



Current as of: March 12, 2019 - 12:12

Valid for departures: From January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2020



Walking in North Cyprus Trip Notes

- Ways to Travel:** Guided Group
- Destinations:** North Cyprus
- Programmes:** Walking & Trekking

Trip Code:
TEU



8 Days Land only
Min age: 16

Trip Overview

North Cyprus remains a hidden gem of the Mediterranean, far less visited since separation in 1974 but, thanks to the abundance of archaeological remains from many civilisations that inhabited the island over the centuries, it is considered the most beautiful and historically interesting part of the island. With superb walking through unspoiled areas teeming with flowers and wildlife, and the relaxed local Turkish Cypriot culture, this is a walking and sightseeing tour not to be missed.

At a Glance

- 7 nights 4-star Hotel Pia Bella, all rooms en suite
- 5 days centre-based walking
- Reasonable fitness required
- Low altitude throughout

Trip Highlights

- Discover dramatic vistas and fascinating archaeology
- See beautiful flora and fauna
- Explore crusader castles

Is This Trip for You?

Grade: 2 (Leisurely/ Moderate)

Most days involve some driving and sightseeing in addition to the walks. Strong but lightweight 2/3 season boots with good ankle support are recommended, as there are descents each day that, although not technical, may be steep.

The walking is seldom too demanding, although some of the terrain is a bit rocky underfoot. Some of the paths are quite narrow and fairly undulating, and there some sections which involve some scrambling over larger rocks and boulders. There is plenty of opportunity for exploration in and around some of the area's ruins and castles. A pair of comfortable shoes or trainers will also be very handy for the evenings and journeys to/from the start/end points.

Following a review of all our trips we have categorised this trip as generally not suitable for persons of reduced mobility. However if you are a regular traveller on such trips, please contact customer services to discuss the trip and your personal condition.

Adult min age: 16

Min group size: 4

Max group size: 16

Itinerary



Land Only Itinerary

Day 1

Start Kyrenia

The nearest arrival airport is the Larnaca airport. Try to arrive in the early evening and the group will be met and transferred to the start hotel. The transfer takes approximately 1.5 hrs and includes crossing the border to North Cyprus. In the evening our guide will hold a short meeting to discuss the plan for the following day, to give advice on the local area and to answer any questions.

Accommodation: Hotel Pia Bella or similar

Comfortable Hotel

Day 2

Transfer to Catakoy; walk to Bellapais and visit the monastery; afternoon Kyrenia Castle visit

After the Welcome Briefing, we will have a short 20 minute transfer to Bellapais village and the beautiful 12th century Bellapais Abbey, set in the mountains to the south. There will be some free time to explore the beautiful village and the abbey before starting our short walk to Catakoy village where we get the transfer back to Kyrenia. The walk today is mainly along an old dirt track; it is fairly undulating, with views out towards the coast along the way.

Kyrenia is a pretty harbour town and a great base from which to explore North Cyprus. Archaeological excavations show the area was first settled as far back as the 10th century BC, and today historic buildings and winding lanes offer a glimpse of the past, sitting side by side with more modern additions. Our tour also takes in a visit to Kyrenia's Crusader Castle, which features in English history as far back as the third crusade, when it was taken by Richard the Lionheart. Since then the castle has been updated and used by civilizations as diverse as the Ottomans, the Venetians and the British. As well as glorious views and fascinating architecture, the castle also houses the Shipwreck Museum, home to a 4th century Greek merchant vessel and its cargo.

Walk: Distance 5 km Ascent 153 m Descent 145 m Max Altitude 350 m Time: 2 hours

Accommodation: Hotel Pia Bella or similar

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 5 km / 3 miles

Day 3

Transfer to the ancient hermitage site of St Hilarion Castle; visit the site and walk to Malatya village via Karaman

Today we transfer approximately 25 minutes to the Saint Hilarion Castle, a former stronghold of the Kyrenia mountains. Originally a hermitage site, the monastery and church were built in the 10th century and later fortified. The site consists of three main parts, linked by steep staircases; the lower section was for the stables and men of arms, the middle section was home to the church and the upper section was for use by only royalty. The stunning views from the upper level are well worth the climb!

