

Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk - İngiliz Derneği



The Anglo Turkish Association of Northern Cyprus



Dates indicated are Draft Dates for guidance only, with actual event date confirmed closer to the actual indicated draft date for the event. All events will only be undertaken if TRNC Government Regulations can be complied with. Events are subject to change should circumstances arise.

The friendly listening association with a heart, supporting good causes in Northern Cyprus for the benefit of everyone

ATA Organised EVENTS 2022

A guided visit to Vouni Palace, the Ancient City of Soli & Strawberry Picking at Yeşilirmak + Lunch – 09/06/2022



Who can't resist a fresh strawberry? If you've never picked your own fresh strawberry, popped it in your mouth and savoured its special taste, then this is an opportunity to do so.

The Yeşilirmak region of Northern Cyprus is famous for its Camarosa Strawberries that grow in field upon field as far as the eye can stretch and which are picked only during the months of April through to June. The regions suitable climate and water resources provide a microclimate which allows for fruit and vegetables to be grown naturally without any difficulty or need for modern pesticides or chemicals. Our guided visit will take you to a

strawberry farm in the Morphou Bay area close to Vouni where you can pick (and eat as you pick) your own strawberries or purchase them ready picked.

If there is still room after gorging yourself on fresh strawberries, an enjoyable lunch will be taken at a local restaurant.

Before heading for home, no visit to Vouni would be complete with a guided walk around both Vouni Palace and Soli.



Without dispute, the Vouni Palace tops the list of places that best answer your yearning for inner peace. The palace, which occupies a privileged place in Cyprus, has a beauty difficult to describe through its mysterious history and unrivalled view of mountains and seas. It is at the forefront of places where history and nature meet.

In approx 500BC the Persian-friendly King Doxandros, built the Vouni Palace on a hill some 267 metres above sea level in order to keep the rival town of Soli under control. A palace that today is the only example of Persian architecture not only in Cyprus but in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The palace, which had two floors in places and is constructed across three terraces, boasts a total of 137 rooms. It takes its name from “Vouno”, the Greek word for high peak, which through time came to be pronounced as “Vouni” as a name for the area.

Soli was one of the ten ancient kingdoms of Cyprus dating to the 6th century BC. Located near the town of Lefke and southwest of Guzelyurt, what remains today at the coastal site of Soli dates mainly from the Roman era, with a stunning amphitheatre and Basilica housing wonderful mosaics.

It holds an auditorium of seventeen rows of seats, carved in a semicircle out of the hillside rocks with some 4,000 capacity, restored though to only half of its original height.



One of the most prestigious finds at the basilica are its' mosaics found in the flooring, most of which have survived to the present day.

As is the case with other churches in Cyprus, mosaics were originally of geometric design, and gradually animal figures such as birds and bulls were incorporated and opus sectile decoration from small coloured stone tiles were later created. The goose like swan mosaic in the floor of the nave, surrounded by floral and four small dolphins is the most recognisable and immediately catches visitor's attention. The

inscription in the mosaic set reads, “Christ! Mercy to those who have created this mosaic”.

The narthex and the northern part of the basilica floor is decorated in art opus sectile mosaic, a type using geometrically tailored stones which originate from the 6th century.

The city was destroyed during the Arab raids of the 7th century, as was the fate of other coastal towns and was finally left abandoned after a millennium of continuous occupation. What remains today is an impressive collection of structures and findings.

Recent excavations by Turkish Cypriot archaeologists have unearthed many tombs from the Geometric and Roman periods. One which was carved into the rocks is of a majestic three-tomb structure and is believed to have belonged to a noble.

The traces of the ancient city stretch over a wide area and have still not been fully uncovered. This all adds to the mystery when discovering this archaic site – be careful how you tread through Soli!

Soli is one of those must-see tourist sites in the whole of Cyprus

Descriptions of all Events are done so using poetic journalistic license and should not be assumed to be a detailed description or itinerary of any particular Event, rather a ‘wetting the imagination’. Detailed information on all Events will be emailed to members in sufficient time prior to the actual Event to enable informed decisions made as to if the Event is of interest to you.

For more information on any of our Events in 2022 please email our Events Organiser whose contact details can be found on the committee members page and events page of our website.