

Azia Resort & Spa

PAPHOS SUGGESTED SPOTS TO VISIT & DAY ACTIVITIES

AZIA RESORT & SPA

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INTRODUCTION TO PAPHOS

In view of its historical and archaeological importance, the capital city of ancient Cyprus, Paphos (Pafos), is on UNESCO's Cultural Heritage List. Paphos area is also famous for its natural beauty and was therefore named the birthplace of Aphrodite by the Ancient Greeks.

But Paphos is more than just history, it is also a place of unusual natural beauty. There are a variety of ways to experience its welcoming nature, trekking, on safari, cruising, scuba diving, or simply by leisurely driving around.

Paphos has innumerable restaurants, offering the discerning visitor everything from hearty local to refined international cuisine. There's opera under the stars, against the dramatic backdrop of a medieval castle overlooking Paphos Harbour, and the various summer music festivals. And there's dancing to the latest beat, thanks to a veritable constellation of nightspots dotting the town.

Paphos is an Aladdin's cave of wonders.

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL

The Azia Resort & Spa is located in Chlorakas, a picturesque village in Paphos, on the Tombs of the Kings road leading to Coral Bay, just 6km from the centre of Paphos.

Chlorakas, from a Greek word meaning "green," is a coastal village full of history. As farmers here till their land, they often unearth stone implements, axe-heads and pottery which suggest this was the site of a Neolithic settlement. The remains of Rigaina's aqueduct, between here and the sea, are probably those of a long aqueduct that once brought water from the Mavrokolympos River to Paphos.

A number of beautiful and interesting places can be reached on foot from the hotel. Directly opposite the hotel is a **Golf Practice range**. Paphos Golf Driving Range & Academy is like none other in Cyprus with its unique, professionally designed landscape intended to make each and every golfer feel like they are on a real golf course. With 27 hidden bays and 5 flag target greens ready and waiting for you, Paphos Golf Driving Range & Academy has everything from the beginner to the expert golfer.

It is only a ten-minute walk to the **Water sports at a nearby beach**. Few countries in the world are blessed with such a clement climate as Cyprus, allowing so much diversity in water sport activities. Paphos is the ideal place for the water sports enthusiast, with a full gamut of fun on offer throughout the year. Water sports sites have facilities for water-skiing, windsurfing, sailing, canoeing, pedalling, parascending, yachting, jet skiing, and much more.

Ten minutes' walking from the hotel will take you to the **ancient village of Lemba**. Excavations at Lemba have brought to life an important settlement of the Chalcolithic Age. Near the site replicas of five houses from that period have been reconstructed using the materials and building methods used in Chalcolithic times (3900-2500 BC). The Chalcolithic settlement site is a stop on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Lemba is also currently a pretty **artists' village** that attracts art students from all over the world.

A seaside walk of half an hour, three-quarters if you take your time, will bring you to the **Tombs of the Kings**. Spread over a vast area, these impressive underground buildings date back to the 4th century BC. The tombs are carved



out of solid rock, and some are decorated with Doric columns. The magnificence of the structures gave the locality its name.

Right in front of the hotel you can take **the Scenic Pathway**. It starts at Potima, an area just outside of Paphos. It is 12 km long and ideal for walking, jogging, or bicycling (bicycles, including those with children's seats, are available at the hotel for a small fee). This beautiful pathway goes all the way to the Harbour Castle, passing through the Mosaics and archaeological sites as well as Kato Paphos. Only five minutes from the Azia, along this pathway, you will be able to stop and visit the nearby

St. George's chapel.

