



BYZANTINE CYPRUS

OCTOBER 1-12, 2025

Day 1. Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Arrival at **Larnaca** International Airport, meet and assist & transfers to Lordos Beach Hotel in **Larnaca**.

Day 2. Thursday, October 2, 2025

We'll explore some of the most famous sites in and near the resort town of Larnaca. Of great pilgrim interest is the **Basilica of Agios Lazaros** (with **relics of Lazarus** of the Gospel, "the friend of the Lord") dated back to the 9th century, the **Angeloktisti Church** with **mosaics** from the era of Emperor Justinian (the only one still surviving on the island in-situ), and the **Church of Agios Antonios** in Kellia. The church in Kellia is one of the most important Byzantine monuments on the island. Originally, it was built in the 9th century as a





three-aisled vaulted basilica with a dome. In the course of the centuries, the edifice was reconstructed several times, but part of the **frescoes** from the 9th, 11th and 13th centuries survives until the present day.

Day 3. Friday, October 3, 2025

After breakfast, we will cross into the **Northern occupied area** to explore the ruins of **Salamis**, the once largest city of the island. Imposing ruins give a good idea of the magnitude of the city, populated by multitudes at one time. Among them, there was a sizable Jewish

community, including a man named **Barnabas**. Later in life he was a disciple of the Lord and co-laborer of the Apostle Paul. Near the ruined city there is a **monastery** (now a museum since the occupation in 1974) and the shrine dedicated to the Apostle. Our last visit of the day will be to the Medieval fortifications of **Famagusta**, the place of fierce battle against the Islamic onslaught in 1571. Prior to that, it served as the Western Crusader Capital of Cyprus.

Day 4. Saturday, October 4, 2025

Our first stop today will be in the village of **Lefkara**, in the area that is known as “old” or “kato” Lefkara. Here, in the middle of nowhere (as the immediate vicinity looks literally like a field) there is a nice littler **church** dedicated to the **Archangel Michael**. The church was built in the 12th century and has partially preserved interior **frescoes** that date back to the same period. Our next stop will be at the **church of St. Catherine**, better known as the **Royal Chapel**. It was built in 1421



by the Lusignan King Janus. It is considered to be one of the most interesting surviving structures from the Frankish Period on the island. The chapel was originally entirely painted, but many of the paintings were destroyed during the course of time. On the eastern façade, King Janus is depicted in a wall painting along with his second wife, Charlotte de Bourbon. Included in the mural decoration of the chapel is a series of coats-of-arms of the Medieval Kingdom of Cyprus, as well as graffiti carved into the frescoed walls.



The small **church of the Holy Apostles** in Pera Chorio was built in the 12 century, during the Frankish dominion of the island. Still, built in a traditional Byzantine cruciform style, it was decorated with frescoes shortly upon the completion of the construction of the church. The **frescoes** are considered to be a very good representation of the iconography from the Komnenian period. Our last stop will be at **St. Demetrius church** in the Dali Village. The church is small, but beautifully proportioned domed Byzantine edifice that dates back to the 13th century. Preserved **frescoes** of the interior are from 1317AD.

Day 5. Sunday, October 5, 2025

Today we will spend time on the **Karpas Peninsula**, a National Park of incredible Natural beauty and historical importance. In Antiquity, it was a densely populated area. Vestiges of Paleo-Christian basilicas stand out as true gems of Christian Art and legacy on the Island. We will visit several of them before a lunch break at a restaurant in Agios Philon. Once an important trading harbor and the capital of the entire Peninsula, now it is a relaxed place in the shade of palm trees, next door to the ruins of a 12th century Byzantine church of the same name. After lunch, we will travel further east to visit **St. Andreas**

Monastery, the only Orthodox Monastery that was allowed to remain open by the occupational authorities. It was built on a spot where, according to tradition, a boat with Apostle Andrew docked. Recently, the monastic complex was renovated as a symbolic gesture of improving relations between the divided parts of the island.



Stegis) is the only remaining part of the 11th-century Byzantine monastery that flourished in the village of Kakopetria. The interior walls of the church are adorned with a series of **frescoes** ranging over several hundred years. Some wall paintings are from the 11th and 12th century, but most of the murals of the church are dated to the 14th century. The **Church of Panagia Moutoulla** is the oldest of the ten UNESCO-listed painted churches in the Troödos Mountains, and believed to have once been a private chapel. It has the steep aisle and pitched roof common to the region. The rare unrestored paintings date back to 1280AD. The **Monastery of St. John Lampadistas** is of Medieval provenance. Under one roof there are three churches, that date back to different periods. Of greatest interest is the main church with most **frescoes** dating back to the 13 century. Two other churches that we are going to visit today, date back to the so-called “post-Byzantine” ere. One of them is the **Church of Panagia Eleousa**, is better known under the name **Podithou**.

