

TRAVEL TRADE

Cyprus

Monthly Edition

AUGUST 2017 - ISSUE 54

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Cyprus

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TRAVEL TRADE PUBLICATIONS

MANAGING EDITOR

Mary Kammitis
mary@traveltradeweekly.travel

SENIOR JOURNALIST

Ellen Petty

JOURNALISTS

Maria Sabova
Panayiotis Karanicholas
Anna Spyrou

CONTRIBUTOR

Dominique Christou

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Elena Stylianou

WEB & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Savvas Kammitis

DIRECTORS

Andreas Constantinides
Mary Kammitis

HEADQUARTERS

T.T.W. Travel Trade Weekly LTD
P.O. Box 25255, Nicosia 1308 Cyprus
Tel: +357 22 021607, Fax: +357 22 103670

WEBSITE

www.traveltradecyprus.travel

EMAILS

info@traveltradeweekly.travel
sales@traveltradeweekly.travel
editorial@traveltradeweekly.travel

PRINTED IN CYPRUS

Cyprinters Ltd
P.O. Box 58300, CY-3732, Limassol, Cyprus
Tel: +357 25 720035, Fax: +357 25 720123
Email: info@cyprinters.com

WORLDWIDE REPRESENTATIVES

Representative for North, South & Central America, and the Caribbean:

Neil Strickland
GlobeTM
Tel: +19542969515
neil@globetm.com

Representative for Indian subcontinent:

Faredoon Kuka
RMA Media
Tel: +912229253735
kuka@rmamedia.com

Representative for UK & Ireland and Scandinavia:

David Simpson
Simpson Media
Tel: +447900885456
david@simpson-media.com

EXCHANGE RATES

as of **26.7.2017**

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	EUR1=
US (USD)	Dollar	1.17
UK (GBP)	Pound	0.89
Switzerland (CHF)	Franc	1.12
Japan (JPY)	Yen	130.13

Cyprus Achieved Record Arrivals in June



June saw the highest volume of tourists ever recorded in Cyprus during the particular month, as revealed in *Passengers Survey*.

Arrivals reached 472,450 during the month under review, compared to 413,114 in June 2016, up 14.4 percent. The positive figures contributed to a successful first half (H1) for the year, during which 16.6 percent more travellers visited the island over H1 2016.

Significant year-on-year growth was recorded from Israel and Sweden in June, up 88.7 percent and 25.4 percent, respectively. The UK and Russia constituted the main source markets, with proportions of 31.9 percent and 27.5 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, the survey indicated that 86.2 percent of tourists visited the island for leisure, 10.3 percent for spending time with friends and family and 3.5 percent for business.

Hermes Airports Boosts Cypriot Economy



Larnaka International Airport

During Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA) International Investment Awards 2017, Bouygues Bâtiment International, the main shareholder of Hermes Airports, was awarded for its significant contribution to the Cypriot economy.

Hermes Airports' representatives expressed gratitude to the government for recognising the value of the investments made at both Larnaka International Airport and Pafos International Airport, which have exceeded EUR640 million. Hermes Airports also reaffirmed its firm commitment to the joint efforts for full recovery and further development of the country's economy.

Taking place every year since 2012, the award ceremony is organised by Gold magazine and CIPA to honour international investors for their substantial contribution to the Cypriot economy.

Larnaca Received TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence



Camel Park

Larnaca Tourism Board has recently received TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence for its *Winter Experience* programme, which took place for the fifth consecutive year.

The weekly initiative aims to boost winter tourism by providing free activities to tourists staying in Larnaca's hotels between November and April.

Through a wide range of engaging activities including guided tours, excursions to villages, wine tasting, halloumi production, bird watching, basketry and preparation of local dishes, the excursions enhance visitors' experience while engaging them in Cypriot tradition.

The project is able to continue thanks to support from a number of organisations such as Cyprus Tourism Organisation, Camel Park Mazotos, Ktima Christoudia, as well as local municipalities and other businesses.

