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## TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR CYPRIOTS

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# MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



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## TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR CYPRIOTS

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### Countries for which **NO** visa is required for Cypriot Nationals

Cypriot nationals do **NOT** require a visa to enter the following countries:

|                          |                            |                     |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Albania                  | Israel                     | Saint Lucia         |
| Andorra                  | Italy                      | Serbia              |
| Argentina                | Jamaica                    | Seychelles          |
| Austria                  | Japan                      | Singapore           |
| Barbados                 | Korea, Republic of (South) | Slovak Republic     |
| Belgium                  | Latvia                     | Slovenia            |
| Belize                   | Lesotho                    | South Africa        |
| Bolivia                  | Liechtenstein              | Spain               |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina     | Lithuania                  | Swaziland           |
| Brunei Darussalam        | Luxembourg                 | Sweden              |
| Bulgaria                 | Malawi                     | Switzerland         |
| Canada                   | Malaysia                   | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Central African Republic | Maldives                   | Ukraine             |

|                  |             |                                     |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chile            | Malta       | United Kingdom                      |
| Colombia         | Mauritius   | Uruguay                             |
| Costa Rica       | Mexico      | Vanuatu                             |
| Croatia          | Moldova     | Zambia                              |
| Czech Republic   | Monaco      |                                     |
| Denmark          | Montenegro  |                                     |
| El Salvador      | Morocco     |                                     |
| Estonia          | Netherlands |                                     |
| Finland          | New Zealand |                                     |
| France           | Nicaragua   | <b>Non UN Members / Territories</b> |
| FYR of Macedonia | Norway      | Hong Kong S.A.R                     |
| Gambia           | Panama      | Macao S.A.R                         |
| Germany          | Paraguay    | Holy See (Vatican City)             |
| Greece           | Peru        |                                     |
| Grenada          | Philippines |                                     |
| Guatemala        | Poland      |                                     |
| Hungary          | Portugal    |                                     |
| Iceland          | Romania     |                                     |
| Ireland          | San Marino  |                                     |

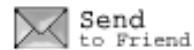
**Very Important Notes:**

1. The above Table was constructed according to all the information received from the Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Cyprus and from all the Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Foreign Countries in Cyprus.
2. Cypriot nationals travelling to Albania and Belize will be given a visa upon arrival.
3. Cypriot nationals travelling to Brunei Darussalam will be given a visa, valid for a 14-day visit, upon arrival.
4. Cypriot nationals travelling to Gambia and Indonesia will be given a visa, valid for a 21-day visit, upon arrival.
5. Cypriot nationals travelling to the Maldives and Malaysia will be given a visa, valid for a 30-day visit, upon arrival.
6. **Cypriot nationals travelling to countries NOT mentioned above, NEED TO APPLY for**

**an Entry and / or Transit Visa, BEFORE leaving Cyprus.**

7. All Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Foreign Countries, with which the Republic of Cyprus has diplomatic relations, are listed [HERE](#). If a country is **not listed**, then you should telephone the International Directory Enquiries to obtain the address and telephone details of the nearest Embassy / Consulate of that particular country, or search for all the relevant information on the internet.

March, 2007



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### Travel Advice

Travel Advice reflects a considered assessment of the risks involved for a citizens of a certain country travelling abroad. The data and information that are used for the aforesaid assessment are usually garnered by the countries diplomatic missions. In Republic of Cyprus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertakes this task, using the information provided by Cypriot, other EU diplomatic representations as well as International Organizations.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus does not currently maintain in its homepage a section exclusively dedicated to providing travel advice for Cypriot nationals planning to travel abroad. However, efforts are being made to post travel advice regularly in the opening section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' homepage, whenever it is deemed appropriate.

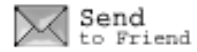
Cypriot travelers are always welcome to contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to ask for information about specific travel destinations. They may also consult the travel advice section on the relevant websites.

**Please note** that, while every effort is being made to ensure that the travel advice offered on this homepage is accurate and up-to-date, it **should not** be considered as being exhaustive and definite.

Moreover, it should be noted that the omission of advice for a particular country (or region) **does not** necessarily constitute an assurance of safety. It should be stressed that the final responsibility for undertaking a trip always rests with the individual concerned and that the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus **cannot** be held responsible for any injury or loss suffered as a result of reliance on information provided in their websites.

