

FACTS ABOUT
TURKISH REPUBLIC OF
NORTHERN CYPRUS

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THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC)

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A. COUNTRY PROFILE

1. General Facts

The Country

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean after Sicily and Sardinia. It lays between latitudes 30.33 and 35.41 and longitudes 32.23 and 34.55. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) covers an area of 3,355 square kilometres.

The neighbouring countries are Turkey, 65 km to the north; Syria, 112 km to the east; Egypt, 418 km to the south; Israel, 267 km to the east; Lebanon, 162 km to the east; Greece, 965 km to the west and the Greek Cypriot administration to the south of the border.

Climate

The climate of North Cyprus is typically Mediterranean with long dry summers and short, rainy winters. The average annual temperature is 19°C. The temperature in summer changes between 37°C- 40°C with the warmest sea temperature in the Mediterranean, averaging 21°C. The weather in winter is very mild with a temperature between 9°C-12°C and, there is an average annual rainfall of 500 mm.

Population

According to the Population and Housing Census held in April 2006, the de jure population is 256,644. The population is predominantly Turkish Cypriot (99%). There exist other ethnic groups like Greek Cypriots, Maronites and others, which amount to 1 %.

Religion

Muslims make up 99% of the population of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Christians 1 %.

Language

The official language of the country is Turkish. English is widely spoken and professionals who have good command of other languages like German, French, Arabic etc. are available.

The Flag

The TRNC flag (proportions 150cm by 100cm) is white, with a red crescent and star in the centre, lined by two red horizontal stripes, on top and at the bottom.

2. History and Recent Political Developments

a) Brief History of the Cyprus Issue

Since centuries two distinct sovereign peoples exist in Cyprus, namely the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, who are politically equal and enjoy separate rights to self-determination. The two peoples have been zealously guarding their national and religious identities and have separate loyalties to their respective motherlands, Turkey and Greece.

At independence from the British colonial regime, the two peoples negotiated and signed the international Cyprus Treaties of 1959-1960 and agreed to share power under a partnership republic. According to the "Basic Structure" of the Zurich Agreement (19 February 1959), Cyprus was to be an independent republic based on presidential regime, with a Greek Cypriot president and a Turkish Cypriot vice-president elected separately by their respective communities. The executive authority was vested jointly in the president and the vice-president who had separate veto powers on laws and decisions concerning foreign affairs, defence and security together with the administrative issues of the Republic. The main clauses of the "Basic Structure" together with the Treaties of Guarantee and Alliance, had laid down and confirmed the principle of political equality of both communities in a partnership state based on functional federalism. Thus the state created was a republic of which its two main peoples were accepted to be politically equal co-partners. The legislative authority was vested in the House of Representatives, composed of 70% Greek and 30% Turkish Cypriot members elected separately by their respective communities. The same percentage was allocated for Turkish and Greek civil servants. Both Communities would run their communal affairs through separate Turkish and Greek communal chambers. Each communal chamber had the right to impose taxes and levies on members of their community. They would exercise authority in all religious and charitable foundations and carry out their educational, cultural and sporting activities etc. Separate municipalities would be created in the five largest towns. The supreme Constitutional Court would be composed of one Greek Cypriot, one Turkish Cypriot and one mutually acceptable neutral judge who would preside over the Court. Any conflict of authority should be decided upon by the Constitutional Court. Both, the Treaty of Guarantee and the Treaty of Alliance would have constitutional force. Consequently, the "Republic of Cyprus" based on the equality of the two peoples was founded on 16 August 1960. Turkey, the United Kingdom and Greece took part as Guarantor Powers in this state of affairs, which had established both internal and external balances over Cyprus. The Treaty of Guarantee provided that the guarantor powers had a right and

obligation to intervene to re-establish the state of affairs created by the agreements. However, the partnership republic could not live long. With the objective of Hellenizing and uniting the island with Greece (i.e. ENOSIS), the Greek Cypriots backed by the Junta regime devised the notorious "Akritas Plan" and had put it into force. During the period 1963-1974, thousands of innocent Turkish Cypriots were killed, maimed or wounded by Greek Cypriot militia and some 30,000 of them were rendered refugees.

The Turkish Cypriot people were relieved from this agony and saved from total extermination only by the timely intervention of Turkey on 20 July, 1974, undertaken in accordance with the 1960 Treaty rights and obligations. Turkey, refrained from exercising this right until the military Junta, instantly ruling Greece, staged a coup d'etat through its military forces together with Greek Cypriot collaborators, on 15 July 1974.

This being the case, it is total distortion of historical facts to describe the legitimate and justified Turkish intervention as an "invasion", when it was clearly Greece, not Turkey, that had invaded and occupied Cyprus. During the coup which was the final phase of the armed take over of Cyprus, both Turkish Cypriots and those Greek Cypriots who opposed the regime were killed in large numbers and had to flee from their homes in masses. Ever since Turkey's 1974 Peace Operation in Cyprus no clashes took place in the island and, total peace and harmony exists. As a result of the Vienna Agreement in 1975, whereby the two sides agreed on a regrouping of populations in their own respective territories, Turkish Cypriots preferred to move to the northern part of the island and Greek Cypriots to the south. Today, the presence of Turkish Forces in Northern Cyprus is continuing since it is observed as a deterrent against the repetition of Greek Cypriot aggression and it continues to be a vital security requirement for the Turkish Cypriot people.

Following the destruction of the constitutional order by the Greek Cypriots in 1963, the two peoples established their own separate administrations. The Greek Cypriots usurped the title of the "Republic of Cyprus" and pretended to be the "government of the Republic of Cyprus" even though it was not (and still is not) either in law or in fact. Thus the illegal writ of Greek Cypriots never ran over the Turkish Cypriot people. The international community, however, treated the de facto Greek Cypriot administration as the government of Cyprus. This has constituted the main impediment in the way of a negotiated settlement until now. The Greek Cypriot administration utilised the advantages of recognition and its economy has flourished at the expense of the Turkish Cypriots since it acquired all the international funds and aids, even those given for the benefit of the Turkish Cypriot people. The Turkish Cypriot people, on the other hand, after they were expelled at gun point from all state organs of the partnership

republic, faced all kinds of human rights violations. The Turkish Cypriot people had no other option but to establish their own administration, live in prosperity and tranquility. With this objective, the Turkish Federated State of North Cyprus was established in 1975



(Council of Ministers)

and consequently, in

1983 the Turkish Cypriot people decided to confront all the unfair and unjustified restrictions and embargoes imposed upon them under the roof of their own republic. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) which was founded on 15 November 1983, has an effectively functioning state mechanism, a democratically elected government and legislature, an independent judiciary and all other institutions of statehood.

