



# THANOS HOTELS

## Classical Heritage

### **MOSAICS OF PAFOS – KATO PAFOS**

*(A forty minute drive from Anassa and a five minute walk from The Annabelle and Almyra)*

These striking and historic mosaics, which date from the 2nd to the 5th century AD, are situated near Pafos harbour within the Houses of Dionysos Orpheus and Aion. The mosaics decorate both private homes and public buildings, indicating the wealth and high level of artistry that existed when Pafos was a great centre of mosaic production. Inspired by master artists from Alexandria and Egypt, they vividly depict scenes from Greek mythology such as Pyramos and Thisbe, the doomed young Babylonian lovers, and Zeus and Ganymede, the God in the form of an eagle, carrying off the young Ganymede.

### **CHURCH OF CHRYSSELOUSA – EMBA PAFOS**

*(A three quarter hour drive from Anassa and a short seven minute drive from Almyra)*

This two domed cruciform church dates back to the 12th century and houses paintings dating from the 16th century. The name means Our Lady of the Golden Mercy.

### **THE AKAMAS FOREST AND THE BATHS OF APHRODITE**

*(A fifteen minute drive from Anassa and a forty minute drive from The Annabelle and Almyra)*

On the north-western peninsula of Cyprus is the beautiful, uninhabited forest of Akamas which has been declared a National Park and which is preserved and protected by the government. On the boundaries of the park, a cool spring emerges from a rock overhang in the shade of an old fig tree and pours into a natural lake. According to legend, it is here in the “Baths of Aphrodite” that Adonis is said to have caught Aphrodite unawares as she was bathing naked.

### **KOURION – SITUATED 16KM TO THE WEST OF LIMASSOL**

*(An hour drive from Anassa and a forty minute drive from The Annabelle and Almyra)*

The city of Kourion enjoys a dramatic setting and a



Significant history. It has been inhabited since the Neolithic and early Bronze Ages. Kourion's last king switched allegiances and supported Alexander the Great by leading his fleet in the attack on Persia at the Siege of Tyre in 332 BC. Archaeological ruins include the 16th century temple of Apollo and the tomb of one of the early kings in the Kalorizki area, which dates back to 700 BC. A stadium, 2 km west of Kourion, was constructed in the 2nd century AD and originally seated 6,500 people. The spectacular theatre was first discovered and excavated in 1935 and was then restored to its present state in the early 1960s. The original theatre was Greek, but was later enlarged and altered by the Romans to suit music and drama or gladiatorial and animal fights. It is now the venue of plays, concerts and operas.

### **LOFOU, LANIA AND OMODHOS VILLAGES**

*(A one and a half hour drive from Anassa and a one hour drive from The Annabelle and Almyra, in the direction of Limassol)*

Lofou originates from a medieval settlement which was granted by the King of Cyprus, James I, to his brother Janot de Lusignan in the 14th century. The houses of Lofou line the narrow and winding cobbled streets with wine jars lying in their doorways. The church of B.V.M. Evangelismos dates from the 19th century and overlooks the rest of the village, the whole of which is now listed and under restoration by UNESCO. Lania, which is twenty minutes from Lofou, is a village with a rich traditional architecture. With its attractive tiled roofs, cobbled streets and flowered courtyards, it is a popular location for visiting artists. Nearby Omodhos is primarily a wine producing village which has a particularly impressive paved central square.

### **LEFKARA VILLAGE**

*(A two and a half hour drive from Anassa and a one and a half hour drive from The Annabelle and Almyra, towards Larnaca)*

Lefkara, whilst being renowned for its picturesque, traditional buildings and narrow, winding streets, is perhaps best known for its famous Lefkaritika lace.

### **NICOSIA**

*(A two hour drive from Anassa and a one and three quarter hour drive from The Annabelle and Almyra)*

There is plenty to explore and discover in this, the capital city of Cyprus. The City Walls, which encircled the city, were constructed in 1567 and the remains of these Venetian fortifications are, in some places, in excellent condition. Laiki Yitonia is a typical Cypriot neighbourhood which has recently been renovated in the traditional style of old Nicosia. The narrow winding streets, with their craftshops and tavernas, provide ample opportunity for exploration. The Cyprus Folk Art Museum dates back to the 19th century and was until 1960 the residence of the Greek Orthodox Archbishops. It was the centre of the religious and national life of Cypriot Hellenism. The Famagusta Gate, which houses The Nicosia Cultural Centre, dates from Venetian times and was the city's principal and strongest gate. The restored inner rooms and passage play host to regular cultural events, conferences, lectures and art exhibitions.

### **TROODOS MOUNTAINS AND KYKKO MONASTERY**

The Troodos mountain range, in the centre of the island, rises from idyllic wine-growing villages set in lush foothills up through steep, untouched pine forests and deserted Byzantine monasteries to Mount Olympus, the highest point in Cyprus. At 1,952 metres above sea level, the peak of Olympus affords stunning panoramic views. As well as dramatic scenery, the Troodos mountains enfold such well known ancient sites as Kykkos Monastery, where the famous monk Makarios was a novice. Among the monastery's treasures is a miraculous icon of Christ and the Virgin Mary, painted by St. Luke.

### **CRUISING AROUND THE AKAMAS PENINSULA**

Anassa's private yacht, moored at nearby Latchi harbour, is ready and waiting for the use of guests. She can be hired for group or private cruises for a half a day, a full day – which includes a picnic lunch – or an evening sail. Its the perfect opportunity to take in the dramatic coastline of the Peninsula at a gentle, relaxed pace. The water is clear, bright blue and warm and there are many secret caves and beaches to explore along the way.