

Cyprus

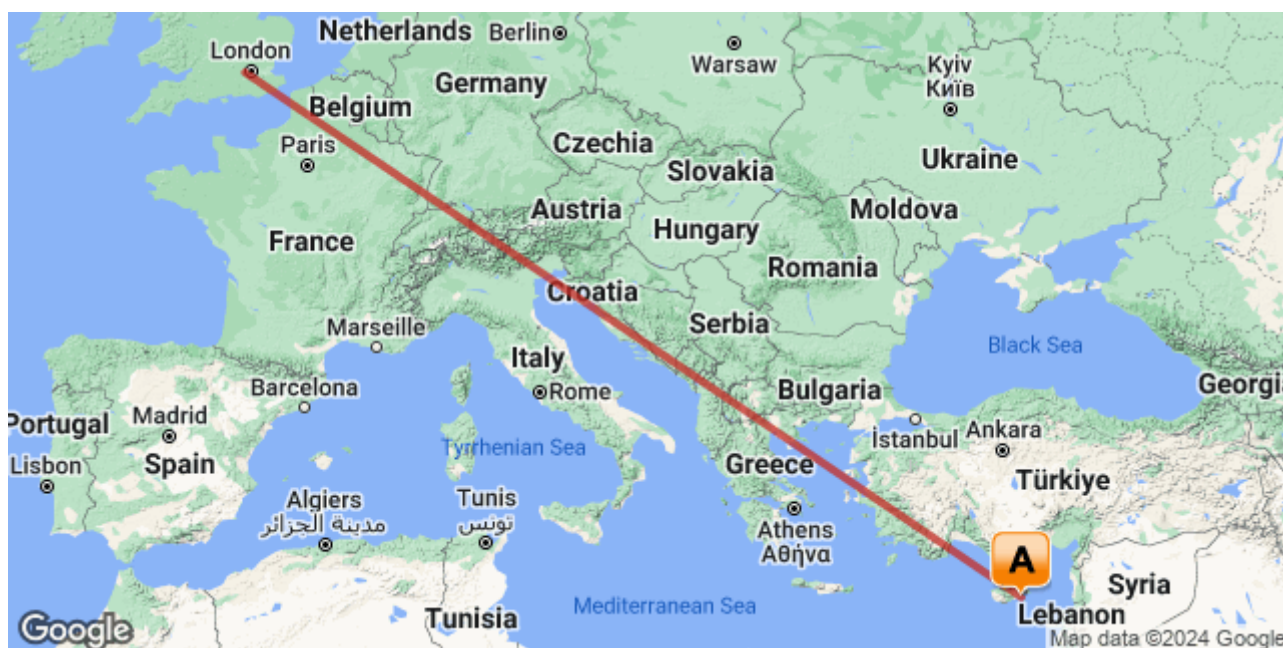


Sample Itinerary

Cyprus

Larnaca – Cactus Hotel Bed & Breakfast

8 Days / 7 Nights



Day 1: Cactus Hotel, Larnaca

Larnaca

Larnaca is found within the bay of the same name on the east coast of the island of Cyprus. This important cruise ship destination is home to some unique cultural sights, wonderful beaches and excellent diving opportunities, making it an understandably popular hub. The centre of activity - particularly at sunset - is the Larnaca Promenade (Phinikoudes), which is also where you will find the greatest concentration of cafes and restaurants. The Church of St. Lazarus dates back to the 9th century and is a must for cultural enthusiasts, as is the Archaeological Museum of the Larnaca District, which boasts a small but impressive collection of artefacts. Finally, active travellers will relish exploring the wreck of the Zenobia, with many dive companies offering specialised tours of this fascinating site.

Overnight: Cactus Hotel

The Cactus Hotel in Larnaca, Cyprus, is a charming destination for travellers seeking a Mediterranean getaway. Located in the heart of the city, it offers easy access to local attractions such as the Larnaca Marina and the Medieval Castle. The hotel's rooms are well-appointed with modern amenities for a comfortable stay. Guests can enjoy a variety of dining options, from local Cypriot cuisine to international dishes.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 2-8: Cactus Hotel, Larnaca

Day Itinerary

Zenobia Wreck

For those of you interested in the history of the Zenobia wreck, MS Zenobia was a Swedish built Challenger-class RO-RO ferry launched in 1979 that capsized and sank close to Larnaca, Cyprus, in June 1980 on her maiden voyage. The Zenobia now rests on her port side in approximately 42 metres of water.

History

The Zenobia was built at the Kockums Varv AB shipyard in Sweden and was delivered to her owners Rederi AB Nordö in late 1979. She left Malmo, Sweden on her maiden voyage, bound for Tartous, Syria on 4 May 1980, loaded with 104 trucks with cargo destined for Mediterranean and the Middle East. The Zenobia passed through the Straits of Gibraltar on 22 May 1980, stopping first at Heraklion, Crete and then to Piraeus, Athens, Greece.

On the way to Athens the captain noticed steering problems and the Zenobia began listing to port. Following checks, it was determined the list was caused by excess water that had been pumped into the ballast tanks, this was pumped out and she then departed for her penultimate stop at Larnaca, Cyprus before reaching Syria.



The Zenobia arrived at Larnaca on 2 June 1980, where the ballast problem had reoccurred, engineers discovered that the computerised pumping system was pumping excess water into the side ballast tanks, making the list progressively worse. On 4 June, the Zenobia was towed out of Larnaca harbour to prevent her becoming an obstruction should the worst happen and was left at anchor roughly 1.5 – 2 km offshore. On 5 June, with the Zenobia listing at around 45° the captain dismissed the engineers and maintenance crew and requests from the captain to return her to Larnaca harbour were denied.

