

Nicosia is calling...

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood

Ages  
14-16

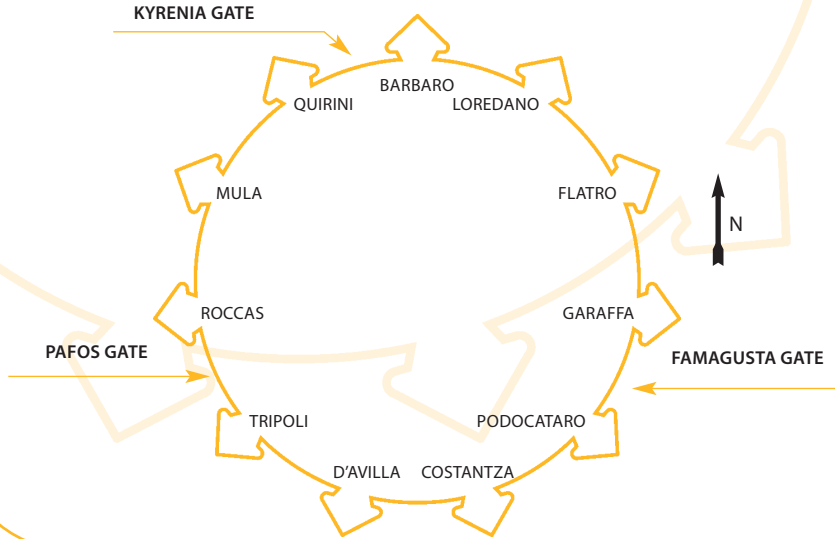


# Nicosia is calling

## 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



## 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

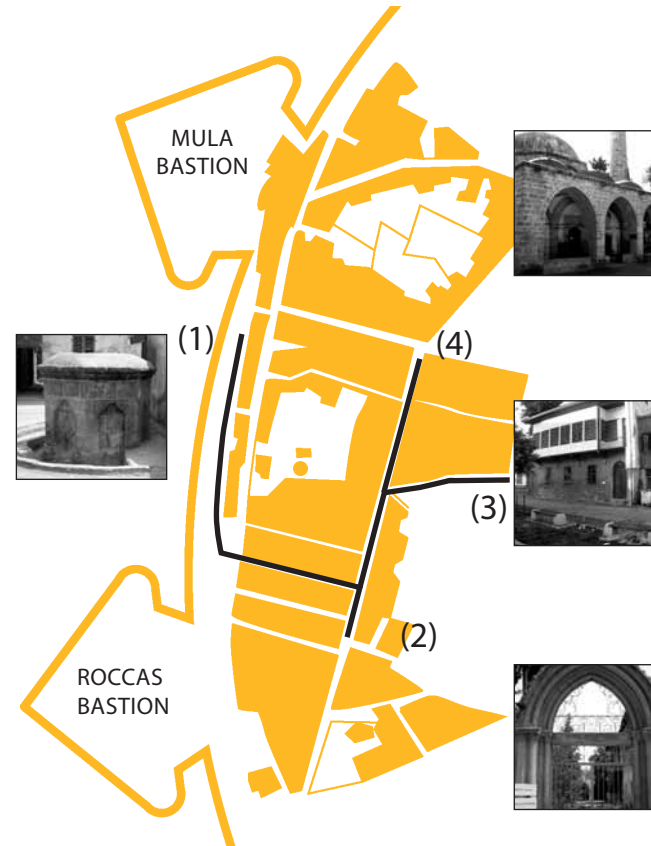
We stand between Roccas Bastion and Mula Bastion heading towards Arabahmet Neighbourhood.

Arabahmet Neighbourhood 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 at 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 Neighborhood
- 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, situated at the junction of Zahra Street and Tanzimat street. The fountain, built by Hasan Mutallip in 1910, is an octagonal-shaped structure. It is built on a low platform with a reservoir constructed from cut stones. (From the Walled Nicosia: A Guide to its Historical and Cultural Sites. Nicosia Master Plan, p.81)

1. 1. What does this Fountain tell us about the water supply at that time?

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1. 2. Do we need such Fountains today? Why?

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### 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:

1.3. What can these houses tell us about the socio-economic status of their owners at the time they were built?

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1.4. Why do you think these houses were renovated?

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## Activity 2

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Keep walking along the walls

Look carefully at the houses (on your left hand side):

2.1. Some of the houses have dates and symbols on their doors.

Locate some of these dates and symbols, write and draw them here:



a. What did these dates and symbols mean?

Think, discuss and write:



2.2. Now stand at the point shown in the photo and look at the moat, the walls and the buildings (on your right hand side):

a. Why was the moat built?

b. How is the moat used today?

c. For what other purposes could the moat be used today?



## Activity 3

# Arabahmet Neighbourhood - Walking down the alleys

### 3rd Stop

Stop when you reach the sign post. Follow the signs and head towards the DERVISH PASHA MANSION. Consult your map (page 2). Walk through the narrow alleys.



3.1. What are the main characteristics of the buildings and streets of this area? Jot them down:

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3.2. How did this particular urban architecture affect people's lives at that time (relations, communication, habits, transportation, etc.)?

Give examples, based on your observations, to support your answer:

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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 (Tortosa<sup>1</sup>)

### 4th 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 (Tortosa<sup>1</sup>) was founded as a convent for the women of Cyprus.

