade crafts and local delicacies. Take time to visit the cafes and tavernas that line the market square. You'll find the perfect spot to enjoy a coffee or a meal while soaking in the lively atmosphere. From main squares to side streets, Makarios Avenue, lined with boutique and antique shops, some dating back generations, Votsi Str, where pastel-coloured houses have been turned into artist studios and concept stores, and Ivis Maliotou Park, a small but lush public garden that offers welcome shade in the summer and hosts a series of cultural events. In the heart of old town Pafos lies Kennedy Square, a lively area surrounded by restaurants, cafes, and shops. This square blends old and new, with traditional Cypriot buildings standing next to modern developments. You can also find contemporary art spaces and galleries around the area, highlighting the artistic evolution of the city. Old Town Pafos is home to several Byzantine-era churches, each with unique architectural features. These churches offer a peaceful retreat from the busy streets, with their beautiful interiors and historical significance. Another must-see is the Ethnographical Museum, the perfect place for those who want to connect with the cultural roots of the area.



To understand Ktima is to understand Cyprus itself, a modern destination where empires have come and gone, each leaving their mark. Unlike the more transient feel of tourist-heavy zones, Ktima is a lived town where generations still gather for afternoon coffee and greet each other by name.

MUST-STOPS

Preserving memory, heritage and pieces of old-style Cyprus that might otherwise vanish takes a strong community effort, and it's not just close-knit clubs that are at risk of ceasing to exist. It's becoming more and more rare and hard to find these precious people and places. And they deserve our love and attention.



The oldest and most historic club in the city, next to the Town Hall Square, the "Evsevia Club". Join locals for a game of backgammon over traditional coffee or their staple green jelly dessert!

Evsevia Club


ΛΕΣΧΗ ΕΥΣΕΒΕΙΑ
Ημερ. ιδρυσης
5/1/1901









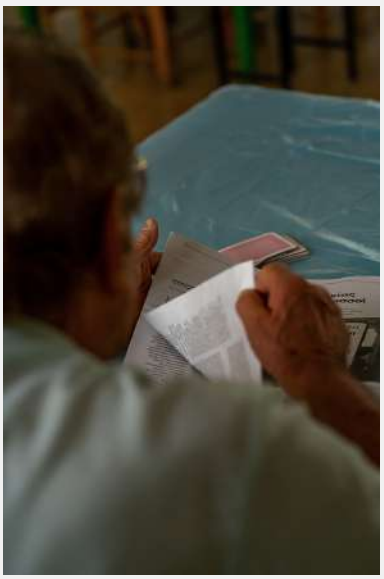



Ο Φιλελεύθερος
Σφίγγει ο κλοιός
για σπατάλη νερού

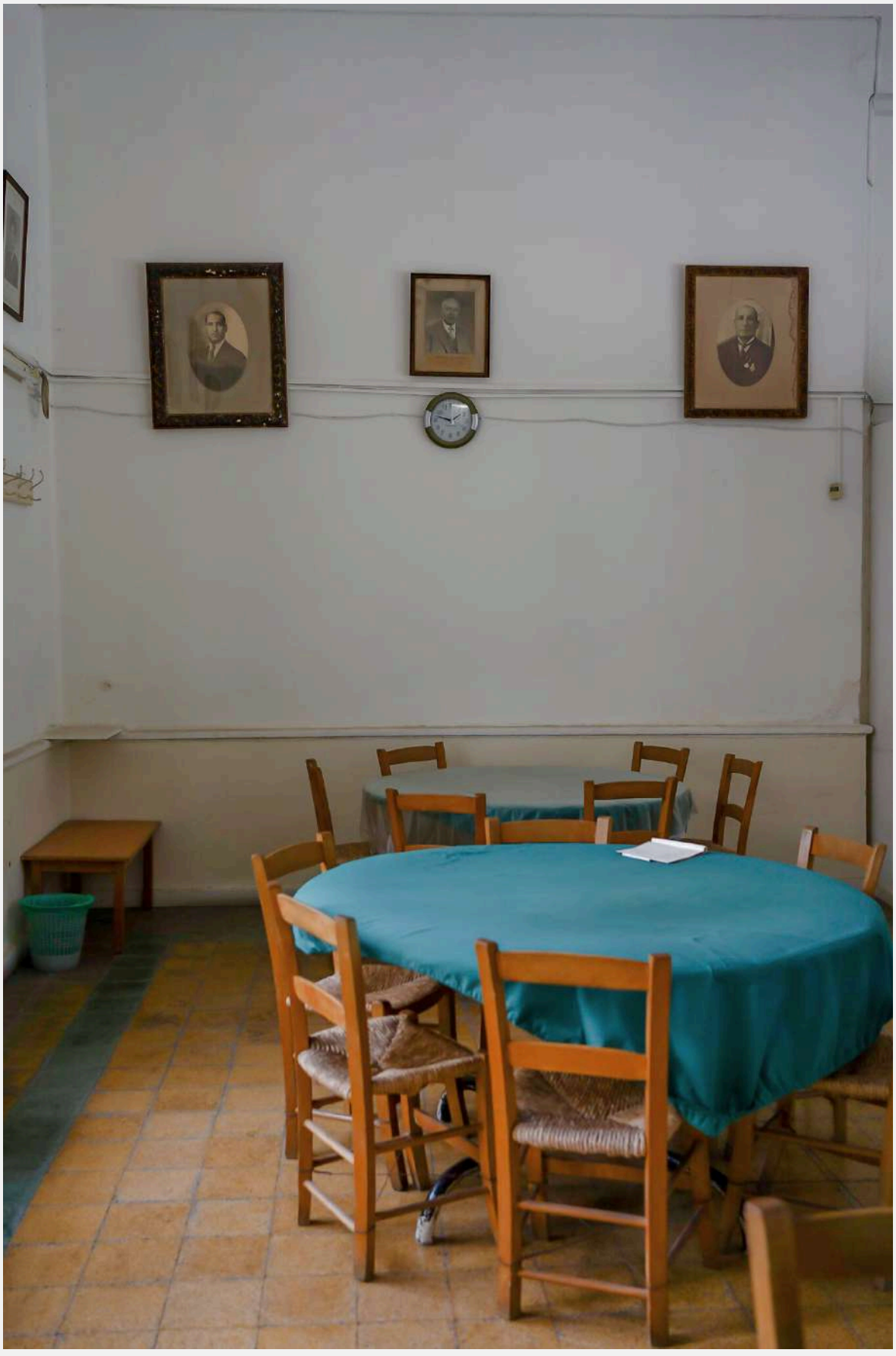

















ΛΕΣΧΗ ΕΥΣΕΒΕΙΑ
ος ιδρύσεως
5/1/1901


ΤΟ ΒΗΜΑ



The prolonged economic vacuum resulted in a complete lack of development in the city centre until 2017, the year Pafos was designated the European Capital of Culture. Civic projects returned, some in the form of complete restorations to historic sites and buildings. Ibrahim's Khan, a structure in the heart of Old Town with ties to ancient mercantilism, witnessed a complete renovation. This initiative attracted new businesses such as café and bars, which in turn attracted younger crowds, breathing new life into the city's neighbourhood.



IBRAHIM KHAN, THE HISTORIC COMPLEX FROM 1860, IN THE HEART OF CYPRUS

OLD PROFESSIONS



The luthier of Pafos

Mr Zinonas Christodoulou runs the only shop where musical instruments are repaired. He learnt the craft from his uncle, an avid bouzouki artisan, and became one of the most-sought wedding musicians in the region. On Saturdays he gathers with his friends, also musicians playing live music!



The last strawberry chairmaker

George Charalambous-Zavros, the last chair-maker in town. He started making traditional wicker chairs (tonenes, tonos is a type of reed found in rivers) at just 11 years old when his father sent him to master the trade. Even Ministers have bought chairs from him, ''the moment you become a craftsperson, you are entangled in its craft, heritage and history, but it ran past when a good craftsman really mattered socially', he cried before we departed.



Metalwork specialists

Some extraordinary fixers repairing things from house doors to automobiles. These are the few upholsterers and restorers left in Pafos, learning the craft from their parents and continue to be creative and work with their hands to this day. For us it's those people who are restoring some sort of memory for the local community of Pafos.

Manmade skills that are being lost with time.

AROUND THE CITY OF PAFOS

Pafos Castle, sitting at the edge of the harbour and reflected in the water that surrounds it, is frequently used as a backdrop for concerts, plays and operas (it has been known for incoming jets to be diverted out to sea so as not to disrupt performances).

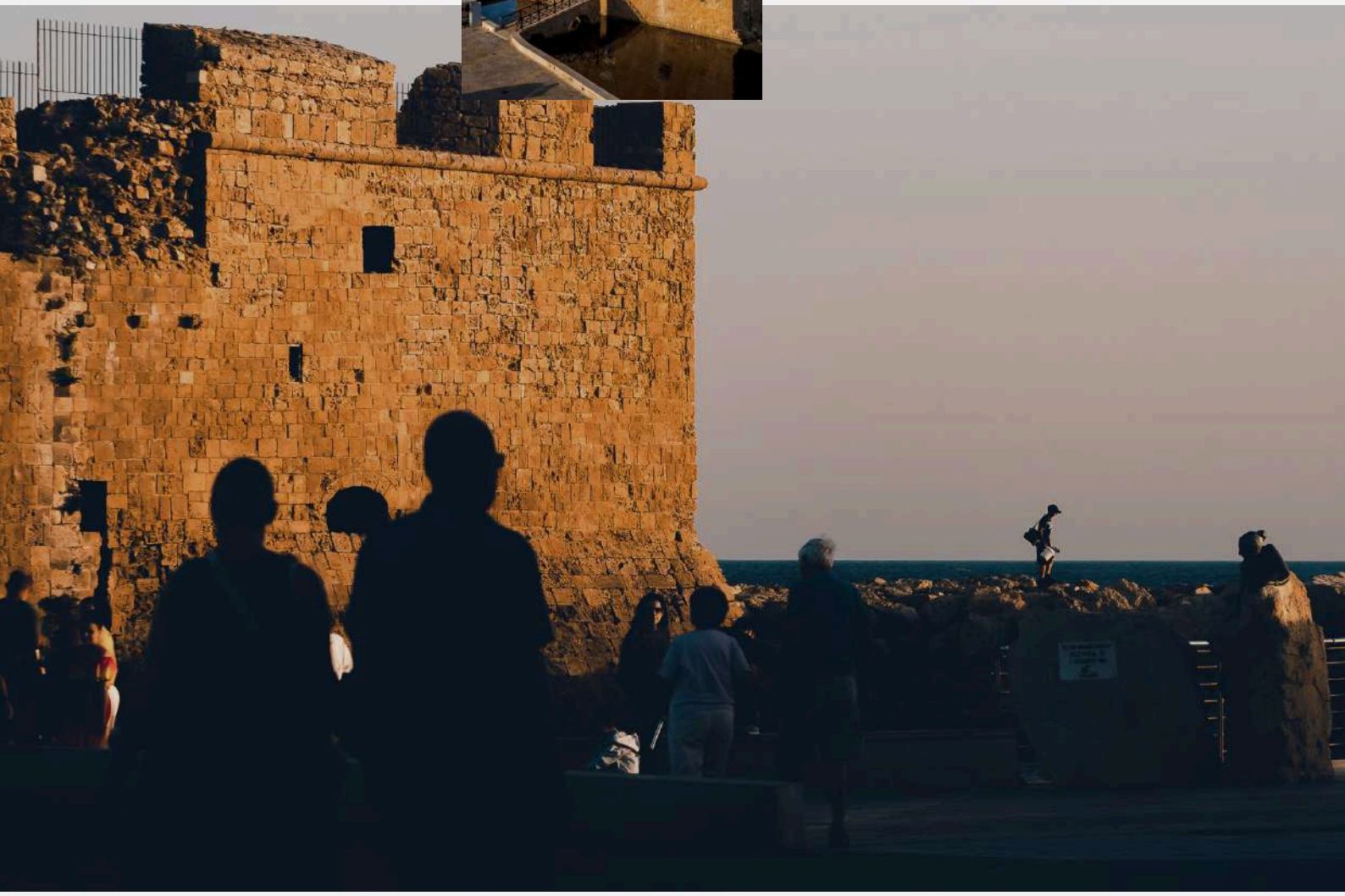
The Byzantine fort, which was designated as a cultural heritage site in 1935, was built to protect the harbour and today stands as a testament to the island's tumultuous past. Sunrise or sunset is the ideal time for wandering around and if you find yourselves there in September, don't miss the cultural events taking place on the square right in front of this medieval marvel.

As with many Cypriot castles, it has a complex back story: built by the Lusignans around 1391, it was destroyed by an earthquake towards the end of the fifteenth century, and what was left was levelled by the Venetians to prevent it falling into the hands of the Turks. Despite this, the castle was rebuilt and garrisoned by the Ottomans in 1592. After the British takeover of Cyprus, the castle was relegated to a salt store. The main attraction of a visit is to climb up to the battlements where once twelve cannons stood guard. The clear field of fire they required now offers excellent views across the harbour to the distant low hills to the north.















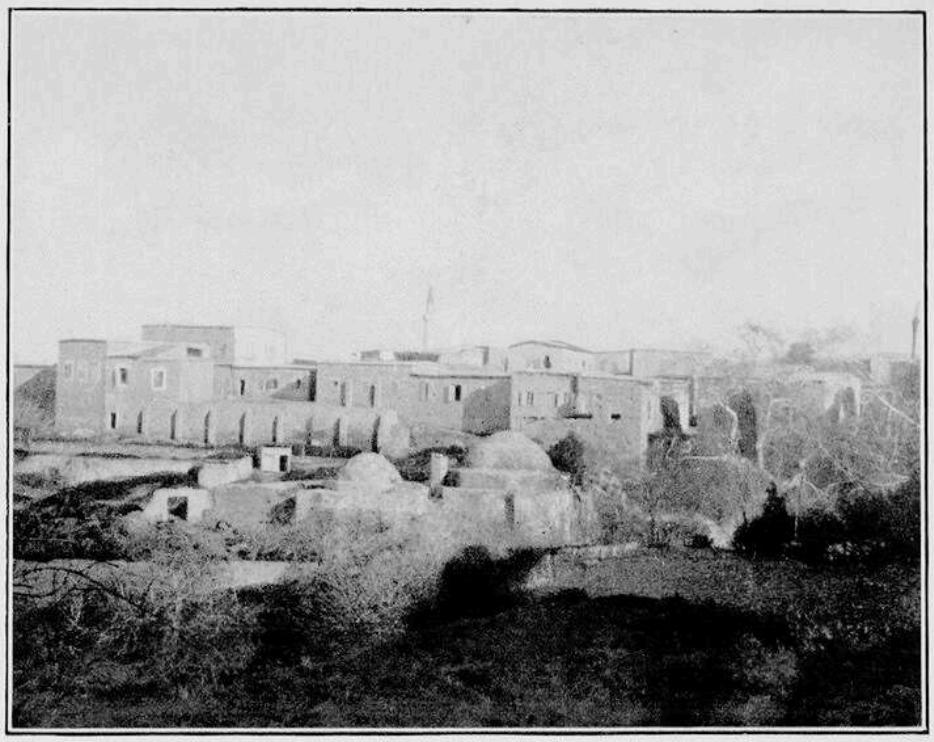
THE MODERN FACE OF PAFOS IN ONE WALK

This neighbourhood is immediately identifiable by its neoclassical buildings.The last civic project in Pafos was the building of the city's first Lyceum (High School) in 1960. At this time Pafos' economy was entirely dependent on income from neighbouring villages, the inhabitants of which flocked to the area's businesses in the morning, but cleared out by the afternoon.

In the space between Gladstonos (the extension of Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou) and the east-bound Leoforos Georgiou Griva Digeni lie the extensive Municipal Gardens. All over, you'll find the Pafos Bishopric, the Municipal Art Gallery and, in the streets just south of it, a museum worth visiting: the Cultural Heritage Museum. At the bottom of the gardens is Kostis Palamas Square, centred on a Neoclassical rotunda, and across from this a memorial to Kostis Palamas (1859–1943), the Greek poet who composed the words to the Olympic Hymn. Head there to get the chance to stare at the "Sleeping Eros" by Nikolaos Tsadiotis, stroll around the Town Hall square near the Municipal Library and around the 28th October Square. And move on to the bustling Kennedy Square, which is home to the city's most "in" bars.

MEHMET BEY EBUBEKIR HAMMAM

It was built in 1592 by the Ottoman Governor of Pafos Mehmet Bey Ebubekir (who also built the nearby Cami Kebir, or Grand Mosque), and sporting the usual domes, this hammam served the Muslim community for three hundred years before being turned into a museum by the British. Now part of a rather up-market bar, customers can wander through the interconnected rooms and read about how they were used. Some areas are fitted out as they would be in a working hammam, and in places transparent panels have been built into the floor so that you can see the hypocaust (underfloor heating system) below. Locals call them the Loutra, meaning “baths” and you may find signs under that name.



VIEW OF KTEMA.



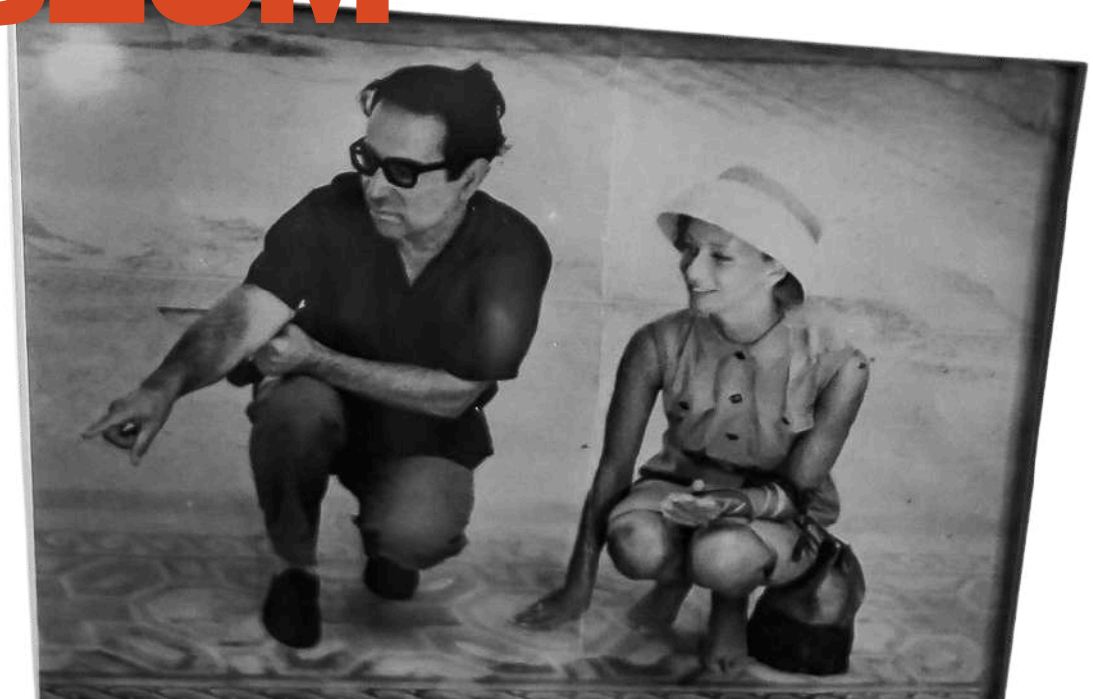


On the hill of Mousallas, as the locals call this hill in the heart of the city, Pafos lies like a carpet under your feet. The hill is also home to the Ethnographic Museum of Pafos.

