Explore
the Akrotiri Peninsula

Funded by the Darwin Initiative through UK Government funding (Darwin Plus, the Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund)
Birdwatching

Migration
Surrounded by three Continents, Cyprus is an important migratory junction for birds, while the Akrotiri Peninsula is located on one of the primary migratory routes across the island!

Spring migration begins mid-February and lasts until mid-May (depending on prevailing weather conditions). Autumn migration starts early in August for most species, and lasts until the end of October.

Endemic Species
Here you can find Cyprus' two endemic bird species, the Cyprus Wheatear and the Cyprus Warbler.

What you can see and when!

Spring

Summer
Cyprus Warbler, Cyprus Wheatear, Black Francolin, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Cyprus Scops Owl, Masked Shrike, European Roller, Griffon Vulture, Alpine Swift, Eleonora's Falcon, Black-winged Stilt, Kentish Plover.

Autumn
Glossy Ibis, Purple Heron, Honey Buzzard, Red-footed Falcon, Demoiselle Crane, White Stork, Cyprus Scops Owl, European Bee-eater, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Montagu's Harrier, Squacco Heron, Citrine Wagtail, Greater Sand Plover.

Winter
Nature, Culture, Tradition are waiting for you in Akrotiri Peninsula

Following a scenic route through shady citrus plantations and tall cypress trees you reach the Akrotiri Peninsula. This southernmost part of Europe is full of unique surprises: ancient temples and chapels, extremely rare and endemic plants, a multitude of bird species, hidden beaches where turtles nest and classic Mediterranean landscapes. The Peninsula also holds 12,000 year-old traces of pygmy elephants and pygmy hippopotamuses, which once lived here but were probably driven to extinction by the first human inhabitants of the island. The geological history of the area proves that the Peninsula was once a small island, which later merged with the rest of Cyprus.

A single visit to Akrotiri Peninsula is not enough to explore all its natural and cultural wealth. On the Peninsula, every season offers something unique and different. In spring, orchids and breeding birds add life to the landscape. In summer, the sea turtles lay their eggs on the beach. In autumn, the sky over the Peninsula fills with hundreds of migratory birds while in winter, the Flamingos add colour to the Salt Lake. After all, this is where the largest wetland complex of Cyprus is found.

In this corner of Cyprus, you can come closer to nature, history, Cypriot tradition and cuisine and experience unique holidays in the heart of a relatively untouched Peninsula. Taste authentic Cypriot and Mediterranean cuisine at the restaurants and taverns of the Akrotiri village.

The Akrotiri community is ready to welcome you and show you their hospitality.

To learn about accommodation options please contact the Akrotiri Community Council at (+357) 25952361 or by email at koinotikosymvoulioakrotiriou@cytanet.com.cy.

Respecting the natural and cultural environment ensures that future visitors will also be able to enjoy this unique area.
Chapels and Churches
Picturesque chapels and temples dating from the 9th all the way to the 20th century are found across the Peninsula – but mostly on the western side of it – and await to be discovered.

Basketry
Here is where one of the oldest handicrafts still survives: basketry. For a more immersive experience of this traditional art, visit one of the houses bearing the relevant sign in Akrotiri village.

Environmental Education Centre
Is it possible to fit all the natural elements of Akrotiri Peninsula under one roof? At the Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre, in Akrotiri village, you can learn about the unique biodiversity of the Peninsula: from the rare and endemic plants of the area to the endangered Monachus monachus seal. Inside the building you can find exhibits, a lab, a lecture room and a library, while in the grounds outside there are birdwatching facilities with a great view of the Salt Lake, a botanical trail and a playground.
Archaeological sites
In the north-western end of the Peninsula one can find one of the most notable archaeological sites in Cyprus, Kourion. Among the most important monuments of ancient Kourion is the Theatre which was constructed at the end of the 2nd century B.C. at an impressive location. Today, the Theatre is a popular venue for a number of cultural activities and theatrical performances, especially during the summer.

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The Apollo Hylates nature trail is suitable for all ages and offers a walk in nature near the archaeological monuments of Kourion.

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Akrotiri Marsh
The Akrotiri Marsh is a unique area in Cyprus that hosts rare flora and fauna species, especially birds. The traditional Cyprus cattle that graze here help with the management of the area’s vegetation. You can enjoy the Marsh’s wildlife from the birdwatching hides.
This brochure was created as part of the “Akrotiri Marsh Restoration: a flagship wetland in the Cyprus SBAs” project, funded by the Darwin Initiative through UK Government funding (Darwin Plus, the Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund).

This 2-year project (April 2015 – March 2017) implemented management and restoration actions at Akrotiri Marsh, aiming to create habitats for wildlife and restore the biodiversity value of this important wetland. At the same time, through promotional, educational and awareness raising actions, the project aimed to create new socio-economic opportunities for the local community of Akrotiri.

The infrastructure found at the Marsh was created as part of this project. Find out more: www.akrotirimarsh.org.

Publication
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BirdLife Cyprus works to protect the wild birds of Cyprus, their habitats, and wider biodiversity, through monitoring, conservation and education, and by developing people's appreciation of nature.

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