

## Group Cultural itinerary 6 days / 5 nights

### Groups Quotations

#### DAY 1: ARRIVAL - ► [Distances](#)

Meeting with our tour guide at the airport and transfer to the hotel in Limassol.

#### DAY 2 : CURIUM – PAPHOS ► [Distances](#)

The drive to **Paphos** reveals ever - changing scenery from vineyards and citrus groves to archaeological sites, all in a beautiful Mediterranean frame.

Our first stop is at **Petra tou Romiou**, regarded since ancient times as the birthplace of Aphrodite, goddess of love and fertility. Once in Paphos we head to the church of **Panagia Crysopolitissa**, built in the 13th century over the ruins of the largest Early Byzantine basilica on the island. Within the compound one can see **St. Paul's Pillar**, where, according to tradition, Saint Paul was flogged before the Roman Governor Sergius Paulus was converted to Christianity.

Next to the picturesque harbor, in the **Houses of Dionysus**, we have the chance to admire some of the finest Roman mosaics dating the 3rd to the 5th century AD. This restored Roman villa probably belonged to a member of the ruling Roman class or to a local wealthy family.

We finally visit the **Tombs of the Kings**. Spread over a vast area, these impressive underground tombs date back to the 4th century BC. They are carved out of solid rock with some being decorated with Doric pillars.

**LUNCH SUPPLEMENT € 19.00 per person including ¼ of wine and ½ water**

#### DAY 3: NICOSIA – KERYNIA ► [Distances](#)

We start our daily visits at the Cyprus Museum: a priceless and fascinating collection of Cypriot antiquities and treasures from the Neolithic Age to the early Byzantine period.

We will have time to stroll down the narrow streets of Laiki Yitonia, the historical, popular quarter of the Capital and the famous Ledra Street.

Crossing the “*Green Line*” in Nicosia, we reach the Bellapais Abbey, a fine example of Gothic architecture of the Lusignan period. The abbey comprises of a church, refectory, dormitory and storage rooms grouped around an inner courtyard.

Finally we get to the picturesque coastal town of **Kyrenia**. Strolling down its harbour we visit the **Kyrenia Castle**, built in the 16th century by the Venetians over a previous Crusader fortification.

**LUNCH SUPPLEMENT € 16.00 per person including ¼ of wine and ½ water**

#### DAY 4: FAMAGUSTA – SALAMIS ► [Distances](#)

Crossing the “*Green Line*” we head eastwards to the historical town of **Famagusta**, once the island’s most popular tourist destination.

The **Old Town**, surrounded by one of the best preserved Venetian fortification in the Mediterranean, features plenty of medieval/renaissance buildings.

Within the walls we visit the **Cathedral of St. Nicholas** (converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest and re-named **Lala Mustafa Paşa Mosque**).

Our tour continues to the ancient city of **Salamis** which, according to tradition, was founded by Teucer, son of Telamon, who could not return home after the Trojan war because he had failed to avenge his brother Ajax.

During the Roman period, Salamis was a main commercial hub and became fertile base for early Christianity. Here the Apostles Barnabas and Paul, arriving from the Holy Land, began their journey together to spread the Gospel through Cyprus and Asia Minor.

Just opposite, the **Monastery of St. Barnabas** was founded on the site of the apostle Barnabas, who was born in Salamis, as a reminder of the important role Cyprus played in the history of Christianity in the Mediterranean.

On our way back we drive along the infamous “*Ghost City*”, the once touristic pride of Famagusta which has become inaccessible since 1974.

**LUNCH SUPPLEMENT € 16.00 per person including ¼ of wine and ½ water**

#### **DAY 5: TROODOS: Byzantine Churches - ► [Distances](#)**

Today we head up to the Troodos Mountains. Driving through orchards and vineyards we reach the Church of Agios Nicolao tis Stegis . It is covered entirely in wall paintings dating from 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. We proceed to Galata village and visit Panagia Tis Pothithou church.

Next stop at Panagia Tis Asinou Church, in Nikitari village, one of the ten UNESCO World Heritage churches on the Troodos. Built in a pine-clad area, it has some of the finest examples of Byzantine wall painting on the island.

**LUNCH SUPPLEMENT € 16.00 per person including ¼ of wine and ½ water**

#### **Day 6 – DEPARTURE - ► [Distances](#)**

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport

