



# Xylophagou

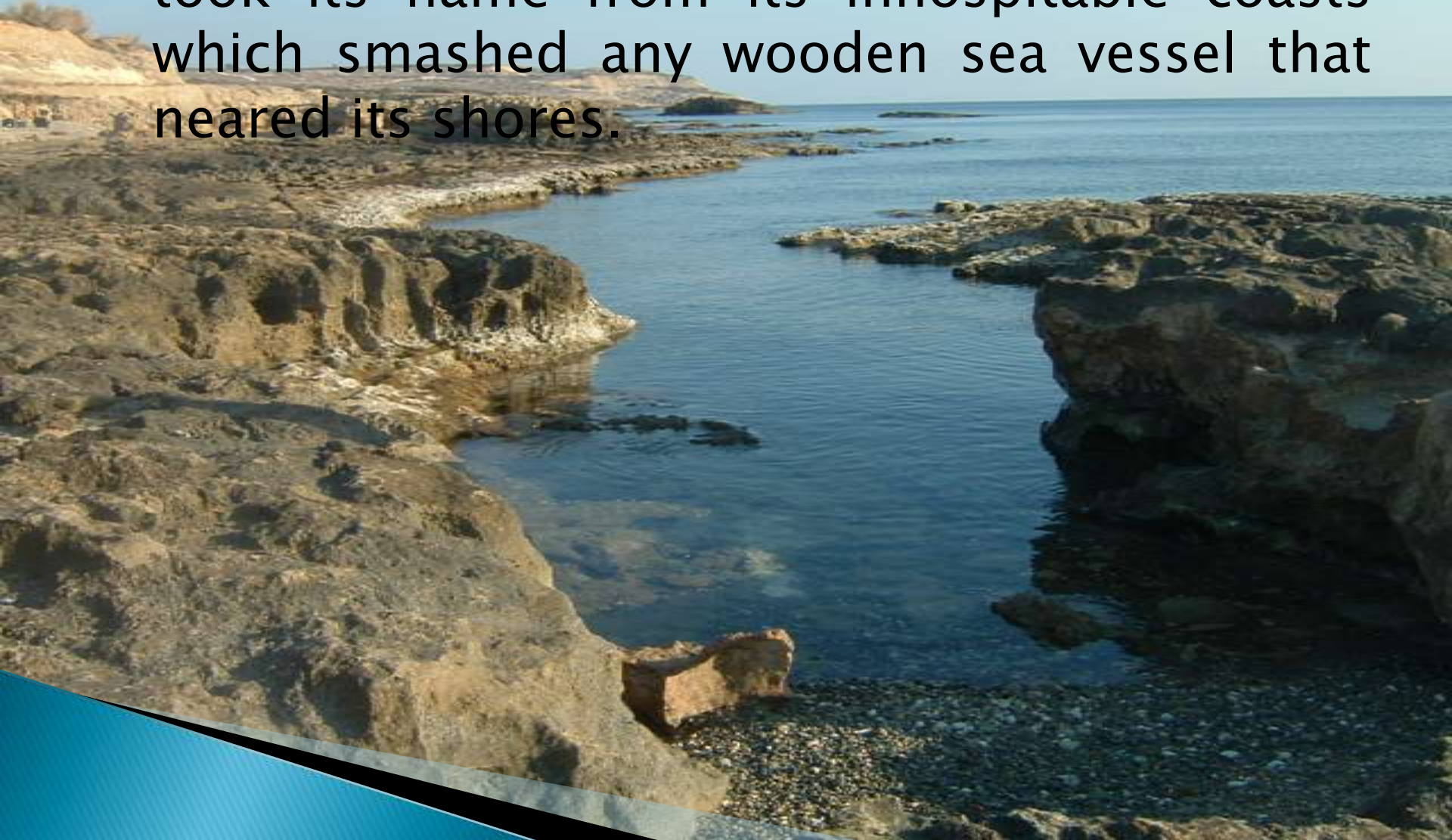
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- ▶ The community of Xylophagou is located in the south-eastern region of Cyprus, between the towns of Larnaca and Famagusta. It is distanced from Nicosia, the capital city of Cyprus, by only 65km.



