



THE ULTIMATE INFO GUIDE TO **NICOSIA**



Nicosia Tourism Board – <https://ntb.org.cy>



PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE:

- This guide is designed to help hotel employees gain a deeper understanding of Nicosia, the vibrant capital of Cyprus.
- It provides key information about the city's history, culture, attractions, and local customs — so every team member can confidently assist guests, offer authentic recommendations, and represent the city with pride.
- Whether you work at reception, in guest services, or in food and beverage, knowing more about Nicosia will help you create memorable experiences and genuine connections with visitors.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

- Learn the basics: Each section covers essential topics — from cultural etiquette to major attractions.
- Use it for guest interaction: Refer to it when guests ask for sightseeing, dining, or local activity suggestions.
- Keep it updated: Nicosia is a lively city with frequent new events, restaurants, and exhibitions — stay informed and share fresh recommendations.
- Share your insights: Add personal tips or guest feedback to improve the hotel's collective knowledge of the city.



<https://visitnicosia.com.cy/>



The brightest capital of Europe

[#visitnicosia](#)

YOUR ROLE AS AMBASSADORS OF NICOSIA:

As a hotel employee, you are more than a staff member — you are an ambassador of both the hotel and Nicosia. Guests often form their first impression of the city through you.

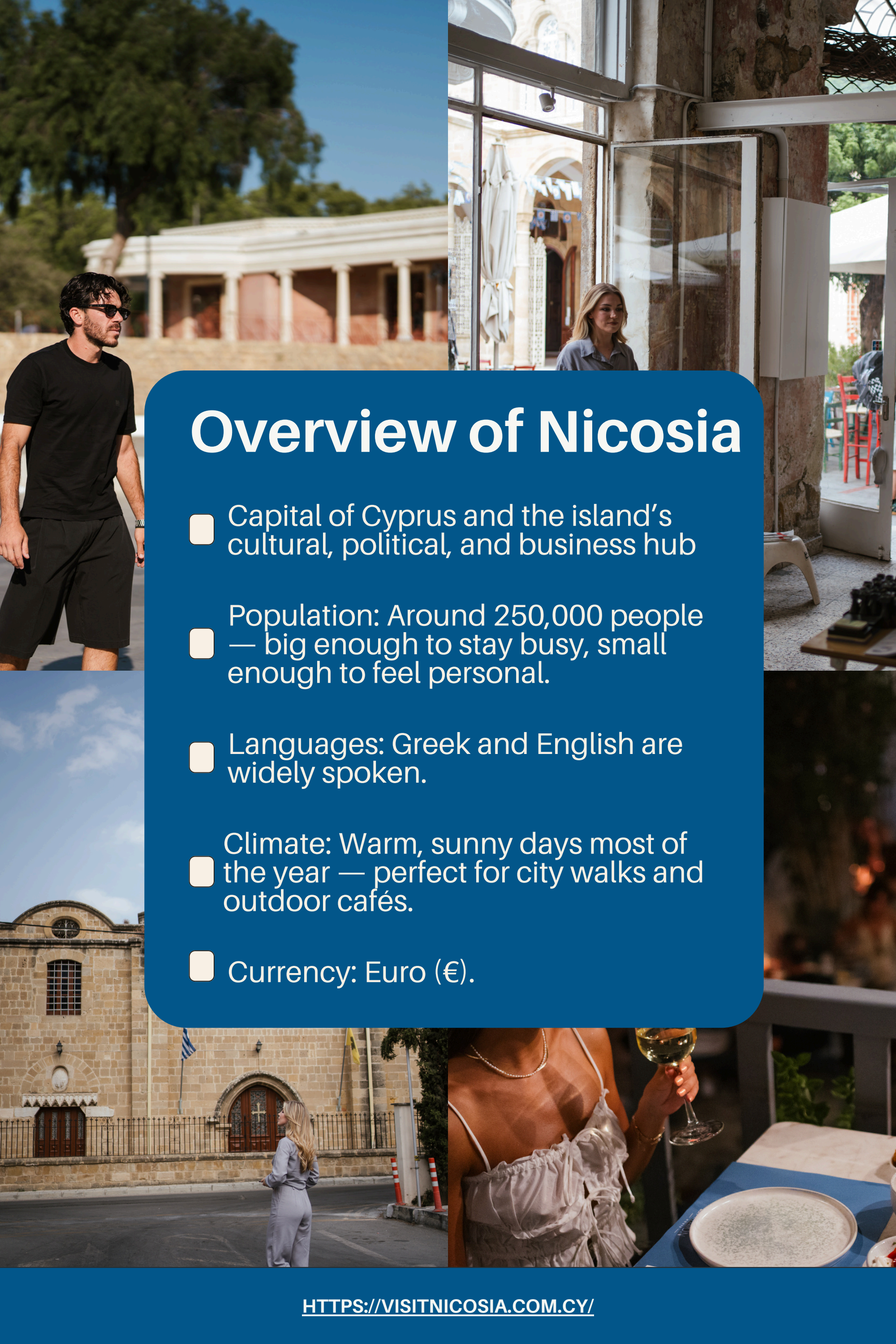
Your enthusiasm, professionalism, and local knowledge can transform an ordinary stay into a truly special experience.

