



## 3 Days Trip Guide at Machairoxoria

### Day 1:

#### Kalo Chorio Orinis & Gourri

Kalo Chorio Orinis is situated 30 km southeast of Nicosia. Our itinerary proposal firstly includes 'Aes Ambelis' winery for a tour and a unique wine tasting experience. A must see nature site is Geosite 3 along the Maroullena river also called "Pikrovrysi tis Merikas". Here you will encounter one of the most important and spectacular exposures of the Lower Pillow Lavas. You can also enjoy a hike along the nature trail which is about 4,7 km. Near the village center you will encounter an old aqueduct, a complex of 8 pits that were connected to each other by an underground deep burrow, as well as, the old and new Churches of Agios Georgios. You can also visit an ancient mining gallery carved in oxidized lava rock whose intense shades of oxidation (yellow, red, orange) piqued the interest of ancient miners in their search for copper ore. Getting back on the main road again, you can have a stop at the Merika picnic

area which offers facilities for visitors including a barbecue area. Down the main road you can take a right turn if you want to visit the village dam, built in 1945-1946. Driving up the mountain you will find the small mountainous village of Gourri. Don't miss to visit the village church which dates back to the beginning of the 16th century. If you are interested in tradition and folk art then you should arrange a visit at the Museum of Folk Art, housed in an old stone-built village house. A weaving workshop operates at the old primary school on a daily basis and employs eight young women from the village. You can also enjoy a nature walk along the "Palia Vrysi" (meaning "Old Fountain") nature trail which is 3 km long. Along the way you will cross the river through the 11 wooden bridges and reach a natural waterfall of 8 meters height at the end of the nature trail. For lunch or dinner you can visit the Revekka Restaurant or Saint George Mezedokamomata situated at the village square. Finally, at the village of Gourri you have a selection of guesthouses to choose from.

### Day 2:

#### Fikardou & Lazanias

Fikardou is a picturesque mountainous village that will give you the feeling of traveling back in time. The village preserves the name of a medieval family of Cyprus while the houses in the village were carefully restored to preserve the character of the 18th century folk architecture. Two of these houses -the House of Katsinioros, and the House of Achilleas Dimitris- have been turned into museums, exhibiting rural items and depicting rural life in years past. The beautiful village church of Apostles Peter and Paul dating back to the end of the 15th century will certainly attract your attention. You can also enjoy a hike along the 2km long Lazanias-Fikardou Linear Nature Trail which will offer you a panoramic view of the surrounding region. The trail also links up with the Machairas-Lazanias and Fikardou-Archontides restaurant trails. Enjoy a delicious traditional meal at Giannakos tavern, housed in a restored building which preserves the traditional rural

architectural elements. The only accommodation offered in the village is the cozy and friendly bed and breakfast Fikardou Boutique Suite. If you are at the village on a Sunday then you will have the opportunity to visit the renovated old school which operates as an Embroidery Museum. Whereas, if you are in Cyprus during the Christmas season then for sure you shouldn't miss the magical Fikardou Christmas Village. Lazanias is another small, traditional village with a history going as back as the Late Byzantine times although its name appears later, coming from the Frankish Family of the Lusignan. A must see attraction in the village is the wood-carved church of Saint George built in 1855. The artfully carved "gynaecoonitis" (area reserved for women), the three earthenware jars that are planted on the floor of the church and the magnificent handmade chandelier made of tins (tinplate) will impress you. Enjoy a stroll around the narrow picturesque alleyways of the village and try to find the Jerusalem Cross (part of the Lusignan Coat of Arms) carved on a rock which is part of a house masonry. Situated at the southeast of the village Machairas



monastery is one of the three Royal and Stavropegic of the island and houses the miraculous icon of Panagia (the Virgin Mary) of Machairas, which is attributed to Agios Loukas (Apostle Luke) the Evangelist. The family tavern 'Mageia Lazania' is located in the center of the community and here you can taste authentic Cypriot dishes. The Hadjikyprianou Museum Studio offers unique accommodation at a renovated traditional house.

heart of Santa Irene's vineyards, Ierambelos restaurant is all about quality Cypriot fusion cuisine, exceptional wine and good old fashioned hospitality. When it comes to food you have a collection of quality options in Farmakas. Enjoy Mezedes & Cypriot Breakfast at "Taverna tou Vraka" or enjoy a famed brunch at the 1842 Cafe all made of seasonal products from the village. Farmakas Festival "Kopiaste" is usually organized in October and is a unique experience for all visitors. Also, on May 5th the village's church, dedicated to Agia Eirini, celebrates with thousands of believers visiting for the local fair. The agroturistic guesthouses of Farmakas Living will offer you a comfortable, cozy and friendly accommodation in the village.

