



HALLOUMINATI

CYPRUS CULTURE & HISTORY EXAM PREP

Free edition · 25 of 44 chapters

Cyprus Guide

● Up to date as of 20 October 2026



The full guide, 1,200+ real exam questions and mock exams
— in the Hallowuminati app.

hallowuminati.app

Contents

CYPRUS FOUNDATIONS

Core facts about Cyprus

GEOGRAPHY

Mountains, Dams & Nature

Districts & Cities

Division & Special Zones

Flora & Fauna

Picturesque Villages

Archaeological Sites

Water & Environment

Museums of Cyprus

HISTORY

Ancient & Medieval Cyprus

Road to Independence

1974 Turkish Invasion

Cyprus Problem Today

CULTURE & TRADITIONS

Holidays & Celebrations

EVERYDAY LIFE

Entry Requirements

CURRENT AFFAIRS

News of 2025

ABOUT THE EXAM

Cyprus Culture Exam 2026

How to prepare?

Registration for the Cyprus Culture Exam

Cyprus Culture Exam Results 2026

Cyprus History Exam: What It Really Is

Greek Language Exam or Culture Exam: Which One You Need

Exam Requirements: Permanent Residence vs Citizenship

Cyprus Culture Exam 2026: What Changed and What We Updated

Cyprus Culture Exam Day: What to Bring and the Rules

 19 more chapters in the app →

HALLOUMINATI

Pass the Cyprus culture & history exam on your first try.

This PDF is the free part of the guide in the Hallouminati app. The app has everything else you need to prepare:

1,200+**real exam questions**

Daily practice, mock exams and a review of your mistakes.

2,400+**words the exam is written in**

A Greek trainer built from the exam questions.

44**chapters in the full guide**

19 of them are not in this PDF. We update the guide before every exam.

10,000+**people prepared with us**

82% of people who prepare with us pass the Cyprus culture & history exam.



Start for free

Point your phone camera at the code, or open **hallouminati.app**

Telegram @hallouminati_bot · App Store · Google Play · web

CYPRUS FOUNDATIONS

Chapter updated 27 September 2026

Core facts about Cyprus

Where Cyprus is located

Cyprus is the third-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. Geographically it is in **Asia**, but politically and culturally it is **Europe**.



Neighbors:

Country	Distance	Direction
Turkey	75 km	North
Syria	105 km	East
Lebanon	108 km	East
Israel	200 km	Southeast
Egypt	380 km	South
Greece	800 km	West

?

Which country is closest to Cyprus?
→ **Turkey (75 km)**

Size

Parameter	Value
Area	9 251 km² (3 572 sq. miles)
Length (west–east)	240 km
Width (north–south)	100 km
Coastline	648 km

Place in the Mediterranean: the third-largest island after Sicily and Sardinia.

? What is the area of Cyprus?
→ **9 251 km²**

Climate

Cyprus is one of the sunniest corners of Europe. It has a **Mediterranean climate**: hot dry summer, mild wet winter.

Seasons

Season	Months	Character
Summer	Mid-May – mid-October	Hot, dry, cloudless
Winter	December – February	Mild, rain, snow in the mountains
Spring	March – April	Blossoming, comfortable
Autumn	October – November	Warm, swimming season continues

Air temperature

Place	Summer (July–August)	Winter (January)
Central plain	30–38°C	10°C (min. 5°C)
Coast	27–33°C	12–17°C
Troodos (mountains)	24–27°C	3°C (min. 0°C)

? What is the average annual temperature in Nicosia?
→ **~19°C** (the coast is cooler in summer and warmer in winter than the central plain)

Hottest months: July and August — up to 38–40°C on the plain.

Coldest places: mountain villages of Troodos — Prodromos (Πρόδρομος, Prodromos), Platres (Πλάτρες, Platres), Kakopetria (Κακοπετριά, Kakopetria). In winter there is snow and you can go skiing.

- ? Which village is the coldest in winter?
→ **Prodromos** or other mountain villages of Troodos

Sea temperature

Cyprus is a paradise for swimming lovers. The sea is warm for most of the year.

Period	Water temperature
June – November	22–27°C
August (peak)	27–28°C
January – March	16–17°C

- ? What is the sea temperature in summer in Cyprus?
→ **22–27°C** (up to 28°C in August)

Swimming season: from May to November. Some people swim even in December — the water is still 19–20°C.

Sunny days

Indicator	Value
Sunny days per year	~340
Hours of sun in winter	6 hours/day
Hours of sun in summer	11.5 hours/day

Even in December and January — on average 6 hours of bright sun every day. This is more than in summer in most Northern European countries.

Humidity and precipitation

Season	Humidity	Precipitation
Summer (day)	15–30%	Almost none
Winter / night	65–95%	Rain

Fog: rare, only early in the morning.

Snow: only in the Troodos mountains, usually from December. There is no snow on the coast.

What to wear by season

Months	Recommendations
April–May	Light clothes during the day, a sweater in the evening
June–August	As light clothes as possible, sun protection
September–October	Light clothes, something warmer for the evening
November	Medium layer, you can still swim
December–January	Winter clothes, but heavy coats are not needed
February–March	Changeable, layered clothing

 **Tip:** Even in summer take something with sleeves — it is cold in air-conditioned rooms, and in the mountains it is cool in the evening.

Population

Indicator	Value (2023)
Total in the Republic of Cyprus	920 701
Greek Cypriots	737 196 (80%)
Foreign residents	183 505 (20%)
Including the occupied territories	~1.2 million

 920,701 is the resident population of the government-controlled area. Broader estimates (the whole island's population, including temporary residents) put the figure at roughly **983,000**.

Official languages: Greek and Turkish

Most widespread foreign language: English (legacy of 82 years of British rule)

 Which foreign language is the most widespread in Cyprus?
→ **English**

 What percentage of the population are immigrants?
→ **~20%**

Cyprus in the world

Membership in organizations

Organization	Since
UN	1960

Organization	Since
Council of Europe	1961
Commonwealth of Nations	1961
OSCE	1975
European Union	2004
Eurozone	2008

? When did Cyprus join the EU?
→ **1 May 2004**

? When did Cyprus adopt the euro?
→ **1 January 2008**

Not a member: NATO, Schengen Area

? Of which organization is Cyprus NOT a member: UN, NATO, EU?
→ **NATO**

Flag of the Republic of Cyprus



Description:

- **Background:** white (symbol of peace)
- **In the center:** silhouette of the island in copper-orange color (copper was Cyprus's main wealth in antiquity)
- **Under the island:** two crossed olive branches (symbol of peace between Greeks and Turks)

Why the copper color? The name “Cyprus” comes from the Greek word for “copper” (χαλκός, chalkos). The island was the main source of copper in the ancient world. The Latin cuprum also comes from Cyprus.

Interesting: Cyprus and Kosovo are the only countries with a map of their territory on their flag.

Constitution, Article 4: the Republic has its own flag of **neutral design and colour** (ουδέτερου σχεδίου και χρώματος), **chosen jointly by the President and the Vice-President**.

? What colors are on the flag of Cyprus?
→ **White background, copper-orange silhouette, green branches**

National anthem

Anthem: Ύμνος εις την Ελευθερίαν (**Hymn to Liberty**) — the same anthem as Greece.

	Who
Words	Dionysios Solomos (Διονύσιος Σολωμός)
Music	Nikolaos Mantzaros (Νικόλαος Μάντζαρος)

? Who wrote the words of the national anthem? → **Dionysios Solomos**; the music? → **Nikolaos Mantzaros**

Time zone

Winter: UTC+2 (EET — Eastern European Time)

Summer: UTC+3 (EEST — Eastern European Summer Time)

Difference with London: always +2 hours

Difference with Moscow: -1 in winter, 0 in summer

Switching to summer/winter time

Change	When	What happens
To summer time	Last Sunday of March	03:00 → 04:00
To winter time	Last Sunday of October	04:00 → 03:00

💡 Cyprus switches to summer time simultaneously with the entire EU.

Telephone code of Cyprus

International code: +357

Local numbers have 8 digits.

To call Cyprus from abroad: +357 + 8-digit number

To call abroad from Cyprus: 00 + country code + number

? What is the telephone code of Cyprus? → +357

What to remember

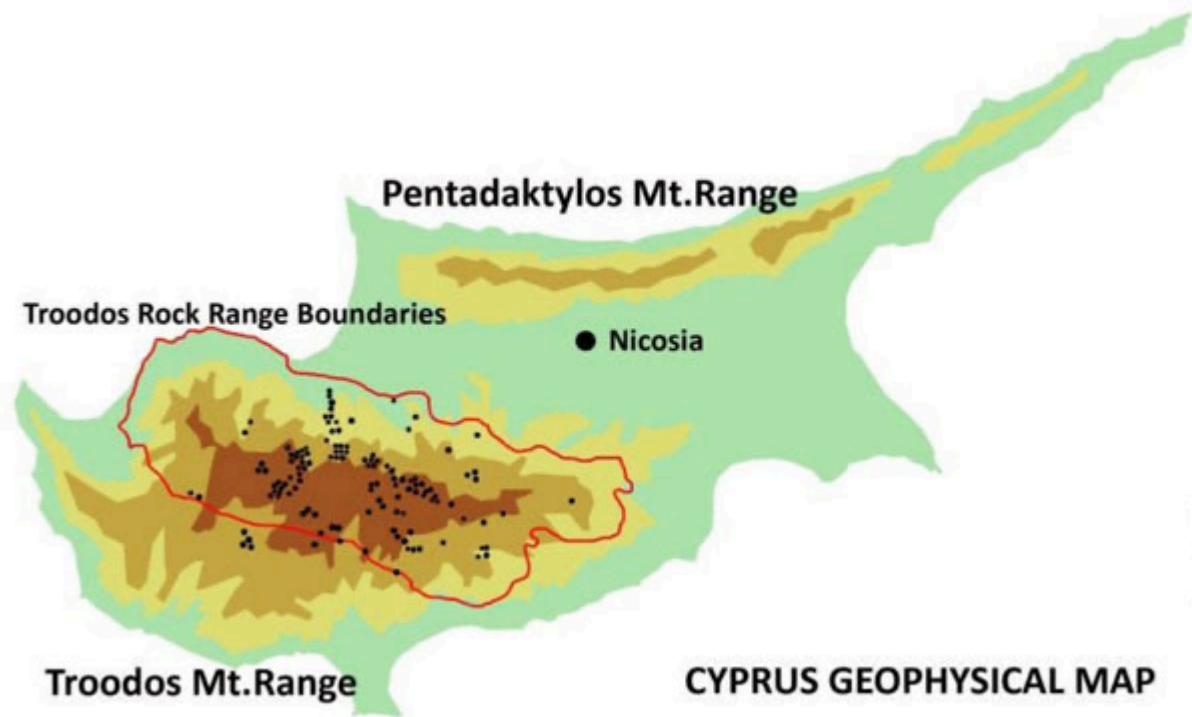
Fact	Value
Area	9 251 km ²
Place in the Mediterranean	3rd-largest island
Nearest country	Turkey (75 km)
Climate	Mediterranean
Sunny days	~340
Sea temperature (summer)	22–27°C
Population	~920 000
Official languages	Greek, Turkish
Foreign language	English
EU member	Since 2004
Currency	Euro (since 2008)
Time vs Moscow	The same in summer

GEOGRAPHY

Chapter updated 27 September 2026

Mountains, Dams & Nature

🏔️ Mountains of Cyprus



There are two main mountain systems on the island.

1. Troodos (Τρόδος / Troodos)

Occupies the central and southwestern part of the island. This is the "green heart" of Cyprus, consisting of volcanic rocks (ophiolite complex — a piece of ancient ocean crust pushed up from the sea floor).

- **Highest point:** Mount **Olympus** (Όλυμπος / Olympus) or Chionistra (Chionistra).
- **Height:** 1952 m.
- **Interesting fact:** In winter there is a ski resort here, and in summer it is the best place to escape the heat.

2. Pentadaktylos (Πενταδάκτυλος / Pentadaktylos)

A mountain range in the north (occupied), also known as the *Kyrenia Mountains*.

- **Name:** Means "Five-fingered" (Πέντε = five, Δάκτυλο = finger) due to the characteristic shape of one of the peaks.
- **Rock type:** Limestone (unlike the volcanic Troodos).
- **Key castles:** The castles of Saint Hilarion, Buffavento and Kantara are located on the peaks of this range.

 **In the exam:** What is the name of the highest mountain in Cyprus? **Answer:** Olympus (Olympus) in the Troodos mountains.



Peaks by range

Troodos ridge, east → west: Machairas → Stavropefkos → Papoutsa → Adelfoi → Troodos → Kykkos → Tripylos. Troodos spans four districts: Paphos, Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca.

Pentadaktylos (Kyrenia range): along the north coast, from Kormakitis to Apostolos Andreas. Occupied.

Peak	Greek	Range	Height	Note
Olympus / Chionistra	Όλυμπος (Χιονίστρα)	Troodos	1,952 m	Highest point of Cyprus
Madari (Adelfoi summit)	Μαδαρή / Αδελφοί	Troodos	1,613 m	Fire lookout; Pitsilia
Papoutsa	Παπούτσα	Troodos	—	Pitsilia; the Serrachis river rises here
Machairas / Kionia	Μαχαιράς / Κιόνια	Troodos	—	East end of the ridge; Machairas forest
Kykkos (Throni)	Κύκκος (Θρόνι)	Troodos	1,318 m	Kykkos Monastery
Tripylos	Τρίπυλος	Troodos	—	West end of the ridge; Paphos Forest, Cedar Valley
Kyparissovouno	Κυπαρισσόβουνο	Pentadaktylos	1,024 m	Highest of Pentadaktylos · no castle
Buffavento	Βουφαβέντο	Pentadaktylos	~954 m	 Castle (highest of the three)
Pentadaktylos	Πενταδάκτυλος	Pentadaktylos	~741 m	The "five fingers" crag that names the range
Agios Ilarionas (St Hilarion)	Άγιος Ιλαρίωνας	Pentadaktylos	~725 m	 Castle above Kyrenia
Kantara	Καντάρα	Pentadaktylos	~630 m	 Castle; easternmost, gateway to Karpasia

Castles = only on Pentadaktylos: **St Hilarion**, **Buffavento**, **Kantara**.

 **In the exam:** Which of these is NOT a Pentadaktylos peak: Kantara, Kyparissovouno, Agios Ilarionas, Papoutsa? **Answer:** Papoutsa — it is a Troodos peak (Pitsilia area).



Water: Dams and Lakes

Cyprus rivers are **seasonal**: they flow in winter and dry up in summer. Only the upper Troodos stretches of a few (Xeros, Diarizos, Kargotis, Marathasa, Kouris, Germasogeia) flow all year. The rivers still have names and mouths (see below). Water is therefore stored in reservoirs (dams).

Rivers and where they flow

Most rivers rise in the **Troodos**. Pentadaktylos sends only short streams.

River	Greek	Length	Flows into	Note
Pedieos	Πεδιαίος	98 km — longest	Famagusta Bay	Crosses Nicosia and the Mesaoria
Galias	Γιαλιάς	88 km — 2nd	Famagusta Bay	Passes Dali (Idalion)
Serrachis	Σερράχης	55 km — 3rd	Morphou Bay	Rises at Papoutsia; the Ovgos (Οβγός) joins it just before the bay
Diarizos	Διάριζος	42 km	Paphos coast	Mostly Paphos district; Arminou dam; tunnel to Kouris dam
Xeros Potamos	Ξερός Ποταμός	41.5 km	Paphos coast	Asprokremmos dam
Ezousa	Έζουσα	41 km	Paphos coast	Kannaviou dam
Kouris	Κούρης	—	Episkopi Bay	Kouris basin = Kouris + Limnatis (Λιμνάτης) + Kryos (Κρυός) → Kouris dam

 **In the exam:** The Serrachis and Ovgos rivers flow into the bay of ... **Answer:** Morphou. (Pedieos and Galias → Famagusta Bay; Kouris → Episkopi Bay.)

The six bays (Κόλποι)

Bay	Greek	District	Rivers ending here
Famagusta Bay — largest	Κόλπος Αμμοχώστου	Famagusta (occupied part)	Pedieos, Galias
Morphou Bay	Κόλπος Μόρφου	Occupied north-west	Serrachis + Ovgos
Episkopi Bay	Κόλπος Επισκοπής	Limassol	Kouris
Akrotiri Bay	Κόλπος Ακρωτηρίου	Limassol — Limassol town is mid-bay	—
Larnaca Bay	Κόλπος Λάρνακας	Larnaca	—
Chrysochou Bay	Κόλπος Χρυσοχούς	Paphos — Cape Akamas to Potos (Polis, Latchi)	—

 "Limassol Bay" is not one of the six — Limassol sits on Akrotiri Bay.

Main dams (Φράγματα)

Dam	Description
Kouris Κούρης	The largest (115 million m³). Located above Limassol.
Asprokremmos Ασπρόκρεμμος	The second largest, in the Paphos district.
Evretou Ευρέτου	The third, also in the Paphos district.

Top-10 list with rivers and years: chapter **Water & Environment**.

In the exam: What is the name of the largest dam in Cyprus? **Answer:** Kouris (Kouris).

Salt lakes (Alik / Αλική)

In summer they dry up and are covered with salt, and in winter they fill with rainwater and become home to migratory birds.

1. **Larnaca Salt Lake:** Known for the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque on its shore.
2. **Limassol Salt Lake (Akrotiri):** The largest in area, but shallower than Larnaca.

Natural attractions

Akamas Peninsula (Ακάμας)



A wild nature reserve in the west of the island (Paphos district). A place where turtles lay their eggs (Lara Beach). Here is the **Avakas Gorge** (Avakas Gorge).

Kavo Greko (Cape Greco / Κάβο Γκρέκο)

The southeasternmost point of the Republic of Cyprus. A National Forest Park with sea caves and crystal-clear water.

Waterfalls

Mainly located in the Troodos mountains and active in winter/spring.

- **Millomeris** (Millomeris) — the highest (~20 m), in Platres.
- **Caledonia** (Caledonia) — the most popular (13 m), in the **Troodos National Forest Park (Δάσος Τροόδους)**, with a beautiful trail leading to it from Pano Platres.
- **Chantara** (Χαντάρα) — 8 m, by the village of Foini.

Nature sites → district

Typical question: "Which of these is in X district?" Learn the district.

District	Site	Greek	What it is
Paphos	Avakas Gorge	Φαράγγι του Άβακα	Gorge on the Akamas peninsula ; micro-reserve for an endemic plant

District	Site	Greek	What it is
Paphos	Aphrodite & Adonis trails	Μονοπάτι Αφροδίτη / Άδωνις	Akamas loops from the Baths of Aphrodite
Paphos	Cedar Valley	Κοιλάδα των Κέδρων	Inside Paphos Forest (Tripylos); thousands of endemic Cyprus cedars
Paphos	Stavros tis Psokas	Σταυρός της Ψώκας	Forest station in Paphos Forest; mouflon
Paphos	Petra tou Romiou	Πέτρα του Ρωμιού	Aphrodite's Rock, south-west coast: in myth, Aphrodite was born from the sea foam here
Paphos	Baths of Aphrodite	Λουτρά της Αφροδίτης	Grotto with a spring past Latchi harbour, on the way to Akamas. In myth, Aphrodite bathed here and met Adonis
Limassol	Caledonia waterfall & trail	Καταρράκτης Καληδονιών	Kryos river above Pano Platres , in the Troodos National Forest Park (Δάσος Τροόδους)
Limassol	Millomeris waterfall	Καταρράκτης Μυλλομέρη	Platres
Limassol	Chantara waterfall	Καταρράκτης Χαντάρα	Foini , Trooditissa–Foini trail
Limassol	Artemis & Persephone trails	Μονοπάτι Άρτεμις / Περσεφόνη	Troodos : round the Olympus summit / from Troodos Square
Limassol / Nicosia	Atalante trail	Μονοπάτι Αταλάντη	Troodos: 14 km loop round Chionistra
Limassol	Troodos Botanical Garden «A.G. Leventis»	Βοτανικός Κήπος Τροόδους «Α.Γ. Λεβέντης»	On the old Amiantos asbestos mine, 1,400 m (since 2004)
Limassol	Akrotiri Salt Lake	Αλυκή Ακρωτηρίου	Largest inland water body; inside the British base
Nicosia	Platania picnic site	Πλατάνια	6 km from Kakopetria ; largest forest picnic site (2,900 people)
Nicosia	Kionia	Κιόνια	Picnic site in Machairas forest, 1,340 m
Nicosia	Madari fire lookout	Μαδαρή	Adelfoi forest, 1,613 m
Nicosia	Athalassa dam / park	Φράγμα Αθαλάσσας	South-east edge of Nicosia; bird hide
Larnaca	Kamares Aqueduct	Υδραγωγείο Καμάρων	Built 1746 by Bekir Pasha to bring water to Larnaca
Larnaca	Larnaca Salt Lake	Αλυκή Λάρνακας	Flamingos; Ramsar site
Larnaca	Oroklini Lake	Λίμνη Ορόκλινης	Wetland, Natura 2000
Larnaca	Rizoelia	Ριζοελιά	Forest park and picnic site by Aradippou
Famagusta	Paralimni Lake	Λίμνη Παραλιμνίου	Seasonal lake, free area, Natura 2000
Famagusta	Cape Greco	Κάβο Γκρέκο	Forest park; has its own "Aphrodite" trail (same name as Akamas)

 **In the exam:** Which of these is in Larnaca district: Avakas Gorge, Kamares Aqueduct, Caledonia waterfall, Platania? **Answer:** The Kamares Aqueduct.

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

Districts & Cities

Cyprus is divided into **6 districts** (επαρχίες / eparchíes). These are not just lines on a map — each district has its own character, history, and administrative center.

6 districts of Cyprus

District	In Greek	Center	Status
Nicosia	Λευκωσία	Nicosia	Partially occupied
Limassol	Λεμεσός	Limassol	Free
Larnaca	Λάρνακα	Larnaca	Free (a small part occupied)
Paphos	Πάφος	Paphos	Free
Famagusta	Αμμόχωστος	Paralimni*	Large part occupied
Kyrenia	Κερύνεια	Kyrenia	Fully occupied

*The city of Famagusta is occupied, so the temporary center is Paralimni (Παραλίμνι).

? How many administrative districts are there in Cyprus?
→ 6

? Which district is fully occupied by Turkey?
→ **Kyrenia (Κερύνεια)**

City population (2021 census)

City	In Greek	Population	Features
Nicosia	Λευκωσία	356 358	Only the free part
Limassol	Λεμεσός	258 283	Largest port
Larnaca	Λάρνακα	153 824	Main airport
Paphos	Πάφος	100 753	Cultural capital
Free Famagusta	Ελεύθερη Αμμόχωστος	51 483	Rural area + resorts

Total in the Republic of Cyprus: 920 701 people (2021 census)

— Greek Cypriots: 737 196

— Foreign residents: 183 505

? Which city is the largest by population?
→ **Nicosia**

? Which city is the second largest?
→ **Limassol**

Alternative names of cities

Cypriots often use different names for the same places. This can be confusing — but you will be asked about it in the exam.

Official	Alternative	Why
Λευκωσία (Nicosia)	Χώρα (Chóra)	"Chora" = "town, capital"
Λεμεσός (Limassol)	Λεμεσσός	Spelling variant
Λάρνακα (Larnaca)	Σκάλα (Skála)	Colloquial name for the old town / seafront area
Αμμόχωστος (Famagusta)	Βαρώσια (Varosha)	Ghost-district inside the city of Famagusta (not an alternative name for the whole city)

? Which city is also called Chora (Χώρα)?
→ **Nicosia (Λευκωσία)**

Why "Chora"? In Greek tradition, the main town of an island or region was simply called "Chora" — "the town". This is how locals call Nicosia, especially in the villages.

Characteristics of the cities

Nicosia (Λευκωσία / Levkosía)

Status: Capital of the Republic of Cyprus

Uniqueness: The last divided capital in Europe (η τελευταία διαιρεμένη πρωτεύουσα της Ευρώπης). The Green Line runs right through the centre.

What is here:

- Presidential Palace
- Parliament (Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων)
- All ministries
- Old town within the Venetian walls

Special feature: No access to the sea — the only landlocked city in Cyprus.

Limassol (Λεμεσός / Lemesós)

Status: Economic center, largest port

Character: The most cosmopolitan city. Many expats, international companies, nightlife.

What is here:

- The country's main port
- Wine Festival (September)
- Carnival (February–March)
- Limassol Castle (Richard the Lionheart was married here)

Nearby: Kourion, Amathus, British base Akrotiri

? In which city of Cyprus is the archaeological site of Amathus (Αμαθούς) located?
→ **Limassol**

Larnaca (Λάρνακα / Lárnaka)

Status: Transport gateway of the country

What is here:

- Main international airport (LCA)
- Finikoudes seafront (Φοινικούδες) — “little palms”
- Church of Saint Lazarus (the very one who was resurrected)
- Salt lake with flamingos
- Hala Sultan Tekke mosque

History: Ancient city of Kition (Κίτιον) — homeland of the philosopher Zeno, founder of Stoicism.

Paphos (Πάφος / Páfos)

Status: Cultural capital. The Archaeological Park of Paphos is a UNESCO site (since 1980).

What is here:

- Archaeological Park with mosaics
- Tombs of the Kings
- Airport (PFO)
- Petra tou Romiou (Πέτρα του Ρωμιού — Aphrodite's Rock) nearby

Character: Calmer, touristic, many British retirees.

? In which region of Cyprus is the Akamas peninsula located?
→ **Paphos**

Famagusta (Αμμόχωστος / Amóchostos)

The city of Famagusta itself is occupied. The Varosha district is a ghost town since 1974.

The free part of the district includes the main resorts of Cyprus:

Place	In Greek	What it is
Ayia Napa	Αγία Νάπα	Clubbing capital, youth
Protaras	Πρωταράς	Family holidays, beaches
Paralimni	Παραλίμνι	Temporary administrative center of the district

? To which district does Ayia Napa belong?
→ **Famagusta (Αμμόχωστος)**

Kyrenia (Κερύνεια / Kirinia)

The most beautiful port city of Cyprus — but under occupation since 1974.

What used to be there: picturesque harbor, castle, Pentadaktylos mountains behind it.

Now: controlled by the "TRNC", many Turkish settlers.

Villages and localities by district

In the exam they often ask: “In which district is [village] located?” Here are the main ones.

Paphos District (Πάφος)

Place	In Greek	What is important
Polis Chrysochous	Πόλις Χρυσοχούς	Small town on Chrysochou Bay, gateway to Akamas
Pegeia / Peiya	Πέγεια	Popular with expats, near Coral Bay
Latchi	Λατσί	Fishing harbor near Polis
Geroskipou	Γεροσκήπου	“Holy garden”, near the town of Paphos
Kissonerga	Κισσόνηργα	Coastal village north of Paphos
Tala	Τάλα	Village in the hills above Paphos
Polemi	Πολέμι	Wine-producing village
Pano Panagia	Πάνω Παναγιά	Birthplace of Makarios III
Lempa / Lemba	Λέμπα	Chalcolithic (Copper Age) settlement, artists

? In which district is Pegeia (Πέγεια) located?
→ **Paphos**

? From which village did Makarios III come?
→ **Pano Panagia (Πάνω Παναγιά)**, Paphos District

Limassol District (Λεμεσός)

Coast and suburbs

Place	In Greek	What is important
Amathus	Αμαθούς	Archaeological site
Agios Tychonas	Άγιος Τύχωνας	Resort area
Pissouri	Πισσούρι	Village and beach in the west of the district
Episkopi	Επισκοπή	Near the British base Akrotiri
Kourion	Κούριον	Ancient city and theatre
Kolossi	Κολόσσι	Crusader castle
Erimi	Ερήμη	Cyprus Wine Museum

Troodos Mountains (in Limassol District)

Village	In Greek	What is important
Prodromos	Πρόδρομος	Highest village (1 380 m), coldest in winter
Amiandos	Αμίαντος	Former asbestos mine, now eco-tourism
Platres	Πλάτρες	Mountain resort, Kalidonia and Millomeris waterfalls
Omodos	Όμοδος	Wine-making, Monastery of the Holy Cross
Agros	Αγρός	Production of rose water
Pelendri	Πελένδρι	Painted churches
Lania	Λανιά	Artists' village
Zoopigi	Ζωοπηγή	Mountain village

? Where is the village of Amiandos (Αμίαντος) located?

→ **Limassol District, Troodos Mountains**

? Which village has the lowest temperatures in winter?