May, 2010



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### Crisis Management Unit

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Crisis Management Unit is headed by the Director of the Schengen and Consular Affairs Division who is responsible for assessing an ensuing crisis and for proposing to the Permanent Secretary a possible course of action. If, however, a crisis of a larger scale occurs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Crisis Centre will be headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry.

The Lebanon crisis of the Summer of 2006 has challenged the capacity of Cyprus to organize the voluntary repatriation of over 60,000 third-country nationals and has called for both a different approach as well as for an upgrading of the Crisis Unit. Today the Crisis Management Unit collaborates with a broad range of other Governmental Ministries and Institutions such as the Police, the Army, the Ministry of Health and the Civil Defense.

### In the event of a crisis:

The first step entails an accurate assessment of the relevant information, both from the diplomatic representations in situ, those in the neighboring countries, proxy to the crisis-area as well as International Organizations, is imperative.

Quite often, due to the small network of diplomatic representations that the Republic of Cyprus has abroad, teleconferences held by the Council Secretariat and the Presidency, are the only reliable source of information.



As a second step, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately mobilizes the Crisis Management Unit, as well as its 24hr Duty Officers.

### **Types of Crisis**

1. Terrorist attacks.
2. Political upheavals or armed conflicts.
3. Natural disasters.
4. Epidemics.
5. Accidents.

All the above mentioned scenarios have been dealt with in recent years by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have included either the repatriation of Cypriot citizens or their location and exclusion from possible casualty lists etc.

In order, though, to prepare lists of Cypriot citizens in the area of a crisis the Ministry relies on information gathered by:

1. Travel agencies.
2. Embassy lists.
3. Families of affected citizens, both locally and in Cyprus.
4. Foreign or EU countries.

### **Course of Action**

In most cases, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having established the lists of casualties (provided that no Cypriot citizens are concerned) concludes its task and the Crisis Management Unit takes over.

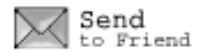
But ,if repatriation of a Cypriot citizen is necessary, usually the Ministry of Foreign Affairs repatriates the affected persons, using Cyprus Airways special flights or requests the assistance of other countries which are also repatriating their citizens, preferably EU partners.

### **Armed conflicts and voluntary repatriations or evacuations**

In these cases repatriation usually is undertaken only by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the local authorities in the area, together with other EU partner Crisis Management Units which are offering transportation means.

The lists in this case were drawn up primarily from inputs by the travel agencies and Cypriot relatives, in Cyprus.

May 2010



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### [Air Passenger Rights](#)

Having problems with your journey?  
The European Union has strengthened.

For more information read the attached file below.

#### Related Attachments:

 [Air Passenger Rights](#) (Size: 75.84 Kb)

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### Travelling Abroad

#### [A. Before you travel](#)

#### [B. While you are abroad](#)

#### [C. What to do in an Emergency, while abroad](#)

#### **A. Before you travel**

Before your trip, it is a good idea to familiarise yourself with your destination. You can always obtain information from your travel agent or the Embassy of the country concerned or from the Internet.

Before travelling abroad, it is always a good idea to obtain the addresses and telephone numbers of the [Cypriot Diplomatic Missions](#) in the countries to be visited, where you may turn for advice or assistance in [cases of real emergencies](#), such as [theft or the loss of documents \(passport\)](#), [serious illness or injury](#), [detention / arrest](#) or [death](#).

Please note that, in countries where Cyprus does not have a Diplomatic or Consular representation, you can always request European consular assistance and apply for help from an

Embassy or Consulate (**not an Honorary Consulate**) of another EU Member State. To benefit from such assistance, you must be a national of one of the EU Member States, be in distress abroad, in a country which is not part of the EU, and there must be no accessible [Cypriot Embassy or Consulate](#) there. The consular assistance provided is limited **only to genuine emergencies**: [death](#), accidents involving serious [injury or serious illness](#), [arrest or detention](#), repatriation on medical grounds, or the [issuance of a temporary travel document \(if your passport is lost or has been stolen\)](#).

