

Ancient Cypriot Kingdoms



'B REGIONAL SCHOOL OF NICOSIA

January 2016

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Paphos: is the modern mythical birthplace of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty. The founding myth is interwoven with the goddess at every level, so that Old Paphos became the most famous and important place for worshipping Aphrodite in the ancient world. In Greco-Roman times, Paphos was the island's capital, and it is well known for the remains of the Roman governor's palace, where extensive, fine mosaics are a major tourist attraction. Paul the Apostle visited the town during the first century AD. The town of Paphos is included in the official UNESCO list of cultural and natural treasures of the world's heritage.

February 2016

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Salamis: was an ancient city-state of Cyprus. It was located at the eastern coast of Cyprus, at the mouth of river Pedieos, 6 km North of modern Famagusta. According to tradition, the founder of Salamis was Teucer, son of Telamon, who could not return home after the Trojan war because he had failed to avenge his brother Ajax.

March 2016

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Kourion: is one of the most stunning archaeological sites on the island. It was a great city kingdom and today new treasures are still being discovered there. What is most prominent in this site is the Greco – Roman amphitheatre. Villas with extravagant mosaic floors and an early Christian Basilica are among the treasures that are found here. The splendid amphitheatre was built in the 2nd century B.C. and since its restoration, is used for theatre and music performances.

April 2016

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Kition: Unfortunately what remains of ancient Kition pales in comparison to what it once was in its heyday. Only the bases of a few structures remain. Kition was one of Cyprus' most prosperous city-kingdoms. It had the most important commercial port in ancient Cyprus. Modern day Larnaka would literally would have to be torn apart to uncover more of Kition. The nearby Larnaka District Archaeological Museum houses many artifacts found at the Kition archaeological site. Its exhibits also show that there was international relations between Cyprus and other area in the world via Kition's port.

May 2016

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Amathus: Situated near the vicinity of Agios Tychon, the ruins of one of the biggest ancient kingdoms of the island lay here: Amathus, which was also a royal city. It derived its name from Amathusa, the mother of King Kinyras from Paphos. According to folktale, the city of Amathus was home to one of the sons of Heracles, who incidentally, was worshipped there.

June 2016

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Soloi: is an ancient Greek city , located southwest of Morphou and on the coast in the gulf of Morphou and dates back to about the 6th century BC. Originally, Soloi was located in a much constricted geographical location. At its current location, the whole urban centre was designed by Solon during his 10-year trip, after whom the name Soloi is commonly attributed. Reyes, however, disputes this etymological origin, as the name Soloi appears on the Esarhaddon prism predating Solon's visit Soloi was one of the ten city-kingdoms into which Cyprus was divided at the time. What remains today is mainly from the Roman period, most notably the mosaic floor of the basilica with its wealth of birds, animals and geometric designs and a picture of a swan.

July 2016

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Marion: was situated in the north-west of the island in the Akamas region. The city was founded in the 7th century BC and grew wealthy from the nearby copper and gold mines. It also served as an important trading port for both metal and timber. The current port of Latchi, is built on the foundations of this ancient harbour, where its remnants are visible to this day. In 450 BC, the city was conquered by the Athenian general Kimon during his Cyprus campaign. He was pursuing the Persians following the Battle of Salamis in an attempt to reestablish Athenian supremacy in the Eastern Mediterranean. It was eventually destroyed in 312 BC by Ptolemy I and was later replaced by the nearby city of Arsinoe .

August 2016

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Tamassos: is located in southwest of Nicosia, on the left bank of the river Pediaios. The larger part of the ancient town lies under the modern villages of Politiko, Pera and Episkopio.

It seems that Tamassos was founded around the 8th century B.C., in an area which was already inhabited from the Late Bronze Age, and until the first half of the 7th century it became into an important city-kingdom of Cyprus.

September 2016

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Idalion: one of the ancient kingdoms of Cyprus, was, according to tradition, founded by Chalcantor. Excavations have shown that the city was inhabited towards the end of the Late Bronze Age, when the acropolis became a fortified stronghold with a cult place. This later became the place of the Temenos of Athena, whom the Phoenicians identified with their own Anat. On a terrace below the top of the acropolis are remains of the royal palace, uncovered by trial excavations

October 2016

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Ledroi: was an ancient city-kingdom located in the centre of Cyprus where the capital city of Nicosia is today. It was established in 1050 BC but by Hellenistic times (330 BC) it had dwindled to a small village. At times, it had been subject to Assyrian rule.

At around 280 BC, the city-state was renamed Leukotheon, after the son of the Egyptian king Ptolemy.

Ledra was one of ten Cypriot kingdoms listed on the prism (many-sided tablet) of the Assyrian king Esarhaddon (680–669 BC). The most famous king of Ledra was Onasagoras. Ledra Street in Nicosia, Cyprus is named for Ledra.

November 2016

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Lapithos: The city Kingdom of Lambousa/Lapithos was started by Spartan Greeks in the 12th century BC but subsequently taken over during the island's Persian rule by the Phoenicians before becoming a thriving port during Roman and Byzantine times. Lambousa/Lapithos is one of the twelve Cypriot Kingdoms.

December 2016

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Chytroi :was an ancient city-state in ancient Cyprus. Located in the center of the island, in the valley of Kythrea near Nicosia. In the Middle Ages e Chytroi was the first city in Cyprus that embraced Christianity and was bishop but are known only 8 of them the bishops today. The city was destroyed in 806 AD by the Saracens who also burned it.