



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT
Mediterraneo



Symbolic
software



JULY 13–16, 2026

Cedarcrypt

Student's Guide

AUB Mediterraneo Campus — Paphos, Cyprus

IN COOPERATION WITH



International Association
for Cryptologic Research

VERSION 1.2 ■ APRIL 2026

A NOTE FROM THE GENERAL CHAIR

Welcome to Cedarcrypt!

This is the inaugural edition of Cedarcrypt — the conference I wish had existed when I was a graduate student.

Cedarcrypt was born from a dream: to give the next generation of cryptographers — especially those in Lebanon and the Arab world — a front-row seat at world-class research. Passionate, relentless, and deeply committed people from around the globe have poured their hearts, their evenings, and their weekends into making this conference a reality. This is your opportunity to participate in something extraordinary, right next to your home country, and we built every part of it with you in mind.

We are particularly proud to host a generous cohort of Lebanese students on full scholarship; if you are one of them, this trip may well be the first international conference you attend, and we want you to feel at home from the moment you land. We fought hard to make these scholarships happen, and we are so glad you are here.

This guide is your companion in your pocket: where to go, who to call, what to do when something does not quite go to plan. If anything is missing or unclear, email [✉chairs@cedarcrypt.org](mailto:chairs@cedarcrypt.org) or pull aside any organizer at the conference.

I cannot wait to meet you in Paphos.



Nadim Kobeissi

General Chair

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At a Glance

The things you'll most often need to look up. Tear it out and keep it in your wallet.

WHEN AND WHERE

- 📍 **AUB Mediterraneo Campus**, Paphos, Cyprus
- 📅 **Conference:** Mon 13 — Thu 16 July 2026
- 📅 **Day 0 excursion:** Sun 12 July (sign-up required)
- 📅 **Lebanese arrivals:** Sat 11 July

UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY

IN ANY EMERGENCY, ANYWHERE IN THE EU

112

Police, ambulance, fire — English-speaking operator

CEDARCRYPT CONTACTS & WIFI

General Chair — Nadim Kobeissi

Signal @nadim.25519 | ✉️ nadim@symbolic.software

Group leader (flight + bus transfers) — Abd El Kader Kahil

Signal @aboude.19

All organizers: ✉️ chairs@cedarcrypt.org

Conference WiFi: SSID AUB Mediterraneo | password WelcomeAUBMed

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

- I missed the Cedarcrypt bus at LCA airport.** Signal Abd El Kader @aboude.19 or Nadim @nadim.25519 immediately. There are taxi companies that can drive you to Paphos (€ 100 — 150) — see Part II.
- I lost my passport.** Stay calm. Report it to the local police, then contact your nearest embassy in Nicosia (Lebanon, US, France, etc.). Reach an organizer too — we will help where we can.
- I am sick or injured.** Dial **112** for emergencies. For non-urgent care, walk to Paphos General Hospital (5 minutes from campus) or to the Ygia Polyclinic for private care. See Chapter 20 for hospital details.
- I feel unsafe at the conference.** Reach the Ethics Officer, **Faysal Elestwani** (Signal @faysoula.23), or Nadim. Concerns are handled discreetly; the comfort of the person raising them comes first.

DAY 0 EXCURSION — THE SHORT VERSION

☀ **Sunday 12 July, 09:00 sharp, AUB Mediterraneo main gate.** A coastal day down the southwest of the island — Palaepaphos, Kourion, Kolossi Castle, Limassol Marina and Old Town, Aphrodite's Rock. Bring water, sunscreen, walking shoes, and ~€ 30 cash for an optional lunch in Limassol. We return to Paphos around 17:00. Full details in Part III.

LEBANESE SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS — KEY DATES

✈ **Outbound:** ME 271, **Sat 11 Jul**, BEY 08:25 → LCA 09:10

🗃 **LCA pickup:** after baggage claim, walk into LCA Arrivals and look for a man holding a Cedarcrypt sign. That is your bus driver. The bus drives the group to the AUB Mediterraneo Tangerine dorms.

✈ **Return:** ME 262, **Fri 17 Jul**, LCA 22:25 → BEY 23:05

Note: the conference registration fee is *not* covered by your scholarship. The scholarship covers flights, ground transport, dorm, and the Day 0 excursion. You still need to register at luma.com/9ft58aag and pay the registration fee.

PART I

Before You Travel

Visas & Travel Documents

Cyprus is in the European Union but is not part of the Schengen Area, so visa rules differ slightly from what you may be used to. Read the section that matches your nationality. If you are coming from Lebanon and you do not yet have a Cyprus visa appointment, this is the most time-sensitive thing in the entire guide — start the moment you finish reading this paragraph.

Lebanese nationals

▲ Apply now, not later. Cypriot visa processing through the embassy in Beirut routinely takes **four to eight weeks**, and the VFS appointment slots fill weeks in advance. If you are reading this and you have not booked an appointment yet, do that before you finish this chapter.

SIX STEPS, IN ORDER

- 1. Register first.** We can issue a Cedarcrypt invitation letter only after you have registered for the conference at luma.com/9ft58aag. **The conference registration fee is *not* covered by your Lebanese student scholarship** — the scholarship covers your flight, ground transport, dorm stay, and the Day 0 excursion, but you still need to register and pay the registration fee yourself.
- 2. Email us for the invitation letter.** Write to chairs@cedarcrypt.org with your full name (as on your passport), date of birth, phone number, passport number, and passport expiry date. We turn around invitation letters in **under 24 hours**.
- 3. Book your VFS appointment** at [visa.vfsglobal.com / lbn / en / cyp](https://visa.vfsglobal.com/lbn/en/cyp). **Select “Business” as the subcategory** and pick the earliest slot you can.
- 4. Gather every document on the checklist below.** Photocopies are not enough — bring originals plus copies of each.

5. **Attend the appointment with the fee in cash.** The visa fee is **104 USD (about 90 EUR), payable in U.S. dollars only** and non-refundable.
6. **Collect your visa** once VFS notifies you. Verify the dates, entry type, and your name spelling on the spot.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

⚠ Everything must be in English. The embassy will not accept documents in Arabic, French, or any other language. Anything not already in English — pay slips, bank statements, family register, university letters — must be translated by a **sworn (legally certified) translator** and stamped accordingly. Budget extra time and around **€ 15 — 30 per page** for sworn translations in Beirut.

Bring originals *and* a copy of each of the following:

Visa application form Download the English version from the embassy's consular page at [gov.cy / mfa-embassybeirut](https://gov.cy/mfa-embassybeirut). See the next section for help filling the trickier fields.

Recent passport-size photograph White background; **3.5 × 4.5 cm**; taken within the last 6 months; ICAO-compliant.

Valid passport Valid for at least **three months** past your planned return; at least **two blank visa pages; issued within the last ten years.**

Copy of your passport's biometric page Plus copies of any past Schengen or Cyprus visas, and any pages bearing entry/exit stamps.

Old passport Only required if your current passport is recently issued.

Travel arrangements Round-trip ticket booking or reservation, plus proof of accommodation (hotel or dorm) and proof of sufficient financial means to cover that accommodation.

Employment & income documents *If you are employed:* an employment letter specifying your recruitment date, position, salary level and absence permission; the last three pay slips; and your registration with the National Social Security Fund (CNSS). *If you are a student:* proof of university enrollment, confirmation of attendance of classes, proof of scholarship (if applicable), and proof of source of livelihood during your studies and the trip.

Proof of financial means Bank-stamped account statements showing six months of movements (with the account's terms and conditions if those are not already in the statement); *or* a credit-card statement covering the last six months; *or* proof of income from real-estate property.

Travel medical insurance Covering the entire stay in Cyprus, with a minimum of **€ 30,000** per applicant, and including repatriation, emergency medical care, and emergency hospital treatment. See Chapter 5 for recommended providers.

Extract of family register (إخراج قيد عائلي) Original or legalised copy. Either not older than six months, or stamped "register up-to-date" by the competent authorities.

Cedarcrypt invitation letter The one we email you in step 2.

💡 **Lebanese scholarship students:** your flight and dorm bookings are already paid for and confirmed. Use the itinerary in Chapter 6 as your "travel arrangements" line on the application, and our prepaid AUB Mediterraneo dorm booking as the "proof of accommodation." Ask us for booking-confirmation PDFs if VFS wants documentary backup.

