

Discovering  
Cyprus

# Beach Guide

by Andreas Papadopoulos



## Limassol Beaches and Coastline

With aerial photographs never seen before  
Including main archaeological sites

# The romantic east

**The eastern side of the Limassol** district welcomes you with excellent beaches and some magnificent limestone rocks running along its coastline. These beautiful white sedimentary rocks often protrude into the navy blue sea offering spectacular views on a bed of dark grey-black sand. There are several organised beaches with two Blue Flags at Governor's Beach followed by a long stretch of limestone coastline ending at the pebble beach of Agios Georgios Alamanos. A monastery bearing the same name can be found nearby.

The name "Governor's beach", originates from the time of the British rule of Cyprus, when the Governor had his summer house at this lovely place. The historical name of the area is "Kalymnos", named after the visiting sponge divers from the renowned Greek island of Kalymnos.

Regarding the seashore, at first the coastline runs in a southwesterly direction and thanks to the headland on the south side, the sea is mostly calm and without waves during the summer months, unlike to most of the beaches in the Limassol district. This feature makes the beach a favourite for families with kids, even though the sea shore deepens rather sharply. After the headland, the coastline runs in a westerly direction and becomes exposed to southern winds, which often result in rough seas. The isolated sandy coves found in between the chalk rocks turn into small private beaches while the absence of organised watersports make the entire stretch ideal for relaxation.



Governor's Beach (Section A')

Certified Blue Flag Beach



SAND, ROCKS

Governor's Beach (Section B')

Certified Blue Flag Beach



SAND, ROCKS



## Main beach / coastline characteristic

White rocky coastline consisting mostly of **chalk**, a type of limestone, of the Lefkara Formation, as it is known in Cyprus. Chalk is a carbonate rock, primarily containing disintegrated shells of marine life. It is a fairly hard material and can withstand erosion well. Chalk mixed with silt and clay results in marl, which is softer and dissolves in the sea, often resulting in murky water. Marl is also responsible for the white coating you might get on your clothing from lying on some of the large rocks in the area.



## General information

<i>Length of beach / Coastline:</i>	6 km
<i>Number of beaches:</i>	2 (Blue Flag), 1 semi-organised
<i>Number of lifeguard stations:</i>	2 (July – August only)
<i>Ease of access:</i>	Mixture of paved and good quality dirt roads
<i>Public means of transportation:</i>	Bus from Limassol departing at 10:00 from the old port and leaving from Governor's Beach at 16:15 (June – September only). Cost: €1.5/person each way



Governor's Beach  
Agios Georgios Alamanou Coastline

Non Organised



ROCKS, SAND

Agios Georgios Alamanou Beach

Semi Organised



PEBBLES, ROCKS





# 1 Governor's Beach (Section A')

Governor's Beach (Section A') offers the perfect balance of a beautiful natural setting and mild human intervention. **Dark grey sand with graceful white chalk rocks protruding into the navy blue sea** are complemented with sunbeds, umbrellas and nearby amenities, making your visit here both relaxing and comfortable.

The coastline is divided into several organised beaches and small sandy coves, separated by the natural sedimentary white rocks. The eastern section of the beach welcomes you with a lovely green setting and a children's playground leading to one of the most scenic cafés in Cyprus overlooking the Mediterranean sea. The beach itself is located below the chalk cliffs and can be easily accessed using one of the several ramps or steps which can be found near the café. Heading west, you will find another organised beach in a truly magical setting, under beautiful eucalyptus trees.

The Blue Flag beach has a nice sandy shore and in combination with the usually calm sea is ideal for kids to enjoy. Nevertheless, care should be taken around the protruding rocks and specifically diving into the shallow waters should be avoided. Couples will particularly enjoy the intimate sandy coves, peaceful atmosphere and romantic walks along the sea shore. Facilities such as showers (at a small fee), toilets and changing rooms can be found at the restaurants above the beach. A camping site is also located just above the beach.

It is worth spending a full day at Governor's beach, where apart from the sea, visitors can enjoy a good meal at one of the several restaurants, offering Cypriot cuisine and delicious fresh fish dishes.



