Upon the waves

The enchanting Mediterranean

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La belle bleue

The Mediterranean Sea is a nearly completely enclosed intercontinental body of water, surrounded by the shores of southern Europe, North Africa, and Asia stretch from the Strait of Gibraltar in the west to the gateways of the Dardanelles and the Suez Canal in the east, encompassing an expanse of around 2.5 million square kilometers. Its connection to the Atlantic Ocean via the Strait of Gibraltar measures 14 kilometers in width.

It derives its name from the remarkable notion of being a "sea in the heart of the land," expressed in Latin as "mare mediterra ».

In the annals of history, the Mediterranean emerged as a vital maritime artery, fostering the flow of commerce and the rich tapestry of cultural exchange among the diverse peoples of the region—the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Persian, Phoenician, Carthaginian, Berber, Greek, and Roman civilizations. The legacy of the Mediterranean is crucial to understanding the roots and evolution of Western civilization.

The Mediterranean climate unfolds with a gentle embrace of wet and mild winters, followed by the passionate heat of dry summers. Yet, the transitions between these seasons can unleash a fierce intensity. Torrential rains may descend, overwhelming the parched earth that has endured prolonged drought, sometimes delivering the equivalent of three months' worth of rain or even more, depending on the latitude. This phenomenon often leads to frequent flooding, a testament to nature's power. The tides here are subtle, and the rate of evaporation surpasses that of the Atlantic Ocean, leading to a higher salinity and warmer water temperatures that distinguish this vibrant region.

The Alliance for the Mediterranean

A transformative framework now connects the Mediterranean nations with the Member States of the European Union: the Union for the Mediterranean, or UfM, uniting 43 countries and 775 million people.

This initiative was inaugurated by the Euro-Mediterranean heads of state and government during the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean on July 13, 2008, fueled by "the common political will to relaunch efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation, and prosperity" (excerpt from the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean). The UfM draws upon the rich historical, geographical, and cultural bonds that link Europe and the Mediterranean nations. It is inspired by the endeavors initiated in 1995 under the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Process, which involved 39 governments.

The Mediterranean Summit of the European Union (EUMed)

The UfM is dedicated to fostering the execution of regional projects that are collaborative, tangible, and beneficial to citizens. The initial projects concentrate on purifying the Mediterranean, establishing maritime highways, enhancing civil protection, exploring alternative energy sources, and developing a Mediterranean solar plan. Education, culture, and business growth hold the potential to inspire further initiatives.

Some figures: Surface area: 2.51 million square kilometers (0.66% of the world's ocean);
Dimensions: 3,860 km spanning from east to west and 1,600 km stretching from north to south;
Perimeter: 46,000 km of breathtaking coastline;
Maximum depth: 5,267 meters;
Average depth: 1,500 meters. Some of its depths stand shoulder to shoulder with the vastness of the oceans, such as in the Ionian Sea (5,121 meters in the Calypso10 submarine trench) and in the Tyrrhenian Sea (3,731 meters);
Volume: 3.7 million cubic kilometers;
Tidal range: from 0 to approximately 2 m, with an average of 40 cm;
Water renewal: roughly 90 years;
Average salinity: about 3.8%;
Most significant rivers: Rhone, Ebro, Chelif, Medjerda, Nile, Nahr Al Assi (Orontes), Büyük Menderes (Meander), Aliakmon, Po, Adige.
Contribution of fishing: around 2% of global fisheries.

The Mediterranean Sea is beautifully divided into two unique basins, separated by the shallows that lie between Sicily and Tunisia: the Western Mediterranean and the Eastern Mediterranean, each with its own distinct character. The Western Mediterranean spans an area of about 0.85 million square kilometers, while the Eastern Mediterranean encompasses approximately 1.65 million square kilometers.

The prominent islands of the Mediterranean, distinguished by their grandeur, historical significance, and the influx of visitors, are:

Cyprus, Rhodes, Lesbos, Euboea, and Crete to the east;
Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, and Malta at the heart;
Majorca, Minorca, and Ibiza, forming the beautiful Balearic archipelago to the west;
Djerba, located in the enchanting southeast of Tunisia.

BALEARIC ISLES

COMUNITAT AUTÒNOMA DE LES ILLES BALEARS

Flag

Emblem of heritage

Country Spain

Capital(and largest city)
Palma

The Balearic Islands are one of Spain's autonomous communities. They are an archipelago located in the Balearic Sea, consisting of five main islands — four of which are inhabited — as well as numerous islets divided into two geological groups:

The Gymnesian Islands, which include Mallorca, Menorca, Isla del Aire (ES), and the islets of Cabrera, Conillera, and La Dragonera.
The Pityusic Islands are made up of Ibiza, Formentera, and the islets of S'Espalmador, Isla de Espardell (ES), and Tagomago.

The capital, Palma, is located on the largest and most populated island — Mallorca. From a geolinguistic perspective, the Balearic Islands fall within the Catalan-speaking area, alongside Catalonia and the Valencian Community.

