

OPTION 2:

PAPHOS COUNTRYSIDE TOUR

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019 | 09:00-15:30



Sanctuary of Aphrodite – Palaipafos (Kouklia)

In the ancient Greek world, Palea Paphos was one of the most important pilgrimage centers due to its famous Sanctuary of Aphrodite. Today, virtually all that remains is the holy ground itself. The cult of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and fertility, was officially established on Cyprus in 1500 BC, with the building of a hilltop temple on this site. However, idols of a fertility goddess dating from as early as 3800 BC have been found at Palea Paphos. The cult may owe its origins to Achaean colonists, who adopted the worship of a native fertility goddess named Astort, who they Hellenized as Aphrodite.



St. Neophytos Monastery lies 10 km outside Pafos, near Tala village. Saint Neophytos was the founder of the monastery in 1159. He lived there and died in 1219 at the age of 85. The main church of the monastery was built around 200 years after his death and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The Enkleistra, an enclosure carved out of the mountain by the hermit, contains some of the finest Byzantine frescoes dating from the 12th – 15th century. His rock-table and the stone platform on which he slept are still preserved in his cell, as is his grave. According to legend, this grave is will adjust to measure whoever tries it.

Vasilikon winery is one of the first local wineries of Cyprus. Its successful operation is based on the excellent quality grapes of Kathikas and the Akamas Laona areas of Paphos, which are mainly picked from the family's vineyards. The knowledge, dedication, and care exhibited, together with the technology advanced special machinery used, make Vasilikon one of the most accomplished wineries in Cyprus.



Paphos countryside tour itinerary:

08:30 Gather in the hotel reception

09:00 Leave the hotel to visit the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, St. Neophytos Monastery, Vasilikon winery in Kathikas

13:30 Lunch at Vasilikon Winery, Paphos (traditional Cypriot 3 course menu)

15:00 Return to the hotel

COST PER PERSON: €60 (includes transportation, English speaking tourist guide and lunch with drink)