

CYPRUS / CHYPRE 2024 COMMÉMORATION

Veterans' Pilgrimage / Pèlerinage des vétérans

Nicosia - Green Line - Remembrance / Souvenir - Kyrenia - Dhekelia

November 4 - 12, 2024 (9 Days/9 Jours)



Casques bleus canadiens / Canadian peacekeepers. Chypre 1974

Highlights / Faits saillants:

- Remembering our fallen, Dhekelia and Waynes Keep Cemeteries and Wolseley Barracks Memorial.
Honorer nos morts aux cimetières Dhekelia et Waynes Keep et au Mémorial de la caserne Wolseley.
- Tour the Buffer Zone, sites of 1974 action, guided by veterans, tell your stories.
Visitez la zone tampon, sites d'action de 1974, guidés par des vétérans, racontez vos histoires.
- Meet Canadian & UN serving soldiers and Cypriots who lived through the war.
Rencontrez des soldats canadiens et de l'ONU en service et des Chypriotes qui ont vécu la guerre.
- Explore the Old City, cultural excursions, historical talks, camaraderie with UN veterans.
Explorez l'ancienne ville, excursions culturelles, discussions historiques, camaraderie avec les vétérans.



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MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

The team started in 2020 to plan the commemoration of Canada's contribution to the UN Force in Cyprus since 1964. **Cyprus 2024** is the 60th anniversary of OPERATION SNOWGOOSE, plus the 50th anniversary of a forgotten war. Led by 'those who were there', this pilgrimage will reunite Veterans of Cyprus and their families. The program includes: speakers, exhibits, site visits, cultural excursions, interaction with Cypriots who lived through the conflict, and camaraderie. You will meet soldiers serving today and share your experiences with British, Swedish, Finnish, Danish and Austrian comrades.

We will honour the Canadians who served in Cyprus, and the sacrifice of all peacekeepers, by rekindling their memories. Video interviews will be conducted for anyone wishing to share their stories and add to our oral history. Remembrance ceremonies led by Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) and Canadian Armed Forces(CAF) will be held and a memorial plaque dedicated.

Our collection of historical photos, maps, war diaries, artifacts, and stories will leave a legacy for Canadians. An artist-in-residence will redo UN sketches, originally from 1978, and draw Veterans to capture the spirit of the reunion in a memory book.

We appreciate the support of VAC, the CAF, the High Commissioner, Defence Attaché and Honorary Consul to Cyprus. The 'recco' team was welcomed in Nicosia by the UN Force Commander, British troops, Cypriot officials and Mayor of Nicosia, all seeing this occasion to reflect on Cyprus today.

We hope to share this memorable experience with you and your families, and commemorate Canada's service to peace. A virtual briefing for registered participants will be broadcast in September 2024.

For more information, scan **A**.

To join Cyprus2024 Facebook, scan **B**.

A



B



MESSAGE DE L'ÉQUIPE

L'équipe a commencé en 2020 à planifier la commémoration de la contribution du Canada à la Force des NU à Chypre depuis 1964.

Chypre 2024 marque le 60e anniversaire de l'OPÉRATION SNOWGOOSE, ainsi que le 50e d'une guerre oubliée. Dirigé par 'ceux qui étaient là', ce pèlerinage réunira des vétérans de Chypre et leurs familles.

Le programme comprend: des conférenciers, expositions, visites de sites, excursions culturelles, interaction avec des Chypriotes qui ont vécu le conflit, et de la camaraderie. Vous rencontrerez des soldats en service aujourd'hui et partagerez vos expériences avec des camarades britanniques, suédois, finlandais, danois et autrichiens. Nous rendrons hommage aux Canadiens qui sont servi à Chypre et le sacrifice de tous les Casques bleus, en revivant leurs souvenirs.

Des entrevues vidéo seront réalisées pour tous ceux qui souhaitent partager leurs histoires et ajouter à notre histoire orale. Des cérémonies commémoratives dirigées par le ministère des Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC) et les Forces armées canadiennes (FAC) auront lieu et une plaque commémorative sera dédiée.

Notre collection de photos historiques, de cartes, de journaux de guerre, d'artefacts et d'histoires laisseront un héritage aux Canadiens. Un artiste refait des croquis de Chypre qui date de 1978 et dessine des vétérans pour capturer l'esprit de la réunion dans un livre souvenir.

Nous apprécions le soutien d'ACC, des FAC, du Haut-commissaire, de l'Attaché de défense et du Consul honoraire à Chypre. L'équipe de 'recco' a été accueillie à Nicosie par le Commandant de la Force de l'ONU, les troupes britanniques, les officiels chypriotes et le maire de Nicosie, tous voyant cette occasion pour réfléchir sur Chypre aujourd'hui.

Nous espérons partager cette expérience mémorable avec vous et vos familles, et commémorer le service du Canada pour la paix. Une séance d'information virtuelle pour les participants inscrits sera diffusée en septembre 2024.

Pour plus d'informations, scannez **A**.

Pour rejoindre Chypre2024 Facebook, scannez **B**.

The Team / L'équipe

LCol (Ret'd) Ron Bragdon, Lgén (ret) Marc Caron, LCol Gino Chrétien, LCol Marc Comeau, LCol (Ret'd) Kenn Doerksen, Maj (Ret'd) JP Hill, MGen (Ret'd) Walter Holmes, Col (Ret'd) Jim Holsworth, LCol David Jones, Ms. Jennifer MacLeod, LCol Wallace Noseworthy, MGen (Ret'd) Cam Ross, Dr. Robert Shipley, Maj Indira Thackorie, Maj (Ret'd) Phil Tweedie



CANADIANS IN CYPRUS

Canada was an original contributor to UN Force in Cyprus, along with Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Britain, Austria and Finland. The contingent arrived in March 1964 by Air Transport Command and HMCS Bonaventure, and included brigade headquarters, 1st Battalion R22eR, Recce Squadron (RCD), RCEME, RC Service and Ordnance Corps.

Until 1993, Canada maintained a unit-sized contingent, rotating every six months, first in the Kyrenia Mountains, then in Nicosia since 1969. Over 25,000 CAF personnel served on the island. Every infantry battalion deployed at least once, plus artillery and armoured regiments were rerolled for Cyprus duty.

1974 was a turning point in the Middle East and for Canadian peacekeepers. In Cyprus two members of NATO were at war and the Canadians were caught in the middle of a coup d'état and an invasion.

It was a deadly time for the Canadian Armed Forces, with casualties in Cyprus and the loss of nine members on UN Flight 51 over Syria.

Since 1964, 28 Canadians have died while serving in Cyprus. Today, the Canadian contribution is a staff officer in UNFICYP HQ.



CANADIENS À CHYPRE

Le Canada a été un contributeur original à la Force des NU à Chypre, avec le Danemark, l'Irlande, la Suède, la Grande-Bretagne, l'Autriche et la Finlande.

Le contingent est arrivé en mars 1964 déployé par le Commandement du transport aérien et le NCSM Bonaventure, et comprenait le quartier général de la brigade, le 1er Bataillon R22eR, l'Escadron de reconnaissance (RCD), le GEMRC, les Corps RC de l'intendance et de munitions.

Jusqu'en 1993, le Canada a maintenu un contingent de l'effectif d'une unité, alternant tous les six mois, d'abord dans les montagnes de Kyrenia, puis à Nicosie depuis 1969. Plus de 25,000 membres des FAC ont servi sur l'île. Chaque bataillon d'infanterie s'est déployé au moins une fois, et de plus les régiments d'artillerie et blindés ont été relancés pour un tour à Chypre.

1974 fut un point tournant au Moyen-Orient et pour les casques bleus canadiens. À Chypre, deux membres de l'OTAN étaient en guerre et les Canadiens se sont retrouvés au coeur d'un coup d'état et d'une invasion.

Ce fut une période meurtrière pour les Forces armées canadiennes, avec des pertes à Chypre et la perte de neuf membres du vol 51 de NU en Syrie.

Depuis 1964, 28 Canadiens sont décédés en service à Chypre. Aujourd'hui la contribution canadienne est d'un officier d'étatmajor au QG UNFICYP.

HILTON NICOSIA

Located within five kilometers of the city center — home to Cyprus Museum, A.G. Leventis Gallery, and Shacolas Tower Museum and Observatory. Explore neighborhood dining, and enjoy our outdoor lagoon-style pool. Perks include our full-service spa, featuring treatments, a relaxation pool, and fitness center.



GUEST ROOM



Relax in our modern and contemporary designed guest rooms. Feel like home by enjoying our deluxe amenities, Hilton Serenity beds, complimentary internet access and 49-inch HDTV, relax in the cozy armchair with ottoman and black-out curtains facility. Other benefits include access to the Sana Hiltonia Health and Fitness Spa with complimentary use of the indoor pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, hamam, sauna and gym. Special touches include fluffy bathrobes and slippers, mineral water, and tea/coffee making facilities.

EXECUTIVE ROOM



Enjoy a stay in a bright, Executive Room featuring deluxe amenities, complimentary internet access and 49-inch HDTV, black-out curtains facility, cozy armchair with ottoman, and relax in the spacious bathroom. All rooms feature a balcony with outstanding city or pool views. **At the same time, take advantage of exclusive access to the Executive Lounge's complimentary breakfast, snacks and beverages.** Other benefits include access to the Sana Hiltonia Health and Fitness Spa with complimentary use of the indoor pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, hamam, sauna and gym. Special touches include fluffy bathrobes and slippers, mineral water, and tea/coffee making facilities.

ITINERARY

Advance Party - Saturday, November 2 - 4, 2024

Arrival of Advance Party to Nicosia, Cyprus.
Early arrivals, for those who arranged early travel individually.

Day 1 / Monday, November 4, 2024

Depart CANADA for CYPRUS.