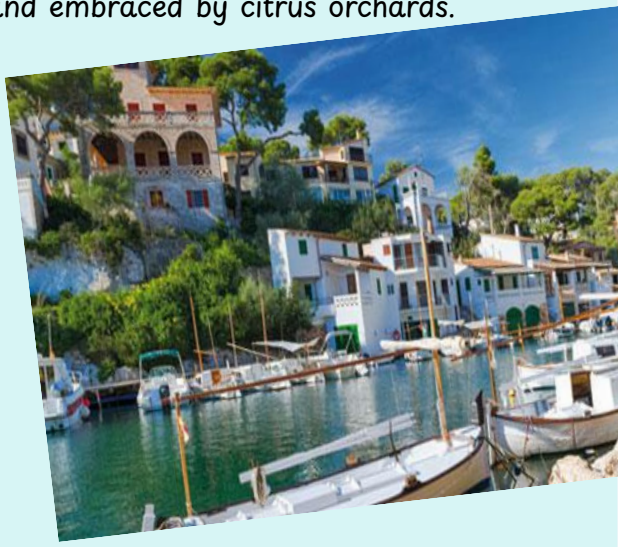
The name of the Balearic Islands is rooted in the Greek term Βαλλιαρεῖς, a designation that has echoed through the corridors of classical antiquity. Roman and Greek writers suggest that this name stems from the remarkable prowess of its inhabitants as stone throwers (baleareis). These exceptional individuals are none other than the slingers, the valiant military unit of the islands. Therefore, Baleares translates to 'slingers'.

The Balearic Islands have been shaped by a rich tapestry of influences from a myriad of civilizations.
(Greeks, Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, French, English...) who have journeyed through the archipelago since ancient times.

Balearic Archer

These islands are among the most visited destinations in the western Mediterranean and attract millions of tourists each year, thanks to their stunning landscapes and a sunny Mediterranean climate. There are still wild coves and inlets, beautiful beaches set against cliffs and mountains, as well as a relatively well-preserved natural environment.

Mallorca (Majorque) is celebrated for its coastal retreats, its sheltered coves, limestone peaks, and remnants of Moorish and Roman heritage. Palma, the vibrant capital, boasts a lively nightlife, the majestic Moorish Royal Palace of Almudaina, and the stunning 13th-century Palma de Mallorca Cathedral. Quaint villages like Pollença, known for its art galleries and music festival, and Fornalutx, gracefully nestled on a hillside and embraced by citrus orchards.



Approximately 70% of its gross domestic product is derived from tourism, a vibrant sector that has flourished since the 1960s. For both Germans and British travelers, Mallorca stands out as one of the premier holiday destinations in Europe, drawing countless visitors from afar. An intriguing 7% of the island's permanent population hails from Germany, earning Mallorca the playful moniker "Seventeenth Land." The island's traditional agricultural practices focus on the cultivation of various plants: wine (Binissalem), almonds, olives, carob, as well as lemon and orange trees, alongside a rich variety of vegetables that continue to thrive. However, it is important to acknowledge that agriculture is facing a steady decline in Mallorca.

Fishing remains a cherished tradition for a handful of families in Mallorca, much like in Ibiza, where the art of fishing is lovingly handed down from father to son. The once enchanting fleets of small boats that graced many Mallorcan ports have given way to trawlers, driven by the pursuit of greater productivity. Meanwhile, the salt pans, once the lifeblood of islands like Ibiza and Formentera, face an uncertain future. Their prominence has faded, and they are now on the brink of vanishing from the landscape.

Djerba

(ar)جربة

Flag

Emblem of heritage

Pays	Tunisia
Population	163 726
Density	318.53 /km2
Region	2 514 km2

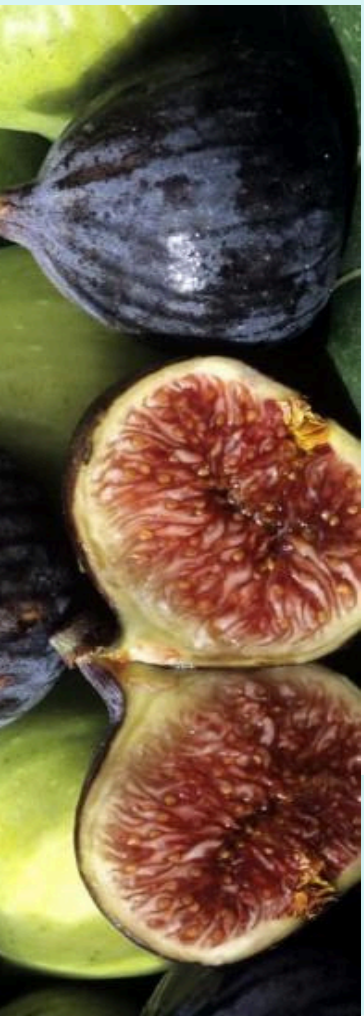
Djerba, sometimes spelled Jerba, is a captivating island nestled on the eastern coast of Tunisia. As the largest island along the North African coastline, it lies gracefully southeast of the Gulf of Gabès, serving as a guardian to the entrance of the Gulf of Boughrara. Its vibrant main town, Houmt Souk, is home to 42,992 of the 163,726 Djerbians. Once known as Gerbi or Zerbi, this island has a rich history; Ulysses is said to have traversed its shores, the Carthaginians established several trading posts, and the Romans constructed cities that flourished with agriculture and maritime trade. Under the successive influences of Vandal, Byzantine, and Arab rule, Djerba has blossomed into a beloved tourist haven since the 1960s. The island proudly showcases the enduring legacy of one of the last Tunisian Berber dialects, the commitment to Ibadism among a segment of its Muslim population, and a vibrant Jewish community whose roots trace back to the destruction of Solomon's Temple. Djerba is seamlessly connected to the mainland, with a ferry linking Ajim to Jorf in the southwest and a seven-kilometer road extending to the southeast, including The earliest construction traces its origins to the close of the 3rd century B.C, nestled between the charming town of El Kantara and the picturesque Zarzis peninsula.