Ayia Napa Welcomes New Tourism Ambassador



From left Øen and Zanettos

On June 09, a ceremony was held at Ayia Napa Municipality's reception hall in the honour of Marit Øen, a Norwegian tourist who visited the destination 44 times.

Christos Zanettos, vice-mayor, Ayia Napa, awarded a commemorative plaque to Øen, granting her with the honorary title of ambassador of tourism for her high number of visits and dedication to the town.

During the ceremony, Zanettos expressed his gratitude for consistently choosing the town for her getaways. Along with Øen, a high number of tourists have received the title of ambassador of tourism for constantly choosing the city to spend their holiday.

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Akrotiri-Dreamers Bay Excavations Completed



Excavation season at Akrotiri-Dreamers Bay

Cyprus Department of Antiquities and Cyprus Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works have announced the completion of this year's season of excavations at Akrotiri-Dreamer's Bay in Limassol. Investigations focussed on the remains of stone buildings comprising elements of a late Roman, early Byzantine port facility, perhaps serving the major Greco-Roman city of Kourion.

Conducted by University of Leicester and with further analysis expected over a period of five years, the project is intended to document and record the endangered shoreline structures to establish their purpose and date. The overall objective is to build up a fuller picture of the ancient port as part of the settlement landscape of the Akrotiri peninsula, on the southern coast of Cyprus and eastern Mediterranean seaways.

Paphos Proves Popular Among Foreign Buyers



Coral Bay

According to Cyprus Department for Land and Surveys, national property sales during the first half of this year (H1) significantly rose, with Paphos leading the way with 35.4 percent of the country's international sales.

Meanwhile, Limassol, Larnaca and Nicosia welcomed 35.4 percent, 16.3 percent and 6.5 percent of all contracts, respectively, while Famagusta attracted 5.1 percent of transactions. Across the island, domestic sales increased 13 percent, while the overseas market soared 44 percent compared to H1 2016. In Paphos, the number of purchase contracts with foreign buyers and investors jumped 72 percent year-on-year.

Paphos remained as the top choice due to its beachfront luxury villas and modern apartments featuring high security, convenience and a range of services.

Paphos Region Map Well Received

As part of its efforts to constantly upgrade Paphos' online resources while also promoting the city as an ideal all-year round destination for tourists, Pafos Regional Board of Tourism has recently launched a number of innovative projects, including Paphos Region Map.

Through a three-dimensional design, the map

which was released in June provides rich information about the city's hotspots with a friendly and fresh approach and has already earned the best reviews by travel agents as well as visitors.

The map is available at several hotels, travel agencies, embassies, Cyprus Tourism Organisation's offices and Pafos Regional Board of Tourism's headquarters.



Paphos

CTO Implements Price Guide

Aiming to protect visitors against misleading information regarding billing prices across various accommodation and recreation centres in Cyprus, Cyprus Tourism Organisation's (CTO) Quality Assurance Department has released a list of fixed prices.

The companies included in the inventory have been classified by the authority and prices have been established on the basis of prescribed criteria according to the characteristics of each room, suite or group. In line with this, hotels and recreational centres are obligated to display a price list in a prominent place within the premises.

Meanwhile, the authority also encourages consumers to use its comparative price list which can be easily downloaded on its website. Alongside this, the authority has also launched a complaints help line.



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Cyprus Promotes Culinary Tourism



