

ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS AND STAFF

Small Guide

General Information on Cyprus

Brief History

The history of Cyprus starts far back in 7000 B.C. In 1400 B.C. the first Greek came; they were merchants from Mycenae who started the Hellenisation of the island. Later during the 12th and 11th centuries several waves of Greeks came on the island, bringing with them language, religion and customs.

The country was conquered by Assyria, Egypt and Persia. Alexander the Great claimed it for part of his empire in 333 B.C. Cyprus became part of Roman Empire in 58 B.C. and Saint Paul spread Christianity.

Christianity was expelled when Ottoman troops invaded the island in 1571 and became a part of the Ottoman Empire. Under the Cyprus Convention in 1878 Britain assumes administration of the island although it remains part of the Ottoman Empire. However in 1914 when the Ottomans entered the 1st World War on the side of Germans, Britain annexed the island. Later in 1923 Turkey relinquished all rights to Cyprus and in 1925 Cyprus was declared as a Crown colony. According to the Zurich Treaty, Cyprus became an independent Republic on 16th of August 1960.

On 20th of July 1974 Turkey invaded Cyprus once again and took control of 38% of the island. Since then, United Nations Peacekeeping forces have maintained a buffer zone between the two sides but the border was closed between the two parts till 2003. In 2004 Cyprus joined the European Community and the negotiations about the status of the island increased. Since then members of both communities have been able to cross the buffer zone at the opened check points.

Government & Administration

The Head of the State is the President who is elected by the people for a five-year term in office. The President with the Council of Ministers (which is appointed by the President) is the main executive organ of Cyprus.

The House of Representatives is the legislative organ of the Republic and is elected also for a 5-years term. A multi-party system operates in Cyprus and the electoral system is based on proportional representation.

Religion

About 78% of the Cypriot population is Greek Orthodox; 18% is Muslim and there are other small religious groups which constitute 4% of population.

Language

The official languages of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish. The Greek language predominates in the south part and Turkish in the north, occupied part.

The Greek Cypriot is a dialect of Greek that reflects the influence of myriad of nations that have ruled Cyprus over the years. Although it is based on Greek language, it was enriched with many loan words from Arabic, Turkish, Italian & English, including some from Ancient Greek.

English is spoken everywhere in the country as the country was a British colony from 1878 to 1960. Many Cypriots strive to perfect their English because of the many Greek Cypriots have lived and worked or been educated in the United Kingdom.

Climate

Cyprus has a subtropical climate with a summer dry season. Summer stretches from mid-May to mid-October and features high temperature. The days of September and October are still sunny, toward the end October of evenings do tend to get cooler. The months of winter are from December to January. During February and March days are cool (daytime temperature around 19C and 9C at night) but steadily moderate.

If you would like to learn more about the climate in Cyprus please check the following link:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_Cyprus

Public Holidays and Traditional Festivities

Most of traditional holidays in Cyprus are of religious origin. Shops, banks and offices may also be closed on the eve of a holiday. The following days are public holidays:

2013 Dates

New Years Day – 1 January
Epiphany - 6 January
Green Monday - 18 March
Greek Independent Day - 25 March
Greek Cypriot National Day - 1 April
Greek Orthodox Good Friday - 3 May
Greek Orthodox Easter Monday - 6 May
Labour Day - 1 May
Kataklysmos - 24 June
Assumption of Mary - 15 August
Cyprus Independence Day - 1 October
Greek National Day - 28 October
Christmas Day - 25 December

Useful words

Welcome	Καλώς Ορίσατε (Kalós orísate)
Hello	Γειά! (γα)
How are you?	Πώς είστε; (pos íste?) Τι κάνετε; (ti kánete?)
I'm fine, thanks.	Καλά (είμαι), σας ευχαριστώ. Εσείς;
And you?	(kalá [íme], sas efharistó. Esís?)
What's your name?	Πώς σας λένε; (pós sas léne?)
My name is...	Με λένε ... (me léne ...)
Good morning	Καλημέρα σας (Kaliméra sas)
Good afternoon	Καλο απόγευμα (Kaló apógevma)
Good evening	Καλησπέρα (Kalispéra) - when you come Καλό βράδυ (Kali bradi) - when you go
Good night	Καληνύχτα (Kaliníhta)
Good bye	Γειά σας (Υιά sas)
Bon appétit	Καλή όρεξη! (Kalí óreksi!)
Bon voyage	Καλό ταξίδι! (Kaló taksidi!)
Excuse me	Με συγχωρείτε! (Me synhoríte)
Sorry	Συγνώμη! (sygnómi)
Thank you	Ευχαριστώ (Efharistó)
Response	Παρακαλώ (Parakaló)

Driving in Cyprus

Cyprus follows the British driving system, so the driving wheel is located on the right hand side. Following the left side of the street and overtaking cars the right side.

Air Travel

Please note that you can use flights landing at Larnaca and Pafos airport. In case you find flights landing to Ercan airport you are recommended **NOT** to take them since the airport is not controlled by local or

European laws and you may be receiving improper services.

