

CYPRUS WINTER 2013 – 2014

This winter we had decided to try [Cyprus](#). We had found an apartment situated in [Peyia](#), just north of [Paphos](#), on the west side of the island. We took a taxi from the apartment to the train station in [Kongsvinger](#) and from there the train to [Lillestrøm](#), where we had to change trains. We went on a train that was delayed. We didn't notice in the haste that this train did not pass through the airport. The result was that we got off the train at [Jessheim](#) and took a taxi from there to the airport ([Oslo Airport, Gardermoen](#)). [Norwegian](#) went directly to [Larnaca Airport](#).



Cyprus is situated innermost in the Mediterranean



The flag



Coat of armour

A little bit about the history of Cyprus that is extracted from Wikipedia:

Cyprus has been inhabited by humans for around 10 000 years. The oldest traces of human settlement are found at Kalavassos, about 30 km east of [Lemesos](#) (Limassol) and is from around 5000 BC. There are remains of residents probably from [Anatolia](#). Between 1100 and 1000 BC there were significant migrations in the eastern Mediterranean, mainly from [Achea](#), the [Peloponnese](#) and [Crete](#) to [Asia Minor](#) and Cyprus. The Greek-speaking population in Cyprus consider themselves descendants of these, and therefore believe to have lived in Cyprus for 3000 years.

Between 1000 BC and 58 BC Cyprus was ruled alternately by [Phoenicians](#), [Persians](#), [Assyrians](#) and [Egyptians](#), also conquered by [Alexander the Great](#). After him came the [Ptolemies](#), until the [Roman Empire](#) took over in 58 BC. By the Roman division Cyprus followed into the Eastern Roman Empire, which eventually became the [Byzantine Empire](#). Cyprus Byzantine time lasted around 800 years, but characterized by constant invasions and battles against the Arabs from North Africa.

During [the Crusades](#), the island was captured by [Richard I of England](#) in 1191. [The Templars](#) sold the island to [Guy of Lusignan](#) the following year, and his descendants ruled for 300 years, followed by the city-state [Republic of Venice](#) who conquered the island in 1489. The island was conquered by the [Ottoman Empire](#) in 1571.

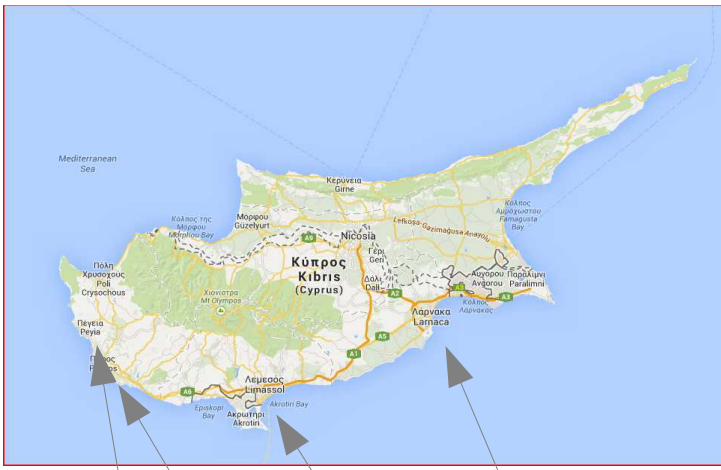
In 1878, Britain entered into a lease agreement with Turkey (Ottomans), where the island was leased for 90,000 pounds a year. Cyprus still belonged to the Ottoman Empire, but Britain took over all administration and occupied the island militarily. When Turkey joined forces with Germany and Austria in the First World War, Britain annexed the island as a crown colony. On 16 August 1960, Cyprus attained independence after the [Zürich and London Agreement](#) between the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey.

In 1974, as a result of violence between Cypriot community of [Greek Cypriots](#) and [Turkish Cypriots](#), occurred an attempt coup by Greek Cypriot nationalists and elements of the [Greek military junta](#) with the aim to achieve [Enosis](#) (union of Cyprus with Greece). This led to that the Turkish army landed on the northern part of the island 20 July 1974, also known as Operation Peace in Cyprus to protect the Turkish Cypriots. Turkish military was left on the island after the armistice, which practically led to a sharing of the island and has been a target of Turkey since 1955. Violence between ethnic communities and the subsequent Turkish invasion led to that 200,000 Greek Cypriots had to move from north to south, while the Turkish Cypriots had to move from south to north, and the establishment of a separate Turkish Cypriot political entity in the northern part of Cyprus. These events and the resulting political situation is still an ongoing dispute.