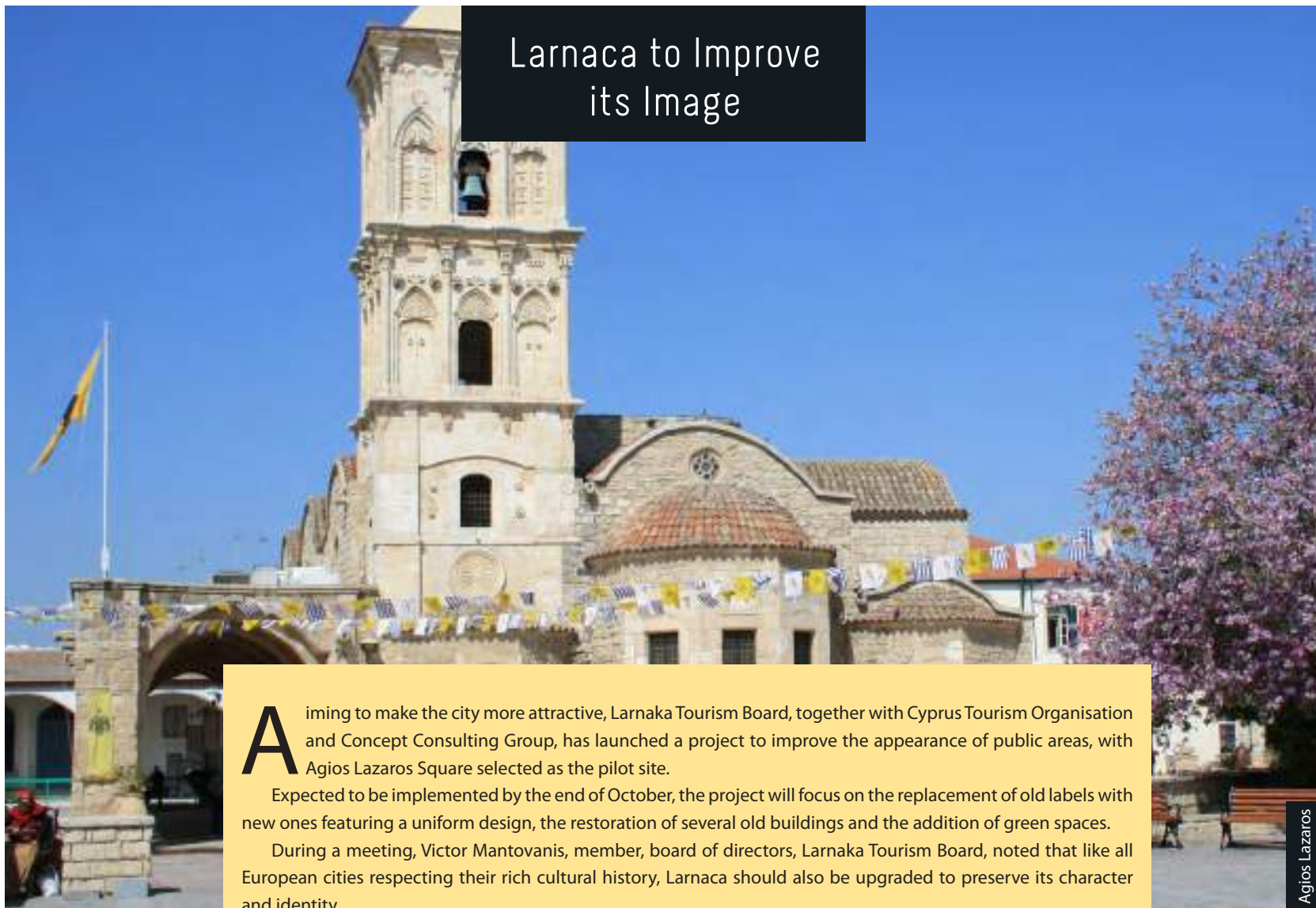
Cyprus Breakfast Seminar

In the context of promoting the country's local products and culinary culture while also upgrading services provided by hotels, Cyprus Tourism Organisation, Larnaca Tourism Board, Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative and Travel Foundation collaboratively organised an educational workshop dedicated to the Cypriot breakfast.

Taking place at Golden Bay Beach Hotel, the workshop hosted renowned chef George Kyprianou who outlined ways of using Cypriot products in creating new and imaginative breakfast dishes.

Meanwhile, the seminar highlighted the social role of the hotel industry in supporting local producers and communities as well as pinpointed that informing visitors of traditional Cypriot gastronomy is crucial for promoting food's historical and cultural dimension.

Larnaca to Improve its Image



Agios Lazaros

Aiming to make the city more attractive, Larnaca Tourism Board, together with Cyprus Tourism Organisation and Concept Consulting Group, has launched a project to improve the appearance of public areas, with Agios Lazaros Square selected as the pilot site.

