



GUIDE LENS

POCKET GUIDE

Cyprus

Clear information for your journey, your stay and day trips around the south and north of the island.

Practical travel information · Updated: October 2026

guide-lens.com

Basic information

CURRENCY	South: euro (€); north: Turkish lira (TRY)
LANGUAGE	Greek and Turkish; English is widely spoken
TIME	2 hours ahead of the UK
DOCUMENTS	A valid passport; UK citizens do not need a visa for stays of up to 90 days
DRIVING	On the left
SOCKETS	Type G – the same as in the UK, no adapter needed
WATER	In the south, tap water is safe; for drinking I recommend bottled water.
TOILET PAPER	In some places it goes in the bin; follow the instructions
CAPITAL	Nicosia (Lefkosia)
POPULATION	About 920,000 in the area controlled by the Republic (2021 census)
AREA	9,251 km ² (the whole island)
HIGHEST MOUNTAIN	Olympus (Chionistra), 1,952 m



Getting around Cyprus

Driving on the left [↗](#)

In Cyprus you drive on the left. On roundabouts you go clockwise. After turning, check that you are in the correct lane.

Hire car

A car is useful for trips outside the resorts. Hire cars usually have red number plates. Crossing to the north must be allowed by the rental company and covered by the insurance.

Ayia Napa and Protaras: routes 101 and 102

Route 101 runs from Ayia Napa via Cape Greco and Protaras towards Paralimni. Route 102 runs the opposite way. Always check the direction and the departure from your stop.

[OSEA – routes 101 and 102, stops and departures](#)

Buses in Paphos

Route 610 links the centre and the harbour, 615 goes to Coral Bay, 612 to the airport and 631 to Aphrodite's Rock. Check the current routes and timetables before you travel.

[Paphos – city and suburban buses](#)

[Paphos – airport buses](#)

South and North Cyprus

One island, two different parts [↗](#)

The south is the Republic of Cyprus, which is a member of the European Union. In the north there is a separate administration that is recognised as a state only by Turkey. The rules for travel, mobile data and insurance therefore differ.

How to travel to the north [↗](#)

You can also reach the north after flying into Larnaca in the south and then crossing at an official crossing point. Take your passport for this trip. Time spent in the north counts towards your 90 days in Cyprus.

Documents and crossings

UK citizens need a valid passport – issued less than 10 years before you arrive and valid for at least 3 months after you leave. Every child needs their own passport. When travelling to the north, follow the current instructions for your holiday and expect your documents to be checked at the crossing.

Arriving at Ercan is different

Flying directly into Ercan Airport in the north is not the same as arriving in Larnaca – the Republic of Cyprus treats entry through the north as illegal entry. Check the current rules on GOV.UK before you book.

Nicosia – the divided capital [↗](#)

When you visit the city, you can get to know both its southern and its northern part.



Practical information

Healthcare

If you need a doctor and it is not a serious emergency, first call your travel insurer's assistance line. They will tell you where to go and what to do. If someone's life is in danger, call 112.

Insurance for the north

A UK GHIC (or EHIC) covers state healthcare in the south under set conditions, but not in the north. Before travelling to the north, check that your travel insurance also covers the northern part of the island.

Mobile phone and roaming

In the south, roaming charges depend on your UK network and tariff. In the north, calls and data can be much more expensive. Your phone may switch to a northern network even near the border, so check which network you are on.

Drinking water

In the south, tap water is safe, but I recommend bottled water for drinking. In the north, check the water quality where you are staying; bottled water is the better choice for drinking.

Toilet paper

In some hotels and restaurants, used paper goes in the bin next to the toilet. Follow the instructions on site.



Top 10 places in Cyprus

1. Nicosia [↗](#)

The island's divided capital. Old lanes, Venetian walls and the pedestrian crossing at Ledra Street.

2. Paphos [↗](#)

A harbour, beautiful ancient mosaics and UNESCO-listed monuments. One of the most interesting towns in Cyprus.

3. Cape Greco [↗](#)

A rocky headland between Ayia Napa and Protaras. Sea caves, viewpoints and crystal-clear water.

4. The Troodos Mountains [↗](#)

Mountain villages, pine forests and a pleasant break from the heat of the coast. In winter it can even snow here.

5. Kykkos Monastery [↗](#)

A well-known monastery high in the mountains. You can combine the trip with other stops in Troodos.

6. Akamas National Park [↗](#)

Wild nature, coastline and beautiful views. You need a suitable car for the unpaved tracks.

7. Kourion [↗](#)

An ancient city with an amphitheatre and mosaics on a cliff above the sea.

8. Larnaca [↗](#)

The pleasant Finikoudes promenade, the Church of St Lazarus and the salt lake.

9. Famagusta [↗](#)

A historic town in the north with old walls and monuments. Varosha lies nearby.

10. Kyrenia [↗](#)

A picturesque North Cyprus harbour with a castle and views of the surrounding mountains.

Where to stay? Resorts in Cyprus

More places and details at guide-lens.com/cyprus/



Quick summary

The most important things on one page

LEFT

DRIVING ON THE LEFT

Watch your lane at junctions.

S / N

SOUTH AND NORTH

Each part has different travel rules.

PASS

DOCUMENTS

Take your passport to the north.

112

HEALTHCARE

Call your insurer's assistance line first.

DATA

ROAMING

Data can be expensive in the north.

G

SOCKETS

Type G – the same as in the UK.

Contacts and links

Emergency number

112 – help in an emergency.

Help for British nationals

Contacts for the British High Commission in Nicosia and consular services are on gov.uk/world/cyprus.

FCDO – 24/7 consular line

+44 20 7008 5000

Travel advice

Before you travel, check the current entry requirements and safety information, and sign up for email alerts in case of an emergency.

[FCDO – Cyprus travel advice](#)



More on the website

More tips, places to visit and information about Cyprus.

guide-lens.com/cyprus/



Recommended apps

Practical tools that may come in handy during your stay in Cyprus.



GasBu

Compare petrol and diesel prices at filling stations in Cyprus. A practical help when travelling around the island by car.

gasbu.app/en ↗

The links are clickable and lead to the official websites of the apps.