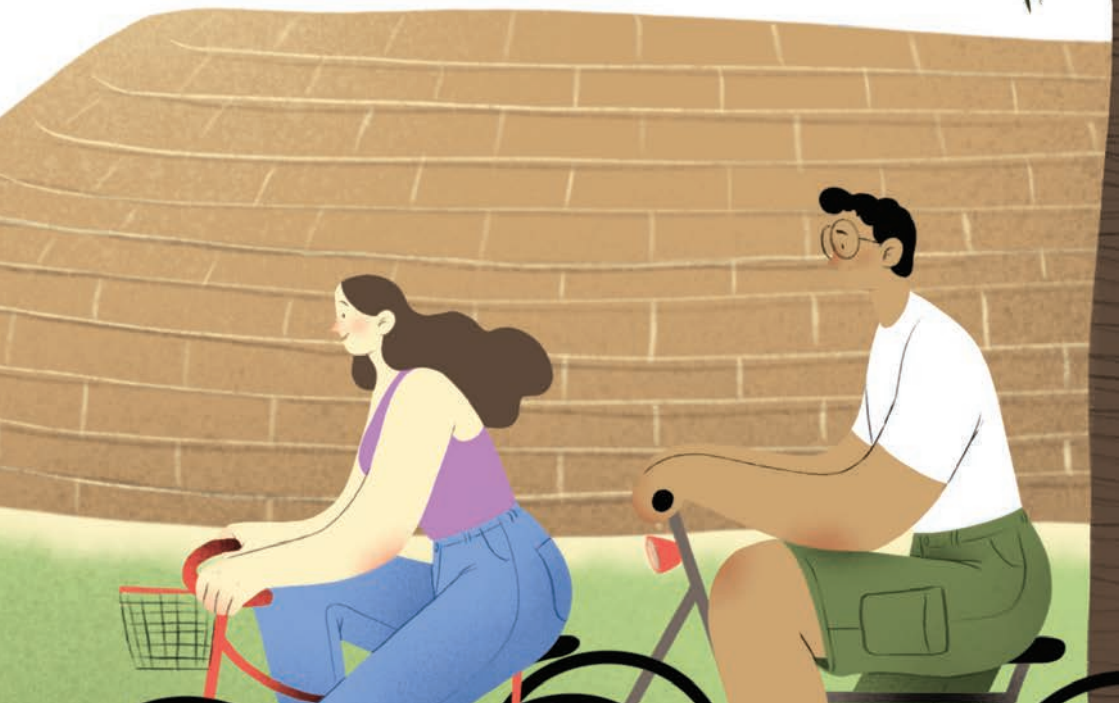


Preventive conservation for our shared heritage

a special guide for the maintenance of
the completed projects of the Technical
Committee on Cultural Heritage



May 2022





This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

December 2021

Preventive conservation for our shared heritage

a special guide for the maintenance of
the completed projects of the Technical
Committee on Cultural Heritage

Aim of the Brochure

The main aim of this brochure is to raise awareness to the public, regarding the need for the maintenance of the completed projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, of our shared heritage. The brochure includes information regarding the possible pathology of the monuments which require maintenance, the tools for their short-term and long-term maintenance and the ways in which the public can contribute towards their preventive conservation. In general, this brochure aspires to involve more people in the effort of monitoring and safeguarding our monuments and our shared heritage.

"Preventive Conservation is the mitigation of deterioration and damage to cultural property through the formulation and implementation of policies and procedures (...). Preventive conservation is an ongoing process that continues throughout the life of cultural property and does not end with interventive treatment."

Dr. Ziad al-Saad
UNESCO course on Preventive Conservation

Work of the Technical Committee on cultural heritage

In March 2008 the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders established seven Technical Committees to work on confidence-building measures aimed not only at improving the everyday life of Cypriots, but also at encouraging and facilitating greater interaction between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The Agreement of 21 March 2008 reached between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots

under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), paved the way for the establishment of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage (TCCH), dedicated to the identification, promotion and protection of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Cyprus.

The TCCH is composed of an equal number of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot experts. The TCCH works to provide a mutually acceptable mechanism for the implementation of practical measures for the proper preservation, physical protection and restoration (including research, study and survey) of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus. The work of the TCCH is under the auspices of the UN and it constitutes an important tool for building confidence between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. The TCCH is supported in its work by an Advisory Board (AB), which was established in 2009 and is composed of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot archaeologists, architects, engineers, historians and town planners.

In 2012, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated the implementation of the European Union (EU) funded activity Support to Cultural Heritage Monuments of Great Importance for Cyprus – Phase 1 and since then it has continued with the successful implementation of the EU funded activities Support to Cultural Heritage Monuments of Great Importance in Cyprus – Phases 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Since 2012, 102 cultural heritage sites island-wide are being or have been conserved, structurally supported, physically protected or restored by TCCH and UNDP, with funding from the EU. In addition, in 2019 UNDP initiated the European Union-funded project for the Support facility to the Technical Committees. The first output of this project constitutes the capacity building for cultural heritage management and maintenance. The creation of this brochure, to promote the maintenance of completed TCCH projects, has taken place within this framework.

Meet Sofia and Ali. Two best friends from a small island called Cyprus. Sofia is a 25-year-old Greek Cypriot and Ali is a 27-year-old Turkish Cypriot and they both share a love for bike rides.

Hey Ali, did you get your gear? We'll need our bikes, some snacks and how about camping at night so we can enjoy the natural scenery?

This year they teamed up to make their dream come true! They will take a bike tour around Cyprus and discover the cultural heritage this beautiful island has to offer.

Yes Sofia! I'm more than ready! I also prepared a map with all places we'll visit so we don't get lost. Let's go!



Cyprus map

8

7

2

1

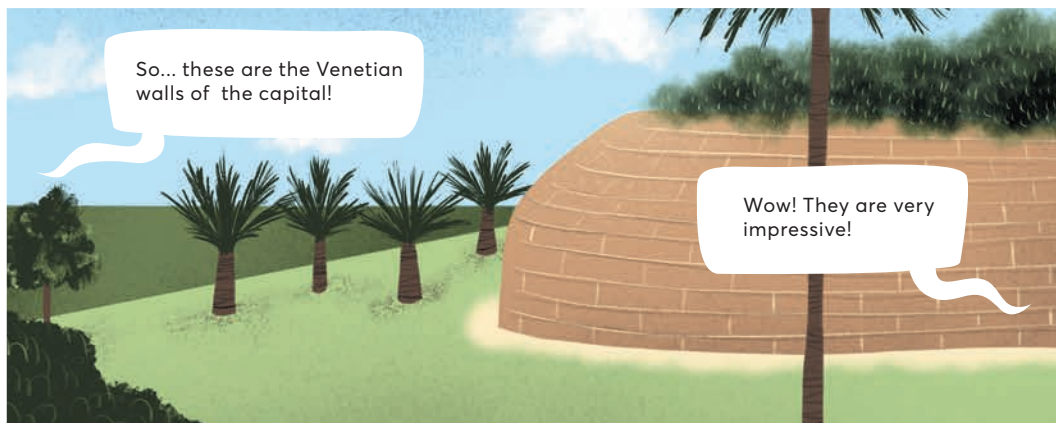
6

5

4

3

- 1 Venetian Walls
- 2 Old Saint-George Church
- 3 Apostolos Andreas Monastery
- 4 Othello Tower
- 5 Zouhouri Mosque
- 6 Turkish Cypriot Cemetery
- 7 Hamam
- 8 Watermill, Aqueduct



So... these are the Venetian walls of the capital!

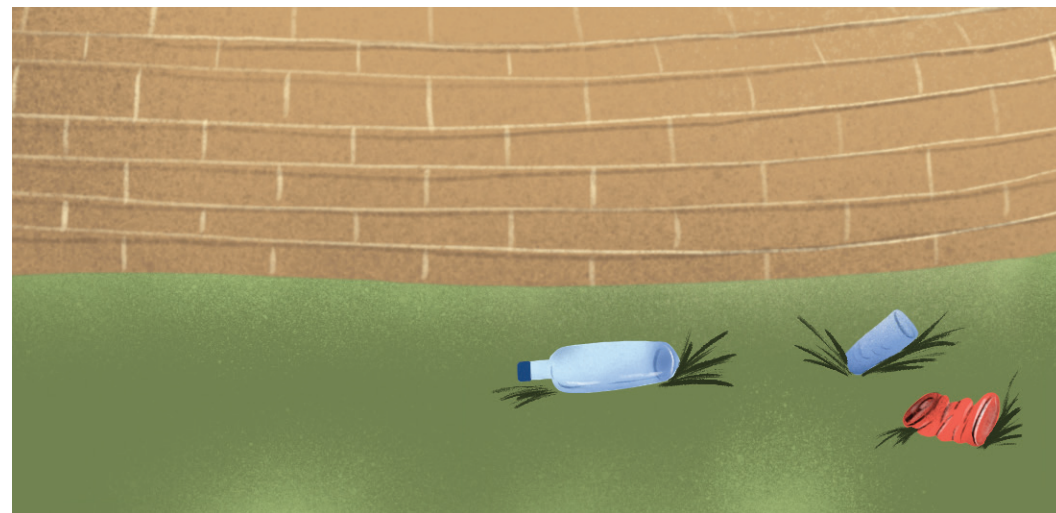
Wow! They are very impressive!