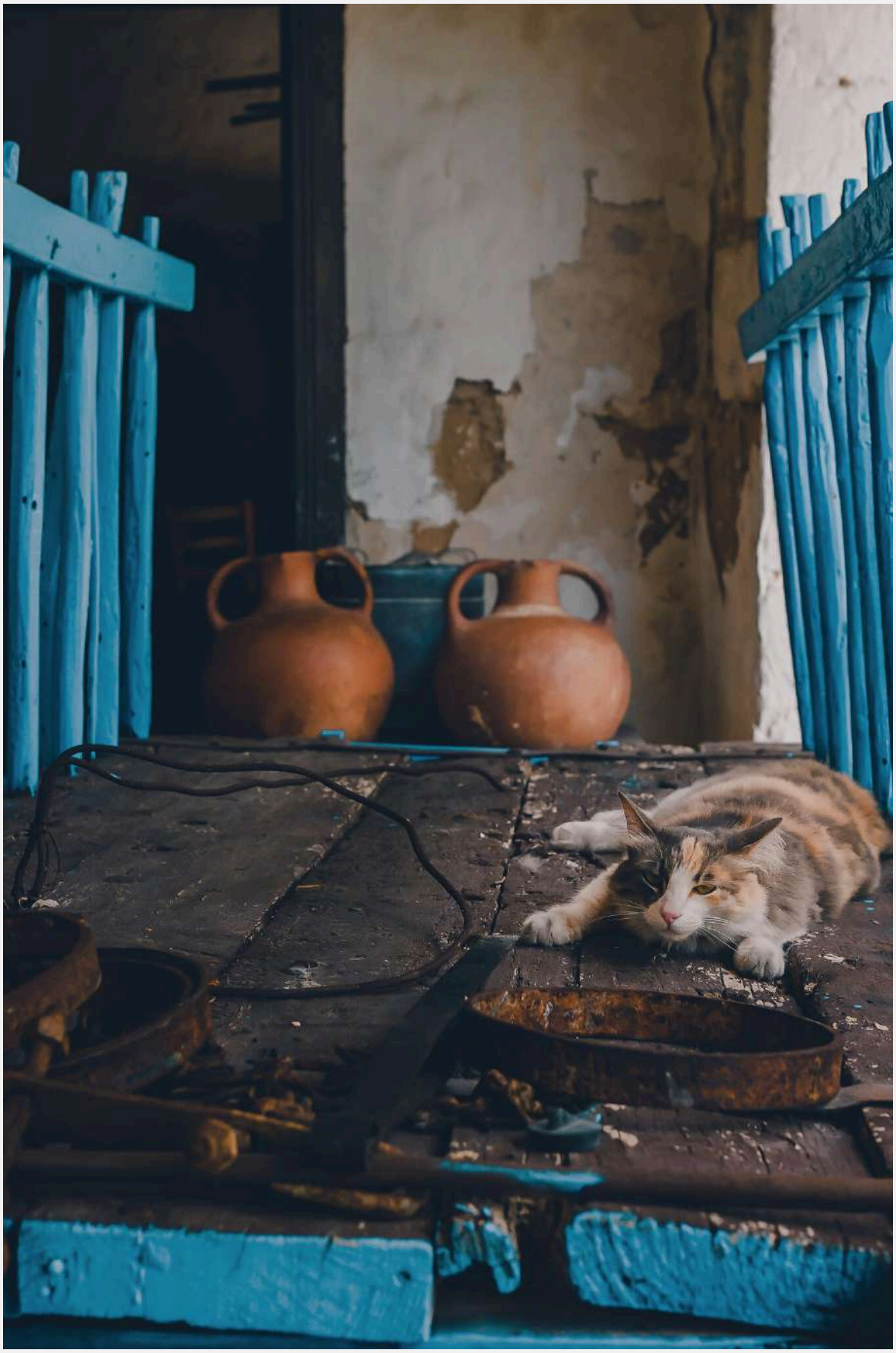
Created by archeologist George Eliades and residing within his own personal home, the museum contains a unique collection of ancient artefacts and other Cypriot treasures. Among these is a rock carved tomb dating from the Hellenistic period. The daughter of Mr. Eliades still resides in the home-turned-Museum to this day. Generally called the “Ethnographical Museum” on tourist maps, but signposted as the Cultural Heritage Museum, this is a private assortment of finds collected by George S. Eliades, a local secondary-school teacher and amateur archeologist. Laid out on two floors plus the garden at the rear, the museum’s charm lies in the sheer beauty of the building and the variety of exhibits within it (though the labelling is a little patchy). Of particular interest are architectural details such as decorative lintels, and the tools associated with particular trades – spinning and weaving, winemaking, grinding corn, and so on. In the grounds are a wagon, traditional stone-built ovens, and even a pre-Christian tomb.

1 Exo Vrisis
https://ethnographicalmuseum.com/

CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM



This museum provides insight into the traditional life of Pafos through its exhibits of historical tools, clothing, and everyday objects. Housed in a grand stone building, the museum showcases the island's history in a space that feels like stepping back in time. The exhibits here offer a glimpse into the lives of Cypriots from centuries past. It's a perfect place for those who love history and want to connect with the cultural roots of the area.




ΝΘΙ Σ ΑΥΤΟΝ
MUSEUM DES ZYPRISCHEN
KULTUR-LEBENS
CULTURAL HERITAGE
MUSEUM OF CYPRUS




SHAKESPEARES



FABRICA HILL

On the east side of Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou, where it intersects with Agion Anargyron, diagonally across from the new Kings Avenue Mall, stands the rocky outcrop of Fabrica Hill, scored with excavations from a 4th century AD stone quarry. In many places its tunnels and nooks were recycled as burial places. Some of the tombs, dotted with icons and votive offerings, can be seen from Agia Kyriaki, the side street which skirts the hill on its eastern side. Visible too are the remains of a recently excavated classical theatre, set like a fossil shell into the hillside and created, not by building, but by digging out the living rock. Archeological exploration continues on the northern face of the hill, much of which is now fenced off, though there's still access in places. Be careful if you do visit – the ground is very uneven and caves abound. While gazing upon the remnants of the ancient theatre here, one that dates from the 4th century BC and is recorded by history to be one of the largest such structures on the island, it is no small wonder that such a small settlement could entertain upwards of 5,000 people!





Mouttalos

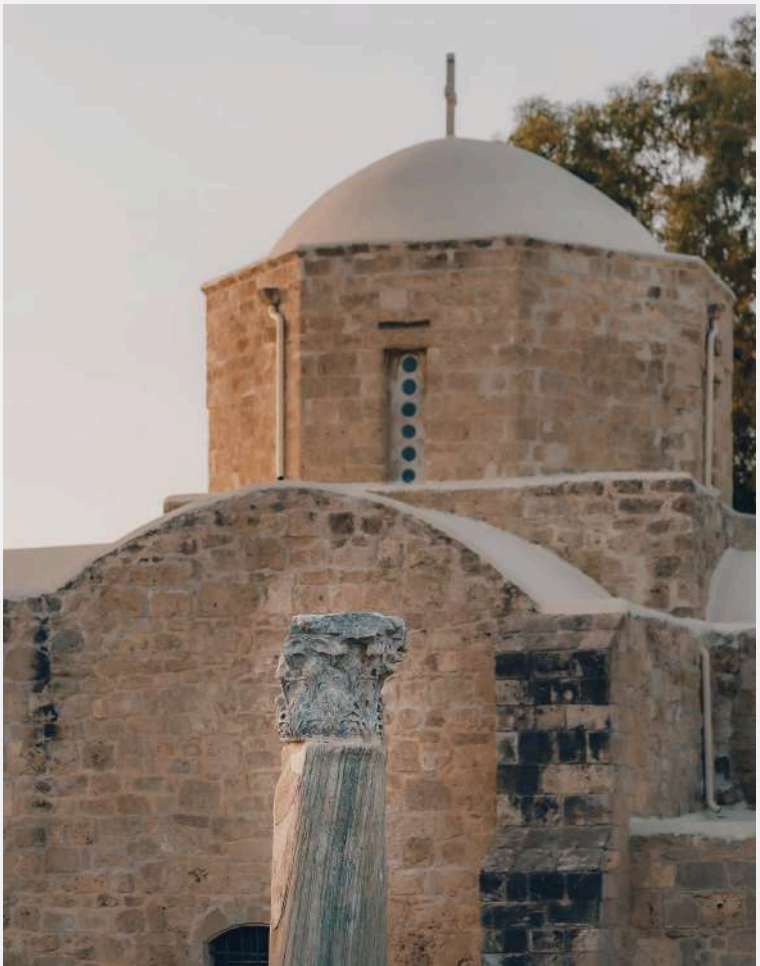
The gentrification of the Turkish-Cypriot region of Mouttalos has yet to come to fruition, but the development of the area is on the horizon. Still recovering from the 1964 riots and Turkish invasion of 1974, Mouttalos; (in spite of these hardships); still has its charms, bearing a series of cafés and restaurants offers fine views south towards the harbour.

CHRYSOPOLITISSA + ST PAUL'S PILLAR

01

East of Leoforos Apostolou Paulou (and signposted from it) are Chrysopolitissa and St Paul's Pillar, the first of several survivals from the period after the end of the Roman Empire. Despite being just a few hundred metres from the busy road linking Kato Pafos to Ktima Pafos, and not far from the crowded promenade, the sense of peace and history is palpable. The ruins of the huge Christian basilica of Panagia Chrysopolitissa with its seven aisles, surround the 16th century church of Agia Kyriaki. Here it was, tradition has it, that St Paul was chained to a column and scourged 39 times (one of five times he received this punishment from the Jews). A further memorial is dedicated to Eric Ejegod, King of Denmark (1095–1103), who died in Pafos on his way to the Holy Land. An extensive network of walkways gives excellent access to the highly photogenic ruins and church. Apostle Paul's Pillar, where the Saint was tortured and flogged by the Romans. The Hellenistic element, along with the Christian and Roman, are found throughout the city. All these places are connected with bridges and stonewall trails.





St Paul’s Pillar Street

THE CATACOMBS OF AGIA SOLOMONI

02

Leoforou Apostolou Pavlou (opposite Ploutarchou) The catacombs of Agia Solomoni – dank in atmosphere, obscure in origin – show the stubborn will of the early faithful to worship. On busy Leoforou Apostolou Pavlou, the well-signposted entrance is overlooked by a large terebinth tree covered in twists of cloth and paper – votive prayer offerings. The first has several icons, a gate covered in more prayer offerings, the odd plastic bottle of oil and a sign asking you not to light candles. Steps then take you down into a further chamber, perhaps a holy well. It may be that the catacombs were once a pagan shrine which was later used as a synagogue in Roman times, before becoming a shrine dedicated to Agia Solomoni, the Jewish mother of the seven Maccabee brothers.

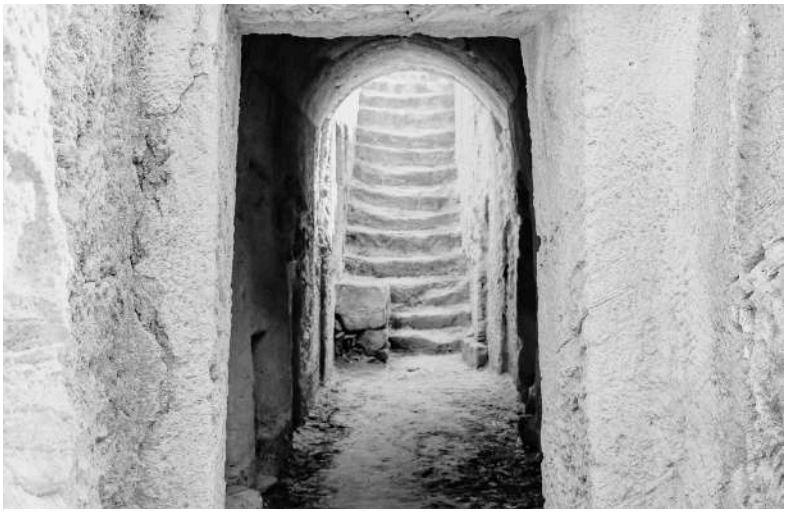
YOU WILL BE INTRIGUED BY A LARGE TREE STRUNG WITH TATTERED HANKIES. IF YOU ATTACH A TISSUE, YOU'LL GET A ONE-NIGHT STAND BUT A REAL HANDKERCHIEF GUARANTEES EVERLASTING LOVE.

AGIOS AGAPITIKOS 03

Agios Agapitikos (“agapi” means love) is a unique, small cave in the north-eastern part of town. In a tradition that dates back to ancient times, lovers in waiting come here to light a candle in hopes of finding a soul mate. It is a rock, empty like a shell, with two arches. On one hand stands Agios Agapitikos and on the other hand, Agios Misitikos, (“misos” means hate), and –according to tradition– they often exchange positions. So, when one presents an oblation, they have to light a candle to both Saints in order to ensure that everything goes according to plan.

PANAGIA THEOSKEPASTI 04

The Church of Panagia Theoskepasti a little further up the hill that got its nickname from the fog that covered the church during a Saracen raid.



ST GEORGES 05

Pafos is built on a rock that hides seven caves underneath it, each one of them being home to one St George in Geroskipou district. On Saturdays, women used to go there and light votive candles.

PAFOS IS NOT JUST A REGION IT REPRESENTS THE GLORY OF CHRISTIANITY.

Holy Bishopric of Pafos



This little chapel is the favourite of countless tourists and locals for their wedding ceremony.



In 2015, Michael Georgiou managed to blend the traditional Orthodox architecture with modern lines.



Leoforos Georgiou Griva Digeni





PAFOS ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Pafos Archeological Museum (also called the "District Museum") is a useful adjunct to visits to the sights of Kato Pafos.

Highlights include a second-century AD statue of Asklepios from the House of Theseus, an exquisite pair of gold earrings dating from the 3rd century BC, a medieval sword and helmet, a couple of bathtubs made of clay (8th century BC) and limestone (7th century BC), and a series of glazed ceramic vessels in the shape of different parts of the human anatomy – these were filled with hot or cold water to bring relief from injury or disease. Look out, too, for an amusing carving of a monster's face and a group of four women ("angel statues from Gothic temple") holding up a roof, both in the final room.





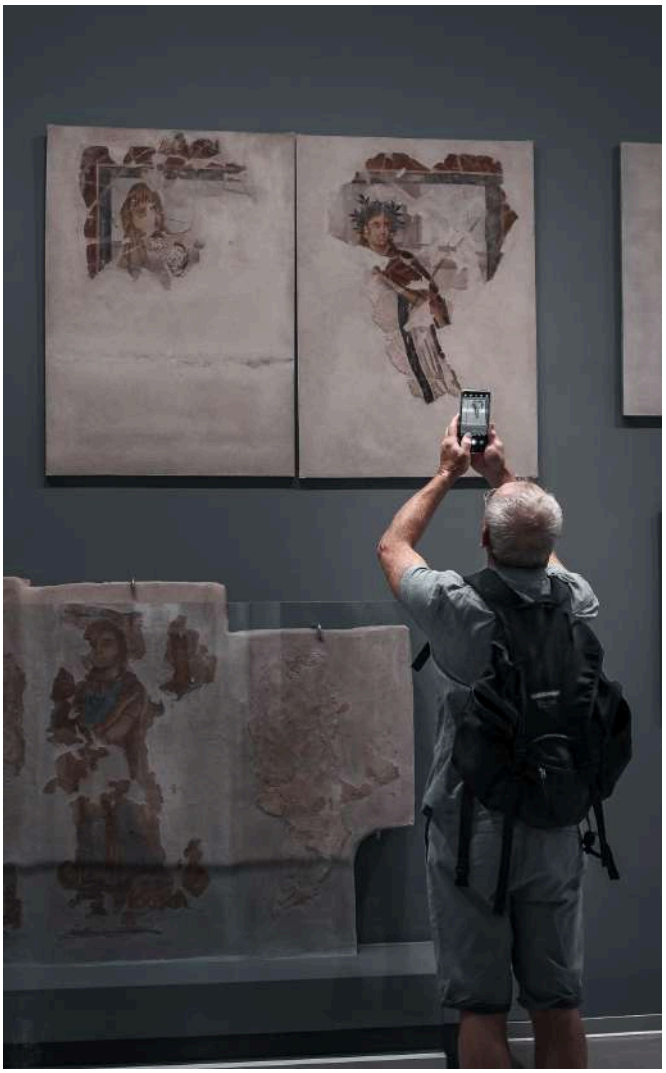




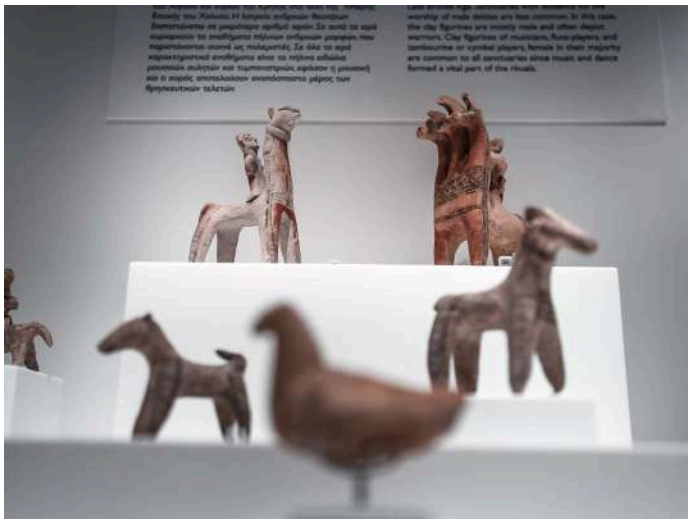
















Leoforos Apostolou Pavlou (behind the harbour)

PAFOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

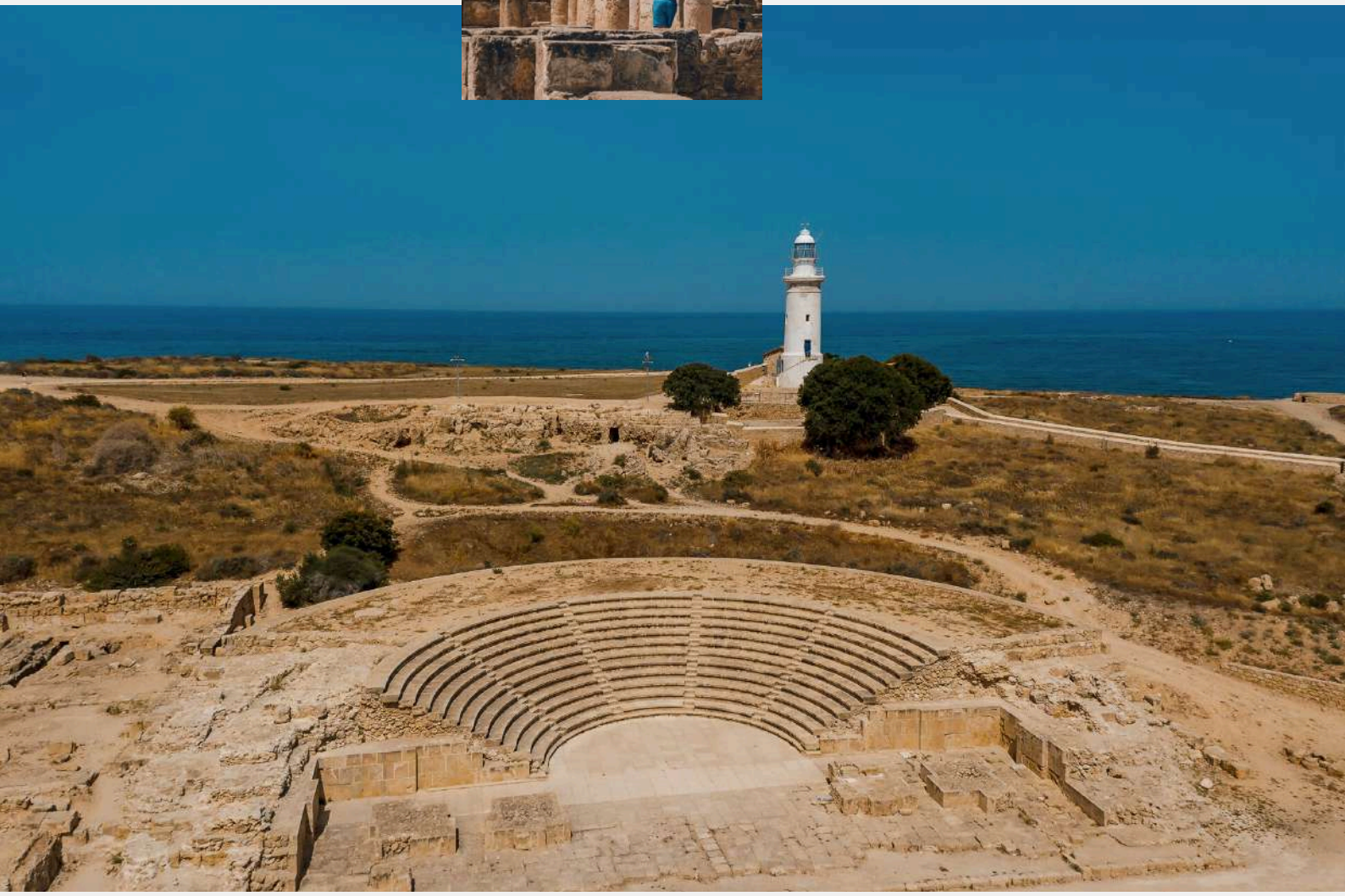
Housed in an archeological park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site northwest of the harbour (you can't miss the large entrance gates just behind the quay, fronted by a modern clock tower), Pafos's Roman mosaics are one of the glories of Cyprus and are simply unmissable. The mosaics were first revealed in 1942 when British soldiers digging trenches for air-raid shelters uncovered a representation of Hercules and the Lion. The ancient artwork was swiftly covered up to protect it from German bombs and its location, and even existence, in due course forgotten. In the 1960s, more mosaics were revealed during building work, and the Department of Antiquities stepped in to excavate the site. So far, four villas have been unearthed, each named after one of the more notable mosaics it contains.The Lighthouse on the left, bringing to mind images from Virginia Woolf's novel. Built under British rule in 1888, it used to be the locals' meeting point on Ash Mondays. If your eye follows the alley on the left, you will see one of the most important archaeological sites, the Ancient Conservatory (Odeon), just over there, where you see the tree cluster, the Forty Columns.



The Roman mosaics





















However, instead of following the order contained in it, visit the Houses of Theseus, Aion and Orpheus first, then take on the biggest and best, the House of Dionysos. This allows you to better appreciate the scale of the site. Elsewhere in the archeological park are the remains of the agora, the reconstructed Odeon in which concerts and plays are held during the summer, a pretty little lighthouse, and the jumbled remains of a Lusignan fortress, Saranda Kolones ("forty columns").







"IT'S THE ROMAN CUSTOMS HOUSE IN THE HARBOR OF PAFOS, WHERE LOCALS USED TO GO AND ENJOY THE FULL MOON. "



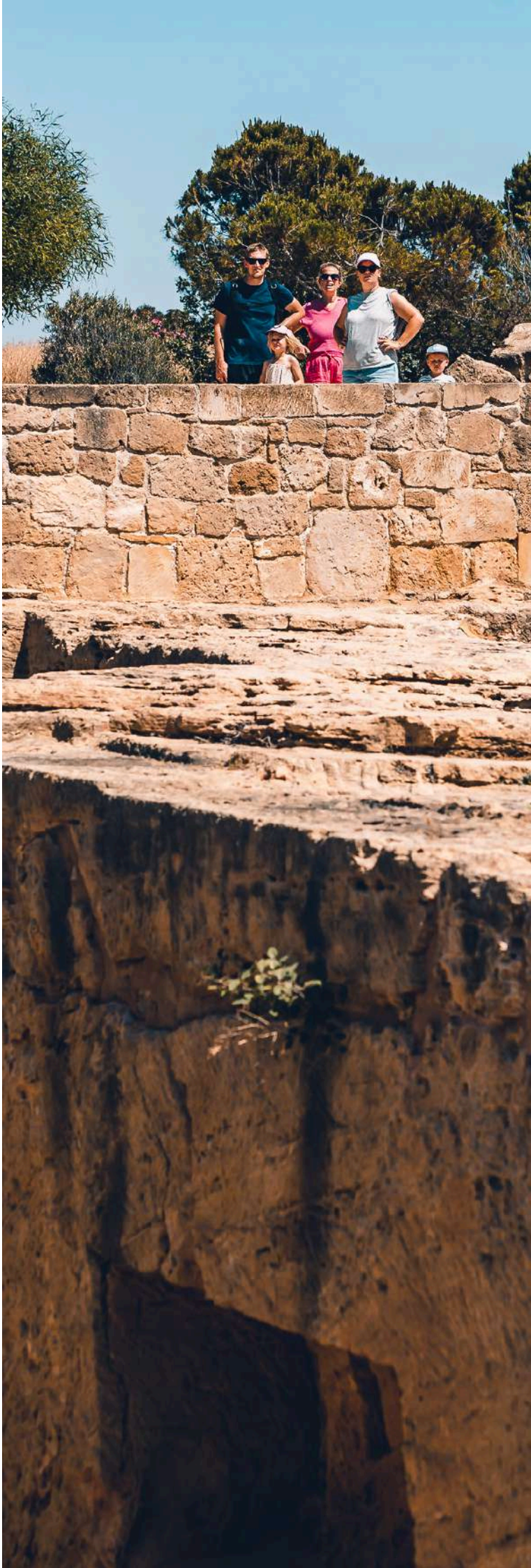
Set aside at least half a day to see the mosaics. It's also worth buying the excellent guide to the mosaics published by the Bank of Cyprus Foundation.



A living necropolis

TOMBS OF THE KINGS

Off the main road from Paphos to Coral Bay lies one of the strangest, most atmospheric ancient sites you're likely to come across – the so-called Tombs of the Kings, a large necropolis from the 2nd century BC to 2nd century AD, feature burial chambers carved out of solid rock. During Hellenistic and Roman times, not kings, but many of high-up administrators, civil servants and their families were buried here. In 1870, the first archaeological excavations were conducted by Luigi Palma di Cesnola, the Italian-born American consul to Cyprus. In 1915 the first excavations under scientific supervision took place, led by Menelaos Markides, the curator of the Cyprus Museum.

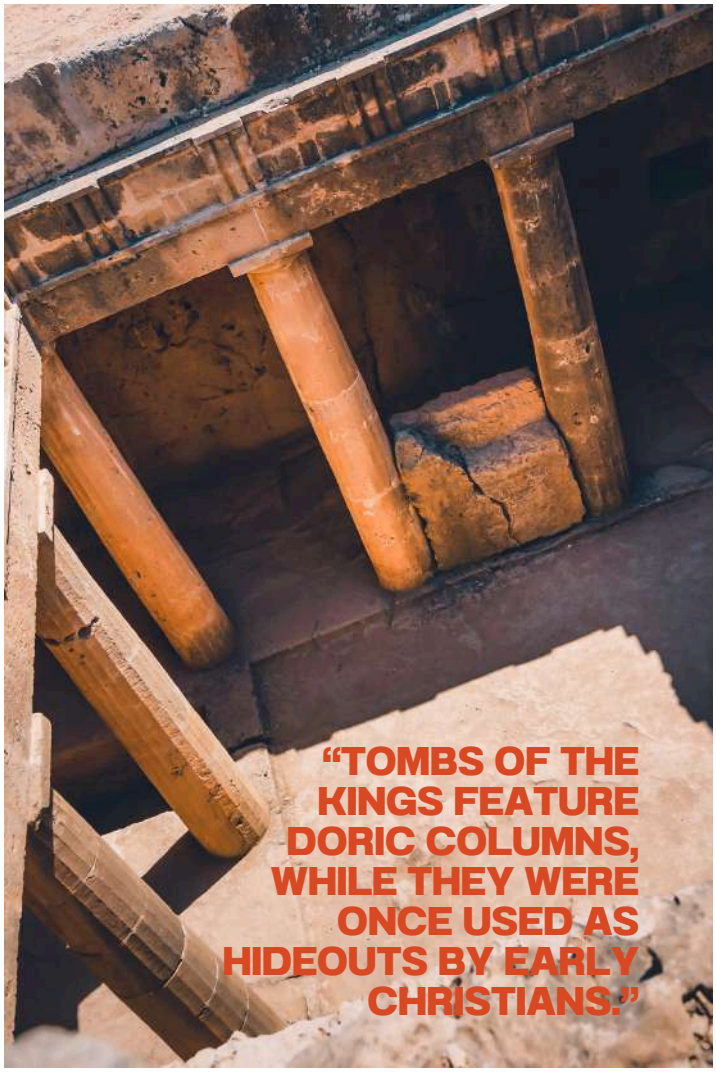


Mind where you tread (especially if you have children in tow) – the unfenced drops into the tombs are sometimes quite considerable.
The whole necropolis is scattered across an arid, rocky promontory with views of the sea and passing ships, and although sources of water are provided, take a hat, sunscreen and plenty of water.









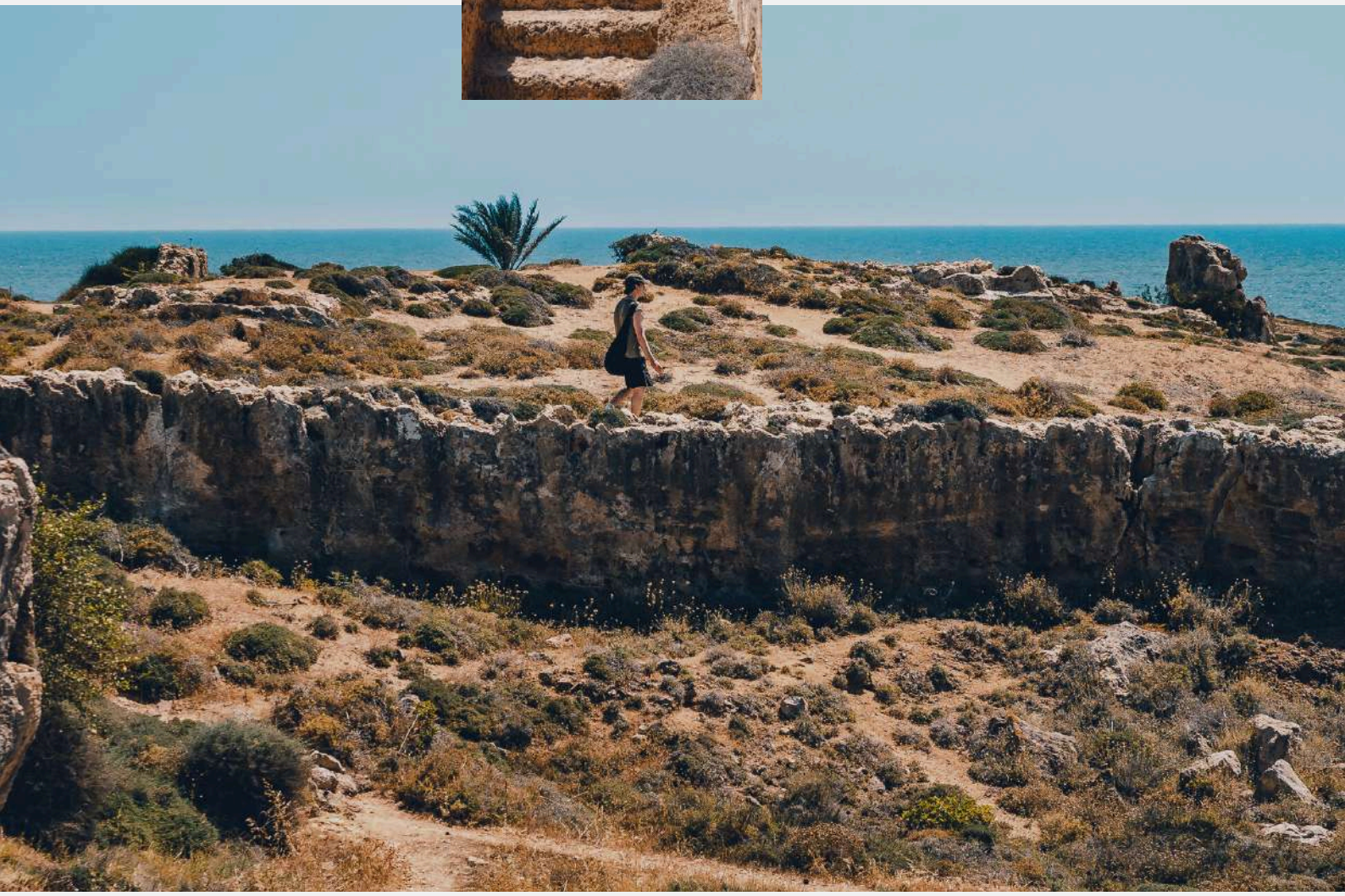
"TOMBS OF THE KINGS FEATURE DORIC COLUMNS, WHILE THEY WERE ONCE USED AS HIDEOUTS BY EARLY CHRISTIANS."





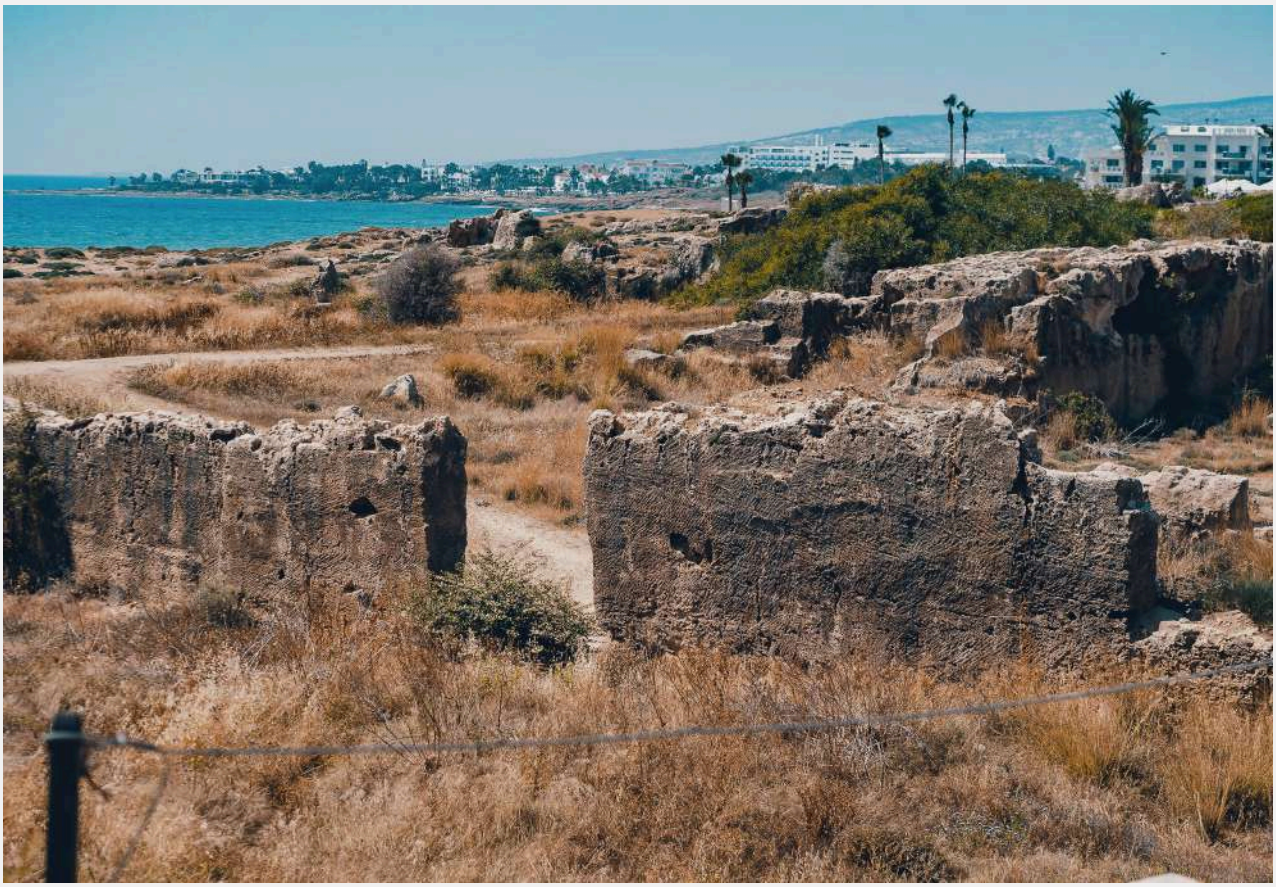






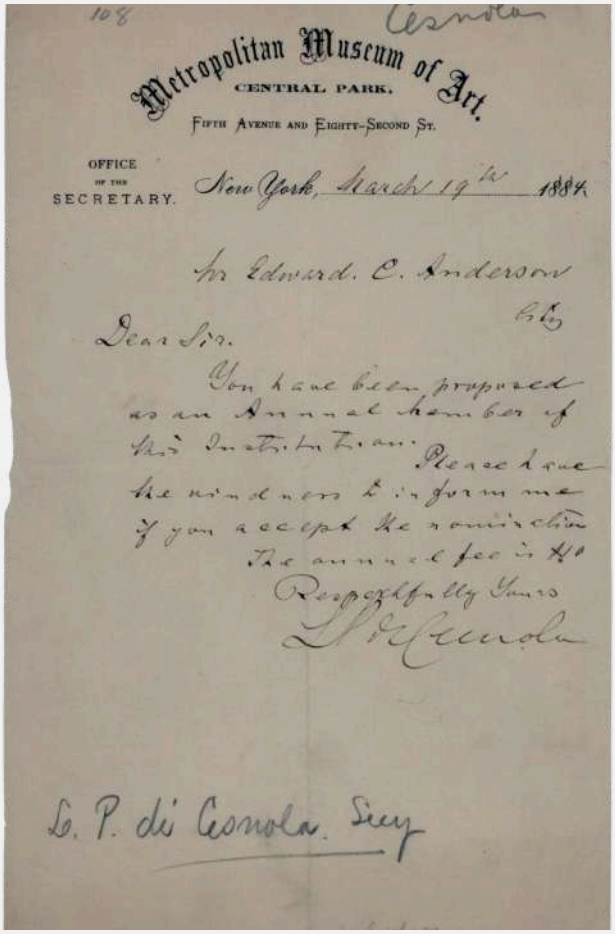






TOMB RAIDER: LUIGI PALMA DI CESNOLA





Metropolitan Museum of Art.
CENTRAL PARK,
Fifth Avenue and Eighty-Second St.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

New York, March 19th 1884

Mr Edward C. Anderson

Dear Sir.

