

Experiential Learning Activities

Cyprus Study Abroad 2024



Crystal clear and tranquil waters in the Bay of Chrysochou in northwestern Cyprus. This natural wonder symbolizes Cyprus's commitment to SDG 14: Life Below Water, preserving marine ecosystems for future generations.



Geography students in front of the neoclassical building of Pafos City Hall. Local stone was quarried a few miles away and transported to Pafos to construct this and the other neoclassical buildings of the town, the library, and the schools lining Grivas Digenis Avenue. Students gained a deep appreciation for cultural heritage and its importance in sustainable development.



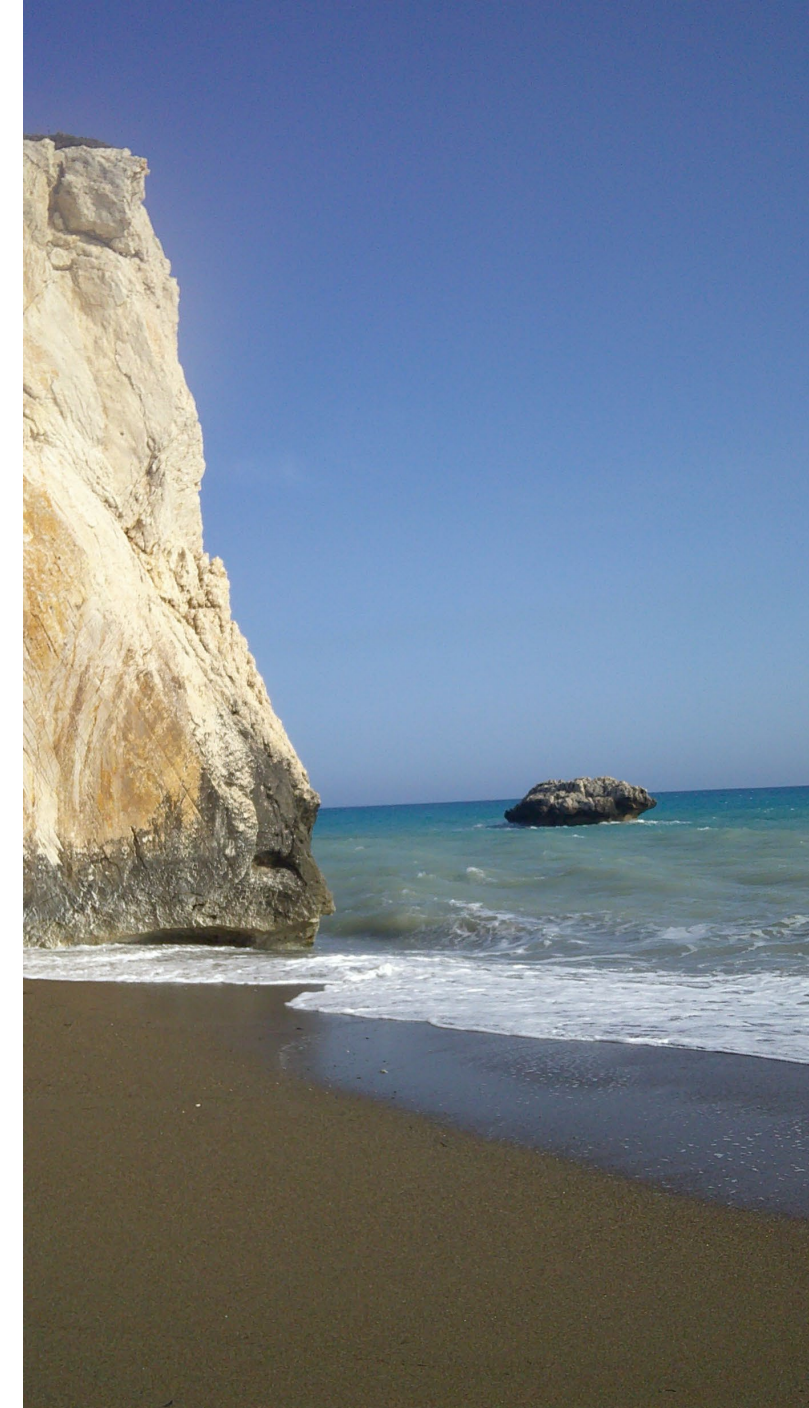
This is a view of the coastal plain from the Mouttallos Plateau area of Pafos. This area was the Turkish residential sector of the town before the Turkish invasion of 1974 and the division of the island along ethnic lines. The restored Cami-I Kebir Mosque is a short distance from here.



This photo shows the Odeon of Pafos with the lighthouse behind it. These landmarks are part of the Kato Pafos Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1980. On this field trip, we also visited the stunning mosaics, which show intricate geometric designs and a variety of scenes from Greek mythology. The houses of Dionysos, Theseus, Aion, and Orpheus have unique themes depicting gods and goddesses and the inhabitants' daily lives.



