



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Cyprus

1 Ramsar Site(s) covering 1,107 ha

Larnaca Salt Lake

Site number: 1,081 | Country: Cyprus | Administrative region: Larnaca

Area: 1,107 ha | Coordinates: 34°53'39"N 33°36'41"E | Designation dates: 11-07-2001

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Larnaca Salt Lake. 11/07/01; 1,107 hectares; 34°53'N 033°36'E. Protected area. A highly saline seasonal lake which supports significant numbers of overwintering and stopover waterbirds. The basis of its productivity is the unicellular alga *Dunaniella salina*, which supports "fairy shrimps" *Artemia salina* and *Branchianella spinosa* (especially in the "airport lake" southern arm of the main lake, adjacent to Larnaca International Airport), which forms the main food for flamingos, chiefly *Phoenicopterus ruber*. Water levels do not exceed one meter, and salt flat halophytic communities fringe much of the lakeside. An important Muslim shrine, Hala Sultan Tekke, as well as a late Bronze Age archaeological site and an impressive 18th century aqueduct, add interest to the site. Private land, both Greek and Turkish Cypriot, fringe part of the lake, but the lagoons are state-owned and further acquisitions are planned, except for areas owned by Moslem and Christian Orthodox religious organizations, which are constitutionally protected from acquisition. The site was made a protected area in 1997 and a management plan is in place; an information centre and hides are planned. Urban development in the north and east of the lake and airport traffic in the south are seen as potential problems, but a shooting club facility is being relocated outside the reserve in order to reduce the threat from lead shot. Ramsar site no. 1081. Most recent RIS information: 2008.