

## Sightseeing Tour of Madrid

A panoramic visit of main Madrid sights: Paseo de la Castellana, Cibeles, Neptuno & Carlos V Squares, Flea Market area, Oriente Square, Plaza de España, Gran Vía, Puerta del Sol. King Felipe II made Madrid the capital of his Empire when he chose it as the location for this court in 1561. The small town then underwent considerable urban changes in line with its status of capital city. Thus the “Madrid de los Austrias”, was born, a compact group of streets, squares, monasteries and palaces in the true historic city centre,. Plaza Mayor: the most emblematic place in the Madrid de los Austrias is this square, inaugurated by Felipe III in 1620. It was the heart of the city: the market, religious processions, festivities and also bullfights were all held there. Today it is one of Madrid’s biggest tourist attractions.

The reign of the Bourbons, which began in the XVIII century with Felipe V, has also left a legacy of splendid art and monumental treasures in Madrid, the “Madrid de los Borbones”: the Royal Palace, San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts or the Prado Museum, are just a few examples of places which, apart from their architectural interest, offer the visitor the chance to admire matchless collections of tapestries, furniture, sculptures and world famous art masterpieces.