The latest coalition government has been established by the Republican Turkish Party and Joint Forces (RTP-JF) and, the Freedom and Reform Party (FRP), on 25 September 2006. Mr. Ferdi Sabit Soyer (Head of RTP-JF) is the Prime Minister and Mr. Turgay Avcı (Head of FRP) is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

b) Recent Political Developments

Since their destruction of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus through force of arms, the main aim of the Greek Cypriot side has been to constantly deny the Turkish Cypriot people any opportunity to engage in political, economic, social, cultural and sporting contacts with the rest of the world. The expectation of the Greek Cypriot administration has been to bring about the collapse of the Turkish Cypriots in all fields as a result of which, they would abandon their rightful cause and accept osmosis (assimilation of the Turkish Cypriots to the Greek Cypriots).

While the Turkish Cypriot side is subjected to all kinds of restrictions and is facing difficulties mainly in trade, education, tourism, transportation and communication, the Greek Cypriot side continues to enjoy the benefits of the

title of the "Republic of Cyprus", which they have usurped. To put an end to this injustice and find its rightful place within the international community, the Turkish Cypriot side has always supported efforts towards finding a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem under the good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General. It is in this spirit that the Turkish Cypriot side has participated in the UN sponsored negotiations for decades. However, the stance by the Greek Cypriot side during the negotiating process has not been conducive to a solution. The rejection by the Greek Cypriot administration of the 1985-86 Draft Framework Agreements, the Set of Ideas of 1992, the package of Conference Building measures of 1994 are clear examples of the Greek Cypriot intransigence. Finally, the rejection in 2004 of the comprehensive settlement plan, the so-called Annan Plan by the Greek Cypriots constitutes another blow to the hopes for a new settlement. The plan which envisaged a new partnership based on the political equality of the two peoples was put to separate simultaneous referenda on both sides, on 24 April 2004. While the Turkish Cypriot people approved the plan by 65 per cent, the Greek Cypriots overwhelmingly rejected it by 76 per cent. Such a strong "no" from the Greek Cypriot side, demonstrated that neither the Greek Cypriot leadership nor the Greek Cypriot people are ready to enter into a power-sharing arrangement with the Turkish Cypriots.

Against this background, the Greek Cypriot Administration has been unjustly admitted to the European Union on 1 May, 2004. Exploiting the privilege of its new EU membership, the Greek Cypriot administration has intensified its campaign of isolating the Turkish Cypriot people. Many international personalities and institutions had made remarks supporting the stance taken by the Turkish Cypriots during the referenda, hence, towards reaching a settlement. The then UN Secretary General, H.E. Kofi Annan's remarks in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437) has been as follows:

"I applauded the Turkish Cypriots who approved the plan notwithstanding the significant sacrifices that it entailed for many of them... (I) hope that ways will be found to ease the plight in which the people find themselves through no fault of their own."

"The Turkish Cypriot vote has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them. I would hope that the members of the Council can give a strong lead to all states to cooperate, both bilaterally and international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development."

The European Council of Foreign Ministers took the decision that the "economic development of the Turkish Cypriots should be encouraged" (26

April 2004) and the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe noted that "international isolation must cease" (1376/2004).

Thereafter, the EU Commission prepared three regulations namely the Financial Aid Regulation, the Direct Trade Regulation and the Green Line Regulation with the aim of lifting the economic isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. However, none of the regulations have been effectively implemented due to Greek Cypriot pressures within the EU. The Green Line Regulation which was devised to enable intra-island trade after the referenda has not been functioning efficiently due to the administrative obstacles created by the Greek Cypriot party. The Financial Aid Regulation which envisaged the transfer of 259 million Euros to the TRNC, has ran into a snag on account of the Greek Cypriot obstructionism and only a small amount of aid has been transferred for the projects which have been put forward. Similarly, the Direct Trade Regulation which is the most important for the Turkish Cypriot people in terms of eliminating the economic embargoes has not been realised.

In spite of all these ill-intentioned attitudes by the Greek Cypriot administration, the Turkish Cypriot side together with the Republic of Turkey is adamantly extending their hand for peace to the Greek Cypriot side. However the subsequent initiatives proposed by the Turkish side have not received a positive response from the Greek Cypriot side.



(President Talat with UNSG Ban Ki Moon)

As a result of the efforts by the UN, the leaders of the two sides, President Mehmet Ali Talat and the then Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos, came together on 8 July, 2006, at the UN residence in Lefkoşa. The two leaders expressed their commitment for reaching a comprehensive settlement in the form of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation based on the political equality of the two sides. They agreed on the formation of technical committees and bi-communal working groups in order to discuss respectively the issues

affecting the day-to-day lives of people, as well as the substantive issues of the Cyprus problem. The process did not move forward on account of the negative stance taken by the Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos.

After the presidential elections in the Greek Cypriot administration as a result of which Demetris Christofias was elected, the two leaders came together on 21 March, 2008, giving a start to the work of the Technical Committees and Working Groups. Technical Committees have been set on Crime/Criminal matters, Economic and Commercial Matters, Cultural Heritage, Crisis Management, Humanitarian matters, Health and Environment issues. Working Groups have been formed to discuss about the issues of Governance and Power-sharing, EU matters, Security and Guarantees, Territory, Property and Economic Matters.

According to their decision to come together periodically for evaluating the achievements of the Technical Committees and the Working Groups, the two leaders met for the second time on 23 May, 2008. They reaffirmed their "commitment to a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, as defined by relevant Security Council resolutions. This partnership will have a Federal Government with a single international personality, as well as a Turkish Cypriot Constituent State and a Greek Cypriot Constituent State, which will be of equal status". The Technical Committees and the Working Groups will continue working until the commencement of direct talks.