→ **Prodromos (Πρόδρομος)**

Nicosia District (Λευκωσία)

Village	In Greek	What is important
Kakopetria	Κακοπετριά	"Evil stone", mountain resort
Galata	Γαλάτα	UNESCO painted churches
Fikardou	Φικάρδου	Museum-village (abandoned but preserved)
Kalopanagiotis	Καλοπαναγιώτης	Monastery of St John Lampadistis (UNESCO)
Pedoulas	Πεδουλάς	Church of Archangel Michael (UNESCO)
Peristerona	Περιστερώνα	Five-domed church
Tamassos	Ταμασσός	Ancient city, copper mining

Larnaca District (Λάρνακα)

Place	In Greek	What is important
Pyla	Πύλα	Only village in the buffer zone where Greeks and Turks live together
Choirokoitia	Χοιροκοιτία	Neolithic settlement (UNESCO)
Lefkara	Λεύκαρα	Famous lace and silver (UNESCO — intangible heritage)
Kition	Κίτιον	Ancient city (now part of Larnaca)
Stavrovouni	Σταυροβούνι	Monastery on a mountain (men only)
Pervolia	Περβόλια	Coastal village
Kiti	Κίτι	Church Panagia Angeloktisti (built by angels)

? Which village is famous for lace and silver?
→ **Lefkara (Λεύκαρα)**, Larnaca District

Famagusta District (Αμμόχωστος)

Free part

Place	In Greek	What is important
Ayia Napa	Αγία Νάπα	Clubs, beaches, youth tourism
Protaras	Πρωταράς	Family beaches
Paralimni	Παραλίμνι	Temporary administrative center
Deryneia	Δερύνεια	Viewing point over Famagusta and Varosha
Sotira	Σωτήρα	Ancient churches
Liopetri	Λιοπέτρι	Fishing village
Frenaros	Φρέναρος	Traditional village

? To which district does Protaras belong?
→ **Famagusta**

Occupied part

Place	In Greek	What is important
Famagusta (city)	Αμμόχωστος	Occupied, including Varosha
Salamis	Σαλαμίς	Largest ancient city of Cyprus
Karpas	Καρπασία	Peninsula, Monastery of Apostle Andrew

Kyrenia District (Κερύνεια) — fully occupied

Place	In Greek	What is important
Kyrenia	Κερύνεια	Picturesque port, castle
Bellapais	Μπελλαπαΐς	Gothic abbey
St Hilarion Castle	Άγιος Ιλαρίων	Crusader fortress on a mountain
Buffavento	Βουφαβέντο	Castle in the mountains
Lapithos	Λάπηθος	Ancient city

Capes and peninsulas

Cape	In Greek	District	Why it is important
Cape Greco	Κάβο Γκρέκο	Famagusta	Southeastern point of free Cyprus, national park
Cape of Apostle Andrew	Ακρωτήριο Αποστόλου Ανδρέα	Famagusta (occupied)	Extremity of the Karpas peninsula
Akamas	Ακάμας	Paphos	Protected peninsula in the west
Cape Drepanon	Ακρ. Δρέπανον	Paphos	West coast, Pegeia area, at the entrance to the Akamas peninsula
Cape Arnaoutis	Ακρωτήριο Αρναούτη	Paphos	Tip of the Akamas peninsula
Cape Gata	Ακρωτήρι Γάτα	Limassol	Akrotiri peninsula; "Cape of the Cat" — St Nicholas of the Cats monastery
Cape Aspro	Ακρωτήριο Άσπρο	Limassol	White cliffs ("aspro" = white) near Pissouri
Cape Kiti	Ακρωτήρι του Κιτίου	Larnaca	South of Pervolia; lighthouse — the "Faros" beach
Cape Pyla	Κάβο Πύλα	Larnaca	Eastern end of Larnaca Bay
Geronisos (islet)	Γερώνησος	Paphos	"Holy island" off Agios Georgios, Pegeia

? Where is Cape of Apostle Andrew (Ακρωτήριο Αποστόλου Ανδρέα) located?
 → **On the Karpas peninsula, Famagusta district (occupied)**

Karpas Peninsula (Καρπασία / Karpasía) is the long “finger” in the northeast of the island. It is fully occupied. The Monastery of Apostle Andrew, a pilgrimage site, is located there.

Bays

Bay	In Greek	District
Chrysochou Bay	Κόλπος Χρυσοχούς	Paphos
Morphou Bay	Κόλπος Μόρφου	Nicosia (occupied)
Famagusta Bay	Κόλπος Αμμοχώστου	Famagusta (partially occupied)
Larnaca Bay	Κόλπος Λάρνακας	Larnaca

Bay	In Greek	District
Episkopi Bay	Κόλπος Επισκοπής	Limassol

Best-known beaches → town and district

The official tourism list has 64 beaches, all in the free areas. The best-known ones:

Beach	Greek	Town / area	District	Hook
Nissi Beach	Παραλία Νησί	Ayia Napa	Famagusta	Most famous beach of Cyprus; named after the islet ("nissi")
Makronissos	Παραλία Μακρόνησος	Ayia Napa	Famagusta	Three small bays
Landa	Παραλία Λάντα	Ayia Napa	Famagusta	Between Nissi Bay and Makronissos
Pantachou	Παραλία Πανταχού	Ayia Napa	Famagusta	Ayia Napa's longest beach (1.2 km)
Konnos Bay	Παραλία Κόννος	Between Cape Greco and Protaras	Famagusta	Border between Ayia Napa and Paralimni
Limnara (Kermia)	Παραλία Λιμνάρα (Κέρμια)	Ayia Napa	Famagusta	Inside the Cape Greco forest park
Fig Tree Bay	Παραλία Πρωταράς (Κόλπος Fig Tree)	Protaras (Paralimni)	Famagusta	Named after a lone fig tree, there since the 17th century
Finikoudes	Παραλία Φοινικούδες	Larnaca	Larnaca	The palm-tree promenade ("finikoudes" = palm trees)
Mackenzie	Παραλία Μακένζι	Larnaca	Larnaca	Next to the old airport
Faros (Pervolia)	Παραλία Φάρος	Pervolia	Larnaca	At Cape Kiti lighthouse
Lady's Mile	Παραλία Λέιντις Μάιλ	Akrotiri, Limassol	Limassol	Longest beach of Cyprus (5 km), dark volcanic sand
Dasoudi	Παραλία στο Δασούδι	Germasogeia	Limassol	Limassol's popular town beach
Santa Barbara	Παραλία Αγίας Βαρβάρας	Agios Tychonas	Limassol	Over the sunken ancient harbour of Amathus
Kourion Beach	Παραλία Κούριο	Episkopi Bay	Limassol	Below ancient Kourion
Coral Bay	Παραλία Κόλπος των Κοραλλίων	Pegeia	Paphos	Paphos district's best-known resort beach
Faros (Paphos)	Παραλία Φάρος	West end of Paphos	Paphos	The other "Faros" — don't mix with Pervolia
Vrysoudia A	Παραλία Βρυσοúδια Α	Kato Paphos	Paphos	Paphos town beach
Souli	Παραλία Κάμπος του Σουλίου (Σούλι)	West of Latchi, Chrysochou Bay	Paphos	Akamas-side beach
Blue Lagoon	Γαλάζια Λιμνοθάλασσα	Latchi / Akamas	Paphos	A bay reached by boat, not a beach

Under the sea: the **Zenobia** wreck (Larnaca Bay, a ferry that sank on its maiden voyage in **1980**) and **MUSAN**, the world's first underwater sculpture museum (Ayia Napa). **✗ Dasoudi** is also the name of a camping beach at Polis Chrysochous — the famous one is in Limassol.

 **In the exam:** Which is the longest beach in Cyprus? **Answer:** Lady's Mile (Limassol).

Universities

University	In Greek	City	Type
University of Cyprus	Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου	Aglantzia, Nicosia	Public
Cyprus University of Technology (TEPAK)	Τεχνολογικό Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου (ΤΕΠΑΚ)	Limassol	Public
Open University of Cyprus	Ανοικτό Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου	Latsia, Nicosia	Public
University of Nicosia (UNIC)	Πανεπιστήμιο Λευκωσίας	Nicosia	Private
European University Cyprus	Ευρωπαϊκό Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου	Engomi, Nicosia	Private
Frederick University	Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick	Nicosia and Limassol	Private
Neapolis University Pafos	Πανεπιστήμιο Νεάπολις Πάφου	Paphos	Private
UCLan Cyprus	UCLan Cyprus	Pyla , Larnaca district	Private

 **In the exam:** Which university has its seat in Limassol? **Answer:** The Cyprus University of Technology (TEPAK).

What to remember for the exam

Question	Answer
How many districts	6
Fully occupied	Kyrenia
Chora is	Nicosia
Amathus — district	Limassol
Akamas — district	Paphos
Ayia Napa — district	Famagusta
Protaras — district	Famagusta
Pegeia / Peiya — district	Paphos
Polis Chrysochous — district	Paphos
Amiandos — where	Troodos (Limassol District)
Coldest village	Prodromos
Lefkara — famous for	Lace and silver

Question	Answer
Lefkara — district	Larnaca
Cape of Apostle Andrew	Karpas (Famagusta, occupied)
Cape Greco — district	Famagusta
Cape Gata, Cape Aspro — district	Limassol
Cape Kiti — district	Larnaca
Nissi, Makronissos, Konnos, Fig Tree Bay	Famagusta (Ayia Napa / Protaras)
Coral Bay — where	Pegeia (Paphos)
Longest beach	Lady's Mile (Limassol)
Choirokoitia — district	Larnaca
Pyla — what is special	Greeks and Turks live together
Homeland of Makarios	Pano Panagia (Paphos)
Capital	Nicosia (356 358 people)
Second city	Limassol (258 283 people)
TEPAK — city	Limassol
University of Cyprus — where	Aglantzia (Nicosia)
Neapolis University — city	Paphos

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

Division & Special Zones

After the Turkish invasion of 1974, Cyprus remains a divided island. This is not abstract politics — it is a reality you will encounter: checkpoints, the buffer zone, British bases.



Zones of control

Zone	Share of the island	Who controls it
Government-controlled areas	~57.4%	Legitimate government of the Republic of Cyprus
Occupied zone	36.2%	Turkey / "TRNC"
Buffer zone	~3.7% (346 km ²)	UN (UNFICYP)
British bases	~2.7% (254 km ²)	United Kingdom

Shares are of the whole island (9 251 km²) and add up to 100%. 36.2% and 2.7% are the Cyprus government's own figures (PIO, *Cyprus at a Glance*); the buffer zone is 346 km² of 9 251 km²; the government-controlled share is what remains. Exam papers also round the occupied share to "about 37%".

? What percentage of the territory of Cyprus is occupied?
→ **36.2%**

- ? Entry into which area of Cyprus is considered illegal?
→ **Entry via the ports and airports of the occupied territory** (see below)

Occupied territories

Invasion: 20 July 1974

Self-proclaimed state: “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (TΔBK / “TRSK”, *Turétskaya Respublika Sévernogo Kípra*) — declared in 1983

Recognition: Only Turkey. The rest of the world regards this as **an illegal occupation**.

What this means in practice

- No international flights to the north (only via Turkey)
- No embassies of other countries
- Economic isolation
- EU law does not apply

- ? Which countries recognize the “TRNC”?
→ **Only Turkey**

Legal and illegal entry

✓ LEGAL: Entry via the Republic of Cyprus

Fly into the airports:

- **Larnaca (LCA)**
- **Paphos (PFO)**

After that you can cross the dividing line via official checkpoints.

✗ ILLEGAL: Direct entry to the north

You **may not** enter Cyprus via:

- Ercan Airport on the north
- The ports of Famagusta or Kyrenia

Why: From the point of view of the Republic of Cyprus, this is illegal entry into its territory. You may face problems:

- Fine or future entry ban
- Legal complications with property
- Problems when applying for citizenship

? Entry into which area is considered illegal?
→ **Entry via ports/airports of the occupied territory (the north)**

⚠ **Important:** Visiting the north via checkpoints after legal entry to the south is **permitted**.

The Green Line

The buffer zone that divides the island from west to east — **180 km**.

Why “green”? In 1963 a British general drew the dividing line with a **green pencil** on a map of Nicosia.

Who guards it: UN peacekeepers — **UNFICYP** (United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus). On the island since 1964.

Width: From a few metres (in central Nicosia) to several kilometres (in rural areas).

Inside the buffer zone

Fact	Detail
Its limits	The ceasefire lines of 16 August 1974 (18:00), as recorded by UNFICYP
West → east	Western part: Kato Pyrgos to Mammari · Eastern part: Dali to Paralimni
People	Villages and Civil Use Areas where more than 10,000 people live or work; elsewhere UNFICYP permission is needed
Pyla (Πύλα)	Larnaca district — the only village where Greek and Turkish Cypriots live side by side
Nicosia International Airport	A UN Protected Area inside the buffer zone since 1974; closed to civilian flights. Before 1974 it was the island's only international airport

Checkpoints (crossing points)

Since 2003 the line can be crossed via official checkpoints. A passport or ID is required.

All 9 operating checkpoints

Checkpoint	Greek	District	Where	Type
Ledra Street	Οδός Λήδρας	Nicosia	Centre of the old town; opened 3 April 2008	Pedestrians only
Ledra Palace	Λήδρα Πάλας	Nicosia	Nicosia, by the old town	Pedestrians (+ diplomats)
Agios Dometios (Metehan)	Άγιος Δομέτιος	Nicosia	Nicosia's main vehicle crossing	Vehicle
Astromeritis–Zodeia	Αστρομερίτης – Ζώδεια	Nicosia	West of Nicosia, Morphou road	Vehicle
Kato Pyrgos–Limnitis	Κάτω Πύργος – Λιμνίτης	Nicosia (not Paphos)	Westernmost, Tillyria	Vehicle

Checkpoint	Greek	District	Where	Type
Lefka–Aplici	Λεύκα – Απλίκι	Nicosia	West; opened 12 Nov 2018	Vehicle
Deryneia	Δερύνεια	Famagusta	East, facing Varosha; opened 12 Nov 2018	Vehicle
Pergamos	Πέργαμος	Larnaca	Inside the British base of Dhekelia	Vehicle
Strovilia	Στροβίλια	—	Inside the British base of Dhekelia , near Famagusta	Vehicle

Count: **9** — 6 in Nicosia district, 1 in Famagusta district, **2 inside the Dhekelia base** (Pergamos, Strovilia; source: UNFICYP). Dates: first openings **April 2003** → Ledra Street **2008** → Deryneia and Lefka–Aplici on the same day, **12 Nov 2018**. None has opened since.

⚠ The EU Green Line Regulation lists routes via **Kokkina** (Kato Pyrgos–Kokkina, Kokkina–Pachyammos) — these are **not operating** crossings. It does not list Pergamos and Strovilia (they are in British base territory). ⚠ Proposed but **not open** (talks deadlocked, 2026): Mia Milia, Louroujina, Athienou, Aglantzia — not crossing points.

What is checked:

- Passport or ID card
- They may ask your purpose of visit
- Car insurance (a separate one is needed for the north)

💡 **Tip:** Ledra Street is the most convenient for tourists. You simply walk across through the centre of Nicosia.

British Sovereign Base Areas (SBA)

These are **territory of the United Kingdom** — not part of the Republic of Cyprus and not part of the EU.

Base	Greek	Where	District	Area
Akrotiri (Western SBA)	Βάση Ακρωτηρίου	South, near Limassol	Limassol	~123 km ²
Dhekelia (Eastern SBA)	Βάση Δεκέλειας	South-east, between Larnaca and Ayia Napa	Larnaca and Famagusta	~131 km ² (the larger one)

Together about **3%** of the land of Cyprus. **SBA headquarters: Episkopi** (Limassol district) — not Akrotiri village, and not the Episkopi in Paphos district.

Why are they here? Under the 1960 Treaty of Establishment of the independence of Cyprus, Britain retained these territories.

Villages in and around the bases

The base boundaries were drawn in 1960 to take in the military installations and leave out villages and towns — so some Republic villages are surrounded by base land.

Place	Greek	District	Status
Ormideia	Ορμίδεια	Larnaca	Republic enclave inside Dhekelia
Xylotymvou	Ξυλοτύμβου	Larnaca	Republic enclave inside Dhekelia
Dhekelia power station	Ηλεκτροπαραγωγός σταθμός Δεκέλειας	Larnaca	Republic enclave inside Dhekelia
Xylofagou	Ξυλοφάγου	Larnaca	Partly on base land — not an enclave
Pyla	Πύλα	Larnaca	In the UN buffer zone (see below)
Akrotiri (village)	Ακρωτήρι	Limassol	In the Akrotiri base area; gives the base its name
Avdimou, Paramali, Sotira	Αυδήμου, Παραμάλι, Σωτήρα	Limassol	Overlap the Akrotiri base
Kolossi Castle	Κάστρο Κολοσσίου	Limassol	Next to the Akrotiri base but on Republic territory

The three Republic enclaves in Dhekelia — **Ormideia**, **Xylotymvou**, **Dhekelia power station** — are a closed list. In the east the buffer zone is **interrupted by the Dhekelia base**, where the UN does not operate.

 **In the exam:** Which of these villages is Republic territory surrounded by the Dhekelia base: Ormideia, Pyla, Kolossi, Akrotiri? **Answer:** Ormideia.

What is there:

- RAF military bases (Royal Air Force)
- Radars and listening stations
- Residential areas for servicemen and their families

On **Mount Olympos** (Troodos) there is a British radar station.

 What are the names of the two British bases in Cyprus?
→ **Akrotiri and Dhekelia**

RAF Akrotiri drone strike (1 March 2026)

On **1 March 2026, 22:03 UTC** a Shahed-type kamikaze drone (of Iranian manufacture, launched from Lebanese territory) struck a hangar at the British Royal Air Force base at **Akrotiri** — the first strike on a British sovereign base in Cyprus **since 1986**.

- Minimal damage, **no casualties**; a partial evacuation of the base was carried out
- Cypriot Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos officially confirmed the Iranian origin
- Greek Air Force F-16s intercepted two further drones over Lebanese airspace on 4 March

- In the following days, **Greece, the UK, France (Charles de Gaulle carrier strike group), Italy, the Netherlands and Spain** sent frigates, helicopters and anti-drone systems to defend Cyprus
- The Republic of Cyprus stressed that it is **not involved** in any military operation in the region

? What happened on 1 March 2026 at the British base of Akrotiri? → An Iranian Shahed drone strike, launched from Lebanon (first strike on a British sovereign base in Cyprus since 1986)

Special places

Village of Pyla (Πύλα, *Píla*)

The only place in the buffer zone where **Greeks and Turks live together**. Located in the Larnaca district.

There is both a Greek church and a mosque here, as well as coffee houses of both communities. Patrolled by the UN.

Varosha (Βαρώσια / Varosha)

A district of Famagusta — a **ghost town** since 1974. Residents fled, thinking they would return in a few days. They have not returned to this day.

Until 1974 it was a popular resort visited by celebrities. Now it is abandoned hotels behind barbed wire.

Karpas Peninsula (Καρπασία, *Karpasía*)

The “finger” in the north-east of the island. Fully occupied.

There is the **Monastery of Apostle Andrew** — an important place of pilgrimage. Greek Cypriots can visit it via checkpoints.

? Where is the Monastery of Apostle Andrew located?
→ **On the Karpas Peninsula (occupied territory)**

Occupied municipalities by district (9)

Official list of the Republic (May 2026):

District	Occupied municipalities	Count
Nicosia	Kythrea (Κυθρέα), Morphou (Μόρφου)	2
Kyrenia	Kyrenia (Κερύνεια), Karavas (Καραβάς), Lapithos (Λάπηθος)	3
Famagusta	Famagusta (Αμμόχωστος), Akanthou (Ακανθού), Lefkoniko (Λευκόνικο), Lysi (Λύση)	4

Traps:

- **Akanthou** lies on the north coast, but belongs to **Famagusta** district.

- **Morphou** is **Nicosia** district, not Kyrenia.

 **In the exam:** The occupied municipality of Akanthou belongs to the district of ... **Answer:** Famagusta.

Free municipalities after the 2024 reform (20)

The 2024 local-government reform merged many municipalities. Old names often survive as quarters.

District	Municipalities (Greek)	Now includes, e.g.
Nicosia (5)	Nicosia (Λευκωσία) · Lakatamia (Λακατάμεια) · Strovolos (Στρόβολος) · Latsia–Geri (Λακκιά (Λατσιά)-Γέρι) · South Nicosia–Idalion (Νότια Λευκωσία-Ιδάλιον (Δάλι))	Nicosia: Agios Dometios, Egkomi, Aglantzia · Lakatamia: Tseri
Limassol (4)	Limassol (Λεμεσός) · Amathous (Αμαθούς) · Polemidia (Πολεμίδα) · Kourion (Κούριον)	Amathous: Agios Athanasios (seat), Germasogeia · Kourion: Ypsonas (seat), Episkopi, Kolossi
Larnaca (5)	Larnaca (Λάρνακα) · Aradippou (Αραδίππου) · Dromolaxia–Meneou (Δρομολαξιά-Μενεού) · Lefkara (Λεύκαρα) · Athienou (Αθηνένου)	Athienou is next to the buffer zone but free
Paphos (4)	Paphos (Πάφος) · Ierokipia (Ιεροκηπία) · Akamas (Ακάμας) · Polis Chrysochous (Πόλη Χρυσοχούς)	Ierokipia: Geroskipou (seat) · Akamas: Pegeia (seat)
Famagusta, free (2)	Ayia Napa (Αγία Νάπα) · Paralimni–Deryneia (Παραλίμνι-Δερύνεια)	Ayia Napa: Sotira, Avgorou, Achna, Liopetri · Paralimni–Deryneia: Frenaros, Acheritou

 **In the exam:** After the 2024 reform, which municipality does Agios Athanasios belong to? **Answer:** Amathous. (Older exam papers may still call Agios Athanasios a municipality.)

Well-known occupied villages

District	Village	Greek	Note
Kyrenia	Bellapais	Μπέλαπαϊς	Gothic abbey above Kyrenia
Kyrenia	Karmi	Κάρμι	Hillside village
Kyrenia	Kazafani	Καζάφανι	East of Kyrenia town
Kyrenia	Agios Epiktitos	Άγιος Επίκτητος	Kyrenia coast
Kyrenia	Kormakitis	Κορμακίτης	Maronite village, west end of Pentadaktylos
Kyrenia	Vasileia	Βασίλεια	West Kyrenia coast
Famagusta	Rizokarpaso	Ριζοκάρπασο	Largest village of the Karpasia peninsula
Famagusta	Aigialousa (Gialousa)	Αιγιαλούσα	Karpasia; official name is Αιγιαλούσα
Famagusta	Agios Andronikos	Άγιος Ανδρόνικος (Καρπασίας)	Karpasia

District	Village	Greek	Note
Famagusta	Leonarisso	Λεονάρισσο	Gateway to Karpasia
Famagusta	Trikomo	Τρίκωμο	Birthplace of Grivas
Famagusta	Engomi (Famagusta)	Έγκωμη (Αμμοχώστου)	Bronze Age site. Engomi of Nicosia is free
Famagusta	Kontea	Κοντέα	Mesaoria village
Nicosia	Mia Milia	Μια Μηλιά	Occupied villages exist in Nicosia district too
Nicosia	Kokkina	Κόκκινα	Occupied pocket on the Tillyria coast, surrounded by the free area — Nicosia district, not Paphos

Enclaved communities (εγκλωβισμένοι)

People who stayed in their villages in the occupied area after 1974. **Fewer than 400** Greek Cypriots and Maronites remain, out of **20,000** at the end of August 1974.

Village	Greek	District	Who lives there
Rizokarpaso	Ριζοκάρπασο	Famagusta (Karpasia)	Enclaved Greek Cypriots ; Greek Cypriot primary and secondary schools
Kormakitis	Κορμακίτης	Kyrenia	Maronites ; Maronite school
Asomatos	Ασώματος	Kyrenia	Maronites
Karpaseia	Καρπάσεια	Kyrenia	Maronites
Agia Marina Skyllouras	Αγία Μαρίνα Σκυλλούρας	Nicosia	Maronites

The **four Maronite villages**: Kormakitis, Asomatos, Karpaseia (Kyrenia) and Agia Marina Skyllouras (the only one in Nicosia district). **✗ Karpaseia** (Maronite village, Kyrenia) ≠ **Karpasia** (the peninsula, Famagusta). Asomatos of Kyrenia ≠ Asomatos of Limassol (a free village).

 **In the exam:** Where do enclaved Greek Cypriots still have their own schools? **Answer:** Rizokarpaso.

"Free Famagusta", Achna and Deryneia

Term / place	What it means
Free Famagusta (Ελεύτερη Αμμόχωστος)	Official name for the free (government-controlled) part of Famagusta district: municipalities of Ayia Napa and Paralimni–Deryneia . Not Varosha — Varosha is the sealed quarter of occupied Famagusta town
Achna (Άχνα)	The original village has been in the occupied / buffer area since August 1974. The community lives on at Dasaki Achnas (Δασάκι Άχνας), in the free area. Officially "partly occupied"; now a quarter of Ayia Napa municipality. Achna dam is in the free area
Deryneia (Δερύνεια)	Free village facing occupied Varosha. Part of its land lies beyond the line, so officially "partly occupied"
Larnaca district	Also counts as "partly occupied" (e.g. Pergamos, Troulloi)

 **In the exam:** Which village of Famagusta district has been occupied since 1974, while its residents now live at Dasaki? **Answer:** Achna.

Key points to remember

Fact	Answer
Percentage of occupation	36.2%
Who recognizes the "TRNC"	Only Turkey
UN peacekeepers	UNFICYP (since 1964)
British bases	Akrotiri and Dhekelia
Illegal entry	Via ports/airports of the north
Legal entry to the north	Via checkpoints after flying to the south
Pedestrian checkpoint in Nicosia	Ledra Street
Village of the two communities	Pyla
Ghost town	Varosha
Occupied municipalities	9: Nicosia 2, Kyrenia 3, Famagusta 4
Akanthou — district	Famagusta
Morphou, Kythrea — district	Nicosia
Agios Athanasios, Germasogeia (since 2024)	Amathous municipality
Athienou, Aradippou, Lakatamia	Free municipalities
Free Famagusta	Ayia Napa + Paralimni–Deryneia
Achna	Occupied since 1974; community at Dasaki Achnas
Rizokarpaso, Aigialousa	Karpasia (Famagusta, occupied)
Crossing points	9; 2 inside Dhekelia (Pergamos, Strovilia); newest Deryneia + Lefka–Aplici (2018)
Kato Pyrgos–Limnitis, Kokkina — district	Nicosia
SBA headquarters	Episkopi (Limassol district)
Republic enclaves inside Dhekelia	Ormideia, Xylotymvou, Dhekelia power station
Kolossi Castle	Republic territory, next to the Akrotiri base
Maronite villages	Kormakitis, Asomatos, Karpaseia (Kyrenia), Agia Marina Skyllouras (Nicosia)
Enclaved persons today	Fewer than 400

Chapter updated 27 September 2026

Flora & Fauna of Cyprus

Cyprus has a unique natural environment thanks to its isolation as an island.

🐐 Fauna (Animal World)

1. Cyprus Mouflon (Agrinó / Αγρινό)

The national animal of Cyprus.

- This is a wild mountain sheep that lives only in the forests of Paphos (endemic).
- Very shy; it is difficult to see in the wild.
- Depicted on coins (1, 2, 5 cents).



2. Turtles (Caretta Caretta and Green Turtles)

Cyprus is one of the few places in the Mediterranean where sea turtles lay their eggs.

- **Where:** Lara Beach (Akamas).
- **Season:** Summer (June–August). The nests are protected by the state.



3. Cyprus Donkeys

In the past, they were the main means of transport. Today many live in donkey sanctuaries and are a symbol of rural Cyprus.

4. Snakes

Several species of snakes live in Cyprus, but **only one is dangerous**:

- **Gyurza (*Vipera lebetina*)** — in Cypriot "Fina". Venomous and dangerous.
- The other snakes (black snake, Cyprus grass snake) are useful and not dangerous.

🌸 Flora (Plant World)

1. Cyprus Cyclamen (*Cyclamen cyprium*)

The national plant (εθνικό φυτό) of Cyprus.

- Grows in shady places, blooms in autumn.
- Endemic (grows only here).



2. Golden Oak (LadzYá / Λατζιά)

The national tree — declared by the Council of Ministers in **February 2006**. An evergreen oak that grows in Troodos. Its acorns are large, and the leaves are golden on the underside.

3. Migratory Birds: Flamingos

In winter (from November to March) thousands of **pink flamingos** arrive at the Salt Lakes of Larnaka and Limassol.

📌 **In the exam:** What is the national animal of Cyprus? **Answer:** Mouflon (Agrino).

📌 **In the exam:** Where do turtles lay their eggs? **Answer:** On Lara Beach (Akamas Peninsula).

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

Villages of Cyprus

Cypriot villages are the soul of the island, where traditions, architecture, and crafts have been preserved.

1. Lefkara (Levkara / Λεύκαρα)

The most famous village, divided into Pano (Upper) and Kato (Lower).

- **What it is famous for:**
 1. **Lefkaritika:** Famous embroideries (on the UNESCO list).
 2. **Silver:** Craftsmen make filigree jewelry.
- **Legend:** It is said that Leonardo da Vinci visited the village in 1481 and bought a lace tablecloth for the cathedral in Milan.



2. Omodos (Όμοδος)

A picturesque wine-making village in the Troodos mountains.

- **Center:** A large cobbled square.
- **Main shrine:** Monastery of the Holy Cross (Timios Stavros), where a particle of the Life-Giving Cross and the Bonds of Christ are kept.
- **What to try:** Local wine and "arkatena" bread (on chickpea sourdough).

3. Kakopetria (Κακοπετριά)

A popular holiday destination in the mountains.

- **Name:** Means "Evil stone" (Kako + Petra).
- **Legend:** A huge stone at the entrance to the village once fell and crushed newlyweds.
- **What to see:** The old part of the village ("Palia Kakopetria") under state protection, walking along the river.

4. Kalopanayiotis (Καλοπαναγιώτης)

A resort village with healing springs.

- **Sight:** Monastery of Saint John Lampadistis (on the UNESCO list).
- **Feature:** Sulfur springs and modern spa tourism.

5. Fikardou (Φικάρδου)

A village-museum.

- Almost completely abandoned by residents, but preserved in its original form (medieval architecture).
- Under UNESCO protection (tentative list).

 **In the exam:** Which village is famous for its lace and silver? **Answer:** Lefkara.

Regions of Cyprus and their villages

Exam papers name a region and ask for its villages (or the reverse). A region is not a district: some regions cross district borders.