Remember:

1. Smile and greet warmly — Cypriot hospitality (“philoxenia”) means making every visitor feel like family.
2. Offer honest, helpful recommendations that reflect local culture and character.
3. Celebrate Nicosia’s blend of history, creativity, and warmth in every interaction.



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Overview of Nicosia

- Capital of Cyprus and the island's cultural, political, and business hub
- Population: Around 250,000 people — big enough to stay busy, small enough to feel personal.
- Languages: Greek and English are widely spoken.
- Climate: Warm, sunny days most of the year — perfect for city walks and outdoor cafés.
- Currency: Euro (€).

THE CAPITAL OF CYPRUS

Nicosia has been the capital of our island for over one thousand years and since 2004 is the most remote southeastern European Capital.

It is the administrative, commercial, financial, religious, higher educational and cultural centre of Cyprus.

Just 45 minutes from Larnaka International Airport and in close distance with the other cities of Cyprus, Nicosia's central location makes it the ideal choice for meetings and conferences.

With its distinction as the only divided capital in the world, Lefkosa (Nicosia) and its surrounding region combines the heartbeat of the island's commercial and businesses centre with an interesting past, and rural areas where escape is possible in naturally beautiful, green environs.

The capital itself is steeped in history and culture, with a charming old city surrounded by Venetian walls, and the island's largest concentration of museums, art galleries and religious and historical monuments, that all tell wonderful stories of the island through the ages.

THE BRIGHTEST CAPITAL OF EUROPE

Nicosia is a city that will reward visitors in search of 'something different'. As a result of the various architectural influences that are visible throughout the city, one cannot help but be charmed by the manner in which past and present, traditional and contemporary have seamlessly fused together.

The modern city centre will capture your imagination from the start, with its melting pot of influences that give the city a unique image. The city's landmarks, museums, theatres, musical events and galleries both inspire and fascinate.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER OF CYPRUS

Most government services are located in Nicosia. From Ministries, Deputy Ministries, the Presidential Palace, the House of Representatives, the Central Bank of Cyprus, Embassies, Central Offices of State and semi-governmental organizations, all within short distance.

This is one of the most important reasons for Nicosia to become the center of conference tourism in Cyprus.

THE BUSINESS CENTER OF CYPRUS

Nicosia hosts a variety of businesses, ranging from big corporations, SMEs and start-ups. Prestigious organizations, such as the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA) are in Nicosia.

In 2020, Nicosia has been named for the third consecutive year, as the top small European city of the future for human capital and lifestyle, according to the FDI magazine of Financial Times. The capital was also ranked among the top 10 small European cities of the future for foreign direct investment (FDI) strategy.

THE EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF CYPRUS

Nicosia hosts 29 universities and colleges in Cyprus, with more than 35.000 students and academicians from over 100 countries.

The academic community enriches the multicultural identity of the Nicosia. Academic excellence from various educational institutions offer hundreds of accredited courses with a vast variety of quality programs to choose from.

THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTER OF CYPRUS

Many of the research and innovation centres in Cyprus are in Nicosia, attracting the scientific community.

Cyprus Institute, CYENS (former Rise), FOSS, CyRIC, KIOS Research and Innovation Center of Excellence, University of Cyprus, IDEA Innovation Center and many other research centers putting Nicosia on the map and transforming city into an innovation hub and a startup city.



THE CULTURAL CENTER OF CYPRUS

Nicosia proudly stands as the Cultural Capital of Cyprus has the most museums and cultural centres in Cyprus. Over 40 museums across the Nicosia district, libraries, art galleries and cultural centres that offer the visitor a great variety of exhibitions, art talks, cultural events and pop-up festivals.

Many of these are organized in collaboration with museums, art centers and cultural institutions of European and other countries.

The multiculturalism and the diversity the rhythm of the city offers, motivates the visitor to feel comfortable and fascinated at the same time.



3 Reasons Why You Should Go to Nicosia





1. Rich History & Culture

Nicosia is the world's last divided capital, offering a fascinating blend of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot heritage. Within its Venetian walls, you can explore:

- The Cyprus Museum (the island's largest archaeological museum).
- The Leventis Municipal Museum (perfect for learning the city's story).
- Traditional quarters like Laiki Geitonia, filled with restored 18th-century houses, artisan shops, and cobbled streets.



2. Authentic Urban Cypriot Life

As the island's capital, Nicosia gives you a genuine glimpse of modern Cypriot culture.

Enjoy:

- Local cafés and tavernas serving classic Cypriot coffee, meze, and sweets.
- Bustling markets and boutiques full of local crafts and design.
- A vibrant arts and nightlife scene, where traditional and modern Cyprus meet.



3. An Eventful and Energetic City

Nicosia is always alive with things to do — day and night.

- Festivals, concerts, and cultural events fill the calendar year-round.
- From open-air theatre in summer to art exhibitions and music nights, there's always something happening.
- The city's rooftop bars, galleries, and event spaces make it a hub for culture, entertainment, and community life.

Key Attractions:

Nicosia is full of character — a city where every corner tells a story. From ancient walls to trendy cafés, here are some must-see spots your guests will love:

Cyprus Museum – The island's top museum with fascinating ancient artifacts. A must for history lovers.

Leventis Municipal Museum – A fun, interactive look at Nicosia's past and present.

Byzantine Museum & Archbishop's Palace – Beautiful icons, art, and a taste of local religious history.

Famagusta Gate & Pafos Gate – One of the famous Venetian gates and a popular photo stop.

Laiki Geitonia – Cobbled streets, cozy tavernas, local crafts, and classic architecture.

Faneromeni Square – The heart of the old city; great for people-watching and coffee breaks.

Ledra & Onasagorou Streets – Bustling shopping and dining spots full of local energy.

Ermou Street – A lively street filled with boutiques, creative spaces, and great cafés — a favorite among locals.



Key Attractions:

Shacolas Tower Observatory – Panoramic city views and a great photo opportunity.

Nicosia Municipal Gardens – A peaceful green escape in the city center.

Cultural venues & galleries – Check out the Nicosia Municipal Theatre and NiMAC (Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre) for concerts, exhibitions, and events.

House of Hatzigeorgakis Kornesios – A beautifully preserved 18th-century mansion that shows how the city's nobility once lived.

Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation – Stunning exhibitions of Cypriot art, coins, and history in the heart of the old town.

Fairytale Museum – A whimsical museum celebrating storytelling and imagination — perfect for families and the young at heart.

Eleftheria Monument – A powerful national symbol honoring Cyprus's struggle for freedom.

Eleftheria Square & the New Municipality Building – A striking modern redesign by architect Zaha Hadid — a symbol of Nicosia's renewal and creativity.

Classic Motorcycle Museum – A hidden treasure showcasing vintage motorcycles and Cypriot motoring history — a real favorite among enthusiasts!



EVENTS GUIDE

Guests often ask what is happening in the city during their stay, so it is important for all hotel employees to stay informed and ready to offer accurate, up-to-date suggestions.

