



European
Destinations of
Excellence

EDEN 2011 Cyprus

Village of
Kalopanayiotis



EUROPEAN UNION





“The small mountainous community of Kalopanayiotis represents an excellent model for the **development** and the **regeneration** of a rural community.”



About the EDEN Project














EDEN is the acronym for European Destinations of Excellence, a project promoting sustainable tourism development model-destinations across the European Union and is co-funded by the European Commission.

The project is based on national competitions that take place every year and result in the selection of a tourist “destination of excellence” for each participating country.

EDEN destinations are extraordinary, comparatively “undiscovered”, non-frequently visited places, diverse in their tourism potential and products, but nonetheless linked by their concern for sustainability. They are a showcase for local environment, culture and social fabric preservation and enhancement.

The theme for 2011, Tourism and Regeneration of Physical Sites, aims to reward those destinations which have regenerated a physical site of their local heritage and converted it into a tourism attraction to be used as a catalyst for wider local regeneration. The regeneration of physical sites does not only involve buildings of historical, architectural and archeological importance and their surroundings but also areas of historical and cultural importance including complexes of buildings.

Following a national competition launched by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, the Village of Kalopanayiotis was selected as a Destination of Excellence in “Tourism and Regeneration of Physical Sites”.

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Cyprus

The Republic of Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, situated at the crossroads of the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. It is an EU member state with a long history and rich culture. The island's strategic geographic position has since antiquity played an important part in its turbulent history. Inhabited since prehistoric times, it has been conquered and dominated by many different cultures and civilisations. Phoenicians, Assyrians, Persians, Egyptians, Romans, Franks, Venetians, Ottomans, British, have all left behind visible traces of their passage. On this island once walked Christ's apostles.

The Mycenaean Greeks introduced their civilisation 3,500 years ago and permanently installed the island's Hellenic roots. In antiquity, rich copper deposits put Cyprus on the world map. It is widely acclaimed that cuprum, the Latin word for copper is derived from the word Cyprus.

The island is an open air museum where one can visit prehistoric settlements, classical Greek temples, Roman theatres and villas, early Christian basilicas, Byzantine era churches and monasteries, crusader castles, Gothic cathedrals, Venetian fortifications, Moslem mosques and British colonial architecture style buildings.

Cyprus enjoys a typically Mediterranean climate, with long hot summers and mild sunshine-drenched winters with little rainfall. Troodos Mountain range occupies most of the southwestern part of the island.

The coastal areas of Lemesos (Limassol), Pafos, Polis, Larnaka, Agia Napa and Paralimni have been developed into popular tourist holiday resorts. Lefkosia (Nicosia), the capital, is located inland. In the hinterland villages of Cyprus one may still witness old ways of life, customs and traditions. "Philoxenia", the Greek word for friendliness toward strangers, characterizes the people of the region. Authenticity, warmth and genuine curiosity create a feeling of welcome towards the visitor. Communication is facilitated by the fact that throughout the island the English language is widely spoken.





Kalopanayiotis

The picturesque village of Kalopanayiotis, with its restored traditional architecture, the cobbled streets and footpaths, the numerous chapels and churches and the healing sulphur rich thermal springs, is an example of a genuine traditional community of Cyprus' Troodos Mountain Range. The small mountainous village of Kalopanayiotis represents an excellent model for the development and the regeneration of a rural community.

Rehabilitated houses with tiled rooftops, picturesque balconies, courtyards with vine trees climbing on

the walls offering visitors their shade, are the main characteristics of the village. During the past few years, maintenance and renovation of the facades and interior of buildings and stone houses took place, in an attempt to restore the village to its past traditional beauty while taking into consideration all the appropriate measures for easy access to disabled people.

