



Greetings from Cyprus

Wish you were here to check out my tan!
I had no idea Cyprus enjoys more than
300 days of sunshine a year but you
know what that means right? I get to tuck
a towel under my arms and feel the warm
golden sand under my feet any time I
like. The sea is amazing. It's one of the
cleanest bathing waters in Europe, with
63 beaches and a marina awarded with
the iconic Blue Flag eco-label. The hardest
thing I have to do every day is decide
which coastal gem to head to and swim
my cares away.

PHOTO: NISSI BEACH - AYIA NAPA



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Greetings from Cyprus

A history buff like you, really must come to Cyprus. I visited Choirokoitia recently, just outside Larnaka. An incredible hillside Neolithic settlement, where the very first Cypriots partied from the 7th to the 4th millennium BC. It's one of the most important prehistoric finds in the area and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, you'll find circular mudbrick and stone houses, made collectively by its past occupants along with vessels, figurines and tools. Coming here reminds you that the island first started paving the road towards becoming the thriving European country it is today, from these very humble, historic beginnings.

PHOTO: CHOIROKOTIA - LARNAKA



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Greetings from Cyprus

Here at last! The legendary Aphrodite's Rock. A gorgeous drive along the coastal road between Lemesos and Pafos and suddenly there it is: a scenic beach with clear blue water and an enormous rock formation protruding out of the sea. It's not just a natural beauty; it's actually said to be a mythical symbol of beauty! Legend has it, that Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of beauty and love, emerged here from the foam of the sea, and that if you swim around the rock three times, you will be blessed with eternal youth, beauty and true love. You know where I'm off to now, don't you?

..... PHOTO: APHRODITE'S ROCK - PAFOS © CHRISTOS ZOUMIDES
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Greetings from Cyprus

Flamingos and beachside paradises go together hand in hand. So it's no wonder about 15,000 graceful pink greater flamingos like to call Cyprus their home between November and March. The wet climate and delicious brine shrimp make it the perfect winter rest stop before continuing their migration. Also, for one Cyprus-loving flamingo, black is the new pink! A rare species, thought to be the only one of its kind in the world, was seen for two years in a row in Lemesos. So if you plan on visiting, bring binoculars and try spotting it at Akrotiri, Larnaka and Oroklini salt lakes.

..... PHOTO: FLAMINGO - LARNAKA SALT LAKE © CHRISTOS ZOUMIDES



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Greetings from Cyprus

I heard about Lefkara lace before visiting Cyprus, but today I finally managed to visit the picturesque Lefkara village and see the intricate "lefkaritika", as the locals call them, from up close. These detailed masterpieces date back to the 14th century and the sophisticated embroidery tradition is still very much alive here. They even say Da Vinci came to buy a few pieces, which are now listed under UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. I'm pretty sure you'll love this handmade treasure I got you, but make sure you come and see how it's made, for yourself!

PHOTO: LEFKARA LACE - LEFKARA VILLAGE



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Greetings from Cyprus

Akamas Peninsula is hands down one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to. Untamed, unspoiled and an absolute must see. At the western tip of Cyprus, Akamas is the island's largest national park where sea meets mountains, skies lose themselves in perfect horizons and visitors escape into emerald bays and colourful landscapes. Home to rare indigenous orchids, ancient fossils, and wild goats, it is included in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas of the EU and is among the very few sea turtle nesting areas in the Mediterranean. If I was a Caretta-Caretta or an even rarer Green Turtle, this is where I'd come to as well...

..... PHOTO: GREEN TURTLE (CHELONIAMYDAS) - AKAMAS © COSTAS CONSTANTINOU



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Greetings from Cyprus

If you haven't bitten into a squeaky, creamy, heavenly piece of halloumi yet, you really don't know what you're missing! It may just be the most renowned heritage of Cyprus as you can find it all around the world. So even if you can't visit right now, make sure you try it grilled, fried, plain, in a sandwich, with fresh watermelon or even on a burger. Lucky locals enjoy this delicious soft cheese with almost everything and it's quite historical too, as the oldest written reference of 'calumi' dates all the way back to 1554!

PHOTO: HALLOUMI



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Greetings from Cyprus

I've been busy checking out all seven organised wine routes in Cyprus and getting to know the numerous local wineries, that are always happy to offer a taste of their goods. Did you know Cypriot Commandaria is the oldest named wine still in production? It's fantastic! The sweet dessert drink is even said to have been served at Richard the Lionheart's wedding, which is why it's often referred to as "the wine of kings and the king of wines". Thankfully nowadays, you don't have to be a royal to enjoy a sip. Cheers!

PHOTO: VINEYARD - PELENDRI © CHRISTOS ZOUMIDES



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Greetings from Cyprus

Cyprus is steeped in history and countless ancient sites, but the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates really moved me. Here, you can walk through pilgrim halls and follow the footsteps of ancient worshippers that came to honour the god of the woodlands and protector of the archaic kingdom of Kourion. The temple dates back to the 8th Century BC and was one of the main religious sites on the island. In fact, anyone who defiled the inner sanctum was thrown off a nearby cliff. I told you Cypriots take their culture and traditions very seriously!

..... PHOTO: SANCTUARY OF APOLLO HYLATES - KOURION © CHRISTOS ZOUMIDES



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Greetings from Cyprus

It's easy to bump into magical places in Cyprus, even without planning to! In my case, a relaxing nature trail turned into a historical architecture masterclass as I discovered a spectacular Venetian bridge deep within the Pafos forest. Tzelefos is the largest medieval stone bridge built in Cyprus, reigning proudly over the Diarizos River. It was built under Venetian rule and used to form part of an old camel trail. With lush landscapes, stunning river bends and iconic structures like this, Tzelefos is not just a bridge, it's a must-see destination for both nature and history lovers.

..... PHOTO: TZELEFOS BRIDGE - PAFOS ©CHRISTOS ZOUMIDES



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Greetings from Cyprus

In Cyprus, olives are not just little juicy delights that you enjoy with a good meze. Grown here since XII Century BC, they are an integral part of the island's landscape with more than 2.5 million olive trees on the island today. That's almost three times as many Cypriots! Olive branches are even displayed on the Cypriot flag symbolizing peace and according to legend those who eat from the tree, receive its resilience and endurance. Cypriots are pretty resilient in nature, with a life expectancy that exceeds the world average... so who knows? Maybe it's true!

..... PHOTO: OLIVE TREE - PAFOS © CHRISTOS ZOUMIDES



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