Region	Greek	Where	Villages
Solea	Σολέα	Troodos valley, Nicosia district	Kakopetria, Galata, Evrychou (the valley's farming centre), Korakou
Marathasa	Μαραθάσα	Troodos valley, mostly Nicosia district	Kalopanagiotis, Pedoulas , Moutoullas · in Limassol district: Lemythou, Treis Elies
Pitsilia	Πιτσιλιά	Eastern Troodos, around the Madari and Papoutsia peaks. Spans 3 districts	Nicosia: Palaichori, Platanistas, Alona, Askas, Polystypos, Fikardou, Lagoudera · Limassol: Agros, Kyperounta , Pelendri, Louvaras · Larnaca: Odou
Tillyria	Τηλλυρία	North-west coast where Nicosia and Paphos districts meet	Kato Pyrgos, Pachyammios , Pano Pyrgos, Pigenia, Mosfili (Nicosia) · Pomos (Paphos)
Krasochoria ("wine villages")	Κρασοχώρια	Southern slopes of the Troodos , Limassol district (~20 villages on the wine route)	Omodos, Koilani, Vasa (Koilaniou), Arsos, Lofou, Kato Platres, Mallia

Region	Greek	Where	Villages
Commandaria villages (exactly 14)	Κουμανταροχώρια	Southern Troodos, Limassol district	Agios Georgios Silikou, Agios Konstantinos, Agios Mamas, Agios Pavlos, Apsiou, Gerasa, Doros, Zoopigi , Kalo Chorio , Kapileio, Lania, Louvaras , Monagri, Silikou
Kokkinochoria ("red-soil villages")	Κοκκινοχώρια	Free Famagusta district; farming	Avgorou , Deryneia , Frenaros , Liopetri , Sotira , Achna
Laona	Λαόνα	Plateau above the Akamas, Paphos district	Ineia , Drouseia , Kathikas , Pano & Kato Arodes
Karpasia	Καρπασία	North-east peninsula, Famagusta district, occupied ; almost 40 villages	Rizokarpaso, Aigialousa
Mesaoria	Μεσαορία	Central plain, "granary of Cyprus"	Lefkoniko, Gypsou, Peristeronopigi, Milia (occupied, Famagusta district)

Traps:

- **Kolossi** gave Commandaria its name (the **Grande Commanderie** of the Knights of St John) but is **NOT** one of the 14 villages.
- Louvaras, Zoopigi, Agios Pavlos, Agios Konstantinos are in **both** Pitsilia and the Commandaria area.
- Agros, Kyperounta, Pelendri: Pitsilia, but **Limassol** district.
- Arsos (Krasochoria) is "on the slopes of Laona mountain" — a Limassol mountain, not the Laona plateau of Paphos.
- Galata (Solea, Nicosia) ≠ Galataria (Paphos).

 **In the exam:** The villages of Kalopanagiotis and Pedoulas are in the region of ... **Answer:** Marathasa. (Kakopetria and Galata → Solea; Agros and Kyperounta → Pitsilia.)

Coastal vs mountain villages

Coastal village	Greek	District	Note
Mazotos	Μαζωτός	Larnaca	Officially a "seaside village"
Zygi	Ζύγι	Larnaca	Fishing shelter
Pervolia	Περβόλια	Larnaca	Faros (lighthouse) beach
Ormideia, Xylofagou	Ορμήδεια, Ξυλοφάγου	Larnaca	Fishing shelters
Pissouri	Πισσούρι	Limassol	Pissouri Bay beach
Pentakomo	Πεντάκωμο	Limassol	Governor's Beach
Latchi	Λατσί	Paphos	Harbour of Polis Chrysochous; fresh fish
Pomos	Πωμός	Paphos	Fishing shelter (Tillyria)

Coastal village	Greek	District	Note
Kato Pyrgos	Κάτω Πύργος	Nicosia	Coastal village of Nicosia district; its only fishing shelter; since 1974 reached only via Paphos
Pachyammos	Παχύαμμος	Nicosia	Tillyria coast
Liopetri (Potamos)	Λιοπέτρι	Famagusta	Natural fishing shelter

Mountain village	Greek	District	Altitude
Kyperounta	Κυπερούντα	Limassol	~1,300 m — third-highest village
Alona	Άλωνα	Nicosia	1,200 m
Polystypos	Πολύστυπος	Nicosia	1,150 m
Pedoulas	Πεδουλάς	Nicosia	1,100 m
Agros	Αγρός	Limassol	1,100 m
Platres	Πλάτρες	Limassol	1,100 m
Foini	Φοινί	Limassol	920 m
Fikardou	Φικάρδου	Nicosia	900 m
Omodos	Όμοδος	Limassol	800 m
Lefkara	Λεύκαρα	Larnaca	650 m
Drouseia	Δρούσεια	Paphos	630 m

 **In the exam:** Which of these villages is coastal: Fikardou, Kyperounta, Pedoulas, Mazotos?
Answer: Mazotos.



Hill resorts and skiing

"Hill Resorts" is an official hotel category of the Deputy Ministry of Tourism. The classic Troodos resorts:

Resort	Greek	District	Area	Hook
Troodos (Troodos Square)	Τρόδος	Limassol	Top of the Troodos range	2 km from Mount Olympus and the ski slopes
Platres	Πλάτρες	Limassol	Southern Troodos	12 km from Olympus; laid out like a theatre; Lavender Festival
Kakopetria	Κακοπετριά	Nicosia	Solea valley	Popular summer resort
Kalopanagiotis	Καλοπαναγιώτης	Nicosia	Marathasa valley	Healing (sulphur) springs; ideal for agrotourism
Pedoulas	Πεδουλάς	Nicosia	Marathasa valley	1,100 m; cherries

Skiing in Cyprus: on the slopes of **Mount Olympus** (Chionistra, 1,952 m), usually **from early January to the end of March**. The four lifts of the Troodos ski centre are run by the **Cyprus Ski Club**, founded in **1947** by Cypriots and British.

Agrotourism (αγροτουρισμός): holidays in restored traditional houses in the villages. The **Cyprus Agrotourism Company** was set up in **1996** by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (today the Deputy Ministry of Tourism). Best-known cluster: the Larnaca villages **Tochni** and **Kalavassos** (also Chirokoitia, Lefkara, Vavla, Kato Drys, Skarinou).

 **In the exam:** Where can you ski in Cyprus? **Answer:** On Mount Olympus, Troodos (January–March).

Village → product / festival

PDO = Protected Designation of Origin (ΠΟΠ). PGI = Protected Geographical Indication (ΠΓΕ). Both are EU labels.

Village / region	District	Known for	EU label
Geroskipou	Paphos	Loukoui — the first Cypriot PGI (2007) ; also koufeta (sugared almonds)	PGI ×2
Paphos (district)	Paphos	Pafitiko loukaniko (Παφίτικο λουκάνικο) — Paphos smoked pork sausage	PGI
Agros	Limassol (Pitsilia)	Rosewater (Rodostagma Agrou) and rose spoon-sweet	PGI ×2
Anogyra	Limassol	Pasteli from carob syrup · Pasteli Festival (September)	—
Alona	Nicosia (Pitsilia)	Zivania · Zivania Festival (November)	—
Deryneia	Famagusta	Strawberries · Strawberry Festival every two years	—
Frenaros	Famagusta	Watermelons · Watermelon Festival (July)	—
Avgorou	Famagusta	Potatoes · Potato Festival (July)	Red-soil potato: PGI application pending
Sotira	Famagusta	Kolokasi (taro) · Kolokasi Festival (September)	PDO (Kolokasi Sotiras)
Kornos	Larnaca	Handmade red-clay pottery	—
Lefkara	Larnaca	Lace (Iefkaritika, UNESCO 2009) + silver filigree	—
Foini	Limassol	Pottery and loukoui (not PGI) · village fair, 1st Sunday of August	—
Pedoulas	Nicosia (Marathasa)	Cherries	—
Evrychou	Nicosia (Solea)	Apples	—
Kato Pyrgos	Nicosia (Tillyria)	Peaches ("Pyrgos peaches"), charcoal	—
Pitsilia (region)	Nicosia / Limassol	Lountza, loukaniko (sausage), hiomeri	PGI ×3
Tillyria (region)	Nicosia	Halitzia goat cheese	PGI
Omodos, Koilani	Limassol	Arkatena bread; Omodos — wine, zivania	—

Village / region	District	Known for	EU label
Zygi	Larnaca	Fish Festival at the fishing shelter	—
Latchi	Paphos	Fish Festival (spring), run by Polis Chrysochous Municipality	—
Kato Mylos	Limassol (Pitsilia)	Peaches · Peach Festival (August, running for about 60 years)	—
Xylofagou	Larnaca	Potatoes · International Potato Festival (September)	—
Fyti	Paphos	Fyti weaving (Φυθκιώτικα υφαντά) — on Cyprus's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2016 · weaving festival (October, since 2024)	—
Arsos, Vasa, Lofou, Koilani	Limassol	Grape festivals (September–October)	—
14 Commandaria villages	Limassol	Commandaria sweet wine	PDO (UNESCO 2025)
Whole island	—	Halloumi	PDO since 12 April 2021

Town festivals (not villages): Larnaca — **Kataklysmos**; Limassol — **Carnival, Wine Festival**, Anthestiria (flowers, May).

 **In the exam:** Which of these is NOT registered in the EU as PDO or PGI: Geroskipou loukoumi, halloumi, Commandaria, Foini loukoumi? **Answer:** Foini loukoumi.

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

Archaeological Sites

Cyprus is an open-air museum with a 10,000-year history.

1. Kurion (Kourion / Κούριο)

An ancient cliff-top city overlooking the sea (not far from Limassol).

- **Main sights:** The Greco-Roman theatre (fully restored, seats 3,500 spectators, used for concerts) and the House of Eustolios with mosaics.
- **Fact:** The city was destroyed by an earthquake in 365 AD.



2. Kato Paphos Archaeological Park

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Paphos Mosaics (Ψηφιδωτά της Πάφου)

Considered among the finest Roman mosaics in the Eastern Mediterranean.

- **Where:** House of Dionysos, House of Theseus, House of Aion.
- **Themes:** Mainly scenes from Greek mythology.

Tombs of the Kings (Τάφοι των Βασιλέων)

A vast necropolis (4th century BC) right by the sea.

- **Legend/Fact:** Despite the name, **no kings were buried here**. It was the resting place of the wealthy aristocracy, and they were called “royal” because of their magnificence and Doric columns.



3. Choirokoitia (Χοιροκοιτία)

A Neolithic settlement (7000 BC). Also on the **UNESCO** list.

- **Feature:** Round stone houses resembling beehives.
- **Where:** Along the Nicosia–Limassol highway.



4. Salamis (Salamis / Σαλαμίνα)

The ancient capital of Cyprus for a thousand years. Located in the **occupied territory** (near Famagusta).

- **What survives:** Gymnasium with columns, huge theatre, Roman baths.
- **Myth:** Founded by Teucer, a hero of the Trojan War.



📍 **In the exam:** Were kings buried in the “Tombs of the Kings”? **Answer:** No, it is the burial place of the aristocracy.

📍 **In the exam:** Which UNESCO sites are located in Paphos? **Answer:** The entire archaeological park (mosaics and tombs).

🗺️ Archaeological sites by district

The exam asks "in which district is X?" or "which of these is NOT in Paphos district?". ★ = **one of the 12 sites the Department of Antiquities lists as open to the public** (a closed list — all 12 are below).

Free areas

Site	Greek	District	Nearest town / village	Hook
★ Tamassos	Ταμασσός	Nicosia	Politiko (also Pera, Episkopeio)	Copper city-kingdom on the Pediaios; royal tombs; lions and sphinxes found 1997
★ Idalion	Ιδάλιον	Nicosia	Dali (Idalion municipality)	Legend: Adonis was killed here
★ Kition	Κίτιον	Larnaca	Inside Larnaca town	Ancient Larnaca; Phoenician temple of Astarte
★ Choirokoitia	Χοιροκοιτία	Larnaca	By the Nicosia–Limassol motorway	Neolithic round houses; UNESCO 1998

Site	Greek	District	Nearest town / village	Hook
★ Kalavassos-Tenta	Καλαβασός-Τέντα	Larnaca	Kalavassos	Neolithic, under a cone-shaped roof; "tenta" = St Helen's tent (327 AD)
★ Amathus	Αμαθούντα	Limassol	East of Limassol	Myth: Theseus left Ariadne here; ancient harbour (by Demetrios Poliorketes) now under the sea
★ Kourion	Κούριο	Limassol	Near Episkopi	Theatre (3,500 seats); destroyed by the earthquake of 365 AD
Kourion Stadium	Στάδιο Κουρίου	Limassol	Kourion	The only ancient stadium found in Cyprus
Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates	Ιερό του Απόλλωνα Υλάτη	Limassol	West of Kourion	Apollo "of the woodland", protector of Kourion (on the Kourion ticket)
★ Nea Pafos (Kato Pafos park)	Νέα Πάφος	Paphos	Kato Pafos	Capital of Cyprus 2nd c. BC – 4th c. AD; mosaics found by a farmer ploughing in 1962
★ Tombs of the Kings	Τάφοι των Βασιλέων	Paphos	Kato Pafos	No kings buried — high officials
★ Palaipafos	Παλαίπαφος	Paphos	Kouklia	Sanctuary of Aphrodite; UNESCO 1980 with Nea Pafos
★ Maa-Palaiokastro	Μάα-Παλαιόκαστρο	Paphos	Coral Bay	Where the Mycenaean Greeks first settled, c. 1200 BC
★ Agios Georgios (Pegeia)	Άγιος Γεώργιος της Πέγειας	Paphos	Cape Drepanon	Three 6th-century Early Christian basilicas
Lempa	Λέμπα	Paphos	Lempa village	Chalcolithic (3900–2500 BC) — not Neolithic
Marion (Arsinoe)	Μάριον	Paphos	= Polis Chrysochous	City-kingdom rich in copper and gold (Limni mines)
Makronissos Tombs	Τάφοι Μακρόνησου	Famagusta (free area)	West of Ayia Napa	19 rock-cut tombs

✗ **Mosaic houses — don't swap them:** Dionysos, Theseus, Aion, Orpheus = **Paphos**. Eustolios (and the gladiator mosaic) = **Kourion**. ✗ **Period pairs:** Neolithic = Choirokoitia, Kalavassos-Tenta. Chalcolithic = Lempa.

Occupied areas (since 1974)

Site	Greek	District	Where	Hook
Salamis	Σαλαμίνα	Famagusta	Near Famagusta	Founded by Teucer ; Roman theatre for up to 15,000
Royal Tombs of Salamis	Βασιλικοί Τάφοι Σαλαμίνας	Famagusta	Salamis	Real royal burials with sacrificed horses; ivory bed and thrones in the Cyprus Museum
Enkomi	Έγκωμη	Famagusta	Mouth of the Pediaios	Bronze Age copper port; abandoned 11th c. BC → Salamis founded nearby

Site	Greek	District	Where	Hook
Soloi	Σόλοι	Nicosia (not Kyrenia)	West end of Morphou Bay	Named after the Athenian sage Solon
Palace of Vouni	Ανάκτορο του Βουνιού	— (district not stated in sources)	About 7 km west of Soloi	The only palace of its kind in Cyprus
Lambousa	Λάμπουσα	Kyrenia	Karavas municipality	The "Lambousa Treasures" (Early Byzantine silver)
Sanctuary of Agia Irini	Ιερό της Αγίας Ειρήνης	Kyrenia	North coast	Terracotta figurines in the Cyprus Museum (Swedish Expedition, 1929)
Kyrenia Ship	Το Καράβι της Κερύνειας	Kyrenia	Inside Kyrenia Castle	4th-century BC merchant ship



In the exam: In which district is ancient Amathus? **Answer:** Limassol.



Castles

Castle	Greek	District	Built by / when, hook
Kolossi	Κάστρο Κολοσσίου	Limassol (Kolossi village)	Knights of St John (Hospitallers), 1210; their sweet wine became Commandaria
Limassol Castle	Κάστρο Λεμεσού	Limassol (old town)	Tradition: Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria here in 1191 ; today the Cyprus Medieval Museum
Larnaca Castle	Κάστρο Λάρνακας	Larnaca (end of Foinikoudes)	Ottoman, 1625 ; British gallows used until 1948
Paphos Castle	Κάστρο της Πάφου	Paphos (west end of the harbour)	Harbour fort; British salt store until 1935
Saranta Kolones ("Forty Columns")	Σαράντα Κολώνες	Paphos (north of the harbour)	Byzantine fort, destroyed by the 1222 earthquake; named after its granite columns
Kyrenia Castle	Κάστρο της Κερύνειας	Kyrenia (occupied)	Four towers over the harbour; EOKA prisoners held here; houses the Kyrenia Ship
St Hilarion	Άγιος Ιλαρίωνας	Kyrenia (occupied), Pentadaktylos	Named after a 6th-century hermit
Buffavento	Βουφαβέντο	Pentadaktylos (occupied)	Italian for " defier of the winds "
Othello's Tower	Πύργος του Οθέλλου	Famagusta (occupied), on the Venetian walls	Named after Shakespeare's Othello; Lion of St Mark over the gate

The three Pentadaktylos castles: **St Hilarion, Buffavento, Kantara**. ⚠ Sources disagree on the district of Kantara (and Buffavento sits on a district boundary) — learn them by range, not by district.

Walls, gates, aqueducts

Monument	Greek	Where	Hook
Venetian walls of Nicosia	Ενετικά Τείχη Λευκωσίας	Nicosia	16th century; 11 heart-shaped bastions ; 80 m moat; 3 gates

Monument	Greek	Where	Hook
Famagusta Gate	Πύλη Αμμοχώστου	Nicosia	Largest of the 3 gates; first called Porta Giuliana after Giulio Savorgnano, who designed the walls
Paphos Gate	Πύλη Πάφου	Nicosia	Also "Gate of San Domenico"
Walls of Famagusta	Τείχη της Αμμοχώστου	Famagusta (occupied)	Fell to the Ottomans in August 1571 after a one-year siege
Agia Napa Aqueduct	Υδραγωγείο της Αγίας Νάπας	Famagusta (free area), Cape Greco–Protaras	Roman, altered under the Franks; watered the monastery
Kythrea – Salamis aqueduct	Υδραγωγείο Κυθρέας – Σαλαμίνας	Occupied	Took water from Kythrea (Chytroi) to Salamis; destroyed in the 7th century

Aqueducts: **Kamares = Larnaca** (see *Mountains, Dams & Nature*), Agia Napa = free Famagusta, Kythrea–Salamis = occupied. **✗ Famagusta Gate and Paphos Gate are in Nicosia**, not in Famagusta or Paphos.

Visiting sites and museums: tickets and hours

State sites and museums are run by the **Τμήμα Αρχαιοτήτων** (Department of Antiquities, Deputy Ministry of Culture). **Not all are free** — the July 2026 paper used exactly this.

Fact	Detail (2026)
Single tickets	Kourion €4.50, Nea Paphos (mosaics) €4.50, Choirokoitia €2.50, Tamassos €2.50
Free	The Cyprus Museum in Nicosia (Κυπριακό Μουσείο) — free entry, closed on Mondays
Passes (δελτία εισόδου) for all sites and museums	1 day €8.50 · 3 days €17 · 7 days €25 (one visit per site)
Groups	Organised groups of more than 10 people: –20%
Winter hours	16 Sept – 15 April (big sites 08:30–17:00)
Summer hours	16 April – 15 Sept (big sites 08:30–19:30)
Closed for everyone	1 January, Easter Sunday, 25 December
Holy Week	Main sites and museums close only on Easter Sunday

 **In the exam:** Is entry to all archaeological sites in Cyprus free? **Answer:** No — most charge a ticket (Kourion €4.50).

UNESCO in Cyprus

Three different UNESCO lists. Don't mix them up.

World Heritage List — 3 sites

Site	Greek	Year	District
Paphos	Πάφος	1980	Paphos: Kato Paphos (mosaics, Tombs of the Kings) + Kouklia (Palaepaphos, sanctuary of Aphrodite)
Painted Churches in the Troodos Region	Ζωγραφιστές εκκλησίες της περιοχής Τροόδους	1985 (10th church added 2001)	9 in Nicosia district, 1 in Limassol district
Choirokoitia	Χοιροκοιτία	1998	Larnaca

✗ NOT World Heritage sites: Kourion, Salamis, Bellapais.

The ten painted churches of Troodos

Church	Greek	Village	Region	District
Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis ("of the Roof")	Άγιος Νικόλαος της Στέγης	Kakopetria	Solea	Nicosia
Panagia Podithou	Παναγία Ποδίθου	Galata	Solea	Nicosia
Panagia Phorviotissa (Asinou)	Παναγία Φορβιώτισσα (Ασίνου)	Nikitari	Solea	Nicosia
Agios Ioannis Lampadistis Monastery	Μονή Αγίου Ιωάννη Λαμπαδιστή	Kalopanagiotis	Marathasa	Nicosia
Panagia tou Moutoulla	Παναγία του Μουτουλλά	Moutoullas	Marathasa	Nicosia
Archangelos Michael	Αρχάγγελος Μιχαήλ	Pedoulas	Marathasa	Nicosia
Panagia tou Araka	Παναγία του Άρακα	Lagoudera	Pitsilia	Nicosia
Stavros tou Agiasmati	Τίμιος Σταυρός του Αγιασμάτι	Platanistasa	Pitsilia	Nicosia
Metamorfosis tou Sotiros — added 2001	Μεταμόρφωσις του Σωτήρος	Palaichori	Pitsilia	Nicosia
Timios Stavros (Holy Cross)	Τίμιος Σταυρός	Pelendri (Πελέντρι)	Pitsilia	Limassol — the only one

Tentative List — candidates, NOT inscribed

Item	Greek	Year submitted	Where
Panagia Angeloktisti church	Παναγία Αγγελόκτιστη	2015	Kiti , Larnaca district; 6th-century apse mosaic of the Virgin
Hala Sultan Tekke and the Larnaca Salt Lake complex	Χαλά Σουλτάν Τεκκέ και σύμπλεγμα Αλυκής Λάρνακας	2016	Larnaca
Troodos, Mt Olympus	Τρόδος, Όρος Όλυμπος	2002	Natural site
Kionia	Κιόνια	2002	Natural site, Machairas (Nicosia)

Separate UNESCO label: **Troodos UNESCO Global Geopark (2015)** — see *Water & Environment*.

Intangible Cultural Heritage — 8 entries

Element	Greek	Year	What it is
Lefkara lace (Lefkaritika)	Λευκαρίτικα κεντήματα	2009	Hand-made lace of Lefkara village
Tsiattista	Τσιατίστα	2011	Poetic duelling: two poets answer each other in improvised rhyming couplets, with violin or lute
Mediterranean diet	Μεσογειακή διατροφή	2013	Joint with Croatia, Spain, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Portugal
Art of dry stone walling	Τέχνη της ξερολιθιάς	2018 (extended file 2024)	Multinational
Byzantine chant	Βυζαντινή μουσική	2019	Joint with Greece
Tocati — traditional games and sports	Tocati	2022	Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (a different list)
Midwifery	—	2023	Multinational
Commandaria wine	Κουμανδαρία	2025	Newest; sweet wine of the southern Troodos villages

⚠ Older sources still say "five elements" (Lefkaritika, Tsiattista, Mediterranean diet, dry stone walling, Byzantine chant). ⚠ **Halloumi is NOT on a UNESCO list** — it is an EU PDO product (since 2021).

📌 **In the exam:** Which of these is NOT on the UNESCO World Heritage List: Paphos, Choirokoitia, the Troodos painted churches, ancient Kourion? **Answer:** Ancient Kourion.

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

Water & Environment of Cyprus

The Water Problem

Cyprus is one of the **driest** regions in Europe.

Cause	Description
Climate	Mediterranean, dry summer
Rivers	All seasonal, dry up in summer
Consumption	Population growth + tourism
Climate	Global warming worsens the drought

💡 Consumption norm in Cyprus: ~200 l/person/day (4 times more than the survival minimum)

Reservoirs (Φράγματα, "Frágmata")

Cyprus has **108 dams** — the most per capita in Europe.

Total capacity: ~**330 million m³** (~ 332 million m³ in the Water Development Department catalogue of 108 reservoirs). **Kouris alone** ≈ 1/3.

Largest dams

#	Dam	Greek name (Φράγμα ...)	River	District	Year	Volume, million m ³
1	Kouris	Κούρη	Kouris	Limassol	1988	115
2	Asprokremmos	Ασπρόκρεμμου	Xeros Potamos	Paphos	1982	52.4
3	Evretou	Ευρέτου	Stavros tis Psokas	Paphos	1986	24
4	Kannaviou	Κανναβιού	Ezousa	Paphos	2005	18
5	Kalavastos	Καλαβασού	Vasilikos	Larnaca	1985	17.1
6	Dipotamos	Διποτάμου	Pentaschoinos	— (below Lefkara)	1985	15.5
7	Lefkara	Λευκάρων	Syrgatis (Pentaschoinos)	Larnaca	1973	13.85
8	Germasogeia	Γερμασόγειας	Germasogeia	Limassol	1968	13.5
9	Achna	Άχνας	Off-stream (end reservoir of the Southern Conveyor)	Famagusta (free)	1987	6.8
10	Solea	Σολέας	Off-stream	—	2010	4.5
11	Arminou	Αρμίνου	Diarizos	Paphos	1998	4.3

Big three: **Kouris (Limassol) > Asprokremmos > Evretou (both Paphos)**. The three big Paphos dams: Asprokremmos, Evretou, Kannaviou.

? What is the largest dam in Cyprus?
→ **Kouris (Κούρη)** — 115 million m³

Fact about Kouris Dam:

- Built in 1988
- Height — 110 m
- Collects water from three rivers: Kouris (Κούρης), Limnatis (Λιμνάτης), Kryos (Κρυός) — together they form the Kouris basin
- The Kouris river reaches the sea in Episkopi Bay
- During construction the village of Alassa (Αλάσσα, "Alása") had to be relocated

Desalination of Water (Αφαλάτωση, "Afalátosi")

Cyprus actively uses **seawater desalination** — this is the main source of drinking water.

Major plants (5 permanent)

Plant	Greek name	Capacity
Dhekelia	Δεκέλεια	60 000 m ³ /day
Larnaca	Λάρνακα	60 000 m ³ /day
Vasilikos	Βασιλικός	60 000 m ³ /day
Episkopi	Επισκοπή	40 000 m ³ /day
Paphos	Πάφος	15 000 m ³ /day

Total capacity: ~235 000 m³/day

💡 Desalination covers **more than 75%** of drinking-water needs (Water Development Department, August 2026); the goal is to cover all drinking water from desalination.

New permanent plants (approved 2 September 2026)

Plant	Capacity
Dhekelia (Δεκέλεια)	80 000 m ³ /day
Ayia Thekla (Αγία Θέκλα)	30 000 m ³ /day
Polis Chrysochous (Πόλη Χρυσοχούς)	10 000 m ³ /day
East Limassol (approved earlier)	60 000 m ³ /day
Total, four new plants	180 000 m³/day

The plants still need permits; they are part of the six-year desalination plan 2025–2031.

Mobile Desalination Units (2025)

In 2025, due to an acute water shortage, Cyprus received **14 mobile desalination units** from the **UAE (United Arab Emirates)**.

Fact	Data
Quantity	14 units
From where	UAE 
Cost	Free (a gift)
Capacity	+15 000 m³/day
Delivery	May 2025; installed at Moni (Limassol), running since July 2025

The exam (July 2025) said 14 units; the press reported 13 at delivery. The UAE made them available until the end of 2026.

 From where did Cyprus receive mobile desalination units in 2025?
→ **UAE (United Arab Emirates)**

Water Saving

Government measures:

-  Restrictions on lawn watering
-  Fines for irrational use
-  Awareness campaigns on responsible consumption
-  Subsidies to hotels for their own desalination plants

Environment

Protected Areas

Place	Greek name	Status
Akamas	Ακάμας	National Forest Park (2016), Natura 2000
Larnaca Salt Lake	Αλυκή Λάρνακας	Ramsar site , Natura 2000
Troodos	Τρόοδος	UNESCO Global Geopark , National Forest Park, Natura 2000
Cape Greco	Κάβο Γκρέκο	National Forest Park (1993), Natura 2000
Lara-Toxeftra	Λάρα – Τοξεύτρα	Sea-turtle reserve (Paphos)
Cedar Valley	Κοιλάδα των Κέδρων	Nature micro-reserve — not a park

Labels explained below: Natura 2000, National Forest Parks, Ramsar, Blue Flag.

Akamas Peninsula (Ακάμας, "Akámas")

- Area: 230 km²
- Status: **National Forest Park** (Εθνικό Δασικό Πάρκο, "Ethnikó Dasikó Párko")
- Part of the **Natura 2000** network
- 168 bird species, 20 reptile species, 600+ plant species
- Nesting site for sea turtles

💡 Akamas is the most biodiverse area of Cyprus

Larnaca Salt Lake (Αλυκή Λάρνακας, "Alikí Lárnakas")

- The second largest salt lake in Cyprus
- Area: 2.2 km²
- Consists of 4 lakes: Aliki, Orfani, Soros, Spiro
- **Ramsar site** (of international importance) — since **11 July 2001**
- In winter — up to **12 000 flamingos** 🦩
- Akrotiri Salt Lake is also a Ramsar site (2003), but it is listed by the **UK** — it lies inside the British base

❓ Which lake in Cyprus is a Ramsar site?
→ **Larnaca Salt Lake (Αλυκή Λάρνακας)**

Troodos — UNESCO Geopark (Τρόδος, "Tróodos")

- Included in the **UNESCO Global Geoparks Network** in 2015
- Area: 1 147 km² (15% of Cyprus' territory)
- Highest point: Mount Olympus (Όλυμπος, "Ólympos") — **1 952 m**
- Unique ophiolite complex 92 million years old

⚠️ Troodos is a **geopark**, not a biosphere reserve!

Natura 2000

EU network of protected nature sites.

- Covers **31%** of the area under government control (Department of Forests); usually rounded to **about 30%**.
- 75% of state forest land is inside the network.

