

## 20 great rural stays in Cyprus



Porfyrios Guest House Suites in Khirokitia (3)

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Published at 12:01AM, October 6 2012

## From rustic inns to restored village houses, Annabelle Thorpe picks the best agrotourism holidays in this island idyll

### **1 Apokryfo, Lofou** (airport: Paphos)

Local architect Vakis and his wife Diana have painstakingly renovated a clutch of houses in the pretty village of Lofou to create a delightful boutique hotel. Choose from elegant suites, decorated in cool, muted colours, larger studios with kitchenettes, or houses, all of which maintain a light, airy feel behind the thick stone walls. The Agrino restaurant specialises in traditional Cypriot dishes, with tables overlooking the pool.

**Details** Double rooms from £120 B&B (00 357 25 813 776, [apokryfo.com](http://apokryfo.com))

### **2 Arsorama, Arsos** (Paphos)

Overlook the unfortunate name and you'll find yourself in one of four apartments, each named after one of the owners' grandparents. The pretty interior garden is a

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great spot to sit with a glass of wine, for which the village of Arsos is famous.  
**Details** Doubles from £80, self-catering (00 357 25 817 000, [arsorama.com.cy](http://arsorama.com.cy))

### **3 Porfyrios Guest House Suites, Khirokitia** (Larnaca)

These suites are ideal for researching the island's history as the Neolithic ruins of Khirokitia are a short stroll away. The suites are named after the archaeologist who discovered the ruins; it's his nephew who has restored the 200-year-old house. Six rooms overlook the sizeable pool and pretty courtyard.

**Details** A week from £640pp including flights, B&B and car hire through Sunvil Holidays (020-8758 4759, [sunvil.co.uk](http://sunvil.co.uk))

### **4 Linos Inn, Kakopetria** (Paphos)

The Linos Inn, in the heart of Kakopetria, one of the prettiest villages in the Troodos Mountains, is a delightfully ramshackle complex of old houses that have been lovingly restored and filled with antiques. You can spend your days on the hiking trails that fan out from Kakopetria or pottering around the village before heading back to the hotel's restaurant, which serves fabulous meze and traditional Cypriot dishes.

**Details** Double rooms from £76 B&B (00 357 22 923 161, [www.linus-inn.com.cy](http://www.linus-inn.com.cy))

### **5 Vrakas House, Tochni** (Larnaca)

Coolly elegant, the three apartments in Vrakas House combine stone-flagged floors with billowing white drapes and a simple decor. There's a good-sized pool in the central courtyard that you share with two other restored houses that make up the development. The cafés and restaurants of Tochni are just a short stroll away.

**Details** Studio from £44 per night (00 357 99 468 446, [tochnivillas.com](http://tochnivillas.com))

### **6 Archontiko Rousias, Palaichori** (Nicosia)

It may not suit lovers of luxury, but those in search of a truly authentic village stay will love the Archontiko, built by the Rousias family in 1915. There are two suites and one double room, and a well-equipped shared kitchen — although there are plenty of cafés and places to eat in Palaichori. The scattered terrace and balcony areas have wonderful views.

**Details** Prices vary (00 357 22 750 605, [archontikorousias.com](http://archontikorousias.com))

### **7 Pantelis House, Omodhos** (Larnaca)

One of Cyprus's famous "wine villages", Omodhos has a clutch of restored village houses that make perfect holiday boltholes if you're after peace and tranquillity. Pantelis House sleeps up to five in two bedrooms, and has a well-equipped kitchen and pretty enclosed courtyard. It's a minute's walk from the picturesque village square, where rural Cypriot life continues much as it has done for centuries.

**Details** A week costs from £539pp including flights, car hire and self-catering accommodation through Olympic Holidays (020-8492 6868, [olympicholidays.com](http://olympicholidays.com))

### **8 The Library Hotel, Kalavassos** (Larnaca)

A haven for spa lovers, the Library — in the heart of the Troodos — is home to the Potamonde Wellness Baths that offer herbal and mud steam treatments, as well as an impressive selection of massages and therapies. The house is delightful, a

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handsome 19th-century mansion converted into an 11-suite hotel, each one named after a famous poet, writer or thinker. The impressive library and the sunny terrace are both great places for a lazy afternoon.

**Details** Double rooms from £63 B&B (00 357 24 817 071, [libraryhotelcyprus.com](http://libraryhotelcyprus.com))

### **9 Palati Cottage, Anogyra (Paphos)**

Postcard pretty, with cobbled streets and clustered stone houses, Anogyra is one of several villages on Cyprus with protected status. Palati Cottage is a larger house, with the central lounge area dominated by two central arches, and a sunny courtyard that is perfect for alfresco breakfasts.

**Details** From £52 per night (00 357 99 525 462, [cyprusvillagehouses.net](http://cyprusvillagehouses.net))

### **10 Amarakos Inn, Kato Akourdalia (Paphos)**

The Amarakos Inn is the ideal place to come back to at the end of a day in the hills; cold beers waiting to be sipped in the tranquil courtyard, with fabulous suppers using produce from the inn's garden. Family run, this a much-loved house that dates back to the late 19th century – and it shows in the warm atmosphere and simple but cosy rooms.