B. The State

1. The Constitution

The Constitution of the TRNC was prepared by the Constituent Assembly set up after the declaration of independence on 15 November 1983. The Constitution of TRNC establishes a system of separation of powers and of checks and balances between the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary.

The Constitution prohibits racial discrimination and safeguards the equality of all individuals before the law. It observes the principles of parliamentary democracy, social justice and the rule of law, as well as Atatürk's dictum "Sovereignty unconditionally belongs to the Nation"; it also establishes and safeguards secularism.

2. The Executive

The executive duties and powers are carried out and exercised by the President of the Republic and the Council of Ministers in accordance with the Constitution and laws. The President of the Republic is the Head of State. He is responsible for securing respect of the Constitution, for carrying out public

affairs in an impartial, uninterrupted and orderly manner and for the continuation of the State.

President

The President is elected for a period of five years. According to the TRNC Constitution he has to be of Cypriot parentage, over thirty years of age and a graduate of an institution of higher education. There is also a five-year residence qualification for the candidates. Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat was elected on 17 April 2005 as the second TRNC President, following Rauf Raif Denktaş who was the President of TRNC since 1983.

Council of Ministers

The Constitution provides that the Council of Ministers shall be composed of a Prime Minister and Ministers. The President, amongst deputies, appoints the Prime Minister. Ministers may be appointed from among persons who are not deputies. The President upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister appoints ministers. Ministries are established by decree, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Constitution, upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister and approval of the President. The number of ministries cannot exceed ten. A newly formed government has to obtain a vote of confidence before it can be installed in office.

The current coalition government was established by the Republican Turkish Party and Joint Forces and, the Freedom and Reform Party, on 25 September 2006.

3. The Legislature

The Constitution states that sovereignty rests within the people comprising the citizens of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, without any conditions or reservations. The Assembly of the Republic is the place where the people, through their elected representatives (total 50), exercise this sovereignty and is the symbol of the independence and freedom of the Turkish Cypriot People.

Assembly

The legislative powers of the State are exercised by the Legislative Assembly composed of fifty deputies elected for a period of five years. The Assembly has the power to enact laws, to exercise control over the Council of Ministers and Ministers, to debate and approve bills in regarding the budget and to give general and special amnesty. It also has the power to ratify international agreements.

Political Parties

Northern Cyprus has a very active political life. Democratic elections are regularly held and contested by the political parties from all sides of the political spectrum.

4. The Judicial System

The judicial powers are exercised on behalf of the people of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus by independent courts.

The Supreme Court

The highest court in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court functions as the Constitutional Court, the Court of Appeal and the High Administrative Court. It has exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate finally on all matters prescribed by the Constitution. The Supreme Court, sitting as the Court of Appeal, is the highest appellate court in the TRNC. The Supreme Court is composed of a president and seven judges.

Subordinate Courts

The Assize Courts, District Courts and Family Courts exercise judicial power other than that exercised by the Supreme Court.

District Administrations

For the efficient administration of North Cyprus the Republic is divided into five districts: Lefkoşa (Nicosia), Gazimagusa (Famagusta), Girne (Kyrenia), Güzelyurt (Morphou) and Iskele. The capital and seat of government is Lefkoşa, North. The general local administrative structure in North Cyprus operates at two levels: through Municipal Councils and Village Commissions. These are independent bodies responsible for the management of their local affairs.

ECONOMY

1. General Information

The development policy in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus aims at the realization of structural adjustment required for the achievement of the highest possible rate of growth compatible with the maintenance of economic stability, the more equitable distribution of national income and the improvement of standard of living. For the realization of these objectives three long-term plans as five year programs and annual programs had been prepared from 1977 up to 1997, which marked the beginning of the planning period. After 1997 only

annual programs have been prepared and put into action. In accordance with the liberal economic policy adopted by the government of the TRNC Trade, Tourism, Education, Transportation and Industrial sectors preserved their priority and importance.

For the assessment of the economic performance in the TRNC the following financial indicators are worth examining.

a) Growth Rate of Gross National Product (GNP)

The real growth rate in 2006 has been realized as 13.2%. The GNP which was 3,810.5 million TL in 1977 rose to 15,090.7 YTL in 2006 at constant prices of 1977 which accounted for 4,101,387,190.5 YTL at current prices and 2,845.2 million at US dollar basis.

In 2006 Public Services have the highest share in GDP, which covers 20.3 %. The second share in GDP belongs to the Trade and Tourism industry with 15.5 %, Business and personal services follow this with 11.1 % if current prices are under consideration.

b) Per Capita GNP

The GNP per capita which was 26,279 TL in 1977 rose to 62,781 YTL in 2006 at constant prices of 1977 and 17,063 YTL at current prices of 2006 which represents 11,837 US \$. According to 2007 estimated figures, GNP per capita represents 14,047 US \$.

c) Public Finance

The basic aim of the fiscal policy in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the creation of the necessary conditions for internal monetary stability, supporting the more productive projects, reducing the budget deficits by limiting the rate of growth of current expenditures, transfers and increasing revenues.

The total local revenues which is composed of tax revenues, non-tax revenues, factor incomes and the social funds, reached to the level of 771,8 million US \$ in 2005. Within this context the share of the taxes in the GNP rose from 10.7% in 1977 to 20.2% in 2005.

d) Foreign Trade

The economy of TRNC has the characteristics of an island economy with limited resources. During the period of 1977-2005 there was an increase in the volume of the foreign trade. The volume of foreign trade, which was 106.9 million in 1977, rose to 915.1 million dollars in 2004. During this period the imports of the TRNC increased from 82 million dollars in 1977 to 1255.5 million dollars in 2005 and 1,326.2 million dollars in 2006, while the exports rose from 23.9 million dollars in 1977 to 68.1 million dollars in 2005 and 64,8 million dollars in 2006. The foreign trade deficit, which was 58.1 million dollars in 1977, reached 1,187.4 million dollars in 2005 and 1,311 million dollars in 2006. Export earnings met 29.15% of the total imports in 1977, 36.6% in 1978, 43.4% in 1979



(Famagusta Port)

and 50.1% in 1980. However these favourable developments did not continue in the subsequent years, due to restrictions imposed on the TRNC.