You have been proposed as an Annual Member of this Institution. Please have the kindness to inform me if you accept the nomination. The annual fee is $10

Respectfully Yours

L. P. di Cesnola

L. P. di Cesnola. Secy

In the literature surrounding a lot of Cypriot archaeological sites, the name of Luigi Palma di Cesnola (1832–1904) has attracted a fair amount of infamy. A keen amateur archaeologist, he spent his twelve years in Cyprus digging up antiquities all over the island – discovering, so he claimed, 35,000 items. Most of these he sold abroad, in particular to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (whose first director he became in 1879).

HINTS



Avli tis Nefelis

If paradise exists, it does so in this magical family garden with genuine hospitality, traditional desserts and pies made with anari cheese. Garden tours, a small shop with homemade goods, and personal touches make this more than just a cafe.

Sykaminia

A café hailing from the 60s, with the characteristic feature of a big fig tree (mulberry tree) for shade, always famous for its Cypriot coffee! Norma Xenofontos came from Mexico to Cyprus many years ago, took under the café giving it a Frida Kahlo twist.


Sykamina Cafe
At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we can think.
- Frida Kahlo
Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice





MAHALEPI – CYPRIOT SUMMER PUDDING (ΜΑΧΑΛΈΠΙ)

Mahalepi is like marmite, you either love it or hate it! Traditionally served with triantafilo (rose syrup), ice-cold water and ice cubes, it's an old-fashioned treat that still hits the spot on warm afternoons.







"You can't leave here without eating nor dessert," she quips, then disappears into the tiny kitchen to bring the mahalepi.


AVLI TIS NEFELIS COFFEE SHOP
GARDEN
Delights
100% PURE & NATURAL
BITTER ORANGE
SPOON SWEET
GARDEN
Delights
PICKLED
CELERY



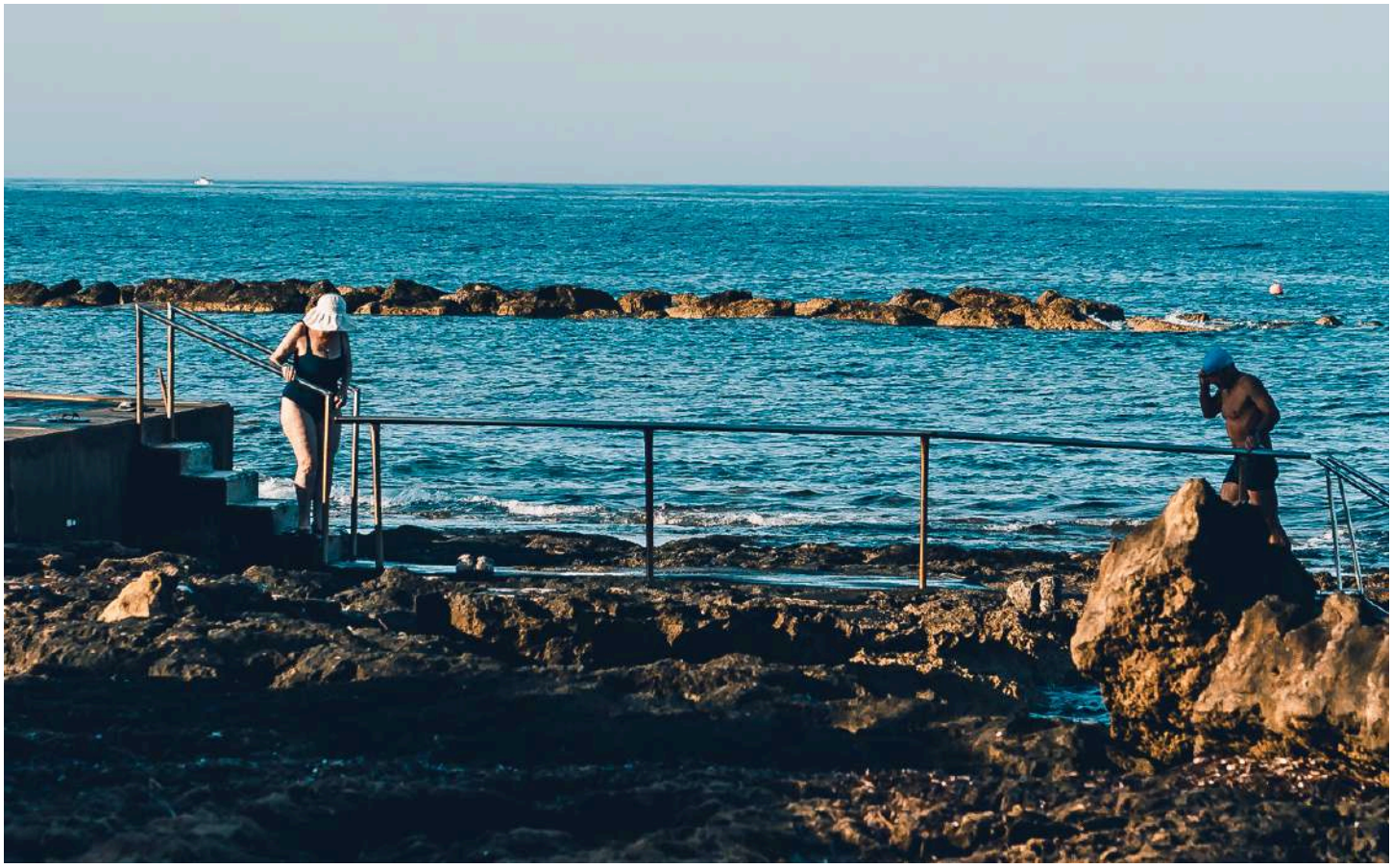

SPEED. I AM SPEE
ΣΥΚΑΜΙΝΙΑ











A DIP IN THE WATER

MUNICIPAL BATHS

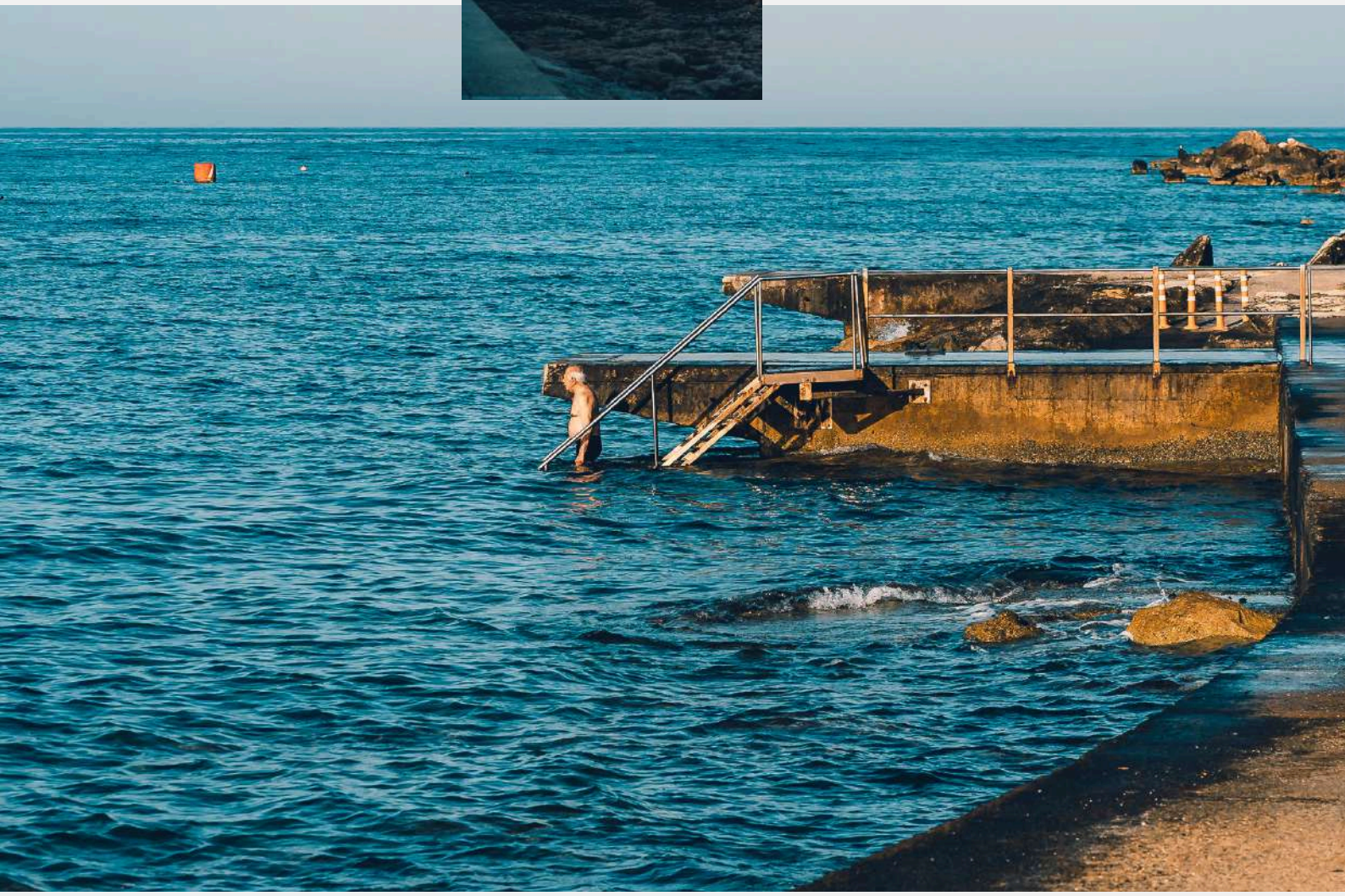
The inhabitants of Pafos have a special relationship with the sea. Most swim year-round. One of the most beloved beaches is the Municipal Baths, also called Kato Pafos beach, which runs along the whole strip from Geroskipou towards Pafos harbour. Ta Bania beach in Greek, has no sand and the water is very deep as there are many rocks underneath (there's a ladder to get in) and with a view of the Medieval Castle, bathers enter the sea by diving from a dock. For locals, it’s a convenient spot to take a quick dip and have a warm shower, before heading into work (some as early as 6:30 in the morning!) Likewise, start your day with a stroll around and enjoy the first coffee of the day on the beach.




ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ
ΟΛΙΣΘΗΡΟ ΠΑΤΩΜΑ
CAUTION
SLIPPERY FLOOR















Close to the village of Kouklia stands one of the island's largest and most photographed attractions, the Petra Tou Romiou, also known as Aphrodite's Rock, an impressive rock formation from where, according to legend, the goddess of love emerged from the sea. There also lies one of the best beaches in Cyprus. An attractive pebble beach, 9km or so west of Kouklia (and technically in Limassol district). The Greek name refers to a different myth: Digenes Akritas, also known as Romios (or, more disappointingly, Basil), was the Byzantine hero of an epic song. He killed bears, lions and dragons with his bare hands, and leapt from Cyprus to Asia Minor, gaining purchase by grabbing the Five Finger Mountain near Kyrenia. He once vanquished some foes by throwing huge rocks at them, one of which is the biggest of those on the western tip of Petra tou Romiou. Whatever its origins, Petra tou Romiou is an iconic vision of limpid sea and picturesque rocks. The beach is best accessed from the B6 – park next to the café opposite, then use the underpass beneath the road. Though you sometimes wouldn't think so, climbing on the rocks is not allowed, but their shade is highly prized by visitors. As befits the birthplace of Aphrodite, love-hearts marked out with pebbles dot the beach and the surrounding low cliffs.

"GET ON A BIKE AND HEAD TO APHRODITE'S ROCK TO SWIM UNDER THE FULL MOON! ."

Petra tou Romiou (the birthplace of Aphrodite)



CORAL BAY

The island's most scenic west coast! This is a relatively quiet but rather characterless extension of the Pafos resort area, 12km north of the harbour. Its raison d'être is its several good beaches in contiguous bays, separated by a peninsula, with free access and parking, clear water and convenient beach bars and hotels. What really sets it apart is the Bronze Age Maa-Palaiokastro prehistoric site, which occupies the peninsula between the two bays (if driving, park at the nearby hotel, then walk down the paved path to the site entrance).

THE BATHS OF ADONIS

The waterfalls and pools of The Baths of Adonis, north of Pafos, are widely touted as one of the district's premier attractions. While their location on the Mavrokolympos River is undeniably appealing, be prepared for a heavy dose of tourist kitsch. The infrastructure surrounding the waterfalls was built by flamboyant actor Pambos Theodorou. These include a plaster figure of Aphrodite which, at 10m high, is claimed to be the world's tallest, and one of Adonis where women who wish to become pregnant are enjoined to touch his "appendage". A further explicit statue, of "Priabos" in a state of high excitement, is claimed to be effective for women "even if they are sixty years old". On the positive side, plunging into the pools is certainly refreshing – it is not unknown for bathers to strip off completely in the upper of the two pools, though the water can be very cold, even in summer. Another word of warning: the road is bad.
http://adonisbathswaterfalls.com



SHIPWRECKS & CAVES

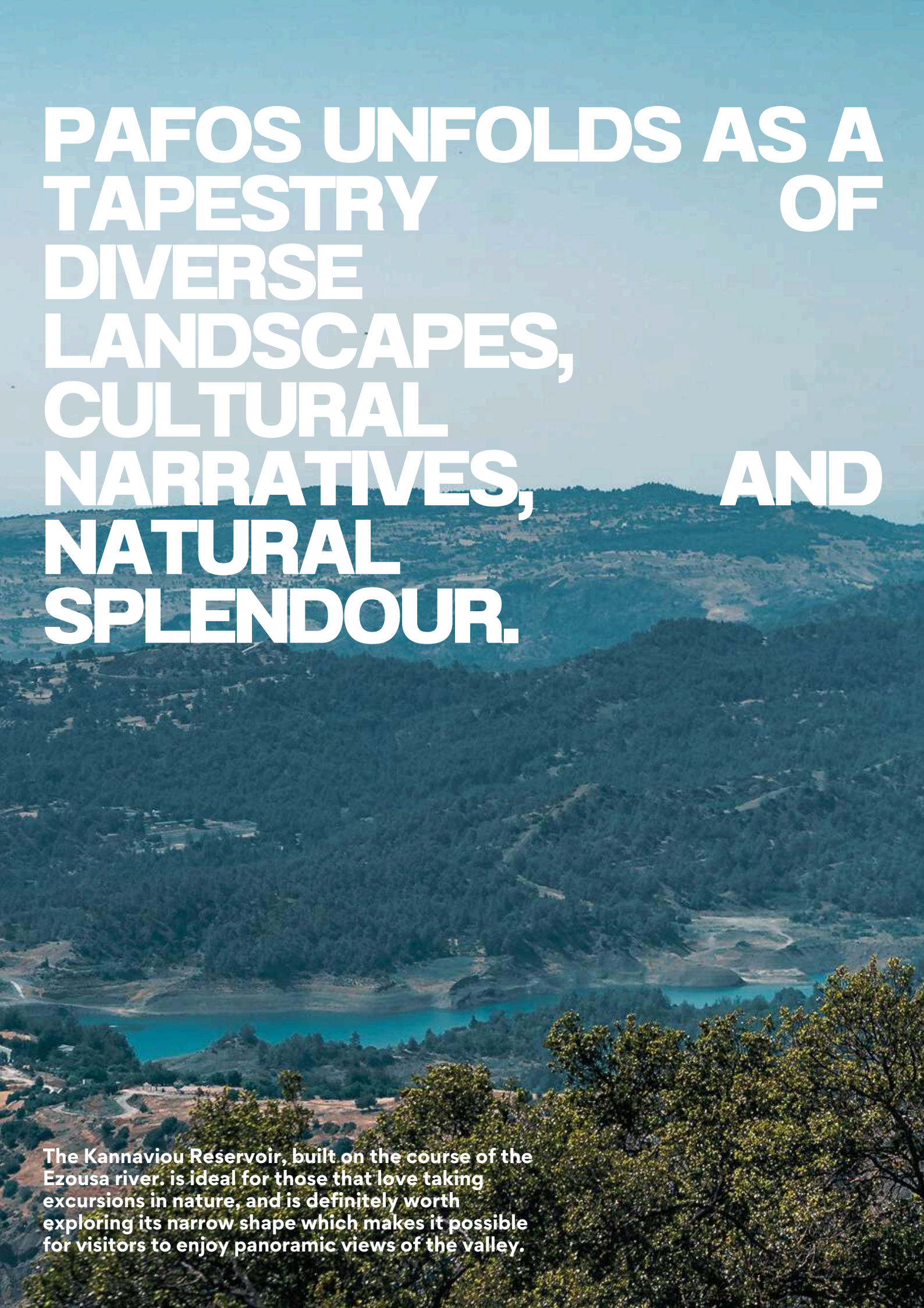
PAFOS SEA CAVES

Peyia is a coastal town with some of the most famous snorkelling options in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

To the north of Pafos, you will discover a series of natural caves, created by centuries of erosion, are where sea and rock meet in breath-taking shape in dramatic limestone cliffs and crystal clear waters. Not far from the Peyia caves, you will find the shipwreck of the EDRO III, a Sierra Leone-flagged cargo ship, met its fate off the coast near Pafos, which adds even more magic to the place.



PAFOS UNFOLDS AS A TAPESTRY OF DIVERSE LANDSCAPES, CULTURAL NARRATIVES, AND NATURAL SPLENDOUR.



The Kannaviou Reservoir, built on the course of the Ezousa river. is ideal for those that love taking excursions in nature, and is definitely worth exploring its narrow shape which makes it possible for visitors to enjoy panoramic views of the valley.

To the southeast is Geroskipou with its fine church and first-rate folk museum and, beyond it on the outskirts of the village of Kouklia, the remains of Palaipafos (the original town of Pafos) with, on the coast, the pretty cove of Petra tou Romiou, legendary birthplace of Aphrodite. Driving east and northeast involves a climb to a plateau dotted with villages and vineyards, the Monastery of Agios Neofytos and the large village of Pano Panagia, birthplace of Archbishop Makarios III. Driving along the coast road north from Pafos takes you through a resort area with good beaches and some interesting small museums. Among the many villages to visit in the mountainous parts of Pafos, Statos and Agios Fotios from which Kyriakidis was hailing, are of exceptional note. The distant past remains present in these villages, and time seems to stand still. The seven neighbourhoods and lovely little chapel of Ayios Kyrikos are of great interest in the village of Letymbou (worth noting is the fact that there is only one other chapel dedicated to this saint, this being on the Greek island of Ikaria).