The following are **only indicative** of what you should check before travelling:

### **1. Visas**

Check whether you require a visa for the country to which you are travelling to. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus is **not** in a position to advise you of the visa requirements of other countries (a List of Countries to which no visa is required for Cypriot Nationals can be found [HERE](#)). If your travel agent is unable to give you this information, you should contact the Embassy of the country you are planning to visit.

Please note that since Cyprus's entry in the European Union and the European Economic Area, citizens of the Republic of Cyprus have "the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States" (Article 18 of the Treaty establishing the European Community). Cypriot citizens may enter (and reside) in the EU countries without any special limitations, on the basis of a valid travel document, i.e. personal ID card or passport (the right to reside in any EU country, however, can be restricted only for reasons of public order, security or public health).

### **2. Passport Validity**

Most countries, for admission to their territory, require that the expiration date of a travel document be at least 3-6 months later than the predicted date of departure from that country. Cypriot citizens require a valid passport for travel to almost all destinations.

**Therefore, please ensure, at least two weeks before your trip, that you have a valid, unexpired passport.** Some countries now insist that your passport should be valid for up to six months after your departure, so check the expiry date carefully.

### **3. Health Precautions**

It is a good idea to determine health care conditions in the destination country and to obtain information on compulsory vaccination, especially when travelling to non-European countries.

Before travelling abroad, you should consult your doctor to discuss known or possible health risks; this is particularly important if you have an existing medical condition or if you are visiting an area where infectious diseases exist. If you take medication on a regular basis you should ask your doctor to prescribe an amount adequate for your visit, where it is always a good idea to have a letter from your doctor concerning your medical condition and the type of medication you are receiving.

Many diseases (cholera, dysentery, etc.) can be contracted from the consumption of contaminated food or water, especially in areas with poor standards of hygiene. If you are travelling to such areas, then you should avoid certain foodstuffs (e.g. dairy products, salads, seafood) and drink only bottled water.

Therefore, for any further information on vaccinations or health advice, you are strongly advised to consult your doctor or the local travel health clinic.

#### **4. Travel Insurance**

Before you travel, you are strongly advised to purchase a travel insurance and to ascertain whether the package covers death, health expenses, accidents (car insurance), unexpected losses (e.g. for cancelled flights, stolen cash, cards, passports or luggage) as well as for possible repatriation.

It is also very important not to overlook information on any restrictions concerning the country visited, the conditions regulating claims (especially time limits) as well as the extent of cover for medical care expenses, which generally are very high when abroad. If you already have private medical cover, check with your insurer whether you are covered for foreign travel and, if so, find out how to avail this cover.

It should also be noted that, Cypriot citizens who are entitled for free medical care at the Government Hospitals, when travelling to another EU Member State, are entitled to receive emergency medical treatment (“medically necessary treatment in order to continue their journey in a healthy condition”) on the same basis as a national of that country, provided that they carry a European Health Insurance Card. The said card is issued to those entitled and is available from the Ministry of Health.

#### **5. Money**

Travellers' cheques and international credit cards are, generally speaking, the safest and the easiest way to carry funds when travelling abroad. However, since in the more remote areas you may not be able to use them, it is suggested that you check with your travel agent before your

departure about the best way to carry funds. It is also suggested to carry always a small amount of local currency, in order to pay bus or taxi fares, for small purchases and or telephone calls.

Although international credit cards or travellers' cheques are more appropriate and easier (than carrying money in cash) when abroad, this may not always be the case. If this is unavoidable, and cash is carried, it is recommended that money be carried in a number of different places, or be stored in a hotel safe. However, even these methods may not be relied upon in some countries.

Try to keep risks to a minimum: avoid carrying too much cash on you, keep your credit and debit cards, cheques and passport separate from each other. Note (on a small piece of paper, or in your diary) your credit card number, as well as the telephone numbers of your bank and the company which issued your cards (so as to be able to contact them and block your cards and cheques immediately) and keep this information always on you, or in a safe place you can find.

## **6. Driving abroad**

If you intend to drive while abroad, make sure that your driving licence is valid and that you take it with you. Familiarise also yourself with the local traffic regulations.

Please note that some countries outside the European Economic Area (the EU Member States, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) may require you to have an International Driving Permit, in addition to your Cypriot driving licence. Check this before your departure with the Embassy or Consulate of the country concerned and also make sure that you are properly insured for driving while you do so abroad.

