

# 1 NIGHT / 2 DAY NORTH CYPRUS TOURS

## TOUR #5: 1 NIGHT / 2 DAY NORTH CYPRUS

### DAY 1:

Meeting at Ercan Airport. First Drive to **Kyrenia** which is in North cost of Island. Visits are by Professional Guide to **St. Hilarion Castle, Bellapais Monastery, Kyrenia Castle, Blue House**

**St. Hilarion Castle:** St Hilarion castle is the westernmost and best preserved of the three redoubts built by the Byzantines and Crusaders. Located on hills of Kyrenia.

**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.

Free time for Lunch. During free time **Guests can visit Ancient Kyrenia Castle with guide**

**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 Blue House for last visit of the day

**Blue House:** House of a Greek lawyer. House has various of mystery in its history

### DAY 2:

Meeting at Ercan Airport. Drive to Famagusta. Visits to Varosha "The Ghost City", Othello Tower, The Venetian Palace, St. Nicholas Cathedral. Free time for Lunch. After Lunch visits to Salamis ruins. Last visit to St. Barnabas Monastery. Drive back to Ercan Airport at 5:30 pm

**Varosha:** Town of Famagusta. After war in 1974 area is now the United Nations buffer-zone between the Greek and Turkish administrative areas of Cyprus. According to agreement it has been closed to any construction.

**Othello Tower:** Othello's tower is the medieval fortress or citadel guarding both the harbour and the town of Famagusta. This is referred to in one of Shakespeare's plays in which Othello is described as a Moor.

**Namik Kemal Prison and Museum :** This former prison housed Turkish poet, playwright and dissident Namik Kemal (1840–88) for nearly four years after his writings offended the sultan.

**The Venetian Palace:** The Venetian Palace at Famagusta, the Palazzo del Proveditore, was the former residence of the ill-fated governor of the town during the 1571 siege, Bragadino. The Palazzo

del Proveditore lies across the main square of Famagusta across from the former St Nicolas Cathedral, now a mosque.

**St. Nicholas Cathedral:** From the 14th century, this imposing building has dominated the square at the heart of the old walled city of Famagusta, Its twin towers can be seen from all over the city, one tower topped with a minaret on one side. Both spires suffered during the Turkish bombardment in the siege of 1571, and from subsequent earthquakes, but they still stand proud on the city skyline today.

**Salamis Ruins:** Salamis was the most important ancient city in Cyprus, and the ruins are still impressive today. Set over a site over one kilometre long, and with a sandy beach along the entire length of the site, Salamis is a great place for a day out in North Cyprus. Allow plenty of time; to walk the entire site is a trek of almost 5km!

**St. Barnabas Monastery:** The monastery of St Barnabas was founded on the site of the apostle Barnabas, and is a reminder of the important role Cyprus played in the history of Christianity in the Mediterranean.

5:30 pm: Drive back to Ercan Airport . Arrival to Airport at 6:15 pm