

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN PAPHOS

The 4th of November we drove over to [Paphos](#), which is the largest town in this area. It was founded during the Neolithic era, and for a period was the capital of the island. There are basically two cities, Kato (lower) Paphos and Ktima (upper) Paphos. Kato Paphos was for a long time the main port of Cyprus, but experienced economic decline for many centuries, until there were focused on tourism. It is now a thriving tourist resort with luxury hotels and apartment complexes along the coast. Ktima Paphos is the upper and newer part of the town with administration buildings, shops and cafes for locals. It is little affected by tourism. At Kato Paphos were in 1962 found the remains of the oldest buildings, and excavations have been going on for it. The area is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Before we left we just had to have a few pictures of these lizards climbing the wall. We saw them almost every day. We believe they are a type called [Hardun](#). They live in the eastern Mediterranean.

We stopped first at the [Tombs of the Kings](#). There are chambers carved into the cliffs. Here the wealthy citizens were buried between the 4th century BC to the 3rd century AD. Despite the name, there is nothing to indicate that there are any royals who are buried here.

These tombs have been known for centuries, but it was not until around 1970 that they were examined more closely. This excavation site is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

[More links.](#)

Below are some photos from the site.



This is right at the entrance.



The inside.



This picture is taken from Wikipedia. We did not detect these graves, for they rest on a steep slope below the area.





Now we have moved to Kato Paphos, and are about to go into the archaeological excavations area.





Stairs up from the ticket office to the excavations.



First we come to an information office.



Next we come to Aion's house. There are many fine mosaics there.



The next is [The House of Dionysos](#). There are a number of excavations that have a house built over them to shield them for rain, wind and sun.



Here goes the path from the house of Aion to the house of Dionysos.



The information tablets are even made with braille.

This archaeological [site](#) is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Link to the [homepage](#) of the park. Another [link](#).

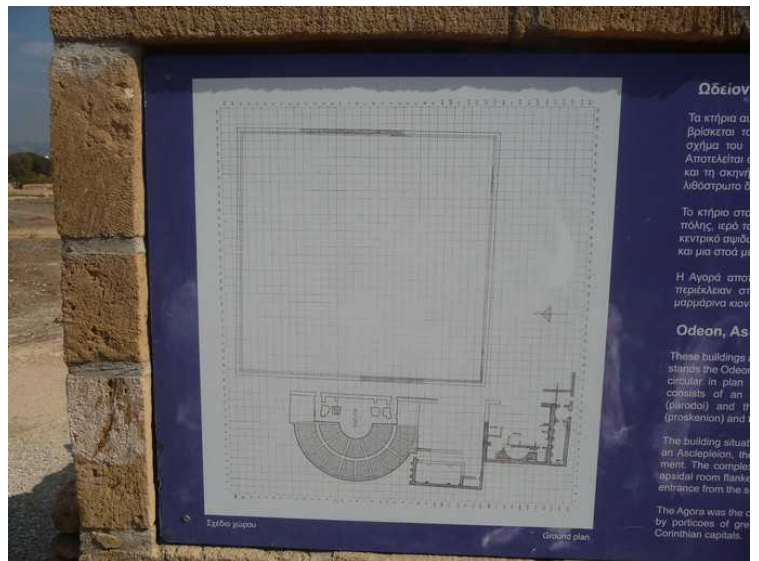


There were large areas of mosaic floors in the house of Dionysos. It was a huge work that was done then. Such is hardly made anymore.



There is a [lighthouse](#) in the middle of the park. It is from 1888.

Here we see the remains of an [asclepeion](#), which was a kind of medical center. It is named after [Asclepius](#), the god of doctors and medicine.



Here is the [Odeon](#), a semicircular theater. In front of Odeon was a great place, the [Agora](#), which was 95x95m with pergolas around. There is almost nothing left of these arches.

Here is a photo of information poster that tells about Odeon, Asclepeion and Agora. The agora was the center of the old city.



An aerial photo of the area.



Here we have gone a little further and come to a subterranean complex.



Here we see some of the entrances to the complex.



A little peek inside.



Here we come to the [Saranta Kolones](#).



It was a fortress built in the 13th century on the remains of an old Byzantine fortress.



