



PAFOS

The ancient Capital of Cyprus

Aerial View of the City



A short history

- ▶ Pafos, as with many major Cypriot cities, was founded by a Greek Trojan Veteran, in our case Agapinora's son Pafos, when he left Troy and came here to found Palaipafos, a kingdom that is the ancient iteration of the city.



Agapinoras, Trojan war veteran
and Founder of Palaipafos

Monuments

▶ Some of the major ancient sites that remain to this day, include:

1. The Harbor Castle
2. Tombs of the Kings
3. Archaeological Museum
4. Mosaics
5. Ancient Theatre (Odeion)

Most of the ancient sites are under protection by the UNESCO World Heritage Site Program!

The harbor Castle

- ▶ Originally built a Byzantine Fort to protect the harbour in the 12th century, after it's destruction by an earthquake in 1222, it went beyond repair.
- ▶ In the 13th century it was rebuilt by the Lusignians, until it was dismantled in 1570 by the Venetians. When the Ottomans got hold of Cyprus, the fort was rebuilt to it's full strength, using the rubble from the old forts.



The castle at noon.

The tombs of the Kings

- ▶ The monumental underground tombs are carved out of solid rock and date back to the Hellenistic and Roman periods.
- ▶ High state officials were buried there, in spite of the name, which came from the grand feeling of the Doric columns, which look like palace decorations.
- ▶ They are 2km north of the harbour and they are an UNESCO W.H.Site since 1980.



The center tomb.

Roman Mosaics

- ▶ They constitute the flooring of the villas of four Roman noblemen, dating from the 2nd to the 5th centuries AD. Their depict various scenes from Greek Mythology:
- ▶ The House of Dionysos
- ▶ The House of Theseus
- ▶ The House of Orpheus
- ▶ The House of Aion



One of the Mosaics.

Ancient Odeon (Theatre)

- ▶ The Odeon is a small Roman amphitheatre, built in the early 2nd century. A.D. and was mainly used for music events. It was built of large sandstone, and lined with limestone.
- ▶ Today, this monument is more than just a remnant of the past, but rather a living area of the city. Concerts, performances and other cultural events are organized here every year, so the ancient conservatory becomes a shareholder of modern culture.



The Odeon from the perspective of the stage, during the day.

Pafos Archaeological Museum

- ▶ The Pafos District Archaeological Museum houses a collection of finds from the Pafos region dating from the Neolithic Age to 1700 AD.



A small recreation of the ship Kyreinia at the entrance, with original amphorae!

Natural Monuments

The background features a complex, abstract geometric design. It consists of several overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of blue (ranging from light to dark) and red (ranging from dark to light). The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is modern and minimalist.

Aphrodite's Rock (Petra tou Romiou)

- ▶ Aphrodite's mythical birthplace is a geological formation of huge rocks along one of the most beautiful coastlines on the island, located on the southwest coast of Pafos.
- ▶ According to the legend, the Ancient Greek Goddess of Love and Beauty - Aphrodite - was born of the sea foam here.



The beach at sunset.

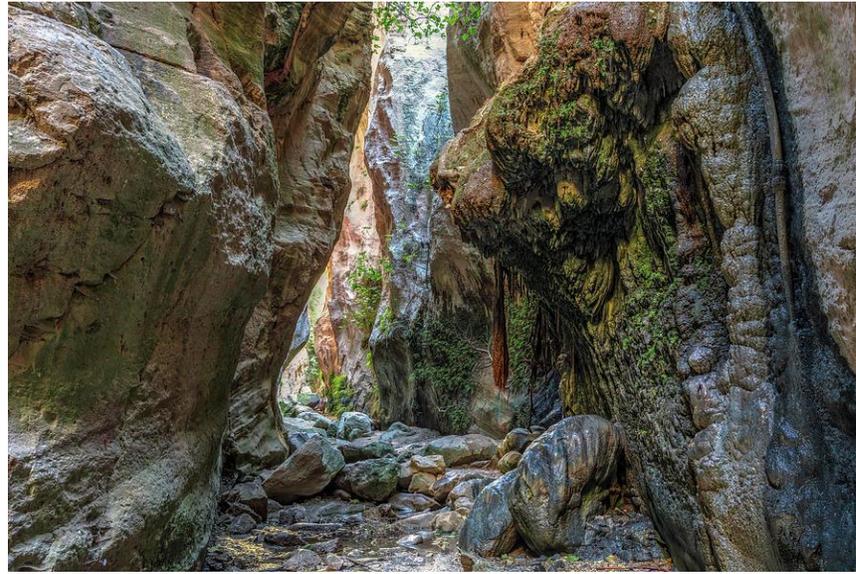
Aphrodite's Baths

- ▶ The natural grotto of the Baths of Aphrodite, and its botanical garden, can be found past the fishing harbour of Latsi, and towards the tip of the Akamas Peninsula. Shaded by an old fig tree, amidst lush greenery, legend tells that the Ancient Greek Goddess Aphrodite used to bathe in the waters.
- ▶ According to Greek mythology, Aphrodite met her lover Adonis at this beautiful spot when he stopped for a drink whilst hunting, and fell in love with her the moment when he drank the water.



