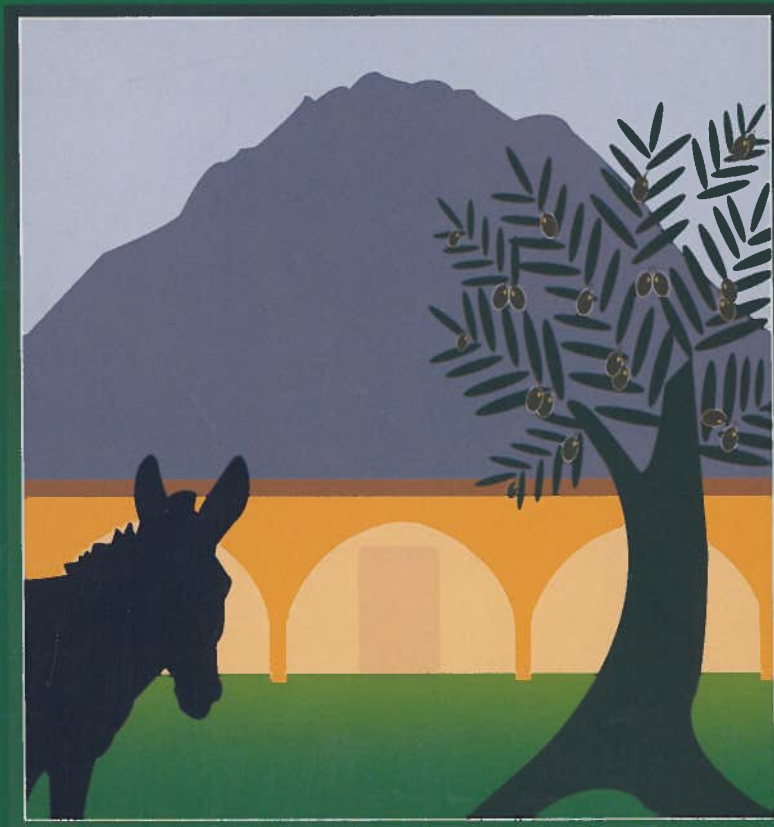


BÜYÜKKONUK ECO-VILLAGE



Welcome! ...Hoşgeldiniz!...Bienvenue!...Bienvenidos!...Weilkommen!...Добро пожаловать!...Benvenuto!...Καλοσώριστε!

Büyükkonuk Eco-tourism Association Welcomes You!

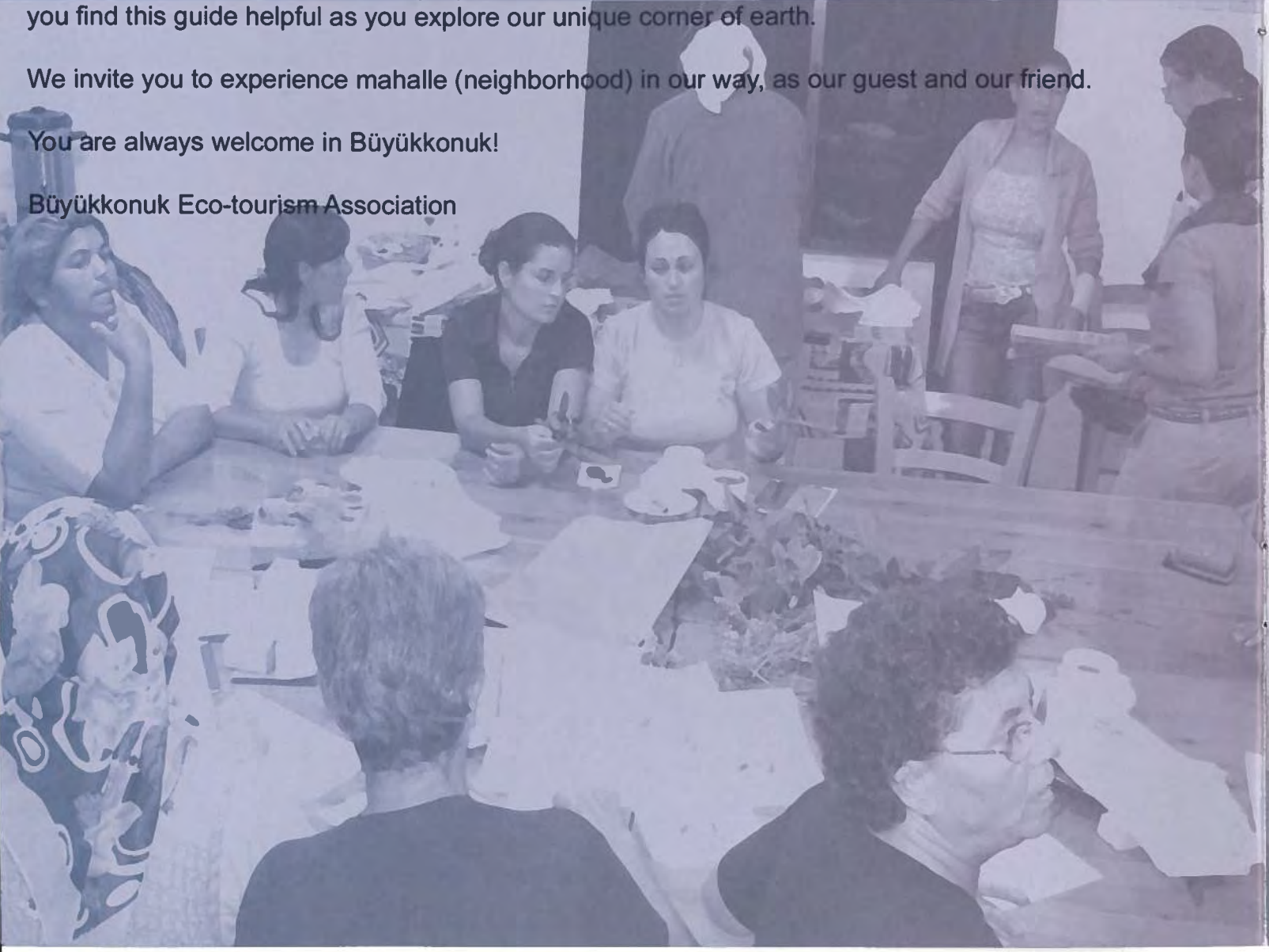
The Büyükkonuk Eco-tourism Association extends a heartfelt welcome!

