

Nicosia is calling...

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood

Ages  
11-12

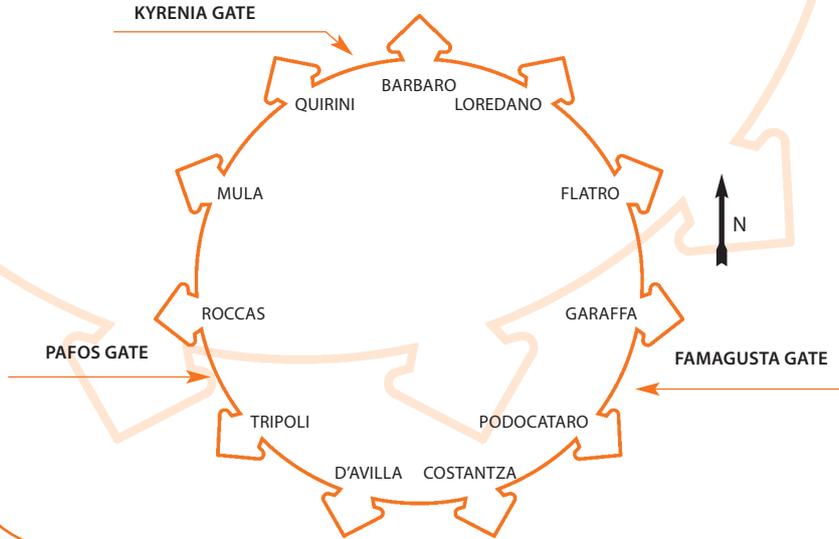


# Nicosia is calling

## Dear Friends

We are very excited to meet you!  
In your hands you are holding one of the first four booklets of the NICOSIA IS CALLING series. Have fun by following the activities, reading, exploring and learning about the particular areas of Nicosia within the walls:

- Arabahmet Neighbourhood
- Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood
- Pafos Gate
- Kyrenia Gate
- Kyrenia Gate



## How did the idea come about for these booklets?

Well, it all started when the Master Plan (turn your booklet upside down to find out what this is) renovated some very beautiful and important areas of Nicosia within the Walls.

In order to assist you in getting to know these renovated areas, the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research decided to bring together a group of teachers from primary and secondary education, across the existing divide, to cooperate and produce useful and creative educational materials for you, your teachers and parents.

Today,  
we explore the  
**Arabahmet Neighbourhood**



## Starting Point

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Between Roccas and Mula Bastion

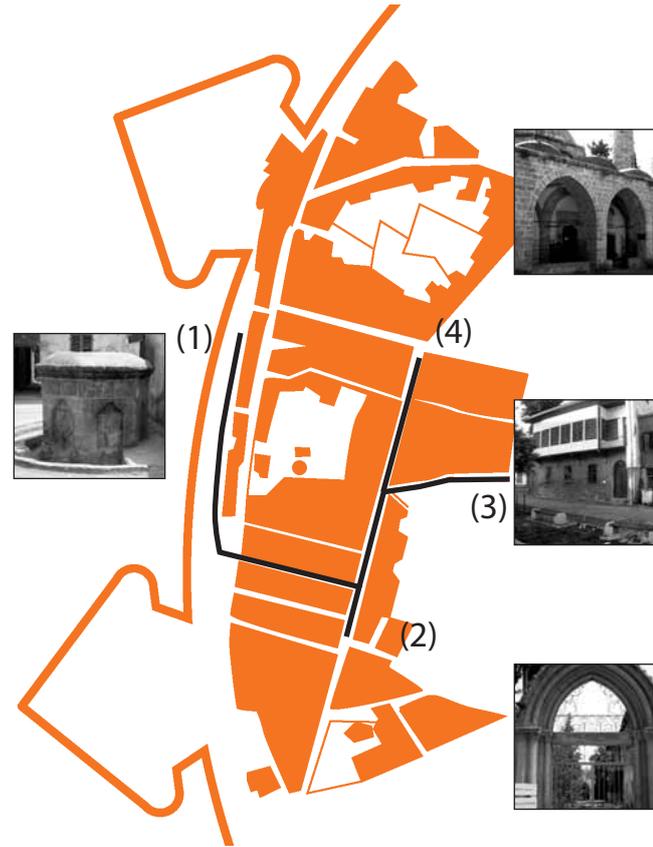
We stand between Roccas Bastion and Mula Bastion heading towards Arabahmet Neighbourhood.