“PAFOS IS BLESSED WITH NUMEROUS DAY-TRIP DESTINATIONS. ”







Day-trips from Pafos , our favourite stops and why.

GEROSKIPOU: THE SUBURBS OF PAFOS TOWN

Although a separate municipality southeast of Pafos, is now virtually a suburb of the larger town. Yet its handsome square, dominated by the church of Agia Paraskevi, and its fame as a centre of loukoumia (Cypriot delights) production, gives it a character all of its own. The name Geroskipou derives from the Greek for "Holy Garden", a reference to the nearby temple of Aphrodite in Palaipafos .

Geroskipou's Folk Art Museum, also known as the "House of Hadjismith", is one of the best folk museums on the island–a terrific glimpse into the past of ordinary Cypriots–shady paved courtyards, wooden shutters and balconies, flagged rooms and rustic stone walls. The eclectic collection features everything from ceremonial "wedding breads" to musical instruments and even children's swimming floats made from gourds. Look out too for the tapatsia, a basket which was slung from the ceiling on a rope to keep bread out of the reach of vermin. Everything is labelled in Greek and English, with occasional sketches showing how things worked.





The church of Agia Paraskevi is an important and rare Byzantine structure originating in the 9th century AD. It has five domes over a nave and two aisles, with an additional small dome over an odd little annexe attached below the belfry, used as a reliquary.



Ecclesiastical Museum of Pafos
(Square of Geroskipou)

Once called the Byzantine Museum, this large collection of icons and religious paraphernalia moved to a new location from Paphos to Geroskipou village, housed in an old elementary school building. The museum's collection is undeniably beautiful and intrinsically interesting to ecclesiastical historians, committed Christians and Russian Orthodox visitors. Among the icons on show is one claimed to be the oldest in Cyprus – that of Saint Marina flanked by scenes from her martyrdom, which dates from the 7th or 8th century.



Situated 5 minutes from the heart of Pafos in Cyprus, Eléa Golf Club offers world-class golf in a stunning setting.



LOUKOUMIA

Cypriot delights of Geroskipou

The place is famous for its “loukoumia”, or what the rest of the world calls Turkish delight. Indeed, it has Protected Geographical Indication, like champagne or Cornish pasties. Many shops along the main road and in the square sell the sweet, and it’s far more versatile than you might imagine. You can buy delights flavoured with chocolate, nuts, vanilla, lemon, orange, mint or banana as well as the more traditional rose-petal flavour.

Currently, there are three families (of the same roots, not sharing the same windows though) making these delights. We recommend trying Aphrodite Delights (http://aphroditedelights.com), which has a slick showroom and visitor centre a couple of minutes’ walk from the main square.




ΠΑΜΠΑΦΙΑ
ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ








ΛΟΥΚΟΥΜΙ ΓΕΡΟΣΚΗΠΟΥ
ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ
ΑΠΟ ΤΟ 1895


ΛΟΚΟΥΜΙΑ
ALMONDS
TURKISH
DELIGHTS
ΡΟΣΚΗΠΟΥ
TEL.
32901
YEROSKIPOS INDUSTRIES OF
PAPHOS
DELIGHTS
FACTORY


ΑΝΑΝΑΣ – PINEAPPLE – ANANAS – АНАНАС НАСТОЯЩИЙ
ΤΖΙΝΤΖΕΡ – GINGER – IMBIR – ИМБИРЬ
ΠΕΡΓΑΜΟΝΤΟ – BERGAMOT – BERGAMOTE – БЕРГАМОТ
ΛΕΜΟΝΙ – LEMON – CITRON – ЛИМОН
ΜΕΝΤΑ – MINT – MENTHE – МЯТА
€ 3
ΠΟΡΤΟΚΑΛΙ – ORANGE – ORANGE – АПЕЛЬСИН
ΟΥΖΟ – OUZO – OUZO – УЗО (АНИС)
ΑΝΑΜΙΚΤΕΣ – ASSORTED FRUIT – ASSORTIMENT DE FRUITS – АССОРТИ ФРУКТОВЫХ ВКУСОВ
€ 3
ΚΕΡΑΣΙ – CHERRY – CERISE – ЧЕРЕШНЯ
ΤΡΑΝΤΑΦΥΛΛΟ – ROSE – ROSE – РОЗА
€ 3
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ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ
ΑΠΟ ΤΟ 1895

KOUKLIA: A VILLAGE WITH ANCIENT ROOTS

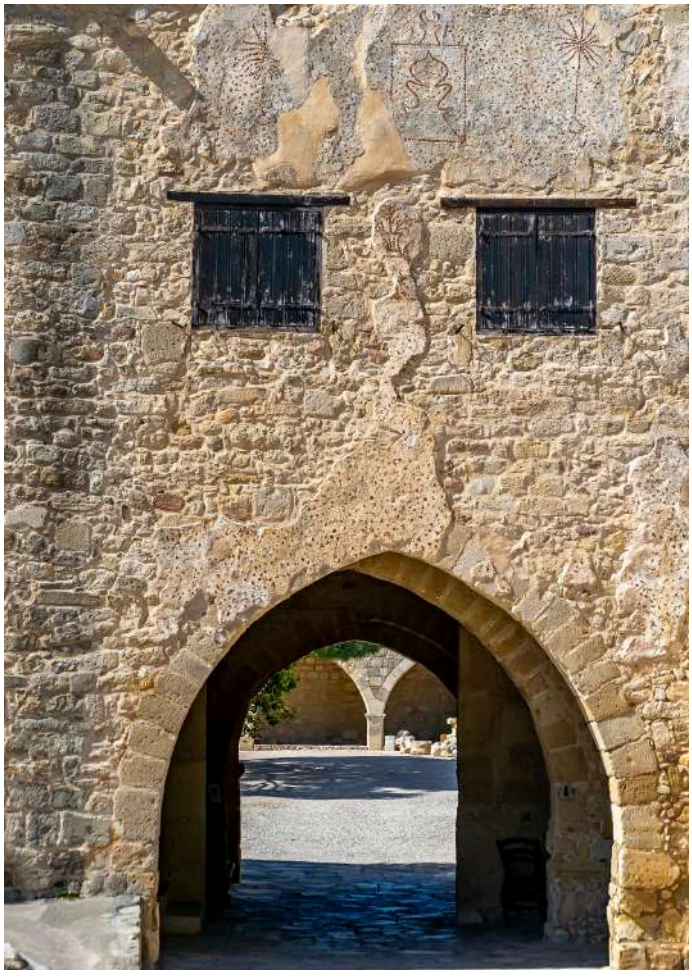
The earliest monumental sanctuary in Cyprus, the Sanctuary of Aphrodite in Palaipafos was renowned throughout the ancient world. The village of Kouklia is located in an area that once hosted the ancient kingdom of Palaipafos, an important place of worship in the ancient Hellenic world. Excavation work has brought to light ruined fortifications, the remains of the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, and a number of tombs. The majority of the objects recovered in this area are on display at the Palaipafos Archaeological Museum.

On the way to Kouklia, seek for the two famous rocks of Hasampoulia, an important Nature monument of the nature and legend of Cyprus. Between the villages of Trachypedoula and Mamonia, if you drive on the old road of Pafos you will see two huge rocks, shortly after Kouklia. These rocks leave a narrow passageway to continue your journey through them. Here, according to tradition, hidden is the "Hasampoulia", a place where a notorious gang of three brothers would steal or kill the people passing by.





Before leaving, try to have a look at the fascinating remains on the Marchellos Hill. This fortification shows in detail the effects of the Persian siege of 498 BC.



Sixteen kilometres southeast of Pafos lays the city's ancient predecessor, Palaipafos, and the entrance is right at the heart of Kouklia village. Among the ruins is the Sanctuary to Aphrodite, dedicated to the goddess, a range of Roman remains, and a number of Lusignan buildings. Perhaps of more interest is the House of Leda, built by a wealthy Roman and named for the magnificent mosaic of Leda and the Swan found in it (the mosaic is now in the museum – the one on site is a modern copy). Now the Kouklia Local Museum (entry covered by site admission charge), it contains a conical black stone thought to represent Aphrodite, and a massive bath carved out of chalk from around 1000 BC. Outside the limits of the archaeological site is the church of Panagia Odigitria.





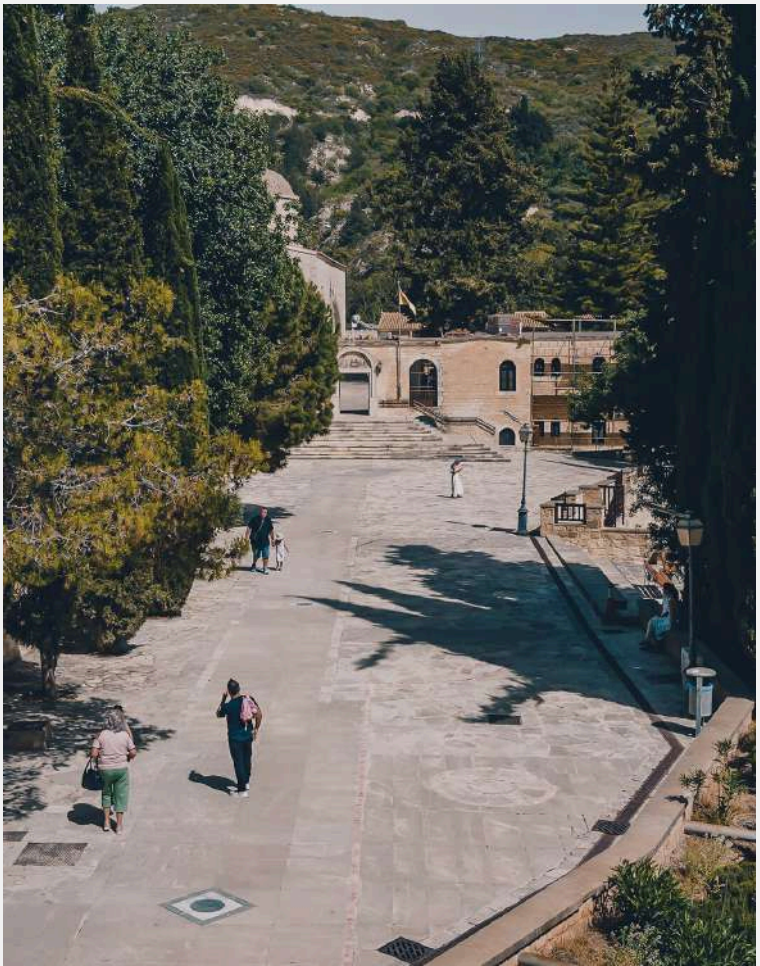
THE HERMIT SAINT MONASTERY

Agios Neofytos

Not only an excellent example of a Greek Orthodox monastery, but with a fascinating back story and a museum to boot. Such is the ubiquity and range of monasteries in Cyprus that visiting them can begin to feel like a chore, at least for the non-believer. Not so in the case of Agios Neofytos, about 17km north of the centre of Pafos (best accessed by climbing up the steep hills through Emba and Tala, at which, incidentally, it's worth a refreshment stop in its very pleasant village square).

Follow the stone bridge to spot the Enkleistra, the caves dug out by St Neofytos himself. The walls of the cave are covered in frescoes, some might have been painted by the saint's own hand. It also houses his tomb – however, in 1756 the sarcophagus was opened and his bones transferred to the monastery church. Across from the church is a museum, housing the monastery's many treasures – the 1560 Venetian bible, for example, and an illuminated manuscript from the late 11th century. ***For a full appreciation of the monastery, do buy the guidebook published by the church authorities.***









PANAGIA CHRYSORROGIATISSA

Free but donations accepted

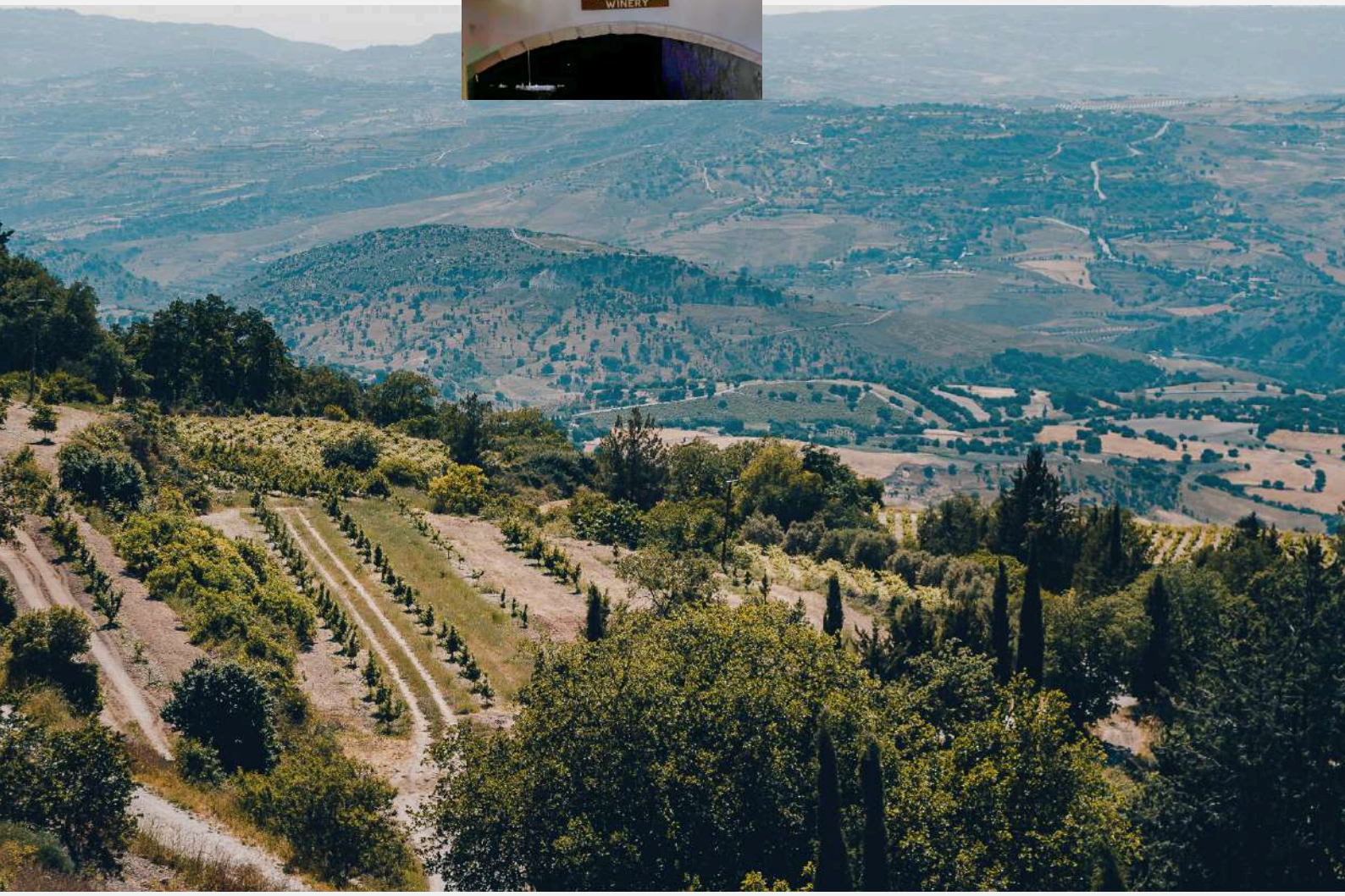
https://chrysorroyiawinery.com

The monastery was established in 1152 (though the current buildings date from 1770) by a certain Ignatios who, it was said, found an icon near Pafos which had been thrown into the sea in Asia Minor during the iconoclastic period and miraculously found its way to Cyprus. Popular for its frescoes, icons and various treasures, in many ways the monastery's chief claim to fame is its peculiar name, translated as "Our Lady of the Golden Pomegranate".

The monastery sells its own wine, and outside is a stall selling nuts and preserves and a small cafe with nice top views. The huge tree near the monastery – a Pinus Brutia (or, whisper it, Turkish Pine) – is 130 years old.



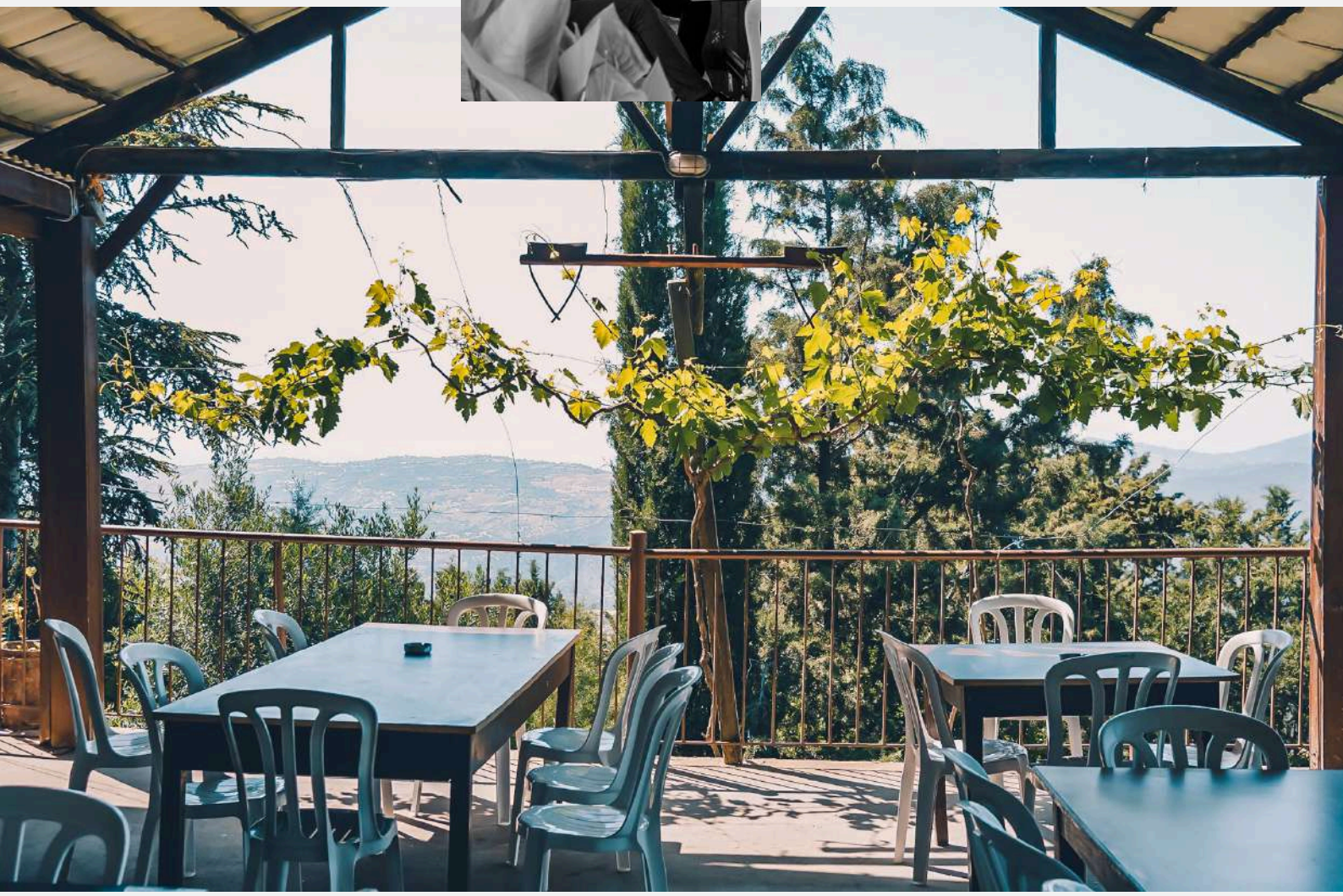

MONTE ROYIA
WINERY






CHRYSORROGIATISSA
CAFE - RESTAURANT








CHRYSORROYIATISSA MONASTERY
Maratheftiko
DRY RED WINE
2020
CHRYSORROYIATISSA MONASTERY WINES
Agios Elias
SHIRAZ - MARATHEFTIKO
RED DRY WINE
2022
CHRYSORROYIATISSA MONASTERY
Monastiri
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
RED DRY WINE
2023





BIRTHPLACE OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS III 01

Off Panagia's main street, signposted down a narrow lane, is the birthplace of the archbishop (key available from the Makarios III Historical and Cultural Centre). Born Michail Christodolou Mouskos, son of a shepherd, he was raised in the village and tended his father's sheep in the surrounding hills. The house in which he lived as a child has now been turned into a museum. There are just two rooms – one for the family, the other for the animals.