Day 2 / Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Upon arrival at Larnaca airport, you will be transferred to the Nicosia Hilton (for all who booked flights with Special Travel International). At the hotel, there will be a hospitality desk where you will receive a detailed program, any information you need, and be checked in (rooms available after 3 pm). You can then visit with old friends at a meet and greet buffet and hear a few words of welcome from the organizing committee. **(D)**

Day 3 / Wednesday November 6, 2024

After breakfast, we gather for an official welcome, introduction to the week-long program, and hear our guest speaker, the UN Force Commander. Lunch will be in the hotel, then board buses for the afternoon program, the first site visit. Return to the hotel will be late afternoon, for an evening of leisure and dinner on your own, at the hotel or one of the restaurants close by. **(B,L)**

Program Highlights:

- Welcome to Cyprus, Introduction to the Program
- UN Force Commander's Address
- Site Visit, 1 Commando Group Deployment
- Evening free, dinner on your own



Marc Caron, 1er Groupe Commando en 1974

Day 4 / Thursday, November 7, 2024

Breakfast and briefing for today's activities. This is your chance to explore the island and get a taste of Cypriot culture and food. Take advantage of one of our full-day excursions or, if you prefer to see Nicosia, one of our half-day tours allowing you to take it easy or visit on your own. This evening we have a special Cypriot Folklore Dinner with music and dances of the island. **(B,L*,D)** *Lunch included in Famagusta Excursion.

Program Highlights:

- Famagusta & Kyrenia (Full Day)
- Curium Ancient Site & Paphos (Full Day)
- Walking Tour of Nicosia (Half Day)
- Centre for Visual Arts & Research (CVAR) Museum
- Cypriot Folklore Dinner & Show



Day 5 / Friday, November 8, 2024

After breakfast and briefing of today's events, we will board the buses for the second site visit and, for those able, an afternoon walk of the Green Line. You can also enjoy a cultural tour in Nicosia or to Kyrenia. Dinner is on your own to explore nearby restaurants or relax at the hotel. **(B)**

Program Highlights:

- Site Visit, Reinforcement & Second Round (AM)
- Walking Tour of Nicosia (AM)
- CVAR Museum Tour (AM)
- Walk the Green Line (PM)
- Kyrenia (Half Day, PM)
- Wine Tasting Tour (Half Day, PM)



ITINERARY

Day 6 / Saturday, November 9, 2024

After breakfast and briefing for today's events, you will board the buses for the last site visit at the Nicosia Airport. Upon return to the hotel for lunch, the afternoon will give you real insight into the impact of the Cyprus conflict through a discussion with Cypriots who lived through it. As well, veterans from our UN partners will join us to share their memories at an informal meet and greet buffet. You are encouraged to be part of today's program or enjoy one of the offered tours. **(B,L,D*)** *Buffet

Program Highlights:

- Site Visit, Airport & Kykko Camp
- 'The Cypriot Experience' Panel Discussion
- UN Partners Meet & Greet
- Troodos Tour (Full Day)
- Lefkara (Half Day)



Day 7 / Sunday, November 10, 2024

Today is a special day to remember our Canadian and Commonwealth fallen at British remembrance services at either Waynes Keep or Dhekelia Cemetery. You may wish to make your own arrangements or join us on one of the offered excursions. We will thank special guests and our Cypriot hosts at the final Commemoration Dinner. **(B,D)**

Program Highlights:

- Remembrance Service Dhekelia War Cemetery
- Remembrance Service Waynes Keep Cemetery
- CVAR Museum (Half Day)
- Traditional Tastes of Cyprus (Full Day)
- Commemoration Dinner



Day 8 / Monday, November 11, 2024

Today, 'Canada Remembers' those who died in the service of peace. A special ceremony will take place at Wolseley Barracks mounted by Canadian soldiers and directed by Veteran Affairs. Veterans, soldiers, and families will gather and remember at a reception in the Ledra Palace after the ceremony. For the remainder of the day, relax, arrange last visits into Nicosia and pack. There will be an informal farewell buffet and chance to say goodbye and have one last brandy sour! **(B,D)**

Program Highlights:

- Canadian Remembrance Ceremony
- Remembrance Day Reception
- Last visit of Nicosia and pack
- Farewell Buffet



Canadian Memorial Wolseley Barracks

Day 9 / Tuesday, November 12, 2024

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to CANADA. **(B)**

***NOTE One night extension available (on request)**



Minor adjustments may need to be made to our program due to the scheduling of local events and security arrangements for ceremonies.

ITINERARY

Cyprus 2024 Program November 2024								
2 Nov	5 Nov	6 Nov	7 Nov	8 Nov	9 Nov	10 Nov	11 Nov	12 Nov
Advance Party + Early Arrivals	4 Nov depart Canada	Welcome Program Overview	Day Excursions Famagusta Kyrenia Paphos	Site Visit Central Prison, Kronberg	Site Visit Airport, Kykko	UK Service Dhekelia War Cemetery	Canadian Ceremony Wolseley Barracks	+ 13 Nov Depart
Airport Transfer	Airport Transfer	SRS&G & Comd UNFICYP Address		½ Day Tour Old City Museum	Tours Troodos Lefkara	UK Service Waynes Keep Cemetery	Post Ceremony Reception	
	Reunion Desk Hotel	Site Visit 1 AB Cdo Group Apr - Jul 1974	½ Day Visit Old City Museum	Green Line Walk ½ Day Visit Kyrenia Wine tour	'The Cypriot Experience' Panel Discussion UN Partners Meet & Greet	Tours Tastes of Cyprus CVAR Museum	Last Visit On Own	Arrive Home Onward Travel
	Meet & Greet		Folklore Dinner			Final Dinner	Farewell Buffet	



COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

SITE VISIT, 1 COMMANDO GROUP DEPLOYMENT (HALF DAY)

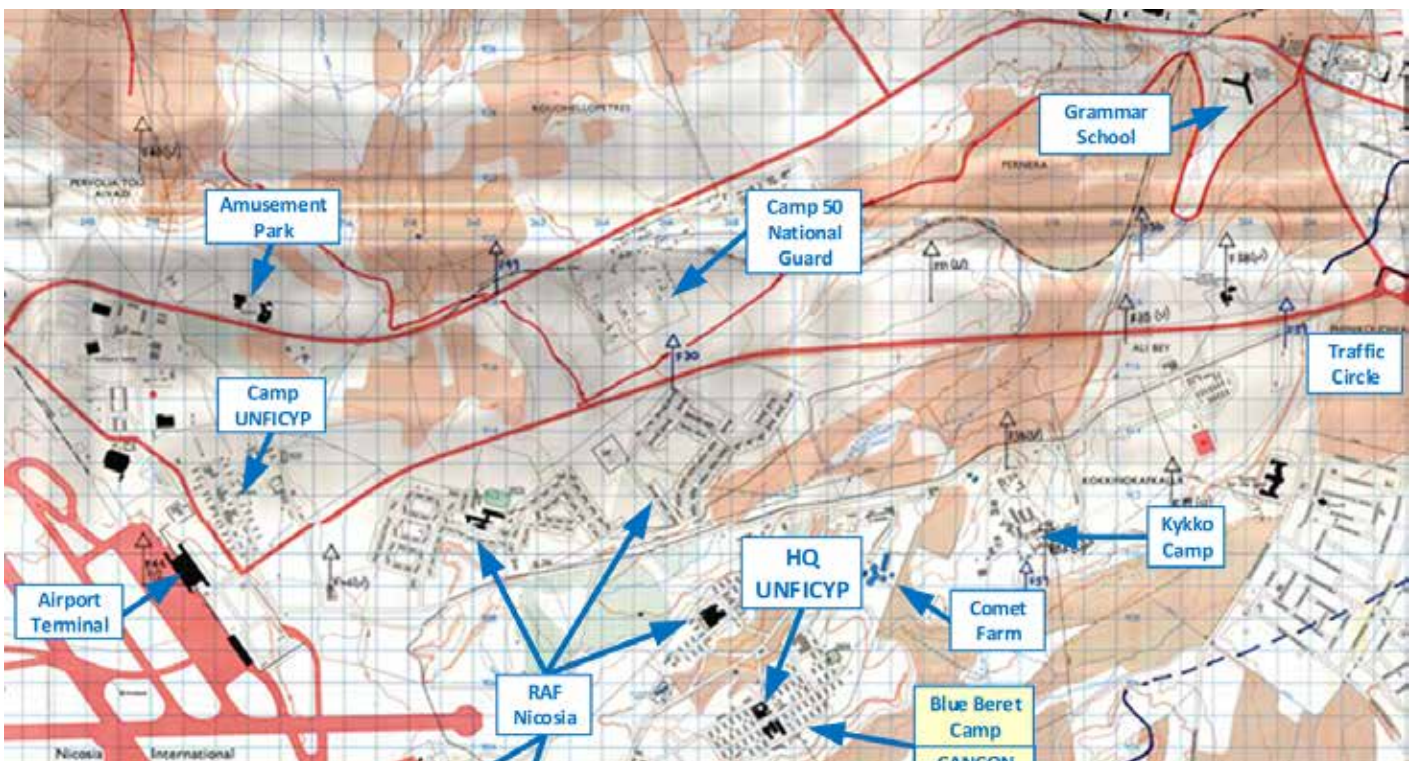
This site visit will focus on significant events and actions performed by members of 1 Commando Group, where Canadian bravery and leadership had a strategic impact on this conflict. The first site we will visit the Ledra Palace one of the best hotels on the island before the coup in July 1974. We will present the events of 20 to 22 July when the members of 1 Commando Group demonstrated leadership and bravery in saving the life of hundreds of tourists and occupying the hotel under the UN flag, this was a first for the UN. We will also visit the location where Para Perron was shot and killed, the first of two casualties we suffered on this mission. The second site we will visit is the Kronberg camp where the HQ of Observation company was located it was also where the officers of the company resided. The events we will discuss here is the evacuation of Turkish soldiers from the camp led by Captain Blaquière and Caporal Plouffe. On this occasion, leadership and bravery was again clearly demonstrated by our members. Several bravery medals were awarded, including Star of courage to Captain Forand. While visiting the Airport later, we will discuss the critical and exceptional contribution of members of 1 Commando Group in the defense of the Nicosia Airport. Without there brave contribution this strategic location would have been lost and affected the outcome of this conflict. We are indebted to the members who lost their lives or were injured during this conflict. We have a duty to remember, and this trip is an ideal opportunity to do so.