Filling the visa form

The Schengen-style visa form has a handful of fields where the right answer is not obvious. The values below are the ones to use **if you are a Cedarcrypt-sponsored attendee**; if you are paying your own way, substitute your hotel and personal details where the field calls for them.

Field 22 *Employer / educational establishment.* Your university's full name and address. *Example: American University of Beirut, Riad El Solh / Beirut 11072020, Lebanon.*

Field 23 *Purpose(s) of journey.* Tick the "Other" box and write **Academic Conference**.

Field 24 *Additional information on purpose of stay.* State that you are attending the Cedarcrypt cryptography conference at AUB Mediterraneo in Paphos. *Example: "To attend the Cedarcrypt conference at the AUB Mediterraneo campus in Paphos, Cyprus."*

Field 30.1 *Inviting person / hotel name.* If conference-sponsored: **Malek Tabbal, Professor, AUB Mediterraneo**. Otherwise, the name of your hotel.

Field 30.2 *Address and email of inviting person / hotel.* If conference-sponsored: **Apostolou Pavlou Ave 51, Paphos 8046, Cyprus**. Otherwise, your accommodation's address and email.

Field 30.3 *Telephone.* If conference-sponsored: **+357 26813333**. Otherwise, your accommodation's phone number.

Field 32 *Who covers the cost of the trip.* If conference-sponsored: tick **by a sponsor** and write **Symbolic Software**. Also tick **Accommodation provided, All expenses**

covered during the stay, and **Pre-paid transport**. Otherwise, fill in your own means as the form prompts.

💡 **“For official use only” boxes.** The shaded boxes on the right of each field are filled in by embassy officials, not by you. Leave them blank.

Other nationalities

Visa-free entry Citizens of EU/EEA member states and Switzerland can enter Cyprus with a national ID card. Citizens of the UK, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, and most OECD countries can enter visa-free for short stays with a valid passport.

Schengen visa holders A valid multi-entry Schengen visa (type C), or a residence permit issued by a Schengen state, lets you enter Cyprus without a separate Cypriot visa — even though Cyprus is not itself in the Schengen Area.

All other nationalities You will need a Cyprus short-stay visa from the nearest Cypriot consulate or embassy. Allow **at least four to six weeks** for processing and confirm requirements with the consulate well ahead of booking. We can issue you an invitation letter once you have registered — email us in good time.

Visa rules can change. Always verify the current requirements at [gov.cy / en / information / visas](https://gov.cy/en/information/visas) before you book travel.

Passports and blank pages

Whatever your nationality, your passport should be valid for at least **three months** past your planned departure from Cyprus, and have at least **two completely blank pages**. Cyprus immigration occasionally checks both.

Packing List

Paphos in mid-July is reliably 28 – 34 °C, sunny, low humidity. Pack lighter than you think, plus one outfit you'd be comfortable in at a seaside reception, and you will be fine.



DOCUMENTS

- Passport (Lebanese travelers: with the Cyprus visa stamped in)
- Cedarcrypt invitation letter — a printed copy speeds things up at the airport
- Travel insurance card or policy number (see Chapter 5)

SUN AND HEAT

⚠ Sunscreen is not negotiable. The UV index in Paphos in July sits at 10—11; uncovered skin will burn in 10—15 minutes at midday. **SPF 30 minimum, reapplied every two hours and after every swim.** Bring **twice as much as you think you need** — the pharmacy by campus charges € 15—20 per tube.

- Sunscreen — SPF 30 minimum, two tubes minimum
- Sunglasses
- Wide-brim hat or cap
- Reusable water bottle (at least 750 mL — you will refill it several times a day)

CLOTHING

- Light, breathable clothing in a few neutral colors
- One smart-casual outfit for the welcome reception (no need for a suit; clean shirt and trousers, or equivalent, is fine)
- Swimwear — the beach is right there
- Comfortable walking shoes (the Day 0 excursion involves real walking on uneven stone at Kourion and the Palaepaphos sanctuary)
- A light jacket or long-sleeve shirt — indoor air conditioning is aggressive

TECH

- **UK Type G three-pin power adapter.** Cyprus uses British-style plugs, not European. If you forget, you can buy one at PFO or any convenience store.
- Phone, charger, laptop, headphones
- A backup of any files you plan to present (USB stick or cloud)

PERSONAL

- Prescription medications, plus a printed copy of the prescription in English
- Basic over-the-counter meds: ibuprofen / paracetamol, antihistamine, rehydration salts, antacid
- A small day bag (light, with room for water, sunscreen, and snacks)
- Toiletries — most of what you forget you can buy at a Carrefour or pharmacy near campus

WHAT YOU DON'T NEED TO BRING

- Heavy clothing. It really is 30 °C every day.
- Formalwear. Smart-casual is fine for every event on the program.
- A dictionary or phrasebook. English is universally spoken in Paphos's tourist and academic areas.

Money Matters

Cyprus uses the Euro and is well-served by ATMs and card terminals. The biggest single point of friction is paying for things in cash with very large notes — bring smaller denominations or break them at an ATM.

CURRENCY

Cyprus has used the Euro (€) since 2008. Notes come in €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, and €500 denominations, but small businesses, taxis, and street vendors will struggle to break anything larger than €50.

CARDS AND ATMS

Visa, Mastercard, and contactless payments work nearly everywhere — restaurants, cafes, supermarkets, taxis, even street kiosks. Bring a backup card if you can; foreign-card declines do happen. ATMs are abundant in Paphos; the major Cypriot banks (Bank of Cyprus, Hellenic Bank, AlphaBank) charge €2 — 3 per foreign-card withdrawal.

TIPPING

Service is sometimes built into restaurant bills (look for “service charge” on the line item). If it is not, **10%** is the standard tip in sit-down restaurants. For taxis, round up to the nearest euro. No tip is expected at counter-service cafes.

ROUGH COST GUIDE

FOOD & DRINK

Espresso, frappé, or filter coffee	€ 2—3
Sandwich or pastry lunch	€ 5—8
Sit-down lunch (one course)	€ 10—15
Dinner with wine, mid-range	€ 20—35
Bottled water (1.5 L, supermarket)	€ 0.80

GETTING AROUND

Bus from PFO airport to Paphos	€ 1.50
Taxi from PFO airport to campus	€ 30—40
Private transfer from LCA to Paphos	€ 100—150

LODGING

Mid-range hotel room, per night	€ 80—180
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LEBANESE STUDENTS: HOW MUCH TO BRING

You will be fed at the conference (lunches, coffee breaks, welcome reception, closing reception). The dorm has kitchen facilities. Realistic discretionary spend: **€150—250** for the whole week, covering the Day 0 optional lunch in Limassol (€ 15—25), a few coffees, a couple of dinners off campus, and one or two souvenirs.

Phone & Connectivity

Cyprus has good 4G/5G coverage in Paphos and decent coverage on the Day 0 excursion route. The cheapest path for non-EU travelers is an eSIM loaded before you fly.



IF YOU HAVE AN EU SIM

EU “roam-like-at-home” rules apply in Cyprus. Your data, calls, and texts work at your normal rates. Just turn data roaming on.

IF YOU HAVE A NON-EU SIM

Roaming charges from Lebanese, US, UK, and most non-EU carriers are expensive — typically €5—10 per day at minimum. Two practical alternatives:

eSIM (recommended). An eSIM is a software-only SIM that you install on your phone before traveling. Two reliable providers:

-  airalo.com — Cyprus 1GB for 7 days, around \$5; activate when you land.
-  esim.holafly.com — unlimited daily plans from \$6.

Most modern phones (iPhone XS or newer, recent Pixel, recent Samsung) support eSIMs. Set it up before you fly so you have data the moment you land.

Local prepaid SIM. Cypriot carriers (CYTA, Epic, PrimeTel) sell prepaid tourist SIMs at PFO Arrivals and at most kiosks in town for €15—25, with generous data. Ask for an English-language activation.

CONFERENCE WIFI

The campus network is open to all attendees: **SSID** AUB Mediterraneo | **password**

WelcomeAUBMed.

CALLING CYPRUS FROM ABROAD, AND THE OTHER WAY AROUND




Cyprus's country code is **+357**. Mobile numbers start with 95—99. To call a Cyprus number from outside, dial +357 then the eight-digit number. To call out of Cyprus, dial 00 or + then the country code.

