

# TRAVEL TRADE

# Cyprus

Monthly Edition

SEPTEMBER 2017 - ISSUE 55

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# TRAVEL TRADE

# Cyprus

Monthly Edition

SEPTEMBER 2017 - ISSUE 55

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YÜREK BİRLİĞİ  
EUROPEAN UNION  
KIBRIS İÇİŞİLERİ BAKANLIĞI  
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

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## EXCHANGE RATES

as of **4.9.2017**

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	EUR1=
US (USD)	Dollar	1.19
UK (GBP)	Pound	0.92
Switzerland (CHF)	Franc	1.14
Japan (JPY)	Yen	130.20

## Cyprus Welcomed Record July Arrivals



According to *Passengers Survey*, 531,030 tourists arrived in Cyprus in July, a year-on-year increase of 10.1 percent.

During the month under review, the largest growing source markets were Israel, Germany, and Sweden, with increases of 82.6 percent, 69.5 percent and 17.3 percent, respectively. The UK, which topped the visitors' list with 33.3 percent of travellers, contributed a six percent rise in tourists. However, a 3.6 percent drop in arrivals from Russia was observed.

This brings the total number of visitors during the period January – July to 1,994,236, an increase of 14.8 percent compared to the first seven months of 2016 and outnumbering the total number of tourists ever recorded during this timeframe.

## Moody's Promotes Cyprus to Ba3



According to Costas Tsielepis & Co, Moody's Investors Service has up-graded Cyprus' credit grade by one notch to Ba3 from B1, indicating strong economic growth and solid fiscal performance.

Improvement in economic resilience over the past two years is considered the key driver for the change in rating, which appears likely to be sustained in the medium term, resulting in a favourable outlook for the island. The anticipated growth is expected to continue thanks to private consumption as well as increased revenue from record tourism levels, which account for approximately 13.2 percent of the country's economy.

## Cyprus and the US to Reduce Illicit Trade

Bronze Age bowl



In order to safeguard Cyprus' cultural heritage while also strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, Cyprus and the US have renewed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the imposition of import restrictions on archaeological objects.

The MoU, which first came into force in 2002, will continue for an additional five-year period until 2022. Recently, the inclusion of ritual and ethnological objects dating back to 1850, as well as of coins of the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods was agreed, and can only be imported to the US with the appropriate license.

The salvation and protection of cultural heritage concerns the international community which is demonstrated through explicit conventions that are binding and preserve world cultural heritage.

## Excavations at Geronissos Completed With Success

Geronissos Island



Cyprus Department of Antiquities and Cyprus Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works have announced the completion of this year's season of excavations at Geronissos Island.

Investigations focussed on what is said to represent the remains of an ancient harbour for the settlement from Hellenistic through to early Byzantine periods, with an international team of specialists and field school students, including a group from The Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa carrying out preliminary underwater surveys around Geronissos Island and Manikis Harbour.

Conducted by New York University, the project aimed to better understand the connection between the island and the mainland.

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## Paphos Supports Local Athletes