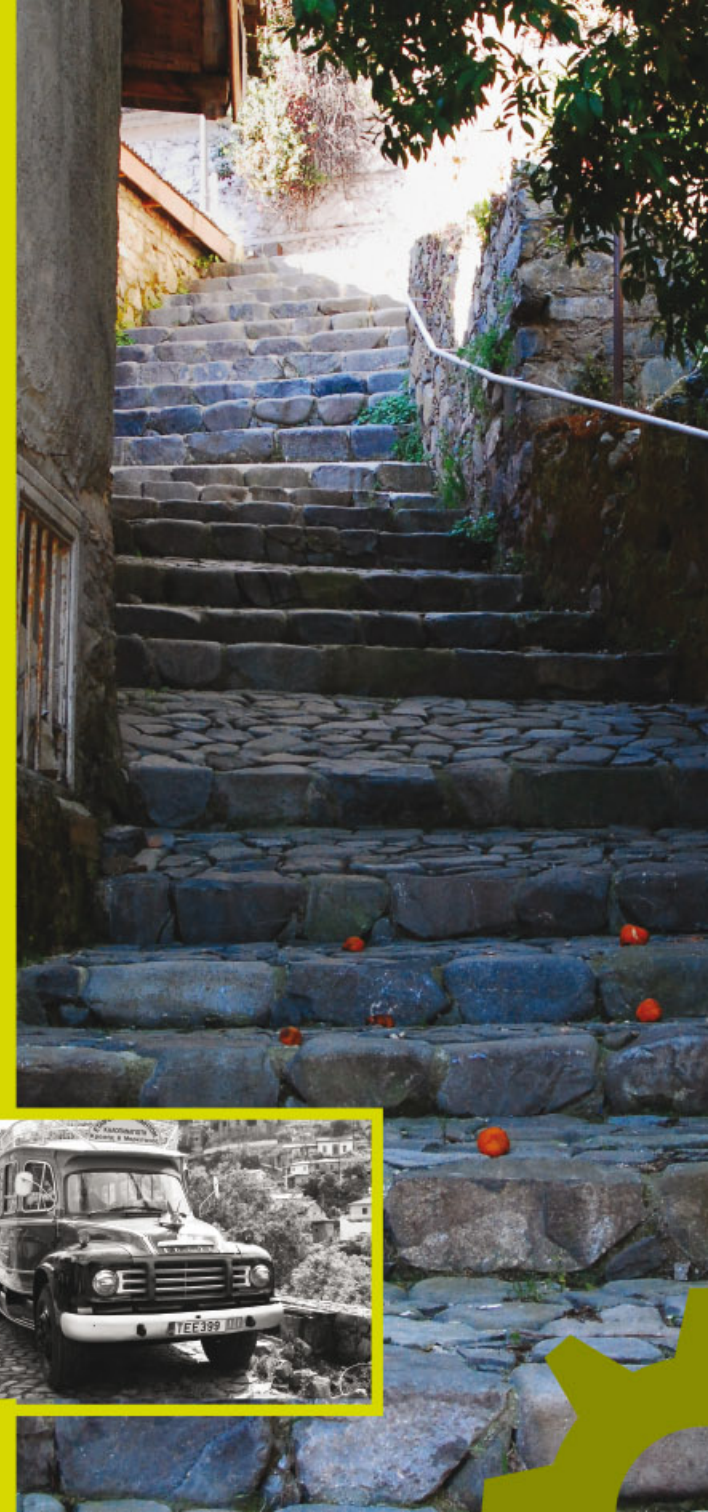
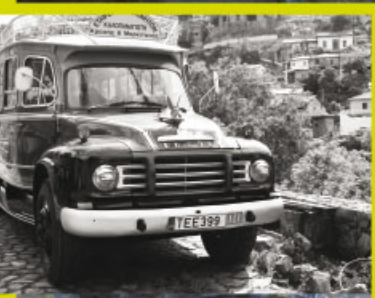
All these, are stunningly framed by the mesmerising flora of the Setrachos Valley and the water sounds of the year-round running Setrachos River.

Kalopanayiotis is of great interest because of its valuable cultural assets. The most important monument which stands since the Byzantine era is considered to be the Monastery of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Museum of Byzantine Art next to the Monastery, along with the Museum of the National Martyr Bishop Lavrentios and the Cultural Centre which hosts meetings and events during the year, create a combination of old and new catering for all visitors' tastes.

Visitors can participate in guided tours along the water path following the Setrachos Valley, crossing the new and the old Venetian bridge, reaching a watermill and natural fountains, or follow a nature trail starting from the Monastery going through the forest to reach a number of panoramic view points. Through these paths, the sightseers can enjoy the nature gaining a unique feeling of wellness and relaxation.

