

Nicosia



MOYTI
OF NICOSIA

Letter from the *Editors*



The heart of the capital of Cyprus is split down in middle by barbed wire - with a formerly lively market street and the international airport left bereft in the UN buffer zone - the scar of a political stalemate between Turkey and Greece. It can hold you in its hypnotic grip or you may completely miss its majesty.

For us, its charm is hidden within its walls, in the preserved monuments, on its rooftops gazing to the north, in the local dialect, in the hidden spots, in the places where the tradition is still alive. We will take you on this journey of discovery of Nicosia together.

While most come to the island for its beaches, the modern traveller would be remiss not to experience this unique city. Often overlooked, which also translates to fewer crowds, Nicosia is a curious mix of vibrant street life and a rich history shaped by division. But farther from the beach, the life force of the country pulses inland towards the capital.

Having dug deep into Nicosia, mesmerized by its light, its sounds, its smells and its historic blues, we want to bring these scenes that we have collected well in our memory to the forefront for your enjoyment. A geopolitically strategic territory that has passed from empire to empire since antiquity, Nicosia has an energy of its own, romanticized by its status as Europe's last divided city.

To truly engage with a place, all five senses must be awakened, sending signals to the brain that will then become memories. But you never know what will bind you to a place. Sometimes it is the myriad of familial connections you have to a certain location, and, at other times, the synchronistic encounters you come upon.

We decided to swim against the current, which dictates authenticity be buried under travel trends. Thus, we attempted to follow along the people who live and breathe Nicosia; their stories, and their roots. Nicosians standing strong against the passage of time, their gazes profound, wander silently around the city's green line in a way only they know.

It is as if they share a well-kept secret between them. Eager to maintain their connection to their roots, they keep a small wish inside their hearts, ready to take us—the passers-by—to a tender journey.

We invite you to seek them out and meet them. What makes this place special and unique is exactly this human geography, not the narratives that are constructed around it, and it does shy away from putting the finger into existing stab wounds.



NICOSIA

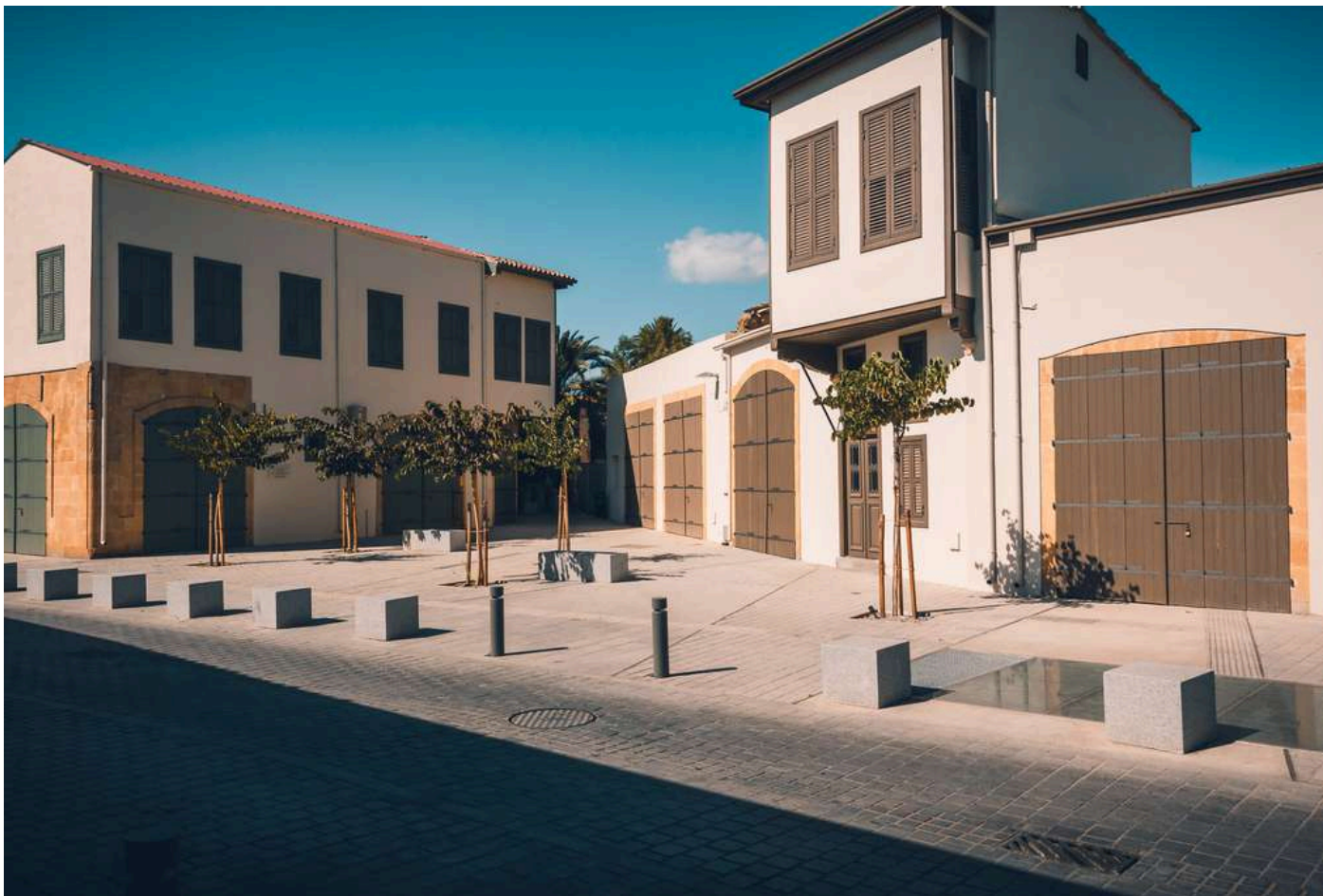
A city of two tales

"The Chora, the old Nicosia, is today a silent city, surrounded and covered by the power and vitality of a brand new city. But if you listen carefully, wandering the evenings in its mahallas and narrow streets, next to the bastions of its long-standing Venetian wall and visiting the local churches, you will hear the city's whispers, all talking about a grand past".

Agni M. Michaelidis, translation from her homonymous book "Chora, the old Nicosia".



Nicosia, together with all the typical warm, yellowish bricks on the remaining buildings, the ramifications of its genetic elements, is not enough to be seen only visually, it must also be understood tactily.



Nicosia isn't your ordinary capital city. For one, it's a city literally split in two.



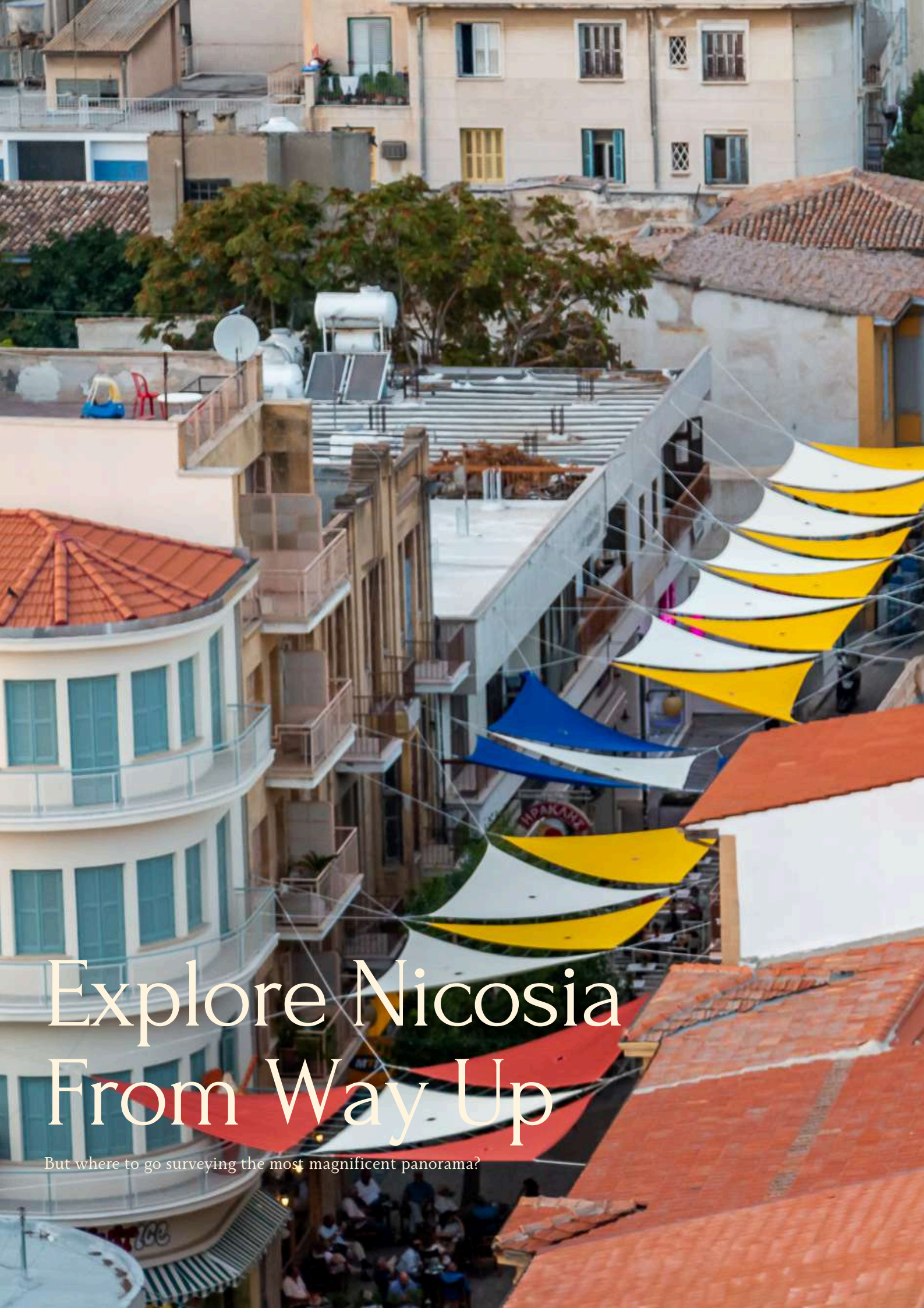
It's a place full of old wounds and new joys, of denial and defiance, literally split in two since 1974, with a border running through it, with the south side being the capital of the Republic of Cyprus and the northside the capital of Northern Cyprus. The wall does not appear on the map. In this reality, Nicosia is not divided. And yet, you keep running up against that wall, the intricate balance of power between the island's communities, fake news and insurrection, disagreements about flag, language and state symbolism, obliterating history through propaganda and the ultimate troubles for peace and independence.

However, the city's fusion of diverse influences and its dynamic cultural scene highlight its unique charm. It is the heart of a modernising nation that no longer lingers on the lure of its antiquity, and is far more than just the casualty of an ongoing conflict.

True, up to this time you read these few words, Nicosia remains a patchwork town, a rare cultural experiment rather than an island accustomed to slow living; a city constantly rearranging, retro-fitting, a city of ongoing diptychs: one looking back and one firmly facing the future that has a free passage for those with the conscience of a tourist. 'But what does it mean to hail from Nicosia right now?', one might think after walking around the old city which buzzes at night with outdoor coffee bars, clubs, young people and laughter.



Nicosia is a city that's not easy to visualize, a capsule of many histories, a heritage-rich destination that sways to its own beat. It's definitely an artisan's city, of a legacy of the centuries gone by, with ages and people divided by time, and yet, in the same space and place.



Explore Nicosia From Way Up

But where to go surveying the most magnificent panorama?

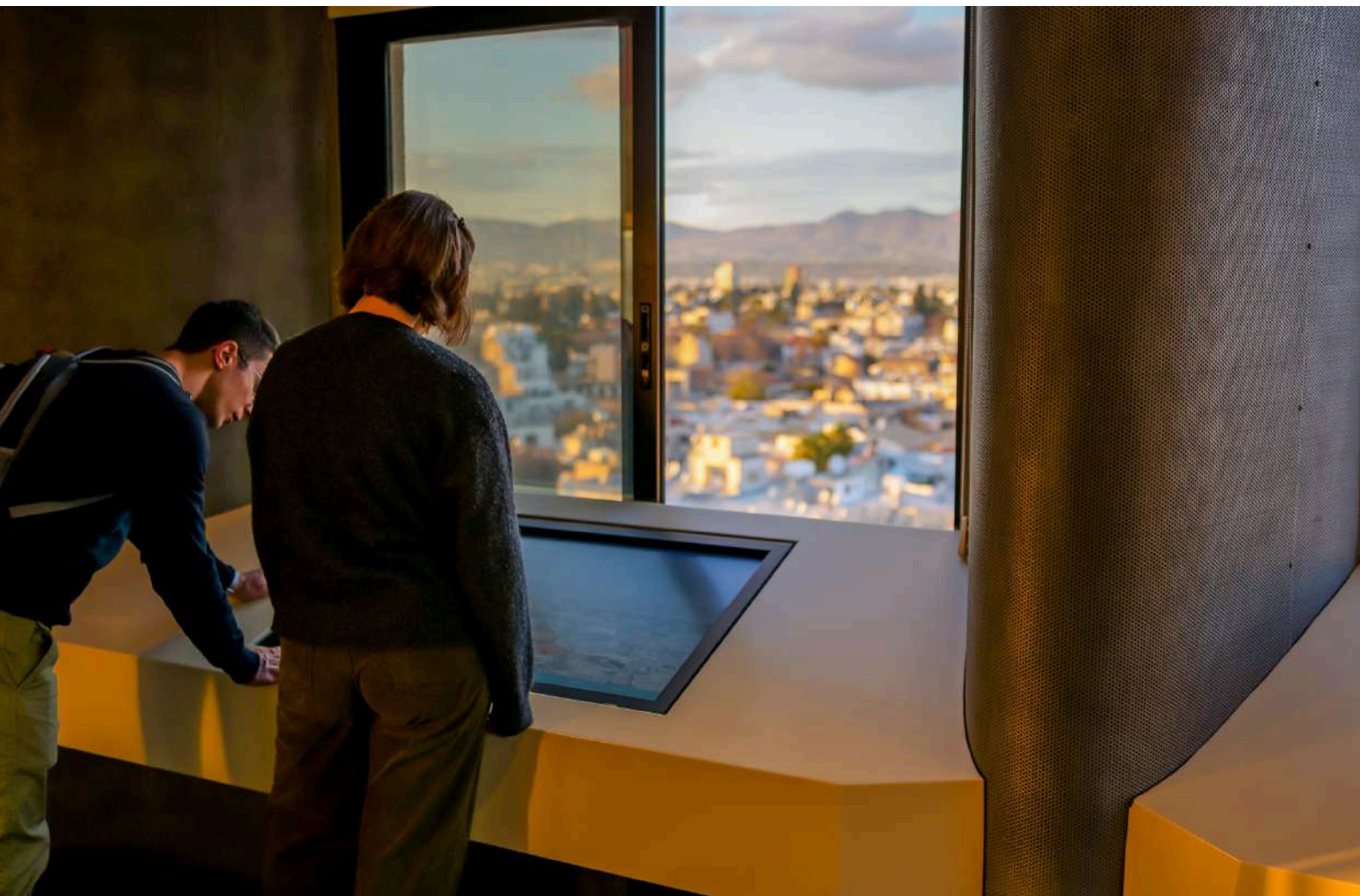
Nicosia's rooftop culture is emerging. Apart from Amyth of Nicosia hotel, one of two only buildings hosting an observatory in town, publicly accessible roof decs are indeed a window to experiencing the city differently and are lately giving the traveller some moments to reflect from a distance. The new Nicosia Municipality opens up its rooftop to the public. A similar feeling exists at SPEL Gallery's rooftop, which also hosts events and installations. To add to the above, the Cyprus Energy Agency has recently created a green roof on its office building, not always open to the public, but worth passing-by and asking further.

To combine history & panorama:

Shacolas Tower (also known as Ledra's Observatory)

Circulate above Nicosia in the company of the Shacolas Tower Observatory. Embedded with awe-inspiring panoramas, this renowned structure offers an unparalleled vantage point over the city and its environs. On top of that, it shows photographs and descriptions of Old Nicosia, a multilingual taped history and telescopes.

Open from 10am to 5 pm, daily.



Nicosia Architecture

Landmarks & Tips



And how about a few architectural gems thrown in for good measure for your touring around Nicosia?

Nicosia was built by empires in the past - the British and the Ottomans before them, all the way back to the Venetians and French Lusignans, today at the helm of internationally acclaimed architects who constantly built around the city shiny new skyscrapers, galleries, and malls. It's extraordinary to think these gates and walls have been enclosing the city since the 16th century; so much history survives, yet the traditional sits comfortably alongside the modern in all areas - food, architecture, design and lifestyle.

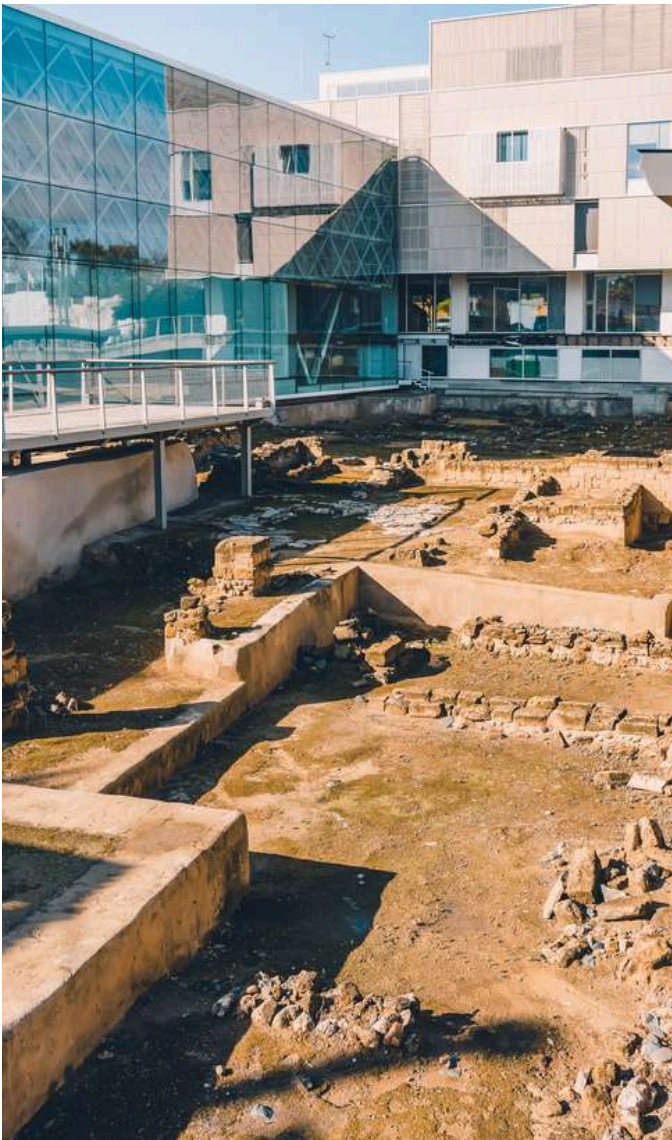
Nicosia loves its traditional face, but also investing in modern infrastructure and large-scale projects that make it easier for visitors to reach and enjoy every one of its incredible spots. Support for education, research and innovation is unwavering as well, serving the overarching objectives of sustainability, both on environmental and on societal level.

1

NEW NICOSIA TOWN HALL

As part of a general urban regeneration, the new Nicosia Town Hall complex is situated among ancient ruins that reflect the history of the island's divided capital, while serving as a luminous "magic lantern" at night. Strategically positioned next to the fenced Green Line, it occupies a symbolic location at the heart of the city's narrative. Don't go from Nicosia without paying a visit to the building's wooden multi-purpose rooftop terrace open to the sky and offering sweeping panoramic views of old Nicosia and the northern occupied part of Cyprus.

The Town Hall is open until midday on weekdays.



2

CYENS

The old Municipality Market had a face lift becoming the CYENS Centre of Excellence (formerly known as RISE), a joint venture between the three public universities of Cyprus and the Municipality of Nicosia, offering co-working spaces and innovation labs. Combine your visit with a coffee at this [co-hosted shop](#).

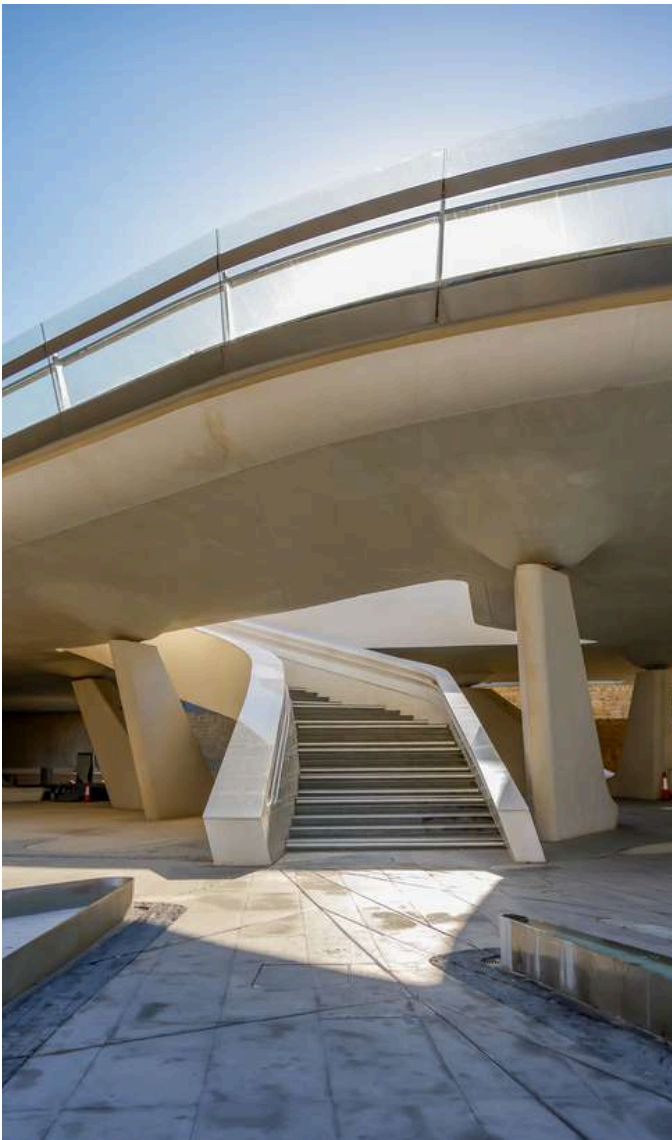
Preferably visit during morning hours.



3

ELEFThERIA SQUARE

Nowhere is this more striking than at Eleftherias Square, a huge outdoor park designed to bring a contemporary feel to what was originally part of the moat surrounding the walls. Adjacent to the Venetian walls that house the old city, - although was never a square, but a bridge commuting the old and the new part of Nicosia- it illustrates the city's juxtaposition of old and new. One of the longest executed projects on the island, designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid and her famous ground-breaking practices, the once bridge has been turned into a multi-level public park space, perfect for catching the first rays of the sun, afternoon promenades and skateboarders.



4

JEAN NOUVEL'S STRIKING TOWER 25

French studio Ateliers Jean Nouvel 'White Walls' project is a vertical landscape tower dominated by a pixelated greenery facade. The iconic tower is located at the centre of Nicosia, next to Eleftheria Square, and consists of the tallest building in the capital, and indeed a striking point of reference. At night, the-wall-as-a-giant-screen metaphor becomes even more literal and pronounced with the lights from the apartments / offices randomly going on and off, reverberating human movements within. You can obviously enjoy the view towards the tower, pretty much from everywhere in the city.



5

STELIOS IOANNOU LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (AGLATZIA LIBRARY)

Beyond the allusion in silhouette, this is obviously a man-built object with its layers of colored fabric overlapping upon each other as an abstract composition, echoing the landscape to the hills which are so characteristic of the place. A must-visit for those interested in modern architecture!



Top Tip: Another notable location in the capital is the house of Cypriot architect Neoptolemos Michaelides, a family residence that overlooks the Pedieos river, the longest river in Cyprus, which cuts through Nicosia. On a walk through the capital's riverside park, you can see the architect's house emerging through the trees. It is still considered an architectural masterpiece, also celebrated for its interior design. More info [here](#).



6

NICOSIA THEATER (BY THE CYPRUS MUSEUM)

The most recent chapter in the theatre's history commenced in June 2019 with the completion of the restoration works. The new design integrates the theatre with a public park, a setting for outdoor concerts, as well as a grand amphitheatre addressing the foyer. A formidable cultural attraction for Nicosia and its visitors alike. And of course, being the heart and soul of the [Nicosia International Festival](#), a performing arts festival showcasing internationally renowned artists alongside emerging and established artists from Cyprus.

Enogastronomy



Café-bars, bar restaurants, rooftop bars, after-hours bars, wine bars, jazz bars, brandy bars, beer bars, hotel bars. Nicosia is definitely a city of drinkers other than gourmands. Hidden in arcades, spilling across squares, squeezed onto pavements, a breath away from the Green Line or perched on rooftops, there are bars on every street corner in the city for every taste. With a strong cocktail game and a new generation of bartenders and mixers as well, the city's fine drinking scene is thriving.

We will particularly focus on one specific place, a wine bar-Greek bistro, where enogastronomy is taking place, to be found on a 5min walk away from Amyth of Nicosia.



Nicosia is now full of cool and cosy bars. Whether you prefer to do a tasting, or just want a glass of wine song with a local bite, there are plenty of choices. Cypriot wines start to win international plaudits, so wine bars have sprouted across the city of Nicosia.

7 Kleidia

(THAT READS INTO 7 KEYS IN GREEK)



Three childhood friends with a passion for wine created this cosy space with its zippy kafeneio-alike exterior to share the fruits of their collective research in the field. The shop is literally tiny and can accommodate max 15-20 people inside. It may seem small, but it manages to adequately house their nightlife philosophy, as the protagonist and main meeting point for its patrons is the narrow street outside. Nothing posh here, plus won't find the big wine guys on their selective list; but rather a series of wines solely from Cypriot vineyards (beckoning you want to dive into the world of Cypriot indie pet-nats and rare reds). However, you can count on the platter menu to offer up a few snacking options to accompany your wine consumption (currently we're all over their simple halloumi toast made from local bread and sheep cheese from a small producer in Larnaca area), while the three founders Foivos, Stavros and Xenios (mainly on the Greek folk-style music playlists) are on hand to satisfy any of your wine-related curiosity. And if a particular bottle catches your eye, you can buy it to enjoy at home. The bar also sources beer locally from the neighbouring 'Crossline' taproom and occasionally hosts pizza nights with the adjacent "Biga" Neapolitan new endeavour.



HEAD TO THIS EASY-GOING WINE BAR, WHICH WAS OPENED NOT LONG AGO AND HAS SWIFTLY FLOURISHED INTO THE GO-TO BAR FOR THIRSTY URBANITES.

The bar generally holds the philosophy of small gatherings around the table and make a very positive imprint on Cyprus in the end. For that, even Dionysus, the god of wine, would approve.





Next-Gen Sommeliers

Rather than using technical jargon, Foivos describes the wines he serves in vivid, sensory terms, making it easy for the rest to imagine any flavors and aromas. “Wine requires imagination,” Foivos says to his tasters. “It’s not just about discussing it methodically; it’s about feeling it.” Explaining the complexity of a Vouni Panagia wine, he says, “You don’t just take a sip, but instead it’s as if the ancient mountains of Pafos are in your glass.”

Our Proposals: Private Vineyard Tour and Wine Tasting with Cypriot tradition's culinary surprises or a private wine tasting session in the Amyth restaurant that will delight amateurs and connoisseurs alike on the island terrain.