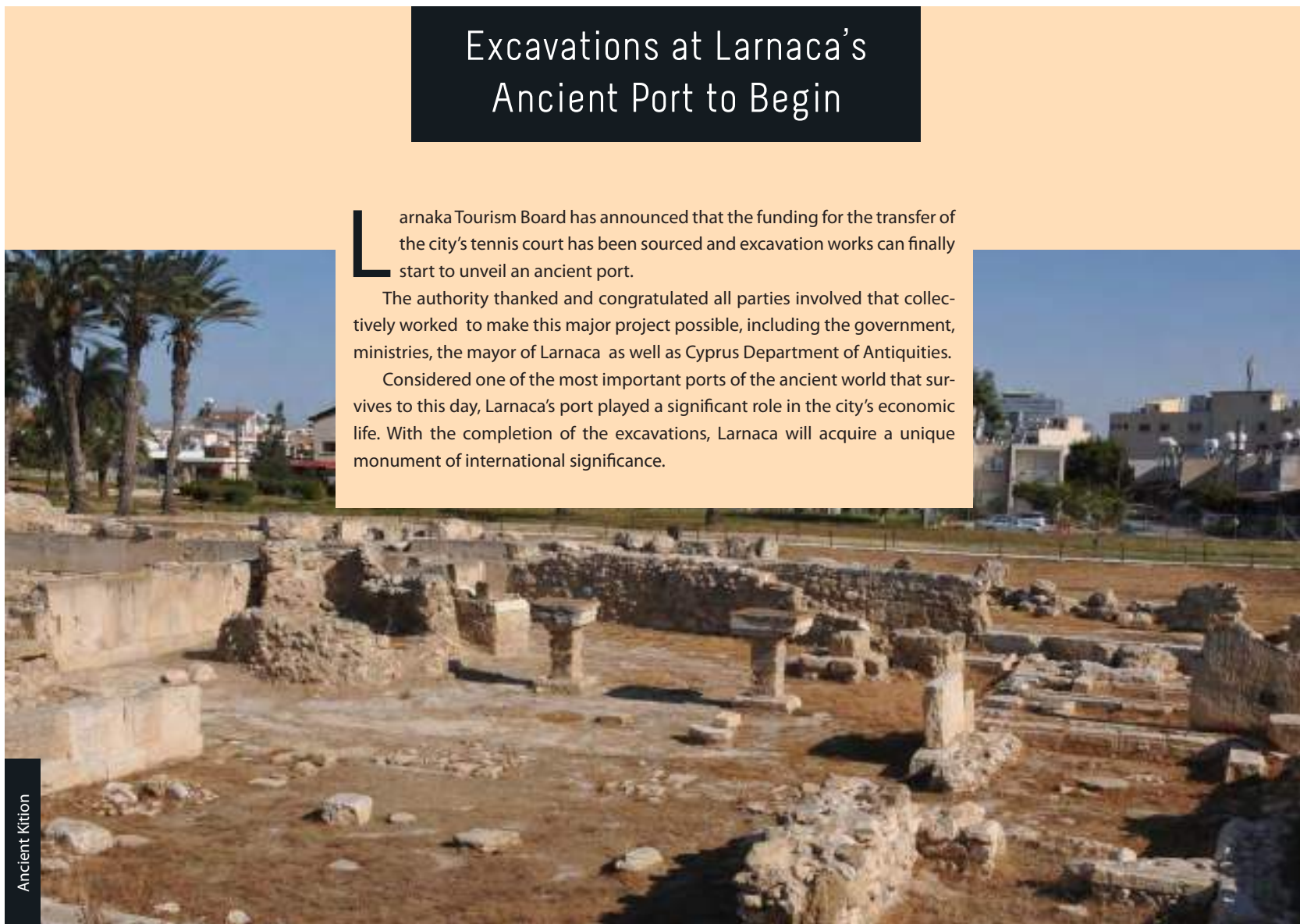


As part of its strategy to further boost sports tourism in Cyprus, while also enabling local athletes to participate in global events, Pafos Regional Board of Tourism has recently unveiled plans to provide symbolic financial support to two local athletes.

Demokritos Papadavid will compete in the upcoming 2017 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship in Tennessee in the US, whilst cyclist Pamos Christodoulou will compete in 2017 UCI Gran Fondo World Championship, in Albi in southern France.

As well as highlighting Paphos as a great place for sports training, the authority is also actively involved in promoting the region as a destination with high level events, such as the Paphos Triathlon and the Cyprus Marathon.

## Excavations at Larnaca's Ancient Port to Begin



Larnaca Tourism Board has announced that the funding for the transfer of the city's tennis court has been sourced and excavation works can finally start to unveil an ancient port.

The authority thanked and congratulated all parties involved that collectively worked to make this major project possible, including the government, ministries, the mayor of Larnaca as well as Cyprus Department of Antiquities.

Considered one of the most important ports of the ancient world that survives to this day, Larnaca's port played a significant role in the city's economic life. With the completion of the excavations, Larnaca will acquire a unique monument of international significance.

Ancient Kition



## Milestone Summer for Larnaca's Tourism

Following a successful 2016 summer season, with the city welcoming 11.4 percent of Cyprus' total tourist arrivals, Larnaca is expected to achieve even higher numbers this year with equally positive data.

According to Larnaca Tourism Board and Cyprus' Statistical Service, 2016's summer season was the best of the last decade with the city attracting 363,264 tourists out of a total of 3,186,531 travellers visiting Cyprus.

Moreover, according to the estimates of tour operators, occupancy in the city's hotels is expected to be satisfactory until October. Through its *Winter Experiences Programme* the destination is aiming to attract tourists during the whole year by enhancing the visitor's experience with various activities including wine tasting, bird watching, basketry and the preparation of traditional dishes.