Once connected to the mainland, Djerba mirrors the harmonious contours and geological essence of the tabular landscape that graces the southern coast of Tunisia. This enchanting island boasts a flat terrain, with an average elevation of 20 meters, while its pinnacle, Dhahret Guellala, ascends gracefully to 53 meters in the southern region. Djerba enjoys a Mediterranean climate, yet it leans towards a semi-arid character, positioned at the intersection of Mediterranean and Saharan air currents. The average annual temperature rests at a comfortable 19.8 °C, with monthly averages seldom surpassing 30 °C or dipping below 8 °C. The majority of the yearly rainfall is condensed into just three to four showers, as the dry season commences in April, and the summer months often remain untouched by rain. Humidity and the gentle embrace of night dew are two elements essential for the island's vegetation.

IBADI MOSQUE SIDI YATI IS A BEACON OF SPIRITUAL HERITAGE, A TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING FAITH AND ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY THAT INSPIRES ALL WHO VISIT.

Djerba, boasts a wealth of traditions: the array of jewels (for many years, the craft of jewelry-making was the sole domain of Jewish Djerbians) and traditional attire, including the distinctive hats from specific villages like Guellala and Sedouikech, a culinary landscape that shifts from one locale to another, and the unique characteristics of its music (historically performed by musicians and vocalists predominantly of African descent) embody the rich tapestry of the island's inhabitants, their languages, their culture and rites.

Djerba's economy thrives on a harmonious blend of land, sea, and artisanal resources. While tourism has emerged as the island's foremost asset, the economic landscape is also enriched by agriculture. The island's favorable climate nurtures a diverse array of flora, including olive trees, pomegranate trees, date palms, fig trees, apple trees, almond trees, and prickly pears adorned with their thorny fruits.



Barley couscous (malthoutha) accompanied by fish or dried meat and delicate anchovies, dried vegetables (ouzaf) stand as the crown jewels of the island's culinary treasures. Yet, the allure of dishes like egg brik, chickpea soup, and mechouia salad continues to captivate the hearts of many. A distinctive feature of Djerbian cuisine lies in its unique cooking techniques, where nearly every ingredient is lovingly steamed, from semolina to fish, vegetables and meat.

Malta is an island nation in Europe, located in the heart of the Mediterranean. Situated 93 kilometers south of Sicily, it consists of an archipelago of eight islands, four of which are inhabited, along with several islets and rocks.
With a total area of 316 km^2, it is the smallest country in the European Union.
In 2013, the population was 446,547.
Malta also has the highest population density in the EU, with 1,413 inhabitants per km^2.

Emblem of heritage

CULTURAL LEGACY

Malta stands as a beacon of history, celebrated for its myriad temples, ruins, and cultural treasures, earning it the title of an "open-air museum." This remarkable archipelago boasts an unparalleled concentration of historical sites, surpassing that of many nations across the globe. In the heart of Valletta, one can find an astonishing 320 historical monuments nestled within a 55 hectares! A true world record!!!

Capital : Valletta

Overall expanse : 316 km2

Total population : 446547

Republic of Malta

Malta's history stretches back to the Neolithic period, intertwined with that of Sicily. Its pivotal position between the western and eastern Mediterranean has attracted the attention and control of numerous powers throughout the ages. It remained under the influence of a dominant maritime force until it achieved independence.

Malta embraced its independence from the United Kingdom on 21 September 1964, and has proudly been a member of the European Union since 1 May 2004, as well as joining the Eurozone on 1 January 2008.

