

Segway Station

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A glide along the sea front

Segway Station, the team behind the electric powered tour of Nicosia, has expanded their fleet so the rides can soon be enjoyed island wide.

By Naomi Leach

This summer, the sun-drenched sea front at Protaras is about to experience a new addition to its host of attractions. Nicosia-based tour company, Segway Station who brought the futuristic personal transporter Segway to Cyprus last year, has now introduced the Trikke electric personal transporter too. The three-wheeled machine offers a more adventurous alternative to the Segway and will also be available (with the original Segway) for hire in Nicosia and Protaras from May 1. You'll be able to beat the frustration of driving, avoid the strain of cycling and have fun while gliding through the streets and beaches of the east coast this summer season.

"We're taking both Trikkes and Segways to Protaras on the boardwalk by Fig Tree Bay. We're offering rental by the hour with a map of Protaras suggesting great views, churches and other attractions. We also offer guided tours with a one day reservation," explains Loizos Heracleous, the founder of Segway Station.

The expansion to the east follows the success of the Segway Station in Nicosia's old town. For months now, locals and visitors to the capital have been riding through the labyrinthine, crumbling streets of the city for a tour with a difference. There have also been several themed treasure hunts organised for teams on the transporters.

"We're building up a story brand, a good reputation because of reviews on Trip Advisor. We're now number one of things to do in Nicosia out of 16. We've got 30, five-star reviews. Anyone who comes loves it. Safety comes first with training. Once they're comfortable then it's fun, it's a blast. Everyone leaves with a smile," enthuses Andrew Markantonis, the Brand Ambassador for Segway Station.

Riding on a Segway offers smooth and intuitive experience. The Trikke which is also an electric, environmentally friendly transporter has three wheels and moves in a sportier, ski like motion. It provides more balance than a skateboard or bicycle and feels a little like a scooter. The standard model can travel at speeds of 19-25 kph. It has a 40 kilometre range and similar to the Segway just needs plugging in on a stand to recharge.

"We brought over the Trikke to extend our environmental and green credentials. Trikke electric

Brazilians Gildo Beleski and Osorio Trentini invented the three wheeled Trikke for riding downhill in California in 1988



Like the Segway, the Trikke is a 'fun, groovy' product

takes 10c of electricity fully charged and 10c covers 40 kilometres. There are no emissions, no CO2, no noise, no smell, no traffic. I reason it is consistent with our Segway product line and we want to offer more options to our customers. We can more easily take them to wherever a customer wants. And like the Segway it is a fun, groovy product," adds Loizos.

Brazilians Gildo Beleski and Osorio Trentini invented the three wheeled Trikke for riding downhill in California in 1988. It has undergone several transformations and now in addition to the person powered model, there are the easy to ride, electric models such as the one available in Cyprus.

Segway Station has bolstered their fleet of personal transporters hoping to achieve an island wide presence. The squad now contains nine Segways and eight Trikkes. In Protaras, the Segway and Trikke can be hired out for 6-8 hours with discounts for longer rental periods. To hire a Segway for the day it costs €16 per hour and to hire a Trikke it is €12 per hour. It is also possible to purchase a Trikke from Segway Station as the company has secured exclusive distribution rights in Cyprus. A Trikke costs €2095 each (including VAT).

In anticipation of Trikke and Segway fever spreading, Segway Station has also opened up the riding experience to people anywhere in Cyprus. By pre-booking the transporter, they can cater to corporate or private func-

tions and be hired out for birthday parties or for just a group of friends craving a novel activity to try. Rather than a tour, riders can learn and enjoy cruising around their neighbourhood on the Segway or Trikke.

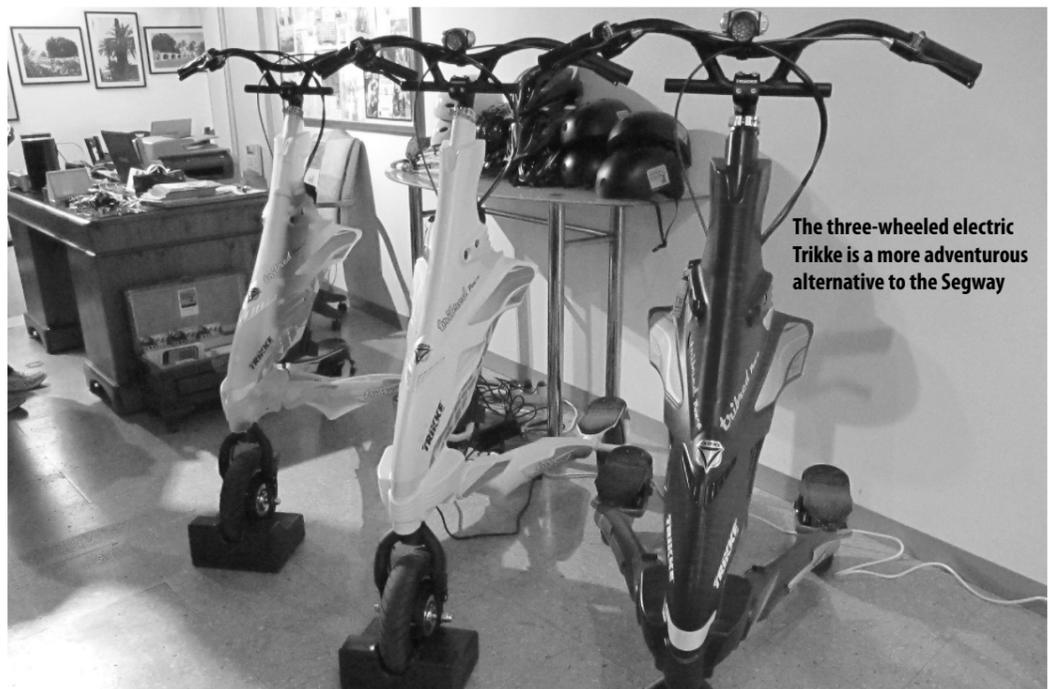
With a day's notice the team can pack up their two vans and deliver the lightweight (20kg) transporters anywhere. A day with the Segways, Trikkes or a combination of the two products costs €49 per person and parties need to have a minimum of six people involved.

Loizos stresses that he is keen for people to have the opportunity to experience the feeling of using the green transporters, rather than keeping it exclusively for the guided city tours. With the Segway Station's expansion they hope to attract tourists as well as fun-loving locals.

"We're looking forward to the Cyprus presidency of the EU. They'll be more visitors and we'll find the visitors in Protaras if they can't find us in Nicosia," says Loizos.

Riding on a Segway or Trikke feels like taking a surreal step into the future of green transportation and Loizos is excited by the potential of both products.

"Ideally we want to see it being used by people in regular life. That's why we are offering the Trikke for sale in Cyprus. It is extremely commercial, the speed is very reasonable and they're easy to ride. They are ideal for people who want to visit friends, do chores or go to office if it is just five kilometres away."



The three-wheeled electric Trikke is a more adventurous alternative to the Segway

