

A Journey in the Geology of Cyprus

Lectures and Excursions Programme
(January – June 2014)



BANK OF CUPRUS CULTURAL FOUNDATION

A Journey in the Geology of Cyprus

In the framework of the exhibition and the publication *Cyprus and Geology. Science-Environment-Culture*, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation starts a series of lectures, exhibition tours and excursions entitled *A Journey in the Geology of Cyprus*, which will run from January to June 2014.

The aim of the lectures and the excursions is to make known to the public the unique geo-environment of Cyprus, which has determined the historical, cultural and socioeconomic development of the island, both in antiquity and in modern times.

The lectures and the exhibition tours will be delivered by the geologists Dr George Constantinou and Ioannis Panayides, authors of the publication and curators of the exhibition, who will also accompany and guide the participants at the excursions.

LECTURES

The lectures will be given every month, at 7:30 p.m. on a Wednesday, and their duration will be 25-30 minutes. A discussion will follow, as well as a guided tour to the exhibition. The lectures and the exhibition's tours will be delivered in Greek.

1. *The birth and the uplift of Cyprus* | January 29th, 2014

The geology of Cyprus is unique. The abundance of spectacular geological occurrences on the island, make up a wonderful and rich natural archive of geological processes rendering Cyprus a geological model for earth-scientists the world over, thereby contributing to the understanding of how oceans and, by extension, how the Earth itself evolved.

Troodos range, the backbone of Cyprus, was formed by volcanic activity 90 million years ago, in the depths of an ancient ocean, known as Tethys Sea, 3000 meters below the sea-level. As a result of the uplift, the rocks from the Earth's mantle appear on the highest peak of Troodos mountain. From a geological point of view, when one ascends the Troodos mountain is like passing in reverse order from the bottom of the ocean floor down into the depths of the Earth, reaching the Earth's upper mantle. In fact, Cyprus could well be the only place on earth where geology has been the predominant factor not only in shaping its natural environment, but also in its historical, cultural and socioeconomic evolution during ancient and modern times alike.



2. *Mineral resources* / February 19th, 2014

In Cyprus there are abundant and massive cupriferous deposits and economically significant asbestos and chromite deposits. There are also many deposits of mineral pigments like umber, ochre, sienna, terra verde and extensive deposits of gypsum and bentonite. Many of the rocks of Cyprus were used in antiquity and are still used, to satisfy human needs. Hard and durable stones were useful and suitable for making stone tools, as well as for houses, buildings and roads. Coloured stones were used for making mosaics, argillic marls and residual soils for the production of ceramics, gypsum for plastering houses, limestone for the production of lime etc.



3. *Cupriferous deposits* | March 19th, 2014

The exploitation of Troodos mineral resources and especially copper, in antiquity and modern times, had a significant contribution in the historical and cultural development of Cyprus.

In antiquity, copper was as important as oil and natural gas is today. It was not only a source of wealth, but a sought after commodity which encouraged the commercial and cultural interconnections between the countries. The exploitation of that mineral wealth left its indelible mark on the social, economic and technological growth of the island.



4. *Natural disasters* | April 9th, 2014

Natural disasters are a fast, instantaneous or major conflict of the natural environment with the socio-economic system. Basically, natural disasters are extreme natural phenomena which interfere with human constructions and activities due to the way these are organised in the environment, as well as their vulnerable nature.

The impact of natural disasters often includes too many victims and enormous material damage. Many of them are caused by geological phenomena such as earthquakes, seismic sea waves (tsunami), volcanic eruptions, landslides, subsidence, hurricanes, floods, droughts. Cyprus, has suffered many times in the past by earthquakes, tsunami, landslides, floods and droughts.



5. *Water resources* | May 14th, 2014

Cyprus has exclusively autochthonous and limited water resources, depended on rainfall. The Troodos massif has a significant effect on the climatic conditions and particularly rainfall. Additionally, the tectonic activity which accompanied the uplifting of Troodos mountain also caused the spallation of the rock formations themselves, rendering them permeable to water. This resulted in the creation of aquifers and the emergence of many natural springs at various elevations. In all the stages of Cyprus' history, the water supply and irrigation was a primary concern to the island's inhabitants.

In periods of low rainfall and water shortage, they turned to technically difficult and expensive methods in order to obtain water.

The most ancient water wells in the world are found on the island, dating from the end of the 9th millennium B.C., as well as aqueducts, qanats (chain of wells), a large number of bore holes, dams, waterways of more than 100 kilometres and desalination units.



6. *Hydrocarbons* / June 11th, 2014

The discovery of significant natural gas reserves in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus is of vital importance for the island. These energy resources, enhance the geostrategic importance of Cyprus and they put the island on the world energy map, opening up new positive economic prospects for the future. Cyprus has now been given the opportunity to play a substantial role in the Mediterranean as it did in antiquity with the production and trade of copper.



EXCURSIONS

The guided tours will take place on Saturdays and the minimum number of participants will be 20 persons and the maximum 50. Priority will be given.

Those interested in participating, should register at least one week before the day of the excursion, thus permitting better organisation of the tours.

The participation cost for each excursion depends on the route of the trip. The fee will cover transportation only. During the excursion there will be a break for lunch in a picnic area, therefore all excursionists will have to bring their lunch.



1. Geology of Troodos | March 1st, 2014

(Last submission date, Friday, February 21st, 2014)

Nicosia – Kalo Chorio Klirou – Agrokipia – Mitsero
– Kato Moni – Orounta – Astromeritis – The Asbestos Mine (Amiantos)
– Troodos – Nicosia

2. Mine of Skouriotissa | April 5th, 2014

(Last submission date, Friday, March 28th, 2014)

Nicosia – Mammari – Peristerona – Katydata
– Skouriotissa – Asinou – Nicosia

3. Thalassa Museum – Cape Gkreko | May 10th, 2014

(Last submission date, Friday, May 2nd, 2014)

Nicosia – Latsia (Kakkaristra) – Ancient Idalion – Agia Napa
(Thalassa Museum) – Cape Gkreko – Nicosia

4. Pafos | June 7th, 2014

(Last submission date, Friday, May 30th, 2014)

Nicosia – Limassol – Kolossi Castle – Kourion
– Apollo Hylates Temple – Petra tou Romiou – Kissonerga
(ancient well) – Nicosia

**Information about the excursions' programme will be announced on
January 29th, 2014. For further information please visit the website
www.boccf.org or call at 22-128191.*



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