



Retrato de Isabel de Portugal, c. 1526. Colección Abello

THE ROYAL PALACES OF THE ALHAMBRA

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For a few months in 1526, Granada became one of the most important political centres in Europe. With the arrival of Isabella of Portugal and Charles of Habsburg, the city became the seat of a court that governed territories extending across Europe, the Mediterranean and the Americas. Their presence reinforced the role of the Alhambra as a stage for the representation of power and placed Granada at the centre of some of the great events of the time.

The exhibition **“1526. Isabella of Portugal and Charles of Habsburg in Granada”** offers a closer look at this exceptional moment through two spaces closely linked to the memory of the imperial visit: the chapel of the Palace of Charles V in the Alhambra, and the lower crossing of the ‘Hospital Real’ (Royal Hospital). Both visits offer complementary perspectives on the society, politics, culture and art of a decisive period in the shaping of the modern world.

“The royal palaces of the Alhambra” reveals how the Nasrid spaces were adapted to the needs of the court, diplomacy and imperial administration, as well as how a new image of power was constructed in dialogue with the legacy of the Alhambra.

“Granada: imperial capital” broadens the view to the city as a whole and its institutions, highlighting the foundation of the University, one of the main legacies of Charles V and an expression of his political, educational and cultural project.

Together, the two exhibitions enable visitors to appreciate the deep mark left by the imperial stay on Granada and the decisive transformation it brought about in the city’s political, cultural and heritage identity.