Yes, of course Ali! Do you have a bag with you to put them in?

Yes... But look at all this garbage all around them. Sofia do you want to spend some time cleaning them before we continue our trip?

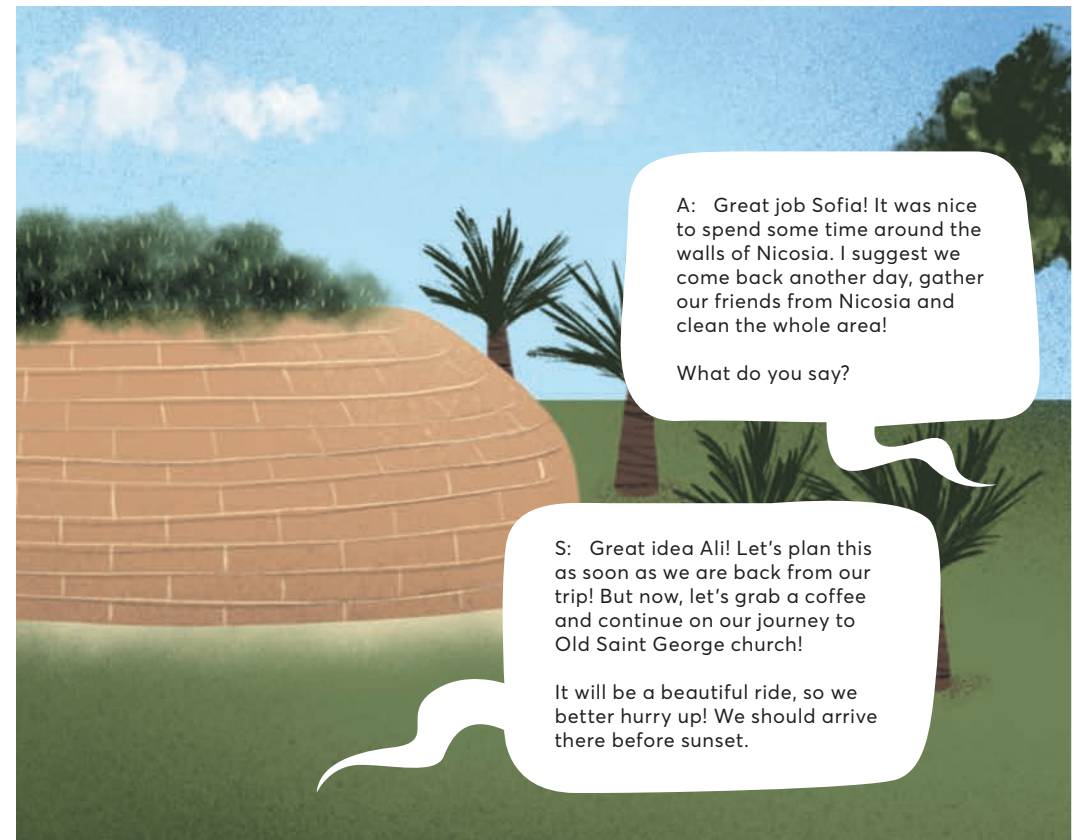
Sure! Let, start! It's sad that people left garbage everywhere and especially around monuments.



S: Do you see these plants coming out of the stones? Is this a problem for the walls?

A: I am sure that it will definitely cause some problems. Maybe these stones have fallen because of these plants that are growing around them.

S: Yes, maybe... I wonder if there is something we can do about it.

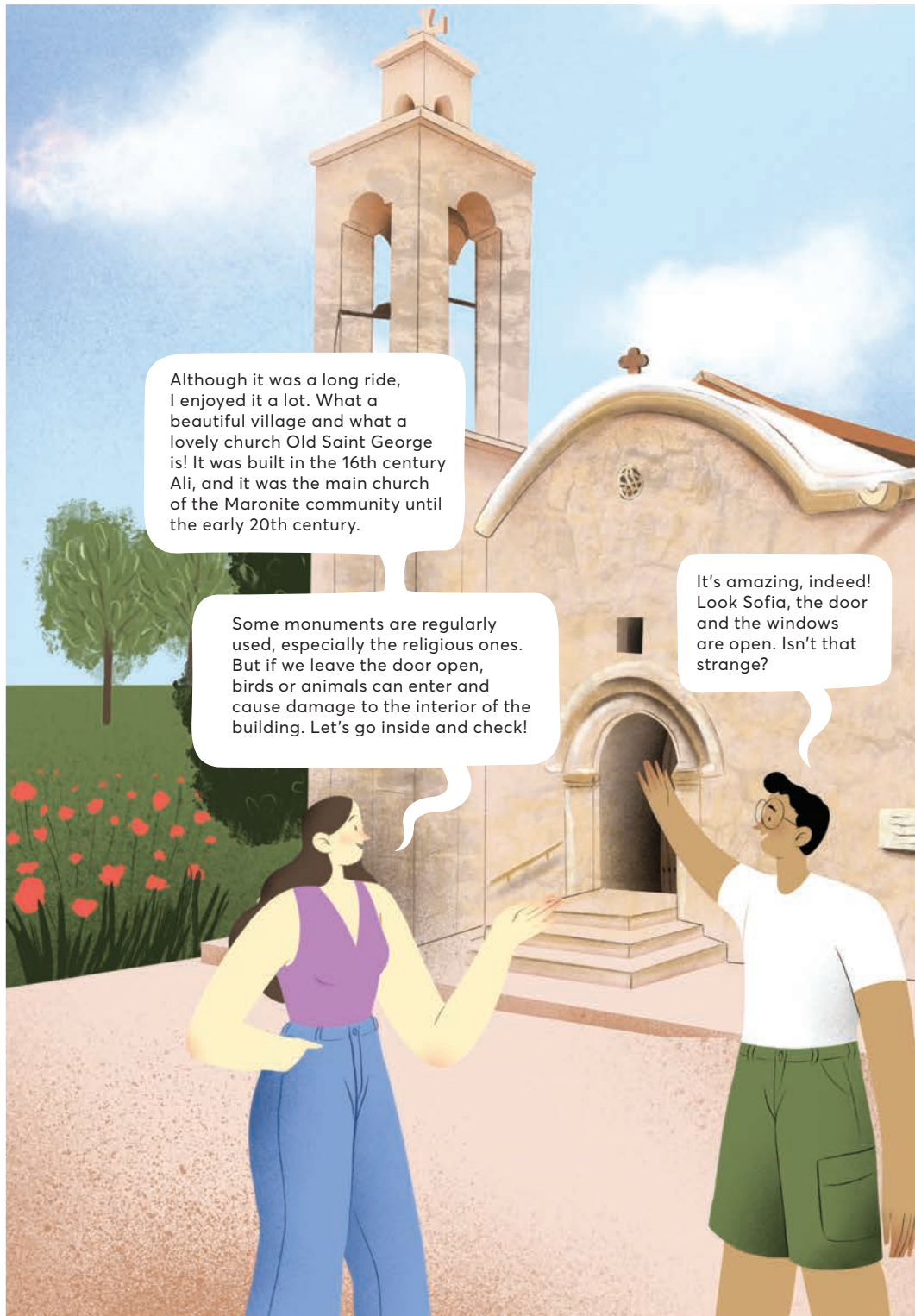


A: Great job Sofia! It was nice to spend some time around the walls of Nicosia. I suggest we come back another day, gather our friends from Nicosia and clean the whole area!

What do you say?

S: Great idea Ali! Let's plan this as soon as we are back from our trip! But now, let's grab a coffee and continue on our journey to Old Saint George church!