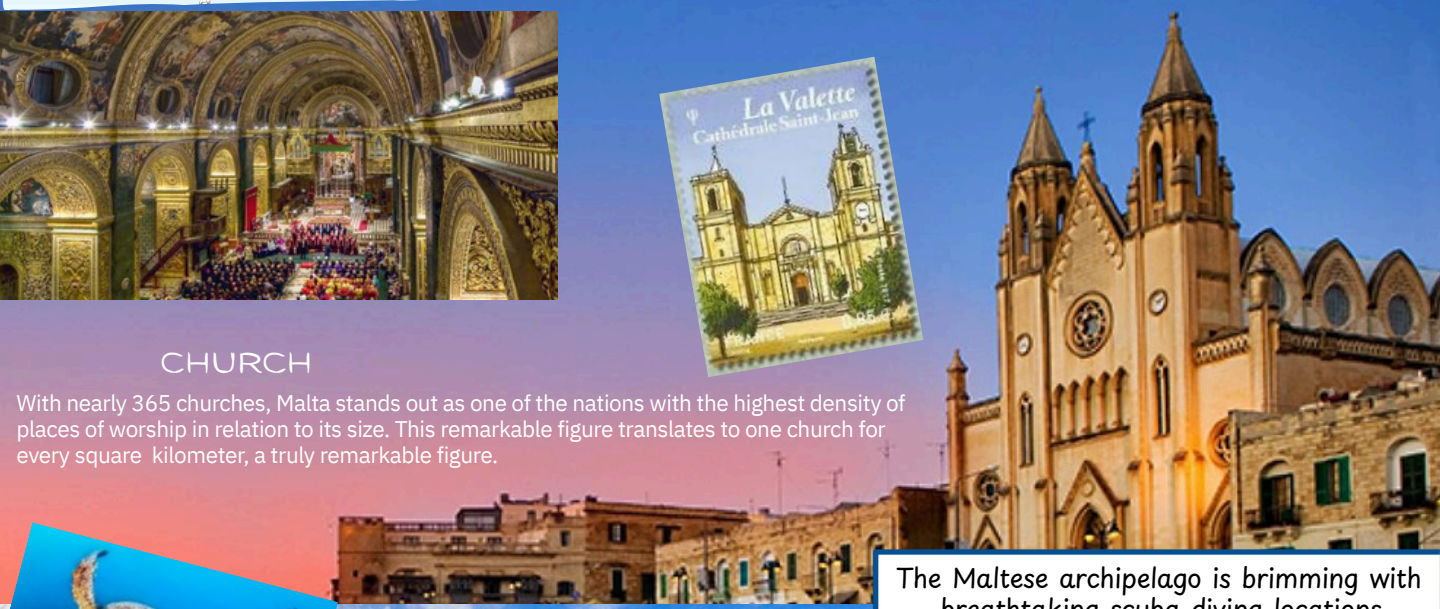
KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

Jean De Valette, Grand Master of the Hospitallers of the Order of Saint John, is especially celebrated for his unwavering support during the siege against the Ottomans. of Malta from 1565, having established and bestowed its name upon the present capital of Malta, Valletta.

Malta's economic treasures lie in its limestone, strategic geographical position, and a diligent workforce. Yet, the island meets merely 20% of its food requirements and faces challenges with limited water resources.
restricted and lacks its own sources of energy
The economy thrives on foreign trade, serving as a vital transshipment hub for maritime freight, while also flourishing through tourism and industry, particularly in the realms of electronics and textiles.

Tax enhancement

Given the challenges Malta faces in competing with the economy of Sicily, which is under 100. Kilometers, the island has cultivated a compelling tax framework for foreign enterprises and a system of confidentiality for individuals with bank accounts, provided they are residents of Malta.



CHURCH

With nearly 365 churches, Malta stands out as one of the nations with the highest density of places of worship in relation to its size. This remarkable figure translates to one church for every square kilometer, a truly remarkable figure.

The Maltese archipelago is brimming with breathtaking scuba diving locations. The marine wonders of Malta, encompassing wrecks, caves, reefs, and caverns, present a remarkable opportunity to delve into the enchanting seabed, all made possible by the country's warm and crystal-clear waters. A unique feature of this paradise is that many of these sites can be reached directly from the shore, eliminating the need for a boat! Recently, Malta has been celebrated as the premier diving destination in the Mediterranean and ranks among the finest in the world.

Republic of Cyprus

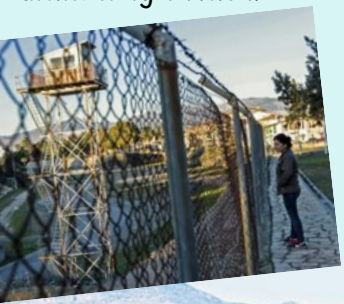
Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία1 (el)

Flag

Chypre, is a remarkable state nestled in the embrace of the eastern Mediterranean Sea, in the Levantine Basin. While Cyprus is situated near the Middle East and stands as the sole significant Mediterranean island in Asia, it remains deeply rooted in European culture and politics, embodying a unique blend of influences part of the European Union.

