


**Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus  
(TRNC)**

**Location:** The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is located on the Northern part of the island of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean.  
**Established on:** 15 November 1983  
**Government:** Parliamentary Democracy, Secular Republic  
**Area:** TRNC 3,248 km<sup>2</sup> (whole island 9,251 km<sup>2</sup>)  
**Neighbours:** Türkiye, 65 km to the North; Syria, 112 km to the East; Israel, 267 km to the East; Egypt, 418 km to the South; Greece, 965 km to the West and the Greek Cypriot administration at the South of the border.

**Flag:**   
**Capital:** Lefkoşa (Nicosia)  
**Climate:** Mediterranean with long dry summers and short rainy winters. The average annual temperature is 19°C.  
**Demography:** Turkish Cypriots: 95%, British, Greek Cypriots, Europeans, Maronites, Armenians, Russians & others: 5%  
**Religion:** Muslim  
**Language:** Turkish (English is widely spoken)  
**Currency:** Turkish Lira ₺ (Euro €, Sterling £ and US Dollar \$ are also accepted)  
**Traffic:** On the left. A valid national or international driving license is accepted.  
**Calling Code:** +90 392  
**Electricity:** 220/240 Volts A/C.50Hz. Three-pin British plug.  
**Population:** 476,214 (TRNC Statistical Institute, December 2023)

**District Administrations**  
**Lefkoşa:** Main administration and business centre.  
**Gazimağusa:** Centre for tourism, industry and commerce and the main trade port.  
**Girne:** Tourism centre with holiday resorts and yacht harbour.  
**Güzelyurt:** Citrus production, agriculture and natural landscape.  
**İskele:** Golden beaches, holiday resorts and agriculture.  
**Lefke:** Agriculture and historical places.

**TRNC Representative Offices**

<https://mfa.gov.ct.tr/consular-info/missions-abroad/>

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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**A Glimpse into the TRNC**

**State Structure**  
 The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has an effectively functioning state mechanism, a democratically elected government, a legislature, and an independent judiciary. The President and the Legislative Assembly of 50 deputies are elected for 5 years. The Council of Ministers is headed by the Prime Minister and there are 10 ministries.

**Media**  
 Bayrak Radio and Television Corporation (BRTK) ([www.brtek.net](http://www.brtek.net)) is the official radio station and TV channel. Cyprus Turkish News Agency (TAK) ([www.tak.gov.ct.tr](http://www.tak.gov.ct.tr)) is the official news agency.

**Transportation**  
 Daily direct flights to and from Türkiye and connecting flights via Türkiye to other countries. Regular ferryboat services to Türkiye from Gazimağusa and Girne ports. Gazimağusa port is the main trading port in the TRNC. In addition to Girne Yacht Harbour and Gemyat Delta Marina, Karpaz Gate Marina in Karpas Peninsula hosts many yachts from various countries.

**Cuisine**  
 Mediterranean cuisine with many local and oriental specialities. Hellim (traditional cheese), şeftali kebab (a meat-ball or sausage unique to Cyprus), pirohu (small pastry parcels filled with cheese) and molehiya (green vegetables grown in Cyprus, usually cooked with lamb or chicken) are some of the local and oriental specialities.

Some of the main local sweets are; Katmer (bread-like crepe cooked in a skillet and filled with homemade olive oil and sugar), ekmek kadayıfı (bread pudding served with kaymak, a kind of clotted cream served especially on religious holidays), and many types of macun (fruits preserved in syrup).

**Historical Background**

Cyprus, which is at the crossroads between the East and the West, was conquered by many civilisations throughout history due to its strategic location. It was ruled by the Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Knights Templars, Lusignans and Venetians.

**1571-** The Island of Cyprus became an Ottoman territory in 1571 and remained under Ottoman Turkish rule for 307 years until 1878. Since the Ottoman period, two ethnic peoples have existed in Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot people – descendants of the Ottoman Turks from mainland Türkiye who came to the island following their conquest of the island and the Greek Cypriot people – members of the Greek Orthodox community. The two ethnic peoples lived in peace and harmony under the Ottoman “Millet” system, despite their ethnicity, religion, language, and cultural disparities. Relations between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot people began to deteriorate with the rise of Greek nationalism followed by the Greek War of Independence in 1821, which gave birth to the “Megali Idea” (the Grand Ideal), reviving Hellenism and making Cyprus part of Greece. Following the take-over of the island’s administration by Great Britain in 1878, the Greek Cypriot Church and community campaigned for the union of Cyprus with Greece (Enosis). This campaign was fully aided and abetted by Greece.

**1914** – The island was unilaterally annexed by Great Britain when the Ottoman Empire entered World War I on the side of the Central Powers.