We invite you to visit our village, to learn about our history, taste our nearby traditional Cypriot cuisine, participate with our olive harvest, bike and hike on our trails, relax on our beaches . . . or simply join us for a glass of zivaniya (traditional alcoholic drink) at the end of the day. We hope you find this guide helpful as you explore our unique corner of earth.

We invite you to experience mahalle (neighborhood) in our way, as our guest and our friend.

You are always welcome in Büyükkonuk!

Büyükkonuk Eco-tourism Association



Büyükkonuk Eco-Village . . . Gateway to the Karpaz Peninsula!

Eco-tourism in a Traditional Cypriot Village Setting

The northern region of Cyprus is known for its traditional villages, where agricultural cycles still influence day-to-day life. Nestled in the foothills of the Five Finger Mountain range, the tiny village of Büyükkonuk/Komi Kebir, is a living example of traditional Cypriot life. Given the diversity of its historic, social, cultural and natural resource assets, Büyükkonuk has been selected as a pilot for developing eco-village tourism in the Karpaz region, and is registered as part of the "Global Eco-Village Tourism Network".

What is Eco-tourism?

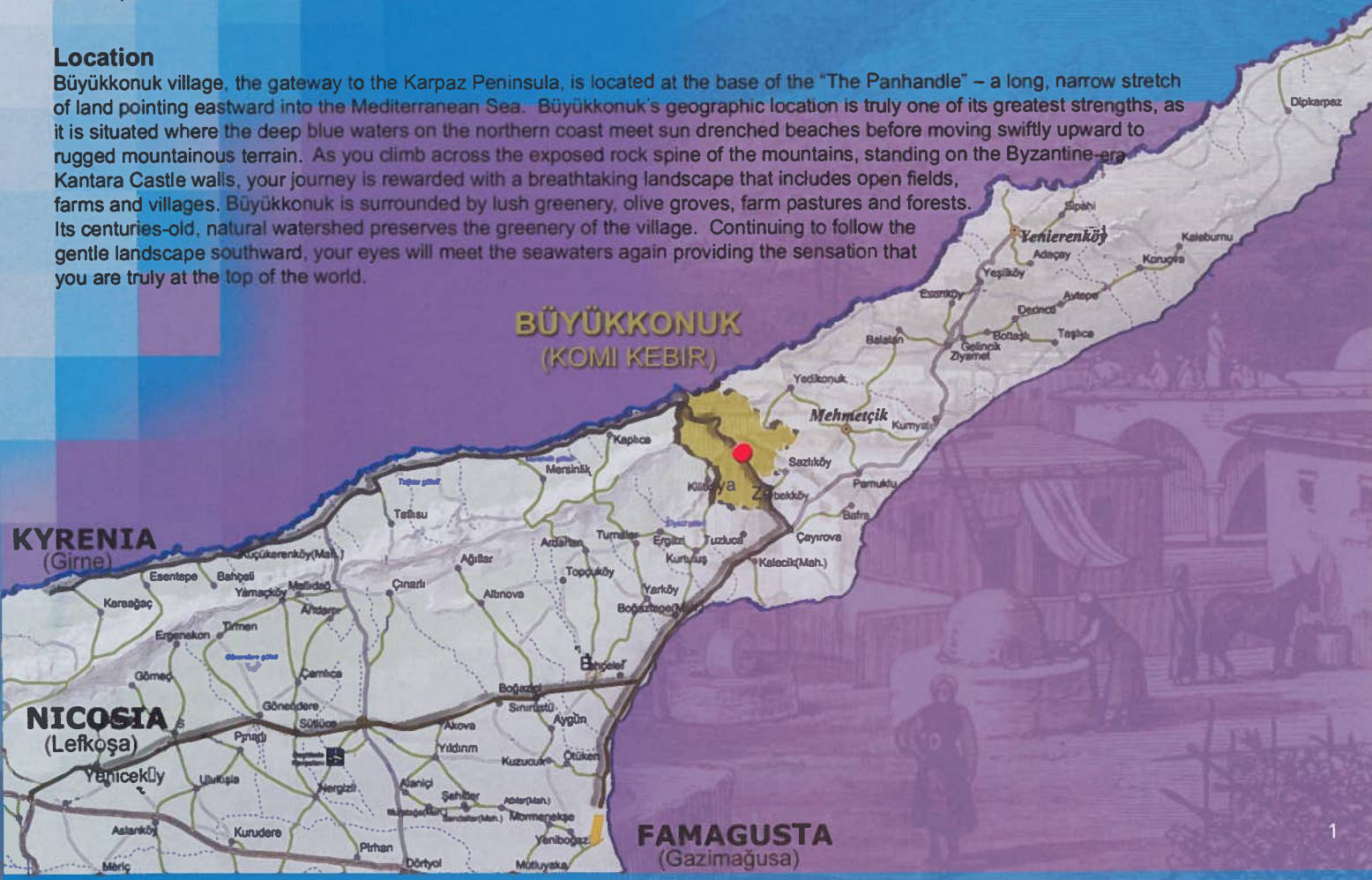
Eco-Tourism attracts ecologically and socially conscious travelers as it focuses on learning new ways of living without consuming the resources of future generations. When done properly, eco-tourism enhances the local population's cultural integrity as well as protects the fragile environment in which they live.