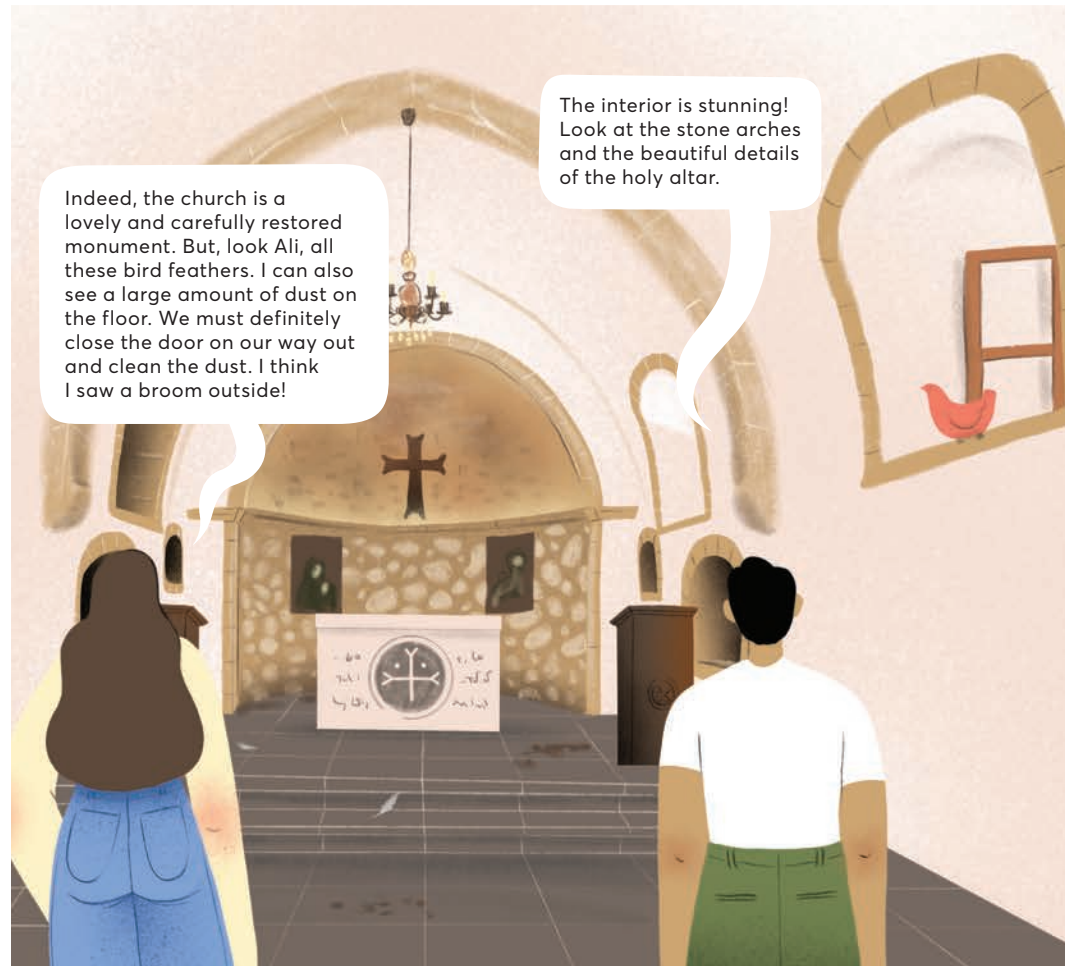
It will be a beautiful ride, so we better hurry up! We should arrive there before sunset.



Although it was a long ride, I enjoyed it a lot. What a beautiful village and what a lovely church Old Saint George is! It was built in the 16th century Ali, and it was the main church of the Maronite community until the early 20th century.

Some monuments are regularly used, especially the religious ones. But if we leave the door open, birds or animals can enter and cause damage to the interior of the building. Let's go inside and check!

It's amazing, indeed! Look Sofia, the door and the windows are open. Isn't that strange?



Indeed, the church is a lovely and carefully restored monument. But, look Ali, all these bird feathers. I can also see a large amount of dust on the floor. We must definitely close the door on our way out and clean the dust. I think I saw a broom outside!

The interior is stunning! Look at the stone arches and the beautiful details of the holy altar.



Let's close all doors and windows before leaving, so birds and animals cannot enter.

Yes, let's do this. And after that, let's eat something in the village, before we continue over to Apostolos Andreas monastery.

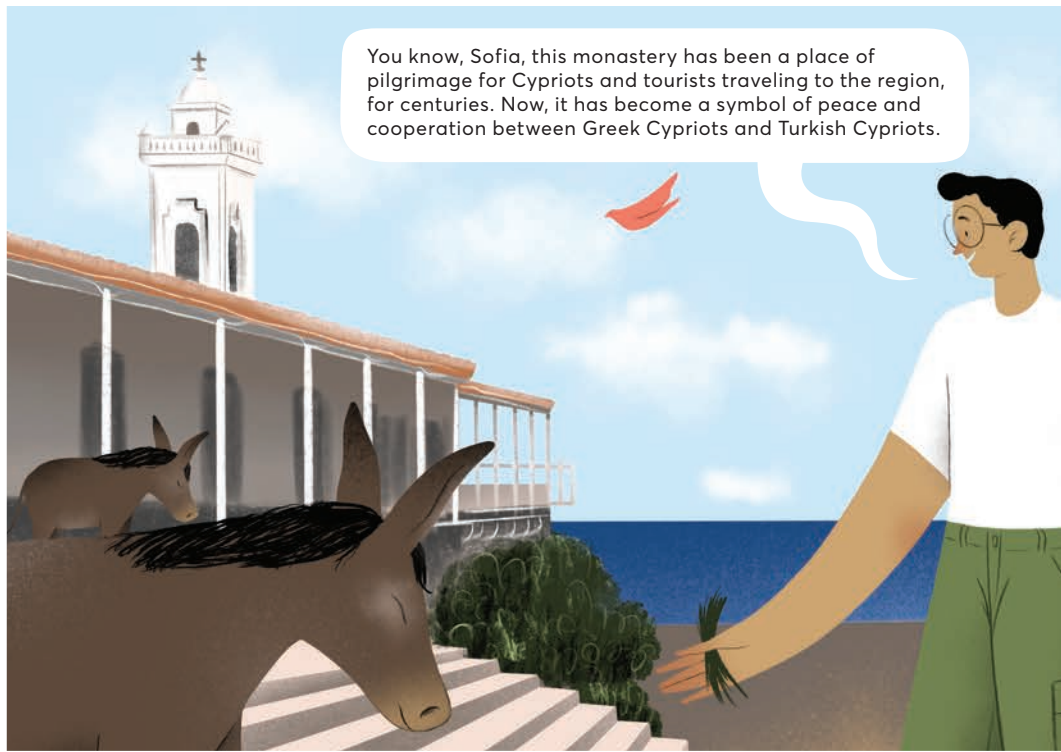
Yes, sure! I am really excited to visit Apostolos Andreas after everything I've heard and read about this monument and the great ongoing effort for its restoration.



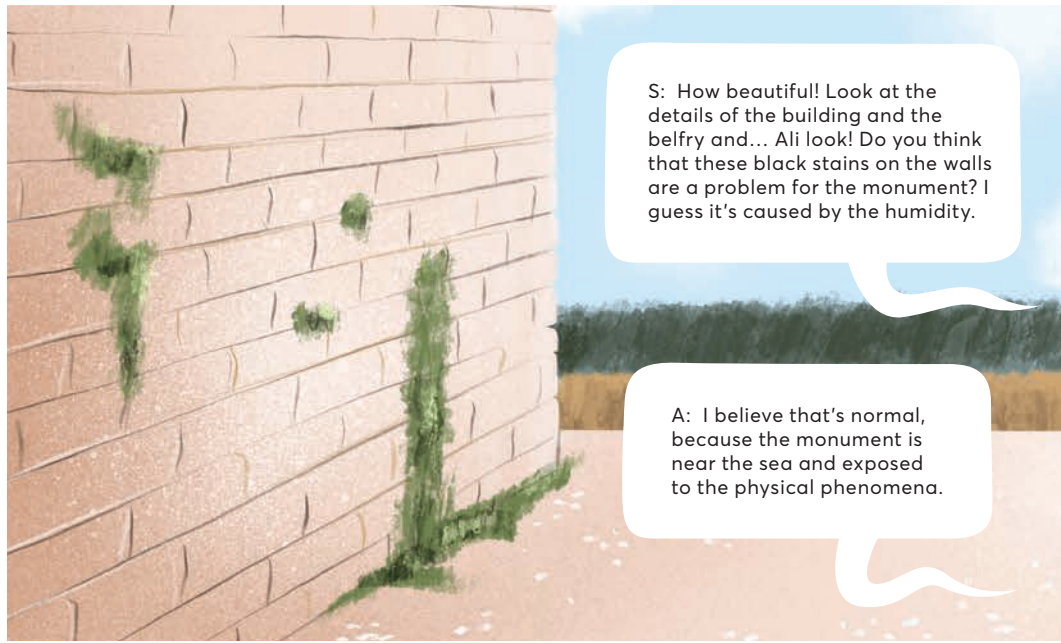
Oh wow! What a beautiful view, overlooking the sea. This is a valuable natural area!

Yes, indeed.

The monument is at the edge of the peninsula, let's go closer!