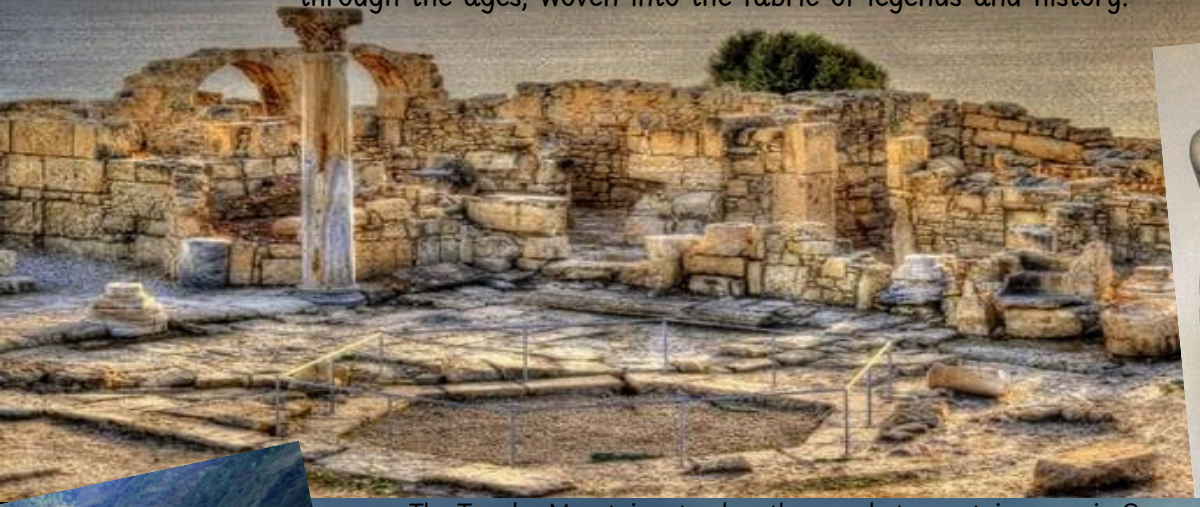
Since the dawn of civilization, the island has stood at the intersection of significant currents.
Trade, a vibrant tapestry woven over centuries, embraced diverse cultures from Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece, and the expansive Levantine basin. The name "Kupros" ("Κύπρος"), meaning copper, pays homage to the rich deposits of this precious metal that brought the island both renown and prosperity throughout the Mediterranean. Cyprus also flourished with an abundance of spices and lush plantations. The island's history is a remarkable saga, marked by a series of influences: Hellenic, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Frankish, Venetian, Ottoman, and ultimately British.

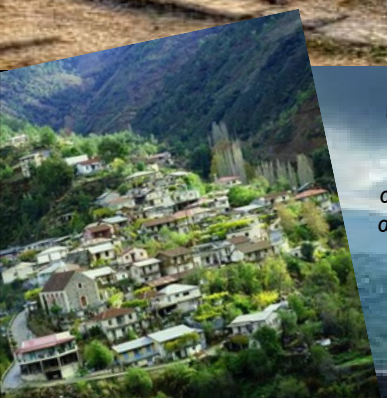
A land where the sun graces the skies throughout the year, Cyprus presents a breathtaking transformation of scenery, showcasing its rural, mountainous, and coastal vistas. Yet, this independent republic, embodying Hellenic, oriental, and cosmopolitan influences, carries a deep scar: a genuine Greek tragedy unfolds on either side of the Green Line that separates Nicosia, the capital, turning it into the Berlin of the Mediterranean.



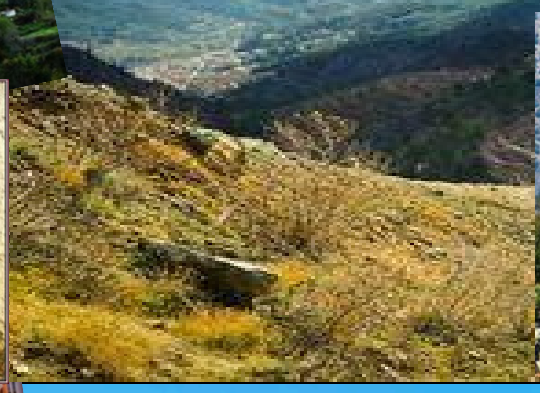
Nicosia, however, beckons for a deeper exploration. Bearing the poignant title of the last divided city in Europe, the Cypriot capital reveals two distinct identities: a Greek essence in the south and a Turkish spirit in the north. At the heart lies the "Green Line," a UN-managed border that emerged after three decades of complete separation. From the Mediterranean allure of South Nicosia to the architectural wonders of North Nicosia: two contrasting realms, intertwined by their shared history and now linked by a checkpoint.

According to ancient tales, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, emerged from the foam at the moment the sea meets the rugged rocks along the shores of Paphos. This enchanting origin is why Cyprus is often referred to as "the island of love." Here, stunning mosaics and sacred sanctuaries embrace the azure and turquoise waters, while frescoes and icons adorn flower-filled villages, serving as the cherished meeting places of the beautiful Aphrodite. Though this occurred in a distant past, the memory and allure of the goddess of Love continue to resonate through the ages, woven into the fabric of legends and history.