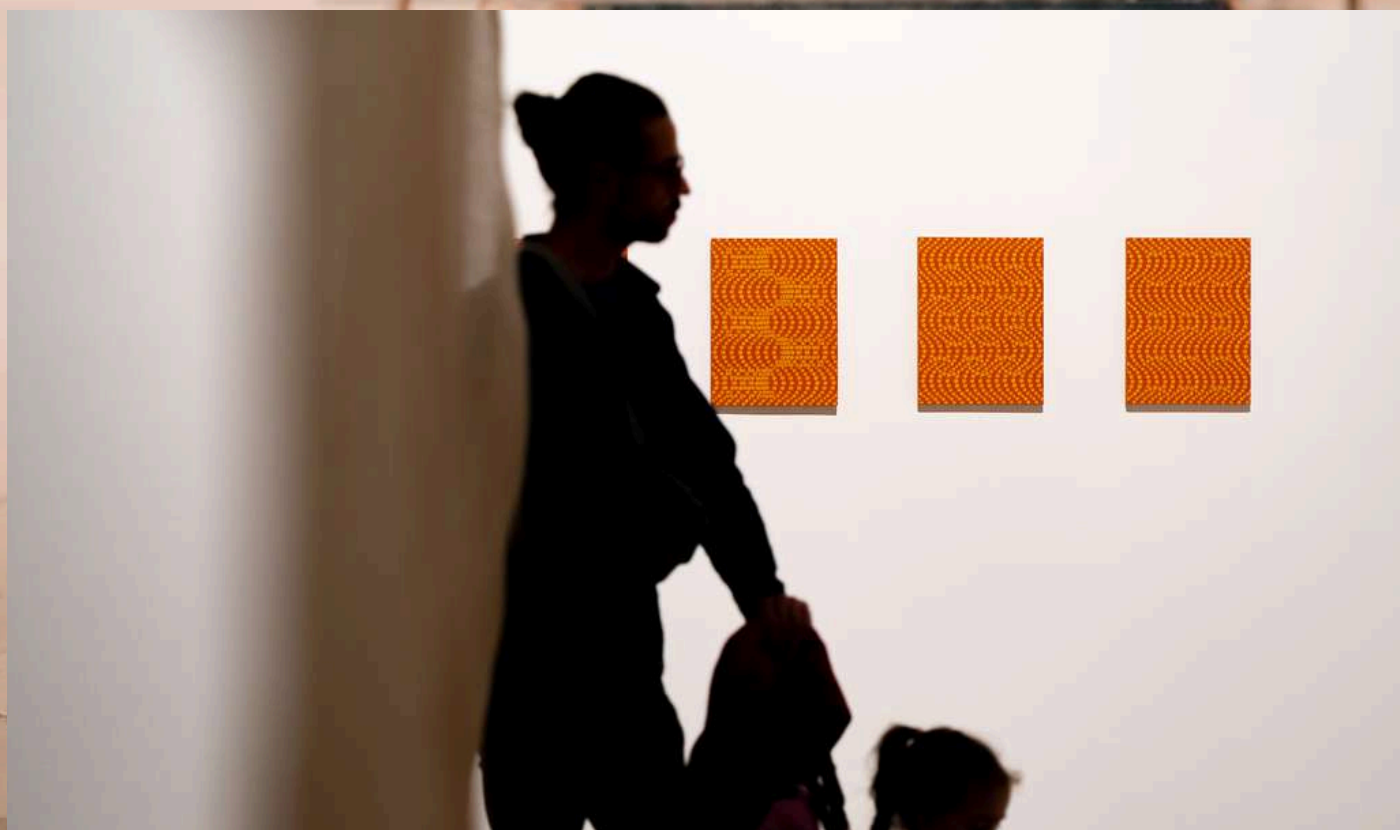


At 7 Keidia bar, there's a deliberate effort to demystify wine, making it more approachable while creating a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Here, the environment is free of pretence, a formula that's probably captivated the city's wine enthusiasts. Co-owner Stavros curates a 100-wine list featuring many low-intervention labels, including some hard-to-find options. During daytime, they tour around wineries and taste wine from barrels and tanks. They strive to become the home of Cypriot wine, thus every two Wednesdays they host special events to introduce Cypriot wine to the world. They are always dedicated to indigenous varieties, but also may be presenting a wine region or doing a vertical tasting. Occasionally, they host Cypriot producers. Apart from beer and wine, you can find a really good locally-produced aged 'zivania', a few whiskey labels and mulled wine (during wintertime).

EUROPE'S MOST

NICOSIA

CULTURAL CITY



(Nicosia is the 2030 candidate city for
European Capital of Culture)

RIGHT NOW

Cyprus' capital thrives on openness and opportunity. With innovative policies and a welcoming spirit, the city attracts expats and art entrepreneurs reshaping its future. We captured this vibrant transformation, from its dynamic streets to the stories of those who now call Nicosia home.

Located at the southern terminus of the European Union, Cyprus is both isolated and yet highly contested for its small colony of artists, most of them working to follow a local lineage; some towards a spirit of reconciliation stirring across the fences. And while in the rest of the world the Arts have become totally commodified, and although the art market has generally been elusive in Cyprus, in Nicosia the scene is young and vibrant, consisting of artisanal fashion designers, mixed media artists, curators and ground-breaking gallerists. Here, you can find and enjoy periodical exhibitions, multidisciplinary nodes for innovative happenings, non-stop interesting projects and brand-new collective project spaces throughout the year. What actually makes the art scene of the city so unique is its diversity, from high-end spaces such as the Leventis Gallery, which are also present on the international art scene, to alternative projects (like the 'Is not gallery' space, also offering buyable artefacts).

And while artists worldwide tend to imitate things from one another, Cypriot creatives on a general basis wish to do something that feels more local and has a deeper vision to them. It feels like they use the whole island as their own art studio, trying to reflect the country's troubles and use their work to reach people on a rather intimate level. It's a tightly-knit scene and the artists running the spaces invite each other to do shows and because much of its population are refugees in their own homeland, the aftermath of their works is more significant and effective. Conflict and revolution occupy a primary position in their work, mirroring the often contradictory nature of human substance, as art for them is a revolutionary act that contains within it transgression, tragedy, freedom. They ultimately build art bridges between vision and professionalism. Living in an occupied city, the deeper truth is rooted in grasping the essential through a tragic sense of things that reshapes their spirit and makes them mature thinkers and responsible stewards of history itself!

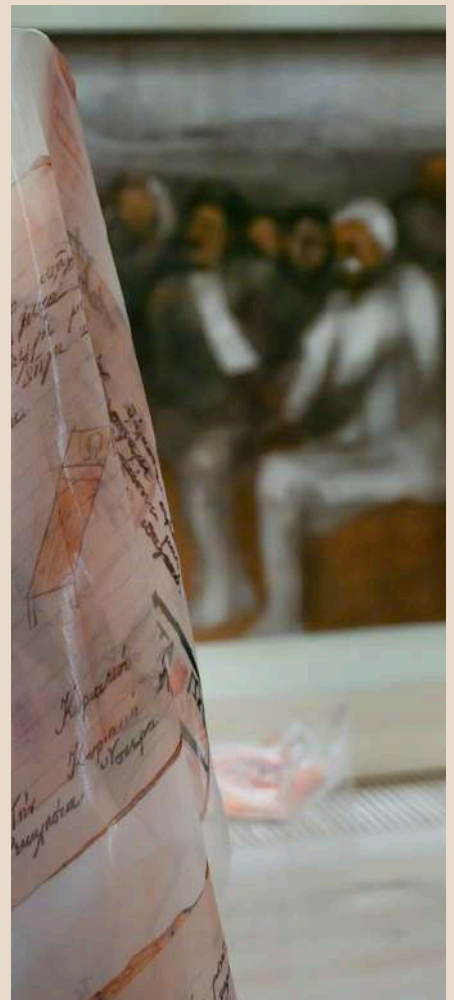
Young Cypriot Artists Who Are Defining The Moment

- [Thkio Ppalies](#) ("chop-chop" in local lingo) run by photographer Stelios Kallinikou and artist Peter Eramian, to host exhibitions and experimental sound projects in an erstwhile auto-repair garage.
- Andreas Z. Mallouris and Theodoulos Polyviou of [Koraï Project Space](#), a non-profit project space that endeavours to facilitate and present research in the field of arts.
- [Il Partenon](#), a project conceived by Andre Zivanari and Haris Epaminonda with viewings only by appointment.

Links And Communities Are Being Formed

- Situated in a renovated building within the Venetian Walls of Old Nicosia, and 200 metres from the Green Line, [Itsnotgallery](#), a pioneering contemporary art space is directed by the multitalented Andros Eftathiou, showcases contemporary work by Cypriot artists and supports cultural production from various disciplines and practices non-stop since 2008. Without this art space contribution, the local art scene would be a gloomy place. Currently showing the Nicosia International Airport, the director's big work project (and life odyssey).
- [Sic Contemporary](#) just founded by Evagoras Vanezis and Panayiotis Michael aiming to be a catalyst for cultural enrichment, ensuring that the voices and visions of the local artistic community are celebrated, preserved and shared with the rest of the world.
- Phytorio ("Nursery"), aka the visual artists and art theorists association in Cyprus.

ΕΙΝΑΜΕΝ
ΤΡΟΣΦΥΓΕΣ



ΑΝΤΙ ΚΑΤΟ ΠΤΥ ΣΜΟΙ

REFLECTIONS
23.11.2024 - 09.03.2025

Η έκθεση αυτή είναι το αποτέλεσμα της πρόσφατης ανοιχτής πρόσκλησης «Call for Art - Contemporary Art Competition» που προκήρυξε η Α.Γ.Λεβεντίου Γκαλερί, Κύπριοι καλλιτέχνες κλήθηκαν να υποβάλουν έργα που θα αντανακλάσαν τις νέες εικαστικές προοπτικές που επηρεάστηκαν ή επηρεάζονται από την ιστορική και πολιτισμική μνήμη των δραματικών γεγονότων της αποκόλλησης και μεταπολεμικής ιστορίας της Κύπρου, τα οποία οδήγησαν στη διαίρεση του νησιού. Στόχος ήταν τα έργα να πραγματεύονται τις πολλαπλές συνέπειες αυτής της διαίρεσης, ανεξαρτήτως ταινοχρόνου τη συνέπεια πολιτιστική ταυτότητα της Κύπρου μέσα από τις έννοιες της ύλη, της προέλευσης και της αφήγησης των ανθρώπων, της μεταναστευτικής της προέλευσης και των πολιτιστικών μετασχηματισμών που συνεκτελέστησαν τον τελευταίο μισό αιώνα. Οι παράμετροι της πρόσκλησης ήταν σκοπός καλύτερης προσέγγισης να αναδειχθεί η εκλεκτική, πολυδιάστατη ιστορία του νησιού μας - μια ιστορία πολλών επιπέδων μέσα από μια πολυφωνική αφήγηση.

Αντικείμενο από την άποψη της μετάνημης, που διερευνά τη σχέση ανάμεσα στην «επιβίωση γενιά» και την προέλευση, ολλογική και πολιτισμικό τραύμα που βιώνει η σημερινή γενιά, η έκθεση των εννέα επιλεγμένων καλλιτεχνών απευθύνει να προσέξει αλλά και να χωρέσει νέες οδοί που θα μας επιτρέψουν να επανασταθούμε το δύσκολο παρελθόν μας. Τα έργα τέχνης διεκδικούν το υφιστάμενο κενό, αναζητώντας την παρουσία/άντα να αντιμαρτυρήσει με την προσωρινή έκθεση Κένθος: Στο Μπαρμπού της Ιστορίας, η οποία ερευνά την παρούσα θεματολογία μέσα από τα μέσα ενός μουσειολογικού Κύπρου καλλιτεχνή, του Τηλέμαχου Κιόρκου.

Ευχριστούμενοι ότι η έκθεση θα εμπνεύσει τους επισκέπτες να αναρωτηθούν από θεωρούν ότι γνωρίζουν για τα γεγονότα που συμβαίνουν τον τόπο, επισημαίνοντας και προτρέποντας σε νέα βήματα της ιστορίας και της ταυτότητας.

This exhibition is the outcome of the recent 'Call for Art - Contemporary Art Competition' held by the A. G. Leventis Gallery. Cypriot artists were asked to propose works of art (completed or new ideas) reflecting on or marked by the historical and cultural memory of the tragic events in Cyprus's colonial and post-colonial history that led to the division of the island. These works were to explore the many representations of this division, while also considering the country's complex cultural identity in terms of conflict, war, peace, borders, migration, displacement and cultural transformations over the past half century. The aim was to make the **past** relevant of the call as broad as possible to allow the nuanced, entangled history of the island to present itself in its multiplicity of voices.

Drawing on the perspective of postmemory, which explores the relationship between the 'generation after' and the personal, collective and cultural trauma of 'those who came before', this exhibition featuring the nine chosen artists aspires both to present and open further avenues for understanding Cyprus's difficult past. The artworks are juxtaposed within the existing museum narrative and are juxtaposed with the Gallery's temporary exhibition *Kenthos: The Sharp Edges of History*, which concerns itself with similar themes as explored through the eyes of *Telamachos Korkos*, a pioneering Cypriot artist.

It is hoped that this contemporary art exhibition will inspire viewers to reflect on what they think they know and encourage them to open themselves up to considering renewed experiences of history and identity.

The A. G. Leventis Gallery

RE

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CTIONS

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Exhibition duration:
23.11.2024- 09.03.2025



THE LAND REMEMBERS
WILL YOU?

KORAS

THE LAND REMEMBERS
WILL YOU?

Nicosia's *Craft Scene*



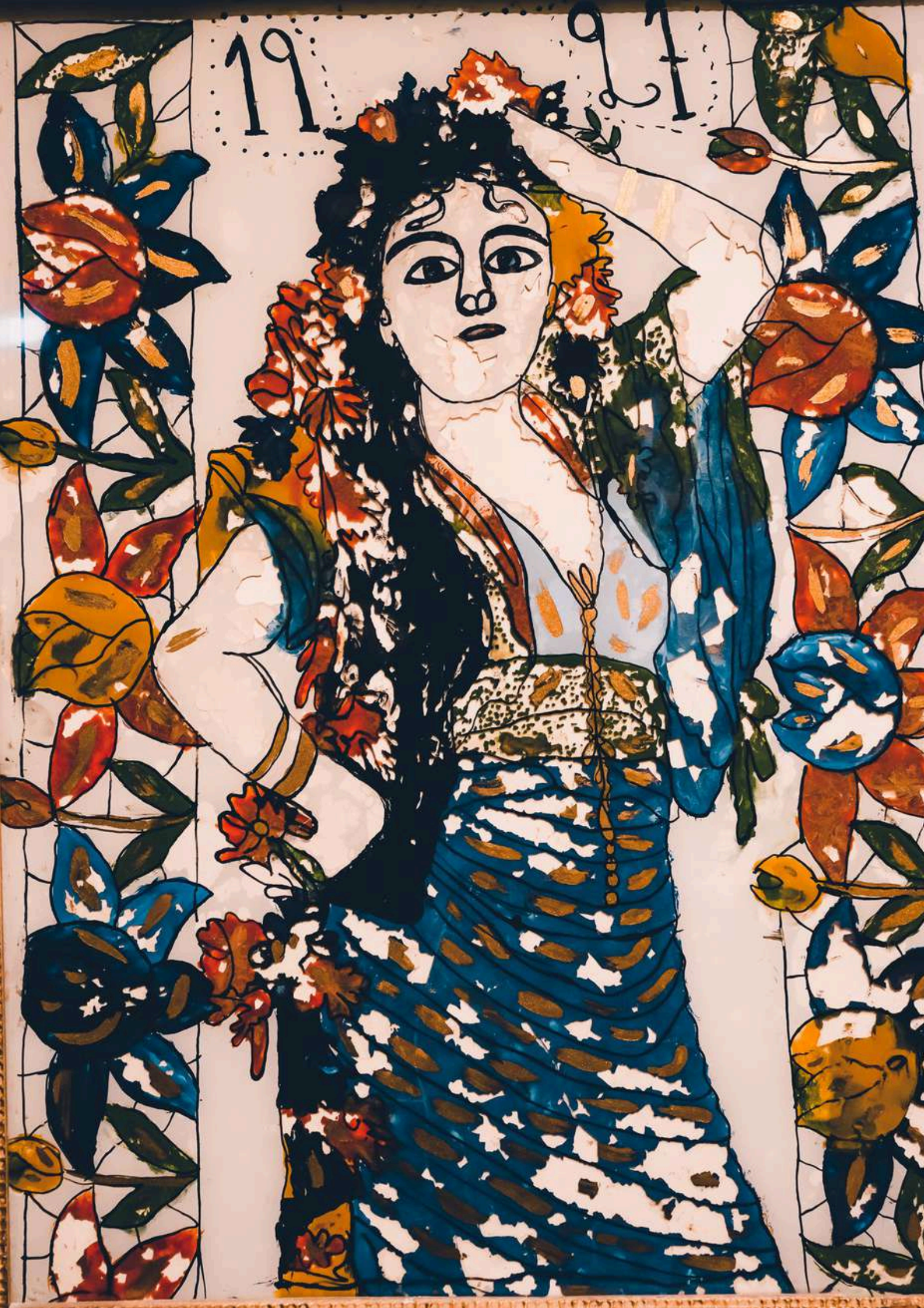
This strange conglomeration of Ottoman and Greek culture and history, along with decades of oppression and political unrest, has birthed a brand new generation of creatives that use art and design as their outlet.

The handmade element is, without a doubt, a special and enduring key to discover authentic experiences on the island.

Artists from all around Nicosia and across generations are engaging new and traditional techniques to illuminate the craft's community roots.

Inside and outside the Venetian Walls you'll discover street art-clad walls, non-traditional pottery studios, atmospheric weaving looms and hidden mosaic workshops, as well as printmaking havens. These makers are defined by the ability to constantly evolve Nicosia's history.

In this guide, you will find some of them as you plan your own path of discovery.



Weaving





Joanna
LOUCA

The language of fibre is universal – it connects country to country. Weaving will always reflect a culture's values; and it is exactly what Joanna is trying to do, connect Cyprus to the rest of the world through yarns.

Woven works that are about giving physical form to her emotions and latest ideas, both reflecting on the cultural hybridity and community of Cyprus. By infusing traditional strings of fabric, and technological yarns embedded with traditional techniques, Louca continues to traverse cultural boundaries and preconceived notions of this craft.



Large Dobby looms and the scent of fresh fabric air welcomes you as you enter her studio just a breath away outside of the Venetian walls of Nicosia. Woven pieces adorned with intricate care are laid out across, like landscapes of the island itself.

Joanna is a Nicosia-based weaving artist, designer and craftsperson whose work includes large-scale woven installations for museums and gallery spaces (as a matter of fact, she has been working with famous retailer Andreas Murkudis on an exhibition of woven wall pieces for the Berlin Art Week) and interior design projects in Guangzhou, China, to Homo Faber in Venice. I A series of intricately woven artworks that blend modernist design concepts with earthy or indigenous references. Her collections have also been featured in Paris and London's fashion weeks.

Joanna's unique oeuvre unfolds in the interplay between material, colour and space, exploring how their combinations and textures through various weave settings can create sculptural ideas and new possibilities.

Body of Work

She indeed weaves sculptural stories using materials that are emotionally charged and purposefully selected to engage with the viewer's reading of her work.



Currently showing her Orographies at NiMAK exhibition titled: Repetitive Acts The Power of Weaving and Textile in Contemporary

“What can you do with thread?” is the question that the artist has tirelessly explored since studying in the UK. In her pursuit, she has developed a wide spectrum of techniques that constantly challenge and surprise our perception and our concepts of art and textile, colour and structure, work and space. In large and small-format wall works, tapestries and installations, the seemingly infinite possibilities of these three dimensions unfurl. Allowing a thorough study to explore the fabric’s structure, explore its full complexity. At the core of her practice is a consistent connection to Cyprus, to her roots, as well as to those around her, like her old grandmother -who was a lacemaker- and made Joanna fascinated by the meticulous nature of weaving from a very young age. This, and a deep passion for the arts, led her to study woven textiles and to work as a freelance textile designer in London creating unique woven pieces. In 2001, she decided to move back to her native Cyprus to focus on experimental textile work, creating functional textiles for architectural and interior spaces and working on a huge digital archive library of her studio’s extensive -over two decades- research work, celebrating the process and technique as woven fabrics form their own identity. It is difficult to imagine the place of textiles in contemporary Cyprus art today without Joanna Louca wall-mounted fabric compositions and installations. The realistic and the metaphysical coexist equally, the positive sciences and the humanities, as well as the conscious and the unconscious.

(studio visits by appointment)



She has vastly advanced the medium and played a role in textile arts' propagation and legacy and ultimately has thrived beyond the conventions of textile-making, refusing to limit weaving to the realm of decorative arts and transforming it into a sensorial and interactive experience.





Katerina Efstratiou

NEW AGE WEAVING

Katerina Efstratiou Weaving Studio was established in 2021 in the heart of Nicosia. The studio is open for workshops catering to all skill levels.



After completing her studies with a focus duly on woven textiles in the UK, she returned home with a dream - to revive Cyprus' weaving heritage (her dream came true).

Katerina Efstratiou is the youngest in a line of the generations of women working in the days on domestic looms, honouring a balance between the slower lifestyle of Cyprus and her international ambitions. She is using the basic traditions of weaving to create ground-breaking and innovative work. Already a master of traditional techniques like fythkiotiko (the famous colourful patterns from the village of Fyti, listed in UNESCO's intangible heritage lists), Katerina incorporates tradition into her own expressive work, unveiling some very delicate stitches.

We are particularly interested in her small homeware collection (woven vases) that is a reflection of her ethos and brand values of conscious and mindful slow living, objects that turn your house into a home.

Hands-on experience:

Guided Weaving Sessions (in Agios Dometios, next to the Green Line): Dive into intricate patterns and vibrant threads as she guides you through the mesmerising craft of hand-weaving, tailored to your skill level and aspirations.



JEWELLERY MAKING

Cypriots are among the first people involved in the arts of metal and jewellery making worldwide. As a matter of fact, it is believed by some modern historians that the art of jewellery-making originated in Cyprus.

Hadjicharalambous jewellery was created by Nicos and Yiannoula, two manufacturers who have been active in the silver and gold jewellery business since 1977. Today, the tradition is followed by their daughter, Georgia.

N

ecklaces and earrings made from sea shells and precious metals have been found dating back to the early bronze age. Jewellery was not only for everyday wear, it also seems to have had ceremonial uses; for example the dressing of the goddess with jewellery seems to have been important in the cult of Aphrodite. Therefore, the art of jewelry making has a big part in the history of the Cypriot culture and the last remaining jewellers and new artists want to capture and continue that history in their latest designs.

Check their very cool collection of [brooches](#) (more items on the physical store of course)!
2E Kritis, Nicosia 1060, Cyprus



Ceramics





Threading
STORIES

The creative duo of hybrids

The nature of weaving means it is as much a physical labour as it is an art form. Teresa weaves on a loom that is over 100 years old.



T

he art works of Ecuadorian Alejandro Villacis and the Cypriot Teresa Georgallis, the design duo behind Threading Stories, embodies the distinctive identity the island is known for: ceramic and weaving art. Their creative journey also took a pivotal turn when they returned to Cyprus island in 2020, motivated to launch a studio & store brand in the walled old city of Nicosia, a fascinating small studio that celebrates craft, processes materials and frequently hosts workshops in celebration of both their found home and the heritage background that led them here.

A certain stop-over for those with an interest in design and crafts. The showroom combines artworks with textile designs, photography and jewellery, ceramics and leather accessories. Every piece has been carefully selected to reflect their love for masterful creations and showcase their very own story, like the delicate tapestry design collection (a series of interlace designs made from cotton fibres in natural colour shades following the stories from a long field trip across communities in Latin America).

Body

of

This is rather a living and breathing hub promoting and preserving cultural heritage whilst exhibiting a successful example of innovation and tradition deriving from interdisciplinary exchange.

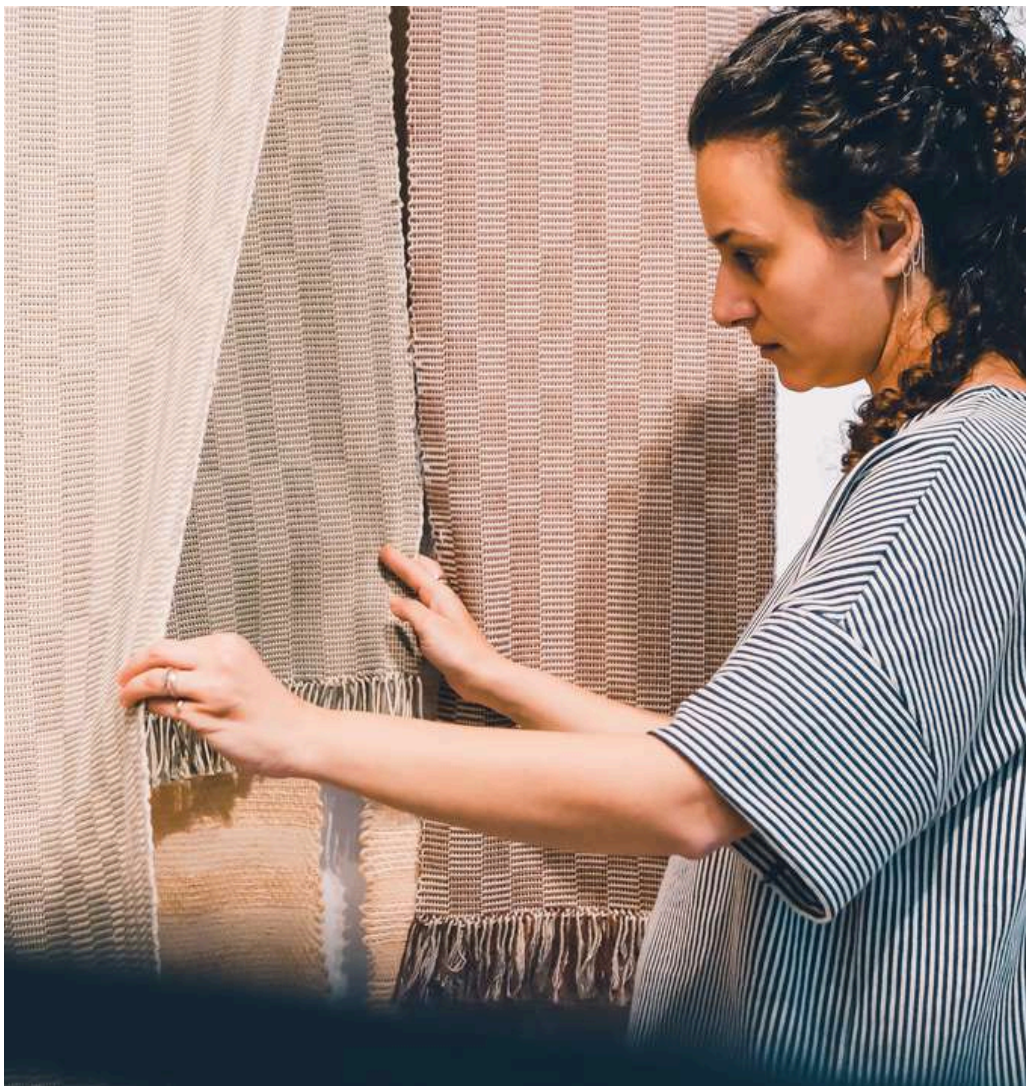
Alejandro collects clay from various locations across the island to create objects featuring simple, primitive forms, while Teresa is taking the alchemy of hand dyeing further; she processes and dyes the necessary raw materials, using vegetable-based dyes in the centuries-old tradition.

Work





A certain stop-over for those with an interest in design and craft. The showroom combines artworks with textile designs, photography and jewellery, ceramics and leather accessories. Every piece has been carefully selected to reflect their love for masterful creations and showcase their very own, like the delicate tapestry design collection (a series of interlace designs made from cotton fibers in natural colour shades following the stories from a long field trip across communities in Latin America).



For more info on any current workshops check the [IG account](#).





Souzana Petri

NEW AGE CERAMICS

Souzana draws inspiration from ancient ceramic art and history, merging the past with the present specializing in ceramics and metals, which have been always intertwined in terms of the history of the island of Cyprus, the lifestyle and habits of the people of antiquity. This particular interest in the local history and ancient pottery led her to return from the UK to Nicosia and open an atelier back in 2016.