Expected to be implemented by the end of October, the project will focus on the replacement of old labels with new ones featuring a uniform design, the restoration of several old buildings and the addition of green spaces.

During a meeting, Victor Mantovanis, member, board of directors, Larnaca Tourism Board, noted that like all European cities respecting their rich cultural history, Larnaca should also be upgraded to preserve its character and identity.

Leptos Estates Strengthens Links with Jordan

Aphrodite Seafont I & II - Chania

Striving to create a strong network of business associates along with a unique clientele, Leptos Estates has recently participated in International Property & Investment Expo in Amman.

The company's portfolio of properties in both Cyprus and Greece managed to attract the attention of large real estate agents, big investors and hundreds of property buyers.

Commenting on the success of the event, Yiannis Pierides, sales manager, Jordan, Leptos Estates, highlighted, "[...] We endeavour to rebuild existing markets and create new ones. We are also aware that the regions of Paphos and Limassol in Cyprus and Chania in Greece recently became one of the most popular destinations for Middle Eastern people attracted to permanent residence or for holidays and investments."

Larnaca Celebrates Summer

Neolithic Choirokoitia Festival

With the aim of celebrating summer, Larnaca Tourism Board organised a series of festivals in some of its most scenic villages, inviting local and foreign visitors to dive into the country's tradition.

Kicking off on August 08, Kiti Cultural Summer 2017 will feature a rich programme of traditional dance performances, theatre, and children's entertainment while complimentary watermelon will be served.

Taking place on August 11 - 17, Lefkara Summer Festival will showcase famous lace and silver handicrafts. For archaeology and history lovers, 7th Neolithic Choirokoitia Festival will offer the chance to learn about one of the oldest civilisations in the island. The programme will conclude on September 01 with Pervolia Cultural Festival featuring traditional Cypriot songs and dances.

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Paphos Coasts Received Gold Quality Award

Following the achievements of receiving 13 Blue Flag awards, Paphos has recently won a Gold Quality Award as a top *Sustainable Coastal Tourist Destination* for 2017.

The accolade recognises the area as one of the most attractive destinations for visitors who want to combine holidays and nature. This was the third time the entire coastal area including Geroskipou, Peyia, Polis Chrysochous and Neo Chorio achieved Quality Coast status and reflects the region's care for preserving the quality of the environment while enhancing local identity and cultural heritage.

The achievement was made possible thanks to cooperation between municipalities under the coordination of Pafos Regional Board of Tourism and marks a great moment for Paphos but at the same time commits the city to continue improving its environmental policies.

Coral Bay

Milestone April for Cyprus' Tourism

According to the Statistical Service of Cyprus' Passenger Survey, revenue from tourism in April reached EUR189.6 million, a 37.5 percent increase compared to the EUR137.9 million received in the corresponding month of 2016.

Expenditure per person for the month under review reached EUR662.06 compared to EUR611.37 in 2016, up 8.3 percent. On the basis of the evidence and information available to Cyprus Tourism Organisation, it is estimated that the returns of the tourism industry will be maintained at very satisfactory levels, in line with the strategic goal set by the authority.

The present, robust picture of Cyprus' tourism industry reflects the methodical and laborious work done by all stakeholders, both private and public.

More Overseas Trips by Cypriot Residents



Cyprus Statistical Service has documented a 9.4 percent year-on-year increase in the number of Cypriot residents taking international trips.

According to the findings of *Passengers Survey*, 110,235 residents returned from a trip abroad in June compared to 100,764 in the corresponding month in 2016. Trips to Greece, the most popular destination among Cypriot tourists, fell 0.1 percent. Meanwhile, the number of breaks to the UK soared 16.1 percent, rising from 21,530 in June 2016 to 24,998 this year, and visits to Russia also jumped 51.8 percent.

Moreover, the survey indicated that 57.2 percent of Cypriots travelled for leisure, while 22.5 percent and 18.2 percent went abroad for business and studies, respectively.

Larnaca Hosted Sports Summer Festival



Aiming to promote sport culture while also engaging young children in beach and water activities, Cyprus Sports Organisation in collaboration with Larnaca Municipality organised the 10th Sports Summer Festival.