The best source for current and upcoming events is the we're nicosia section in the visit nicosia website:

<https://visitnicosia.com.cy/events-calendar/>

The logo for 'we're nicosia' features two overlapping circles. The left circle is pink and the right circle is blue. The text 'we're' is in white on the pink circle, and 'nicosia' is in white on the blue circle.

we're
nicosia

This page is updated regularly and includes:

- **A Yearly Events Calendar** presented as a digital booklet, outlining major festivals, celebrations, and cultural highlights across the year.
- **Monthly Updates** featuring detailed information about the events happening that month in Nicosia, including dates, venues, and ticket details.



Employees are encouraged to check this site frequently and note key events that guests may find interesting.

Reception and concierge staff should be especially familiar with what is happening during the current and upcoming weeks so they can confidently answer questions such as:

- "Are there any concerts or shows this weekend?"
- "What festivals are taking place in the city this month?"
- "Is there a local food or art event we can visit tonight?"

FREE GUIDED TOURS

Guests can discover the city through the Visit Nicosia Free Guided Tours, organised by Visit Nicosia in collaboration with professional licensed guides. These walking tours are free of charge and offer an engaging way to explore the city's history, architecture, and culture.

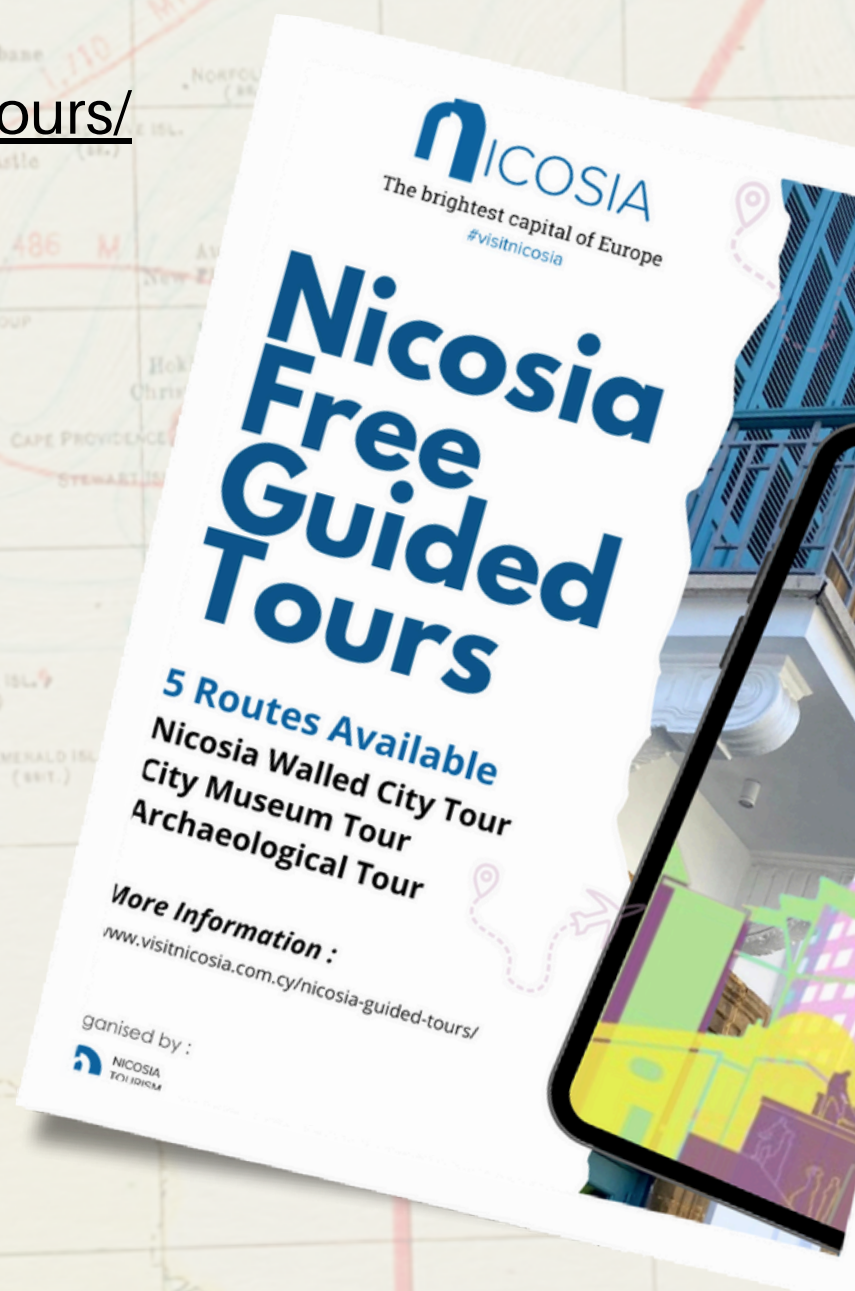
Main Routes:

