

Cyprus Winter Sun and Culture

Three mild-season days of history, mountains and empty coast from a Paphos base.

BASE

Paphos

PACE

Car essential for the mountain day, coast days slow

BEST MONTHS

November to March

GOOD FOR

Off-season travellers, culture lovers, walkers, long-stay guests

Cyprus stays mild when the rest of Europe is cold. From a Paphos base the old town and market are on the doorstep, the frescoed UNESCO churches of the Troodos are a morning drive away, and the beaches and headlands have nobody on them.

This plan keeps day one on foot in Paphos, day two in the hills with a car, and day three via Omodos to a winter walk at Coral Bay. Expect soft light, wood smoke and painted churches, with the coast to yourself.

DAY 1

Paphos old town and market

MORNING

Start in Paphos old town with a coffee in one of the quiet courtyards. Walk through the market for winter fruit, greens and local cheese. The streets feel unhurried once the high season has passed, and the soft light suits a slow start.

AFTERNOON

Stay on foot among the old town lanes for the afternoon. Browse the small workshops and galleries that remain open through winter, then find a table for a late lunch of grilled fish or slow cooked lamb.

EVENING

Dinner stays in the old town. Choose a taverna with a fire going and order a full meze, letting the kitchen set the pace. Walk home afterwards while the streets are still quiet.

DAY 2

Kalopanayiotis frescoes and Kykkos

MORNING

A car is essential today. Drive inland from Paphos towards Kalopanayiotis, a journey of around ninety minutes into the Troodos foothills. Visit the painted church there, one of the frescoed UNESCO churches of the Troodos, and give the colours time to settle in the winter light.

AFTERNOON

Continue higher to Kykkos Monastery. Walk the courtyards and take in the valley views that open on clear days. The mountain air is sharp and the lanes around the monastery feel far from the coast.

EVENING

Return to Paphos as dusk comes on. Keep dinner simple near your villa, or head into the old town if you want company after the long drive.

DAY 3

Omodos village and Coral Bay

MORNING

Drive east to Omodos for a late morning arrival. The village is quiet in winter and the stone streets invite a slow wander before lunch. Book a table at a local taverna and settle in for meze and wine.

AFTERNOON

After lunch leave the hills and drop to the coast for a walk at Coral Bay. The beaches and headlands have nobody on them, just soft winter light and empty sand. Take your time along the shore before the drive back.

EVENING

End the day close to base in Paphos. A final dinner by the fire, or a short walk along the seafront if the evening is mild.

The route on the map

1. Paphos old town and market
2. Painted church at Kalopanayiotis
3. Kykkos Monastery
4. Omodos village lunch
5. Coastal winter walk, Coral Bay

Premium Living Cyprus

Paphos villas with fireplaces and sea views make the perfect winter base. You are close enough to walk into the old town and well placed for the mountain roads when the day calls for a drive.

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