Health & Insurance

Cyprus has good public and private healthcare in Paphos, but your Cedarcrypt scholarship does not cover medical events. Travel insurance is inexpensive, easy to buy online, and the only thing standing between you and a four-figure bill if something goes wrong.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Strongly recommended for everyone, especially if you are not an EU citizen. Comprehensive travel medical insurance with at least €30,000 of medical cover and €10,000 of repatriation typically costs \$15—40 for a one-week trip. Reliable providers:

-  worldnomads.com — adventure-friendly
-  safetywing.com — popular with student travelers
-  imglobal.com — broad coverage

If you are applying for a Cypriot visa from Beirut, your insurance certificate is one of the documents VFS will ask for at the appointment. Buy the policy before you book the appointment, not the morning of.

EU CITIZENS

Bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC, or its national equivalent). It covers necessary public-sector care — including a visit to Paphos General Hospital — on the same terms as a Cypriot resident. It does *not* cover private clinics, repatriation, or cancellation, so a top-up travel policy is still worth having.

TAP WATER

Tap water in Paphos is treated and safe to drink. Many locals prefer bottled water for taste; supermarkets sell large bottles for under one euro. Refill from the tap at the dorm or a cafe and you will be fine.

PHARMACIES

Pharmacies are common in central Paphos and open daytime hours, with a 24-hour rota for emergencies (look for the green-cross sign, or check the on-call list at the venue's reception). Pharmacists in Paphos generally speak good English and can dispense most over-the-counter medication without a prescription.

IF YOU FEEL UNWELL

🚑 Quick triage. Mild (headache, sunburn, upset stomach): rest, water, a pharmacy. Moderate (fever, persistent stomach issues, sprain): walk to Paphos General Hospital, or to Ygia Polyclinic for private care — both are 5—10 minutes from campus. Severe (anything urgent): dial **112**. In all three cases, please also reach an organizer so we can help.

PART II

Getting to Paphos

Flying In

Cyprus has two international airports. Paphos (PFO) is fifteen minutes from the venue with a smaller, easier terminal. Larnaca (LCA) is the country's main hub — many more routes, but a 1.5 – 2 hour transfer across the island. If you have route options, prefer PFO.



Lebanese scholarship students

Your flights are confirmed and paid for. You are flying with Middle East Airlines on the dates and times below. Print or screenshot this page; the embassy will want to see it on your VFS appointment, and you will want it in front of you on travel day.

➔ **Outbound — Saturday 11 July 2026**

ME 271 BEY 08:25 → LCA 09:10 *45 min direct, Middle East Airlines*

➔ **Return — Friday 17 July 2026**

ME 262 LCA 22:25 → BEY 23:05 *40 min direct, Middle East Airlines*

The Saturday arrival gives you a full rest day before Sunday's optional excursion (Day 0). The conference closes Thursday evening; the late Friday departure leaves you Friday to pack, recover from the closing reception, and check out of the dorm in good time.

💡 **At BEY on the way out:** arrive at the airport at **05:30 (three hours early)**.

Beirut International is unpredictable in the morning, and the ME 271 boarding closes 30 minutes before take-off.

If you are arriving on your own

PAPHOS INTERNATIONAL — PFO

PFO is fifteen minutes by taxi from the AUB Mediterraneo campus. The terminal is small, immigration is fast, and the taxi rank is right outside Arrivals. Direct summer routes to PFO include London, Manchester, Birmingham, Athens, Thessaloniki, Vienna, Zurich, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Berlin, Warsaw, Tel Aviv, and a handful of others; check your usual booking site to see which fits.

LARNACA INTERNATIONAL — LCA

LCA is Cyprus's main international airport and has the broadest selection of flights, especially from the Middle East and from cities without a direct PFO route. The trade-off is a 1.5—2 hour transfer to Paphos. If you fly into LCA, **pre-book your transfer** (see Chapter 7) — it is cheaper, faster, and more reliable than walking up to the airport rank.

From the Airport to Paphos

How you get from the airport to your bed depends on which airport you flew into and whether you are travelling on a Cedarcrypt scholarship. The short version: scholarship students from Beirut take the Cedarcrypt bus from LCA. Everyone else picks an option below.



Lebanese scholarship students — the Cedarcrypt bus

A chartered Cedarcrypt bus meets the Lebanese cohort at LCA on Saturday 11 July and drives the whole group together to the AUB Mediterraneo Tangerine dorms in Paphos. The cost is included in your scholarship and there is nothing to book.

Pickup point LCA Arrivals. After baggage claim, walk into the arrivals hall and look for **a man holding a Cedarcrypt sign** — that is your bus driver.

Pickup time The bus departs LCA **within 60 minutes of ME 271 landing** — enough buffer for immigration and baggage. If you clear quickly, wait with Abd El Kader; if you are slow, we will wait for you up to that 60-minute mark.

Drive time ~1.5 hours

Drop-off AUB Mediterraneo Tangerine dorms, Paphos

⚠ Stay with the group leader. If your bag is delayed, you got pulled aside at immigration, or you simply cannot find the bus, **Signal Abd El Kader at @aboude.19 immediately** — or Nadim at @nadim.25519 as backup. Do not get into an unbooked airport taxi: they routinely charge >€ 150 from LCA to Paphos and we have a vetted backup operator on speed dial if we need it.

From PFO airport

Taxi (recommended) About 15 minutes and **€ 30—40** to AUB Mediterraneo. Taxis queue at the rank just outside Arrivals; no booking needed. Drivers know the campus.

Public bus Line 612 or 613 to central Paphos costs **€ 1.50** and runs every 15—30 minutes. From the central station it is a short taxi ride to campus or to most of the recommended hotels.

From LCA airport (if you are not on the Cedarcrypt bus)

⚠ Pre-book your transfer. Walking up to the LCA taxi rank with no booking will almost always cost more (€ 150+ is normal) and leave you with less recourse if anything goes wrong. Pre-booked transfers give you a fixed quoted fare, flight tracking, and a driver waiting for you at Arrivals with your name on a sign.

The three companies below are all licensed Cypriot operators with English-speaking drivers and air-conditioned vehicles. Cedarcrypt is not affiliated with any of them; we list them for convenience.

Jack & Sons Transport Services

EASY ONLINE BOOKING

Cyprus-wide transfer company with a fully online booking system, live flight tracking, and vehicles for solo travelers up to groups of fifty. Drivers have 20+ years of local experience; the quoted price is final with no hidden charges.

 <https://jackstransportservices.com>

 +357 7000 5800 |  info@jackstransportservices.com

Mike Taxi Paphos

FAMILY-RUN SINCE 1980

Paphos-based, family-run since 1980. Fleet of 18 vehicles — Mercedes E-Class sedans (up to 4), Viano and V-Class vans (up to 6), Sprinter minibuses (up to 25). Fixed fares for airport transfers; hourly or daily hire available if you want a driver for sightseeing.

 <https://miketaxipaphos.com>

 +357 99 742 402 (*mobile*) |  +357 26 932 111 (*office*)

 info@miketaxicyprus.com

Qualiday Travel Agency

PAIR WITH A TOUR

Paphos-based destination management company offering private airport transfers alongside excursions and bespoke itineraries across Cyprus. A good option if you want to pair your transfer with a tour of Paphos or the wider island. Bookings by email or phone; office hours Mon — Fri, 08:30 — 18:00.

 <https://qualiday.com>

 +357 26 221 203 |  reservations@qualiday.com

Where You'll Stay

Scholarship students stay in the AUB Mediterraneo Tangerine dorms — paid for, on-campus, and a thirty-second walk to the lecture hall. Other attendees can pick from a shortlist of vetted Paphos hotels.

Scholarship students — AUB Mediterraneo dorms

The Tangerine dorms are part of the AUB Mediterraneo campus, so your commute to the lecture hall is a flight of stairs. Rooms are furnished and shared with one roommate, with study space, and the building has secure 24/7 access.

Address AUB Mediterraneo Tangerine Dorms
Konstantinou Kavafi 12, 8046 Paphos

Dorm contact Sotiris Kollias

✉ sk00@aubmed.ac.cy | 📞 +357 99 255 103

Check-in Saturday 11 July 2026 — a **one-hour window from 11:30 to 12:30**, timed to the Cedarcrypt bus arriving from LCA. Outside that window the desk may not be staffed; if the bus is running late, your group leader will phone ahead.