Arabahmet neighborhood is a traditional residential neighbourhood in the western part of the walled city, north of Pafos Gate.

Most of the well-preserved houses of the area were built in the late 19th to early 20th century as one or two storey structures, with courtyards and gardens in the back. Because of its elevation (the highest point of the old city), this area was one of the most important districts of Nicosia.

During our visit (look at the map), we are going to visit the following places:

- The fountain of Zehri (1)
- The many narrow streets in Arabahmet Neighbourhood
- Notre Dame de Tyre (The Armenian Church and Monastery) (2)
- Dervish Pasha Mansion (3)
- Arabahmet Mosque (4)





## Activity 1

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Walking along the Walls

### 1st Stop

Keep walking until you find the FOUNTAIN OF ZEHRI.



Our exploration begins with the Fountain of Zehri. The fountain is situated at the junction of Zahra Street and Tanzimat Street. It was built by Hasan Mutallip in 1910.

Stand on the pavement and observe the surroundings.

If you have a camera, take some photos.

**1.1. How would you describe the shape of the fountain?  
(Count its corners and sides)**

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Now walk by the walls. Very soon you are going to reach the CETINKAYA FOOTBALL CLUB →

### 2nd Stop

In front of the yard of the CETINKAYA FOOTBALL CLUB

From this point (shown in the photo), look at the houses opposite you:

**1.2. Choose the one that impressed you the most and draw it here:**





## Activity 2

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Keep walking along the walls

2.1. Observe the houses more carefully.  
Note down three similarities between the houses:

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2.2. Some of the houses have dates on their doors. Locate them and write down two of the oldest dates:

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did the house owners write these dates? (What did they mean?)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walk along the walls, enjoy the view and look carefully at the houses (on your left hand side). Also look at the moat, the walls and the buildings in the UN Buffer Zone (on your right hand side). Take photos, if you wish.



Keep walking straight until you reach the sign post. Follow the signs and head towards the Dervish Pasha Mansion. ➡





### Activity 3

## Arabahmet Neighbourhood

Follow the direction shown on your map (page 3). Walk and observe the houses.

3.1. The houses of this neighbourhood are built very c \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.

The streets between the houses are very n \_\_\_\_\_.



3.2. Now, try to imagine living in these houses:

a. What advantages do people who live here enjoy?

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b. Do they face any problems?

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At the end of the narrow street, turn right and keep walking straight until you reach NOTRE DAME DE TYRE ➡



## Activity 4

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Notre Dame de Tyre ( Tortose<sup>1</sup>)

### 3rd Stop

NOTRE DAME DE TYRE (THE ARMENIAN CHURCH AND MONASTERY)



The 13th century Armenian Monastery is located on the west side of the Walled City.

The original complex, known as the Benedictine Abbey of Lady of Tyre was founded as a convent for the women of Cyprus.

After the Ottoman conquest of Cyprus it became an Armenian Church.

4.1. What can this particular Armenian Church tell us about the inhabitants of old Nicosia?

Look, think, discuss and write your thoughts:

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Now walk back on the same street until you reach the Sign Post pictured here. Follow the sign to find the Dervish Pasha Mansion.



1. According to Richard (Richard, J., "Les comptes du Collecteur de la Chambre Apostolique dans le Royaume de Chypre (1357-1363)", EKEE, 13-16, 1987, pp 1-47) the medieval building which later became the Armenian Church is the 14th century monastery of Notre-Dame de Tortosa (and not as was recorded until today, of Notre Dame de Tyre).



## Activity 5

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Dervish Pasha Mansion

### 4th Stop

DERVISH PASHA MANSION

MANSION ROOM: YEMEK ODASI (DINING ROOM)



5.1. Stand at the point from which this photo was taken.

5.2. Observe the exterior of the Dervish Pasha Mansion and circle the material used for its building:

- |       |            |            |         |
|-------|------------|------------|---------|
| Wood  | Iron       | Gypsum     | Gold    |
| Stone | Roof Tiles | Wall paper | Plastic |

Other: .....