- The Nicosia Walled City Tour
- Archaeological Tour
- City Museum Tour
- Religion Tour
- Architecture Tour

When & How to Join:

- Tours are offered regularly throughout the year; each route has its own schedule.
- Participation is free, but advance online booking is required through the official website:
- <https://visitnicosia.com.cy/guided-tours/>

Hotel employees should be familiar with the available routes and booking process and encourage guests to join these informative and enjoyable walking tours during their stay.



TASTE NICOSIA

Taste Nicosia is a celebration of the city's vibrant culinary scene — where tradition meets creativity, and every bite tells a story. Organised by Visit Nicosia, this initiative highlights the best food, drink, and dining experiences the capital has to offer, guiding visitors through authentic flavours, local craftsmanship, and modern gastronomy.

Highlights include:

- Taste of Tradition – Authentic Cypriot dishes and Meze served in the old town's most atmospheric tavernas.
- Vineyard Delights & Drinkery Discoveries – Local wineries, wine bars, and cocktail spots showcasing the island's finest blends.
- Café Culture & Brunch Bliss – Stylish coffee shops and brunch places perfect for a relaxed city morning.
- Sweet Tradition – Handmade desserts, spoon sweets, and traditional pastries found in the city's bakeries.
- Vegan & Vegetarian – Innovative plant-based cuisine that reflects Nicosia's modern culinary identity.
- Multi-Culti – Global flavours and international dining for those who love variety.

The full guide and map can be found on the visit nicosia website:
<https://visitnicosia.com.cy/taste-nicosia/>

How to Promote It:

Staff should enthusiastically recommend Taste Nicosia to guests asking where to eat or what local food to try.

Encourage them to browse the online guide, which features handpicked venues across all categories.

Mention that it's the best way to experience Nicosia like a local — through its flavours, aromas, and stories.

Social Media Platforms

Visit Nicosia maintains an active and engaging presence across major social media platforms, offering valuable content, updates, and inspiration for both visitors and locals. Staff are encouraged to follow these accounts to stay informed about the latest events, promotions, and attractions shared by the official city tourism organisation.

Main Platforms:

- **Instagram** (@visit_nicosia) : Extremely active with daily posts and stories featuring local experiences, attractions, culture, food, and events. Regular giveaways and interactive content encourage engagement with both residents and visitors.
- **Facebook** (Visit Nicosia) : A key channel for sharing city news, event updates, community initiatives, and travel inspiration.
- **YouTube** (@Visit_Nicosia) : Features YouTube Shorts and full-length videos highlighting Nicosia's culture, events, and hidden gems through dynamic visual storytelling.





Christmas in Nicosia

[HTTPS://VISITNICOSIA.COM.CY/](https://visitnicosia.com.cy/)



During the festive season, Nicosia transforms into a city of lights, music, and celebration. Several areas come alive as Christmas villages and holiday hubs, offering entertainment, local crafts, food, and family activities. Staff should be familiar with the main festive locations and recommend them to guests seeking a cheerful holiday experience.



Ho Ho Ho!