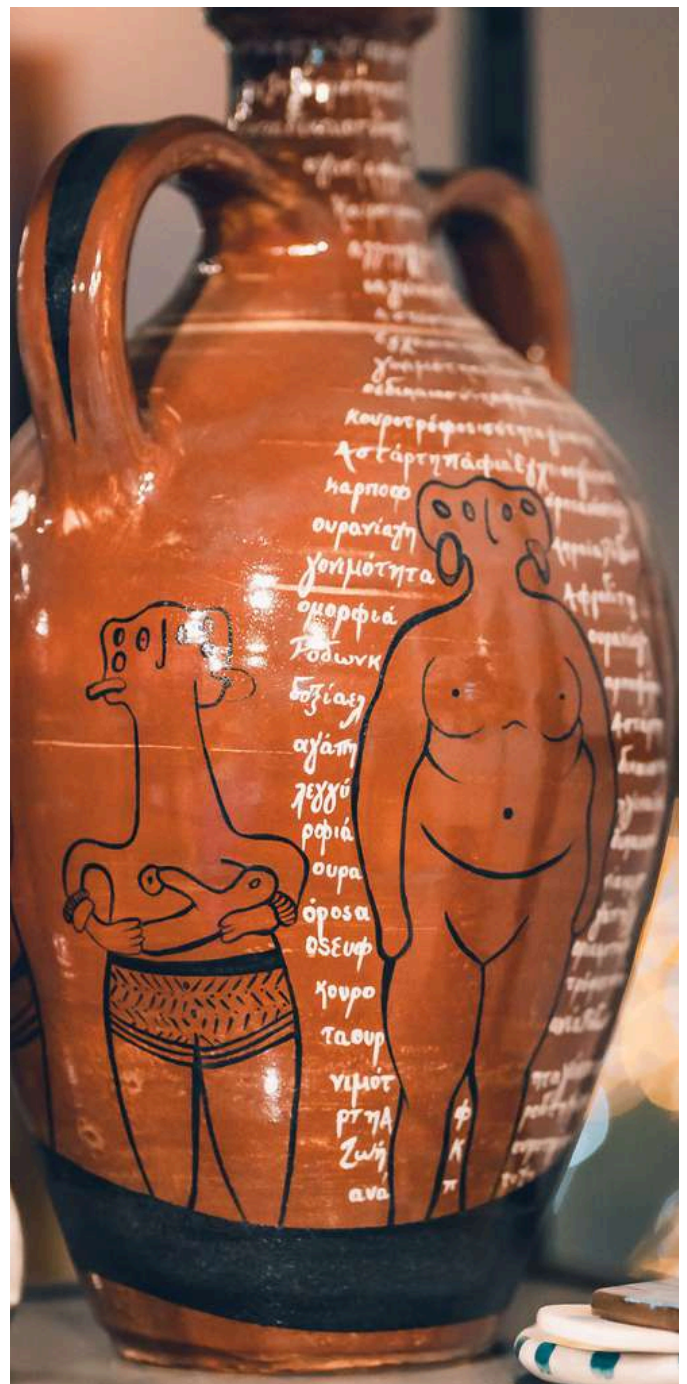
Her main objective is to use art as a peacebuilding practice on a local as well as global scale.

Her workshop/store - located in Ermou and the historic center of Nicosia - is always open to visitors but for a hands-on experience with the artist you need to pre-schedule.

M

ost recently, Souzana was involved with the European programme Rebuild (Rebuilding Society through Youth Engagement) and she is a genuine ambassador for Cyprus, using her expertise and knowledge in the creative sector by organizing workshops all over the island and by implementing educational projects in collaboration with various organizations (such as the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, the University of Cyprus, and the Pierides Archaeological Museum, to name of few).

We are particularly mesmerized by her bird-shaped figurines work, which represent female figures and want to show the importance of the woman-mother in the society since ancient times, but also the cup series, in which she has written and drawn various symbols of Aphrodite, as one of the most ancient female figures of Cyprus.



On another note:

Each of her works tells a story of the island's history, myths, and natural beauty. A workshop with her would enhance the visitors' connection to the destination, making them experience a deeply personal encounter with Cypriot culture through her inspired ceramics.

Mosaics





Lucia
SERGHIU

Lucia Serghiou Studio in Strovolos

Serghiou is working on more experimental and personal work, which she hopes to present soon and allows both visitors of the island to see, experience, relate and connect to this culture and history via studio visits and/or workshops.



L

or Loucia, mosaic art is about expressing your creativity as much as spending time with yourself and connecting with the present moment, like meditation, apart from the physical strain. A latecomer to the profession, she took up mosaics by persuasion and passion before craftsmanship became so fashionable. A series of ancient sites around the island boast impressive mosaics, but it was only after a trip to the ancient Italian city of Ravenna (and subsequent studies in Mosaic Art at the Mosaic School Spilimbergo), where Loucia had the epiphany that mosaic art should be her only visual language. Since opening her studio in 2020, Sterghiou has been working with these exact grains of Cyprus history and bringing the skill of mosaicking alive for a new generation. She has been actively engaged in producing works of art that reflect the island's cultural heritage and offer a concrete link to the island's past.

Loucia is working on more experimental and personal work, which she hopes to present soon and allows visitors of the island to see, experience, relate and connect to this culture and history via studio visits and/or workshops.

Body

of

Work

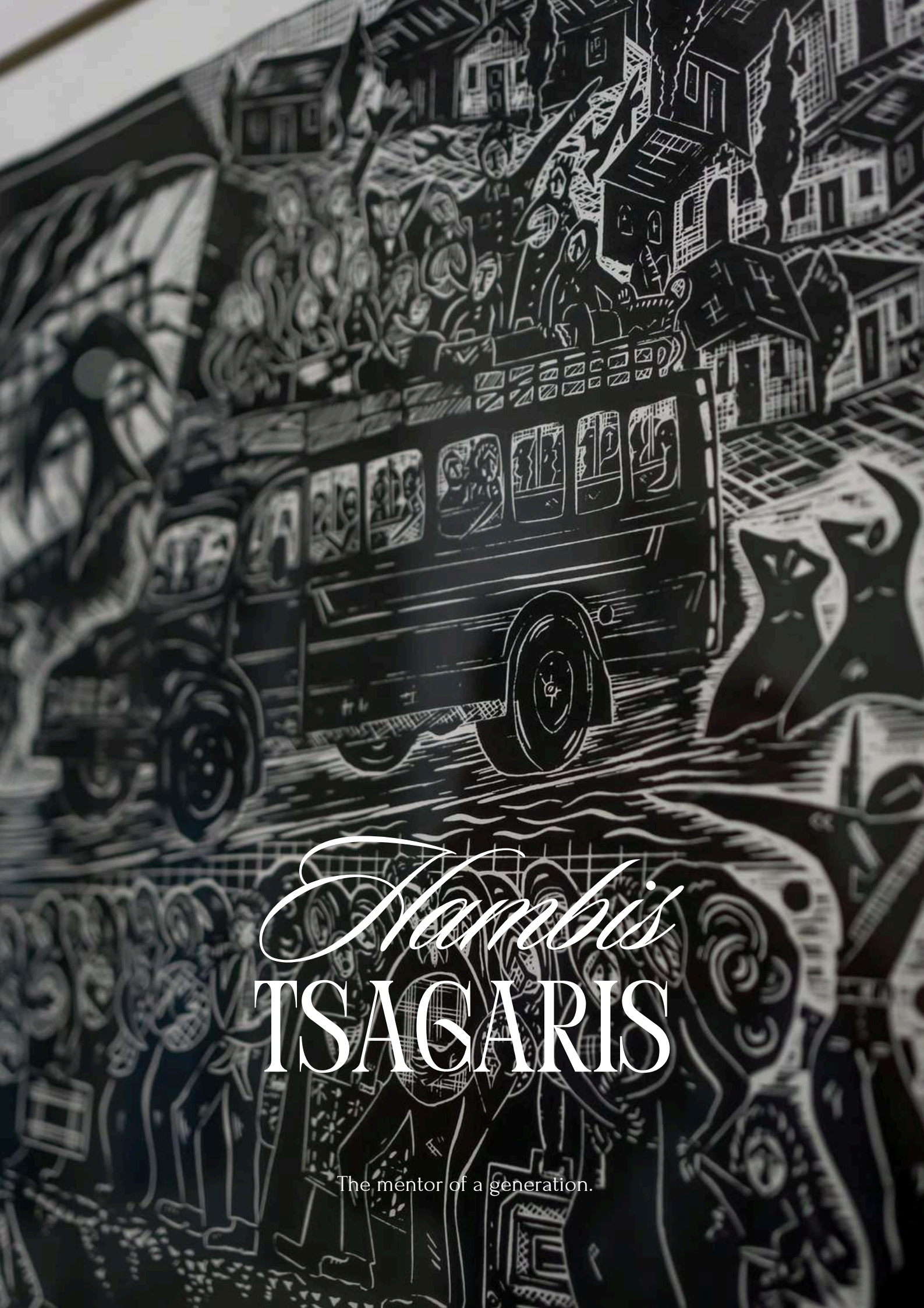
Traditional objects contain small moments in time that convey a sense of connection, identity and belonging. They bring warmth, style, a grain of rich history, and the emotional potency of a handcrafted, one-of-a-kind product.

Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods, which have a visual flow that can easily be mistaken for being effortless although requiring time and patience to achieve.



Printmaking





Tambis
TSAGARIS

The mentor of a generation.

In this brutal age, printmaking is the most stimulating art form for the senses, an artistic resistance and, ultimately, a cultural revolution. In Cyprus, Hampis Tsangaris, masters this art form in various ways: first of all, he depicts with rough lines and a lot of mastery the woes and sensitivities of the island. In a way, he IS the voice of Cyprus, as authentic as the local dialect.



M

ore specifically, the exhibition in his art space features a series of engravings that depict and bear witness to the Cypriot crisis of 1974, using testimonial elements as a cry of protest against the turbulent events of the military coup and the Turkish invasion. The imagery in several of Hambis' later series, notably those featuring women who have stretched beyond politics to reunite over a shared sense of loss, reveals his desire for peace. And he serves this goal by spreading his art, either with the opening of his museum, or his participation in various exhibitions, but mainly by operating (since 1995) every year a series of totally free engraving workshops at the School of Printmaking in the village of Platanisteia in Limassol, to reveal the wonderful world of engraving to others too.

The Nicosia-located museum is a part of a large printmaking centre that showcases permanent exhibitions of both Tsangaris's and his students' works, as well as visiting exhibitions of other artists. His son Yorgos (George), a graphic artist in his own right and creative director of [Animafest Cyprus](#) - one of the longest-running film festivals in Cyprus, serves as the director of the museum and can be your chaperone (upon request) and lead you through the rooms and the stories behind the exhibition halls.

Body

of

Work

Engraving brings out qualities that one cannot find in painting, it pays off an effect of a laborious atmosphere, which comes from artistry but also from kitchen techniques, from real manual work.

This is not an easy or convenient art form. Engraving is a process of alchemy and mysticism and most artists are addicted to the ink smells, like the church believers in the incense burning during Sunday services.





The considerably new Hambis Municipal Printmaking Museum in Nicosia aspires to promote the art of printmaking to a wider audience, enhancing and contributing to the work performed by the primary museum, in Platanisteia, a village in the Limassol district, which was founded in 2019.

Note that the museum is currently closed for renovation and will open during Spring 2025!





Simone Phillipou

PRESSING STILL MATTERS

Through the art of printmaking, Hambis Tsangaris and the community of printmakers he has created have effectively safeguarded this invaluable part of Cyprus' tangible heritage.

A new voice of printmaking on the island and the city's creative scene.



In Japan, the mass-produced woodblocks that excited Van Gogh and Whistler yielded to Sōsaku-hanga (創作版画, "creative prints"). This art interpretation was also the inspiration of Simone for self-expression. By shaping her prints, she brings fresh techniques and independent outlooks, nevertheless without banishing the traditional interest she has in natural beauty, ingenious compositions and the contradictions of everyday life.

Simone Philippou is a printmaker based in Nicosia. After graduating from London, she flew to Tokyo University of the Arts, Japan. Her practice includes a mixture of processes spanning from traditional printmaking techniques such as stone lithography, woodblock and screen printing to papermaking and ceramics. She is one of the main new voices of printmaking on the island and the city's creative scene. Her printmaking is thinking about how to create spaces, creating a relationship between forms on the paper, along with the great facilities and equipment in her IN TOTO studio (in a cool vintage neighbourhood at Agioi Omologites).

There's a big printmaking press and lots of space for creative mess there. Simone also teaches Printmaking at the Fine Art Department of the Cyprus University of Technology.



Studio visits and workshops upon appointment



Genny Barba

THE ART OF DOLL-MAKING

A must-stopover for any collectors of vintage toys, dolls and other curiosities, as well as for an upcycle kids workshop upon your visit to Nicosia!

Sewing by heart



master doll-maker in the quaint neighbourhood of Ermou street is bringing the doll-making tradition to Cyprus. Inside the workshop of Genny Barba, one cannot find the usual sorts of dolls, but encounter other kinds: delicate, handcrafted figures whose heads, hands and feet are made with a cotton sourced from Cyprus; this kind of puppets, including a series of traditional Cypriot dolls, are not meant to be tucked into bed with you or dragged along to the playground in your kids stroller. According to Genny, they are believed to have souls and they are meant only to be displayed, admired and praised.

Despite the fact that all of them remain decorative collectibles, each doll has its own written (or unwritten) story, is individual, non replicated and considered to the perfect keepsake customized gift to celebrate and cherish special occasions. [Or perhaps for peace soothing between Cyprus and Turkey?](#) Meanwhile, she began using her studio as a doll-making classroom, teaching groups or individuals, guiding them through the long process of completing a handmade doll.

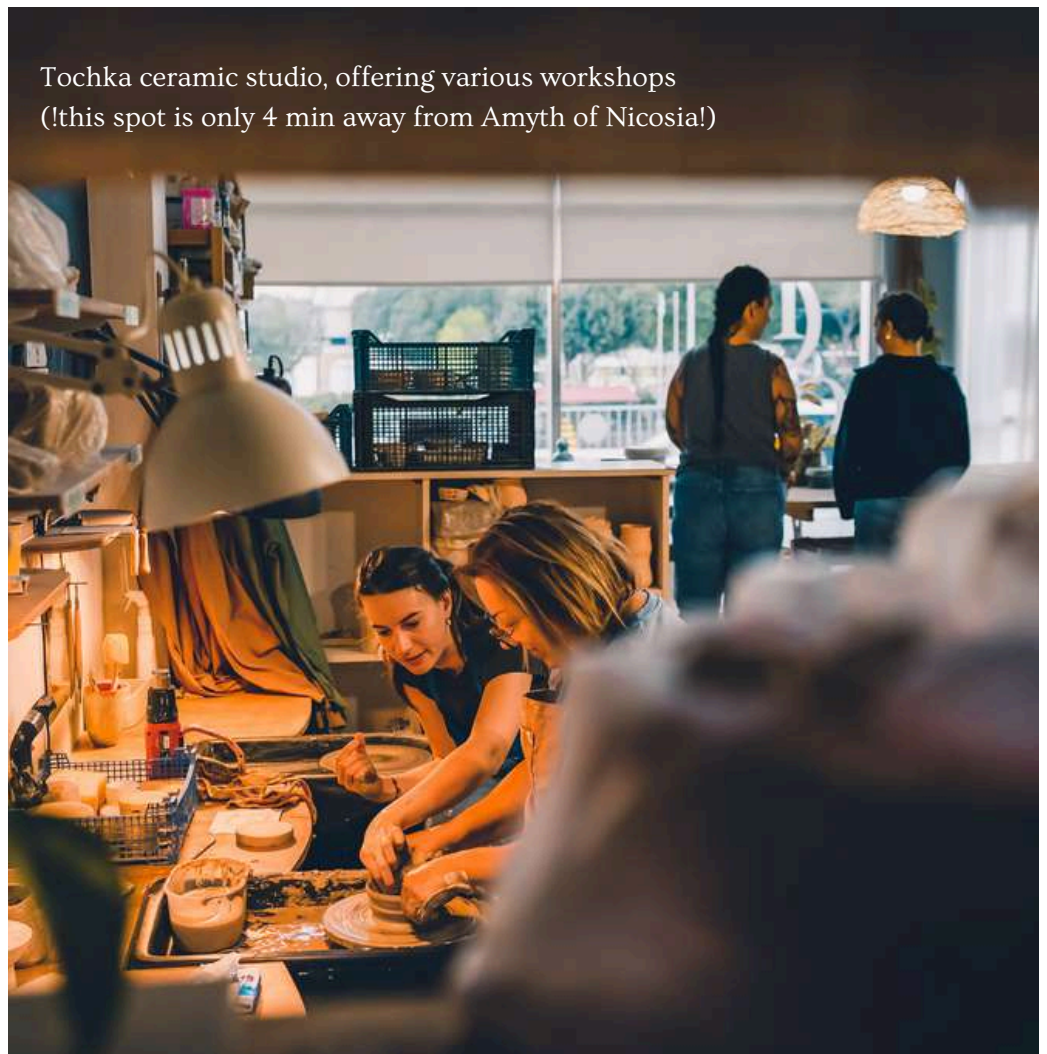


Genny, a self taught sewer, has a certain attitude to whimsical and romantic worlds even during our days. She has extensive experience in furniture decoration and high-couture textiles. One of her clients is the Leventis Gallery for making period dolls ready to be sold at their shop.

We are fascinated by the fundamental, no-frills richness of the way of life in Nicosia and awed by the love that the city's residents have for local traditions. We still feel that there is so much more to discover than what we already know or written about. For almost every craft and every man we refer to this booklet, Nicosia has another six to offer. We have no other way of handling such abundance than by recognising that every person who appears in these spreads is an ambassador of their craft, representing dozens of other worthy fellows on both sides of a city, where beauty and authenticity can be found in great profusion if you look closer. No matter how many places you visit, you can never be done with Cyprus and that is precisely where its beauty lies and surely you will leave from Nicosia with a suitcase brimming with memories.

NOTES

Tochka ceramic studio, offering various workshops
(!this spot is only 4 min away from Amyth of Nicosia!)



STREET ART



BEYOND THE NICOSIAN LANDMARKS, THE ART SPACES AND THE EXCELLENT MUSEUMS



Beyond the Nicosian landmarks, the art spaces and the excellent museums (see other sections), beyond the busy Ledras and Onasagorou streets, one can find loud statements from stencils. Displayed publicly for passers-by's and locals alike to enjoy, there is a trail of street art in the city that leads to a unique exploration, mainly across the old walled town of Nicosia. Another insight into the country's culture, while also showcasing the city's edgier side. Carrying cultural and socio-political messages in their works, hunt down these artist's pieces for an insight into the local underground art scene in a few hidden streets of the city. The murals along the walls caught our eye first — some faded, others freshly painted.

Fikos

https://fikos.gr/portfolio_page/street-art-in-nicosia-old-city-cyprus/ (addresses incl.)

Twenty Three

https://www.instagram.com/p/C6oQV_Ntjw-/?img_index=1 (behind Phaneromenis church)

ENIO MIZ



ENIO MIZ

Quirky Museums



“
Hidden
Treasures for
Curious
Travellers

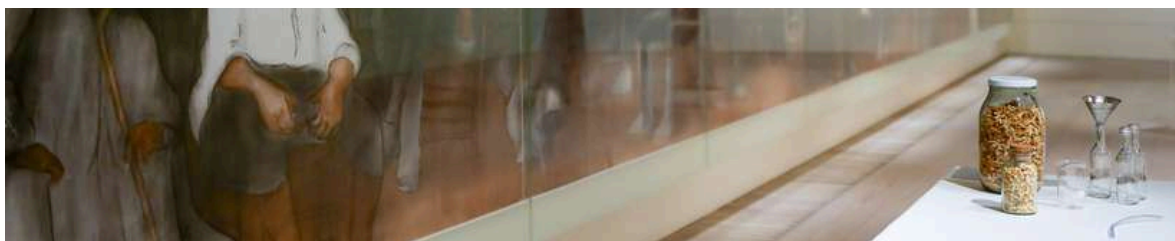


Nicosia region, with its rich history and cultural tapestry, has become a playground for seasoned travellers. It's easy to understand why and it's all easily accessible. The Venetian walls, absorbing the Ottoman style at the old mansions like the Hatzigeorgakis Kornesios House and the Leventis institutions, these iconic institutions are unquestionably breath-taking, but there's a part of you that craves something more, is that right? If you have begun to wonder what lies beyond these familiar spots, read below to discover the hidden gems, the quirky corners and the unexpected treasures that Nicosia has to offer.





- [The Imprisoned Graves](#) (58HV+WP5, Iroon street, Egkomi 1107, Cyprus) are undoubtedly one of the most historic places on the island of Cyprus, a rather place of holy pilgrimage and one of the emotional sights of culture that carry the black and dark pages of the brightest book of Cypriot history, the independence of the great island. This was the place where the hanged and the leading figures of the National Organization of the Cypriot Fighters (EOKA), who were sentenced to death by the English for their action in the liberation struggle, were buried. Instead of giving the bodies to the relatives, they were buried there, making Cyprus the only country in the world that imprisoned its heroes. As a matter of fact, the rope exhibited in the space is one of the three ropes with which they hung the heroes, while the other one is at the Struggle Museum.
- [Cyprus Classic Motorcycle Museum](#) (Granikou 44, Nicosia 1010, Cyprus). For any bike enthusiasts out there, the museum presents an extraordinary assemblage of classic motorcycles, which offer a singular vantage point on the annals of transportation.
- [Cyprus Postal Museum](#) (Ayiou Savva 3B, Nicosia 105, Cyprus), which is located within the walled city of Nicosia, with a rich exhibition and diverse material of the island's postal history.
- [Cyprus Police Museum](#) (Evangelou Floraki street, within the Police Headquarters building). The museum was originally founded in 1933 during British colonial times as a Criminal Museum by the British Chief of Police of the colonial government.
- [The Fairy Tale museum](#) (Granikou 32, Nicosia 1010, Cyprus) is housed in a beautiful old mansion in the heart of Nicosia, representing the interesting cultural heritage of fairy tales, legends, myths and traditions of Cyprus, while organising various interactive events and performances for families. The fantasy-filled "magic library" that has books stretching over nine feet high, is really amazing!
- [The Museum of George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection](#) (part of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, Faneromenis 80, Nicosia 1011, Cyprus) is another stop for the culture-enthusiasts treasuring more than 600 ceramic objects from the Bronze Age through the 16th century.
- [Mevlevi Tekke Museum](#) (near the Kyrenia Gate, Girne Cd, Nicosia 99010), a 17th-century former tekke (dervish house) that was once Cyprus' central meeting place for the island's Mevlevi Order followers. The adjoining courtyard is home to a collection of Muslim tombstones.
- [Archaeological Museum of Ancient Idalion](#) (2C9F+M8W, Dali 2540, Cyprus) at the modern suburb of Dali which showcases the finds of the homonymous city and one of the 7 ancient kingdoms of the island. According to legend, Dali is where Adonis (Aphrodite's lover) was killed by Aris, the Olympian god of war. Also, browse some of the exhibits you can find in the museum of the same site.
- [The Museum of Shoemaker Christos Chrysanthou](#) in Spilia village that was created by Andreas Christou Chrysanthou in memory of his father.
- [Fikardou Rural Museum](#) hidden in Troodos Mountains and housed inside a mansion of 15th-17th century architecture.
- [The Linos Museum and the Olive Mill Museum](#) are both situated in an old picturesque neighbourhood of Kakopetria village.
- [Cyprus Railway Museum](#) (Evrychou village). The railway operated from 1905 to 1951, covering a route from Famagusta in the east to Morphou village in the west passing through Nicosia. The rooms display authentic documents, drawings, photographs and objects related to the railways of Cyprus, as well as models of stations and rolling stock. At the back, the platform and part of the railway line have been built with authentic rails.



MUSEUM INDEX

Centre of Visual Arts & Research (CVAR)

Address! 285 Ermou, 1017 Nicosia (within the walls)

Tel. 22300999

URL: www.cvar.severis.org

Aglantzia Municipal Museum of Natural History

Address: 29 Nikou Constantinou, Aglantzia

Telephone: 22338167

Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation

Address: 86-90, Phaneromenis Str., 1011 Nicosia

P.O.Box 21995, 1515 Nicosia

Telephone: 22677134

URL: <http://www.boccf.org>

Byzantine Museum and Art Gallery

Address: Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou

Telephone: 22430008

<http://www.makariosfoundation.org.cy/>

Cyprus Folk Art Museum

Address: Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou

Telephone: 22432578

Cyprus Jewellers Museum

Address: 7-9 Praxippou, Laiki Geitonia

Telephone: 22667278

Cyprus Museum of Natural History

Address: Cyprus Carlsberg Brewery's Grounds, Latzia Area

Telephone: 2247111

Cyprus Museum (Archaeological)

Address: 1 Mouseiou, Nicosia

Telephone: 22865864

Cyprus Police Museum

Address: Within the Police Headquarters

Telephone: 22808793

URL: <http://www.police.gov.cy>

Ethnographic Museum of Cyprus

Address: Plateia Archiepiskopou Kyprianou (within the old Archbishopric)

Telephone: 22432578

Address: 37, Demostheni Severi Ave.

Telephone: 22463204

Ledra Museum – Observatory

Address: Ledra Str., Shakolas Building

Telephone: 22679369

Museum of the George and Nefeli Giabra Pierides Collection (part of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation)

Address: 86-88-90, Phaneromenis Str.

Telephone: 22677134

Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage (part of the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation)

Address: 86-88-90, Phaneromenis Str.

National Struggle Museum

Address: Near the Archbishopric, Arch. Kyprianou square

Telephone: 22305878

Pancyprian Geographical Museum

Address: Municipality of Strovolos, 100 Strovolos Avenue

Telephone: 22470340

URL: <http://www.strovolos.org.cy/mouseio.php>

Philatelic Centre and Postal Museum

Address: 3B, Agiou Savva Str., Laiki Geitonia

Telephone: 22304711

The Cyprus Classic Motorcycle Museum

Address: 44, Granikou Str., 1010 Nicosia

Telephone: 357 22 680222

URL: <https://www.nicosia.org.cy/en-GB/discover/museums/classic-motorcycle-museum/>

The House of Chatzigeorgakis Kornesios – Ethnological Museum

Address: 20, Patriarchou Grigoriou

Telephone: 22305316

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

Address: 17, Ippokratous, Laiki Geitonia

Telephone: 22661475

URL: <http://www.leventismuseum.org.cy/>

The Von World Pens Hall

Address: 37, Demostheni Severi Ave.

Telephone: 22463204.

MUSEUMS OUTSIDE OF NICOSIA

Proto-Industrial Museum at Agia Varvara Village

Telephone: 22521715

Rural Museum at Fikardou Village – The House of

Katsinioros and the House of Achilleas Dimitri

Address: Fikardou village 5km North-East of

Machairas Monastery

Telephone: 22634731

Byzantine Museum at Kalopanagiotis Village

Telephone: 22953460

Museum of Kykkos Monastery.