Eco-Tourism is defined as "responsible travel to natural areas, which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of the local people". Büyükkonuk is one of the most intriguing eco-tourism attractions in the region as it blends natural beauty with local customs, traditions, flora, fauna and historical heritage. Büyükkonuk's citizens support eco-tourism because they realize its environmental, economic and social benefits.

Location

Büyükkonuk village, the gateway to the Karpaz Peninsula, is located at the base of the "The Panhandle" – a long, narrow stretch of land pointing eastward into the Mediterranean Sea. Büyükkonuk's geographic location is truly one of its greatest strengths, as it is situated where the deep blue waters on the northern coast meet sun drenched beaches before moving swiftly upward to rugged mountainous terrain. As you climb across the exposed rock spine of the mountains, standing on the Byzantine-era Kantara Castle walls, your journey is rewarded with a breathtaking landscape that includes open fields, farms and villages. Büyükkonuk is surrounded by lush greenery, olive groves, farm pastures and forests. Its centuries-old, natural watershed preserves the greenery of the village. Continuing to follow the gentle landscape southward, your eyes will meet the seawaters again providing the sensation that you are truly at the top of the world.

BÜYÜKKONUK (KOMI KEBİR)



Feel free to stroll through the village . . .

The concept of neighborhood, mahalle, is a Cypriot expression referring to the feeling of a close-knit, cohesive community. Mahalle survives in Büyükkonuk village today.

The layout of the village evolved over generations with traditional winding, narrow streets dotted with private homes and quaint shops, and a number of public gathering spaces. The tallest buildings in the village are two-story homes, traditionally built by families as a show of wealth.

Although the culture has somewhat changed over time, genuine “small village” life still exists with its unique traditions and characteristics. Age-old traditions of collecting olives and processing olive oil, milking cows and goats to produce cheese, basket making, and cotton weaving still characterize the village life. Many villagers still earn their living from these activities.

Olive oil, traditional cheeses, and some by-products of grapes like zivaniya, köfter and sucuk (traditional grape products) are still produced by Büyükkonuk village residents. Hellim, (a traditional cheese) in particular, is well known in the region and contributes to the cultural image of the village – as well as all of Cyprus.

Looking toward the ridgeline, the forested area at the base of the Kyrenia Mountains serves as a watershed for the village. The abundance of water is almost certainly why the first settlers located in Büyükkonuk and even today the water resources of the area support the dairy industry and other agricultural enterprises that are the life blood of the economy. Even though water is abundant, farmers are experimenting with water conservation ideas and other organic farming methods.

Olive oil mills

Due to the extensive orchards in the region, olives have been an important part of Büyükkonuk's economy since ancient times. Stone weights from the late Roman and early Byzantine periods have been found during recent excavations in the area between Tatlısu and Büyükkonuk villages. Artwork illustrating historical olive oil production has also been found nearby.

Büyükkonuk once had seven olive mills within the village boundaries. Today, there are three remaining mills, only one of which is a functioning enterprise. There are two large stones for crushing olives in a large vat, two pressing stands and a separator. The mill, which is open for the September to November olive season, is run on electricity with a wood-burning forge to heat water for the process. The other two mills, which are housed in historical structures, are unique in that they were historically powered by donkeys. One of these mills, a block from the village square, is being renovated as an attraction for visitors.

We invite you to join us and experience the spirit of the olive harvest!

Arched houses

Arched houses are the most characteristic buildings in Büyükkonuk and are symbols of traditional Cypriot architecture. The courtyards of these houses are used for a variety of purposes including the planting of gardens, cooking, drying food, airing laundry and socializing. In addition, the courtyards serve as a buffer during hot weather by providing ventilation to cool the houses. In the past courtyards often had traditional earth ovens, many of which are still used to bake bread. Another important feature in courtyards is the 'pergola' (talvār), an arbor that supports climbing plants, often grapes or jasmine, and provides shade from the afternoon sun. Many Büyükkonuk village houses have pergolas in front.

Feel free to explore outside the village . . .

During the British colonial period, villagers were encouraged to plant and cultivate olive trees. Because of this, the village played an important role in olive oil production in Cyprus. To this day, neatly cultivated olive orchards surround the village and the olive tree remains an integral part of the local economy. In the fall harvest season the olive press remains the center of village activity.

The village's other traditional cash crop is the carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*-Harup). The carob is used to produce a traditional product called "pekmez", which is a sweet syrup. Carob seeds were historically used to weigh gold but today they are used as animal feed. Grape vines (*Vitis* spp.-Üzüm) are also found in the village. The grape vine is used for shade during the hot summer months and its fruits are used to make local wine called zivaniya, a strong alcoholic drink, and some other sweets like köfter and sucuk.

The village is surrounded by Calabrian Pine trees (*Pinus Brutia*-Kızılcım), Olive trees (*Olea Europea*-Zeytin), Carob trees (*Ceratonia siliqua*-Harup), Palm trees (*Phoenix Dactilyfera*-Hurma), Lentisks (*Pistacia Lentiscus*-Şinya), Phoenician Junipers (*Juniperus Phoenicea*-Fenike ardıcı), Myrtles (*Myrtus Communis* - Mersin), Rockrose (*Cistus Salviflorus*; *Cistus Parviflorus*-Laden), Spiry Broo (*Calycotome villosa*-Azgan), and fruit trees such as Almond (*Prunus Dulcis*-Badem) and Fig (*Ficus Carica*-İncir).

