

LEGAL PORTS OF ENTRY IN THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

- When travelling to Cyprus, please be aware that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control in the northern part of the island, which has been under military occupation by Türkiye since 1974.
- The legal points of entry to the Republic of Cyprus are the international airports of Larnaca and Paphos, the ports of Larnaca, Limassol, Latsi and Paphos and the marinas of Limassol, Limassol Sheraton, Agia Napa. Entry via any airport or port in the occupied area is illegal.
- The Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control in the area occupied by Türkiye. Consequently, the Government is unable to guarantee the safety and security of people that choose to visit the occupied areas or facilitate consular assistance.
- “**Universities**” in the occupied areas are operating unlawfully, since they have not been established under the relevant laws and regulations of the Republic of Cyprus on Higher Education, nor are they accredited by the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus.
- “**Universities**” in the occupied areas purport to operate under the legislation of the so called “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (“TRNC”) which, according to international law, is an illegal entity. It is not recognized by the international community with the sole exception of Türkiye. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) explicitly state that the purported declaration of “trnc” is null and void and call on the international community not to recognize nor facilitate or in any way assist the secessionist entity and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus.

- There are approximately 25 purported “universities” illegally operating in the occupied areas. Most have been established post 2010. There are various reports about these entities being used for money laundering and human trafficking. Traffickers advertise as an easy route for migration into the European Union, issuing “student visas” on payment for those purposes. This is not a legal way to enter Cyprus or by extension the European Union. As a result, many people find themselves stranded in the occupied areas or worse, become victims of human trafficking. Moreover, there are reports revealing that a number of these entities are involved in scandals of issuing “university titles” upon payment.
- Most of the “universities” illegally operating in the occupied areas have been constructed on land belonging to displaced Greek Cypriots. The illegal exploitation of property belonging to another is a felony under the Cypriot Penal Code. Furthermore, Türkiye has been found liable by the European Court of Human Rights for the violation of the property rights of the forcibly displaced Greek Cypriots.
- For more information, consult the travel advice of the Government of Cyprus <https://www.gov.cy/mfa/en/documents/important-information-concerning-travel-to-the-turkish-occupied-area-of-cyprus/>.