GRIVAS MUSEUM AND MONUMENT 02

An illuminating introduction to the EOKA leader and his campaign against the British. On the Chlorakas coast 4km north of Kato Pafos, a monument and statue mark the spot where General George Grivas landed on November 10, 1954 to spark off the EOKA uprising. Next to the memorial is a small museum housing the caïque Agios Georgios who ran guns and EOKA fighters during the struggle for independence before being intercepted by the British. The boat was bought by order of Archbishop Makarios to become a symbol of the resistance. Other (inevitably nationalistic) exhibits include weapons, documents and photographs relating to the gun-running activities along this coast.



MAA-PALAIOKASTRO 03

Maa-Palaiokastro dates from the first wave of Greeks to colonize Cyprus. These were Mycenaeans from the Aegean who came to the island around 1200 BC, starting the process of Hellenization. Excavations here have revealed imposing protective walls and some public buildings whose features show their Aegean heritage. Also discovered were the remains of earlier Chalcolithic inhabitants who lived in caves covered with timber constructions. There's not much for the non-specialist to see, though you can still follow the course of the two walls and some of the buildings.In 1996 a modern museum was built on the site. Designed by Italian Andrea Bruno, its architecture is certainly innovative: the building looks as if a flying saucer had landed heavily and buried itself in the ground. The museum, accessed down a flight of steps, contains no original artefacts, but rather a restrained collection of copies and explanatory photographs and notes relating to the Maa-Palaiokastro site.



PAFOS ZOO 04

Xylomantrou Street, St George, Peyia http://pafoszoo.com Educational and well organized, Pafos Zoo is well worth a visit. The whole park is attractively set on a gently sloping site laid around a water feature, with none of the feeling of claustrophobic exploitation you get at some zoos. There's a fair range of larger animals – lions, tigers, elephants, giraffes, camels, zebras – but, given its origins (it was until recently Pafos Bird Park), it is particularly strong on birds. The snake and reptile house is also particularly good. So if the kids want to visit, you have little excuse.



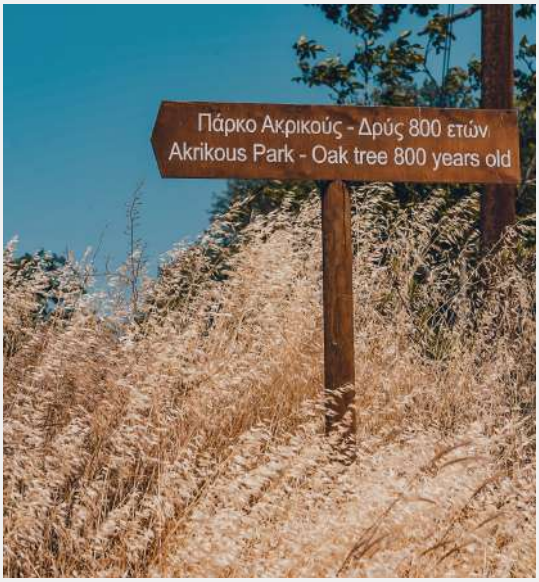
CREATIVITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Pafos is self-consciously modern and fiercely traditional. Two inspiring villages are drawing on art, tradition to shape an island future made by human hands and they create quite an impression: permanence, timelessness and a resistance to change.


ANTIQUES

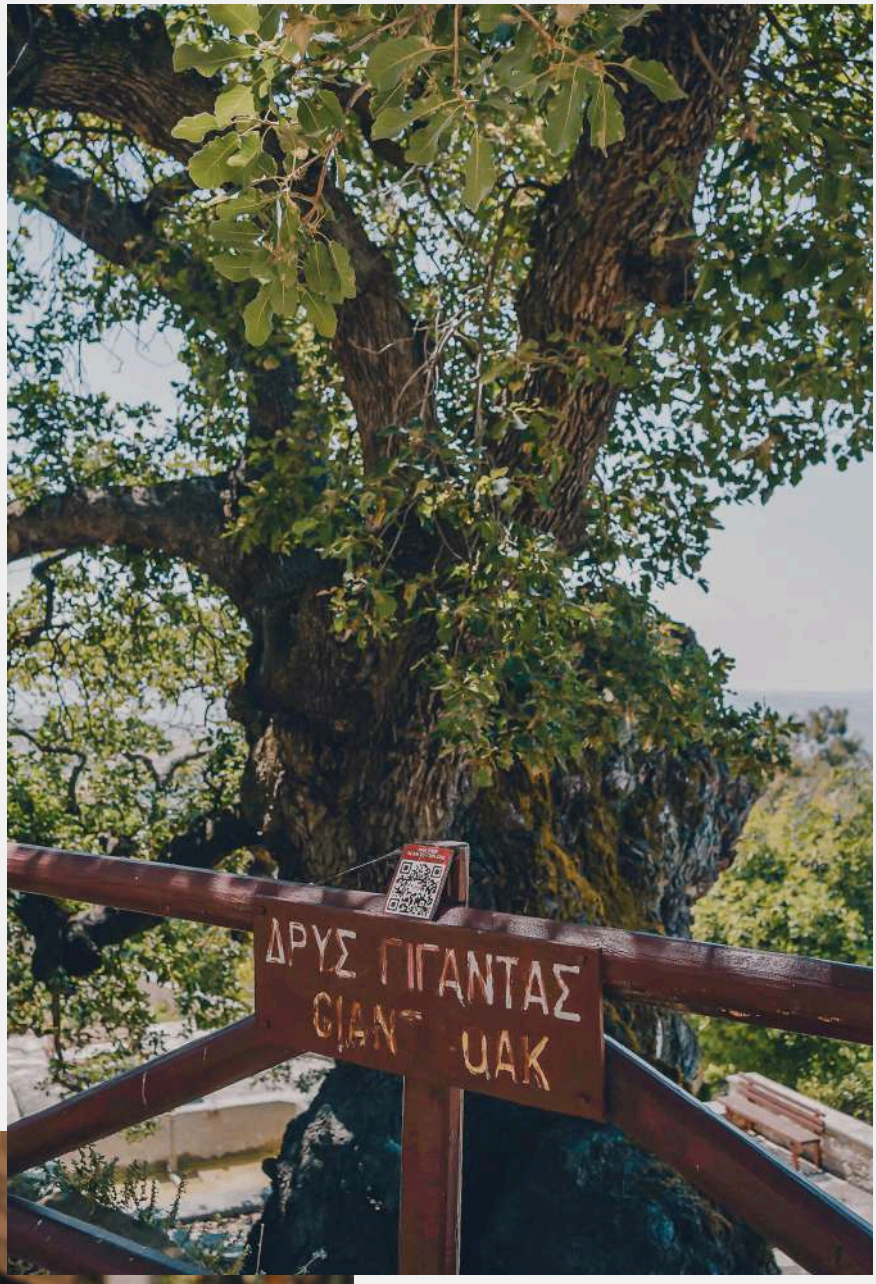


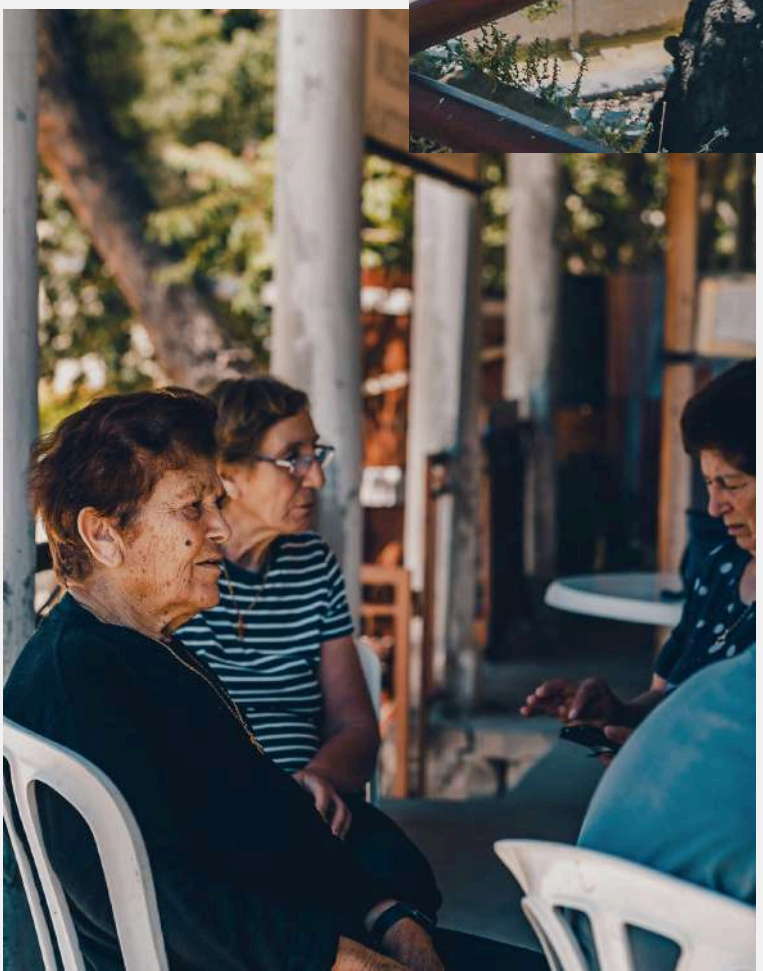




A MODEL OF RUSTIC CYPRUS CHARM

Discover Fyti's Oak Tree & Akrikous Park! Whether you're planning a quiet picnic or a fun outing with friends and family, this hidden gem offers fresh air, scenic views, and authentic village charm.


ΔΡΥΣ ΓΙΓΑΝΤΑΣ





FYTI: THE KNITTING VILLAGE

Most of Cyprus' traditional textile industry has unfortunately disappeared. The decadent village of Fyti still thrives on the tradition of embroidery; two families keep the craft alive.

Of the villages that dot the upland vineyards west and south of Pano Panagia, the one most worth visiting is Fyti (also reads as Phyti, too). High on a hill (680m) surrounded by cornfields, vineyards and woodland, it's hard to believe you're on the edge of the Middle East and yet, it is cool even during summer. In the central square is a small church, and surrounding it are trees offering shade, a bust and memorial fountain dedicated to local dignitaries, and a couple of tavernas – in short, a perfect place to while away an afternoon. A couple of sights are devoted to the local weaving industry – a factory shop houses exhibitions of "Fytiotika", the local tapestry, and the Fyti Museum of Weaving and Folkloric Art (free, but donations appreciated) contains a chaotic array of spinning and weaving machinery, and a wealth of old photographs, labelled in Greek and English and the bright red threads being worked by the women of the village on the looms in the community centre.



The art of weaving flourished particularly during the Lusignan era, and the village of Fyti is explicitly mentioned in the records of their fiefs.

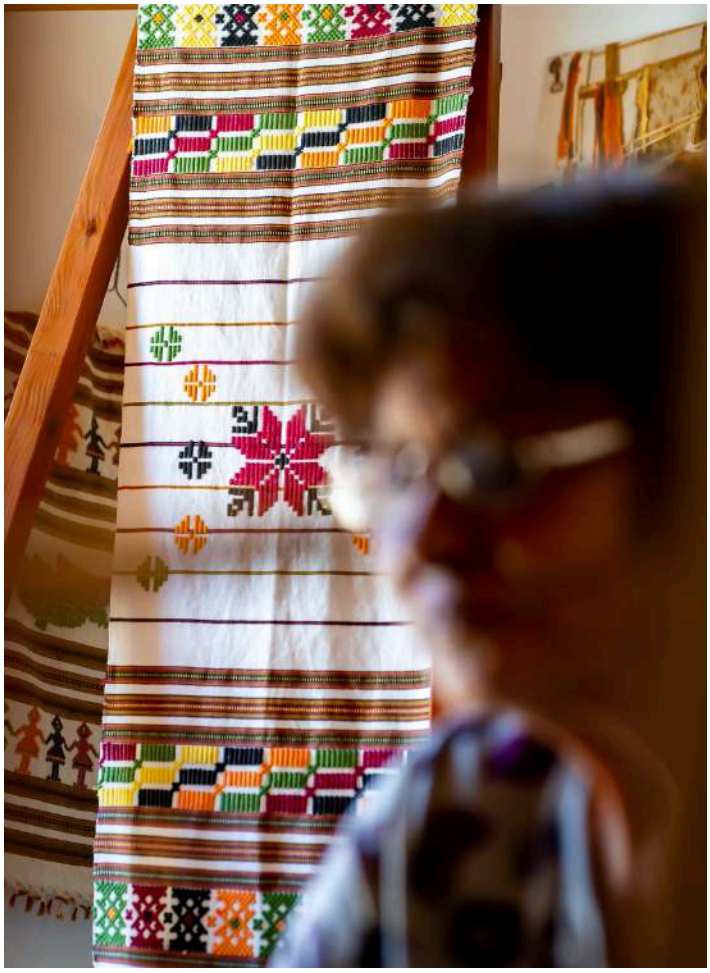
Fythkiotiko embroidery, also known as Ploumia tis Voufas aka the loom's decoratives and their designs, is one of the most significant loom-woven textiles of the Cypriot countryside; the double-sided embroidery stands out for its vibrant colour and intricate geometric patterns.





Visit the locals' ateliers to see where magic is happening in hopes of preserving this important artisan know-how.

"THROUGH A FEMINIST LENS OF CARE, IRINI, HER MOTHER DIAMANTO, AND MANY OTHERS, EXPLORE NOTIONS OF IDENTITY, LABOUR, AND BELONGING, HIGHLIGHTING THE OFTEN-UNSEEN, INTERGENERATIONAL LABOUR OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINING CULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS."



GET HANDS-ON WITH THE MATERIALS

Did you know you can learn the art of Fythkiotika textiles from Mrs. Irene and her daughter Diamanto Diomidous at the Museum of Folk and Weaving Art in Fyti. They will share knowledge, offer gentle guidance, and inspire you, to slow down, unwind, and discover the joy of learning a new craft.



Would you like to invest in threatened traditions?

Or being introduced to skilled craftspeople?

















PRIVATE WORKSHOPS

Here's a glimpse of what can be blossomed in a revival of cherished folk art through exquisite handcrafted pouches, all created in just a few hours!

Made with artistry in the cobbled yards of Cypriot mountain villages and promoted internationally by women proud of their patrimony







FYTI WEAVING MUSEUM

Phone Number:
+35799372966





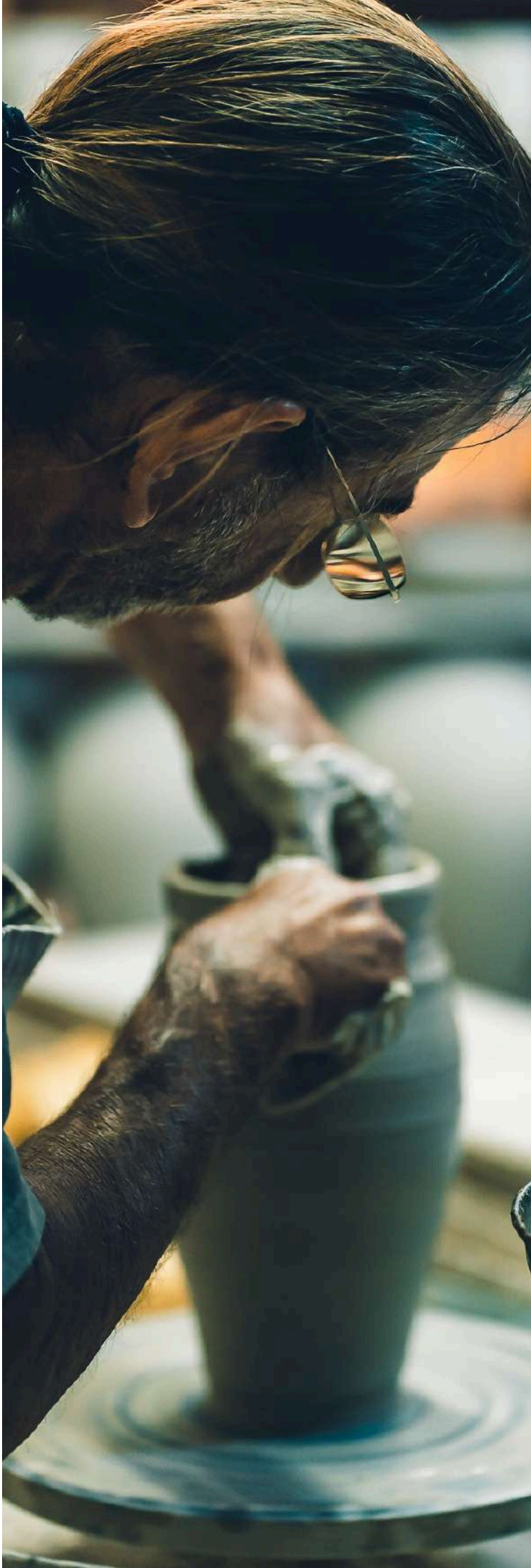


The region is named for a neighbouring village that, before the Frankish occupation, was called 'Emba'. The addition of the French article for the results in L'Emba – thus, Lemba.

