

# **Relocating to Cyprus:** Tips to Feel at Home

Hey, what's up?

Good job taking the first step toward claiming your future.

A future where we'll do everything we can to help you work and feel your best. You'll be given tons of opportunities to level up your career and shape games with 20+billion downloads. With us, you'll always have a voice, and always be able to leave a mark on our products. We cherish both your unique skill set and your personality, and we provide our people courses through which to grow, both professionally and personally. To top it off, we throw not one but two epic team-building events every year.

And to call them epic would be an understatement. •

Not to mention that this is a future that resides on a Mediterranean island with sandy beaches to stretch out on, mountains to wander among, and authentic cheese to munch on. That all sounds great, but we know moving to another country, even such a lovely one, can be stressful. This is why we've prepared this guide.

So, welcome aboard if you love a good challenge and are looking to bring your career to another level.

Buckle up!

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# Intro



**Capital** Nicosia



Timezone GMT+3



Currency



Population 1.2 million



Offical Language Greek, Turkish



**Driving**On the left side



Sunny days/year



Coastline 772 km

## Enjoy sunshine? Cyprus has rays for days.

We aren't kidding! Cyprus has 326 sunny days per year, and believe us, you'll quickly get used to not checking the weather before making any weekend plans. Cyprus is the third-largest island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, and has countless breathtaking beaches to satisfy every taste.

The island is full of history as well, with the remains of ancient tombs, fortresses, and palaces at every step. You shouldn't skip the town of Paphos, which has World Heritage status and is just a short drive away from our office. The world's oldest wine label also originates from here. It's a sweet dessert wine called Commandaria, and it's grown in the high-altitude slopes of Cyprus.

Cyprus attracts professionals from around the world, with Limassol especially popular among expats due to its location on the southern coast. You will never feel out of place, as expats constitute 20% of the total population, and English is the primary language of business.

#### Hooked on a feline

Cyprus has about 1 million inhabitants and, on top of that, 1.5 million cats. Yep, that's right - cats!

Cypriots love cats. So much so, that in the past years, several feeding stations have popped up where stray cats can have a meal. Many towns even have a resident "cat lady" who feeds and looks after them.



# **Quality of life**

Cyprus offers a high quality of life and is often seen as a global expat destination. "Why?" you might ask. Besides the sunny weather, low crime rate, and breathtaking beaches, Cyprus is a member of the European Union. It has fairly low tax rates compared to other countries, and nearly everyone on the island speaks English.

Compared to some other European countries, time in Cyprus passes a bit slower, and life is more laid-back. It lies at a cultural, linguistic, and historic crossroads between Europe and Asia, and thus offers a unique cultural mix that's also evident in its cuisine. If you enjoy great food, then Cyprus definitely has your back. From crispy halloumi cheese (a traditional Cypriot product) to a variety of fresh-tasting dishes, with both Greek and Arabian influences.

Cyprus' landscape offers a ton of options for getting active. From hiking the Troodos mountain range, to deep-diving caves and shipwrecks, or going on a jeep safari around Kyrenia. Whatever floats your boat  $\stackrel{\text{dep}}{=}$ .

The quality of education on the island is high, and due to the strong expat presence, there are several international schools.



# Where are we?

#### Outfit7 Limited and Outfit7 NEO Limited - our companies in Cyprus

You'll find our office in the second largest Cypriot city - Limassol.

The Outfit7 Cyprus office is located in the eastern suburbs of Limassol, in the calm district of Germasogeia (Christaki Kranou 20, 4041 Limassol, Cyprus).

<u>Check the location on Google Maps</u>, and you'll quickly find out why our favorite afterwork activities include the beach (for swimming, volleyball, or just chilling on the sand) and enjoying a big cup of Freddo Espresso. Our office is located 15 minutes away from the city center, the vibrant promenade of Molos, and the luxurious Limassol marina.



# **Relocating to Cyprus**

Already packing your suitcases? We support you on this journey and are happy to help you along the way.

Each relocation requires some paperwork, and processes need to be followed. Let us guide you through them.

### Before your arrival

As a foreign citizen, you can work in Cyprus only with a valid work permit.

#### For non-EU citizens

There are different types of permits (pink slips) related to the documentation you will have to provide. Mostly we are talking about general documents such as a notarized copy of your passport, police clearance certificate, notarized copy of your education qualifications, etc. When you meet us for a live interview (or even before that if needed), our team will talk with you about your situation, and based on that, we will agree on the next steps and share a list of all the required documents.