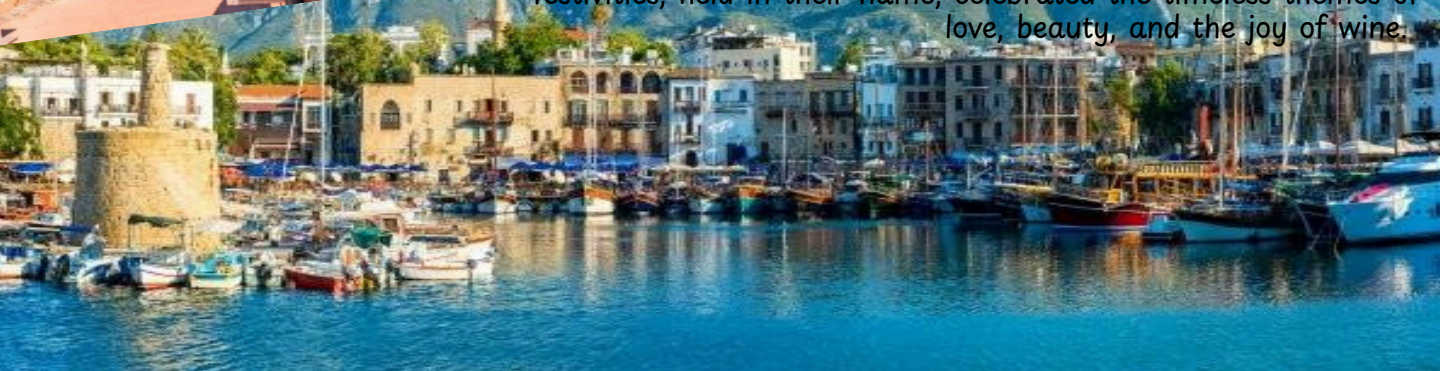


The Troodos Mountains stand as the grandest mountain range in Cyprus, nestled in the heart of the island. At its pinnacle lies Mount Olympus, soaring to 1,952 meters above sea level. This remarkable region has been recognized and inhabited since ancient times for its copper mines. It transforms into a a significant hub of Byzantine artistry during the Byzantine era, with churches and monasteries constructed in the mountains, away from the perilous shores. Nine churches and one monastery in Troodos stand proudly recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Limassol, the Heart of Vine and Wine

Limassol stands as the most significant winemaking hub on the island, with the city proudly earning the title of the wine capital of Cyprus. Beyond the economic factors that paved the way for the festival, there are indeed historical elements at play. The cultivation of vines in Cyprus traces back to the very essence of the Cypriot identity. Furthermore, since ancient times, the celebrations honoring Aphrodite have seamlessly intertwined with those dedicated to Dionysus. These vibrant festivities, held in their name, celebrated the timeless themes of love, beauty, and the joy of wine.



Crete

Κρήτη (el)

It is the sacred ground where Zeus first drew breath, lovingly shielded by his mother Rhea, safeguarding him from the insatiable hunger of his Father Cronus. Zeus came into the world within the sacred embrace of a cave on Mount Ida. There, he was nurtured and protected by the gentle hands of nymphs and the fierce guardians known as the Curetes.

It is the realm of affection between Zeus, transformed into a bull, and his beloved Europa, a union that will bring forth Minos, the fabled king of Crete.

Minos' wife, Pasiphaë, enchanted by the allure of a bull sent by Poseidon, she brought forth the legendary Minotaur. This creature was confined by Minos in The labyrinth, crafted by the brilliant architect Daedalus. The site of this intricate maze, identified by ancient scholars at Knossos, is believed by some archaeologists to correspond with the location of the Minoan palace unearthed in that area.

The cleverness and bravery of Theseus and Ariadne empowered them to vanquish the Minotaur and find their way out of the labyrinth. At last, Daedalus and his son Icarus embark on a daring quest to flee the island, relentlessly pursued by the wrath of Minos. To achieve their freedom, Daedalus crafts magnificent wings, skillfully binding the feathers with wax. Tragically, Icarus meets his fate by soaring too near the sun.

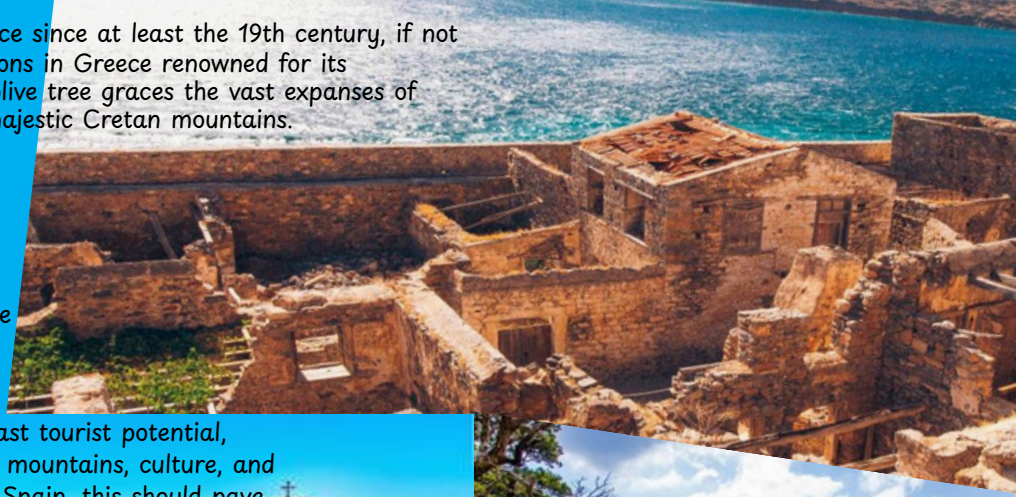
On the crossroads of Europe and the Orient, gazing towards Africa, Crete stands as a legend in countless ways.