Held on July 07 under the theme *Sports for All*, the event took place in the coastal area of Foinikoudes and attracted more than 1,000 children who spent a joyful day full of fun water-based activities.

Andreas Vyras, mayor, Larnaca, expressed his gratitude to OPAP Cyprus and Lanitis Group who were the main sponsors of the event and highlighted that the municipality will keep supporting similar events, which promote sport culture and improve citizens' health.

Ayia Napa to Prevent Excessive Noise

With the city being a favourite summer spot boasting a high number of night clubs and bars, noise is one of the major problems that Ayia Napa Municipality needs to deal with during the summer months.

As Yiannis Karousos, mayor, Ayia Napa, highlighted in his recent speech, legislation passed by parliament on noise pollution has gaps which allow club owners to play music at loud volumes.

According to Cyprus Tourism Organisation, the city is expected to welcome some 700,000 tourists this summer, thus the municipality needs to ensure that visitors are able to enjoy relaxing and tranquil vacation, leaving with the best memories from the island.

Stelios Foundation Embraced Tiger Mission

The Stelios Philanthropic Foundation (SPF) demonstrated its commitment to Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) by organising the fifth annual cocktail fundraising event in Monte-Carlo on July 11.

Since its inception, SPF has supported a variety of entrepreneurial and environmental initiatives with this year's party dedicated to encourage the work of its partners which aim to contribute in doubling the number of wild tigers by 2022, which coincides with the next Chinese Year of the Tiger.

Sharing common values, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, established in 2006, also strives to address the global alarming environmental situation by promoting sustainable development mainly in the areas of climate change, biodiversity and water scarcity.

Cyprus' Coastal Zone Has Been Defined

A LA Planning Partnership has recently announced the successful completion of the second stage of *Preparation of the Strategy and Action Plan on Integrated Coastal Zone Management* for the Period 2018-2028 project, involving the designation of the terrestrial limit of the coastal zone of Cyprus using multicriteria analysis.

Launched in collaboration with Goulandris Natural History Museum and Greek Biotope - Wetland Centre, after the two organisations had submitted a proposal in 2016, the project is expected to be completed in 2018.

Milestones of the completion of its second stage include the implementation of the required consultations and subsequently, the submission and approval of the project's first interim report, *Designation of the Terrestrial Limit of the Coastal Zone*.

Another Award for Larnaca Hub

Larnaca International Airport

Larnaca International Airport has recently received the title of *Most Accessible Airport for People with Disabilities*, among 500 European hubs, by Airports Council International (ACI) Europe.

The award was announced during ACI's 13th Annual General Assembly in Paris. The gateway was rewarded for its access-friendly initiatives, including the use of Eagle lift which facilitates the embarkation and disembarkation of people with specific needs and mobility difficulties.

After receiving the prize, Eleni Kaloyirou, CEO, Hermes Airports, pinpointed that it is the first time that a Cypriot airport occupies the first place in Europe, in such a demanding category and highlighted that the company will continue providing high quality services to people with mobility problems.

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Blue Air Expands in Cyprus

Aiming to establish itself as one of the major Cyprus-based carriers, Blue Air has recently welcomed its third aircraft to Cyprus, further expanding its fleet at Larnaka International Airport to offer more destinations and frequencies on existing routes.

Tudor Constantinescu, chief commercial officer, Blue Air, stated, “[...] It is our pride to be a support pillar for the ever-growing tourism industry in Cyprus by adding further new routes to our 61 direct and indirect destinations out of Larnaca or by increasing the frequencies on the existing ones.”

He further expanded that the carrier is a safe, reliable, comfortable and inexpensive product that meets the international standards as certified by International Air Transport Association’s Operational Safety Audit.



Hermes Airports Sponsored *Let's Do It! Cyprus*

As part of its corporate social responsibility programme and with the aim to promote sustainability, Hermes Airports sponsored *Let's Do It! Cyprus*, a national cleaning campaign, organised by Together Cyprus volunteers' network.

This year, a total of 35,516 volunteers helped to clean 563 points nationwide, collecting around 29,000kg of mixed garbage and 8,000kg of recyclable waste.