Check-out Friday 17 July 2026. The Cedarcrypt bus to LCA picks students up in front of the AUB Mediterraneo main entrance at **18:35** — be downstairs, packed, and checked out by then.

What's provided Bed linen, towels, WiFi, full kitchen, communal common areas. **Each room is shared with one roommate.**

Rules & regulations Read the full dormitory rules at aubmed.ac.cy / Dormitories Rules before you arrive — the no-visitors-after-22:00 and no-alcohol-in-shared-areas rules are enforced.

The AUB Mediterraneo Student Life portal has more on campus housing generally:

 aubmed.ac.cy / Student-Life / Housing.

 **Pack like you would for a hotel.** Bring your own toiletries, an EU/UK plug adapter, and a reusable water bottle. The dorm provides linen and towels, but personal items are on you.

Recommended hotels

If you are arranging your own accommodation, the four hotels below are the ones recommended on the conference site. All are within fifteen minutes of campus by taxi.

Anemi Hotel & Suites

4-STAR | \$\$

Boutique Mediterranean hotel on Poseidonos Avenue, emphasising Cypriot craftsmanship and authentic hospitality, with locally sourced amenities and multiple dining venues.

 <https://anemihotel.com>

Mayfair Hotel & Gardens

4-STAR | \$


Family-friendly resort complex in a quiet tourist area with comprehensive amenities, multiple pools, entertainment facilities, and all-inclusive dining options.

 <https://mayfairhotelgardens.com>

Annabelle Hotel

5-STAR | \$\$

Iconic five-star luxury hotel on the Paphos seafront with award-winning restaurants, lush tropical gardens, and a full-service spa.

 <https://www.annabelle.com.cy>

Elysium Hotel

5-STAR | \$\$\$

Upscale beachfront resort with multiple gourmet restaurants, a world-class spa, and extensive leisure facilities on landscaped grounds overlooking the Mediterranean.

 <https://www.elysium-hotel.com>

PART III

The Conference

Day 0 — The Pre-Conference Excursion

Sunday 12 July is an optional day-long excursion along the southwest coast of Cyprus — “Legends & Kingdoms of Cyprus: From Aphrodite to Medieval Castles.” An ancient sanctuary, a Greco-Roman city above the sea, a Crusader-era castle, a marina and old town for lunch, and Aphrodite’s Rock on the way home.



Eligibility and sign-up

Lebanese scholarship students: the excursion is included in your scholarship. Show up at the gate at 09:00 on Sunday 12 July and you are good — but **please email** ✉️ chairs@cedarcrypt.org to confirm your seat as early as possible so the operator's manifest is correct.

Everyone else: the excursion is an upgraded ticket option on the registration page. Buy it at luma.com/9ft58aag for € 110, then email ✉️ chairs@cedarcrypt.org to confirm the seat.

⚠️ **Seats are extremely limited and going fast.** Coach capacity is fixed; once it is full, no additional places open up. Students attending on scholarship may receive priority. If you know you want to come, buy your upgraded ticket and email the chairs the moment you finish reading this paragraph.

Where and when to meet

⚠️ **09:00 sharp, in front of the AUB Mediterraneo main gate.** The bus leaves at 09:00 and **we will leave without you, regardless of excuse.** Be at the gate by 08:45, with water bottle filled and walking shoes on. There is no late option, no exception, and no rescheduling — the day has a long route to cover and several timed site visits.

Itinerary

The full day is roughly eight hours, with about three hours of total driving and the rest split between guided site visits and free time.

09:00 — Depart Paphos Bus departs from the AUB Mediterraneo main gate.

~09:30 — Sanctuary of Aphrodite at Palaepaphos One of antiquity's most important religious centres and the spiritual birthplace of the cult of Aphrodite. The visit includes the on-site museum, housed in an adjacent medieval manor.

~11:00 — Kourion A Greco-Roman city-kingdom dramatically perched above the sea. We walk through the open-air theatre, the intricate mosaics of the House of Eustolios, and the remains of the public baths and ancient streets.

~12:30 — Kolossi Castle A well-preserved 13th-century fortress of the Knights of

St. John, historically tied to the production of *Commandaria* — among the oldest named wines in the world.

~13:30 — Limassol Marina and Old Town Free time and an optional lunch along a walkable stretch of yacht-lined waterfront, narrow lanes, and lively squares, with Limassol Castle and the old town a few minutes inland. Lunch is **paid by attendees** — expect **€ 15 — 25**, cash or card.

~15:30 — Petra tou Romiou (Aphrodite's Rock) Final stop on the way home — the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite, and one of Cyprus's most photographed natural landmarks. Time for photos and a short walk along the pebbled beach.

~17:00 — Return to Paphos Drop-off at AUB Mediterraneo. Plan a quiet evening; Day 1 starts at 09:00.

What is covered, and what is not

Covered Coach transport, English-speaking guide, and entrance fees at the sites along the way.

Not covered Lunch in Limassol (~€15—25), coffees, snacks, and souvenirs. Bring **around € 30 cash** for the day — card terminals are widely accepted but cash is handy at smaller cafes and at site shops.

What to bring

- Some form of photo ID, just in case
- A reusable water bottle, full when you board
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat
- **Comfortable shoes** you can walk in for several hours — Kourion and the Palaepaphos sanctuary involve real walking on uneven stone, and Petra tou Romiou is a pebbled beach
- A swimsuit and a quick-dry towel if you'd like to dip into the sea at Petra tou Romiou (optional — water sandals help; the pebbles are sharp)
- ~€ 30 cash for lunch and incidentals
- Your phone, charged

If you are not joining — a day in Paphos

If you'd rather skip the excursion, Paphos itself is a UNESCO World Heritage city with a comfortable walking-tour day to itself. Suggested loop:

- **Paphos Archaeological Park** (mosaics) — 1.5 hours
- **Tombs of the Kings** — 1 hour, 15-minute walk from the park
- Lunch at the **Paphos harbor**
- **Saranta Kolones** (forty-column castle ruins) — 30 minutes
- Sunset drink along the harbor promenade

If you'd like company, email us in advance and we'll connect you with the other attendees in the same situation. See Part IV for more on what to do in and around Paphos.

Excursion-day organizer hotline

If anything goes wrong on the day — you got separated from the group, or you took an unscheduled detour — Signal-message either:

- **Abd El Kader Kahil** (group leader) at Signal @aboude.19
- **Nadim Kobeissi** (general chair) at Signal @nadim.25519

Either reaches an organizer with the bus operator's number on hand.

The Conference Program

Four days, sixteen speakers, eight lectures, four hands-on workshops, a keynote, a research talk, attendee lightning talks, and two ceremonies. The pages that follow give you the schedule at a glance, then the full session-by-session detail for each day.



⚠ Provisional. The schedule below is preliminary at the time this guide goes to print. Final timings, room assignments, and one or two session titles are likely to shift before the conference. Check the on-site board at the registration desk on Day 1 morning for the final program.

Day 1 — Welcome & Foundations

13

JUL

Welcome & Foundations

Monday, 13 July 2026

🕒 09:00

Opening Ceremony

🕒 09:30 – 10:30

KEYNOTE

Cryptography Policy and 50 Years of Crypto Wars

Bart Preneel — KU Leuven

A 50-year history of conflicts between government access demands and the protection of privacy and civil liberties — from the Clipper Chip through Apple-vs-FBI to today's debate over client-side scanning and the EU's ProtectEU initiative. Recent research shows perceptual hashing for CSAM detection has unacceptable false-positive rates and is invertible; the talk closes on what good policy would actually look like.

10:30 Coffee Break

🕒 11:00 – 11:45

LECTURE

OrganicOS: Cryptography for Organisational IT

Marios Isaakidis — infotropic.tech

OrganicOS reframes organisational IT management as a cryptographer's problem: not "encrypt the disk," but eliminating implicit trust boundaries until what remains is verifiable and composable. A NixOS-based system whose deployed state is a content-addressed closure bound by a single cryptographic commitment.