Carob Depository (Harup Ambarları)

On the shoreline north of Agios Photios mountain, and within view of Galounia Isle, there is a natural harbor with a carob depository. Built of limestone, the Harup Ambarlari Carob Depository is one of the best examples of its kind and dates back to the early 1960s. A well-known tale suggests that during the Byzantine period, there was a legendary figure named Dighenis who threw stones at the Saracenes who were invading from the sea. Every stone he threw was marked with an image of his five fingers. Those stones formed the Galounia Isles. While this legend is popular, the same tale is told about mountain ranges from Beşparmak to Trodos!

This area became popular as a settlement and a harbor because its geography offered natural wind protection. Trade, especially that of carob, flourished but distribution was difficult as goods needed to be transported through rugged terrain to the towns. There is a beach next to the depository, which augments the sites destination potential.



Kantara Castle

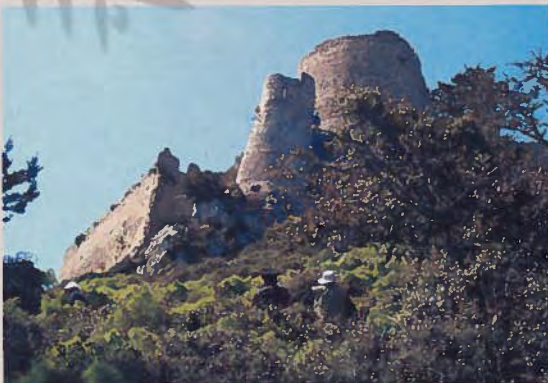
Kantara Castle (Byzantine era), the castle is described as the most romantic of all the Byzantine or Crusader trio castles: Kantara, St. Hilarion and Bufavento Castles. Set on a rocky summit at the eastern end of the Kyrenia mountain range, Kantara is the lowest of the castle trio standing at 700m (2068ft). However, it has commanding views up the Karpaz peninsula, all along the northern coastline and down to the plains of Famagusta. From this position it was used as a beacon station to communicate with Buffavento and St. Hilarion to the west.

Kantara means "a bridge or arch" in Arabic, probably so named by the Arab invaders. The castle's entrance is from the east where the cliff is less steep. The entrance is approximately in the centre of the eastern outer wall and is protected on both sides by two rectangular towers of which only tile parts survive.

Kantara was originally built by the Byzantines against the invasions of the Saracens in the 10th Century A.D. The Lusignans, who called it Candare or La Candaire, remodeled and enlarged the fortifications in the 11th Century. Kantara is said to be the place where Isaac Komnenos surrendered to Richard the Lionheart in 1191, although the same is said to have happened at Bufavento and St Hilarion castles. From 1228-30, it was occupied by troops of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, who was struggling at the time to take over the island. Kantara Castle figured prominently in the war during the Genoese invasion, when the regent John of Antioch was smuggled out of prison in Famagusta disguised as a pot-tinner. James I added the fortifications to the castle and from this vantage point his garrison was able to keep watch over Famagusta and the surrounding area. After the Venetian invasion in the 16th century, the castle was partially dismantled and its significance faded.

Directions to Kantara

Kantara Castle is forty two km north of Famagusta, reached via Iskele and Ardahan villages. The castle is almost three km east of the summer resort, also called Kantara. There is an approximately 10 km long dirt road connecting Buyukkonuk and Kantara, along the ridge, which is possible to drive with a 4X4 or ride or hike.



Flora and Fauna

The flora of Cyprus is among the most diverse of all countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. It includes 151 families of plants and approximately 1820 species. Many of these species are endemic to the island or have a very limited range in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Karpaz peninsula on the eastern tip of the island, where Büyükkonuk village is located, has a wide range of interesting flora including many rare plants.

Flora

Acacia cyanophylla	Kıbrıs Akasyası
Allium ampeloprasum	Yalancı Pırasa
Anomone coronarium	Kır Lalesi
Arbutus andrachne	Sandal Ağacı
Asparagus acutifolius	Kuşkonmaz
Asparagus stipularis	Ayrelli
Asphodelus aestivus	Şimşir
Calycotome villosa	Azgan
Ceratonia siliqua	Harup
Cistus creticus	Tüylü Laden
Cistus Pparviflorus	Küçük Çiçekli Laden
Cistus salviifolius	Adaçayı Yapraklı Laden
Clematis cirrhosa	Orman Asması
Convolvulus altheoides	Gündüz Güzeli
Cupressus sempervirens	Adi Servi
Cyclamen persicum	Tavşan Kulağı
Eryngium creticum	Kazoyağı
Ferula communis	Gavcar
Ficus carica	İncir
Helichrysum conglobatum	Ebeden Ölmez
Juniperus phoenicea	Fenike Ardıcı
Lamium Ggarganicum	Ballıbaba
Leontice leontopetalum	Kırbaş
Medicago turbinat	Yonca
Myrtus communis	Mersin
Narcissus tazetta	Nergis
Olea europea	Zeytin
Ononis viscosa	Dikenli Kayışkiran
Origanum majorana	Süpürge Otu
Pinus brutia	Kızılçam
Pistacia lentiscus	Şinya
Pistacia atlantica	Çitlembik
Pulicaria arabica	Pire Otu
Ranunculus asiaticus	Acem Dügün Çiçeği
Rubia lauræ	Holmboe'yun Kök Boyası
Rubia tenuifolia	Dar Yapraklı Kök Boyası
Rubus sanctus	Böğürtlen
Salvia fruticosa	Adaçayı
Sarcopoterium spinosum	Maja
Teucrium creticum	Kurtluca
Teucrium micropodioides	Küme Kurtluca
Thymus capitatus	Tülümbe
Trifolium leucathum	Tirfil
Urgenia maritima	Ada Soğanı

Blue -leaved wattle
Broadleaf wild leek
Crown anomone
Eastern strawberry tree
Asparagus
Asparagus
Asphodel
Spiny broom
Carob tree
Rockrose
Rockrose
Rockrose
Clematis
Convolvulus bindweed
Cypress
Cylamen
Eryngo
Giant fennel
Fig
Everlasting flower
Phoenician juniper
Dean-nettle
Rakaf
Medick
Myrtle
Polyanthus narcissus
Olive tree
Rest-harrow
Sweet marjoram
Calabrian pine
Lentisk
Betoun
Fleabane
Turban buttercup
Madder
Madder
Blackberry bramble
Wild clary
Spiny burnet
Water germander
Water germander
Thyme
Trefoil
Sea squill

Bird Watching

Many varieties of bird species, endemic and migratory, can be seen in the region.

The Wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus* - Fassa), the Jackcrow (*Corvus monedula* - Küçük karga), the Hooded Crow (*Corvus coron* - Leş kargası), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis* - Saka/Bülbül), the Corn bunting (*Emberiza calandra* - Çakra/Yaban serçesi), the Chukar (*Allecoris chukar* - Keklik), the Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus* - Turaç), and the Collared dove (*Streptopelia decocto* - Kolyeli kumru) can be seen in the region year round.

Birds of prey that can be seen in the region include the Kestel (*Falco tinunculus* - Kerkenez/Gıgı), the Little Owl (*Athene noctua* - Bodur Baykuş) and the Barn Owl (*Tyto Alba* - Peçeli Baykuş). Though their number is in decline, Audouin's gulls (*Larus Audouini* - Ada martısı), can also be seen perching on the rocks by the sea.

In autumn and spring, the Bee eater (*Merops aplaster* - Beyaz balıkcıl), the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla* - Pulya), the Roller (*Coracias garrulus* - Gökkuşgun), and Hoopoe (*Upupa epops* - İbibik) can all be seen. In addition, the Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta* - Küçük beyaz balıkcıl) can be found on the northern coast and rocky terrains of Büyükkonuk Village.

The migrant birds, the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba* - Çiftçi Kuşu), the Stone chat (*Saxicola torquata* - Taş Kuşu), and Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs* - İspinoz) are the visitors of the region in winter time. Also, the Robin (*Erithacus rubecula* - Nar Bülbülü/Kızıl-gerdan) can be seen in the bushes. The Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus* - Delice Doğan) and Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus* - Bataklik Delicesi) are the birds of prey that can be seen in winter.

Historic & Cultural Resources

Büyükkonuk's past is as rich in history as its present is in tradition and atmosphere. Old buildings stand as reminders of earlier times and include over fifty traditional arched houses, four olive mills, and numerous churches and religious buildings.

Of note in and around the village is:

St. Afxentios Church/Agios Afxentios/Aziz Iksendi Kilisesi:

Located at the east entrance to the village, this Orthodox church is a single aisle rectangular building with a vaulted roof, arches and a gallery. The structure standing today was restored in the middle of the 19th Century, but built on the foundations of earlier churches. It is dedicated to St. Afxentios who lived and died in Cyprus some time during the Arab raids of the 6th and 7th centuries. This ancient church is one of the oldest of its kind and was formerly called the Chapel of Mavra.

The Story of St. Auxentios . . .

St. Afxentios is believed to have been a young soldier of distinction who, after seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary, left the army to serve the church. He journeyed to Cyprus with him three hundred army followers. Upon arrival, each of them went in search of a place of recluse; Afxentios made his way to a cave at a place called Yudi, near the coastal village of Kaplica/Davlos, which is northwest of Büyükkonuk. According to local legend, the body of the saint was discovered by peasants from both Büyükkonuk and Yedikonuk/Eptagomi villages. The inhabitants of the two villages could not agree on where to bury his remains and a dispute broke out. In the end, they decided to lay the body on an ox-drawn cart and see which direction the animals would go. The animals headed towards Büyükkonuk and stopped at the chapel of St. Mavra. When a ferocious altercation ensued between the two villages, the saint is said to have arisen and uttered a single word, "Gomi", indicating that spot. Until then, the village had been known as Gomi; at that time, the word "Kebir" (holy) was added so the village became known as Komi Kebir.



St. Georgios Church/Agios Yiorgios/Ay. Yorgi Kilisesi:

Near the center of village and across from the primary school, this single aisle basilica is the largest of the village's Orthodox churches. It is of Latin design with a vaulted roof. The north entrance bears two dates: 1873 as the date of construction and 1898 as the date of renovation. The iconostasis is dated 1897. The sculpture of a two headed eagle, the emblem of the Orthodox Church, stands at the west entrance.

St. Vasilios Chapel/Agios Vasilios/Ay. Vasili Kilisesi:

Built during the Lusignian period (1192-1489), this single room rectangular building may never have been completed. Its walls appear to have stopped at the height of the doors.

St. Georgios Parouzos Chapel/Agios Yiorgios Parouzos/Ay. Yorgo:

Also dated to the Lusignian period, only the northwest corner of this structure remains.

St. Luke Church/Agios Loukas / Ay. Luga:

With elements dating to the 19th Century, this single aisle rectangular building has a double slope wooden inclined roof and three stone arches.

St. Photios Church/Agios Photios / Ay. Fodi:

Set into a cliff, there are no roads leading to this Medieval Orthodox church but the view from the single room rectangular building is magnificent and well worth the climb along the suggested trail.

Panayia Kyra Church:

Located close to the neighboring village of Sazlikoy/Leivadya, this early Byzantine church dates to the 5th Century. Little remains of the original 7th Century mosaics that decorated the apse. Both a narthex and porch were added to this domed structure that is built in the shape of a cross.