Avakas Gorge in Akamas

- ▶ This 1.2km trail gets its name from Avgas River, where it follows its course. It is characterized by its thick vegetation and a shady, moist and attractive environment.
- ▶ It hosts a large variety of flora and fauna, particularly terebinth trees, thorn bushes, foxes, hares, frogs and owls.
- ▶ It is believed that it was formed millions of years ago, through constant erosion of the river.



Avakas Gorge.

The Akamas Peninsula.



European Capital of Culture!

- ▶ Pafos was selected as European capital of culture at the year 2017
- ▶ Plans have been implemented to create a truly wide reaching and diverse cultural programme, showcasing the involvement of other visiting European cultures.
- ▶ Family events, music, art, crafts, theatre, sport, food and wine, in fact all the essential elements which add both quality and diversity, elements which challenge and question, and above all, activities which deliver a sense of pleasure and pride to all within the Pafos region and Island-wide.
- ▶ Tourism has been developed, thousands of additional visitors from all over Europe visited the area.



Gallery



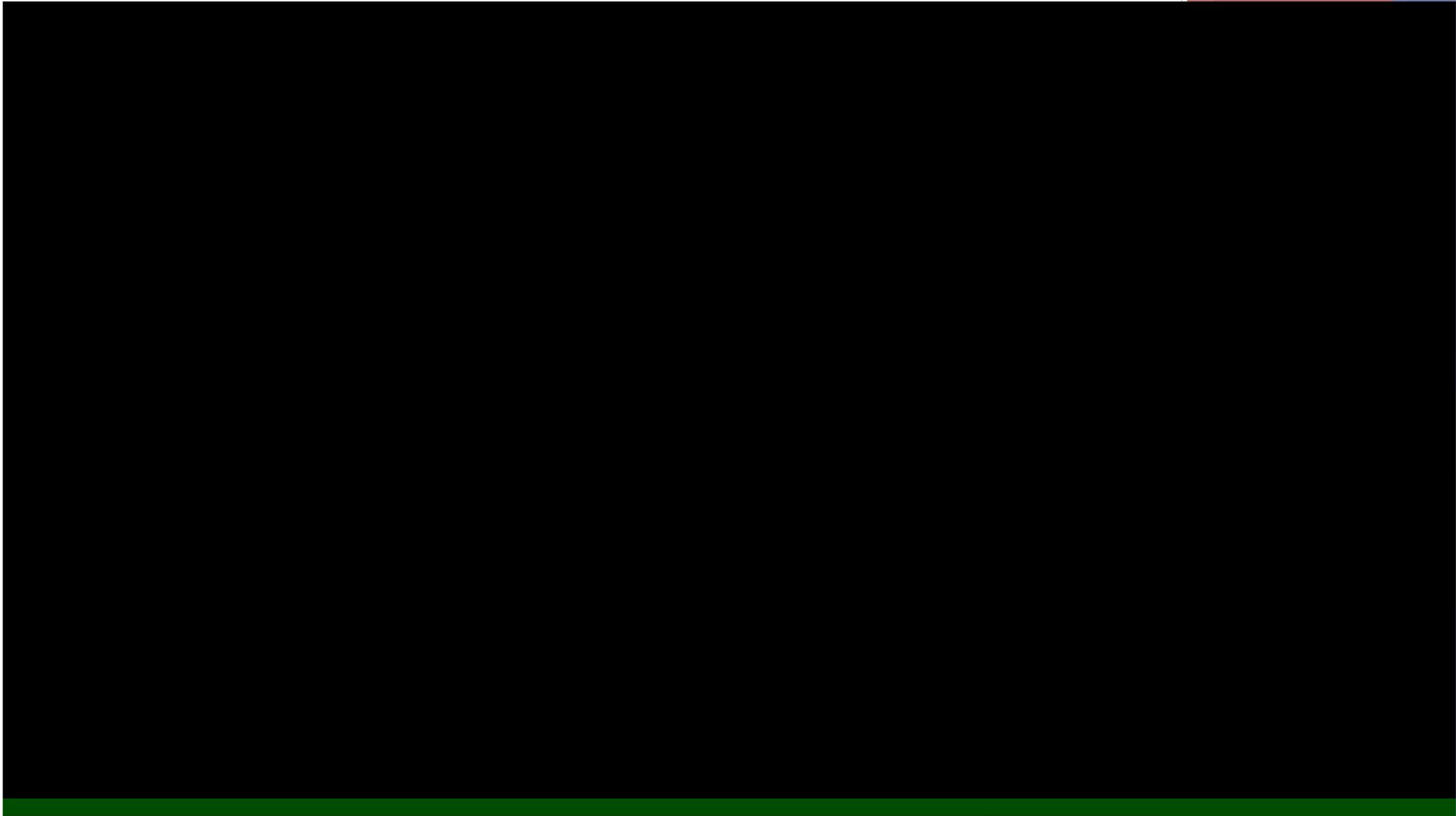
Tourists!

- ▶ As you may have understood by now, the rich and vast history of Pafos, combined with its unparalleled and breathtaking natural scenery, bring a surge of tourists during the summer season. As a matter of fact, income heavily relies on tourism and as result most (if not all) businesses rely on it, so this whole pandemic situation has had a negative and devastating effect on our local economy... But we will push through!



Coral Bay, waiting for it's swimmers to come back

And we shall end our adventure with
a small video...



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