**1925** – Cyprus was formally declared a British Crown Colony.

**1955** – An underground organization, EOKA, was established by the Greek Cypriot extremists in 1955 to achieve Enosis. EOKA reigned violence against everyone – British soldiers, Turkish Cypriot people and even some Greek Cypriot people – who stood in the way of Enosis. In response to this grave threat to their very existence, the Turkish Cypriot people established Turkish Resistance Movement (TMT) and demanded their share of the island under the slogan “Taksim” (partition).

**1960** – Upon this political unrest and as part of its decolonisation policy, Great Britain relinquished its sovereignty over the island (except for two military bases) and the partnership Republic of Cyprus was established in 1960 between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot people, under international treaties, namely the Treaties of Establishment, Guarantee and Alliance.

The legitimacy of the 1960 Republic rested in the joint presence and effective participation of both peoples as political equals in all organs of the State. The Treaty of Alliance provided for stationing Turkish and Greek troops in Cyprus in agreed numbers. Under the Treaty of Guarantee, Türkiye, United Kingdom and Greece became Guarantor Powers with the right and obligation to undertake concerted or unilateral action if the state of affairs created by these Agreements was breached.

**1963** – The 1960 partnership Republic lasted only 3 years due to the Greek Cypriots’ insistence to amend 13 articles of the Constitution and usurp the rights of the Turkish Cypriot people and degrade their equal co-founder status to that of a minority on the island. When the Turkish Cypriot people rejected these amendments the Greek Cypriot side implemented the Akritas Plan (published as a UN document (A/33/115) which envisaged the total annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people, with mass killings, displacement, destruction and oppression. Parallel to this violence, the Greek Cypriot side also ejected the Turkish Cypriot people from all the State organs and monopolised the government.

**1964** - This conflict led the United Nations to send the UN Peacekeeping Force (UNFICYP) to Cyprus in March 1964 (UN Security Council Resolution 186) and to the physical separation of the two populations in the capital city of Nicosia, represented by “the Green Line”.

**1963-1974** Between 1963 and 1974 the Turkish Cypriot population was squeezed into 3% of the island and endured much suffering, discrimination and oppression by the Greek Cypriot side.

**1974** - On 15 July 1974, the Junta in Greece, along with its Greek Cypriot collaborators, staged a coup d’état in Cyprus to annex the island to Greece (Enosis), resulting in mass killings of Turkish Cypriot people.

**1974** - In response, on 20 July 1974, Türkiye intervened under the Treaty of Guarantee to protect Turkish Cypriots from annihilation. This intervention prevented further bloodshed and became a guarantee of peace and stability not only for the Turkish Cypriot people but for the island as a whole.

**1983** - Since the destruction of the partnership Republic in 1963 there has not been a single constitutional government representing both peoples of the island and each side has been governing itself. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was established on 15 November 1983 as an independent state.

**Cyprus Negotiations**

▶ Numerous attempts have been made to reach an agreement on the Cyprus issue. However, none of these efforts yielded any results.

▶ The Greek Cypriot side rejected 15 settlement plans, including the 1984-1986 Draft Framework Agreement, the 1992 Set of Ideas, the 1994 Confidence Building Measures and the 2004 Comprehensive Settlement Plan known as the Annan Plan.

▶ The status quo in the island has created a “comfort zone” for the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, which is being treated by the international community as if it is the sole legitimate “Government of the Republic of Cyprus”.

▶ The Greek Cypriot administration, utilizing this usurped title in the absence and at the expense of the Turkish Cypriot side, unilaterally, became an EU member on 1 May 2004.

▶ Following the Greek Cypriot people’s rejection (76%) of the Annan Plan in 2004, subsequent negotiations held in New York (2010), Geneva (2011), New York (2011-2012) Mont-Pelerin (2016) and Crans-Montana (2017) have all failed.

▶ The Greek Cypriot leadership’s intransigence and reluctance to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriots has prevented all efforts to reach a negotiated Cyprus agreement.

▶ Moreover, despite the UN Secretary-General’s call to end the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people and commitments given by the international community and the EU towards this end, the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people still continues.

▶ After more than five decades of failed negotiations for a “bi-zonal, bi-communal federation” based on political equality, the Turkish Cypriot side tabled a more realistic and sustainable new vision at the Cyprus talks in Geneva in April 2021, with the firm belief that the type of negotiations that would bring results can only be between the two existing States on the island, based on their sovereign equality and equal international status.



# TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC)



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



## Foreign Relations

► The Republic of Türkiye is the main supporter of the TRNC in every field with strong political, economic, cultural, social and trade relations between the two countries. Türkiye has always strongly supported the rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people on every international platform, worked to eliminate their unjust isolation and made their voices heard.

► The TRNC has bilateral and multilateral relations with many countries and international organizations, most notably with the United Kingdom, European Union member states, the United States and Gulf states, as well as the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS).

► The Cyprus question has been on the UN agenda since the 1950s and thus the Turkish Cypriot side has a close working relationship with the UN in New York and Geneva, as well as the UN Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Office of the Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General (Good Offices Mission in Cyprus).