TRNC has adopted a liberal trade policy and practices no discrimination against any foreign country. She has succeeded in establishing trade relations with more than 60 countries all over the world.

Agricultural and industrial products including processed agricultural goods are worth mentioning in the overall exports of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The share of the agricultural products, which accounted for 77.5% of the total exports in 1977 dropped to 35.4% in 2006. The share of the industrial products in the total exports increased from 12.1% in 1977 to 57.4% in 2006.

The main agricultural and industrial products including agricultural based processed goods exported from TRNC are; Readymade Clothes, Citrus, Concentrated Citrus, Dairy Products, Refreshments, Medicine, Carobs (Seed and Grounded), Hides and Leather, Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, Cigarette.

e) Employment

The employment policy aims at attaining full employment and the systematic promotion of schemes for the training and re-training of the labour force for increasing productivity and eventually the most efficient utilization of manpower.

The average number of unemployment, which was 1,337 in 1977, reached 9,552 in 2006 and according to 2006 Population and Housing Unit Census the unemployment ratio, which was 2.9% in 1977. It increased to 9.4 % in 2006.

The working population, which was 44,795 in 1977, rose to 91,815 in 2006. The number of people employed in the services sector in 2006, reached to 14,969.

2. Main Sectors

a) Agriculture



(Citrus and Date trees in Lefke, Photo by Ediz Tunçel)

The agricultural sector is the backbone of the economy in the TRNC. Although its share in the GDP is decreasing from year to year it is still of major importance especially as far as its contribution to GDP, employment, exports and supply of raw materials to industry are concerned.

The contribution of the agricultural sector to the GDP increased from 619.3 million TL in 1977 to 1,177.9 YTL in 2006 at constant prices of 1977. The export of the agricultural products accounted for 35.4% of the total domestic exports in 2006 and 12% of the working population was employed in the agricultural sector in 2005.

b) Manufacturing Industry

The TRNC industry has developed very small, small and medium-sized enterprises, owing to the physical structure of the country. Industrial activities are mainly focused in food and beverages, furniture and fixtures, metal and non-metallic industries, textile and clothing and other such light industries.

The manufacturing industry achieved one of the highest rates of growth during 1977-2005 period. The value added of the sector increased from 317.2 million TL in 1977 to 1,364.7 YTL in 2005. The share of the sector in the GDP increased from 8.4% in 1977 to 10.3% in 2005 and the export of the industrial products accounted for 60.4% of the total domestic exports.

c) Tourism

Tourism continues to be a basic priority sector and one of the main factors of economic development. Northern Cyprus has a total of 139 hotels with an overall bed capacity of 15,732 in 2007 which were 3,265 in 1977. Throughout the summer season all hotels are fully booked therefore it is advised that reservations are made earlier in the year.

The unique climate of Cyprus offers year-round opportunities for a perfect holiday. Rainfall is concentrated in December and January, and the average sea temperature is above 20°C for more than half the year. Cyprus is renowned for its wild flowers, which carpet the island in spring (there are more than 38 species of orchids alone) and scent of orange, lemon and grapefruit blossom fills the air.

The coastline of Northern Cyprus offers some of the finest and safest bathing opportunities in the Mediterranean. Although most holiday establishments have modern pools, the crystal clear waters of the Eastern Mediterranean are wonderful for swimming, snorkelling, sailing and skiing. Most of the holiday complexes are situated near the picturesque ancient port of Girne on the north coast, or Gazimagusa in the east. The narrow fertile northern coastal strip is backed by the spectacular Beşparmak mountains -also known as the Girne range, studded with its medieval castles and fortresses. The rugged slopes are covered with Aleppo pines, olives and carob trees, with small villages nestling in the hillsides. Nearer the coast, most activity is concentrated along the coast road. Since most hotels can assist in car hire, travelling around the country is no problem.

Inland, behind the rocky Girne range and the imposing Five Finger Mountain, stretches the huge fertile Mesaoria plain where Ercan airport and the island's capital, Lefkoşa are found. Along the east coast lies the ancient fortified city of Gazimagusa and the nearby ruins of Salamis. To the northeast, the landscape becomes more broken and open fields give way to small pastures enclosed by stonewalls and interspersed with olive trees and rocky outcrops. The beaches here are a blend of rock pools and sheltered sandy bays.

Information on tourist sites to be found in ensuing sections are organised under three district



(Kyrenia Yacht Harbour, Photo by Ediz Tunçel)

regions: Girne, the area of northern coast between the sea and Beşparmak mountains, where the majority of holiday complexes are found; Gazimagusa, the ancient port with its long open beaches; and finally, Lefkoşa, the capital city and Güzelyurt, the western coast famous for its citrus groves. Flights arrive at Ercan airport from which most hotels have transport services.

As the world moves toward responsible tourism, North Cyprus is setting an inspiring example with a number of exciting new eco-tourism initiatives in 2007, including the launch of the Buyukkonuk eco-village tourism project and the new Kyrenia Mountain Trail, supplementing other more established projects such as the turtle conservation projects on the island.

Buyukkonuk: Eco-village Tourism

The ancient village of Büyükkonuk has been selected as a pilot village in the Karpaz region for developing eco-village tourism with its own bed & breakfast guesthouse, restaurant, tourist information office and craft shop & activity centre operating, with additional accommodation planned for next year. At Delcraft (www.ecotourismcyprus.com), the village activity centre and guest house, you can make traditional hellim cheese and olive bread, try your hand at milking

goats, walk with shepherds behind their flocks of fluffy sheep or take a walk through bright blooming fields during the wild flower season.