Day 6. Monday, October 6, 2025

Today will be a Byzantine tour-de-force as we will visit several monumental Byzantine churches with preserved Medieval Byzantine art. Our first stop will be at the **Panagia Asinou Church**. It is a small church built in 1099 and dedicated to the Virgin of ‘Phorbia’. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and contains some of the finest Byzantine **wall paintings** on the island, dating from the 12th to the 17th century. The **Church of St. Nicholas of the Roof** (Agios Nikolaos Tis





Once belonging to a monastery, the church was built in 1502. The mural paintings are of the Italo-Byzantine style that appeared on the island towards the end of the 15th century. The **church of the Archangel Michael** in Pedoulas Village is a small church built in 1474. The church is completely decorated in the local post-Byzantine style that developed prior to Venetian rule. On the upper level, there are eleven paintings from the Festival Cycle; on the lower level, there are depictions of the saints.

Day 7. Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Today we will explore **Nicosia**, the divided city and the capital of the Republic of Cyprus. Here, we will visit the **Archeological Museum**, and then after passing through the maze of Medieval streets we will come to the main **Cathedral** of the island, dedicated to **St. John the Evangelist**. Next door there is a **Byzantine Museum** with an incredible collection of icons, frescoes and mosaics that could rival any Byzantine collection, not only of the continental Greece, but certainly the World. (We hope that the Museum will be open by the time of our travel, as at the present time it is still closed due to renovations). Later in the afternoon, we will cross the border (on foot) and will board vans to visit the **Monastery of Antifonitis** with some of the best Byzantine Art to be found on the island. It also bears deep scars of the war, as some of the **frescoes were damaged** in an attempt to smuggle them from the island to be sold to western dealers.



Day 8. Wednesday, October 8, 2025

The **church of St. Barnabas and Hilarion** in Peristerona Village is an 11th century Byzantine church. It has five domes on the roof arranged in the shape of a cross. Rather little has been preserved of its original interior. Most of the wall-paintings date to the 15th and 16th centuries. The **church of St. Cyprian and Justina**, dedicated to the two early Christian martyrs is the Medieval edifice built during the period of



of the Frankish occupation of Cyprus. The church is mainly interesting as a pilgrim destination and is an important part of the religious and cultural life of the Orthodox Cypriots. The **Monastery of Saint Herakleidios** is located near the village of Politiko, near the ancient city of Tamassos. The Monastery is dedicated to Saint Herakleidios, a pupil of the Apostles Paul, Barnabas and Mark, who was ordained by them as the first Bishop of Tamassos. During its long and turbulent history, the monastery was destroyed and rebuilt on a number of occasions. Modern archeological research

showed the presence of the Ancient martyrion and ancient basilicas under the modern-day structures. The main katholikon of the monastery adorned with frescoes from the 13th and 16th centuries, and the **oldest wooden iconostasis in Cyprus**, decorated with heraldic historical beasts and the armory of various Latin knights. Our last stop of the day will be at the **Chrysospiliotissa Church**, a unique **cave** hermitage that dates to the 8th or 9th centuries, and perhaps even earlier.



Day 9. Thursday, October 9, 2025

The **church of Stavros tou Agiasmati** in Platanistasa Village is a Unesco-listed Byzantine church that is famous for its 15th-century **murals** done by Orthodox Syrian painter Philippos Goul. In two tiers, the images decorate the ceilings and interior beams of the gabled. The **Panagia tou Araka** is a middle Byzantine Orthodox church located in the village of Lagoudera. It is one of the most well-known and completely preserved middle Byzantine churches with **fresco** paintings. Most of the church's history is recorded within its mural paintings. The inscription on the interior of the north lintel states that they were completed in December of 1192 and were painted by a monk named Theodore who had been trained in Constantinople. Around the 14th century, the mural paintings were restored due to water damage and the inscription for these restorations was signed by a deacon named Leontios. The **Church of Timios Stavros** in Kyperounta, apart from the remarkable **frescoes** dating exactly to 1521, a precious **collection of icons** is on display, among which stands out that of Saint Marina dating from the 13th century. Our last stop of the day will be at **Timios Stavros Church** in Pelendri village. The church was originally a single-aisled domed structure, built around the middle of the 12th century, and may have been the church of a cemetery. It was destroyed under unknown circumstances, and the present form of the church is the result of several additions and alterations, carried out throughout various periods, with only the original apse surviving. According to an inscription in the apse, the original wall paintings date to 1171-1172 with fragments of the decoration preserved on the apse under the layer of the 14th century frescoes. The main part of the church was decorated during the second half of the 14th century by at least two artists. The north aisle served as a private chapel for the family of the Latin feudal lord of the area, Ioannes Lusignan (1353 – 1374 / 1375), and the village itself was once the property of Jean de Lusignan, son of the Lusignan King of Cyprus, Hugh IV. Due to the exquisite wall paintings of the Palaiologan period church was added to the UNESCO World Heritage site.



