

## **Highlights about Cyprus**

### ***Location***

Cyprus is the third largest island of the Mediterranean, strategically linking Europe, Africa and Asia.

### ***EU Membership and Currency***

Cyprus has been a member of the EU since 1 May 2004. Its currency is the Euro since 1 January 2008.

### **Total Area, population and principal cities**

The total area of Cyprus is 9,250 km<sup>2</sup> with a coastline of 648 km and a population of 858,000.

### **The principal cities of Cyprus**

are Nicosia (the capital), Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos.

### **Languages**

The official language is Greek, although English is the principal business language and is spoken by the large majority of the people on the island.

### **Political System**

Cyprus is a Presidential Democratic State.

The Executive authority is vested in the President, who is elected for a 5-year term by Cypriot citizens, and is exercised by a Council of Ministers appointed by the President.

The Legislative authority is exercised by the House of Representatives, whose Members are elected by Cypriot citizens every 5 years. The administration of Justice is exercised

by the Judiciary, which is a separate and independent body.

### **Infrastructure**

Cyprus offers excellent road, air and sea transport solutions and services. Cyprus

has two multi-purpose deep-sea ports, located in Limassol and Larnaca. The two modern international airports in Larnaca and Paphos, offer their services to approximately 10 million visitors per year, connecting the island to popular transit hubs throughout the world including Athens, Vienna, London, Dubai and Moscow.

### **Lifestyle**

In Cyprus, one can enjoy a high standard of living. Cyprus is well known for its rich culture, the hospitality of its people, its sunny weather, clean and beautiful beaches and an abundance of outdoor activities. At the same time, Cyprus offers an ideal place to raise a

family with good education and healthcare systems and one of the lowest crime rates within the EU.

### **Education**

Cyprus has over 20 reputable English-speaking primary and secondary schools. In addition, Cyprus offers internationally recognised colleges and universities. The island ranks among the highest in the EU in respect of university graduates in proportion to its population.