Visitor Services

Coffee Shops

Traditional Restaurants

Accommodation (Bed&Breakfasts)

Handicraft Shop

The village market (store)

The family-run bakery

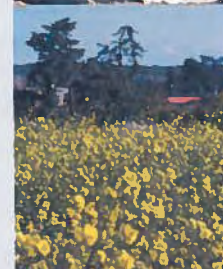
Donkey ride (a service that can be made available)

Cheese-making (a service that can be made available)

Olive mill in operation, Handicraft Courses

Cooking classes (a service that can be made available)

Coiffeur, Postal Services



Eco Day Pioneer!

In keeping with the concept of an Eco-Village, Büyükkonuk pioneered the idea of Eco Day, a one-day event designed to celebrate the traditions of village life. The first Eco Day was held on the third weekend of October 2007 and proved a fantastic celebration of local dance, folk traditions and local music, with seasonal agricultural products and homemade food for sale. In addition to live music, bi-communal dance performances and two bike races – there was the first donkey race in recent memory!

Building on the traditions of the past, the Büyükkonuk Eco-Tourism Village Association is determined to make Eco Day an annual event . . . creating a new tradition in the process.



Büyükkonuk Trail Network

Trail categories: category 1 easy and category 2 moderate

Point A-to-G in the Trail Network

Length: 3.3 km Duration: 2 hrs Category: 2 Elevation Change: 75 m-260 m

Located on the Büyükkonuk -Yedikonuk village road, this 3,300-meter trail marks the starting point of the trail network. The trail starts at an elevation of approximately 70 meters and climbs to 230 meters at point G (the highest point in the network). This trail begins by winding its way through the agricultural lands and orchards around the village. In route you will find olive trees to the east side of the track (left side) and Cypress trees along the west (right side). As you close in on the hills, the slope becomes steeper, signaling the beginning of the more rigorous section of trail. Point G is located at the ridge top and offers an impressive view of the entire landscape, including a silhouette of the village and views of both the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Flora: At the beginning of this trail there are large agricultural fields and olive trees, among which carob trees (*Ceratonia siliqua*-Harup) are grown. Both carob trees and olive trees have sculpture-like forms and are appealing to the eye. In some parts of the olive orchards, grape vines and fruit gardens thrive. The character of the landscape changes constantly along with the elevation and topographic character of the countryside. Groups of Lentisk (*Pistacia lentiscus* - Şinya) with their greenery and red-black fruits can be found at various points. During the late winter and spring, species of flowered Rockrose (*Cistus salviifolius*, *Cistus parviflorus* - Laden) can be found along the hillside. Along the route, hikers can see and smell the odors of Wild Clary (*Salvia fruticosa* - Adaçayı) and Thyme (*Thymus capitatus* - Tülümbe). Patches of Sea Squill (*Urgenia maritima* - Ada soğanı), Asphodel (*Asphodelus aestivus*-Şimşir) and Giant fennel (*Ferula communis*-Gavcar) create a pleasant view when flowering. This is also the area where a number of species of orchids can be found.

Points G-to-B in the Trail Network

Length: 0.9 km Duration: 15min Category: 1 Elevation Change: 260m-230m

This 0.9 km, relatively flat, trail (continuing from point G) passes through one of the highest points of the Agios Photios Mountains at the altitude of 279 meters. From here you get a magnificent 360-degree view of the entire region, including the sea, hills, Kantara Castle and agricultural lands.

Flora: Along this trail, Calabrian Pine (*Pinus Brutia* - Kızıldağ) is seen more densely. There are species of Rockrose (*Cistus salviifolius*, *Cistus Parviflorus* - Laden), Thyme (*Thymus capitatus* - Tülümbe), Wild Clary (*Salvia fruticosa* - Adaçayı), and Common Myrtle (*Myrtus Communis* - Mersin) plants as well.





Points B-to-C in the Trail Network

Length: 3.3 km Duration: 1hr 45min Category: 2 Elevation Change: 230 m – 20 m

While walking from point B to C, there is another path to the north, toward the sea. This section of trail is more difficult due to its narrow, steep and winding slope, but offers a lot of surprises! As you descend down a narrow path, there is a riverbed to the west. Following the along the riverbed, the trail continues all the way to the sea where there is a natural harbor and a Carob Depository.

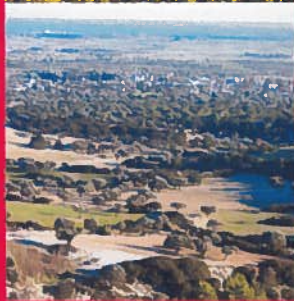
Flora: This route is rich with Eastern Strawberry (*Arbutus andrachne* - Sandal Ağacı), Blackberry and Bramble (*Rubus sancta* - Böğürtlen), all of which have delicious fruit in season. Strawberries can be found January through March. Blackberries are in spherical groups of shining black that can be easily removed when ripe in February. Cudweeds (*Narcissus Tazetta* – Nergis) decorate the route with both their color and odor.