The steps required for relocation to Cyprus are:

- Obtaining a Work Permit (pink slip) arranged together with the employer
- **Applying for a Cyprus work visa** if you are not in Cyprus yet (in order to travel to Cyprus for employment and long-term stay)
- Arriving in Cyprus
- Applying for Cyprus Residence (registration within 7 days of arriving in Cyprus)

Keep in mind that the waiting period for obtaining a work permit is 2 to 6 weeks, while a working visa should be processed within a few days. Nevertheless, the process may last longer than expected, increasing the waiting time. This is part of the slower-paced life we mentioned earlier .

If you're already living in Cyprus with a valid pink slip, you will have to apply for a permit change, but this process is simpler and faster.

#### For EU citizens

If you come from an EEA Member State or the Swiss Confederation, you don't need a work permit. You can just fly here and work with us as soon as you can.

There are a few things you'll need to do when you arrive (registering your residence and obtaining a yellow slip), which are described below. But don't worry! Our team will support you through the process.

# Tax number (TIC)

Obtaining a tax number is obligatory for people that need to register for income tax. To get the TIC you will need to submit an application to the local tax office.

#### Social and health insurance

Healthcare in Cyprus is of a very high standard, yet generally inexpensive. There is both public and private health insurance. With the payment of social contributions (automati-cally calculated within the salary) you are eligible to enrol to public to public general healthcare system (GeSy). The costs of treatments are almost entirely covered with social contributions points but require a patient's co-payment (1 to 25 EUR per visit).

Apart from GeSY, it is quite common for Cypriots to have additional private insurance arranged - life insurance, getting faster treatment via private clinics, covering more expen-sive treatments, etc. Because we know how important it is to have a feeling of safety in case an emergency occurs, at Outfit7, we are also offering group private insurance for all our employees.

# A Dive into the Cypriot Lifestyle

## **Accommodation**

As in most European cities, rent prices vary a lot in Cyprus. Due to fast business develop-ment, Limassol has higher rents, and prices vary depending on the area of the city. Other towns have significantly lower rents.

Cyprus' real estate sector is growing fast, and this is why you'll find tons of agencies offering apartments and houses for rent. For solo searching, the best way to start is the **Bazaraki marketplace** (keep in mind that rent prices usually do not include facility expenses).



## **Public transportation**

First things first - traffic drives on the left. These rules are left over from Cyprus being a British colony from 1925 to 1960.

Cypriot public transport might not be as developed as in other European countries, but buses run regularly between major cities. However, most residents use their own cars. Car-sharing is gradually gaining popularity, but the most common, and quite inexpensive, way to get around the island is by renting a car.

Interesting note: Rented cars are marked with red registration plates instead of the usual white. This is basically a way of identifying drivers who are not used to driving on the left and is useful for visitors and locals alike.

Another inexpensive option for getting around is taking a taxi.

Limassol offers a bicycle-sharing system, which allows you to rent bikes from self-service terminals all across the city. Keep in mind that the city itself is not yet as cyclist friendly as you might hope. The roads along the coast are well connected with bicycle routes, while other parts of the city are better suited for those with some freestyle parkour cycling skills.

#### **Education**

Due to the rising number of expats moving to Cyprus from all across Europe, you can find many international schools in Cyprus. Public sector schools are free for ages 5 to 18, but the main language is Greek, with English being taught as a second language from the first grade on.

More information on education in Cyprus can be found **here.** 

## What about the political and religious systems?

The Republic of Cyprus is a democracy that has sovereignty over the entire island. The island is divided into two parts The Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

The Cypriot capital city Nicosia is known as the world's last divided capital due to the civil war that started in 1963. The border between the Greek and Turkish parts runs through the walled old town of Nicosia.

Cyprus enjoys a high level of freedom of thought. The majority of Greek Cypriots identify as Greek Orthodox, while in the North the prevailing religion is Sunni Islam.

## Things to do, and ways to have FUN

Cyprus offers a variety of things to do and ways to enjoy yourself. From wine tours and ship cruises, to basking in the Blue Lagoon or diving at the Museum of Underwater Sculptures Ayia Napa (MUSAN). There's something for everyone.

The island really comes to life between May and October, but the rest of the year offers residents the chance to explore places with fewer crowds. Believe us, walking barefoot on a long sandy beach alone really unlocks a completely different experience.

Apart from the <u>large variety of beaches</u> (sandy, rocky, shallow water, snorkeling, and diving spots), you can also enjoy some nice hikes in the Troodos mountains, or just enjoy the laid-back lifestyle.