Kampi Farmaka is a small village at an altitude of 860 meters which dates back to the Frankish period. "Kleisidkias" River passes through Kampi village whose banks are connected by two stone bridges of the 19th century. You can enjoy coffee, traditional brunch or

### Day 3:

#### Farmakas & Kampi tou Farmakas

Farmakas is an idyllic mountainous village situated at an altitude of 980m with a history that goes back to the Byzantine times. The top of the highest peak at Framakas village "Sielidonomouti" will give you the most breathtaking view. South of the village, in a lush environment, the visitor will see the famous water spring of Farmakas. A rare phenomenon occurs as the water gushes from the earth, as if coming out of a sieve, from which the name of the spring "Koskinas", emerged. While in the village try Eleni's spectacular, wide range of jams and homemade sweets. Of course since the village is famous for its tomato production you need to try Mrs Maria's tomato products. If you are a wine lover then don't miss a visit to the local winery of Santa Irene and enjoy a memorable wine tasting experience of the awarded wines produced at the site. At the

lunch at the "Potamos" family restaurant. If you want to experience the natural environment of the village then take a hike down the "Aidonia" nature trail which is 1200 meters long. Along the way the visitor can rest on a bench next to a tree house that was originally built by children and has now been renovated. Six trunks from the same plane tree, hold the tree house. You can also visit the stone built church dedicated to Saint George and celebrated on April 23rd. It dates back to the 17th century and what makes it special are its wood carvings. Near the church is a small community museum which exhibits traditional and the ecclesiastical objects.





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# MACHAIRO CHORIA



## 1 Lazanias

Lazanias village is within the district of Nicosia and is built at an altitude of 900 metres. It saw its creation back in 1160, when monks Ignatios and Prodomos suggested that all surrounding communities of the area be merged together, thus forming Lazanias. Its name

has historical ties to the Lusignans.

What stands out when taking a stroll through the narrow, cobblestone pathways of Lazanias, is the brick-tiled residences adorned with charming balconies and intricately designed windows and entrances. The traditional imagery of the village marks a quaint and enchanting atmosphere that welcomes you to notice every little detail. Lazanias is home to churches of notable architectural and archaeological significance, such as the wooden-carved 19th century St. George Church. Visitors can also witness the Heroes Monument, which was erected back in 1957 in honour of a band of warriors against England, and inspired by the heroism of Gregoris Afxentiu.



## 2 Gourri

Gourri village is a small mountainous village within 36 kms from Nicosia and at an altitude of 720 metres above sea level, known for its authentic Cypriot character and captivating scenery. Archaeological discoveries that have been made throughout the years, point at the village of Gourri being an inhabited area since the 5th century A.D.

The village has seen significant development in recent years, with the Museum of Folk Art being established in 2015, as one of the latest attractions to add to its picturesque historical character. St. George's Church remains a primal tourist spot, with parts of it dating all the way back to 1906.

With lush landscapes and hiking trails ideal for nature lovers, visitors can discover the majestic Mavritsios Waterfall among pine trees and an abundance of greenery, especially during the winter season.



## 3 Fikardou

Fikardou village is a historic area that has retained its authentic, traditional mediaeval character and stands as a true testament to Nicosia's rural heritage. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1978, Phicardou is owned by the Department of Antiquities and is practically deserted.

However, the village holds incredible charm, history and traditional architecture that truly deserves to be admired, offering a glimpse into the island's past at every corner. Sitting at an altitude of 900 metres, Fikardou is surrounded by pristine natural beauty and marks an ideal starting point for hiking into the Troodos Mountains.

The tiny church of Apostles Petros and Paul in the centre of the village, dates back to the 18th century, with most houses still preserved in Fikardou also embracing a Byzantine-style architecture along traditional winding alleyways.



## 4 Farmakas

Farmakas is perched on the slopes of Troodos Mountains, about 40 kms from the centre of Nicosia, and marks a great destination for embracing breathtaking landscapes and a cooler climate. The centre of the village finds the basilica-styled, stone-built Church of Santa Irene, located near Farmaka's coffee shop, allowing visitors to take in its natural beauty and heritage.

Famous for its lush vineyards and traditional wine productions, Farmakas has retained its authentic Cypriot character. The Saint Irene Winery also allows visitors to savour local wines while enjoying panoramic views of the village and its surrounding natural beauty. Farmakas is renowned for its abundance of local produce. With a thriving agricultural community, it boasts the cultivation of a variety of fresh vegetables and fruits, with the village also hosting its own Tomato Festival every October.



## 5 Kampi

Kampi, nestled in the heart of the Troodos Mountains, is a charming village situated in the Nicosia district, and uniquely positioned among dozens of mountain tops that encircle a valley, creating a rather distinctive countryside allure, with the Marulena River flowing through.

The village is known for its clean atmosphere and the cultivation of vineyards and wine production by its few residents. With signs pointing to Kampi's existence dating back to the mediaeval times, it has maintained its traditional character with stone-built houses and narrow, scenic streets.

Kampi provides a tranquil retreat that allows for visitors to reconnect with nature, as the village's wide range of trees and cyclamen create a truly stunning natural surrounding, which can also be admired through the nature trail into the valley.