### Type of Beach



**Sand  
Rocks**  
Pebbles  
Seashells

### Beach Facilities



**Lifeguard  
Umbrellas & Sunbeds  
Toilets (ecological)  
Showers & Ch. Rooms**

### Terrain / Access



**Flat Ground  
Uneven Surface  
Steps**  
Full Disabled Access

### Nearby Facilities



**Snack Bar (w)  
Restaurant  
Supermarket**  
Hotel

### Visitors



**Children**  
Few  
**Some**  
Many

### Activities

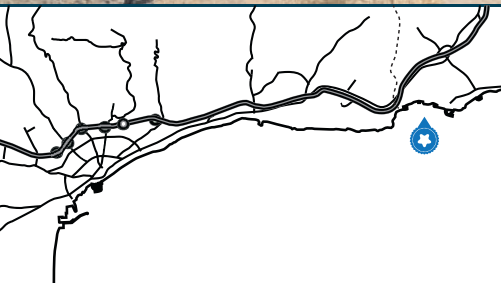


**Watersports  
Scuba Diving  
Snorkelling  
Walks in Nature**

### Atmosphere



**Relaxed  
Romantic**  
Party  
Lots of Activity



### Beach directions and access

Governor's Beach is well sign-posted on the highway and lies about 10km East from the main hotel area in Limassol. After taking the exit from the highway, follow the signs until you reach a T-junction with signs for "Kalymnos" in the left direction. After about 300m you can find the camping site and thereafter the parking lot for the beach. For people with disabilities, it is best to continue driving past the parking lot and follow the dirt road which leads straight to the sea-shore.

# 11 Vouppa Beach (Mediterranean Hotel and Four Seasons Hotel)

Certified Blue Flag Beach

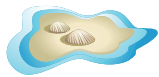


The feeling of **luxury** continues in this part of the seashore as the nearby hotels maintain a spotless and well organised beach in a relaxing green setting. The main cove of Vouppa Beach is about 200m long and is well protected from winds, making swimming possible under most weather conditions. Swimmers can be found here throughout the year, including the winter months.

This sandy Blue Flag cove is divided into three sections. On the eastern side you can find the beach attendant George, who has been there for almost three decades and still has the same pleasant approach, always aiming to please his customers. The middle section is run by the Mediterranean Hotel. Here non-residents may rent sunbeds and umbrellas at standard prices and at the same time enjoy the excellent hotel services while lying at their sunbeds. The western section is operated by the Four Seasons Hotel and as with other luxury hotels, sunbeds may not be rented by non-residents, but visitors can get to enjoy all of the hotel's amenities (including its spa) by buying the daily hotel package, which costs about 30€ per person. On the other side of the cove there are sunbeds also for rent and a well-run watersports centre, offering all kinds of activities including sailing, jet-skiing and parasailing.

Lifeguard services are provided during the months of April to November. Well organised public showers and toilets facilities (with access for disabled persons) can be found along the coastal footpath next to the cove.



**Type of Beach**

**Sand**  
Rocks  
Pebbles  
Seashells

**Beach Facilities**

**Lifeguard**  
**Umbrellas & Sunbeds**  
**Toilets** (ecological)  
**Showers & Ch. Rooms**

**Terrain / Access**

**Flat Ground**  
Uneven Surface  
Steps  
Full Disabled Access

**Nearby Facilities**

**Snack Bar (w)**  
**Restaurant**  
**Supermarket**  
**Hotel**

**Visitors**

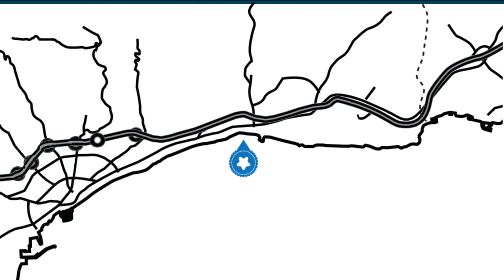
**Children**  
Few  
**Some**  
Many

**Activities**

**Watersports**  
Scuba Diving  
Snorkelling  
**Walks in Nature**

**Atmosphere**

**Relaxed**  
Romantic  
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**Beach directions and access**

Vouppa Beach is located along the city's main coastal road, on Amathountos Avenue. Coming from the city, turn left into the street exactly opposite the entrance to the Four Seasons Hotel and follow the road to the municipal parking. Once you park, walk to the right of the hotel, onto Ellados street, which takes you straight to Vouppa beach. Alternatively, you may drive past the Four Seasons Hotel and take the next left turn and proceed making a circle back on to Amathountos Avenue. Turn left onto Ellados street and park at the end of the road (very limited spaces).



## 30 Zapalo Bay

Located right under the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates, Zapalo Bay is **probably the most spectacular beach** in the Limassol district. It is a large bay which combines steep cliffs, fine brown sand, white rocks and crystal-clear deep-blue waters. The view from the top of the bay is stunning. The first thing that strikes the eye are the submerged rocks, remnants of an old port, and the two small piers currently used by local fishermen. It takes some time to figure out how the fishermen maneuver in between the reefs.

The west side of the bay has beautiful fine brown sand, shallow waters, making it ideal for relaxation. The large cape protects this part of the bay from south-westerly winds, resulting in completely calm seas, where the only sound you can hear is the singing of birds flying in and out of their nests in the steep cliffs behind you. The feeling is magical.

Moving towards the east part of the bay, you can find some old dinghies, lying on the shore or underwater, before reaching a wooden bench under a tent, one of the few spots for shade on the beach. Then you will come across the two piers but please be advised not to climb on these piers as they are rather unstable and have no guard rails. The far eastern side of the bay is more rocky and the sea tends to be rough. Large flat rocks make great 'orthopaedic' sunbeds to lie on but do make sure you take a hat, sunglasses and plenty of water with you.