SITE VISIT, REINFORCEMENT & SECOND OFFENSIVE (HALF DAY)

The second operational site visit, on November 8th, will commence with a setting the scene over coffee in the hotel and then moving to the buffer zone (Green Line) to discuss activities in the areas of confrontation. It will look at the deployment of the Airborne Regiment, Lord Strathcona Horse (RC) Recce Troop and other attachments into theatre to reinforce 1 Commando Group, plus the reorganization and establishment of observation posts (OPs) and patrol routes. Subsequent actions during the fighting of the second Turkish offensive will be discussed, including the Quick Reaction Force standoff with a Turkish armoured force to deter it from surrounding Nicosia. As well, other actions will be remembered, such as the evacuation of OPs, under fire in most cases, negotiation and resolution of local conflicts, and the reestablishment of Canadian presence once the cease fire was in place. Veterans 'who were there' will be encouraged to share their personal stories on site or by a video interview during the week. The actions of Canadian soldiers saved civilian lives and stopped a war, which needs to be documented and remembered!

SITE VISIT, AIRPORT & KYKKO CAMP (HALF DAY)

The last operational site visit, and opportunity to share your memories from 1974, will be on November 9th at the Airport and Blue Beret Camp. The day will focus on the threat to the Airport and the initial response by UNFICYP of deploying troops from all the contributing nations. The subsequent defence of the Airport by the Airborne Regimental Group, which included British attachments, the threat to Blue Beret Camp, the fight for the Grammar School and the final resolution will be discussed. The Finnish Kykko Camp will be visited, and the story of the evacuation of the Finnish troops by the Airborne Regiment's Delta Company and Lord Strathcona Horse (RC) Recce Troop will be shared. We encourage veterans 'who were there' to share your memories to build the full story of the Airborne Regiment's actions in 1974 and indeed the many stories of Canadian in Cyprus over 60 years.



COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

CENTER OF VISUAL ARTS AND CULTURE MUSUEM

The Centre of Visual Arts and Research (CVAR), located on Ermou Street in the heart of the walled City of Nicosia, opened in 2014. The CVAR is home to the Costas and Rita Severis collections, which include paintings, antique costumes and memorabilia related to Cyprus and its neighbours. Its mission is to promote the culture and history of Cyprus and to become a forum for research, discussion and educational events, in the framework of reconciliation and understanding among all communities of Cyprus. Come to the CVAR for a walk through history and experience the magnificent views described by travelers centuries ago. From CVAR's unique and historic location, visitors can admire the tiled roofs, countless palm trees, historic churches, mosques and monuments of old Nicosia - all with the Pentadakylos as a breathtaking backdrop. CVAR houses a library with over 10,000 volumes available to scholars and casual readers alike, and hosts workshops and seminars in its café and roof garden. In 2024, the CVAR will host a special Canadian exhibit commemorating the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Forces in Cyprus. Dr. Rita Severis is the Canadian Honorary Consul in Cyprus. Reference CVAR website: <https://cvar.severis.org/en/>

THE CYPRIOT EXPERIENCE DISCUSSION PANEL & UN RECEPTION

Cypriots have endured tumultuous periods of history but none more divisive than the 1974 conflict. As the hostilities eased and cease fires negotiated, peace talks separated the island by a 180 km long buffer zone. The human impact was huge, as more than 200,000 Cypriots became refugees in their own country. UN troops worked with the Red Cross and other aid organizations to save lives, give humanitarian relief, and coordinate the massive relocation of Turks to the north and Greeks to the south. We have connected with Cypriots, including former Red Cross workers, who are willing to share their experiences from the 1974 conflict and their perspectives on the impact on Cyprus today, through an informal 'panel discussion'.

As well, we have reached out to UN partners from 1974 to share this memorable reunion. A Swedish contingent of about 80 veterans will be in Famagusta, plus Danish, British, Finnish and Austrian veterans intend to be in Nicosia during our stay. Our UN comrades will join us at site visits and share their memories at an informal meet and greet buffet, the 'UN Partner Reception,' which will follow 'The Cypriot Experience' panel discussion.

REMEMBERING OUR CANADIANS FALLEN IN CYPRUS

The culmination of this week of memories and remembering will be to honour the 28 Canadians who died in the service of peace during the 60 years of OPERATION SNOWGOOSE and the Canadians who have been laid to rest in Cyprus.

On November 10th, we will join two remembrance services of the British Forces in Cyprus, who mark their remembrance on the Sunday closest to November 11th. Veteran Affairs and the Canadian Armed Forces will be participating. The main service will be held at Dhekelia Military Cemetery, located near the British Sovereign Base, Dhekelia. It is a beautiful space, with British military and family graves, and the resting place for nine Canadian peacekeepers from the 1960's. A second service will be at Waynes Keep (Nicosia War Cemetery) which is in a contested area inside the UN Buffer Zone and requiring UN escort. Administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, there are 213 Second World War dead commemorated here, of which six are Canadian air crew, as well as close to 600 British military graves.