Main Christmas Villages and Events:

- Paramythoupoli – The Christmas Funfair (D'Avila Moat)
- Laiki Geitonia Christmas Village (Old Town)
- Fikardou Christmas Village (Nicosia District).
- Other Christmas Villages and Events announced on We're Nicosia Events Guide

Xmas Tip:

Encourage guests to explore both the main city festivities and nearby village experiences. Recommend evening visits for the best atmosphere and highlight local seasonal specialties such as zivanomelo (warm zivania with honey), melomakarona, and kourabiedes for an authentic taste of Cypriot Christmas.





Sunshine almost all year — Nicosia enjoys over 300 days of clear skies, perfect for exploring its streets and open-air cafés

WEATHER IN NICOSIA

“Mild winters and hot summers — Nicosia’s Mediterranean climate means light jackets in January and sunhats in July.”



Spring and autumn bring ideal sightseeing weather — warm days, cool evenings, and golden city sunsets

GETTING AROUND NICOSIA

Nicosia is easy to explore thanks to its compact layout and well-connected transport options. Guests can move around comfortably by bus, taxi, car, bicycle, or on foot.

Public Transport

- The Nicosia Bus Network links the city centre with surrounding areas and other towns in Cyprus.
- Buses are affordable and air-conditioned; tickets are available on board or via the Cyprus Public Transport app.

Taxis

- Taxis operate 24/7 and can be hailed, booked by phone, or ordered through taxi apps.
- Recommended for airport transfers or short city trips.

Car Hire

- Ideal for guests wishing to explore beyond the city.
- Remind visitors that driving in Cyprus is on the left-hand side.