Kyrenia Mountain Trail

October 2007 saw the launch of the new Kyrenia Mountain Trail, a new 143 mile (230 km) trail across the stunning coastline of Northern Cyprus, one of the last areas in the Mediterranean yet untouched by mass tourism. Founded and developed by the Kyrenia Mountain Trail Association, a group of volunteers, this new sustainable tourism project aims to promote walking and mountain biking across some of the island's most stunning natural and historic sights. The trail, which runs at an average of 2,000/2,500ft, passes through the famous wild donkey sanctuary, profusion of bird life, and in spring, symphonies of blooming wild flowers and orchids. The trail also leads upon three ancient castles, a Maronite monastery, Coptic churches and Roman and Byzantine settlements - reflecting the island's rich and colourful history. (<http://www.kyreniamountaintrail.org/>)

The Turkish Cypriot people are renowned for their generous hospitality. During shopping or enjoying a meal, you are made to feel particularly welcome.

d) Construction

The construction sector is rather a newly developing sector, which showed a dramatic increase in the amount and as of its contribution to the GNP of the country. Contribution of the construction sector to the GDP increased from 646.7 million TL in 1977 to 1,271 YTL in 2005 at constant prices of 1977 which constituted 4.19 % of GDP in 1977 and 9.8% of GDP in 2005.

e) Education

The TRNC's education system aims at fully developing the abilities of all individuals, young and old, both for their personal benefits as well as that of the society as a whole. The education system in the TRNC can be broadly defined in three parts: Pre-school education, Primary education and Secondary education, which are compulsory. Post school education is carried out mainly at universities. The universities are fully committed to modern international teaching techniques and provide high quality education and research opportunities for national and international students. The TRNC is proud of its seven universities namely, - the Eastern Mediterranean University, the Near East University, the European University of Lefke, Girne American University, Cyprus

International University, Middle East Technical University-North Cyprus Campus, Anatolia University Open Faculty. In addition to these Atatürk Teachers Training Academy, Nursery High School and, Tourism and Hotel Management High Schools are also giving higher education.

Higher education is the very fast improving sector in the TRNC. The TRNC Universities, except Anatolia University, are offering instructions in English and the number of students pursuing higher education in the above-mentioned seven universities reached 39,000 students during the 2007-2008 academic years.

The TRNC has been accepted as an observer member of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), which is one of most important institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It was established in 1982 with the aim of improving the relations amongst Islamic countries in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. It is very important in terms of effectively promoting Turkish Cypriot cultural heritage and the education opportunities in the TRNC in around 60 countries.

Brief information about the universities;

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)

(www.emu.edu.tr)

The University was established as a Higher Technological Institute in 1979 and received its parliamentary Charter as a trust-endowed university in 1986. Having completed its physical infrastructure, the campus spreads over an area of 2200 acres on the outskirts of Gazimagusa. It owns unprecedented campus facilities, and creates a multicultural environment with students coming from 64 countries and 771 highly qualified faculty members from 35 different nations. There are currently 15,000 students in the undergraduate and graduate programs. Since being established, EMU has graduated over 20,000 students most of who are now taking up highly qualified jobs.

In addition to the in-door and out-door sport complexes, the variant of student clubs and on-campus dormitory facilities reflect the student oriented educational philosophy of Eastern Mediterranean University. Currently there are 41 undergraduate programs namely in branches of engineering, natural sciences, computer science, business studies, international relations, architecture, law, Turkish Language and Literature, English language and literature, communication and media studies. Most departments also offer programs of advanced study leading to master's and doctoral degrees. There are now 26 master's programs and 14 doctoral programs in this regard. The



(A view of Eastern Mediterranean University)

common language of instruction in all courses at Eastern Mediterranean University is English.

EMU has been accredited by Higher Education Council of Turkey (YOK) and by the Higher Education Council of Turkish Republic Northern Cyprus (YODAK). It is full individual member of the institutions like the European University Association (EUA), Community of Mediterranean Universities (CMU), Federation of the Universities of Islamic World and International Association of Universities.

Near East University (NEU)

(www.neu.edu.tr)

Near East University (NEU) is a private international institution of higher education founded in Lefkoşa in 1988. The main objective of this institution is to give students a sound education and bring them up as confident and responsible individuals with creative and inquisitive minds.

Today Near East University consists of a select student population from 50 different countries; hence it has earned an international identity offering high-standard education opportunities with qualified academic staff. Towards establishing close ties between Near East University and other universities primarily in Turkey, the United States, England, Australia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan protocol agreements have been undersigned and put into effect.

The medium of instruction at the Near East is English. Currently, on third of the students receiving education at the Near East University are on scholarship. Near East University currently has the Departments of Computer-Information

Systems, Computer Engineering, Electrical-Electronic Engineering, Civil Engineering, Architecture and Turkish Language and Literature, and Faculties of Maritime Studies, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Faculties of Education, Fine Arts and Design, and the Faculty of Communication. Moreover, education is offered in the School of Tourism and Hotel Administration for the interested students. Apart from the academic programs, there are various extracurricular facilities also for the students. There is an Olympic size indoor swimming pool with 1000 spectator seat capacity. There is a Congress Center (Atatürk Congress Center) with 4 conference halls accommodating 520 people overall. Parallel to the development in tourism and with a view to supplying the industry with dynamic and properly trained managers the NEU has acquired and is managing a 3 star hotel in the centre of Girne (Dorana Hotel) and a travel agency in the capital, Lefkoşa. Both of these establishments add an extra dimension to the studies in the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management of the university. Moreover the university owns a research- training boat enabling Tourism and Hotel Management majors to carry out their training period on the boat.

European University of Lefke (LAU)

(www.lefke.edu.tr)

The European University of Lefke is situated in the West Coast of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus only 45 minutes from the capital Lefkoşa. It takes one hour from Ercan Airport to get to the campus.

The European University of Lefke was founded by the Cyprus Science Foundation in 1989 and opened in the year of 1990. EUL, as a non-profit public university has a very competitive tuition fee. The University provides a unique intellectual and cultural environment in the west of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). It provides a broad-ranging contemporary education facilities and is committed to maintaining and developing international standards of excellence in co-operation with well-known universities around the world.