SUGGESTED SPOTS TO VISIT BY CAR

Petra tou Romiou - Rock of Aphrodite

A geological formation of mammoth rocks off the southwest coast in the Paphos district, this is one of the most breath taking natural sites on the island, associated with the goddess of love Aphrodite, the ancient Greek precursor of the Roman goddess Venus. It is here, by the Rock of Aphrodite, that the goddess arose from the foaming sea and was spirited away on a seashell. To this day, locals say that sometimes the waves break, swirl and rise up in columns of water that fall back and dissolve into sea foam, conjuring up shapes that assume human form. The site is on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Pafos Medieval Fort

The fort of Nea Pafos (Paphos), situated at the west end of the harbour, was constructed under Frankish rule in the 13th century to replace the 7th century Byzantine castle of "Saranta Kolones," destroyed in the earthquake of 1222. In the 16th century the Venetians dismantled the massive structure – originally built to resist Arab raids – to prevent the Ottoman Turks, eager to capture the island, from using it as a military base. A Turkish inscription above the entrance attests that the victorious Ottomans later rebuilt the fortification.

Pafos Mosaics

Uncovered by chance in 1962 when a local farmer was working his field, the magnificent paving of the floors of these Roman noblemen's villas, dating from the 3rd to the 5th centuries A.D., is among the finest examples of mosaic decoration extant in the Mediterranean. Depicted are scenes from Greek mythology: at the House of Dionysus it is the god of wine, while the House of Theseus is named after a scene in which the ancient Greek hero confronts the Minotaur. More mosaic panels adorn other villas, including the House of Aion, the House of Orpheus and the House of the Four Seasons. The Roman villas are on the Aphrodite Cultural Route.

Note: Partly accessible to wheelchairs

Akamas Peninsula

The Akamas peninsula, so named after an Athenian nobleman, son of Theseus, who arrived here after the Trojan War, is a place of unusual natural beauty, famed for the ecodiversity of its habitat and the variety of geological formations found here – from narrow gorges to deep mysterious caves, from precipitous cliffs to islets swathed in sea mist. According to legend, after swimming in the crystalline waters of the bay, goddess Aphrodite would scale the hillside and bathe in a pool fed by a mountain spring that cascades down the sides of a grotto overhung by a leafy fig tree. This spot has come to be called the Baths of Aphrodite, and here Adonis, hunting in the Akamas forest, first saw and fell in love with the goddess.





St George Fishing Harbour

The small fishing village of St Georges Paphos (Ayios Georgios) is just a short drive from the hotel.

The village harbour is worth a visit. Its many restaurants get very busy on Sundays, packed with both locals and tourists enjoying the local specialities, such as freshly caught red mullet.

While there, you can visit the famous St George Church, on a hilltop overlooking the beach and the sea. A short drive away is the magical Coral Bay and the stunning nature reserve of the Akamas Peninsula.

The ancient village of Kourium and Apollo

For the visitor eager to learn more about the fascinating history of Cyprus, Mount Kourion, the site of the ancient city-kingdom dating back to the Neolithic Age (4500-3900 B.C.), is a must.

The House of the Gladiators: Dating to the 3rd century A.D., this Roman villa has a central atrium with corridors on all sides and rooms opening onto them. Among the fine mosaics is a remarkable scene of gladiator combat.

The Theatre: Originally erected in the 2nd century B.C., in its present form the structure dates to the Roman period, with 2nd and 3rd century A.D. additions and restorations. The seating area of the curved auditorium accommodates some 3500 spectators.

The Agora; the House of Achilles; the Baths and the Complex of Eustolios; the Early Christian Basilica; the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates; the Stadium and the Small Basilica are all located near the House of the Gladiators and the Theatre, and all are key monuments to visit in this ancient village.

DAY ACTIVITIES AND POPULAR EXCURSIONS IN PAPHOS AREA

1. Safari to Akamas Peninsula and Lara Bay

A safari experience awaits at the Natural Sea Coves of Peyia. Then it's an easy walk to the Church of Agios Georgios, or another easy walk to take in the picturesque beauty of the Avagas Gorge. Or walk to the beach of Lara Bay, known for its Greenback Turtle Conservation programme.

2. Blue Lagoon Cruise

A boat trip that starts in Latsi and takes guests along a scenic route to the Blue Lagoon, the nature reserve of Akamas Peninsula (Lara Bay), Sea Caves, St. George Island, and returns back to Paphos Harbour.