Cyprus' Commissioner for the Environment and Together Cyprus organised a ceremony, during which Hermes Airports received an honorary award for its support to the campaign.

Maria Kouroupi, senior marketing manager, Hermes Airports, pinpointed that environmental sustainability remains a key priority for Cyprus' airports.



DP World Limassol to Operate New Terminal

With the aim of expanding its cruise portfolio, DP World Limassol has recently unveiled plans to launch a new terminal at Limassol's port, scheduled for completion by the end of summer.

Featuring an internal area of 7,000m² along with 24-hour availability, the terminal has been designed to accommodate the largest operating cruise vessels and is expected to offer integrated services including home call and day call handling capability, ensuring an improved customer experience.

Charles Meaby, general manager, DP World Limassol, pinpointed, "DP World Limassol continues to promote the development of tourism in Cyprus and driving economic benefits for the local and national economy."

Port of Limassol

Limassol Marina Celebrates Blue Flag Award

Limassol Marina has achieved the international Blue Flag Marina status in recognition of its high standards and commitment related to environmental awareness and protection.

The world-renowned accolade distinguishes the destination's sustainable facilities and operational procedures, as well as its efforts in promoting environmentally-friendly conduct among visitors, residents and boat owners. The marina will continue maintaining the standards and communicating the regulations to stakeholders in order to ensure that activities conducted on its premises will adhere to the guidelines for clean waters and a safe environment for the marine life in Cyprus.



Blue Flag Award Ceremony, Limassol Marina



REACHING MORE DONKEYS IN CYPRUS

Every year we treat more and more donkeys on island and 2016 was no exception with 274 visits! Many of them were receiving their first vet and farrier treatments and we were extremely pleased that their owners were keen to learn about how to take care of their donkeys.

We also met a lot of very young foals that were born this year; one born only three days before we arrived. Several of the owners had already contacted us asking for advice of feeding the mare and taking good care of mother and baby. They were very grateful that we could go and check the foals, give further advice and show them how to get the foal used to being handled.



Unfortunately there continue to be donkeys living in terrible conditions without the basic care they require. Plastic, general rubbish, dangerous string, wire and metal, filthy water (if there is any), rotting vegetables and other inappropriate food are sights we still come across.

The majority of owners will take notice of our requests and advice, particularly if they see us picking up some of the rubbish in front of them. However, some do not and over the winter we will be collating evidence of the type of situations we come across to present to the authorities.

As most of you know, we do not have any legal jurisdiction and cannot force people to take better care of their animals. Without support from the authorities the lives of these donkeys will continue to be unacceptable. The Animal Welfare Act is quite clear about causing suffering and we will push to get the Law upheld. It's a painfully slow process but with your support, not only would we be able to try our hardest to do this but also continue to visit and treat more donkeys and improve their lives.

You may help us continue our work on the island, by visiting our website and making any donation you wish, Adopt A Donkey, or even Shop from our online Gift Shop just with a few clicks.

THE DONKEY SANCTUARY (CYPRUS)
 208 Agios Paraskevas Street, 4711 Pano Kleres Village, Limassol, Cyprus
 T [+357] 2984 4351 F [+357] 2984 2355 E info@donkeysanctuarycyprus.org
 www.donkeysanctuarycyprus.org

The Donkey Sanctuary is a registered charity in the United Kingdom (1044911) and in Cyprus 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Limassol Marina Held Charity Fishing Contest

Limassol Marina

On July 09, Limassol Marina hosted a charity tuna fishing competition, organised by Cyprus Fishing Magazine and partners, with all proceeds donated to Cypriot Center of Preventive Paediatrics.

Commemorating Chrysanthos Chrysanthou, Nakis Christodoulou and Charis Soleas, the event attracted some 25 fishing crews who enjoyed favourable weather conditions, allowing the boats to travel up to 18 nautical miles from the coast. Three awards were presented to the most successful fishermen based on the total fish weight and size, while 15 other participants were given gift vouchers for fishing related products and service. The charity of choice received a donation of EUR640.