URL: <http://www.kykkos-museum.cy.net/index2.html>

Ecclesiastical Museum at Pedoulas Village

Telephone: 22953636



Divine Light



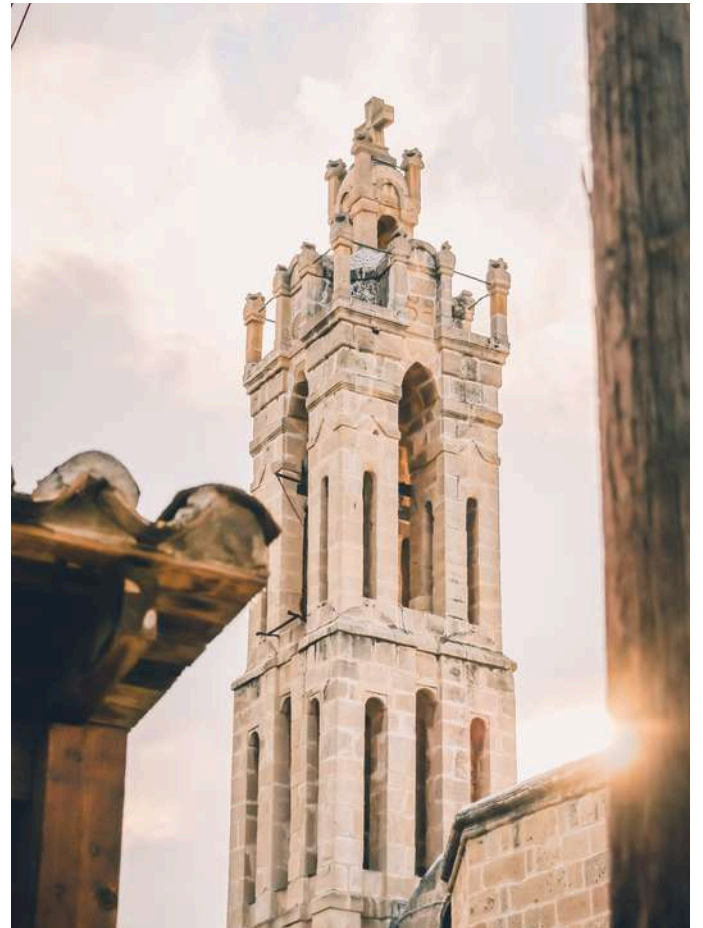
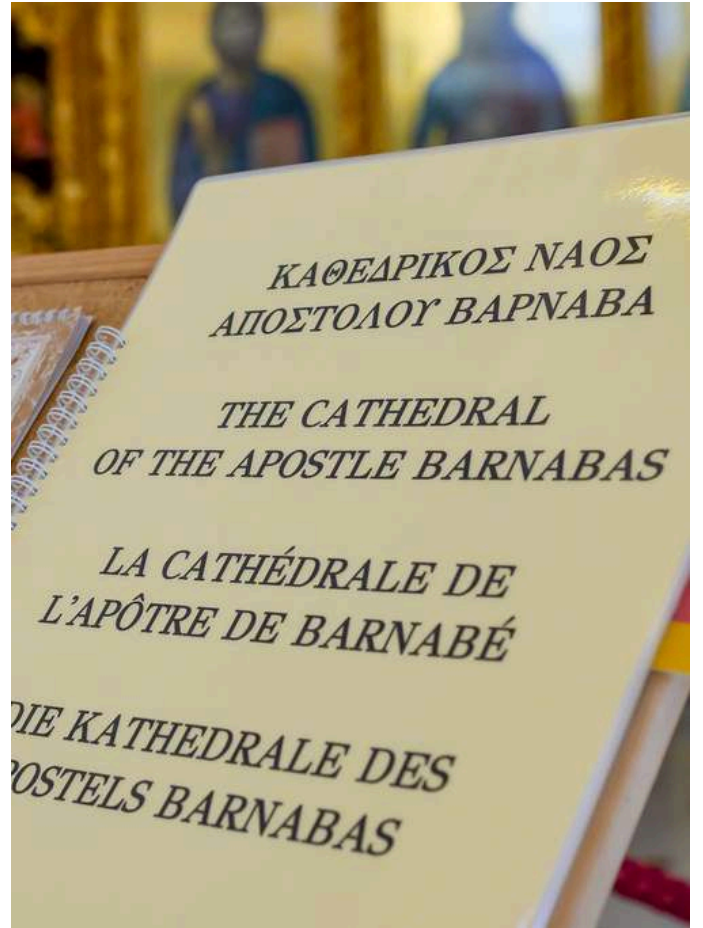
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The Most
Important
Churches in
Cyprus

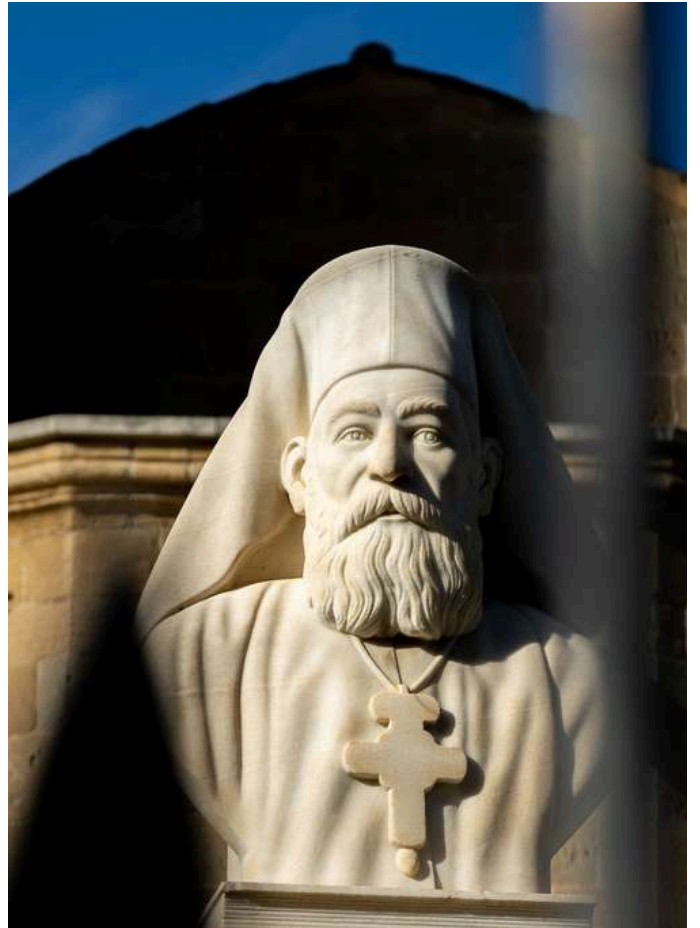


When in Nicosia, you listen to the call to prayer drifting over from the Selimiye Mosque on the other side of the border, and later the church bells from the Greek Orthodox Phaneromeni Church. It is in such places that evenings always feel the warmest in Cyprus, places where generations put their faith in a brighter future.

Scroll further to check all the best churches across the city, from where to attend an Easter or Ramadan service to which one to check out for even your weddings. And, of course, you'll find a roundup of the most stunning Catholic churches, too.







ETERNAL SYMBOLS OF ORTHODOX FAITH

- **St. John's Cathedral:** Built in 1662, this church features impressive 18th-century frescoes depicting scenes from the Bible and the discovery of the tomb of the Apostle Barnabas in Salamis.
- **Church of Archangel Michael (Trypiotis):** Built in the 16th century, this church is an example of the architecture of the era and is connected to the history of the Trypiotis neighbourhood.
- **Church of Agios Kassianos:** Built in the 19th century (1854), houses the "holy remains" of the Saint. This was the center of the intercommunal riots of 1958, 1963 and the Turkish invasion of 1974, with the Turkish army stopping 30 meters from the church, which the locals consider that was a miracle. On Good Friday, the atmosphere here is unique, devout and quite nostalgic.

ARCHITECTURAL JEWELS OF THE CITY

- **Church of Phaneromeni:** The largest church within the city walls, built in 1872, is located next to an old Orthodox monastery. Next to it is a marble mausoleum containing the remains of clergymen executed in 1821.
- **Agia Varvara Kaimakliou:** in the homonymous suburb of Nicosia. A stone-built basilica-style church with a dome from 1920 with an impressive wood-carved iconostasis and a beautiful tall bell tower.

VENERABLE BYZANTINE CHURCHES

Church of Chrysaliniotissa: The oldest Byzantine-style church within the walls of Nicosia. It is the only church of the Middle Byzantine period (965-1191 AD) that has survived in the city. It houses the twin portable icons, which depict the Blessed Virgin Mary looking in two directions.

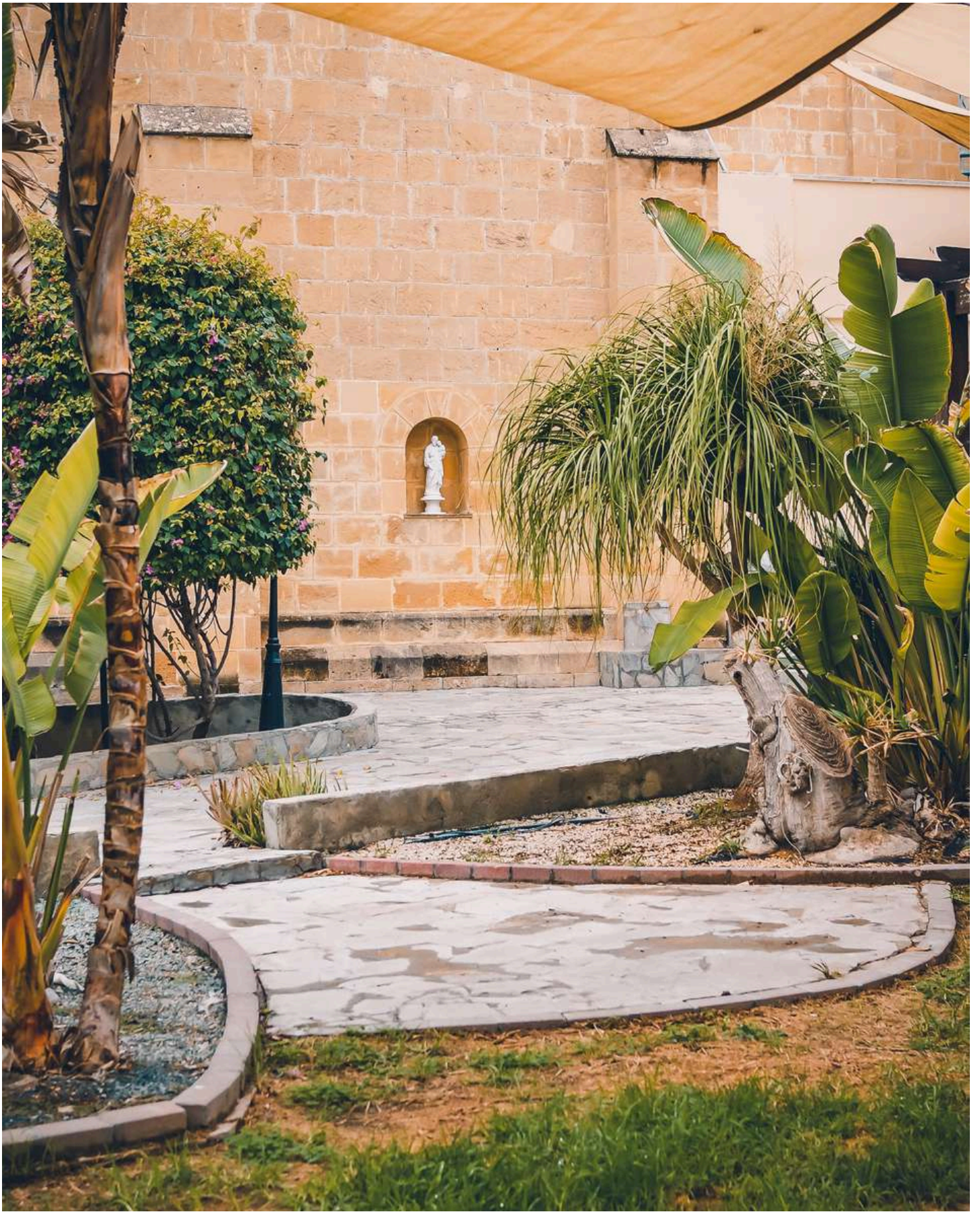
MOST BEAUTIFUL MOSQUES

- **Omeriye Mosque:** Located near the Central Municipal Market, it is an important monument of the Ottoman period.
- **Selimiye Mosque:** Originally a Catholic Gothic cathedral of Ayia Sophia, it was converted into a Muslim mosque after the Ottoman conquest in 1571. It is one of the most important monuments of Nicosia.
- **Bayraktar Mosque** Located in the Constanzo bastion, in the southern part of the walls of Nicosia. It was built in 1820 by Aptoulas Pasha and was named after the first Ottoman soldier killed during the conquest of the city in 1570.
- **Taht el-Kale Mosque,** the mosque in the homonymous neighbourhood was built in 1827 with the present minaret dating to 1949 and replacing the original one that was demolished (due to its unstable condition) in 1936.

OTHER CHURCHES

- **St. Paul's Anglican Church:** It serves the city's Anglican community and is located in a central location in Nicosia.
- **Holy Cross:** Located near the Famagusta Gate, serves the Catholic community of Nicosia.
- Also noteworthy is the Armenian Church and Monastery (Notre Dame de Tyre) that was originally a nunnery during the 13th century. This particular church also has architectural elements from the 14th century, since renovations taking place were never completed after the Ottoman siege. The Church only took on its present form after the fall of the Ottoman Empire







ACROSS FROM PAPHOS GATE, THE HOLY CROSS DATES BACK TO 1902. THE FRANCISCAN ORDER HAS BEEN IN CYPRUS SINCE ST. FRANCIS WAS ALIVE, AND IT'S THOUGHT THAT HE VISITED THE ISLAND. THERE ARE ONLY FOUR ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE COUNTRY, AND THIS IS THE ONLY ONE IN NICOSIA. THE CHURCH IS NOT ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT, BUT IT'S BEAUTIFUL AND A NICE, QUIET WALK THROUGH IS CALMING. AND CURCH SERVICES QUITE EMOTIONAL FROM ALL THE ETHNICITIES TAKING PART AT.

STOREFRONTS



THE DISAPPEARING FACE OF NICOSIA

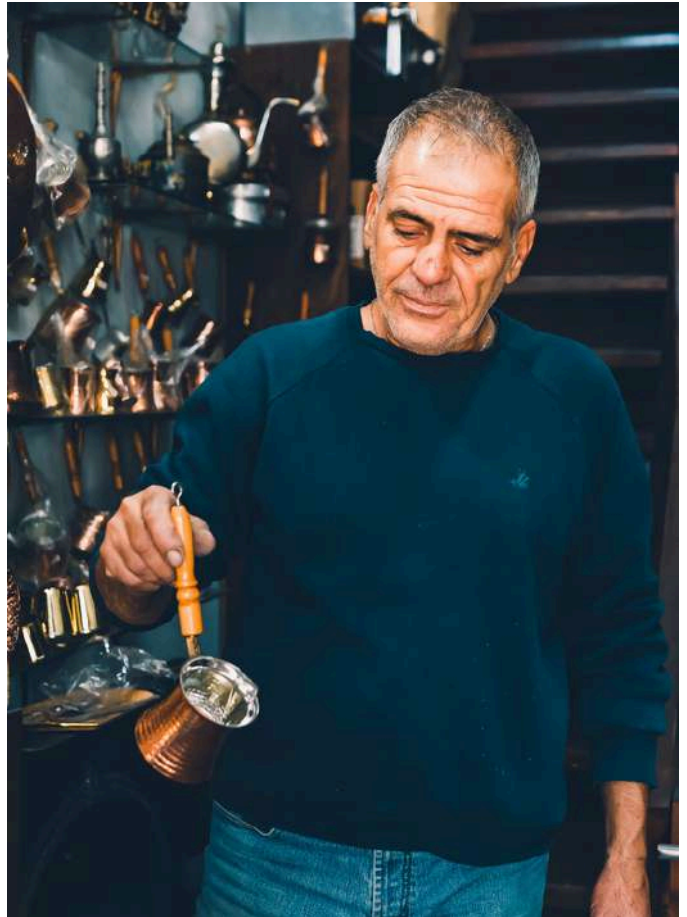


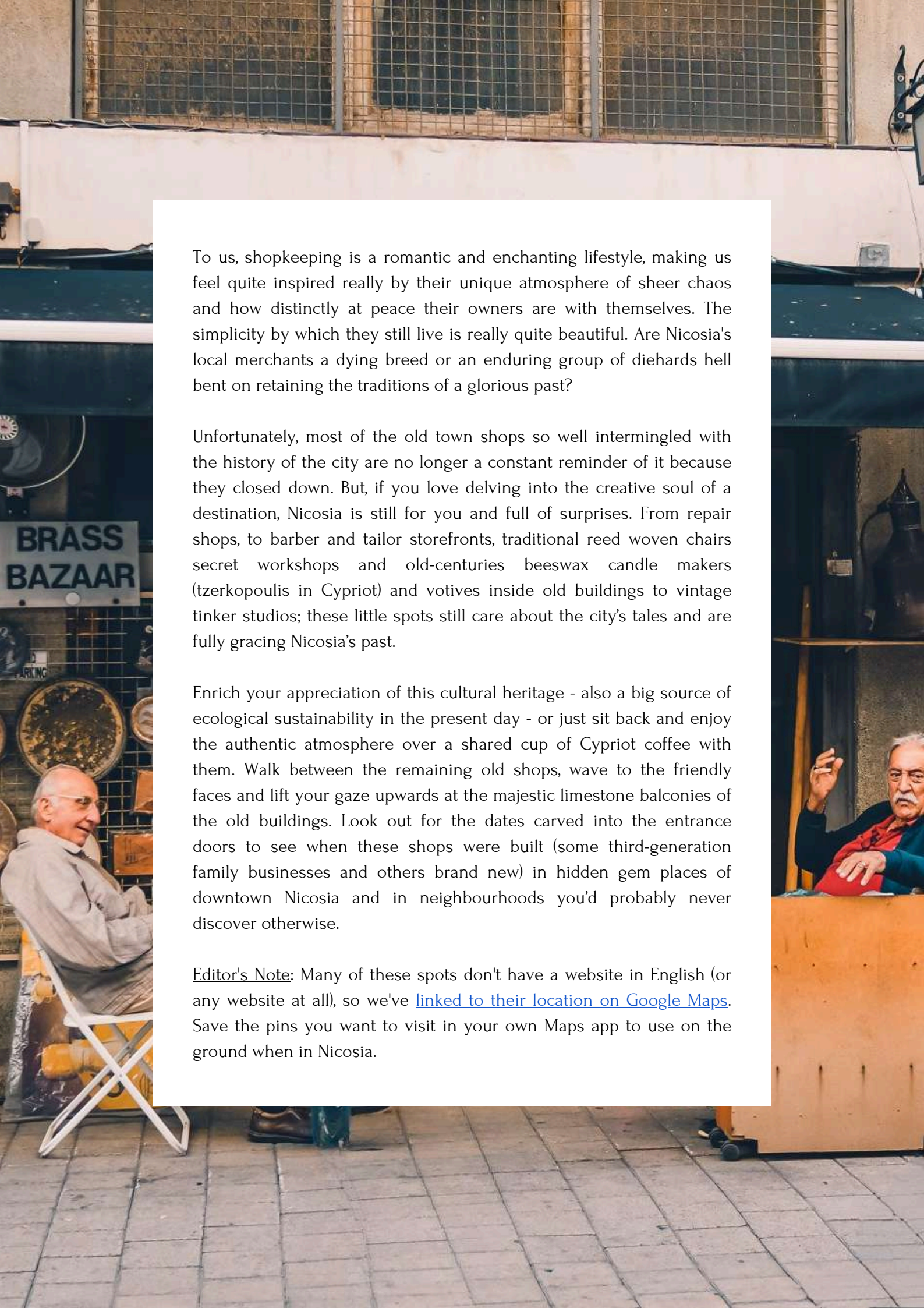
These collages capture the neighbourhood spirit, familiarity, comfort and warmth that these shops once embodied. Go on a visual tour through a series of saturated windows that were hundreds of years of business and neighbourhood ties to life, along with all of the social and cultural memories they evoke. Amyth of Nicosia in a way brings back the pride that once was the lifeblood of Nicosia downtown.

GUARDIANS OF TRADITION

These artisans did not become artisans; they were born as such. They live and breathe their work as the tradition runs deep and in many cases, the skill has been passed down through generations.







To us, shopkeeping is a romantic and enchanting lifestyle, making us feel quite inspired really by their unique atmosphere of sheer chaos and how distinctly at peace their owners are with themselves. The simplicity by which they still live is really quite beautiful. Are Nicosia's local merchants a dying breed or an enduring group of diehards hell bent on retaining the traditions of a glorious past?

Unfortunately, most of the old town shops so well intermingled with the history of the city are no longer a constant reminder of it because they closed down. But, if you love delving into the creative soul of a destination, Nicosia is still for you and full of surprises. From repair shops, to barber and tailor storefronts, traditional reed woven chairs secret workshops and old-centuries beeswax candle makers (tzerkopoulis in Cypriot) and votives inside old buildings to vintage tinker studios; these little spots still care about the city's tales and are fully gracing Nicosia's past.

Enrich your appreciation of this cultural heritage - also a big source of ecological sustainability in the present day - or just sit back and enjoy the authentic atmosphere over a shared cup of Cypriot coffee with them. Walk between the remaining old shops, wave to the friendly faces and lift your gaze upwards at the majestic limestone balconies of the old buildings. Look out for the dates carved into the entrance doors to see when these shops were built (some third-generation family businesses and others brand new) in hidden gem places of downtown Nicosia and in neighbourhoods you'd probably never discover otherwise.

Editor's Note: Many of these spots don't have a website in English (or any website at all), so we've [linked to their location on Google Maps](#). Save the pins you want to visit in your own Maps app to use on the ground when in Nicosia.



Inside one of the last blacksmith factories in Pentadaktylos street.



ΥΑΡΕΚΑΡΤΙΟΙ
ΚΡΙΤΑΝΗΣ ΚΑΤΣΙΑΡΗΣ
ΚΑΤΑΚΕΥΑΖΟΝΤΑΙ
ΠΑΝΤΟΥ ΥΨΟΥΣ
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΕΣ
ΚΑΡΕΡΑΣ
Α. ΑΓΑΠΙΔΟΥ 45
ΤΗΛ. 22.502420



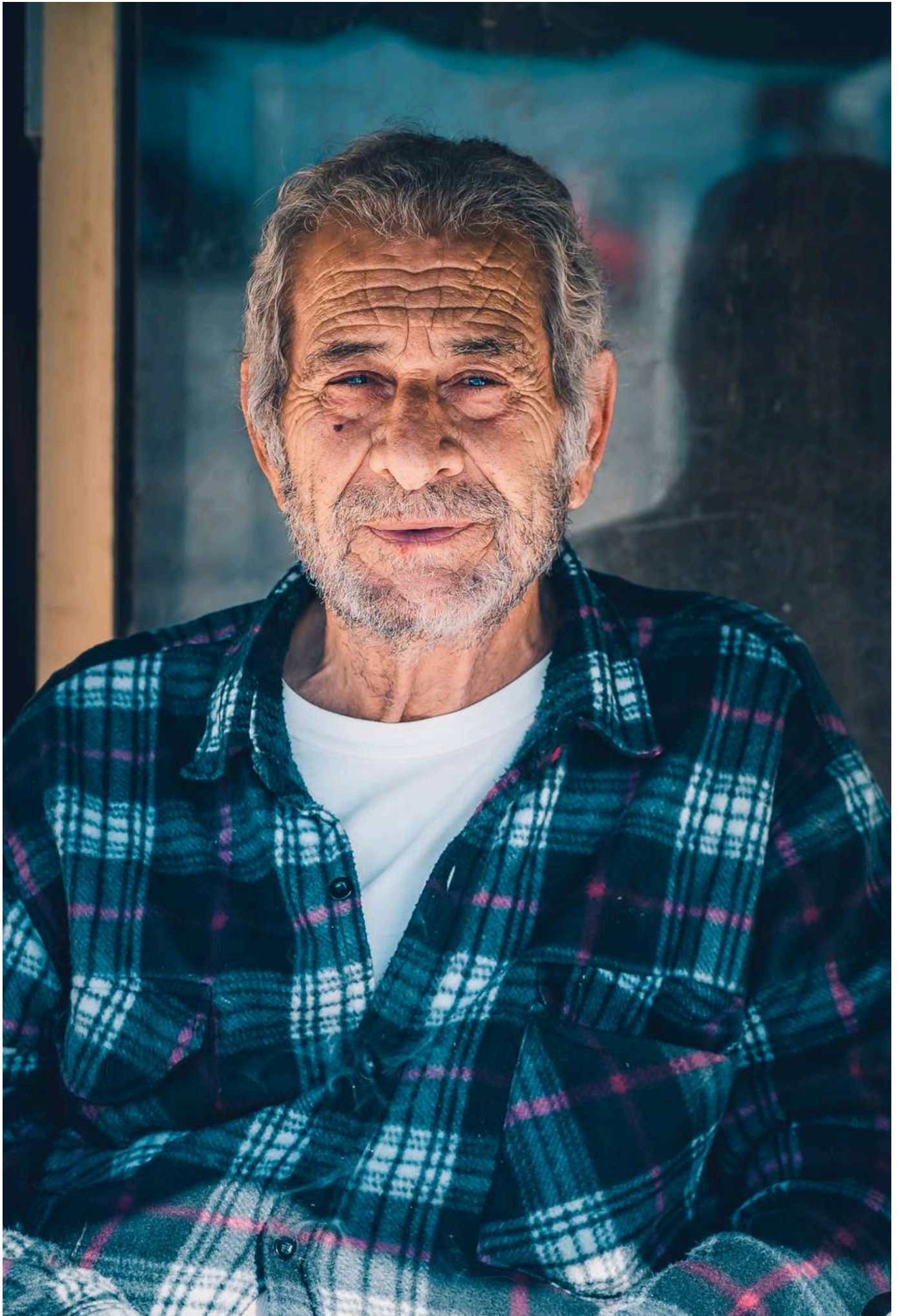
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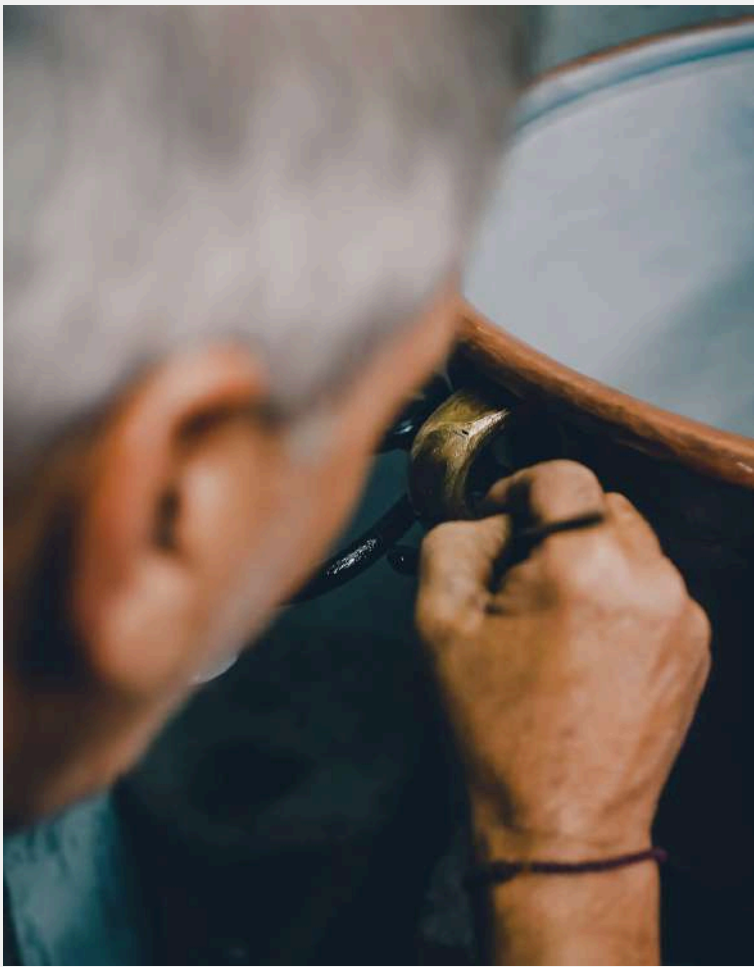


Mr Kostakis Katsiaris, one of the last chair makers in the whole island of Cyprus.



Quietly working on a piece of reed, barely glancing up as we walked by. It felt less like a tourist attraction and more like a snapshot of everyday life.





H H H H H H
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A fun wood-worker.