EUL currently provides 21 undergraduate degree programmes and 9 graduate degree programmes under the 5 Faculties together with 6 programmes offered by the Advanced Vocational School. The degree programmes offered by EUL are fully accredited by Higher Education Council of Turkey (YOK) and that of many other countries. EUL is an international university with a population of approximately 3000 students from 30 different countries, and distinguished and experienced international academic staff. The medium of instruction is English. The mission of EUL is equipping the students to become self-confident, contemporary, creative, and independent. The university is committed to encouraging individuals to realize their full potential,

and training competent professionals for a global world. Students graduating from European University of Lefke have a wide variety of great job opportunities not only in their home countries but in the globe.

Girne American University (GAU)

(www.gau.edu.tr)

Girne American University was founded in 1985 as an independent, non-profit institution of higher education. From its establishment, the university has focused on providing access to an American-based higher education to the widest possible group of young learners.

Karmi campus of GAU is found at Karaoglanoglu, a few kilometres from the "University Town" of Girne. Access to and from the town is by the buses. To serve its central purpose GAU uses a wide range of strategies: it fosters a variety of instructional approaches, it encourages scholarship, it engages in collaborative community service, and it empowers its constituents to become responsible citizens in an interdependent, pluralistic, global community.

GAU has grown in its understanding of itself, as a modern University which has been focused on five core values; access, speed, relevance, value and community. As a knowledge age University, programmes at GAU offer the students the opportunity to experience and explore the interchange of theory and practice through technology and service-learning opportunities. It has 6 faculties namely, Faculties of Law, Engineering, Architecture, Business, Economics and Education. There are currently 30 undergraduate programs and 23 graduate programs. The medium of instruction at GAU is English and there are students coming from 46 different countries.

Moreover, besides the academic excellence of GAU, it has provided ground for extracurricular activities. In this respect, the University has 25 sports clubs, 18 social and academic clubs and many student clubs.

GAU is accredited by the Turkish Higher Education Council (YOK) and by YODAK, the Higher Education Council of Turkish Republic Northern Cyprus. The University is also accredited by the IACBE, the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education, the prime accrediting body for specialist business colleges and schools in the USA, and is an institutional member of the Society of Business Practitioners; a member of, the European Council of International Schools (ECIS), the European Council for Business Education (ECBE), the International Federation for Business Education (IFBE) and the International Award Association for young People (IAA). The university is a founder member of the American Educational Consortium, (AEC) an international body formed to encourage and exchange information between international institutions offering education based on the American system.

GAU's programs are also accredited by the University Grants Commission of Pakistan, Iran and recognized by the Central Asian Countries. As a result of these initiatives the degrees and diplomas are routinely recognised for transfer by universities in the USA, Europe and elsewhere.

Cyprus International University (CIU)

(www.ciu.edu.tr)

Cyprus International University was established in 1997. It is a modern, innovative institution providing its students a centre of excellent international distinction. With all its academic and social activities, the University's prime commitment is to provide educational facilities to satisfy the needs of a modern technological society. Thus, whilst these needs are broadly provided, CIU has developed a deliberate policy of making its courses practical and relevant. CIU emphasises individual attention and care for its students. With its outstanding international academic staff, CIU is concerned particularly with the quality of its teaching, the employability of its graduates and the application of its research expertise for the benefit of the community. With its internationally accredited programs and modern campus, CIU attracts students from all over the world. The university has 6 faculties and 20 undergraduate programs and 3 graduate programs for its students coming from 21 different countries..

With its internationally accredited programs and modern campus, CIU attracts students from all over the world. The University has faculties of engineering, communications, fine arts, economics and administrative sciences and the faculty of arts and sciences. The education period in these faculties are all 4 years. The university is also giving MBA, MA, MIST, MARCH and MA courses.

The undergraduate degree programs offered by CIU are fully accredited by the Higher Educational Council (YÖK) of Turkey and the University Grants Commission of Pakistan (UGC). Accreditation of YÖK gives International recognition to all CIU degree programs. Graduates of CIU may continue or transfer their higher education in other universities in Europe, Middle East, USA, Australia etc.

Middle East Technical University North Cyprus Campus (METU NCC)

(www.ncc.metu.edu.tr)

METU North Cyprus Campus offers excellent facilities, exceptionally qualified faculty and highest international standards in teaching, research and community service, and internationally accepted degree programs in engineering and economic, and administrative sciences. The language of

instruction on the Campus is English. From the very outset, METU NCC, following in the footsteps of its mother institution, the Middle East Technical University in Ankara , Turkey , aims at becoming a select higher education institution of international character.

METU Northern Cyprus Campus became fully operational by September 2005 and accepted students to a total of eight undergraduate programs. Currently, it is giving education to 1000 students. By 2015, METU Northern Cyprus Campus will be offering a full spectrum of degree programs and will have reached an enrollment of 3,500 students.

METU North Cyprus Campus is built on an area of 3,000 decares (donums), approximately 50 km west of Lefkoşa (Nicosia) and 6 km north of Güzelyurt (Morphou), a charming town with a population of 12,000. Today, METU NCC is an excellent campus with its high-tech infrastructure, very modern education buildings and laboratories, the Cultural and Convention Center, Administration - Library - Computer Center Complex, Cafeteria, Shopping Center, Student Association Rooms, Dormitories, Staff Housing, Fitness-Wellness Club, Post Office, Book Store and Health & Counseling Center.

D. ARTS, CULTURE and MEDIA

1. Arts and Culture

The Theatre

The interest of the Turkish people in drama dates back to their origin in Anatolia. Shadow plays such as Karagoz and Hacivat and satirical drams such as tuluat are the origin of this art. The modern drama in the European sense started early in 1900 by clubs, schools or associations and followed with enthusiasm by the local people. Plays and musical dramas written by local composers have gained the appreciation of the people. The first theatre group, İlk Sahne was established as an independent theatre in 1963 of which the status changed to be the State Theatre -Ilk Sahne (First Stage) in 1966. With the increasing number of the graduates from the Theatre and Music Faculties and candidates who attended relevant courses, the number of staff of the theatre increased in time. The state theatre has opened its stages in a new building after 1974 and it is carrying on its activities under the directory of Cyprus Turkish State Theatre. This group has put more then a hundred plays on the stage until today with continuous plays within the country and abroad while it is also hosting the theatre groups visiting North Cyprus from time to time. The Theatre of Lefkoşa Municipality, founded by a group separated from the state theatre, established in 1980 also put plays on the stage in its own theatre hall in

Lefkoşa. Other groups in other towns followed this, each establishing their own theatre groups. They also organize special classes for the training of young amateur artists and performed plays for the children as well.

