



MICE Newsletter
Issue 4: Spring 2010

Dear Partners,

Spring is here bringing with it days of beautiful sunshine and a blossoming of cultural and sporting events around the island. June is a particularly exciting month with many high profile cultural treats in store including a performance by tenor José Carreras, the 13th European Dance Festival and the annual Shakespeare play at the Kourion amphitheatre with this year's offering being the ever-popular "The Merchant of Venice". Also in June the island will be honoured by the first visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI who will lead mass at various key locations across the island.

We hope you find our newsletter both enjoyable and informative and look forward to receiving your comments and feedback.

Contents

Culture

Feature: UNESCO in Cyprus

New: Pleiades: The art of mosaic

Upcoming Events

Sport & Leisure

Feature: Shooting in Cyprus

Upcoming Events

Culture

UNESCO in Cyprus

World Heritage Sites

With more than 10,000 years of history and culture it is hardly surprising that Cyprus features not once but three times on the UNESCO World Heritage List. As a result of the important civilisation that had developed in Cyprus between the key cultural regions of



the Aegean and the Near East, it was one of the first countries whose monuments achieved the distinction of UNESCO listing in 1980.

The first Cypriot sites to achieve recognition were the Sanctuary of Aphrodite (Palaipafos) and Nea Pafos (now Kato Pafos) due to the importance that the region played in the cult of Aphrodite and later in the spread of Christianity with events associated with the journey of St Paul. Perhaps most important though

were the magnificent Roman mosaics and the Tombs of the Kings from the Hellenistic period.

The second listing came in 1985 with the addition of 10 painted Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches in the Troodos region, testimony to the Byzantine culture on the



island and well-preserved monuments of ecclesiastical architecture.

The third listing in 1998 added the Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia which shows the role of Cyprus in the spreading of Neolithic civilisation from the eastern Mediterranean to the west.

These beautiful monuments are popular attractions for visitors from all over the world and are of particular relevance to special interest groups or as part of a round trip or tour around a theme of Byzantine Cyprus, the Cult of Aphrodite or perhaps Early Christianity in Europe.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

In 2003, UNESCO developed the concept of Intangible Cultural Heritage or “living heritage”, referring to practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, objects and cultural spaces that communities and groups recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This ICH is transmitted from generation to generation and provides an important sense of identity and continuity promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

Thus the latest Cypriot addition to the UNESCO “family” is Lefkaritika- the laces made in the Larnaca district village of Lefkara which have been inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Pleiades: The art of mosaic

At the heart of the village of Lania is “Pleiades” an art showcase featuring workshops, an atelier, art shop, exhibition hall and café. In the mosaic workshop artisans work with natural pebbles, glass, beads, ceramics and metals to create classic and contemporary mosaics many of which are inspired by the famous mosaics at Kourion and Paphos or influenced by ancient vases and statues. A brief lecture can be arranged for groups on the art of mosaics in ancient and modern times followed by a chance to try their own hand at this complex art form. The art shop houses a collection of diverse pieces by local artists including ceramics, glass, sculpture and jewellery and an exhibition space is the perfect setting for musical and cultural events.

In an old 19th century house a small café has also been opened as the newest part of the Pleiades complex offering traditional dishes and local wines.

A mosaic workshop at Pleiades could be combined with an introduction to additional arts and crafts in the old school house in Kaminaria village where visitors can try their skills at pottery and learn the secrets of basket weaving and wood carving.



Upcoming Events

Musical Sundays: 11th, 18th, 25th April, Musical Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th May
A series of cultural events with traditional songs and dances, classical and contemporary music organised by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation in Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos (April every Sunday) and Nicosia (May every Saturday)

Cultural Sundays: 11th, 18th, 25th April, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th May
Village Culture in Lefkara every Sunday; tours, traditional music and dancing, demonstrations of typical crafts, market stalls selling local produce and horse & carriage and donkey rides through the village streets.

Flower Festival (Anthestiria) 8th-9th & 15th-16th May



Anthestiria dates back to ancient Greece and is a celebration of the coming of spring and the renewal of life and nature. The programme includes a flower exhibition and parade of chariots and children. Events take place in Larnaca on 9th May along the seafront, in

Paphos 15th-16th May along Poseidonas Avenue and the largest event in Limassol begins on 8th May with a flower exhibition and market in Potamos Yermasoyias followed by a parade along the coast road on Sunday 9th May.

Pentecost- Kataklysmos: 22nd-24th May

Kataklysmos is a religious and popular festival unique to Cyprus; Kataklysmos which means the flood is found both in the bible (Genesis) and in the Greek myth of Deucalion in both cases referring to the destruction by flood of almost all living creatures in order to give birth to a new and moral generation. Celebrations take place in all seaside towns and last for several days including games, folk dances, swimming competitions and boat races. The most famous event on the island takes place in Larnaca 21st-26th May with music, dancing, poetry, theatre and competitions organised by the Municipality at the Palm Trees Promenade.

10th Annual Pharos International Chamber Music Festival: Late May

The festival welcomes international chamber musicians to Cyprus at the invitation of the Pharos Trust to perform a range of works for string and piano at the PASYDY Auditorium in Nicosia.

13th European Dance Festival: 1st-30th June

The festival of contemporary dance this year welcomes even more participants from EU member states showing that the event is becoming an annual highlight in the European arts and culture scene. Organised by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Rialto Theatre in Limassol.

José Carreras Mediterranean Passion: 9th June

The internationally renowned tenor is returning to Cyprus in June; he will give a concert in the Limassol Municipal Garden Theatre accompanied by the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Miguel Ortega. The highly anticipated event is being organised by the Limassol Tourism Committee.



Shakespeare Festival at Kourion: 18th-20th June

A highlight of the annual cultural calendar this year's play being shown at the ancient Kourion amphitheatre will be "The Merchant of Venice".

Sport & Leisure

Shooting in Cyprus

Shooting is an increasingly popular sport in Cyprus and all Olympic and non-Olympic clay pigeon and target shooting is governed by the Cyprus Shooting Sport Federation which is affiliated to the ISSF, ESC, FITASC and CSF.

The island boasts shooting ranges in all towns including two of Olympic standard in Nicosia and Limassol. In addition to a busy calendar of local events, the island also plays host to International competitions including the Cyprus Grand Prix which took place this year at the end of March and hosted competitors in the disciplines of Trap, Skeet and Double Trap and the forthcoming European Championships in Compak Shooting scheduled to take place in Nicosia in June. The Olympic shooting range in Nicosia has previously hosted ISSF World Championships and a number of FITASC Grand Prix and the FITASC UT World Championship.

Of course shooting is not just for serious competitors and there are facilities at a number of ranges for amateur individuals and groups.

EU citizens holding a European Firearms Certificate do not require any form of import permit but on arrival simply need to check their guns through the Red Channel and verify their weapons serial numbers. Visitors who do not hold a certificate will need to present themselves to customs officials on arrival and present them with a completed official shotgun declaration in order to obtain a temporary shotgun import permit. Ammunition can be imported by certificate holders or purchased at the ranges locally.

Any sportsmen bringing weapons or ammunition into the country for competition or practice purposes are nonetheless advised to contact the CSSF at least one month prior to arrival.



Upcoming Events

Sailing European Laser Master 2010: 24th-30th May

An international event organised by the Cyprus Sailing Association in Limassol

22nd International Historic Car Rally: 13th-15th May

Organised by the Friends of Historic & Old Cars of Cyprus

The European Championships in Compak Shooting: 15th-21st June

Organised by the Cyprus Shooting Federation the competition will take place at the Olympic Shooting Range in Latsia, Nicosia