Site	Greek	District
Akamas Peninsula	Χερσόνησος Ακάμα	Paphos

Site	Greek	District
Paphos Forest	Δάσος Πάφου	Paphos / Nicosia
Polis – Gialia coast	Περιοχή Πόλις – Γιαλιά	Paphos
Cape Aspro – Petra tou Romiou	Ακρωτήριο Άσπρο – Πέτρα του Ρωμιού	Paphos / Limassol
Troodos National Forest Park	Εθνικό Δασικό Πάρκο Τροόδους	Limassol / Nicosia
Machairas Forest	Δάσος Μαχαιρά	Nicosia
Madari – Papoutsas	Μαδαρή – Παπούτσα	Nicosia
Larnaca Salt Lakes	Αλυκές Λάρνακας	Larnaca
Oroklini Lake	Λίμνη Ορόκλινης	Larnaca
Rizoelia National Forest Park	Εθνικό Δασικό Πάρκο Ριζοελιάς	Larnaca
Cape Greco	Κάβο Γκρέκο	Famagusta
Paralimni Lake	Λίμνη Παραλιμνίου	Famagusta

✗ **Marinas** (Ayia Napa, Limassol) are **not** Natura 2000 sites. They hold a Blue Flag — a different label.

📌 **In the exam:** About what share of the area controlled by the Republic belongs to Natura 2000? **Answer:** About 30% (31%).

National Forest Parks (Εθνικά Δασικά Πάρκα) — 11

Park	Greek	District	Declared
Athalassa	Αθαλάσσα	Nicosia	1985
Troodos — largest	Τρόδος	Limassol / Nicosia	1992
Cape Greco	Κάβο Γκρέκο	Famagusta	1993
Polemidia	Πολεμίδα	Limassol	1996
Rizoelia	Ριζοελιά	Larnaca (by Aradippou)	1998
Petra tou Romiou	Πέτρα του Ρωμιού	Paphos	2001
Machairas	Μαχαιράς	Nicosia	2004
Akamas — newest	Ακάμας	Paphos	2016

Also on the list of 11: Paidagogiki Akadimia, Liopetri, Agios Nikandros.

✗ **Not National Forest Parks: Cedar Valley / Tripylos** (nature micro-reserves inside Paphos Forest), Madari (flora and fauna protection area).

📌 **In the exam:** When was the Akamas peninsula declared a National Forest Park? **Answer:** In 2016.

Blue Flag (Γαλάζια Σημαία)

What it is	International eco-label for clean and safe beaches and marinas
Who awards it	FEE — Foundation for Environmental Education (Copenhagen); takes the final decision
Run in Cyprus by	CYMEPA (Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association), non-profit, with FEE
Cyprus joined	1994
Flags (2026)	46 beaches + 2 marinas (Limassol Marina, Ayia Napa Marina)
Most flags (2026)	Famagusta district: 27 of 46 (Paralimni 14, Ayia Napa 13) · Paphos 13 · Larnaca 3 · Limassol 3

 **In the exam:** In which district are most of the Blue Flag beaches? **Answer:** Famagusta.

Lara-Toxeftra turtle reserve (Λάρα – Τοξεύτρα)

- **Paphos** district: south-west Akamas, about 15 km north of Paphos town
- Marine reserve under the Fisheries Law (1989); on the Mediterranean SPAMI list since 2013
- Nesting beaches of the **green turtle** (*Chelonia mydas*) and the **loggerhead** (*Caretta caretta*)

Wildlife

Mouflon — Agrino (Αγρινό, "Agrinó")

The Cypriot mouflon is the **largest wild mammal** on the island.

Fact	Data
Latin name	<i>Ovis gmelini ophion</i>
Habitat	Paphos forest, Troodos mountains
Population	~3 000 individuals
Status	Protected species
On euro coins	1, 2, 5 cents 

 Which animal is depicted on the Cypriot 1, 2, 5 cent coins?
→ **Mouflon (Αγρινό)**

Sea Turtles (Θαλάσσιες χελώνες, "Thalássies helónes")

Two species nest on Cyprus beaches:

Species	Scientific name	Greek
Loggerhead	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Καρέττα
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Πράσινη χελώνα

Nesting sites: Akamas beaches (Lara Bay), protected by law

Forest Fires (Δασικές πυρκαγιές, "Dasikés pyrkagiés")

In summer Cyprus is prone to **forest fires**.

Cause	Description
Heat	Temperatures 35-40°C
Drought	Dry vegetation
Winds	Strong seasonal winds
Humans	Arson, carelessness

Services involved: fire service, volunteers, aviation (airplanes and helicopters)

Responsible Ministry

? Which ministry is responsible for the environment in Cyprus?

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

(Υπουργείο Γεωργίας, Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και Περιβάλλοντος, "Ypourgeío Georgías, Agrotikís Anáptyxis kai Perivállontos")

Minister (since 6 August 2026): Christos Senekis (Χρίστος Σενέκης, "Chrístos Senékis"), who replaced Maria Panayiotou

What to Remember for the Exam

Question	Answer
Mobile desalination units (2025)	14
From where the desalination units came	UAE 
Largest dam	Kouris (Κούρη) — 115 million m³
Total number of dams	108
Total capacity of dams	~330 million m³
Permanent desalination plants	5
Ramsar site	Larnaca Salt Lake
Status of Troodos	UNESCO Geopark (since 2015)
Highest point of Cyprus	Olympus — 1 952 m
Environment ministry	Agriculture and Environment
Symbol of Cyprus nature	Mouflon (Αγρινό)
Mouflon on coins	1, 2, 5 cents

Question	Answer
Mouflon population	~3 000
2nd / 3rd largest dam	Asprokremmos (Xeros river) / Evretou — both Paphos
Kalavassos dam — district	Larnaca
Germasogeia dam — district	Limassol
Kouris basin	Kouris + Limnatis + Kryos
Natura 2000 share	~ 30% (31%) of the government-controlled area
National Forest Parks	11 ; newest Akamas (2016)
Cedar Valley	Micro-reserve, not a National Forest Park
Rizoelia park — district	Larnaca
Blue Flag	Clean, safe beaches and marinas ; run by CYMEPA
Most Blue Flags (2026)	Famagusta district
Lara–Toxeftra turtle reserve	Paphos

Useful Greek Words

Russian	Greek	Pronunciation
Вода (Water)	Νερό	neró
Πлотина (Dam)	Φράγμα	frágma
Οπρeснение (Desalination)	Αφαλάτωση	afalátosi
Засуха (Drought)	Ξηρασία	ksirasía
Лесной пожар (Forest fire)	Δασική πυρκαγιά	dasikí pirkíá
Οкружающая среда (Environment)	Περιβάλλον	periválon
Черепаха (Turtle)	Χελώνα	helóna

Chapter updated 27 September 2026

Museums of Cyprus

The exam asks which museum is in which city, and several museums have almost the same name. This chapter sorts them by city.

Nicosia (Λευκωσία)

Museum	Greek	What / where it is housed	Hook
Cyprus Museum	Κυπριακό Μουσείο	State archaeological museum, Mouseiou St	The island's largest and most important archaeological museum
Byzantine Museum (Archbishop Makarios III Foundation)	Βυζαντινό Μουσείο (Ίδρυμα Αρχιεπισκόπου Μακαρίου Γ')	Inside the Archbishopric complex	Richest icon collection; 6th-century Kanakaria mosaics
Cyprus Folk Art Museum	Μουσείο Λαϊκής Τέχνης Κύπρου	Old Archbishopric (15th-century Gothic), next to St John's Cathedral	Founded 1937 by the Society of Cypriot Studies
Ethnological Museum	Εθνολογικό Μουσείο (Οικία Χατζηγεωργάκη Κορνέσιου)	18th-century mansion of Hadjigeorgakis Kornosios , dragoman 1779–1809	⚠ Closed since 1 Sep 2026 until further notice
Museum of the Struggle	Μουσείο Αγώνος	Archbishop Kyprianos Sq., near the Archbishopric , opposite the Pancyprian Gymnasium	Relics of the EOKA struggle 1955–1959 against British rule
Leventis Municipal Museum	Λεβέντειο Δημοτικό Μουσείο Λευκωσίας	Laiki Geitonia, old town	History of Nicosia from prehistory to today; European Museum of the Year 1991. Free entry
A. G. Leventis Gallery	Λεβέντειος Πινακοθήκη	A. G. Leventi St	Art gallery — not the Leventis Museum
Fairy Tale Museum	Μουσείο Παραμυθιού	Old mansion, Granikou St, walled city	Opened 2017
Cyprus Police Museum	Μουσείο Κυπριακής Αστυνομίας	Police Headquarters	Founded 1933 as a Criminal Museum
Cyprus Postal Museum	Ταχυδρομικό Μουσείο Κύπρου	Laiki Geitonia	Since 1981
Museum on the History of Cypriot Coinage	Μουσείο Ιστορίας της Κυπριακής Νομισματοκοπίας	Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, Faneromenis St	Coins from the 6th century BC
Giabra Pierides Collection	Μουσείο της Συλλογής Γεωργίου και Νεφέλης Τζιάπρα Πιερίδη	Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, Faneromenis St	Mycenaean pottery. Not the Pierides Museum (Larnaca)
State Gallery of Contemporary Cypriot Art	Κρατική Πινακοθήκη Σύγχρονης Κυπριακής Τέχνης	Stasinou Ave / Kritis St	20th-century Cypriot painting and sculpture

Museum	Greek	What / where it is housed	Hook
Classic Motorcycle Museum	Μουσείο Ιστορικής Μοτοσικλέτας Κύπρου	Granikou St	Includes bikes of Makarios III's escort
Hambis Printmaking Museum	Δημοτικό Μουσείο Χαρακτικής Χαμπή	Ammochostou St	Opened 2019
Pancyprrian Gymnasium Museums	Μουσεία του Παγκυπρίου Γυμνασίου	Next to the oldest secondary school (1812)	12 rooms
Ledra Local Archaeological Museum	Τοπικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Λεδρών	Agios Georgios hill	Opened 2023
NiMAC — arts centre	Δημοτικό Κέντρο Τεχνών Λευκωσίας	Old Powerhouse	Arts centre, not a museum

Nicosia district, outside the city

Museum	Greek	What / where	Hook
Cyprus Museum of Natural History	Κυπριακό Μουσείο Φυσικής Ιστορίας	Carlsberg brewery grounds, Latsia , old Nicosia–Limassol road	Private: Photos Photiades Foundation. Visits by appointment
Idalion Local Archaeological Museum	Τοπικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Αρχαίου Ιδαλίου	Dali , inside the ancient site	Since 2007

Larnaca (Λάρνακα)

Museum	Greek	What / where it is housed	Hook
Pierides Museum	Μουσείο Πιερίδη	Pierides family home (1815), Zinonos Kitieos St	Oldest private museum in Cyprus; Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation
Larnaca District Archaeological Museum	Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Επαρχίας Λάρνακας	Kalograion Sq.	Finds from Kition, Choirokoitia, Tenta
Larnaka Municipal Museum of Natural History	Δημοτικό Μουσείο Φυσικής Ιστορίας Λάρνακας	Municipal Garden of Larnaca	Run by Larnaca Municipality; reptiles, birds, fossils, Cyprus donkey
Larnaca Medieval Museum	Μεσαιωνικό Μουσείο Λάρνακας	Larnaca Castle , end of Foinikoudes	Castle rebuilt by the Ottomans 1625, later a British prison
Pattichion Municipal Museum – Historical Archives	Παττίχειο Δημοτικό Μουσείο Ιστορικού Αρχείου Λάρνακας	Europe Sq., 1881 colonial buildings	Limassol has a museum with the same name
Agios Lazaros Byzantine Museum	Βυζαντινό Μουσείο Αγίου Λαζάρου	Cells of the church of Saint Lazarus	Icons of Larnaca district
Kyriazis Medical Museum	Ιατρικό Μουσείο Κυριαζή	1927 mansion	History of medicine

Larnaca district

Museum	Greek	Where	Hook
Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silversmith-work	Τοπικό Μουσείο Παραδοσιακής Κεντητικής και Αργυροχοΐας	House of Patsalos, Pano Lefkara	Opened 1988
Kallinikeio Municipal Museum	Καλλινίκειο Δημοτικό Μουσείο Αθηνένου	Athienou	Icons by the monk Kallinikos Stavrovouniotis
Olive Museum	Μουσείο Ελιάς	Anglisides	Next to a ~700-year-old olive tree
Folklore Museum "Kostas Kaimakliotis"	Λαογραφικό Μουσείο «Κώστας Καϊμακλιώτης»	Aradippou, 1901 mansion	Silkworm displays in spring

Limassol (Λεμεσός)

Museum	Greek	What / where it is housed	Hook
Cyprus Medieval Museum	Μεσαιωνικό Μουσείο Κύπρου (Κάστρο Λεμεσού)	Limassol Castle	Legend: Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria here (1191)
Cyprus Theatre Museum	Θεατρικό Μουσείο Κύπρου	Panos Solomonides Cultural Centre	In Limassol , not Nicosia; opened 2012
Carnival Museum	Μουσείο Καρναβαλιού Λεμεσού	Same centre (Panos Solomonides)	Limassol carnival costumes and parade
Limassol District Archaeological Museum	Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Επαρχίας Λεμεσού	Near the Municipal Gardens	Founded 1948; maintenance works since May 2025
Limassol Municipal Folk Art Museum	Δημοτικό Λαογραφικό Μουσείο Λεμεσού	Agiou Andreou St	Since 1985
Pattichion Municipal Museum – Historical Archives	Παττίχειο Δημοτικό Μουσείο – Ιστορικό Αρχείο Λεμεσού	Old District Officer's residence	Same name as the Larnaca one
Old Carob Mill	Ο Παλιός Χαρουπόμυλος	Behind Limassol Castle	Built 1900; carob machinery

Limassol district

Museum	Greek	Where	Hook
Cyprus Wine Museum	Κυπριακό Οινομουσείο	Erimi , 13 km west of Limassol	Not in Omodos
Kourion Local Archaeological Museum	Τοπικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Κουρίου (Επισκοπή)	Episkopi village	⚠ Closed from 1 Aug 2026 for upgrade works

Paphos (Πάφος)

Museum	Greek	What / where it is housed	Hook
Paphos District Archaeological Museum	Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Επαρχίας Πάφου	Griva Digeni Ave	Opened 1964, new display 2020
Ecclesiastical Museum of the Metropolis of Paphos (former "Byzantine Museum of Paphos")	Εκκλησιαστικό Μουσείο Ιεράς Μητροπόλεως Πάφου	Central square of Geroskipou	Oldest icon in Cyprus (Agia Marina). Closed for maintenance
Ethnographic Museum of Paphos	Εθνογραφικό Μουσείο Πάφου	1894 stone house	Private, since 1958
Geroskipou Folk Art Museum	Μουσείο Λαϊκής Τέχνης Γεροσκήπου	"House of Hadjismith" (18th c.)	Museum since 1978
Marion-Arsinoe Archaeological Museum	Τοπικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Μαρίου-Αρσινόης	Polis Chrysochous	Opened 1998
Byzantine Museum of Arsinoe	Βυζαντινό Μουσείο Αρσινόης	Peristerona (Paphos)	Large icon collection
Palaipafos Archaeological Museum	Τοπικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Παλαιπάφου	Lusignan manor, Kouklia	At the Sanctuary of Aphrodite site

Paphos district — Laona and Akamas villages

Museum	Where	Hook
Inia Lara Turtle Museum	Ineia	The turtles of Lara beach on Akamas
Regional Museum of Akamas Rural Life and Traditions	Drouseia	Has a crafts training centre
Akamas Avifauna and Flora Visitor Centre	Kathikas	Information centre, not a museum
Akamas Geology and Palaeontology Information Centre	Pano Arodes	Information centre. There is no "Templar museum" on the Akamas museum list

Famagusta, free area (Ελεύθερη Αμμόχωστος)

Museum	Greek	What / where it is housed	Hook
Thalassa Municipal Museum	Δημοτικό Μουσείο «Θάλασσα» Αγίας Νάπας	Ayia Napa	Replica "Kyrenia II" of the 4th-century BC Kyrenia ship
Paralimni Municipal Museum of National History	Δημοτικό Μουσείο Εθνικής Ιστορίας Παραλιμνίου	Paralimni	Greece and Cyprus 1821–1974. Not natural history
Paralimni Folkloric Museum	Λαογραφικό Μουσείο Παραλιμνίου	19th-century house	Also used for civil weddings
Deryneia Folk Art Museum	Μουσείο Λαϊκής Τέχνης Δερύνειας	Deryneia	Farm tools
Avgorou Ethnographic Museum	Εθνογραφικό Μουσείο Αυγόρου	1921 house	Carved furniture, costumes

Troodos villages

Museum	Greek	Where	Hook
Kykkos Monastery Museum	Μουσείο Ιεράς Μονής Κύκκου	Kykkos Monastery (Nicosia district)	Icons, manuscripts, antiquities
Pedoulas Byzantine Museum	Βυζαντινό Μουσείο Πεδουλά	Pedoulas (Marathasa)	Since 1999; icons by the painter Minas
Fikardou Rural Museum	Αγροτικό Μουσείο Φικάρδου	House of Katsinioros, Fikardou	The whole village is a protected Ancient Monument
Cyprus Railway Museum	Μουσείο Κυπριακού Σιδηρόδρομου	Old station of Evrychou (Solea)	Only railway museum in Cyprus; railway 1905–1951
Museum of Byzantine Heritage	Μουσείο Βυζαντινής Κληρονομιάς Παλαιχωρίου	Palaichori	Church art of the village
Troodos Environmental Information Centre	Κέντρο Περιβαλλοντικής Ενημέρωσης Τροόδους	200 m west of Troodos Square (Limassol district)	Visitor centre of the Department of Forests, not a museum

! Don't confuse

Topic	①	②
Natural history	Larnaka Municipal Museum of Natural History (Δημοτικό Μουσείο Φυσικής Ιστορίας Λάρνακας) — Municipal Garden, Larnaka town; municipal	Cyprus Museum of Natural History (Κυπριακό Μουσείο Φυσικής Ιστορίας) — private , Photos Photiades Foundation, Carlsberg grounds, Latsia, near Nicosia
Folk art vs ethnology (Nicosia)	Folk Art Museum — Old Archbishopric	Ethnological Museum — Kornesios House (closed since 1 Sep 2026)
Byzantine	Byzantine Museum — Archbishopric, Nicosia	Ecclesiastical Museum of Paphos — Geroskipou (the former "Byzantine Museum of Paphos")
Medieval	Cyprus Medieval Museum — Limassol Castle	Larnaka Medieval Museum — Larnaka Castle
Pierides	Pierides Museum — Larnaka	Giabra Pierides Collection — Nicosia
Theatre, Carnival	Both in Limassol (Panos Solomonides Centre)	— not Nicosia
Leventis	Leventis Municipal Museum — history of Nicosia	A. G. Leventis Gallery — art
Pattichion	Larnaka	Limassol
Hambis printmaking	Nicosia (2019)	Platanisteia village, Limassol district (the original)
Carob	Old Carob Mill — Limassol town	Pasteli museum — Anogyra village

Keys for the natural-history pair:

- "Δημοτικό ... Λάρνακας" = Larnaka, municipal.

- "Κυπριακό ..." = Latsia, private.
- Paralimni's museum is **National** history (Εθνικής Ιστορίας), not natural (Φυσικής Ιστορίας).
- The Folk Art Museum is also called "Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus" on visitcyprus. It is still the Old Archbishopric one.

 **In the exam:** The Municipal Museum of Natural History, housed in the town's Municipal Garden, belongs to the Municipality of ... **Answer:** Larnaca.

How to remember: a rule per town

If the museum is...	Most likely	Examples
"Main", "Cyprus", "state", about the Church or EOKA	Nicosia	Cyprus Museum (archaeological), Byzantine, Folk Art, Ethnological, Struggle, Leventis, Police, Postal, State Gallery, Fairy Tale Museum
About festivals and the stage	Limassol	Theatre, Carnival, Medieval (in the castle), Carob Mill; nearby the Wine Museum (Erimi)
Old and private, a fort, the town garden	Larnaca	Pierides (oldest private), Medieval (in the fort), Municipal Natural History (in the Municipal Garden)
About the sea	Ayia Napa	"Thalassa" (θάλασσα — sea) with the Kyrenia II ship
In a village	the village's product	Lefkara — embroidery and silver · Erimi — wine · Anogyra — pasteli · Anglisides — olive · Fikardou — rural life · Evrychou — railway · Ineia — sea turtles

Exceptions: every district has its own district archaeological museum, and the Paphos Ecclesiastical Museum (formerly "Byzantine") is in Geroskipou.

What to remember for the exam

Question	Answer
Largest archaeological museum	Cyprus Museum , Nicosia
Oldest private museum	Pierides Museum , Larnaca
Municipal Museum of Natural History (Municipal Garden)	Larnaca
Cyprus Museum of Natural History (Photiades)	Latsia , Nicosia district
Byzantine Museum (Makarios III Foundation)	Archbishopric, Nicosia
Folk Art Museum	Old Archbishopric , Nicosia
Ethnological Museum	Kornesios mansion , Nicosia
Museum of the Struggle (EOKA)	Nicosia , near the Archbishopric
Leventis Municipal Museum	Nicosia
Fairy Tale Museum	Nicosia
Theatre Museum, Carnival Museum	Limassol
Limassol Castle	Cyprus Medieval Museum
Larnaca Castle	Larnaca Medieval Museum
Wine Museum	Erimi (Limassol district)

Question	Answer
"Thalassa" (Kyrenia II ship)	Ayia Napa
Embroidery and silver museum	Pano Lefkara
Railway Museum	Evrychou
Sea turtle museum	Ineia (Paphos district)
Free entry	Cyprus Museum, Leventis Municipal Museum

HISTORY

Chapter updated 27 June 2026

Ancient & Medieval Cyprus

10 000 years of history

Cyprus is one of the most ancient centers of civilization. People lived here already in the Neolithic era.

Period	Years	What happened
Neolithic	10 000–3 000 BC	First settlements (Choirokoitia / Chirokitia)
Bronze Age	3 000–1 050 BC	Copper mining, trade
Greek colonization	1 400–1 050 BC	Mycenaeans founded cities
Assyria, Egypt, Persia	700–333 BC	Change of conquerors
Hellenistic period	333–58 BC	Alexander the Great, Ptolemies
Roman period	58 BC–395 AD	Flourishing, Christianity
Byzantium	395–1191	Orthodoxy, monasteries
Crusaders and Lusignans	1191–1489	Richard the Lionheart, Franks
Venice	1489–1571	Fortresses, trade
Ottoman Empire	1571–1878	307 years of Turkish rule
British Empire	1878–1960	Colony, then independence

Name of the island

The word “Κύπρ” (Cyprus) comes from the Greek word **χαλκός** (copper). The island was the largest source of copper in the ancient world.

The Latin name of copper — **cuprum** — also comes from Cyprus.

Main archaeological sites

Choirokoitia (Χοιροκοιτία)

Where: Larnaca district

What: Neolithic settlement (7000–4000 BC)

Status: UNESCO World Heritage Site

Kourion (Κούριον)

Where: Limassol district

What: Greco-Roman city, amphitheater, mosaics

Amathus (Αμαθούς)

Where: Limassol district (east of the city)

What: one of the most ancient cities of Cyprus

? In which city is Amathus located? → Limassol

Pafos / Paphos

Where: south-west **What:** mosaics of Dionysos, Tombs of the Kings, capital in the Roman period

Status: UNESCO World Heritage Site

Paphos was the main center of worship of the goddess Aphrodite (Αφροδίτη) in the ancient world. According to Greek mythology, Aphrodite was born from the sea foam near the rock **Petra tou Romiou** (Πέτρα του Ρωμίου, "Rock of the Roman" — i.e. the Byzantine Greek; sometimes rendered "Rock of the Greek") on the south-western coast of the island. The name is linked to the legendary Byzantine hero Digenis Akritas, who according to tradition repelled an Arab Saracen raid by hurling a huge rock at their ships. The ancient Temple of Aphrodite in Palaepaphos (Old Paphos, modern village of Kouklia) attracted pilgrims from across the Mediterranean.

? Which ancient city in Cyprus was the center of worship of the goddess Aphrodite? → Paphos (Πάφος)

Salamis (Σαλαμίς)

Where: Famagusta district

What: the largest ancient city of Cyprus

Status: ⚠ in the occupied territory

Kition (Κίτιον)

Where: modern Larnaca

What: Phoenician and Greek city, birthplace of Zeno (founder of Stoicism)

Religious heritage

Painted churches of Troodos

In the Troodos mountains there are **10 Byzantine churches** with unique frescoes of the 11th–16th centuries. All of them are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The most famous:

- Panagia Phorviotissa (Asinou)
- Panagia tou Araka
- Church of Archangel Michael (Pedoulas)

Monastery of Kykkos

Where: Troodos mountains

Founded: 11th century

Famous for: icon of the Virgin Mary attributed to the Apostle Luke

Monastery of Apostle Andreas

Where: Karpas (Karpasia) peninsula (occupied)

Famous for: place of pilgrimage

Ottoman period (1571–1878)

307 years of Turkish rule.

What changed:

- Part of the population converted to Islam → the Turkish Cypriot community appeared
- The Orthodox Church received autonomy
- Latin churches were turned into mosques

Important for the exam: it was in this period that two communities were formed — the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot.

British period (1878–1960)

Year	Event
1878	Great Britain received Cyprus from the Ottoman Empire
1914	Annexation after Turkey entered the war
1925	Cyprus became a Crown Colony
1955–1959	EOKA struggle for independence
1960	Independence

Legacy:

- Left-hand traffic
- English as a second language
- British military bases (still remain)

? Which foreign language is the most widespread in Cyprus? → English

What to remember

Fact	Answer
Where does the name "Cyprus" come from	From copper (cuprum)
Neolithic UNESCO settlement	Choirokoitia
Amathus — district	Limassol
Monument in the occupied territory	Salamis
Painted UNESCO churches	10 churches in Troodos
Ottoman period	1571–1878 (307 years)
British period	1878–1960

Chapter updated 27 September 2026

Road to Independence

Cyprus is a young state: it declared independence in 1960. Until then the island belonged to Britain, and before that – to the Ottoman Empire. Independence was achieved with difficulty – and it did not come in quite the form people wanted.

The dream of union

After the Second World War, Greek Cypriots wanted one thing – **enosis** (ένωσις, “union”). Not independence, but specifically union with Greece. For them, Cyprus was part of the Greek world – in language, faith, and culture.

Britain refused. Turkey warned that union with Greece was a red line.

Peaceful petitions did not work. One path remained.

EOKA: guerrilla war

In 1955 **EOKA** (ΕΟΚΑ) appeared – Εθνική Οργάνωσις Κυπρίων Αγωνιστών (Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston, “National Organization of Cypriot Fighters”).

Founded	1955
Active	1955–1959
Goal	Expel the British, unite with Greece
Leader	Georgios Grivas (Γεώργιος Γρίβας) – colonel of the Greek army

1 April 1955 – the beginning of armed struggle. Explosions in Nicosia, Famagusta, Larnaca, Limassol. This date is a national holiday, EOKA Day.

Four years of ambushes, sabotage, and persecution. Britain deployed thousands of soldiers to the island but did not break the guerrillas.

? When was EOKA founded? → 1955

? Full name of EOKA? → Εθνική Οργάνωσις Κυπρίων Αγωνιστών

Compromise in Zurich and London

By 1959 it was clear: the war had reached a stalemate. Britain was exhausted, and Greece and Turkey did not want a conflict between themselves.

19 February 1959 – the Zurich–London Agreements were signed in London.

Main result: Cyprus receives independence. But not enosis – union with Greece is banned forever.

Three guarantor countries:

- United Kingdom
- Greece
- Turkey

Each received the right to intervene if the constitution was violated. Turkey would use this right in 1974.

? On the basis of which agreements did Cyprus become independent? → Zurich–London

The 1960 settlement at a glance

The Zurich–London Agreements = **a Constitution + three treaties**.

Document	Greek name	What it did
Constitution	Σύνταγμα	Greek Cypriot President, Turkish Cypriot Vice-President; 7 + 3 ministers; House of 50 (70 % / 30 %)
Treaty of Guarantee	Συνθήκη Εγγυήσεως	UK, Greece, Turkey guarantee independence; union with another state and partition are banned
Treaty of Alliance	Συνθήκη Συμμαχίας	Greek (950) and Turkish (650) military contingents on the island
Treaty of Establishment	Συνθήκη Εγκαθιδρύσεως	UK keeps two Sovereign Base Areas (Akrotiri, Dhekelia) — 2.7 % of the island

Cypriots never voted on these documents: there was **no referendum**.

Imposed independence

An important fact that is often overlooked: **Cypriots did not participate** in the creation of their state.

What	How it was
Agreements	Written by Greece, Turkey, and Britain
Constitution	Drafted by the same three countries
Referendum	Not held
Voice of Cypriots	Almost none

Neither Greek Cypriots nor Turkish Cypriots voted for these agreements. They were simply told: “Here is your state. Here is your constitution.”

This explains why the system quickly failed – it did not reflect the reality on the ground.

? Did Cypriots vote for the 1960 Constitution?
→ **No** (there was no referendum)

The first elections

13 December 1959 – for the first time in history, Cypriots elected a president.

Two candidates:

- **Archbishop Makarios III** (Μακάριος Γ΄, Makarios III) – leader of the struggle for independence, supported by EOKA
- **Ioannis Kliridis** (Ιωάννης Κληρίδης, Ioannis Kliridis) – lawyer, supported by the left (AKEL)

Result: Makarios – **66.8%**, Kliridis – 33.2%.

Turnout – 91%. People believed they were voting for the future.

? When were the first presidential elections held? → 13 December 1959

Birth of the Republic

17 16 August 1960 – the last British governor handed power over to Makarios. The Republic of Cyprus was born.

But the national holiday is **1 October**. On that day the Cypriot flag was raised for the first time. That is the date that is celebrated.

? When was the Republic of Cyprus proclaimed? → 16 August 1960

? When does Cyprus celebrate Independence Day? → 1 October

Makarios III: a priest at the helm of the state

Archbishop Makarios III (Μακάριος Γ΄, Makarios III) is a unique figure. Head of the Church and head of state in one person.

