

JANUARY

January 6

EPIPHANY

Epiphany is one of the most important religious celebrations of the year. Following a special Mass at the Cathedral of each town, a religious procession takes place down to the sea, at around 10.30 hrs, leading to a ceremonial baptism of the Holy Cross into the sea. During the ceremony the Bishop throws the Holy Cross into the sea and young men dive into the water to retrieve the cross and return it to the priest.

Religious celebrations in all seaside towns:

Lemesos: Agia Napa Church – Lemesos (Limassol) old port
Larnaka: Agios Lazaros Church – Larnaka marina
Pafos: Theoskepasti Church – Pafos harbour
Polis: Agios Andreas Church – Latsi fishing shelter
Agia Napa: Agia Napa Church – Agia Napa harbour

FEBRUARY

February 16 - 26

CARNIVAL

Carnival is a ten-day period of fun and eating, prior to fifty days of fasting, before Easter. During the first week called Meat Week, it is allowed to eat meat, whereas during the second week known as Cheese Week, only cheese and other dairy products are consumed. Carnival festivities begin on Thursday of the Meat Week. Carnival parades and fancy–dress balls are very popular and take place in Lemesos and Pafos.

Lemesos (Limassol):

February, 16: Entrance of King Carnival in the town

February, 19: Children's Carnival Parade

February, 25: Serenaders' Parade in the town centre

February, 26: The Grand Carnival Parade of chariots and groups of people along Makarios III Ave.

Pafos:

February, 16: Entrance of King Carnival, at the commercial centre of Pafos

February, 25: Carnival Parade of chariots and groups of people along Poseidonos Ave.

February 27

GREEN MONDAY (50 days before the Greek Easter)

The first day of Lent, is a day of joy, laughter and vegetarian picnics. Green Monday is followed by a fifty days fasting period, during which Christians prepare themselves to receive the Redeemer, shunning meat and dairy products and living on a vegetarian diet.

Events and activities take place in all towns and villages:

Agia Napa: Cape Gkreko

Larnaka: Tekke Grove

Pafos: Kato Pafos (Faros Beach)

Pervolia village (Larnaka District): Rigena Medieval Tower

Polis: Polis Municipal Beach

APRIL

April 15 **GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER**

Easter the biggest Greek Orthodox religious feast is celebrated in Cyprus with great solemnity. Evening services take place throughout the Holy Week.

Good Friday - April 13

A procession of decorated Sepulchres takes place in all parishes at around 20:30.

Easter Saturday - April 14

At midnight an open-air mass takes place in every church.

EASTER SUNDAY & MONDAY - April 15, 16

On Easter Sunday and Monday afternoons traditional games are organised in towns and villages:

Lefkosia District: Kourdali and Spilia villages

Lemesos District: Lemesos town, Agios Tychonas, Pano Polemidia, Sykopetra, Kellaki, Pissouri, Episkopi, Anogyra and Agros villages

Larnaka District: Pervolia village

Pafos District: Pafos town, Geroskipou, Tala, Kathikas, Tsada, Chlorakas, Kissonerga, Stroumbi and Neo Chorio villages

Ammochostos (Famagusta) District: Agia Napa, Frenaros, Paralimni, Deryneia and Achna villages.

MAY

May 12, 13, 20 **FLOWER FESTIVAL (ANTHESTIRIA)**

“Anthestiria” is a celebration for the coming of Spring and the renewal of nature and life dating back to Ancient Greece. The programme includes amongst others a Flower exhibition and a parade of group of people and chariots.

Lemesos – Germasogeia: 12 - 13 /5/2012, celebrations organised by the Germasogeia Municipality, tel. 25879898

Saturday: Flower exhibition and market at the Potamos Germasogeias parking place

Sunday: Parade of groups of people and chariots decorated with flowers, along the coast road starting from the Apollonia Hotel towards Germasogeia Police Station

Larnaka: 13 /5 /12, celebrations and parade along Athens Avenue and at the Larnaka Seafront Stage, organised by the Larnaka Municipality, tel. 24657745 or 24629333

Pafos: 20 /5 /12, celebrations and parade along Poseidonos Avenue, organised by the Pafos Municipality, tel. 26932014

JUNE

June 4 **PENTECOST- KATAKLYSMOS (Flood Festival)**

“Kataklysmos” is a religious and popular feast celebrated only in Cyprus. “Kataklysmos”, which means flood, is found in the book of Genesis and in the Greek myth of Deukalion. In both cases it refers to the destruction by flood of almost all living creatures in order to give birth to a new and moral generation. The ceremonies last for a few days and take place in all seaside towns. Celebrations include various games, folk dances, swimming competitions and boat races.