Please, also note that in many countries, violation of traffic regulations is punished by on-the-spot fines, and that foreigners are not permitted any exceptions to this rule. If foreigners do not have enough funds to pay the fine on the spot, the confiscation of their travel documents is possible, as well as any valuable objects in their possession. Any confiscated items are returned to their owner upon payment of the fine.

## **7. Electrical Equipment**

Different countries use various electrical plugs and sockets and you may need special adapters to enable you to use electrical appliances (e.g. hair dryers, shavers, etc.) used or bought in Cyprus. These adapters can be purchased either at specialised shops in Cyprus and also at airports.

If you are taking a mobile phone with you check with your mobile service provider whether it will work in the country you are travelling to. It is also advisable to check about the costs of making and receiving calls with your mobile service provider, since charges can be very high.

## **8. Other Special Precautions**

Be well informed about the situation and for any possible dangers in the country of your destination. You may also check whether a [Travel Advice](#) applies to the particular country you are travelling to. You should very carefully assess all the threats and dangers before travelling to a troubled area, and that the ultimate responsibility for undertaking a trip always rests with you, and at your own risk. Also note that the Cypriot Ministry of Foreign Affairs (and also the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Third Countries) cannot be held responsible for any injury or loss suffered by an individual, as a result of reliance on the [Travel Advice](#) information provided in their websites.

Enhanced security arrangements both at the ports and airports may require additional time for pre-flight arrangements, so it is best to consult your airline or travel agency before departure and check whether there are any restrictions on flights that could possibly affect you. Needless to say, you should always pack your own bags, never leave your luggage unattended and never accept to carry items for others.

## **9. Emergency Contact Details**

Keep a note (on a small piece of paper, or in your diary) of the contact details of the nearest [Cyprus Mission](#) while you are abroad in the event of an emergency.

It is also suggested leaving your contact details with someone at home, who can pass them to the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in case of an [emergency](#).

## **B. While you are abroad**

The following list is **only indicative** of what you should be careful of when in the country of your destination. It is a good idea if you go through the list, read all the information under each heading and take any follow-up action you may deem as necessary, before your departure:

### **1. Stay in touch**

Keep a note of the contact details (e.g. address, telephone number and opening hours) of the [Cyprus Mission](#) in the country you are currently visiting, in the event of an emergency. You may also leave details of your travel plans with them in case that you need to be contacted urgently,



especially if you are visiting any remote areas of the particular country, or you are in a country facing a crisis (e.g. social unrest, political instability, natural disaster, terrorist attack, etc.).

In countries where there is no Cypriot diplomatic or consular representation, you can request European consular assistance from an Embassy or Consulate (**not an Honorary Consulate**) of another EU Member State. To benefit from such assistance, you must be a national of one of the EU Member States, to be in distress abroad, in a country which is not part of the EU, and without an accessible [Cypriot Embassy or Consulate](#). The consular assistance provided is limited **only to genuine emergencies**: [death](#), [accidents involving serious injury or serious illness](#), [arrest or detention](#), repatriation on medical grounds, or [issuance of a temporary travel document \(if your passport is lost or has been stolen\)](#).

In case of a natural disaster or a terrorist attack in the country you are visiting, it is advisable to contact your family back home and inform them you are safe. Even if they know that you are well away from the scene of the incident, they will still be concerned for your safety and a confirmation that you are not in danger, is always a good idea to reassure any fears that your family and friends may have.

## **2. Security and Safety**

Even if there is no specific [Travel Advice](#) for the country you are travelling to, you are strongly advised to exercise caution and vigilance at all times and pay close attention to advice, from security authorities.

It is recommended that increased attention be paid to personal safety as well, for example:

- Avoid dark, unlit or isolated places.
- While driving, keep the car doors locked and do not give lifts to hitchhikers.
- Only a minimum amount of cash should be carried.
- Be wary of large gatherings, especially of political demonstrations.
- Be aware of local political or other developments that might affect your safety.

## **3. Local Laws and Regulations**

Obey the local laws and regulations. You should always bear in mind that laws vary between countries, as well as the penalties for their violation differ.

