



THE AMBER HOUSE VILLA

Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus

Tell me about the villa?

Enjoy the welcoming warm glow and tranquillity of **The Amber House Villa**. This beautiful, prestigious, detached villa set in its own grounds, is located in Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus. The villa has mountain views to the rear and a private **infinity** pool with sea views to the front and sleeps 6 people comfortably. Relax in the stylish modern villa with its interpretation of Otterman design using contemporary pieces with traditional fabrics and accessories. The villa is part of the Simogen Heights luxury development of a dozen individual villas finished in cedar wood, Cypriot stone and iron, all complete with private pools. The contemporary furniture reflects the style and quality of this Simogen Heights development. As the name describes, the house has a warm welcoming glow and has lots of natural light which reflects the rich fabrics used to furnish the house.

Why should I visit?

The Amber House Villa is located 5 minutes from safe, clean, sandy beaches with full facilities and only 10 minutes to the fantastic old harbour town of Kyrenia. It has a wonderful climate, with long hot summers and relatively warm winters. The area is packed with history, culture, spectacular scenery and lovely people. It has one of the last remaining un-spoilt, under-developed coastlines in the Mediterranean, as strict laws control development.

Is it for me?

Adult or child, the villa, the development, the area and the island of Cyprus offer all it takes to enjoy a fantastic holiday. There is plenty to entertain every member of the family in the way of beaches, fishing, cycling or walking but if sitting around a pool is your thing then the magnificent private pool is yours to enjoy.

1. NORTHERN CYPRUS REGION

Northern Cyprus is one of the most attractive places in the Mediterranean, but because of its troubled history and political isolation, it has remained largely undiscovered so is unaffected by mass tourism. It has a great deal to offer. There are ancient Roman ruins, Crusader castles, Byzantine churches, Ottoman mosques. There's something about the golden light of Northern Cyprus and the quintessentially Mediterranean scene of ancient olives, cypresses, crumbling castles and harbour life that compels you to unwind.

Cyprus is a beautiful little island set in the Eastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea. Each year large numbers of tourists visit the island to enjoy the hot, sunny climate and clear skies during the summer months, the exquisite and variant coastline and the charming hospitality of the local people.

The island has a diverse geological scenery - raised beaches, coastal sand dunes, tombolos, sea cliffs and caves, ravines, gorges, tiny isles, sandy beaches and much more - all waiting to be discovered!

Inland, the natural vegetation is rich and varied with a number of endemic plants - such as the 127 different species of flowers - 67 of which can be found on the Troodos Mountains. Equally significant is the fauna of the island, with its unique moufflon (an endangered species) that roam in the forests of Pafos and Troodos. The green and fertile plains of the orange and lemon orchards and market gardens that spread out between the two mountain ranges are a trademark familiar sight typical of the Mediterranean.

The Troodos Mountains extend southwest from the capital, Lefkosia, to the ports of Limassol and Paphos on the coast. The dramatic Kyrenia mountain range, thrust northeastwards into the knife shaped karpas (panhandle) peninsula, which point directly at the coasts of Syria and Turkey.

The Mesaoria plain between the two mountain ranges (Kyrenia and Troodos) is toasted to an arid golden brown in the summer but during springtime it becomes a brilliant array of wild flowers and green grass. Sheep and goats are commonly spotted grazing while olive groves and vineyards are found on the lower slopes of the mountains. The Pafos and Limassol forests have copious amounts of pine, juniper, cypress and cedar groves.

The climate in Northern Cyprus makes this an ideal summer or winter destination. Northern Cyprus offers just two seasons, Winter begins in November and Summer starts in May. It is truly an island of contrasts. In the north a stony and rocky coastline is interspersed with quiet intimate beaches, and to the east there are vast expanses of dunes and sandy beaches. Inland from the north coast is the fertile coastal plain where olives, carob, citrus fruit and grapes are grown, rising steeply to the conifer forested upper slopes and the rugged skyline of the Kyrenia mountains. Whatever your interest, whatever your pleasure, whatever time of year, you can enjoy the unspoilt natural beauty that is Northern Cyprus.