The island of Crete has served as the backdrop for countless tales of Greek mythology:

Crete stands as the birthplace of the Minoan civilization, with Knossos beating at its heart as the most significant archaeological treasure.

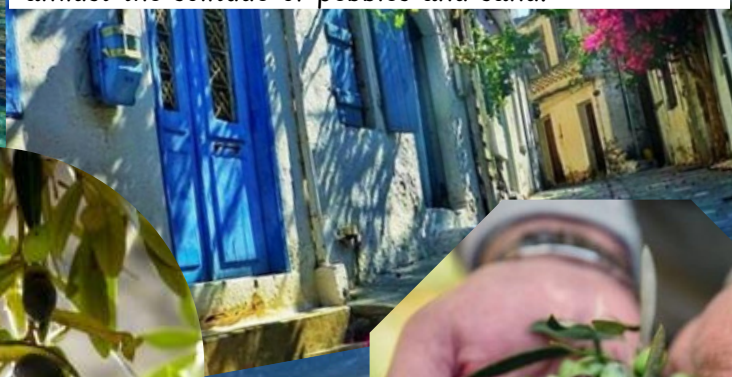
Crete has been a significant presence since at least the 19th century, if not Since ancient times, one of the regions in Greece renowned for its abundant olive oil production. The olive tree graces the vast expanses of the plains, hills, and slopes of the majestic Cretan mountains.

Sheep and goat farming is experiencing a downturn, yet wild goats continue to grace the landscape. Agricultural plantations, such as tomatoes and early vegetables, thrive amidst this change reap the rewards of extraordinary sunshine, yet stay confined.



Crete's flourishing asset lies in its vast tourist potential, harmoniously blending the sea, sun, mountains, culture, and archaeological treasures. Much like Spain, this should pave the way for a more diverse tourism that cherishes both the environment and the rich Cretan heritage.

This rugged and majestic island presents landscapes that can be both stark and breathtaking, adorned with jagged peaks that blaze under the sun's fierce embrace and are caressed by the warm winds from Africa. Isn't the southern coast of Crete embraced by the azure waters of the Libyan Sea? This distinctly eastern dryness is beautifully tempered by the vast, lush green cloak of olive trees.
In serene valleys or atop majestic hills, Orthodox monasteries and gleaming white chapels
Across the ages, in pristine locations. There, shores accessible only on foot unveil their serene beauty amidst the solitude of pebbles and sand.



Crete proudly boasts approximately 35 million olive trees.

Sicily

The flag of Sicily, adorned with the three-legged gorgon (Trinacria), symbolizes the three points of the island.

Sicily, is an autonomous region of Italy. The island that shares its name, comprising 98% of this region, stands as the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. While the official language is Italian, it boasts its own unique spoken and written language.

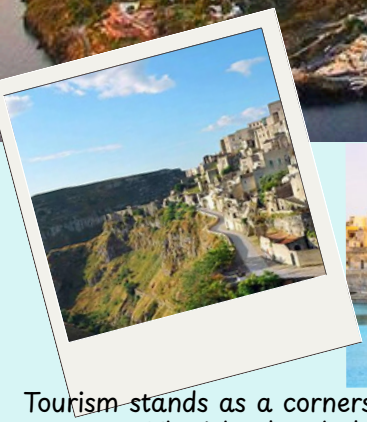
The diverse landscapes of Sicily do not permit to ascribe a uniform climate to the whole island. Nestled in the southern part of the Italian peninsula, the island typically enjoys a Mediterranean climate, characterized by gentle, humid winters and scorching, arid summers.

More than 2,500 years at a pivotal intersection of the Western world have gifted Sicily with a remarkable historical legacy. The Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, French, Germans, Spanish, Italians, and even the British have all etched their unique marks upon this land like nowhere else. This enigmatic island, where once the joyful wanderer Odysseus roamed, continues to captivate the imagination. docked, radiates extraordinary beauty.

A captivating allure woven from the rich tapestry of archaeological treasures that narrate the ancient beginnings of the people of Trinacria (the historic name of Sicily) and the myriad monuments that stand as testaments to an artistry shaped through the ages. Whether your heart is drawn to the majestic Greek temples, the elegant Roman villas and aqueducts, the grand Norman cathedrals, or the exquisite Baroque churches, Sicily presents a remarkable array of historical sites that are truly rare to encounter elsewhere.