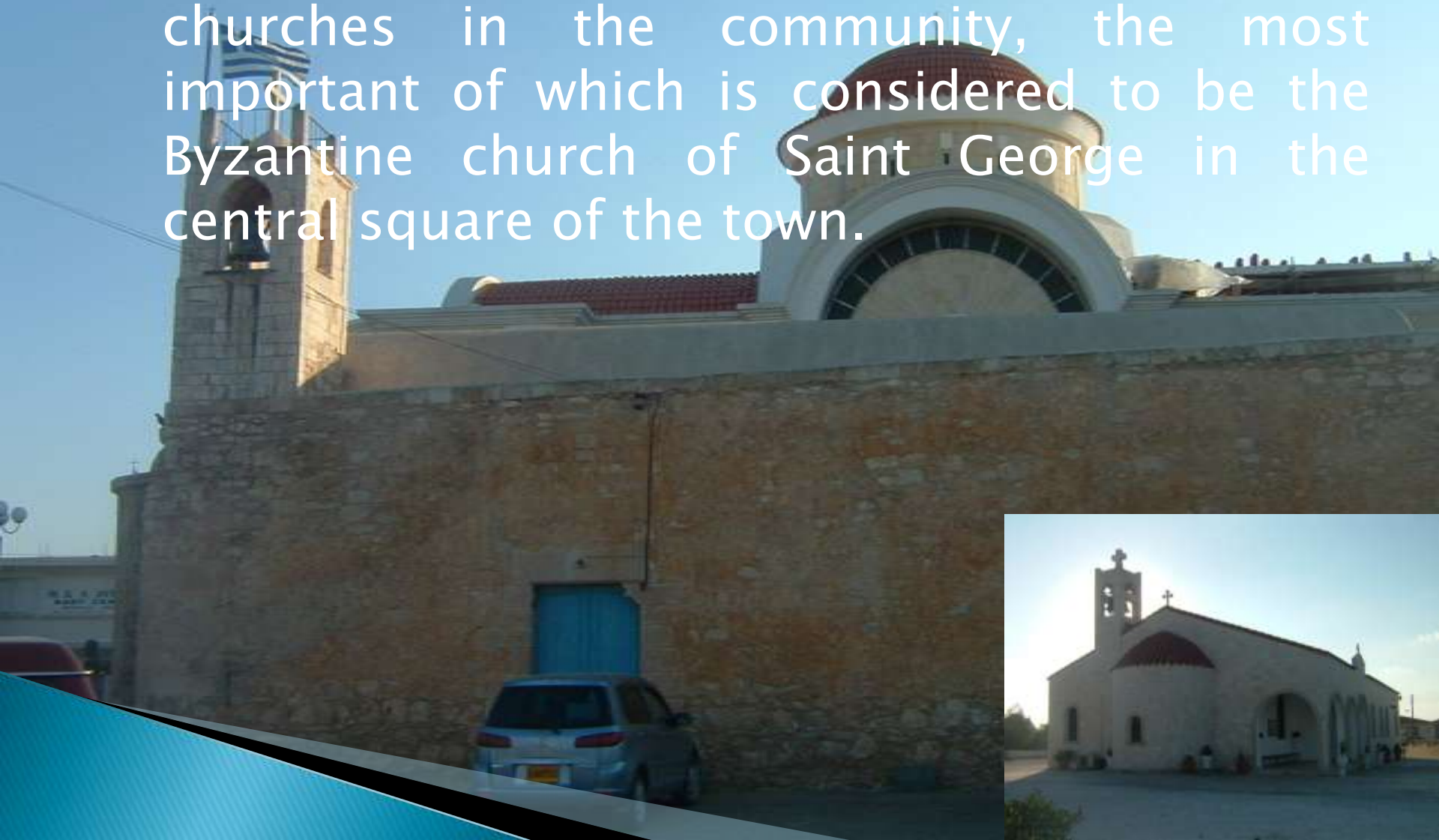
- ▶ Traditional folklore suggests that Xylophagou took its name from its inhospitable coasts which smashed any wooden sea vessel that neared its shores.



- ▶ Xylophagou is a small town of 8000 inhabitants. Some of these inhabitants are refugees who found sanctuary and settled there when in the summer of 1974 the Turkish army uprooted them from their villages and towns



- ▶ All the inhabitants of Xylophagou are of the Christian Orthodox faith. There are many churches in the community, the most important of which is considered to be the Byzantine church of Saint George in the central square of the town.