Trail C to D Length: 1.9 km Duration: 1hr Category: 1 Elevation Change: 200m - 300m

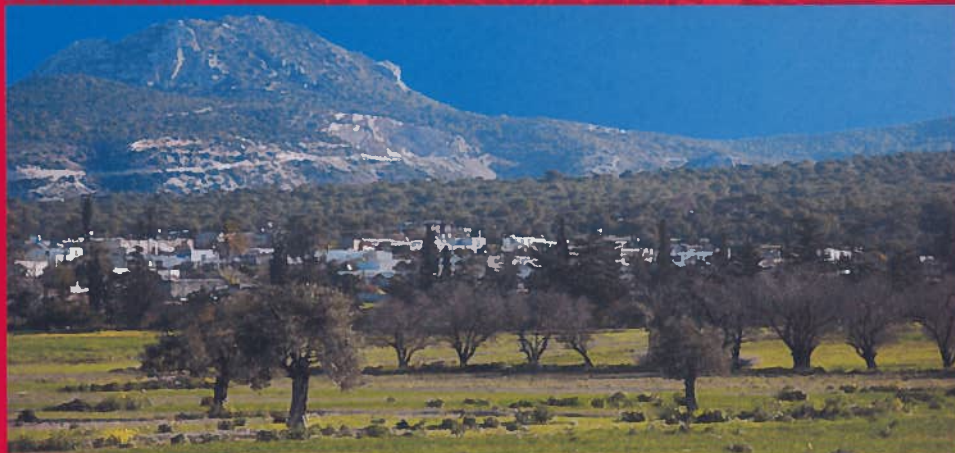
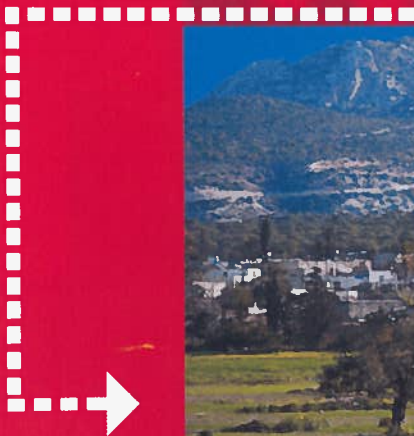
The trail begins at point C located on Kaplica road and follows the shoreline to the Carob Depository. The relatively flat surface offers the opportunity for easy walking. Looking east, to the right, it is possible to see the highest point of the mountains, in addition to carob trees and agricultural lands formed by the riverbed. On the left, the Carob Depository, the harbor and sea appear in splendid beauty. Picnic areas can also be found at several points along the trail. This trail section is easily accessible and can be enjoyed as a short coastal stroll or the start of a longer trek.

Flora: Along this route, nature is enriched with the yellow flowers of the Blue-leafed Wattle (*Acacia cyanopylla*), Rest-harrow (*Ononis viscosa*) and Spiny Broom (*Calycotome villosa*) from December to June. Dense patches of Spiny Burnet (*Sarcopetrium spinosum*) are also prevalent.



Trail D to E Length: 2.7 km Duration: 1hr 15min Category: 1 Elevation Change: 30m - 50m

This trail is a continuation of trail C-D. Here you will find Hogarth's Tomb, which characterizes the Hellenic period custom of constructing 'monumental tombs'. Generally underground or in rocky hill-sides, the tombs were built for noblemen or famous government officials. Areas of the shoreline are suitable for diving. Along this trail, the spectacular combination of mountains, shore, sea breeze and a touch of history, make it one of the most memorable in the entire network.



Trail E to F

Length: 2.5 km Duration: 1hr 15min Category: 1 Elevation Change: 50m - 100m

The trail's relatively flat surface makes for easy walking and it also continues from the former path D-E. The Ayia Agathi ruins lay to the left on arrival at point F. The trail shares similar scenery features with path D-F. The slopes are likewise similar beginning at approximately 50 meters from point E and ending at 100 meters at point F.

Trail F to G

Length: 3.8 km Duration: 1.5hrs Category: 1 Elevation Change: 200m - 300m

The trail is quite challenging due to its slope, which rises up to the 329 meter high Trapezouli Hill (Kanbur Tepesi). After you ascend to 329 meters you can follow plain road over the hill. Here on your left side you will see a magnificent vista. Periodically you might encounter wild birds, such as falcons.

Alternative Trail 1 from Point G to E

Length: 3.1 km Duration: 1hr 45min Category: 2 Elevation Change: 260m-30m

This trail section covers a distance of 3,100-meters and descends from 230 to 150 meters. This is one of the most pleasant trails in the network because it passes through Filitso Forest (Binilitaş Ormanı), which offers by far the best opportunity for the fresh scent of pine trees. The density of this patch of forest is rare along the peninsula, making it an attractive area for camping or picnic activities. After completing Alternative Trail 1 from point G to point 1, it is possible to follow point 1 to point E or point 1 to point F.

Flora: On the northern side of the hill the flora has more variety. As Calabrian Pine (*Pinus Brutia* – Kızılcım) dominates the land, the feeling of forest is stronger than in the southern valley. Above 200 m in height, you can taste fruits of the Eastern Strawberry tree (*Arbutus Andrachne* - Sandal ağacı), and smell the odor of the beautiful Cudweed flowers (*Narcissus Tazetta*). Besides Calabrian Pine trees, carob trees (*Ceratonia siliqua* - Harup), olive trees (*Olea Europea* - Zeytin), Terebinth (*Pistacia Terebinthus* - Çitlenbit), Lentisc (*Pistacia Lentiscus* - Şinya), Common Myrtle (*Myrtus Communis* - Mersin), and Phoenician Juniper (*Juniperus Phoenice* – Fenike Ardıcı) are present as well. As you descend, Anomone (*Anomone Coronarium* - Kır lalesi) provides a spary of color to the landscape.

Büyükkonuk Green Trail

Length: 3.3 km Duration: 1hr 15min Category: 1 Elevation Change: 0

Generally most of this trail is flat terrain and therefore is nice for biking or walking. It lays along agricultural lands, olive and carob (Harup) trees.

Flora: This route is dominated by agricultural land, which is dotted with olive and carob trees, while common fig (*Ficus Carica* - İncir) is present as well. The vast expanses of fields in this area are bordered by Cypress trees (*Cupressus Sempervirens* - Adi Servi).



How to get to Büyükkonuk Eco-Village

The village is accessible both from the northern coast and Salamis roads. It is 40 km from Gazimağusa (Famagusta), 77 km from the capital Lefkoşa (Nicosia), and 111 km from Girne (Kyrenia).