5.3. What is this figure pictured here doing?  
(Look carefully at the objects around her):

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5.4. Which of the kitchen utensils that you see in this room are still used today?

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**Activity  
5**  
continued

## Dervish Pasha Mansion - Inside the Mansion

MANSION ROOM: TENZAN ODASI  
(LOOM ROOM)



5.5. Find the object picture here:  
Observe it carefully all around, think,  
discuss and write:

a. What does it remind you of?

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b. What was it used for?

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c. What is it made of?

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5.6. Put the three words in the correct boxes:

winding-wheel / spinning-wheel / weaving-machine



5.7. Do we use any of the object shown above today? Why?

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Well done! Now walk out of the room into the main yard. You will immediately see some agricultural objects on the walls.



## Activity 6

# Dervish Pasha Mansion - Agricultural Tools



6. Yes! Now it is time to learn the names of some of the tools that farmers used. Observe the tools and draw, next to their respective descriptions the images that are missing:



### Plough

Farm tool having one or more heavy blades to break the soil and cut a furrow prior to sowing.



### Leather rucksack

Bag for carrying the food and the drink of the shepherd.



### Mill

Farm tool for grinding the corn.



### Sickle

Curved, hand-held agricultural tool for harvesting grain crops.

### Think and discuss:

Where might these stairs lead to? Which rooms might you find up there?

Now walk up the stairs →



# Activity 7

## Dervish Pasha Mansion - Inside the Mansion

MANSION ROOM: GELIN ODASI (BRIDAL ROOM)

7.1. Look at the bride and the groom. How are they dressed?

Clothes of the bride

Clothes of the groom

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7.2. How did they keep the room warm?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7.3. There are some objects that were added to this room during contemporary years.

Look around and locate them:

1. sockets \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



## Activity 8

# Dervish Pasha Mansion - Inside the Mansion

MANSION ROOM: BAŞ ODA (MAIN ROOM)

### 8.1. Who used this room?

Only (continue)

### 8.2. What did they use to drink?

### 8.3. How did they spend their time?

### 8.4. Think and discuss

a. Do we have separate living rooms for men and women today?

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b. Do we have places where men and women go separately today?

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Once you have explored all the rooms of the first floor, go down the stairs to the garden. If you wish, you may enjoy a break under the trees and take photos.

Time now to visit another place.  
Exit the mansion and turn right.  
Walk straight until you find the sign post. Follow the sign to get to Arabahmet Mosque. ➡



## Activity 9

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Mosque

### 5th Stop

Built in 1845 the Arabahmet Mosque is a fine example of well preserved Ottoman architecture.

Like the Arabahmet neighbourhood, the Mosque takes its name from Arab Ahmet Pasha, a military leader during the Ottoman period of Cyprus.

The mosque is an excellent example of classical Ottoman architecture and reflects the style of the 16th century.

(From the Walled Nicosia: A Guide to its Historical and Cultural Sites. Nicosia Master Plan, p.81)



9.1. Observe the mosque carefully and draw what is missing from the building (the dome and the minaret).



## Activity 9

continued

# Arabahmet Neighborhood - Mosque

On the floor of the mosque there are several well-preserved tomb stones dating back to the middle ages. In the court yard you will find the graves of Kamil Pasha and Ishak Pasha.

9.2. Look around and find the graves mentioned in the above passage.

What do these graves tell us about the burial habits of the people?

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9.3. Find the construction pictured in this photo. What is it?

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9.4. Why is it built next to the mosque?

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**Nicosia  
is calling**

## **Congratulations!**

You have completed the exploration of the Arabahmet Neighbourhood with the help of this booklet.  
Now you know many new things.

There are, however many more things for you to discover in the Arabahmet Neighbourhood so do not stop searching, researching and discovering.

Things you can do...

- ✦ Take some photos for your personal and school archive
- ✦ For further reading and information look on website: [www.hisdialresearch.org](http://www.hisdialresearch.org)

Best wishes

"The Nicosia is Calling" team



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