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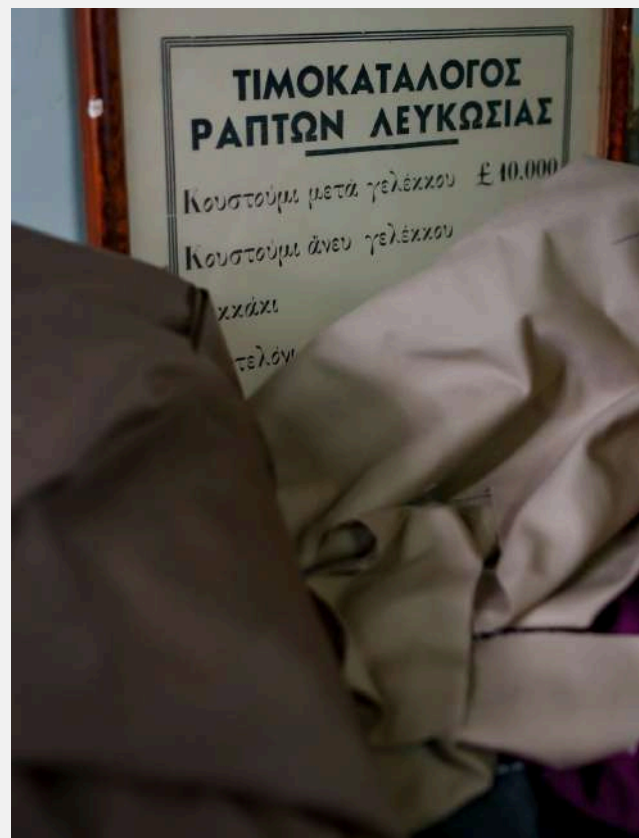


TAILORS OF NICOSIA





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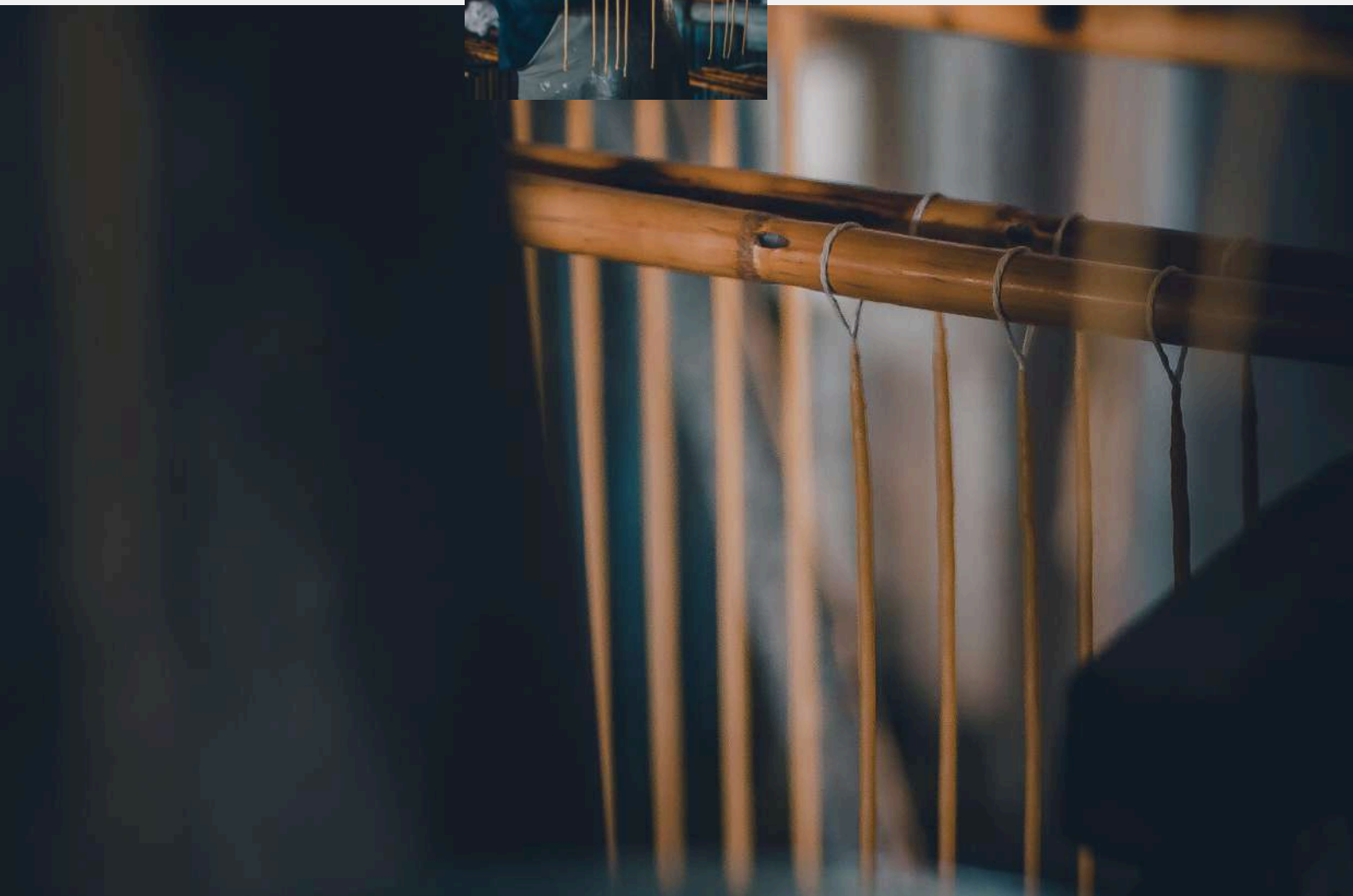


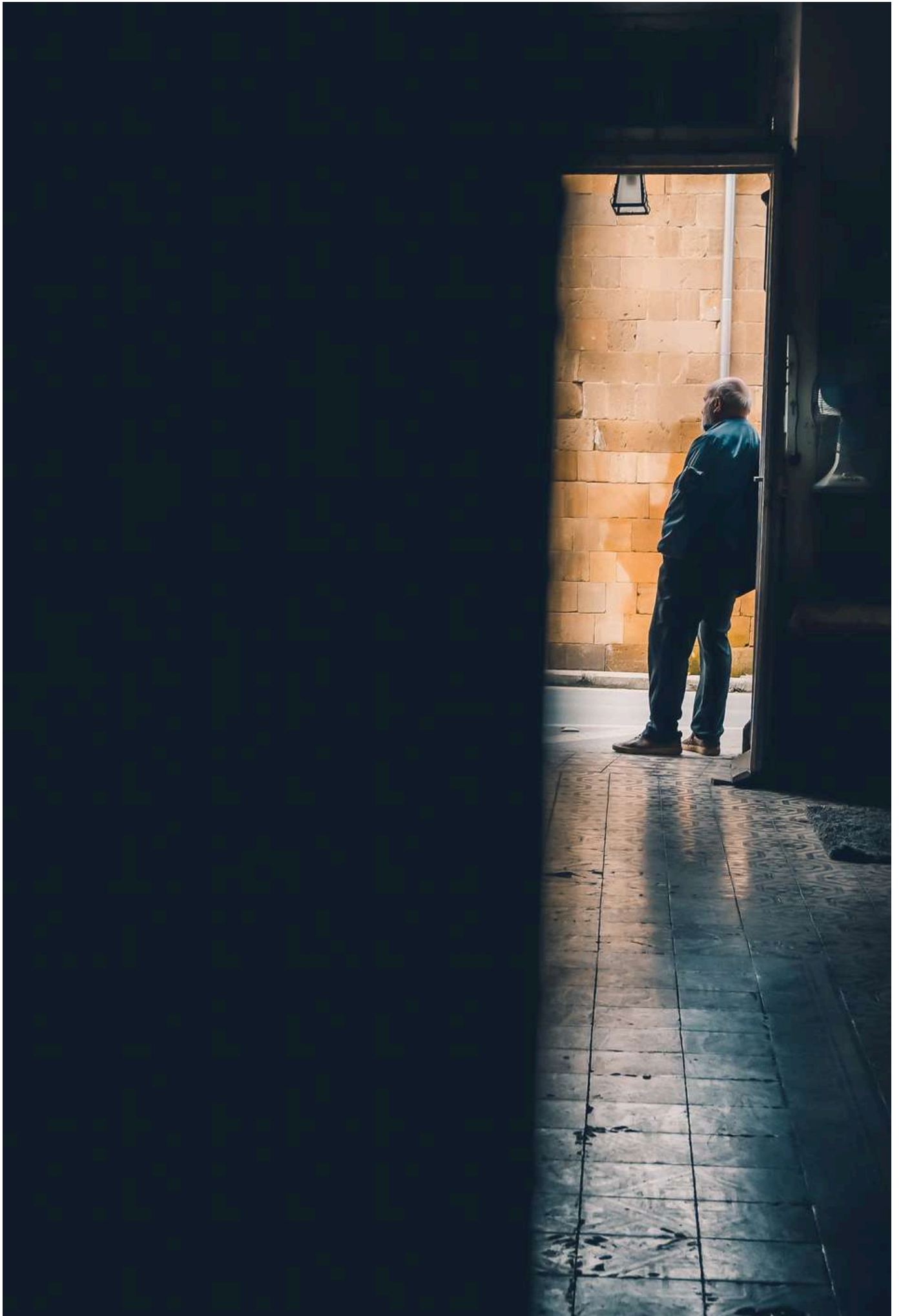


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Mr Kostakis Kleitos, the last candlemaker in Nicosia. He's vintage workshoplays just next to Amyth of Nicosia.





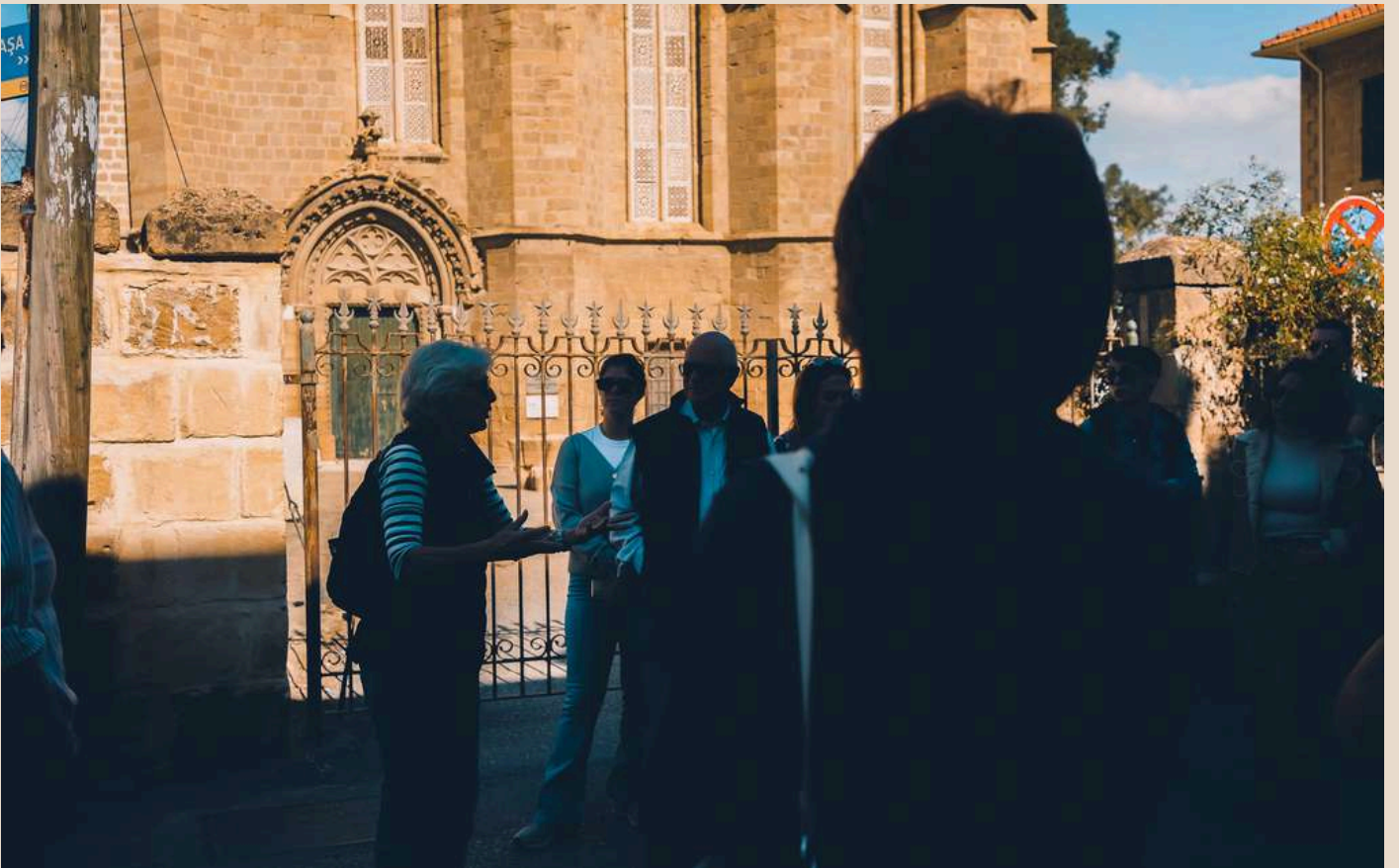


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EXPERIENCE



Nicosia

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ANNA MARAGKOU
MARILENA JOANNIDES
PEOPLE OF CYPRUS
JOY OF ORIGINS
MELINA SHUKUROGLOU
TASTINGS





START YOUR JOURNEY



There's so much to do in Nicosia, it's hard to know where to start. We have whittled away the obvious and compiled the most compelling and transformative experiences that reveal the essence of the city. Celebrating local culture, culinary heritage, and the island's extraordinary natural beauty, our Experiences section offers a genuine immersion into the Cypriot way of life.

Nobody can 'do' Nicosia on a single trip. Cyprus is more than an island – it's a world of its own. From its mysterious mountain ranges to its secluded shores, Cyprus is steeped in ancient myths. To discover the island's eternal soul, a local insider is essential. Beyond the seaside glamour and urban clamour, a different Cyprus awaits those who know where to look. And slow, sustainable, meaningful travel is our main focus. We have been sourcing experiences that fulfil the quest for discovery and engage with the guardians of Cyprus' culture and environment.

Our curated experiences with artisans, archaeologists and wine producers, unlock authentic experiences usually reserved only for locals. Unique activities such as joining an excursion in North Nicosia with a famous writer or following a renowned female artist behind the scenes, of mastering the art of halloumoti (flaky halloumi pies), or foraging forgotten Cypriot herbs in Troodos valleys where only goats and shepherds roam.

ANNA MARANGOU

WALKING TOWARDS HISTORY



01

The residents of Nicosia know her by her first name. Her passion is the Oriental East, thus she has travelled a lot in order to understand what Cyprus is all about. A history scientist (recently she won the "Tefkros Anthias - Thodosis Pieridis" Cultural Contribution Award) who has associated her name with the distinguished sites and the modern city. A person who has been with them for decades, Anna Marangou, one of the most brilliant and dedicated art historians of our time,

A passionate woman of great qualities and concerns, reaches the heart of the realities and mysteries of the city she chose as her "place", Nicosia, even though she is deep down a Famagustian with Limassolian roots and Macedonian origins. In the past, she has also worked as the Municipality's cultural officer to help transform post-invasion Nicosia, whereas she almost became the Mayor of the city! A charismatic archaeologist, a cultural activist, restless researcher, but most importantly visionary, Anna is also an author (non-fiction books, scripts, theatre plays & children's stories). She has curated numerous exhibitions and helped set up significant museums in Cyprus.

The woman who met celebrities, intellectuals and politicians from all over the world, always finds refuge in Nicosia which she carries deep in her heart. And that is why she wakes up walking the city daily towards the same route: it always created for her a feeling, an obligation to hold back time, to hold back memory.

يا حضرت مولانا

۱۳۷۴



HER PASSION,
KNOWLEDGE AND
ENGAGING
STORYTELLING MAKE
THIS ONE OF
NICOSIA'S MOST
ENRICHING
EXPERIENCES.



A private or group walking tour around Nicosia with Anna Marangou is a deep dive in Cypriot culture and history. Everyone agrees that she is a fascinating tour guide who, with the same fervor, longing and indomitable faith, wants people of all walks of life to love what she deeply loves, to share her love for an archaeological site whose formation has changed lives for the better or worse of the whole city. Beyond showing you the fascinating and beautiful highlights of the once whole city, from the archaeological ruins, byzantine churches and monasteries, crusader castles and palaces, to its more modern history of invasion and division, she brings all your senses to bear on your journey through time and place.

Always based on historic sources, she attempts to find the connections between the social, political, and spiritual life at that time, researching the “why” and the “how” of that period, and therefore aiming at a deeper understanding of today’s reality in Cyprus for her guests. Based on finds and on her own scientific work guiding approach includes nevertheless, sharing information about the Greek and Turkish side of things.

Most importantly, she links culture and monuments with memory and tries to explain why memory is so important nowadays. Her ultimate goal is to re-introduce the capital’s history to its inhabitants, and visitors alike, as a whole and not fragmented by the divisions of the 1960s and 1974.



THE GREAT KHAN (BÜYÜK HAN)

Büyük Han (The Great Khan / Caravanserai) is one of the most important buildings of the Ottoman Period in Cyprus was built by the order of first governor Muzaffer Pasha in 1572, just after the conquest of Cyprus in 1571. The khan which was built for the accommodation needs of the visitors of the island had an original name as the Alanyalılar Khan and was built in the vicinity of the building of the Kumarcılar Khan in the vicinity in the 17th century, it was named Büyük (Great) Khan for a comparison with the new one. Büyük Khan is similar to the commercial khans in Anatolia and there is a great resemblance to Koza (cocoon) Khan in Bursa. The classical square planned, two-storey Büyük Khan has 68 rooms opening to the vaulted galleries facing the open courtyard and 10 shops opening to the Asmaaltı Street. A domed, octagonal planned kiosk-mesjid (small mosque) stands in the center of the courtyard on marble columns and has a fountain for ablutions beneath it. The khan has two gates placed on east and west directions and the east entrance opening to Asmaaltı Street is the main gate. Following the renting of the Island of Cyprus to England in 1878, the khan was used as aprison between 1878-1895. It was used as a prison until 1925 after the restorations. It gained a new life when the renting of the rooms to families in need of accommodation. The portico was demolished during the restorations led by the Department of Antiquities in 1963 and reconstructed against the original plan. Three arches between the four columns were a great mistake and these works were corrected in incidents in 1963. Büyük Khan was restored by the Department of Planning and Antiquities in 1975. In the end of 1982 a new agreement was signed per an agreement between the British and the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus with the project and control of the restoration was discontinued from time to time due to financial resources but gained a new life when the Republic of Türkiye in 1982. The courtyard were opened for the public on 27 October 2000. The restoration was completed at the end of 2000. The khan is a place where local people and tourists can see and where Cyprus Folkloric music is performed and sold.

BÜYÜK HAN

1571 yılında, Kıbrıs'ın Osmanlılar tarafından fethinden hemen sonra, 1572 yılında ilk Kıbrıs Beylerbeyi Muzaffer Paşa tarafından 1572 yılında yaptırılan Büyük Han, Kıbrıs Adası'ndaki en önemli Osmanlı Dönemi yapılarından biridir. Lefkoşa'ya gelenlerin konaklama gereksinimini karşılamak amacıyla yaptırılan ve ilk

yıllarda Alanyalılar Hanı olarak bilinen yapı, 17. yüzyılda yakınına yaptırılan Kumarcılar Hanı ile kıyaslanabilir. Büyük Han olarak adlandırılmıştır. Anadolu'daki köylerdeki tipik özelliklerine sahip olan Büyük Han, Bursa'daki köylerdeki büyük benzerlikler göstermektedir. Klasik kare planlı Büyük Han'ın iki katında üstü açık avlu çevresinde çapraz tonozlu örtülü revaklı galerilere açılan Asmaaltı Sokağı'na açılan 10 dükkân bulunur. İçeride mermer sütunlar üzerine oturtulmuş, kubbe ile örtülmüş altında şadırvanı bulunan bir köşk-mescit ve avlunun dört yönlerinde iki kapıya sahip olan hanın asıl girişi Asmaaltı Sokağı'na açılan kapıdır. Kıbrıs Adası'na İngiltere'ye kiralanmasından sonra 1878-1895

hapisane olarak kullanılan yapı, 1901 yılında onarımlardan sonra 1905 yılına kadar han olarak sürdürdü. Büyük Han, 1947 yılından itibaren 1950'li fakir ailelere kiralanılan odalarla yeni bir fonksiyon kazandı. 1963 yılında Kıbrıs Cumhuriyeti Eski Eserleri tarafından başlatılan restorasyon çalışmalarında genelleştirilmiş ve aslına uygun olmayan şekilde yeniden yapılmaya girişilmişti. Bu onarımda dört sütun arasında kemer orijinaline uyulmadan ve Osmanlı karakterine uygun şekilde yeniden inşa edilmişse de bu yanlış restorasyonun olaylarının başlamasıyla yarım kalmıştır. 1963-1975 arasında Planlama İnşaat Dairesi'nin deposu olarak kullanılan Büyük Han, 1982 yılı sonunda Eski Eserler Dairesi tarafından hazırladığı proje ve avlunun

İdaresi ve Eski Eserler Dairesi tarafından anlaşmayla restorasyon çalışmaları eksikliği nedeniyle 1982 yılında Türkiye tarafından kazandırılmış ve 2000 tarihinde restorasyonun Asmaaltı Sokağı'na restorasyonun tamamlandığı ve halka açıldığı es

THE WALKS AT HISTORIC CYPRUS COVER THE WHOLE ISLAND (INEVITABLY, SINCE MOST OF THE HISTORICAL LANDMARKS ARE IN THE OCCUPIED NORTH).



[A proposal: Journey to old Famagusta with Anna Marangou](#)

Over the last four decades, the focus of her research has been the history of Famagusta, the birthplace of her father. She visits the city every week as a member of the bi-communal committee for cultural heritage and is responsible for the preservation of one of the octagonal bastions of Famagusta, which is now located within a military area. She has only managed to see her home from a distance, though.





MARILENA JOANNIDES

02

The famous Cypriot chef is keen to capture the essence of the local landscape on a plate and transforms “unknown” recipes into an accessible, beautiful and (in many instances) mouth-watering cuisine– a culinary journey one could say.



EPICUREAN ADVENTURES

Besides writing for her website and prominent magazines within Cyprus and abroad, Marilena Joannides also serves as a consultant to chefs and restaurateurs, while the last few years she has joined TV programmes on the national channel of Cyprus, where she shares Cypriot recipes so that they can be uncovered to all food lovers and passed down to the next generation.

Get yourself a copy of "Cyprus Food Treasures" to bring back home the culinary tradition of the island!





Her devotion to sourcing ingredients from across Cyprus supporting small artisanal producers not only showcases the emphasis on quality products, but unveils her sensitivity regarding the promotion of the culinary treasures of the occupied villages to keep them alive and in her memory. After all, her motto is that 'Cyprus kitchen is our only home'.

Marilena loves putting down memories or thoughts and wants to show the places where these products grew. But mostly, she wants the food to be real and authentic, to give you the urge to travel to the island and to pass the experience of the local delicacies that have captured her own heart since childhood. She sets the scene, the context for each dish, in such an unaffected and engaging way that you can't help but be drawn into each recipe, having a passion for good food and treasuring the seasons and the ingredients they offer. She thus, focuses on a healthy diet, robust flavours and food memories, so she cooks only from her soul.

Her mother's and grandmother's Eleni origin is from the village of Rizokarpaso (located in the now Turkish-occupied north-eastern peninsula), where local specialties are mountainside-raised meats, the teratsia ofto (roast lamb cooked with carob leaves), sun-warmed herbs and vegetables and honeyed fruits. She remembers her younger self dozing off in the sun to the chatter and laughter of old women making laggopittes, like a type of Cypriot pancakes, or snail stew aka karaoloi. From this, she's developed a series of cooking sessions with the brightest, freshest flavours bouncing against rich braises and punchy grills, sharing plates alive with a Cypriot sunshine.

CITY TOURS

03

PEOPLE
OF
CYPRUS

BEYOND THE WELL-WORN
TOURIST TRAIL

WOULD YOU GO FOR HUNTING A BEAUTIFUL HUMAN STORY?



What would Cyprus be without its people? It would certainly be a beautiful place, but there would be no celebrations, no voices raised in song, no dances, no [Kostas Montis](#), no halloumi. There wouldn't be, we suppose, no pelloi (locos in the Cypriot dialect).

For the average visitor when in Cyprus, and especially within the walls of old Nicosia, locals are often overlooked and yet, their intimate stories, kind offerings, warm words and faces embody the TRUE island experience.

People of Cyprus is an organically grown Instagram community that was established years later and specializes in the history of Nicosia and its urban and suburban culture. Unrecorded and/or documented micro-history about the 'unofficial' side of the city is their special research area.

The savvy historian Iliana Koulafeti and famous journalist Christos Michalaros are the duo of people behind it, sharing a common goal: to keep the human geography in Cyprus alive. Knowing the value of local stories, Iliana and Christos transcribe them to [People of Cyprus](#), a digital archive with a dynamic presence among social networks mapping life on the island.

A 5 years journey to the cities and the hinterland of Cyprus composed of the historiography of emblematic and non-famous individuals, these people teach the rest of us what Nicosia is and inspire us about who it can become: The heritage and evolution of the island. Collecting stories as experienced, they wish to preserve the humane Cypriot voice and share it through the form of features and/or short videos

A spoiled 'child' of the Internet that fell suddenly into the depths of reality, nowadays offering tours to the lucky ones aligned with their running dates

Our proposal: Follow them 'In the steps of the Cypriot coffee': a 2-3 hours cultural walk, stretching around the old town of Nicosia, spreading around significant coffee shops and societal hubs of Nicosia along with a series of local meets up under the fun and informative guidance of the duo!



MELINA SHUKUROGLOU

04

Melina graces the land of Cyprus in Nicosia, a city of showcased works of contemporary craftsmanship. A truly visionary pioneer and mixed media artist herself, can open the doors of her own art studio and also guide you through Nicosia's current happenings. She can put forward the popular in-the-know vibe into the arts and can introduce you to a mix of her personal connections to learn deeply about Nicosia and the Arts scene.



BREATHING CULTURE





Melina often finds that when she lets herself play in the studio – to create something that’s purely for her own enjoyment –, that’s when a turning point can happen. There is an urgency to getting the ideas out of her head and into existence.

Nostalgia Gallery

Somehow that’s how she came up with her new ceramic and glass installations the last few years. Labour intensive-memory vessels that embody the wistful history of each object, filling the once souvenirs of the past for the present to rehash and giving them a future; these multi-part assemblages kind of challenge the value of restoring in the Arts.

Connecting with local artists will not only enhance your travel experience, but also can spark some really fascinating conversations, and even give you an opportunity to bring an artefact back home. Melina is able to provide exclusive tours to art aficionados, journalists and art patrons around museums, art galleries, and artists’ studios in private, specifically tailored to fit your personal interests and schedule.

05



CHARA NICOLAOU

HERITAGE IN HER POCKETS



Joy of Origins wishes to invite Cypriots and travellers to explore the island's roots and also introduce another view of Cyprus, beyond touristy stereotypes.

When you first meet her, she instantly reminds you of one of those women back from the 1950s, captured by the lens of famous Cypriot photographer Renos Evridiades Wideson.

She holds an architecture degree that brought her to France, Italy and even China, until she was convinced (with a bit of the expatriate's nostalgia for the combo of haloumi and watermelon on a sunny day) that she should be celebrating the memories and culinary skills of the country's wise women, as their style of living will die within a generation. So she returned almost in a whim back to Cyprus. Since then, she has been gathering, foraging and harvesting wild plants and herbs along with interviewing Cypriot grandmothers; being always inspired by their time-perfected storytelling, unfolding like a map, guiding her through Cyprus' diverse culture and rich tapestry of Cypriot cuisine.

Chara, the figure that inspired the name Joy of Origins, is currently considered one of the country's not-average influencers (not being just lyrical about the sun, sea and sand or conflicts in Cyprus), unveils the wisdom and the beauty of this land, from the scents, tastes, family moments, and health practices shaped by centuries.

With her pockets full of aromatic herbs, local produce and precious knowledge from her research, she wants to pass on the essence of the Cypriot lifestyle and inspire you.