### Ayia Napa Named New Tourism Ambassadors

On August 23, commemorative plaques were awarded to a British family by Yiannis Karoussos, mayor, Ayia Napa, granting them with the honorary title of ambassadors of tourism for their high number of visits to Ayia Napa over the years.

Betty Noddle travelled to the coastal town no less than 37 times, while her children, Gary Noddle and Sharon Storey visited the island 36 and 37 times, respectively.

When awarding the family, Karoussos expressed his gratitude to them for consistently choosing the town for their getaways and added, "For us, you are now considered residents of Ayia Napa."



Karoussos with Noddle

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## CBI Index Ranked Cyprus as Top in EU

Cyprus has been listed as the number one country in the European Union (EU), and seventh worldwide, for offering second citizenship by investment according to Professional Wealth Management's Citizen by Investment (CBI) Index.

The island received a score of 67 out of 100, with the result is based on seven pillars, namely freedom of movement, standard of living, minimum investment outlay, mandatory travel or residence, citizenship timeline, ease of processing, and due diligence.

Cyprus was among the three highest ranking destinations in regards to freedom of movement and within the top four countries in terms of standard of living.

## Palinuro Sailed into Larnaca Port

The historic Italian training vessel *Palinuro* arrived in Larnaca on August 29 and will be open to the public until September 01 before returning to its port in Italy.

The ship was built in France in 1934 and was initially a fishing boat that was used to catch cod off the coast of Canada before turning into a sail training vessel for the Italian Navy.

*Palinuro's* presence in Cyprus is a testimony to the growing relations between Italy and Cyprus in the defence sector, following the visit of Roberta Pinotti, defence minister, Italy to Nicosia on July 31.