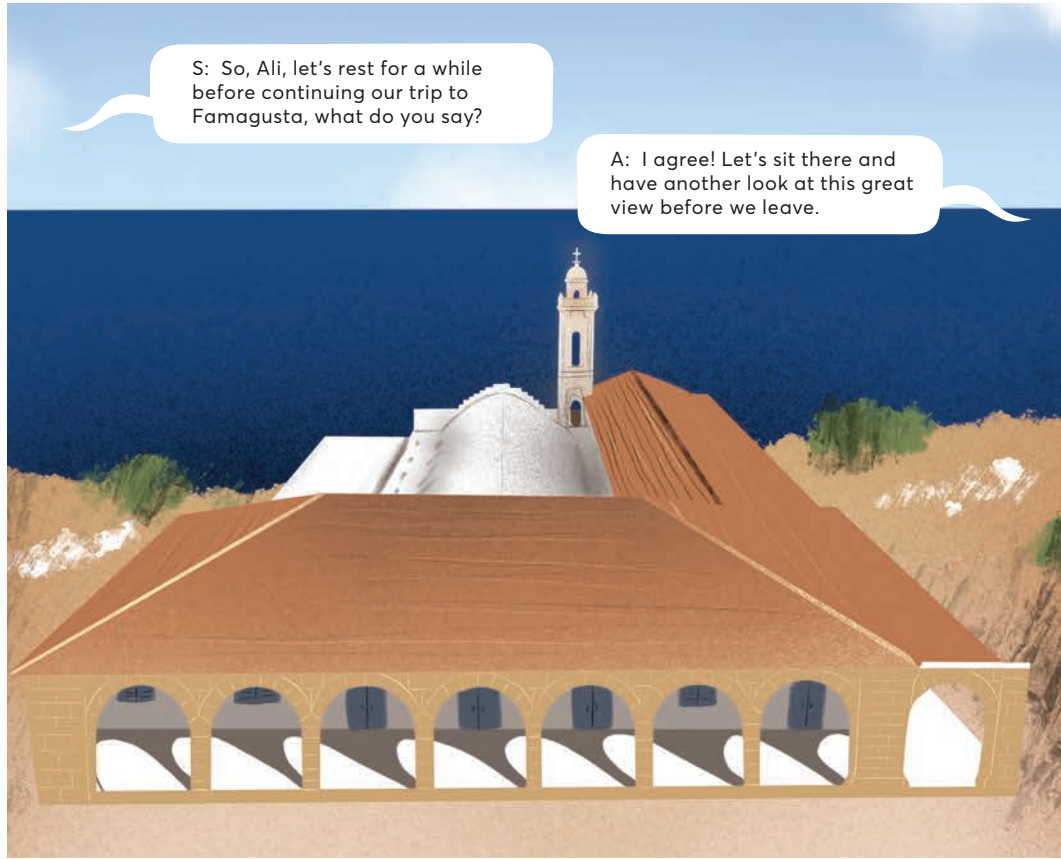


You know, Sofia, this monastery has been a place of pilgrimage for Cypriots and tourists traveling to the region, for centuries. Now, it has become a symbol of peace and cooperation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.



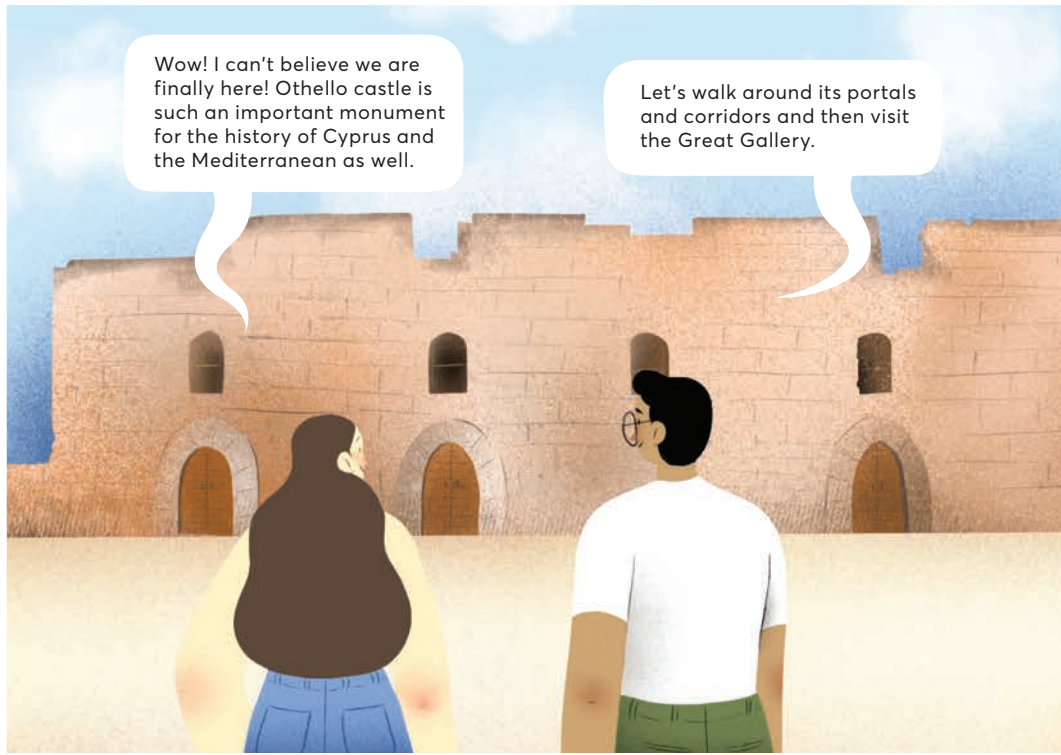
S: How beautiful! Look at the details of the building and the belfry and... Ali look! Do you think that these black stains on the walls are a problem for the monument? I guess it's caused by the humidity.

A: I believe that's normal, because the monument is near the sea and exposed to the physical phenomena.



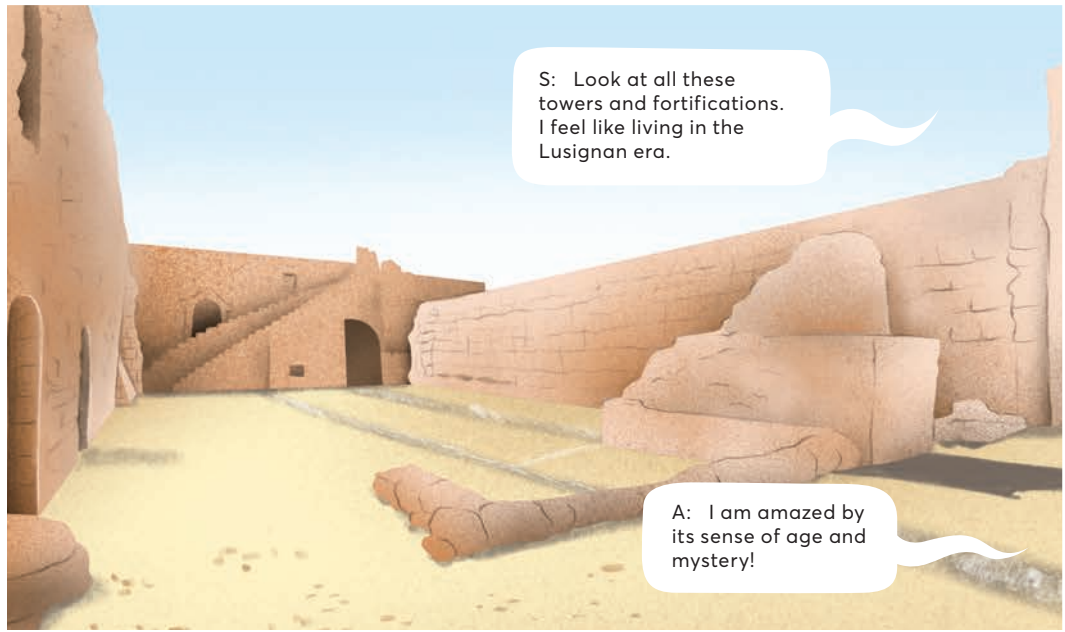
S: So, Ali, let's rest for a while before continuing our trip to Famagusta, what do you say?

A: I agree! Let's sit there and have another look at this great view before we leave.



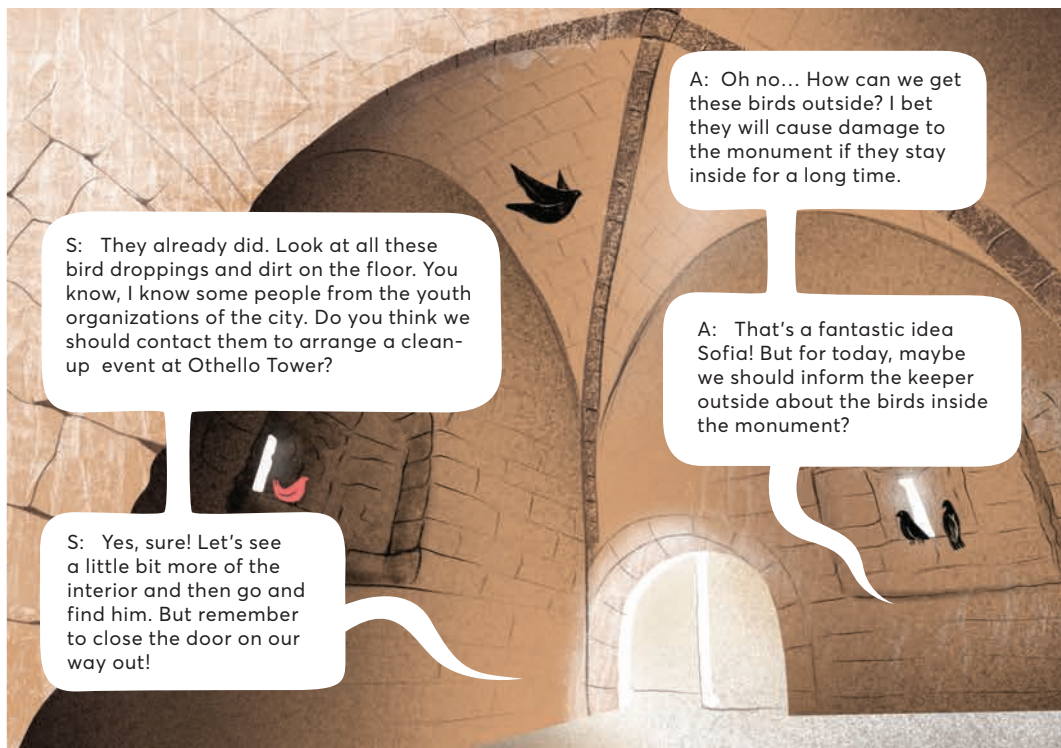
Wow! I can't believe we are finally here! Othello castle is such an important monument for the history of Cyprus and the Mediterranean as well.