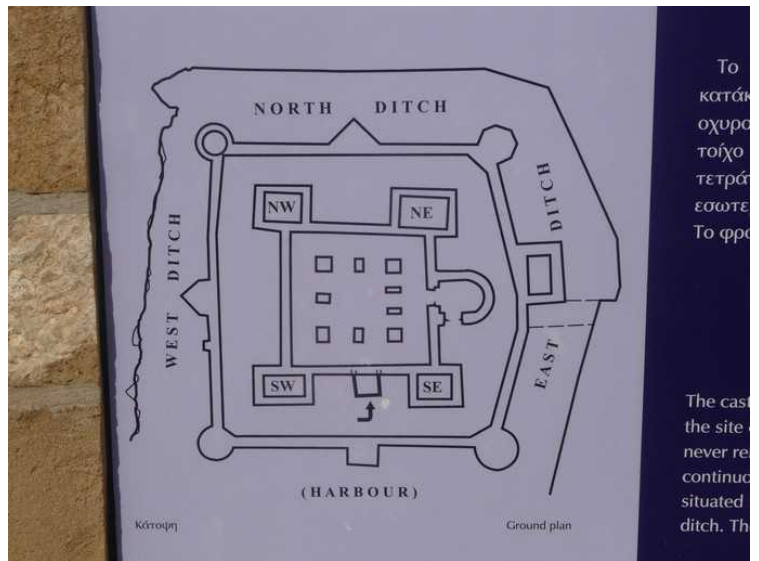
It is amazing that these arches remain. Most were destroyed by earthquakes in 365 and was never rebuilt.



The name of Saranta Kolones comes from the 40 columns, which still dot the area.



An aerial photo of the fortress.



A plan view.



Here we are approaching the last stop in the current round.
It is [Thesevs villa](#)



[Theseus](#) was the hero who freed the Athenians from King [Minos](#) by killing the bull [Minotaur](#).



There are some fine mosaic floors here too.



Plan of the excavations here.

There is not so much that is excavated of [The House of Orpheus](#).



Now we have taken a break, but returns a few days later, on 6 November. Here we are at the catacombs.



There are many pieces of cloth hung in a tree outside, there are many who believe that it will bring good luck.



Looking down towards the entrances.



I look up at Anne Berit when she is taking the picture.

We did not go in, but when we look at You Tube Videos afterwards, there was pretty big in there.

[Video 1](#) [Video 2](#)



One opening into the catacombs.



Here we are at the height above the catacombs.



Yet another opening.



View of the newer parts of Paphos.



A kind of bulbs with old flower stalks. New shoots come up again now.



The Orthodox Church, Agioi Anargyroi.



We go down the other side of the hill and come down to an [old theater](#). It is probably from the 4th century BC.



This design looks relatively new.



The whole area.



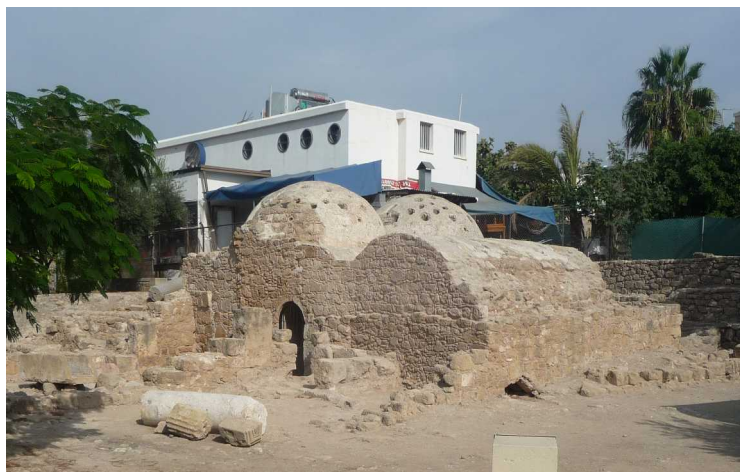
Interesting street signs.
[Erik the good](#) died and was buried here in Paphos.
He was on his way to Jerusalem.



This is the remains of an [ottomansk hammam](#).



The main building is being restored.
There has been granted funding from the EU.
[Newspaper article](#).



Still an image.



A little farther on, we come to this church,
[Panagia Chrysolitissa](#).



The church was built on the ruins of the largest early Byzantine basilica on the island.



[St Paul's Pillar](#). The apostle came to the island in the year 45 AD to try to introduce Christianity. He was bound to this column and given 39 lashes.



Inside the church.



Columns that comes from the ancient basilica.



There are remains of mosaics here too.



There are only a few meters from the church down to the seafront.



We walk towards the fort.



This is the [fort](#). It was a Byzantine fort to protect the harbor. It has been altered and demolished and rebuilt several times.



There is a breakwater further out, and fishing boats are lined up along the inside of the breakwater.



These rocks are part of the breakwater.



Here we see the fort from the tip of the breakwater.



On top of the fort.



View down to the marina.



View further east along the coast.



View west.



View towards the archaeological site.



Canons.



There is a water-filled moat around the fort.



Here we see the fort from the other direction.



The canons again.



The fort once more.



There has probably been a Norwegian here.



Before we go back, we have a light lunch at the waterfront.