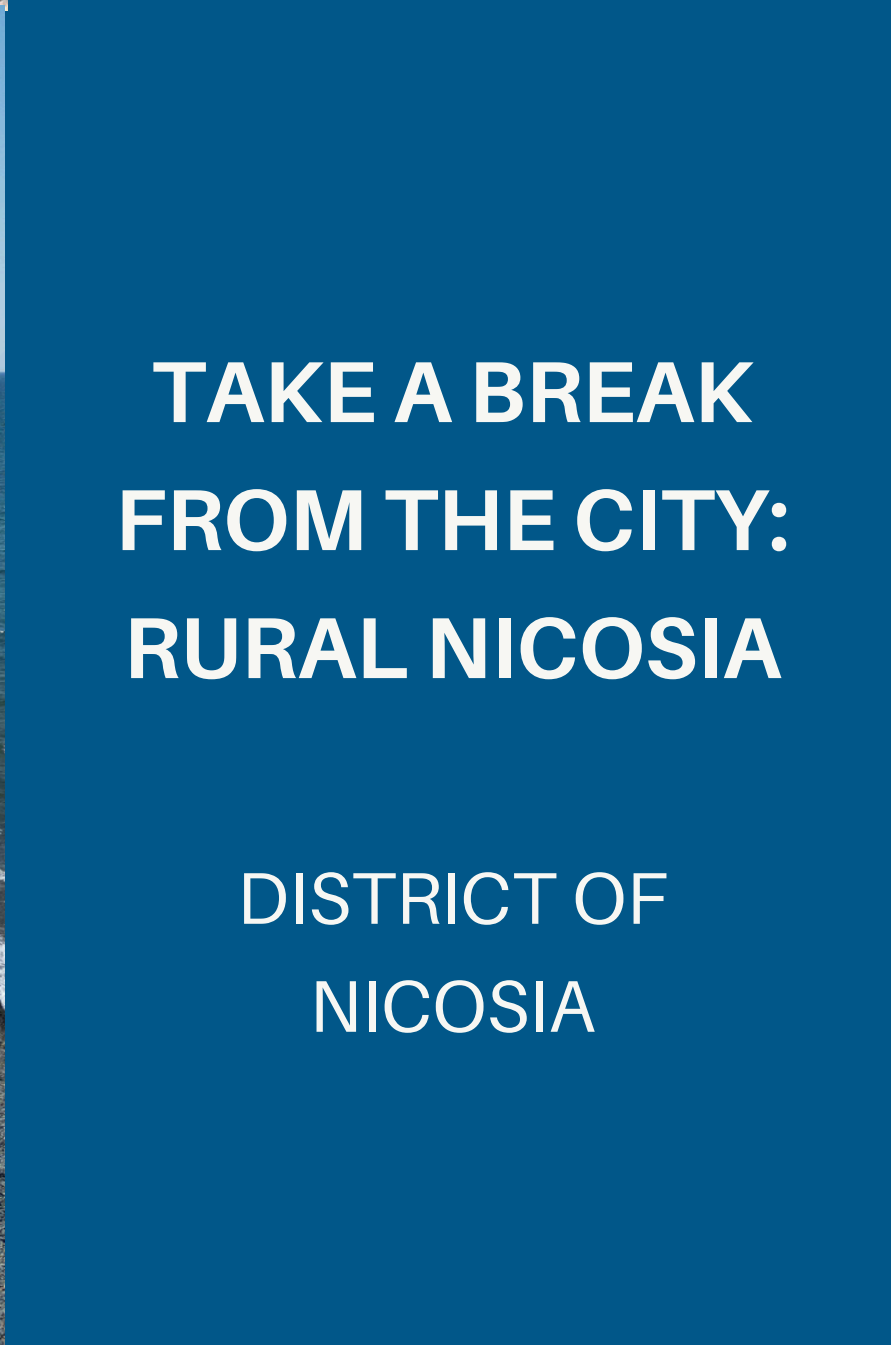
Cycling & Walking

- The Nextbike system offers easy bike rentals for short trips.
- The walled city and old town are best explored on foot to enjoy their history and atmosphere.

Airport Transfers

- Express shuttle buses connect Nicosia with Larnaca and Paphos Airports several times daily.
- The trip from Larnaca Airport takes about 45 minutes.
- Full details and links available at visitnicosia.com.cy/getting-around-nicosia.





[HTTPS://VISITNICOSIA.COM.CY/](https://visitnicosia.com.cy/)

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE CITY:

Beyond the city, the Nicosia district offers a tranquil escape into Cyprus' countryside — filled with history, tradition, and natural charm. Guests can explore picturesque mountain villages, scenic drives, and authentic local experiences.

- **Villages to Visit:** Fikardou, Farmakas, Gourri , Kampi, Kalo xorio Orinis, Xyliatos, Sia, Agia Varvara, Lythrodontas and Kambia- known for stone-built houses, cobbled streets, and traditional crafts.
- **Nature & Trails:** Enjoy walking routes, forest paths, and vineyard views across the Troodos foothills.
- **Local Experiences:** Visit village festivals, taste homemade food and wine, and meet locals preserving old customs.



THINGS TO DO IN NICOSIA





Ngage is an initiative by Visit Nicosia that celebrates the city's vibrant cultural identity — from ancient history and traditional crafts to contemporary art and creativity.

What Guests Can Discover:

- Over 80 museums and galleries across the city, showcasing everything from archaeology and history to modern art and design.
- Architectural landmarks, cultural institutions, and creative hubs that reflect the city's evolution through the centuries.
- A downloadable "Ngage Culture & Creativity" map, highlighting key museums, art spaces, and heritage zones for self-guided exploration.

Employee Tips:

- Recommend this initiative to guests interested in local culture, art, and history.
- Suggest combining cultural visits with the Free Guided Tours for a deeper city experience.
- Mention the Ngage map as a great way for guests to plan a day discovering Nicosia's artistic and historical highlights.

More details available at:

<https://visitnicosia.com.cy/meet-nicosia-meet-culture/>



Cycling:

Nicosia offers safe and scenic cycling routes, from the walled city to suburban trails. The Nextbike system provides easy bike rentals across the city for short or full-day rides. 00 days of clear skies, perfect for exploring its streets and open-air cafés

SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Hiking:

Guests can explore beautiful trails in the Machairas Forest, Fikardou, and Farmakas areas — ideal for nature walks, fresh air, and stunning views of rural Nicosia. its streets and open-air cafés



Sports & Outdoors:

The city's parks, including Athalassa and the Linear Park, are perfect for jogging, picnics, or outdoor workouts.

Visitors can also enjoy tennis, climbing, or golf in nearby facilities.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

NICOSIA TOURISM BOARD