Individuals are personally responsible for their behaviour regarding the Law, and generally some Laws exist specifically to particular countries.

A number of things should be avoided, like:

- Do not overstay the period of your permitted visit; if you wish to stay more, then do contact the competent authorities of that country and ask for an extension of your stay (if possible).
- Do not seek illegal employment of any nature, since if you are caught doing that, you may be imprisoned and / or deported, as well as you may be barred (stop listed) from entering the said country again.
- The use of binoculars, cameras, and video cameras may well be misunderstood, especially near military installations.

#### **4. Customs and Culture**

Be sensitive to the local culture and customs. Do not behave in a manner, which might offend the local people, and the customs and culture of the country you are visiting, especially in public places. Respect the local dress codes, especially in Islamic countries and always remember that a bad behaviour reflects badly both to your personality, as well as to your country.

#### **5. Drugs**

Any contact with drugs (use, purchase or carriage) must be avoided. If not, penalties imposed for drug offences can be very severe and prison conditions are very harsh in a number of countries. Always pack your own bags, never leave your luggage unattended and never carry items for others.

#### **6. Alcohol**

Respect the local laws and customs relating to alcohol. In some countries the import, sale, and usage of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited (e.g. Islamic countries). In most countries, limits on the import of alcohol (as well as cigarettes and foodstuffs) apply.

### **C. What to do in an Emergency, while abroad**

First of all contact your family and/or acquaintances back home, since they may be able to resolve your problem for you, or help you to do so, without any further assistance.

If necessary, contact the nearest [Cyprus Mission](#) (if there is no resident Cypriot Mission, you may seek emergency assistance from a Mission of another EU Member State), and/or the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at:

Presidential Palace Avenue, 1447, Nicosia;  
Tel.: +357-22-401124; +357-22-401131  
Fax: +357-22-661881; +357-22-665313  
E-mail address: [minforeign1@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:minforeign1@mfa.gov.cy)

After working hours, please contact the duty officer of the Ministry (telephone: +357-99-660129).

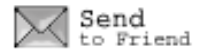
### **1. A Cyprus Mission CAN:**

- Assist you in cases of [death](#), [serious accident or serious illness](#), while abroad;
- issue you a temporary travel document (laissez passer), should your [passport be out-of-date, lost or stolen](#);
- furnish you with a list of local doctors, lawyers and translators;
- help you to contact a person in Cyprus, who can give you the help you need;
- assist [persons arrested, or detained](#);
- in exceptional circumstances advance funds to allow for your repatriation. This assistance can be offered after, you or your family / friends sign a relevant form (Assumption of Responsibility), agreeing to repay these funds to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus;
- provide civil registry and notary services, legalise documents and forward applications and other papers to the competent Cypriot authorities (e.g. passport applications).

### **2. A Cyprus Mission CANNOT:**

- Intervene in any private business (e.g. matters related to travelling, banks, insurance, etc.) and pay your bills (hotel, medical bills, fines, legal aid, etc.);
- intervene in court operation and police if you have infringed the local Laws (e.g. it cannot arrange for you to be released from prison or intervene in the judicial proceedings);
- provide legal advice for any reason whatsoever;
- find accommodation for you, or help you to find a job or obtain a work permit;
- obtain an extension of your visa, residence or work permit;
- obtain preferential treatment for you in hospitals during imprisonment/detention or during a visit (as a tourist), than the one offered to the nationals of the host country.

October, 2006



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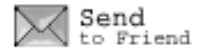
### Consular protection for the citizens of the European Union

In countries where Cyprus does not have a Diplomatic or Consular representation, you can request European consular assistance and apply for help from an Embassy or Consulate (**not an Honorary Consulate**) of another EU Member State. To benefit from such assistance, you must be a national of one of the EU Member States, be in distress abroad, in a country which is not part of the EU, and there must be no accessible [Cypriot Embassy or Consulate](#). The consular assistance provided is limited **only to genuine emergencies**: [death](#), [accidents involving serious injury or serious illness](#), [arrest or detention](#), repatriation on medical grounds, or [issuance of a temporary travel document \(if your passport is being lost or stolen\)](#).

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[Consular Protection for EU Citizens](#) (Size: 360.42 Kb)



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