LEMBA: THE MUD VILLAGE

The village of Lemba, 5km north from the centre of Pafos just off the road to Kissonerga, has largely been swallowed up by suburbia. This hamlet is built on a hill between two rivers, the Kotzia and Taisi, ending on the sandy beach, which is considered best for surfing. It does, however, have a quite separate history, being one of the oldest villages in Cyprus, dating from the Chalcolithic era. In the surrounding area of the Lemba, the archaeological findings testify to a history of tens of thousands of years.

The village almost entirely Turkish Cypriot until 1974, during which came a tide of students: the Cyprus College of Art, forced to leave Famagusta during the conflict, has resettled here.









The Lemba Archaeological Research Centre, established in the community for over forty years, recreated seven structures on an adjacent site using the same materials, technology, and manufacturing methods as the originals. This project, known as the Lemba Experimental Village, was initially focused on prehistoric buildings and their impact on archaeological site formation. It has since expanded to include research into building materials, pottery firing, and cooking methods. The hospitable inhabitants respect the cultural heritage of the region; a complex history that unfolds over millennia. The village produced ‘aleifta’, traditional glazed ceramics decorated with simple free-form designs, used as everyday domestic wares. Today, the village is still closely associated with this tradition, embodied as it is by the community’s current generation of potters.

“A CHALCOLITHIC VILLAGE DATING FROM ABOUT 3500 TO 2500 BC, THAT CONSISTS OF A CLUSTER OF ROUND HOUSES MADE OF STONE AND MUD SIMILAR TO THOSE AT TENTA AND CHOIROKOITIA, SURROUNDED BY MASSIVE TREE-TRUNK PILLARS HOLDING UP THE ROOF. ”

THE UNLIKELY BIRTH OF THE CYPRUS COLLEGE OF ART

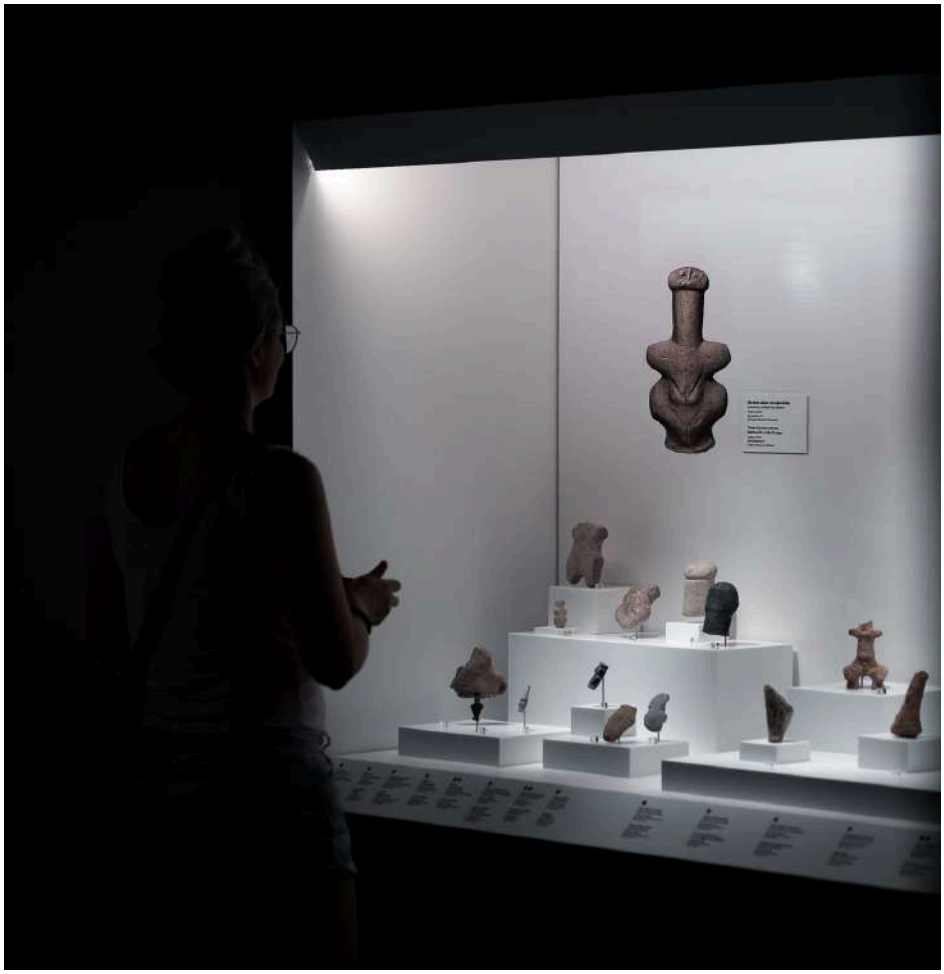
The Cyprus College of Art was formed in 1969 by Cypriot artist Stass Paraskos. Very much focused on art rather than academia, the college has the feel of a cooperative, reflecting its origins in the British art school ethos of the late 1960s. Paraskos died in 2014, and as a tribute the street on which the college stands has been renamed “Stas Paraskou”. For the visitor, the main attraction is its famous, or infamous, “Wall of Lempa”, made up of hundreds of pieces and contributions by its students. It promised to be a dynamic art village where cultural exchange and artistic endeavours flourish under the Mediterranean sun and for decades it has formed a central part of the village, appealing to both artists and tourists alike. The revered Cyprus College of Art now is a heritage site, undergoing extensive renovation with the support of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture, where new facilities will house the cultural village of Lemba where the art of ceramics will be taught along with painting and sculpture.



Arts, Culture and a Magical Sunset

The area is also famous for its magical sunsets, making the spot great for wedding receptions. In the area of the Cultural Centre, you can relax and enjoy refreshments while taking in the surroundings. As a visitor, you'll be welcomed with the famed hospitality the villagers are known for. Inside the village, the recently renovated church of Agios Stefanos, built on the foundations of an older church, is well worth visiting. The other two churches in the area are dedicated to Agia Marina and the Archangel, respectively. Next to the cultural centre of the village where events often take place and the newly developed park that overlooks the beautiful valley of the village, the travellers can enjoy the natural springs and an 800-year-old carob tree.

PREHISTORIC LEMBA



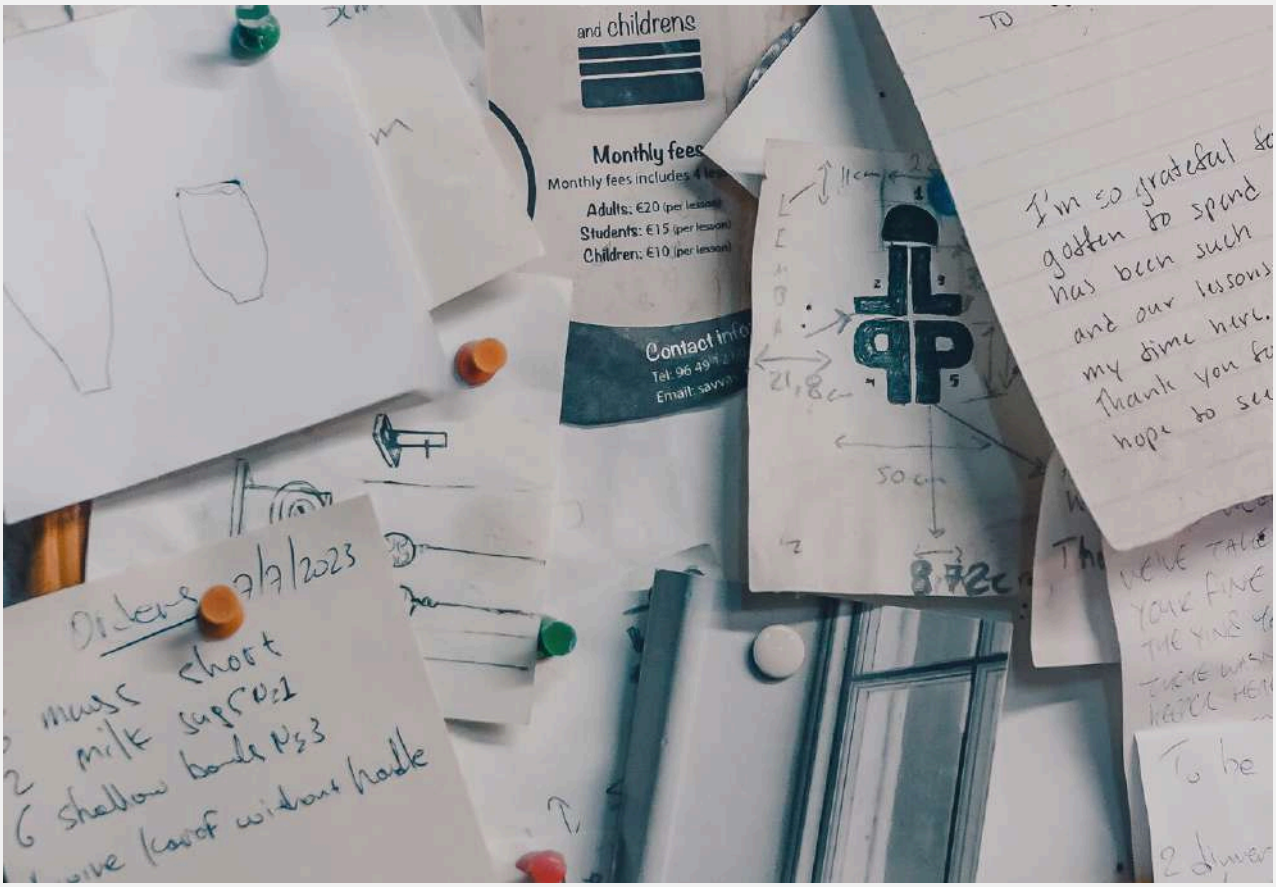
1. Lemba has proven to be one of the oldest villages in Cyprus with a high archeological interest.
2. One of the most important findings is a female worshipping idol of 36 centimetres. The idol is known as the 'Kyra tis Lembas' which means the 'Lady of Lemba'. It is considered as the ancestor of the Cypriot Venus, the main female deity identified with fertility of nature and women. (she can be admired up close in the Archaeological Museum Pafos District.)

CERAMIC CLASSES AT ANCIENT CLAY HAMLET

Thanks to the natural water springs in the valley, Lemba was the first center in Cyprus for the production and export of Glazed Pottery during the Middle Ages. The tradition of pottery continues until this day with George, Sotiroula and their son Savvas Georgiades, who run pottery classes as well as workshops and other activities related to art.



https://www.lembapottery.com























DON'T
TOUCH


LEMBA
POTTERY
19

THE PAFOS DIET:

potatoes & bananas, tertsia (carobs), honey and ancient wine



Guided tours, often led by local farmers, provide fascinating insights into the cultivation process; discover the intricate life cycle of the local produce along the road, witness the process from the initial planting to the harvesting.

RARE FARM VISITS



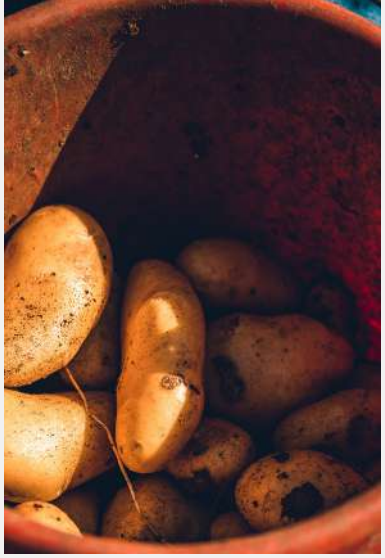
On the potato field

When it comes to potatoes, the Cypriot potatoes stand out from the rest. The climate in this region is also ideal for growing potatoes, with plenty of sunshine and mild temperatures throughout the year.

Where to?

Spot the potato farmers near the airport of Pafos and check first hand on the importance of potato farming in the local economy!





















Go Bananas

In the Pafos coastal zone and especially in the areas of Kissonerga – Peyia the Dwarf Cavendish banana is cultivated. The landscape from Coral Bay to Agios Georgios villages is filled with the vivid green colour of banana plantations.

Did you know?

1. The actual Cypriot bananas are smaller than the commercial ones.
2. In 2021, Cyprus also exported $9.76M in bananas, becoming the 76th largest exporter of the smelly yellow things, in the world.



THE BLACK GOLD OF CYPRUS

TERTSIA (CAROBS)

Carob – often called the “lost treasure of Cyprus” – is making a strong comeback on the island. It is what foodies and nutritionists today call a “superfood.” Our culinary experiences in Pafos were deeply enriched by the flavors of carob. We found ourselves enjoying every single carob product; carob honey, carob biscuits, coffee, nutrition bars, and even anti-aging creams and beauty products.



INTERESTING FACTS:

- The seeds (carat) inside the horn-shaped carobs were used to measure the weight of gold, because people believed that every seed weighed the same. The word carat comes from the Greek kerátion, a diminutive of the word ‘keras’ which means ‘horn’.
- Carobs were also known as the “bread of St John the Baptist”. According to the Bible, carobs were an important part of his diet and they kept him alive.

Carob King, is sold exclusively in his shop at Ibrahim’s Khan in Pafos.


CAROB KING





Their journey with carob honey began with their own need to find a product that would satisfy them, something that they couldn't find on the market until then.

Thymios filled his "luggage" with experiences from Greece, Spain and France, before landing back in Pafos. Along with his beloved wife Christina, went back to their village, Koili, where all his cherished memories were preserved. There, Thymios found his grandmother's paraphernalia – her pot, cauldron, and chopping board and promptly got to work, nowadays beaming with pride for his products, lovingly hands a teaspoon of his "medicinal" carob honey to each one of us.

"CAROB KING, IS MOSTLY FAMOUS FOR ITS PASTELI BARS MADE WITH SESAME SEEDS, ALMOND AND CAROB HONEY.."



Mr Petros Dionysiou has been chasing his dream since he was a child; he used to capture bees in matchboxes and place them between the wall cracks, in an attempt to create his own beehive.

Today, together with his dedicated son-in-law, Polydoros, they have realized their vision by harvesting high-grade honey which has received international recognition. Their thyme honey “Agioi Anargyroi” is prized for its exceptional aroma, taste and antioxidant qualities.

En route to Miliou, visit the best honey-maker and his beehives, and find out everything about the world of bees in the region.

AT THE BEEKEEPERS








μέλι



A SPECIAL WINERY

Makarounas Winery has the privilege of being the only winery in Cyprus that produces wine solely from their privately-owned vineyards. The family has a long tradition of farming and viticulture, they provide fruit to a considerable number of wineries in Cyprus. The fact that the quality of the fruit is completely under the control of the family, allows for the production of terroir driven wines of high distinctiveness and personality. The winery produces wines mainly from the indigenous grape varieties of Cyprus and organic viticulture.

The hinterland northeast of the city of Pafos consists of pastoral tableaux characterized by vivid green vineyards playfully undulating across the hillsides, where grapes have been cultivated for centuries. But what makes these vineyards so different from others, is that they're planted with traditional Cypriot varieties and local winemakers have dedicated their efforts to showcasing local varietals. It has been a challenging endeavour, especially back when visitors were interested only in internationally renowned varieties, prompting many of the island's winemakers to uproot their native vines.



MAKAROUNAS FAMILY















No matter what the wine, however, its role at mealtime never changes: even on the most richly laden Cypriot table, the wine is always the star, and the host's pride and joy.



They are a small family winery located in the beautiful village of Letymvou; the family carries a viticultural history of four generations. Another winery in the region that has opted to focus on native grape varieties, a rather small and yet boutique winery currently run by Theodoros Makarounas, a young and gifted winemaker. His winery is open to the public.

Interested for a tasting?

The winery's extended tour, lasting four hours, includes visits to the vineyards, topped off by wine-tasting at the winery. Visitors may choose to skip the vineyard tour and go straight to the wine-tasting, which consists of a sampling of either five or eight labels, accompanied by Grandma's Platter, filled with the winery's homemade charcuterie and local cheeses.

