

Troodos Forest

Troodos Forest, with the highest peak on the island, hosts **all the endemic species and sub-species of birds in Cyprus**. Troodos Forest is the only area in Cyprus where the Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* breeds – a bird with a crossed bill as its name implies

District: Limassol

Altitude: 700 - 1952 m

Coordinates (the centre of the site): 34° 55.804'N 32° 52.878'E

Area Size: 9398 hectares

Habitat: Forest vegetation with the main species being the Calabrian pine *Pinus brutia*, the black pine *Pinus nigra* and the Troodos juniper *Juniperus foetidissima*.

Birds: More than 100 different species of birds have been recorded here. The species for which the area is protected is the Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca*, the Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*, the Cyprus Coal Tit *Parus ater cypriotes*, the Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla dorotheae*, the Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and the Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*.



Σκαλιφούρτα / Cyprus Wheatear



Τρυπομάζης / Cyprus Warbler



Πέμπετος / Cyprus Coal Tit



Δεντροβάτης / Short-toed Treecreeper



Πευκοτρασιήλα / Woodlark



Δακκανούρα / Masked Shrike

Other Fauna and Flora: Among the 750 different plant species there are 72 endemic species, out of which 12 are only found on Troodos and nowhere else in the world. Here you can find the endemic moufflon *Ovis gmelini ophion*, the red fox *Vulpes vulpes*, the long-eared hedgehog *Hemiechinus auritus dorotheae* and two species of bat *Myotis blythii* and *Myotis capaccinii*. More than 30 species of butterflies have been recorded here including rare and endemic species.

Threats:

1. Fires and firebreaks (fire prevention zones). In addition to habitat fragmentation, firebreaks also increase access, including for poaching.

2. Asbestos mining causing large accumulation of mining waste. The mine was operating for approximately ninety years, but is now in a restoration phase.
3. Military facilities and activities that may cause disturbance to birds.

Did you know...?

1. While going up Troodos Mountains, you can see all the rock formations that you would meet while going from the bottom of the ocean to the core of the earth at a depth of 6 kilometres.
2. The Troodos Mountains helped scientists understanding of the evolution of the oceans but also of the planet.
3. The longest rivers in Cyprus arise from Troodos.

What else can you find in the area?

1. You can visit the Environmental Education Centre in Troodos square, which provides information for the Troodos national park. The centre has a botanical and geological trail.
2. You can choose between 12 nature trails to enjoy and study nature.