Throughout the year, festive events are organised depending on the day: Epiphany, Green Monday, Orthodox Eastern Monday, summer events including theatre and concerts and the Palouze Festival where visitors can watch and participate in the making of this traditional Cypriot, grape juice based dessert.

The Venetian bridge, the six Byzantine era chapels, the restored traditional architecture houses in the old neighbourhood of the village, the abundant surrounding natural beauty of the village and all the remarkable recreational events that take place in Kalopanayiotis combine a most beautiful destination for a visitor seeking a unique and unparalleled experience.





Location

The village of Kalopanayiotis is one of the 14 villages of the Marathasa area, located in the midst of the Setrachos River's Valley, on the North side of Troodos Mountain range at an altitude of 700 meters. At a distance of about 70km from either city of Lefkosia (Nicosia) or Lemessos (Limassol), the visitor can easily reach the village through a modern and well maintained road network.



Breathtaking
Nature Trails
that allow
your mind to
wonder off into
peaceful bliss.





Climate and Weather

Cyprus enjoys an intense Mediterranean climate of hot dry summers starting in mid-May and lasting until mid-September and rainy, quite mild winters from November to mid-March. Spring and autumn are effectively short intervals in between, characterised by smooth weather. With almost year-round clear skies and sunshine, daylight length ranges from 9.8 hours in December to 14.5 hours in June. In broad lines, Cyprus's climate is characterised by hot summers and mild winters.



Kalopanayiotis being located on Troodos Mountain Range can benefit from cooler temperatures during summertime, with daily temperatures averaging at about 27 degrees Celsius while during the coldest months of winter time the daily temperature can average at about 10 degrees Celsius.



Monastery of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis

Built on the east bank of the Setrachos River, the Monastery of Agios Ioannis (Saint John) Lampadistis, was in 1985 inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List which includes nine other Byzantine churches of the Troodos Mountain Range.

The exact founding date of the Monastery is unknown. The katholicon (monastery church), which is dedicated to Agios Herakleidios, is dated to the 11th century. Among the wall-paintings of the narthex there is an inscription, dated to the 15th century, which describes this church as “katholiki”, i.e. “the principal parish church of the village”. According to other written sources the Monastery functioned until the beginning of the 19th century. Since then it has been used as a church.





The group of buildings which survives until today is the result of constructions and renovations, during different periods of time. The main Monastery church is a domed cross-in-square structure, dated to the 11th century. In the 12th century the chapel of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis was added to the north of the first church, above the tomb of the Saint. This second chapel collapsed and was almost entirely rebuilt in the 18th century. However, in the middle of the 15th century a common narthex was built to the west of the two churches.

During the second half of the 15th century a vaulted chapel was added to the north of that of Agios Ioannis. This became known as the 'Latin chapel' because of the assumption that it was built for the Latins (Catholics).



The wall-paintings of the Monastery of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis are in accordance with its architectural history. The apse of the southern church of Agios Herakleidios, as well as some other parts, preserve fragmentary scenes dated to the 11th and 12th century. The rest of the church was painted during the 13th and 14th century.

The decoration of the narthex belongs to a later date and is the work of an artist from Constantinople, who fled to Cyprus after the fall in 1453. These wall-paintings follow the trends of the Byzantine capital.

The frescoes of the 'Latin chapel', (dated to around 1500), belong to the 'Italo-byzantine' style, which combines Byzantine and Italian Renaissance elements. In fact, it is the most complete set of this style in Cyprus. The 'Latin chapel', if it is so, denotes the coexistence of the two rites under the same roof and reflects the atmosphere of tolerance which prevailed in Cyprus after the Council of Ferrara-Florence (1439).

Worth mentioning is the wooden templon screen, dated to the 13th -14th century, with painted decoration imitating coats-of-arms. It is in fact the oldest wooden templon of Cyprus. Another important element of the Monastery is the relic of Agios Ioannis Lambadistis, which is preserved in a precious reliquary.



Museum of Byzantine Art

At the beginning of the 20th Century, Kalopanayiotis' first Primary School was built on the South side of the Monastery of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis. Comprised of just two teaching rooms and an office, this first school building was later and until the 1960s, used as an auxiliary of the new Kalopanayiotis' Primary School located on the main road to Troodos Mountain.