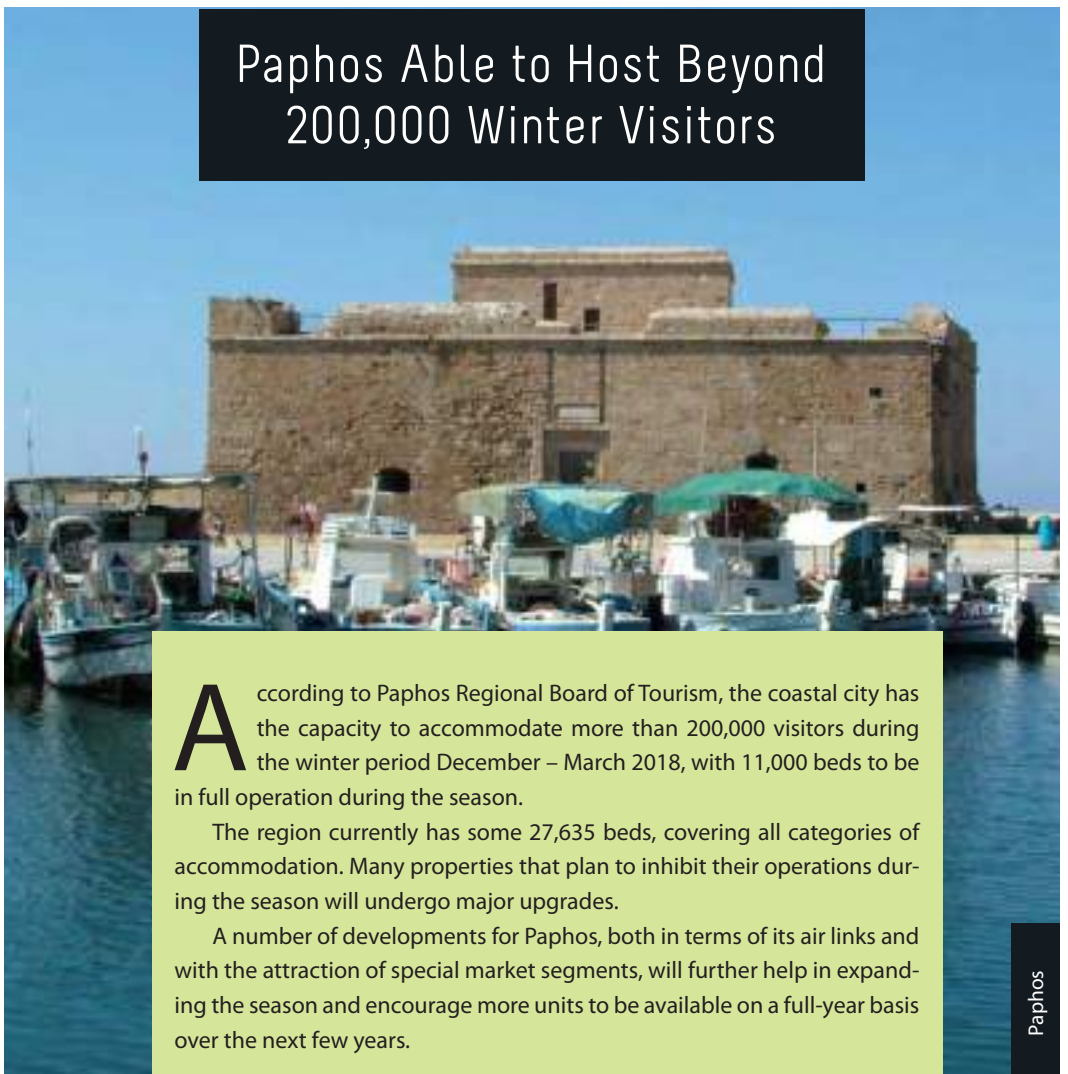
Palinuro

## Paphos Able to Host Beyond 200,000 Winter Visitors

According to Paphos Regional Board of Tourism, the coastal city has the capacity to accommodate more than 200,000 visitors during the winter period December – March 2018, with 11,000 beds to be in full operation during the season.

The region currently has some 27,635 beds, covering all categories of accommodation. Many properties that plan to inhibit their operations during the season will undergo major upgrades.

A number of developments for Paphos, both in terms of its air links and with the attraction of special market segments, will further help in expanding the season and encourage more units to be available on a full-year basis over the next few years.



Paphos



## Cypriot Shined During #BeActive Competition

**A**iming to motivate European citizens to engage in sports, European Commission organised #BeActive. Held within the framework of 2017 European Sports Week, the contest invites citizens to share examples of their participation in sports on social media platforms until September 23. Each week, European Commission chooses a winner who has the opportunity to win sports related prizes.

Nikola Euripidou from Nicosia was the named the winner for the week August 14 —20, during which, she posted photographs and videos of her sporting activity on her Instagram account. A video was selected and awarded by the European Commission, in which Nikola, despite being injured, found a way to exercise.

