

# Museums

The Department of Antiquities undertakes to maintain the museums of the island and to develop them or create new ones.

The museums contain objects representing the history of the island and include ceramics, sculpture, metal objects, jewellery, tomb groups, inscriptions as well as objects of traditional arts and crafts.

The largest museum is the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia (Nicosia), while each district has its own museum. Various smaller local or thematic museums were established at Kourion (Episkopi), Kouklia (Palaipafos), Maa-Paleokastro, Marion Arsinoe at Polis Chrysochous and recently at Idalion.

The Medieval Museum is housed in the Castle of Lemesos (Limassol) and small folk museums were established at Fikardou, Yeroskipou and Pano Lefkara (Museum of Traditional Embroidery and Silversmithing). The House of Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios in Lefkosia was restored to house a small ethnological collection, a project which received a Europa Nostra award in 1988.

The museums of Cyprus participate in many exhibitions around the world by loaning objects related to the themes of the exhibition. Much interest is shown in the archaeology of Cyprus by many scholars who visit the island to study its monuments and antiquities. Also, many exhibitions, symposia/conferences on the archaeology of Cyprus are organized every year abroad or in Cyprus in which members of

the staff of the Department of Antiquities participate.