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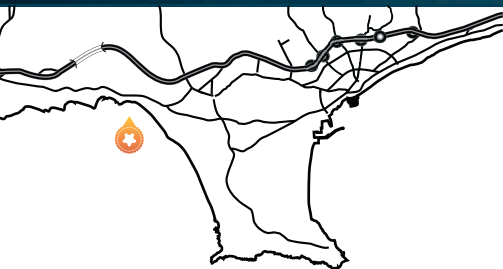


Watersports  
Scuba Diving  
Snorkelling  
**Walks in Nature**

### Atmosphere



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Romantic**  
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### Beach directions and access

Zapalo Bay is located off the old Limassol – Paphos road (B6) in the area of the British Bases. Heading west, once you pass the signs for the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates, turn left after about 250m and drive towards the sea. The beach is hidden by the steep cliffs, making it difficult to spot from the road. Please note that access to the beach is only by a 4-wheel drive car or by foot (about 20 minutes' walk).

# The ancient city of Amathounta

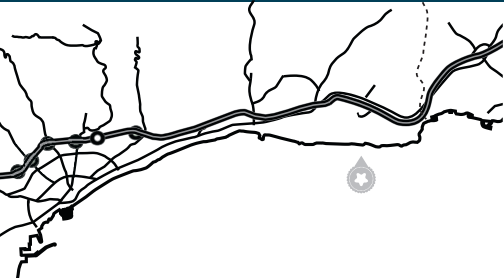
Amathounta, one of the ancient kingdoms of Cyprus, dates back to the 11th century B.C. when it was inhabited by the autochthonous population of Cyprus, and survives until the 7th century A.D. when it was raided by the Arabs and abandoned. Its history blends myth and archaeology, the most notable myth being that of Theseus who brought his wife Ariadne to Amathounta after killing the Minotaur in Crete. According to Greek historian Plutarchos, Ariadne died at childbirth and was buried in a sacred tomb on the Acropolis of Amathounta, which was then dedicated to Aphrodite.

The main areas to visit are the ancient forum or 'Agora', the Acropolis, the Palace and the port, which is now underwater. Starting from the 'Agora' you can see the impressive Doric columns, an aqueduct, the public baths ('balaneion') from the Hellenistic period and past the stone paved court, the Roman baths. At the top of the hill lies the Acropolis, with the ruins of the Roman Temple of Aphrodite and Ariadne's tomb. Here, you can also see a replica of a huge monolithic jar 1.85m in height and 2.20m in diameter, bearing various inscriptions on it, including a bull, symbol of male fertility (the original jar is exhibited at the Louvre).

The view from the Acropolis is breathtaking.

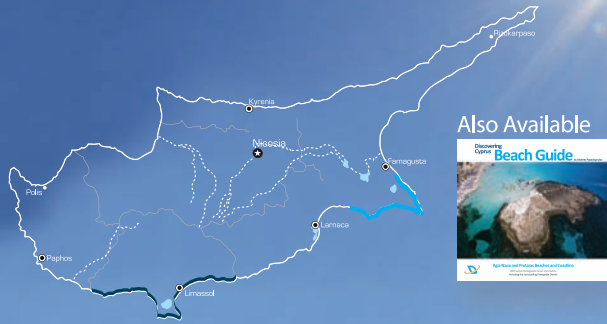
Coming down, you can see parts of the walls of fortification of the town and the Palace which was built in the 8th century B.C. On a calm day you can also see the submerged port, the building rocks of which were taken and used to build the Suez Canal.





### Directions and access

The Amathounta archaeological site can be found on the Limassol coastal road, heading East right after Vouppa beach. It is clearly sign-posted. There is a small fee of €2.50 to enter into the enclosed 'Agora' area, while visits to the rest of the ancient city is free of charge. Visiting hours are daily 08:30-19:30 in the summer and 08:30-17:00 in winter. It is best to visit late afternoon or early morning as there is little shade in the area. It is also worth noting that by the end of 2014 the Department of Antiquity will place descriptive signs at key locations and a 3-page summary will be provided upon entry into the 'Agora' area.



*"the most comprehensive  
beach guide I have seen..."*

Anthony Maras, filmmaker, Australia

## Content includes:

- Description and directions to 35 beaches and coastline areas in the Limassol District
- Large coastline map with all beaches and coastline points of interest
- Bus and bicycle routes and stations

## Where to find:

Blue Flag beaches and hidden sandy coves  
Food and drink by the beach  
Beaches ideal for children and disabled people  
Water-sports facilities

## Sights to visit:

Ancient city of Amathounta  
Ancient city of Kourion  
Medieval Castle of Limassol  
Kolossi Castle  
Limassol zoo

**and much more**