We will spend some time exploring the castle and enjoying the magnificent views of Kyrenia, before starting our walk through the hills to Malatya village. The first part of our walk is through the forest, following an old riverbed with some loose rocks underfoot. We then reach an old dirt track which we follow into the village, with stunning views of the coast ahead of us and the impressive Saint Hilarion Castle up on the hills behind us. We will walk through several small villages today, getting a good sense of local life along the way. We'll stop for lunch in a square in one of these villages.

We will transfer back to the hotel this afternoon, stopping en route to enjoy a drink on the seafront if time allows.

Walk: Distance 14 km Ascent 205 m Descent 400 m Max Altitude 900 m Time: 4 hours

Accommodation: Hotel Pia Bella or similar

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 14 km / 8 miles

Day 4

Head to the Karpas peninsula; visit the Incirli caves and crusader castle at Kantara; walk to beautiful Kaplica beach

We head east approximately 1.5 hrs today, towards the Karpas peninsula. In the morning, we will visit Incirli cave, the largest on the island, which contains an amazing collection of stalactites and stalagmites, before heading to the crusader castle at Kantara. Kantara Castle is one of three mountain fortresses built by the Byzantines along the Kyrenia Mountains along with Saint Hilarion Castle and Buffavento Castle. It was used as a beacon station, communicating with Buffavento Castle with the use of fires. The castle boasts an incredible 360 degree view of the region. On a clear day you can see not only both coasts of the Karpaz Peninsula but also the mountains of Turkey! After a picnic lunch near the castle, we will walk down the slopes of Five Finger Mountains to the beautiful Kaplica beach. If time allows, there will be a chance to swim at Kaplica beach after our walk, before we transfer (approximately 1 hr) back to Kyrenia.

Walk: Distance 8 km Ascent 50 m Descent 450 m Max Altitude 740 m Time: 3.5 hours

Accommodation: Hotel Pia Bella or similar

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 8 km / 4 miles

Day 5

Free day to relax or take an excursion to Famagusta

Today has been left free for further exploration of the island. Of the many options available, of particular interest is a trip to the ancient city of Salamis and the historical city of Famagusta. This trip starts with a visit to St. Barnabas Monastery, followed by a tour of the Ancient city of Salamis, which remains the biggest Roman site on the whole island of Cyprus. There will be a lunch break by the sea before the tour continues to the ghost town of Varosha, which is closed to the civil life since 1974. The trip finishes with visiting the old walled city of Famagusta, where the St. Nicholas Cathedral is located. This tour can be arranged locally (please note that you may be joining a larger group on this tour). Of course you could choose to spend the day relaxing, or explore under your own steam.

Accommodation: Hotel Pia Bella or similar

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6

Visit Buffavento Castle for magnificent views; walk to Bellapais village

We start our day with a 45 minute transfer to the magnificent Buffavento Castle. Standing at 970m, it is the highest Crusader castle on the island and a highlight of the week. Buffavento was built in the 11th century as a part of the island's defences against the Arabs, and also controlled an important mountain pass. The dramatic location offers glorious views over Kyrenia and the Five Finger Mountains.

This afternoon we will walk from the castle taking the footpath which leads us down to Bellapais village. We will have our lunch at the top of the mountain where you will see the both sides of the Five Finger Mountain. Our route takes us along a narrow path, which is a bit rocky underfoot, passing between the mountains, and offering us stunning views in both directions. The vehicle meets us in Bellapais village, and we will transfer about 10 minutes back to Kyrenia.

Walk: Distance 16 km Ascent 300 m Descent 350 m Max Altitude 970 m Time: 4 hours

Accommodation: Hotel Pia Bella or similar

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 16 km / 9 miles

Day 7

Spend a day in the Five Finger Mountains; walk includes visiting Kyrenia Rock and Sourp Magyar Armenian monastery

Today we transfer approximately 30 minutes to the start of our last walk, the Five Finger Mountains. The walk takes us on a path up towards the Herbarium of Alevkaya (currently closed for renovation), where we will stop for lunch. This afternoon we will walk to Sourp Magyar, the only Armenian Monastery in the mountains, and on to Kyrenia rock, which offers excellent photo opportunities.

