



## DISCOVER THE HIDDEN COUNTRYSIDE OF CYPRUS

When in Cyprus, don't limit yourself to the main cities and coastal resorts. Spread your wings by venturing into the countryside.

From fragrant citrus orchards and olive groves, rolling vineyards, wide open plains carpeted with colourful wild flowers, to cool pine forests and pristine beaches where turtles nest, Cyprus' nature will delight you at all times of year.

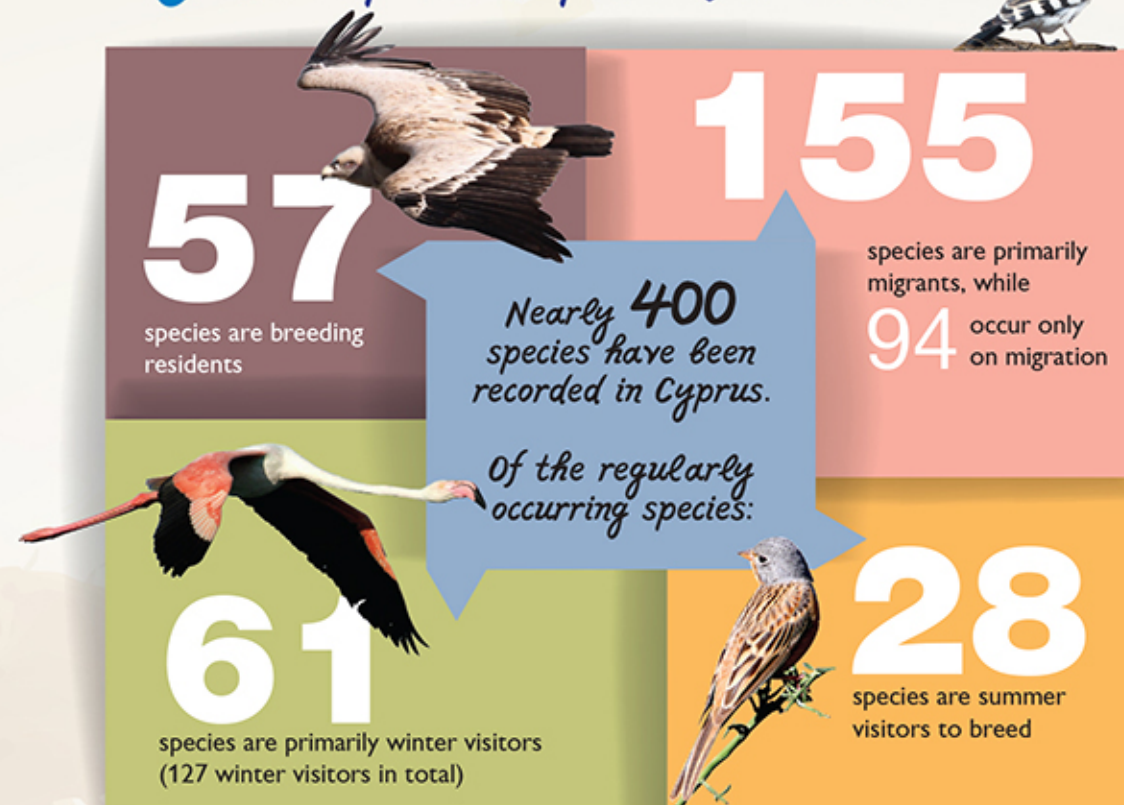
Discover timeless and picturesque villages and tiny remote painted churches cascading down hillsides with shady squares where you can sit at the coffee shop and mix with the locals.

Spend a relaxing day at one of the salt lakes where you can observe nature and wildlife to your heart's content; Or visit some of Europe's most evocative ancient sites, Neolithic settlements and quaint medieval churches. Cyprus offers the full Mediterranean experience in a compact, easy-to-reach area.

