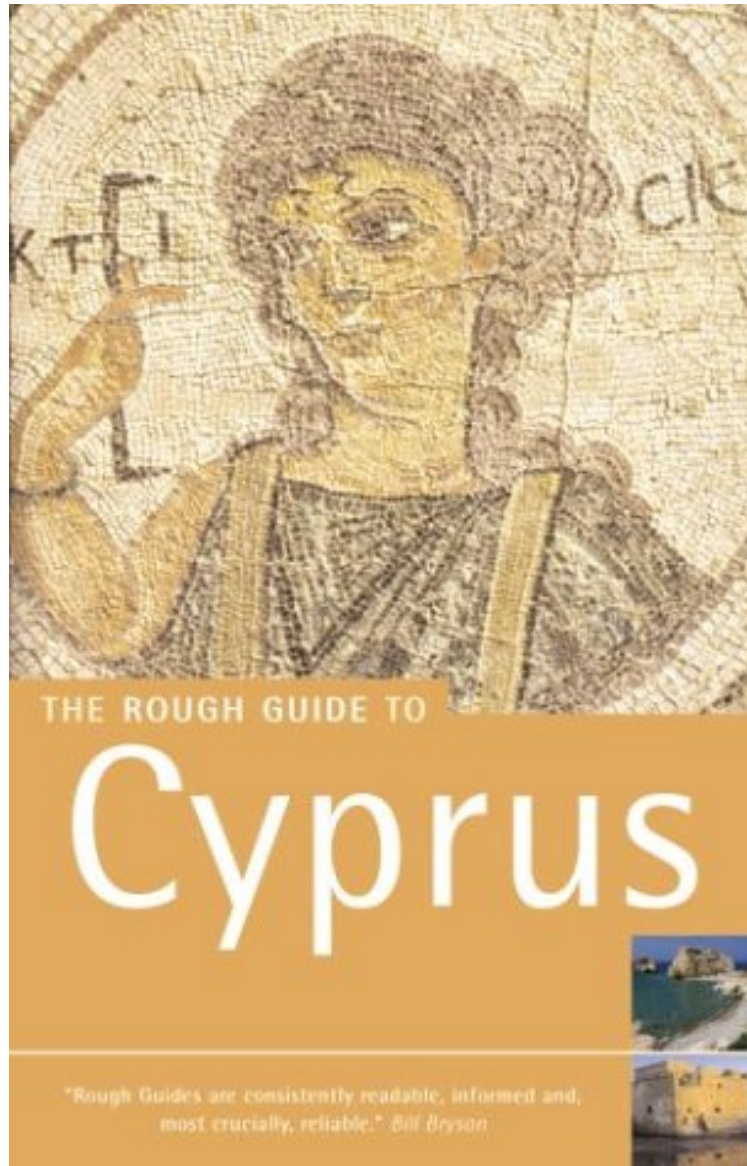


The Rough Guide to Cyprus

Marc Dubin

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Marc Dubin : The Rough Guide to Cyprus before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Cyprus:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. By far the better of the two Cyprus books I bought By A Customer I bought The Rough Guide to Cyprus and the Blue Guide Cyprus at the same time. I've had the chance to live on Cyprus for about a year so I've had time to read both and compare what they say with my experience of the island. And the

result is that I highly recommend this book. It has well written and fairly detailed sections pertaining to the islands history and culture. Each region of Cyprus is dealt with in reasonable detail. Additionally, the book does not shy away from the difficult political and social issues that vex Cyprus, and in my opinion is even handed in assigning blame and praise (there is plenty to go around!). I didn't feel at all like one of the other reviewers, that the author disliked Cyprus. Cyprus is a bit of a difficulty as well as a bit of paradise - in fact, it's history and current reality are quite heart rending to grasp. But there is still much to appreciate. This book has been invaluable to me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dont buy this book By A Customer I bought this guide for the summer I am spending in cyprus. The author clearly didnt like the island: his description of most things are tainted with a negativity and he clearly didnt get beyond the tourist traps. He fails to include essential information, like phone numbers and a proper listing of hotels. If I had stuck with the book I never would have discovered the wonderful things that the island has to offer. If you cant find a good book, rather look at online sites (like gonomad.com has great info). 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Dont buy this book By A Customer I bought this guide for the summer I am spending in cyprus. The author clearly didnt like the island: his description of most things are tainted with a negativity and he clearly didnt get beyond the tourist traps. \he left out essential info on buses and hotels. If I had stuck with the book I never would have discovered the wonderful things that the island has to offer. If you cant find a good book, rather look at online sites (like gonomad.com has great info).

Covering both the North and the South of Cyprus with equal detail and objectivity, this guide includes features on the island's turbulent history and current politics. It provides accounts of the island's attractions, from the popular beach resorts to the remote hillside villages, and reviews of the best places to eat, drink and sleep for every budget.