He was born in the mountain village of **Pano Panagia** (Πάνω Παναγιά, Pano Panagia), Paphos district. The son of a shepherd. He became a monk, then a bishop, and at 37 – archbishop of all Cyprus.

The British arrested him in 1956 and exiled him to the Seychelles. This only strengthened his authority.

He remained president for 17 years – until his death in 1977. He survived assassination attempts, a coup, and an invasion.

? Who was the first president of Cyprus? → Archbishop Makarios III

? Which village was Makarios III from? → Pano Panagia (Πάνω Παναγιά)

The Constitution: beautiful but unworkable

The 1960 Constitution tried to reconcile the two communities – Greek and Turkish. On paper everything looked fair.

Position	Community
President	Greek Cypriot
Vice President	Turkish Cypriot
Ministers	7 Greeks + 3 Turks
Parliament	70% Greeks + 30% Turks

The problem: The Constitution emphasized differences between the communities instead of uniting them. Separate voting, veto rights, separate municipalities.

Greek Cypriots wanted to strengthen a unitary state. The Turkish side sought segregation and partition.

Within three years the system collapsed.

The 1963–1964 crisis

30 November 1963 – Makarios proposed to amend the constitution. Remove the veto right, simplify governance. The proposals are known as the “13 points of Makarios”.

Turkish Cypriots refused. Clashes began. Hundreds of people on both sides were killed.

What happened:

- Turkish Cypriots withdrew from the government
- In Nicosia a “Green Line” appeared – a British general drew it with a green pencil
- In 1964 UN peacekeepers (UNFICYP) arrived. They are still on the island
- Turkey threatened invasion and carried out air strikes

Negotiations under UN mediation lasted from 1968 to 1974. There was progress, violence almost stopped. But everything was cut short in the summer of 1974.

The island was divided long before the Turkish invasion.

1963–1964 in dates

Date	Event
30 Nov 1963	President Makarios proposes constitutional amendments; Turkey rejects them
Dec 1963	Intercommunal clashes; Turkish Cypriot ministers, MPs and civil servants withdraw from the state
4 Mar 1964	UN Security Council resolution 186 creates UNFICYP

Date	Event
Mar–May 1964	UNFICYP arrives
Aug 1964	Turkish air force bombs Cypriot villages

Chronology

Year	What happened
1955	Creation of EOKA, beginning of armed struggle (1 April)
1959	Zurich–London Agreements (February)
1959	First presidential elections (13 December)
1960	Proclamation of the Republic (16 August)
1963	Constitutional crisis, intercommunal clashes
1964	Deployment of UN peacekeepers (UNFICYP)
1968–1974	Negotiations under UN auspices
1974	Coup and Turkish invasion

What to remember

Question	Answer
When was EOKA founded?	1955 (1 April)
Full name of EOKA	Εθνική Οργάνωσις Κυπρίων Αγωνιστών
Independence agreements	Zurich–London (1959)
Did Cypriots vote for the constitution	No
Guarantor countries	United Kingdom, Greece, Turkey
First presidential elections	13 December 1959
Proclamation of the Republic	16 August 1960
Independence Day	1 October
First president	Makarios III
Homeland of Makarios	Pano Panagia
UN peacekeepers	Since 1964

Chapter updated 28 September 2026

1974 Turkish Invasion

What Happened

The summer of 1974 split the history of Cyprus into “before” and “after.” Within a few weeks, the island was cut in two, hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes, thousands were killed or went missing.

Timeline of Events

15 July 1974 — Coup

The Greek military junta organized a coup against President Makarios. The putschists wanted **enosis** — union with Greece.

Makarios miraculously escaped and fled abroad. Power was seized by Nikos Sampson — a former EOKA-B militant.

20 July 1974 — Invasion (First Phase)

Turkey sent in troops, declaring it was “protecting Turkish Cypriots” under the 1960 treaty.

The landing took place near Kyrenia. Turkish forces captured a corridor from the coast to the Turkish quarters of Nicosia. **Kyrenia fell on 22 July** (still the first phase).

? When did Turkey invade Cyprus?
→ 20 July 1974

23 July — Fall of the Junta

The coup failed. In Greece, the military junta fell. In Cyprus, the legitimate government was restored.

But Turkey did not leave.

14 August 1974 — Second Phase

After the failure of the Geneva talks, Turkey launched a second wave of the offensive.

Within two days, Turkish forces occupied **36.2%** of the island’s territory — the entire north up to the Morphou–Famagusta line.

! Exam trap: which phase?

The July 2026 paper asked for the order of events (Kyrenia, Morphou, the pseudo-state, the Annan referendum). Keep the phases apart:

When	What	Phase
15 July 1974	Coup against Makarios (Greek junta, EOKA-B)	Not the invasion — five days before it
20 July 1974	Landing near Kyrenia , corridor to Nicosia, Kyrenia taken	First phase
14 August 1974	Advance east to Famagusta and west to Morphou ; 36.2% occupied	Second phase
15 November 1983	Unilateral declaration of the pseudo-state	Nine years later
24 April 2004	Referendum on the Annan Plan	Thirty years later

? Kyrenia or Morphou first? → **Kyrenia** (first phase, July 1974), then **Morphou** (second phase, August 1974)

? 15 or 20 July? → 15 July is the **coup**; 20 July is the **invasion**

Consequences in Numbers

Fact	Data
Territory occupied	36.2%
Greek Cypriots expelled	~200 000 (1/3 of the population)
Turkish Cypriots relocated to the north	~45 000
Missing persons (still unaccounted for)	758 Greek Cypriots (of 1,619 originally; 2025)
Turkish troops on the island	~43 000 soldiers
Settlers from Turkey	~160 000 people

? How many Greek Cypriots became refugees in 1974?
→ **About 200 000** (one third of the population)

Refugees

200 000 Greek Cypriots were forced to leave their homes in the north. They made up **70% of the population** of the occupied areas.

People fled with whatever they managed to grab. Many thought they would return in a few days. They have still not returned.

Enclaves: After the invasion, about 20 000 Greeks and Maronites remained in the north. Today there are only **331** (2025) — the rest were forced to leave.

Missing Persons

Of **1,619** Greek Cypriots originally listed as missing, **758** are still unaccounted for (PIO, 2025) — soldiers and civilians.

The Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) works with both sides, but the Turkish side refused to cooperate for a long time.

Every year remains are found and identified. For many families, 50 years of waiting have passed.

Turkish Troops and Settlers

Troops

There are **~43 000 Turkish soldiers** in the occupied territory — one of the highest concentrations of troops in the world relative to area and population.

Settlers

Since 1974, Turkey has relocated **~160 000 people** from mainland Turkey to Cyprus — this is **illegal colonization** under international law.

Emigration of Turkish Cypriots

A paradox: **more than 57 000 out of 116 000** indigenous Turkish Cypriots **left the island** after 1974. Reasons include economic isolation, lack of prospects, and becoming a minority in their own land.

Result: Today Turkish Cypriots are a minority in the north — there are fewer of them than Turkish soldiers and settlers combined (ratio roughly 1:2).

? Who are more numerous in the north: Turkish Cypriots or settlers from Turkey?
→ **Settlers from Turkey** (plus troops)

Varosha (Βαρώσια / Varosha)

Where: District of the city of Famagusta (Αμμόχωστος / Ammochostos)

Before 1974: One of the most popular resorts in the Mediterranean. Hotels, beaches, nightclubs. Elizabeth Taylor and Brigitte Bardot vacationed here.

After 1974: A ghost town. A closed military zone. Buildings have been decaying for 50 years.

Residents fled on the morning of 14 August 1974. Many left breakfast on the table, thinking they would be back by lunch.

? What is the name of the ghost town in Famagusta?
→ **Varosha (Βαρώσια)**

Cultural Losses

The Turkish occupation is accompanied by the systematic destruction of Greek and Christian heritage:

- **Churches:** turned into mosques, warehouses, barns, nightclubs
- **Icons and frescoes:** looted, sold on the black market
- **Cemeteries:** desecrated, gravestones destroyed
- **Names:** Greek place names replaced with Turkish ones

Why This Is Illegal

Body	Position
UN resolutions	Condemn the occupation, demand withdrawal of troops
European Court of Human Rights	Holds Turkey responsible for massive human rights violations
EU	Cyprus is an EU member; the north is the occupied territory of an EU member state
The entire international community	Does not recognize the "TRNC"

All resolutions and court decisions **remain unimplemented**. Turkey ignores international law.

Commemorative Dates

Date	What is commemorated
15 July	Memorial day of the coup
20 July	Memorial day of the invasion

On these days there are ceremonies, laying of wreaths, and moments of silence. For Cyprus this is a living trauma, not distant history.

1974 by phases

The invasion came in **two phases**: 20–22 July and 14–16 August 1974. Know which town fell in which phase.

Date	Event	Greek name	Where
15 July 1974	Coup against President Makarios, organised by the military junta in Athens; Nikos Sampson installed as "president"	Πραξικόπημα της 15ης Ιουλίου	Nicosia (Presidential Palace)
20 July 1974	First phase of the Turkish invasion ("Operation Attila"), from the sea and the air	Τουρκική εισβολή – Α' φάση («Αττίλας»)	North coast near Kyrenia

Date	Event	Greek name	Where
20 July 1974	UN Security Council resolution 353 : ceasefire, end of foreign military intervention	Ψήφισμα 353 του Συμβουλίου Ασφαλείας	UN, New York
20–22 July	Turkish forces open a corridor from the Kyrenia coast to the Turkish Cypriot enclave north of Nicosia	Προγεφύρωμα Κερύνειας – Λευκωσίας	Kyrenia → Nicosia
22 July (noon)	Kyrenia captured	Κατάληψη της Κερύνειας	Kyrenia
22 July, 16:00	First ceasefire	Εκεχειρία	Whole island
23 July	The coup collapses: Sampson resigns, Glafcos Clerides becomes acting president; the junta in Greece falls	Κατάρρευση του πραξικοπήματος	Nicosia, Athens
25–30 July	Geneva Conference (foreign ministers of Greece, Turkey, UK); Geneva Declaration of 30 July	Διάσκεψη της Γενεύης	Geneva
6 August	Despite the ceasefire, Turkish troops take Karavas and Lapithos	Καραβάς, Λάπηθος	West of Kyrenia
14 August 1974	Geneva talks collapse → second phase ("Attila 2")	Β' φάση της εισβολής («Αττίλας 2»)	—
14–16 August	East: Famagusta and the Karpasia peninsula; West: Morphou and Lefka	Αμμόχωστος, Καρπασία, Μόρφου, Λεύκα	East and west of the bridgehead
16 August, 18:00	Ceasefire. The lines recorded by UNFICYP that day are still today's ceasefire lines ; the UN buffer zone lies between them	Εκεχειρία της 16ης Αυγούστου	~180 km, Kato Pyrgos → Dherynia
Result	36.2 % of the Republic occupied — the line Morphou – Nicosia – Famagusta	Γραμμή Μόρφου – Λευκωσίας – Αμμοχώστου	North
15 Nov 1983	Unilateral declaration of the pseudo-state ("TRNC"); declared legally invalid by UNSC resolution 541 (18 Nov 1983)	Ανακήρυξη του ψευδοκράτους	Occupied north

Which phase?

Town / area	Phase
Kyrenia (Κερύνεια)	1st (fell 22 July)
Karavas, Lapithos	Between the phases (6 August)
Famagusta (Αμμόχωστος), Varosha	2nd
Morphou (Μόρφου), Lefka	2nd
Karpasia peninsula (Καρπασία)	2nd

Enclaved (Εγκλωβισμένοι)

Fact	Figure
Greek Cypriots and Maronites who stayed in the north (end of 1974)	~20 000
Where most of them lived	Karpasia (Rizokarpaso, Agia Triada), Kyrenia area, Maronite villages near Morphou (Kormakitis)
Still enclaved today	~330

? Which town fell in the first phase, which in the second? → **Kyrenia – 1st (July); Morphou and Famagusta – 2nd (August)**

? Correct order: capture of Kyrenia → capture of Morphou → pseudo-state (1983) → Annan referendum (2004)

? After the failure of which conference did the second phase begin? → **Geneva**

Key Facts to Remember

Fact	Answer
Date of the invasion	20 July 1974
Territory occupied	36.2% of the territory
Refugees (Greek Cypriots)	~200 000
Missing persons (still unaccounted for)	758 (2025)
Turkish troops	~43 000
Settlers from Turkey	~160 000
Turkish Cypriots who emigrated	more than 57 000 (of 116 000)
Kyrenia	1st phase (fell 22 July)
Morphou, Famagusta	2nd phase (August)
Ceasefire line	16 August 1974
Ghost town	Varosha
Who recognizes the "TRNC"	Only Turkey

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

Cyprus Problem Today

Essence of the Problem

Cyprus remains a divided island. The northern part (36.2%) has been occupied by Turkey since 1974. The international community does not recognize this division.

Negotiations under the Auspices of the UN

All negotiations on the reunification of Cyprus are conducted **under the auspices of the UN**.

? Under whose leadership are the negotiations on the Cyprus problem conducted? → UN

Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General

María Ángela Holguín (Colombia) — appointed by Secretary-General António Guterres in January 2024 and reappointed in May 2025; coordinates the negotiation process on the reunification of Cyprus.

UN Special Representative in Cyprus

Khassim Diagne — hosts the Christodoulides–Erhürman meetings in the buffer zone.

EU Special Representative for the Cyprus problem

Raffaele Fitto (Ραφαέλε Φίτο, Italy), Executive Vice-President of the European Commission — appointed by the Commission on **13 July 2026**. He supports the UN-led process together with María Ángela Holguín. The previous Commission envoy, Johannes Hahn, had resigned.

UN Secretary-General in Cyprus (27–29 July 2026)

António Guterres visited Cyprus — the **first visit by a UN Secretary-General since 2010**. On 28 July he hosted a dinner for Christodoulides and Erhürman in the buffer zone; on **29 July** the three met at the **old Nicosia airport**. Outcome: he will convene **another 5+1 meeting "after adequate preparations"** on confidence-building, methodology and substance. **No date was set** (as of 30 September 2026, no 5+1 meeting had taken place).

Negotiation format: 5+1

Talks are held in the **5+1 format**: Cyprus, Northern Cyprus, the three guarantor states (Greece, Turkey, the United Kingdom) and the UN.

Current state of negotiations (2025–2026)

Tufan Erhürman — new leader of the Turkish Cypriot community

19 October 2025 — Tufan Erhürman (Republican Turkish Party) defeated incumbent Ersin Tatar **62.76% vs 35.81%** in the Turkish Cypriot leadership election. Erhürman supports the resumption of negotiations on reunification (Tatar had backed a "two-state solution").

Christodoulides–Erhürman meetings

Date	Where	Outcomes
11 December 2025	Buffer zone, Nicosia (UN auspices)	First full meeting. Agreed on halloumi PDO exports, more staff at crossings, road widening at Agios Dometios
24 February 2026	UN auspices	"Keep the channel of communication open"; discussion of crossing points and an expanded 5+1 conference
6 April 2026	UN Special Representative's residence in the buffer zone	Described as "productive"; negotiators tasked with advancing the new crossing points
8 May 2026	Buffer zone near Nicosia airport (tête-à-tête, no media)	CBMs and tensions in the buffer zone (incl. Pyla); awaiting an early announcement of an expanded 5+1 meeting
29 July 2026	Old Nicosia airport, with UN Secretary-General Guterres	Guterres will convene a new 5+1 meeting after adequate preparation; no date
26 August 2026	UN Protected Area, Nicosia	Longest meeting so far; agreed to meet once a week ; a civil-society consultative body set up
9 and 17 September 2026	Hosted by the UN Good Offices Mission	Christodoulides tabled 19 points on methodology, substance and CBMs

Confidence-building measures in progress

- **16 April 2026** — Inspections of halloumi producers in the Turkish Cypriot community began for **PDO export across the Green Line** into the EU.
- **13 February 2026** — Erhürman insisted that the **convergences reached at Crans-Montana (2017)** be preserved as the basis for any future negotiations.

UNFICYP

Full name: United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

When established: 1964

Tasks:

- Patrolling the buffer zone
- Preventing incidents
- Humanitarian assistance

Headquarters: Nicosia

“TRNC” — Unrecognized Entity

In 1983, the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (TRNC) was proclaimed in the occupied territory.

Key fact: The “TRNC” is recognized by **no country in the world except Turkey**.

This means:

- No international flights directly to the north
- No embassies of other countries
- Economic isolation

Attempts at Unification

Annan Plan (2004)

What: UN plan for the reunification of Cyprus

Referendum: 24 April 2004

Result:

- Greek Cypriots: **76% against**
- Turkish Cypriots: 65% in favor

The plan was not adopted.

Negotiations in Crans-Montana (2017)

The last major attempt at negotiations. It did not lead to an agreement.

Milestones: UN resolutions and agreements

The official basis for talks: **UN Security Council resolutions + the two High-Level Agreements (1977, 1979).**

Date	What	Greek name	Key point
4 Mar 1964	UNSC resolution 186	Ψήφισμα 186	Created UNFICYP and the UN Secretary-General's good offices
20 Jul 1974	UNSC resolution 353	Ψήφισμα 353	Ceasefire, end of foreign military intervention
14–16 Aug 1974	Second phase of the invasion	Β' φάση της εισβολής	Morphou and Famagusta occupied
1 Nov 1974	UN General Assembly resolution 3212 (unanimous, incl. Turkey)	Ψήφισμα 3212 της Γενικής Συνέλευσης	Withdrawal of foreign troops, return of refugees
12 Feb 1977	1st High-Level Agreement: President Makarios – Rauf Denktash	Συμφωνία Υψηλού Επιπέδου (1977)	Independent, non-aligned, bicommunal federal republic

Date	What	Greek name	Key point
3 Aug 1977	Death of Makarios; successor Spyros Kyprianou	Σπύρος Κυπριανού	—
19 May 1979	2nd High-Level Agreement (10 points): President Spyros Kyprianou – Rauf Denktash	Συμφωνία Υψηλού Επιπέδου (1979)	Human rights, demilitarisation; priority to the return of Famagusta (Varosha) to its inhabitants
15 Nov 1983	Declaration of the pseudo-state ("TRNC")	Ανακήρυξη του ψευδοκράτους	—
18 Nov 1983	UNSC resolution 541	Ψήφισμα 541	Declaration legally invalid , must be withdrawn; no state to recognise any Cypriot state other than the Republic of Cyprus
1984	UNSC resolution 550	Ψήφισμα 550	Reaffirms 541; no recognition or help to the entity; Varosha only for its lawful inhabitants, under UN administration
24 Apr 2004	Separate referendums on the Annan Plan	Δημοψήφισμα για το σχέδιο Ανάν	Greek Cypriots 75.8 % No ; Turkish Cypriots 64.9 % Yes → plan fails
28 Jun – 7 Jul 2017	Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland	Διάσκεψη του Κραν-Μοντανά (Ελβετία)	Ended without result (Turkey insisted on guarantees and troops)

? Who signed the High-Level Agreements? → **1977: Makarios – Denktash; 1979: Kyprianou – Denktash**

? What did resolution 541 (1983) say? → The declaration of the pseudo-state is **legally invalid**

Crossing Points

Since 2003, it has been possible to cross the dividing line through official checkpoints:

Checkpoint	Where	Type
Ledra Street	Nicosia	Pedestrian
Ledra Palace	Nicosia	Car + pedestrian
Agios Dometios (Metehan)	Nicosia	Car
Astromeritis – Zodeia	West of Nicosia	Car
Lefka – Aplici	West (opened 12 Nov 2018)	Car
Kato Pyrgos – Limnitis	North-west (Tillyria)	Car
Deryneia	East, near Famagusta (opened 12 Nov 2018)	Car
Pergamos	British Sovereign Base Area of Dhekelia	Car
Strovilia	British Sovereign Base Area of Dhekelia	Car

Two crossings — **Pergamos** and **Strovilia** — lie inside the British base of Dhekelia (source: UNFICYP).

Important: When crossing, your documents may be checked. Entry into the occupied territory via the ports and airports in the north is **illegal** from the point of view of the Republic of Cyprus.

Proposed new crossings (under discussion 2025–2026)

Since the enlarged meeting in Geneva (March 2025) the formula has been to open **4 new crossings at once**:

- a road between **Athienou** and the Nicosia suburb of **Aglandjia** (via Pyroi), with a crossing at **each end** (2 crossings; Greek Cypriot proposal)
- **Mia Milia** (eastern Nicosia; Turkish Cypriot proposal)
- **Louroujina** (Λουρουτζίνα, north of Larnaca; Turkish Cypriot proposal)

A transit road through **Kokkina** has also been discussed separately.

The Turkish side blocked the Athienou–Aglandjia route in April 2026, citing consultations with the Turkish military. At the meeting with Guterres (29 July 2026) the Greek Cypriot side proposed opening Athienou–Aglandjia and Mia Milia first and leaving Louroujina for later; the Turkish Cypriot side refused to split the package. **No new crossing had opened by 30 September 2026.**

Turkish Troops in Cyprus

In the occupied territory there are ~**43,000** Turkish soldiers — one of the highest concentrations of troops in the world relative to the population.

Position of the International Community

Organization	Position
UN	Resolutions demand withdrawal of troops
EU	EU territory, but the <i>acquis</i> is not applied in the north
USA	Supports negotiations, against partition
Russia	Supports territorial integrity

What to Remember

Fact	Answer
Under whose auspices are the negotiations	UN
Negotiation format	5+1
UN Personal Envoy	María Ángela Holguín (Colombia)
UN Special Representative in Cyprus	Khassim Diagne

Fact	Answer
EU (Commission) Special Representative	Raffaele Fitto (since 13 July 2026)
UN Secretary-General's visit	27–29 July 2026, the first since 2010; a new 5+1 promised "after adequate preparations"
Turkish Cypriot leader (since Oct 2025)	Tufan Erhürman
Christodoulides–Erhürman meetings	11 Dec 2025, 24 Feb, 6 Apr, 8 May, 29 Jul (with Guterres), 26 Aug (weekly from then), 9 and 17 Sep 2026
Proposed new crossings (2025–2026)	Athienou–Aglandjia road (a crossing at each end), Mia Milia, Louroujina — none opened by 30 Sep 2026
Peacekeepers	UNFICYP, since 1964
Who recognizes the "TRNC"	Only Turkey
Annan Plan	2004, rejected by Greek Cypriots
Is it possible to cross the line	Yes, through checkpoints

CULTURE & TRADITIONS

Chapter updated 2 October 2026

Holidays & Traditions of Cyprus

Public Holidays

In Cyprus, **days off** are public and religious holidays. Banks, government offices and most shops are closed.

Special cases

Situation	What is open / closed
Resort areas	Many shops are open even on holidays

? Which day is a public holiday: 15 August or 17 August?
→ **15 August** (Dormition of the Virgin Mary)

Holiday calendar: public, bank and school holidays

Three different lists: **public holidays** (everyone), **bank holidays** (banks, by law) and **school holidays** (Ministry of Education). Dates in brackets are 2026.

Date	Greek name	English	Public	Bank	Schools	Main custom
1 Jan	Πρωτοχρονιά (Αγίου Βασιλείου)	New Year (St Basil)	✓	✓	✓ (break)	Vasilopita; Άγιος Βασίλης brings the presents ; pomegranate at the door
6 Jan	Θεοφάνεια / Φώτα	Epiphany	✓	✓	✓ (break)	The cross is thrown into the sea , young men dive for it; blessing of the waters
30 Jan	Τριών Ιεραρχών — Γιορτή των Γραμμάτων	Three Hierarchs — Feast of Letters	✗	✗	✓ school only	School celebrations
Thursday, 11 days before Clean Monday (12 Feb)	Τσικνοπέμπτη	"Smoky Thursday"	✗	✗	✗	Opens Carnival (Αποκριά) ; meat grilled on the φουκού
Movable, 48 days before Easter (23 Feb)	Καθαρά Δευτέρα	Clean / Green Monday	✓	✓	✓	First day of Lent ; kites, picnics, Lenten food, λαγάνα bread

Date	Greek name	English	Public	Bank	Schools	Main custom
25 Mar	Ευαγγελισμός / Εθνική Επέτειος 1821	Annunciation + Greek Revolution	✓	✓	✓	Parades
1 Apr	Εθνική Επέτειος 1ης Απριλίου 1955	Start of the EOKA struggle (1955)	✓	✓	✓	Parades, wreaths
Movable (10 Apr)	Μεγάλη Παρασκευή	Good Friday	✓	✓	✓ (Easter break)	Epitaphios procession — see Holy Week
Movable (13 Apr)	Δευτέρα της Διακαινησίμου	Easter Monday	✓	✓	✓ (Easter break)	Traditional Easter games
Movable (14 Apr)	Τρίτη της Διακαινησίμου	Easter Tuesday	✗	✓ bank only	✓ (Easter break)	—
23 Apr	Ονομαστήρια του Αρχιεπισκόπου (Αγίου Γεωργίου)	Name day of Archbishop Georgios	✗	✗	✓ school only	Usually 23 Apr. If Easter is on 23 Apr or later, it moves to Easter Monday (2027: 3 May)
1 May	Εργατική Πρωτομαγιά	Labour Day	✓	✓	✓	Picnics, rallies
Movable, 50 days after Easter (1 Jun)	Δευτέρα του Αγίου Πνεύματος — Κατακλυσμός	Whit Monday — Festival of the Flood	✓	✓	✓	Celebrated only in Cyprus ; seaside towns: swimming races, boat races , dances; biggest in Larnaca
11 Jun	Αποστόλου Βαρνάβα	Apostle Barnabas	✗	✗	✓ school only	—
15 Aug	Κοίμηση της Θεοτόκου	Dormition of the Virgin Mary	✓	✓	(summer)	Fixed date; pilgrimages, fairs
1 Oct	Ημέρα της Κυπριακής Ανεξαρτησίας	Cyprus Independence Day	✓	✓	✓	Military parade
28 Oct	Επέτειος του «Όχι»	Ohi Day (1940)	✓	✓	✓	School and military parades
24 Dec	Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων	Christmas Eve	✓	✗ banks open	✓ (break)	Kalanda; shops close by 18:00
25 Dec	Χριστούγεννα	Christmas	✓	✓	✓ (break)	Church, family lunch
26 Dec	Δεύτερη μέρα Χριστουγέννων	Boxing Day	✓	✓	✓ (break)	—

Exam traps

Trap	Answer
Public holiday but not a bank holiday	24 December (Christmas Eve)

Trap	Answer
Bank holiday but not a public holiday	Easter Tuesday (Τρίτη της Διακαινησίμου)
Holiday only for schools	30 Jan (Γιορτή των Γραμμάτων), the Archbishop's name day (23 Apr), 11 Jun (Barnabas), the local saint's day
"Δευτέρα της Διακαινησίμου"	= Easter Monday (the Monday after Easter Sunday)
"Δευτέρα του Αγίου Πνεύματος"	= Whit Monday = Kataklysmos
Movable (depend on Easter)	Clean Monday, Good Friday, Easter Monday/Tuesday, Kataklysmos
Big feast with a fixed date	15 August (Dormition)

? Which of these is a holiday only for schools: 1 October, 25 March, Clean Monday or 30 January?

→ **30 January** (Three Hierarchs — Feast of Letters)

? On which day are banks closed but not on the public-holiday list?

→ **Easter Tuesday**

New Year (1 January)

Vasilopita (Βασιλόπιτα)

New Year's cake with a coin baked inside.

When it is cut: on New Year's Eve or on 1 January

Tradition: The head of the family cuts the cake. The first piece is for Christ, the second for the house, then for the family members in order of seniority. Whoever gets the coin will have good luck all year.

Origin: The legend of Saint Basil the Great (Agios Vasilis o Megas), who returned the people of Caesarea their jewels baked inside loaves of bread.

Other traditions

- **Agios Vasilis** (Άγιος Βασίλης) — the Cypriot Santa Claus, brings gifts to children on New Year's Eve (not at Christmas!)
- Breaking a pomegranate on the doorstep of the house — for good luck
- "Renewing the water" — all jugs in the house are emptied and filled with fresh water

? When is Vasilopita cut?

→ **On New Year's Day (1 January)**

? When do Cypriot children receive presents?

→ **On New Year's Day** (from Agios Vasilis)

Epiphany / Θεοφάνεια (6 January)

The end of the 12 days of Christmas. Celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.

Traditions

Blessing of the waters:

- The priest throws a cross into the sea/river/lake
- Young men dive into the cold water for the cross
- Whoever retrieves it receives a blessing and good luck for the year

Where it takes place: all coastal towns, especially the ports of Larnaka, Limassol, Pafos

Pouloustrina (πουλουστρίνα): children sing carols and receive money from their grandparents

Loukoumades (λουκουμάδες): traditional honey doughnuts — obligatory treat

Kalikandzari: according to folk belief, evil spirits (goblins) who roam during the 12 days of Christmas are driven away with holy water on Epiphany

? What is thrown into the water on Epiphany?
→ **A cross**

? What is the name of the money that children receive on Epiphany?
→ **Pouloustrina**

Clean Monday / Καθαρά Δευτέρα

The first day of Great Lent. Movable date — 48 days before Orthodox Easter (the Monday of the 7th week before Easter).

Name

Also: **Green Monday**, Ash Monday

Traditions

Flying kites:

- The main tradition of the day
- Symbolises the aspiration to God and the beginning of spring
- The sky all over Cyprus is filled with kites

Picnics in nature:

- Families go to the mountains, beaches, parks
- They eat Lenten (fasting) food outdoors

Food:

- **Lagana (λαγάνα)** — special unleavened bread, baked only on this day
- Taramasalata, hummus, tahini
- Octopus, squid, mussels (allowed)
- Olives, vegetables, legumes
- **Forbidden:** meat, dairy products, eggs, fish

? Which bread is baked only on Clean Monday?
→ **Lagana**

? What is the main tradition of Clean Monday?
→ **Flying kites**

25 March — Double Feast

Greek Independence Day

Anniversary of the start of the Greek revolution against the Ottoman Empire (1821)

Annunciation (Ευαγγελισμός)

The Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary the birth of Christ.