🕒 11:45 – 12:30

LECTURE

From Papers to Production: Cryptography Engineering That Sucks Less

Alireza Rafiei & Mateusz Kramarczyk — Bron

A case study of the DKLs18/19 threshold ECDSA vulnerability saga (Soft-SpokenOT, KOS15) and how cryptographic agility and engineering practices fail in production. Introduces Bron-Crypto, an open-source MPC library applying modern software engineering to cryptographic implementations.

12:30 Lunch

🕒 14:00 – 16:00

WORKSHOP

Hands-On Applied Cryptography: ECC and RSA Attacks with LLL

Meryem Cherkaoui Semmouni — Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah

Hands-on workshop bridging classical and post-quantum cryptography through guided implementation labs. Particular emphasis on RSA cryptanalysis using the LLL lattice-reduction algorithm: short secret exponents, partial key leakage, related-message settings.

🕒 18:00

Welcome Reception — Food & Drinks

Dress code: smart casual.

Venue: Mulberry Terrace.

📍 Kosta Karnavalou 10, Mesogi 8280, Paphos, Cyprus

🌐 [Google Maps](#)

Pickup: a Cedarcrypt bus departs the AUB Mediterraneo main entrance at **18:00** sharp.

Day 2 – Applied Cryptography in Practice

14

JUL

Applied Cryptography in Practice

Tuesday, 14 July 2026

🕒 09:00 – 10:00

LECTURE

Practical Constant-Time Programming

Anjan Roy — Radboud University

Functionally correct cryptographic code is not enough — timing side-channels are where real vulnerabilities live. An engineering-focused treatment of constant-time programming in C++: compiler-induced leakage, branchless selection, bitslicing, and constant-time table lookups. Closes with a survey of verification tools.

10:00 Coffee Break

🕒 10:30 – 11:30

LECTURE

FHE: From Theory to Practice

Emad Heydari Beni — Nokia Bell Labs & KU Leuven

A comprehensive journey through Fully Homomorphic Encryption, from its theoretical foundations to real-world deployment challenges. How FHE enables computation on encrypted data without ever decrypting it, and the practical considerations and trade-offs in building FHE-based systems today.

11:30 Lunch

🕒 13:00 – 16:00

WORKSHOP

From Tampered JavaScript to Trustworthy Web Apps: WAICT

Anna Weine — Mozilla

How can a browser verify that the JavaScript it runs is the code the developer intended to ship? This beginner-friendly workshop starts from a realistic code-swapping attack and works through cryptographic hashes, resource-hash manifests, transparency logs, and browser-side verification — a hands-on tour of the WAICT model.

16:00 Coffee Break

🕒 16:30 – 18:00

RESEARCH

Attendee Lightning Talks

Open session + sponsor talks

Five-to-seven-minute talks from attendees on their own work, open problems, or cryptographic curiosities. A low-stakes venue to start conversations that continue over the rest of the week. Sponsor talks and announcements are part of this session. Sign-up details and the running order are posted on-site at the registration desk on Day 1.

Day 3 – Protocols & Primitives

15

JUL

Protocols & Primitives

Wednesday, 15 July 2026

🕒 09:00 – 10:00

LECTURE

Group Messaging in The Guardian's Anonymous Whistleblowing System

Zeke Hunter-Green — The Guardian & Daniel Hugenroth — Cambridge

The Guardian launched Secure Messaging in June 2025, based on Cambridge's CoverDrop research — an anonymous mobile-app-embedded channel from sources to journalists. This talk covers CoverDrop's architecture and the in-progress extension to group messaging via MLS (Open-MLS).

10:00 Coffee Break

🕒 10:30 – 11:00

RESEARCH

Self-Auditable Key Transparency at Scale

Hossein Hafezi — New York University

Key-transparency systems (WhatsApp, iMessage, Messenger) are widely deployed but auditing is too resource-intensive for typical clients, so it is usually outsourced. IronDict and Aegon: a new paradigm via polynomial commitments — strong zero-knowledge privacy and audit proofs small enough for client-side verification.

🕒 11:00 – 13:00

WORKSHOP

Decentralized Key Management via Threshold Signing

Yash Kondi & Iraklis Leontiadis — Silence Laboratories

Primer on threshold signing, then a hands-on lab. Anatomy of deployed threshold signing protocols (ECDSA, EdDSA/Schnorr); folklore techniques; production-oriented Rust deployment around DKLS23 threshold ECDSA signing. Real-world deployment challenges throughout.

13:00 Lunch

🕒 14:30 – 17:30

WORKSHOP

Building with Zero-Knowledge Proofs: From Concepts to Code

Tarek Galal

Bridges the gap between cryptographers without programming experience and engineers without crypto foundations. Foundational theory (soundness, ZK), then SNARKs and use-cases like ZK-rollups. Hands-on: build your own SNARK-based application; arithmetic circuit design; common vulnerability patterns. No prior ZKP experience assumed.

Day 4 – Advanced Constructions & Closing

16

JUL

Advanced Constructions & Closing

Thursday, 16 July 2026

🕒 09:00 – 10:00

LECTURE

Lattices, Isogenies and Codes: Contrasting Post-Quantum Design Directions

Maher Mamah — University of Waterloo

Compares the three major PQ families — lattices, isogenies, codes — not just as candidates for standardization but as distinct design frameworks. Tradeoffs in efficiency, structure, and supported primitives. Lattice breadth, isogeny compactness, code maturity, and why all three matter.

10:00 Coffee Break

🕒 10:30 – 11:30

LECTURE

Implementing HQC in Hardware: Performance, Security, and Lessons

Sanjay Deshpande — Northwestern University

A deep dive into hardware implementation of HQC, one of NIST's 2025 post-quantum standards. Algorithm core, computational bottlenecks, state-of-the-art hardware impl vs. software/HW-SW co-design, and — to our knowledge — the first power side-channel attack on an HQC hardware implementation, with countermeasures.

🕒 11:30 – 12:30

LECTURE

The Taler Protocol Suite for Digital Payments

Özgür Kesim — FU Berlin & GNU Taler

Online digital payments that preserve buyer anonymity while guaranteeing seller taxability. Coin withdrawal, purchase, deposit, and refresh flows; blind signatures (RSA and Schnorr), HKDFs, ZK cut-and-choose proofs, EC schemes used in unusual ways; and recent work on making Taler post-quantum ready.

12:30 Lunch

🕒 14:30 – 17:30

WORKSHOP

State-of-the-Art Hash-Based SNARKs: Roll Your Own Crypto

Giacomo Fenzi — EPFL

Hash-based SNARKs: fast proving, no trusted setup, post-quantum secure. Implement two interactive oracle commitment schemes: a Brakedown variant (sumcheck plus Reed-Solomon interleaved encoding), then WHIR (used in Ethereum's PQ signature aggregation proposal). Compile, secure, and optimize via arkworks' Spongefish.

17:30 Coffee Break

🕒 18:00

Closing Ceremony

A short send-off in the auditorium: brief remarks from the General Chair, our sponsors, and AUB Mediterraneo — and then we let you go.

The Venue: AUB Mediterraneo

The American University of Beirut's Mediterraneo campus opened in 2023 as the first AUB campus outside Lebanon. The campus sits on the edge of the Paphos archaeological zone — close to the harbor, close to your dorm or hotel, and close (it has to be said) to the beach.

Address and how to get in

📍 AUB Mediterraneo Campus
Apostolou Pavlou Avenue 51
8046 Paphos, Cyprus

The main gate is on Apostolou Pavlou Avenue. Show your Cedarcrypt badge (picked up at the registration desk on Day 1 morning) at security and you are in.

Registration desk

Pick up your badge, lanyard, conference materials, and any swag. If you have a question that isn't answered in this guide, this is where to ask.

Sessions, food, and connectivity

Lecture hall Every session takes place in the campus's **main auditorium** — it is the only one. Set up theatre-style for keynotes and lectures, and reconfigured to laptop-tables for the workshops.

Lunches Free for all attendees, every conference day, served outside the auditorium.
Vegetarian and dietary alternatives are catered.

Coffee breaks Free, also served outside the auditorium.

Conference WiFi SSID AUB Mediterraneo, password WelcomeAUBMed.

Code of Conduct

As Lebanese students, we understand our lives are filled with struggle experienced through wars, economic collapse, and gross political negligence. We understand how your personal politics may be important and an essential part of your identity. We have to keep in mind, however, that our conduct in a foreign land will not always be viewed through this understanding lens, and so we have to keep our behavior in check — especially with foreigners.