Festivities in all seaside towns:

Larnaka: 1 – 6/6/12 (music, dance, poetry, theatre, competitions) at the Larnaka Palm Trees Promenade organised by the Larnaka Municipality

Lemesos: 2 – 4/6/12 at the Seafront Promenade (west of the Municipal Gardens), organised by the Lemesos Municipality

Agia Napa: 2 – 4/6/12 at Agia Napa harbour, organised by the Agia Napa Municipality

Paralimni: 3/6/12 at Fig Tree Bay

Pafos: 2 – 4/6/12 at Castle square, Kato Pafos, organised by the Pafos Municipality

Polis: 2 – 4/6/12 at Latsi fishing shelter, organised by the Polis Municipality

June **THE GREAT BALLET COMPANIES**

The Ballet Festival is ranked among the most important events in Cyprus attracting great numbers of both local and foreign visitors.

Organisers: Lemesos Municipality, tel. 25745919 or 25343120

Venue: Municipal Garden Theatre in Lemesos.

DECEMBER

December CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN LEFKOSIA (NICOSIA)

Festivities take place all over Cyprus and the Christmas spirit can be felt everywhere, especially in Lefkosia where the Christmas festivities have recently become a main annual event. Events and displays are organised during the Christmas holidays at Eleftheria Square and the nearby area.

December CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S EVE FESTIVITIES

Events organised in all the towns of the island.

ALL YEAR ROUND EVENTS

A) Walking Tours

Guided tours in and around Lefkosia, Lemesos, Larnaka, Pafos, Agia Napa and Germasogeia village (Lemesos area) **are offered free of charge** by the above Municipalities and are organised in collaboration with the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and the Cyprus Tourist Guides Association.

Every Monday

1. Kaimakli Bus & Walking Tour, Lefkosia (Nicosia) (in English)

Starting point: Tourist Information Office in Laiki Geitonia, Lefkosia

2. "Historic Limassol Walk", Lemesos (Limassol) (in English)

Starting point: Tourist Information Office, Lemesos

3. "Agia Napa and the Sea: A Different Dimension" (by bus) (English - German)

(November - March). For reservations contact the Tourist Information Office, tel: 23721796)

Starting Point: Tourist Information Office, Agia Napa

4. Germasogeia Walks (in Finnish)

a) Germasogeia - A Village Blessed by Water

b) Discover the Natural Environment of Germasogeia

(November-April) - Each one every other week Starting point: Tourist Information Office,

Germasogeia, Lemesos District (For reservations contact the Tourist Information Office, tel: 25323211)

Every Wednesday

1. Larnaka Walk "Past and Present"

Starting point: Tourist Information Office, Larnaka

2. Germasogeia Walks (in English)

a) Germasogeia - A Village Blessed by Water

b) Discover the Natural Environment of Germasogeia

Every Wednesday (October - April) - Each one every other week

Starting point: Tourist Information Office, Germasogeia, Lemesos District

(For reservations contact the Tourist Information Office, tel: 25323211)

Every Thursday

1. Lefkosia (Nicosia) Walking Tour (in English)

Starting point: Tourist Information Office in Laiki Geitonia, Lefkosia

2. Pafos Walking Tour (in English)

Starting point: Tourist Information Office, Gladstonos 3, Pafos

For information and bookings, tel: 26 932841.

Every Friday

1. "Skala (Larnaka) - Its craftsmen"

Starting point: Larnaka Medieval Castle

2. "Agia Napa and the Sea: A Different Dimension" (by bus) (English – Swedish)

(November - March). Starting Point: Tourist Information Office, Agia Napa

(For reservations contact the Tourist Information Office, tel: 23721796)

B) Religious Fairs (Panigiria)

Many colourful fairs are held in villages, reviving traditional village life, when saint's name-days are celebrated around the main churches. Local products and sweets are sold at stalls especially set up for the occasion. A procession of the Saint's icon around the church takes place during the previous evening's church service.