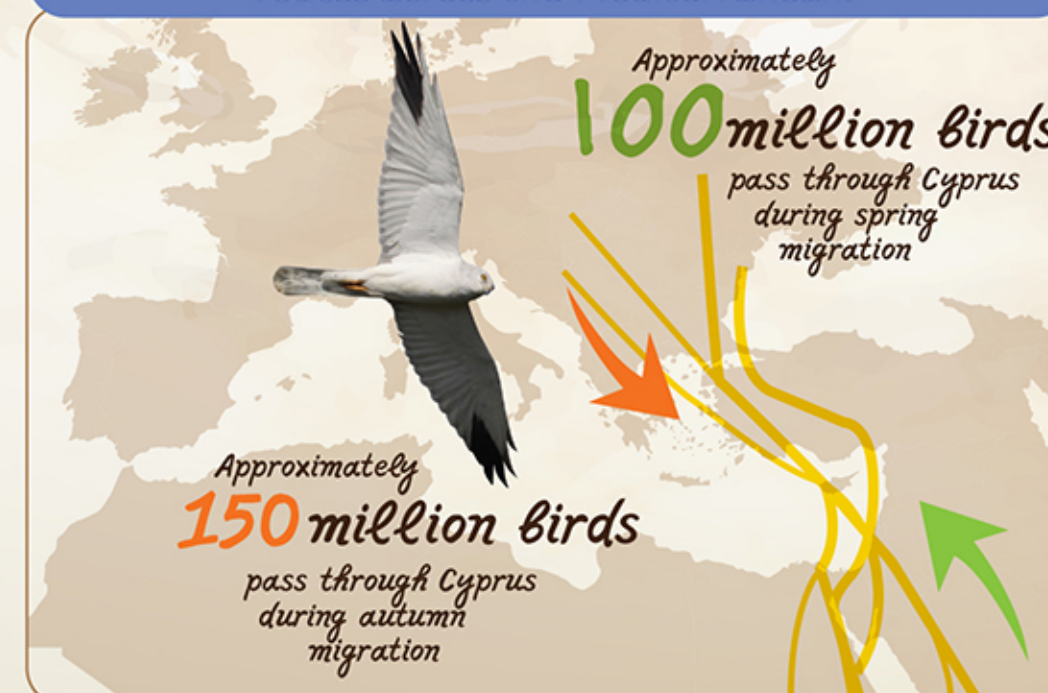
The Cyprus countryside is a fantastic place for botanists, artists, birdwatchers, hikers, ramblers, anglers, cyclists, photographers and geologists. Cyprus offers visitors the opportunity to explore its beautiful nature, birdwatch, discover the flora and fauna, visit the wineries and follow the wine routes, to dine in the local taverns and taste the delicious food. Experience a different kind of holiday in Cyprus among serene landscapes by staying in a restored traditional house in one of the island's many charming villages. There are traditional accommodation options near all the main birdwatching hotspots in Cyprus.

Find where to stay and make your booking on [www.agrotourism.com.cy/Properties.aspx](http://www.agrotourism.com.cy/Properties.aspx)

## Cyprus: An important place for birds



Cyprus lies on one of the major bird migration routes across the Mediterranean.



## Birdwatching in Cyprus: Introduction

There is something good on offer bird-wise in every season in Cyprus, but the autumn and especially the spring migration periods promise the greatest species diversity.

Cyprus is a popular destination for birdwatchers from northern Europe who often enjoy combining a holiday in the mountains or on the beaches with days spent birding. It is a form of eco-tourism that can be combined with general nature tourism, agrotourism and walking holidays.

The position of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean with Turkey to the north, Syria & Israel to the east and Egypt to the south, places it on one of the major migration routes across the Mediterranean and makes it a key stop-off point for many species which travel between breeding grounds in Europe/Asia and wintering areas in Africa/Middle East each spring and autumn.

The birds that occur regularly on passage form a large percentage of the Cyprus 'list' that totals nearly 400 species. Of these, only around 60 species are resident and around 30 are migrant breeders who regularly or occasionally breed in Cyprus. The number of birds stopping over during the spring and autumn migration is impressive as literally millions pass through the island.

**Spring migration** gets underway in earnest in the middle of March, depending on how settled the weather is, and carries on until at least mid-May. **Autumn passage** starts in early August – even earlier for some wader species – and continues until mid to late-October. Most years there is a noticeable raptor passage. Cyprus has around 120 species which overwinter, the most famous being the Greater Flamingo. Others include many common north European passerines.

