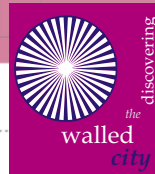




# discovering the walled city



This itinerary takes us within the walled precincts of the Roman *oppidum*, the Muslim medina and the newly reconquered city of the Christians.

We begin in the **plaza de España**, a large prairie in ancient times, situated next to the Puerta de Sevilla. Here, we find ourselves within the walls of the old Roman city, and we can follow the route of the *decumanus maximus* that crossed the square from east to west. We first come to the **Convento de las Monjas Conceptionistas** (Convent of the Conceptionists) with its 16<sup>th</sup> century temple and beautiful stone carved façade. Just alongside runs the **Calle de las Monjas** (Nuns' Street), in which the impressive flying buttresses that support the vaulted ceiling of the church can be admired. We complete the cross around the main square with the Cala de Vargas, the *cardo maximus*, which ran from north to south across the city. At the old intersection between the two streets is the plaza Rector Merina, the possible location of the old Roman forum. Above the plaza towers the majestic **Parroquia de la Oliva** (Parish Church of the Oliva), begun in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and its tall tower, the Giraldilla. In front of the church stands the Cilla del Cabildo (municipal granary) with its Renaissance façade. The granary remained in use until the 19th century, the date at which it moved to the more

situated plaza de España. Within the Cilla you can now visit remains from the Roman era discovered during excavations.



Virgin of the Piña. Juan Bautista Vázquez the Elder. 1577. Parish Church of the Oliva

To complete this first section of the tour we stop at the plaza del Hospitalillo, which makes reference to the Old Hospital of Santa María de la Piedad, constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and of which only the Mudejar façade remains.

We next climb the small slop up to the old castle, of which remain vestiges of the old walls and of one of the towers near to the Puerta de Jerez. On the esplanade of the old fortifications is located the 14th century chapel to the patron saint the Virgen del Castillo (Virgin of the Castle).

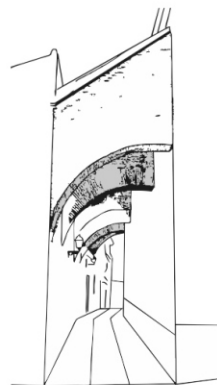
The tour finishes in the street Antonio de Nebrija, whose bright courtyards and houses conserve and display the essence of the Roman, Islamic and Christian city, which has been and is *Nabrissa*, *Lebri-Sah*, *Nebrixa* and Lebrija.



Virgin and Child. Michel Sittow. 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Parish Church of the Oliva



Archaeological remains from the Roman era. Casa de la Juventud



Visigoth tombstone. 7<sup>th</sup> Century. Puerta del Sol (Parish Church of the Oliva)

