
THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEGEIA

BRIEF INFORMATION

Pegeia is a town in the Paphos District of Cyprus situated mainly on the steep slopes of the coastal hills inland from Coral Bay, at the southern end of the Akamas Peninsula.

In particular, it is a newly founded municipality in the province of Paphos since it was proclaimed one in 1994. It is also noteworthy that Pegeia is recognized as one of the largest in expanse municipalities in Cyprus, as its region covers 4,552 hectares.



The origin of its name is said to derive from the Latin word Baia (meaning Bay) due to the close proximity of Coral Bay (Maa), which served as a natural safe docking for Egyptian cargo vessels dating back to antiquity. The village was first settled by Venetians, during the Venetian Domination of Cyprus (1489-1570), probably by Venetian merchant sailors and or by sailors of the Venetian fleet in conflict with the Ottomans over Cyprus rule.

The beginning of the Ottoman rule (1571-1878), saw the relationship between the Orthodox and the Ottomans healthier than in comparison with the Catholic and Ottomans, as a result many of the Venetian settlements on the island, that of Pegeia included, had by then already assimilated into Orthodox Christianity as well as Greek-Cypriot way of life.

Due to its long history, Pegeia has a rich cultural heritage and a number of remarkable sites in which we can clearly see that.



PALAIOKASTRO

The archaeological site is a small settlement dated to the Late Bronze Age, in the 12th century BC. According to the excavator, the settlement has been interpreted as a "colony" of the first Achaeans - Mycenaeans who came to Cyprus as immigrants around 1200 BC. after the collapse of the Mycenaean kingdoms in Greek.

In the peninsula itself, archaeologists found building blocks, sheltered from the land by a fortification wall.

The first ships of the Achaean colonists arrived in the Maa area and founded one of their first colonies in Palaiokastros. In the very same place and as a reminder of this event the first Museum of Mycenaean Colonization in Cyprus was founded.



The small museum found at the site with its original architecture is the work of one of Europe's greatest architects, Andreas Bruno, Professor of the University of Torino. The museum is associated with the presence of the Mycenaeans in Cyprus, the content of which is currently under development.

Agios Georgios Archaeological Site



About 4.5 km from the village of Pegeia, near the fishing harbor, are the ruins of early Christian basilicas with mosaic flooring, depicting animal scenes. This area seems to have been the site of an important settlement of the Early Christian Age. Near the area there are tombs of the Roman period, dug in the rock.

The Basilica of "Saint George" of Pegeia is located at the archaeological site of a Greek-Roman Paleo-Christian settlement in the coastal area of Akrotiri Drepano, about 15 km northwest of Nea Paphos. These are three independent Early Christian churches, which were uncovered by the excavations of the Department of Antiquities.

The necropolis of the settlement, which consists of monumental tombs in two types, arcosols and pockets, carved in the rocks, is of great archaeological interest. It grows on the front of the steep cliff over the west and northwest coast of the cape and across the island of Geronissos, on which archaeological remains have been found dating from the Hellenistic to the Early Christian period. Some of the graves also feature engraved crosses and inscriptions.



Archaeological Site of Meleti

The archaeological site of the Meleti hosts carved Tombs. It is estimated that these tombs belong to the Hellenistic period. The archaeological site of Meleti is located near the archaeological site of Agios Georgios. The graves are not studied, nor the monuments which means that so far nothing has been published.



Geronisos

Geronissos is a small island located on the west coast of Cyprus, about 18 kilometers north of Paphos. Uninhabited since the 15th century, recent excavations revealed that it once had a sanctuary dedicated to Apollo in the late Hellenistic period.



The place name "Holy Isle" is ancient. Pliny speaks of an island named "Jera", near Paphos and Strabo mentions a place called "Jerkipis" near Paphos and Akamas. It is possible that the name refers to the sanctuary of Apollo that existed there in the 1st century.



The excavations brought to light three periods of occupation in Geronissos. The early Chalcolithic (3800 BC), the late Hellenistic (80-30 BC), and the Byzantine period (6th-7th century and 13th century), the most intense activity of which is the late Hellenistic period a time when Cleopatra dominated Cyprus. Crafts discovered include coins, ceramics, glass and inscription.