Let's walk around its portals and corridors and then visit the Great Gallery.



S: Look at all these towers and fortifications. I feel like living in the Lusignan era.

A: I am amazed by its sense of age and mystery!

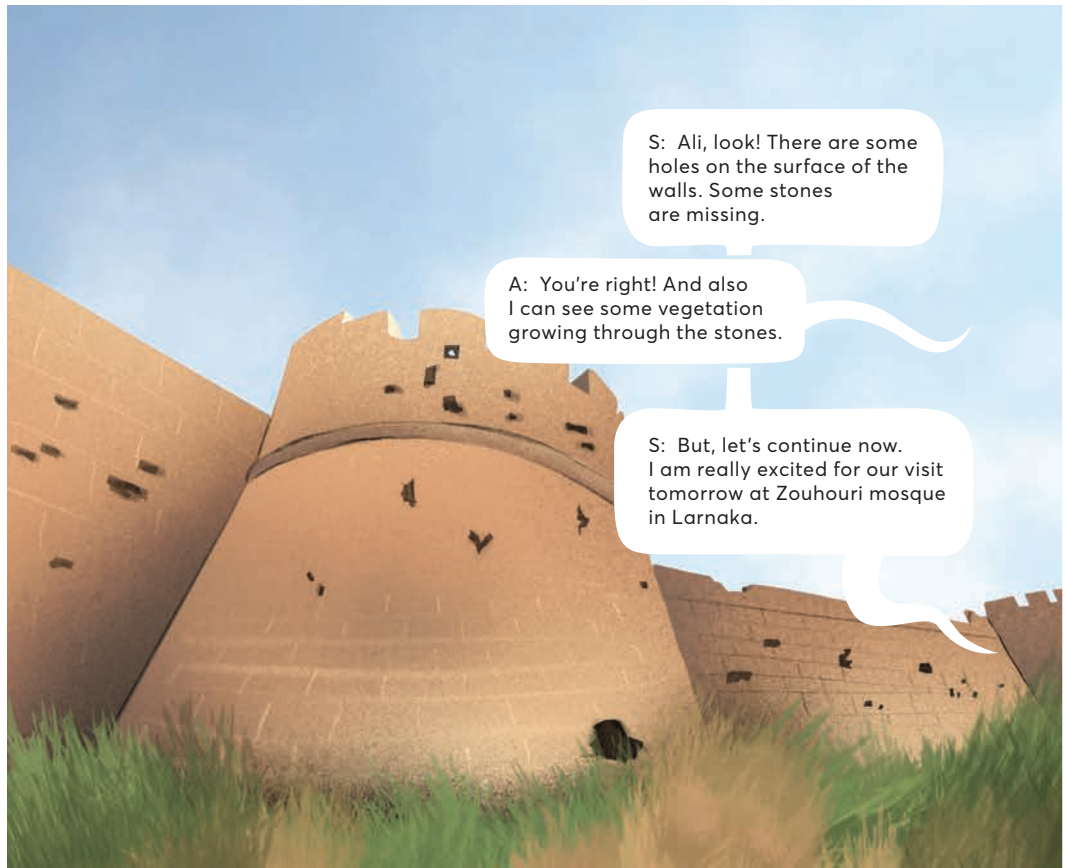


S: They already did. Look at all these bird droppings and dirt on the floor. You know, I know some people from the youth organizations of the city. Do you think we should contact them to arrange a clean-up event at Othello Tower?

A: Oh no... How can we get these birds outside? I bet they will cause damage to the monument if they stay inside for a long time.

A: That's a fantastic idea Sofia! But for today, maybe we should inform the keeper outside about the birds inside the monument?

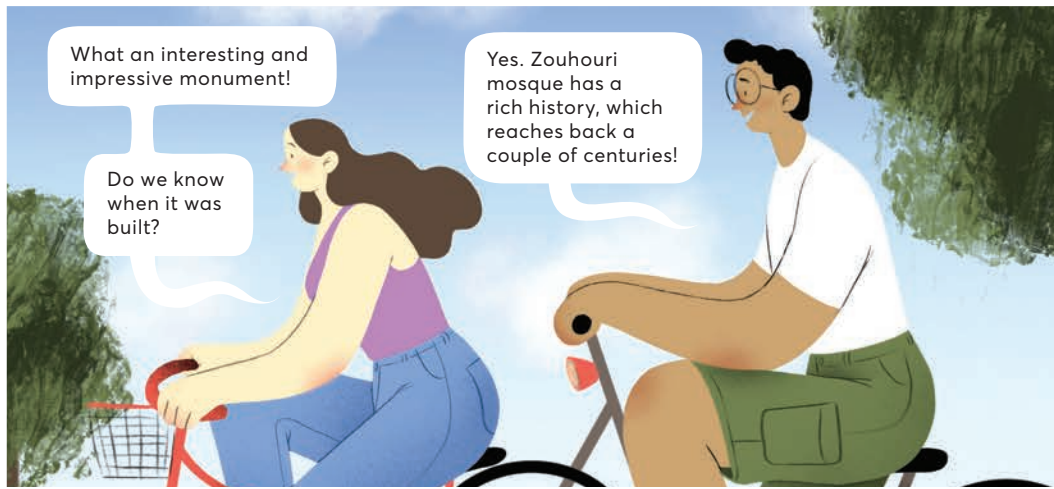
S: Yes, sure! Let's see a little bit more of the interior and then go and find him. But remember to close the door on our way out!



S: Ali, look! There are some holes on the surface of the walls. Some stones are missing.

A: You're right! And also I can see some vegetation growing through the stones.

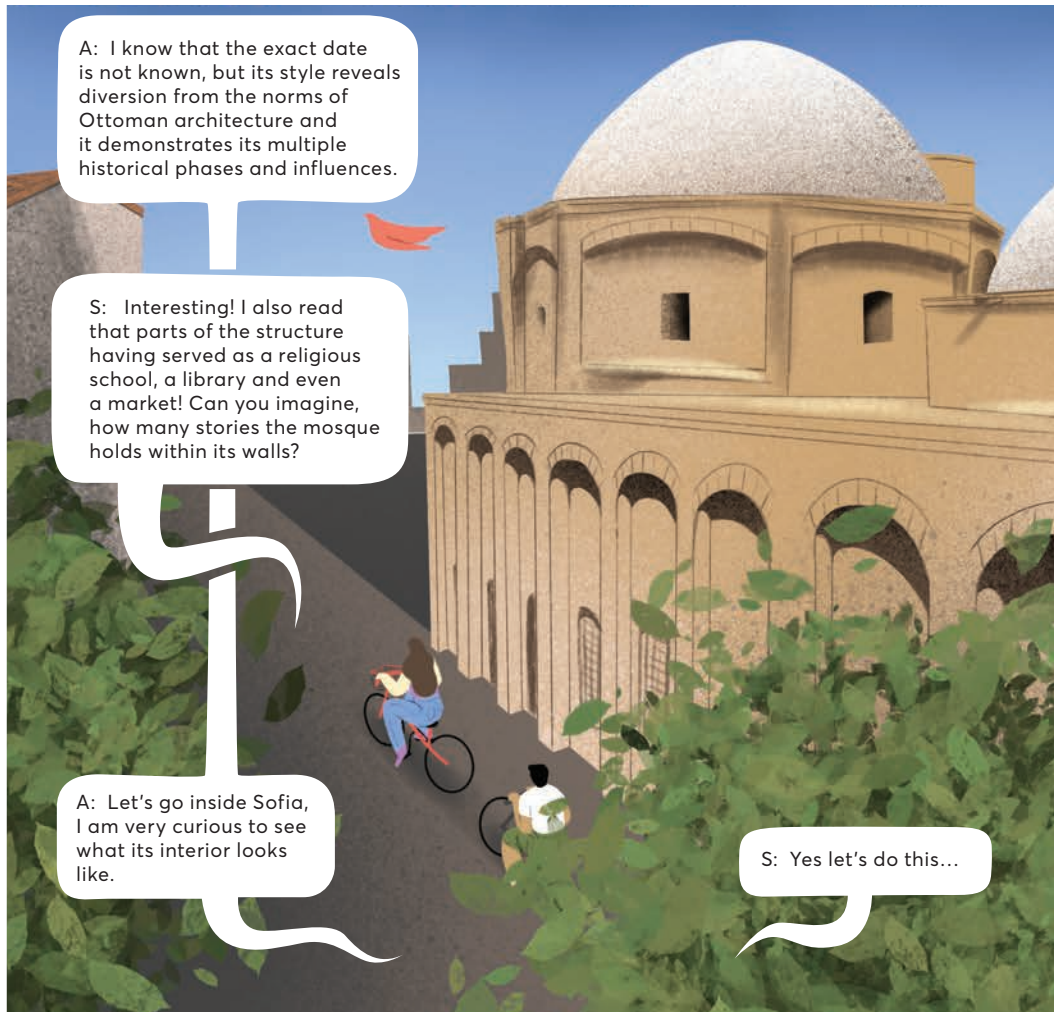
S: But, let's continue now. I am really excited for our visit tomorrow at Zouhouri mosque in Larnaka.