Walk: Distance 10 km Ascent 100 m Descent 120 m Max Altitude 650 m Time: 4 hours

Accommodation: Hotel Pia Bella or similar

Comfortable Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Distance covered: 10 km / 6 miles

Day 8

End Kyrenia

Our adventure ends after breakfast in Kyrenia. You will be transferred (at designated time) back to Larnaca for the flight home

Meals included: Breakfast

All ascents, descents and distances listed above have been measured by our local partners or tour leaders. Please note that different GPS measuring devices can give differing results dependent on the barometric pressures at the time. Measurements stated throughout these trips notes are given to help you understand the types of terrain and distances you will encounter.

Accommodation

Hotel Pia Bella



We usually stay at the 4-star Hotel Pia Bella, a short walk to the bars and restaurants of atmospheric Kyrenia harbour. All rooms are en suite with satellite tv, telephone and air conditioning and Wi-Fi access in communal areas. The property boasts two swimming pools, a Jacuzzi and tranquil gardens.

Where a single supplement is available, paying for a single only guarantees a room for single use. It does not always mean a twin or double room will be provided for sole occupancy.

Single supplement from \$232.50 USD

Food & Transport

Eating & Drinking

All breakfasts and 5 picnic lunches are included.

Buffet style Cypriot breakfast is provided with bread/toast, butter, jam, fresh juice, milk, local yoghurt, eggs and honey, and coffee/tea.

Cypriot food includes: locally caught fish and seafood by the Kyrenia fishing fleet, excellent local meat dishes, stuffed vegetables, fruit - particularly figs, oranges, nectarines, grapes, olives and pomegranates - and breads and cheeses.

Picnic lunches using locally sourced food are provided where specified. On other days we will stop at a suitable local café or restaurant.

Kyrenia has a large number of restaurants to choose from for evening meals.

Transportation

A minibus will be used for all transfers during the week.

Weather & Seasonality

Weather Information

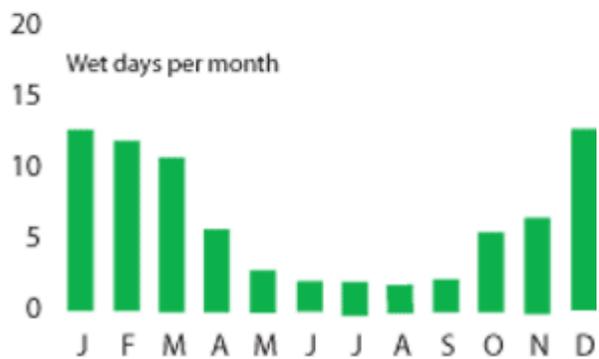
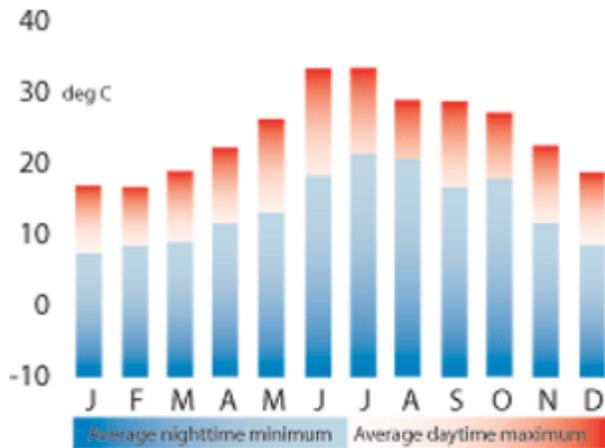
February and March are the coolest months, with daytime temperatures ranging from 12-19°C and night time temperatures dropping to 2-9°C. There is a chance of rain at this time.

In April and from October through December, it should be quite warm, with daytime temperatures reaching up to 27°C. Night time temperatures will be cooler and pleasant, usually between 10-16°C. At these times it is generally dry but there is a chance of a shower.

May and September are the hottest months and usually very dry. Daytime temperatures can reach up to 33°C, and the night time temperatures will usually range from 12-17°C.

Weather Charts

Kyrenia, North Cyprus



Joining Instructions

Travelling land only: 8 days starting and ending in Kyrenia

Your trip normally starts at our accommodation in Kyrenia in the evening of Day 1 of the itinerary. Details of how to reach the start point are provided in the Final Joining Instructions - sent approximately two weeks before departure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Transfers Details

Airport transfers are included at designated times. Please note that transfers are not included for clients arriving on any other flight, even if Breakaway has booked it.

If you require airport transfers, you may (by prior arrangement only) be able to join the group transfer. Transfers are arranged to coincide with the arrival time of the group flight - please check the group flight details 2 weeks before departure. If you do not take this transfer, or miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense.

Location start: Kyrenia

Location end: Kyrenia

What to Take

Essential Equipment

2/3 seasons jacket for December, February and March departures

Light waterproof jacket

Sunscreen, sunhat and sunglasses

Water bottle

Lightweight but sturdy boots with ankle support

Daypack (20-30L capacity)

Swimwear

Sandals or old trainers for swimming

Comfortable shoes or trainers for sightseeing outside of the daywalks

The temperatures can sometimes be very high during the day in June and September; comfortable light clothing, sunhats, sunglasses and a high factor sun cream are highly recommended at these times of the year.

At time of writing the standard weight limit for hold baggage on the recommended international carrier for this trip is 20kg. We recommend packing only one piece of checked baggage.

As advice about luggage allowances for both hand and hold luggage is subject to change, we suggest you check the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

Optional Equipment

You may want to bring walking poles.



Practical Information

Visa

North Cyprus

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required. There are no specific health risks on this trip.

Vaccination

North Cyprus

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements. Recommended vaccinations are: Tetanus, Hepatitis A.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

Insurance - are you adequately covered?

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident in the USA we recommend Travellex travel insurance policy, this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

Local Time

Electricity

220/240 volts AC, UK style 3 pin rectangular plugs are used, but some 2 pin sockets remain.

Money

North Cyprus's Currency

The national currency of North Cyprus is the Turkish Lira (TRL), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (October 2019) of approximately 5.59 to the USD, 4.28 to the CAD, 6.42 to the EUR, 3.98 to the AUD and 3.66 to the NZD.

ATM Availability

There are some ATMs in Kyrenia though these should not be relied upon. Credit cards are accepted in most restaurants and shops, but there is often a charge of 2% to 5% for this.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

North Cyprus remains a relatively cheap destination. You can expect to spend between USD\$20 and USD\$30 equivalent on an evening meal in a good quality restaurant.

Approximate local prices:

Tea/coffee/ soft drink USD\$2.00

Beer/glass of wine USD\$3.00

Optional Excursions

Visit to the ancient city of Salamis and the historical city of Famagusta - USD\$45 equivalent per person, minimum 5 people, including lunch and admission to museums/historical sites.

Tipping

Our local staff are paid well and fairly for their work, however most of our clients wish to give a tip to their guides and in appreciation of their help and friendliness. This, of course, is in no way compulsory and depends on the service received. If you feel you would like to leave a tip, as a guide we would suggest a total of approximately USD\$40 equivalent per person:

USD\$20 equivalent for the leader

USD\$15 equivalent for the driver

USD\$10 equivalent shared between the hotel staff where appropriate



Important Information

On all guided trips

Although our leaders are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorise them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

Although rarely enforced, by booking this trip you agree to section 5 of our Booking Conditions which clearly states that our leaders have the authority to do this. In these circumstances we will ensure anyone sitting out is safely provided for and offered alternative options where possible. Refunds will not be provided for activities missed and customers may be liable for additional costs incurred.

On all trips

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call the Exodus office and ask to speak to one of the experts on this itinerary.

In an emergency, please contact our 24 hour out of hours service on +44 (0) 844 326 7041.

Every time that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure or website, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure and website. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary. Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

TRAVEL AWARE -STAY SAFE & HEALTHY ABROAD

The U.S. State Department has up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad. For more on security, local laws, plus passport and visa information, see <https://www.state.gov/travelers/>



Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting Centers for Disease Control C.D.C at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travelAdvice> can change so check regularly for updates.

For all latest travel information about your holiday, please visit our Travel Safety Advice page.

How to Book

Ready to book? Please contact **Breakaway Adventures on Tel: 1-800-567-6286; International Tel: +1-843-856-9771.**

<https://www.breakaway-adventures.com>

Version 1