Cedarcrypt also brings together people from very different backgrounds — students, academics, engineers, founders, several languages, several passports. The notes below set out what we expect from everyone so that the conference works for all of them.



The short version

- **Be positive and excited about the trip.** It is the single biggest predictor of how much you will get out of the week.

- **Be curious.** Conferences are a place to learn and share ideas; do not shy away from talking to people you find interesting.
- **No political conversations during the trip.** Not in cafes, not in cabs, not on the beach, not in a conference hallway, not anywhere. The Cypriot tourist scene is shared by many people from across the region; political discussions about Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, or the Cyprus problem can escalate fast and badly — people can be triggered, sometimes rightfully so. Just don't, for the whole week.
- **Discrimination will not be tolerated.** Racism, sexism, homophobia, and the like have no place at Cedarcrypt — in speech or action. Avoid inappropriate jokes, especially around people you do not know well.

The full code

TREAT PEOPLE WELL

Cedarcrypt welcomes attendees regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, academic seniority, or institutional affiliation. Improper behavior has no place at the event — in person or online.

ARGUE WITH IDEAS, NOT WITH PEOPLE

Pointed technical criticism of a paper, protocol, or implementation is welcome and encouraged — it is part of why we are here. Personal attacks, condescension, and dismissing someone based on their institution or career stage are not.

LOCAL CONTEXT

The conference is hosted in the Republic of Cyprus. Cypriot law applies throughout, and the policies of AUB Mediterraneo, hotels, and other venues apply in their respective spaces.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

If you see or experience something that conflicts with the above — or that simply does not sit right — please reach out to our Ethics Officer, **Faysal Elestwani** (Signal @faysou1a.23), or to Nadim. You can also email ✉chairs@cedarcrypt.org at any time during the event. Concerns are handled discreetly, and the comfort and safety of the person raising them comes first.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REPORT

The organizers will take whatever action fits the situation: a private conversation, a warning, or removal from a session or social event. We aim to keep any decision proportionate to what actually happened, and to give the people involved a fair hearing.

THIS IS A STARTING POINT

This is a starting point rather than an exhaustive rulebook. If a situation isn't covered, the principle underneath all of it is simple: *be the kind of colleague you'd want to have at a four-day conference far from home.*

Your First Conference

If this is the first academic conference you've ever been to, welcome — it can be one of the most rewarding weeks of your career if you go in with a plan. The notes below are what we wish someone had told us when we walked into our first one.

Before you arrive

- **Read at least one abstract per session.** The full program is in Chapter 10. Pick two or three talks per day where you genuinely want to be paying attention, and treat the rest as bonus.
- **Write down a one-sentence self-intro.** "I'm a [year] student at [university] working on [topic]." You will say it twenty times during the week — having it rehearsed lets you spend the rest of each conversation on the next sentence.
- **Skim the speakers' recent papers.** Even one paper per speaker is enough to ask a real question or open a hallway conversation.

During talks

Sit near the front. You will pay closer attention, the speaker will see you nod, and getting up afterwards to talk to them is much easier.

Take fewer notes than you think. One or two ideas per talk is plenty. The slides will be online; what you cannot get from the slides afterwards is the gut reaction you had in the room.

Asking a question. Short setup, single question. "On your slide about X, you said Y — does that hold when Z?" is a better question than three minutes of context. If your question runs long, save it for after the session.

It is OK to skip. Four days at full attention is a lot. If you're fading, take a coffee, walk to the harbor, come back fresh. Better to miss one talk than to be ineffective for

the rest of the day.

Hallway conversations

The lunches, coffee breaks, and reception are where most of the value of a conference actually happens. A few practical moves:

- **Walk up to a speaker after their talk.** Most speakers love this. “Loved your talk; I had a question about X” is enough of an opener.
- **Don’t queue alone.** Coffee and lunch lines are the easiest place in the world to start a conversation — the person next to you is also waiting and also at the conference. “What brought you to Cedarcrypt?” works every time.
- **Exchange contacts the way you’ll actually use them.** A Signal handle, an email, a GitHub — pick one and trade. Business cards mostly end up in the bin.
- **Follow up within a week.** A two-line email (“great to meet you, here’s that paper I mentioned”) turns a hallway chat into a real connection.

If you are giving a lightning talk

The Day 2 lightning-talk session (Chapter 10) gives each attendee five-to-seven minutes. A few rules of thumb:

- **One idea, one slide per minute, no more.** Five minutes means five slides at most — six is already too many.
- **Open with the punchline.** “We built X. It does Y. Here’s why it matters.” Then explain. Don’t bury the payoff.
- **Practise once out loud.** Five minutes is surprisingly short — you will overrun if you wing it.
- **Have a one-line follow-up plan.** “Find me at lunch / DM me on Signal / paper is at this URL.”

Looking after yourself

A four-day conference can quietly drain you. A few small rules:

- **Sleep.** The temptation to stay out late at the harbor every night is real. Pick two; rest the others.

- **Eat properly at lunch.** The catering is included and good. Skipping lunch to “catch up on email” is the single fastest way to crash by Day 3.
- **Hydrate** — see Chapter 15. At this latitude in July, it genuinely matters.
- **Imposter syndrome is universal.** Everyone in the room felt it on their first conference; many still do. You are here because you belong here. Ask the question anyway.

PART IV

Living in Paphos

Cultural Awareness

Cyprus is a small, sunny, cosmopolitan country that sees roughly four million tourists every summer — including a sizeable Israeli community in Paphos and Limassol, and a steady stream of travelers from across the Middle East, Europe, and beyond. A few things to keep in mind as a Levantine traveler are gathered below.

No politics, anywhere, the whole week

▲ No political conversations during the trip. Not in cafes, not in cabs, not on the beach, not in a conference hallway. Conversations about Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Syria, or any of the adjacent issues can escalate quickly. Many of the people around you have direct, often painful ties to these places — they can be triggered, sometimes rightfully so. Just don't, for the whole week. Save those conversations for when you are back home.

The back of your taxi, the next table at dinner, or the sunbed beside you on the beach is shared with strangers whose lines on these subjects you do not know. Inside the Cedarcrypt venue, treat all attendees with the same care.

Northern Cyprus and “the Cyprus problem”

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, with the southern Republic of Cyprus (where the conference takes place) and the Turkish-controlled north separated by a UN buffer zone. The division is visible from many parts of the south, and the people around you have lived with it all their lives. Treat the topic with care, do not display flags of either side, and do not debate the question in public.

LGBTQ+ travelers

Cyprus is broadly welcoming in tourist-facing Paphos and along the coast. Same-sex civil partnerships have been legally recognised since 2015. You are likely to encounter conservative attitudes from older locals in some neighborhoods, but day-to-day Paphos is comfortable for LGBTQ+ travelers, especially in the Kato Paphos area near the harbor.

Smoking

Smoking is **banned indoors** in restaurants, bars, cafes, hotels, and public buildings. Outdoor terraces are usually fine. The fine for indoor smoking is steep and is enforced. Vaping follows the same rules as smoking.

Tipping

Cyprus tipping is light by US or Levantine standards. The conventions:

Sit-down restaurants If a service charge is on the bill (it sometimes is), no further tip is required. If not, **10%** is generous.

Counter-service cafes No tip expected. Round up if you like.

Taxis Round up to the nearest euro. No further tip needed for short rides; €1—2 for a long airport transfer.

Hotels €1 per bag for porters; nothing required for housekeeping, but a few coins for a multi-day stay is appreciated.

Sun, Heat & Water

Mid-July in Paphos is one of the most reliable weather forecasts in the Mediterranean: sunny, hot, and very dry. The single biggest health risk for summer travelers in Cyprus is dehydration, not anything more exotic. Plan accordingly.

What to expect

Daytime high 28—34 °C (rare spikes to 36+).

Overnight low 22—24 °C.

Humidity Low (40—55 %); the heat feels less oppressive than equivalent temperatures in Beirut.

Rain Vanishingly unlikely.

UV index 10—11 around midday. High enough to burn lighter skin in 10—15 minutes.