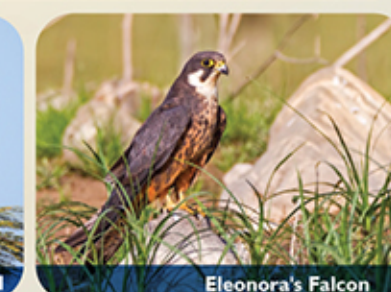
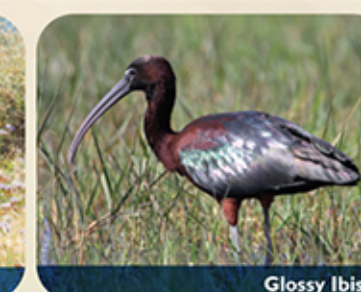
## Species highlights for each season

**Spring** Cyprus Warbler, Cyprus Wheatear, Black Francolin, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Masked Shrike, European Roller, Spur-winged Lapwing, Griffon Vulture, Pallid Harrier, Citrine Wagtail, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Lesser Kestrel, Collared Pratincole, Rüppell's Warbler, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Subalpine Warbler, Montagu's Harrier

**Summer** Cyprus Warbler, Cyprus Wheatear, Cyprus Scops Owl, Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper, Cyprus Jay, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Cyprus Coal Tit, Masked Shrike, Spur-winged Lapwing, Eurasian Hoopoe, Alpine Swift, European Roller, Eleonora's Falcon, Bonelli's Eagle, Black-headed Bunting, Black-winged Stilt, Long-legged Buzzard

**Autumn** Glossy Ibis, Purple Heron, Honey Buzzard, Red-footed Falcon, Demoiselle Crane, Bonelli's Eagle, Cyprus Coal Tit, Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper, Cyprus Jay, Cyprus Scops Owl, European Bee-eater, Montagu's Harrier, Squacco Heron, Gull-billed Tern, Citrine Wagtail

**Winter** Greater Flamingo, Wallcreeper, Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper, Cyprus Jay, Cyprus Coal Tit, Griffon Vulture, Long-legged Buzzard, Greater Sand Plover, Finsch's Wheatear, Penduline Tit, Moustached Warbler, Blue Rock Thrush, Bluethroat



## Endemic Birds of Cyprus

**Endemic Species:** Cyprus has two species of birds that breed only on the island and nowhere else in the world. They are what are known as 'endemic' species. Having such unique birds is one of the things that show how important Cyprus is for birds worldwide.



Cyprus Wheatear  
*Oenanthe cyprica*



**Endemic Sub-species:** Not only does Cyprus have two species that are unique to the island, it also has four other birds that scientists call endemic 'sub-species'. This means that although you can find these species in other countries, those that are in Cyprus are significantly distinctive from those on mainland Europe.



Cyprus Short-toed Treecreeper  
*Certhia brachydactyla dorotheae*



Cyprus Coal Tit  
*Parus ater cypricus*



Cyprus Jay  
*Garrulus glandarius glasneri*



Cyprus Scops Owl  
*Otus scops cypricus*



BirdLife Cyprus was formed in 2003 and today is the most active non-governmental organization (NGO) that works to conserve wild birds, their habitats and the wider biodiversity in Cyprus. It is the national partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of nature conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries worldwide. BirdLife Cyprus adopts a multi-pronged approach to tackling the threats faced by birds and their sites, through research, monitoring, lobbying, awareness raising, campaigns and education.

[www.birdlifecyprus.org](http://www.birdlifecyprus.org)



The **Cyprus Tourism Organisation** is the authority responsible for the marketing and development of the tourist product of Cyprus. It has experienced staff in marketing, tourism strategy and quality control, whose aim is to ensure that Cyprus makes the most of its outstanding tourism assets and realises its potential. As part of its promotional activities, CTO provides information and (expert) advice to visitors and potential visitors alike, so they get the best out of a visit to the island and experience the variety that the island offers and the genuine hospitality. It works in close co-operation with industry partners both in Cyprus, which include private businesses, public agencies and local authorities, and abroad to help the industry meet - and strive to exceed - visitors' expectations.

[www.visitcyprus.com](http://www.visitcyprus.com)

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BirdLifeCyprus

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# BIRDWATCHING IN CYPRUS

A unique destination for birding



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Πτηνολογικός  
Σύνδεσμος Κύπρου

BirdLife  
Cyprus



# CYPRUS BIRDWATCHING HOTSPOTS



VILLAGES WITH TRADITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

BIRDWATCHING HOTSPOTS

SPRING  
SUMMER  
AUTUMN  
WINTER

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Natura 2000 is the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Cyprus designated 30 Special Protection Areas for the species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).

