

## **UNESCO World Heritage Monuments**

“Painted Byzantine Churches of Troodos Mountain” in Cyprus, are dating from the 11th to 14th century AD. These churches – monuments were inscribed to UNESCO list of World Heritage Monuments since 1985 (except Church of Ayia Sotira (of the Transfiguration of the Savior) tou Soteros, which was included in 2001). UNESCO ‘s criteria were both the architecture and the landscape design but also the fact that these monuments are “exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition”. The region of Mountain Troodos is characterized by one of the largest groups of churches and monasteries of the former Byzantine Empire. The complex of 10 monuments are all richly decorated with murals, provides an overview of Byzantine and post-Byzantine painting (frescoes religious painting) in Cyprus. They range from small churches, such as the Church of Virgin Mary in Asinou, whose rural architectural style is in stark contrast to their highly refined decoration, to monasteries as St John Lampadistis