Transfer from airport to university

From Pafos Airport to Kato Pafos, you can take the OSIPA Bus, a taxi or Travel Express.

Tel.: 80005588 OSIPA Buses <http://www.pafosbuses.com/busroutes/>

You can find it at Pafos Airport. Ask for it at the Information Desk. Price is €1.50. You will take the bus from Pafos Airport to Danais Avenue (Neapolis University)

- The price for a taxi is around € 20.

- Travel & Express. (+357) 77-777474

(<http://www.travelexpress.com.cy/>)

It is a Mini-bus taxi service; it costs € 11 one way, and takes you directly to the desired destination

Public Transport

Information about public transport can be found on the following link:

<http://cyprus.angloinfo.com/information/10/busses.asp>

Car Rental

Car rental information can be found here:<http://www.cypruscarrental.com/>

Electricity plugs in Cyprus

Please note that electrical sockets (outlets) are of British type. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug electrical device in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. Adaptors are widely available.

Hospitals in Cyprus

The medical insurance other than Cypriot can cover medical needs just in one hospital – the General hospital (http://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/ngh/ngh.nsf/DMLindex_en/DMLindex_en?OpenDocument).

Below you can find the main district hospitals with 24-hour Accident & Emergency departments.

Agia Napa & Protaras 23 200 000

Larnaka 24 800 500

Lemesos 25 801 100

Nicosia 22 603 000

Pafos 26 803 100

Private Hospital

lasis Hospital (8 Voriou Ipirou Street 26848484) 15% Discount for Neapolis University Students

Cyprus uses 112, the EU-wide emergency number for police, fire and ambulance.

Pharmacy

Pharmacies are open during the time as other shops.

The information about late-night and emergency pharmacies is available on the following numbers:

Agia Napa 90 901 413.

Larnaka 90 901 414.

Lemesos 90 901 415.

Nicosia 90 901 412.

Pafos 90 901 416.

Police

Telephone numbers for police headquarters in each town are given below.

Agia Napa 23 803 200.

Larnaka 24 630 200.

Lemesos 25 805 050.

Nicosia 22 802 020.

Pafos 26 806 060.

Postal service

All items, from the smallest letter to the heaviest parcel, must have a 2 cent Refugee Fund stamp affixed.

Post services are offered by the central post offices listed below.

Main post office

Pafos 26306223 (Aristoteli Savva 23,8025)

Opening hours

Opening hours for the main post offices are as follows:

Main post offices

<i>September-June</i>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	7.30am-1.30pm; 3-6pm
	Wednesday	7.30am-1.30pm
	Saturday	8.30-10.30am
<i>July, August</i>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	7.30am-1.30pm, 4-7pm

	Wednesday	7.30am-1.30pm
	Saturday	8.30-10.30am

Other post offices

<i>September-June</i>	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	7.30am-1.30pm
	Thursday	3-6pm
<i>July, August</i>	Monday-Friday	7.30am-1.30pm

Smoking

Smoking in public places banned in Cyprus as in most of other European Union member states.

Telephone service

Cyprus phone numbers have eight digits, the first two of which are the area codes:

22 (Nicosia),
23 (Agia Napa, Protaras),
24 (Larnaka),
25 (Lemesos) and 26 (Pafos). Mobile numbers start with 99 or 96. Some new business numbers are prefixed 77.

To call Cyprus from abroad, dial 00 357 followed by the 8-digit number.

Time

Cyprus operates on Eastern European Time (EET), which is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. In spring, clocks are put forward one hour to Eastern European Summer Time, and in autumn they go back to EET.

Money

Cyprus adopted the Euro on January 1 2008, when the currency replaced the Cyprus Pound.

Opening hours shops

Banks

<i>September -April</i>	Monday Tuesday-Friday	8.30am-1pm 3.15-4.45pm 8.30am-1pm
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<i>May-August</i>	Monday-Friday	8.30am-1pm
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Centrally located banks provide an 'afternoon tourist service' by opening their foreign exchange counters.

Businesses

<i>Mid September-May</i>	Monday-Friday	8am-1pm, 3-6pm
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<i>June-mid Septembe</i>	Monday-Friday	8am-1pm, 4-7pm
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Public services

<i>September-June</i>	Monday-Wednesday, Friday	7.30am-2.30pm
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	Thursday	7.30am-2.30pm, 3-6pm
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<i>June-August</i>	Monday-Friday	7.30am-2.30pm
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Shops

Shops open from 7am and 9am until the following times:

<i>November-March</i>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	until 7.30pm
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	Wednesday	3pm
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	Saturday	7pm
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<i>April-October</i>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	until 8pm
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	Wednesday	3pm
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	Saturday	7.30pm
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During the period June 15-Aug 31 there is an optional afternoon break between 3pm and 5pm. Special shopping hours apply for Christmas and Easter. In December, shops may remain open until 8pm throughout the week, but must close by 6pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Shops can also remain open until 8pm for ten days before Easter Sunday, but must close by 6pm on Good Friday. Post-Christmas, bigger shops and supermarkets reopen on Dec 26, but a lot of smaller shops take a longer break.