



From the MixCache.com library

SAMPLE COPY

Visiting Cyprus

MixCache.com

SAMPLE COPY

Table of Contents

- **Introduction**
- **Chapter 1** Getting to Cyprus
- **Chapter 2** Visa Requirements
- **Chapter 3** Best Time to Visit
- **Chapter 4** Getting Around
- **Chapter 5** Accommodation
- **Chapter 6** Historical Sites
- **Chapter 7** Archaeological Sites
- **Chapter 8** Cities & Towns Overview
- **Chapter 9** Nicosia (Lefkosia) Exploration
- **Chapter 10** Discovering Limassol (Lemesos)
- **Chapter 11** Paphos: Past and Present
- **Chapter 12** Larnaca - Gateway to Cyprus
- **Chapter 13** Kyrenia (Girne, North Cyprus)
- **Chapter 14** Exploring Cypriot Villages
- **Chapter 15** Beaches of Cyprus
- **Chapter 16** Nature & Outdoor Adventures
- **Chapter 17** Troodos Mountains
- **Chapter 18** Paintings and Monasteries
- **Chapter 19** Cypriot Cuisine
- **Chapter 20** Food & Drink Recommendations
- **Chapter 21** Practical Information for Travelers
- **Chapter 22** Safety and Health Guidelines
- **Chapter 23** Visiting North Cyprus
- **Chapter 24** Cultural Etiquette and Traditions
- **Chapter 25** Conclusion

Introduction

Cyprus, a sun-drenched island nestled in the Eastern Mediterranean, offers a captivating blend of ancient history, stunning natural beauty, vibrant culture, and warm hospitality. From golden beaches and turquoise waters to rugged mountains dotted with traditional villages and Byzantine churches, Cyprus presents a diverse range of experiences for every traveler. This guide aims to provide comprehensive information to help you plan an unforgettable visit to the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite.

Renowned for its location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, Cyprus holds a rich cultural heritage shaped by millennia of history and the influences of various civilizations. Travelers will find themselves enchanted by both the storied past and the vibrancy of contemporary Cypriot life. Whether you're interested in exploring ancient ruins, relaxing on pristine beaches, or indulging in the culinary delights of the region, this guide will help you navigate the many wonders of the island and make the most of your visit.

The island's natural beauty is as diverse as its culture. From the beaches lining the stunning coastlines to the lush, cooler Troodos Mountains, Cyprus offers a variety of landscapes to explore. Nature and outdoor enthusiasts will find ample opportunities for hiking, diving, and even skiing in the winter months. Wildlife is also abundant, with the chance to observe unique flora and fauna, particularly within designated national parks.

Planning your trip to Cyprus should take into account the seasonal climate and the best times to visit particular sites of interest. With a sunny Mediterranean climate, Cyprus is mostly warm and inviting year-round. However, each season brings distinct opportunities and experiences, and understanding these can greatly enhance your travel experience.

A vibrant culinary tradition is also part of what makes Cyprus a unique destination. With a cuisine influenced by Greek, Turkish, and Middle Eastern flavors, the island is a paradise for food lovers. From the widespread communal experience of meze to the savory street foods and fresh seafood, Cypriot cuisine reflects the island's diverse cultural tapestry and warm hospitality.

In the following chapters, each aspect of visiting Cyprus will be explored in detail, providing practical tips and insight to ensure your journey through this Mediterranean gem is nothing less than extraordinary. Embrace the dynamic fusion of history, culture, and natural beauty that makes Cyprus a destination like no other.

CHAPTER ONE: Getting to Cyprus

Embarking on a journey to Cyprus begins, for the vast majority of visitors, with the descent from the sky. As your aircraft dips below the clouds, you'll likely catch your first glimpse of the island's inviting coastline or the rugged peaks of the Troodos mountains, a preview of the diverse landscapes awaiting you. While the island is strategically positioned in the Eastern Mediterranean, air travel stands out as the most convenient and common method of arrival for tourists from abroad.

Cyprus is well-connected by air, serving as a key hub for both major international airlines and a growing number of budget carriers. This connectivity means that reaching the island is relatively straightforward from many parts of Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. Choosing your specific arrival point will largely depend on your airline, your departure city, and your intended final destination on the island.

The Republic of Cyprus is served by two primary international airports, strategically located to provide access to different parts of the island. These are Larnaca International Airport on the southeast coast and Paphos International Airport on the southwest coast. Each offers a slightly different experience and caters to varying types of air traffic.