What an interesting and impressive monument!

Do we know when it was built?

Yes. Zouhourri mosque has a rich history, which reaches back a couple of centuries!

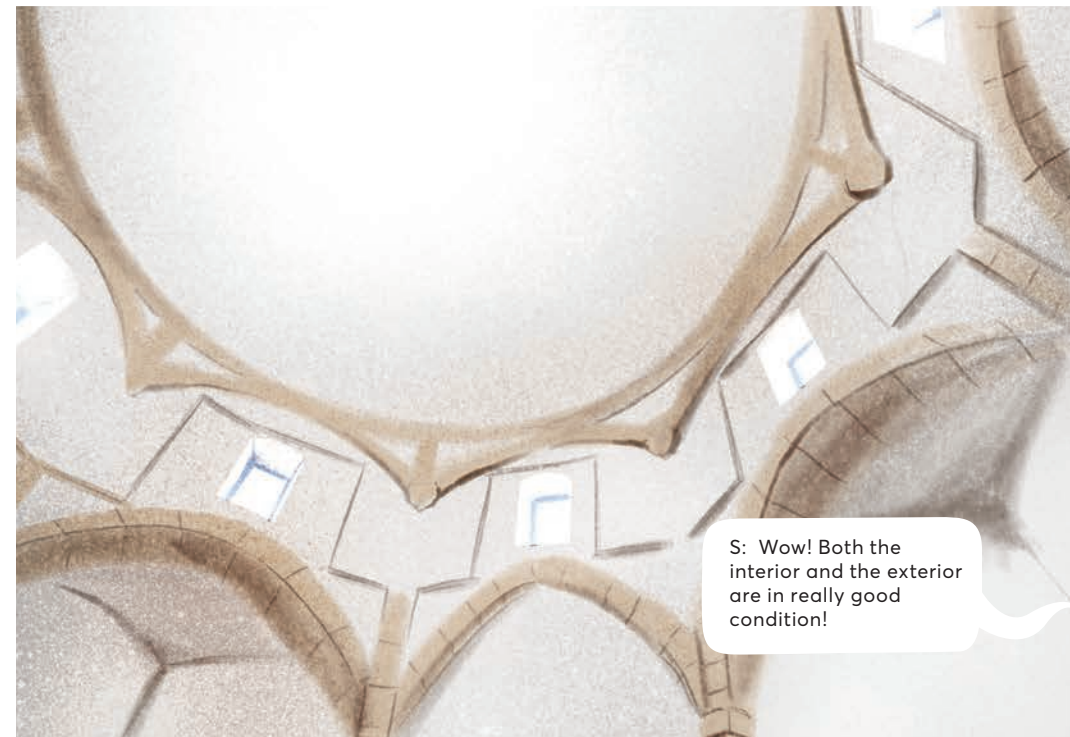


A: I know that the exact date is not known, but its style reveals diversion from the norms of Ottoman architecture and it demonstrates its multiple historical phases and influences.

S: Interesting! I also read that parts of the structure having served as a religious school, a library and even a market! Can you imagine, how many stories the mosque holds within its walls?

A: Let's go inside Sofia, I am very curious to see what its interior looks like.

S: Yes let's do this...




S: Wow! Both the interior and the exterior are in really good condition!



Here on the TCCH website it says that its conservation has been completed in 2021.

I agree. Let's go!

Great! Ali, I suggest we spend the day in the city of Larnaka and we can continue our journey tomorrow to Paphos.

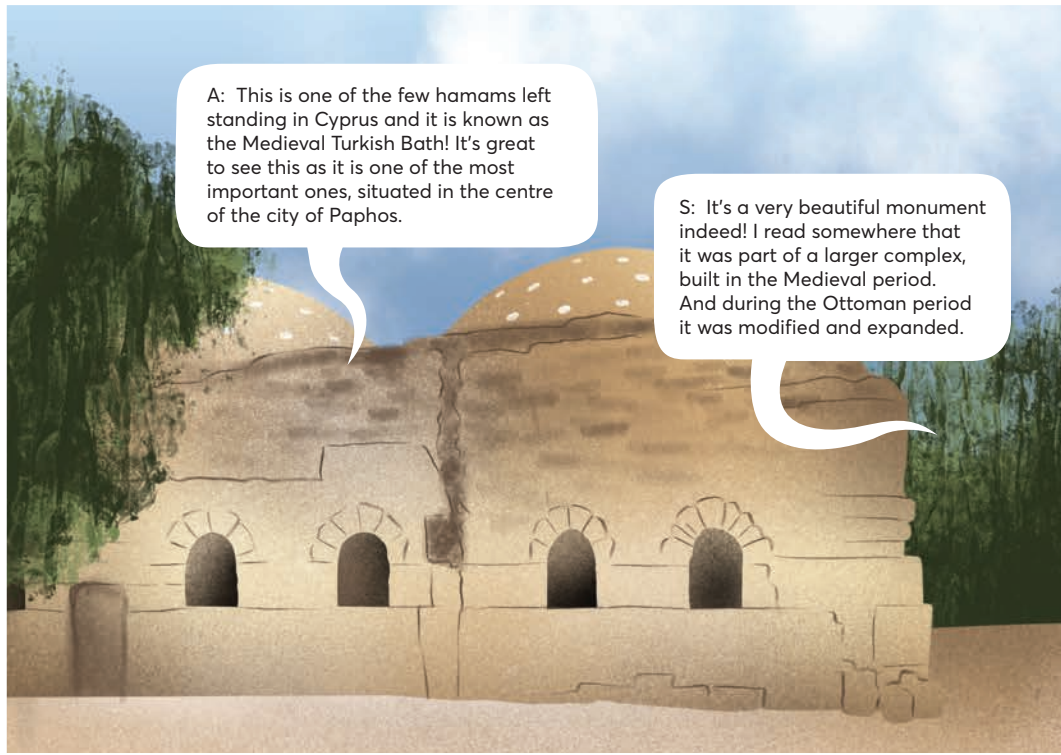
An illustration of a cemetery scene. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple tank top and blue jeans, is riding a red bicycle with a basket. Next to her, a man with glasses, wearing a white t-shirt and green shorts, is riding a black bicycle. They are on a paved road. In the background, a stone wall with a black metal gate is visible. Behind the wall, there is a green lawn with several brown, arched tombstones. Tall green trees are scattered throughout the scene under a blue sky with white clouds.

Look Ali, what is this?

It seems that the local community is taking care of it! But look Ali, the gate is open. Shall we check if the lock is missing?

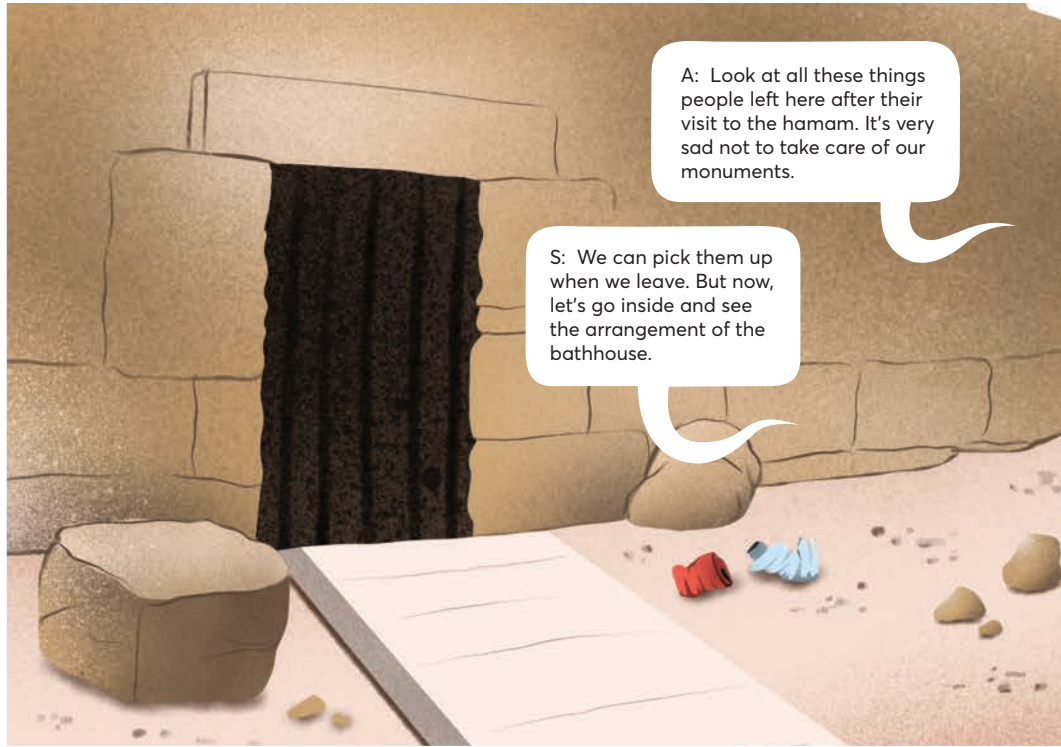
This is a Turkish Cypriot cemetery, where TCCH implemented improvement works in 2020. It is still in good shape!