Sun rules

☀ **The three rules.** **(1)** SPF 30 minimum sunscreen, reapplied every two hours and after every swim. **(2)** A hat with a brim, not just a cap. **(3)** Avoid direct sun between **12:00 and 15:00** — that's coffee, indoor lunch, or pool time, not beach time.

Hydration

Drink more water than you think you need. **Two and a half to three litres** a day is normal during a Cyprus summer; if you are walking the harbor or doing the Day 0 excursion, plan on closer to three. Carry a refillable bottle and top it up at every coffee break.

Tap water in Paphos is treated and safe to drink. Many locals prefer bottled for taste, but health-wise the tap is fine. If you do not love the taste, supermarkets sell 1.5 L bottles for under one euro.

Heatstroke warning signs

If anyone you are with starts feeling dizzy, confused, or stops sweating in heat: get them into shade, give them water, and cool them with a wet cloth on the neck. If they do not improve within 15 minutes, dial **112**.

Food & Dining

Cypriot food is the Levantine table you already know with a Greek accent: lots of small plates, lots of olive oil, lots of grilled meat, and bread that is somehow always still warm. Lunches and the welcome reception are catered at the conference, but you will want to eat dinner out at least a few times.

The Cypriot meze

A meze in Cyprus is a 15—20-dish parade for the table: dips (taramosalata, tzatziki, hummus), salads, grilled halloumi, cured pork or sausage, tiny meatballs (*keftedes*), grilled octopus, lamb chops, and so on. Order “*meze for two*” between two people and you will not need a starter or a main.

Things to try while you are here

Halloumi Cyprus’s most famous export. Best grilled, with mint.

Sheftalia Crepinette-style sausage of pork and herbs, charcoal-grilled.

Kleftiko Slow-roasted lamb cooked sealed in a clay oven. Order early — it can run out.

Loukoumades Honey-soaked dough balls. Dessert, ideally at the harbor.

Frappé Iced instant coffee, shaken with sugar and a little milk. The Greek coffee experience nobody warns you about. Order *metrios* (medium sweet) the first time.

Cypriot coffee Like a Turkish or Lebanese coffee, served *glykys* (sweet), *metrios* (medium), or *sketos* (no sugar). Drink the top half; do not drink the silt at the bottom.

Where to eat

Walking distance from campus The Kato Paphos / harbor area, fifteen minutes on foot, has the highest concentration of restaurants and the best evening atmosphere.

Apostolou Pavlou Avenue The street the campus is on, with a spread of fish tavernas, pizza places, and a couple of Lebanese-run spots a short walk south.

Coral Bay A 25-minute drive west along the coast; resort-style dining with sea views.

Halal, kosher, and vegetarian/vegan

Halal options are easy to find at Lebanese, Turkish-Cypriot, and many chicken-based menus; ask the server if it matters to you. Vegetarian options are abundant in any meze restaurant (the meze itself is usually half vegetable dishes). Vegan is a stretch in traditional tavernas but straightforward in modern cafes; Greek salad without feta plus a vegetable meze is a reliable fallback. Kosher is harder; your best bet is self-catering from a Carrefour or Sklavenitis supermarket.

Survival Greek

Almost everyone in tourist-facing Paphos speaks at least some English, so you can absolutely get through the week without a word of Greek. But a single *kalimera* or *efharisto* earns you a smile every time, and locals genuinely appreciate the attempt. The phrases below pay back the most.

GREETINGS

Kalimera (kah-lee-MEH-rah) — Good morning. Until about 13:00.

Kalispera (kah-lee-SPEH-rah) — Good afternoon / evening. From early afternoon onwards.

Yia sou (YAH-soo) — Hi / bye, informal singular.

Yia sas (YAH-sas) — Hello, formal or plural — what to default to with shopkeepers and waiters.

Kalinihta (kah-lee-NEEKH-tah) — Goodnight.

POLITENESS

Parakalo (pah-rah-kah-LO) — Please / you're welcome / pardon? One of the hardest-working words in Greek.

Efharisto (ef-hah-ree-STO) — Thank you.

Sygnomi (see-GHNO-mee) — Sorry / excuse me.

Ne (neh) — Yes. Confusingly close to “no.”

Ohi (OH-hee) — No. Sometimes shortened to a chin tilt and a tut.

AT A CAFE OR RESTAURANT

To logariasmo, parakalo (loh-ar-yaz-MO, par-a-ka-LO) — The bill, please.

Yamas! (YAH-mas) — Cheers!

Poso kanei? (POH-soh KAH-nee) — How much is it?

Den miláo elliniká (then mee-LAH-oh eh-lee-nee-KAH) — I don't speak Greek.

Miláte angliká? (mee-LAH-teh ahn-gee-KAH) — Do you speak English?

NUMBERS (FOR ORDERING MEZE)

1—5 *ena, dyo, tria, tessera, pente*

6—10 *exi, epta, ohto, ennea, deka*

Things to Do in Your Free Time

Paphos punches above its weight for a city of 35,000 people. The old town is a UNESCO World Heritage site twice over, the beach is a fifteen-minute walk in any direction, and the Akamas peninsula north of town is one of the prettiest stretches of coastline in the Mediterranean. Below are the things worth doing, by how far you have to go.

Walking distance from campus

Paphos Archaeological Park UNESCO-listed Roman villa mosaics, the standout being the House of Dionysus. A slow 1.5 hours, more if you like archaeology. Right next door to the harbor; entry around € 5.

Tombs of the Kings A 4th-century BC necropolis carved into the rock by the sea — the “kings” are aristocrats, not royals. Atmospheric at golden hour. About 20 minutes’ walk north of the harbor; entry around € 2.50.

Paphos Harbor and Castle The Venetian-era castle is small but photogenic. Walk the harbor at sunset; have a frappé at one of the cafes; watch the boats come in.

Saranta Kolones “Forty Columns” — the ruins of a Byzantine-then-Crusader fortress, inside the Archaeological Park. Worth a 30-minute detour while you are in the park.

Short drives (15 — 30 minutes)

Coral Bay The most popular swimming beach in the Paphos region. Soft sand, life-guards, plenty of umbrellas. 25 minutes by car or by bus 615 from the harbor.

Aphrodite’s Rock (Petra tou Romiou) The mythological birthplace of Aphrodite, on the

coast 25 minutes east. Dramatic rocks, a small pebbled beach, and a sunset that has been working crowds for two thousand years.

Lara Bay One of the few remaining nesting beaches for the endangered green and loggerhead turtles. The road in is rough; rent a 4×4 or take an organized tour. Best in early morning or late afternoon, June through September.

Day trips

Akamas Peninsula Wild, undeveloped, and walkable. The Avakas Gorge hike is the headline activity; the Blue Lagoon (boat or 4×4 only) is the swim. A long half-day or a full day depending on how far you go.

Troodos mountains An hour and a half east — pine forests, Byzantine churches, cooler air. Worth a day if you have one to spare.

After hours

The Kato Paphos / harbor strip has the highest concentration of bars and is the natural after-dinner gathering area. *Ouzeria* (ouzo bars) close late; nightclubs in this area run later still on weekends. The harbor walk after sunset is the slowest, calmest version of Paphos and is worth doing at least once.

Getting Around Paphos

Paphos is small enough to walk most of the way. For everything else there are buses, taxis, and a few car-rental options. One thing to remember above all others: Cyprus drives on the left.

⚠️ Cyprus drives on the LEFT. A holdover from British rule. Important for cyclists and anyone who rents a car. The roundabouts go clockwise, the cars come from the opposite side at crossings, and the steering wheel is on the right. **Look right first when stepping off a curb.**

On foot

The conference area, the harbor, the Archaeological Park, and the Tombs of the Kings are all within a 25-minute walk of one another. Bring shoes that can do that walk on uneven stone in 30 °C heat.

Public buses

The OSYPA bus network in Paphos is cheap and reliable for the routes that matter to most attendees. Pay the driver in cash on boarding.

Single fare € 1.50, valid for 90 minutes including transfers

Day ticket € 5, valid until end of day

Useful lines 612/613 (PFO airport ↔ central Paphos), 615 (harbor ↔ Coral Bay), 616 (around central Paphos)

Taxi apps

Bolt works in Paphos and is usually cheaper than flagging a street taxi. Cars are typically two to ten minutes away in the central zones. Cash and card both accepted, and the app shows the fare upfront so there is no negotiating with the driver.