Larnaca International Airport (LCA) holds the distinction of being the larger and busier of the two. It serves as the main gateway to the island, handling a significant volume of scheduled flights from a wide range of carriers, including national flag carriers and major European airlines, as well as a substantial number of holiday charter flights, especially during the peak tourist season.

Approaching Larnaca airport by air often offers stunning views of the coastline, with the salt lake occasionally visible depending on the approach path. The airport itself is modern and efficient, designed to handle the flow of tourists arriving throughout the year. Its location makes it particularly convenient for reaching destinations along the eastern and southern coasts, as well as the capital, Nicosia.

Upon landing at LCA, you will disembark and follow the signs towards passport control. The process here is generally well-organized, though queues can build up during busy arrival periods, particularly in the summer months. Having your passport or valid EU national ID card readily available is key to a smooth transition through this stage. Remember that while Cyprus is an EU member, it is not part of the Schengen Area, so standard passport checks apply to all arrivals.

After clearing immigration, you proceed to the baggage claim area. Look for your flight

number on the information screens to find the correct carousel. Baggage handling is usually quite efficient, but as with any airport, there can occasionally be delays. While waiting, you might spot the first signs of Cypriot life – perhaps advertising for local attractions or car rental services.

Once you have collected your luggage, you pass through customs. For most tourists arriving with standard luggage and no prohibited items, this is a quick formality, often simply involving walking through the 'Green Channel'. If you have anything to declare, the 'Red Channel' is where you will need to go.

Emerging into the arrivals hall at LCA can feel like stepping into the heart of the island's welcome embrace. Here, you'll find a range of facilities designed to assist arriving passengers. Currency exchange booths and ATMs are available if you need to obtain Euros immediately. Tourist information desks can provide maps and answer initial questions about getting around or finding your accommodation.

For those who have pre-booked a rental car, the desks for the various agencies are typically located within or just outside the arrivals hall. The process usually involves presenting your booking confirmation, driver's license, and credit card for the deposit. You will then be directed to the car park where your vehicle is waiting. Picking up your rental car directly at the airport offers immense convenience, allowing you to drive away straight to your destination without needing further transfers.

Alternatively, if you haven't arranged airport pickup, you have several options for getting from Larnaca airport to your final destination. Taxis are readily available outside the arrivals hall. There is a designated taxi rank, and official airport taxis operate on set tariffs to major destinations, though agreeing on a price or ensuring the meter is used for shorter trips is still advisable. These can be a comfortable option, especially if you have a lot of luggage or are traveling in a small group, but they are generally the most expensive transfer method.

Bus services also connect Larnaca airport to the city center and other major towns across the island. The bus stops are located just outside the terminal building. Dedicated airport bus services run regularly, providing a much more economical way to travel. For instance, you can catch a bus to Larnaca city center, Nicosia, Limassol, or the popular resorts in Ayia Napa and Protaras, depending on the route and time of day. While less direct than a taxi or private transfer, the bus network is reliable and cost-effective.

Paphos International Airport (PFO), located on the southwest coast, is the second main airport serving Cyprus. It tends to handle a higher proportion of flights from low-cost carriers and charter airlines, making it a popular arrival point for tourists heading to the Paphos region and areas further west or south like Limassol.

The experience of arriving at Paphos is similar to Larnaca, though the airport is generally smaller and can feel a little less bustling outside peak times. The layout is straightforward: deplane, head to passport control, collect your baggage, and clear customs. The efficiency levels are comparable to LCA.

Paphos airport is particularly convenient if your accommodation is in Paphos city, Coral Bay, or the surrounding villages. It's also a feasible option if you're heading towards Limassol, though Larnaca might be slightly closer depending on the specific location in Limassol.

In the Paphos arrivals hall, you'll find the standard facilities: currency exchange, ATMs, a tourist information desk, and car rental desks. The process for picking up a rental car is the same as at Larnaca – present your documents at the desk and then locate your vehicle in the adjacent car park. PFO is a fantastic starting point for exploring the archaeological richness of the Paphos area and the natural beauty of the Akamas Peninsula.

For transfers from Paphos airport, taxis are available outside the terminal, again with designated ranks and expected fares to major destinations. As always, confirm the price before starting your journey if a meter isn't clearly in use or if heading to a less common location.

Paphos airport also has its own network of bus connections. You can catch buses to Paphos city center, the main tourist areas like Kato Paphos, and direct routes to other major towns including Limassol and sometimes Nicosia, although the connections might be less frequent or involve changes compared to starting from Larnaca. The bus terminal is conveniently located just outside the arrivals hall.