Situated at the convergence of the Eurasian plate and the African plate, the
The region and its neighboring islands are shaped by powerful volcanic activity. Sicily stands out for its majestic volcanoes, particularly Mount Etna, which rises to an impressive 3,330 meters, making it the highest point on the island. Additionally, other craters can be discovered to the northeast, within the Aeolian Islands: Stromboli and Vulcano.

Etna, the most magnificent active volcano in Europe (3350m), reigns over Sicily, in the southern part of Italy. From a morphological perspective, it is a grand mountain of fire that encompasses a vast expanse on the eastern side of the island



Tourism stands as a cornerstone of the Sicilian economy. The island truly boasts a rich and diverse array of tourist experiences, seamlessly blending various aspects of travel. coastal, organic and artistic.

Sicily boasts an exceptionally favorable environment for agriculture, largely due to its rich volcanic soil and nearly perpetual sunshine. Indeed, it stands as a significant producer of wines, olive oil, vegetables, wheat, almonds, pomegranates, and citrus fruits, particularly lemons and mandarins, and even bergamots (the papyrus).

Nearly 67% of the island's surface is dedicated to cultivation. The blending of cultures has beautifully enhanced the island's culinary landscape. It is through Sicily that the vibrant flavors of the East have made their way into Italy. Presently, Syracuse stands as the sole location in Europe where one can discover Egyptian-style papyrus. Fishing holds significant importance in coastal communities. Salmon fishing ranks among the primary pursuits. Swordfish is cherished as one of the beloved dishes of the Sicilian people. Some villages continue to uphold the art of traditional fishing, known as pursuit in the Strait of Messina.

Corsica

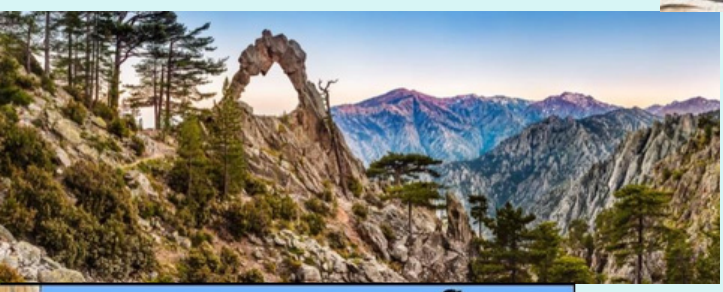
Corsica, is a captivating French island and a vibrant community a distinctive geographical entity situated in the Mediterranean Sea.

The fourth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, Corsica was united with the Republic of Genoa for almost four centuries before proclaiming its independence on January 30, 1735. In 1755, it embraced the first democratic constitution ever recorded in history.
contemporary granting the privilege of voting for the first time
to women. On May 15, 1768, it was entrusted by Genoa to the France, reluctantly, as it perceives itself asself-sufficient. It was subdued through military might by the Kingdom of France, lords of the battle of Ponte-Novo, the May 9, 1769.

Daughter of the “Mother Mediterranean”, Corsica has embraced the myriad influences of the Basin. It proudly acknowledges the inspirations it has drawn upon. Harsh and tragic, secret and wild. Yet, any endeavor to capture the essence of the Corsican landscape inevitably encounters its own boundaries. The beaches are undeniably heavenly, the coves ultra-secret, and the mountains "inevitably" steep, rugged, and formidable.
Corsica is a thrilling blend of rock and lushness, simplicity, and fragrances of a faraway isle.

PASCAL PAOLI WAS A REMARKABLE FIGURE, EMBODYING THE SPIRIT OF A CORSICAN GENERAL, THE VISIONARY LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT CORSICAN NATION, A DEVOTED PATRIOT, AND A BEACON OF ENLIGHTENMENT IDEALS.

The island's economy is based on a complex equation. With tourism accounting for 31% of the regional GDP, it plays a major role in Corsica's economic structure. The island has very few natural resources and no raw materials. Beyond agriculture, one of its main assets is tourism. Corsica ranks among the bottom three French regions for GDP per capita, and it has the lowest rate of employed workers in France.



Corsican agriculture displays two distinct faces: one oriented toward the mountains, the other toward the coastal plains.

Viticulture is the island's leading agricultural activity, representing 50% of production.

Traditional orchards are declining, but citrus groves—covering 2,300 hectares and primarily made up of clementine trees—are expanding.
Forage crops and cereals also play an important role.
Although there are fewer breeders, herd sizes have almost doubled, and the quality of livestock is a genuine asset.
Cattle farming is the most common, yet sheep are still well represented, especially dairy sheep whose milk is used to produce many cheeses.
Pigs, raised freely, provide excellent meat used in Corsica's famous charcuterie.
Mussel and oyster farming is especially significant, making Corsica a national leader in aquaculture.

Crossing the Corsican mountains from northwest to southeast, the GR 20 has, for years, established itself as the benchmark for long-distance hiking trails in Europe. Described as one of the most difficult on the continent, it is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and spectacular.