In 1991, the building was converted into a Cultural Center while in February 3rd, 1999 it was decided the Cultural Center was to be relocated and the historic building of the village's first primary school be converted into a Museum under the auspices of the Holy Bishopric of Morfou, for the safekeeping and exhibition of Byzantine art and ecclesiastical artifacts and antiquities. This is where many ecclesiastical treasures from the Monastery of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis and the churches and many chapels of Kalopanayiotis village are housed. The Museum has been open to the public since October 2000.



Historical **buildings** that have been **regenerated** over the years.



LAVRENTIOS NATIONAL MARTYR BISHOP OF KYRENIA

Cypriot National Martyr, Lavrentios was born in Kalopanagiotis in 1750 during the difficult years of the Turkish Rule in Cyprus. At the age of 15, he began his novitiate under the Bishop of Kyrenia, Chrysanthos, at the Metropolis of Kyrenia which, at the time, was housed at the Monastery of Skouriotissa. At the age of 35, he was ordained monk while 6 years later he became an archimandrite by the Bishop of Kyrenia, Evgenios. By 1816 he was elected Bishop of Kyrenia. On July 9th, 1821, on the same day that the Archbishop of Cyprus Kyprianos

was hanged by the Ottomans, Bishop Lavrentios was decapitated, along with the Bishop of Paphos Chrysanthos and the Bishop of Kition Meleltios. The house where Lavrentios was born has acted at different stages as a Magistrates Court, a Police Station, the village's post office and a hotel. In 1987 the Department of Antiquities declared it an ancient monument and now, after its rehabilitation it hosts the Cultural and Conference Centre and the Lavrentios Museum.



Chapels and Churches

There are numerous churches and chapels in the village and these include the Chapel of Agia Marina which dates since the late 10th century, the chapel of Panagia Theoskepasti which hides under the shade of a 700 year old Quercus type tree while the chapel itself dates since the 12th century. Moreover, there are also the Chapel of Agios Andronikos and Agia Athanasia built around the 11th Century and where parts of its 16th Century frescos can still be viewed today, the Church of Panagia (Our Lady) Theotokos and the Chapels of Agios Kyriakos, Archangelos Michael, Agios Georgios and Agios Sergios and Bachos.

Most, are considered of great archeological importance and are protected by the Department of Antiquities. Holy icons and ecclesiastical relics dating as far back as the 11th Century are hosted in the Museum of Byzantine Art in the village.



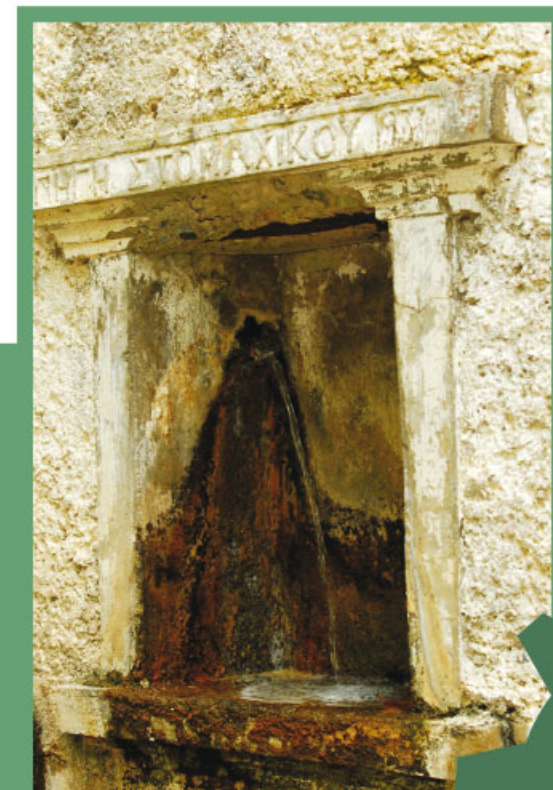
“Holy icons and ecclesiastical relics... dating as far back as the 11th Century...”



