

5 Unmissable Cultural Hotspots in Cyprus

Cypriots are very protective and respectful of their history, with both Greek and Turkish cultures being celebrated on this island located in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. From the **Byzantine castles in Paphos** to the Aphrodite Trail on the **Akamas Peninsula**, not to mention the breathtaking **Nissi Beach in Ayia Napa**, which has been described as 'paradise on earth,' there is an abundance of sights to explore.

Keep reading to find out about more cultural hotspots in **Cyprus** that will have you packing your bags and boarding a plane in no time.

1. Tombs of the Kings, Paphos

A World Heritage site that can be found just north of Paphos harbor, this underground monument was carved from solid rocks that can be dated back to the 4th Century BC. The size and intricacy of the tombs have to be seen to be believed, and that is why this cultural hotspot continues to be a must-see attraction for tourists and locals alike. Paphos is a short bus drive away from the beautiful Coral Bay resort that boasts a stunning beach and shallow turquoise waters, meaning you can enjoy the relaxation of a beach holiday and dip your toes into Cyprus' rich and diverse culture.

Doric atrium inside an elite Hellenistic rock-cut tomb from near Paphos. The site is imaginatively named the "Tombs of the Kinds" due to the monumental scale of many family crypts.

Holidays in Cyprus are about as diverse as they come; one minute you could be studying ancient ruins near the fishing harbor of Latchi, and the next, you could be diving in Protaras. You truly will have the time of your life!

2. Sea Caves, Ayia Napa

If you want to combine a bit of the island's history with some water sports, then head straight to the sea caves that can be found on the stunning coastline of Ayia Napa. Marvel at the impressive rock bridges, explore the hidden caves and tunnels and even search for the long-lost treasure that was said to

have been left there by pirates many years ago. Ayia Napa is also home to the unrivaled Nissi Beach that stretches for 500m and has been awarded the Blue Flag designation due to its clean and clear waters.

3. Aphrodite's Rock, Paphos

Located just one mile away from the stunning Aphrodite Hills resort, Aphrodite's Rock is said to be the birthplace of the goddess Aphrodite, and it is due to its high status in mythology, as well as the beautiful surrounding scenery, that this cultural attraction is so popular with visitors. Please note, however, that you should not swim in this area as the sea is known for being quite rough and potentially dangerous.

4. Medieval Castles

During the Roman Empire, there were many castles and forts built in Cyprus with the aim of protecting the country from potential invaders, and many are still standing today and make for a memorable visit.

Colossi Castle

Built in Southern Cyprus, near Limassol, this castle has a fairly modern look due to the restoration that it undertook in 1454. Tours are available for tourists – the observation deck on the roof of the castle is a must for those looking for breath-taking views of the natural surroundings.

Paphos Medieval Castle

Facing Paphos harbor, this castle was originally a Byzantine fort but was rebuilt in the 13th Century. If you visit this piece of amazing architecture, you will be able to climb up the spiral stairway and enter the roof, allowing for a 360-degree view of the surrounding area, including the shimmering sea.



5. The National Park of Akamas Peninsula

A few kilometers away from the Polis Region, with its unparalleled natural beauty and tranquil villages, the National Park of Akamas is home to the Aphrodite Trail, as well as 168 varieties of birds, 20 varieties of reptiles and 16 different species of butterfly. The Aphrodite Trail itself offers stunning views over the blue lagoons, with the highest point of the walk allowing you to see arguably the most beautiful view of Cyprus that can be found anywhere on the island.



A view of a Blue Lagoon near Polis city, Akamas Peninsula National Park, Cyprus

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