## Amada Colossos Unveils Revamp

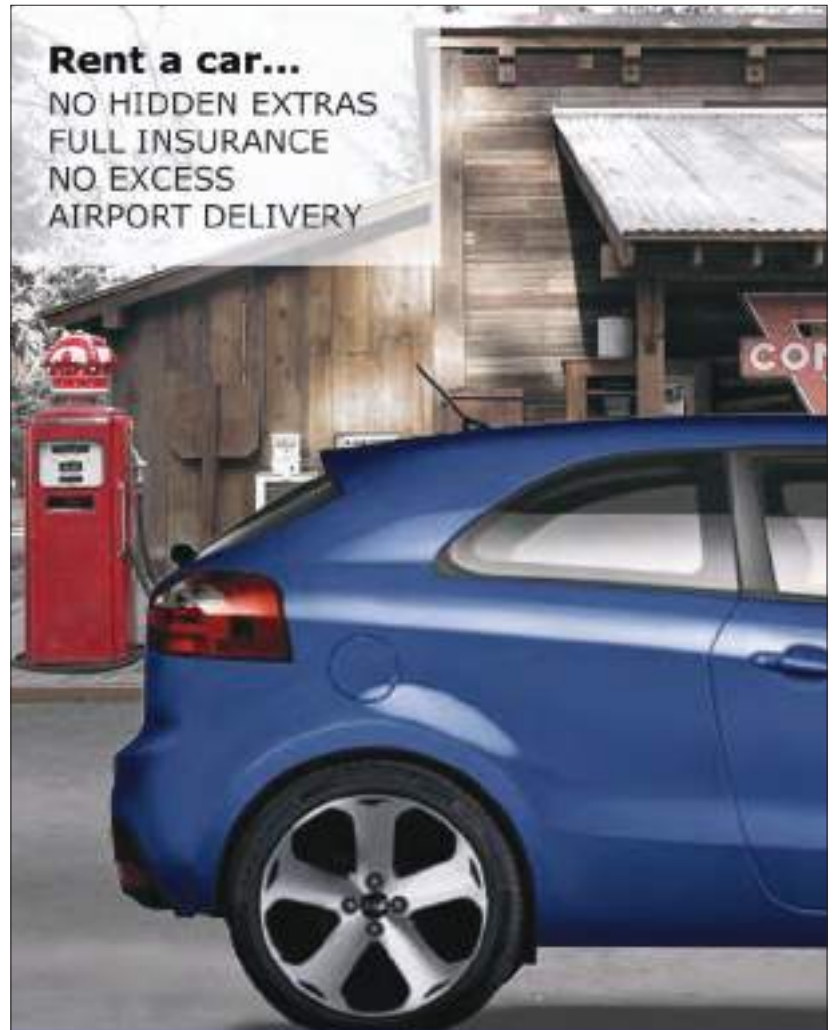


Amada Colossos Resort

**F**ollowing a EUR50 million reconstruction and upgrade of its entire infrastructure, Amada Colossos Resort in Rhodes reopened its doors on July 15 welcoming families and couples to the luxurious ultra all-inclusive hotel.

Situated in an area renowned for its natural beauty, beaches and crystal-clear seas, the renovated address offers uninterrupted views of the Aegean. The property features 17 types of rooms, ranging from luxurious double and triple bedrooms, to family suites that combine comfort, luxury, high technology and top quality. Alongside a specially designed area for couples and spaces exclusively available for families to spend time together, the resort aims to redefine the concept of an ultra all-inclusive experience.

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## Larnaca Among Best Performing European Airports

Larnaka International Airport

According to Airports Council International (ACI) Europe, passenger traffic at European airports rose nine percent year-on-year in the first half of the year (H1). Cargo also soared during the period January – June, with an 8.7 percent surge in freight traffic, while aircraft movements jumped 3.7 percent.

Cyprus achieved double digit growth in passenger traffic, with Larnaka International Airport achieving a 22.7 percent jump in this measure compared to H1 2016.

Olivier Jankovec, director general, ACI Europe, enthused, "For Europe's airports, this is by far the best first half-year traffic performance in more than 10 years."

## Paphos Hub Celebrates 20 Years of Operations



On the occasion of celebrating Pafos International Airport's 20 years of operations, Nikos Shacolas, honorary-lifetime chairman, Hermes Airports, Panayiotis Hadjipantelis, chairman, board of directors, Hermes Airports, and Eleni Kaloyirou, CEO, Hermes Airports, gave a tour of the hub to local mayors, members of parliament and various representatives of the region's institutions.

During the visit, the officials were informed about the successful operation of the airport in the first half of this year, during which the milestone of serving 4.1 million passengers was achieved, a rise of 17.8 percent year-on-year. Moreover, issues related to Cyprus' connectivity were also discussed, along with the need for further support of projects related to the tourism industry.







