

## PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, has been ratified to date by 188 States Parties making it the most widely recognized international treaty for heritage protection.

The Convention promotes the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage considered of great importance for humanity. Its primary mission is to define the world's heritage by drawing up a list of sites whose "outstanding universal values" should be preserved for all mankind and to ensure their protection through a closer cooperation among nations.

The Republic of Cyprus ratified the Convention in 1975, undertaking a shared responsibility with other Member States to protect World Heritage.

So far, Cyprus has three sites listed:

The first listing was concluded in 1980 and concerns Paphos site, including Kato Paphos (Ancient Nea Paphos) and Kouklia village (ancient Palaepaphos).



The second listing was concluded in 1985, initially including nine Byzantine and Post Byzantine Churches of the Troodos mountain range, to which a tenth church was added in 2001.



The third listing was concluded in 1998 and concerns the Neolithic Settlement of Choirokoitia.



In our area, the Famagusta district, there is a vast number of cultural and archaeological places among which the famous Monastery of Ayia Napa.



Cultural heritage is the accumulation of a centuries-old valuable experience and represents our history and identity. The preservation of cultural memory involves implementing enriched policy of "culture" of society at national and international intercultural level, by raising awareness for the aesthetic and historical significance of cultural heritage.

**\*\*Kindly note that when visiting churches, modest dress is required – for men, this means no shorts or tank tops, for women no trousers or Bermuda shorts\*\***

**\*\*Photography inside most churches or monasteries is strictly forbidden\*\***

**\*\*Please refrain from littering\*\***