



LIFE **OROKLINI**
project

Discover Oroklini Lake



With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union
www.orokliniproject.org

Πτηνολογικός
Σύνδεσμος Κύπρου

BirdLife
Cyprus



Oroklini Lake...

- Is a natural brackish wetland in Cyprus of 38 hectares
- Is an important haven for migratory breeding birds
- Is a haven for more than 190 bird species of which around 30 breed here
- Is home to rare plant species
- Is part of the Natura 2000 EU wide network of protected areas for the protection of two bird species, the Spur-winged Lapwing and the Black winged Stilt, and for the protection of its rare vegetation
- Used to suffer from degradation and was facing serious threats while the LIFE Oroklini project that started in 2012 provided a lifeline for the wetland. Implementing partners were the Game and Fauna Service, BirdLife Cyprus, the Environment Department, the Department of Forests and the Voroklini Community Council.
- **Is waiting for you to discover it!**

The Natura 2000 network is an EU wide network of nature protection areas established in 1992. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.



Don't miss!



In spring:

- The vocal Black-winged Stilts and Spur-winged Lapwings competing for a mating partner
- The handsome Red-crested Pochard. Oroklini Lake is the only breeding site in Cyprus for this species
- The distinctive call of the Black-Francolin signaling the arrival of spring
- Little Terns at their demonstrative flights over the Lake



In summer:

- The cute chicks of the Spur-winged Lapwing and the Black-winged Stilt (early in the summer)
- A diversity of wading birds seeking food in the muddy edges and shallow water
- Late in the evening, big numbers of bats flying over the Lake chasing insects

Note: Most years, late in the summer and early in autumn, the Lake naturally dries out and remains dry until the first wet season rains.



In autumn:

- Various passage migrants like Black-tailed Godwit, Common Snipe, Common Redshank and other waders
- If you are lucky, you might see passage heron species, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis or even Great White Pelican that stop over to rest before they continue their migration journey to the south
- Other migratory species like Bee-eaters and Rollers at the fields around the site



In winter:

- Flamingos as close as you have never seen them before
- One of the largest flocks of Spur-winged Lapwings one can see in Cyprus
- The passage migrant flock of Lapwings with their distinctive crest
- Many duck species like Shoveler, Teal, Shelduck and Pintail
- Bluethroat – an unmistakable bird with blue colour on the throat. Oroklini Lake is one of the best sites in Cyprus to see this bird



Visitor infrastructure

From the observation platform at the Information Kiosk, north of the wetland, visitors have a full view of the wetland's north part which is also the smallest. This part is divided from the rest of the wetland by an earth bank and a small dam.

From the birdwatching hide, south of the wetland, visitors can see the largest part of the wetland which has higher salinity levels than the north part. Here, one can see one of the nesting islets created for the Spur-winged Lapwing.

The information signs on site give more information about this natural wetland and its management, the species one can see there, as well as information about the LIFE Oroklini project.

Tip: With the right equipment, like binoculars, you can enjoy Oroklini Lake and its wildlife even better. Visitors are not allowed beyond the fence to minimise disturbance to birds.

There are no toilet facilities on site.



BirdLife Cyprus organises fieldtrips for the public across Cyprus, including Oroklini Lake. Advance booking is requested. Please visit BirdLife Cyprus' website www.birdlifecyprus.org for the full program of field trips.

In the wider area...



Other nature sites you may visit:

1. Profetes Elias Hill (Prophet Elias) - 3km north of Oroklini Lake

The main road passing through Voroklini Community leads northwest to the Profetes Elias hill reaching an altitude of 208 meters. The hilltop offers a unique view to the Mediterranean Sea and also a full view of the Oroklini Lake. The hill has nature trails and a picnic site. In the south, upon this oblong hill, stands the country church of Profetes Elias.

2. Larnaca Salt Lakes - 21km southwest of Oroklini Lake

This complex of salt lakes constitutes one of the two wetlands of international interest in Cyprus and is also a Natura 2000 site. Larnaca Salt Lakes is a congregation site for waterbirds in winter and spring including globally important numbers of Flamingos *Phoenicopterus roseus*. It is also important for the breeding Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. The large salt lake has a footpath around it while the area around Hala Sultan Tekke is probably the most peaceful location in the area. The area of special interest for birdwatching is to the south of the salt lakes where the sewage treatment plant is.

3. Akhna dam - 15km northeast of Oroklini Lake

This is a man-made but important wetland in Cyprus surrounded by agricultural land. The site is significant for waterbirds and also during the migration season, attracting significant numbers of the globally threatened Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. Part of the site is in the British Sovereign Areas.



How to get here...



From the Larnaca – Ayia Napa motorway (A3) with direction to the east, take the exit to Oroklini (about 9km from Rizoelia roundabout). Take the first turn left and drive under the bridge. Oroklini Lake and the Information Kiosk are on the right.

From the Ayia Napa – Larnaca motorway (A3) with direction to the west, take the exit to Oroklini. At the T junction go right. Oroklini Lake and the Information Kiosk are on the left.

The visitor infrastructures are open to the public, during all times, with no entrance fee.

For more information please visit the LIFE Oroklini project website: www.orokliniproject.org

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BirdLife
Cyprus



BirdLife Cyprus works for the protection of wild birds of Cyprus, their habitats and wider biodiversity, through monitoring, conservation and education, and by developing people's appreciation of nature.

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Get to know Oroklini Lake better

To Voroklini village

Information Kiosk: From this point you may see Flamingos, Cattle Egret nesting colonies, ducks and waders.

Larnaca - Ayia Napa Highway

To Larnaca

Nesting islet

Vegetation patch, ideal for Black-winged Stilt nesting.

Restored area: Keep your eyes open for Stone-curlews and Spur-winged Lapwings.

Earth bank

Cattle Egret nesting colony

Canal

Canal

Nesting islets: Ideal for Spur-winged Lapwings and Terns.

Fields around the Lake: Keep your eyes open for Black Francolin, Chukar, Stone-curlew, Kestrel, Long-legged Buzzard, Fan-tailed Warbler, Cyprus Wheatear and Lesser Grey Shrike.

Canal

Birdwatching hide

Information board

Information board

Clover fields: In winter and spring you'll probably see Spur-winged Lapwings and Cattle Egrets.

To Livadia

To the beach 1km

- Special Protection Area boundary
- Special Area of Conservation boundary

The information kiosk, the birdwatching hide, the fencing, the nesting islets and the restored field northwest of the Lake were all actions implemented as part of the LIFE Oroklini project (2012-2014).

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