Northern Cyprus enjoys over 300 days of sunshine in the year. The hottest months are July and August when average temperatures reach into mid 30° C, but in the shoulder months of April to June and September to November temperatures reach a high 20° C, with very little rainfall. Clean uncrowded beaches and crystal clear warm waters make Northern Cyprus a corner of earth touched by heaven. Sailing, windsurfing, waterskiing, diving and snorkeling can be enjoyed nine to ten months of the year.

Kyrenia / Girne area

The nearest main town, Kyrenia, is full of narrow cobbled streets leading down to the harbour, which is lined with a wide range of restaurants; it takes just a few minutes to drive. Kyrenia, with its horseshoe harbour and lots of shops, is 10 minutes from **The Amber House Villa**. On Wednesday there is a market in Kyrenia near the bus station. It's a good place to buy fresh fruit and vegetables, and you can also get T shirts, shorts etc. Kyrenia offers the benefits of both sea and mountain air, so is ideal for a relaxing holiday.



The food is wonderful. All the eastern Mediterranean staples are there: tarama, humous, tsatski, dolmades, plus a variety of vegetables of every description, either chopped in salads, with herbs, oil, nuts, olives, sultanas, beans, rice or couscous, goats cheese or yoghurt, followed by the ubiquitous kebab or grilled fish and tempting sweets of the east, oozing honey and richness.



There is a small beach club and restaurant complex very near the villa. Come to the bottom of the hill on which the villa is situated. Turn right and follow the signs for Golden Cove development. The beach club is situated on the left hand side approximately 5 minutes from the villa. The best beach for a day trip is "Turtle Beach" - a long, open sandy beach about 10 miles east of Kyrenia and about twenty minutes drive from **The Amber House Villa**. It is often almost deserted and has a small beach bar where you can rent umbrellas. It is a protected area, and at certain times of the year you can see turtles hatching and scrambling down to the sea.

The **Kyrenia mountain range** is a long, narrow chain of mountains that runs approximately 160 km (100 mi) along the north coast of Cyprus. The mountains are primarily limestone, with some marble. The highest mountain, Kyparissovouno, is 1024 m (3360 ft) in elevation.

The western half of the range is also known as the Pentadactylos mountains. The Turkish name for these mountains is Besparmak (Besparmak : "five fingers").

These mountains are a series of sedimentary formations from the Permian to the Middle Miocene pushed up by a collision of the African and Eurasian plates. Though only half the height of the Troodos mountains, the Kyrenia mountains are very rugged and rise abruptly from the Mesaoria plain making them very spectacular.

The placement of the mountains near the sea made them desirable locations for watch towers and castles overlooking the north Cyprus coast as well as the central plain. These castles generally date from the 10th through the 15th centuries, primarily constructed by the Byzantines and Lusignans. The castles of St. Hilarion, Buffavento, and Kantara sit astride peaks and were of strategic importance during much of Cyprus's history during the Middle Ages.



2. POINTS OF INTEREST

Activities near Kyrenia

Great for:

- Walking holidays (guides are available)
- Rural / countryside / nature retreats
- Beach or lakeside relaxation
- A winter sun break
- Good nightlife
- Water sports



More details:

Scuba diving:

The waters around Cyprus are clear and warm and often a T-shirt and tank is all you need to go diving. There is an excellent scuba outfit attached to the Jasmine Court Hotel in Kyrenia. A dive with all equipment is about £20 and the instructor will take you where you want to go to.

Castles:

Northern Cyprus is steeped in history. For the historian the region's a wonder, the ruins of ancient Salamis and Bellapais Abbey stand in lonely isolation, in fact it's hardly possible to walk a few steps without stumbling over some ancient artefact, whether a Greek temple, Roman amphitheatre, Byzantine church,

soaring Gothic cathedral, Venetian rampart or Ottoman mosque. Kyrenia Castle contains the shipwreck museum and some rather lurid waxworks depicting dark goings-on in the dungeons. St Hilarion is also attractive, and is easy to reach by car. Buffavento is very pretty, but is much more difficult to reach, as you have to climb up the mountain to get to it. Kantara is a long way and probably not worth the effort unless you are passing on the way to Famagusta.