3. Troodos Mountains & Omodos Wine Village

For those who love the mountains, this is an unforgettable experience. Guests first stop at the Dam of Asprokremos, drive through Diarizos Valley, and regain their strength with a wine tasting at what may be the island's best winery at Pretori. A tour of Kykkos Monastery, one of the most prominent on the island, is followed by a lunch at the village of Prodomos, famous for its cherries. After a local Cypriot lunch, it's on to see the Fini waterfalls and the wine-making village of Omodos. A final stop is at the Aphrodite's Rock, the birthplace of the Goddess of Love.



4. Paphos Zoo

A great wildlife experience just 15 minutes' drive from the hotel is Paphos Zoo, set in a lush and unspoiled natural environment of more than 100.000 sq. m. and home to an extensive variety of birds and animals from every corner of the planet. Do not miss the chance to meet and greet all the fantastic Zoo residents: giraffes, monkeys, meerkats, crocodiles, kangaroos, albino wallabies, mouflon, white lions, tigers, and many, many others.

5. Paphos Aphrodite Waterpark

Paphos Aphrodite Waterpark is in Kato Paphos and easily accessible from the hotel. By car it takes approximately 20 minutes, or the local bus drops off visitors right on their doorstep. The waterpark features high-speed water slides, an extensive lazy river, wave surge pool, lots of swimming areas and a spectacular children's water-play area, with food court and beverage facilities spread throughout the park.

6. Cruises

Boat excursions depart from Paphos Harbour. These include a Fireworks Night in the harbour, a BBQ Day while cruising to Coral Bay or Timi Bay, and the scenic Sunshine Day Cruises, departing from Paphos Harbour and taking the scenic route to Coral Bay, Sea Caves, St. George Island and the beautiful reserve of Akamas Peninsula at Lara Bay.

7. Deep Sea Fishing

For the neophyte and the accomplished alike, pleasure fishing is on hand about 20 minutes outside Paphos Harbour. Every guest has an individual rod, fishing Bream, Snapper, Rainbow Wrasse and Perch.

8. Day Trip to Nicosia

An excursion to the divided capital of Cyprus. Visit St John's Cathedral and Lefkara, known for its lace making and silversmiths, and walk the

famous Green Line that separates the North and the South under United Nations control.

9. Golf

Apart from the Golf Driving range directly opposite the Azia Resort & Spa, there are four top class golf courses in the Pafos region, all within 20-30 minutes' drive from the hotel and situated in peaceful surroundings amidst landscaped hills with spectacular views.

- **Aphrodite Hills:** It is an 18-hole championship standard golf course, has a double ended 350m practice range, 4 target greens with bunkers, short game practise facilities, 3 academy holes, two residential professional golf instructors, a large clubhouse with a bar and restaurant and terraces overlooking the green.
- **Minthis Hills Golf Club:** The par 71, 18-hole championship course is situated in the grounds of a twelfth century monastery. Its tranquil setting and mesmerising views provide the perfect backdrop for a challenging game with its fairways swathing through mature trees and water features. At 550m above sea level it's a course for all seasons.
- **The Secret Valley Golf Club:** Located 18km east of Pafos, this is an 18 hole course. The aptly named Secret Valley Golf Course is tucked away in a superb valley east of Pafos near the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, the goddess of love. It is set in scenic hills surrounded by



mature trees and dramatic rock formations. The course plays to a par 71 and measures 5904m.

- **Elea Golf Club:** The challenging Par 71 course, designed by the legendary Sir Nick Faldo, incorporates numerous natural features and boasts stunning views of the Mediterranean.

10. Helicopter Rides

See Paphos from the air. Choose a helicopter tour of 15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes and admire the beautiful landscapes of Paphos and the Akamas Peninsula.

11. Morokambos Plantation

[Link to the Morokambos page](#)

12. Scuba Diving

Experience the beauty under the water. The hotel provides a complimentary first lesson in the pool and assistance if you would like to book a scuba diving professional course or excursion.

The suggested places to visit and excursions are what most of our guests prefer year after year. We would be happy to give you maps at the front desk and help you plan your day. The excursions mentioned above can be done individually, just by renting the right car, and the hotel can help with that, if you like. But if you prefer to book an organised excursion, please do let us know as we would be happy to assist.