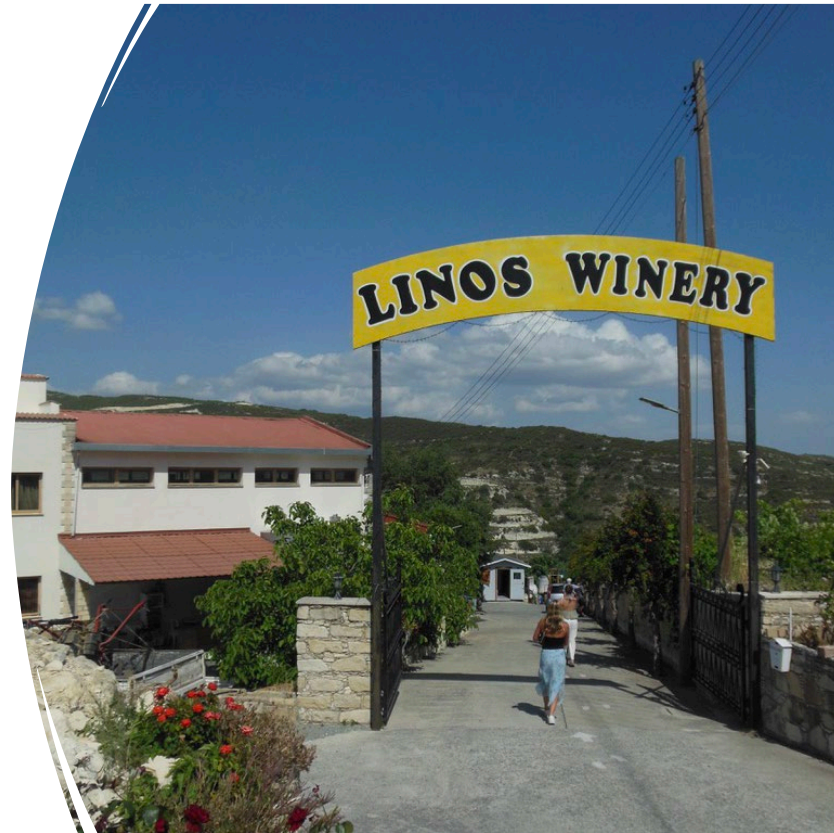
This O-H-I-O photo was taken at the Tombs of the Kings, a large necropolis about two kilometers north of the harbor of Pafos and part of the Archaeological Park of Kato Pafos. These monumental underground tombs were carved out of sandstone, and some were decorated with Doric pillars. In this photo, the chamber opens onto a peristyle atrium. These tombs are similar to tombs found in Alexandria, Egypt, evidence of the close ties between the two cities during Hellenistic times.



This captivating image shows Aphrodite's Rock, also known as Petra tou Romiou, a place steeped in mythology. According to legend, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, was born out of the sea foam at this striking location. The characteristic white limestone stack rises dramatically from the sea, creating a sharp contrast against the blue sky and the sea.



This is the view from the Linos Winery of the vineyard-draped hills surrounding the charming village of Omodos. It is the main wine-growing village of Cyprus, located on the southern slopes of the Troodos mountains. Wine has been important to the Cypriot culture since ancient times, and Commandaria wine stands as the world's oldest named wine.





This fascinating picture shows the medieval Kolossi Castle, located in the village of Kolossi, Cyprus. This great example of military architecture was originally built in the 13th century and rebuilt in the 15th century. It served as the headquarters of the *Grande Comanderie* of the Knights of Saint John. Its location near the sea made it ideally suited for coastal defense against invading armies.



At the quiet village of Peristerona stands the nonfunctioning restored mosque with its minaret, a silent witness to a past when Turkish Cypriot Muslims and Greek Orthodox Christians coexisted harmoniously. The five-domed Greek Orthodox church of Saints Barnabas and Hilarion is believed to have been built in the 9th or 10th century and is only a short distance away. Before interethnic conflict broke out, the villagers lived side by side, respecting each other's traditions. As we reflect on this shared past, let us connect it to SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.



The moufflon (wild sheep) is an endemic species in the Pafos Forest in Cyprus and an example of the island's unique biodiversity. The moufflon symbolizes our responsibility to protect local fragile ecosystems, and as we contemplate its survival, we align with SDG 15: Life on Land. Conserving habitats can ensure a sustainable future for species like the moufflon.



- We visited the European Union House in Lefkosia (Nicosia) to learn more about the European Union's purpose, goals, and expectations.
- The one-hour lecture focused on the European Union's environmental policies with particular emphasis on the Green Agenda and the Cyprus Government's prioritized Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Cloudy skies over the medieval fortress of Pafos Castle.

Originally built by the Byzantines to protect the harbor, it was rebuilt by the Lusignans, and destroyed by the Venetians. The present castle is an Ottoman structure dating to 1592.

During Ottoman Rule (1571-1878), the castle served as a prison, and during British Rule (1878-1960), it served as a salt storage facility until 1935.

The views from the top of the castle are stunning.

Mount Olympus: 1951m (6,403 ft) elevation!



- On our return to Pafos from Lefkosia through the majestic Troodos Mountains, we visited Cyprus's highest point (1951m or 6,403 ft). In addition to the SBAs of Akrotiri and Dekeleia, this is one of the areas maintained by the United Kingdom after independence in 1960.



- The Kykkos Monastery in the Troodos Mountains is the wealthiest monastery in Cyprus. Archbishop Makarios III's tomb is at the bottom of the elaborate pathway leading to the chapel at the top of Throni.



Moutti tis Soterias



- Panoramic view of the highly indented coastline of the wilderness area of the Akamas Peninsula, along the Aphrodite Trail.
- The hike was about 6 miles long with 1,200 feet of elevation gain!

Akamas Peninsula and Turtles



- The loggerhead turtle (*Caretta Caretta*) is one of the two types of turtles that use the Akamas Peninsula as the hatching ground. We got to Agios Georgios Beach on the south coast of the Akamas Peninsula, where we saw amazing marine life while exploring the underwater world off the coast of Cyprus.