On November 11th, the Canadian Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the Peacekeeper Memorial in Wolseley Barracks UN Sector 2 HQ. We will dedicate a Cyprus 2024 plaque commemorating the 60th anniversary of Canada's contribution to the UN Force in Cyprus. Veteran Affairs will lead the service, with Canadian Armed Forces soldiers mounting the guard, sentries and providing music. A reception will follow at the Ledra Palace Sector 2 Officers' Mess for veterans, families and soldiers to be together in the Canadian tradition of Remembrance Day.



Musée CVAR Museum
<https://cvar.severis.org/en/>

Jim Holsworth, Ana Magnitis, Andreas Magnitis, Walter Holmes
Andreas était le directeur du Ledra Palace en 1974
Andreas was the manager of the Ledra Palace in 1974



Cimetière militaire de Dhekelia
Dhekelia Military Cemetery

CULTURAL / SIGHTSEEING PROGRAMS

WALKING TOUR TO NICOSIA (HALF DAY)

Cosmopolitan, glamorous and bustling, Nicosia's capital is a unique blend of ancient and a modern, fast-paced metropolis that is the epicenter of the island's business and commercial activity. It combines the modern and the traditional. You will be transferred by bus at the old city of Nicosia in a short distance. During the bus transfer you will see the recently renovated Eleftherias square, as well as the 19th century Venetian walls that encircled the old city and the statue of Liberty which has a special meaning to the people of the island. From there, we will begin the walking tour passing by the Cathedral of St. John, the Archbishop Palace and through lovely old neighborhoods with houses previous centuries with mixed uses such as residential, commercial and entertainment where they peacefully co-exist. The tour will end at Ledra Street, the busiest commercial pedestrian street in the old town area which is lined with shops, cafes and restaurants. The checkpoint appears at the end of Ledra Street, reminding us that Nicosia is the only city in Europe that remains divided after the Turkish invasion of 1974. After familiarizing with the capital of Cyprus, we will all be gathered at a specific location to board the bus for the transfer to your hotel (NO LUNCH INCLUDED).

TOUR TO KYRENIA (HALF DAY)

Kyrenia is a seaside town of Cyprus which is located on the middle of the north shore. The city flourished after the independence of Cyprus from 1960 onwards, but this was interrupted in July 1974, when it was occupied by the invading Turkish troops. A short distance from your hotel you will arrive at the check point for crossing to the northern part of the island. Be sure to have your passport with you because it is required. Passing from the mountain range of Pentadaktylos and just before arriving at the town of Kyrenia, you will enjoy a panoramic views of the town of Kyrenia and the Mediterranean Sea. Arriving at the centre of the town of Kyrenia, you will visit the medieval fort which dominates the entrance to the harbor and then you will have the chance to stroll around the picturesque Kyrenia Harbor. Then we will travel to the area of Bellapais where we will visit the 13th-century Bellapais Monastery, considered as a masterpiece of Gothic art in Cyprus and built by the Monks in 1198.

TOUR TO CURIUM ANCIENT SITE AND PAPHOS (FULL DAY)

Departure after breakfast and travel towards the outskirts of Limassol town, where the first visit will be at the archaeological site of Curium. Curium was one of the island's most important city-kingdoms in antiquity, it is one of the most impressive on the island, and excavations have unearthed many significant finds, which can be viewed at the site. The magnificent Greco-Roman theatre - the site's centre piece - was built in the 2nd century BC and extended in the 2nd century AD. The theatre has been restored, and is now used for open-air musical and theatrical performances - mainly during the summer months - making it one of the most popular settings for cultural events. East of the theatre are the remains of a prominent building, the 'House of Eustolios', which was originally a private villa that was turned into a public recreation centre during the Early Christian period. Its remains consist of four panels of beautiful, 5th century mosaic floors with a stunning view of the Mediterranean Sea. We then travel to the city of Paphos, where we will visit the Mosaics which are a part of the Archaeological Park of Kato Paphos. The beautifully preserved mosaics floors are considered among the finest in the eastern Mediterranean and have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list since 1980. The "Houses" of Dionysos and Aion are the villas of Roman noblemen that date from the 2nd to the 5th centuries AD. Their intricate floor mosaics depict various scenes from Greek Mythology. Just next to the mosaics is the picturesque harbor of Paphos where there, it stands the medieval castle of Paphos. This harbor is also the place where the Apostle Paul sailed to in order continue his tour of the spread of Christianity. There will be given free time for lunch and on the return, if time permits, we will have a short stop at the Aphrodite's Rock, where according to the legend, the ancient Greek Goddess of Love and Beauty, Aphrodite was born from the sea foam. The area is an interesting geological formation of a huge rock along one of the most beautiful coastlines on the island (NO LUNCH INCLUDED).