Monday to Friday | 11:00 – 15:00
+357 99 791915
makarounaswinery.com





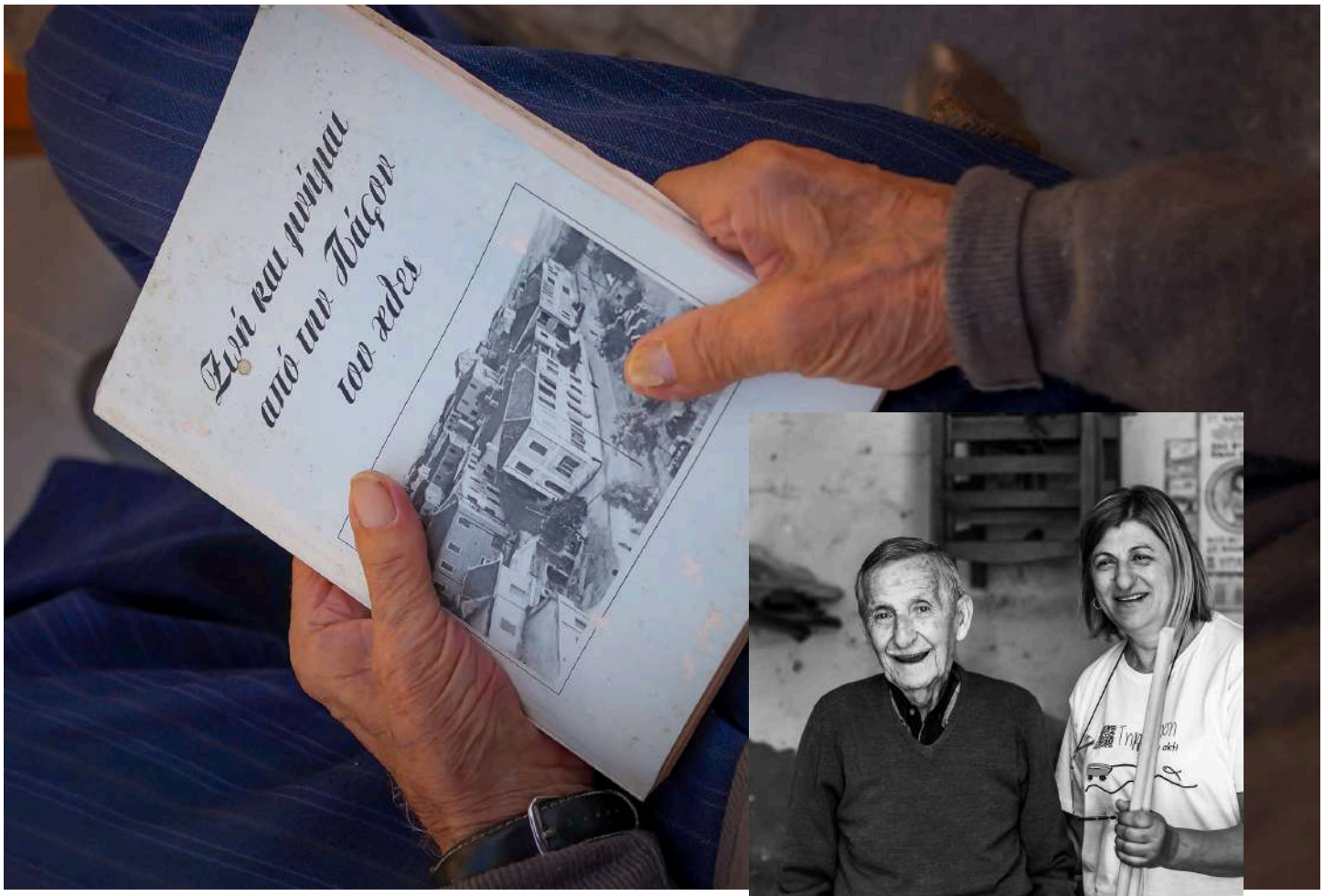

MAKAROUNAS
EST.
2014
LETYMBOU
VINEYARDS
AMPHORA


WINTHY
2024
MAKAROUNAS
EST.
2016
LETYMBOU
VINEYARDS
AMPHORA


CURRATED
EXPERIENCES &
ESCAPES

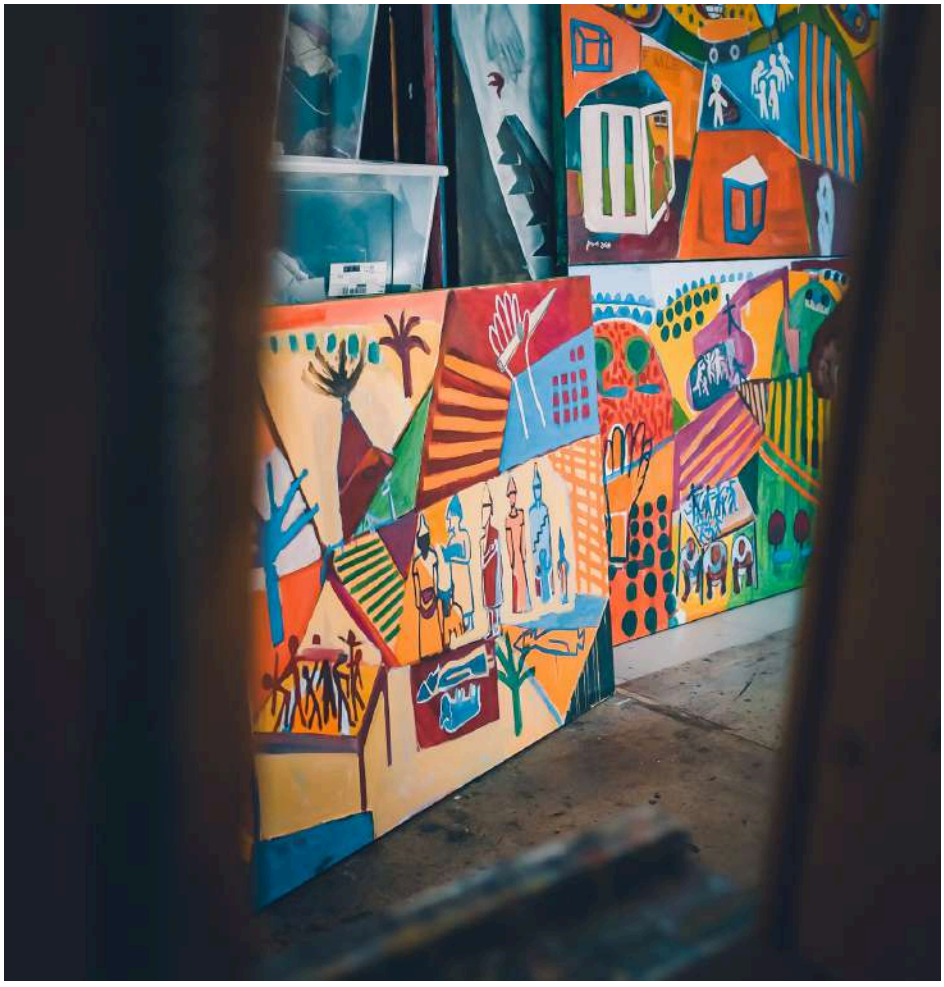
PAFOS WITH A LOCAL

Anna Tselepou is a real Ktimathkiotissa, enthusiastic - one of those restless spirits and willing to assist anyone who asks. Without a doubt, there is no more ideal person to turn to when it comes to Pafos. She left a career of 35 years in shipping behind her, to take part in AKTI's activities, by discovering small producers from nearby villages who are making authentic products. For her, Pafos is more than a hometown, it's her memories, her passion and her concern. Allow yourself to get lost in her precious memories and a journey in time will begin. **This is a great opportunity to meet new people, visit hidden gems and discover the diversity of Pafos. Anna can show you around the city, sharing her inner knowledge and experiences.** *Please take into consideration that she is not a professional tour guide. For a guided tour of the Tombs of Kings, or other monuments and museums, please visit the association of licensed tour guides.*



Proposal: A night around the neoclassicals adjacent to the Public Gardens and City Hall.

STUDIO VISITS



PAINTER
CHRISTOS CHRISTOU
MIXED MEDIA ARTISTS
RINOS STEFANI + SUSAN VARGAS
ICONOGRAPHER
MYRIANTHI KONSTANTINIDOU

INTIMATE MEET-UPS



Christos Christou

Christos Christou, also known as Lakis for his fellow-Pafiots, following his studies, he chose to settle in Paris. His artistic focus primarily revolves around human figures and creatures from the animal kingdom, and his work is distinguished by adream-like surrealism. ***On your way to the Ethnographic Museum of Pafos, make sure you stop-over at his petit messy studio to have a glimpse of his ongoing projects!***



Rinos Stefani + Susan Vargas

Rino, a genuine Pafiot, uses a variety of media, including installations, painting and drawing with a firm grasp of cubism and a vigorous and sensuous attack on his roots. Susan Vargas, although originally from Colombia, is actually a naturalized Cypriot, coming to Cyprus to study at the college of Arts in Lemba before starting to equally penetrate the myths and history of the place along with her husband. ***How about visiting the duo of artists at their studio in Tala?***

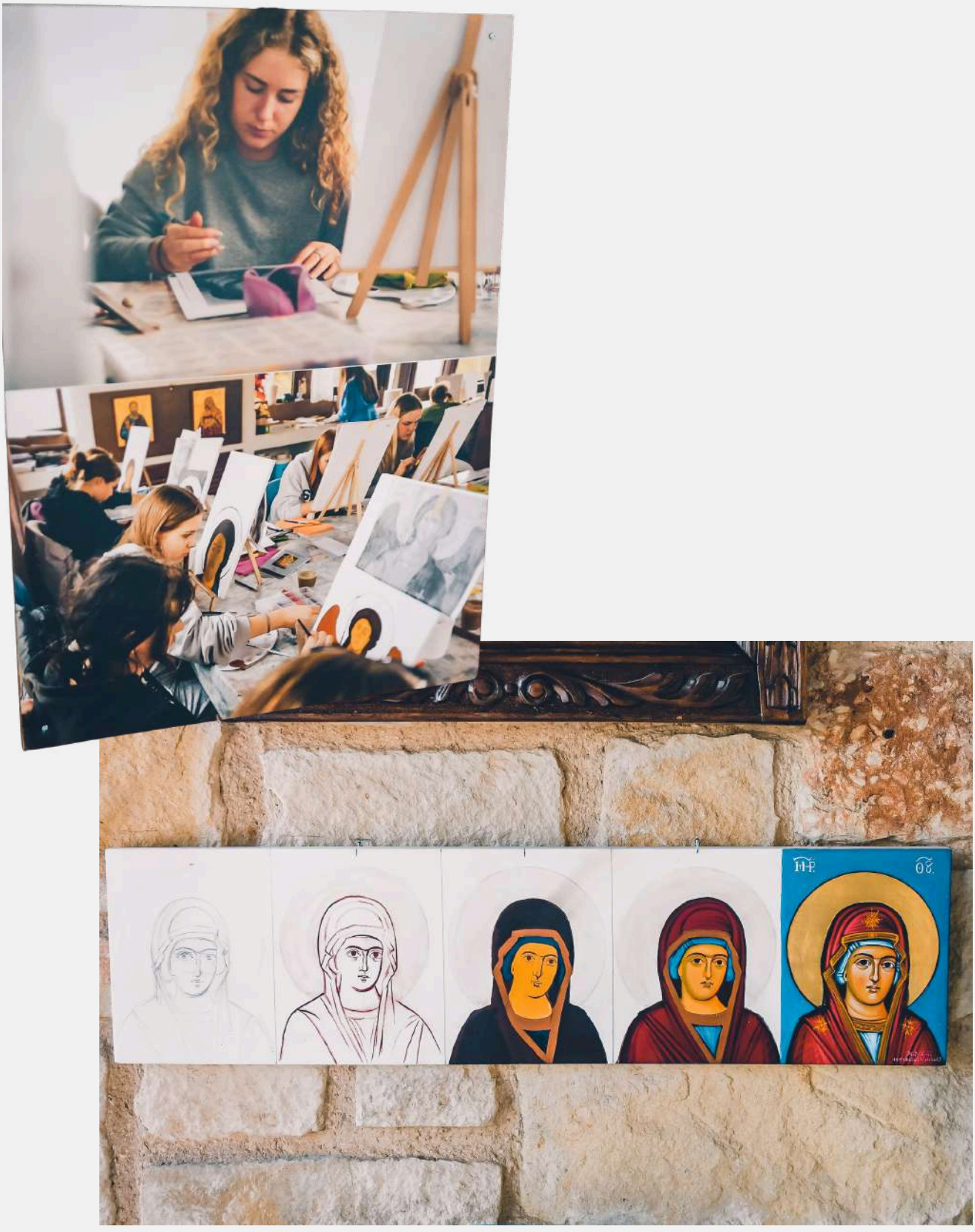


Myrianthi Konstantinidou

With a family tradition in hagiography dating back to 1961, Myrianthi Konstantinidou has been immersed in the art of hand-made icons and frescoes since childhood to finally becoming a master of Byzantine iconography. Her works are treasured in churches across Cyprus, as well as in private collections around the world. ***You can visit her home/space based at the village of Statos - Agios Fotios or learn more about her craft upon request.***




STUV
NOP
FGHI
NOPQ
PRESS HERE
KARAGOZSMA













ΜΡ
ΘΥ.





THE WICKERWORK OF MESOGI

LEND A HAND AT THE BASKET VILLAGE OF PAFOS

The name of Mesogi comes from the name “Mesaoria” (mesa means “inside, between” in Greek and ori are the mountains), since it is located in the middle of two mountains or in the middle of two other villages, the neighbouring Tremithousa in the west and the Mesa Chorio of Pafos to the east. The existence of groundwater is made evident by the underground water well system in the form of an aqueduct that exists in the area, which at the same time highlights the former agricultural character of the village. A special place in the occupations of the locals once held the growing of hemp for the production of rope, which also contributed to the development of rope weaving and basketry.







There are no written testimonials about when people first started basketmaking in Mesogi. It might have been around the end of the 19th century or the beginning of 20th century, due to the lack of fertile ground and the large amount of cane found across the small rivers. The first baskets were woven by men but later women took over and kept the tradition going. Almost every family had their own ‘worksite’. Each member of the family helped in the process of basketmaking. Over the years, natural water sources have dried out and the reeds have declined, resulting in the abandonment of the cannabis plantations, and today basketry is revived to a limited extent, mainly as a part of the tradition of the Mesogi cultural heritage. The basket weaving and the wickerwork of Mesogi, following the "path" of Fythkiotiko textiles, was recently included on the UNESCO Intangible World Heritage List.

Tip: *Head to the village of Mesogi and buy a basket, crafted with generations of skill, tradition, and artistry—now at risk of disappearing. By purchasing, you’re not just buying an object; you’re owning a piece of history, empowering artisans, and safeguarding a cultural treasure.*

“MR. ONISIFOROS NEOPHYTOU IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE LAST BASKET WEAVING TEACHERS IN CYPRUS. IN HIS YARD IS HIS WORKSHOP THAT CONTINUES WITH PASSION HIS ART AND STRIVES FOR THE SALVATION OF THIS CULTURAL HERITAGE.”

Sharon Taylor, a leading mosaic artist is offering various mosaic classes, and what's most wonderful is when you meet people passionate about their profession. Actually, her very own life has evolved around Mosaics and conservation, and her long list of qualifications and commissions, which includes working in the Department of Ceramics, Glass & Mosaics at The British Museum from 1984 to 1988, is just a hint of her expertise.

Upon your visit (and if not having enough time for making your hands dirty with marble), buy one of her very own bespoke and mosaic designs, or discuss giving her from small to large commissions for your homes since she is delivering worldwide.

KID FRIENDLY ACTIVITY

BE PART OF A LIVING HISTORY






Shawen Taylor.


MOSAÏC







TRYING GRANDMA'S RECIPES



HALLOUMI

Traditional Dairy Products Eleni
Agiou Neofytou, 31, Koili
+357 96 450050

Halloumi made with sheep and goat's milk, is considered the flag of authentic Cypriot cuisine and a part of the cultural heritage of Cyprus. Its history travels to the depths of the centuries, making it one of the oldest cheeses in the world. Its production is directly linked to traditional rural life and social solidarity. Panagiotis, on weekdays is a nurse, while during weekends, he tends to the animals on the family farm and helps his grandmother with production in their creamery. In the small, certified Traditional Dairy of Eleni, they work together to make halloumi, and other exceptional cheeses, like pafitiko - a cheese used for flaouna (Easter pastry with cheese, raisins and mastic) - made with milk from his own livestock at his small-scale enterprise. He is an incredible young man that runs a business, he is restless, dynamic and breathing new life into tradition all at once. His grandma, Mrs Eleni, sits proudly beside him.








Ελένη
Ελένη















CYPRIOT CREPES

Ergastiri Paradosiakon Gefseon

WEBSITE

By the first handshake, our mouths are already full of satzi pies, (flatbreads of filo dough topped with sugar and cinnamon), a treat perhaps better than even French crepes... Ergastiri Paradosiakon Gefseon is a humble “little palace”, born and lived for tradition and filled with homemade comfort, where the air is rich with the intoxicating smell of freshly baked bread from the wooden oven. Mrs Giorgoula Christodoulou welcomes us, while a group of travellers are having their Cypriot breakfast with all of nature’s bounty on the table: fresh halloumi cheese, eggs from their chicken, satzis pies, fruit straight from her dads orchards, as well as a variety of jams – all made by Giorgoula.









At Statos - Agios Fotios, we find sweet Elena along with her mom, Androulla, preparing small batches of “palouze” (traditional Cypriot sweet delicacy). While enjoying the velvety texture on our palates, we enter a “time machine” with them, to which she replies: “All the women used to gather and the village looked like a manually operated factory. Our father was kneading downstairs”. Nowadays, things are done more professionally at their small factory. “We are proud of our identity and our homeland,” says Savvas, her son. “The new generation of chefs love our traditional recipes and ingredients. But we want to express ourselves and experiment with local produce.”

More info at their website.

There was inertia in Pafos for many years, but now the region is taking off as a very promising culinary destination rooted in age-old traditions.

PALOUZE MAKING







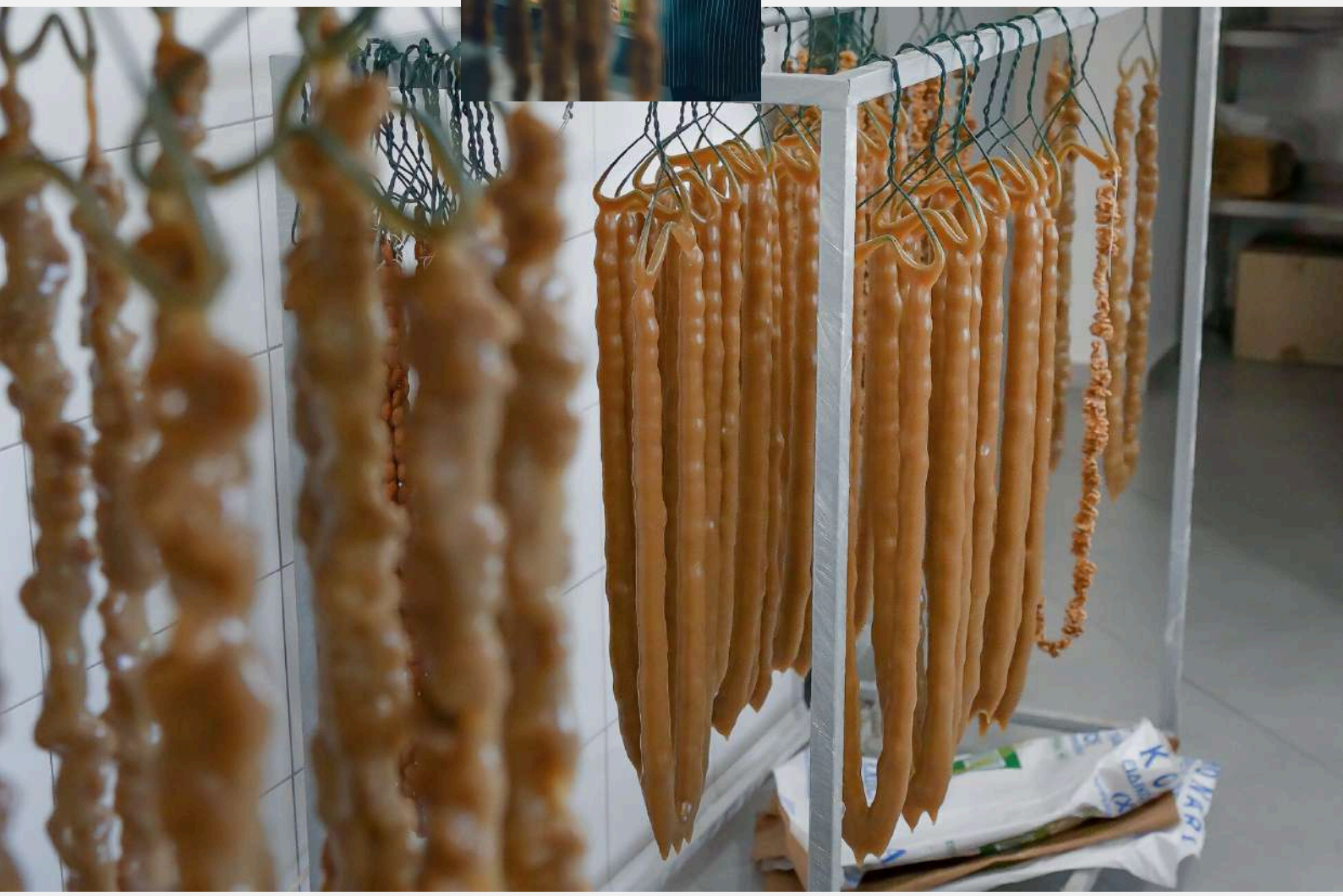



Trahanas (a porridge of flour with yoghurt or sour milk)
ΑΝΔΡΟΥΛΑ
Παραδοσιακός
Τραχανάς
ΑΝΔΡΟΥΛΑ
Παραδοσιακός
Τραχανάς
ΑΝΔΡΟΥΛΑ
Παραδοσιακό
Κιοφτέρι
ΑΝΔΡΟΥΛΑ
Παραδοσιακός
Σιουσιούκος

















PAFOS

WEST CYPRUS

https://www.thanoshotels.com/