



Cyprus

Joined the Commonwealth 1961 - visited by the Queen in 1993



Cyprus is a small nation state in the eastern Mediterranean

Pop: (2012) 1,129,000 Capital: Nicosia Area: 9,251 sq km

Mount Olympus (not to be confused with the Mt Olympus in Greece) at 1951m is the highest point of the steep sided Troodos forested mountains of central and southern Cyprus. Rivers originating here flow west, south and north though many dry up in summer. The vegetation at lower levels is Mediterranean scrub with succulents and pine woods. The agrino (a wild sheep) is the only large wild animal on the island.

The climate is hot and dry in summer and warm but wetter in winter attracting visitors year round. The south coast has sandy beaches leading to a lively tourist industry but, with its many classical Greek and Roman ruins and archaeological remains, visitors also enjoy the cultural heritage of the island. Walking in the mountains is also popular.

Since 2011, large offshore finds of natural gas have been confirmed which, if tapped, will add significantly to revenue income.

Ruins at Paphos, a World Heritage Site

