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# SECRETS OF THE CASTLE

## Story

The so-called Castle neighborhood, or “το Κάστρο” (to kastro) in Greek, is a historic neighborhood literally surrounded by castle walls which used to protect the central area of the town. It is the oldest neighborhood of Ioannina and it dates back to at least the 13th century. It is full of history gems (Byzantium and Ottoman architecture, historically and culturally significant venues and monuments) and stories of the local people who, in most cases, have been living in this neighborhood for many generations.

Though touristic, the neighborhood remains mainly undiscovered and unvisited by the people of Ioannina who live outside this neighborhood. Why is it so? Is it the vibe of a traditional village or is it the walls that border this neighborhood? Participants of this discovery event might find an answer to this question by exploring the streets, buildings, meeting with people, learning about historically significant figures and events of the neighborhood and by visiting local stakeholders from artist studio and shop Anka, from arts and music bar Fidel and from a local antiquary shop.



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# SECRETS OF THE CASTLE

## Discovery

Short description: ideal for groups of 3-6 people, newcomers to Ioannina city. The walk will be 1-2 hours long, it's advised to start at 6pm. Carry with you couple of small pieces of paper, one A4 or larger sheet of paper, markers, scissors, and paper glue.

The Castle Walls of Ioannina city embodies many old stories and intriguing history. Its fortress walls serve as a border between the oldest living neighborhood of Ioannina and the rest of the city. Enjoy this journey and discover secrets of the so-called Castle neighborhood (in Greek - Castro)!



**1 Enter the Castle neighborhood** of Ioannina through the walkway entrance and find the nearby street of Alexios Noutsos. Find a comfortable place to read a story about him.

"Alexios Noutsos (1770 - 1822) was hired at a very young age by Ali Pasha, who was the Ottoman ruler of the region and inhabited the central parts of this Castle. Gradually, Alexios Noutsos became one of the most powerful advisers and servicemen to Ali Pasha, even though as believed by many, Ali Pasha was responsible of his father's death. Some of Alexios most memorable contributions of the time were serving not only to Ali Pasha and the Ottoman rule but also being an archpriest, ensuring prosperity of his area of influence, saving several citizens from death penalty ordered by Ali Pasha, being a member of the so-called Friendly Society and, finally, taking part in the Greek Revolution against the Ottoman empire in 1821."



Write on a piece of paper a word or a short phrase about how you feel after entering the Castle neighborhood and reading about one of the many people who used to live here. Keep the paper with you.



**2 Find a historic library.** Then, find a nearby shop that is a library of artifacts and traditions. Enter and explore it, it's larger than it appears from the outside! Ask the shop owner to tell you a story behind any of the antique objects

**3 Pay attention** and try to catch a small glimpse of an 18th century mansion and its garden. It's well hidden and it is the only example of a similar territory left in the area. Pasha Kalos and his family used to live there. Interact with any local people to find out what Kalos means in Greek language and whether they know why Pasha Kalos was called by that word.



**5 Find Fidel of the Castro!** Explore "his home", ask people about the history of the building and the social and cultural importance of the place nowadays.



**4 The Castle is thought to be built as early as in the 6th century,** then renovated in Byzantian times and then by the Ottomans. You will find several mosques and churches in the area, however, the only still operational religious site in the Castle is neither a mosque or a church. Find it and learn about the community connected to this religious site.



Members of the community of Kahal Kadosh Yasha, Ioannina, 1947



**6 Explore the main entrance gate of the Castle.** Interact with local people to find out who is Saint George, where was he killed, why and what happened after his death.

**7 Find and meet one of the most artistic families of the neighborhood** at their shop. Ask them what inspires their work, how do they find this neighborhood and how do they feel living and working behind the borders of the Castle fortress.



## 8 Look for Bisarion Makris street.

Bisarion Makris was a famous and very intelligent teacher of philology, philosophy and theology in the 17th century, born in Ioannina. One of his most famous works is called "Introductory Report on the Greatest Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love". Interact with at least one local person and ask what faith, hope and love means to them right now.



## 9 You are now inside the Its Kale –

the Inner Fortress of the Castle neighborhood. Get to the highest spot and meet local people hanging out under the shade of pine trees. Interact with them, ask them about why is this spot a popular hang out place, what they love most about it. As well, ask them if being here makes them in any way feel connected with history of this place.