► As an observer member of the OIC, ECO and OTS, the TRNC has close working relationships with the Turkish world and the said organisations and their organs.

► The TRNC has 26 Representation Offices abroad which represent Turkish Cypriot peoples' interests and seek to establish political, economic, trade, tourism, social and cultural relations with the host country's relevant authorities.

► The TRNC also cooperates on a bilateral or multilateral level with international actors, including third countries and international/regional organisations on issues such as counterterrorism, human trafficking, human rights, cultural heritage projects, religious freedoms and law enforcement.

## Economy

► The TRNC has a small island economy with a limited domestic market and natural resources. In addition to difficulties due to its small size, the Turkish Cypriot economy endures isolation and restrictions, which are imposed mainly by the Greek Cypriot side.

► The TRNC economy's growth rate is 7.3% in Gross Domestic Product. The Gross National Product (GNP) is 132,350,516,376.80 Turkish Lira and the GNP per capita is 14,599 US Dollars (TRNC Statistical Institute, 2023)

► Tourism and Higher Education are the two main engines of economic development.

► Türkiye is the TRNC's main trading partner. 70% of imports come from Türkiye and 30% from other countries.

► The TRNC's main export market is Türkiye. In 2023, TRNC exports to Türkiye totaled 79.6% followed by 15.5% to the Middle East and 1.6% to the EU and others.

► In April 2003, border crossings between the two sides of the island opened with an initiative of the TRNC Government. Since then, through 9 border gates, mutual crossings of persons and goods between the two sides have started. To facilitate trade and regulate the movement of persons, goods and services between the TRNC and South Cyprus, the Green Line Regulation was adopted by the EU Council in 2004.

► In 2008 the Investment Development Agency-YAGA was established ([www.yaga.gov.ct.tr](http://www.yaga.gov.ct.tr)) to promote investing in the TRNC to both local and foreign investors.

► In 2011, "The Project of the Century" was launched to transfer 75 million cubic metres of water annually from Türkiye to the TRNC via underwater pipelines running through the Mediterranean Sea.

## Tourism

► TRNC offers tourists a unique blend of history, culture, and glorious natural beauty. With a rich cultural heritage, clear seas and golden sands, it is ideal for those seeking relaxation, adventure and a touch of history.

► As one of the leading sectors in the TRNC economy, tourism represents a key area of economic growth. Despite the embargoes imposed on the TRNC, there has been significant investment in the tourism industry due to increased demand.

► There are currently 167 tourist facilities in the TRNC with a total bed capacity of 27,636.

► TRNC is an ideal holiday destination and annually attracts a high number of tourists. Over 1.5 million tourists from Türkiye and more than 300,000 tourists from Europe and other countries visited the TRNC in 2023.

► In 2023, 3,063,408 Greek Cypriots and 2,148,569 third-country nationals visited the TRNC from South Cyprus via the 9 border crossings (TRNC Ministry of Tourism Statistics).

► In addition to a wide range of accommodation options, from luxury hotels to boutique or eco-tourism hotels, the TRNC offers a variety of activities and special interest tourism.

► These include sea tourism, yachting, diving, water sports, bird watching, trekking, golfing, turtle watching, historical site visits, nature visits, hiking, bicycle tours, cultural tours, eco/agro-tourism, village tourism with traditional village festivals, faith tourism, health tourism, adventure tourism, environmentalist tourism.

## Education

► The education system in the TRNC is composed of four parts; pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education.

► There are 24 universities in the TRNC and the medium of instruction is mainly English. In the 2023-2024 academic year over 100,000 students from 148 countries were enrolled in higher education. 14,500 were Turkish Cypriots, 50,000 were Turkish and 45,000 were foreign students.

► All of our universities have accreditation from the Higher Education Council of the TRNC (YÖDAK) and the Higher Education Council of Türkiye (YÖK).

► Universities in the TRNC are members of the European University Association (EUA), the International University Association (IUA) and the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW). The TRNC is an observer member of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), which is one of the most important institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

## Arts & Culture

► The TRNC has a rich social and cultural life with various theatres, concerts, exhibitions, festivals, folk dance performances, fairs, and contests.

► Every year it hosts a variety of local and international festivals such as the North Cyprus International Bellapais Music Festival, Gazimağusa International Culture and Arts Festival, International Cyprus Theatre Festival, Güzelyurt Orange Festival, Iskele International Festival, Gazi Mağusa Culture Festival, Girne Olive Festival, Büyükkonuk Eco Day, Lefke Date and Walnut Festival, Tepebaşı and Avtepe Medoş Tulip (Tulipa cypria) Festival, Mehmetçik Grape Festival, Tatlısu Carob Festival, Yeşilirmak Strawberry Festival, Gönyeli/Yenikent Spring Festival.