FAMAGUSTA & KERYNIA (FULL DAY)

After breakfast, we will start our visit to the occupied site of the island. Our first visit will be Agios Nikolaos Church in Famagusta –(in the 16th century was converted in to a Mosque named later Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque). It was constructed between the years 1298-1312 in the Lusignan period. The Lusignan Kings would be inaugurated as the King of Cyprus at the St. Sophia Cathedral in Nicosia first, and following they would be crowned as the King of Jerusalem at the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Famagusta. Then we continue our visit to Othello's Tower which was built in the 12th Century during the Lusignan period, to protect the town of Famagusta. Our next stop will be Salamis. The history of Salamis goes back to the 11th Century BC. The first inhabitants of the town came here from Engomi after the earthquake of 1075 BC. (it was one of the 12 City Kingdoms of Cyprus During the Ancient Time. It was founded by Tefkros the son of Telemonas who was the King of Salamis in Greece, after the Trojan War. We then pass by the Nestorian Church St. George of the Foreigners and St. Barnabas Monastery. St. Barnabas, born of a Jewish family returns to Cyprus after his studies in Jerusalem and in 45 A.D. starts to work with St. Paul as a missionary for Christianity. Because of his activities he was killed by his compatriots. In the afternoon we will visit the St. Andrew's church in Kerynia and the Kerynia castle. The castle stands on a site that was in use during the Hellenistic and Roman periods of 111-11 B.C, dominates the entrance to the harbor of Kerynia village. The first recorded reference to the castle was in 1911 when Richar the Lion Heart conquered Cyprus on his way to the crusaders. Lunch will be offered at a nearby restaurant before heading back to Nicosia.

CULTURAL / SIGHTSEEING PROGRAMS

TOUR TO TROODOS SQUARE & OMODOS VILLAGE (FULL DAY)

Departure after breakfast and travel towards the Troodos Mountain range, where passing from several villages, will reach the square of Troodos for having a short break. Troodos Square is a picturesque traditional square with pebbly streets where you can spend some time for relaxing before heading to the village of Omodos. The square has kiosks from which you can get souvenirs and traditional Cypriot products of the wider area such as grape products, nuts and honey coated nuts which are highly popular in the area. You can also admire the deep, wide mountain view and feel the pine fresh air. Our next stop takes us to the village of Omodos which is one of the most picturesque on the island and it is also one of the largest wine producing villages of Cyprus. Arriving at the village, you will walk through the cobbled square and visit the medieval wine press and also the monastery of the Holy Cross which is in the centre of the village and contains old icons and excellent wood carvings. The final touch of the day will be the visit at a local winery of the area for having a wine tasting. Lunch will be offered at a local restaurant at Omodos village.

TOUR TRADITIONAL TASTES OF CYPRUS (FULL DAY)

This tour gives you the chance to expand your knowledge of Cypriot nature and countryside while also discovering traditional flavors. Departure after breakfast (suggested departure time at 08:30hrs) and head to the mountainous area of Larnaca where the road will take us to the village of Vavla. There, you will meet young enthusiastic people who own a beekeeping business. When you arrive, you will have a short lecture about the life of bees and beekeeping before being led to the glass hive. Then you will have the opportunity to taste the traditional "pishies," which are small round pastries fried and drizzled with honey. The next stop will be at the village of Choirokoitia where you will see a renovated old traditional house of 1850 which another enthusiastic young man converted it into a workshop and a museum. There, you will be able to see how the traditional Cyprus cheese halloumi is made as well as have an authentic experience of the traditional Cyprus brunch which includes homemade bread, halloumi cheese and anari cheese, olives, boiled eggs, honey and carob syrup and lemonade. In the same premises, you will see unique weaving exhibits made of reed 'pokalami' made by the hands of the owner. The last visit will be at the traditional village of Lefkara having a stone architecture and being famous for its silversmith and handmade embroidery. The crafts of lace and silver have been practiced in the village since the Venetian times. According to the legend, Leonardo Da Vinci visited the village and bought an altar cloth which donated to the Cathedral of Milan (NO LUNCH INCLUDED).

MORNING OR EARLY AFTERNOON TOUR TO LEFKARA VILLAGE (HALF DAY)

Located in the Larnaca region, the mountainous village of Lefkara is world-renowned for its traditional handicrafts of lace embroidery and filigree silver. The village is situated at the foot of the Troodos Mountains in the south eastern region, 650 meters above sea level. The crafts of lace and silver have been practiced in the village since Venetian times, and visitors can learn all about them, and watch the lace and silver being made at the various workshops within the village. Legend has it that the famous painter, Leonardo da Vinci himself visited the village in 1481 and bought a lace altar cloth, which he donated to Milan cathedral. The character of the village is very picturesque with its narrow, winding streets and traditional architecture of old, terracotta-roofed houses.



Parc Archéologique Paphos Archaeological Park



Nicosie Vieille Ville / Nicosia Old City

TOUR COSTS in CAD*

*Rate based on currency exchange applicable at time of printing (July 2023)

Cyprus Tour

Per person, based on twin-share **\$3,990**
Single supplement **\$890**

7 nights Executive Room Upgrade

Add per person, based on twin-share **\$350**
Add, single room **\$700**

Pre-tour hotel nights, standard room

Per person, per night, based on twin-share **\$175**
Single, per night **\$285**

Pre-tour hotel nights, executive room

Per person, per night, based on twin-share **\$215**
Single, per night **\$385**

INCLUDED

- Accommodation at HILTON NICOSIA
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Wine/beer, soft drinks with organized lunches and dinners
- Wifi at the Hilton Nicosia
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- All excursions listed in the itinerary: Transfers, Buses, Guides, and applicable entrance fees
- Special events and commemorations
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Local taxes and service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare Canada –Larnaca – Canada
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote)
- Drinks with meals (unless noted)
- Hotel portorage
- Items of a personal nature

GROUP FLIGHT OPTION in CAD

We will offer a group flight option based on the tour dates:

Nov 4: Toronto/Vancouver – Larnaca

Nov 12: Larnaca – Toronto/Vancouver

Booking the group flights will allow you to pay for your airfare in the spring 2024 – along with the balance for the tour.