Uber does **not** operate in Cyprus. Local taxi apps like *TaxiNet* and *Welcome Pickups* also work.

Renting a car

Worth it if you are planning a Troodos or Akamas day trip. Major rentals at PFO airport include Hertz, Sixt, and Avis, plus local operators like Petsas. **An EU or international driving permit is required**; UK and US licenses are accepted.

Drive on the left. Use the right lane (their fast lane). Expect aggressive overtaking on rural roads. Do not drink and drive — the Cypriot limit is 0.05 %, half the US limit, and is enforced.

PART V

Reference

Emergency Contacts

This is the page you flip to when something has gone wrong. Dial 112 from any phone — mobile or landline — for an English-speaking dispatcher who will route you to police, ambulance, or fire. The numbers below are the next layer down.

UNIVERSAL EU EMERGENCY — WORKS FROM ANY PHONE

112

Police, ambulance, fire — English-speaking operator

Cedarcrypt urgent contacts

Nadim Kobeissi — General Chair

Signal @nadim.25519 | ✉️ nadim@symbolic.software

The fastest way to reach a chair at any hour. Use Signal for anything sensitive (lost passport, medical, anything you would rather not put in unencrypted email).

Abd El Kader Kahil — Group leader (flight + bus)

Signal @aboude.19

The on-call contact for anything during the BEY—LCA flight, the LCA pickup, and the bus transfer to and from the dorms.

Faysal Elestwani — Ethics Officer

Signal @faysou1a.23

The first call for any code-of-conduct concern. Confidential by default.

All organizers — non-urgent

✉ chairs@cedarcrypt.org

Reaches the full organizing committee. Use this for things that can wait an hour or two: schedule changes, lost-and-found, registration questions.

Cypriot emergency services (non-112)

Police, non-emergency 📞 1460

Ambulance, non-emergency 📞 1400

Fire department 📞 1407

Coast guard / sea rescue 📞 1441

Tourist police, Paphos 📞 +357 1460

Hospitals near campus

Paphos General Hospital

PUBLIC

📍 Achaion 1, 8025 Paphos

📞 +357 26 803 100

The main public hospital, 5—10 minutes from campus. EU citizens with EHIC are covered; everyone else pays out of pocket and claims back on travel insurance. Emergency department open 24/7.

Ygia Polyclinic

PRIVATE

📞 +357 25 884 600

Private alternative for non-urgent care; faster waiting times, English spoken throughout. Pay up front and claim on travel insurance.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies in central Paphos are open daytime hours, and a 24-hour rota covers nights and weekends for emergencies. Look for the green-cross sign, or check the on-call list at the venue's reception. Pharmacists in Paphos generally speak good English and can dispense most over-the-counter medication on the spot.

Embassies & Consular Contacts

If you lose your passport or have any other consular issue, the nearest embassy is in Nicosia (about 90 minutes by car from Paphos). Every embassy below has English-speaking staff and can issue emergency travel documents in a couple of working days.

Embassy of Lebanon in Cyprus

Embassy of Lebanon, Nicosia

📍 589Q+84X, Chiou Street
Agios Dometios, 2373 Nicosia, Cyprus

☎ +357 22 878 282 | ✉ lebanon.emb@cytanet.com.cy

Office hours: Mon — Fri 08:30 — 14:00 (closed on Lebanese and Cypriot public holidays). The closest Lebanese diplomatic mission — for lost passports, contact them as soon as possible after filing a Cypriot police report.

Other common embassies

For other nationalities, the embassy or consulate you want is almost certainly in Nicosia. The Republic of Cyprus government maintains the authoritative list at mfa.gov.cy. A non-exhaustive selection follows.

United States U.S. Embassy Nicosia, ☎ +357 22 393 939

United Kingdom British High Commission, ☎ +357 22 861 100

France Ambassade de France, ☎ +357 22 779 910

Germany Deutsche Botschaft, 📞+357 22 451 145

Switzerland Swiss Consulate (honorary, in Nicosia), 📞+357 22 466 388

Lost-passport procedure

- 1. File a police report.** Walk into the nearest Cypriot police station with your photo ID and any other identification you have. Get a copy of the report — the embassy will need it.
- 2. Contact your embassy.** Phone first, then go in person once you have the report. Bring two recent passport-size photographs.
- 3. Apply for an emergency travel document.** Most embassies issue these in 2—5 working days; some same-day.
- 4. Tell us.** Email ✉️chairs@cedarcrypt.org or Signal Nadim @nadim.25519. We can help with the embassy paperwork and with rebooking your flight if needed.

Sponsors

Cedarcrypt is possible because of the sponsors below. Several funded scholarships that brought Lebanese students to Paphos — without them this conference would not have happened the way it did. If you meet anyone from these organizations during the week, please thank them.



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT
Mediterraneo

AUB Mediterraneo

Host venue. The American University of Beirut's Paphos campus provides the lecture halls, the Tangerine dorms, and the Mediterranean setting.



Symbolic
software

Symbolic Software

Formal verification and cryptographic protocol analysis. The founding and organizing force behind Cedarcrypt.



Cure53

Berlin-based cybersecurity firm specialising in penetration testing and source-code audits. **Funded 7 Lebanese scholarships.**



Electi

Cyprus-based technical and business consultancy in cryptography. **Funded 3 Lebanese scholarships.**



PQShield

Post-quantum hardware and software upgrades for vital security systems. **Funded 3 Lebanese scholarships.**



Zama

Open-source fully homomorphic encryption for blockchain and AI. **Funded 5 Lebanese scholarships.**



Passbolt

Open-source password manager built for teams and businesses. **Funded 2 Lebanese scholarships.**

Anonymous donors. Several individuals and organizations contributed substantially without taking a public credit. We thank them just as warmly.

WALLET CARD

Cut along the dashed lines and keep this in your wallet.

+ ----- ✂ ----- +

Cedarcrypt 2026 WALLET CARD

UNIVERSAL EU EMERGENCY

112 Police ▪ ambulance ▪ fire

CEDARCRYPT HOTLINE

Nadim Kobeissi • Signal @nadim.25519

✉ nadim@symbolic.software ✉ chairs@cedarcrypt.org

HOSPITALS

Paphos General (public) • Achaion 1 • 📞 +357 26 803 100

Ygia Polyclinic (private) • 📞 +357 25 884 600

FILL IN FOR YOURSELF

Hotel / dorm room : _____

Travel-insurance policy # : _____

Embassy emergency # : _____

+ ----- ✂ ----- +

AFTER CEDARCRYPT

Want to go deeper?



Cedarcrypt's General Chair, Nadim Kobeissi, teaches a free, full-semester applied cryptography course online with priority enrollment for Lebanese students. Slides, quizzes, problem sets, projects, and recommended readings — including *The Joy of Cryptography* and *Serious Cryptography* — are all openly available.

Applied Cryptography

A full-semester course covering modern symmetric and asymmetric cryptography, public-key infrastructure, secure-channel protocols, post-quantum constructions, and zero-knowledge proofs — with the rigor of a graduate seminar and the pacing of an undergraduate course.

<https://appliedcryptography.page>

Read the syllabus at [appliedcryptography.page / syllabus](https://appliedcryptography.page/syllabus).

The companion course was the seed of Cedarcrypt. If this week leaves you wanting more, that course is the most direct way to keep going.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Changelog

This guide is versioned so future editions can be tracked at a glance.
The current edition is **v1.2**, published in April 2026.

- Version 1.2 — April 2026** Adds the *Your First Conference* playbook and a *Survival Greek* chapter, and fixes back-cover link legibility.
- Version 1.1 — April 2026** Updates the Day 0 excursion to the new *Legends & Kingdoms of Cyprus* itinerary along the southwest coast, and removes the earlier checkpoint and restricted-passport guidance throughout.
- Version 1.0 — April 2026** First printed edition of the *Cedarcrypt Student's Guide*, distributed to confirmed attendees a few weeks before the conference.



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See you in Paphos.

Cedarcrypt

JULY 13–16, 2026

AUB Mediterraneo Campus—Paphos, Cyprus

 cedarcrypt.org ▪  chairs@cedarcrypt.org

IN COOPERATION WITH



International Association
for Cryptologic Research

VERSION 1.2 ▪ APRIL 2026