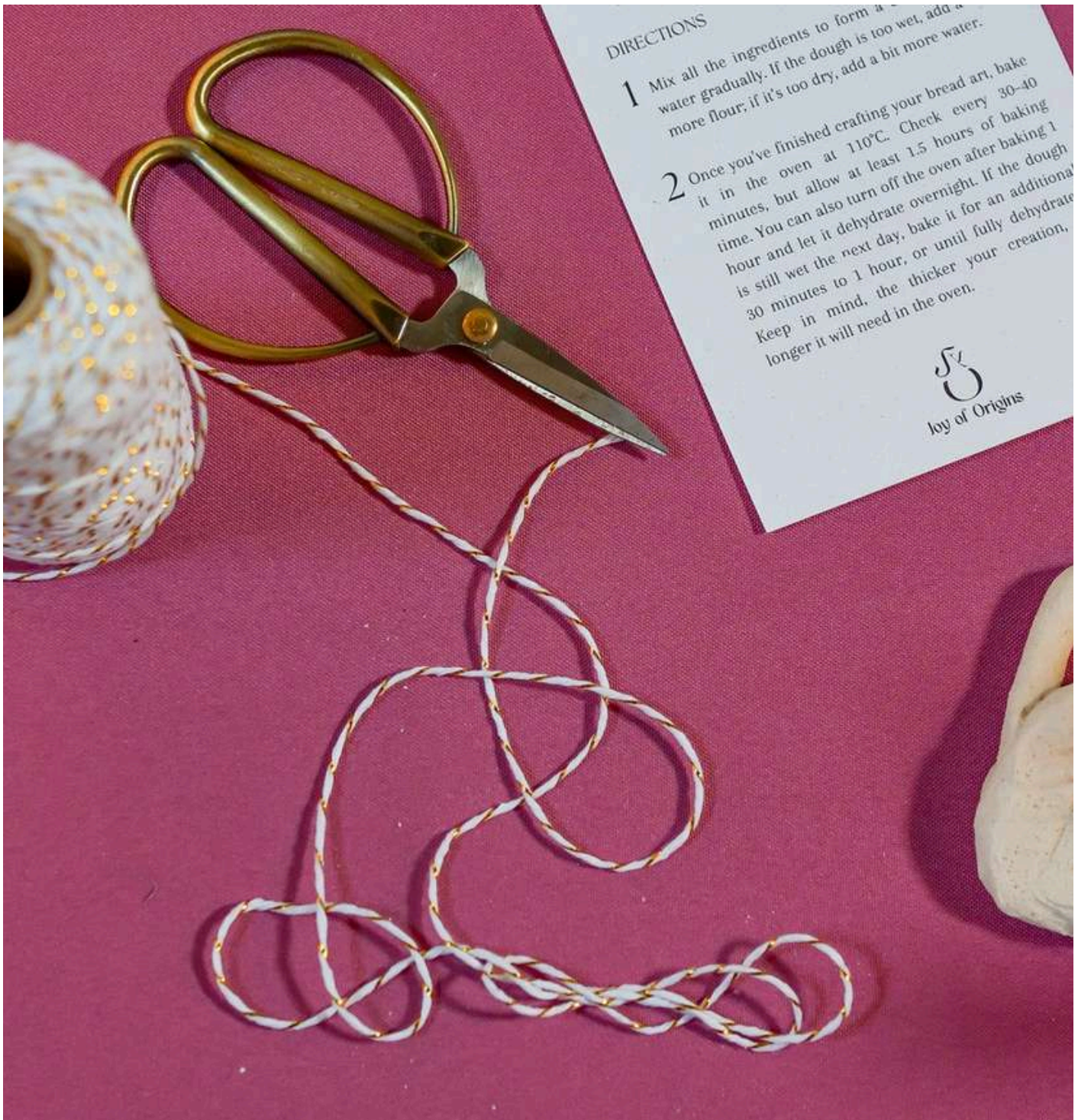
How would you like some storytelling over breakfast?

Chara brings you back to the art of savouring moments beyond plate by immersing in a cultural ritual of lingering table talk where conversations flow as freely as her homemade herby cocktail creations. Her latest gathering workshops are held seasonally just a handful of times throughout the year, during which participants can learn the art of breadmaking/fermenting, etc,

in a beautiful, bright studio space in the old part of Nicosia, especially styled from her.

More than anything, she reveals what makes these artisanal products made in Cyprus truly special and invites you to see food origins from a forgotten angle, to slow down, (re)connect with this land and the seasons that lead to a more sustainable and self-sufficient life. Ancient wisdom is not only about historical insights, it's about keeping alive the soul of our origins afterall.

[instagram.com/joyoforigins](https://www.instagram.com/joyoforigins)





HOW TO SIP YOUR WAY

THROUGH

06

NICOSIA'S TRAIL

ARISTIDES DISTILLERY

Gin is currently the buzziest spirit category around the world. Cyprus' first modern craft gin distillery, founded almost a decade ago—a fitting nod to that legacy of artisanship, will make you thirsty.

The distillery sits in a craftsman's workshop; in a nondescript small factory – just rows of blocky warehouses, out on the city's southwest reaches. Inside one of these warehouses a UK-bred Cypriot, Aris Aristidou, who has been studying malting, brewing, mashing, fermenting and aging spirits, along with his team (every bottle is hand-labelled by his wife Marianna and bottled by his brother) work hard.

It's easy to see the allure - the chance to not only create his own liquor, but kickstart an entire category of Cypriot craft liquids. Trained in South Missouri USA, where he became the co-owner of the first craft distillery in Missouri since prohibition, he didn't rush into production, instead he spent a year scouring the country for ingredients, taste-testing combinations until he was satisfied by the final recipe.

Aside from gin (this isn't a typical gin intended to be smothered with tonic, by the way), Aristides distillery also produces limited edition expressions of a beautiful full-bodied rum, a series of single malt whiskey and vodka from the local variety of potatoes (considered to be amongst the best in the world).

During weekends (or upon request), Aris leads a tasting of these on his own, during which visitors have the chance to sample the distillery's various expressions; check their website for further booking details.

COME TO NICOSIA FOR THE ZIVANIA, STAY FOR THE GIN

On top of that, Aris, who absolutely loves the artistry of blending and always relishes the challenge and complexity of creating a new liqueur, founded 'The Barrel Club' inviting you to become the owner of a brand-new American Oak 4-litre barrel of whiskey, and produce your very own unique drink.



If you can't make it for a tour, of course, you can try them at some of the bars downtown Nicosia, like The Gym (89 Onasagorou str.).

115 Tefkrou Anthia, Warehouse 5-6

Tseri, Nicosia

Phone: +357 97871749

<https://aristidesdistilling.eu>



ANAMA CONCEPT

A promising setting if you're ready to embark on a tasting road trip! On a thirty-minute drive south of Nicosia, in the off-the-beaten track village of Lythrodontas Nicosia region, there is a very small and intimate artisanal distillery, called Anama Concept, the brainchild of the Cretan oenologist Lefteris Mohianakis and the Cypriot jewellery designer Christina Apostolou.

At the heart of the brand's identity lies its cellar, a contemporary architectural marvel offering a picturesque view of the capital and providing a series of exclusive, immersive experiences for its guests. Moreover, sustainability is ingrained in the brand's philosophy, with a focus on leveraging vineyard and winemaking by-products in innovative ways, such as collaborating with local producers and responsible wood usage for distillation processes.

A CABIN LOST IN THE
PINE WOODS OF
TROODOS IS THE PLACE
WHERE A NOTORIOUSLY
FAMOUS BOOZE
IS PRODUCED.



Here craftsmanship of micro-vinification and family passion comes together to create an exceptional dessert wine (and we do not identify as sweet wine drinkers) similar to commandaria (vinified outside the designated area provided by the legislation, cannot be called the same). As befits a Cypriot-made wine, the dark glass bottle is also crafted as a keepsake (put down to Christina for putting hand-numbered and adorned it with sterling silver disks).

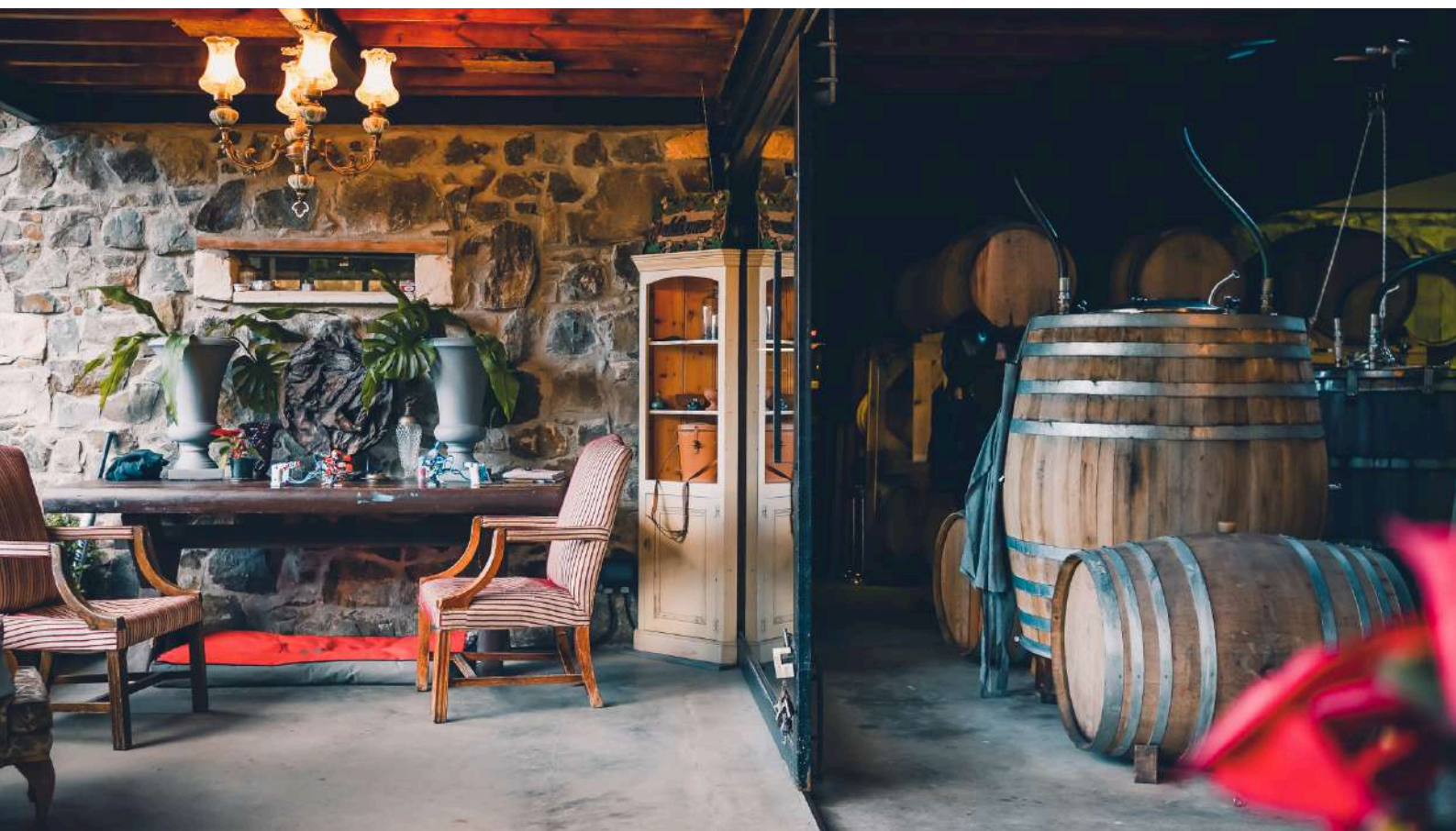
They daily challenge themselves to distil spirits steeped in history, rich in culture, and possess some of the most intricate grape-growing and winemaking processes in the island. The whole concept revolves around reviving Cyprus's treasured wine culture, rooted in ancient Cypriot Nama, which is synonymous with the manna or the nectar of the gods (= commandaria), and modernizing it further. Their signature series (the vintages) embodies the brand's ethos, encapsulating a collectible value that is appreciated over time. Lefteris calls them spirits of meditation, which paints even a prettier picture in your mind. Devoted to a limited production, ensuring the retention of the highest quality in every bottle, while preserving the exclusivity of experiences for its esteemed clientele, they never produce more than 1,000 bottles per product.

For connoisseurs seeking premium enogastronomical experience, Anama offers weekly (on specific dates and for limited seats) curated pairings, cigars and expert grilling sessions. Looking ahead, the plan is to allow visitors to partake in the whole procedure.

This boutique winery, perhaps the most sophisticated wine brand in Cyprus, is an entire haven for vino enthusiasts seeking exceptional experiences and extravagant flavours. We invite you to add it in your Google Maps, immersing yourself in the beauty of its surroundings and indulging in some of the finest spirits of Cyprus.

Lythrodontas

<https://www.theanamaconcept.com/en/home>



OBVIOUSLY PUB CULTURE IN CYPRUS (UNDER BRITISH RULE AND INFLUENCES FOR QUITE A LONG TIME) IS DEEPLY INGRAINED IN THE SOCIETY, SERVING NOT JUST AS A PLACE TO DRINK, BUT AS A SOCIAL HUB.

Crossline brewery is the brainchild of a collective of seasoned beer enthusiasts deeply rooted in the Cypriot craft beer scene. Nestled in the heart of the old town of Nicosia, they specialize in crafting modern, handcrafted ales, and occasionally, lagers, produced in small batches to ensure every sip is as fresh as possible.

You can find their beers at selected bars across Nicosia, like 7 Kleidia (92 Trrikoupi str.) or ask for a fermentation tank tasting via their [website](#).

BEER CULTURE



CULINARY *paradise*



WHICH DISHES DO THE LOCALS EAT IN NICOSIA?

THE HANDMADE ELEMENTS ARE SO EVIDENT, OF COURSE, IN THE ISLAND'S CULINARY CULTURE AND THEREFORE YOU CANNOT VISIT NICOSIA WITHOUT TRYING THE LOCAL CUISINE.

For Nicosians, enjoying good food is second nature and the city is a blossoming culinary scene, where philoxenia (the age-old tradition of hospitality to strangers) is imbued inside local kitchens.

The average Cypriot table includes influences from Greece, Turkey and the Levantine cuisine and local gastronomy has been “cooked” for centuries, having tradition always as its predominant ingredient. In the same way that Cyprus geographically connects East and West, so does Cypriot cuisine harmoniously link Europe and Asia. In Cyprus of the past, there was no room for culinary luxuries; the primary concern of people was to feed their families with whatever little they had. Ever since ancient times, the island of Aphrodite has been famous for its various breads, wheat has been the main staple of the local diet. The wheat derivative known as "pourgouri", fermented grain with milk, and further along traditional pasta served with grated haloumi cheese or anari ricotta flavoured with mint, are creating simple, yet delicious dishes to the modern days.



At the present time, meals normally start with an array of dishes to balance the diverse aromas and intense flavors, from hummus or aubergine sauce to tiny spicy sausages and stuffed dolma (Cypriot version made with plum tomatoes and spearmint stuffed vine leaves). The ultimate favourite dish is "seftalia" kebabs in pita, in which the meat is grilled (and usually marinated), served with copious amounts of parsley, tomato and cucumber.



DISCOVER THE ARTISTRY BEHIND CYPRIOT STREET FOOD

However, during the weekends, locals leave the city behind to taste the best "kleftiko" (slow-cooked lamb, fragrant with herbs and red wine) or "afelia" (pork stewed in coriander and wine) in the region. Vegetarians will love salty, melt-in-the-mouth haloumi cheese, a staple of all Cypriot meals, and if visiting Nicosia during summertime, a must-try is the salad with purslane and wild caper leaves; apart from the famed Cypriot potatoes and the obscure fresh black-eyed beans (called "louvi") boiled with wild greens served with fresh lemon juice and olive oil.

Did you know?

Nicosia was awarded in 2024 as the [first culinary destination in Europe](#) by the World Food Travel Association (WFTA).



But what is the true taste of Nicosia? Below, we round up the dishes that everyone should try upon their visit. A few are more fine-dining than street snacks, nevertheless these dishes sum up why Nicosia has blazed a trail for a new type of dining and is slowly becoming a bucket list item for foodies across the world.

Divided by politics, united in a salty cheese, every single meal in Nicosia is compiled with generous slices of grilled haloumi, dishes with coriander and/or infused with dark carob syrup, however Cyprus' pride and joy is finishing every gathering with a shot of "zivania" (pomace brandy produced from the distillation of a mixture of grapes).

AGE-OLD RECIPES

Not quite savoury, not quite sweet, not even really a pastry, a "flaouna" is hard to be explained until you've eaten one, but there's no other snack that is more emblematic as this in Cyprus. The best one we had was at Melissa Confectionery (82 Aischylou str.).

Simply put, a "kolokoti" is a scrumptious pie made with diced pumpkin, raisins, wheat, olive oil and raisins. The almost 'calzone-like' pastry is especially popular for breakfast. Another famous heritage recipe is the "halloumoti" - a savoury pastry made with haloumi cheese and eliopites (olive bread/pies). Although these delicious pies are made in every single bakery on the island, we would recommend trying them from the off-the-beaten path family bakery of Nikos Nikolaou (on Liasidou str. in the old town), but get there excessively early since they sell out quickly.

EMERGING FLAVOURS

"Commandaria", also known as 'church wine', bearing the caramel-like taste, remains a largely unknown wine, considering its history and versatility, and how unique each producer makes his/her version. Faith has kept commandaria alive, however, is being preserved through these makers, who are pushing new recipes to the limits. The one at The "[Anama Concept](#)" is one of the best (if not the best one) you can have along your trip to the region.



MULTICULTURAL TASTES

Like the Italian arancini, Cypriot kouples is a savoury snack, like a kind of fried meat croquette. The golden-brown bulgur wheat and flour carapace has, after an initial crunch, a satisfying give that yields to the umami of a sautéed pork mince and onion filling, brightened by fresh green shreds of parsley and rounded by the warmth of cinnamon. We urge you, after taking a bite from one, to hold it vertically and squeeze a few drops of lemon juice. "Manti" , on the other hand, are intricately folded dumplings. In Central Asia, they are often served with yogurt and a spicy chili paste. In Cyprus, however, they are consumed in butter and with plenty of black pepper on top.



TRADITIONAL DELIGHTS

"Palouzes" pudding made with fresh grape juice and "soutzoukos" (a chewy sweet in strings) are the main treats guests are welcomed in the hinterland of Nicosia and Troodos Mountain villages. We still can't forget the taste from a bite we had at Kalopanayiotis village and this [little shop](#) (also offering hands-on experience on the full production process upon request).

DELICIOUS EXPERIENCES

Cypriot breakfast/brunch made from Marilena Joannides hands. We are constantly dreaming of a dollop of mosfilo jam, the unknown azarole fruit that grows in abundance around the Mediterranean, some local smoked ham (called "lountza") sourced from a small artisanal producer, chunks of freshly cut tomatoes and cucumbers and good slice of homemade bread and olive oil from [Litrondi](#), to end it with a creamy sheep yoghurt with local honey.





BEYOND THE GREEN LINE

Nicosia, with its boisterous cafés and lively squares, has the most eventful mornings and nights in all of Cyprus. In gardens across and behind the ancient walled city, clementine trees heave under the warm, sharp light of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Shopkeepers throw open their doors to the steady hum of locals as church bell from both sides of Nicosia toll the time for praying. In the northern distance, the minarets of mosques peek over military barricades and checkpoints, over the infamous Green Line that now defines the world's last divided city.

The Cypriot capital is known for its colourful division, filled with under-the-radar restaurants, cafés and markets and also known for its interesting mix of traditional hubs and an avant-garde scene.

Here's what's hitting our radar right now.



Charming cafés

Kxoffee Project (29D Pindarou str.) is synonymous with the third wave of coffee shops of Cyprus. Whoever likes to enjoy artisan coffee –whether hot or cold–has to come here for a coffee fix amongst a cool local community. The same team behind Kxoffee recently launched the Kollaborative Coffee Roasters (4 Vasilisis Freiderikis), a Nordic-inspired haven for coffee lovers, by teaming up with a Cretan roaster.

Swimming Birds (5 Palias Elektrikis str., opposite to the New City Hall), offering great views to the abutting archaeological site, aka a café-meets-bar space with a distinct Berlin vibe and a cosy courtyard with graffiti-clad concrete walls.



Kala Kathoumena. for backgammon marathons with locals and among the oriental aroma of hookah blends south of the Green Line, an old casual staple.

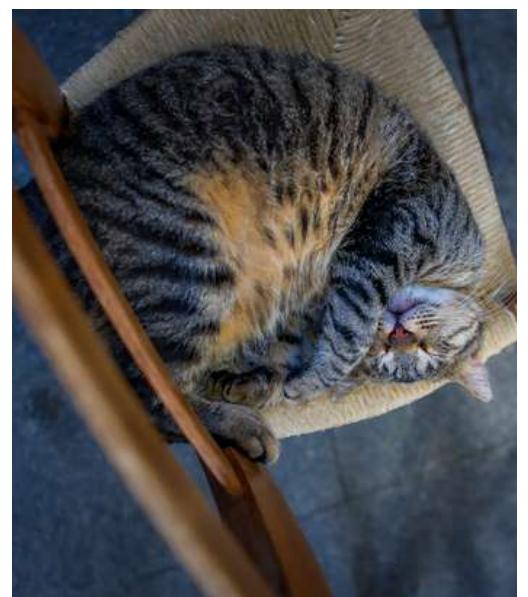
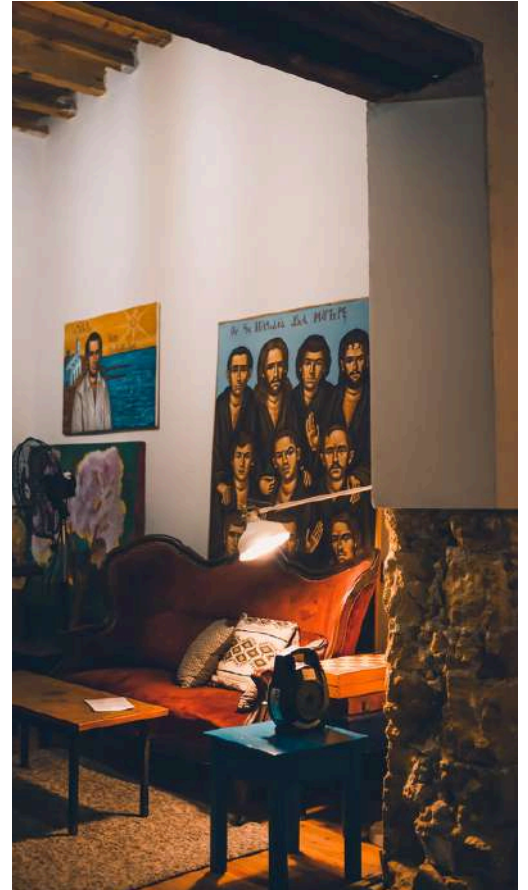
Kafeneio 11, right behind the hammam Omerye, this is a hangout almost taken out of an Almodovar film (the shop used to be part of the red light district in the past years).



Erma bookshop (43 Ektoros str., a breath away from Ammochostos Gate) is more of a sanctuary for writers and book-lovers alike passing through Nicosia, a bohemian commune for the locals also offering coffee and drinks. The bookshop also hosts events, presentations, discussions and film screenings.

Prozak (3A Medondos str., opens at 4 pm). a warm retro and artistic coffee bar, also offering various snacks, but mostly famous for the unique events it hosts from talks, exhibitions, book presentations, poetry nights and open mics to music gigs.

Hoi Polloi (59G6+9QH, Arasta Sk, Lefkoşa 99010): a café-bar in occupied Nicosia that promotes reconciliation through its hosted events. Here you will see a lot of Cypriots meeting their friends from the 'other' side of Nicosia.



Family-run eateries

Matthaios is a kitchen name intertwined with the history of the city, located on a small narrow street at Phaneromenis square, offering hearty homemade dishes. Lunch only, no reservations, sells out early.

Cyprus on a plate

Kuzuba, which translates into grapevine stalk in Cypriot dialect, is situated outside of the walled city (54 Kyriakou Matsi str.) and offers an intimate Cypriot-influenced farm-to-table cuisine, but also stands out as a celebrated wine restaurant known for its exquisite selection of vino far off tourist track. [Reservations require forward planning](#), however it's walk-ins only at the bar, and it is also open for a laidback lunch. It exudes an atmosphere of authenticity and relaxed comfort. Very ceremonial and enjoyable, with incredibly gracious service, the menu evolves with the seasons, carefully curated to complement the nuanced flavours of the wines, and draws culinary enthusiasts from all over the city. Don't leave without trying the signature cocktail of the barman, a refined classified negroni. A good alternative is the talk-of-town Ethimo (13 Vassileos Pavlou str.), but offers mainly Greek redefined dishes.

Best Greek Meze

The small plates with the big flavors from North Greece at Tsipouraki Mezedaki (1 Othellou str.), inspired by the "tsipouradiko" tradition in its philosophy and name alike – a twisted Greek-Cypriot dining tavern where small plates of meze accompany glasses of local wine from the region. A selection of thoughtfully crafted dishes and the service is relaxed and unpretentious.

The atmosphere is very youthful and guests are sometimes able to enjoy live music, too. Our favourite dish: the Cypriot take on karbonara dish and the starter with the grilled mushrooms soaked in plentiful commandaria.



Alternatives:

Try St. George restaurant – tavern opposite the new CYENS Centre of Excellence on the old municipality square or head to Mousikon Kafeneion (78 Onasagorou str.), a traditional street-side kafeneio, a stone's throw from the Green Line, where the Cypriot youth eat, drink and sing till late.

Best seftalia (think of it like a Cypriot kebab) in town

At the tucked away Evroulla – inside stoa Klokari – a casual eatery that serves some of the best no-fuss local food in town. Alternatively, head to Phaneromenis for the ultimate bolt-hole in the border, the famously called Berlin Wall 2 of Costas Violaris, who bought it in 1989. Mind that customers are mostly regulars who live in the city, including Greek-Cypriots, Turkish-Cypriots and it's the place where the border guards normally choose to celebrate their days.



Where to hide out

These are not secret spots by any means, but they are the ambassadors of another area and fit perfectly for an impromptu bite when traversing downtown Nicosia.



HURRICANE:

(7 Nikokleous str.)

the most loved confectionery for the locals who wish to devour something traditional, open since 1942. What's really worth it, is to arrive here early in the morning to grab a fresh cheese buttery pie or an almond croissant, greeting the friendly owners and wave 'Good morning' on your way to the Green Line.



TRIA FANARIA:

(4B Marias Sigklitikis)

Known as Lemonaris for the local crowds (or else Tria Fanaria) and situated on the square of Phaneromeni's old school, this kafeneio is the perfect start for a morning Cypriot coffee with an octogenarian clientele or a sweet bite after lunch. They make excellent apple-pies, apart from their famous traditional savoury treats.



ΑΡΟΜΕΡΟ:

(Polyviou)



In a tiny alley off the bustle of Ermou street, you can find the cafe Apomero, which apart from fresh juices and teas from Cypriot herbs, also serves the best orange pie.



MELISSA:

(82 Aischylou str.)



Melissa patisserie is more than a shop and rather a trademark of the old town in Nicosia. Do get there early on a Saturday morning to enjoy a cuppa of Cypriot coffee and a freshly baked flaouna (Cypriot pie with “anari” cheese). Don't leave with your hands empty, though. This is the one of the last shops in the whole island, where you can buy sharlotta (Cypriot trifle), a dessert popular back to the nineties.

BRANDY WITH A SIP OF HISTORY

Take a break from mojitos and taste the brandy sour, the signature cocktail of Cyprus, which is considered by many to be invented in the early fifties at a famous hotel in Troodos (re-opening by Thanos Hotels soon), at Haratsi (59F8+V76, Eptanisou, Nicosia 1016). A once traditional Cypriot café offering expertly crafted spritzes like this, Haratsi opened back in 1933, to be found literally above the checkpoint demarcating the UN-patrolled buffer zone, to reclaiming the idea of the social space within the context of the coffee shop and its useful role in times of gentrification. We especially like the old regulars mix with the younger, artier crowd the place attracts, often seen switching from table to table to join each other's conversations.



BREW FELLAS

If you fancy a beer, our recommendation is [Moondogs](#), also perfect for watching football matches and enjoying some snacks. Try to RSV a table at least two days in advance.



COFFEE, FOOD, DRINKS



SUGAR BOOST

Hercules icecream, the Ben & Jerry's family brand of Cyprus, with a long history that dates back in 1939, when young Hercules opened a small café, at the same spot where the store is located today (110 Ledra Street). Nowadays has become more of an attraction for all ages as it has evolved into an ice cream shop, café and a restaurant with a small playground. Try their roasted peanut flavour, an all-time classic.