The Republic of Cyprus has [de jure](#) sovereignty over the island of Cyprus and water surrounding areas, except for the British military bases of Akrotiri and Dekelia. The Republic of Cyprus is [de facto](#) divided into two main parts: the area under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus, approximately 59 percent of the island's land area, and the Turkish-controlled area in the north, who call themselves "Republic of Northern Cyprus" and is recognized only by Turkey. It covers about 36 percent of the island's area.

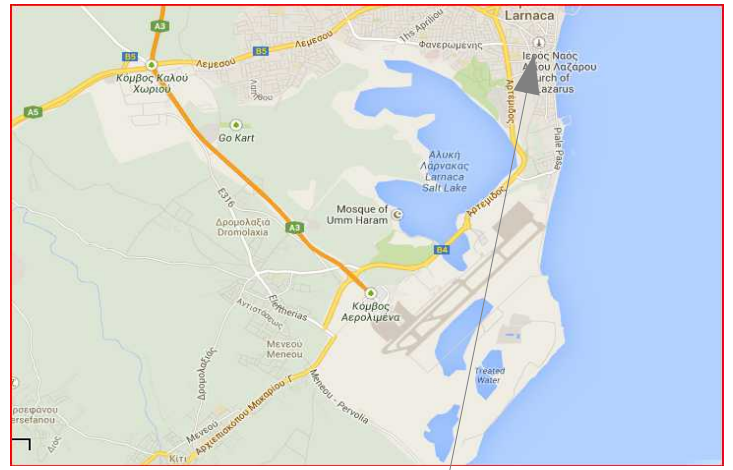
Cyprus is the third most populous island in the Mediterranean and one of the most popular tourist destinations. An advanced, high-income economy with a very high Human Development Index, the Republic of Cyprus is one of the founding members of [the Organization of nonaligned nations](#) until the country joined [the European Union](#) on 1 May 2004. On 1 January 2008 Cyprus was a member of [the Eurozone](#).

The influence from the United Kingdom is noticeable. The Cypriots speak good English and drive on the left side of the road. Foreign trade consists of imports of oil, food and various textiles. Goods that are exported much of are clothing and footwear, fruit and vegetables. Trading partners are particularly Italy, UK and USA.



The nearest airport is in Paphos, but there goes Ryanair, and they allow only one piece of luggage per passenger. Since we were going to be away so long, we needed two pieces, and thus it became Norwegian and Larnaca.

Peyia Pafos Limassol Larnaka



There is not very good bus services in Cyprus, so when we arrived so late to Larnaca, approx. at 8 pm local time, we had decided to take a taxi from the airport to the accommodation at a hotel in Larnaca. The hotel is about here.



We had booked at [Hotel Opera](#), which is a small, new and cozy hotel.



When we were out eating in the evening, there were a couple of cats that wanted to be scratched.



We lived right next to a [church](#) dedicated to [Lazarus](#). There were many lights that lit up the church. That is why all the "suns".



The church in daylight.



Here we had breakfast the next day.



Waiting for breakfast.



The breakfast cafe is called Da Vinci.



After breakfast we walked down to the beach to see how it looked there.
This is the beach looking north.



Looking south. [The castle](#) and a minaret.



I and the hotel manager have a small conversation. He was very nice and ordered transport for us.



This is the route we drove. We were going to [Paphos airport](#), where to pick up the car that belongs to the apartment. We traveled with a company called [Travel Express](#). It is 130 km, but we were to collect and deliver more passengers and we had to change car in Limassol, and then wait for the next car to leave from there, so it took about 2 hours in total.



After we had fetched the car we were in place in the apartment in Peyia. Here we see from the balcony of one of the bedrooms onto the common square that is in the middle between all the apartments.



Here we see south from the sitting area.



There are plenty of furniture on the terrace.



Here we see from the sitting area to the common square.



At the main street through the village, opposite where we live, this is the restaurant where we have eaten a few times.



It is called «[The Mediterranean](#)» They have good food and nice staff.