Yes, let's check quickly! And then take the next bus to Limassol, before it gets dark.



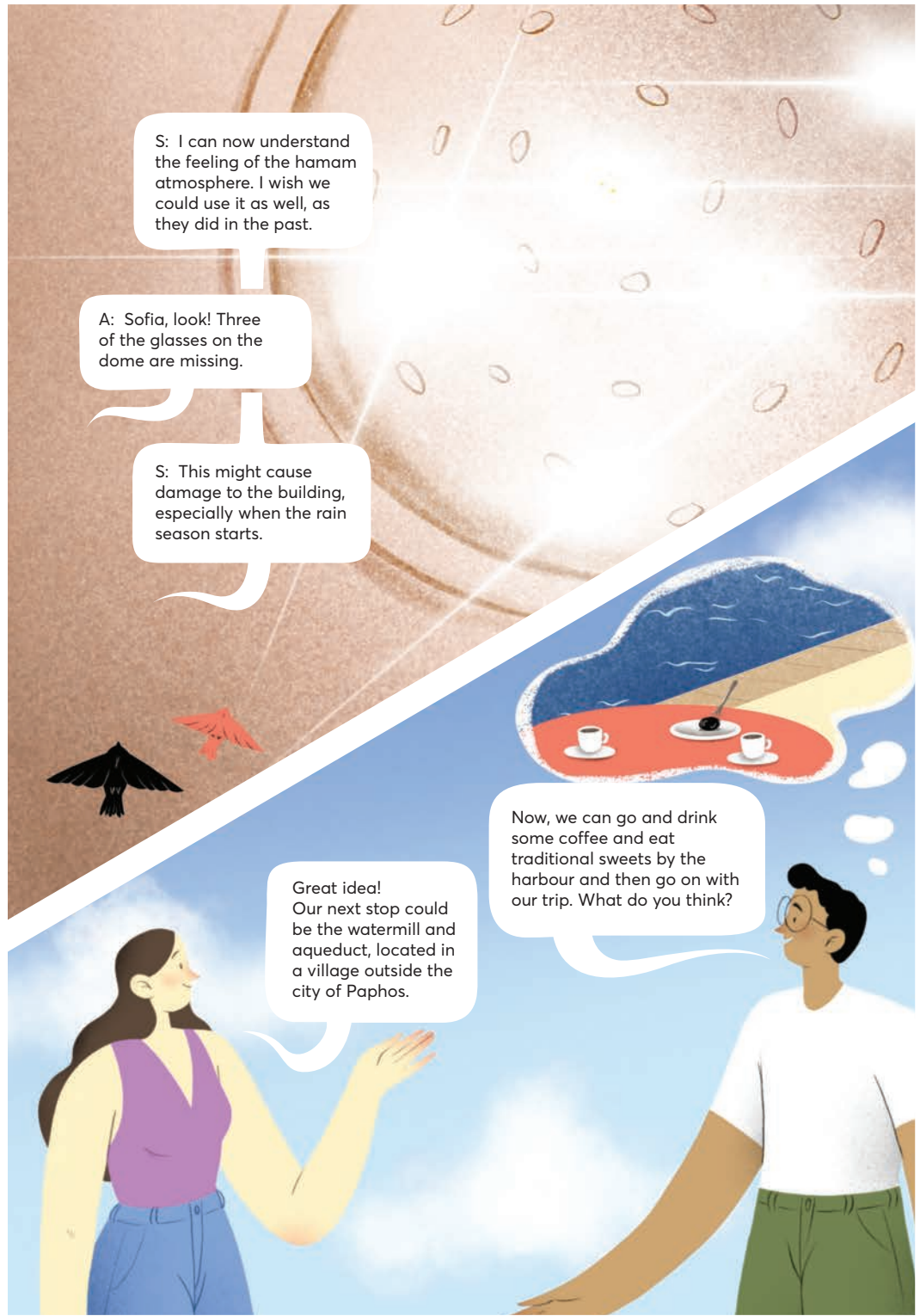
A: This is one of the few hamams left standing in Cyprus and it is known as the Medieval Turkish Bath! It's great to see this as it is one of the most important ones, situated in the centre of the city of Paphos.

S: It's a very beautiful monument indeed! I read somewhere that it was part of a larger complex, built in the Medieval period. And during the Ottoman period it was modified and expanded.



A: Look at all these things people left here after their visit to the hamam. It's very sad not to take care of our monuments.

S: We can pick them up when we leave. But now, let's go inside and see the arrangement of the bathhouse.



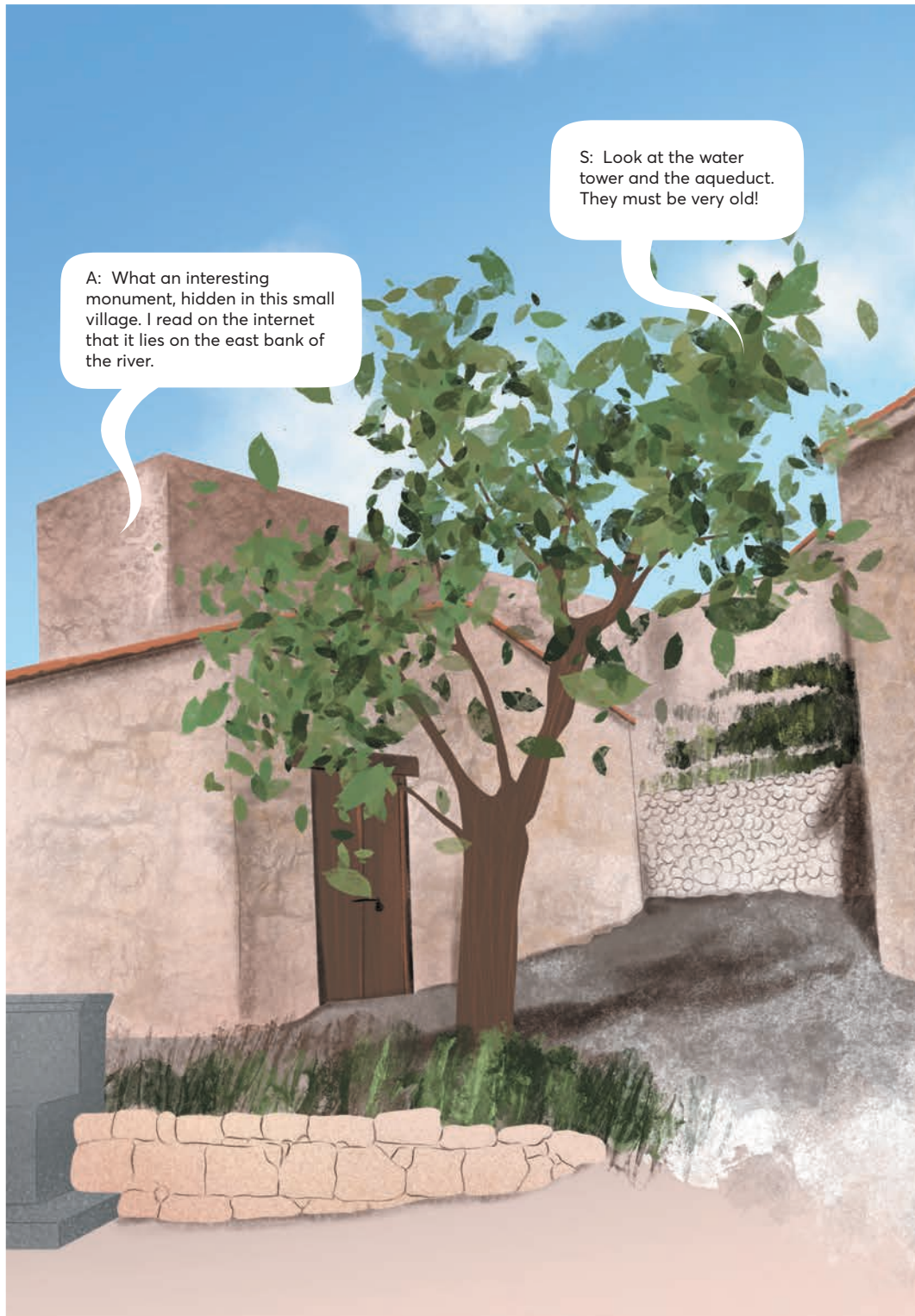
S: I can now understand the feeling of the hamam atmosphere. I wish we could use it as well, as they did in the past.

A: Sofia, look! Three of the glasses on the dome are missing.

S: This might cause damage to the building, especially when the rain season starts.

Great idea! Our next stop could be the watermill and aqueduct, located in a village outside the city of Paphos.

Now, we can go and drink some coffee and eat traditional sweets by the harbour and then go on with our trip. What do you think?



A: What an interesting monument, hidden in this small village. I read on the internet that it lies on the east bank of the river.

S: Look at the water tower and the aqueduct. They must be very old!



How did these birds get inside?


Probably from the open window!