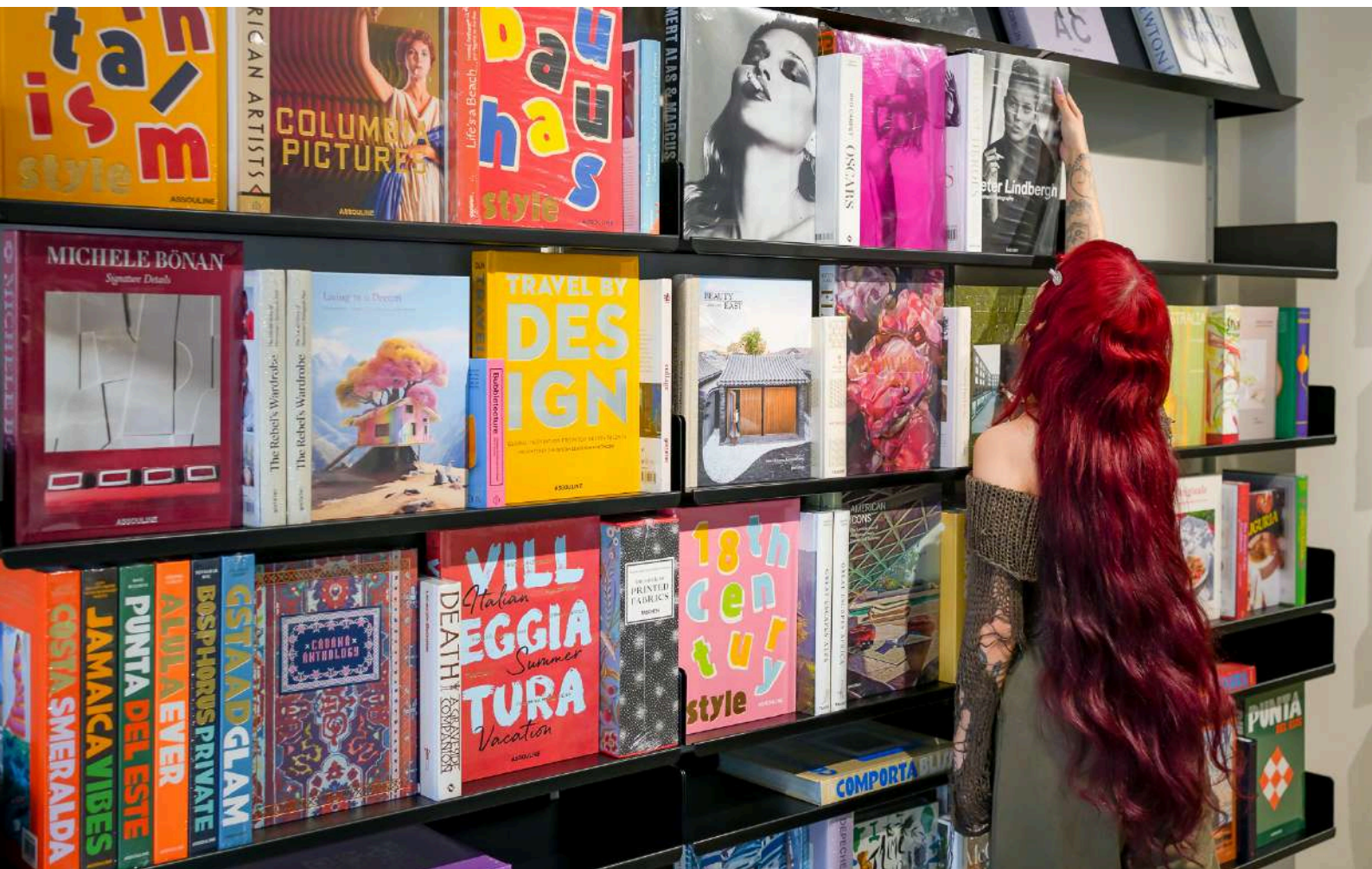
- Best Brunch at [The Boy at Number 5](#) (5E Themistokli Dervi str.)
- Yfantourgeio (67-71 Lefkonos str.) is the best co-working spot in Nicosia, if you are in search for one, settle for this.
- Best traditional bites: [Zanettos](#) (downtown) & [Istorikon](#)
- Most celebrated international kitchen: Tocayo (10 Prevezis str.) that blends Latin American and Asian flavours. Book in advance.
- Cypriot Fine Dining: Rous (16 Kyriakou Matsi Avenue), where local history is served on plates. The restaurant team explains how Cyprus' tumultuous history has shaped local cuisine and rich gastronomic heritage.
- People that are changing the nightlife scene of Nicosia: a contemporary liquor bar in an old house called [Granazi](#), the multiple times awarded [Lost + Found Drinkery](#), and the [Notes & Spirits](#) food bar, which also produces work by local and Greek (primarily hip-hop) artists and occasionally presents vinyl-only sets. The same team is also behind the most popular for after-work drinks and bites, [Ukiyo](#), Cyprus' first listening Japanese-inspired bar that boasts a selection of over 30 Japanese whiskies alongside the best take on a Cypriot beef katsu burger. Finally, the leading [The Gym](#) (89 Onasagorou str.) with the stand-out concept store with antique furniture, textiles, publications, jewellery and artworks by Cypriot artists. And a new entry: [Souvenir Social](#) (43 Archbishop Makarios III str.) a resto-bar with a kitsch-chic décor that pokes fun at Cyprus' touristic side and good selection of booze.

A FEW OTHER THINGS TO ADD TO YOUR LIST



Where to spend it

For high-street brands, try Makarios Avenue; for designer shops you need Stasinou street; for vintage, head to Promitheous street; and for various souvenirs explore the markets on the northern half of Ledra Street.



“Always carry a stash in your suitcase because you will need to thank someone after traveling in Nicosia or want to put something in your own bag.”

WHAT TO BUY

CHIC BOUTIQUE

Kult Bourtique (36 Stasikratous str.), your only place to go if you seek a tremendous experience of high fashion at just one place.

BAGS MADE IN CYPRUS

We particularly loved this brand: [Esti](#) revives the story of the island’s nature, culture, and craft heritage.

KAIMAKLI NEIGHBORHOOD

If you happen to find yourself in Kaimakli, enter the work+shop of [Georgia Moditi](#), one of the beloved and very promising fashion children of Nicosia, whose also teaching patronage. Also, if you are into ceramics, have a look at the exquisite works of [Daphne Christoforou](#), who is also hosting a series of drawing sessions for adults and teenagers.



On the same path, i.e. sustaining tradition to craft the future, the pioneering Cyprus Handicraft Service, is an institution helping folklore craftwork to survive and be spread further. There is a shop (currently being renovated) to buy various handmade crafts from.



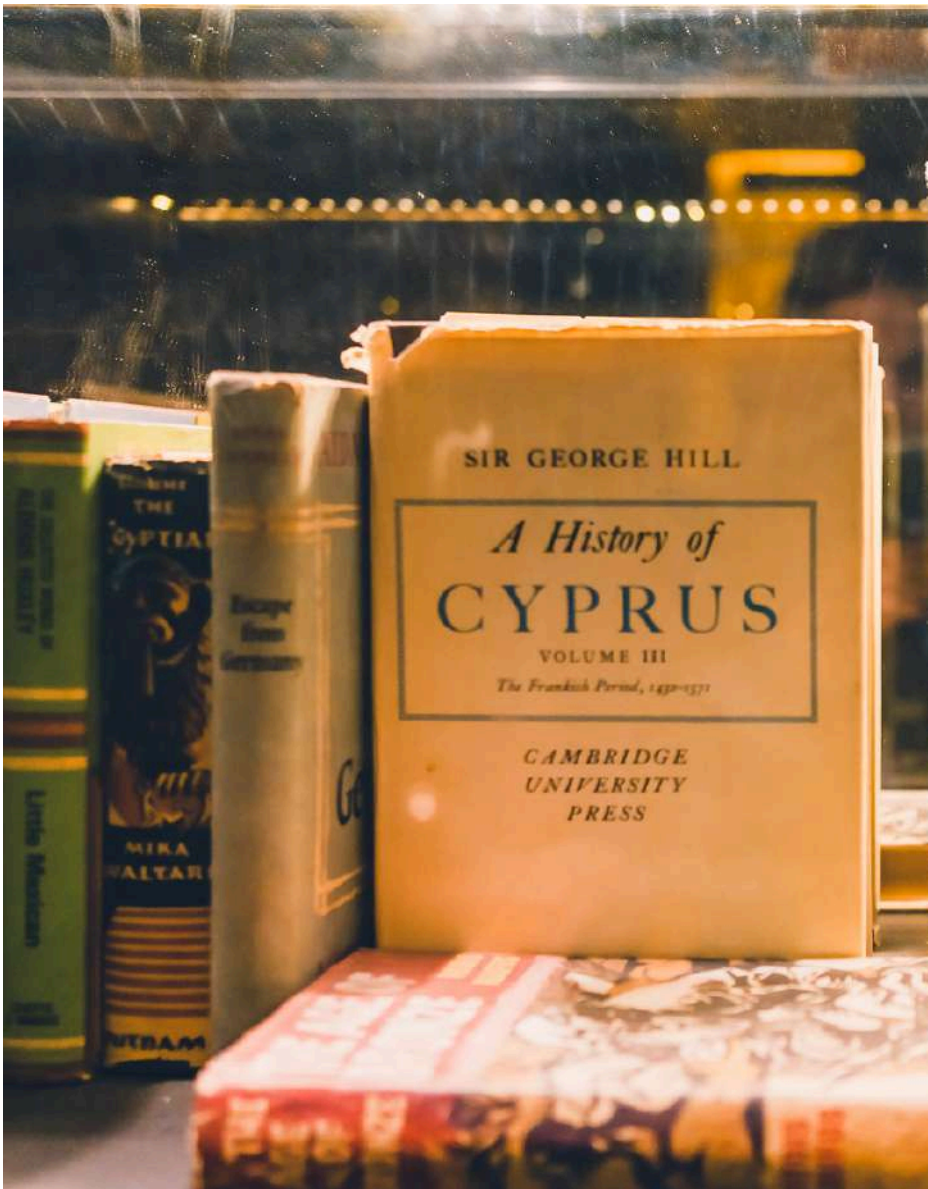
BRANDED HERITAGE

[“Tradition Now”](#) is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire, as it goes with the saying of Gustav Mahler. The inspiring Christina Socratous, is the founder and artistic director of Tradition Now, a clothing and homeware brand that seeks to revive nearly forgotten Cypriot folk arts and crafts. She is also behind the jewellery brand Votive Offering. Check her Fyti series, the heritage motifs and modern heirlooms, as well as the bag/pouches she particularly adorned with silk embroidery.



There's a shop tucked in an alleyway from Ledras that does not stock mass production garments; unlike its window neighbours. [Orphanos Traditional Costumes](#) (10 Lykourgou str., Nicosia, Cyprus) is draped in history, paying homage to a dying profession and tradition of folk costume making in Cyprus. In the 1950's, Orphanos owned a textile factory in Kyrenia, but after the Turkish invasion, he lost everything. Although you might not need a replica of a Cypriot costume, you might love the idea of owning a stamped kerchief with floral decoration & lace as a souvenir from your trip.

WHAT TO BUY



From CVAR, and apart from the Severis book series, buy a copy from The Island Everyone Wanted.

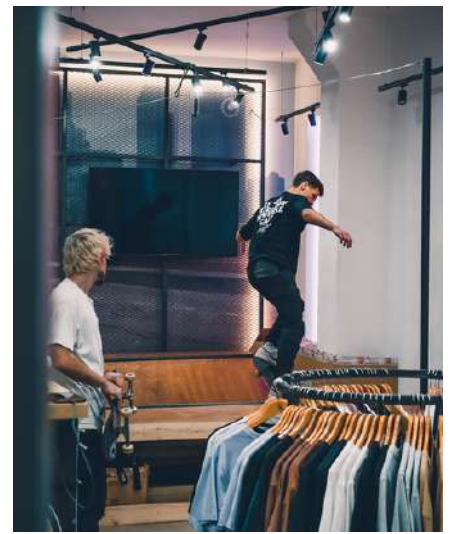
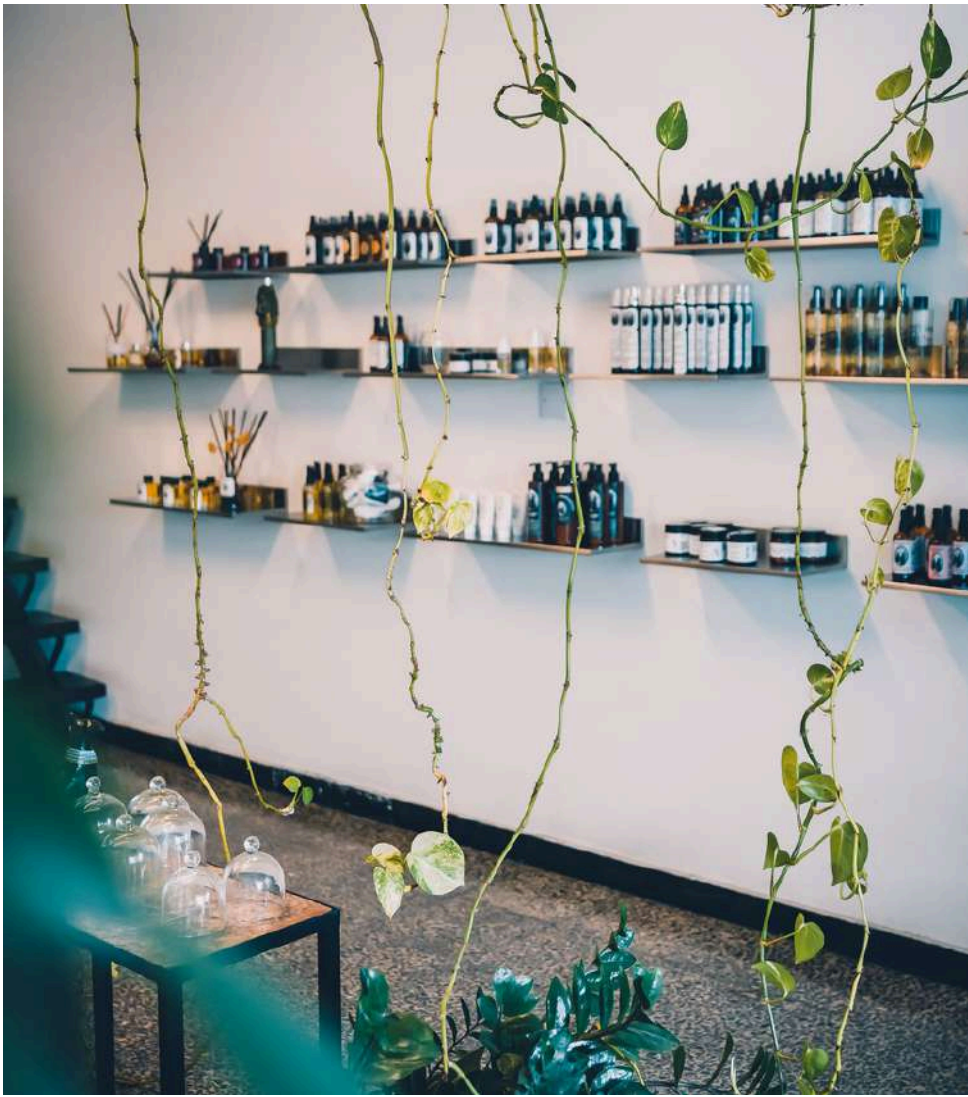
BEST COLLECTIONS BOOKSTORE
Moufflon (Pantazis court, Mnasiadou 2-1st Floor, apt. 101) is known to have been around for longer than the country has been divided. Run by Ruth Keshishian, the bookshop offers a wide range of antiquarian and specialty publications relevant to Cypriot history and culture, in English and other languages. A-must stop!

A CYPRIOT CONCEPT STORE
It's easy to overlook this shop due to its understated sign and location amid many bustling cafes.

Phaneromenis 70 (on the exact same address) is a non-profit organisation that is dedicated to promoting Cyprus' contemporary creative scene and traditions through the work of local artists initiated by Kyriaki Costa, an artist and researcher herself. Check the board games with Cypriot themes created by the Pelekis team and the long-ongoing project in which they collect photographs and texts about Cyprus from foreign artists and casual visitors of the island.



WHAT TO BUY



ORIGINAL PERFUMES AND OILS

Floricienta Iuvenalis (6A-6B Theokritou str.) is the brand new creation of Chrysa Grigoriou, who has designed a unique space filled with dozens of plants, mystical symbols and ambient/spiritual music. The space serves as a shop for her handmade perfumes, but also aromatic oils and room scents, as well as handmade soy candles in the shapes of wild animals.

THE STARS OF NICOSIA'S SKATEBOARD SCENE

A new sporty brand is emerging at the heart of the city centre - opposite Eleftherias square -



A multidisciplinary store exploring contemporary visual culture with a selection of products. (5 D-E Pindarou str.)

with local and international skateboarders bringing street culture to the halfpipe of the store. If this is your hobby (or profession), check out their Cyprus made durable boards with the finest quality, ready to be shipped back home. (<https://capsuleskateboards.com/>)

The information provided in this guide, reflects the conditions at the time of writing or visit. Please note there might be some elements that are subject to change.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Laoura Hadjivasiliou's concept store includes a curated collection of handmade home accessories, ceramics, jewellery, bags, marbles, organic skincare, candles, clothing, sunglasses and more from her trips all around the world. (Evgenias and Antoniou Theodotou 2, 1060, Nicosia, <https://bohoandmore.com.cy/>)

Mr. Sotiris Sevastides' workshop is where he takes useless old (metal and other) materials and transforms them into unique art pieces, created by hand and resulting upcycled artwork. Check out his "Metamorphosis" exhibition hall atelier (301 Ermou str., Chrysaliniotissa, Nicosia 1017)

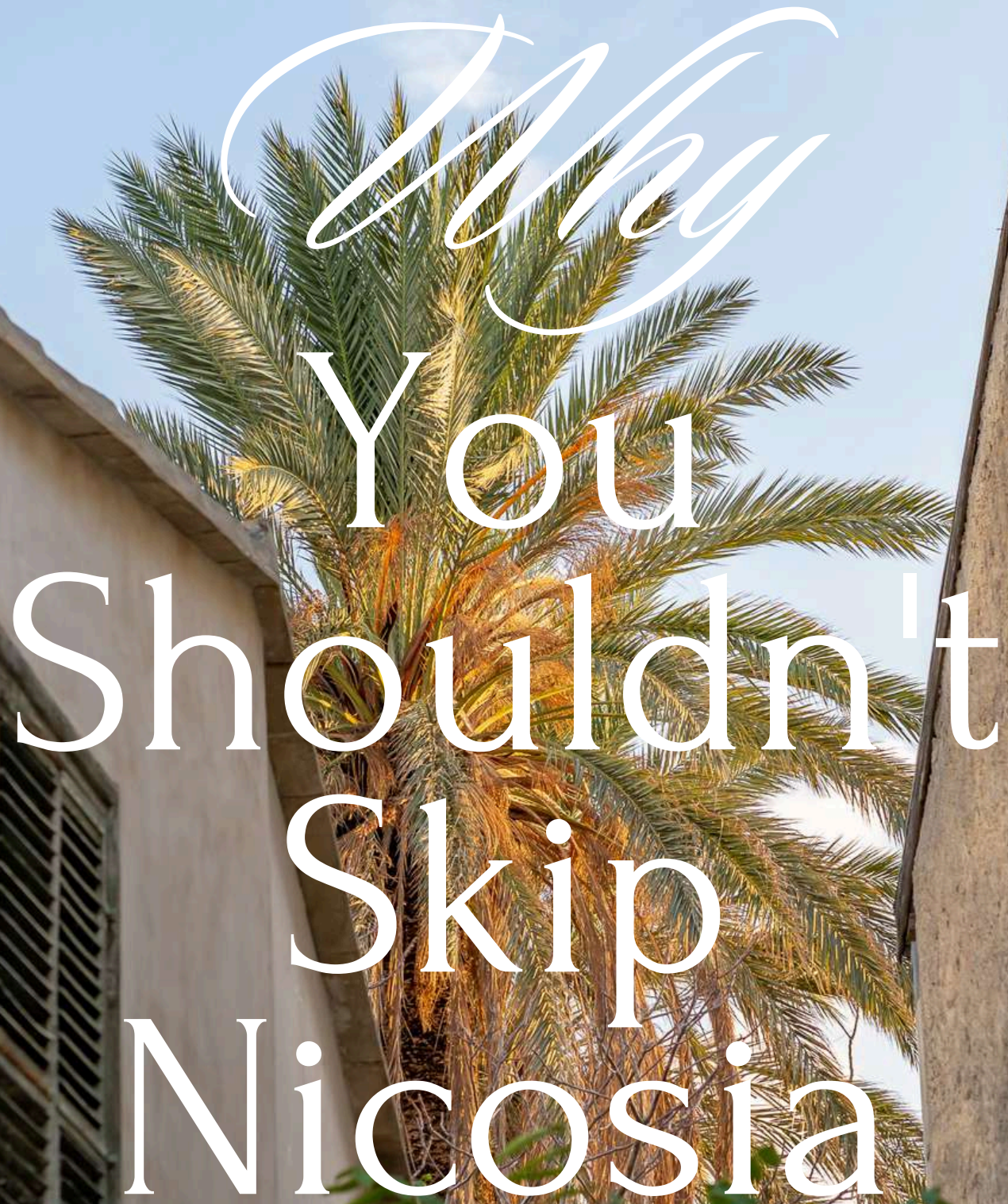


BLOWING GLASS

Decorative elements for the home, traditional stained glass, jewellery and also customized orders for anything else at Yalourgeio run by Mr Kofteros on the verge of Famagusta street.



WHAT TO BUY



Why
You
Shouldn't
Skip
Nicosia

on Your Next Trip to Cyprus

WEEKEND *warriors*



A trip to remember. It's a place where history and culture converge, and despite the challenges this city has faced, its resilience shines through in its people, its traditions, and its vibrant streets.

What's fascinating to us is that Nicosia is generally overshadowed by the many popular seaside destinations along the Mediterranean coast of Cyprus. Tourists do visit, but only for a day or a weekend extension.

More than 250,000 people are crammed into this intimate city, experiencing it mostly outdoors in neighbourhood squares due to the good weather conditions, on rooftop bars, and fancy bars where neighbours gossip in their nighties. It is always worth stopping in Nicosia either at the start or the end of your Cyprus multi-day trip. This chaotic, historic city will give you a thrill.

Although there's a lot to recommend about visiting Nicosia for a brief stint, here's our best attempt at an itinerary to introduce you to Nicosia in 2 days. Our going theory is that there truly isn't time to see it all in waking hours. Seeing Nicosia in full within a weekend is virtually impossible—the multi-faceted city has so many layers that getting through a true cross-section would take far longer than a single trip allows.

While not exhaustive by any means, this itinerary will show you some of the best that Nicosia has to offer in just 48 hours. From skyline views, to historic walks, we hope this whets your appetite for future or longer visits. Please advise all parts of the guide to get a better understanding and find what you are specifically looking for.

HOW TO SPEND THE PERFECT WEEKEND IN NICOSIA (UPON YOUR STAY IN AMYTH OF NICOSIA)



Enjoy!

Walk NICOSIA

ARCHBISHOPRIC PALACE

- Panofyrian Gymnasium Museums 1 minute ↶
- Agios Ioannis Church 2 minutes ↶
- Byzantine Museum 2 minutes ↶
- The Liberty Monument 2 minutes ↶
- Ethnological Museum 2 minutes ↵
- Omerrya Mosque 4 minutes ↵
- Famagusta Gate 5 minutes ↶



DAY 1

9 A.M.— "KOLOKOTI" FOR BREAKFAST

Cypriot squash turnovers rival cheese pastries, like halloumoti, in the pride they evoke from Nicosians. There is no more iconic grab-and-go breakfast than a "kolokoti". However, depending on the bakery, the pie itself may be a little hit-or-miss. If you have more room after your hotel breakfast, you can get your Cypriot pie fix at Nikos Nikolaou old-style bakery (on Liasidou street, 5 min away from Amyth).

10 A.M.— GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

The streets around Amyth of Nicosia are a living testament to centuries of history. Beyond being a city split in two, probably the most famous aspect of Nicosia is its monumental city walls. The Venetian walls that surround the area, dating back to the 16th century, are a constant reminder of the island's rich past. The architecture here is a blend of Byzantine, Gothic, Ottoman and British colonial styles,



reflecting the diverse influences that have shaped the city over the years. Start at the Famagusta Gate, one of the original entrances to the city and take in the intricate architecture. The gate is nowadays used as a cultural/community centre. For visitors, though, it's really just another chance to imagine what Nicosia must have once been like.



11 A.M.— DIVE DEEP INTO MUSEUM QUARTER

Travel in the full timeline of Cypriot history within a few blocks from Amyth of Nicosia, since the hotel is located at the heart of an important cultural hub of the old town, packed with architectural landmarks and museums for every interest. Kick off sightseeing with the 18th-century residence of the former Ottoman dragoman Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios (Ethnological Museum), now a museum showcasing traditional Cypriot furniture, textiles, and artefacts. Within a few-meters perimeter, you'll find the most amazing museums than any other area in Nicosia. A true Cypriot treasure trove is the National Struggle Museum offering views on documents, photographs and other memorabilia from the 1955-1959 National Liberation Struggle against British Rule. At the Cyprus Folk Art Museum, soak up a panorama of Cypriot, folk art and culture. Also on Arch. Kyprianou, the Archbishop Palace is a jewel of religious art and artefacts from icons to altar pieces, surrounded by the city's cathedral.





THE LIBERTY MONUMENT

Scan the QR code on your phone



The Liberty Monument is situated at the Pissinades Station, one of the oldest locations of the Walls of Nicosia. It features 17 realistic bronze figures placed together in a structure in the form of a gateway of white marble. Liberty is the highest figure with a flag pointing to the sky. Two soldiers, representing the chains of the prison, are among the people in prison, are parents, soldiers, civilians, villagers, ordinary people, men and women.

The inscription of the Monument is written in Greek and English. The Monument was completed in 1975 and was inaugurated in 1976. It was announced in 1974 that its unveiling will take place when Cyprus is free from the Turkish army that occupies almost 40% of its ground.





"Museum-hopping around Amyth of Nicosia could easily fill a day in and of itself. Be strategic by picking the right museum in your areas of interest (see also the highlights on our Museum chapter)".

And if you've got more appetite for culture, head a few doors down to see Cyprus's most extensive collection of Byzantine icons at the Byzantine Museum - located in the yard of St. John cathedral, so you can check-in two fabulous sites at the same time. Alternatively, pay a visit to the closely Museums of the Pancyprian Gymnasium and the Severios Library. If you're into drawings, don't leave without a stop at the Hambis Municipal Printmaking Museum at a surprisingly tranquil street running alongside Famagusta Gate. Finally, this time of the year has delivered one more compelling reason to add this enriching district to your itinerary as a nexus of both old and contemporary culture, New State Gallery of Contemporary Art (SPEL), offering a captivating ongoing exhibition that is running until the summer of 2025: Cyprus 1974, memory is the only homeland of humanity. The museum's top-floor, jutting towards the skyline - offers quintessentially Nicosian views, too. This downtown neighbourhood isn't just about museums though. It's also a corridor for handiwork, lined by the city's last craftsmen. These shops are definitely worth checking out in between museum-hopping.



INO.NET



2 P.M.— POSTMODERN NICOSIA

For a city with so much mythical and cultural baggage, Cyprus' capital is surprisingly modern, too. Not too far from Amyth (approx. 200 metres east of the Archbishopric, and in the front of the old aqueduct) is yet another heavy-hitting Nicosian icon and National historic landmark: the Liberty Monument, a tribute of Ioannis Notaras to Greek Cypriots in the 50's who fought against British colonial rule. Leisurely stroll on the pedestrian span walkway until you end up in the revamped Eleyfteria Square, which is futuristically designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid, offering plenty of open spaces, a bridged boardwalk, lush green spots and few recreation areas, and of course, stunning views (including a peek at the pockmarked white Tower 25 by the French architect Jean Nouvel). This exact spot is somehow managing to be both historical and cutting-edge, the square (along with the neighbouring skyscrapers) are where old Nicosia greets its future. Before moving onto your schedule, take a shot of the old town hall building and Costas Varotsos' statue (The Poet, donated by the DESTE Foundation). A short walk down, you will find a traditional pedestrian neighbourhood at the heart of the old town (famously known as Laiki Geitonia) to marvel few remaining remarkable examples of traditional urban architecture and shop souvenirs and you will eventually encounter the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia. Spend enough time wandering around its rooms for grasping as much as possible information on Cyprus's complex and fascinating history. Following an ambitious renovation, a new exhibition on the divided city and a newly decorated hall exploring the transformative events of 1878-1960 are now open to the public.