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

4.1. Stand at the entrance of the building. What can you see?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4.2. What can this particular Armenian Church tell us about the inhabitants of this neighbourhood of old Nicosia? Look, think, discuss and write your thoughts:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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 of Notre Dame de Tyre).





## Activity 5

# Arabahmet Neighborhood - Dervish Pasha Mansion

## 5th Stop DERVISH PASHA MANSION



### 5. Stand at the point from which this photo was taken.

This two-storey mansion, built in 1829, was the home of Dervish Pasha, the publisher of 'Zaman' the first Turkish newspaper in Cyprus.

Today it is open to the public as an ethnographic museum. It includes a main room, a bridal room, a dining room and a section where items of daily use are on display (Bear this in mind when you explore the rooms).

Observe the exterior of the Dervish Pasha Mansion and think:

5.1. What materials is the building made of?

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5.2. What does the building tell us about the socioeconomic status of its owner?

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5.3. Have you seen any similar buildings in other parts of Cyprus? Which?

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Let's explore now the inside of the mansion.



# Activity 6

## Dervish Pasha Mansion - Inside the Mansion

MANSION ROOM: YEMEK ODASI  
(DINING ROOM)



6.1. What is the female figure shown doing?

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6.2. Which of the objects that you see in this room are still used today and how?

OBJECT	USE/FUNCTION
Plate	for eating, for decoration

MANSION ROOM: TENZAN ODASI (LOOM ROOM)

6.3. Find the object pictured here:

a. What does it remind you of?

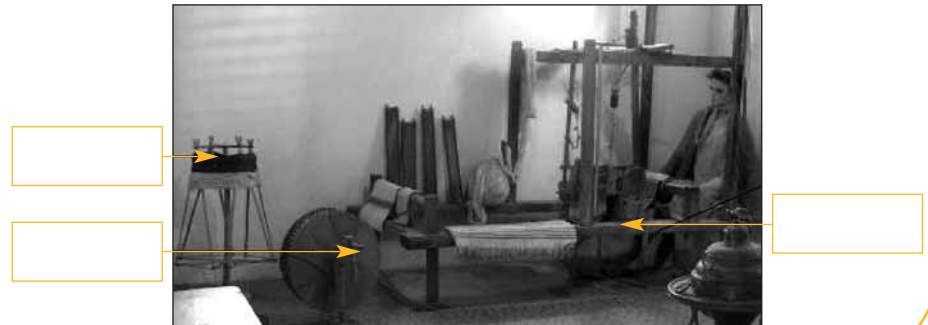
b. What was it used for?

c. What is it made of?



6.4. Observe, think, discuss and put the words in the right boxes:

winding-wheel / spinning-wheel / weaving-machine





**Activity  
6**

continued

## Dervish Pasha Mansion - Inside the Mansion

6.5 Think, discuss and answer:

What does this reconstruction tell us about the daily lives of women in that particular time?

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6.6. How did women contribute to the wellbeing of the house?

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6.7. Where can we find similar objects, to the ones shown in this room today? Why?

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



# Activity 7

## Dervish Pasha Mansion - Agricultural Tools

### GARDEN

7.1. Yes! Now it is time to learn the names of some of the tools that farmers used.

Observe the tools and match them with their respective descriptions:

a. Plough

Device for coupling two or more animals to one vehicle; usually a wooden bar that sits on the top of the neck with a metal loop to go around the neck of each animal

b. Leather rucksack

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

c. Mill

Flat-based loop or ring hung from either side of a horse's saddle to support the rider's foot in mounting and riding

d. Stirrup

Bag for carrying the food and the drink of the shepherd

e. Sickle

Farm tool for grinding the corn

f. Yoke

Curved, hand-held agricultural tool for harvesting grain crops

7.2. Look around you and find evidence that shows that the mansion had good water supply throughout the centuries:

Old times

Today

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____





## Activity 8

# Dervish Pasha Mansion - Inside the Mansion

MANSION ROOM: GELIN ODASI (BRIDAL ROOM)

**8.1. The figures representing the bride and groom are shown dressed in particular clothing. Describe what they are wearing:**

Bridal dress:

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Groom wear:

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**8.2. What evidence exists in the room that demonstrates the importance of religion ?**

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MANSION ROOM: BAŞ ODA (MAIN ROOM)

**8.3. Which of the things exhibited in this room are also used today?**

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**8.4. What does this room tell us about the social relations and inequalities that existed at that time?**

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Discuss and reflect on your observations and notes.

Once you feel satisfied with what you have seen, take the stairs down to the garden.

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



## Activity 9

# Arabahmet Neighborhood - Mosque

## 6th Stop ARABAHMET MOSQUE

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.

**9.1. What can this mosque tell us about the inhabitants of old Nicosia? Look, think, discuss and write down your thoughts:**

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**9.2. Observe the mosque carefully and draw what is missing from the building.**



**9.3. Identify three key elements of the Ottoman architecture of the building:**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity  
9**

continued

## Arabahmet Neighborhood - Mosque

**9.4. Find the construction pictured in this photo:**



What function does it serve? How it is connected to the mosque?

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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.

**9.5. Look around and find the graves mentioned in the above written passage.**

**9.6. What do these graves tell us about the burial customs of the people at that time?**

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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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This publication was made possible with funding from Action for Cooperation and Trust.

