Nicosia Old Town

A beautiful part of the city is hidden in the old town of Nicosia, embraced by the sturdy Venetian walls and protected during its centuries by the mighty patron saint of Nicosia, Agios Titos.

Here you can enjoy walking through the narrow picturesque streets and visit many Orthodox churches such as the Agios Ioannis Theologos Cathedral with its unique belfry from the 16th and 17th century, located in the courtyard of the Archdiocesan palace. You can also see the churches of Panagia Chrysaoritissa, Agios Fanourios, Agios Antonios, Archangel Michael Tripths, Agios Savvas, Panagia Faneromeni, Agios Eklektos, the Metohi of the Makarios Monastery and the small church of The Holy Cross of Mantzikert turned into a mosque during the Ottoman period.
The Agios Ioannis Theologos Cathedral is situated in the centre of Nicosia, between the old and the new Archbishopric palaces and opposite the Panagia Chrysalitissa. The cathedral was built circa 1662 – 1683 by Archbishop Nikiforos. It is a single nave, steeply pitched roof and narthex on the west side built by Archbishop Chrysostomos in 1779. The Agios Ioannis Theologos Cathedral is the only church from the Ottoman period, the interior of which is completely covered with frescoes that date back to 18th and 19th centuries. The woodcarved iconostasis of the church is one of the most beautiful of its kind in Cyprus and was created during 18th century. The cathedral was built on the site of the Agios Ioannis Theologos Monastery. It was founded during the Byzantine period, most probably in the 11th century and was in full operation until the 17th century. In the beginning of the 18th century the Archbishop had established his court in the previous monastery and then on it became the seat of the Archbishop of Cyprus.

Byzantine Museum, Archbishop Makarios III Foundation

The Byzantine Museum is situated in the courtyard of the Agios Ioannis Theologos Cathedral and is considered as the most prominent religious art museum in Cyprus. There is a collection of important icons from the 8th to 18th century, detached iconostasis and some parts from mosaics of the Panagia Kanakaria Church dating back to the 8th century and Soterios from the Agios Empereunarios Church in Limas, detached by the Turkish illegal antiquities dealers after 1974 and later brought back to Cyprus.

Panagia Chrysalitissa Church

The Panagia Chrysalitissa Church is the most important Byzantine church in Nicosia and the only one in the medieval town that can be dated back to the middle – Byzantine period. The original church was barrel-vaulted with a dome, but in the following years underwent many interventions that changed the original shape. A lot of important icons from the Panagia Chrysalitissa Churches are exhibited in the Byzantine Museum, Archbishop Makarios III Foundation.

Agios Constantinos Church

The Agios Constantinos Church is situated near the Panagia Chrysalitissa Church, and its present form consists of two naves and a steeply pitched roof. According to the engraving it was built in 1804 on the site of a previously existing church. Many important icons from this church are exhibited in the Byzantine Museum, Archbishop Makarios III Foundation.

The Agios Savvas Church is an old temple enhanced and modified during the centuries. The earliest historical data shows the church was constructed in 1784 and probably in 1808, according the engraving. The memorial plaques on the western side of the church shows the church was built in 1875. The wood carved iconostasis was made in 1861 and restored in 1875 prior to the building of a second altar, similar to the Agios Constantinos Church. The Agios Savvas Church keeps two treasures: The Holy Cross from the old iconostasis dated from 1747, a work of Pseustes the Hagiographer, and a golden Chalice dated from 1596.

Panagia Phaneromeni Church

The Panagia Phaneromeni Church was built in 1782 on the site of the same name which formerly existed under the Ottoman rule but its foundation probably dates to the Middle Byzantine period. To the east of the temple inside the marble mausoleum of the national heroes and ancestors Archbishop Kyriakos, the bellring and priests executed by the Ottoman in 1821.

Holy Cross of Mazz要把N Church

The Holy Cross of Mazz要把N Church is located east of Phaneromeni. This is a small church situated near the Venetian period i.e. the first half of the 16th century. During the Ottoman period the church was turned into a mosque and named Aslan Mosque (Mosque of the Lion). The church has three naves with a dome, but the frescoed survived.

Agios Antonios Church

The Agios Antonios Church is located in the center of the old town of Nicosia within close distance from the Archbishopric, the Agios Ioannis Theologos Cathedral and the Mansion of Dragoman Hadjipavlou Kousis. The church dates back to 18th century and belongs to the architectural model of single-nave and the carved bell-tower of the church.

Temporary Exhibition of the Church of the Holy Cross of Mazz要把N

The Church of the Holy Cross of Mazz要把N is a church located in the center of Nicosia. The church was built in the 18th century and was turned into a mosque during the Ottoman period. It is now a temporary exhibition of the Church of the Holy Cross of Mazz要把N.

Archbishop Michalis Tripsigirdos Church

The Archbishop Michalis Tripsigirdos Church is a three-aisled basilica that has almost square plan. It is built using smooth polished stone. The architectural style is typical of the churches from the second half of the 19th century, in a Venetian period, such as the Agios Neophytos Monastery, the cathedral in Faneromeni, the church of Agia Eleousa in Nicosia, the church of Agios Minas in Paphos, the churches of Agia Libanassa in Kolomo and Agios Minas in Paphos. According to the engravings the church was built in 1823, the southern part of the church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The construction of the church was financed by a rich man named Stratis Kapodistrias and his wife. The church was consecrated in 1823 and was used as a police station until the 19th century. The church was built on the site of an Orthodox monastery the only remains of which are the stathis of the church. A very valuable icon influenced by 15th century Italian art is kept in the church alongside some icons from the Ottoman period.

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