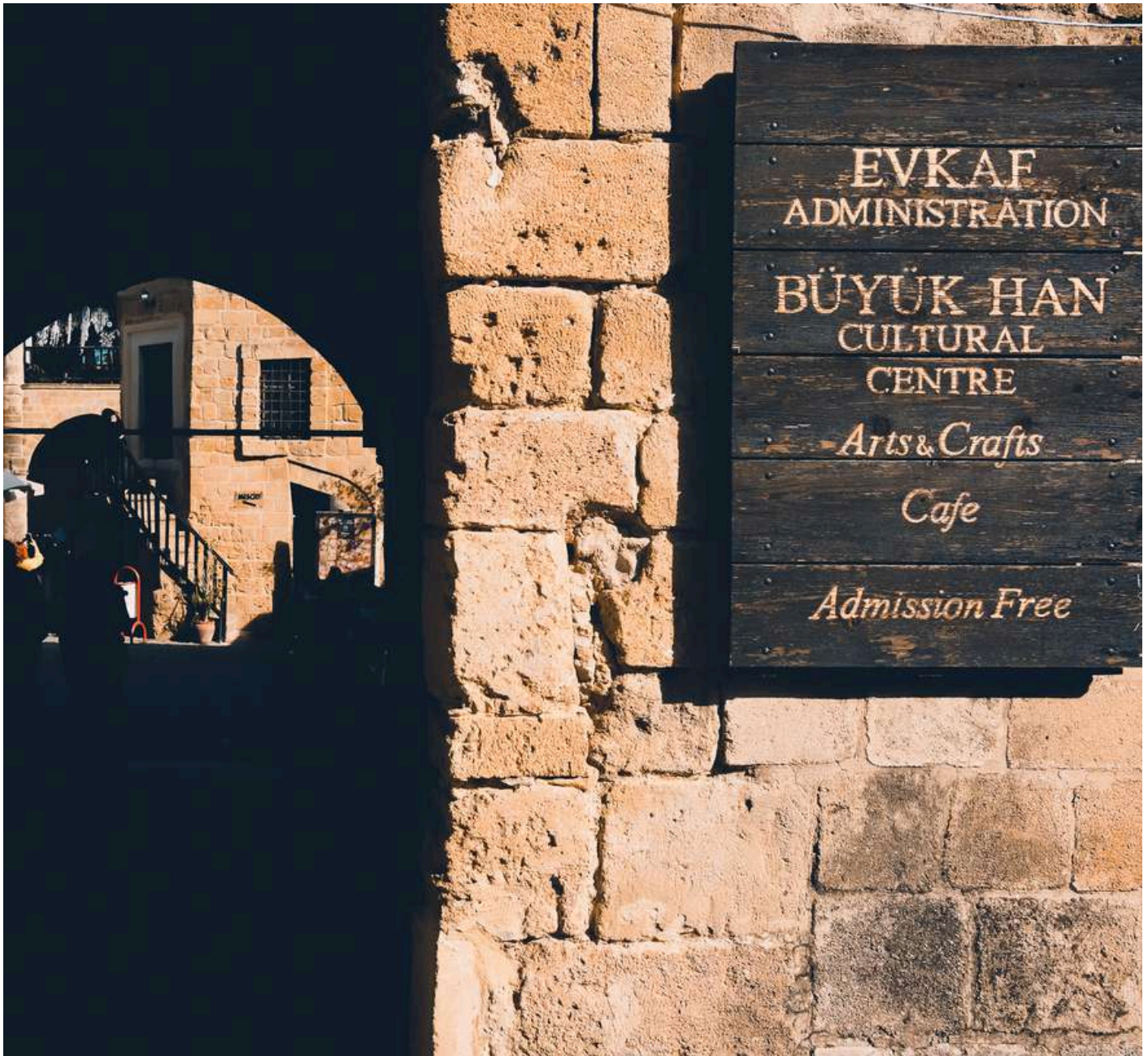


4 P.M.— LUNCH BREAK

Peckish? Grab a snack or enjoy a quick belated lunch at Evroulla's family restaurant, a no-frills haven of rustic cooking inside the hidden Klokkari arcade.

Although the shop's seftalia kebab is not to be missed, they also offer an array of hotpot dishes shifting daily (hopefully you will be arriving on the day they serve louvi, aka the healthy traditional Cypriot dish of black eyed peas with wild greens). The area has plenty to offer for general shopping and drinks, but continue further for catching the perfect sunset.

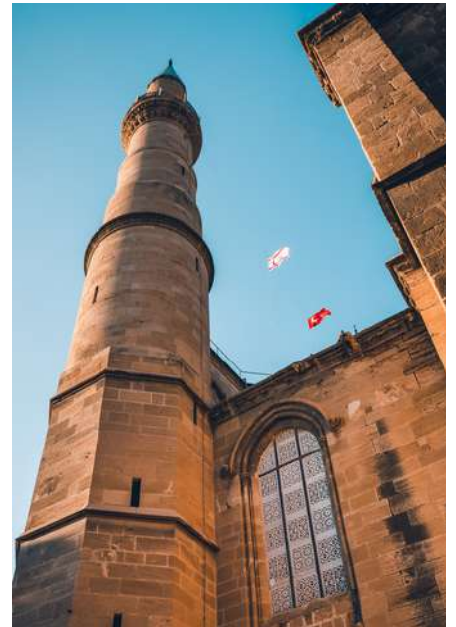
In the case you skip food, leave Ledras street behind to take a gander at the famous northern side of Nicosia or venture on a vintage hunt, but prepare for smothering crowds. After a passport check at the Ledras Street checkpoint, you find yourself amid a maze of pedestrian streets packed with stone buildings, small cafes, cheap clothing stores and – if you know where to look – wonderful vintage shops. We suggest meandering through the few less-travelled paths, further from Belediye Pazari (municipal market) and places primed to rip off gullible tourists. Dig deep and you'll even find treasures among the tourists tat from covetable curiosities to small halva producers along the street.



Among the arcaded passageways and trinket sellers of the 16th-century caravan hotel known as Büyük Han, stands Rüstem's bookshop & art café, a leading bookseller on Cyprus since 1937, when the island was a part of the British Empire.



Slow down a bit at their restaurant and let yourself feel a bit of those eccentric adventurers in Jules Verne novels. Don't leave without seeing Selimiye Mosque historically known as Cathedral of Ayia Sophia, the largest church built in the Eastern Mediterranean in the millennium between the rise of Islam and the late Ottoman period. Plenty of world-famous sites don't live up to the hype, but the gothic views of a chapel of importance never disappoint. Although this icon of a temple has been under restoration for many continuous years now.



BUYUK



HAN

The largest caravanserai in Cyprus also includes amazing examples of Ottoman architecture.

The purpose of the caravanserai was to provide shelter for travelers, however, under British rule, Büyük Han was used as a prison from 1892 to 1903. Once the prison was decommissioned, it once again became an inn and shops started appearing on the ground floor. It wasn't until the 1990s that a full restoration took place, and Büyük Han became a vital cultural and social center of urban life. Two gates grant access to the courtyard, one facing east and one facing west. From the outside, Büyük Han looks austere and reminds one of a fortress. Upon entering, the eye is met with a large courtyard surrounded by a two-story stone structure adorned by elegant arches and stairs. On the ground floor, once dedicated to stables and storage rooms, are now cafes and art shops. The sleeping chambers, traditionally located on the first floor, are now home to merchants and artisans selling their wares and services.











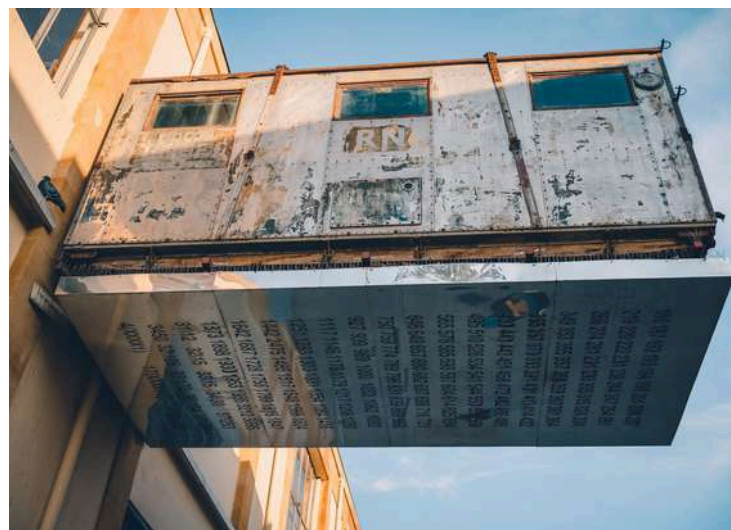
4:30 P.M.— TOP SUNSET VIEWS

If you decide to give into North Nicosia, then you will probably have to forego this part of the trip (or for now). Ledras Street, one of the main arteries of the old town and one of the most popular checkpoints on the Green Line, is lined with shops, cafes, and restaurants, a hub of activity and the perfect place to continue your journey. For a fantastic view of both sides of Nicosia, we recommend Sacolas Museum & Observatory within Ledra's tower on the top 11th-floor. The observatory provides an overview, in every sense, of the divided city, while the best way to gaze at the skyline of Nicosia is always somewhere you are also able to learn and understand the socio-political contexts, as well as enjoy the breath-taking panoramic views. Films, photographs and touch-screen displays delve into Nicosia history and architecture while large windows reveal the contemporary metropolis and the minarets of the Turkish-occupied side in the north. (depending on the period of your visit, you can go even later in the day).



5:00 P.M.— SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND SMELLS

While some parts of Old Town Nicosia may appear a little grubby and neglected, what truly stands out is the sensory experience, each turn down a narrow alley reveals something new and visitors to the area have quite a few options to choose from. Either head towards the Old Municipal Market that nowadays hosts CYENS research institute, a bit further down past the archaeological site situated on Palia Ilektriki (Old Electricity) road, in front of the capital's new town hall. If your favourite pastime includes iced coffee overlooking sun-dappled ruins, make a stop at Swimming Birds. Alternatively, hop over Ermou Street, which is home to many old Cypriot craftspeople, to afterwards track Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre (NiMac), housed in a converted power station, which hosts an [exhibition we are hooked with right now](#) and until April 2025, as well as CVAR (Centre of Visual Arts and Research) run and co-founded by the noble Rita Severis, a museum depicting the turbulent history of modern Cyprus with a series of medieval maps of Cyprus and being in constant move to get engaged with the crowds by organising a number of monthly events. Be sure to also check the ancient Panayia Chrysaliniotissa church and the photographic displays by the talented Andros Efstathiou at the Is Not Gallery (11 Odysseos str.) about the abandoned airport of Nicosia that is happening right now. Otherwise, just make a quick hop over to Phaneromenis square with the homonymous girl school and the imposing church of Virgin Mary; the largest in the old part of Nicosia - its Venetian architecture is outstanding. If places of worship aren't your thing, there is also a stretch of plenty of casual cafes pitch-perfect for an afternoon Cypriot coffee, a cool pop-up store called Phaneromenis 70 (with rotating timetables), as well as the Museum of the History of Cypriot Coinage co-hosted at the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, where this time is showing a very important exhibition on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of the island (until 30 June 2025). Finally, seek out the Cross of Missirikos, an old Byzantine church with gothic Italian elements that was converted into Araplar Mosque in 1571.





History-Memory-Reality, 4 July 2024 - 30 July 2025, Cultural Foundation BOC.

Maria Loizidou, NiMAC

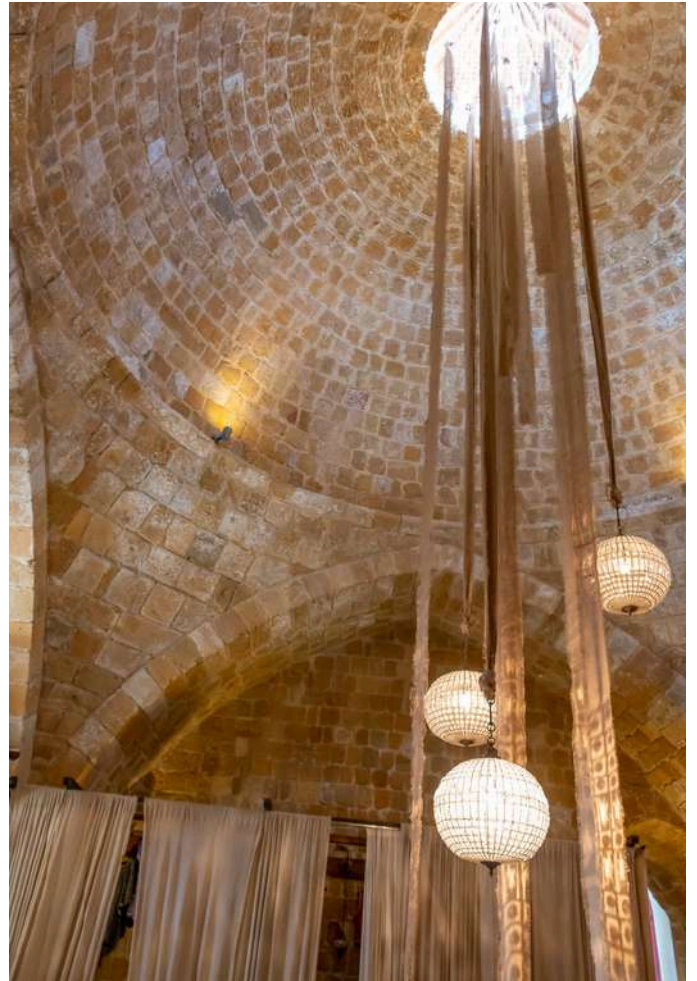






7 P.M.— ENJOY A TURKISH BATH

As you move slowly back to your hotel, being overwhelmed from the full day schedule, we would recommend going on another unforgettable experience that also highlights the town's mixed identity. How about taking a classy detox inside the restored Hammam Omerye, a Turkish bath built in the 16th century, next to Omerye Mosque that really sticks out standing in a parking lot. Afterwards, sip tea in one of the cushioned relaxation nooks ringing the central salon and perhaps even take a massage treatment, so you completely unwind the day and start getting pumped for the night-out.



11 P.M.—POST-DINNER DRINKS

Cocktails are a regular pastime for Nicosians. There's no shortage of establishments serving up fancy mixed beverages. There are too many to choose from, but for a unique experience, try Silver Star Bar. Of course, there are dozens of other options in virtually every neighbourhood of Nicosia.





Archive photo of Pafos Gate.

BEYOND AND WITHIN THE BUFFER ZONE

DAY 2

Start day 2 bright and early with a hike up (about 15 min walk) on the well-preserved ruins of Pafos Gate (northwest of Amyth of Nicosia),

currently revamped to give visitors new perspectives of this walled city. There's a decent selection of museums you can visit in Nicosia, but one to really consider is the Cyprus Museum (Archeological, which is located another 10 min away from Pafos Gate), a Hellenic heaven considered to be the largest museum in Cyprus, which boasts an impressive collection of historical artefacts that really help reveal different eras of the island's past. Among its exhibits, visitors can admire the statue of Aphrodite of Soloi and the impressive statue of the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus. If you are happy to wander a bit more, seek the Ayios Andreas picturesque neighbourhood that covers an area in the western part of Nicosia next to Pafos Gate within and without the venetian walls.

11 A.M.— BUFFER ZONE

You can't leave Cyprus without plunging into the buffer zone. Walk another 15 min to reach Fulbright Center Cyprus - UN buffer zone and make a stop at the Home for Cooperation, a community centre that promotes intercultural dialogue and understanding, to stand in awe watching Ledra Palace, once a grand hotel that has served as a prominent venue for international diplomacy and now THE symbol of Cyprus's complex history and architectural evolution, being cordoned off with tarpaulin and barbed wires.



AM RUSSIA PARIS IRAN
KYTPOΣ CYPRUS NICOSIA LEDR
AEYKOZIA AHPA KI
KI KOYBA BIETNA







STATUA BAMBINO SPANCO
PIAZZA BAMBINO SPANCO

SCHEZARE DRAGHI TITOLI DI
H. K. MYOEDIA



1 P.M.—SHOP AND STROLL THROUGH THE MODERN CITY OF NICOSIA

The streets of Makariou, Stasikratous (the base for Kult Boutique, also a proud child of Thanos Hotels) and Mnasiadou offer shopping options that are comparable to many European countries. We suggest you also wander around the neighborhood's quieter pathways, like Pindarou street, and get your coffee fix at the $\kappa\chi$ offee project or brunch at the Boys At Number Five in Themistokli Dervi street, both great places to rest your legs after your shopping whirlwind. Just a few blocks from the high-end fashion streets, the A. G. Leventis Gallery, a modernist multilevel exhibition space, is filled with the Paris Collection, named because the works once hung in the Paris apartment of the late Mr. Leventis, a Cypriot business magnate. The gallery constitutes an artistic hub of Nicosia and home to the most buzzing displays, currently showing:

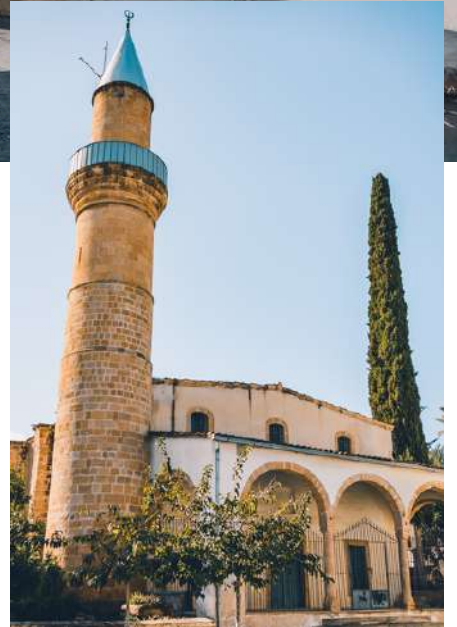
[Kanthos, the sharp edges of History.](#) A-must go!





5 P.M.— EXPLORE NICOSIA'S ROOTS (AND TEXAN BBQ)

This afternoon, one can follow two routes: firstly, what you missed within Nicosia and its walls, like the Taktakala area (east of the walls), the once neighbourhood of carpenters that houses the mesmerizing Taht el Kale Mosque. And secondly, Kaimakli, the once upon a time village clinging to the northeast of Nicosia, being a lovely place for an aimless wander. Cats snooze among the potted geraniums lined up outside crooked yellow washed houses. These humble, but hugely desirable, dwellings were originally built by the Venetians (the whole area of Kaimakli is where the Venetians first set up their military camp back in 1500 AD). Apart from the local church of Saint Barbara, with its carved dragons and saints that look down on passers from high above, the 84% of this neighbourhood with the traditional yellow stone in its houses (undertaken by new-age shops, theatres, dance studios and artist workshops today) remains occupied. Go have a look at the railway station that was built by the British in 1905 in a colonial style and check-in at the Museum of Loukia and Michael Zambelas with modern and contemporary art while in the area. There, you can also get a bite at the top secret juicy burger in town, named Smokeydees. (Mind that the Nicosia Municipality offers regularly free walks led by tourist guides to Kaimakli surroundings.)





8 P.M.— NOCTURNAL NICOSIA

We suggest making your way outside the hotel for dinner to get the most out of your brief 48 hours in Nicosia. Visit an upscale neighbourhood to dine outside the city walls at Kuzuba, choose a Cypriot ambience in Stu Rushia tavern or try the lovely Tsipouraki Mezadaki (inside the walled city). Getting back to the hotel, make a final pause to enjoy a last drink before departure. Our pick for a nightcap is the unpretentious wine bar 7 Kleidia (5min away from Amyth of Nicosia) on a lively pedestrian corner serving natural Cypriot wines.

HOW TO SPEND YOUR EXTRA TIME IN NICOSIA (CHECK GUIDE FOR MORE INFO):

- Be an artist at Ermou street for a day with Souzana Petri (ceramics) and Genny barba (doll making by hand)
- Take a walking tour with historian and archaeologist Anna Marangou into the depths of Cypriot history
- Catch a chamber concert at the Shoe Factory
- Enjoy a cooking demonstration and dinner with famous Cypriot chef and oil-sommelier Marilena Ioannides
- Have a workshop with Chara Nikolaou (Joy of Origins), while drinking local homemade herby cocktails
- Indulge in local wines and music tunes at 7 Kleidia





Of the
BEATEN PATH

Don't be a tourist in Nicosia

Feeling like no stone should be left unturned when you are learning about a new destination? Check some ideas that will supply a lifetime of memories below!

CULTURAL IMMERSION

➔ An intimate chamber music experience at the well-hidden to the tourist eyes Shoe Factory (at an old shoe factory, hence the name, inside a derelict war zone that got a new face revitalizing the historic centre of Nicosia and making it attractive again), located amidst the busy Ermou street run by Pharos Arts Foundation (with a vision to become a full talents centre for art, culture and dialogue at an ancient olive grove and pine forest in Delikipos, Larnaca). A true lighthouse of culture in Cyprus as the venue accommodates classical music concerts with renowned artists from all over the world. Apart from the monthly concert series, the foundation hosts two annual festivals, “The Chamber Music Festival” in early summer and the “Contemporary Music Festival” during autumn. If you are a music enthusiast or admirer of intimate cultural hubs, this is definitely the place to visit in Cyprus. Check more [info online](#) on the programme of solo recitals, chamber music concerts, masterclasses and educational seminars to plan ahead your visit or book your tickets for a weekend in Nicosia.

➔ Engage with the festival side of Nicosia, which is mainly taking place away from the city's bastions like the [Fork Food Market](#), or the music-rerated [Fengaros feast](#) in Dali throughout summer and the [Ayλαζjazz](#) festival in the homonymous neighbourhood, as well as the annual cultural event of [Cyprus Film Days](#) in April.

➔ Visit the Ochi Farmer's Market, where local sellers lay out their goods every Wednesday and Saturday from 6am to 4pm. Here, you'll find all kinds of fresh products, from fruit and vegetables to eggs and nuts – it's the perfect place to buy the local produce. And better head there in the morning, as things are sold quickly and there's not much action after lunchtime. If you have spare time, we also recommend you to play 'tavli' (backgammon) with the locals, while sipping Cypriot coffee and chatting with them.

➔ Ditch Omeriye Mosque for getting reverent at the Bayraktar Mosque (next to Ochi market). This is one of the few places that was not previously a Christian temple and was built by the Turks several years after Nicosia was captured, in honor of Bayraktaris (aka flag bearer, as the Turkish word “bayrak” means the flag or military trophy), the first soldier who raised the Ottoman flag, climbing the city walls on 9 September 1570. Spot the Persian wheel and a water bowl upon your visit.

➔ Don't miss Chrysalinotissa church at a rather gentrified residential neighbourhood on the edge of the Old city. Also, the adjoining Axiothea Mansion, one of the most characteristic examples of urban architecture of the 18th century, once belonged to a family named Toufexis. Today its beautiful courtyard serves as a centre for cultural activities, exhibitions and literary seminars for the University of Cyprus. Promenade along the area's tiny flower streets and provide a restful escape from the busier byways of the old city at Erma Bookshop. Step into the Chrysalinotissa Crafts Centre, where you'll find artisans creating traditional Cypriot craft objects and check-in at the Is Not Gallery exhibition hall (11 Odysseos str.).





- ➔ Diachroniki Gallery (84 Arsinois str.) brings together the work of top Cypriot artists, as well as artists inspired by the island. Art collectors flock from around the globe to pursue their next best artwork here. Check their lovely collection of etchings, antique maps and prints.

FOOD + COFFEE

- ➔
- Savor a traditional Turkish coffee at the Arabahmet quarter, a neighbourhood that is home to well-preserved examples of Ottoman era town-house architecture next to Kyrenia Gate and one of North Nicosia's most interesting locales.
 - Indulge in homemade Levantine cuisine. Our best picks for a genuine manti dumpling dish:
 1. [Syrian Club](#)
 2. [Avos](#)
 3. [Hamur](#), North Nicosia
 4. At Buyuk Han, where Turkish-Cypriots rub shoulders regularly, shouting over each other like large families over a lunch.

TOUR

- ➔
- Locate the Presidential Palace of Cyprus, the historical building with the most impressive history of all modern structures in Cyprus.
 - Explore Famagusta with Anna Marangou.
 - Meander through the less-travelled green paths of the Municipal Gardens or Athalassa National Forest Park
 - Discover the abandoned Mitsero mines, aka the "ghosts of Cyprus" 6,000-year-old copper industry
 - Go kayaking at Tamasou dam
 - Visit Kokkinopezoula lake
 - Run to THE BRAND NEW [experimental archaeology park](#) that lets visitors get a whiff of the island's aromatic past.
 - Go on a road trip all the way to Agios Sozomenos village to get struck by the Gothic ruins of the never-completed Latin church dedicated to Agios Mamas, also known as Sozomenos chapel.

SHOP

- ➔ Armenian textiles from the old town's community in Nicosia, Onasagorou street and the surroundings, a serious round would reveal hidden treasures, tokens of the rich history of the island and its past cosmopolitanism.



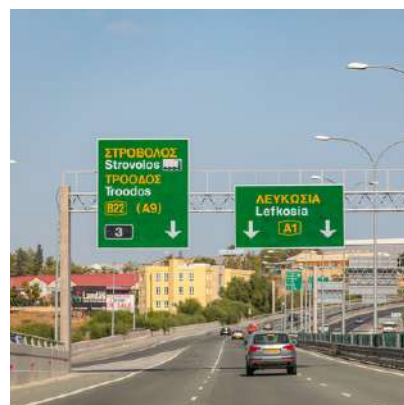
SRIS

Know before you go

There is a high military presence in Nicosia. Unfortunately, Cyprus is one of the most densely militarized countries in the world. As a result, it's likely that you will see soldiers in Nicosia, especially around checkpoints. It may be uncomfortable for some people and many tourists come without knowing this. Just remember that Cyprus is a very safe place to visit, with a low crime rate.

The Buffer Zone, also called "the Green Line" was established in its current form in 1974, following the ceasefire after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and it is off-limits zone to the public, run by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. There is nothing voyeuristic about this area, really, but UNFICYP may permit visits on a case-by-case basis to researchers, photographers, and others.

One village inside the Buffer Zone, called Pyla, is the only place in the country where Greek and Turkish Cypriots live side-by-side. In the areas where the demilitarized line cuts through the capital, the zone is strewn with abandoned buildings, gardens, vehicles, and even the decaying Nicosia International Airport. These crumbling relics have sat neglected for over 50 years, and now serve as a chilling time capsule of a former life in Cyprus.



*Did you know?
The Green Line is named
after the colour of the
pen a UN official used
to draw it on a city map.*

The Green Line stretches some 112 miles across the island. In some parts, the zone is no more than several feet wide. Other sections have been normalized, and are even home to thousands of Cypriots living within the zone and farming the land.

Cyprus problem can be traced back to British rule and the idea of bizonality on the island put forward by Alan Lennox-Boyd, secretary of state for the colonies in the 1950s, who started talking about the idea of the two communities—there was no such feeling prior to him.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Thanks to its subtropical climate, you can enjoy a shot of sunshine here at any time of year. In fact, if ever a climate could be just right, neither too hot nor too humid, it's Cyprus in the Autumn. To avoid the heat and crowds, consider planning a trip in May, June, September, or October. You'll get to experience the wonders of swimming in the clear, blue Mediterranean waters, as well as the many hiking and cycling trails.

CROSSING THE BORDER BY CAR

Cypriots and tourists alike can move between the north and south of Cyprus via 6 designated checkpoints. We recommend Agios Dometios crossing (near Nicosia). Mind they might ask the reasons for your visit to Northern Cyprus, and double-check with the rental car your insurance policies (normally insurance from the south will NOT be valid in the north).

GETTING AROUND

It's easy to pick up a rental car at the Larnaca or Pafos airports to drive to Nicosia and explore the city at your leisure. Travellers who prefer the ease of organized tours or private transfers will find plenty of options, too. The most central car park is at the Tripoli Bastion, just south of Paphos Gate. The network of small streets and buildings within the walled city are best explored on foot. Fortunately, the historical centre is a good place to explore by walking and clear boundaries mean it's hard to stay lost for long here. Take the trail marked on the city pavements round most of the main sights - no need for maps.

THE BASICS

VISIT CYPRUS WEBSITE: VISITCYPRUS.COM

AMBULANCE: 112

POLICE: 112

FIRE: 112

EMERGENCY SERVICES: 112

CURRENCY: EURO

TEL CODE FROM ABROAD: 00 357

TIME DIFFERENCE: +2 HOURS GMT



aimlessly or
purposefully
roaming around,

always collecting
experiences



AMYTH
OF NICOSIA

THE
FEEAL
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