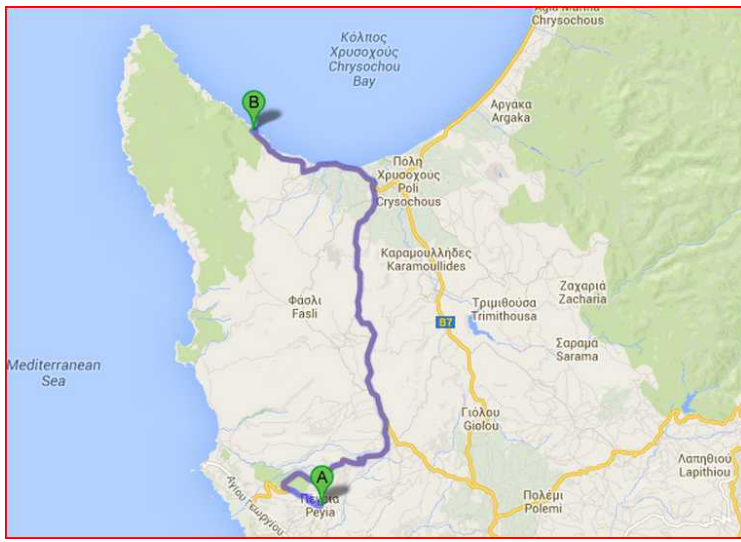
A few pictures from inside the restaurant.



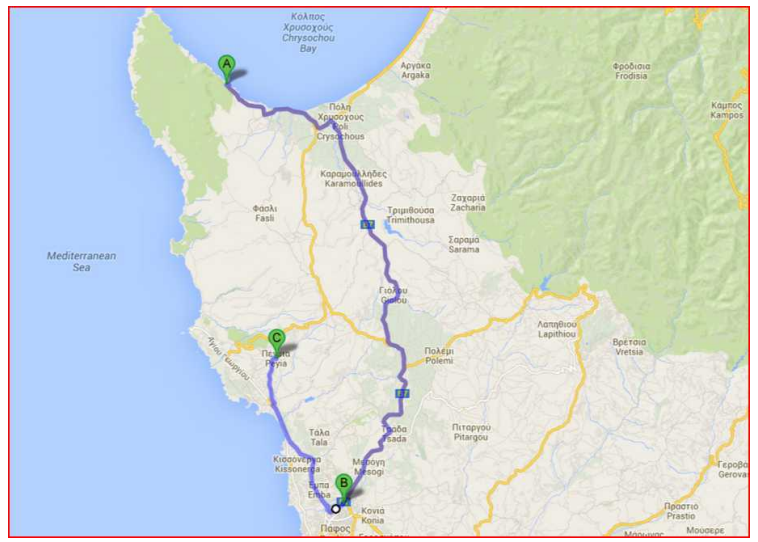
We sat outside.

The house wine has a picture of Lazarus Church in Larnaca.





The 27 October, we drove to the Baths of [Aphrodite](#), north of the [Akamas peninsula](#).



We took a slightly different way back.



[The baths of Aphrodite](#) lies a small distance up in the hill. Here we are almost up and look along the northern coast of Cyprus.



Here we come down to the bath.



We had to go down these stairs to get there.



Running water.



There was a steady stream of tourists. The bathroom is in the background under all the branches.



Here it is.



The bath is to the right.



There is a lot of old vegetation in the area. Here some gnarled roots.



There is also a [botanical garden](#) in the same area. Here are a few charts from the garden.



More views from the [Botanical Garden](#).



Here we are about to go out through the gate.



It is quite rampant.



Here we come to the parking lot located to the right. There was lots of parking spaces, but all occupied, so when we arrived, we had to stand for a while and wait until someone left.



Here we look back at the botanical garden.



Below the parking lot is a restaurant where we enter.



The view from the restaurant towards [Polis](#).



In the other direction, we see this rock with a small cross on top.



We sat for a while and had a cup of coffee.



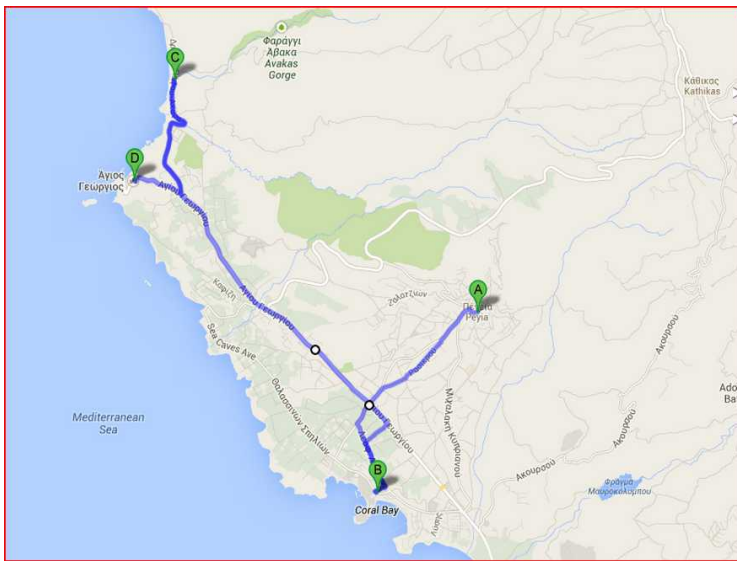
One side of the sugar bag.