Choosing which airport to fly into often comes down to the cost and availability of flights from your origin, and the proximity to your final destination. If you're staying in Ayia Napa, Protaras, or Nicosia, Larnaca is typically the more convenient choice for minimizing transfer times. If you're holidaying in Paphos or Coral Bay, Paphos airport makes the most sense. For Limassol, both airports are viable options, with transfer times being relatively similar, perhaps slightly favoring Larnaca depending on traffic and your exact location in Limassol.

Regardless of which airport you arrive at, the initial moments after landing set the tone for your trip. Taking a moment to orient yourself in the arrivals hall, confirm your transfer arrangements, or simply soak in the fact that you've arrived on this historic island can be helpful. Make sure you have the address or directions to your accommodation handy, especially if you are taking a taxi or driving yourself.

It's also worth considering the time of your arrival. Late-night arrivals might limit

public transport options, making a pre-booked transfer or taxi a more practical choice. Conversely, arriving during the day offers more flexibility with bus schedules and the ease of picking up a rental car with staff readily available.

Before leaving the airport, it's prudent to ensure you have local currency (Euros in the South) for immediate expenses like a taxi fare or a bottle of water, although card payments are widely accepted in many places within the airports themselves. ATMs are available in the arrivals halls of both LCA and PFO for cash withdrawals.

The immigration process, while generally smooth for many nationalities, is the point where the officials of the Republic of Cyprus verify your entry eligibility. They are simply doing their job to ensure visitors meet the standard requirements for entry, such as having a valid passport with sufficient remaining validity and potentially proof of onward travel or sufficient funds, though these are less commonly requested from tourists from major Western countries. It's just a standard border procedure.

After navigating the arrival formalities and collecting your luggage, you'll exit the secure area and find yourself in the public section of the terminal, ready to embark on the next part of your journey. This is where the variety of transport options awaits to take you from the gateway airport to the specific corner of Cyprus you plan to explore.

Whether you opt for the direct convenience of a taxi, the cost-effectiveness of a bus, or the freedom of a rental car, the transfer from the airport is your first real interaction with Cypriot roads and landscapes. The drive itself can be interesting, offering glimpses of the local scenery and architecture, from coastal views near the airports to more rural or urban vistas as you approach your destination.

For those who choose to rent a car, locating the correct car rental desk and understanding their specific procedures upon arrival is straightforward. Many agencies have their offices directly opposite the arrivals hall, making it a short walk. Some budget companies might require a shuttle bus to an off-site depot, so checking your booking details in advance is always a good idea to know exactly where to go.

The car rental staff at the airport will verify your documents, explain the rental agreement terms, including fuel policy and insurance coverage (which is typically limited to the Republic of Cyprus), and process the payment and security deposit. They will then hand over the keys and direct you to your vehicle. Taking a moment to inspect the car for any existing damage before you drive away is always recommended and standard practice.

If relying on taxis, you will join the queue at the designated taxi rank outside the terminal. Official airport taxis are usually modern and comfortable vehicles. The drivers are accustomed to tourists and can take you directly to your hotel or villa. While potentially more expensive than other options, the direct, door-to-door service is

a significant advantage, especially after a long flight or if traveling with children or elderly companions.

Bus travel from the airport requires finding the appropriate bus stop and checking the schedule for routes heading towards your destination. Information is usually displayed clearly at the bus stops and within the airport terminals. Buying your ticket may involve purchasing it from a kiosk or directly from the driver when boarding. It's a simple process and offers a great way to see a bit more of the immediate surroundings outside the airport grounds.

In summary, arriving in Cyprus by air is a relatively smooth process facilitated by two modern international airports. Understanding the basic layout and transfer options available at either Larnaca or Paphos airport will ensure you can quickly and efficiently begin your Cypriot adventure, moving from the arrival gates to the sun-drenched landscapes that await you outside the airport perimeter.

Your first step onto Cypriot soil after leaving the arrivals hall is the true beginning of your visit. From this point, the myriad experiences the island offers are within reach, whether you're heading straight for a beach resort, a city hotel, a quiet village retreat, or picking up your rental car to explore at your own pace. Both airports serve as effective springboards for diving into everything Cyprus has to offer.

This is a sample preview. Purchase the book to read the full content.

Visit MixCache.com to purchase the complete book.

SAMPLE COPY