Monasteries:

There are two ruined monasteries along the road the other side of Five Finger Mountain (Besparmak). Just 10 minutes above Kyrenia is Bellapais Abbey. Set in this fabulous location, a visit to this 14th century Lusignan Bellapais Abbey is a must. These could be visited in a single day, but it is probably better to see them on separate days. They are both set in a lovely mountain forest.

Nature:

About 46 sandy beaches in Northern Cyprus comprise the main nestling ground for endangered Chelonia Mydas and Caretta Caretta sea turtles in the Eastern Mediterranean. In 1992, about 1,500 rare female turtles laid eggs on the shores of Northern Cyprus. The Turtle Project visit at night is a must.



Walking:

There are lots of walks. One of the best the walk to St Hilarion, however, this is only likely to appeal to the most dedicated walker. It is well worth the effort though and the views are fantastic. When walking in the hills, it is advisable to wear suitable shoes as a precaution against snakes. Brown ones are poisonous but relatively rare; black ones are more common but are completely harmless.

Nightlife:

There are lots of good restaurants and bars. Kyrenia has a feel of Ibiza Town! Good nightclubs are Escape beach and Night Park (which is open air and you can stay past sunset)!

3. THE AMBER HOUSE VILLA HIGHLIGHTS

House Facilities

Luxuries	Log fire, DVD player, Multi-change CD
General	TV, Open Fire
Standard	Kettle, Toaster, Iron, Hair dryer, Coffee Machine
Utilities	Dish washer, Cooker, Fridge, Freezer, Washing machine
Rooms	Bedrooms (3), Bathrooms (2), Toilets (3), Upstairs Balconies (2), Terraces (2), Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room
Furniture	King size bed (1), Double bed (1), Single beds (2), Dining seating for 8, Lounge seating for 6, Sleeps 6, space for cots.
Other	Linen, Bathroom and Pool Towels provided
Outdoors	Private outdoor infinity swimming pool, Private garden, Barbeque
Access	Secure parking for 2 cars, Traditional stone walled garden area with private entry gates



Further details:

The Amber House Villa comprises 3 bedrooms, all with an individual theme. The master bedroom has a king size bed with en-suite shower room equipped with power shower, toilet and sink, and a small balcony with sea views. The second bedroom has a double bed, the third has two single beds, and both have use of a family bathroom with shower opposite. All bedrooms have air conditioning, bedside tables and ample fitted wardrobes. There is a large open hallway with a door to a balcony upstairs with a view of the mountains. A cot is available and is stored on site.



The airy, open-plan lounge and dining area has high ceilings, travertine marble floors and a staircase with iron banister rising past a large circular window in the hallway. There are two comfy brown, modern sofas, coffee table plus a dining room with a table to seat 8 people. Television and DVD player are available. An open fire is central to the house in the lounge and heating and air conditioning throughout. There is a multi-change hi-fi system and a good selection of CDs, plus DVDs, books, games and magazines. There is a toilet room downstairs.

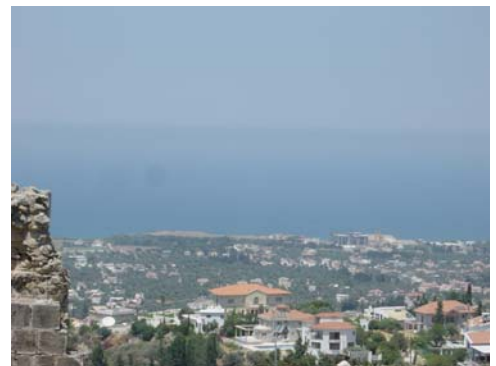


The open-plan kitchen is equipped with everything you could possibly need. Including stylish crockery for both indoors and outdoors (e.g. stemmed azure acrylic glasses), modern table linen and stainless steel accessories.



There is a terrace looking over the pool with views of the sea. There are seats and loungers on the patio around the pool for all to enjoy the views of the mountains and the sea. There is a dining terrace for "al fresco" sunset dining, equipped with table, chairs and barbeque. Pictures are available on www.hiddengemvillas.com.