**Details** Double rooms from £112 B&B (00 357 26 633 117, [amarakos.com](http://amarakos.com))

**11 Ayii Anargyri Spa Resort, Miliou (Paphos)** The polar opposite of the Amarakos, the Anargyri is an elegant spa resort that combines boutique style and world-class treatments. The area's natural springs mean that there has been a spa here since the mid 17th century, and although there is a contemporary, almost minimalist feel to the rooms and communal areas, there's a pleasing sense of history in the air.

**Details** Double rooms from £76 B&B (00 357 26 814 000, [aasparesort.com](http://aasparesort.com))

### **12 Casale Panayiotis, Kalopanayiotis (Paphos)**

The 29 rooms at Casale Panayiotis are scattered around the village, but all retain their original features; wooden beams, stone walls and some with balconies overlooking the village and mountains beyond. None is more than a short stroll from the charming Byzantino restaurant, which serves up romantic alfresco dinners on the veranda in summer or cosy winter dinners by the fire.

**Details** A week costs from £772pp and includes flights, car hire and B&B through Sunvil (as before)

### **13 Takis House, Kalavassos (Larnaca)**

Takis House has stood in the centre of Kalavassos for more than 300 years, and its careful conversion into six apartments combines modern touches with a traditional, rustic feel. Whitewashed archways draped in bougainvillea lead to pretty terraces, while heavy stone walls keep things cool in high summer. Don't miss dropping in for coffee at the *kafenion*, the heart of village life for decades.

**Details** A week's self catering costs from £547pp including flights, car hire through Olympic Holidays (as before)

### **14 Skarinou Houses, Skarinou (Larnaca)**

Skarinou is a great base if you want to explore as it's just a few miles from the

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motorway and a short drive from the coast. Five traditional stone houses, with a communal pool, are each divided into traditionally furnished apartments with their own outdoor area and a simple but adequate kitchenette. Studios, one-bed and family apartments are all available.

**Details** A studio apartment costs from £48 per night, self-catering, (00 357 24 322 089, [agrotourismincyprus.com](http://agrotourismincyprus.com))

### **15 Vasilius Nikoklis Inn, Nikoklia** (Paphos)

One for garden lovers, this old stone house is surrounded by lemon and olive groves, with fig trees and vines covering the terraces. But it's the service that makes the family-owned inn special, from the lavish homemade breakfasts to the fresh flowers and recommendations for walks, bike rides or great places to eat.

**Details** Double rooms from £56 B&B (00 357 26 432 211, [vasilius.nikoklis.com](http://vasilius.nikoklis.com))

### **16 Ambelikos, Potamitissa** (Larnaca)

Perfect for active types, the Ambelikos is tucked away in the eastern Troodos mountains, well placed for mountain biking, hiking, hang-gliding and off-roading into the surrounding forests. The whitewashed houses that make up the inn date back to the late 1800s, and combine a traditional feel with faultless service and a lovely restaurant that specialises in the finest of local produce and recipes.

**Details** Double rooms from £55 B&B, (00 357 99 877 589, [ambelikos.com](http://ambelikos.com))

### **17 Evelos Apartments, Tochni** (Larnaca)

Tochni was one of the first villages to be revived through the conversion of decrepit houses into tourist accommodation. Eight apartments in a renovated stone house about 200m from the village overlook a good-sized pool. Simply furnished, with whitewashed walls and wooden furniture, the apartments sleep two or three.

**Details** A week costs from £640pp including flights, car hire and B&B accommodation through Sunvil (as before)

### **18 Little Lodge, Maroni** (Larnaca/Paphos)

Little Lodge is a bijou B&B with only two rooms in a carefully converted old stone house. Ideal for a lazy few days, its shady terrace is perfect for lounging, and there's a good-sized pool if you're feeling more energetic. Maroni is off the tourist track, although the village of Zygi — famous for its fish tavernas on the beach — is a five-minute drive away.

**Details** Double rooms from £88 B&B, (00 357 24 333 053, [cyprusguesthouse.eu](http://cyprusguesthouse.eu))

**19 Loxandra Inn, Kathikas** (Paphos) Five simple apartments and studios surrounded by vineyards make up the Loxandra in the village of Kathikas. The owner, Mr George, happily shares his local knowledge and homemade wine with guests, and there are bikes available so that you can get out and explore.

**Details** Studios cost from £40 per night, (00 357 25 336 673, [cyprusagrotourism-loxandrinn.com.cy](http://cyprusagrotourism-loxandrinn.com.cy))

**20 Vavla Rustic Retreat** (Larnaca) Perfect for a house party, this six-bedroom 19th-century stone house in the pretty village of Vavla has been restored with an

agrotourism subsidy. There's a lovely courtyard for sunny breakfasts and dinners, By continuing to use the site, you agree to the use of cookies. You can change this and find out more by following [this link](#).



and the exposed stone walls and traditional furnishings give the house a cosy feel in spite of its size. Sleeps up to 15.

**Details** A week costs from £1,129 through Holiday Lettings ([holidaylettings.co.uk](http://holidaylettings.co.uk), prop ref 248617)

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