

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

European Heritage Label listing – Application Form For

**KOURION
LIMASSOL, CYPRUS**



Nicosia 2007

Country	CYPRUS
Region	LIMASSOL DISTRICT
Name of site or cultural artifact	KOURION
Proprietor of site / property	REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
Public or Private authorities responsible for the site (control delegation)	DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES, CYPRUS
Postal address:	<p>A. Department of Antiquities P.O. Box 22024 1516 Nicosia, Cyprus Tel.: +357 22 865 801 +357 22 865 804 Fax.: +357 22 304 408 Email: antiquitiesdep@da.mcw.gov.cy</p> <p>B. Ministry of Education and Culture Cultural Services 1434 Nicosia, Cyprus Tel.: +357 22 800 933 +357 22 800 981 Fax.: +357 22 518 042 Email: eioannou@culture.moec.gov.cy mconstantinou@culture.moec.gov.cy</p>
Geographical coordinates of the site	34.4024 N. / 32.5256 E.
Reasons for listing	Historical sources and archaeological evidence attest that Kourion was one of the most important and glorious ancient kingdoms of Cyprus. It is referred in an Egyptian inscription of the period of Ramses III (1198-1167 BC) as one of the places the Egyptian Pharaoh wished to be under his domination.

	<p>Kourion is perhaps the most frequently visited ancient monument in Cyprus. It attracts visitors who wish to see the commanding position of the site which comprises of the following monuments: the Theatre, the House of Eustolios, the Early Christian Basilica, the Forum-Agora, the Nymphaeum, the public baths of the town, the Fountain House, the House of the Gladiators, the House of Achilles, the stadium and the Temple of Apollon Hylates. The Temple of Apollon Hylates, dedicated to the protector of the woodlands, was one of the biggest cult centres of the ancient Cyprus.</p> <p>The site of Kourion has attracted the interest of many archaeological teams who arrive from various parts of the world to excavate and study this amazing area. It is by definition a European monument, an ancient Kingdom which, as in past attracted many individuals from Europe and elsewhere, still does in modern eras.</p>
<p>Description of proposed site or cultural artifact</p>	<p>The architectural remains excavated so far at Kourion include the Theatre, the Early Christian basilica, the Nymphaeum, the Fountain House, the House of Achilles, the Public Baths, the Forum and the House of Eustolios. Three kilometers from the city is the Temple of Apollo, while in between Kourion and the Temple of Apollo is a stadium around 400 m long that could sit up to 7000 spectators.</p> <p>The archaeological remains found at the site of Kourion belong to the Roman period, apart from the Basilica and the House of Eustolios which are dated to the Early Christian period. The extra-mural Basilica, the Roman Stadium and the Sanctuary of Apollo date from the Archaic period to the end of Roman times.</p>

<p>History of site or cultural artifact</p>	<p>According to Herodotus (c. 484-426 BC) Kourion was founded by Achaean colonists from Argos in the Peloponnese. Systematic excavations at <i>Bamboula</i> locality, 3.5 km northeast of Kourion, have revealed a Late Bronze Age settlement, in support to the Greek mythological tradition recorded by Herodotus.</p> <p>The city became one of the most important kingdoms of ancient Cyprus. In 709 BC the Kingdom of Kourion is mentioned on an Assyrian stele erected at Kition, now in Berlin. Soon after 569 BC Kourion accepted Egyptian domination which lasted till the middle of the 6th century BC, while 546 BC the kingdom submitted to the Persian Empire. During the 5th century BC the city of Kourion began to expand to the locality of <i>Palaeokastro</i>, a hill west of Episkopi overlooking the sea.</p> <p>Although there are no written sources concerning the fate of Kourion under the Ptolemaic and Roman administrations, it can be said that during these periods it was still an important centre of cultural development, to judge from its uncovered monuments and movable finds.</p> <p>Kourion was ruined by a severe earthquake during the late 4th century AD and was rebuilt at the beginning of the 7th century. It was, however, entirely destroyed by fire during the Arab raids of the mid-7th century. By this time the city started to be abandoned and its inhabitants moved inland to Episkopi.</p> <p>During the Middle Ages the village of Episkopi was known as <i>La Piscopie</i>. In the 13th century it belonged to Jean d'Belin, Count of Jaffa; in the 14th and 15th centuries it formed part of the domains of the Cornaro family and from its owners</p>
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	<p>acquired the name of <i>La Piscopi de Cornier</i>. Of the fortified manor of Episkopi, which successfully resisted the Mamelukes in 1426, some vaulted chambers and traces of a sugarmill are still preserved on the southern outskirts of the village at the site known as Serayia.</p>
<p>System of protection of the cultural property/monument</p>	<p>Governmental (Ancient Monument – First and Second Schedule)</p>
<p>Preservation method for site or, where relevant, cultural artifact</p>	<p>The Department of Antiquities restores and preserves on a permanent basis the monuments which are systematically monitored and kept in a good condition.</p>
<p>Policy in regard to the promotion of the site or object (specify both existing and projected programmes)</p>	<p>An archaeological museum was founded in the nearby village of Episkopi. The presentation and description of representative types of pottery, sculpture and various other movable finds from the main city site and its environs are exhibited in this local museum to give amore complete picture to the visitor.</p> <p>Systematic archaeological surveys and excavations have uncovered environs which date to the late Neolithic period onwards. The famous “Treasure of Kourion”, now in the Metropolitan Museum of New York, is believed to have been excavated there by L.P. di Cesnola. Systematic excavations have been on-going since 1934 by both foreign teams and the Department of Antiquities.</p> <p>The site has many walking routes via the archaeological areas with explanatory information next to each architectural set of remains. At the entrance of the site there are leaflets and guide books available in four languages (Greek, English, French and German) as well as other archaeological</p>

	<p>books and postcards. The site is also well advertised in various tourist guide books and on airplane/travel agency magazines.</p> <p>Kourion is very frequently visited by large groups organized by the Cyprus Tourist Organization. In addition the Ministry of Education and Culture promotes this archaeological site with its inclusion in teaching books and frequent visits of pupils and students to the site.</p>
<p>Cultural exchanges and networking</p>	<p>Kourion is perhaps the most well known archaeological attraction in Cyprus. Numerous publications are found in universities and other educational organizations across the globe. Findings from Kourion are found in many European and other museums and artifacts are displayed in temporary European exhibitions.</p> <p>The site of Kourion has also attracted many foreign archaeological teams from the beginning of the 20th century until the present day.</p>
<p>Heritage and creativity</p>	<p>Kourion is a cultural centre with various open air concerts and theatrical performances being frequently organized. The present theatre is often used in summertime for various musical and other performances, including adapted ancient Greek tragedies and comedies, Shakespeare’s plays, concerts of classical music and folk dances.</p>
<p>Funding sources</p>	<p>Governmental Public entrance fees</p>
<p>Commitments undertaken to increase the visibility and representativeness of the site</p>	<p>The site is protected by a ‘controlled area’ to prohibit modern development in the surrounding area. The immediate area of the monument has been acquired by the State.</p>

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