

## DAILY NORTH CYPRUS TOURS

### TOUR #1: KYRENIA – NICOSIA

Meeting at Ercan Airport. First Drive to **Kyrenia** which is in North cost of Island. Visits by Professional Guide to **Bellapais Monastery**

**Bellapais Monastery:** Founded in the early 13thC by the Augustinian friars, evicted from the city of Jerusalem, after it fell to Saladin, the first church was established under Aimery Lusignan (ruled 1194-1205). The ecclesiastical building we see now has undergone many changes and been called by different names. It has been "Our blessed Lady Mary of the Mountains", "L'Abbaye Blanche", (The White Abbey, so named after the White Canons from the order of St. Norbert), "Abbaye de la Paix" from which came the Venetian corruption of "Bellapaise" that has changed little in the 21stC.

After Bellapais visit ,drive to **Ancient Kyrenia Castle**

**Kyrenia Castle** Kyrenia Castle is home to one of the world's most important pieces of marine archaeology. In 1965, divers off the coast of Northern Cyprus discovered what has been found to be the oldest recorded shipwreck. Castle was built by Byzantines on 7th A.D to protect the island from Arab & Islam attacks

Free time in **Ancient Kyrenia Harbour** for lunch.

After Lunch drive to **Nicosia**. Visit to **Great Old Bazaar – St. Sophia Cathedral – Kyrenia Gate**.

**Great Old Bazaar ( Great Inn ):**The Han, which was built to provide accommodation for travellers from Anatolia and other parts of Cyprus was originally named "Alanyalilar's Han". Later when a new inn, the Kumarçilar Han (Gamblers' Inn) was built nearby in the 17th century, as a result of the comparison made by the public between the two Hans, it was referred to as the Buyuk Han (Big Inn or Great Inn)

**St Sophia Cathedral:** Was built in the period 1209 A.D. to 1228, over the ruins of a previous building. Only recently, in 1976, have the ruins of the ancient building before 1200 A.D. been discovered, on the southern side. In style of architecture, St. Sophia resembles the famous mediaeval cathedrals of France.

**Kyrenia Gate:** The Kyrenia Gate is one of the three entrances to the city built by the Venetians. The gate was originally called the "Porta Del Proveditore".Kyrenia gate has undergone several changes since its Venetian days. In 1821 after restoring and added a square chamber with a domed roof, and in 1931 the British demolished the section of the walls around it to facilitate the traffic into and out of the city.

Free time for passing Greek side of Nicosia

### Important Note for passing Greek side

Only EU passport holders, USA – Canada Passport Holders and Valid Schengen Visa holders can pass to Greek Side.

6pm: Drive back to Ercan Airport . Arrival to Airport at 6:45 pm