

Royal Tombs Carved in Rock, a Lagoon the Color of Glass — A 6-Day Cyprus Itinerary

Six days across Cyprus, from a salt-lake shrine and a divided capital to a mountain monastery, a wine village, a UNESCO tomb complex, and a lagoon the color of glass — with real hotels, real outfitters, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

6 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

April – May & September – October

warm, pleasant weather without summer's peak heat and crowds; July–August is hottest and busiest, and winter is quiet with cooler temperatures up in the Troodos Mountains

FROM

\$690 USD / person

for 2 people, incl. rental car, 5 nights' lodging, entrance fees, a wine tasting, and a boat cruise

Day 1

Larnaca

A first afternoon on the south coast — a seafront promenade, a mosque on a salt lake, and a fish dinner to start the trip.

Rental Car Pickup — Larnaca International Airport

~10 minutes to the city center · from \$38 USD / day

Most Cyprus loops start from Larnaca, the island's main arrival airport and a straight shot to the seafront in under fifteen minutes.

Finikoudes Promenade & Larnaca Fort

~1.5 hours, self-guided · fort entrance €2.50

A palm-lined seafront promenade running past cafes and the marina, ending at a small Ottoman-era fort with views back along the beach.

Hala Sultan Tekke

~45 minutes, self-guided · free (donation welcome)

A mosque and shrine on the edge of the Larnaca Salt Lake, one of the holiest sites in Islam outside Mecca and Medina, with flamingos gathering on the lake in the cooler months.

Dinner — Stefanos Fish Tavern

~1.5 hours · \$25–\$35 USD / person

A long-running Larnaca fish tavern a few streets back from the water — whole grilled fish and a table of mezze to start the trip properly.

Stefanos Fish Tavern · [tripadvisor.com/Stefanos_Fish_Tavern](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Stefanos_Fish_Tavern)

Overnight — Mercure Larnaca Finikoudes Beach

From \$130–\$160 USD / night, for 2 people

A beachfront hotel directly on the Finikoudes promenade, an easy walk to the marina, the fort, and the row of seafront cafes.

Mercure Larnaca Finikoudes Beach · all.accor.com

Day 2

Nicosia & the Drive to Troodos

A morning in the world's last divided capital, then a climb into the pine forests and monasteries of the Troodos Mountains.

Ledra Street & the Cyprus Museum

~2.5 hours, self-guided · museum €4.50 / person

A pedestrian shopping street running toward the old Green Line, and the island's largest archaeological collection a short walk away, from Bronze Age pottery to Roman statuary.

Ledra Street Observatory

~30 minutes, self-guided · free

An observation deck built into an old department store, looking straight down into the UN buffer zone that has split Nicosia since 1974 — a sobering, close-up view of the divided city.

Lunch — Zanettos Tavern

~1 hour · \$20–\$30 USD / person

The oldest taverna in Cyprus, in business since 1938, with no menu — the mezze dishes just keep arriving until the table says stop.

Zanettos Tavern · exodos.com.cy/zanettos-nicosia

Drive — Nicosia to Troodos

~1.5 hours via the B9 · self-guided

A winding climb out of the capital and up into the pine forests of the Troodos range, the temperature dropping noticeably with every switchback.

Overnight — New Helvetia Hotel, Troodos

From \$110–\$150 USD / night, for 2 people

A heritage mountain hotel in the heart of the Troodos range, built in the 1930s as one of Cyprus's original alpine retreats and recently restored.

New Helvetia Hotel · newhelvetiahotel.cy

Day 3

Kykkos Monastery & Omodos Wine Village

Cyprus's richest monastery, a stone-built wine village, and a drive down out of the mountains to the coast.

Kykkos Monastery

~1.5 hours, self-guided · free

The wealthiest and most famous monastery in Cyprus, its walls covered floor to ceiling in gold-ground mosaics and frescoes, home to an icon believed to have been painted by St. Luke.

