

Nicosia is calling...

# Chrysaliniotissa

## Neighbourhood

Ages  
14-16

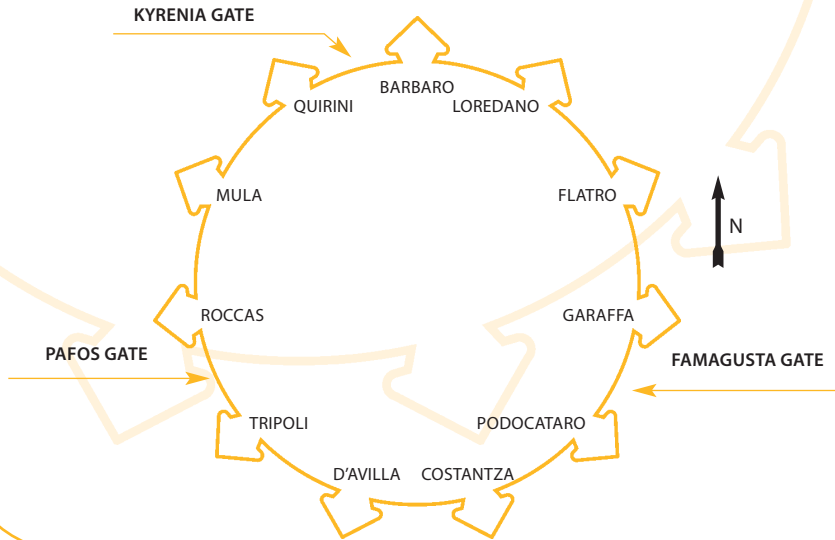


# Nicosia is calling

## 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
- 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  
**Chrysaliniotissa  
Neighbourhood**



## Starting Point

# Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - In front of Famagusta Gate

Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood is one of the most historically interesting quarters of Nicosia, and one of the most important examples of traditional bourgeois architecture of the 18th century onwards. Let's find out why!

In order to discover the reasons, you have to study some historical sources (texts, maps, photos, pictures, buildings). Get ready!

We stand in front of Famagusta Gate – originally known as Porta Gulia. We are heading towards Taht-el-Kale Mosque, through Ammochostou Street, in old times known as Taht-el-Kale (the locals called it “tahtakala”) street. We are going to visit the following places:

- The old Bazaar (1)
- Taht-el-Kale Mosque and Koran School (2)
- Church of Chrysaliniotissa (3)
- Axiothea/ Toufexis House (4)
- Crafts Centre of Chrysaliniotissa (5)



Picture 1



## Activity 1

# Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - Taht-El-Kale/Ammochostou Street



**1.1. Locate the area that used to cover the old Bazaar with the help of the following clue. Mark the area on the map (p. 3).**

“The Tahtakala street led from the Gate of Famagousta to the Bazaar. It was the second most important street of Nicosia, forming the main entrance to the city.

By the side of Tahtakala street ran the dry bed of the Pidas river, with several bridges. There were twenty three Bazaars in all which formed a crosswork of little streets.” (Words of traveler L. Salvador, 1873 ).<sup>1</sup>



**1.2. Lets walk through Taht-el-Kale/Ammochostou street to the Taht-el-Kale Mosque.**

**1.3. Look around you. Mention briefly what you see on your way to the mosque.**

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**1.4. Identify elements in the area that show that the street used to be one of the most commercials streets in Nicosia:**

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Keep walking towards the mosque. Its minaret will help you find your way.



## Activity 2

# Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - Taht-El-Kale e Mosque and Koran School

### 1st Stop

"Tahtakala" is a corruption of the phrase "Taht-el-Kale" which means "under the castle"(that is "close to Famagusta Gate"). Taht-el-Kale mosque is a historic building of the Ottoman period, representative of Islamic architecture.

It is a rectangular construction, with parallel arches in the interior and a timber frame, double pitched roof.

There used to be a fountain and a cemetery in front of the mosque, as well as the "Taht-el-kale Minors' School" Koran School which had its first teacher appointed in 1594. The mosque and the school that exist today were built in 1826 by the Ottoman governor Es-Seyid Mehmet Aga. The minaret was re-built newly in 1948, because it was cracked in 1936"

(Nicosia Master Plan, Walled Nicosia: A Guide to its Historical and Cultural Sites, p.69 /Tuncer Bagiskan, Ottoman-Turkish Monuments in Cyprus, Nicosia 2005, pages 102-103).



2.1. Once you locate the Taht-El-Kale Mosque with its minaret and the Koran School, observe the structures and think of their function.

Building	Function	Architectural characteristics
Mosque		
Minaret		
Koran School		

2.2. What does the presence of a mosque tell us about the people of Nicosia in the old times?

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2.3. Walk around the block (follow the street on the right of the mosque and come back to the same spot). What can you tell about the buildings (condition, function, size)?

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Would you like to live here today? Why or why not?

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### Activity 3

## Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - Ermou Street

### 2nd Stop

Consult your map on page 3, and walk down Ermou Street.