Lefkoşa - to - Büyükkonuk

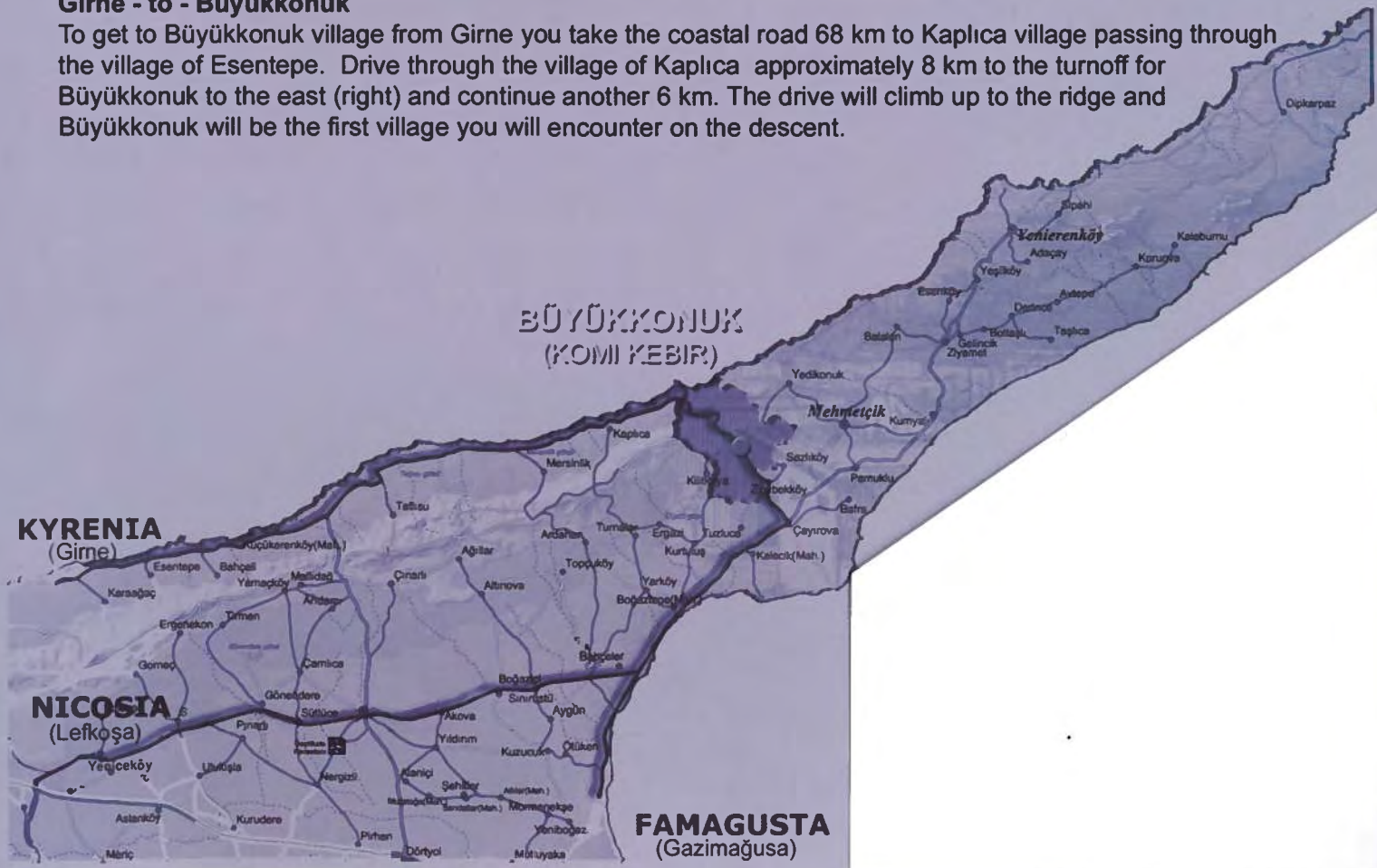
To get to Büyükkonuk village from Lefkoşa, take the Lefkoşa-Karpaz main road approximately 15 km, to a large road sign pointing the way to İskele. Follow this road until it ends at a junction with the Gazimağusa (Famagusta)-Karpaz road. Turn to the north-east (left), continue through the village of Boğaz, until you reach a sign for the Büyükkonuk turn-off, towards the mountains (left). Proceed one kilometer from the turn-off you will reach Tuzluca village. Five kilometres further down the road you will arrive at the enchanting village of Büyükkonuk, the first "eco-village" in northern Cyprus.

Gazimağusa - to - Büyükkonuk

From Famagusta, take the Famagusta-Karpaz main road north, approximately 40 km until the Büyükkonuk road sign on the north-west side (left) of the road; then continue as above.

Girne - to - Büyükkonuk

To get to Büyükkonuk village from Girne you take the coastal road 68 km to Kaplıca village passing through the village of Esentepe. Drive through the village of Kaplıca approximately 8 km to the turnoff for Büyükkonuk to the east (right) and continue another 6 km. The drive will climb up to the ridge and Büyükkonuk will be the first village you will encounter on the descent.



The background features a stylized, light-colored illustration of a landscape. In the upper center, there are silhouettes of mountains. To the right, a large olive tree with many leaves and small olives is depicted. In the lower left, the head and ears of a donkey are visible. The entire scene is set against a light, textured background with a green vertical bar on the right side.

For more information:

BÜYÜKKONUK Eco-tourism Association

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Preserving Cyprus' rich cultural and natural heritage is one way of ensuring a more prosperous and peaceful future. This brochure/trail guide was developed by and for the community of Buyukkonuk in support of its efforts to promote eco-tourism and environmental sustainability. This work has been sponsored in part by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE) project.