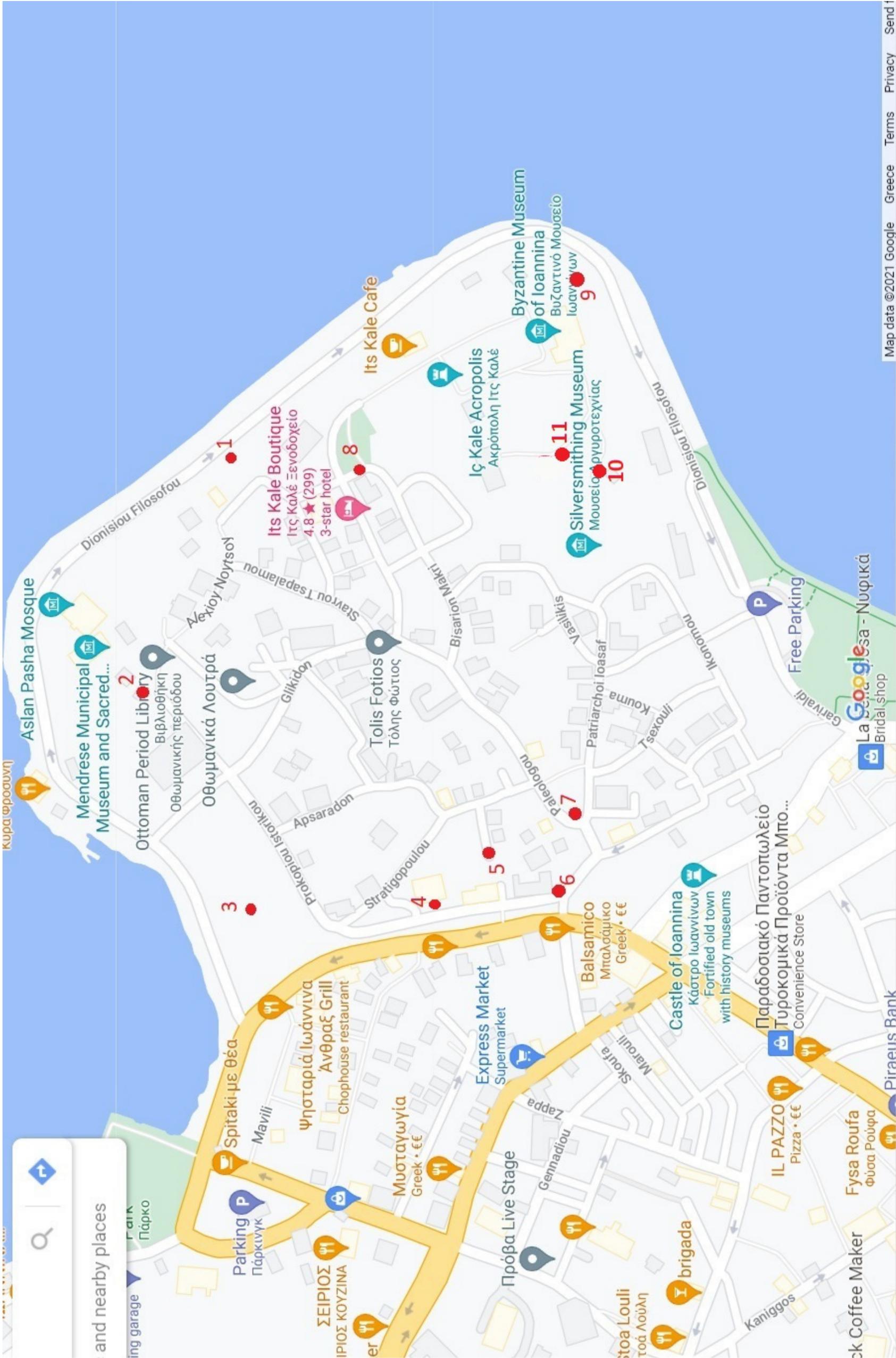


**10 Can you spot this specific place** of the pathway which leads to the Silversmithing museum? Ask locals if they have noticed it before and whether they know about the story behind it!



**11 Find a comfortable place** and sit down. Take another piece of paper and write down a word or a short phrase about how you feel in this neighborhood after having talked with some local people and learned some of their stories. Are your feelings similar or different to those you wrote on piece of paper when entering the neighborhood? Make a collage with all pieces of paper and take a group photo with the collage.





and nearby places

**SECRETS OF THE CASTLE  
DIGITAL DISCOVERY**

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?  
mid=1eoLcdlpqDciiYpOFOmdMcXB0TuWrGoGp&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1eoLcdlpqDciiYpOFOmdMcXB0TuWrGoGp&usp=sharing)

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
BORDERS IN THE MIND PROJECT**

<http://www.bordersinthemind.eu>

“Borders in the Mind” project: approved by the European Commission under the programme “Erasmus+ – KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Adult Education”  
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**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
AUTHOR: YC EPIRUS ORGANISATION**

<http://www.yce.gr>

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