Music

The Musical Activities in North Cyprus can be categorised as Cyprus Turkish Folk Music, Turkish Classical Art Music, Universal multi sounded music (Classic Music, Pop Music) and Popular Music. Music lovers are gathering in amateur groups, which are mainly organised under local municipalities.

Concerts and recitals of internationally known musicians and musical festivities are held regularly, during which both local and foreign musicians display their performances. International Bellapais Music Festival is held annually in the unique atmosphere of the Bellapais Abbey with sounding performances of musicians from all over the world.

Fine Arts

Fine arts in the modern sense began in the middle of last century. The modernisation of the education system led to these changes and a rapid development took place until today. The artistic activities are based on the Turkish and universal culture evolved after the acceptance of the contemporary way of living. Today, the art of TRNC has emerged rapidly in the international art arena, participating



(An example of modern art, Photo by Ersin Taşer)

in various exhibitions. The artists execute several art works in the form of painting, sculpture, ceramic making and in other media. They enjoy their

freedom to depict their work in every new style.

Cyprus Turkish Folk Dances

The Turkish Cypriot folk dances have characteristics with rather colourful costumes, which shows similarities with the costumes worn in Anatolia. The folk groups usually have performances during the national festivals, weddings, hotels or tourism areas. Contests are held regularly every year. The performances of folk dance groups in overseas festivities receive the highest acclaim and prizes.

The Libraries, Archives & Publications

The National Library in Lefkoşa is one of the main libraries in Northern Cyprus, which provides new sources for the teachers, students and readers. A special library for the blinds has recently been established in the National Library. Moreover, there are seven branch libraries within the seven main towns. The recently established Universities within the last decade provide specialised libraries that are open for all researchers and readers in North Cyprus. Besides the esteemed libraries in all the universities, The Grand Library in the Near East University is of a high caliber.

3. Media

The Turkish Cypriot people are having newspapers published in Cyprus since the middle of the nineteenth century. These provide local and universal news while they also contribute to the cultural life of the society. There are more than 10 daily newspapers currently, and many weekly and monthly periodicals published in the TRNC. Besides these, there are Local and foreign news agencies functioning in the TRNC.

The Turkish Cypriots had their first radio stations opened in 1964. Bayrak Radio was the first one and Canpolat, and Lefke radios joined these in the same year. Currently, many private TV and radio channels are functioning in the TRNC.

1. Bayrak Radio and Television Cooperation (B.R.T.K.)

BRTK Sitesi - Lefkoşa, Mersin 10, Turkey;

Tel: (90 392) 225 5555

Fax: (90 392) 228 1991

The official website for BRTK : www.brtk.com

E. HOW TO TRAVEL TO TRNC

In addition to the country's national carrier, the Cyprus Turkish Airlines; there are private airlines companies which operate regular services to and from the TRNC, via Turkey. The TRNC has two modern and well-equipped airports which are meeting the world standards namely Ercan and Geçitkale Airports. The TRNC Air Traffic Control also has an international character for it gives service not only to those flying to or from the TRNC but to all aircraft using the TRNC airspace. There are daily scheduled direct flights to and from Turkey and London by the airlines operating in TRNC. In addition to these, there are connecting flights to major



(Antique Ruins of Salamis, Photo by Ediz Tuncel)

capitals of the world via Turkish Airlines. Chartered flights from major European capitals to TRNC are carried out during summer time by private airlines. All flight tickets must be reconfirmed two days before departure. Three ferryboat companies operate regular services between the two main ports in Gazimagusa and Girne, and the ports in the southern coast of Turkey, namely Mersin, Antalya and Taşucu. Girne port is mainly used for the summer traffic. In addition to fast ferry services, there are car ferryboats between Girne and Taşucu, which takes 4 hours, and between Gazimagusa and Mersin, which takes approximately 9 hours.

F. USEFUL INFORMATION

Major Towns

The capital of TRNC is Lefkoşa, which has a population over 62,000. The main administration and business centres are found in Lefkoşa. Other major towns include: Gazimağusa which is a flourishing centre for tourism, industry

and commerce, as well as having the country's principle port. Girne is a town important for tourism with its wonderful yacht harbour. Güzelyurt is famous with its splendorous environment and citrus trees.

Telecommunications

International subscriber dialling is possible to most of the countries. From abroad the code is 00 90 392 followed by the local Turkish Cypriot number. Telephone calls can be made from telecommunication offices, kiosks and at the hotel reception desks. Public telephone booths are available and telephone cards can be purchased from the telecommunications office. Telex, fax and posting services are available and communication through e-mail is highly popular. To receive mail from abroad letters must be addressed "Mersin 10-Turkey".

Time

Local time is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Banks and Currency

In the TRNC, numerous Turkish and Turkish Cypriot banks operate from Monday to Friday (except public holidays) between the hours of 08.00-12.00/14.00-16.00 in winter. Summer hours may vary.

The New Turkish Lira is used as the local currency. While, there is no restriction for the import of foreign currency into Northern Cyprus; large amounts should be declared to Customs upon entry.

It is possible to exchange all currencies in banks, exchange offices and in hotels. All major credit cards are accepted.

Customs

Personal clothing and personal belongings intended for the visitor's own use, are not liable to duty. Each adult is permitted to bring 400 cigarettes, 500g tobacco or 50 cigars, 1 litre of wine or spirits and up to 100cl of perfume. Duty-free shops can be found at Ercan Airport and the ports at Girne and Gazimagusa. A valid passport is necessary for entering and a visa is granted on entrance to Northern Cyprus.

It is strictly prohibited to export antiquities or archaeological artefacts.

Consumer Markets

There is a wide selection of consumer goods of high quality. In addition to locally produced consumer goods, almost all-foreign brands are available on the market.