## Despacito Singer Visited Ayia Napa

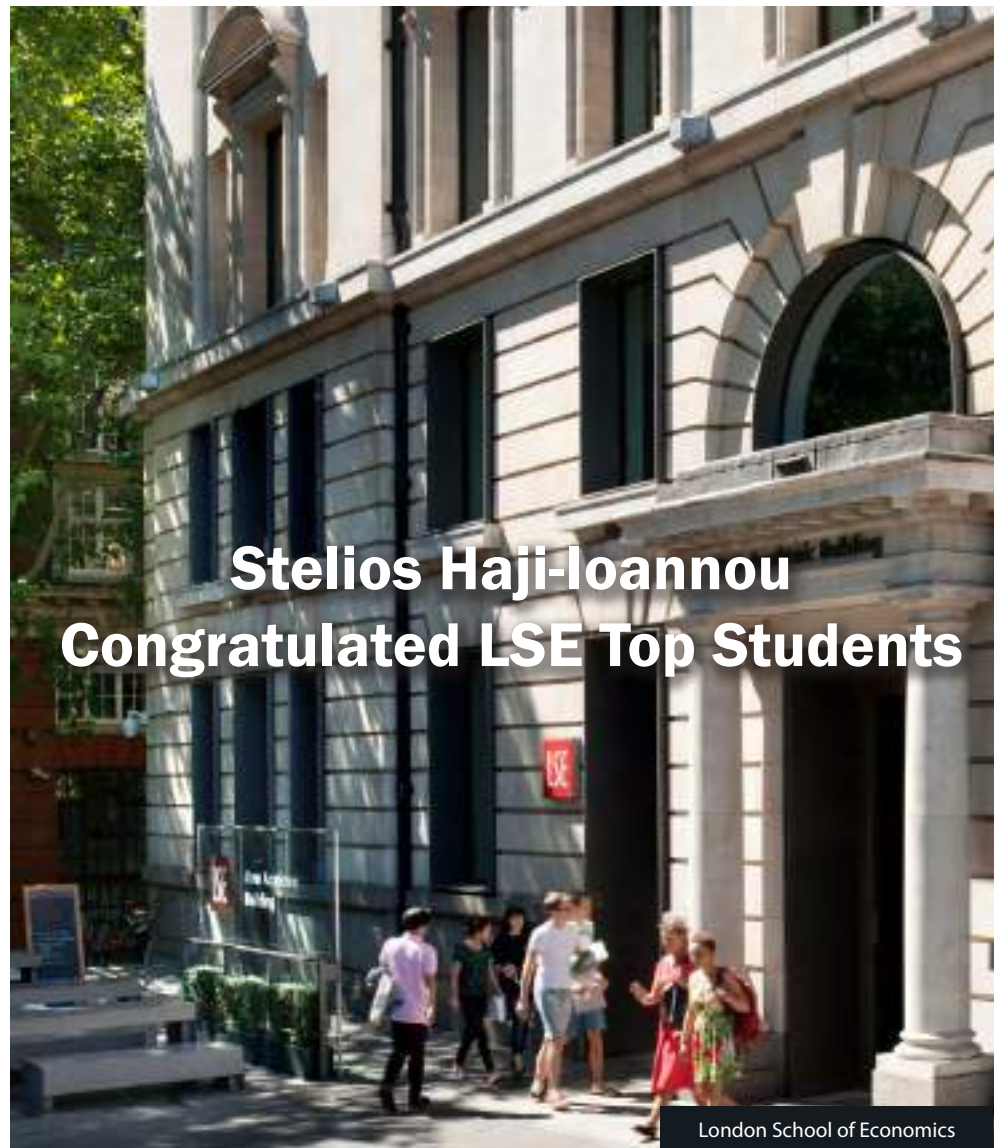
Fonsi

**L**uis Fonsi, the singer of the song *Despacito*, which has more than six billion hits on YouTube, visited Cyprus on August 10 for a unique concert in Ayia Napa, as part of his *Love and Dance* world tour.

The Puerto Rican artist was welcomed by Yiannis Karoussos, mayor, Ayia Napa who named Fonsi as an ambassador of Ayia Napa tourism.

Meanwhile, the artist said that this was his first time in Cyprus and he added that he would return for holidays with his family.

Fonsi now has his own star in Ayia Napa's Celebrity Square which also hosts plaques with the names of Paul Van Dyke, Snoop Dogg, Nana Mouskouri, Vicky Leandros and Mario Frangoulis.



## Stelios Haji-Ioannou Congratulated LSE Top Students

London School of Economics

**W**ith the mission of supporting philanthropic activities primarily in the places where he lived, including the UK, Greece, Cyprus and Monaco, Stelios Haji-Ioannou, founder, Stelios Philanthropic Foundation recently congratulated seven London School of Economics' (LSE) graduates who achieved either a first class or upper second class degree at the end of their three-year academic course.

Haji-Ioannou channels his wealth through his philanthropic foundation, by funding several projects including scholarships to the LSE and City University and annual donations to the Red Cross and World Wildlife Fund. Other charitable projects include food donations in Greece and projects to reconcile differences between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots in the country of his birth.



## Athens Hub Hosts Exhibition on the History of Cyclades

**D**uring the period July 27 – December 31, Athens International Airport is hosting an exhibition dedicated to the early history of Cyclades, informing visitors on one of the leading and most resilient civilisations in the Greek prehistory.