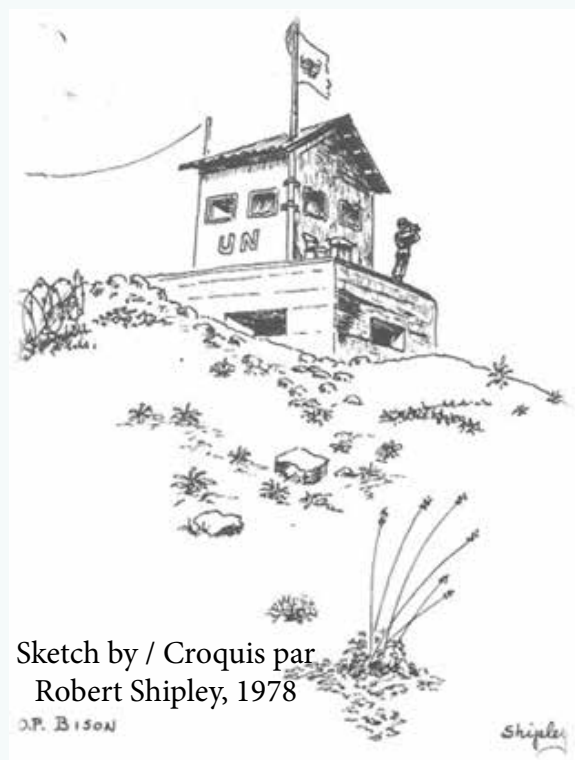
Our group flight details/airfares will be available at the end of September 2023.

Should you wish to make your own flight arrangements, extend etc., availability and costs change continuously. If you wish to secure specific flights at a certain cost, you will have to book/pay for your flights at the same time.

POST TOUR ADD ONS

Make the most of your time overseas and consider some of our optional extentions:

- **HOLY LAND CULTURAL TOUR**
Petra/Jordan add on available
- **NILE CRUISE**
 - 7 day cruise with Amawaterways (Pre and Post Programs available)
- **TRANSATLANTIC CRUISE**
Lisbon to Florida onboard Azamara
- **ISTANBUL & CAPPADOCIA**
1 week special highlights program
- **AFRICA SAFARI**
7 - 10 day private programs
Kenya/Tanzania, possibly South Africa
- **CITY STOP OVERS**
depending on your airline chosen, Athens, Vienna, London, Paris would make perfect sense for a 3-4 day stop over en route or the way home



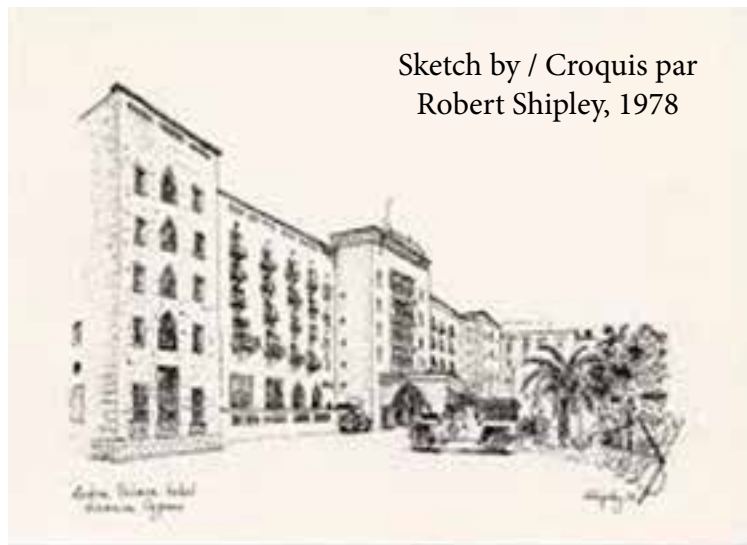
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Robert Shipley, 1978

REGISTER TODAY



3 Ways to Register

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Click this [link](#)
3. Visit our website sticanada.com/cyprus24



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FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$1000 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1,500 pp due by March 31, 2024
Balance due by September 4, 2024
Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until October 31, 2023	\$200 pp
Nov 1, 2023 – Mar 31, 2024	\$700 pp
Apr 1, 2024 – Sep 4, 2024	\$2,500 pp
From Sep 4, 2024	100% non refundable

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



Vue de Nicosie depuis l'hôtel Ledra Palace, 2022
View of Nicosia from the Ledra Palace Hotel, 2022



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TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

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