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Day 10. Friday, October 10, 2025

We will start our day by visiting **Panagia Katholiki** in Kouklia village that was in 1260 within the premises of the Ancient pagan Temple dedicated to Aphrodite. The interior of the church still preserves part of the original **frescoes**. From here on we will continue to the site of **Ancient Pafos**. Right in the middle of the city are the **ruins of a basilica** that mark the place of the torture of the Apostle Paul. More remains of the ancient city have been located just outside the border of the modern town. Some suggest that one of

the houses, (known as the house of mosaics) was the home of Proconsul Sergius Paulus, a convert to Christianity who embraced the faith based on the Apostle' witness. Nearby, there is a cemetery known as "**the Tombs of Kings**" with elaborate burial chambers cut in the rock. Later in the afternoon we will visit the **Monastery of Agios Neophytos**, an original monastery consisting of a set of natural and cut rock-caves. Later as the monastery expanded, new churches and other facilities were built on the clearing in front of the cliff where the original monastery is situated. On the way back to the hotel, we will visit a unique five-domed **Basilica of Agia Paraskevi** and adjacent, a small, but very interesting **Icon Museum** in the village of Yeroskopou.



Time permitting: we will visit **Panagia Chryseleousa Church** Located in Empa village. The church is actually a combination of two churches and is a stone-built structure with three aisles and two domes. The eastern section was first built as a cruciform church with a dome in the 12th century, possibly on the ruins of an earlier Christian basilica. An extension was made to the west with a domed building of the cross-in-square type later on in the 13th century. Some of the **frescoes** from 12th through the 16th centuries still adore the interior.



Day 11. Saturday, October 11, 2025

Our first stop today will be in the village of Monagri for a visit to the **monastery of Panayia Amasgous**. The monastery was founded at the end of the 11th century but had been destroyed and rebuilt many times. For centuries, it had been left deserted, and its land was rented out by farmers in the area. Out of the original buildings, only the main Katholikon remains. The original church was built in the 12th century and is adorned with excellent 12th, 13th and 16th century wall paintings. From here on we will proceed to the **Monastery of Kykkos**, the

largest and one of the most beautiful in all of Cyprus. Kykkos Monastery, is known for the **Miracle-working Icon of the Mother of God**, ascribed to the hand of St. Luke the Evangelist. It is also known for an excellent **museum of ecclesiastical art**, with the collection of Medieval Byzantine Icons second only to the Byzantine Museum in Nicosia. In the afternoon, we will we will visit the picturesque village of Omodos for some **souvenir shopping** and **wine tasting** at the local winery.

Day 12. Sunday, October 12, 2025

Check out from Ajax Hotel and transfer to **Larnaca International Airport** for Departure.





PRICING AND INCLUSIONS:

Price includes:

- Accommodations tourist class hotels along the way
- All breakfasts and nine dinners
- Private bus transportation along the way
- Group transfers from the airport and from the hotel to the hotel in Larnaca/Limassol
- All admissions, according to the schedule
- Hotel/city taxes
- Individual audio system aka "Whisper set"
- Professional English-speaking [local] tour guides
- English speaking guide/escort during the entire tour
- No hidden fees, taxes or surcharges

Price does not include:

- Personal health/accident insurance
- International air tickets
- Transportation to and from the airport if traveling separately from the group
- Private activities: transfers, optional tours, tickets to shows or additional museums.
- Some newly introduced fees that may occur in certain places
- Drinks with meals (soft or alcohol drinks)
- Tips to bus drivers and tour guides: \$10 days per day/per traveler total (Your generosity will be always greatly appreciated)

- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

Financial arrangements:

\$ 2900 per person, in double occupancy in a group of 25 participants; Single supplement: \$800 extra and subject to availability. Please consider that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to nearly unprecedented spikes in fuel prices that negatively impacted on the economies of the most countries in the region. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away. We do apologize for any inconvenience in that regard and appreciate your understanding of the difficult circumstances of the current challenging environment.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC", and mailed Palomnik, LLC, P.O.Box 1618, Cranberry Township, PA 16066. Any returned checks are subject to a \$25 fee. If you'd like to register and to pay via credit card, please contact follow this link: <https://tri.ps/THjWW> . Please beware of the extra credit card fees that are charged by the banking institutions. If you'd like to pay by Zelle, please use ortours@gmail.com e-mail address. If you'd like to

make a bank deposit or need info for a banking wire, please contact us directly.

A deposit of \$850 is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or for some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The deadline for signing up for the trip is July 1, 2025. The entire amount is due by July 1, 2025. Failure to pay in full by July 1, 2025, without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you need to cancel after you signed up, penalty is:

- 25% of the tour cost, March 1 to 61 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 31 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 31 or fewer days prior to the departure

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to any emergencies, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:

Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility for any consequences because of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected

that the traveler will always follow the directions of the Tour Director. The Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay

Starting in 2024, U.S. passport holders traveling to Europe will need to apply for authorization through the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) before their visit. For details and authorization, please visit: https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property. One of the major travel insurance aggregators is: www.insuremytrip.com
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited. The financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to hospitalization, treatment, or quarantine) will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

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**REGISTRATION FORM:
BYZANTINE CYPRUS
OCTOBER 1-12, 2025**

*To register: please complete this registration form and return it along with
your deposit check (\$850.00) made to PALOMNIK, LLC to the following address:
Palomnik, LLC, P.O.Box 1618, Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Please write "Cyprus 2025" on the memo line.*

Full Name (exactly as in your passport):

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Nationality, Passport # :

Passport expiration date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodation at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

*Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and
Conditions that accompany the itinerary.*

NAME/SIGNATURE:

DATE: