LARNAKA SALT LAKES
Where nature and people walked together for millennia.

The Larnaka Salt Lakes are a unique Mediterranean landscape located within the Larnaka Salt Lakes Natural Park, comprising a series of channels, lakes and terrains that form a unique bushland heritage. The natural and cultural heritage of the Larnaka Salt Lakes is more than just a landscape. It is a legacy of human activity, from ancient times to the present day, and represents a unique blend of natural and cultural traditions.

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Cultural Heritage

Local museums and historical sites

The Larnaka Salt Lakes area is home to several important historical and cultural sites. The Hala Sultan Tekke is a beautiful mosque and a historic site, while the Larnaka Salt Lakes Natural Park is a unique natural landscape. The site of Hala Sultan Tekke was systematically excavated by a French team under the direction of Professor Henry de la Porte, who in time will become the future users and stewards of the Larnaka area through sustainable forms of tourism and environmental experience.

Bio-diversity and local livelihoods

The salt lakes have a very high biocreative importance and are of unique local ecological significance. The Larnaka Salt Lakes are a unique ecotone where the Mediterranean eutrophic coastal zone meets the subtropical xerothermic desert zone. The wetlands are a transition zone between marine and terrestrial ecosystems and are the unique habitat of the flamingo. The flamingo is a species that has found its unique identity in this space.

Artemis statue

A statue of Artemis (the Virgin of the Larnaka Salt Lakes) was discovered in a sheltered anchorage during the Larnaka Salt Lakes project. Although the identity of the statue is still debated, it is likely that it was created as a gift to the sea-god Poseidon, who is considered to be the patron saint of the sea. The statue is not complete, and is probably a fragment of a larger monument, encompassing the protected wetland, important archaeological sites and a unique natural landscape.

Salt Production

The importance of the Larnaka Salt Lakes as a source of salt production is significant. The salt industry dates back to ancient times, and the Larnaka Salt Lakes have been in use for over 2,000 years. The salt production is an important element in fodder production and manufacturing. Salt production is also important for the local economy, and notably for the nearby fishing industry.

The salt is extracted from the Larnaka Salt Lakes in a number of stages. After soaking for a few days, the brine from the salt lakes is boiled, using a series of ponds and evaporators, to reduce the water content to about 30%. The salt, now in the form of a paste, is then dried in the sun before being ground into a fine powder. The salt is then ready for use in a variety of industries, including food processing, agriculture and industry.