Traditions: military and school parades, church services

1 April — Cyprus National Day

Anniversary of the beginning of the liberation struggle of **EOKA** against British colonial rule (1955).

Traditions: parades, laying of wreaths at the monuments to the heroes of EOKA

? What event is commemorated on 1 April in Cyprus?
→ **The start of the EOKA struggle (1955)**

Easter (Πάσχα)

The main religious holiday in Cyprus. More important than Christmas.

Another name: **Lambri (Λαμπρή)** — “Bright” / “Radiant”

Great Lent (Σαρακοστή)

- 40 days before Easter
- No meat, dairy products, eggs

- Many Cypriots keep at least the last week

Holy Week step by step

From Lazarus Saturday to Easter Tuesday (dates in brackets are 2026).

Day	Greek name	What happens
Saturday, 8 days before Easter (4 Apr)	Σάββατο του Λαζάρου	Procession of the icon and relics of St Lazarus in Larnaca (he became the first bishop of Kition); children sing Lazarus carols
Sunday (5 Apr)	Κυριακή των Βαΐων / της Ελιάς	Christ's entry into Jerusalem ; people bring olive branches to church and pin olive/palm crosses on clothes. Opens Holy Week
Mon–Wed	Μεγάλη Δευτέρα – Τετάρτη	Evening services; school Easter break begins
Thursday	Μεγάλη Πέμπτη ("Κόκκινη Πέμπτη")	Eggs are dyed red at home; evening service with the 12 Gospels
Friday (10 Apr)	Μεγάλη Παρασκευή	Public + bank holiday. The Epitaphios is decorated with flowers and carried in procession in the evening (~20:30); women sprinkle it with rose water, bells toll in mourning. Shops close by 18:00
Saturday	Μέγα Σάββατο	Flaounes are kneaded and baked (mostly today; some bake on Thu/Fri). At night, the Resurrection service : "Χριστός Ανέστη!" – "Αληθώς Ανέστη!"; the λαμπρατζιά bonfire burns in the churchyard with an effigy of Judas (children collect the wood all week); after the service families crack red eggs (τσούγκρισμα) saying "Χριστός Ανέστη"
Sunday (12 Apr)	Κυριακή του Πάσχα / Λαμπρή	Souvla, flaounes, red eggs; traditional games in the afternoon. Main archaeological sites and museums are closed only on this day of Holy Week
Monday (13 Apr)	Δευτέρα της Διακαινησίμου	Public + bank holiday; traditional games (egg race αυγουλλοδρομίες, sack race σακκουλοδρομίες, tug of war)
Tuesday (14 Apr)	Τρίτη της Διακαινησίμου	Bank holiday only

Order to remember: **eggs (Thu)** → **Epitaphios (Fri)** → **Resurrection + Lampratzia (Sat night)** → **egg cracking** → **games (Sun–Mon)**.

? Why is Palm Sunday in Cyprus also called "Olive Sunday"?

→ Because people bring **olive branches** to church

? On which day are the Easter eggs dyed red?

→ **Holy Thursday**

Easter night

- Service in church, everyone holds unlit candles
- At midnight the priest proclaims: "**Χριστός Ανέστη!**" (Christ is Risen!)
- Response: "**Αληθώς Ανέστη!**" (Truly He is Risen!)
- Passing of the Holy Fire from candle to candle
- Fireworks all over the island

After midnight

- Breaking the fast: **avgolemono** (αυγολέμονο) — lemon egg soup, or **magiritsa** — lamb offal soup
- **Egg cracking game** (τσούγκρισμα): people tap red eggs against each other; whoever's egg remains uncracked at the end has good luck

Easter Sunday

- **Souvla** (σουβλα) — whole lamb on the spit
- Flaounes, red eggs
- Family feasts, music, dancing
- The celebrations continue until Tuesday

Flaounes (Φλαούνες)

What: Easter pastries with a filling of halloumi, mint, sometimes raisins

Saying: “No flaouna before Easter, no dowry before the wedding”



? With which holiday is the Lampratzia tradition associated?

→ **Easter**

? When are flaounes baked?

→ **Mostly on Holy Saturday** (some families bake on Holy Thursday or Friday)

? What do people proclaim at midnight on Easter?
→ “Χριστός Ανέστη!” (Christ is Risen!)

? What is the main dish of Easter Sunday?
→ **Souvla** (lamb on the spit)

1 May — Labour Day

Holiday of spring and labour. Public holiday.

Traditions:

- Picnics in nature
- Weaving wreaths from wild flowers
- Rallies and demonstrations

Kataklysmos / Κατακλυσμός

What: festival of water, “The Flood”

When: 50 days after Easter (Whit Monday / Pentecost)

Where: especially popular in coastal towns

Origin

- The biblical Flood of Noah
- Saint Lazarus came ashore in Larnaka
- Ancient pagan festivals in honour of Aphrodite (born from sea foam)

Traditions

Splashing with water:

- People pour water over each other in the streets
- Symbol of cleansing and renewal

In Larnaka (the main celebration, for more than 100 years):

- Festival on the Finikoudes seafront
- Fairs, concerts, folk dances
- **Tsiattista (τσιαττιστά)** — improvised poetic duels (on the UNESCO intangible heritage list)
- **Karagiozis (Καρκατζιόζης / Καραγκιόζης)** — traditional shadow puppet theatre
- Boat races, water sports

Treats: loukoumades, soutzoukos (churchkhela), porika (sweets with nuts)

? How many days after Easter is Kataklysmos celebrated?
→ **50 days**

? In which city is the main celebration of Kataklysmos?
→ **Larnaka**

? What are the improvised poetic duels at Kataklysmos called?
→ **Tsiattista**

15 August — Dormition of the Virgin Mary

The third most important feast after Easter and Christmas. Called “**Summer Easter**” or **Dekapentavgoustos** (Δεκαπενταύγουστος).

Preparation

- **1 August:** beginning of a two-week fast (no meat, fish, dairy products)
- **6 August:** Transfiguration of the Lord

Traditions

Pilgrimages:

- Monastery of **Kykkos** (Κύκκος) — the most famous
- Monastery of **Trooditissa** (Τροοδίτισσα)
- Monastery of **Chrysorrogiatissa** (Χρυσorrogiάτισσα)
- **Panagia Chrysospiliotissa** (Παναγία Χρυσόσπηλιώτισσα) in Deftera — cave church

Panigyria (Πανηγύρια):

- Fairs near monasteries and churches
- Folk dances, music
- Loukoumades, siamishi, γλυκά κουταλιού (fruit in syrup)
- Souvla, kleftiko

Name days: Maria (Μαρία), Marios (Μάριος), Panagiotis (Παναγιώτης), Panagiota (Παναγιώτα), Despina (Δέσποινα) — the most common names in Cyprus

? What is the feast of 15 August called?
→ **Dekapentavgoustos** or “**Summer Easter**”

? Which monastery is the most famous pilgrimage site on 15 August?
→ **Kykkos**

1 October — Cyprus Independence Day

Formally: independence was proclaimed on 16 August 1960

Celebration: 1 October — officially designated as Independence Day in 1963 (moved from 16 August to avoid the summer heat)

Traditions:

- Military parades
- Official ceremonies
- Official speeches

? When does Cyprus celebrate Independence Day?

→ **1 October**

? When was the independence of Cyprus proclaimed?

→ **16 August 1960**

28 October — Ohi Day (Όχι)

History

28 October 1940, 3 a.m. The Italian ambassador delivered Mussolini's ultimatum to the Greek Prime Minister **Ioannis Metaxas**: let Axis troops pass through Greece or face war.

Metaxas's reply: "**Όχι!**" (No!)

Greece repelled the Italian invasion and pushed the troops back into Albania. Later Germany occupied Greece.

Meaning

- Symbol of resistance to fascism
- National pride of Greeks and Cypriots
- Winston Churchill: "We will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, we will say that heroes fight like Greeks."

Traditions in Cyprus

- **Military and school parades** in all towns
- The main parade is in Nicosia in front of the Embassy of Greece
- The President reviews the parade
- Church services
- Laying of wreaths

? What does "Ohi" mean?

→ **"No"** in Greek

? To whom did Metaxas say “No”?
→ **Mussolini** (Italy, 1940)

Christmas (Χριστούγεννα)

The second most important religious holiday after Easter. Celebrated on 25 December according to the Revised Julian calendar.

Preparation

- **40-day fast** (from 15 November)
- Decorating houses, Christmas trees, streets
- In villages in the past, a pig was slaughtered on Palm Sunday and sausages were prepared for Christmas

Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων (Christmas Eve — 24 December)

24 December is a public holiday.

Kalanda (κάλαντα):

- Children go from house to house singing Christmas carols
- Tradition dating back to Byzantine times
- They knock on the door: “Να τα πούμε;” (Shall we sing?)
- They receive sweets and small amounts of money
- They accompany themselves with a triangle or accordion

Baking:

- **Christopsomo (Χριστόψωμο)** — “Christ’s bread”, sweet bread with a cross on top
- **Kourabiedes (κουραμπιέδες)** — almond biscuits in icing sugar
- **Melomakarona (μελομακάρονα)** — honey biscuits with cinnamon and nuts

Christmas Day (25 December)

- Morning service in church
- Folk belief: entering the church with the right foot brings good luck
- Family lunch: turkey with rice, raisins and nuts
- End of the fast

12 days of Christmas

From 25 December to 6 January (Epiphany)

Kalikandzari (Καλικάντζαροι):

- Evil spirits/goblins living in the centre of the earth
- They come to the surface only during these 12 days

- They enter through chimneys and cause mischief
- Driven away with holy water on Epiphany
- Protection: red thread, pancakes and sausages on the roof

? What is the name of the Christmas bread?

→ **Christopsomo**

? What are the Christmas carols called?

→ **Kalanda**

? What are the evil spirits active during the 12 days of Christmas called?

→ **Kalikandzari**

? When are gifts given in Cyprus — at Christmas or New Year?

→ **At New Year** (from Agios Vasilis)

Special shop opening hours before holidays

Before Christmas and Easter, shops stay **open longer than usual** — more shopping, gifts, food.

But there are restrictions:

Day	Shops close at
Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων (Christmas Eve, 24 Dec.)	18:00
Παραμονή Πρωτοχρονιάς (New Year's Eve, 31 Dec.)	18:00
Μεγάλη Παρασκευή (Good Friday)	18:00

Key points to remember

Fact	Answer
Main religious holiday	Easter
Bonfires at Easter	Lampratzia
Easter baking	Flaounes (mostly on Holy Saturday)
New Year's cake with a coin	Vasilopita
Cypriot Santa Claus	Agios Vasilis (comes at New Year)
Independence Day	1 October
15 August	Dormition of the Virgin Mary (Dekapentavgoustos)
Festival of water	Kataklysmos (50 days after Easter)
Clean Monday tradition	Flying kites
Clean Monday bread	Lagana

Fact	Answer
Ohi Day	28 October
Christmas bread	Christopsomo
Christmas carols	Kalanda
What is thrown into the water at Epiphany	Cross
Christmas Eve (24 December)	Public holiday, but banks are open
Improvised poetic duels (UNESCO list)	Tsiattista

EVERYDAY LIFE

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

Entry Requirements

Documents for entry

Cyprus is an EU member, but it is **not yet** part of the Schengen Area. This means that entry rules are slightly different from “mainland Europe”.

 **Schengen accession in progress (2026):** In January 2026 the European Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration, **Magnus Brunner**, declared that the Commission “fully supports” Cyprus’s accession and that **the Green Line will not prevent it**. On **15 December 2025** Cyprus and France signed a **Letter of Intent on Schengen** in Paris (reaffirmed on 10 February 2026); France is providing technical expertise on external border management, police cooperation and the new EU Entry/Exit System. Until Cyprus formally joins, current entry rules still apply.

Who can enter

Citizens of the EU, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway – a national photo ID is sufficient. A foreign passport is not mandatory.

All others – a valid foreign passport is required. The following are also accepted:

- UN Laissez-Passer
- Documents for stateless persons and recognised refugees

 “Passports” of the so-called “TRNC” (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) are **not recognised**. Entry with such a document is impossible.

Visas (Βίζα — Visa)

The list of countries whose citizens need a visa: www.mfa.gov.cy

Work visa

If you are coming to work, you do not need a visa. Instead, a **work permit** (Employment Permit) is issued by the Civil Registry and Migration Department.

Legal ports of entry

This is important: entry into Cyprus is possible **only** through points controlled by the Republic of Cyprus.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs lists **9 legal points of entry**: 2 airports, 4 ports, 3 marinas.

Airports (Αεροδρόμια — Aerodromia)

Airport	Greek	Code	Note
Larnaka	Διεθνής Αερολιμένας Λάρνακας	LCA	Main airport
Pafos	Διεθνής Αερολιμένας Πάφου	PFO	Second legal airport

Seaports (Λιμάνια — Limania)

Port	Greek	District	Note
Lemesos	Λιμάνι Λεμεσού	Limassol	Main port of Cyprus — took over after Famagusta port was lost in 1974; cargo and cruise
Larnaka	Λιμάνι Λάρνακας	Larnaca	Second-largest port
Pafos	Λιμάνι Πάφου	Paphos	Ancient harbour by the medieval castle
Latsi	Λιμάνι Λατσιοῦ	Paphos	Small harbour of Polis Chrysochous, at the entrance to Akamas — still a legal port of entry

Marinas (Μαρίνες)

Marina	Greek	Note
Limassol Marina	Μαρίνα Λεμεσού	Limassol bay
Limassol Sheraton marina (St Raphael Marina)	Μαρίνα St. Raphael	Amathus Avenue, Limassol
Ayia Napa Marina	Μαρίνα Αγίας Νάπας	Ayia Napa

Larnaca Marina is also called an official port of entry by the tourism site, but it is not on the Foreign Ministry list. ❌ **Vasilikos** (Larnaca district) is an industrial and energy port — not a passenger point of entry.

Illegal: ports and airports in the occupied area

Place	Greek	Status
Famagusta port	Λιμάνι Αμμοχώστου	Closed port since October 1974; the main port before 1974
Kyrenia port	Λιμάνι Κερύνειας	Closed port since 1974
Karavostasi port	Λιμάνι Καραβοστασίου	Closed port since 1974
Tymbou airport (so-called "Ercan")	Αεροδρόμιο Τύμπου	Illegal airport in the occupied area

The three closed ports — **Famagusta**, **Kyrenia**, **Karavostasi** — were closed by an order of **3 October 1974**. No port, marina or fishing shelter in the occupied area is a legal point of entry. **Nicosia International Airport** has been disused since 1974 — it lies in the UN buffer zone (see *Division & Special Zones*).

❌ **Entry via ports in the occupied territory (Ercan, Famagusta, Kyrenia) is illegal.** This may entail legal consequences.

 **In the exam:** Entry into the Republic of Cyprus is illegal through the port of ... (Limassol, Larnaca, Latsi, Kyrenia)? **Answer:** Kyrenia.

Occupied territories

The Republic of Cyprus is the only internationally recognised state on the island. The northern part has been occupied by Turkey since 1974. UN Security Council resolution **541** (18 November 1983) declared the declaration of the “TRNC” legally invalid and called for its withdrawal; resolution **550** (1984) condemned all secessionist actions, including the exchange of “ambassadors” with Turkey, and attempts to settle Varosha by people other than its inhabitants; the “TRNC” is not recognised by anyone except Turkey.

Crossing the Green Line

Tourists who entered through legal crossing points **may** cross the Green Line and visit the north. But:

- **Hotels** in Greek-Cypriot ownership in the north are being exploited illegally. Staying in them may lead to legal claims from the rightful owners.
- Entering Cyprus **via** the north (for example, arriving at Ercan) is a violation of the law.

Customs (Τελωνείο — Teloneio)

Declaration of cash

If you are carrying **€10,000 or more** (in cash, cheques, gold), you must declare it. This is an EU rule. Failure to declare may result in a fine and possible confiscation.

Imports from non-EU countries

Tobacco (from 17 years old):

Product	Limit
Cigarettes	200 pcs
Cigarillos	100 pcs
Cigars	50 pcs
Tobacco	250 g

Alcohol (from 17 years old):

Type	Limit
Spirits (>22%)	1 l
Fortified wine (port, sherry)	2 l
Still wine	4 l

Type	Limit
Beer	16 l

Other goods:

- Adults: up to **€430**
- Children under 15: up to **€150**

? Can I bring 300 cigarettes from Russia?

No, the limit is 200. You will have to pay duty or leave the excess at customs.

Imports from EU countries

Formally, there are no limits – you are travelling as within one country. But there are indicative limits for “personal use”:

Product	Limit
Cigarettes	800 pcs
Cigarillos	400 pcs
Cigars	200 pcs
Tobacco	1 kg
Spirits	10 l
Fortified wine	20 l
Wine	90 l (of which sparkling – up to 60 l)
Beer	110 l

If you are carrying more, customs may ask you to prove that it is not for sale.

Travelling with animals (Ταξίδι με κατοικίδια — Taxidi me katikidia)

From EU countries

You need one of the following documents:

- **Pet Passport**
- **Animal Health Certificate**

From non-EU countries

Additionally, a **vaccination certificate** is required, especially for rabies.

Banned dog breeds

The following breeds **may not be brought** into Cyprus, regardless of the country of origin:

Breed	Alternative name
American Pit Bull Terrier	Pit Bull

Breed	Alternative name
Japanese Tosa	Tosa Inu
Dogo Argentino	Argentine Mastiff
Fila Brasileiro	Brazilian Mastiff

Transport rules

- The crate must comply with **IATA** standards
- **48 hours** before arrival, inform the district veterinarian of the date, time, and flight number
- At the border, the animal will be examined by a veterinary inspector
- If the documents are in order, quarantine is not required

More details: moa.gov.cy

Prohibited goods

Absolute ban

Category	Examples
Drugs	Any narcotic and psychotropic substances
Weapons	Firearms, automatic weapons, ammunition, switchblades, daggers
Counterfeit goods	Fake clothing, bags, discs, software
Pornography	Obscene materials
Counterfeit money	Fake banknotes

Restrictions

Category	Requirement
Agricultural products	Fruit, vegetables, seeds, seedlings – only with permission from the Department of Agriculture
Meat and dairy products	Raw meat, fish, dairy products from non-EU countries – prohibited
CITES	Ivory products, reptile skins, rare animals and plants – permit required
Antiquities	Export of antiquities – only with permission

 Full list of prohibitions and restrictions: website of the Customs Department of Cyprus.

Key points to remember

Question	Answer
Document for EU citizens	National photo ID

Question	Answer
"TRNC passport"	Not recognised
Legal airports	Larnaka, Pafos
Entry via Ercan	Illegal
Legal points of entry	9: airports Larnaka, Pafos · ports Lemesos, Larnaka, Pafos, Latsi · marinas Limassol, Limassol Sheraton (St Raphael), Ayia Napa
Closed ports since 1974	Famagusta, Kyrenia, Karavostasi
Main port	Lemesos (since 1974)
Cash declaration	€10,000+
Cigarette limit (non-EU)	200 pcs
Spirits limit (non-EU)	1 l
Goods limit (non-EU)	€430 (children – €150)
Banned dog breeds	Pit Bull, Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro
Veterinarian notification	48 hours in advance

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Chapter updated 16 October 2026

Important Events in Cyprus in 2025

Events of 2025 that may appear in the Cyprus culture and politics exam. What has changed since is in [News of 2026](#).

Energy and Gas

Discovery of the Pegasus-1 Field

8 July 2025 — ExxonMobil and QatarEnergy discovered a large gas field in the Pegasus-1 well in block 10 of Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone.

- Location: 190 km southwest of Pafos (Paphos)
- Gas-bearing layer: ~350 meters
- Total reserves of block 10 (Pegasus + Glaucus): 8–9 trillion cubic feet
- Operator: ExxonMobil (60%), QatarEnergy (40%)

In 2026: on 30 June Glaucus and Pegasus were declared commercial.

Gas Export Agreement with Egypt

17 February 2025 — Cyprus, Egypt, Eni and TotalEnergies signed an agreement to export gas from the Cronos field to Europe via Egyptian liquefaction facilities.

- The Cronos field will be connected to the infrastructure of Egypt's Zohr field

In 2026: the final investment decision on Cronos was taken on 28 July; first gas is due in 2028.

Great Sea Interconnector (GSI)

A submarine power cable project to connect Cyprus to the European power grid.

Parameter	Value
Cost	€1.9 billion
Length	1 210 km
Capacity	2 000 MW
Route	Cyprus → Crete → Greece (→ Israel)
EU funding	€657 million

December 2025 — The European Commission included GSI in the list of 8 priority European "energy highway" projects.

In 2026: on 5 August the French group Meridiam took 66% of the project; the energy minister estimates the cable will be finished around the end of 2031.

Launch of the Competitive Electricity Market

1 October 2025 — Historic launch of the Competitive Electricity Market (CEM). For the first time, consumers can choose their electricity supplier.

- 17 market participants (2 producers, 8 suppliers, aggregators)
- 327 MW of renewable energy available for trading
- Trading sessions every 30 minutes
- The private sector has invested €800+ million in RES

Goal: to reduce electricity prices (second highest in the EU) and increase the share of RES.

Maritime Border with Lebanon

26 November 2025 — Cyprus and Lebanon signed a historic agreement on the delimitation of their maritime border in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Details:

- Venue: Baabda Presidential Palace (Lebanon)
- Signatories: Presidents Christodoulides and Joseph Aoun
- Negotiations lasted almost 20 years (since 2007)

Significance:

- Opens the way for oil and gas exploration in disputed blocks
- Reduces legal uncertainty for investors
- Lebanon remains without a maritime border only with Syria
- Strengthens Cyprus's position as a regional energy hub

The agreement is based on the median line, similar to Cyprus's agreements with Egypt and Israel

Visit of the Prime Minister of India

15–16 June 2025 — Narendra Modi made the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus in 23 years.

Key agreements:

- India's support for the IMEC (India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor)
- Plans for joint naval exercises
- Preparation of a Bilateral Defence Cooperation Programme (BDCP)
- Cyprus supported India's bid for permanent membership of the UN Security Council

 Cyprus Tax Reform

The first major tax overhaul in 22+ years. Presented by President Christodoulides on 26 February 2025, approved by Parliament on 22 December 2025 (5 of 6 bills). Effective **1 January 2026**.

Key Changes

Measure	Before	After
Tax-free threshold	€19,500	€22,000
Top rate 35% applies from	€60,001	€72,001
Corporate tax	12.5%	15%
Dividend tax (SDC)	17%	5%
Deemed dividend (DDD)	in effect	abolished (2026+ profits)
Crypto assets	unregulated	8% on gains
Stamp duty	in effect	abolished (with limited exceptions)

Family Benefits (subject to income thresholds)

- **Per child:** €1,000 / €1,250 / €1,500 (1st / 2nd / 3rd+ child) per parent
- **Housing / rent:** up to €2,000 per parent
- **Green investments / EV:** up to €1,000
- **Single parents:** double deductions

 Credit Rating Upgrades

In 2025 all three leading rating agencies upgraded Cyprus's credit rating to the "A" category.

Agency	Rating in 2025
S&P	A-
Fitch	A-
Moody's	A3

Reasons for the upgrade:

- Rapid reduction of public debt (down ~70 p.p. from the 2020 peak)
- Sustained budget surpluses
- Strong labour market
- GDP in 2024: +3.4%

In 2026: on 18 September S&P raised Cyprus to A.

Forest Fires in Limassol

23 July 2025 — The largest fire in Cyprus's history in the Troodos mountains (Limassol district).

Consequences:

- 2 fatalities
- ~125 km² of burnt area
- 43 houses completely destroyed
- 29 houses seriously damaged
- 10 countries sent assistance

4 August 2025 — Christodoulides requested a team of experts from the USA to investigate the fires.

Defence and Security

Women in the National Guard

3 April 2025 — The House of Representatives passed a law allowing women to serve voluntarily in the Cyprus National Guard.

Arrest of an Iranian Spy

21 June 2025 — In Cyprus, a British citizen of Azerbaijani origin was arrested on suspicion of spying for Iran.

- The suspect conducted surveillance of the RAF Akrotiri base (the UK's largest base in the Middle East)
- Also monitored the National Guard air base in Pafos (Paphos)
- Linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
- Israel confirmed that a terrorist attack against Israelis in Cyprus had been prevented

Extension of the Lifting of the US Arms Embargo

October 2025 — The USA extended the suspension of the arms embargo on Cyprus for another year (until 30 September 2026).

- The embargo was imposed in 1987
- Fully lifted in 2022
- Requires annual certification by the State Department
- Conditions: combating money laundering and banning Russian warships from entering ports

In 2026: the lifting was extended for another year, from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.

Space and Defence Industry

Creation of the Defence and Space Industry Cluster

15 December 2025 — The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KEVE) and the Cyprus Research and Innovation Enterprises Association (CRIEA) announced the creation of an autonomous Cyprus Defence and Space Industry Cluster (CyDSIC).

Goals:

- Uniting companies, research centres and universities
- Development of dual-use technologies
- Attracting foreign investment
- Participation in European Defence Fund (EDF) and European Space Agency (ESA) programmes

Context: Cyprus is seeking to join ESA as an associate member and is developing its 2025–2030 space strategy.

COSPAR 2025 Symposium

3–7 November 2025 — Cyprus hosted the 6th COSPAR Scientific Symposium (Committee on Space Research) in Nicosia.

- Theme: "Space research 2025: humanity's challenges and celestial solutions"
- Participants from 20+ countries: heads of space agencies, researchers, industry representatives
- Held under the auspices of the Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation (CSEO)

Elections in Northern Cyprus

19 October 2025 — Presidential elections in the unrecognised Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Candidate	Result	Position
Tufan Erhürman	62.76%	✅ Winner
Ersin Tatar	35.81%	Incumbent president

Significance:

- Erhürman (Republican Turkish Party) supports the resumption of negotiations on the reunification of the island
- Tatar supported a "two-state solution" in line with Turkey's policy
- Christodoulides welcomed the election result and expressed readiness for negotiations

Negotiations on the Cyprus Issue

Informal Summit in Geneva

17–18 March 2025 — UN Secretary-General António Guterres held an informal 5+1 meeting in Geneva.

Participants:

- Cyprus: President Christodoulides
- Northern Cyprus: Ersin Tatar
- Guarantor states: Greece, Turkey, United Kingdom
- EU representative

Outcomes:

- The parties agreed on confidence-building measures
- A next meeting was scheduled (held in July in New York)
- Guterres announced the appointment of a Personal Envoy — María Ángela Holguín (Colombia)

Tripartite Meeting with Erhürman

11 December 2025 — First full meeting between Christodoulides and the new Turkish Cypriot leader Erhürman, mediated by the UN.

Agreements:

- Resolution of the issue of halloumi exports from Turkish Cypriot producers to the EU (by the end of January 2026)
- Increase of staff at crossing points
- Road widening at the Agios Dometios crossing point
- Possibility to arrange insurance and vehicle inspection at the Astromeritis and Derinya (Deryneia) checkpoints

Joint statement: "The real goal is a solution of the Cyprus problem with political equality, as described in UN Security Council resolutions."

In 2026: the halloumi deadline (31 January) was missed; inspections of Turkish Cypriot producers began on 16 April 2026.

Larnaka — European Capital of Culture 2030

11 December 2025 — Larnaka was officially selected as European Capital of Culture 2030.

Details:

- Won in the final competition against Limassol
- Decision made by a panel of 12 experts
- Larnaka will share the title with Leuven (Belgium) and Nikšić (Montenegro)
- State funding increased from €6 to €10 million

- Melina Mercouri Prize: €1.5 million from the Creative Europe programme

Programme motto: "Common Ground" — culture as a means of bringing people together.

Context: This is the second time Cyprus has hosted the title (the first was Pafos in 2017).

Larnaka Port and Marina

Project history:

- May 2024 — Termination of the concession with Kition Ocean Holdings (Israeli–Cypriot consortium)
- January 2025 — Management of the port transferred to the Cyprus Ports Authority, of the marina to CMMI

Status at the end of 2025:

- Greek fund HRADF appointed as adviser on the master plan
 - Dredging works underway in the marina
 - Budget for marina upgrade: €1.5 million
 - Agreement with HRADF signed in May 2025
-

EuroBasket 2025

28 August — 14 September 2025 — For the first time in history, Cyprus became a host country of the European Basketball Championship.

Details:

- Co-hosts: Finland, Latvia, Poland
- Arena: Spyros Kyprianou Arena (Limassol) — 8 000 seats
- Group C: Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Italy, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Cyprus is the smallest country in the tournament's history to host the championship

Important: Cyprus made its debut in the EuroBasket final stage (qualifying for the first time as a host nation).

Amalthea Humanitarian Corridor

Cyprus became a key hub of the maritime humanitarian corridor for delivering aid to Gaza.

Year 2025:

- August — Resumption of the corridor's operation, dispatch of 1 200 tonnes of aid
- October — The President presented a 6-point plan for the reconstruction of Gaza
- The corridor carried food, construction materials and shelters

Partners: EU, UAE, USA, United Kingdom, UNOPS

Presidency of the Council of the EU

In 2025 Cyprus prepared for its Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which it held **from 1 January to 30 June 2026** (6 months). It was Cyprus's second presidency (the first was in 2012). On 1 July 2026 the presidency passed to Ireland.

The motto, priorities and results are in [News of 2026](#).

Earthquake in Pafos

12 November 2025 — An earthquake of magnitude 5.3 in the Pafos (Paphos) area. Several buildings were damaged, no casualties.