In the old times (until 1912)

Ermou Street was known as the Manifatura Street, meaning the street of fabric manufacturers and sellers.

Look around you and name some of the professions that are still in existence in the area. With the help of the following clues imagine how the area looked like in the past and take a guess at some occupations that were once thriving here but have now fallen into decay.

**3.1. What has changed and what has remained the same? Write your results in the diagram below.**

**The Clue:** "Every profession ("isnafi") and every specialist technician were to be found in their own street that very often bore their name, i.e. the street of the bronze and iron-smiths, the street of the gold-smiths, the shoemakers etc. The front of the shops was covered with "tourades" made of wood or tin-plates (Αγνή Μ. Μιχαηλίδη, Χώρα, η Παλιά Λευκωσία, Λευκωσία 1985, p.20-21,

Modern day professions	Professions of the past



**Time to move on.**

Locate the Church of Chrysaliniotissa on your map. Use the map to find your way there.





## Activity 4

# Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - Chrysaliniotissa Church

### 3rd Stop

4.1. Read carefully the following text and then try to locate, by walking around, the various parts of the church. (Keep in mind that the main entrance of the church is located on the west side of the building). Underline the parts of the church that you locate.

- The church is considered to be byzantine (dated in the Middle Byzantine period, 7th -10th century) and was rebuilt and extended during the 15th century. It was reconstructed in 1735 and works have been continuous ever since.
- The original church was small and had a dome.
- Two byzantine - type chapels with rounded arches were built on its north and south side, (probably during middle Byzantine period) and were later joined with the original church.

- Much later, a narthex with pointed arch, a gothic element of catholic art, was added on the west side of the main church and another narthex with a less pointed, almost rounded arch was added on the north chapel.
- An ante-narthex with a high dome was added even later.
- Much later additions to the south chapel are the two arched rooms and an open arcade/colonnade in front of all three. The arcs are decorated with gothic column-capitals. The arcade in front of the domed ante-narthex is an addition of the 20th C.



west side of the building

**Activity**  
**4**  
continued

## Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - Chrysaliniotissa Church



4.2. At this point we have visited two different places of worships, a mosque – Taht-el-Kale Mosque- and a church – Chrysaliniotissa Church, placed close to each other.

What does this tell us about the inhabitants of the area at that time?

What is the situation today?

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4.3. Compare Chrysaliniotissa Church with Taht-El-Kale Mosque.

Think of the differences but also of their similarities. Discuss them with your group (think of construction material, parts, scheme, function, etc.)

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## Activity 5

# Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - Tufexis/Axiothea Mansion

### 4th Stop

Use your map again.

Axiothea or Tufexis

Mansion is located only some meters away from Chrysaliniotissa Church.



Axiothea Mansion is one of the most characteristic examples of urban architecture of the 18th century. The mansion is believed to have belonged to Hadjilois, a rich warden of Chrysaliniotissa Church. It is a two-story building built in a Π-shape with a north-south orientation.

The area that it originally occupied was much larger than the current one. The main entrance is located on the east side of the house and leads to the inner courtyard. On its west and south part there is a kind of portico, which is defined by a row of arches and separates the courtyard from the rooms that surround it. On the ground floor, three big, two smaller rooms and two auxiliary rooms have been preserved, while on the upper floor there are three more halls and two smaller rooms. An important architectural feature is the double-height arched “iliakos” or loggia (a covered space, open on one side),

which runs alongside the inner facade of the building and enables internal communication within the complex.

**5.1. Which different building materials can you identify on this building? Make a list:**

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**5.2. Walk around the house. How many windows, doors and balconies can you see?**

doors	
balconies	
windows	

**5.3. Use your camera to record them.**

**5.4. Visit the house (if open) and describe what from its interior impressed you:**

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## Activity 6

# Chrysaliniotissa Neighbourhood - Chrysaliniotissa Crafts Centre

### 5th Stop

Use your map:

Follow Axioth-

reas Street and

continue in Chrysaliniotissas Street

till you reach Odysseos Street on your

left. Walk along Odysseos Street until you find

Dimonaktos Street.



6.2. "The main objective of this project was to insert a multi-purpose centre of commercial activities in a very sensitive historical context without destroying the typical character of the whole area"

Take a good look at the complex of buildings as a whole, and the individual workshops, and think whether the main objective of the project's has been

accomplished:

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6.3. Do you think old traditional buildings should be renovated or replaced by modern ones?

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6.4. Take photos of old buildings in the neighbourhood and send them, together with a letter, to the authority responsible, asking them to take action. Explain your reasons for doing that.

The Chrysaliniotissa Crafts Centre is located on Dimonaktos Street.

The centre comprises a complex of eight workshops around a central courtyard, which is designed on the basis of a traditional inn and architectural concept. Several artisans currently use the Centre's facilities for the production of traditional artifacts.

6.1. Make a list of the different workshops that we can find in Chrysaliniotissa Craft Centre.

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**Nicosia  
is calling**

## **Congratulations!**

You have completed the exploration of the Chrysaliniotissa 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 Chrysaliniotissa 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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