This is the other side.



A last look at the restaurant as we go.



The 28.10 we drove a little trip on the west side of the Akamas peninsula.
There are bumpy dirt roads, so we did not run so far.



Here we see a headland just north of Cape Drepano. Out in the ocean lies the small island [Geronisos](#). This is Apollo's sacred island. It was populated during the [copper age](#), but it is deserted now.



Before we went back to the apartment, we took a trip down to [Coral Bay](#). There were many cars in the parking lot and many people on the beach. There were also many bathers, for the water was nice and warm.



The 29.10 went for a walk up in [Peyia](#). Here we pass the church, the [Virgin Mary Orthodox Church](#).



A house with palm trees and flowers in the garden.



Here we are up at the church and look down into a valley below. There are stairs going down.



Down there stands a stone house. The City Hall is up to the right.



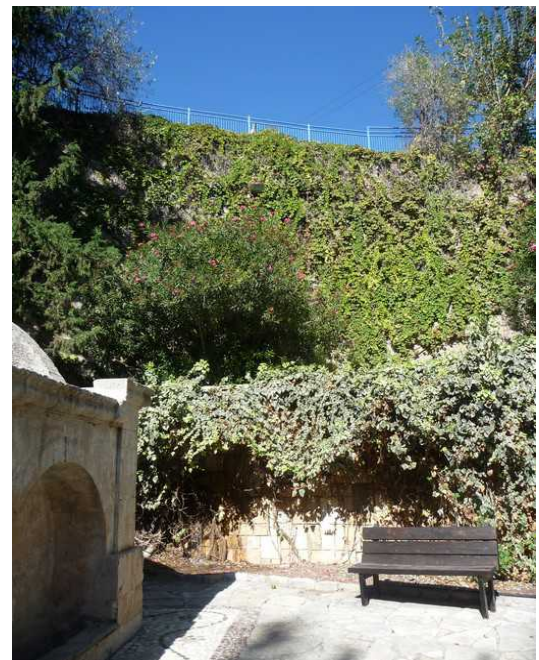
[The Vrisi ton Pegeiotisson.](#)



It was central to the drinking water supply in the city until 1956.



Inscription on the wall. It was built new in 1907 to replace an old one.



The slope behind, up against the church.



It is shaded with lots of trees.



Here it is made ready for a [wedding](#).



Prepared for the ceremony.



Here I found another well.



It is dry at the moment.



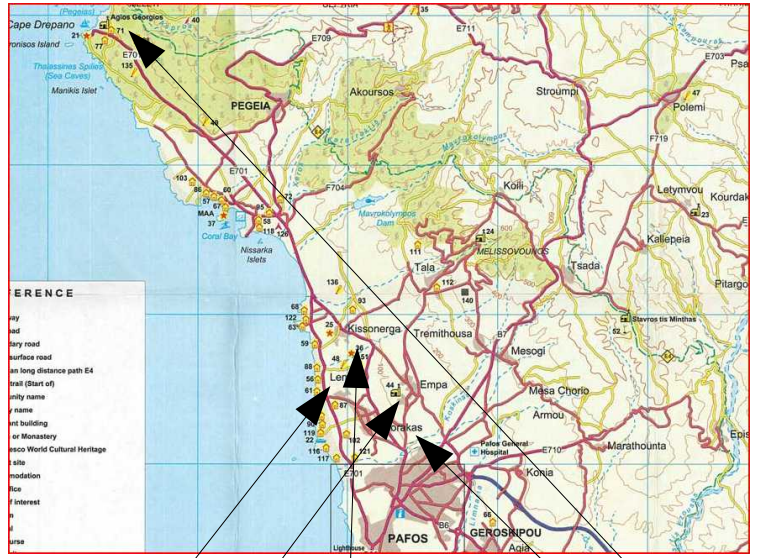
Below here is the public parking lot.



Plant with nice flowers.



Down at the parking lot we take a picture of the entrance to well area.



We had a beer in a restaurant in the main street after we had taken this trip. Here is a picture of the church taken from the restaurant. We also glimpse the town hall down to the left.