Brief Chronology of 2025

Date	Event
17 February	Gas agreement with Egypt on Cronos
26 February	Announcement of tax reform
17–18 March	Informal summit on Cyprus in Geneva
3 April	Law on women in the army
15–16 June	Modi's visit
21 June	Arrest of Iranian spy
8 July	Discovery of Pegasus-1 field
23 July	Fires in Troodos
28 August – 4 September	EuroBasket 2025 (group in Limassol)
1 October	Launch of the competitive electricity market
19 October	Elections in Northern Cyprus
3–7 November	COSPAR Symposium in Nicosia
12 November	Earthquake in Pafos
26 November	Maritime border agreement with Lebanon
11 December	Larnaka — European Capital of Culture 2030
11 December	Tripartite meeting Christodoulides–Erhürman
15 December	Creation of the defence/space industry cluster
December	GSI included in EU priorities

Possible Exam Questions

1. Which gas field was discovered in July 2025?
2. With which country did Cyprus sign a gas export agreement in February 2025?
3. Who won the elections in Northern Cyprus in October 2025?
4. When did Cyprus hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU?
5. Which Prime Minister visited Cyprus in June 2025?
6. What is the Great Sea Interconnector?
7. What happened on 23 July 2025 in the Limassol area?
8. What are the main changes introduced by the 2025 tax reform?
9. What is the Amalthea humanitarian corridor?
10. What law was adopted on 3 April 2025 regarding the National Guard?
11. With which country did Cyprus sign a maritime border agreement on 26 November 2025?
12. Which city was chosen as European Capital of Culture 2030?
13. What is CyDSIC and when was it created?
14. When was the competitive electricity market launched in Cyprus?
15. Who is the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Cyprus?
16. Which international space forum took place in Nicosia in November 2025?
17. When did the first meeting between Christodoulides and Erhürman take place?
18. What rating did Cyprus receive from S&P, Fitch and Moody's in 2025?
19. Which major basketball tournament did Cyprus host in 2025?
20. Which guarantor states participate in the negotiations on Cyprus?

ABOUT THE EXAM

Chapter updated 14 October 2026

The Cyprus Culture Exam 2026

What is the Cyprus Culture Exam and who needs it?

Official name: **Examinations for Certification of Sufficient Knowledge of Basic Elements of the Contemporary Political and Social Reality of Cyprus for Third Country Nationals.**

The exam checks your knowledge about Cyprus: history, geography, state, culture. It is required to obtain long-term resident status or Cyprus citizenship.

The goal of the exam is to assess how active and engaged the candidate is as a member of society in the public and private life of Cyprus.

When does the exam take place?

The next exam is Saturday 21 November 2026. Registration for it closed on **12 October 2026**; the next window is **11–18 January 2027**, for the 6 March 2027 sitting. The exact start time will be announced once the Ministry knows how many people applied.

Since September 2026 the exam is held **three times a year** — it used to be twice, and the Ministry's stated reason for the change is the increased number of applicants: the February 2024 results list had 514 candidates, the March 2026 one 2,916 (our count from the lists). In 2027 the sittings are in March, July and November. It is in-person, in examination centers throughout Cyprus (usually schools in the Nicosia district).

Exam dates 2026–2027

Every sitting is on a Saturday. From November 2026 on, each registration window is only eight days — Monday to Monday inclusive — and opens about seven weeks before the exam.

Exam date	Registration	Status
7 March 2026	—	Results came out on 20 May 2026
4 July 2026	19 May – 2 June 2026	Results came out on 4 September 2026, certificates were handed out 7–10 September (lists, collection schedule and authorisation form)
21 November 2026	5 – 12 October 2026	Next — registration closed
6 March 2027	11 – 18 January 2027	Next registration window, how to register
3 July 2027	17 – 24 May 2027	
20 November 2027	4 – 11 October 2027	

Sources: [Ministry announcement of 22 September 2026](#) (November 2026) and the [Examination Service's annual schedule for 2027](#)

How to register for the Cyprus Culture Exam?

⚠ **Registration for 21 November 2026 is closed (the window was 5–12 October). The next window is 11–18 January 2027, for the 6 March 2027 sitting.** Every window is only eight days, Monday to Monday, so do not leave it: miss it and you wait for the next one (dates in the table above).

The steps:

1. Go to the website jccsmart.com (invoice no. 7320) — *payment is unavailable outside the window*
2. Pay the fee — **20 euros**
3. In the ID field enter your ARC or passport number — **exactly as it appears on the document**
4. A few days (sometimes three weeks) before the exam, an email from [\[email protected\]](#) brings your candidate number, the time and the venue

More detail: [Exam registration](#)

In which language is the exam conducted?

The exam is conducted **in Greek**. This is a separate exam from Greek language certification — here only knowledge about Cyprus is tested.

Everything is in Greek: the questions, the answer options (labelled Α, Β, Γ, Δ) and, in candidates' experience, often the invigilators too. The rules do not allow you to ask them what a question means.

How long is the exam and what is the format?

Parameter	Value
Duration	45 minutes
Format	Multiple-choice questions
Number of questions	25 — the same at every sitting since 2024 (Cyprus Mail on the 4 July 2026 sitting); the Ministry does not publish the count in advance

What to bring (passport or ID, candidate card, blue pen), when the doors close and how to circle and change answers on the answer sheet: [Exam day](#).

What is the pass mark?

The pass mark depends on the purpose of taking the exam:

Purpose	Pass mark
Long-term resident	50%
Naturalization (citizenship)	60%

How to find out the exam results?

- Results are published on the website of the Examination Service by candidate number — roughly 2–2.5 months after the exam date, judging by 2026
- Successful candidates collect the certificate in person at the Examination Service office on an assigned day (details in [Exam results](#))

What topics are on the exam?

According to the [official document of the Examination Service](#), the Cyprus Culture Exam covers the following thematic sections:

Topic	What it includes
Current events	Important and widely known events concerning Cyprus
Modern history	Important events from 1960 onwards
Customs and traditions	Morals, customs, events, traditional products
Geography of Cyprus	Districts (eparchies), cities, geographical features
State structure	Political system, branches of power, parties, ministers, party leaders
Economy	Sectors of development
Entry conditions	Requirements for entering Cyprus
Telecommunications	Communications in Cyprus
Weather and climate	Climatic characteristics of the island
Languages and religions	Official languages and faiths
Currency and exchange	Monetary system
Working hours and holidays	Working schedule and official holidays
Health and safety (Υγεία και Ασφάλεια)	Medical care, pharmacies, emergency numbers
Transport	Means of transport in Cyprus

A footnote to the list says the topics cover **basic information, not detailed knowledge**, and points candidates to the Deputy Ministry of Tourism's visitcyprus.com, which has material on most of them, and not only in Greek. In practice the 4 July 2026 exam went into detail — see [What changed](#).

What questions are asked in the exam?

The exam consists of two types of questions:

Stable questions — geography, constitution, history. They do not change for years.

Variable questions — names of ministers, new projects, current events. They often concern well-known public figures, important dates, holidays, political and social issues.

Sample questions from the 2026 exams

Real questions from the 7 March and 4 July 2026 papers, in our translation. In the exam they are in Greek and the options are labelled A, B, Γ, Δ. The correct answer is in bold.

Geography — [Districts & Cities](#), [Division & special zones](#), [Picturesque Villages](#):

- In which district is the Cape Greco forest park? — **Famagusta** · Limassol · Larnaca · Paphos
- Which of these municipalities is in the occupied areas? — Agios Athanasios · Athienou · **Akanthou** · Aradippou
- The villages of Kakopetria and Galata are in the region of ... — Marathasa · **Solea** · Pitsilia · Tillyria

Holidays and traditions — [Holidays & celebrations](#):

- Which of these dates is NOT an official public holiday? — **1 December** · 1 April · 1 May · 1 October
- Cypriots celebrate Theophany (Epiphany) with ... — **the blessing of the waters and diving for the Cross** · flags decorating the towns · a trip to the countryside with Lenten food · traditional village games

State and institutions — [Government structure](#):

- Which of these is NOT a power of the House of Representatives? — revising the Constitution · approving the budget · **appointing the Attorney General** · passing laws
- What does the acronym A.TH.K. stand for? — Cyprus Television Authority · **Cyprus Telecommunications Authority** · Cyprus Telephones Authority · Cyprus Viewership Authority
- The Cyprus University of Technology (TEPIAK) is based in ... — Nicosia · Larnaca · **Limassol** · Paphos

About one question in four, like the two with NOT above, asks for the option that is **false** — how to spot them is in [How to prepare](#).

Frequently asked questions

Is the payment on JCC the registration itself?

Yes, payment on JCC is full registration for the exam. You do not need to register anywhere else. After payment just wait for the email with details.

I didn't receive confirmation after payment. Is that normal?

Yes, that's normal: apart from the card charge, there is no confirmation. The email with your candidate number, exam place and time comes later — a few days, sometimes three weeks, before the exam — from [\[email protected\]](#). Check your spam folder.

What do I bring to the exam?

Your passport or ID card, your candidate card (Δελτίο Υποψηφίου) with the invitation letter, and a blue pen. Phones, pencils, erasers and correction fluid are not allowed, and nobody is let in once 20 minutes have passed from the start. Details in [Exam day](#).

How much time is needed to prepare?

It depends on your level of Greek. With level A1+ we recommend learning specific vocabulary and practicing answering questions from past exams — for example, in the Hallouminati bot or app.

How long does it take to get the results?

Longer than most people expect: roughly 2–2.5 months, judging by 2026. The 7 March sitting got its results on 20 May 2026, and the 4 July sitting on 4 September 2026. Certificate collection starts a few days after publication. Lists, the collection schedule and how to collect by proxy are in [Exam results](#).

How long is the certificate valid?

The certificate is **valid indefinitely**.

Is it possible to pass without knowing Greek?

The exam is entirely in Greek. We know of cases when people passed with level A0 (they knew basic words and could read), but this is more a matter of luck. There is a lot of specific vocabulary in the exam — names of state bodies, historical terms, geographical objects. You definitely need to learn this vocabulary in advance.

How many people pass on the first attempt?

In our survey after the 7 March 2026 sitting, about **82%** of users who had prepared with the Hallouminati app passed at the level needed for citizenship (60%). The figure is for that sitting only.

Where can I get study materials?

We recommend our guide at hallouminati.app/cyprus-guide — it contains all the necessary materials to prepare for the exam.

💬 Still have questions? Ask them in our Telegram community — [Cyprus Culture Exam](#) — where other candidates share their experience and help each other out.

How to prepare for the exam?

A detailed preparation plan with tips on learning vocabulary, practicing on past exams, and tracking current events can be found in the section of our guide **“How to prepare for the exam”**.

See also: [Registration](#) · [Exam day](#) · [Results](#) · [How to prepare](#) · [PR vs citizenship](#) · [History exam](#) · [Greek language exam](#)

Chapter updated 14 October 2026

How to prepare for the Cyprus Culture exam?

There is **no single official book** for the Cyprus Culture Exam. Instead, the Ministry of Education publishes the **exam material (topic list)** at the end of each year, and you study those topics from any reliable source. The Ministry itself, in a footnote to the list, points candidates to the Deputy Ministry of Tourism's visitcyprus.com and says only basic information is expected, not detailed knowledge. The 4 July 2026 exam showed otherwise: the questions went into detail (**what changed**). This Hallouminati guide is the structured equivalent of a "book": it covers every exam topic, plus exam vocabulary and past-exam questions in the app. Below is a five-step plan to pass.

Is there an official book or textbook?

No. People often search for "the Cyprus culture exam book," but the Ministry does not sell or mandate a textbook — it only publishes the official topic list (linked above) and announces the dates and material at the end of each year. To prepare you need three things, all of which this guide and the [Hallouminati](#) app provide: (1) the facts behind each topic, (2) the Greek exam vocabulary, and (3) practice on past-exam questions. See also [About the Cyprus Culture Exam](#) for format and dates.

Preparation plan

1. Learn the basic facts about Cyprus

Study all the topics presented in this guide:

- Geography and climate
- History (from antiquity to the present day)
- Culture and traditions
- System of government
- Relations with the EU
- Everyday life in Cyprus

All the necessary facts for the exam are collected in the sections of this guide.

2. Learn the vocabulary

Memorise the Greek terms related to the system of government, history, and culture.

The “Hallouminati” bot has 2,400+ words from the exam questions in the “**Dictionary**” section, where you can easily practise them using interactive exercises.

3. Work through past exams

Practising with real questions helps you:

- Get used to the exam format
- Understand which topics appear most often
- Memorise specific facts and figures

- Identify gaps in your knowledge

Past exams and current questions are available in the “Hallouminati” bot.

⚠️ “Which is wrong?” questions: λανθασμένη, δεν ισχύει, ΔΕΝ

About one question in four in the 2026 papers asks for the option that is **not** true. Spot them by the end of the stem:

Greek stem	Meaning	You pick
«Ποια από τις ακόλουθες πληροφορίες ... είναι λανθασμένη ;»	Which information is wrong?	the one false statement
«Ποια από τις ακόλουθες δηλώσεις δεν ισχύει ;»	Which statement is not true?	the one false statement
«Ποιο από τα πιο κάτω δεν ...;» · «Τι ΔΕΝ ισχύει ...;»	Which of these does not ...?	the odd one out
«Ποια από τις ακόλουθες πληροφορίες ... είναι σωστή ;»	Which information is correct?	the one true statement

How to answer:

1. Read the last word of the stem first: **λανθασμένη** / **δεν** / **ΔΕΝ** → find the false one; **σωστή** → find the true one.
2. Mark each option true or false. The answer is the one that differs from the other three.
3. The false statement is usually a true fact with one detail swapped: a date (16 August ↔ 1 October), a place, a number (56 ↔ 80 seats), a look-alike word (προεδρική ↔ προεδρευόμενη).

4. Follow the news

Track current events in Cyprus over the last 6 months before the exam. Read more about this below.

5. Read the exam-day rules

Nobody is let in once 20 minutes have passed from the start, you may write only in blue pen, and only answers circled on the answer sheet count. What to bring and how to change an answer: **Exam day**.

Useful tip

You can learn the vocabulary used in the exam and practise with past questions and current tasks using the “**Hallouminati**” bot on Telegram.

Preparing for questions about current events

Recommendation: 1–2 weeks before the exam, actively follow the news.

Typical questions about current events

In exams they often ask:

Diplomatic visits

“Which country’s prime minister visited Cyprus in [month/year]?”

How to prepare: follow the news about visits of world leaders over the last 6 months.

Cyprus problem

“Who is currently the UN Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy on Cyprus?”

How to prepare: the name may change from one exam to another.

New laws and initiatives

“What measures has the government taken to address [a problem]?”

Example: 14 desalination units to tackle water shortages.

What to track before the exam

Presidency of the Council of the EU

 **Cyprus held the Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2026;** Ireland has held it since 1 July.

It was the biggest topic of the July 2026 exam. By November it is a past event, but it can still come up:

- The **motto**: “An Autonomous Union. Open to the World.”
- The five priorities (especially **Article 42(7)** — EU mutual defence)
- The **23–24 April 2026** historic informal meeting of EU heads of state and government in Nicosia (first ever)
- Schengen progress (Commissioner **Magnus Brunner**, January 2026)

 When did Cyprus hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU? → 1 January – 30 June 2026

 What is the motto of the Cyprus Presidency? → “An Autonomous Union. Open to the World.”

Members of the European Parliament

After the 2024 elections, the composition has changed. The current names are presented in the corresponding section of the guide.

Ministers and officials

The names of ministers may change when the government is reshuffled. Current information is presented in the “System of government” section.

Sources of up-to-date information

Source	Link
Government Press and Information Office	www.pio.gov.cy
Cyprus News Agency	www.cna.org.cy
Cyprus Mail	www.cyprus-mail.com
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	www.mfa.gov.cy
European Commission on Cyprus	ec.europa.eu
Telegram channel in Russian	Кипр - Коротко по делу

Sample questions from past exams

These types of questions are repeated:

Visits:

- “The prime minister of [country] visited Cyprus on [date]”
- “Which world leader met with the President of Cyprus recently?”

Projects:

- “Which project will connect the power systems?” → Great Sea Interconnector
- “How many desalination units were purchased?” → 14

Positions:

- “Who is the Minister of [something]?”
- “Who is the Government Spokesperson?”

Tip on priorities

Do not try to memorise everything. Focus on:

1. **Major events** (visits of heads of state, important decisions)
2. **Dates and numbers** (2026 — presidency, 14 — desalination units)
3. **Names of key figures** (President, ministers)

Stable facts to memorise

Fact	Answer
Presidency of the Council of the EU	1 January – 30 June 2026
Presidency motto	"An Autonomous Union. Open to the World."
EU mutual-defence clause	Article 42(7)
Cypriot EU Commissioner / portfolio	Costas Kadis — Fisheries and Oceans

Fact	Answer
UN Personal Envoy on Cyprus	María Ángela Holguín (Colombia)
Leader of the Turkish Cypriot community (since Oct 2025)	Tufan Erhürman
Negotiation format	5+1
Great Sea Interconnector	Cyprus–Greece–Israel, 1,210 km, 2,000 MW, €1.9 bn
Mobile desalination units	14 (from the UAE)
Cyprus talks	Under the auspices of the UN
European Capital of Culture 2030	Larnaca (motto "Common Ground")

⚠ To prepare for questions about the very latest events, follow the news for 1–2 weeks before the exam — and read the **"News of 2026"** chapter (c7_4) in this guide before the next sitting (21 November 2026).

FAQ

Is there an official book for the Cyprus Culture Exam?

No. The Ministry of Education neither publishes nor prescribes a textbook — it only releases the **official exam topic list** at the end of each year. This Hallouminati guide covers those same topics and is the structured equivalent of a "book".

How long does it take to prepare?

It depends on your Greek and on how much you already know about Cyprus. At level A1+, plan for 1–2 months of regular study: the facts topic by topic, then the exam vocabulary, then past-exam questions. Work back from the sitting date: the next exam is **21 November 2026** (registration for it is closed), then 6 March 2027, with registration 11–18 January. Since September 2026 the exam runs three times a year.

Do I need Greek to pass the exam?

The exam is in Greek, but it is multiple-choice, not an essay. You mainly need to recognise the exam vocabulary and the way questions are phrased. The separate **Greek language exam** is a different requirement and is needed for citizenship.

Where can I find past exam questions?

Past questions with answers are collected in the **Hallouminati** app and bot, and samples are in this guide and on the **exam questions page**. Working through old questions is the fastest way to learn the format.

Hallouminati has over 1,000 questions — do I need to learn them all?

No. The app serves questions by importance, not at random, so you see what matters most first:

- **First:** questions from past exams and key facts.
- **Then:** the other important topics.

- **Rare facts:** only after you have covered about 70% of the core questions in a topic, and at most 3 per 25-question practice exam.
- **Harder versions** of a fact ("which is NOT true", "fill in the blank") appear only after you have answered the original question correctly.

Questions you get wrong come back more often, and past-exam questions repeat more often than the rest.

Do I need to follow Cyprus news before the exam?

Yes. Some questions are "variable": current ministers, the EU Commissioner, ongoing negotiations, major projects. Skim the news for 1–2 weeks before the exam and read the "News of 2026" chapter in this guide.

What score do I need to pass?

≥ 50% for long-term resident status (PR) and ≥ 60% for citizenship — see [PR vs citizenship](#) for details.

💬 Still have questions? Ask in our Telegram community — [Cyprus Culture Exam](#), where other candidates share their experience and help each other.

See also: [About the Cyprus Culture Exam](#) · [Exam registration](#) · [Exam results](#)

Chapter updated 14 October 2026

Cyprus Culture Exam Registration — 6 March 2027

Registration for the **21 November 2026** sitting is closed: the window ran from 5 to **12 October 2026**. The next window runs from **Monday 11 January** to **Monday 18 January 2027** inclusive, for the **6 March 2027** sitting. Registration is **online only**: paying the €20 invoice on JCC Smart is the registration — there is no separate application form.

⚠ You cannot pay outside the window. Each window is only eight days, Monday to Monday. If you paid by 12 October, you are registered for 21 November — your candidate number arrives by email a few days before the exam.

How to register, step by step

1. Open the Examination Service invoice on JCC Smart: jccsmart.com/businesses/35000587/pay/7320.
2. Fill in the candidate details: **first and last name, father's name** (a patronymic works too), **ID field — your ARC or passport number, email** and phone.
3. Pay the **€20** by card. This is the only payment channel and the only way to register.
4. Keep the payment confirmation.
5. A few days before the exam (sometimes three weeks) you will get an email from **** with your **candidate number, the time and the exact venue** (usually a school in the Nicosia district). That number is what you later check the **results** against.

⚠ Your details must match your passport or ID exactly. The Ministry calls this out specifically: the same data is used to print your certificate and to tell you which examination centre you are in. A misspelled name is a problem at collection time.

Note: apart from the card charge, there is no confirmation right after payment. The details email comes closer to the exam date — that is normal; keep an eye on your spam folder.

When registration opens

Since September 2026 the Ministry runs the exam **three times a year** instead of twice, citing the increased number of applicants. The registration window opens about seven weeks before the sitting and lasts eight days, Monday to Monday inclusive.

Sitting	Registration
4 July 2026	19 May – 2 June 2026 — closed, results published
21 November 2026	5 – 12 October 2026 — closed
6 March 2027	11 – 18 January 2027 — next window
3 July 2027	17 – 24 May 2027
20 November 2027	4 – 11 October 2027

Sources: [Ministry announcement of 22 September 2026](#) (November 2026) and the [Examination Service's annual schedule for 2027](#). The Ministry also issues a separate announcement before each sitting — the payment link has changed before, so check it against that.

| Paid? What to do before the exam

Once registration closes there are almost six weeks left until the exam. Spend them preparing:

- work through the [preparation plan](#) — facts, vocabulary, past questions, current affairs;
- read [what to bring and how to fill in the answer sheet](#) in advance: nobody is let in once 20 minutes have passed from the start;
- work out which pass mark applies to you — [PR or citizenship](#);
- learn the exam vocabulary and answer questions from past sittings.

The [Hallouminati](#) app and bot are built for this: 2,400+ words from the exam questions in the vocabulary trainer and questions from past sittings.

| FAQ

When is the next registration window?

From Monday **11 January** to Monday **18 January 2027** inclusive, for the 6 March 2027 sitting. Registration for 21 November 2026 closed on 12 October 2026.

Where do I register for the Cyprus culture exam?

Only on JCC Smart, by paying Examination Service invoice no. 7320 (€20) — [direct link](#). There is no separate registration form: the payment is the registration.

How much does registration cost?

€20, paid online on JCC Smart.

What goes in the ID field?

Your ARC (Alien Registration Certificate) number or your passport number — exactly as it appears on the document.

I didn't get a confirmation after paying. Is that normal?

Yes. The email with your candidate number, venue and time comes later — a few days, sometimes three weeks, before the exam — from [\[email protected\]](#).

Can I register after the window closes?

No. You have to wait for the next sitting. From 2026 the exam runs three times a year; the next window is 11–18 January 2027 (all dates in the table above).

How many times a year is the exam held?

Since September 2026, **three times a year**. It used to be twice. The Ministry's stated reason is the increased number of applicants.

💬 Still have questions? Ask them in our Telegram community — [Cyprus Culture Exam](#) — where other candidates share their experience.

See also: [About the Cyprus culture exam](#) · [Exam day](#) · [Results](#) · [How to prepare](#)

Chapter updated 14 October 2026

Cyprus Culture Exam Results — 4 July 2026 sitting

Results for the 4 July 2026 sitting were published on Friday 4 September 2026 — the [official Examination Service list](#) (a 17-page PDF of candidate numbers only, no names). Certificates are handed out 7–10 September 2026 at Megaron 23 (Μεγάρων 23), 2032 Strovolos – Nicosia, Room 5, ground floor — on the day and time assigned to your band of candidate numbers. You can collect in person (with your ID card, passport or original ARC) or send someone else with a handwritten authorisation form.

Where to check the 4 July 2026 results

The results are published as a single PDF: the [4 July 2026 results list](#). It contains **candidate numbers only** — no names, and no individual marks.

One document covers **both rooms** of that day — the 09:00 and the 11:00 sitting: the papers were different, but the results were published together.

Once you open the PDF, look for your number in one of three sections:

Section heading in the PDF	What it means	Pages
ΕΠΙΤΥΧΙΑ ΜΕ ΒΑΘΜΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΥΤΕΡΟ Ή ΙΣΟ ΤΟΥ 60%	Passed with 60% or more — enough for both citizenship and PR	1–8
ΕΠΙΤΥΧΙΑ ΜΕ ΒΑΘΜΟ ΜΕΓΑΛΥΤΕΡΟ Ή ΙΣΟ ΤΟΥ 50% ΚΑΙ ΜΙΚΡΟΤΕΡΟ ΤΟΥ 60%	Passed with 50–59.9% — enough for PR, not for citizenship	9–11
ΑΠΟΤΥΧΙΑ	Failed (below 50%)	12–17

Your exact mark is not published — only the section you fall into. There is usually no separate result email either: you check the list yourself.

How to find your candidate number

Your candidate number is in the **original email from the Examination Service** sent a few days before the exam, with the date, time, venue and your number. It is the only way to find yourself in the list, because names are not published.

If you no longer have that email, check your spam folder and search for mail from ****. Otherwise the only way to recover the number is through the [Examination Service](#) itself.

How many people passed the 4 July 2026 exam

The official list contains **2,861 candidate numbers**. The Ministry does not publish summary statistics, so the figures below are our own count of the numbers in the published PDF:

Result	Candidates	Share
≥ 60% — enough for citizenship and PR	1,275	44.6%
50–59.9% — enough for PR only	530	18.5%
< 50% — failed	1,056	36.9%
Total in the list	2,861	100%

So **1,805 candidates** — **63.1%** cleared the PR threshold (≥ 50%). Candidate numbers ran up to 3268 while the list holds 2,861 of them, which suggests roughly 400 registered candidates did not sit the exam.

How the pass rate changed, 2024–2026

The Ministry has never published summary statistics for any sitting. We counted the numbers in each of the six official results lists:

Sitting	Candidates in the list	≥ 60%	50–59.9%	< 50%
3 February 2024	514	97.1%	2.1%	0.8%
6 July 2024	1,072	81.3%	9.6%	9.0%
8 February 2025	1,401	74.1%	13.5%	12.4%
5 July 2025	1,999	75.2%	11.5%	13.4%
7 March 2026	2,916	74.7%	10.2%	15.2%
4 July 2026	2,861	44.6%	18.5%	36.9%

In two and a half years the number of candidates grew almost sixfold. The share scoring 60%+ stayed at 74–81% from July 2024 to March 2026, then fell to 44.6% in July 2026. How the July questions differed is in [What changed](#).

When and where to collect the certificate for the 4 July 2026 exam

The certificate is **only handed over in person at the Examination Service office** — it is not posted to you and there is no electronic version.

- **Address:** Μεγάρων 23, 2032 Στρόβολος – Λευκωσία (Megaron 23, Strovolos – Nicosia), **Room 5, ground floor** (Αίθουσα 5 – Ισόγειο) — [open in Google Maps](#).
- **Dates:** 7–10 September 2026.
- **Your day and time** depend on your candidate number:

Date	Candidate numbers	Time
Monday, 7 September 2026	1 – 300	08:30 – 10:30
Monday, 7 September 2026	301 – 650	11:00 – 13:30
Tuesday, 8 September 2026	651 – 1180	08:30 – 10:30
Tuesday, 8 September 2026	1181 – 1450	11:00 – 13:30
Wednesday, 9 September 2026	1452 – 1930	08:30 – 10:30
Wednesday, 9 September 2026	1935 – 2450	11:00 – 13:30
Thursday, 10 September 2026	2452 – 2960	08:30 – 10:30

Date	Candidate numbers	Time
Thursday, 10 September 2026	2964 – 3268	11:00 – 13:30

The bands come from the official announcement, and every number in the pass lists falls inside exactly one of them. You must come in your own slot — certificates are not handed out on other days or hours. The announcement does not say what happens if you miss your dates; in that case contact the [Examination Service](#) directly.

What to bring when collecting the certificate

You must bring **one identity document**:

- your ID card,
- your passport,
- or the **original** ARC (έντυπο εγγραφής αλλοδαπού) — a copy is not accepted.

Know your **candidate number** as well: that is how staff find you in the lists. Without a document, no certificate is issued.

Can someone else collect the certificate for you

Yes — but only with an authorisation form, and the rule is strict: the announcement states plainly that without this procedure no certificate will be handed over.

The person collecting on your behalf needs two things:

1. **The authorisation form** — [ΕΞΟΥΣΙΟΔΟΤΗΣΗ \(PDF\)](#), the specific form for the 4/7/2026 exam. The PDF has no fillable fields: print it, fill it in **by hand**, and it must be signed by **you**, the candidate.
2. **Their own identity document** — ID card, passport or original ARC, and specifically the one whose number is written on the form.

The form asks for:

- your name and your ID / passport / ARC number;
- your candidate number;
- the name and ID / passport / ARC number of the person you authorise;
- your signature and the date.

The announcement does not require the authorisation to be notarised — the official form, filled in and signed by you, is what is asked for.

Pass marks

It is one exam, but the pass mark depends on why you are taking it:

Purpose	Pass mark
Long-term resident (PR)	≥ 50%
Naturalization (citizenship)	≥ 60%

More on the two paths in [PR vs citizenship: exam requirements](#).

How long results take

Sitting	Results	Lag
3 February 2024	19 March 2024 — list	~6 weeks
6 July 2024	24 July 2024 — list	18 days
8 February 2025	10 April 2025 — list	~9 weeks
5 July 2025	21 July 2025 — list	16 days
7 March 2026 (spring)	20 May 2026 — list	~2.5 months
4 July 2026 (summer)	4 September 2026 — list	~2 months

Dates are the ones printed on the lists. The Ministry never announces the publication date in advance. In 2024–2025 results came out within 2–9 weeks, but in 2026, with almost 3,000 candidates, they took 2–2.5 months. Work with a **2–2.5 months after the exam** window; certificate collection starts a few days after publication (3–5 days in 2026).

