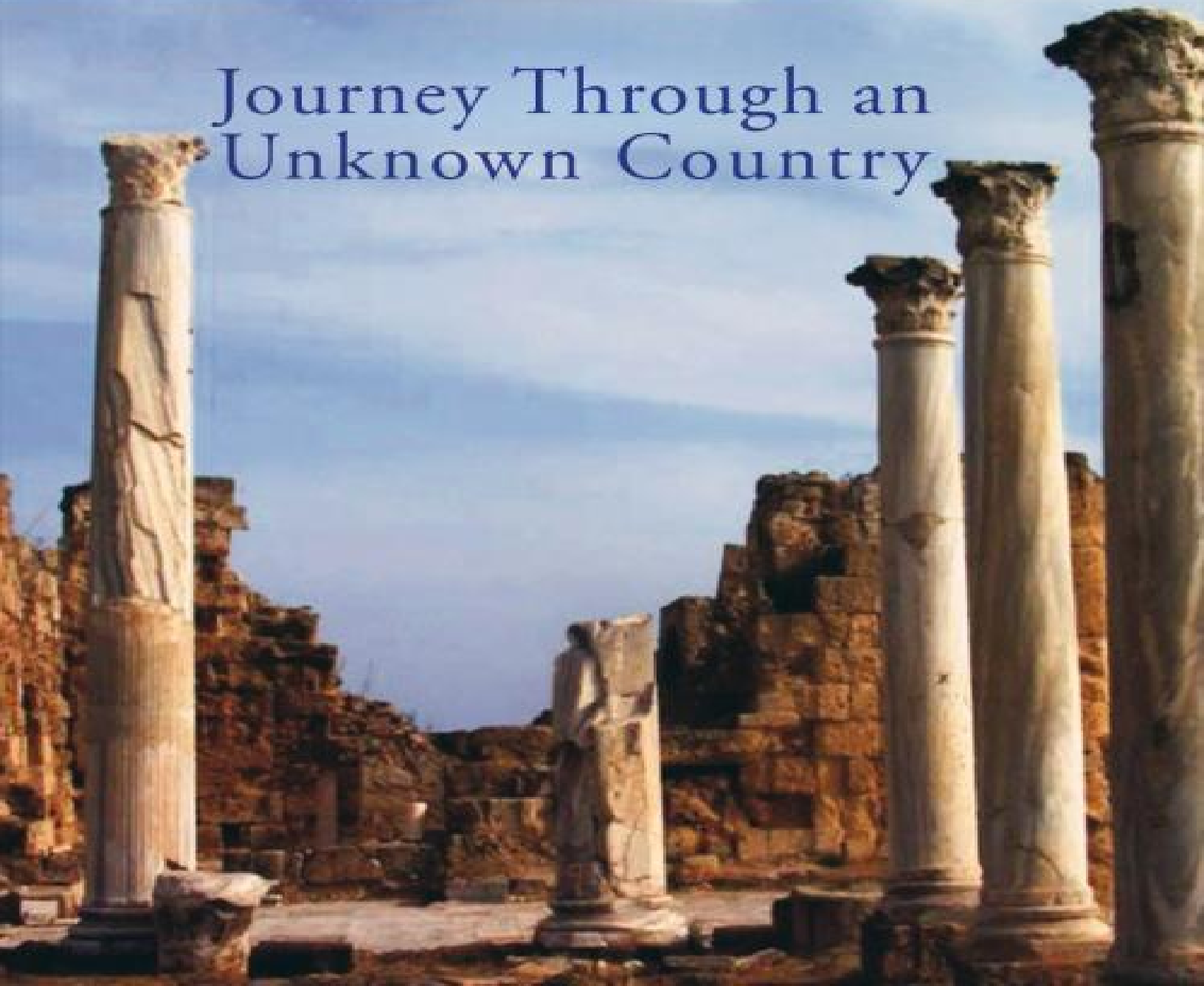


Kai Althoetmar

On the Way to Bellapais

NORTHERN CYPRUS

Journey Through an
Unknown Country



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On the Way to Bellapais

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CYPRUS



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I - Varosha. 'Forbidden Zone'.

The wall still stands here. The Iron Curtain may be history in the rest of Europe, but Aphrodite's kingdom remains divided. Varosha, Northern Cyprus. A memorial and open wound of the divided Mediterranean island. The fence stands at the end of the road leading southwards from Famagusta along the sea. Not wire, not concrete, not a wall of boards marks the border—a black cloth is stretched metres high. A red cardboard sign with the stencil-like image of a soldier armed with an MP on it warns in five languages: 'Forbidden zone'. Behind the curtain, the skeletons of former hotel tower blocks rise into the sky like