Thermal Springs

Kalopanayiotis' thermal springs can be found on the banks of the Setrachos River next to the Venetian bridge. The healing qualities of these rich in sulphur waters have been renowned since the ancient times and kings of the Roman, Byzantine and Frankish eras often visited the area for not only their summer vacations but also for these healing water-baths. These thermal springs are still used for their healing qualities by both locals and visitors to the village. Studies have shown that the waters if used internally by drinking, can aid in the treatment of ailments such as disorders of the peptic system, the urinary track, anemia and dermatological

conditions, while external use of the water by bathing, can aid amongst others in the healing of rheumatic conditions, regulating arterial pressure and toning of the nervous system.





Venetian Bridge

The small Venetian Bridge is located at a lower ground, close to the Monastery of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, hiding under giant Platanus trees and very close to where the Apostoles Paul and Varnavas christened Saint Heraclidious. The Bridge, used to connect the village of Kalopanayiotis with the Monastery, the first school and the rural area beyond.

Nowadays, every year on January 6th, the Christian Orthodox holiday of Epiphany Day is observed and the river waters are blessed when the priest dips the Cross in the cold waters.





Kykkos Watermill

One kilometer south of the Monastery of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis, almost halfway through the “Kykkos Mill” nature trail, nests one of Kalopanayiotis’ most remarkable monuments and an attraction point for many visitors.

The watermill, built in the 19th Century, was used for many years to cover the needs of Kykkos’ Monastery and those of the villages of Kalopanayiotis, Moutoullas, Oikos, Gerakies and other villages in the surrounding area.

“Kykkos Watermill”, Kalopanayiotis’ last watermill, stopped operating in 1953. It was declared an ancient monument and rehabilitated by the Department of Antiquities in 1997.





Traditional Architecture Houses

In the old neighborhood of Kalopanayiotis village, around the area of the Church of Agia Marina, the Department of Antiquities has declared as “Ancient and Cultural Monuments” a number of houses because of their traditional architecture and character.

Houses declared ancient monuments are rehabilitated in close partnership with the Department of Antiquities and the Town Planning and Housing Department of the Republic of Cyprus, in order to maintain the traditional architecture and character of the buildings.

Some of these rehabilitated houses are used as personal residences but many are being used as agrotouristic establishments, cafeterias and restaurants thus aiding and promoting the regeneration of the tourism industry in the village.

Agrotouristic establishments in Kalopanayiotis village, hosting a total of 62 beds include: “Agios Andronikos”, “Atratsa Mountain Apartments”, “Laouri”, “To Byzantinon”, “To Iliakon 1”, “To Iliakon 2”, “To Marathon”, “To Spiti tis Polyxenis”, “To Troullinon”, while “Kastalia” is the only hotel in Kalopanayiotis, with 9 rooms and 16 beds.

For more information and reservation options please visit the Cyprus Tourism Organisation website www.visitcyprus.com, or the Cyprus Agrotourism Company website www.agrotourism.com.cy, or explore your options through any other reputable travel website.

Cyprus is full
of history,
nature and
beauty.



Kalopanayiotis Quick Facts

Languages:

Greek is the main language spoken. English is also widely spoken within the tourist industry.

Population:

200 permanent residents.

Distances:

70km from the capital Nicosia

70km from Limassol

Currency:

Euro is the legal tender money of Cyprus

Local Time:

Cyprus Time is GMT +2.

Driving:

UK driving system applies. Driving is on the left hand side of the road.

Distances and speed limits are posted in kilometres and kilometre/per hour (km/h) respectively.

The maximum speed limit on motorways is 100 km/h and the minimum is 65 km/h.

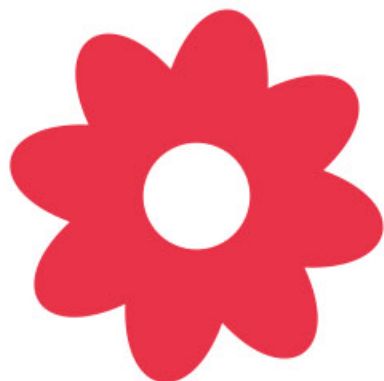
Minimum driving age is 18years.

Useful Numbers:

Emergency Number - 112

Forest Fire Emergency Number - 1407

For more quick facts please visit the Cyprus Tourism Website www.visitcyprus.com



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