How to use the certificate

The certificate confirms you passed the examination for sufficient knowledge of the basic elements of the contemporary political and social reality of Cyprus. It is **valid indefinitely** and is attached to your application:

- **for PR (long-term resident status)** — a certificate with a result of $\geq 50\%$ is enough;
- **for citizenship (naturalization)** — you need a certificate with $\geq 60\%$ plus a separate [Greek language certificate](#).

Submit the certificate with the rest of your file to the Civil Registry and Migration Department.

Failed — when you can retake

If you did not reach the required percentage, you can retake it as soon as **6 March 2027** — registration for that sitting runs **11–18 January 2027** ([how to register](#)); registration for 21 November 2026 closed on 12 October. Since September 2026 the exam is held **three times a year** rather than twice, so the next attempt is no longer six months away. There is no limit on attempts; you re-register and pay the €20 fee for each sitting.

While you wait for the next sitting, it is worth building up vocabulary and working through past-exam questions — there is a plan in [How to prepare for the exam](#).

The [Hallouminati](#) app and bot make retake prep easy: exam vocabulary and past-exam questions in one place.

FAQ

Where do I check the Cyprus Culture Exam results for 4 July 2026?

In the [official Examination Service list](#), published on 4 September 2026. It is a PDF of candidate numbers split into three sections: passed with 60%+, passed with 50–59.9%, and failed. One document covers both rooms of that day, 09:00 and 11:00.

How do I find my candidate number?

It is in the original email from the Examination Service with your exam venue and time, sent a few days before 4 July. Names are not published in the results, so without the number you cannot find yourself.

How many people passed the 4 July 2026 exam?

The list holds 2,861 candidates. 1,275 (44.6%) passed with 60% or more, another 530 (18.5%) scored 50–59.9%, and 1,056 (36.9%) failed. That means 1,805 candidates — 63.1% — cleared the PR threshold of 50%. These are our own counts from the official list; the Ministry does not publish summary statistics.

How, when and where do I get the certificate?

In person at the Examination Service office at **Megaron 23 (Μεγάρων 23), 2032 Strovolos – Nicosia, Room 5, ground floor** ([Google Maps](#)). For the 4 July 2026 sitting, collection runs **7–10 September 2026**, on the day and time assigned to your candidate-number band: 1–300 and 301–650 on Monday 7 September, 651–1180 and 1181–1450 on Tuesday 8 September, 1452–1930 and 1935–2450 on Wednesday 9 September, 2452–2960 and 2964–3268 on Thursday 10 September. The morning slot is 08:30–10:30, the afternoon one 11:00–13:30.

What do I need to bring to collect the certificate?

Your ID card, passport or the **original** ARC — a copy of the ARC is not accepted. Know your candidate number too. Without a document no certificate is issued.

Can someone else collect my certificate?

Yes, with an authorisation form. They must bring the official [ΕΞΟΥΣΙΟΔΟΤΗΣΗ form](#), filled in by hand and signed by you, plus their own ID card, passport or original ARC — the exact document whose number is written on the form. Without this procedure no certificate is handed over. The announcement does not ask for notarisation.

Can I get the certificate by post or as a digital file?

No. It is only handed over in person at the Examination Service office — either to you or to the person you authorise. It is not posted and there is no electronic version.

Will results be emailed to me?

Usually no — you check the published list yourself. Successful candidates collect a paper certificate in person on their assigned day.

What counts as a pass?

≥ 50% for long-term resident status (PR) and ≥ 60% for citizenship.

How long is the certificate valid?

The certificate is valid indefinitely.

How long do results take to come out?

Judging by 2026, 2–2.5 months after the exam: the 7 March sitting got its results on 20 May, and the 4 July sitting on 4 September. In 2024–2025 it was faster, from 16 days to 9 weeks. The Ministry does not announce the exact date in advance.

How has the pass rate changed?

By our count of the official lists, 97.1% of candidates scored 60% or more in February 2024, 74–81% at the four sittings from July 2024 to March 2026, and 44.6% in July 2026. Over the same period the number of candidates grew almost sixfold: 514 in February 2024 and 2,916 in March 2026.

What if I fail?

You can retake at the next sitting — the next one you can still register for is **6 March 2027**, with registration 11–18 January 2027. There is no limit on attempts, but you must re-register and pay the €20 fee again.

☺ Still have questions? Ask them in our Telegram community — [Cyprus Culture Exam](#) — where other candidates share their experience and help each other out.

See also: [About the Cyprus Culture Exam](#) · [Registration](#) · [How to prepare](#)

Chapter updated 10 June 2026

Cyprus History Exam: What It Really Is

There is **no separate "Cyprus history exam."** History is one of the largest topic blocks of the single **Cyprus Culture Exam** (officially, the examination on the basic elements of the contemporary political and social reality of Cyprus). It is the same 45-minute, multiple-choice exam, in Greek, costing €20 — a large share of the questions simply deal with history.

Which history topics appear

History questions span the whole arc of the island, from antiquity to the present day. The easiest way to prepare is by our guide chapters:

- **Antiquity & the Middle Ages** — Aphrodite and the ancient kingdoms, Byzantine era, Lusignans, Ottoman period. → [Ancient & Medieval Cyprus](#)
- **British rule & the road to independence** — EOKA, the 1960 agreements, the birth of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios III. → [Road to Independence](#)
- **1974** — the coup, the Turkish invasion, the division of the island, refugees, the missing. → [1974 Turkish Invasion](#)
- **Modern day** — the Cyprus problem today, UN-led negotiations, the 5+1 format, crossing points. → [Cyprus Problem Today](#)

Officially the exam material treats history mainly as "important events from 1960 onwards," but in practice questions about the ancient and earlier past come up too.

5 sample history questions (with answers)

These are real question types from our bank — same format and level of detail as the exam.

- 1. How many years has the Republic of Cyprus been independent as of 2026?** 56 · 62 · **66** · 70 ☒
66 years. Cyprus gained independence in 1960.
- 2. What does the acronym EOKA (EOKA) stand for?** National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (Εθνική Οργάνωσις Κυπρίων Αγωνιστών) · Greek Organisation of Cyprus Independence · Union of Orthodox Cypriot Brothers · National Journey of Cypriot Liberation ☒ **National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters.**
- 3. In ancient times, Cyprus was an important centre of worship of the goddess ...** Demeter · Athena · **Aphrodite** · Artemis ☒ **Aphrodite.** By myth she was born from the sea foam near Petra tou Romiou; a major sanctuary stood at Palaepaphos.
- 4. What event is commemorated in Cyprus on 20 July as a memorial day related to 1974?** The Turkish invasion · the coup against Makarios · the proclamation of the TRNC · the second phase of the Turkish offensive ☒ **The Turkish invasion of 1974.**
- 5. What was the real name of Archbishop Makarios III?** Georgios Grivas · **Michail Christodoulou Mouskos** · Spyros Kyprianou · Glafcos Clerides ☒ **Michail Christodoulou Mouskos.**

How to prepare for the history block

The history block is one of the most "stable": the dates, names and events in the chapters above barely change from sitting to sitting, so they are worth memorising. Work through the four history chapters in the guide, then lock the material in with past-exam questions. The full plan is in [How to prepare for the exam](#).

The [Hallouminati](#) app and bot collect past-exam history questions and the vocabulary you need (names, terms, events).

FAQ

Is there a separate history exam in Cyprus?

No. History is a topic block of the single Cyprus Culture Exam, not a separate exam.

What language are the history questions in?

Greek, like the whole exam. So it is important to learn the vocabulary in advance: names of historical figures, events and organisations.

Which history topics come up most often?

The 1960 independence, EOKA and Archbishop Makarios III, the events of 1974 and their remembrance (20 July), and the Cyprus problem today.

From which year is history counted as "modern"?

The exam material highlights important events from 1960 onwards, but questions about the earlier past (antiquity, Byzantium) also appear.

☺ Still have questions? Ask them in our Telegram community — [Cyprus Culture Exam](#) — where other candidates share their experience and help each other out.

See also: [About the Cyprus Culture Exam](#) · [How to prepare](#) · [Results](#)

Chapter updated 9 September 2026

Two exams, not one

A Cyprus citizenship file needs **two different exams**, and they get confused with each other constantly. This site covers the **culture exam** — the political and social realities of Cyprus. This page is about the other one: the Greek language exam. Passing either does nothing for the other.

For the language requirement, **standard naturalisation asks for B1**. Under the fast track for highly skilled applicants it is B1 at four years' residence and A2 at five. For **permanent residence there is no single level** — it depends on the category you apply under, which is why any page quoting one number for it is guessing.

Cyprus accepts either of two certificates, and for a file at A2 or B1 they are equivalent:

	Ελληνομάθεια	University of Cyprus
Awarded by	Centre for the Greek Language	School of Modern Greek
Sittings	once a year, in May	several a year
Levels	A1–C2	A1–C2
Fee	€90 (A1–B1), €100 (B2–C2)	€90 or €100
Validity	for life	for life

Choosing between them is choosing a date, not a standard. Miss the May Ελληνομάθεια window and the next Cyprus sitting is twelve months out; the University of Cyprus usually has another a few months away, if you get a place.

Accurate as of 9 September 2026. Requirements change — check the Ministry of the Interior, moec.gov.cy and the [School of Modern Greek](#) before you apply.

The full detail is on GreekBrain

We keep the Greek language exam on our sister site, so that each subject has one page rather than two half-pages:

- **Levels, dates and cost** — the pillar
- **Which level you need** — including the two different A2 exams
- **Registration windows** — 1 February to 14 March 2027 for the May sitting
- **Results and appeals**

Staying here for the culture exam

- **What the culture exam is**
- **How to prepare**
- **PR vs citizenship**

Chapter updated 10 June 2026

Exam Requirements: Permanent Residence vs Citizenship

The Cyprus Culture Exam is **the same exam** for both, but the pass mark depends on your goal: for long-term resident status (PR) you need $\geq 50\%$, and for citizenship (naturalization) you need $\geq 60\%$. The other difference is language: for citizenship, on top of the culture exam, you need a separate **Greek language certificate** (usually level B1).

Accurate as of 10 June 2026. Migration rules change — check official sources (Ministry of the Interior / Civil Registry and Migration Department, moec.gov.cy) before you apply.

PR vs citizenship at a glance

Item	Long-term resident (PR)	Citizenship (naturalization)
Culture exam pass mark	$\geq 50\%$	$\geq 60\%$
Greek language exam	typically A2 (varies by category)	B1 (general route)
Residence period	depends on permit category	usually 7 years (4–5 for highly skilled)
Where to submit	Civil Registry and Migration Department	Civil Registry and Migration Department

Exact requirements depend on your category and may differ — this is a guide, not legal advice.

What each path needs

PR (long-term resident status). On the exam side, the key is to pass the culture exam at $\geq 50\%$. Your length of legal residence and, depending on category, a basic level of Greek are also taken into account.

Citizenship (naturalization). You need **both** exams: the culture exam at $\geq 60\%$ **and** a Greek language certificate (general route: B1). The general rule is about 7 years of legal residence; since 2023 there is a fast track for highly skilled workers — 4 years (with B1) or 5 years (with A2). More on the language part in **Greek language exam**.

What happens after passing

The certificate for passing the culture exam is **valid indefinitely**. You attach it to your file and submit it to the Civil Registry and Migration Department — together with your PR or citizenship application and the other required documents. For how and when results arrive, see **Exam results**.

FAQ

Is it one exam for both PR and citizenship?

Yes, the culture exam is the same. Only the pass mark differs: $\geq 50\%$ for PR and $\geq 60\%$ for citizenship.

What does the "60% exam" mean?

It is the culture-exam pass mark for citizenship: you need at least 60% correct answers. For PR, 50% is enough.

Do I need Greek for PR?

For long-term resident status the main requirement is the culture exam. The language requirement depends on the permit category (typically A2). For citizenship you need a separate B1-level certificate.

How many years must I live in Cyprus for citizenship?

On the general naturalization route, usually about 7 years of legal residence. A fast track (4–5 years) exists for highly skilled workers. Confirm the exact conditions with the Ministry of the Interior.

How long is the exam certificate valid?

The certificate is valid indefinitely.

💬 Still have questions? Ask them in our Telegram community — [Cyprus Culture Exam](#) — where other candidates share their experience and help each other out.

See also: [About the Cyprus Culture Exam](#) · [Greek language exam](#) · [Results](#)

Chapter updated 1 October 2026

The 4 July 2026 exam: what changed, and what we updated before 21 November

The Cyprus culture exam of 4 July 2026 was much harder than the March one: **44.6%** of candidates scored 60% or more, down from **74.7%** on 7 March. The syllabus did not change, but the questions went into detail — specific museums, acronyms, the departments of individual ministries, events of the past few months. We went through all 50 July questions and updated Hallouminati for the **21 November 2026** sitting: over 600 new questions, 332 older ones rewritten in the exam's own wording, 87 new places in the Map of Cyprus trainer, the news of June–September in the guide along with a new museums chapter and reference tables, and a vocabulary of 3,000 words instead of 700.

What happened on 4 July

The exam ran on one day in two sittings, at 09:00 and at 11:00, and each sitting had its own paper of 25 questions. Both papers, with answers, are in the app under "Official Past Exams".

Pass rates

Sitting	All candidates, 60%+	Hallouminati users, 60%+
February 2025	—	81%
July 2025	—	85%
7 March 2026	74.7% (2,177 of 2,916)	79%
4 July 2026	44.6% (1,275 of 2,861)	59%

The two July papers were not equally hard. Among our users, **69%** passed in the 09:00 sitting and **47%** in the 11:00 one. Of those who had practised 300 or more different questions in the app in the three weeks before the exam, **67%** passed; of those who practised 10 to 299, 43–49%.

How the July questions were different

Same syllabus, far more detail. We checked every July question against our question bank and our guide: **19 of the 50** were covered by neither. In March it was 4 of 25. A few of them:

Question (July 2026)	What you needed to know
Which Nicosia museum is housed on the grounds of the Archbishopric?	The Byzantine Museum
What does the acronym ΔΔΟ stand for in full?	Διζωνική Δικοινοτική Ομοσπονδία — Bizonal Bicommunal Federation
Which ministry does the Hydrocarbons Service come under?	The Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry
Which document is not issued at the Citizen Service Centres (ΚΕΠ)?	An IBAN certificate — your bank issues it
"In recent months, the disease that appeared in many livestock farms in Cyprus was ..."	Foot-and-mouth disease (αφθώδης πυρετός), since February 2026
"Palm Sunday (Κυριακή των Βαΐων) is celebrated ..."	On the Sunday before Easter

Places were the biggest group — **20 of the 50** questions: which town the Pierides Museum is in, which district the Kamares Aqueduct, a village or a picnic area belongs to, which range Mount Papoutsas is part of, where the Cyprus University of Technology (ΤΕΠΑΚ) is based, what a Blue Flag on a beach means.

Same formats, harder language

July used the same set of formats as March. Across the 75 questions of the two 2026 exams:

Format	How to spot it	Questions
Fill in the blank	the question ends in "..."	37
Which is NOT true	"... είναι λανθασμένη "; "δεν ισχύει", " ΔΕΝ "	19
Direct question	"Ποιος / Ποια / Ποιο..."; "Τι σημαίνει..."; "Πώς αποδίδεται...";	17
Put in order	events in chronological order	2

The mix did shift, though: March had 2 direct questions out of 25, July had 15 out of 50.

What changed was the vocabulary. It is more formal than an A2/B1 Greek course: the July questions used **ολογράφως** (in full), **ακρωνύμιο** (acronym), **υπάγεται** (comes under), **στεγάζεται** (is housed), **κτηνοτροφικές μονάδες** (livestock farms). Knowing the answer is not enough if you cannot read the question.

What to expect on 21 November

Nobody knows: the Ministry does not say in advance what a paper will look like. That is why we updated Hallouminati to the July level. If November turns out easier, the extra knowledge costs you nothing; if it is like July, you will be ready.

What we changed in Hallouminati

Questions

The bank now holds **1,217** questions — almost twice as many as at the start of September (about 640). The new ones, by topic:

Topic	New questions
Places: museums, sites, villages, nature, crossing points	229
The state: institutions, acronyms, ministries and their departments	77
Holidays, customs, everyday life, news from early 2026	77
News of June–September 2026	24
Facts from the guide that had no question yet	88
People and parties	24
Facts you already know, asked in the exam's formats	111
Total	630

- **Exam wording.** 332 older questions were rewritten the way the exam phrases things, and the English and Russian translations now follow the Greek more closely, so you can map the words. We removed 52 weak or duplicate questions.
- **Exam formats.** The bank now has 453 fill-in-the-blank questions, 171 "which is NOT true" and 12 "put in order".
- **The basics first.** In practice the app serves questions by importance: past-paper questions and core facts first, long-tail details once you have covered the core; a practice exam holds at most 3 long-tail questions out of 25. As a rule, you only see the harder version of a fact after answering the original correctly. More in [How to prepare](#).

The Map of Cyprus trainer

Map of Cyprus is a separate Hallouminati module: not multiple-choice questions but practice on a map. You find a place on the map, name a place that is marked, or say which district it is in. Since 20 of the 50 July questions were about places, this is the module we grew the most: the map now holds **301** places, **87** of them new.

The new places are museums, beaches and capes, airports and ports, crossing points, dams and peaks, monasteries and archaeological sites. They include the places from the July questions: the Pierides Museum, the Byzantine Museum, the Kamares Aqueduct, Mount Papoutsas and TEIIAK.

Cyprus news

As before every sitting, we collected the important Cyprus news of the past months:

- The [News of 2026](#) chapter now covers June to September month by month — 43 events, from UN Secretary-General Guterres's visit and the decision on the Cronos gas field to S&P raising Cyprus's rating to "A" — plus what is scheduled for October and November.
- The changes are also in the chapters they belong to: the Cyprus problem, the government, taxes and the economy, energy, water, the EU.
- 24 new questions on the events of June to September.
- We updated the questions whose answer changed. VAT, for example: from 12 October 2026 to 31 May 2027 the 0% rate applies again to bread, dairy products, coffee, sugar, baby food, and fresh meat, poultry and fish.

The guide

- New chapter: [Museums of Cyprus](#), town by town, with a rule of thumb for remembering them.
- [Archaeological Sites, Division & Special Zones](#) and other chapters: tables of places by district — sites and castles, monasteries, all 9 crossing points, dams, beaches and capes.
- [Government Structure](#): tables of acronyms (Ακρωνύμια), ministries and their departments, and who appoints whom.
- [Holidays & Celebrations](#): a calendar of public, bank and school holidays, and Holy Week day by day.
- [1974 Turkish Invasion](#): the events by phase. In July, Kyrenia and Morphou had to be placed in a timeline together with events from 1983 and 2004.

- **Phones, Media & Emergencies:** the "Useful information" pages of visitcyprus.com. Three July questions came from those pages: on pharmacies, the Blue Flag and entry fees at ancient sites.
- 30 guide chapters were updated and one was added.

Vocabulary

- **3,000 words instead of 700.** The vocabulary now holds every meaningful word from every question in the bank.
- **"Exam vocabulary"** is its own section on the Vocabulary tab: the words of the questions, grouped by exam topic.
- **The "Words" button** on a question shown in Greek lists every word of the question and its answers, with a translation. Tap "Learn" and the word goes to "My words", which the app brings up before everything else. The button is not there in exam modes, just as nothing like it is there on the real exam.

Thank you for the tips

25 new questions and a number of guide fixes came from our group [@cyprus_exam](#): mayors, a table of presidents, the fish festivals in Zygi and Latchi, the roses of Agros and more. Thank you to everyone who writes to us and reports mistakes.

How to use the weeks you have left

1. Read News of 2026, then reread the updated chapters listed above, starting with acronyms, ministries and museums.
2. Work through Map of Cyprus to the end: 20 of the 50 July questions were about places.
3. Work through both July papers under "Official Past Exams".
4. Every few days, take a practice exam: 25 questions, like the real thing.
5. Add unfamiliar words from questions to "My words" with the "Words" button.

FAQ

Will the 21 November exam be as hard as July's?

Nobody knows: the Ministry does not announce in advance what a paper will look like. In March 2026, 74.7% of candidates scored 60% or more; in July, 44.6%. The safer bet is to prepare for the July level.

Why did so few people pass in July?

The questions asked for details that many study materials did not cover, ours included: 19 of the 50 July questions were covered by neither the Hallouminati bank nor the guide. On top of that, the two sittings sat different papers, and by our data the 11:00 paper was noticeably harder.

How many Hallouminati users passed in July?

59% of those who answered our survey, against 44.6% of all candidates. Of those who had practised 300 or more different questions in the three weeks before the exam, 67% passed.

Do I have to learn all 1,200 questions?

No. The app serves questions by importance, so you see what matters most first. See [the answer in How to prepare](#).

Where are the new questions?

There is no separate section: they are already in regular practice and in practice exams. The July papers are under "Official Past Exams", the new places are in Map of Cyprus, and the new chapters are in the guide.

Why does the same fact come up in different forms?

The exam asks one fact in several ways: a direct question, fill in the blank, or "which is NOT true". So some questions have harder versions, and as a rule the app shows one only after you have answered the original correctly.

📱 Prepare for the exam in the Hallouminati app and [Telegram bot](#).

💬 Questions or ideas? Write in our group [Cyprus Culture Exam](#).

See also: [About the Cyprus Culture Exam](#) · [How to prepare](#) · [Exam results](#)

Chapter updated 14 October 2026

Cyprus Culture Exam Day: What to Bring and How It Works

Bring your **passport or ID card**, your **candidate card** (Δελτίο Υποψηφίου) with the **invitation letter**, and a **blue pen** — nothing else. Arrive **at least 30 minutes early**: once 20 minutes have passed from the start, nobody is let in for any reason. The exam lasts 45 minutes, you circle your answers on the answer sheet in blue pen, and you cannot leave the room until 30 minutes after the start.

The rules below come from the «Οδηγίες προς υποψηφίους» (instructions to candidates) that the Examination Service emails with the invitation letter, and from the instructions printed on the answer paper itself. The Ministry does not publish them on its website. Where we rely on candidates' experience rather than the official text, we say so.

What to bring

Item	Details
ID card or passport (Δελτίο Ταυτότητας / Διαβατήριο)	Ideally the document whose number you gave when you paid on JCC. Without it you are not admitted
Candidate card (Δελτίο Υποψηφίου) and invitation letter (επιστολή συμμετοχής)	Emailed from . You show the letter together with your ID — without them you are not let into the room
Blue pen	Blue is the only colour allowed. Bring two in case one runs out

Your ID and the letter stay on the desk for the whole exam so the invigilator can check them. You cannot take your phone out during the exam, so **print the letter** beforehand to be safe.

What you cannot bring

The official list of banned items:

1. mobile phone;
2. books;
3. notes;
4. dictionaries;
5. pencil cases;
6. coloured pens;
7. correction fluid or tape;
8. pencils;
9. erasers;
10. any other item.

The last line covers everything else — smartwatches, earbuds, smart glasses. The exam supervisor and the invigilator ask candidates to put away anything beyond the essentials and keep checking until the end. A bottle of water, in candidates' experience, is usually allowed on the desk.

When and where to arrive

- **The venue and time** are in your invitation letter. Go to the exact examination centre it names: candidates report that another centre will turn you away. In July 2026 the exam ran in two rooms, at 09:00 and at 11:00, with different papers.
- **Arrive at least 30 minutes** before the start.
- **20 minutes after the start**, nobody is admitted for any reason.
- Only candidates are allowed into the centre — no one can come in with you.
- In the room, sit where the invigilator tells you and stay in that seat until the end.

How the exam runs

1. **The envelope with the papers** is opened by the invigilator in the room at the start, and you are asked to check the number of pages in your booklet.
2. **All answers go in the booklet you are given.** On the cover, in the box at the top left, you write your full name, candidate number and ID number. When you hand in, the invigilator covers these details with an opaque sticker in front of you.
3. **For rough work** there is a separate page marked **ΠΟΧΕΙΠΟ**. Do not answer there: anything not transferred to the answer sheet is not marked.
4. **You cannot ask the invigilator questions.** The rules say the papers are worded clearly enough, so no clarification is allowed. Invigilators, in candidates' experience, often speak only Greek.
5. **For the first 30 minutes** nobody may leave the room for any reason. After that you may leave, but you hand in your paper first and cannot come back.
6. Tearing out or removing pages from the booklet is forbidden.
7. **At least two candidates** must be in the room at all times. If you and one other person are the last two left, you cannot leave before them.
8. **When time is up**, the invigilator tells everyone to stop writing and stay seated, then collects each paper in turn. Everyone hands in their booklet and signs the hand-in list.
9. Once you leave the room, move away from it straight away.

How to fill in the answer sheet

The exam has 25 multiple-choice questions (format and pass marks in [About the exam](#)). The options are labelled with the **Greek letters Α, Β, Γ, Δ**, not A, B, C, D.

The rules printed on the paper:

- **All answers go on the answer sheet** (Φύλλο Απαντήσεων). Answers that are not on the answer sheet are not marked, even if you ticked them next to the question.
- **One answer** per question.
- **Circle the letter of the correct answer.**

- **Changed your mind?** Cross out the old circle with a single **X** and circle the new letter.

This is how the example on the paper looks: in question 1 answer A is circled; in question 2 the candidate changed their mind — the circle on A is crossed out with a single X and Γ is circled.

1.	A	B	Γ	Δ
2.	~~A~~	B	Γ	Δ

Correction fluid and erasers are banned, so this is the only way to change an answer.

«Διαγραφές γίνονται με XXXX» — **four crosses?** No. That is the general rule for anything you write: cross out, never erase. On the answer sheet the example shows **one X** over the old circle, with the new answer circled next to it.

What gets you removed from the exam

Any of the following means removal from the room and exclusion from the exam:

- talking or any other contact with other candidates, passing items, copying;
- dictionaries or any other aids;
- a mobile phone — you may neither use it nor have it on you;
- not following the instructions of the exam supervisor or the invigilator.

The **Hallouminati** app and bot are the easiest way to prepare for the questions themselves: past-exam questions in Greek, with the same answer options.

FAQ

What do I bring to the Cyprus culture exam?

Your ID card or passport, your candidate card (Δελτίο Υποψηφίου) with the invitation letter, and a blue pen. Nothing else is allowed in, including your phone.

Can I bring my phone if it is switched off?

No. The phone is on the banned list and you may not even have it on you. Leave it at home or in the car.

I am running late. Will they let me in?

Only within the first 20 minutes after the start. After that nobody is admitted for any reason. You are expected 30 minutes before the start.

What pen do I use?

Blue only. Coloured pens, pencils, erasers and correction fluid are all banned.

How do I change an answer?

Cross out the old circle with a single X and circle the new letter. You cannot erase or white out.

The rules say «XXXX». Do I need four crosses?

No. «XXXX» in the general rules means "cross out, don't erase". On the answer sheet the correction example is a single X over the old circle.

Does an answer marked next to the question count?

No. Only the answer sheet is marked. If you marked answers in the question booklet, copy them onto the answer sheet before time is up.

Can I ask the invigilator what a word means?

No. The rules forbid clarification questions, and invigilators often speak only Greek. You need to know the exam vocabulary in advance.

Can I leave early?

After 30 minutes, yes — but you hand in your paper first and cannot come back.

Do I need to print the invitation letter?

The rules require you to show it together with your ID, and you cannot take your phone out during the exam. Printing it is the safe option.

Can I bring water?

Water is not mentioned in the official list. In candidates' experience, a bottle of water is usually allowed on the desk.

☺ Still have questions? Ask them in our Telegram community — [Cyprus Culture Exam](#) — where other candidates share their experience and help each other out.

See also: [About the Cyprus culture exam](#) · [How to prepare](#) · [Registration](#) · [Results](#)

FREE EDITION

19 more chapters in the app

These chapters are not in the free edition. They are in the full guide in the Hallouminati app, updated before every exam.

CULTURE & TRADITIONS

 Cypriot Cuisine

Meze, halloumi, sweets, and traditional dishes you must know.

 Wine & Drinks

Commandaria, zivania, KEO beer, and what's NOT Cypriot.

 Festivals

Carnival in Limassol, Rose Festival, Wine Festival, and more.

 Crafts & Traditions

Lefkara lace, pottery, and folk heritage.

 Religion & Faith

Church of Cyprus, monasteries, saints, religious minorities, and daily spiritual life.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

 Political System

Presidential republic, separation of powers, and how Cyprus is governed.

 Government Structure

Ministries, their functions, and how the government is organized.

 Current Government

President, ministers, and key officials as of 2026.

CYPRUS & EUROPE

 EU Membership

2004 accession, the 2026 Cyprus Presidency, Article 42(7), Schengen progress.

 Euro & Currency

When Cyprus adopted euro, all coins and banknotes explained.

 International Relations

UN, Commonwealth, Schengen progress, Lebanon maritime border, and 2026 security cooperation.

EVERYDAY LIFE

Healthcare (GESY)

How GESY works, copayments, doctors, and free dental care.

Transport & Driving

Speed limits, alcohol limits, buses, highways, and no railways.

Phones, Media & Emergencies

Emergency 112, CYTA, RIK TV, phone code +357, and time zone.

Money, Tax & Work

Income tax 2026, VAT rates (including 5% electricity), corporate tax 15%, minimum wage, social insurance.

Economy & Banks

GDP structure, 2025–2026 indicators, key sectors, banks, Ministry of Finance, and KEP centers.

Military Service

Mandatory 14-month service in the National Guard; women may volunteer (April 2025 law).

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Energy & Infrastructure

Great Sea Interconnector, gas fields (Aphrodite, Cronos, Glaucus, Pegasus-1), and the Competitive Electricity Market (CEM).

News of 2026

January–October 2026 month by month: EU presidency and handover to Ireland, foot-and-mouth disease, May elections, Guterres visit and 5+1, Cronos gas, S&P upgrade, 0% VAT from 12 October, the IMF forecast.



Open the full guide

Point your phone camera at the code, or open **hallouminati.app**

Telegram @hallouminati_bot · App Store · Google Play · web