At around 2:30am 7 June 1980, the Zenobia capsized and sank in Larnaca Bay to a depth of 42 metres, taking her estimated £200 million worth of cargo with her. According to local legend, the Zenobia's owners never collected the insurance money, and no formal investigation has ever been published into her sinking.

Diving the Zenobia with Dive-In Larnaca

Dive-In Larnaca visits the wreck virtually every day – twice a day and can take you on dives around the outside and the inside of the wreck if you are suitably qualified. Dive with us in small groups on the Zenobia on dives tailored to suit each diver's qualifications and experience. We also run most of our recreational and technical diving courses on the Zenobia.

Whilst diving around the outside of the Zenobia you can see a wide variety of fish life from large Groupers to Barracudas and tiny Nudibranchs that make the Zenobia their home. The cargo of trucks and their contents have never been salvaged and so are there for you to see lying on the seabed and chained to the decks.

We have a world class 10 dive tour for the hardcore Wreckheads amongst our guests which slowly progresses from and outside tour, through the cargo decks, accommodation and even the engine room for those with the right experience and qualifications.

In the accommodation and captain's quarters, with the light zone, you can still see toilets and basins with carpet still attached in some places. The restaurant still contains a drinks machine, and the serving hatch is still very much in tact all atop the bright red tartan carpet which is still on part of the floor.

The Upper Cargo deck dive on the Zenobia will show you rusty trucks piled one on top of the other some with their windscreens still in place, whilst in the Middle Cargo deck, the trucks have still retained the colours of their cabs and

covers. In many you can still take a peek inside to see the cargo they were carrying! the Middle Cargo deck also holds the Zenobia's only car, which belonged to the captain and a forklift. One of our favourite technical routes.

This gives you just a sneak preview of some of the incredible diving available on the Zenobia with us. So why don't you take Dive-In Larnaca's Wreckhead Tour of the Zenobia which is available for single cylinder divers as well as technical divers and rebreather (CCR) divers to see the 10 classic dive routes as you work your way into the Zenobia wreck. (All dives are subject to each diver's experience and qualification).

Day 8: End of Itinerary

Travel Information



Located in the east of the glittering Mediterranean Sea, the spectacular island of Cyprus is known for its rolling mountains, lush forests, rugged headlands and sandy beaches lapped by turquoise waters. It boasts a unique cultural heritage with a blend of historical influences including Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Cyprus features romantic archaeological finds such as the Temple of Aphrodite, the House of Dionysos, and the Tomb of the Kings. Visitors can look forward to an array of fantastic activities including: exploring the magnificent Kolossi Castle, a 15th-century fortress; visiting the Erimi Wine Museum, to learn about the history of a variety of locally produced wines; and discovering the 2000-year-old amphitheatre in the ancient city of Curium, a treasure trove of history. Soak up the sun-baked vistas, discover a multitude of scenic mountain treks and indulge in an array of heavenly halloumi.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Local currency: Euro

Symbol: €

ISO code: EUR

Subunit: Cent

Banknotes: €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, €500

Coins: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1, €2

Banking

Card Transactions: Yes

ATMs: Yes

Mastercard: Yes

Visa: Yes

American Express: Yes

Diner's club: No

Banking Hours:

Weekdays: Typically 09:00-17:00

Weekends: Limited hours or closed

Public Holidays: Yes (If yes, add hours)

Foreign exchange services: Yes

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Air:

Main airlines: Cyprus Airways, Ryanair, easyJet

International Airports: Larnaca International Airport (LCA), Paphos International Airport (PFO)

Domestic Airports: None

Road:

Driving on the: Left

Tar roads: Yes

Gravel roads: Limited

Valid International Driver's License needed: Yes

Car hire available: Yes

Taxis: Yes

E-hailing services: Yes

Bus:

Inter-city bus services: Yes

Local city bus networks: Yes

Rail:

Railway system: No

Subway System: No

Water:

Ferries: Limited to neighboring countries

Water taxis: Limited

Leisure cruises: Limited

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Food and water safety:

Can you drink the tap water: Yes

Fresh fruit and veg: Yes

Ice: Yes

Meat: Yes

Street food: Yes

Local cuisine:

Cypriot cuisine is a fusion of Greek, Turkish, and Middle Eastern flavors. Highlights include halloumi cheese, souvlaki, moussaka, and meze—a selection of small dishes served as appetizers. Don't miss trying Cyprus's famous Commandaria wine and zivania spirit.

Drinks: Commandaria wine, Zivania spirit, Cyprus coffee

Tipping: 10-15%

Climate and Weather

Annual rainfall: Varies by region

Average temperature: °C

Summer:

Average highs: 30°C

Average lows: 20°C

Winter:

Average highs: 15°C

Average lows: 8°C

Best time to visit: The best time to visit Cyprus is in the spring (April to June) and autumn (September to November) when the weather is pleasantly warm, and tourist crowds are thinner.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Spring and Summer

Cool, light, breathable and comfortable: Yes

Lightweight warm clothes: No

Winter and Autumn

Jerseys, cardigans, sweaters, jackets: Recommended

Heavyweight clothing and boots: No

General

Umbrella and raincoat: Yes

Warm gloves, hat and scarf: No

Swimming costume (bathing suit): Yes

Hat, sunglasses and sunblock: Yes

Walking shoes: Yes

Casual: Yes

Smart-casual attire: Yes

Internet Availability

Internet cafes: No

Accommodation options: Yes

Restaurants: Yes

Cafes: Yes

Shopping malls: Yes

Public parks: Yes

Libraries: Yes

Electricity and Plug Standards

Plug Type: Type G

Voltage (V): 230

Frequency Hertz (Hz): 50

*Travel plug adapter and voltage converter might be necessary depending on your appliances.
