

## Madrid de los Austrias

The emperor Charles V ordered the reconstruction of the old Arab fortress, as well as public works around the area where the royal palace stands today.

Like any other prosperous town, Madrid grew steadily. However, the situation changed abruptly in May 1561, when King Philip II installed his court in Madrid. Picturesque Renaissance and Baroque buildings mark this period.

This tour takes in some of the most representative buildings of the period:

Puerta del Sol, Descalzas Reales, Monastery of Encarnación, Capitanía General, Plaza de la Villa (Town Hall Square), Plaza Mayor, Cathedral of San Isidro, The former Court Prison, House of Lope de Vega.

