

Day 1. ARRIVAL.

Airport transfer to the Kantara Guest House. A traditional Cypriot mountain retreat, this haven of peace and tranquility will be your base for the next 2 nights. Enjoy welcome drinks on arrival with your guide and meet fellow walkers. In the evening dinner will be served in the rustic guest house restaurant.

Included: Airport transfer, welcome drink, dinner

Day 2. KANTARA CASTLE

After breakfast walkers meet in the lounge, and then commence a circular warm-up walk to Kantara Castle. This legendary 10th Century Byzantine Castle was used as a look-out post against Arab raids, from the battlements there are tremendous views of the Karpas Peninsula, and both the North and East coast-lines of Cyprus, even Syria can be seen on the horizon on clear days. It was here that the last Byzantine ruler of Cyprus, Isaac Comnenos took refuge when the island was taken by Richard the Lionheart on the Third Crusade. After returning to the guest house a light lunch will be served in the garden, the rest of the afternoon is free for guests to relax and enjoy the idyllic mountain-side surroundings. In the evening a traditional Cypriot farewell dinner will be cooked by your hosts, Hilal and Mehmet.

(approx. 7.5km)

Included: breakfast, lunch, dinner, chilled water, guide, support vehicle, entrance to Kantara Castle

Day 3. RURAL CYPRUS

In the morning it's time to pack up your bags and leave them for transfer to your next hotel. Heading straight out of the door, a short stroll takes you through the village of Kantara and then the route follows the ridge road to Tatlisu. The ridge path is high, (approx. 700m) overlooking the wooded escarpment down to the glitzening Mediterranean below. The path crosses from one side of the mountain crest to the other, so the views of the verdant Northern slopes and the sea are interspersed with views to the South of the great Mesaoria plains and the Troodos Massif beyond. There is a break for a picnic lunch along the way, before continuing to the Tatlisu path to meet your hotel pick-up.

(approx. 24km)

Included: breakfast, picnic lunch, chilled water, guide, support vehicle, luggage transfer and transfer to hotel

Day 4. BUFFAVENTO CASTLE TO BELLAPAIS ABBEY

After Breakfast you will be collected and taken to the Buffavento pass, there is a steep climb up some 700 steps to this imposing fortress. As you reach the crest of the mountain you enter the castle through the high arch of the intact gate-house with a stone built fire-place, which would have been in constant use throughout Autumn and Winter. The name Buffavento is derived from the Italian, 'defier of winds', at a height of 950 metres it is always surprisingly windy even on calm days. The views and opportunities for photography here

are nothing short of spectacular. Back down again, the walk takes you past the largest flag in the world, this is the Turkish Cypriot flag that is painted on the Southern slopes of the mountain. You then pass the abandoned monastery and church of Absinthontissia, which is open to the public and free to explore. The path crests the mountain and then the wooded slopes wend their way down to the historic village of Bellapais. It was here that Lawrence Durrell made his home and is also the location of the serenely beautiful Bellapais Abbey.

(approx. 22km)

Included: breakfast, picnic lunch, chilled water, support vehicle, transfers to and from walk start and finish points, entry to Bellapais Abbey, (entry to Buffavento Castle is free).

Day 5. REST DAY

You have a wide choice of options for this day, whether you want to relax by the pool, jump off the mountain para-gliding, go on a boat-trip, or take a trip into town to see the beautiful Venetian harbour and explore the crusader castle of Kyrenia. There are these and many more options open to you.

Included: all trips can be arranged with Cyprus Active for no extra fee

Day 6: ST. HILARION CASTLE TO MALATYA

The day begins with a tour of St. Hilarion Castle, used as a summer palace for the knights, they would practice their martial skills on the jousting grounds, whilst the ladies watched from the terraces above. There are many rooms and passages to explore, from the royal apartments and Byzantine chapel to barrack rooms and kitchens. From here there is a walk through a rocky ravine and then on to a good road that leads into the picturesque village of Karmi/Karaman. With its quaint white-washed houses, narrow cobbled streets and restored Orthodox church, Karmi is a picture perfect Mediterranean village. After a brief tour of the church, walkers carry on along the ridge to the mountain village of Ilgaz, for a lunch stop at a lovely old village inn with a pretty courtyard garden. After lunch there is a short walk across a grassy ravine to the village of Malatya, where your transport awaits.

(approx.23km)

Included: breakfast, restaurant lunch, entry to St. Hilarion, entry to St. Mary's church Karmi, chilled water, support vehicle, transfers to and from walk start and finish points

Day 7 THE WILD WEST

Today, you will walk right to the Western end of the Beşparmak Mountain ridge, down into the foothills, to Geçitköy reservoir which is a haven for migratory birds, more than 110 species have been spotted here alone. Firstly there is an ascent up to Sevilgili Tepe, the highest mountain in the range, after which there is a slowly descending meander along the ridge, where you will see an abandoned army tank, which has now been made into a monument. The road twists and winds down to Kozan, an idyllic mountain-top restaurant with commanding sea and mountain views. After enjoying a traditional village lunch, there is an easy walk down through into the Geçitköy valley and onto the grand finale which is Geçitköy Reservoir itself.

(approx. 22km)

Included: breakfast, restaurant lunch, chilled water, support vehicle, transfers to and from walk start and finish points

Day 8 DEPARTURE DAY / EXTENSION

Today is the day to pack up your bags and head home, feeling a little fitter and a little more relaxed. Or today is the day to begin part two of your holiday! Whether you want to spend a week relaxing on the beach, or a few days exploring the Karpas and Famagusta, go sea fishing, have a gourmet dinner and wine tasting evening, or explore village life and culture on a village day; Cyprus Active is here to help you get the best out of your holiday.

Included: breakfast (depending on time of departure), airport transfer...if required!