The villa is 5 minutes from the beautiful village of Catalkoy, where you can find some good restaurants (e.g. Annie – traditional, and Two Words – Thai). There is also a local shop that sells fresh vegetables, plus Viva Casino in the Resort Dedeman is within walking distance.



The large, landscaped garden surrounds the property and is enclosed by a dry-stone wall in Cypriot stone. Wrought iron gates are at the entrance and there is ample room for 2 cars. The pool is 10m x 5m. There are pool loungers and pool towels are provided. Inflatable pool toys are available for children. Within a short distance the local amenities provide a supermarket, choice of restaurants, riding school and majestic walks.



4. TRAVEL

How to Get There

There are regular flights from Heathrow and Stansted to Ercan Airport in Northern Cyprus. These are semi-direct, which means that they touch down in Turkey for 45 minutes, but you do not have to get off or change planes. It is now also possible to fly into the south and cross the border, to both Larnaca and Paphos, with the transfer time being approximately 1.25 hours from Larnaca. The border is fully open and a simple passport log is all it takes. The process takes about 5 minutes.

To book flights, you can use Cyprus Turkish Airline direct in London (tel. 0207 930 4851). Adult return fares are about £250 in mid season and children are about £180. You may find it simpler to book through Jewels of the World (0870 116 2233), or the usual websites of www.expedia.com, www.flightbookers.coluk etc.

Collection from the airport can be arranged at extra cost. The driver will meet you outside the arrivals hall and will have a card with your name on it. He will take you directly to **The Amber House Villa**. The drive to the villa takes about 20/25 minutes from Ercan or an hour and quarter from Larnaca. For the return journey, transport can also be arranged.



5. RESERVATIONS

On arrival you will find a welcome pack awaiting you. A comprehensive guide for use of the property, pool, etc. are in the villa together with local information regarding beaches, restaurants, places of interest, shopping, etc. A weekly maid and pool cleaning service is included in the price.

Car hire is certainly recommended, and can be arranged via a regular contact. You can either collect from the airport or **The Amber House Villa**. Cars cost about £15 -20 per day in high season, depending on the model, but are cheaper in low season. We would recommend the comprehensive insurance, which is something like £3 per day extra. You will need a valid British driving license.

Conditions

This is a *non-smoking villa* although we are happy for people to smoke outside. No pets are allowed. Reputable English-speaking babysitters are available, details on request. The going rate is approx £3.50 per hour.

Tariff

A 50% deposit of total rental is required to secure the booking, paid either by cheque or bank transfer. Confirmation of booking and receipt of payment will be made by e-mail. Balance is required approximately 8 weeks before the start of the holiday, together with a refundable breakage deposit of £150 to be paid by cheque with the final balance. Cancellation charges: up to 8 weeks - deposit; up to 55 days - 60% of the total cost; up to 28 days - 100% of the total cost.

Year 2006

Year 2006	Price per week (entire villa)		
	Pounds	US Dollars	Euros
1 Jan - 31 Mar 2006	395	711	604
1 Apr - 28 June 2006	695	1251	1063
29 Jun - 14 Sep 2006	825	1485	1262
15 Sep - 2 Nov 2006	750	1350	1148
3 Nov - 31 Dec 2006	395	711	604

Notes:

Prices are for the entire villa for one calendar week

Conversion rates: £1 = 1.53 euros, £1 = \$1.8

8. CONTACT US

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9. LINKS

Weather

www.weather.com

Northern Cyprus Guides

www.northcyprusonline.com/
www.holidayinnorthcyprus.com/

Flights

Turkish Airlines- www.turkishairlines.com
Cyprus Turkish Airlines- www.kthy.net
Thomas Cook – www.flythomascook.com
Direct flights to Ercan - www.transit-travel.com/flights/northern/cyprus.htm.

10. BOOKS

Bitter Lemons of Cyprus

by Lawrence Durrell
Release Date: 3 July, 2000
Publisher: Faber and Faber
ISBN: 0571201555

North Cyprus: The Bradt Travel Guide

by Diana Darke
Release Date: 1 September 2000
Publisher: Bradt Travel Guides
ISBN: 1841620122



**If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.
I do hope you will enjoy your stay with us as you sample
the delights of this beautiful part of the world. Thank you.
Kieron & Melanie**