Highly recommended, sound on hotels and restaurants, with a good eye for detail and crisp political insights. -- The Observer, London, UK The best guidebook. -- The Times, London, UK About the Author Marc Dubin has been visiting Cyprus since 1992 and is the author of several other Rough Guides including Turkey, Greece and The Pyrenees. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Where to go Because of the mutual hostility of South and North, you'll have to choose which side of Cyprus to visit on any given trip: except for severely restricted day-trips from the South into the North, you are not allowed to move from one side of the island to the other. If you go to the South after having been to the North, keep evidence of such a prior journey out of your passport (see "Visas and red tape" in Basics for a full explanation). Yet either portion of the island has plenty to keep you occupied for the typical one-, two- or three-week duration of package deals. When the South's busiest beaches east of Larnaca pall, there's the popular hill village of Pno Lfkara, unique sacred art at Byzantine Angelktisti church and nearby Lusignan "Chapelle Royale", or the atmospheric Muslim shrine of Hala Sultan to the west. Beyond functional Limassol, the Crusader tower of Kolossi guards vineyards as it always has, while still-being-excavated ancient Kourion sprawls nearby atop seaside cliffs. Of the three main south-coast resorts, Pfos has most recently awoken to tourism, but with its spectacular Roman mosaics and early Christian relics has perhaps the most to offer. The hinterland of Pfos district belies its initial bleak appearance to reveal fertile valleys furrowing ridges sprinkled with brown-stone villages and, to either side of the Akmas Peninsula, the last unspoiled stretches of coast in the South. If you don't require lively nightlife, then Plis or Latch make good, comfortable overnight bases in this area, serving too as possible springboards into the foothills of the Trdhos mountains. Inland from Pfos or Limassol, the mountains themselves beckon, covered in well-groomed forest, lovingly resuscitated from a nadir last century. Pltres, the original Cypriot "hill station", makes a logical base on the south side of the range; to the north, more authentic village character asserts itself at Pedhoulis or Kakopetri. Scattered across several valleys, a dozen or so magnificently frescoed late-Byzantine chapels provide an additional focus to itineraries here if the scenery and walking opportunities aren't enough. While not immediately appealing, southern Nicosia - the Greek-Cypriot portion of the divided capital - can boast an idiosyncratic old town in the throes of revitalization, and, in the Cyprus Museum, one of the finest archeological collections in the Middle East. North Nicosia, on the other side of the nearly impervious 1974 ceasefire line, is graced with most of the island's Ottoman monuments - and also introduces the Frenchified ecclesiastical architecture bequeathed by the Lusignan dynasty. For the majority of tourists in the North, however, Kyrenia is very much the main event, its old harbour the most sheltered and charming on Cyprus. Modern residential and resort development straggles to either side of town, but this coast is still light-years behind the South in that respect. The hills looming above support three medieval castles - St Hilarion, Buffavento and Kantara - whose views and architecture rarely disappoint. Add villages in picturesque settings below the ridgeline, and it's little wonder that outsiders have been gravitating here longer than anywhere else on the island. The beaches north of Famagusta are Kyrenia's only serious rival for tourist custom in the North, and hard to resist in tandem with Salamis, the largest ancient site on Cyprus. Famagusta itself is remarkable, another Lusignan church-fantasy wrapped in some of the most imposing Venetian walls in the world - though churches and ramparts aside there's little else to see or do, the town having lain devastated since the Ottoman conquest. North of the beach strip, the Kdrpaca (Krpas) Peninsula points finger-like towards Syria, its fine beaches and generous complement of early churches - most notably at yios Flon and Aya Tris - little frequented. When to go Because of a

situation as much Middle Eastern as Mediterranean, Cyprus repays a visit in almost any month; the overall mildness of the climate allows citrus to grow at altitudes of 450 metres, grapevines to flourish up to 1000 metres and frost-tender cedars to sprout at 1500-metre elevations in the Trdhos. Such plant-zone limits would be unthinkable even on nearby Crete, despite an identical latitude of 34 degrees north. If you're coming for the flora and birdlife - as more and more people do - then winter and spring, beginning early December and late February respectively, are for you. Rain falls in sporadic bursts throughout this period and into March, leaving the rare spectacle of a green, prairie-like Mesaora, the central plain which most tourists only know as a parched, stubbly dustbowl. You'll also cut costs significantly by showing up in the off-season. As the months progress and the mercury climbs, you can either brave the multitudes at the seashore - considerable in the South - or follow the wild flowers inland and up the slopes of the Trdhos mountains, veritable havens of coolness and relative solitude. In the coastal South, midsummer is a bit too hot for comfort (though Pfos tends to be 1-2C cooler than Limassol or Larnaca), and of course incurs high-season prices (June-Sept). During July or August you're probably better off in the North, where the seaward, damper slope of the Kyrenia hills especially offers a refuge both from crowds and extreme temperatures. Autumn is delightful, with the sea at its warmest, forays into the hills benefiting from stable weather, and the air (around Limassol or Pfos especially) heavy with the fumes of fermenting grapes. And if it's resort life you're after, the coastal strips don't completely wind down until after New Year.