Omodos Village & Oenou Yi Winery Tasting

~2 hours · tasting \$15–\$20 USD / person

A stone-built wine village around a monastery square, its narrow lanes lined with wine cellars — a guided tasting at Oenou Yi runs through the local Xynisteri and Maratheftiko grapes.

Oenou Yi Winery · oenouyiwine.com

Drive — Troodos to Paphos

~1.5 hours · self-guided

A descent out of the mountains through terraced vineyards and citrus groves, the road eventually leveling out toward the coast at Paphos.

Overnight — Kentrikon 1924 Boutique Hotel, Paphos Old Town

From \$140–\$180 USD / night, for 2 people

A restored 1920s townhouse turned boutique hotel in Paphos's old town, walkable to the harbour, the archaeological park, and the old market.

Kentrikon 1924 Boutique Hotel · [tripadvisor.com/Kentrikon_1924](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Kentrikon_1924)

Day 4

Paphos

A full day among the UNESCO ruins that give Paphos its name, from rock-cut tombs to Roman mosaics.

Tombs of the Kings

~1.5 hours, self-guided · €4.50 / person

A UNESCO necropolis of underground tombs carved directly into the limestone, some cut with columned courtyards, dating back to the 4th century BC despite the name — no kings were ever actually buried here.

Paphos Archaeological Park

~2 hours, self-guided · €4.50 / person

A Roman-era site anchored by the House of Dionysus, its floors covered in some of the best-preserved mosaics in the eastern Mediterranean, depicting scenes from Greek mythology.

Dinner — Christos Grill & Seafood, Paphos Harbour

~1.5 hours · \$30–\$40 USD / person

A harbourfront grill and seafood spot with a view of Paphos Castle across the water — a good spot to watch the sun go down after a day of ruins.

Christos Grill & Seafood · tripadvisor.com/Christos_Grill_Seafood

Overnight — Kentrikon 1924 Boutique Hotel

From \$140–\$180 USD / night, for 2 people

A second night in the same old-town boutique hotel — no need to repack.

Day 5

Avakas Gorge & the Blue Lagoon

A morning hike through a limestone gorge, an afternoon boat cruise to a lagoon the color of glass, then a drive along the coast to Limassol.

Avakas Gorge

~2 hours, 3-mile round trip · free

A narrow limestone gorge on the edge of the Akamas Peninsula, its walls closing in to just a few feet wide in places, with a streambed trail that can mean wet feet after rain.

Blue Lagoon Boat Cruise — Mediterranean One, Latchi

~2.5–3 hours · from \$23 USD / person

A boat cruise around the Akamas coastline ending with an hour anchored at the Blue Lagoon for swimming and snorkeling, with Cypriot wine and fruit served on board.

Mediterranean One · akamasboattrip.com

Drive — Paphos to Limassol

~1 hour via the A6 · self-guided

A fast run along the coastal motorway from the Akamas peninsula back toward Limassol, Cyprus's second city.

Overnight — Curium Palace Hotel, Limassol

From \$100–\$130 USD / night, for 2 people

A restored 1940s landmark hotel near Limassol's old town, one of the city's original grand hotels, with high ceilings and a central location for the last night.

Curium Palace Hotel · curiumpalacehotel.com

Day 6

Limassol & Departure

A last morning at a cliffside Roman theatre and a medieval castle before the drive back to the airport.

Kourion Archaeological Site

~1.5 hours, self-guided · €4.50 / person

A Greco-Roman theatre and villa complex perched on a cliff above the sea, still used for concerts today, with mosaic floors and views along the coast toward Episkopi Bay.

Limassol Castle & Old Town

~1.5 hours, self-guided · castle €4.50 / person

A medieval castle where Richard the Lionheart is said to have married Berengaria of Navarre in 1191, now a museum, with the old town's market streets right outside.

Departure — Drive to Larnaca International Airport

~45 minutes via the A1 · self-guided

A quick run back along the motorway to Larnaca, closing the loop on six days that ran from rock-cut tombs to a lagoon the color of glass.