

PEOPLE . PLACES

SOUTHERN CYPRUS: APHRODITE'S PARADISE

2 x 52' (ENG, GER), 2 x 45' (GER)

Discover Southern Cyprus in all its natural glory.

In spring, Southern Cyprus comes alive: orchids bloom, the air is filled with the scent of tropical fruits, and brightly colored butterflies embark on their quest for nectar. It's no coincidence that Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, is said to have been born on the third-largest Mediterranean island. This documentary embarks on a journey to discover the natural treasures of the Republic of Cyprus, along the colossal coasts of southern Cyprus and into the rugged expanses.



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Partners: ZDF, arte



1. Colossal Coasts

Cyprus's strategic Mediterranean location makes it a key stop for migratory birds. The Cape Greco National Park marks the island's easternmost point. Exotic fruits, like starfruit, thrive year-round. Herpetologist Savvas Zotos explores the island for reptiles. The island's ancient olive trees and endangered griffon vultures also tell unique stories.

2. Rugged Expanses

The Akamas Peninsula is home to the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, Petra Tou Romiou, nestled between white limestone cliffs. The Cedar Valley, within the Paphos Forest, hosts the rare *Cedrus brevifolia*. In the Troodos Mountains, declared a national park in 1992, one finds monasteries and traditional barn-roof churches. Near the Kykkos Monastery, one can spot dwarf owls in the Paphos thicket. The island's western regions feature the shimmering Adonis Baths and golden beaches like Lara Bay, providing a paradise for wildlife.