Health and Medical Care

Helped by a good climate, health conditions are good and there are good medical facilities. Emergency medical treatment at State Hospitals in all towns are free of charge for visitors. The Central State Hospital is in Lefkoşa and there are hospitals in Girne, Gazimagusa, Güzelyurt and Lefke. There are private hospitals and clinics in smaller towns and some villages. The country is free from infectious diseases.

What to Eat and Drink

The meals offered in Northern Cyprus generally follow the European cuisine, but there are many local and oriental specialties, which can be enjoyed both in the hotels and in smaller restaurants and coffeehouses. The following is a list explaining a few of the delicacies that are considered as specialties peculiar to the Turkish Cypriots.

Meze is (appetizer) served on a collection of saucers accompanying one's sunset drink and can even take the place of a main meal. Usually served with Local beverages, it includes snips of local cheeses, such as halloumi, kaskaval and fetta; green or black olives; octopus; houmous - a mixture of ground chickpeas mixed with sesame oil and parsley and sometimes with red pepper as well; a variety of sliced meats and sliced fresh or pickled vegetables; and yoghurt. Of the more substantial meze one can name dolma (stuffed vine leaves), kebab varieties, kofte, bulgur kofte and borek.

Sweet Dishes

Visitors are recommended to try katmer, kadayif and baklava. Almost every household has its stock of fruit preserved in syrup: apricot, quince, cherry, walnut and many others which are offered to the guest on arrival with a glass of cold water.

Fruit: During the summer season melon, cherry, apricot, peach, plum, apple, fig, pear and grape are plentiful. Cyprus oval orange, grapefruit and tangerine are produced and exported.

Soft Drinks: Apart from the usual carbonated drinks well known in many countries, specialties are Sumada, made from almonds; and Rose cordial, distilled from leaves of roses.

Coffee, made in the Turkish style, may be regarded as a national institution rather than a drink. It is taken very sweet, sweet boiled, medium, or without sugar.

Weight & Measures

The metric system of weights and measures are used in the TRNC.

Electricity

220/240 Volts A/C. 50Hz. A standard three pin British plug is used.

Traffic Instructions

Traffic flows on the left and international traffic signs are used. The conditions of roads are very good. Cars entering the TRNC must have a valid insurance certificate. For a tourist driver a valid national or international driving licence is accepted.

Office Hours

Summer

May-Sept

Monday

07.30-14.00/
15.30-18.00

Tue -Fri:

7.30-14.00

Saturdays and Sundays are official holidays.

Winter

Oct-April

Monday-Friday

08.00-12.30/
13.30-17.00

Places to visit

	Winter hours	Summer hours
Lefkoşa:		
Mevlevi Tekke Museum	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-14:00
Barbarlık Museum	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-14:00
National Struggle Museum	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-14:00
Selimiye Mosque	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-14:00
Bedesten (covered bazaar - St. George Cathedral) The Grand Inn		
Girne:		
Girne Castle & Museums	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-19:00
Bellapais Monestry	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-19:00
St. Hillarion Castle	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-19:00
Peace and Freedom Museum	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-14:00
Gazimagusa:		
St. Barnabas Museum	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-19:00
Salamis Ruins	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	09:00-19:00
Othello Castle	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	10:00-17:00
Kantara Castle	09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45	10:00-17:00

Güzelyurt:

Güzelyurt Museum

St. Mamas Icon Museum

Soli Ruins

09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45

09:00-13:00/14:00-16:45

09:00-19:00

09:00-19:00

Useful Telephone Numbers

Town	Police Station	Hospital
Lefkoşa	2283311	2285441
Gazimağusa	3665310	3665328
Girne	8152125	8152266
Güzelyurt	7142141	7142125
Lefke	7287423	7287757
Ercan	2314806	--
Iskele	3712333	3712319

Emergencies

Police: 155

First Aid: 112

Fire: 199

Forest Fire: 177

Flight and Ferry

Cyprus Turkish Airlines

Tel: 00(90) 392 2283901

Web page: www.kthy.net

Turkish Airlines (Lefkoşa)

Tel: 00(90) 392 2271061

e-mail: thykib@ebim.com.tr

Ercan Airport

Tel: 00(90) 392 231 48 06

Cyprus Turkish Shipping Company

Tel: 00(90) 392 366 5786 / 3665995 / 3668433

Fergün Ferry

Tel: 00(90) 392 8151770- 8151870

Web page: www.fergun.net

Other important numbers

Deputy Prime Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tel:00(90)392 228 3241

Fax:00(90) 392 228 4290

e-mail: bakanlik@trncinfo.org

Web Site: www.trncinfo.com

Public Relations Department

Tel:00(90 392 228 4133 Fax:00(90) 392228 1567

e-mail: pubinfo@trncinfo.org

Public Information Department

Tel: 00(90) 392 2283 365 Fax:00(90) 392 2284847

e-mail: pio@trncpio.org

Tourism Information Office

Tel: 00(90) 392 228 9629 Fax:00(90) 392 228 9625

TRNC REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES

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(Embassy)

Rabat Sokak No:20

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Ankara Turkey

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Tel:00-90-312-4468490

Fax:00-90-312-4465238

e-mail: kktc@ada.net.tr

ISTANBUL

Consulate General

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No:B24/1 Balmumcu

Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey

Tel:00-90-212-2273490

Tel:00-90-212-2273491

Tel:00-90-212-2273492

Fax:00-90-212-2273493

e-mail: info@kktc-ib.com

MERSIN

Consulate General

Atatürk Caddesi, No:71/3

Mersin 33010, Turkey

Tel:00-90-324-2372482/83

Fax: 0324 2372520

e-mail: kktcmersin@yahoo.com

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Office of the Representative

Gaziosmanpaşa Bulvarı No:30

Süreyya Reyent İş Merkezi Kat 4/408

Konak-İzmir

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Fax: 0232 489 58 92

e-mail: kktcizmirkon@yahoo.com

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*(Sun Set in
the TRNC,
Photo by
Ediz
Tunçel)*



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*(Handicrafts
displayed in
Büyük Han,
Photo by Ediz
Tuñçel)*

*Thanks to
Ediz Tuel and Ersin Taer
for the photographs.*