February 2	Presentation of Jesus to the Temple Chrysorrogiatissa Monastery (Pafos District)
April 23	Saint George's Day Paralimni village.
May 21	Saints Constantine and Helena's Day Tsada village (Pafos District)
July 17	Saint Marina's Day Xylotymbou village (Ammochostos district)
July 26	Saint Paraskevi's Day Geroskipou village (Pafos District) and Leivadia village (Larnaka District)
August 6	Transfiguration of Jesus Christ the Saviour Sotira village (Ammochostos District)
August 15	Dormition of Virgin Mary (Assumption Day) Kykkko, Chrysorrogiatissa and Agia Napa monasteries, Chrysospilotissa church at Deftera village (Lefkosia District), Liopetri village and Kiti village (Larnaka District).
September 2	Saint Mamas' Day Peristerona village, near Polis
September 6	Archangels Michael's Day Frenaros village (Ammochostos District)
September 8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Agia Napa Monastery (Ammochostos District), Arakapas village (Lemesos District)
September 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross Omodos village (Lemesos District) and Lefkara village (Larnaka District)
September 22	Saint Fokas' Day Athienou village (Larnaka District)
September 24	Saint Thekla's Day Sotira village (Ammochostos District)
September 28	Saint Neofytos' Day Agios Neofytos Monastery (Pafos District)
October 2	Saint Kyprianos' Day Meniko village (Lefkosia District)
October 4	Saint John Lampadistis' Day Kalopanagiotis village (Lefkosia District)
October 5	Saint Ermogenis' Day Agios Ermogenis church (Lemesos District)
October 6	Saint Kendeas' Day Agios Kendeas church, Avgorou village
October 17-18	Saint Luke's Day Kolossi, Kouklia and Aradippou villages
November 3	Saint George Kontos' Day Agios Georgios Kontos Church, in Larnaka town
November 7 - 8	Archangels Michael and Gabriel's Day Archangelos Michael Church at Kaimakli, Lefkosia
November 20 – 21	Presentation of Virgin Mary to the Temple Pallouriotissa old church in Lefkosia and Agros village (Lemesos District)
November 30	Saint Andrew's Day Polis Chrysochous
December 16	Saint Modestos' Day Deryneia village (Ammochostos District)

Useful Telephones

Lefkosia District:

	Telephones
The Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre	22797400
Lefkosia Municipality Cultural Services	22797004
State Gallery of Contemporary Cypriot Art	22458228
Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture	22800933
Cyprus Theatrical Organisation	77772717
Famagusta Gate	22797660
Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation	22667706
Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation	22128157
Cyprus Popular Bank Cultural Centre	22812187
Skali Cultural Centre	22336363
Strovolos Municipal Theatre	22313010
Cyprus Centre of International Theatre Institute	22674920
The Pharos Trust	22663871

Lemesos District:

Lemesos Patticheion Municipal Theatre	25343341
Rialto Theatre	25343900, 77777745
Lemesos Municipality Cultural Services	25745919

Larnaka District:

Larnaka Patticheion Theatre	24629300
Larnaka Municipal Theatre	24665794
Larnaka Municipality Cultural Services	24657745, 24629333
Larnaka Municipal Gallery	24658848
Pierides Foundation	24651345

Ammochostos District:

Agia Napa Municipality Cultural Services	23816307
Paralimni Municipality	23819300
Deryneia Municipality	23811000

Pafos District:

Pafos Municipality Cultural Services	26932014
Pafos Aphrodite Festival Ltd	26822218
Pafos Markideion Theatre	26932571
Polis Chrysochous Municipality	26321321

Note:

In the compilation of this leaflet every care has been taken to ensure accuracy of information at the time of going to press (November 2011). The Cyprus Tourism Organisation cannot however accept responsibility for omissions in material supplied for inclusion, but where such are brought to the attention of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, future issues will be amended accordingly.

Cyprus Online: www.visitcyprus.com

The official website of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation provides comprehensive information on the major attractions of Cyprus, complete with maps, updated calendar of events, detailed hotel guide, downloadable photos, travel planner to help you organize a trip to Cyprus and suggested itineraries. You will also find lists of tour operators selling Cyprus, information on conferences and incentives, and a wealth of useful information.