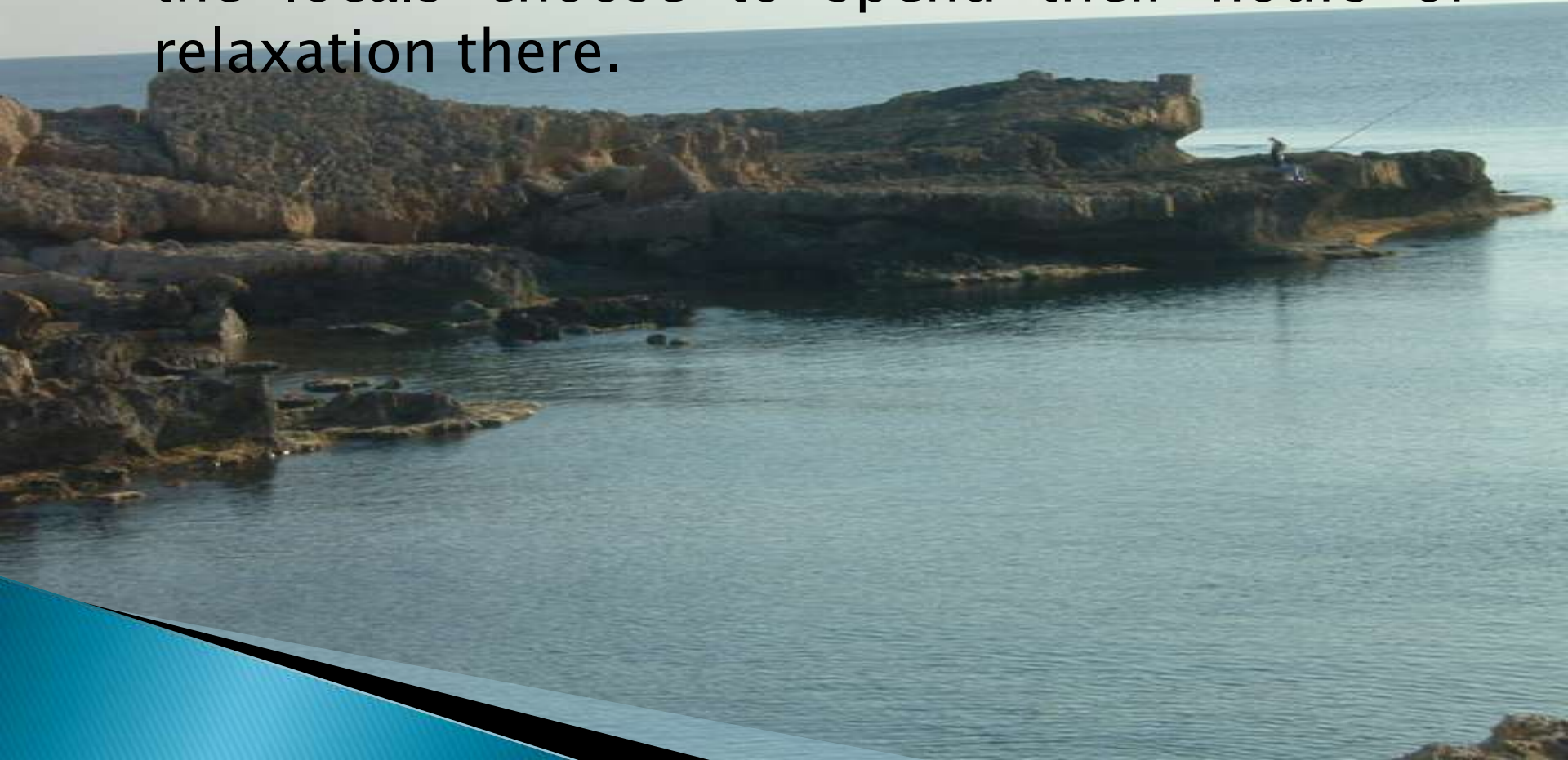
- ▶ West of the city, situated very near to the beach, is the church of the Holy Virgin, which was built in the same location where her ancient icon was discovered in caves. The icon was hidden by inhabitants to protect it from persecution



- ▶ South of the town, at the highest peak of the rocky bay, the ‘Tower’ dominates. This is an observation tower which was built by the Byzantines during the occupation of the island. Among fire signals which flamed at its peak, they communicated with other ‘towers’ on the island and over all of the Byzantine empire



- ▶ The town's beaches are rocky and wild. Despite this fact, during the summer months, these beaches are full of life since many of the locals choose to spend their hours of relaxation there.



- ▶ In this area, in a small creek, a shelter has been created for the fishing boats of amateur and professional fishermen alike.



- ▶ Most of the inhabitants of Xylophagou work mainly in agriculture and a few in stock farming. The main product which this community produces is potatoes, and these are cultivated with the use of modern technology. Many inhabitants also work in the tourism industry of Ayia Napa and Protaras.



- ▶ Over the last few years, this community has become a place of attraction for foreigners, especially Europeans, who purchase houses and reside permanently on the island, enjoying the sun, the sea and the relaxed way of Xylophagou life.

