Beautiful landscapes

Pertra tou Romiou

The birthplace of Aphrodite

Cyprus: The Emerald of the Mediterranean

Erasmus+

History: Crossroads of Civilizations

Cyprus, strategically located in the Eastern Mediterranean, has always been a melting pot of civilizations. Its history dates back over 10,000 years.

Ancient Era: Greek colonization and a strong cultural connection with Greece.

Subsequent Dominations:

Phoenicians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders, Venetians, and Ottomans.

Modern History: From 1878 to 1960, it was a British colony.

1960: Proclamation of the Republic of Cyprus.

1974: Turkey invaded Cyprus and has since been illegally occupying the northern part of the island.

Cyprus has been a member of the European Union since 2004.

The Myth of Aphrodite

According to Greek mythology, Cyprus is the birthplace of the goddess Aphrodite. The myth links Cyprus with the concepts of beauty, love, and fertility.

Current Population: Approximately 1,300,000 inhabitants (the whole island).

Main Ethnicities: The two main communities are Greek Cypriots (the majority) and Turkish Cypriots: Many foreign residents (Europeans, Arabs, Russians, Asians, etc.) live and work on the island, making the society multicultural.

The Flag of the Republic of Cyprus

The flag is unique, as it features a map of the island. The island is colored copper/orange, referring to Cyprus's rich mineral wealth (Cuprum is the Latin name for copper). Two green olive branches under the map symbolize the hope for peace between the two main communities (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots).

The 1974 Invasion and Its Consequences

The crucial event that defines the modern geopolitics of Cyprus is the Turkish Invasion of 1974.

Consequences: The invasion had tragic consequences: thousands of dead, missing persons, and refugees (approximately 200,000 Greek Cypriots were expelled from their homes).

Cyprus has been divided. 37% of its territory in the north remains under Turkish occupation. This area is known as the "occupied territories" and is not internationally recognized, except by Turkey.

The Divided Capital: Nicosia

Nicosia is the last divided capital of Europe. The city is split by the Green Line into a southern (free) and a northern (occupied) part.