

Churches – Inside the Wall

- **St Ioannis Cathedral Church** was built in 1662 by Archbishop Nikiforos. The recently restored 18th century frescoes recreate scenes from the Holy Bible and the discovery of Apostle Varnavas' tomb in Salamina.
- **St. Kassianos** holds the silver helmet that is believed to have been used by the saint, as well as an early print of John the Baptist's gospel. It is decorated with gold and was printed in Venice in 1781 in Greek.
- **Panagia Chrysaliniotissa** is dedicated to the Holy Mary, taking the name from her gold-decorated icon in the church. It is the oldest Byzantine church in Lefkosia and was built by the empress Eleni Paleologou. It is noted for its vast collection of rare and ancient icons.
- **Phaneromeni** was built in 1872 next to an ancient Orthodox nunnery and is the largest church inside the walls. The marble mausoleum located east of the church contains the remains of bishops and other clerics that were executed by the Turks in 1821.
- **Trypiotis Church** was built in 1695 and is dedicated to the Archangel Michael. It has an impressive interior and its temple is decorated with gold and silver.
- **Missirikos Church** is a Medieval Christian Orthodox that was converted into a mosque following the Ottoman's conquest of Cyprus in 1571. It is a Frankish building with byzantine gothic and Italian Renaissance architectural elements. It was named in honour of the Frankish king of Cyprus, Erik the Second.
- **The Catholic Church of the Holy Cross** can be found by Paphos Gate, in Old Lefkosia. It was built in 1902, replacing an older church that dated back to 1642. Like the present – day model, this church was dedicated to the Holy Cross and functioned until the 19th century.

Music and Theatre

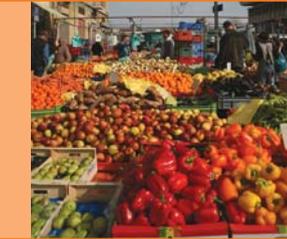
Lefkosia has long been a cultural beacon, with **music, theatre, visual and traditional arts** highlighting the cultural wealth of the Cypriot people. Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of exceptional musical and theatrical events, organized either by the municipality or independent organizations.

- **THOC (Theatrical Organization of Cyprus)** was founded in 1971 and is a member of the European Theatre Convention. It hosts a wide variety of theatre shows on a regular basis at the **Latsia Municipal Theatre, Nea Skini and Teatro Ena**.
- **Skali Aglantzias** is a multifunctional space in the Scali area of Aglantzia. It is made up of an open – air square, amphitheatre, exhibition space, restaurant & bar. It hosts many shows, concerts and cultural events.
- **The Satirical Theatre of Cyprus** was founded in October 1983 by actor and director Vladimiros Kafkaridis. It is the first Free Theatre to be supported financially by the government. It is also the only drama school in Cyprus.
- **Strovolos Municipal Theatre** is located in the municipality's main avenue. It has hosted many charitable, cultural and educational events, as well as theatre shows, concerts, operas, ballets both of national and international standing.
- Notable cultural events are also frequently hosted by the Ammochostos Gate Cultural Centre, the Municipal Arts Centre, the Municipal Centre of Contemporary Social and Cultural Services and many others.



Local Markets

Whilst wondering through the streets of Lefkosia, one will inevitably come across a traditional local market. The markets of St. Anthony, the Constanza Bastion and others are genuine examples of past times. Pleasurable travails through the colours and scents evoked from foods on display take you back to a time where 'fresh' foods really were just that and handicraft goods were made by real hands.



Traditional Cuisine

Cyprus is renowned for its traditional Mediterranean cuisine. Rich in flavours, colours and presentation, it combines elements of Greece, the West and the Middle East to create a culinary experience that seduces the senses. Lefkosia is full of restaurants, kitchens and tavernas in which you may sample traditional Cyprus mezze, fresh fish and seafood and other local delicacies; whatever dish you choose, it will be full of flavour and served with a warm Cyprus smile.

Lefkosia. city of the centuries.



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