The 31 October we took a trip to the places Chlorakas, Lempa, [Empa](#), Kissonerga and Agios Georgios.



In Chlorakas we found nothing special, so we took this picture of the church, [Panagia Chryseleousa](#), and went on to Lempa.



In [Lempa](#) there are many art workshops.



Is this art?



Street number sign.



House with fine plantings.



More nice houses.



This [wall](#) is very special. It was begun by the artist Spass Paraskos in 2002. There is an art workshop in here with exhibits from the ongoing work of the students.



This is [old Lempa village](#). On the basis of the [excavations](#) there is built replicas of houses, such as archaeologists believe they may have looked like. It is used the same type of material and the same construction method used at the time. The foundation remains from the Bronze age (3900-2500 BC).



Some of the excavations and the houses behind.



The area outside.



This is a similar excavation in [Kissonerga](#). There is built a roof over the remains so they shall not be destroyed by rain and wind.



Here is also built a house that archaeologists believe have been on the excavated foundations.



We parked the car in the shade of the tree while we looked at the archaeological site.



We drove on to [Agios Nikolaos](#). There is a church built here.

[Link to a video](#)



The church is not very old.
The cape at the church is called the Cape Drepano.



The chapel is older, from 1300/1400.



At the chapel there are a tree with many cloth knots on.



Here we can see it better.



Here we look out onto the small island Geronisos.





What this little building used to, we do not know. We think that it had been used as a hostel for pilgrims.



Below is a small harbor and a small beach.



There is also a hotel with a restaurant here.



We had a cup of coffee here before we went on.



We walk past the church again. Outside they sell souvenirs and vegetables.



Some pictures from inside the church.



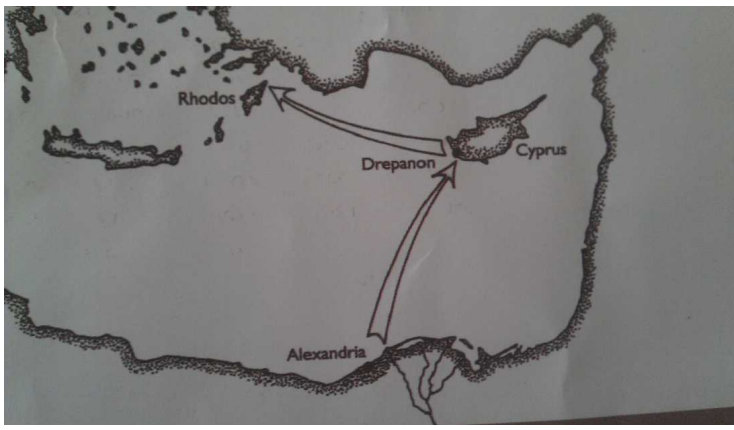
The ticket office for the archaeological excavations. After we had bought the tickets, we got apples from the ticket seller. They were very sweet and good.

Cactus.

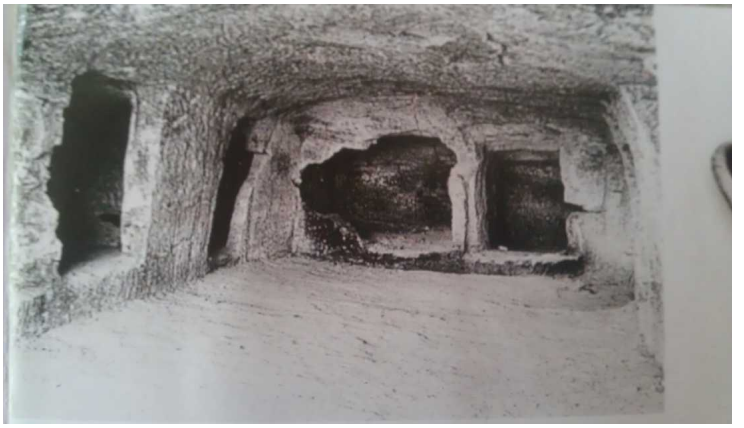


The first excavations here were made from 1952 to 1955 and then from 1992 until now. They found a large and two small basilicas, a bath house and several buildings down the slope. Moreover, it was found tombs on the slope. This small community flourished under Emperor Justinian (527-565) onwards. It was an intermediate station on the trade route between Alexandria in Egypt and Rhodes. From the 7th century it was eventually abandoned because the connecting line was cut when the Arabs occupied Egypt.

Below are pictures from the excavation site.



The trade route.



The nekropolis.