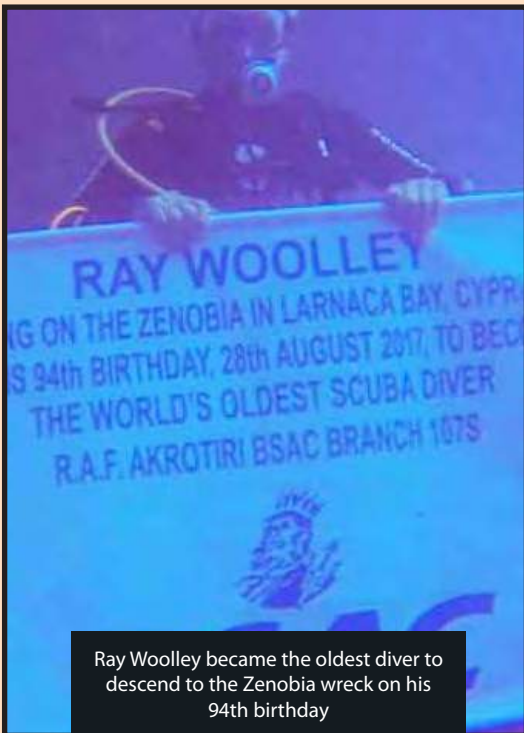
The exhibition titled *A journey through the culture of Cycladic islands* constitutes a concise presentation of the large scale exhibition *Cycladic Society 5,000 years ago* organised this year by Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

Since no written sources of the Early Cycladic period survive, the exhibition aims to inform the public in a simple and straightforward manner on the social structure, activities, living environment, and, where possible, convictions and beliefs of the Cycladic islanders in the Early Bronze Age through their creations.





Cyprus Theatre Organisation presented the Greek tragedy *Perseus* by Aeschelus at Amphitheatre Makarios III, Nicosia



Ray Woolley became the oldest diver to descend to the Zenobia wreck on his 94th birthday

A large orange rounded rectangle contains a black camera icon. Inside the camera's lens area is a white speech bubble with the text "Take a Shot!" in a white, cursive font.

Share with us the latest images of your activities and let your colleagues know what you have been up to.

Send your photos to [editorial@traveltradecyprus.travel](mailto:editorial@traveltradecyprus.travel) Because a picture is worth a thousand words...



Oivind and Inger Kristiansen from Norway were proclaimed as Ambassadors of Ayia Napa upon visiting the city for the 20th time by Antonis Christou, chairman, tourism committee, Ayia Napa centre



Joseph Harding proposed his partner Nicola Lewington on a British Airways flight to Larnaca



## EVENTS

### LIMASSOL WINE FESTIVAL 2017

**Limassol Public Garden**  
**August 31- September 10**  
 The 56th edition of the event will feature wine tasting alongside live musical and dance performances.

### KYPRIA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**Various locations across Cyprus**  
**September 02 – October 14**  
 An extensive programme of events offering Cypriots and visitors a variety of cultural shows.



### 33RD AYIA NAPA FESTIVAL

**Ayia Napa**  
**September 21 – 24**  
 An annual festival that reflects the historical, cultural and agricultural traditions of Ayia Napa.



## Elpis Educates on the History of Tourism

Aiming to respond to the needs and demands of a constantly evolving industry, Elpis Tourism and Hospitality Seminars organised its annual forum dedicated to the history of tourism and cultural heritage in Cyprus.

Founded by Cyprus' Human Resource Development Authority and supported by Cyprus Tourism Organisation, Association of Cyprus Travel Agents, Cyprus Hotel Association, Cyprus Tourist Enterprises, Larnaka International Airport, along with 80 hotels and three restaurants, the summit provided hoteliers and tourism professionals an opportunity to learn about the evolution of tourism on the island and exchange views on the latest trends facing the industry.

## Overseas Cypriots Gathered at 19th World Conference



World Conference of the World Federation of Overseas Cypriots

The annual 19th World Conference of the World Federation of Overseas Cypriots, held on August 21 – 24 in Nicosia, convened high-ranking officials who engaged in debates on the latest geopolitical and social topics.

The leaders and representatives of political parties, along with overseas Cypriots and other key parties conducted discussions focussed primarily on the recent developments related to bilateral relations and cooperation, as well as commercial and energetic issues. The representatives also elected the new Central Councils of the Conference of the International Coordinating Committee and the World Federation of Overseas Cypriots.

## Paphos Hosts Street Photography Exhibition

Aiming to promote the city through its myths, traditions, history, religion and people, as well as highlighting its status as the European Capital of Culture 2017, Cyprus Press and Information Office in collaboration with Pafos2017 organised a street photography exhibition under the theme *Pafos, A Work of Art*.

On display until the end of September along Paphos Port seafront, the exhibition showcases the city's highlights including historical monuments, scenic landscapes, museums, architecture and other attractions, encouraging an interest in planned visits.