Griffon Vulture Nests Found in Paphos

Griffon vulture

For the first time in decades, three active nests belonging to griffon vultures, one of Cyprus' most threatened species, have been identified in Paphos.

The first nest was located near the vulture feeding station in an area where a significant colony of the species used to live in the past. The nest belongs to birds which were brought from Crete through the Gypas project, which involved the relocation of 25 animals. The other two nests were located at Episkopi cliffs, where the largest colony of the species was found in recent years.

The discovery of the nests has been welcomed by conservationists who have fought to ensure the survival of the species on the island.

Ayia Napa Celebrated Children's Day



Happy Children's Day

As part of the International Children's Day, on June 01, Ayia Napa Municipality in cooperation with the Ecological Elementary School-Antonis Tsokkos and the Ecological Kindergarten of Ayia Napa, organised the 23rd Children's Festival, on May 28.

The festival took place in the city's central square and offered children the chance to participate in fun activities including handicrafts, pottery, painting, bread making as well as traditional toy making. In addition, young visitors played basketball and met some of World Disney's favourite heroes.

There was also live music and dance shows as well as theatrical performances, and complimentary ice cream.



Blue Air celebrated its first flight from Larnaca to Liverpool with 'The Beatles'



Coffee Island celebrated the start of summer with the launch of Espresso Tonic

A graphic with a black camera icon on an orange background. Inside the camera's viewfinder, the text 'Take a Shot!' is written in a white, cursive font.

Share with us the latest images of your activities and let your colleagues know what you have been up to.

Send your photos to editorial@traveltradecyprus.travel
Because a picture is worth a thousand words...



Cypriot athletes recently took part in The Games of the Small States of Europe in San Marino



High school students created 100 giant artworks in Paphos in a joint initiative between Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture and Pafos2017

EVENTS

FENGAROS 2017

Kato Drys

August 03 - 05

The seventh edition of the event will see live musical performances from international and local artists.

KYPRIA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Various locations across Cyprus September 02 - October 14

An extensive programme of events offering Cypriots and visitors a variety of cultural shows.



33RD AYIA NAPA FESTIVAL

Ayia Napa

September 21 - 24

An annual festival that reflects the historical, cultural and agricultural traditions of Ayia Napa.



Paphos Participates in EU's Cult-RInG

Paphos Regional Board of Tourism participated the inaugural meeting of *Cultural Routes as Investment for Growth and Jobs (Cult-RInG)* project which was held in Thessaloniki on June 21.

Launched by European Union's (EU), European Regional Development Fund and Interreg Europe, the overall objective of the project is to highlight the value of investing in European cultural routes and their contribution to growth and employment.

The four-year project has a total budget of around EUR1.3 million, including EUR175,000 for Paphos.

Through this participation, Paphos aims to exchange experiences with the partners in order to develop new cultural routes and to implement communication and dissemination tools which will contribute to EU policies and EU 2020 objectives.

Solar Car Challenge 2017 Concluded with Success



Solar Car Challenge 2017

Aiming to promote the use of renewable energy, The Cyprus Institute and Nicosia Municipality organised the annual Solar Car Challenge 2017 on June 25.

Taking place for the eighth consecutive year, the race saw competing solar vehicles race against each other on the roads of Nicosia city, starting from Stasikratous Street and ending up in Spyrou Kyprianou Avenue.

The winner of the competition was Technical School of Avgorou with its vehicle Hyperion3. With this initiative, The Cyprus Institute aims to stimulate interest and enthusiasm in physics, engineering as well as design and technology while also promoting sustainable development.

Elpis Hospitality Promotes Agrotourism

Aiming to further promote agrotourism while informing local authorities how to support the segment, Elpis Tourism and Hospitality Seminars organised two lectures at Community Council of Omodos on June 23.

The first lecture was organised in collaboration with Cyprus Tourism Organisation under the theme *How communities can become attractive and accessible to local and foreign visitors* and was attended by representatives from Limassol's local authorities. The afternoon session included a lecture dedicated to the care of tourists in Omodos and was attended by hoteliers and hospitality companies in Omodos.