We must remember to check all the doors and windows on our way out, to prevent any more birds from enter the building!

I am a little worried about this watermill Ali... It is located in an isolated area and doesn't have many visitors. So, if anyone visiting gives a little bit of care to the monument it can be maintained in good condition for many years to come.


Also, what is all this dust at the base of the walls?

I agree with you Sofia. I hope future visitors will also make an effort...now let's continue our trip. We need to get back to Nicosia in two days and then we can think of a solution together!



It was a week full of adventure, culture and history! I enjoyed this bike trip very much. Cyprus has so many hidden treasures and beautiful monuments of different eras.

I agree. It was so nice, having this trip with you exploring our shared heritage!



Hello Ali and Sofia! I followed you two on your trip all around Cyprus and I saw that you really care about the monuments and how you can help in their protection and maintenance. Have you ever heard about the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage?

A: Yes! I know all about their work.

S: I am also following their page on social media!

P: Fantastic! So, it was great that you took initiative to clean the areas around the monuments, closed the doors and windows and also to thought about next steps, like organising clean-up events with your friends or people from the local community. Please tell me about the problems you spotted, which you didn't know how to deal with.

A: Yes! We identified some broken windows, vegetation growth on several monuments, holes in the roofs and some missing tiles and stones.

S: We also saw black stains on the walls,birds, and bird droppings inside the monuments.

P: Exactly! These kinds of problems cause serious damage to the monuments over time and if people who visit spot and monitor them, then further damage can be prevented.

A: This information is very useful! It's exactly what we were looking for.

S: Thank you so much for this.

P: Also, do not forget that visiting the monuments as well as monitoring, cleaning and other maintenance actions are secondary to your safety - You should always ensure your safety first!

A: Good point! We will keep this in mind on our next visits and will not do anything that endangers our health and safety!

P: We need more people like you, Sofia and Ali.
We can safeguard our shared heritage for the next generations only if we all start taking care of our monuments.





An important monument in the history of Famagusta, Cyprus and the Mediterranean, the Othello Tower/Citadel was the first heritage site in Famagusta to benefit from the work of the TCCH.

The conservation project, which started in May 2014 was completed by July 2015.



Zouhouri mosque is a prominent historic building situated in the city center of Larnaca. The conservation project started in June 2021 and was completed in December 2021.

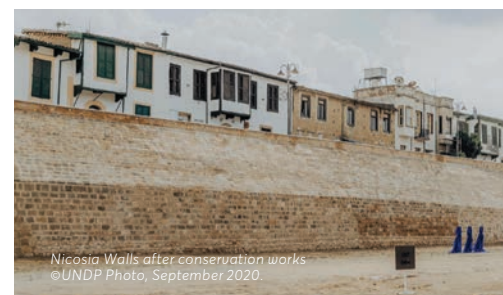
Lying on the east bank of the river, the watermill is located at the western edge of the village in the Paphos district.

The conservation project started in July 2015 and was completed by February 2016.



Located at the edge of a promontory overlooking the sea, near the tip of the Karpasia/Karpaz peninsula, in the northern part of Cyprus, Apostolos Andreas Monastery has always been a landmark of the island.

Works within Phase A of the overall restoration of the Apostolos Andreas Monastery, including the restoration of the church and the adjacent buildings started in September 2014 and were completed in November 2016.



The conservation works at Nicosia old city walls started in November 2019 and were completed in September 2020.

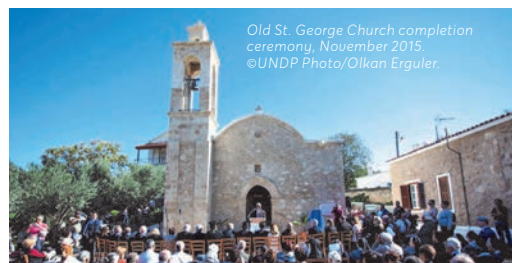
The project scope comprised emergency support measures in order to preserve the structure's current status and prevent collapse.

The Paphos Hamam, was part of a larger complex built during the Medieval period and modified and expanded during the Ottoman period.

Conservation works to the Hamam started in June 2013 and were completed in March 2015.



The TCCH has completed conservation works at several fountains across Cyprus from the Ottoman and British period. The fountains are in the list of small-scale projects, having a big impact on our shared heritage.



The Maronite Old St. George Church is located in the village of Kormakitis/ Koruçam. Built in the 16th Century, the church is adjacent to a nunnery. The Old St. George Church was the first Maronite heritage site to be preserved under the auspices of the TCCH.

Conservation works at the church started in July 2014 and were completed in July 2015.



The TCCH has included improvement works at several Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot cemeteries across the island to its projects.

What can individuals do to protect monuments?

- Open windows and doors for humidity (*ensuring that birds or pests will not enter and remain in the monument)
- Clean the site from garbage and small vegetation
- Clean the visitors' sign
- Water the plants
- Lubrication of hinges
- Removal of insect nests, bird nests, cobwebs, etc.
- **General monitoring**



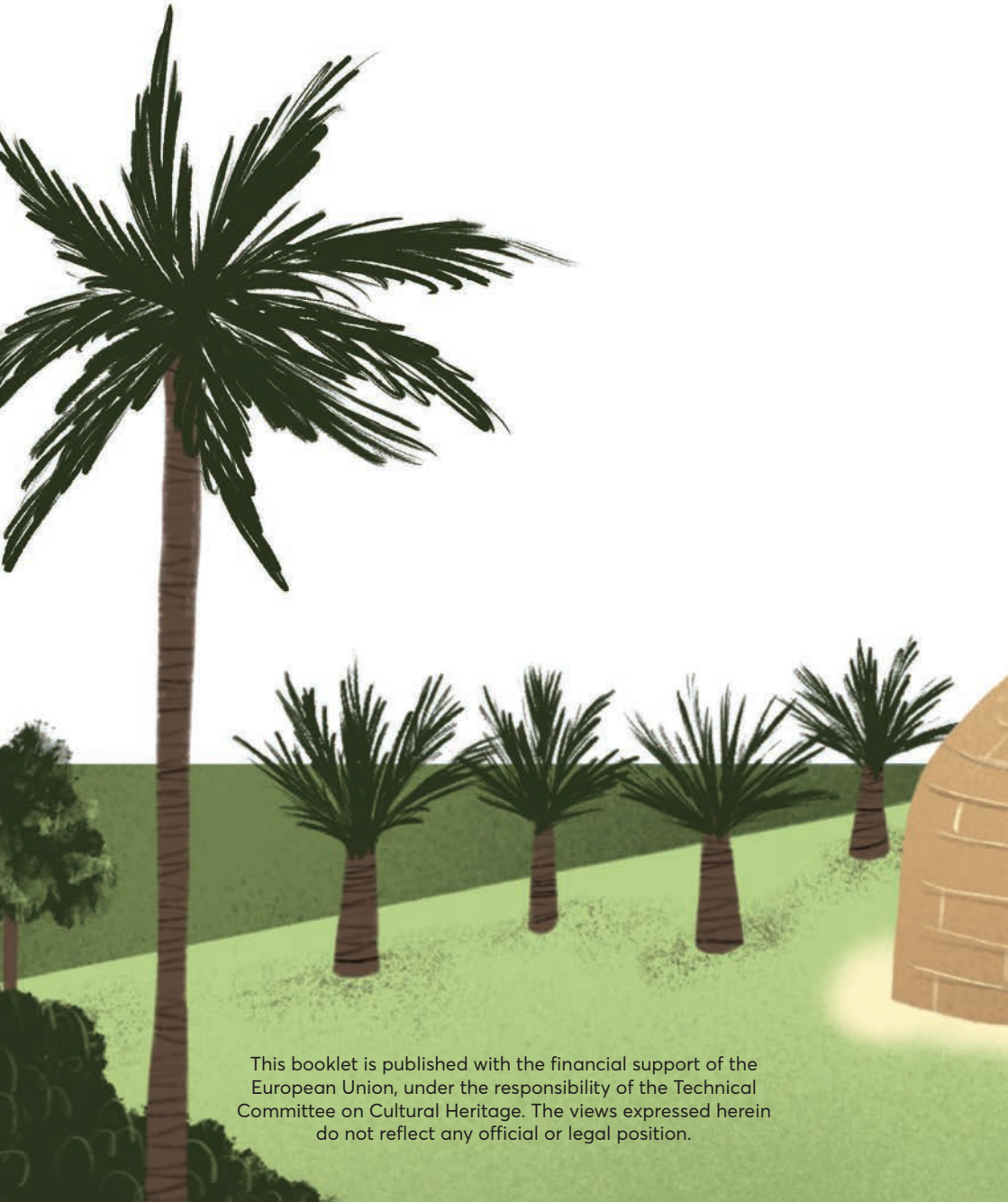
What to look out for when monitoring monuments?

- Humidity
- Blocked gutters
- Cracks
- Vandalism
- Deterioration of metal and timber elements
- Vegetation on and/or around monument
- Broken glass
- Birds and pest infestation
- Flooding or fire



Preventive Conservation encompasses, among others, monitoring of the monuments, which depends highly on the involvement of the community.





This booklet is published with the financial support of the European Union, under the responsibility of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage. The views expressed herein do not reflect any official or legal position.